

News from the DLN

The text in Danish is about the yearly DLN AGM.

Sæt kryds i din kalender ved den 22. marts og kom til generalforsamling i DLN i Århus.

Det er årets chance for at få indflydelse på arbejdet i foreningen!



News from the board

By: Anne Andersen

At the moment the board is preparing the Annual General Assembly 2014, which will take place in Aarhus 22. March. It used to be very nice and the board hopes that many dedicated people will show up. If anybody

Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Af: Anne Andersen

Lige nu arbejder bestyrelsen på at forberede årets **generalforsamling**, som finder sted i Århus den **22. marts**. Det plejer at være hyggeligt, og bestyrelsen håber at der kommer rigtigt mange engagerede mennesker. Er der

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has ideas to the future board this is the place to be. There will also be opportunity to discuss the recent work DLN has carried out throughout the year, so show up and raise your voice!

In January an application for a joint finalisation with Development for Peace Education was approved. The plan is that Marie Villumsen and Louise Bau Jensen will travel to Lesotho 10. March - 20. March to finalise the application for a new 3-year project with Development for Peace Education. They are going to visit Maseru as well as the local communities outside the capital city to meet with beneficiaries. Marie and Louise will be back in time for the Annual General Assembly. Yet another good reason to be there and hear the latest news from Lesotho.

In January Anders Hedegaard and Nis K Skau went to Lesotho to start-up the new project Strengthening RSDA skills/Political influence of smallholder farmers in Lesotho together with Rural Self-help Development which has been approved in December. You can read more about the project below.

The Danish Ministry of Culture has donated 7300 DKK to Berea Agricultural Group (BAG) to build water tanks in Lesotho before the end of May 2014. This is almost enough money to build 3 water tanks and DLN has decided to support the last part to construct all 3 water tanks. In addition DLN has decided to apply for additional funds to construct 13 water tanks at the Lauritzen Fond, who has financed water tanks before.

The website www.lumela.dk has been recreated by Lisbeth and Andreas Kristensen. They have worked very hard and in addition they have included new features to the website as the menu 'DLN projects'. The content is still not ready, but is under way.

nogen, der har gode ideer til den kommende bestyrelsес arbejde, er det her indflydelsen skal gøres gældende. Ligeledes er det her, der er mulighed for at kommentere det arbejde, der er lagt for dagen igennem det sidste år – Så mød op og bliv hørt!

I januar fik Development for Peace Education (DPE)-gruppen en bevilling til at rejse til Lesotho for at færdiggøre ansøgningen til det tre årige projekt "**Public Participation in Governance and Development**" som DLN og DPE arbejder på i fællesskab. Det er planen, at Marie Villumsen og Louise Bau Jensen tager til Lesotho den 10. til 20. marts. De skal ikke blot holde møde på møde i hovedstaden, men denne gang, blive der lidt tid til at komme på besøg ude, hvor befolkningen skal have gavn af projektet. Marie og Louise når at komme til Danmark igen, så de kan være med til generalforsamlingen. Endnu en god grund til at møde op og høre nyt fra Lesotho.

Også i januar var Anders Hedegaard og Nis K. Skau i Lesotho for sammen med Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) at starte det nye projekt **Strengthening RSDA skills/Political influence of smallholder farmers in Lesotho**, som blev bevilget i december. Se omtalen et andet sted i dette nyhedsbrev.

Kulturstyrelsen har bevilget 7300 kr. til Berea Agricultural Group (BAG). De skal være brugt til at bygge vandtanke for inden udgangen af maj 2014. Der er knap midler nok til at bygge tre tanke for. Derfor har DLN besluttet at spæde til, så der kan bygges tre tanke. Der ud over er det besluttet at søge Lauritzen fonden, der har sponsoreret vandtanke før, om penge til at bygge 13 tanke.

Hjemmesiden www.lumela.dk er oppe at køre igen. Det er lykkedes Lisbet og Andreas Kristensen at genskabe det meste af den gamle hjemmeside. De har lagt et kæmpe arbejde i

Through the website DLN has been contacted by Rasmus Møller. During the last 20 years, from he was 18 years old, Rasmus has had a good friend Santos who is now 60 years old and wishes to return to Lesotho from Denmark to spend the last part of his life together with his family. Rasmus wants to direct a documentary about Lesotho's nature, its beauty, history and culture. He wants to focus on both social and economical aspects and he also wants to make a number of interviews with members from DLN and our partners. Later on he will contact Danish media to present the movie. We are very excited to see what the movie will bring.

dette. Der er lidt nyskabelse i den, idet der er kommet en knap, der hedder 'DLN projects.' Indholdet under den er ikke helt på plads endnu, men det bliver der arbejdet på.

DLN har via hjemmesiden fået en henvendelse fra Rasmus Møller. Han har gennem de sidste 20 år, fra han var 18, haft en rigtig god ven, Santos, der nu er 60 og ønsker at vende tilbage fra Danmark til Maseru for at leve den sidste del af sit liv sammen med familien. Rasmus vil derfor gerne lave en dokumentarfilm, hvor han vil dokumentere Lesothos naturs skønhed, landets historie og kultur. Ud over fokus på den sociale organisation, økonomien og metafysikken, vil han lave en række interviews bl.a. med repræsentanter for DLN og samarbejdspartnere. Han vil tage kontakt til danske medier, for at få resultatet vist der. Spændende, hvad der kommer ud af det.

Chair for eight years

Almost one year ago I decided to retire as chairperson of the board of DLN. In 8 years together with volunteers, their friends and family I have helped define the organisation. Together with the board I have developed an organisation dedicated to cooperate with two organisations in Lesotho supporting agricultural and democratization projects. In addition we have supported two other organisations establishing water tanks in the local area. One of the best things that have happened in my time as chairperson was to involve young university students to help us outline new projects. It had been obvious to all of us that drawing up new projects were very resource demanding for all of us. It also required that we had updated knowledge of the development field. Adding university students as new members means that DLN now act more professional as a development organisation. Another important role of DLN has been to visit our partners and take part in

Formand i otte år



For snart 1 år siden valgte jeg at stoppe som formand for DLN. I 8 år tegnede jeg organisationen sammen med tidligere frivillige,

the projects. We have taken part in the start-up and final evaluation, which I think has played an important role for our further cooperation and given us opportunity to outline projects based on our partner's needs and wishes. For me, my involvement in DLN has been the continuation and ending of my years as a development worker in Lesotho and Swaziland. Now other people have taken over and I can look back at some good and busy years. Now my time is spend on working as a home nurse 14 hours at week and as the deputy chairperson of Odense parochial church council - a different task and not dull at all. Here, as in other parts of our society there are many challenges that require involvement. However my membership of DLN will continue, I will closely follow the projects and will be happy to take part where it is needed. At the moment as moderator of the annual general meeting in March.

Helga Halck Højsager



Helga at her last day as chair of DLN together with the deputy chair.

deres venner og familie. Her udviklede jeg, sammen med en bestyrelse, en velrenommeret organisation, som har formået at indgå samarbejde med 2 organisationer i Lesotho med økonomisk støtte til projekter, som har haft henholdsvis landbrug og demokrati som det bærende element. Vi har også haft mulighed for at støtte 2 andre organisationer med økonomisk støtte til konkrete opgaver, som f.eks. bygning af vandopsamlings tanke. Noget af det bedste der er sket i min formandsperiode, var at få tilknyttet nogle unge studerende fra universitet til at hjælpe med projektbeskrivelser. Det var blevet åbenlyst for os alle, at det at lave en projektbeskrivelse var tidsrøvende arbejde for de frivilligt baserede projektgrupper. Det krævede også, at vi var opdateret med ny viden omkring udviklingstendenserne. At få tilknyttet studerende fra udviklingsstudierne var et kapacitetsløft, som betød at DLN nu agerer professionelt i udviklingssammenhæng.

En anden vigtig funktion har været besøg hos vores samarbejdspartnere og tage del i udviklingen af projekterne. Vi har været med i en opstart af projektet og afsluttende evaluering, som jeg tror, har spillet en afgørende rolle for vores fortsatte samarbejde, og givet mulighed for at beskrive et projekt i samarbejde med vore partnere med udgangspunkt i deres behov.

For mig personligt har at mit arrangement i DLN været en naturlig forlængelse og afslutning på mine år som udviklingsarbejder i Lesotho og Swaziland.

Nu har andre taget over, og jeg kan se tilbage på nogle gode og ind i mellem hektiske år. Tiden var kommet til at gå andre veje.

Min tid går nu med henholdsvis arbejde som hjemmesygeplejerske 14timer/ugen og som næstformand i Odense Domkirkes menighedsråd, en anderledes opgave, og ikke kedelig. Her som andre steder i vort samfund, er der store udfordringer, som stiller krav og kalder på involvering, og den bold har jeg taget op.

Mit medlemskab i DLN fortsætter, arbejdet følges, og jeg tager gerne del, hvor det kan være brugbart. Foreløbig som ordstyrer på den kommende generalforsamling.

Helga Halck Højsager

Visit at RSDA, January 2014

Written by Nis K. Skau, who joined the RSDA project group by April 2013. Nis visited Lesotho as a backpacker in 1983 and visited Signe and Anders Hedegaard in 2002, when they lived in Lesotho as development workers. He is an agronomist with special focus on economics. Today Nis owns a large commercial pig producing company together with his brother.

As a new member of DLN and the RSDA project group it was an interesting task to join the implementing phase of the 2014 partnership intervention. Anders and I agreed on a trip to Lesotho from January 15th to 23rd. In October we had attended a CISU workshop on financial management and monitoring where we were introduced to The MANGO (financial) health check model, so our “tools” were fresh in memory.



RSDA office staff

On our first day of meeting with RSDA we confirmed our terms of reference for the following week where after we initiated the Mango health check. I think the managing director, Mampho Thulo, and her financial

Besøg hos RSDA, januar 2014

Skrevet af Nis K. Skau, som startede i RSDA projektgruppen i april 2013. Nis har været på rygsækrejse i Lesotho i 1983, og besøgte Signe og Anders Hedegaard i 2002, medens de var udsendt til Lesotho. Nis er uddannet agronom med økonomi som speciale og driver i dag en større svineproduktion sammen med sin bror.



Me Thulo og Nis Skau listening to the farmers
Som nyt medlem i DLN og RSDA projektgruppen var det en spændende oplevelse, at jeg kunne være med til at opstarte 2014 partnerskabsindsatsen. Anders og jeg havde lige en uge fra 15. januar til 23. januar, hvor vi begge havde plads i kalenderen. Vi havde i oktober været på kursus hos CISU i økonomistyring og finansielt tilsyn, hvor vi gennemgik Mango, så ”værktøjet” var frisk i hukommelsen.

På første møde dag i RSDA fik vi lavet den endelige dagsorden for besøget, og vi startede derefter med Mangos health check. Jeg synes, at lederen af RSDA, Mampho Thulo, og hendes bogholder Me Lelimo arbejdede

manager Me Lelimo worked in a very positive and constructive way throughout the whole process. Our dialogue was very fruitful, and I realized that Mampho Thulo at times must feel quite challenged when working with 5 different donor organisations that all make use of different reporting systems and deadlines.

The conclusion of the MANGO survey was a high score with regard to the individual projects and the financial management. However, there are challenges at an overall level. The board of RSDA has been self-elective since it was founded - that is the way RSDA was founded. In a democratic perspective, a member run organisation would be more appropriate. However, the constitution of an organisation cannot be changed in Lesotho, unless the organisation is closed down - and re-founded under another name.



RSDA consultants

When asking Mampho Thulo about the competences of the board members, we get the impression that these correspond well with the tasks the organisation carry out and the resources they administrate.

Another weakness of the organisation was a missing account, budget and balance for the overall organisation. I suggested the use of a format which consists of a 2 year budget control and a future budget in A4 format. We

utroligt positivt og konstruktivt gennem hele processen. Vi havde en god dialog og fornemmede, at Mampho Thulo til tider kan være noget udfordret, når RSDA får midler fra 5 forskellige donorer med hver deres rapporteringssystem og tidsterminer.



Majsen kommer fint, og man luger ved fælles hjælp

Konklusionen på mangoen var, at der var en høj score omkring de enkelte projekter og den finansielle styring af disse. Men der er udfordringer på det overordnede plan. Bestyrelsen for RSDA er selvsupplerende - sådan er RSDA startet.



Fotostop ved Orange River

I en demokratisk ånd ville en medlemsstyret organisation være at foretrække. Dette kan bare ikke umiddelbart lade sig gøre, da man i Lesotho ikke kan ændre i en organisations vedtægter. Så skal den nedlægges og genopstå i et andet navn. Når vi spørger Mampho Thulo om kompetencerne hos bestyrelses-

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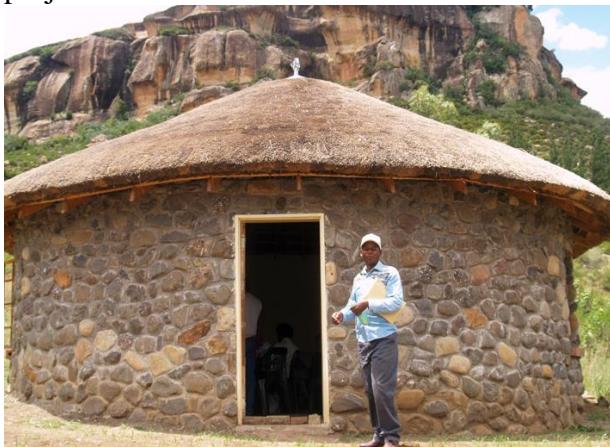
adjusted it to the organisation, and I hope RSDA will make use of it.



Lunch. Me Thulo, Mataba and Nis

A third improvement could be a forum where the different donors of RSDA could exchange ideas and experiences together with the management team of RSDA. The arrangement of such a forum is, however, a practical challenge.

After a couple of hours' meeting Saturday morning, we went to Mafeteng to meet with the umbrella organisations of the Mafeteng area. 15 farmers attended, and Mampho Thulo went through the "development triangle" while Anders explained what activities the 2014 intervention funds were meant to cover and elaborated on the possibilities for applying for funds for a third phase: namely a 2015-17 project.



The new meeting room in Phamong

As a professional farmer I gave an account of

medlemmerne, så svarer de til de opgaver RSDA udfører, og de midler de har med at gøre.

Et andet punkt, som manglede, var et overordnet regnskab, budget og en opgørelse af balancen for RSDA. Jeg havde en skabelon med, som indeholder 2 års regnskab, budgetkontrol og fremtidig budget på en A4 side. Jeg fik den rettet til og håber, RSDA vil bruge den.

Som noget tredje kunne man savne et forum, hvor RSDA's donorer sammen udvekslede ideer og erfaringer. Dette skulle foregå sammen med ledelsen i RSDA. Udfordringen er, hvordan det praktisk kan lade sig gøre.



Vejen op til Shalane (Phamong kontoret) er blevet bredere, men stadig bumpet.

Efter at have holdt et par timers møde lørdag formiddag kørte vi til Mafeteng for at holde møde i "paraplyorganisationerne". Der deltog 15 landmænd, og Mampho Thulo fortalte om udviklingstrekanten, mens Anders fortalte om, hvordan pengene, der var bevilget i 2014, skulle bruges, og om mulighederne for at søge penge til en tredje fase af projektet, nemlig for perioden 2015 -17.

Som praktisk landmand fortalte jeg om fortalervirksomhed og den organisatoriske kapacitet hos danske landmænd, der er udviklet gennem generationer, men stadig er udfordret. Ligesom i Lesotho, hvor bønderne er utilfredse med deres "Farmers Union", så sker det også i Danmark. I Danmark danner vi nye "protest" foreninger som f.eks. Bæredygtigt Landbrug.

the advocacy and organisational capacity of Danish farmers. A capacity which has been developed throughout generations but, nevertheless, is still being challenged. Like in Lesotho, where the farmers are unsatisfied with their “Farmers Union”, Danish farmers create “protest” unions such as “Sustainable Farming”. However, the farmers’ cooperatives can also grow so big that the farmers have to make smaller trading associations through which they deal with the large cooperatives. Another similarity between farming in Lesotho and in Denmark is the lack of young people to inherit their parents’ farms. The meeting in Mafeteng was short of young farmers. Are the farms in Lesotho too small for the younger generation to take over and make a living on them? In Denmark we have the opposite situation: farms have grown so big that, financially, young farmers are not able to take over.



On the way to Phamong

After a couple of hours we continued our trip to Mohales Hoek where we spent the night. We enjoyed having time to discuss various issues with the project managers, Ntate Mataba and Ntate Babeisi, without a fixed agenda throughout the evening.

The following Sunday we continued to Phamong where we held a similar workshop

Andelsselskaberne kan også blive så store, at det medfører, at bønderne laver nye og mindre indkøbsforeninger og køber sammen ind hos de store.



Ledere af Phamong landmandsgrupper samlet i det nye mødelokale.

En anden lighed med dansk landbrug er det manglende generationsskifte. Der mangler unge mennesker til mødet her i Mafeteng. Er landbrugene i Lesotho for små til at unge vil overtage dem? Her i Danmark er landbrugene for store til, at unge landmænd umiddelbart kan overtage dem.

Efter et par timer kørte vi videre til Mohales Hoek. Vi indlogerede os sammen med Mampho Thulo, og de 2 konsulenter, Ntate Mataba og Ntate Babeisi. Vi havde en riktig hyggelig aften sammen, hvor vi nød alle at kunne snakke uden en planlagt dagsorden.

Om søndagen tog vi turen til Phamong, hvor vi holdt et tilsvarende møde med de lokale formænd. De kom i deres pæne tøj og var i godt humør. De er aktive lytttere, spørgelystne og har egne historier at fortælle. De havde med hjælp fra RSDA selv søgt og fået bevilget penge ved ”World Food Programme” til indkøb af bl.a. såsæd. Regnskabet og budgettet hang på væggene i mødelokalet.

Jeg fik indtryk af, at der var en god vækstsæson i Phamong området i år. Bønderne var glade, de havde taget mægtige majskolber med, som var kogte. Der var næsten et helt måltid i en sådan kolbe. Formanden for paraplyorganisationen, Letla Moreng, solgte

with the local heads of the associations. They attended the meeting dressed up and in a happy mood. They are attentive listeners, ask questions and are eager to share their own stories. Facilitated by RSDA, and with success, they had applied The WFP for funds for buying seeds etc. Their financial report and budget were exposed on the walls of the meeting room.



Participants in the Phamong meeting

It is my impression that Phamong had a good season of harvest this year. The farmers were happy and treated us with huge maize cobs.

Such a cooked cob makes up almost a whole meal. The head of the umbrella organisation, Letla Moreng, sold apples from his orchard - apples that resembled the Danish Graasten Apple. Even at a temperature of 30 degrees it keeps its shape and juiciness. I bought a dozen apples which lasted the following four days.

One of the questions from the assembled farmers was whether I would recommend that they started commercial pig production like me. My answer was that you first have to ensure that the feed for the pigs doesn't conflict with the need for human food. Then you have to organize a slaughtering process which can deal with and distribute the entire pig. The alternative would be to produce delicacy items such as dried ham. This would

æbler af egenavl, - det kunne godt minde om et Gråsten æble. Selv i 30 graders varme holdt det formen og saften. Jeg købte et dusin, som jeg spiste af i 4 dage.



Phamong Ebler

Et af spørgsmålene fra forsamlingen var, om de også skulle anskaffe sig grise og tjene penge, som jeg. Jeg svarede, at først skulle man sikre, at det foder, gris'en spiste, ikke konkurrerede med fødevarer til befolkningen. Dernæst skal der organiseres en slagteproces, som kan bruge og distribuere hele gris'en. Alternativet er, at man kan lave delikatessevarer som f. eks. tørrede skinker. Dette kæver et brand , f.eks. "Phamong Skinke".



Majsen er godt på vej

Det at svare på sådanne spørgsmål sætter ens egen dagligdag i perspektiv, - det er jo ikke

require a brand - for example: "Phamong Ham". Reflecting on such questions puts one's own routines into perspective. We do not only breed pigs in Denmark - it also takes infrastructure, marketing, branding, financing etc. to produce and export pork.

In the afternoon we went back north to Maseru again. The following Monday and Tuesday we continued our meetings at the RSDA office in Maseru. We made sampling of receipts and accounts, we finalized our Mango survey, and we agreed on possible activities within the partnership intervention. Thereafter a work plan for 2014 was adjusted.



Sun cells at the Mafeteng office

This was my third visit to Lesotho. And every time it has been a fantastic pleasure to meet the Basotho people with their humoristic and happy spirit. However, I have never before seen Lesotho as green as this time! Apparently, the country hasn't developed that much, technologically. However, it was fascinating to realize that the attendants were disturbed by their cell phones during meetings. You also notice satellite dishes and solar cells on many house roofs just as electricity is making its way to the villages.

bare det, at vi holder grise i DK, men hele den infrastruktur, afsætning, branding, finansiering osv. vi er omgivet af.



Me Thulo and Ntate Hedegaard

Først på eftermiddagen kørte vi nordpå mod Maseru igen. Mandag og tirsdag fortsatte vi møderne på RSDA's kontor i Maseru. Vi fik foretaget stikprøvekontrol af bilag og deres bogføring, vi fik afsluttet Mangoundersøgelsen og fik formuleret mulige tiltag. Dernæst blev arbejdsplanen for 2014 finjusteret.

Dette var min 3. tur til Lesotho, - og hver gang er det fantastisk at opleve Basothoernes humor og umiddelbare glæde. Jeg har ikke før oplevet Lesotho så grønt som denne gang. Umiddelbart er der ikke sket meget teknologisk udvikling, men fascinerende er det, at mødedeltagerne i Lesotho også forstyrres af mobil- telefoner i utide. Man ser paraboler og solceller på mange hytter, og strømmen er på vej ud til flere landsbyer.

In Denmark Lesotho Network

(DLN) we are proud to present two local Lesotho newspaper articles covering the work of DLN's partner organisation Development for Peace Education (DPE).

DPE is making a great effort of teaching people about their rights and how to influence the national budget processes and involve the local communities in decision making. This is worth supporting!

Both newspaper articles were brought August 2013, however the articles are still relevant. At the moment DLN is applying for a new three year project together with DPE to continue the fight for political and social rights.

Please read the articles below:

Public Eye

Friday August 30, 2013

National Planning Board on the card

By Billy Ntaote

Maseru- Plans to establish a National Planning Board (NPB) are now at the advanced stage, the principal secretary for the Ministry of Development Planning Mr Leratholi Pheko, announced on Tuesday this week.

The constitution provides for the establishment of an NPB responsible for formulating development policies for the country. Pheko told a community parliament hosted by the Development for Peace Education, a local non-government organisation, a Bill would soon be tabled before parliament to pave way for the setting up of the Board.

Tuesdays 'parliament' sessions was attended by eight community council representatives from Mokhotlong, Qasha's Nek, Quthing, Mohale's Hoek and Berea districts to encourage people at the grassroots to participate in budgetary processes.

Pheko told the meeting: "We know many people are angry to see the National Planning Board functioning. Some critics have been very impatient for years, but we should not be in a hurry as we

I Denmark Lesotho Network

(DLN) er vi stolte over og glade for at se to artikler bragt i en lokal avis i Lesotho, som omtaler Development for Pease Education (DPE), som DLN samarbejder med.

De lægger et stort arbejde i at gøre folk opmærksomme på deres rettigheder, og i at uddanne dem til, hvordan de kan få indflydelse på det nationale budget, så det kommer civilbefolkningen til gode. Det er værd at støtte op om!

Begge artikler er bragt sidst i august 2013. Man skulle synes, at det er gamle nyheder, men det er det langt fra, idet DLN lige nu arbejder på at søge penge til et nyt treårigt projekt, så DPE kan fortsætte det gode arbejde med at udbrede folks rettigheder og få dem formaliseret.

Læs artiklerne herunder.

Public Eye

Friday August 30, 2013

Nationalt planlægningsudvalg på vej

Af: Billy Ntaote.

Maseru- Planer om at etablere et nationalt planlægningsudvalg nærmer sig nu hastigt, annoncerede ministersekretæren for Ministeriet for Udviklingsplanlægning Mr. Leratholi Pheko i tirsdags. Lesothos grundlov giver mulighed for at etablere et nationalt planlægningsudvalg, der er ansvarligt for at formulere udviklingsmål for hele landet. Phoke bekendtgjorde til lokalparlament, organiseret af den lokale NGO, Development for Peace Education (DPE), at en lov snarest muligt vil blive fremlagt for at etablere det nationale planlægningsudvalg. Repræsentanter for otte lokaludvalg fra Mokhotlong, Qasha's Nek, Quthing, Mohale's Hoek og Berea deltog i lokalparlamentet, som havde til formål at engagere folk på græsrodsplan til at deltage i de budgetmæssige processer.

have to be careful about the manner in which this body would relate to the Ministry of Development Planning."

He added:" Sofare, what we have done as a ministry is to try to widen representation on the Board so that includes all relevant stakeholders from civil society."

Heko also indicated apart from the NPB, his ministry was working on formulating the Districts Strategic Development Plan "now that the National Strategic Development Plan 2012 – 2017 is complete."

The goal was to have specific area development plans available so that each district is developed as per the requirements, he added.

Pheko commended the Development for Peace Education's effort towards ensuring Basotho at grassroots level participate in informing the community parliament.

He also urged the parliament to include all communities to give government ministries "a real picture of their needs ahead of the national budget formulation. Meanwhile, the Executive Director of the Lesotho Council of non-government Organisations (LCN), Mr Seabata Motsamai, said his organisation would closely work with the DPE to ensure the next year's community parliament becomes a nationwide assembly ahead of the formulation of the national budget.

"Vi ved, at mange mennesker er ivrige efter at se det nationale planlægningsudvalg i aktion. Nogle kritikere har været utålmodige gennem flere år, men vi bør ikke forhaste os, da vi må være sikre på, hvilken måde dette udvalg kommer til at samarbejde med Ministeriet for Udviklingsplanlægning" udtalte Pheko til lokalparlamentet. "Indtil videre har Ministeriet forsøgt at skabe en bredere repræsentation i udvalget, så det inkluderer alle relevante interesser fra civilsamfundet," tilføjede han.

Pheko indikerede også, at udover det nationale planlægningsudvalg er Ministeriet i gang med at formulere de strategiske udviklingsmål for distrikterne "nu da den nationale strategiske udviklingsplan 2012-2017 er fuldført". Målet er at have en række specifikke udviklingsplaner tilgængelige, så hvert distrikt bliver udviklet i forhold til deres behov, tilføjede han. Pheko roste Development for Peace Education for deres indsats for at sikre, at græsrødderne kan udtrykke deres ønsker og behov til lokalparlamentet. Han opfordrede også parlamentet til at inkludere alle i lokalsamfundet for at give ministerierne: "et ægte billede af deres behov forud for forhandlingerne om nationalbudgettet". I mellemtiden har Mr. Seabata Motsamai, direktøren for Lesotho Council of Non-Government Organisations (LCN) udtalt, at hans organisation gerne vil arbejde tæt sammen med DPE, for at sikre næste års lokalparlament bliver udbredt på nationalt niveau forud for nationalbudgettet.

Malebo urges counsils to petition parliament

By Billy Ntate

MASERU- The chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee Mr Moeketse Malebo, has urged community council representatives to petition parliament if they feel their problems are not being addressed.

Malebo opfordrer lokaludvalg til at henvende sig til parlamentet

Af: Billy Ntate

MASERU - Formanden for Public Accounts Committee Mr. Moeksetse Malebo opfordrer medlemmerne af lokaludvalgene til at henvende sig til parlamentet, hvis de føler, at deres problemer ikke bliver hørt. På tirsdagens

Malebo on Tuesday this week told a 'community parliament' attended by council officials from Mokhotlong, Qacha's Nek, Quthing, Moahle's Hoek and Berea districts they had the right to march on parliament whenever government fails them.

The session was hosted by the Development for Pease Education (DPE), a local non-government organisation.

"In the past, we used to have cases where people bring their petition to parliament and they would just disappear into the air without the august house considering them. But now things has changed: the 8th parliament has promised to ensure that your issue are tabled through the Clerk," said Malepo, who is also the leader of the Marematlou Freedom Party (MFP)

He cited the National Assembly of Lesotho Standing Orders Chapter 11 provided for public participation in business of parliament.

"We have passed the time when voters turned the elite into Gods they worshiped after elections. We are not slaves of the leaders; they are actually elected to serve the people. You have all the right to know what they are doing and how it is going to benefit you and your children," said Malebo.

He revealed his main duty as chairperson of the Public Account Committee in parliament is to see to it that public funds are utilises as budgeted for and that this is in the best interests of Basotho.

"When other parliamentarians go on vacation, we stay at work like we did this winter, to get reports on how funds were used by all government ministries. This is done so that you get to know what your resources have been used for by those in government."

The Maliepetsane constituency MP, Michael Molefe of the All Basotho Convention (ABC) told the meeting it was good government ministries and departments were now required to report to parliament on a quarterly basis on how they use funds allocated to them.

Molefe noted parliamentary committees made

Community Parlamentet med repræsentanter fra Mokhotlong, Qacha's Nek, Quthing, Moahle's Hoek og Berea udtalte Malebo, at lokaludvalgene har ret til at rette kritik mod regeringen, når de føler, at de ikke lever op til deres løfter. Denne debat var organiseret af Development for Peace Education (DPE), som er en lokal NGO.

"Tidligere havde vi tilfælde, hvor folk bragte skriftlige henvendelser til parlamentet, og hvor de bare forsvandt i den blå luft, uden at politikerne overhovedet havde kigget på dem. Men nu har tingene ændret sig, den nuværende regering har lovet at sikre at befolkningens problemer bliver taget op efter, at de er blevet indleveret til kontorassisterne" udtalte Melepo, som også er leder af Marematlou Freedom Party (MFP).

Han citerede derefter kapitel 11 af Lesothos National Assembly of Standing Orders:

"Vi har passeret det tidspunkt, hvor vælgerne gjorde de folkevalgte politikere til tilbedte guder. Vi er ikke ledernes slaver; de er derimod valgt til at tjene folket. Du har al ret til at vide, hvad de foretager sig, og hvordan det kommer dig og dine børn til gode," sagde Malebo.

Han fastslog, at hans hovedformål som formand for Public Account Committee i parlamentet er at overvåge, om de offentlige midler bliver brugt i overensstemmelse med budgetterne og i bedst muligt interesse for Lesotho.

"Når de andre folketingsmedlemmer går på ferie, så bliver vi på arbejde ligesom i vinters og gennemgår rapporterne for at se, hvordan de har været brugt af ministerierne. Det gør vi, så du kan se, hvad dine ressourcer bliver brugt til af regeringen".

Mr. Michael Molefe, medlem af All Basotho Convention (ABC) fra Maliepetsane vælgerkreds, udtalte på Community Parlamentet, at det er godt, at der nu bliver sat krav til ministerierne om, at de skal rapportere til regeringen en gang i kvartalet om, hvordan de bruger deres midler. Molefe understregede, at det er vigtigt, at ministrene og

it a point that ministries and their principal secretaries are present to answer their questions.

The Democratic Congress MP for the Taung constituency, Mr Phallang Monare, commended effords by the community councils to engage in national issues that affect them.

ministersekretærerne er til stede for at svare spørgsmål.

Mr. Phallang Monare, folketingsmedlem og medlem af Democratic Congress for Taung vælgerkreds, roste også de tiltag, der har været for at involvere lokaludvalgene i de nationale problemstillinger, der berører dem.

News from Lesotho:

From Public Eye:

Task team to appraise government projects

Published on February 12, 2014

By Bereng Mpaki

MASERU- The Ministry of Development Planning yesterday introduced members of a task team that will appraise government projects to ascertain their relevance to the strategic needs of the country.

The committee, which was established by Cabinet last September, will also ensure that projects are technically, economically and institutionally viable before being implemented.

According to the minister, Dr Moeketsi Majoro, who addressed the media yesterday, the establishment of the Public Sector Investment Committee (PSIC) was influenced by poor implementation of capital projects that resulted from insufficient preparation and assessment of projects in the past.

Majoro said it is this lack of preparation that has often led to withdrawal of funds that had already been allocated to projects that were not ready for implementation, and that was hindering progress of other projects that were ready to start.

He said the government has twice had to take funds away from one project that was not ready and moved them to another in the current financial year.

“The Cabinet’s motivation for the establishment of the PSIC is that in the past the implementation of some projects has been adversely affects by insufficient project preparation. Projects have suffered from insufficient analysis as well as inaccurate costing and a lack of proper economic and financial analysis,” he noted.

He further indicated they have learnt from past lessons that the success of the committee would rely on commitment and dedication of the appointed personnel, as well as usage of appropriate skills for the job.

The committee, which is co-chaired by the principal secretary in the development planning ministry, Mr Lerotholi Pheko, and principal secretary in the finance ministry Mr Mosito Khethisa, comprises representative from 12 other ministries.

“Management and special skills must be applied at all stages of the project cycle, from the initial project identification to the final evaluation. The planning officers in the ministry and in the planning units in the line ministries and implementing agencies do not always possess such skills, and it is my impression that there is a need for us to raise awareness on the process that should be followed and the cooperation that is required among the entities that are involved during the formulation and appraisal,” Majoro said.

Fair seeks to raise environment awareness

Published on February 12, 2014

By Madingane Maliehe

MASERU- Phela Health and Development Communications in conjunction with Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Small Grants Programme (SGP) are set to host a second fair to raise environmental awareness.

The first meeting of the Best Practice and Knowledge Fair took place last week where civil society organisations, public and private sector representatives were briefed on issues of global environment.

Speaking at meeting, the national coordinator of GEF/Small Grants, Mrs Nthabiseng Majara indicated a more detailed training session would be held on February 12-13.

“There are a lot of environmental issues that we hear about, such as land degradation, ozone layer depletion and climate change yet we remain uninformed as to what they actually mean.

“These issues affect us in Lesotho as much as they do to the rest of the world, and since Lesotho became a part of a multilateral global agreement in December 2007, this fair has been put in place to address issues that affect our environment,” Majara noted.

She further added the purpose behind the initiative was to increase networking and exchange of knowledge amongst Small Grants Programme grantees, civil society organisations, public and private sectors in order to encourage “the replication and scaling up of projects, best practices, innovations and technologies in environmental protection and management of natural resources”. Majara also emphasised that GEF endorses organisations that thrive on partnerships.

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

DLN's address is: Denmark Lesotho Network, C/O Anne Andersen, Hjembækvej 32, DK 8500, Grenaa, Denmark. E-mail: dln@lumela.dk

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