

News from the DLN

Generalforsamling i DLN

Kom og gør din indflydelse gældende!

Kom og mød andre engagerede mennesker og få en snak!

Alle medlemmer har fået en invitation, men skulle der være nogen ikke medlemmer, der har lyst til at komme, er I meget velkomne.

Husk, at et betalt medlemskab på kun kr. 100,00 giver ret til at deltage i afstemningerne.



Generalforsamlingen afholdes mellem kl. 11.00 og kl. 15.00 lørdag den 16. marts i U-huset, Klosterport 4, 3 sal, 8000 Århus C.

The issue in Danish is the invitation to the DLN AGM .

News from the Board

Hope you all have arrived well into the new year and are ready to take the challenges the year will offer.

For DLN it looks promising as our CISU application has been met positively and a new project with DPE will run in 2013.

Members of the DPE/DLN project team were

Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Håber I alle er kommet godt ind i det nye år, og klar til at tage de udfordringer som året må byde på.

For DLN blev starten meget positiv, DLNs ansøgning blev positivt modtaget fra CISU, og det nye projekt vil i samarbejde med DPE løbe i hele 2013.

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Membership of DLN

in Lesotho in January to take part in the launch, and we look forward to follow the progress.

The Board has revised and modernized DLN's folder, so it should be more accessible and informative. It will be sent out to all in connection with the payment of membership fees for 2013.

Within short time we will have our AGM, which is the forum where the major decisions are made. Do you have ideas for DLN's future work, would you like to take part in some activities or simply support DLN's work, come and join us on 16th March in Aarhus.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the eight years I have been chairman of Denmark Lesotho Network. I have chosen to take a break and put my energy somewhere else.

Helga Højsager, chair

Medlemmer af projektgruppen tilknyttet DPE var i Lesotho i januar for at tage del i opstarten, og vi glæder os meget til at følge forløbet.

Bestyrelsen har fået revideret og moderniseret DLN's folder, så den skulle være mere tilgængelig og informativ. Den vil blive sendt ud til alle i forbindelse med betaling af kontingent for 2013.

Inden længe afholdes den årlige generalforsamling, som er det forum, hvor de overordnede beslutninger tages. Har du ideer til DLN's fremtidige arbejde, kunne tænke dig at tage del i nogle aktiviteter eller blot støtte op om DLN's arbejde, så kom og vær med den 16. marts i Århus.

Jeg vil her benytte muligheden for at sige tak for de 8 år jeg har været formand for DLN.

Jeg har valgt at holde en pause og lægge mine kræfter et andet sted.

Helga Halck Højsager, formand

Turistreisen

Vi arbejder på at arrangere en ny rundrejse i Lesotho til efteråret 2013. Denne rejse skal gå tværs over Lesotho gennem Ramabanta og Semonkong til Sehlabathebe. Planen er at afslutte med nogle dage i Cape Town med besøg på Robben Island.

Interesseret? Så skriv til Lisbet Kristensen på e-mail: lisbetstjerneklar@gmail.com

This issue is about a new tourist trip to Lesotho in autumn 2013.





Successful collaboration

By Karen Steffensen and Anne Andersen
Anders Foghsgaard from Denmark Lesotho Network obtained in December 2011 a donation from the Lauritzen Foundation for the construction of water tanks in Lesotho. Berea Agricultural Group (BAG) is responsible for the construction. BAG is an association of schools in Berea District of Lesotho. The schools' goal is to become self-sufficient in food, so they can provide students with a meal a day. The production of food takes place as part of the education, and each student has a small plot.

In Lesotho most of the rain comes down in summer, often as torrential rain with erosion

Succesfuldt samarbejde

Af Karen Steffensen og Anne Andersen
Anders Foghsgaard fra Denmark Lesotho Network søgte og fik i december 2011 en donation fra Lauritzen Fonden til bygning af vandtanke i Lesotho. Det er Berea Agricultural Group (BAG), der står for bygningen. BAG er en forening af skoler i Berea District i Lesotho. Skolernes mål er at blive selvforsynende med fødevarer, så de kan give eleverne et måltid mad om dagen. Produktionen af fødevarer foregår som en del af undervisningen, og hver elev har en lille jordlod.

I Lesotho falder det meste af nedbøren om sommeren, ofte som voldsomme regnskyl

as a result. Much of the rain in the mountainous country disappears into the rivers, before agriculture and gardens can benefit from it.

BAG is working diligently to hold on to some of the rainwater to give it time to penetrate the soil for the benefit of the plants. This is done partly by planting beds as terraces, partly by making reservoirs for storing water. A water tank that can collect rainwater from the roofs of school buildings is a great help.

Denmark Lesotho Network supported in 2011 the building of 3 tanks.

BAG has during 2012 built 9 water tanks for collecting rainwater and built roofs on 3 rainwater tanks for some of the money provided by the Lauritzen Foundation. BAG wished for a roof on some of the tanks because schools are using the water for drinking or cooking. Some schools have no other water supplies, and a roof protects the water from dust, insects and algae.

Within BAG a team of teachers are building the tanks in cooperation with parents. For building they use a mold that supports the tank wall while they are building. It took three days to build a tank with the one mold they had, so it could not be done in a weekend. This affected the teaching, and school leaders filed a complaint. If they had two molds, they could build faster, so they would like to have an extra mold. The authorization from the Lauritzen Foundation had enough money for an extra mold. It is acquired, and in December 2012 they had built a tank more than what was projected.

The accounts are fully perfect, since BAG has added 5 Maloti (3.50 kroner) to the amount allocated. Now, just gutters and downspouts for the tanks are needed. The money for this is also allocated.

med erosion til følge. Meget af regnen i det bjergrige land løber i floderne, inden landbrug og haver når at få glæde af det.

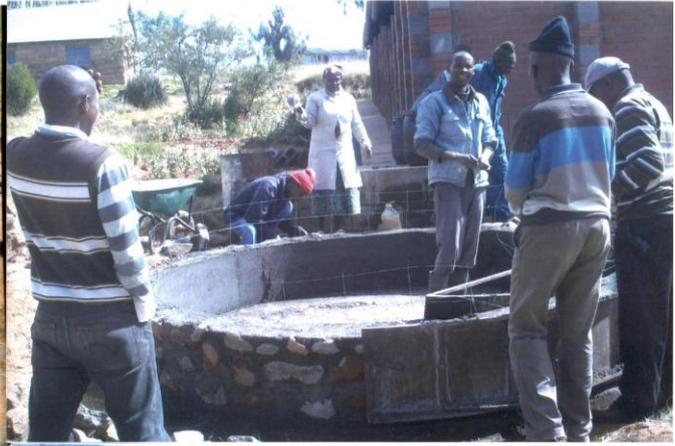
I BAG arbejder man ihærdigt på at holde på noget af regnvandet, så det når at trænge ned i jorden til gavn for planterne. Det gør man dels ved at anlægge bede som terrasser, dels ved at lave reservoirer til opsamling af vand. En vandtank, som kan samle regnvand fra tagene af skolebygningerne, er en stor hjælp.

Denmark Lesotho Network støttede i 2011 bygningen af 3 tanke.

BAG har i løbet af 2012 bygget 9 vandtanke til opsamling af regnvand og bygget tag på 3 regnvandstanke for nogen af de penge, der kom fra Lauritzen Fonden. BAG ville gerne have tag på nogle af tankene, fordi skolerne bruger vandet til drikkevand og madlavning. Nogle skoler har ikke anden vandforsyning, og så beskytter et tag vandet imod støv, insekter og alger.

I BAG er det et team af lærere, der i samarbejde med forældre bygger tankene. Til bygningen bruger de en form, som støtter tankvæggen medens de bygger. Det tog tre dage at bygge en tank med den ene form, de havde, så det kunne altså ikke gøres på en weekend. Derfor gik det ud over undervisningen. Det klagede skolelederne over. Hvis de havde to forme, kunne de bygge hurtigere, så de ville gerne have en ekstra form. I bevillingen fra Lauritzen Fonden var der penge nok til en ekstra form. Den er anskaffet, og i december 2012 var der bygget en tank mere, end der var projekteret.

Regnskabet stemmer helt perfekt, idet BAG selv har lagt 5 Maloti (3,50 kr.) til det bevilligede beløb. Nu mangler der blot tagrender og nedløbsrør til tankene. Det er også bevilliget.



LAND REGULARIZATION OF LESOTHO - THE LAND OF THE PEOPLE



At every plot a GPS-coordinate register the quality of field data.

LAND- LEGALISERING I LESOTHO



Som en del af moderniseringen af Lesotho, vil befolkningen i Lesotho i nær fremtid opnå ejendomsretten til deres eget land. COWI har vundet et land-legaliserings projekt i joint venture med det svenske selskab, ORGUT Consulting.

Projektet er finansieret af Millennium

As part of modernization of Lesotho, the population of Lesotho will in near future gain property rights to their own land. COWI has won a land regularization project in joint venture with the Swedish company, ORGUT Consulting.

The project is financed by the Millennium Challenge Cooperation, which has set a frame for financing this land regularization project with the aim to reduce poverty in Lesotho through stimulating economic growth. The Millennium Challenge Cooperation has formed a compact, which is an agreement between the Government of Lesotho and the USA. The main objective of this compact is to reduce the poverty in Lesotho through stimulating economic growth.

The Kingdom of Lesotho

Lesotho is a landlocked country surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. The country is about 30,000 square kilometers in size with a population of approximately 2 millions and about 40 % of the population lives below the international poverty line.

46,000 parcels in and near the city of Maseru



A parcel has to be proper marked to become registert.

The land regularization project will be implemented in the urban and peri-urban areas of the capital city Maseru. The main objective

Challenge Cooperation, der har fastsat de økonomiske rammer.



Landsbymøderne samler mange hundrede deltagere i alle aldre.

Millennium Challenge Cooperation har udformet en aftale mellem Lesothos regering og USA. Hovedformålet med denne aftale er på længere sigt at reducere fattigdommen i Lesotho ved at stimulere den økonomiske vækst.

Kongeriget Lesotho

Lesotho er en indlandsstat omgivet af Sydafrika. Landet dækker omkring 30.000 kvadratkilometer med en befolkning på ca. 2 millioner og omkring 40% af befolkningen lever under den internationalt fastlagte fattigdomsgrænse.

46.000 parceller i og omkring Maseru

Land-legaliserings projektet vil blive gennemført i selve byen og i bynære områder omkring hovedstaden

Maseru. Hovedformålet med dette projekt er at styrke rettighederne for de legitime brugere af jorden ved en proces med at formalisere disse rettigheder.

Ved brug af digitale ortofotos vil COWI og ORGUT Consulting registrere de formelle ejere på 46.000 parceller ved at kontakte ejerne og bede dem om at identificere deres ejendom. For at skabe opmærksomhed om

of this project is to strengthen the rights of the legitimate occupiers of the land by a process of formalizing those rights.

By use of digital orthophotos, COWI and ORGUT Consulting will register the formal owners of 46,000 parcels by contacting the owners and ask them to identify their property. In order to create awareness of this registration process, a public campaign will be conducted. The formal owners will eventually receive a deed of their property and the ownership will be recorded in Lesotho's existing land information system.

Formalizing the property rights of the land owners

With the formalization process of the rights to land, Lesotho will have the fundamental for economic growth. An updated register of real property rights will enable the land settlements to be traded more easily, e.g. by sale, mortgage or rent.



Now and then disagreement about where borders between two properties are. When the jurist at the field office cannot solve the dispute, the jurist expert from the project steps in.

The project will also improve the quality of existing information about land rights and will implement the 2010 legislation and supporting Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to bring about the effective regularization of 46,000 urban/peri-urban plots.

denne registreringsproces, skal en offentlig kampagne gennemføres. De formelle ejere vil med tiden få et skøde på deres ejendom, og ejerskabet vil blive registreret i Lesothos eksisterende land- informationssystem.



Feltarbejderne får mange henvendelser i marken fra lodsejere, der er ivrige efter at få registreret deres rettigheder.

Formalisere ejendomsrettigheder til jordejerne

Denne formaliserede proces angående rettighederne til jord vil for Lesotho få afgørende betydning for den økonomiske vækst. Et opdateret ejendomsregister vil fremme processen ved fremtidige ejendomshandler, udlejning eller belåning.



Offentliggørelsen af ejendomskort studeres med stor interesse.

HEALTH CARE WASTE MANAGEMENT, KINGDOM OF LESOTHO



Bins, containers and boxes used for storage of health care general waste, infectious health care risk waste and sharps

In corporation with experts from South Africa and Lesotho, COWI is assisting the Kingdom of Lesotho in turning its current health care waste handling practices into a system which will minimise public and occupational health risks and abate environmental pollution. COWI has made a contract with the Lesotho Government for the period 2009 – 2013. COWI is a large Danish company. It has 6.200 employees. They work all over the world. Nearest office is in Uganda. The main office is situated near Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark. COWI employs experts in the fields of civil engineering, economy and environment.

Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) project 2012

By Karen Steffensen

RSDA is an NGO that supports and train farmer groups in the two most drought-affected districts, Mafeteng and Mohale Hoek.

The project group consists of the following DLN members: Anders Hedegaard, Signe Hedegaard, Maria Clausen, Line Kaspersen,

SUNDHEDSPLEJE OG AFFALDSHÅNDTERING I LESOTHO



Skraldespande og papkasser anvendes til opbevaring af hospitalsaffald.

I samarbejde med eksperter fra Sydafrika og Lesotho, bistår COWI sundhedsvæsenet i Lesotho med at forbedre dets affaldshåndtering til et system, der vil minimere de arbejdsmiljømæssige risici og formindske miljøforurening. COWI yder teknisk bistand til ministeriet for sundhed og social velfærd i Lesotho til udvikling af et bedre sundhedspleje- og affaldshåndterings- system. COWI har lavet en aftale med ministeriet for perioden 2009-2013. COWI er et af de største danske ingeniørfirmaer. Firmaet har 6.200 medarbejdere, som arbejder over hele verden. COWI er kendt for sine kompetencer inden for ingeniørteknik, samfundsøkonomi og miljø. COWI har hovedsæde i Lyngby ved København.

Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) projektet 2012.

Af Karen Steffensen

RSDA er en NGO, som støtter og træner landmandsgrupper i de to mest tørkeramte distrikter, Mafeteng og Mohale Hoek.

Projektgruppen består af følgende DLN medlemmer: Anders Hedegaard, Signe Hedegaard, Maria Clausen, Line Kaspersen, Max Schröder, Anne-Marie Erikstrup og

Max Schröder, Anne-Marie Erikstrup and Karen Steffensen. Maria Clausen is responsible for the project. Group members are constantly in dialogue with each other by email. In addition, they have Skype Meetings and sometimes a physical meeting.

Contact with RSDA is kept by exchanging mails and Skype conference calls for quarterly reports, which DLN receives from RSDA and project visits. Maria and Karen were on the project visit in February. DLN had a particular focus on financial reporting, the Phamong center and development of the umbrella organizations.

During the project the 40 farmer groups that are supported have come to understand the importance of advocacy, and 8 of the groups have been registered, which is a prerequisite for them to open a bank account. They have been trained in self-organization, networking and marketing.



New products are discussed e.g. biltong and dried peaches.

The expansion of the remote demonstration and meeting center in Phamong has been delayed, and it has become more expensive than budgeted, but it is finally finished, and one of the umbrella organizations of Majantja Temong will use the Phamong center to sell their products. The center has three employees: a gardener, a night watchman and a caretaker. They demonstrate chicken hold and vegetable growing.

Karen Steffensen. Maria Clausen er projektansvarlig. Gruppens medlemmer er konstant i dialog med hinanden pr mail. Derudover holdes Skypemøder og af og til et fysisk møde.

Kontakten til RSDA holdes ved udveksling af mails og ved Skype-telefonmøder i forbindelse med kvartalsrapporter, som DLN modtager fra RSDA og ved projektbesøg. Maria og Karen var på projektbesøg i februar. DLN havde især fokus på finansiel afrapportering, Phamong centeret og paraplyorganisationernes udvikling.

I projektforløbet er de 40 farmergrupper, som projektet støtter, begyndt at forstå vigtigheden af fortalervirksomhed, og 8 af grupperne er blevet registreret, hvilket er en forudsætning for, at de kan åbne en bankkonto. De har fået træning i selvorganisering, networking og marketing.

Udbygningen af det afsidesliggende demonstrations og mødecenter i Phamong har været forsinket, og det er blevet dyrere end budgetteret, men det er nu endelig færdigt, og en af paraplyorganisationerne, Majantja Temong, vil bruge Phamong centeret til at sælge deres produkter fra. På centret er tre ansatte: en havemand, en nattevagt, og en caretaker. Der demonstreres hønsehøld og grønsagsdyrkning.

RSDA og RSDA's bestyrelse har arbejdet på en lobby og fortalervirksomhedsstrategi for RSDA. Den er nu færdig. RSDA's personale har fået undervisning i monitorering og evaluering.

Et resultat af projektet er, at de tre paraplyorganisationer har organiseret sig og afholdt årsmøder. De opkræver kontingenter, som sættes i banken, de afholder fundraising arrangementer, og de er i gang med at implementere indkomstskabende projekter. Paraplyorganisationerne arbejder hårdt på at etablere relationer til landbrugsministeriets distriktskontorer, og de sender kvartalsrapporter til RSDA. En af de aktiviteter, som har givet stor inspiration til

RSDA and RSDA's board have been working on a lobbying and advocacy strategy for RSDA. It is now complete. RSDA's staff has been trained in monitoring and evaluation.

One result of the project is that the three umbrella organizations have organized themselves and held annual meetings. They charge quotas and put them in a bank, they organize fundraising events, and they are in the process of implementing income-generating projects. The umbrella organizations are working hard to establish relationships with the Ministry of Agriculture's district offices, and they send quarterly reports to RSDA. One of the activities that have provided great inspiration to the umbrella organizations have been the exchange visits.

Part of the project was an **information visit** to Denmark. The purpose of the visit was to inform in Denmark about the project and the living conditions in Lesotho. During the visit several articles were written and published in magazines, newspapers and web media.

The project ended with the end of 2012, but the group has applied for an extension, which is held within the budget.

paraplyorganisationerne, er exchange visits.



Møde i en paraplyorganisation, hvor der diskuteres nye ideer.

I projektet var indlagt et **informationsbesøg** til Danmark. Formålet med besøget var at informere i Danmark om projektet og levevilkårene i Lesotho. I løbet af besøget blev der skrevet flere artikler, som blev publiceret i blade, aviser og netmedier. **Projektperioden sluttede** med udgangen af 2012, men gruppen har søgt om forlængelse, som holdes inden for budgettet.

News from Lesotho:

From: Public Eye

[Local chef wins global award](#)

[Lifestyle](#) | [Pepper](#) | February 9, 2013 8:35 am

By Motsamai Mokotjo

MASERU – Celebrity chef Sekamotho Moteane, popularly known as Ska, has won two international awards for her debut culinary book, *Cuisine of the Mountain Kingdom: Cooking in Lesotho 1*.



Moteane, 34, told Public Eye she is set to leave for Paris, France next week, where she would receive her prizes on February 23 at the L'ouvre Museum during the Paris Cookbook Fair.

Among other luminaries to be honoured during the Paris Fair are Canadian chef Lynn Crawford for her book *Pitchin' In* and Americans Patricia Green and Carolyn Hemming for their publication, *Quinoa Revolution*.

Moteane's book, containing 28 traditional Basotho dishes, won the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards 2012 for best debutant author and best African Cuisine book in Southern Africa.

The book was also nominated for the Best Cuisine Book in the World award.

According to the ecstatic author, organisers of the

competition came to know about her book and work through social networks such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

"In November (2012), I received news that my book had won two awards and had also been nominated for a third prize," Moteane—a graduate of the Barnes Street Culinary Studio in Johannesburg—told Public Eye on Monday this week.

"It's very exciting; people outside the country are excited. Cultural preservation through food is very important.

"I'm happy that Basotho have also been supportive since the book's launch in July last year."

According to Moteane—who is employed as a chef by a popular Maseru-based supermarket—local dishes such as *motoho* (soft porridge), and *nyekoe* (a mixture of beans and wheat or sorghum) are sometimes frowned upon among certain racial groups, but she had preserved this culture in the form of a book.

"Some people sometimes say our traditional food is bad, with some describing it as disgusting. But I told myself that I am writing this book. I'm doing it for my children, the future generation, as well as for myself.

"Now I can even brew traditional beer and it's nice," Moteane said, chuckling.

She added she had travelled to Ha Ramabanta and Thaba-Tseka and other places in order to learn and document traditional ways of preparing food, that ultimately led to her book.

Moteane also told *Public Eye* she was working on her second book, *Cuisine of the Mountain Kingdom: Cooking in Lesotho 2*.

The book, also focusing on traditional dishes, is set to be launched at the end of 2014.

Moteane also revealed renowned Kenyan chef, Njathi Kabui, who is based in America, is set to visit Lesotho next month.

The two chefs would cook a six-course meal at the Maseru Sun Hotel and proceeds from its sale are to go to Qholoakoe High School and Lerotholi Secondary School in Butha-Buthe and Nazareth, respectively.

According to Moteane, Kabui also intends to impart his skills to teachers and students on sustainable farming and nutrition, during his Lesotho visit.

[Passport Office relocates](#)

[Featured](#) | [Pepper](#) | February 9, 2013 9:03 am

..Now operates from a movable cabin at the Ministry of Home Affairs

By Billy Ntaote

MASERU – The Ministry of Home Affairs is now using a movable cabin at its headquarters for passport services after it was forced to move out of the Red Cross Society premises at the Palace of Justice last weekend following the expiry of its lease.

The lease agreement between the two parties expired in July last year and the Ministry had failed to secure suitable offices since then, despite being given grace extensions by the Society.

Several passport applicants yesterday told Public Eye they had gone to the old Passport Offices, only to find the place deserted.

A Public Eye crew yesterday went to the Ministry of Home Affairs headquarters, and saw passport applicants being served in the cabin.



Tseliso Koloko, who was queuing to apply for a passport told this paper: "I only heard from the grapevine that the offices had been relocated but I was not sure so I just had to find out for myself. This was time-consuming."

Koloko said he had missed two days at work trying to get a passport because of the slow service and cumbersome application process.

Another applicant, Lerato Mothebesoane, said she was disappointed information about the relocation of the passport offices had not been widely disseminated, as she had also initially gone to the old Red Cross Building offices.

The Acting Director of Passports Services, Mr Mpiko Rafono, yesterday confirmed the relocation, telling Public Eye: "We had to move because the Ministry's contract with the Red Cross Society had expired. We had been looking for a new building after they gave us notice but we failed to secure any."

Rafono added the delay to get a new place was due to the nature of the Passport Office's business.

"We need a place where our work would be secure but in the meantime, we will continue to operate from our headquarters until a favourable location is available," Rafono said, adding the Ministry had used radio announcements to inform the public about the relocation from the Red Cross Society premises.

From: AllAfrica

[United States Department of State](#) (Washington, DC)

Lesotho: Peace Corps Helps Lesotho Hospital Train Employees

8 JANUARY 2013

Washington — Peace Corps volunteer Barbara Meyer of Seattle has designed two new employee training programs in her local hospital and is leading fundraising efforts for training equipment so she can improve community health in her village in Lesotho.

"Our hospital is one of 18 government-funded district hospitals serving Lesotho," said Meyer, age 62, who has been living and working in Lesotho since 2011. "The hospital provides care to a mostly rural population of 200,000 and has a limited budget for equipment and staff training."

The first training program is a two-day course aimed at helping hospital employees improve communication skills and work together as a team. The second program will be offered monthly and is designed to develop leadership skills in hospital management.

Donations will go toward the purchase of two computers, a projector, speakers and training materials.

"Owning this equipment will lead to more efficient practices and allow for the programs to be taken on the road to other communities," said Meyer.

To get the training under way, Meyer is raising funds through the Peace Corps Partnership Program, which helps support Peace Corps volunteer community projects worldwide.

The community will contribute to training materials, and staff will help lead the training. In order to receive funding through the Partnership Program, a community must make a 25 percent contribution to the total project cost and outline success indicators for the individual projects. This helps ensure community ownership and a greater chance of long-term sustainability.

"We plan to continue regular trainings for at least a year to make sure that the skills taught become truly embedded in the culture of the hospital," Meyer said.

More than 2,235 Peace Corps volunteers have served in Lesotho since the program was established in 1967. Currently, 63 volunteers serve there. Volunteers work in the areas of education, community development, health and business. They are trained and work in the Sesotho language.

[International Monetary Fund](#) (Washington, DC)

Lesotho: Statement at the Conclusion of an IMF Mission to Lesotho

23 JANUARY 2013

PRESS RELEASE

Washington, DC — An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission led by Mr. Jiro Honda visited Maseru during January 10-23 to conduct the fifth review under the program supported by the Extended Credit Facility (ECF).

The mission met with Finance Minister Ketso, Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) Governor Matlanyane, other senior government officials, as well representatives of the private sector and development partners.

The mission highly appreciated the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Thabane and his cabinet, and would also like to express its gratitude to the authorities and the staff of the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Lesotho for the highly professional, productive, and open discussions.

At the end of the mission, Mr. Honda issued the following statement: "Despite the drought in 2012, Lesotho has maintained robust economic growth, mainly driven by the mining and construction sectors.

Thanks to the strong response of Lesotho's international partners, the government is able to address most immediate drought-related food costs. The fiscal balances for 2012/13 are expected to record a surplus, further reducing pressures on the external balances. International reserves reached about four months of imports at end-December 2012.

"Looking ahead, while Lesotho's economic growth prospects are robust, downside risks are significant. The main risks arise from the uncertain global and regional economic outlook that could lower Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenues and external demand for Lesotho's key export items: diamonds and textiles.

"In light of these risks and the need to safeguard the exchange rate peg, we welcome the authorities' intentions to continue their fiscal adjustments in 2013/14 with a view to rebuilding their international reserves buffer to the equivalent of five months of imports over the medium term.

We support their continued commitment to fiscal adjustments, while protecting spending for poverty reduction and priority growth-promoting infrastructure. We also welcome ongoing efforts to improve public financial management, enhance tax administration, strengthen financial sector supervision and regulation, and promote private sector development. We support the authorities' consideration for a civil service reform.

"We expect to finalize the discussions on the policy framework for 2013/14, with a view to proposing for the IMF Executive Board's consideration, the completion of the fifth review under the ECF arrangement. This will allow the disbursement of SDR 5.68 million (about US\$8.7 million). The three-year, SDR 41.88 million (about US\$64.4 million) ECF arrangement was approved on June 2, 2010 (see Press release No. 10/224), and the Executive Board also approved an augmentation of the program, which has led to a total access of SDR 50.61 million (about US\$77.8 million)."

What is Denmark Lesotho Network?

The NGO Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN) was founded in 2002 by former Danish development workers in Lesotho and other good friends of the tiny mountain kingdom in Southern Africa. DLN aims at supporting NGO's in Lesotho in their work to develop civil society. DLN uses its network of people and organisations in Lesotho to pinpoint beneficiaries of DLN's support – and to keep an eye on that funding is used according to agreements made. DLN wishes to enhance knowledge of the living conditions in Lesotho and to seek funding from foundations, business enterprises and organisations for actual projects in Lesotho.

Membership of DLN

Anyone, who can support the aims of DLN, can achieve a membership. Members contribute to support initiatives in Lesotho that develop and better living conditions in the country. Members will receive an electronic newsletter four times a year and be invited to DLN's annual general assembly. The cost of a membership is 100 Danish kroner yearly. For membership contact cashier Karen Steffensen, tel.: +45 98677185, cell: +45 23880099, e-mail: karen.steffensen@mail.dk
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