

News from the DLN

The winter in Denmark has come to an end according to the calendar and spring starts with the release of this newsletter. In Lesotho, the election has been held, and the result is expected with excitement, especially how the new government will be constituted. Here in Denmark there is a great wish that the parliamentarians, regardless of the election outcome, will take great responsibility and govern for the benefit of Basotho.

Vinteren i Danmark er slut ifølge kalenderen og foråret starter samtidig med udgivelsen af dette nyhedsbrev. I Lesotho er valget lige overstået og det er med spænding, resultatet ventes og især er der spænding om, hvordan den nye regering bliver sammensat. Her fra Danmark er der et stort ønske om, at parlamentarikerne, uanset valgets udfald, vil tage det store ansvar på sig og regere til gavn for Basotho.

AGM, Saturday 7th March 2015.

Husk Generalforsamlingen lørdag den 7. marts 2014

Klostergade 34, 8000 Århus C, kl. 10.30 – 15.30.

Du kan endnu nå at tilmelde dig til dln@lumela.dk eller aan@nrdn.dk



AGM March 2014

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News from the Board

By Anne Andersen

The Board has been busy preparing this year's Annual General Meeting on March 7 in Aarhus. This year we have the pleasure of seeing new pictures from Lesotho and hear about how it is to be a tourist for the first time there. Pia Karmark will share her photos and experiences. In this newsletter she also describes her experiences. She has reduced her articles significantly, so even though you read the whole article through, there will also be many others stories to read.

As the board now consists of people from both Northern Jutland and Copenhagen and everything in between, it has tried to move the physical board meetings from weekday's evenings to Sunday. It has only been tried once. The result was that more people were present, however the meeting was still too short to cover everything and it is difficult to know whether it is the way forward or the board should try other models to accommodate the people who spend too much time on transportation. It will be a task for the new Board to discuss at the following Annual General Meeting.



The Board has received a request from Carsten Brønden. Well, a former development consultant, among other things for DANIDA. He has previously lived both in Namibia, Botswana and South Africa. He is now on his way to be retired, but he still has a lot of

Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Af Anne Andersen

Bestyrelsen har været trukket i arbejdstøjet for at forberede årets generalforsamling, som afholdes den 7. marts i U-huset i Århus. I år har vi fornøjelsen af at se nye billeder fra Lesotho og høre om, hvordan det er at være førstegangsturist dernede. Pia Karmark kommer og fortæller om sine billeder og oplevelser. Et andet sted i dette nyhedsbrev beskriver hun sine oplevelser. Hun har skåret sin artikel væsentligt ned, så selv om du læser artiklen, vil der være en masse andet at høre om.



Som en konsekvens af, at bestyrelsen nu består af folk fra både det nordlige Jylland og fra København, samt alt der i mellem, er det forsøgt at flytte de fysiske bestyrelsesmøder fra hverdagsaftener til søndag. Det er kun forsøgt en gang. Resultatet var, at der var flere til stede, men stadig alt for kort tid til, at alle var med til at trække hele læsset, og dermed er det svært at vide, om det er vejen frem, eller der skal eksperimenteres med andre modeller for at tilgodese dem, der skal bruge meget tid på transport. Det vil blive den nye bestyrelses opgave at se på efter generalforsamlingen. Bestyrelsen har fået en henvendelse fra Carsten Brønden, som er tidligere udviklingskonsulent for bl.a. DANIDA. Han har tidligere boet både i Namibia, Botswana og Sydafrika. Han er nu på vej ud af arbejdsmarkedet, men synes, at han har flere kræfter og mere at byde på i

resources to offer in development work, education projects and he is interested in volunteer work in Southern Africa. At the last Board meeting he was invited to share his ideas and hear more about what Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN) can offer him. Carsten has become a member of DLN and we have started to work together. It will be interesting to see what it can lead to of new initiatives. We want to welcome Carsten and his friends, who also will join DLN. We look forward to work with you in DLN.



The travel group has received enough registrations for the nature/culture trip week 41 and 42 in Lesotho. However there are still available seats, so it is still possible to join us. See discussion elsewhere in the newsletter. See more information in this newsletter.

Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) group has an application waiting for approval at CISU, regarding a 3-year project. At the moment the group is waiting for the answer with their fingers crossed and everything else that can be crossed. The project is going to be the final part of what started out with construction of water tanks to now be a strong group of farmers who are able to influence the agricultural politics in Lesotho.

Development of Peace Education (DPE) is very busy with training and education of voters for the election that will take place on February 28, so when you read this the election has already been held. DLN has supported DPE by

forhold til udvikling evt. undervisningsprojekter, og han er interesseret i noget frivilligt arbejde i det sydlige Afrika. Til sidste bestyrelsesmøde var han inviteret for at fortælle om sine ideer og for at høre mere om, hvad Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN) evt. kan tilbyde ham. Carsten har meldt sig ind i foreningen, og et samarbejde er indledt. Det bliver spændende at se, hvad det kan føre til af nye tiltag. Velkommen Carsten og dine venner, som også vil være med. Vi glæder os i DLN til samarbejdet.

Rejsegruppen har fået nok tilmeldinger til, at natur/kulturrejsen i uge 41 og 42 bliver til noget. Der er dog stadig pladser, der ikke er solgt, så det er muligt at nå at komme med. Se omtale et andet sted i nyhedsbrevet. Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA)- gruppen har en ansøgning liggende



hos CISU, der handler om et 3-årigt projekt. Lige nu afventer gruppen svar med krydsede fingre og alt andet, der kan krydses. Projektet skal være det afsluttende i det, der begyndte med bygning af vandtanke til nu at få lavet en stærk sammenslutning af landmænd, der kan opnå medindflydelse på landbrugspolitikken i Lesotho.

Development of Peace Education (DPE) har meget travlt med oplysning og uddannelse af vælgere til valget, der finder sted den 28. februar – så når du læser dette, er valget

an amount of money to send out election messages. At the same time DPE must continue its project with DLN. It is a very busy time and they work as hard as they can.

Berea Agricultural Group (BAG) has build covers to 6 water tanks and they are ready to make more for the grant they have received from Lauritzen Foundation. We have sent an interim report to the Lauritzen Foundation and



the last part of the grant is received after we have finalised the report and plan of the project. Karen Steffensen has talked with the President of the organisation and he says that are about 40 schools, which have gardens where they grow cabbage, spinach and potatoes and keep pigs, as a result of the water tanks. This shows that the water is coming to a great use and that it can be collected for gardens, drinking water and used to cooking for the school children.

With these words, I hope to see many of you at the next General Assembly 7 March.

afholdt.

DLN har støttet DPE med et beløb til

at udsende valgmeddelelser. DPE skal samtidigt fortsætte det projekt, som DLN arbejder sammen med dem om. Det er en stor



opgave, og de arbejder hårdt.

Berea Agricultural Group (BAG) har nu bygget overdækning på 6 vandtanke, og er klar til at bygge flere for de penge, de har fået bevilliget fra Lauritzenfonden. Der er sendt en midtvejsrapport til Lauritzenfonden og den sidste portion penge er klar til afsendelse, når der kommer en rapport og en plan fra BAG. Karen Steffensen har talt med formanden, og han fortæller, at der er ca. 40 medlemsskoler, som alle har haver, hvor de dyrker f.eks. kål, spinat og kartofler, samt holder grise. Der er altså rigtig god brug for det vand, der kan samles både til haver, drikkevand og til madlavning til gavn for skolebørnene.

Med disse ord, vil jeg udtrykke håbet om, at se rigtig mange af jer til Generalforsamlingen den 7. marts.

Unik kultur/naturejse til Lesotho i efteråret 2015. Stadig ledige pladser



En aktiv oplevelsesferie i det sydlige Afrika

Hovedoverskriften er en aktiv kultur- og naturrejse. En rejse som også vil indeholde spændende aktiviteter, der går ud over hvad en 'normal' eksotisk ferierejse kan tilbyde. Vi skal møde de lokale, høre om Lesothos historie, opleve enestående natur og fascinerende kultur og selvfølgelig også slappe af og nyde lækker lokal mad.



Fakta:

- Vi rejser lørdag den 3. oktober 2015 og er tilbage lørdag den 17. oktober 2015
- Prisen bliver omkring kr. 15.000,-. Prisen inkluderer flybilletter, fælles transport, udflugter, overnatning og udvalgte måltider. Morgenmad er inkluderet hver dag.
- Max 20 personer kan deltage i rejsen

Program:

- Lørdag den 3. oktober: Afgang fra København med kurs mod Lesotho
- Søndag den 4. oktober: Ankomst til Maseru. Tur ind til byen. Middag på Foothills Guesthouse
- Mandag den 5. oktober: Overværelse af åbningen af Community Parliament. Derefter busrundtur i Maseru, som slutter af med lidt Sesotho undervisning hos en lokal lærer.
- Tirsdag den 6. oktober: Turen går til Morija, hvor vi kan se Museet. Vi spiser frokost på lodgen og der er mulighed for gåtur til dinosaur fodspor eller at købe en ridetur. Man kan også blot sidde og nyde den pragtfulde udsigt. Vi besøger Girls Highschool og kirken i Morija.
- Onsdag den 7. oktober: Besøg på Preeschool, hvor der går ca. 70 børn. Derefter tur til Thaba-Bosiu, det hellige bjerg.
- Torsdag den 8. oktober sætter vi kurs mod Ramabanta og oplever undervejs Lesothos smukke landskab. Vi nyder den smukke have og slapper af eller går på opdagelse i området. Frokost og aftensmad er inkluderet.
- Fredag den 9. oktober byder på landsbyrundtur og frokost i Ramabanta. Derefter går turen videre til Semonkong.
- Lørdag den 10. oktober tilbringer vi i det pragtfulde Semonkong. Vi skal se det sydlige Afrikas længste vandfald. Der vil være mulighed for vandretur, tur i 4x4 eller en tur på hesteryg!

- Søndag den 11. oktober: Efter en betagende køretur, ankommer vi til Sehlabathebe National Park, hvor vi tilbringer søndag og mandag. Parken, der er Lesothos første nationalpark, blev etableret i 1969 og ligger i Maloti Mountains, som er en del af Maloti-Drakensberg World Heritage Site. Begge dage er der inkluderet frokost og aftensmad. Vi smører madpakker til næste dags frokost.
- Tirsdag den 13. oktober kl. 8.00 kører vi mod Durban. Vi gør ophold i Qachas Nek, hvor vi ser en snakefarm og spiser madpakken. Undervejs overnatter vi i KwaZulu-Natal på Ingili Forest Lodge. Vi ankommer til Durban dagen efter.
- Onsdag den 14. og torsdag den 15. oktober oplever vi Durban ved det Indiske Ocean. Durban er den største by i KwaZulu-Natal provinsen med godt 3,3 mio. indbyggere.! Der kan købes forskellige ture f.eks. til Vally of a 1000 Hills med zuludanseopvisning eller en tur med fokus på Mandela og Gandhi, eller der kan gås på opdagelse, bades og slappes af.
- Fredag den 16. oktober: Vi forlader Durban i løbet af fredag eftermiddag for at flyve tilbage til København.
- Lørdag den 17. oktober er vi tilbage i København – mættet af indtryk fra Lesotho og Durban.

Ret til ændringer forbeholdes!



Hvis du synes, at programmet ser superspændende ud, så sæt kryds i kalenderen, tæl sparepengene og send en melding til os på l@askw.dk, mathiasen1@hotmail.com, eller aan@nrndn.dk om din interesse. Kender du nogen, du tror, vil være interesseret, fortæl endelig om rejsen og giv detaljerne videre.

My trip to Lesotho

Written by Pia Karmark

November 2014 I visited Lesotho. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to participate as a 'rehearsal tourist', where I together with Bodil, Anne and Elisabeth rented a car from Johannesburg. Later in the afternoon we saw the Lesotho Mountains in front of us. Already when we arrived at the border I could feel a different understanding of time, a slower pace and no mobile coverage.

Min tur til Lesotho

Af Pia Karmark

I november 2014 besøgte jeg Lesotho. Jeg var så heldig at få lov til at være med som "prøveturist", hvor jeg sammen med Bodil, Anne og Lisbet lejede en bil fra Johannesburg. Sidst på eftermiddagen så vi Lesothos bjerge foran os. Allerede ved grænsen, hvor vores pas blev tjekket, kunne jeg fornemme en anden tidsforståelse, langsomt tempo og ingen mobildækning.

After we had checked in at Foothills Guest House in the small capital of Maseru, I had the opportunity to see different projects. First stop was a school in TY and while Anne and Elisabeth had a meeting, I walked around in the school area with my iPad. After we had



local 'coffee' and cookies from a large plastic bucket, we went to visit a legend, the former female headmaster. She was now 80 years and bedridden. We were placed on chairs around her bed, and for me it was both a transcendent and fantastic experience to be able to visit her home like that. I saw her as a wise old woman surrounded by a well-planned and unique garden.

With two teachers from the school, we drove around to see different covered water tanks. One of the places, a school was placed on top of a plateau with an overlook of the village and fields surrounded by mountains. In the distance we could hear chant, cow bells and shouts from a group of elated shepherds. It was also the day when I first tasted papa, stew and morho. Together with Elisabeth and Anne, I had this very delicious meal in a butcher shop, where there was placed a few tables in the middle of the room. From there we could observe how the meat was cut. To me it seemed like almost the entire animal was cut into cubes. The shop was run by Chinese people, a sight that I experienced many times on the trip.

The day after I participated in a brief meeting

Efter indlogering på Foothills Guest House i den lille hovedstad Maseru, fik jeg mulighed for at køre rundt til forskellige projekter. Første stop var til en skole i TY, og mens Anne og Lisbet holdt møde, gik jeg rundt i skolens område med min iPad. Efter at have indtaget den lokale "kaffe" og småkager fra en kæmpe plastspand, kørte vi videre for at besøge en legende, den forhenværende kvindelige leder på skolen. Hun var nu over 80 år og sengeliggende. Vi blev placeret med stole rundt om hendes seng, og det var for mig både grænseoverskridende og fantastisk at få lov til at vandre ind i et hjem på den måde. Jeg oplevede en klog ældre kvinde, der var omgivet af sin egen velplanlagte og unikke have. Se f.eks. dette Basotho-højbed:



Med to lærere fra skolen kørte vi rundt til forskellige overdækkede vandbeholdere. Et af stederne, en skole, var bygget øverst på et plateau med kik udover landsbyen og markerne omgivet af bjergene. I det fjerne kunne vi høre kirkesang, kobjælder og råb fra en gruppe opstemte hyrder. Det var også dagen, hvor jeg for første gang smagte papa, stew og morho. Sammen med Lisbet og Anne indtog jeg dette meget lækre måltid i en slagterbutik, hvor der i midten var placeret et par borde. Herfra kunne vi iagttage, hvordan kødet blev udskåret. For mig at se blev hele dyret nærmest udskåret i tern. Butikken var drevet af kinesere, et syn, som jeg på turen oplevede mange gange.

with DPE, where my role was to take pictures. Afterwards Anne and I went out in Maseru, a walk of around four hours. First stop was the tourist shop - the Basotho hat with fine products but poor service.



Further along the main street Kingsway we visited the State Library, donated by China. As a librarian it warmed my heart to see a library filled with young people who read in deep silence. We continued further Kingsway road and I bought two beautiful woolen blankets. We had lunch at the local market, papa and moroho again, this time with pork grilled over high flames. It was a really nice big meal which we ate with fingers and we got to talk with some women who sat at the next table. They told us that they were from Swaziland and sold goods at the market. We continued further through town and went to the park near the Royal Palace. We visited another library where an employee could tell that they had financial problems. The rest of the day we drove in car with several sightseeing and we ended with a magnificent view over Maseru.

The day after Anne and I drove directly to the town of Morija, where we found out that the car needed gasoline, but it turned out that we could not get any gasoline due to lack of electricity. Nobody knew how long it would take before the power came back and everything seemed to be put on hold. We visited the local museum in the city, a small cozy museum, where we were the only guests and were told the history of Lesotho by a young girl. It was quickly over and in the museum we also saw posters and footprints of

Dagen efter var jeg med til et kort møde på DPE, hvor mit bidrag var at tage billeder. Derefter drog Anne og jeg ud i Maseru, en gåtur på ca. fire timer. Første stop var turistbutikken Basothohatten med fine produkter og dårlig service. Videre ad hovedgaden Kingsway gik vi ind på State Library, doneret af Kina. Som bibliotekar varmede det mit hjerte at se et biblioteksrum fyldt med unge mennesker, der læste i dyb stilhed. Vi fortsatte videre ad Kingsway, og jeg købte to smukke uldtæpper. Frokost blev indtaget på det lokale marked, igen papa og moroho og denne gang med pork, der blev grillet over meterhøje flammer. Et virkelig dejligt stort måltid, som vi spiste med fingrene, og vi faldt i snak med nogle kvinder, der sad ved nabobordet. De fortalte at de var fra Swaziland og solgte på markedet. Videre gennem byen så vi bl.a. parken ved kongeslottet. Endnu et bibliotek blev besøgt, hvor en ansat kunne berette, at de havde "financial problems". Resten af dagen kørte vi i bil med ægte sightseeing og endte med storslået udsigt over Maseru.



Dagen efter kørte Anne og jeg direkte til byen Morija, hvor vi fandt vi ud af, at bilen behøvede benzin, men det viste sig, at vi ikke kunne tanke pga. manglende elektricitet. Ingen vidste hvor længe det varede, før strømmen kom tilbage, og alt gik tilsyneladende i stå. Vi besøgte museet i byen, et hyggeligt lillebitte museum, hvor vi som de eneste gæster fik fortalt Lesothos historie af en ung pige. Det var ret hurtigt overstået, og i museet så vi også

dinosaurs. It turned out that there were dinosaur footprints in the mountains. Since the electricity in the city did still not work, we would like to see them. A young guy named Chris, who hung out at the museum knew the place and offered to be a guide and the young girl from the museum apparently left her job and went with us. We walked up on a hilly road with small huts and fields on each side and ended at a lodge with a beautiful view over the mountains. A nice starting point to a tourist attraction, and we were provided with walking sticks and bought water from a waitress.

We started our trip in a small forest with tall trees and passed by a water reservoir ("manmade" said Chris) and halfway up the mountains it began to rain and there were heavy lightning. We had to seek shelter and the girl from the museum took resolute a plastic bag over her straightened hair. The water began to flow like small creeks down the narrow path, but we came through the challenges with a guide who turned out to be



calm, humorous and familiar with the place. The rock with dinosaur footprints and the beautiful view made the trip worth it and it is one of my greatest experiences in Lesotho. On the way down we were told by a passer that the city's electricity had returned. I had a good talk with Chris who told me excitedly that Morija had the nation's largest school for girls, which Anne and I visited. The schools headmaster showed us around and despite financial

plancher og fodspor af dinosaurers. Det viste sig, at der fandtes dinosaurspor oppe i bjergene. Da elektriciteten i byen stadigvæk ikke virkede, var det oplagt at se dem.



En ung fyr Chris, der hang ud ved museet, kendte stedet og tilbød sig som guide, og den unge pige fra museet droppede åbenbart midlertidigt sit job og tog også med. Vi gik op ad en bakket vej med mindre hytter og marker på hver side og endte ved en lodge, der lå smukt med udsigt til bjergene. Et dejligt udgangspunkt til en turisttur, og vi blev udstyret med vandrestokke og købte vand af en servitrice, der i den grad slæbte sine sko hen over gulvet.



Vi startede vores tur gennem en mindre skov af høje træer og forbi et vandreservoir ("manmade", fortalte Chris) og midtvejs op ad bjerget begyndte det at regne og lyne voldsomt. Vi måtte krybe i ly, og pigen fra museet tog resolut en plastikpose over sit glattede hår.

problems, she would do the same for other tourists another time!



Next day we packed the car. In the town of Roma we had a break at the town's church, where the cows were grazing next to us. And then we went out into the stunning landscape with beautiful mountains, plateaus, small fields and shepherds with many cattle.



We stopped at the beautiful Ramabanta lodge where we dreamed us back to Karen Blixen time when she 'had a farm in Africa'. The landscape changed almost unnoticed and we drew near the city Semonkong, a town with a Chinese-owned shop where I on Bodils recommendation bought large amounts of Aloe hand cream, a 'product of Lesotho'. I later read on the product that it is good for both skin and hair. The city's residents are skilled horsemen and everywhere we could see men on horsebacks with colorful rugs and balaclavas.

In the city we crossed the roaring river Maletsunyane and checked in Semonkog Lodge. We could sit on the lodge's wooden

Vandet begyndte at strømme som små bække ned over den smalle sti, men vi klarede udfordringerne ved hjælp af en guide, der viste sig at være rolig, humoristisk og stedkendt. Klippen med dinosaurussporene, og udsigten var det hele værd og en af mine største oplevelser i Lesotho.

På turen ned, hvor vi af en forbigående fik at vide, at byens elektricitet var kommet tilbage, fik jeg en god snak med Chris, der begejstret fortalte, at Morija havde landets største pigeskole. Den besøgte Anne og jeg. Skolens headmaster viste os rundt, og hun ville - trods "financielle problemer" - gerne gøre det samme for andre turister en anden gang :-)



Vi pakkede næste dag bilen. I byen Roma holdt vi pause ved byens kirke, hvor køerne gik og græssede ved siden af. Og nu gik turen ud i det fantastiske landskab med de smukke bjerge, plateauer, de små marker og hyrder med de mange kreaturer. Vi stoppede ved den smukt liggende Ramabanta Lodge, hvor vi drømte os tilbage til Karen Blixens tid, da hun "had a farm in Africa".



Landskabet ændrede sig næsten umærkeligt, og vi nærmede os byen Semonkong, en by med en

terrace and see the village's population carry everything on donkey- or horseback. I was happy to see the highest waterfall in Southern Africa. Bodil, Elisabeth and I walked to the waterfall.



The route only consisted of a few small trails in the countryside and was very busy. We passed by people on foot, horses and donkeys, with our without riders and packages and many shepherds with sheep and cows. The many trails led to small villages with round huts or shanties, which I quickly found out was a sort of 'beer tents'. People were very friendly and saluted us when we passed by. I went ahead by myself but I felt in very good company. I had a feeling of happiness on the road, which was boosted by the sight of beautiful waterfalls.



The day after we left Semongkong and continued over the mountain range along the fine roads that was still under construction led by the Chinese. The magnificent untouched

kinesisk ejet butik, hvor jeg på Bodils opfordring købte store mængder aloe-håndcreme, "product of Lesotho". Jeg har senere læst på produktet, at det både er til hud og hår! Byens indbyggere er dygtige hesteryttere og mænd til hest med deres farvestrålende tæpper og elefanthuer var overalt.

Ved byen krydsede vi den brusende flod Maletsunyane og blev installeret på Semongkong Lodge. Vi kunne sidde på lodgens træterasse og se landsbyens befolkning transportere ALT på æsel- eller hesteryg. Jeg glædede mig til at opleve det højeste vandfald i det sydlige Afrika. Sammen med Bodil og Lisbet begyndte vi at trave ud mod vandfaldet. Ruten, der blot bestod af en mængde stier i landskabet var livlig trafikeret. Vi passerede folk til fods, heste og æsler med eller uden ryttere og oppakning og mange hyrder med deres får og køer. De mange stier førte ud til de små landsbyer med deres runde hytter eller også til blikskure, som jeg ret hurtigt fandt ud af, var en slags "øltelte". Befolkningen var venlig og hilsende. Jeg gik alene forvejen, men følte mig i vældig godt selskab. Jeg havde en zen-fornemmelse af lykke ude på stierne, der blev forstærket af synet af det flotte vandfald.



Dagen efter forlod vi Semongkong og kørte videre over bjergkæden ad fine veje, der endnu var under opbygning ledet af kinesere. De storslåede uberørte vider fortsatte, først grønt med Basotho-landsbyer og senere et mere tørt landskab. Vi nærmede os grænsen til

landscape continued first green with Basotho villages and later on a more dried-up site. We approached the South African border and spend the night in the city Qachas Nek, a town with lush trees and a center with taxis and many colorful market stalls.



We ended the tour with a visit to a snake farm. A young man energetically invited us in and showed us around in the semi-finished and small animal park. Besides snakes there were also hives and we got a thorough and nice presentation and we also saw mice that ended their days as snake food. In the park's small garden Bodil got to talk to the little brother. It turned out that the two boys ran the zoo with their father and had big plans to build a room where school classes for example could be taught about snakes and the role of bees in the ecosystem. A last very positive experience before we left Lesotho.

Sydafrika og overnattede i byen Qachas Nek, en by med frodige træer og et centrum med taxaer og mange farvestrålende handelsboder.



Vi sluttede turen af med et besøg på en snakefarm. En ung mand bød os energisk velkommen og viste os rundt i den lidt halvfærdige og lille dyrepark. Udover slanger var der også bistader og vi fik en grundig og fin fremvisning, hvor vi også så de mus, som endte deres dage hos slangerne. I parkens lille have fik Bodil en snak med lillebroderen. Det viste sig, at de to drenge sammen med deres far drev dyreparken og havde store planer om at bygge et lokale, hvor f.eks. skoleklasser kunne få undervisning i slangers og biers nytte i økosystemet. En sidste meget positiv oplevelse, før vi forlod Lesotho.

News from Lesotho:

From:**DAILY****MAVERICK**

Africa

Op-Ed: Finally, good news from Lesotho - Basotho youth showing a pulse!

*Photo: A general view of buildings is seen in the capital Maseru August 31, 2014.
REUTERS/Siphiwe Sibeko*

It's not all doom and gloom in tiny Lesotho – although between the healthcare crisis, the spiralling unemployment and the dangerously messy political situation there is enough of that to go around too. MICHAEL J. JORDAN profiles the youth-driven peace concert that is demanding a brighter future.

MASERU, Lesotho – In a sea of unrelenting bad news around the world, we in the media should sometimes look harder for good news. Especially for me today, an outsider up to my ears in a tiny African kingdom I've grown to care about deeply.

With Lesotho and its mind-boggling range of health, development and democratization challenges – and now mounting fear of imminent [election-related violence](#) – it's simply too easy to write about the negatives. ([Guilty as charged.](#))

That's why I'm stunned to have stumbled across a genuinely positive story: a new Basotho-youth organisation unveiled its plan to host a huge pro-peace concert, [Stand United Music Festival](#). This Saturday, 14 February, two weeks before the vote.

At first I dismissed the concert as a cute idea, but not necessarily newsworthy. Now I see a greater symbolism, which even inspires me to write about it. Let me explain. Though, first a disclaimer: I'm not writing this piece because my [documentary-film partner](#) is a co-organiser, or that my wife works for one of the sponsoring agencies. (Let them do their own damn PR! Or, [check their poster](#).)

No, I write for two reasons. We journalists have an *obligation* to look for good news. Sure, bad news, especially scandalous stories, help sell papers. But we have a duty to our audience to be as fair and accurate as possible. Disproportionate focus on the negative – the low-hanging fruit – may present a distorted image of a society. Particularly when reporting from faraway lands.

For example, we now live next door to South Africa, and all I hear about it is crime, corruption, cronyism and incompetence. Surely there are *some* positive trends to report about the 'rainbow nation', two decades after the end of Apartheid?

Now the second reason: the media must also recognise the vital role we play in shaping and influencing a national psyche. If I were the Basotho of Lesotho – which suffers from the world's [second-highest rate](#) of HIV infection – I'd be very depressed, for sure. Not just by the reality around me, in my family or on the streets. But also the unyielding stream of bad-news headlines. As if Lesotho doesn't have enough problems, the Basotho read recent newspaper placards such as 'Teen Girl Gang Raped' – by seven fellow villagers – *or* 'Suspected Killers, Rapists Escape'. And so on.

I'd be shaking my head, all the time. It'd be like a steady drumbeat on the brain, surely souring the mood in that moment of my day, too. Similarly, I believe the media can uplift a national psyche. The Basotho are [already in denial](#) about their crippling their HIV crisis – and that hasn't budged in more than a decade. Yet, if there's one Basotho nurse, in some remote health clinic, in one rugged mountain hamlet, who's doing everything she can to attract all pregnant women to the clinic, to immerse them in information about the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, enrol them in pre-natal services, ensure these women also immunise their newborns to avoid so many preventable childhood illnesses, doesn't that nurse deserve to be profiled in a feature story in the paper, on the airwaves? Yes, she certainly does. First, because in a country where Saturday continues to be funeral-day, what a great story that would be about an 'ordinary' member of the Basotho nation – yet doing something quite extraordinary. But there's more. Her story, when shared with a far broader Basotho audience, will surely brighten the spirits at that moment. Even more, amid so much hopelessness and helplessness regarding the HIV scourge, this one nurse's story may even awaken some Basotho: *Hey, something positive is happening here*. Ideally, it may even inspire a few: *So, one person can really make a difference? Then let me get up off the couch and do something meaningful... for my people*.

This leads me back to the good news story of [Youth4Peace Lesotho](#) and their pro-peace concert, with a line-up of leading Basotho musicians. They even have [a catchy anthem](#), which they tout as the early favorite for Lesotho's song of the year. They anticipate a crowd of 5,000 – which in a capital city of just 200,000, is enough to fill the main stadium for a World Cup qualifier or match with neighbouring South Africa. Security is a great concern: in hopes of keeping the peace, organisers make clear on their concert poster, “No alcohol, no weapons, no political attire”.

More important than the concert, though, is what it represents. In a climate of intimidation and impunity, few Basotho feel empowered to speak up, let alone [act as a watchdog](#). Foreign aid workers bemoan the deep apathy – yet the health and development drama is enough to [defeat anyone](#). Meanwhile, this just in: [fresh research](#) suggests that Lesotho's youth endure the second-highest rate of unemployment in all of Africa.

For Youth4Peace, though, enough is enough. Of Lesotho's 1.2 million registered voters, a whopping half [are reportedly](#) between the ages of 18 and 35. “I love my country and I want my country to be the best it can be,” says Moleboheng Rampou, spokeswoman for a group just two weeks old. “I also want the youth of Lesotho to be the best that they can be. Youth have a voice, but they're not using it – or they're not using it right. With a bit of inspiration, mobilisation and encouragement, they can take their rightful place in society – as leaders.” Indeed, Youth4Peace has stepped forward to assume the role that Archbishop Desmond Tutu played [nearly three years ago](#), on the eve of Lesotho's 2012 elections. In a country that's suffered its share of election-related violence, Tutu appealed to Basotho leaders: win or lose, please accept the results, peacefully.

To his credit, Lesotho's long-serving premier, Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili, kept his word about respecting the election results – win or lose – then conceded defeat and gracefully handed over power to the opposition. In the process, he helped Lesotho [set a new standard](#) for southern Africa. Why one of Africa's rare coalition governments then disintegrated two years later – capped by the country's [sixth putsch](#) in half a century of independence – is another story. But with accusations of corruption and political violence at its core, the factional fighting here is fierce. Indeed, restoring 'peace' to Lesotho just may require the sweeping away of a flashpoint of tensions: corruption cases.

Basotho youth can't work miracles. But at least those driving Youth4Peace are speaking up for the unity of a mono-ethnic, mono-lingual nation that is more like one big family. Their voice should resonate more meaningfully among political rivals, even more than Tutu's; the thousands of youth attending this concert will be their sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, grandsons and granddaughters.

They're also a sizable chunk of the electorate. And now, they're finally calling on their elders to make Lesotho a better place – with a brighter future. **DM**

*[Michael J. Jordan](#), who arrived in Lesotho in 2011, is the lone Western foreign correspondent living in the country – and covering its crises. This article [first appeared](#) in New York, on *The Mantle*.*

From: Sunday Express

Don't politicise senate

By [thabo](#) On 1 Feb, 2015

By: Sofonea Shale

The Lesotho Parliament is referred to as bicameral system because it has two houses, the National Assembly and the Senate. Though the Lesotho bicameralism has been adopted from the British style of Westminster governance, there is absolutely nothing that prevents Basotho from creativity in terms of improving their legislative authority. When the allocation of Senate seats among coalition parties featured as one of the disagreement points for the failed coalition, some questions about Senate became more pronounced among them, is whether Senate is an avenue for extended political party presence in parliament and a gateway to the cabinet for the non-qualified politicians or second chamber established to serve a checker role? This article chooses to address these issues by pointing at the problem and speaking to politicians at this time about what they could do instead of politicising the Senate.

The role of second house of parliament is to provide objective scrutiny to the business of the lower house. In the British system, the Lower House is directly elected by the people and is referred to as the House of Commons, the House of Representatives or the National Assembly. The reference "House of Commons" signifies the people representatives because the Second House, the Upper House, The House of Lords or the Senate is the House whose membership is restricted. In Lesotho the Senate is made of twenty two Principal Chiefs and eleven people nominated by the king acting on the advice of the Council of State while National Assembly is made of 120 members, 80 of whom are elected under constituencies while 40 are elected through party lists. It is believed that in the National Assembly given the political diversity, partisanship, political inclinations and other motivations, legislative and policy objectivity may be lost in the heat of political debate. The purpose of the second House is to provide service to the National Assembly by reclaiming the necessary objectivity to the business of the House that while it represents electors, may be politically charged beyond expectations and indeed benefit of the very same electorate it represents. Though it may not be in the nature of chiefs to raise flag and say what the Lesotho Senate has done for this nation in serving this role, it may be a necessary exercise for the leadership of the Senate to commission a study to reflect on the role of the House say in the 20 years of return to constitutional rule.

In many occasions, a question has been asked, "Is Senate Necessary?" This question is very relevant in the democratic dispensation though it has been asked with ill intentions. First, this question may be responded to fully, objectively and scientifically through the study referred to above. However one can challenge readers, researchers and those who prefer knowledge beyond political propaganda, to find out how the currently celebrated electoral model was born. Some politicians currently in categories; opposition and government have had their fair share of attempts to abort the Mixed Member Proportional. When the elected representatives in the National Assembly abused their power, in other words used the people's power they had against the benefit of the very people they represent, by

circumventing the Interim political Authority agreements where MMP was conceived, the role of the Senate in the protection of the model was clear. It was through the service that Senate provided to the National Assembly that attempts on the MMP by the majority politicians in the lower house failed.

The National Assembly has gone through a number of changes in terms of number of members and the composition. It is logical that reforms could have been made on the Senate as well. In this regard, consideration could be made of creating a platform for various sectors to be represented in the House. The sectoral representation would enhance the checker role of the House. While the restructuring of Senate has been on political agenda, nothing has taken place. There could be many reasons for this and it is not the intention of this article to dig into them. It is simply a duty to note that on those several occasions, it has often been when politicians in power are called to order by chiefs and mainly members of that house. In their charm offensive, politicians would not address the issues raised but question legitimacy of chiefs and threaten to restructure Senate to curtail the influence of chiefs. Though some people may celebrate that restructuring never materialised, the danger remains latent. Deferring the objective debate on restructuring Senate has made the House even more vulnerable at the height of collaborative political dispensation.

In the 1966 constitution the other 11 people nominated to the Senate would be the discretion of the King but this time the King on that business is advised by the Council of State. This change is clearly democratic and provides necessary distribution and check of power in a democracy. However politicians in power are manipulating the system to the detriment of the Senate. There is a discernable trend that politicians in power have used the space for 11 nominees to advance their party political limitations which could not be accommodated in the National Assembly. Advising the King to nominate people to the Senate so that they may qualify to be members of cabinet does not only turn Senate into an extension of National Assembly but denies the House, the right to function as the house of reference in its entirety. The nominated member of the House to serve as Minister normally and understandably so, does not have time for Senate business. This effectively means that the core business of the House is curtailed. When the Coalition sat down to partition the 11 places in the Senate, this politicisation of the Senate reached climax, not that it has not been happening in the past, but why politicise the august House instead of changing the constitution?

Perhaps it should be said that advising King to nominate people to the Senate for them to be Ministers is not inherently bad because they are going to serve the people. Maybe politicians should be told where the problem lies. Section 87(4) of the constitution provides that ministers can only be drawn from National Assembly and Senate. This is wrong and should be changed. On several occasions it has been proven that parliament may not have necessary cabinet material. After all people who are elected to parliament are to be representatives and provide checks and balances on executive, so in other words it is even wrong in the first place to make parliamentarians ministers while they are supposed to check government. Would you say this could perhaps be one of the reasons why Lesotho parliament is not so effective? Is it because each of the 120 MPs is the Minister in waiting and may not want to risk his or her opportunities by effectively checking government?

Statement by NUL Staff on financial crises in Lesotho's public Higher Education

We, the undersigned members of staff at the National University of Lesotho, wish to make the following Statement to the people of Lesotho regarding government funding of public higher education institutions.

Since 1990s this country has been ruled by governments who believed, or who had been made to believe, that government should not have a role in economic activity and provision of social services in health and education. Accordingly, public enterprises were sold, or privatised, under the cloak of turning them over to the public.

The application of this wisdom to the provision of health services and education has led to government's withdrawal of funding to the country's main hospital, and a very poor funding of public higher education institutions. In the health sector, under what is called Public Private Partnership (PPP), the policy led to a shut-down of Elizabeth II Hospital, and its 'replacement' by the ironically-named hospital, Tšepong Hospital, where hope, care and good service are not in abundant supply.

The source of these policies is a fundamentalist brand of neo-liberalism which has three elements. Firstly, the idea that everything is a business, or can be turned into a business, for the benefit of private individuals and groups. That includes provision of education and health. Second, that government should withdraw from providing social sector services, that is, provision of services in education and health. Third, that, instead of providing health and educational services, the state should contract and pay private investors to provide these services.

As the case of Tšepong Hospital shows, these contracts always favour private investors. All risk is shifted to government, and when things go wrong—as they have in the case of Tšepong—the losers are us, the public, whose taxes are spent on health services whose quality and quantity are so poor and yet the costs are so high for the tax-payers. A recent report shows that Tšepong slurps 40% of the Ministry of Health budget which enriches its shareholders while the poor public does not get requisite services.

It seems that successive Lesotho governments are hell-bent on adopting a variation of this culture in the provision of higher education. Currently, there is no public higher education institution in Lesotho which is not in a financial crisis. Recently, all of them—Lerotholi Polytechnic, Lesotho College of Education, National University of Lesotho—have struggled to pay staff and other operating costs. Government funding of capital developments virtually came to a halt, years ago.

A common practice of the recent past was that, in drawing its budget for presentation to Cabinet, the Ministry of Education & Training (to which all public higher education institutions are answerable) asked public higher education institutions to draw their own budgets for discussion and inclusion in the Ministry's budget.

Nowadays, the Ministry has adopted a practice of drawing, and presenting, its budget without consulting these institutions about their needs. This has led to an untenable situation where these public higher education institutions receive subventions far below their expenditure requirements.

Indeed, in the case of NUL, subvention has systematically been reduced. The subvention NUL received in 2013/2014 is below the 2003/2004 levels. This is despite the fact the students' enrolments have grown and programmes of study expanded to address national challenges. Taken together, a decrease in subvention, on the one hand, and increasing enrolments, on the other, mean that NUL is now unable to meet costs that higher student populations necessitate.

NUL is unable to provide facilities appropriate for increased enrolments. It is not able to recruit staff in numbers appropriate for increased enrolments. And it is not able to retain staff. Staff salaries have remained stagnant for the last ten years. In all these years, the Ministry of Education has refused even to adjust the subvention for inflation, which means that, in fact, the value of staff salaries has fallen below what it was 10 years ago. It remains unclear precisely what government want public higher educations to do without adequate funding; or what governments seek to achieve by their financial strangulation of public higher education institutions.

It is important that government states clearly, and publicly, just what their plans are for public higher education institutions.

At present, Ministers are quick to point fingers at what they regard as NUL's failures. Topmost among these is the claim that NUL graduates are not suited for Lesotho's labour market, and that is why, according to Ministers, many NUL graduates are unemployed. More recently, the University is accused of producing graduates who are incapable of self-employment and creating jobs for others.'

These are accusations NUL staff has always been ready to engage if they can be put formally. For now, two things can be said. The first is that, government Ministers have never clarified the nature of the labour market which, they say, NUL graduates are unsuited for; neither have Ministers pointed to entrepreneurial opportunities that NUL needs to tune its graduates to. To identify the nature of the labour-market and entrepreneurial opportunities available in Lesotho requires resources which public higher education institutions are currently being starved of.

In our view, education is *primarily* a public good whose provision is government's responsibility.

All thought, said and done, we should be careful not to reduce *all* acquisition of knowledge to requirements of the labour market.

From: Lesotho Times

ABC to launch campaign, unveil manifesto

January 22, 2015 Lestimes Local News,



Billy Ntaote

ALL Basotho Convention (ABC) Secretary-General, Samonyane Ntsekele, says the party is set to unveil its poll manifesto at Setsoto Stadium on 1 February.

Mr Ntsekele said the unveiling ceremony will also be the official launch of the ABC's campaign ahead of next month's National Assembly election.

Lesotho goes to an early poll on 28 February following last year's collapse of the ABC, Basotho National Party (BNP) and Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) alliance, which resulted in the formation of the country's first coalition government in June 2012.

According to Mr Ntsekele, ABC leader, Prime Minister Thomas Thabane, will also use the star-rally to further explain why the coalition government could not last its five-year term, as well as his crusade against corruption and extreme poverty.

A bitter power-struggle between Dr Thabane and LCD leader Mothetjoa Metsing prompted the intervention of various stakeholders, but the feuding parties could not resolve their differences, hence next month's snap election.

Mr Ntsekele told the *Lesotho Times* this week: "Our main message to the people is that they should vote for the ABC because it is a party determined to end hunger, extreme poverty, corruption and the theft of public funds. The launch of our election manifesto will also be a platform for the party to further explain why we find ourselves in this situation as a nation."

However, Mr Ntsekele added the manifesto would be almost similar to that of the 2012 poll.

"We realised that we had a very good manifesto for the 2012 elections, and were only in government for two-and-a-half years, instead of the full five-year term. So we had not done most of the things we had intended to do as outlined in our manifesto, which is why we will still be using the same election strategy," he said.

"Our party has shown the country that it is committed to fighting corruption, hence its election campaign message will be highlighting this."

The ABC won 26 of the 80 contested constituencies in the 26 May 2012 poll, while the Democratic Congress took 41, and the LCD and Popular Front for Democracy (PFD) had 12 and one respectively.

LCD rejects DC unity offer



January 22, 2015 Lestimes Local News,

Bongiwe Zihlangu

DEMOCRATIC Congress (DC) leader, Pakalitha Mosisili, has said the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) — his party's prospective partner in a coalition government after next month's parliamentary elections — has strongly opposed "the idea of us voting together" to defeat the All Basotho Convention (ABC).

Dr Mosisili made the remarks on Sunday while addressing a DC campaign rally in Mokhotlong, which was attended by party supporters from Mokhotlong, Senqu, Bobatsi and Malingoaneng constituencies.

According to the DC leader, he had raised the subject of the parties voting together in order to prevail over the ABC, their biggest rival in the polls, but the suggestion had been turned down by LCD leader, Deputy Prime Minister Mothetjoa Metsing.

The DC is a breakaway of the LCD and was formed in February 2012 when Dr Mosisili, who was party leader and premier at the time, fell-out with the National Executive Committee and decided to jump ship and form a new party.

However, the DC failed to secure the required majority seats to form a government, and was ousted by an ABC, LCD and Basotho National Party (BNP) alliance, ending his 15-year tenure as premier. However, following the collapse of the coalition government midway through its five-year term, Lesotho goes to an early poll on 28 February this year, hence Dr Mosisili's suggestion to forge a united front with the LCD to ensure the ABC does not return to power.

"I suggested that where the ABC won a constituency in 2012, and one of our two parties had come second, we should encourage our supporters to vote for that party to ensure the ABC does not retain that seat. However, Ntate Metsing and his people are opposed to that," Dr Mosisili said.

Instead, Dr Mosisili added, the LCD leadership had told him that each party should vote on its own and that “we will then cobble-up our numbers post the 28 February elections”.

“They are saying we should vote as individual entities, and then come together after the elections to form a coalition government.

“So, we accepted what the LCD wants and will be voting exclusively as the DC. We will then combine our numbers after the election.”

The DC and LCD have come out in public on several occasions, alongside other political parties founded on congress ideologies, namely the Lesotho People’s Congress (LPC), Basotho Congress Party (BCP) and Basotho Batho Democratic Congress (BBDP), outlining their plans for “a coalition government formed exclusively by congress parties”.

However, Dr Mosisili said the LCD had justified its stance, saying if they were to vote in that fashion, the party would lose out on Proportional Representation (PR) seats.

“The LCD leaders said if we were to vote that way, their party would not obtain as many PR seats as it did in the last elections,” Dr Mosisili said.

“They were adamant that to ensure the LCD secured many PR seats, the party should campaign and vote alone.”

At the 26 May 2012 poll, the LCD won 12 constituencies and went on to acquire a further 14 PR seats, bringing its total number in the National Assembly to 26, while the DC won 41 constituencies and seven PR seats.

The ABC, on the other hand, won 26 constituencies and four PR seats.

Contacted for comment yesterday, LCD spokesperson, Selibe Mochoboroane, said what Dr Mosisili had said was true but insisted there was no sinister motive behind the party’s decision to go it alone.

“It is true what he is saying but it should be noted that it was coming from a good place. If we were to vote in that fashion, it would negatively affect the growth of the LCD,” Mr Mochoboroane said.

“Making that suggestion meant hampering the growth of the LCD, especially considering the possibility that, this time around, the LCD could win the constituencies we previously lost.

“It would also be unfair to LCD voters and we’d never know what the LCD was capable of and whether it has the potential to win or not.”

Mr Mochoboroane further maintained because the DC already had 41 constituencies compared to the LCD’s 12 “voting in that fashion would adversely affect our chances of gaining more PR seats”.

Meanwhile, some political analysts have condemned the re-union of congress parties, labeling it superficial and “a marriage of convenience built on sand”.

Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (LCN) Director, Seabata Motsamai, says if the congress parties succeed in ousting ABC leader Thomas Thabane from power, they would “eventually turn against each other”.

“This is just a marriage of convenience. They will eventually turn against each when they get to the other side,” Mr Motsamai says. “This is an alliance built on sand and could collapse any day.”

Testimony to that, Mr Motsamai asserts, is that unlike the united force the congress parties were displaying when they were seeking to topple Dr Thabane via a no-confidence vote in parliament last year, “now they don’t seem to be as close”.

“For instance, when they go out to campaign for the upcoming elections, they do not support each other at all; it’s a case of every man for himself,” Mr Motsamai says.

“If that was not the case and the re-union was genuine, they would support each other’s election campaigns to boost the prospects of the smaller parties to win constituencies.”

Another analyst, Tsikoane Peshoane of Transformation Resource Centre (TRC), echoes similar sentiments, adding if the re-union was genuine, the DC would “dissolve itself and return to the LCD”, with the LCD following suit and returning to the BCP “and come out under one umbrella”.

Kamoli to end SA stay

January 22, 2015 Lestimes Local News,



Keiso Mohloboli

LIEUTENANT General Tlali Kamoli has finally found a country willing to accommodate him for his leave-of-absence after being stuck in transit in South Africa for two months.

Lt Gen Kamoli and Lt Gen Maaparankoe Mahao of the Lesotho Defence Force, as well as Lesotho Mounted Police Service Commissioner, Khothatso Tšooana, were expected to leave for Uganda, South Sudan and Algeria respectively on 21 November 2014 on special leave in line with the Maseru Security Accord (MSA).

The MSA was part of Southern African Development Community (SADC) efforts to normalise relations between the army and police following a protracted turf war which had brought instability to the kingdom, and also sought to ensure Lesotho holds next month’s snap elections under a peaceful environment.

However, while Lt Gen Mahao and Commissioner Tšooana have since left for their respective destinations and are only expected back home after the 28 February 2015 National Assembly elections, Lt Gen Kamoli remains in transit in Johannesburg after Uganda reneged on its pledge to accommodate him.

But according to Government Secretary Moahloli Mphaka, Sudan has agreed to host Lt Gen Kamoli, with details of his itinerary set to be released today by SADC Facilitator to Lesotho, Cyril Ramaphosa, who brokered the MSA. Mr Ramaphosa, who is also South Africa’s deputy president, is expected in Lesotho today to continue his facilitation in ensuring Lesotho holds peaceful

elections next month. Basotho hold an early election following last year's collapse of a tripartite government led by Prime Minister Thomas Thabane.

"As you are aware, Lt Gen Kamoli was supposed to have left with Lt Gen Mahao and Police Commissioner Tšooana on 21 November 2014, in line with the Maseru Security Accord. They were all supposed to stay a few days in South Africa on their way to their respective destinations, but Lt Gen Kamoli is still in transit. That is why the Prime Minister (Thabane) issued a letter on 4 December 2014 asking the African Union (AU) Chairperson, Ms *Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma*, to intervene in the matter," Mr Mphaka said.

"My office has since received a letter from the AU indicating that Lt Gen Kamoli would be going to Sudan and we expect to get details of this latest development anytime now."

Mr Mphaka dismissed as baseless, allegations that Lt Gen Kamoli was being accorded special treatment and that he would spend his leave-of-absence in South Africa.

"Neither the government of Lesotho nor SADC have the power to force Uganda to take Lt Gen Kamoli. And there has never been written acceptance by Uganda that the country would accommodate Lt Gen Kamoli.

"However, this issue has now been resolved, and what is only left are details on when Lt Gen Kamoli would be leaving for Sudan."

On the other hand, SADC Head of Mission to Lesotho, Fannie Phakola also confirmed Lt Gen Kamoli was headed for Sudan.

"There have been delays by Uganda to formally approve their acceptance of Lt Gen Kamoli, but that's not to say the country doesn't want him. It's pure speculation that no country wants to take him, as he will soon be going to Sudan," Mr Phakola said.

Mr Phakola also dismissed claims that Lt Gen Kamoli was being treated as a special case.

"Our job was to make sure that we take him out of the country for his special leave and we did just that. We only stepped in to negotiate with the AU because the chairperson is a South African and we felt we could communicate better since I am also a South African. We were just helping out, and not that we were really responsible for securing a destination for him."

Mr Phakola also refuted allegations that Lt Gen Kamoli was frequently visiting Lesotho.

"The Maseru Security Accord is very clear that Lt Gen Kamoli, Lt Gen Mahao and Police Commissioner Tšooana can only come back to Lesotho after next month's general elections," he said.

From: Sunday Express

Water, sanitation programmes on schedule – Mokhosi

By [thabo](#) On 18 Jan, 2015 At 09:41 AM | Categorized As [Local](#), [News](#) |

Rethabile Pitso

INFRASTRUCTURE programmes spearheaded by government and aid agencies to install electricity and water services across the country are on schedule with 64 percent of water systems already in place according to Energy, Meteorology and Water Affairs Minister Tšeliso Mokhosi. Mr Mokhosi said the installation of water infrastructure, which has so far included the reinforcing of dams and installation of water taps, has also been accompanied by the installation of Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) lavatories in rural areas where some still resort to using bushes whenever nature calls.

“The ministry has taken the initiative of availing clean water and lavatories with the aim of improving health, hygiene and sanitation to communities to avoid contracting diseases in the use of bushes as toilets,” Mr Mokhosi said.

“The journey from those unsanitary habits is gradually taking place since it is mandatory for improvements in water infrastructure to be accompanied by toilets to promote better sanitation.” He said government had availed clean water for 48 476 people and installed VIP toilets catering for 6 242.

By last year, said Mr Mokhosi, the United States’ foreign aid agency, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), had also provided 58 493 people with clean water and 12 420 with VIP toilets in the same areas across the country’s 10 districts.

This year, the ministry has set out to install water infrastructure for 18 589 people, while 3 959 would be beneficiaries of VIP toilets.

Mr Mokhosi added that the ministry would soon hold talks with the European Union to discuss the projects which will be funded by the M2 billion the bloc pledged last year to improve water infrastructure.

On the issue of electricity, he said the first stage of the outreach programmes had been completed in Butha Buthe and Leribe districts, with the next stage – which involves inviting bids from qualified contractors – having already taken off.

The project for the two districts will benefit 9 720 households in the year ending 2017.

The households earmarked for the project are in the Mechechane, Qalo and Hololo areas of Butha Buthe District as well as Matlakeng, Leribe, Pelá-Tsoeu and Mphosong areas in Leribe District.

From: Lesotho Times

Friends of Morija to host Royal Villages tour

January 22, 2015 Lestimes Entertainment



Mohalenyane Phakela

THE Friends of Morija Museum & Archives, in collaboration with the Royal Archives and Museum, will host a historic tour of the Royal Villages of Lesotho in Morija and Matsieng on 1 February.

Founded in 1990, the Friends of Morija Museum & Archives seeks to promote a greater appreciation of Lesotho's history, culture, art and science through a variety of activities and events. The excursion, which Morija Museum curator Stephen Gill said would be the first of many, will start at noon at Pitso Ground in Morija.

"Everyone knows of Morena Moshoeshe I and his nation-building exploits centred on Thaba-Bosiu since his departure from Menkhoaneng," said Gill.

"But then, many are not well acquainted with the various locations used by his eldest son Letsie and his descendants from as early as 1834 until today.

"They are located within eight kilometres of one another in the greater Morija-Matsieng area in Morija, Phahameng, Makeneng, Old Matsieng and New Matsieng."

He said the purpose of the excursion was to highlight the various settlements connected with Lesotho's kings and paramount chiefs while also explaining their history and significance.

According to Gill, the event would also be used to put in place a roadmap for managing the sites.

"We will also explore ways of taking care of the sites more effectively in terms of mapping, documentation, preservation and restoration, as well as presenting and promoting them for educational and tourism purposes," he said.

Since the excursion will be an outdoor event that involves walking, Gill urged attendees to wear comfortable shoes and clothing, pack lunch, lots of liquids, "as well as inquisitive spirit".

He added that they would also be expected to respect the privacy of the Royal Family at Matsieng, but would be free to take notes, photographs and videos.

From: Sunday Express



NUL to showcase science innovations

By [thabo](#) On 18 Jan, 2015 At 10:22 AM | Categorized As [Business](#)

Rethabile Pitso

THE National University of Lesotho (NUL) will this week showcase science and technology innovations as part of efforts to develop the country's industrial sector and create jobs.

The inaugural Science and Technology Innovation Exhibition, which will be held at Pioneer Mall in Maseru on Thursday, is aimed at attracting the attention of the government, private sector as well as the general public to ensure sponsorship for further research and development, as well as investment to take the final products to the market. The event will showcase the research innovations that have been produced over the past few years and are being worked on such as innovative prototypes, trial products, and innovative ideas on products that can be reverse-engineered and manufactured in Lesotho.

The exhibition, which will be held under the theme "Turning academic research into sustainable jobs", is a product of collaborations between three NUL faculties, namely the Department of Science, Agriculture and Health Sciences, with 60 projects set to be showcased which include the production of biogas from sewage waste, recycling paper and producing solar energy. The exhibition will be divided into three sections running simultaneously, namely PowerPoint presentations, poster presentations and display stalls.

The PowerPoint presentations will create a platform for dialogue where NUL staff will present some of the projects the university is undertaking in collaboration with the private and public sectors. The poster presentations will sum up the products being displayed, while the display stalls showcase how the products actually work.

NUL Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology organising committee member, Mosotho George, said the exhibition is meant to demonstrate the industrial sector's potential for development in the use of science and technology, adding that it was an area Lesotho had thus far neglected.

"We believe that one of the reasons Lesotho is lagging behind in technology development is because of the consistent neglecting of science and the industrial sector," said Mr George.

"No country has experienced a truly home-grown development while neglecting investment in science, technology and innovation as Lesotho consistently does."

He said it was noteworthy that most of the products we make use of today can be traced back to the laboratory.

"The products' continuous improvement is still the result of constant research in laboratories worldwide. However, in Lesotho, we seem to thrive on a culture where we either go for complete production lines (in the form of foreign direct investment) or do nothing at all," he added.

"We hope to show that Lesotho can develop a formidable industrial base despite the historical and circumstantial challenges we might have."

He also said the purpose of the exhibition was to engage the private and public sectors and instil a culture of working together towards diversifying the economy. The exhibition is also meant to bring awareness to the general public of viable business opportunities in the products that will be showcased.

"We would want a symbiotic relationship between the university, the private and public sectors that will sow the seeds of an industrial revolution," he said.

"We have already partnered with stakeholders who are supporting some of the projects on the ground. However, we still need more cooperation from other entities to cement the projects as an investment in the prosperity of Lesotho."

He further said they intend to make the Science and Technology Innovation Exhibition an annual event.

From: newslines365

UN to offer technical assistance for Lesotho's electoral process

POSTED ON DECEMBER 9, 2014

Maseru – The United Nations is to render technical assistance to Lesotho's Independent Electoral Commission .

Announcing the plan, the UN Office in Lesotho said the assistance will be offered in the areas of voter education, communications, coordination of observer missions, support to women's participation as well as an inclusion of disadvantaged groups.

“The United Nations is committed to supporting a process that leads to credible and accepted results. It calls on all stakeholders to continue to work towards the promotion of a peaceful and conducive environment for the elections,” the UN Office announced in its statement.

The Office expressed its commitment to supporting and engaging with partners in “efforts to enhance trust and build consensus in the pursuit of a peaceful and lasting resolution to political challenges in the country as well as strengthened rule of law and consolidated democratic process.”

The assistance is to be granted as a result of the UN electoral needs assessment mission undertaken from October 8-17 2014 with an invitation from the IEC of Lesotho.

Lesotho goes to the general poll in February 2015 after a signing of the SADC brokered peace deal known as the Maseru Facilitation Declaration led by SADC Facilitator and South Africa's Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.

This after a fall in smooth ties within the three partner-coalition government led by Prime Minister Thomas Thabane.

The country plunged into a political instability characterized by among others a confrontation between the Lesotho Defence Force and the Lesotho Mounted Police Service.

From: Lesotho Times

Kome Caves Beer festival returns

November 27, 2014 Lestimes Entertainment



Mohalenyane Phakela

THE much-awaited annual Kome Caves Beer and Glamping Festival will be the highlight of this weekend's activities, with the fete running for three days starting tomorrow.

The whole country and neighbouring towns in South Africa are already abuzz as the festival gets nearer, with all roads set to lead to the Kome Caves tomorrow afternoon.

Since its inauguration last year, the festival has attracted brewers, beer aficionados, revelers and adrenaline junkies from around the world. Although the title suggests it is merely a beer festival, it has since proved otherwise since it also caters for those with an outgoing and adventurous streak.

There is also fun galore for teetotallers with many outdoor activities lined up, including horse-riding, quad-biking, extreme paintball, archery target shooting, and cave tours among others.

According to the organisers, revellers can expect a different experience each year with nature "served on a silver platter"- as the "glamping" (glamorous camping) credo goes.

The festival is organised by a local events' company Tangerine Inc. in conjunction with Maluti Premium Lager. Over 40 craft makers and macro brewers from across Africa will showcase their wares, most of which are not served in the local market.

Tangerine Inc. was appointed by the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation to manage and administer the Kome Caves Arts and Crafts Centre, the Kome Development Trust and promote the caves as a tourist attraction.

The Kome Caves are a National Heritage Site with a rich history dating back to 1800's. The Kome Cave Village, as it is otherwise known, is literally built under a rock. It served as a fortress for its first settlers who fled the *lifaqane* wars that devastated much of the southern African region in the early 19th Century. It was also a hiding place for its inhabitants from cannibals. The descendants of the very settlers of the Caves can be found there today.

Members of the Mozambique-South African band, 340ml, Rui Soeiro and Tiago Correia-Paulo, will once again entertain guests along with American House trio Tortured Soul, DJ Invizable, MsKelle, Kolu Jazz Band, Dub Cousins, Marimba Band, Gran'mah. D2amajoe, Bhudaza are billed to perform at the Festival, amongst many other local and international artists.

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

Homepage: www.lumela.dk

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Responsible Editor: Anne Andersen
Edited by: Anne Andersen,
Sara Illeras Castellon Nicolaisen

(submission of articles to
dln@lumela.dk or any board member)