

News from the DLN



DLN board elected March 2015

Karen Steffensen, Karina Ruby, Lisbet Kristensen, Anne Andersen, Carsten Brønden and Marie Villumsen.
Absent: Anne-Marie Erikstrup, Vibeke Kjeldsholm and Grete Mygind

News from the Board

By: Anne Andersen

The issuing of the latest newsletter coincided with the general election in Lesotho, and we

Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Af: Anne Andersen

Det sidste nyhedsbrev udkom samtidigt med, at der var valg i Lesotho. Derfor var der ikke et

In this issue:

Page 1: News from the DLN:
News from the board/Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Page 4: Extracts from minutes of DLN AGM, 7 March 2015/ Uddrag af referat fra DLN-GF 7. marts 2015

Page 11: New board members/Nye i bestyrelsen

Page 12: Attending the General Assembly of DLN for the first time/At være til generalforsamling i DLN for første gang

Page 13: Obituary, Bodil Højland/Mindeord om Bodil Højland

Page 14: News from Lesotho:
Former Lesotho prime minister flees to South Africa

Page 15: Why Development for Peace Education was formed

Page 16: 'We have been saved'

Page 18: Union leader slams "pigsty" schools

Page 18: Soloane Hot Springs off beaten tourist trail.
PM Mosisili Steps Onto Lesotho's Merry-Go-Round

Page 20: Lesotho's New Parliament to Sit for First Time

**What is
Denmark Lesotho Network?
Membership of DLN**

were not able to report the results at the time. We now know that the new government will consist of seven parties. President Pakalitha Mosisili who lost the previous election has now become president again. He has to cooperate with six other party leaders, who were all elected with one mandate each. When listening to comments from friends in Lesotho optimism on behalf of Lesothos and Basothos is not budding. On the contrary, the concern is that it is difficult to see how a seven- party coalition can rule when a three-party coalition couldn't. From Denmark we will monitor the situation as closely as possible and wish for the people of Lesotho that their politicians will take their jobs seriously and will work for the good of the country and its people.

DLN held its annual general assembly (AGM) on March 7th with an impressive 20 active members present. The meeting went well and according to plans with chairman's report, new elections, and approval of accounts and budgets. (Extracts from the minutes are found elsewhere in this newsletter).

Pia Karmark had invited us to watch her slide show from Lesotho, but she had unfortunately fallen ill. As it turned out it was also not possible to darken the room sufficiently to see the pictures properly.



Quite disappointing, but hopefully this could be amended so that next year's AGM will be able to watch pictures?

The Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) application for a new 3 year project,

resultat med. Det er nu kommet. Den nye regering er kommet til at bestå af syv partier. Præsident Pakalitha Mosisili, der måtte se sig slået i valget forrige gang, er igen blevet præsident. Han skal samarbejde med de seks andre partiledere, som er kommet ind med et mandat hver. Når man hører kommentarer fra vore venner i Lesotho, er det ikke optimismen, der blomstrer på Lesothos og Basothos vegne. Tvært imod bekymrer det, at når en tre-parti koalition ikke kunne regere, at det så skulle være bedre med en syv-parti koalition. Her fra Danmark følger vi så godt med, vi kan og ønsker for befolkningen i Lesotho, at deres politikere tager deres job seriøst og arbejder for det bedste for landet og befolkningen.



I DLN har der været en velbesøgt generalforsamling den 7. marts. 20 engagerede personer mødte op. Dagen forløb planmæssigt med beretninger og nyvalg, samt godkendelse af regnskab og budget. Et andet sted i nyhedsbrevet er der uddrag fra referatet. Der var inviteret til fremvisning af billeder fra Lesotho, men desværre blev Pia Karmark, der skulle have fortalt om dem, syg. Det viste sig også, at der ikke var mørkelægning nok i lokalet til, at billederne kunne ses. Rigtigt ærgerligt, men måske vil der være rettet op på forholdene, så der kan vises billeder til næste års GF?

Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) har fået deres ansøgning til et nyt 3-årigt projekt godkendt af CISU. Projektet

starting April 1st, has been approved by CISU. Congratulations RSDA!

It has been decided that Mette Damgård Jørgensen and Louse Bau Jensen will visit the Development of Peace Education (DPE) project in July. The purpose is to 'mini-evaluate' the first year of the 3-year project that was approved last year. An activity plan and budget for the coming year will be prepared and the monitoring and evaluation system will be reviewed. Hopefully they will also observe how DPE works in the field. A knowledge- and best practice sharing meeting between the RSDA-group and the DPE group is being organised. What challenges are the groups facing and what works?



Carsten Brønden and a couple of colleagues are trying to identify a project in Lesotho. Carsten wants to work with education and vocational training of working kids and other Orphanaged and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) who are deprived of such learning opportunities. It is however difficult to identify a project from Denmark, but fortunately a couple of acquaintances who live in Lesotho are helping.

The culture/nature travel to Lesotho in October is fully booked, and the tickets, the bus and the accommodation is organised. We are all really looking forward to visiting Lesotho again.

DLN has been invited to join an event called

havde start den 1. april. Stort tillykke til RSDA.

Det er vedtaget, at Development of Peace Education (DPE) får besøg af Mette Damgaard Jørgensen og Louise Bau Jensen i juli. De skal minievaluere det første år af det 3-årige projekt, der blev bevilliget sidste år. Der skal lægges en ny plan, både praktisk og budgetmæssigt for det kommende års aktiviteter, og der skal ses på monitorering og evalueringssystemet. Forhåbentlig skal de også ud i marken og se, hvordan DPE arbejder. Der bliver arbejdet på, at RSDA-gruppen og DPE-gruppen skal mødes for at dele viden og erfaringer fra projektarbejdet. Hvad kæmper grupperne med, og hvad virker?

Carsten Brønden arbejder sammen med et par kollegaer om at identificere et projekt i Lesotho. Carsten vil meget gerne arbejde med erhvervsfaglig uddannelse af børn/unge, der på grund af arbejde, forældreløshed eller anden sårbarhed, ikke får den fornødne skolegang i barneårene til at kunne skabe sig en god tilværelse. Det er dog noget vanskeligt at identificere et sådant projekt her fra Danmark. Heldigvis har han gode bekendte, der bor i Lesotho, så det skal nok lykkes.



Kultur/natur rejsen til Lesotho i oktober er udsolgt og flybilletterne er booket. Det er en bus til turene og overnatningsstederne også. Vi glæder os rigtig meget til at besøge Lesotho igen.

‘Verdensspejl’ (World mirror), a festival that is part of Aarhus Festival week 28th Aug. – 3rd Sept. Two large pavilions in Mølleparken will house the event with stalls, music, workshops, food, films and discussions. Lisbeth Kristensen participated in the introductory meeting where CISU encouraged us to seek support from their information fund for activities under ‘Verdensspejl’.



From an earlier Aarhus Festival

It has been discussed whether DLN could perhaps arrange a visit from DPE in relation to the festival, but nothing is yet decided. There seems to be too few who have the necessary time and energy in addition to our normal work to participate in an event like this.

DLN has been contacted by Tsepiso Khama, who is interested in doing voluntary work for us. She is educated at Aalborg University and lives in Horsens. We have invited her to join the next board meeting to discuss how she could help us.

With these few words I want to wish all our readers a really good summer/winter!

Extracts from minutes of DLN AGM, 7 March 2015

Minutes by Karina Ruby, Anne Andersen prepared this summary. The entire minutes can be read in Danish at www.lumela.dk

DLN er blevet inviteret til at være med i et arrangement, der hedder Verdensspejl. Det foregår i Aarhus i Festugen 28/8 - 3/9 og består af 2 store pavilloner i Mølleparken med boder, musik, workshops, mad, film og diskussioner. Lisbet Kristensen har været med til et opstartsmøde. CISU var også med til mødet og opfordrede DLN til at søge deres oplysningspulje til arrangementer i forbindelse med Verdensspejl. Der har været snak om, at DLN i den forbindelse kunne arrangere et besøg fra DPE, men intet er besluttet endnu. Der er ikke mange, der har tid/kræfter nok til overs til at kunne deltage i et sådant arrangement ved siden af vores almindelige arbejde.

DLN har fået en henvendelse fra Tsepiso Khama, der gerne vil lave frivilligt arbejde for DLN. Hun har taget en uddannelse fra Ålborg Universitet og bor i Horsens. Hun er blevet inviteret til det næste bestyrelsesmøde, så vi kan aftale, hvad hun vil kunne hjælpe med.

Med disse ord vil jeg ønske god sommer/vinter til alle læsere.



Uddrag af referat fra DLN-GF 7. marts 2015

Referent var Karina Ruby. Anne Andersen har lavet uddrag. Hele referatet kan læses på dansk på www.lumela.dk

Report from the Board

Chairman Anne Andersen gave a brief summary as well as a few supplementary remarks to the written chairman's report that had been forwarded by email prior to the AGM.

The political situation in Lesotho is a new and growing concern for DLN, which affects our work in the country. We have however been able to make three project visits without problems during 2014. The people seem fed up with the problems at political level. General election was held a week ago, brought forward due to political unrest, but a government has not yet been formed. The election process went reasonably peacefully and it was declared free and fair.



The DLN Board now consists of members from all over Denmark. This has urged us to hold more meetings via Skype and fewer meetings where we meet physically. Some board members and project group members have participated in CISU programmes and consider the training very useful.

DLN membership is stable with app. 100 fee paying member. In 2014 we tried to introduce fee collection via email, but it didn't work very well. We have therefore reverted to letters with giro payment forms, which seems to produce more payments.

Beretning fra bestyrelsen

Formand Anne Andersen gav et kort resumé og supplerende bemærkninger til den skriftlige formandsberetning, som var udsendt via e-mail inden generalforsamlingen.



Nyt i forhold til tidligere er en bekymring i forhold til den politiske situation i Lesotho, som influerer på DLNs arbejde i Lesotho. Vi har dog kunnet komme til Lesotho på projektbesøg tre gange i 2014 uden problemer. Befolkningen er trætte af situationen, som foregår på politisk plan. Der er afholdt valg for en uge siden i Lesotho, fremskyndet pga. urolighederne, der er endnu ikke valgt en regering. Valget forløb nogenlunde fredeligt. Det blev erklæret for frit og fair.

Bestyrelsen består nu af medlemmer fra både Jylland, Fyn og Sjælland. Det betyder, at vi holder flere møder over Skype og færre fysiske møder end tidligere.



Flere bestyrelsesmedlemmer og projektgruppemedlemmer har været på kursus

Reports from the work groups

There are six working groups in DLN: RSDA, DPE, BAG, the Communication Group, the Tourist Group, and the Fundraising Group.



RSDA: Anders and Nis reported and thanked the Board for support in preparing the project application. However the bulk of the work with the application has been carried out by RSDA itself. Helpful support for rapports and applications is also available from CISU. RSDA has now completed three project phases and gained experience accordingly. New resources have joined the project group, including Nis, who has used the MANGO-test as a tool for strengthening the RSDA organisation. The test was carried out in RSDA January 2014 and showed positive results, except minor difficulties with the financial management. Core costs in terms of admin, office, car etc. must be shared amongst all the five RSDA donors, and that is difficult to remember. Anders and Signe visited Lesotho in October to complete the application. A comprehensive and time- consuming activity that involved active participation from the farmers. A good project plan for the coming three years is now ready. CISU has a new climate change funding facility of 75 million DKK that it may be worthwhile for RSDA to consider, given that they already employ a climate change advisor.

DPE: Marie Villumsen briefed. She explained about DPEs work with public participation, Community Parliament, Peoples Tribunals

hos CISU, kurserne er gavnlig.

DLN har uændret ca. 100 betalende medlemmer. Vi forsøgte i 2014 at opkræve kontingent via e-mail, men det virkede ikke ret godt. Der kom betydeligt færre indbetalinger. Nu har vi igen sendt opkrævning ud via papirbrev med girokort i. Det ser ud til at give flere indbetalinger.

Beretning fra arbejdsgrupper

Der er 6 grupper i DLN: RSDA, DPE, BAG, Kommunikationsgruppen, Turistgruppen og fundraisinggruppen.

RSDA: Anders og Nis berettede. De takker bestyrelsen for støtte til arbejde med projektansøgning. Det er dog RSDA, som har lagt det meste arbejde i at skrive projektansøgningen. Der er også god hjælp at hente hos CISU til rapporter og ansøgninger. Vi har nu kørt forløb med RSDA gennem 3 projektfaser, og der er sket udvikling og kommet nye kræfter i projektgruppen. Nis er kommet til, har brugt MANGO-testen som grundlag for styrkelse af RSDA som organisation. I jan. 2014 blev MANGO gennemført hos RSDA, hvor det var lidt svært omkring økonomi, men ellers godt. Core cost (administration, kontor, bil m.m.) skal deles ud på RSDA's 5 donorer, og det er svært for dem at huske.



Anders og Signe var i Lesotho i okt. Til færdiggørelse af ansøgning, hvor landmændene var direkte med i arbejdet med ansøgningen, et stort og tidskrævende arbejde. Der ligger nu en

and civic engagement through roleplay, where the content of laws and bills are explained. We are continuously working to strengthen DPEs organisation and monitoring. In 2014, the second project was completed and the third project started. Furthermore the DLN working group was strengthened. It has been a busy but very good year. A new project was approved and the start-up visit was conducted in June. It was a short visit due to the uncertain political situation and was followed up by a three week visit by Carole where she conducted a baseline study for the project.



We are currently working to establish easy and practical methods for M&E and will test CISU's new Accountability Dialogue Tool. It will be interesting to see how the new government will position itself in relation to public participation and decentralisation. A new tool from CISU to substitute MANGO will be tested. DPE has strong cooperation with Action Aid and UNDP and has a few other donors besides DLN.



BAG: Karen reported that BAG received DKK

god projektplan for de næste 3 år. Der ligger 75 mio. kr. i CISU til climate change. Det kunne evt. være noget for RSDA, der har en climate change advisor.



DPE: Marie Villumsen berettede. Hun orienterer om DPEs arbejde med borgerdeltagelse, Community Parliament, Peoples Tribunals, at borgeren bliver hørt, som foregår gennem rollespil, hvor f.eks. betydningen af en ny lov vises. Vi arbejder løbende på at styrke DPE's organisation, og monitorering og effektmåling. I 2014 blev det første projekt afsluttet og det andet startet, og arbejdsgruppen her i DK blev styrket. Det var et travlt men godt år. Et nyt projekt blev godkendt og der var opstartsbesøg i juni, et kort besøg pga. den usikre politiske situation. Carole har været 3 uger hos DPE for at lave baseline study. Vi forsøger at finde lette og praktiske metoder til Monitorering & Eva-luering. Nu er det spændende med en ny regering, om den vil borgerinddragelse og decentralisering. CISU har lanceret et nyt redskab 'Accountability Dialogue Tool' der supplerer MANGO-testen. DPE har et stærkt samarbejde med Action Aid og UNDP, har flere andre donorer end DLN.

BAG: Karen berettede. BAG fik i 2014 40.000 kr. fra LauridsenFonden + 7.000 kr. fra Kulturstyrelsen + lidt fra DLN til nye vandtanke og overdækning af gamle vandtanke. De fortsætter byggeriet i 2015, har ikke søgt om flere penge.

40.000 from the 'Lauritzenfonden', plus DKK 7.000 from the 'Kulturstyrelsen', plus a little from DLN's own sources for new water tanks as well as top shields for old ones. They continue construction work during 2015 and have not applied for new funds.

Communication Group: Lisbeth reported that the newsletter is the biggest task, which is primarily managed by Anne. A new Facebook profile has been created since the last AGM and our website is up and running. Lisbeth would appreciate inputs for it.

Tourist Group: The planned tour through Lesotho, finishing in Durban, will be made in October. Lisbet, Anne and Bodil Mathiesen made a research trip in November in connection with a project visit.

Accounting

Karen Steffensen circulated and presented the accounts for 2014. A few postings were explained. The year's result was 37.155 DKK. Internal auditor, Claus Løshenkohl, was not present, but his written comments were read aloud by alternating auditor Claus Bo Jensen. The auditor's conclusion is that DLN's financial position is quite impressive. DLN is very enterprising and the funds have been spent in accordance with DLN's purpose. Claus Løshenkohl recommends the annual financial report be approved.



Kommunikationsgruppen: Lisbet berettede: Nyhedsbrevet er det største arbejde, som Anne primært klarer. Der er opstået en facebook-side siden sidste GF. Hjemmesiden kører, Lisbet tager gerne mod input til den.



Turistgruppen: Der bliver en tur i okt. 2015, som går gennem Lesotho og slutter i Durban. Lisbet, Anne og Bodil Mathiasen var på researchtur i nov. i kombination med projektbesøg.

Aflæggelse af regnskab

Karen Steffensen uddelte og orienterede om regnskabet for 2014. Enkelte poster blev forklaret. Årets overskud er 37.155 kr. Claus Løshenkohl (intern revisor) kommenterede via brev, da han ikke var til stede. Det blev læst op af revisorsuppleanten Claus Bo Jensen. Han konkluderer i brevet, at DLNs samlede økonomiske situation er ganske flot. Det er en initiativrig forening, og pengene er brugt i overensstemmelse med formålet. Claus Løshenkohl indstiller til godkendelse af årsregnskabet.

Vedtagelse af budget

Karen Steffensen redegjorde for det uddelte forslag til budget for 2015. Det blev justeret af forsamlingen, bl.a. blev der tilføjet en forventet indtægt på 20.000 kr. til informationsarbejde i DK. Man kan søge 2 % af projektbevillingen til dette formål. Det indebærer et stort overskud, som vi bør bruge til aktiviteter. Det kunne måske være et filmprojekt, hjælp til

Approval of budget

Karen Steffensen explained the circulated budget proposal for 2015. Some posts were



adjusted by the AGM, including an increase of DKK 20,000 for information work in Denmark. It is possible to apply for 2% of the project fund for this specific purpose. This implies a surplus that will be spent towards information activities. These could include for example a film project, aid for the website or translation of Lumela.dk.

A proposal for raising the membership fee was not agreed. DLN wants to increase its membership.



Election of board and auditors

Board members up for election were Anne-Marie Erikstrup, Marie Villumsen, Sara Nicolaisen, Karina Ruby. Sara did not want re-election, while Anne Marie (in absentia), Marie and Karina were willing to accept re-election. In addition Carsten Brønden and Vibeke Kjeldsholm (in absentia) stood for election. It

hjemmesiden, oversætte Lumela.dk. Der var forslag om at sætte kontingentet op, men det blev ikke vedtaget. DLN vil gerne have flere medlemmer.

Valg af bestyrelse og revisorer

På valg fra bestyrelsen var Anne-Marie Erikstrup, Marie Villumsen, Sara Nicolaisen, Karina Ruby. Sara stillede ikke op igen. Anne-Marie (in absentia), Marie og Karina var villige til genvalg. Desuden stillede Carsten Brønden og Vibeke Kjeldsholm (in absentia) op. Der tilstræbes at fortsætte med 7 bestyrelsesmedlemmer.



Bestyrelse: Der var kampvalg; Carsten, Anne-Marie, Marie og Karina blev valgt.

Suppleanter: Der var ikke kampvalg, 1. sup. Vibeke Kjeldsholm og 2. sup. Grete Mygind Ekstern revisor: Vi fortsætter med Kulturrevision.

Intern revisor: Claus Løschenkohl genopstillede ikke. Der var ikke kampvalg; Claus Bo Jensen blev valgt.

Intern revisorsuppleant: Der var ikke kampvalg; Nis Skau blev valgt.

Evt.

Følgende arbejdsgrupper blev dannet:

- Oversætter til engelsk af næste nyhedsbrev: Carsten Brønden
- Folder på engelsk: Marie Villumsen og Grete Mygind laver indhold, Anne Andersen laver layout.

is the intention to continue with seven board members.

Board: Competitive election: Carsten, Anne-Marie, Marie and Karina were elected.

Alternates: Un-contested election: 1st Alternate Vibeke Kjeldsholm and 2nd Grete Mygind.

External auditor: We continue with 'Kulturrevision'. Internal auditor: Claus Løshenkohl did not want re-election. Claus Bo Jensen was elected (un-contested)- Internal auditor alternate: Nis Skau was elected (un-contested)

Any other business

The following working groups were formed:

- Translation of the next newsletter: Carsten Brønden
- Pamphlet in English: Marie Villumsen and Grete Mygind will prepare the contents, Anne Andersen the layout.
- Vision group: Helga Højsager, Ditlev Krause and Karen Steffensen.
- Information activities i DK: Solveig Kappel, perhaps Marie Villumsen, liaison to the Board: Karina Ruby.

Review of the day, some comments:

- Participation in the AGM brings knowledge of DLN
- It was interesting
- The impression is that of a professional organisation

Immediately after the AGM the Board constituted itself as follows:

Chairman: Anne Andersen
Vice-chair: Marie Villumsen
Treasurer: Karen Steffensen
Secretary: Karina Ruby
Member: Anne-Marie Erikstrup
Member: Lisbeth Kristensen (web-responsib.)
Member: Carsten Brønden
1st Alternate: Vibeke Kjeldsholm
2nd Alternate: Grete Mygind

- Visionsgruppe: Helga Højsager, Ditlev Krause og Karen Steffensen
- Informationsaktiviteter i DK: Solveig Kappel, måske Marie Villumsen, bindeled til bestyrelsen Karina Ruby

Evaluering af dagen, nogle kommentarer:

- Det giver viden om DLN at deltage i GF
- Det er interessant
- Det giver indtryk af en professionel forening



Umiddelbart efter generalforsamlingen

konstituerede bestyrelsen sig som følger:

Formand: Anne Andersen
Næstform.: Marie Villumsen
Kasserer: Karen Steffensen
Sekretær: Karina Ruby
Medlem: Anne-Marie Erikstrup
Medlem: Lisbet Kristensen (web-ansvarlig)
Medlem: Carsten Brønden

Suppleant 1: Vibeke Kjeldsholm

Suppleant 2: Grete Mygind

New borad members

Carsten Brønden started his career as a lecturer at Aarhus Tech and soon moved into international development work. This has brought him to more than 30 different countries in Africa and Asia in terms of short term consultancy jobs as well as longer postings abroad. Latest a two year contract with a large NGO in Namibia. Carsten holds a MA Degree and has primarily worked with HRD and other so-called 'soft' aspects of projects and programmes. Vocational education and training, not least teacher/trainer development, is one of his main interests, and he hopes to make a contribution in Lesotho.

Nye i bestyrelsen

Carsten Brønden



startede som underviser på Aarhus Tech og blev hurtigt involveret i internationalt arbejde. Siden er det blevet til både korte konsulentopgaver og længerevarende udstationeringer i mere end 30 lande i Afrika og Asien. Senest en to årig opgave for en stor NGO i Namibia. Af uddannelse er Carsten cand. mag. og har beskæftiget sig bredt med HRD og andre såkaldt 'bløde' aspekter af projekter i mange sektorer. Erhvervsuddannelse, herunder ikke mindst læreruddannelse står hans hjerte nær, og han håber at kunne bidrage med noget også i Lesotho.

Grete Mygind

Grete was elected to the Borad of DLN as alternate at the AGM. She worked for Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke(MS) at Paray Mission Hospital in Thaba Tseka, Lesotho 1985-88.



Established sewing groups. Participated in Helvetia's project Clean Water with Creative Theatre. Designed courses and trained prison wards on psychiatric pathology. Trained student

nurses.

My interest in working on the Board of DLN is motivated by a desire to develop mutually beneficial cooperation between life in

Grete Mygind



Grete blev valgt ind i DLNs bestyrelse som suppleant ved årets generalforsamling. Hun var udsendt af Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke til Paray Mission Hospital i Thaba Tseka Lesotho 1985-88

Oprettede sygrupper. Deltog i Helvitas projekt Rent Vand med Creative Theater. Oprettede kurser og underviste fængselsbetjente i psykiatrisk sygdomslære. Underviste sygeplejeelever i sygepleje.

Grete fortæller: Min interesse for bestyrelsesarbejdet i DLN er drevet af ønsket om at udvikle samarbejdet mellem det liv der er i Danmark og det liv der er i Lesotho til fælles bedste, hvor ex. ulighed i sundhed

Denmark and life in Lesotho, and, for example, reduce inequality in health globally.

The intercultural togetherness can lift us closer to each other, and together we can develop an agenda for where we want to go. This is the start of good projects. Communication and mediation are important parts of the process.

Attending the General Assembly of DLN for the first time

By: Grete Mygind

From Copenhagen in the morning, direction Aarhus. Who were they, the people who took over in Lesotho after we left the country in 1988 with our 3-year old child, Rosa? For some years we have monitored from the side-line via the website lumela.dk while maintaining contact with the Basothoes, the peace corps and other volunteers from Denmark in order to alleviate the feeling of loss and our thoughts of how the Basothoes are living now. The Basothoes send us clear information in their letters about who has passed away. We found the venue of the General Assembly in central Aarhus. There were people from both before and after. The most convincing evidence of a vital organisation was the presentations from the projects. Support for agriculture is flourishing. I wonder if the Danish farmer we got to know in Lesotho is aware of this?



The DPE project was impressive – how can the

reduces globally.

Det interkulturelle samvær kan løfte os tættere på hinanden og vi kan sammen udvikle en dagsorden for, hvor vi vil hen. Heri er kimen til de gode projekter. Formidling er en vigtig del heraf.

At være til generalforsamling i DLN for første gang

Af: Grete Mygind

Fra København om morgenen med retning mod Århus. Hvem var de, dem der tog over i Lesotho efter vi (Lars og jeg) havde forladt landet i 1988 med vores barn Rosa på 3 år? I flere år har vi fulgt lidt med på sidelinjen via hjemmesiden www.lumela.dk samtidig med kontakten med basothoer, Peace Corps og andre udsendte fra Danmark for at dulme savnet og tankerne om, hvordan basothoernes liv er nu. Basothoerne giver os klar besked i brevvekslingerne om, hvem der er døde.



Vi fandt generalforsamlingen i midten af Århus. Der var både folk fra før og efter, vi var af sted. Det mest overbevisende om en levende organisation fik vi, da der blev fortalt om projekterne. Støtte til landbrug blomstrer. Gad vide om den danske landmand, vi lærte at kende i Lesotho, egentlig ved det? Demokratiseringsprojektet gjorde indtryk, for hvordan kan stammekulturen tænkes og

tribal culture be thought and organised with less hierarchy? Well done! In Lesotho in particular, the clan seemed to take up the most space in the life of a Masotho, when decisions had to be made. That's the way I remember it from my work at Paray Mission Hospital. The trip ended on the top of Aros, where the colour of everything is decided by where you choose to stand.

Thank you for the community to better the life of the Basothoes.

Obituary, Bodil Højland

On Sunday April 26th Bodil passed away peacefully in the presence of her family. Bodil had been fighting disease for some time, but we had all hoped that she would be well again.

Bodil worked in Lesotho for Danish Volunteer Service (MS) from 2001-2003. She worked as a social worker at the hospital in Butha Buthe, where she also lived with her husband John. Bodil was a very positive, active and helpful person, who never hesitated to share her views and attitude towards life.



Her presence and contagious cheerfulness was

organiseres med mindre hierarki? Godt gået! Netop i Lesotho fyldte klanen i den enkelte mosothos liv, når der skulle tages beslutninger, sådan som jeg husker arbejdet på Paray Mission Hospital.

Turen endte på toppen af Aros, hvor alt får farve efter hvor du vælger at stå. Tak for fællesskabet til fremme af basothoernes liv.

Mindeord om Bodil Højland

Søndag d. 26. april sov Bodil stille ind omgivet af sin familie. Bodil havde i nogen tid kæmpet mod sygdom, og alle havde vi håbet hun kunne blive rask igen.



2001 - 2003 var Bodil udsendt med Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke (MS) i Lesotho som socialrådgiver på hospitalet i Butha Buthe, hvor hun og hendes mand John også boede. Bodil var et meget positivt, engageret og hjælpsomt menneske, som aldrig var tilbageholdende med sine meninger og holdninger til livet. Hun kunne ved enhver lejlighed sætte sit præg med sit nærvær og

always felt by those around her. We will miss Bodil in DLN, where she also contributed with professional knowledge and shared her experiences from Lesotho.

We said goodbye to Bodil at a very beautiful and evocative funeral service, and our thoughts are now with John and the family.

Rest in Peace.

Helga Halck Højsager, DLN

smittende humør. Vi vil savne Bodil i DLN, hvor hun også bidrog med sin faglige viden og erfaring fra Lesotho.

Vi fik sagt farvel til Bodil ved en meget smuk og stemningsfuld bisættelse, og vore tanker går nu til John og familien. Æret være hendes minde.

Helga Halck Højsager, DLN

News from Lesotho:

From Mail&Guardian

Former Lesotho prime minister flees to South Africa

26 May 2015

Former Lesotho primeminister Tom Thabane says he fears for his life and is asking for protection.

Former Lesotho primeminister Thomas Thabane is looking to the South African government and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for protection after he fled the mountain kingdom in fear of his life.

In Sandton, Johannesburg, on Tuesday morning, Thabane claimed that some within the Lesotho Defence Force were out to kill him and that his name was on a hit list.

Thabane confirmed he had fled to South Africa following an assassination attempt.

Thabane said he had discussed his concerns with Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and Deputy Minister of State Security Ellen Molekane on Monday this week.

International relations spokesperson Clayson Monyela would not comment on the matter.

Thabane was defeated in an election in February this year and is now the leader of opposition in Lesotho. This is the second time he has fled to South Africa.

"We are not asking for political asylum. We are asking the South African authorities to clear the way for us to ask the Lesotho authorities to allow us to go back and do our work in peace," he said.

Thabane and the leader of the Basotho National Party Thesele Maseribane—who also fled Lesotho—said they were confident that President Jacob Zuma in his capacity as the chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation would reach a deal for their safety.

The pair have also called on Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe as chair of SADC to deal with their security concerns.

Thabane said their request was simple: "We do not want the army protecting us. We want the Lesotho Mountain Police to ensure our safety."

Thabane said however when they requested police protection from Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili, it had been denied.

According to the Lesotho Constitution the army is responsible for the security of former prime ministers.

"The security situation in Lesotho has collapsed," Thabane claimed.

From Lesotho Times:

Why Development for Peace Education was formed



Posted by : Lestimes Posted date : May 21, 2015

By Sofonea Shale

THE Development for Peace Education (DPE), one of the civil society organisations in Lesotho remembered its founder, the late Sr Veronica 'Mapaseka Phafoli last week. Though the debate concentrated on the ideas of this Mosotho peace philosopher, critical questions and reflections went beyond DPE to civil society as the sector as some people looked at other organisations as well.

These reflections basically led to the fundamental question 'why was the DPE formed? This article seeks to respond to this question in few sentences which may be limiting the discussion and raise questions that informed this debate and locate DPE in context. The latter approach is chosen because it will further the debate on whether DPE has lived to the expectation and the extent to which its existence is relevant to contemporary challenges.

The role of civil society organisations in Lesotho has been perceived differently by different people depending largely on the level of awareness and the political affiliation. Civil society organisations have categories; service delivery, capacity building and advocacy. The first two are normally accepted by the government and those who support political parties that lead such government. Without realising how advocacy organisations help government in its operations, government and the rank and file in the political parties that form such administrations find it easy to despise them.

Although there are many names which are used interchangeably; non-governmental organisations, social movements, non-state actors and voluntary associations for those involved closely either as intellectuals or activists, there is a marked difference. The intellectuals and activists believe that while they may all subscribe to the idea that solidarity is a relationship forged through political struggle which seeks to challenge forms of oppression, they may fundamentally differ in approaches.

Without indulging in any theoretical contours of this sector, exposing how political systems work and how they may be buttressed or challenged by groups and actors which are not in state machinery may enable this debate. Civil society can either be hegemonic or counter-hegemonic.

The political regime is sustained by the intellectuals and other dominant groups exercising some functions of social hegemony and political government. Civil society, in its various forms, will take care of maintaining the system. In this way, the political regime may not only use coercion, alienation and fear to deter masses from revolting against it but manipulation.

In a democracy, overt violence may not be adequate to retain a capitalist domination. The domination is perpetuated by the coercive state machinery by rewards and sanctions, the intellectual and moral leadership moulds personal convictions of citizens into a carbon copy of the norms set by the leader. This latter dimension of domination is pushed by civil society groups which may either be coercive or non-coercive. The use of the term "hegemony" denotes not only domination by expression of overt force, but a reciprocal logic between that coercion and consent induced by state indirectly.

The political regime legitimates its power to impose its will over people through institutions, procedures and concessions, thus winning over subordinate groups to support existing social structures. If citizens are passive and accept inhumane treatment and are not able to engage leaders and hold government accountable, it will be on the account of civil society. The explanation of non-revolutionary if not reactionary elements within the political society is found in the ability of the state to use resources to appease civil society. The relative satisfaction of civil society means that citizens could not rise up against the state, although the state may remain oppressive.

In this scheme of things, there is reciprocity where dominant social forces profit from institutions that lure the weaker into subordination through consensus building. In this way, the state hegemony cementing dominant ideologies in society to the extent that they are accepted as part of self, is facilitated by civil society institutions, such as the church, media, voluntary organisations and the educational system. In this way, an oppressive government may survive without necessarily using the potential for state coercion. If this is what civil society is capable of doing, the question is, are civil society organisations in Lesotho and DPE in particular part of this?

In practice, civil society can either work to buttress or challenge the status quo and when it chooses the latter route, it is referred to as counter-hegemonic. In the festival of ideas in Lesotho, civil society is seen as many things to many people. Some see it as an extension of the state, a buffer against government and society, a broker between government and society, a symbol of an actual political norm setter, an agent of change, regulator of the process of participation in societal norm setting, integrator of groups articulating political interests into a viable process for doing so, or representative and promoter of particular interests. For others, civil society refers to social organisations outside the state structure, excluding individually-owned or corporate-owned business or enterprises. Still for others civil society is seen as a midwife of regime change. These groups mount solidarity campaigns with organisations beyond borders and internationally to focus on changing the policies of their governments, and of multilateral organisations, which curtail their right to construct their own world. In the orientation of these leftist organisations, it is counter-revolutionary for the so-called northern NGOs to be directly involved in development efforts in southern countries. The role of northern NGOs should be to support indigenous civil society groups to carry out country level projects otherwise they perpetuate that which they say they abhor.

DPE was formed to empower communities to transform their own world. In her founding conceptualisation, the founder emphasised that for real transformation to occur, there must be accurate analysis of the problems and their root causes and for it to be accurate it has to start with the people themselves. DPE is therefore the people's stage for the change they themselves define and **act** towards achieving. DPE philosophy *hands over the stick to the communities to do things on their own and determine their own destiny*. Whether DPE is on the right path, is an issue for reflection not only internally but in the public sphere as well.

From Sunday Express:

'We have been saved'

By [thabo](#) On 3 May, 2015

Textile factory union NACTWU held a gathering during the May Day celebrations at Seputana Park on Friday
Workers salute American Congress for extending AGOA by 10 years

Lekhetso Ntsukunyane

Textile workers attending Friday's May Day celebrations at the Maseru Central Park broke into song and dance after the Ministry of Labour and Employment Principal Secretary (PS) Tahleho Mabetha announced that the American Congress had renewed the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) by 10 years.

The legislation—which has provided duty-free treatment to US imports of around 6000 products from eligible sub-Saharan African countries since it was enacted on 18 May 2000—was set to expire in September this year, leaving most of the beneficiaries stranded.

Lesotho is among the 37 nations benefitting from AGOA through its textile products and the uncertainty surrounding America's decision on the legislation had cast a dark shadow over the industry, which employs an estimated 35 000 workers.

In fact, because of the US Congress' continued silence over the fate of the legislation, some local textile firms had already started rationalizing operations and retrenching workers, hence the thunderous applause and cries of "we have been saved" which met Mr Mabetha's announcement of the renewal.

Mr Mabetha told the workers that following "tireless efforts" by the government and fellow beneficiaries to have the Act extended, the continued lobbying had finally paid off and the legislation would now expire in 2025.

Friday's celebrations were organised by the Alliance of Progressive Trade Unions (APTU), and top of the workers' agenda was to inquire from government whether or not AGOA would be renewed, and if not, what the authorities were doing to save the textile sector.

Earlier during Friday's celebration, the workers, through APTU Secretary General Tšeliso Ramochela, had told Mr Mabetha that they now feared for their jobs because of the uncertainty over AGOA. The workers told the PS that some of their colleagues had since been laid off due to the uncertainty and that they feared they would be next to be retrenched.

Mr Ramochela noted the workers were not only concerned about the renewal of AGOA, but also that government did not appear to have an alternative and equally friendly market for textile products.



"AGOA is an issue that continues to give us sleepless nights, so we want to know how the government is going to ensure we are not in such a desperate situation ever again," he said.

However, Mr Mabetha was calm when it was his turn to address the workers as he knew he had the answer the whole nation had been waiting to hear for so long.

"As government, we were aware that AGOA was going to expire in September 2015, hence we established a six-member committee, in September 2014, which comprised ministers and principal secretaries from ministries of Labour and Employment, as well as Trade and Industry. The committee also had the Lesotho

National Development Corporation chief executive officer and Lesotho's Ambassador to Geneva.

"The committee, of which I was a part by the way, was tasked with negotiating an extension of AGOA with the US on behalf of the 37 countries benefitting from the programme.

"We then went to the US (in December last year) and engaged in talks with the Americans on the need to extend AGOA. I remember we had to move from one office to the other trying to negotiate the extension. The Americans promised that AGOA was going to be renewed, but indicated that there were some barriers which needed to be cleared first. We came back with no clear answer.

"But in January this year, we went back to America on the same mission. And now I am glad to announce to you today that the US has finally agreed to renew AGOA by 10 more years. This means your jobs have been secured. Lesotho will continue to sell clothes to America under those friendly AGOA terms, and this is one of the best news for the country as it means families' livelihoods have been preserved."

Mr Mabetha further informed the workers about progress made on the Decent Work Country Programme, which is also known as Better Work Lesotho. He noted the programme was funded by the United States of America "to improve conditions at your workplace, especially in textile factories exporting clothes to the US." Such firms, he said, have to produce the garments "under conditions free of abuse. The workers also need to be operating in a safe environment, and I am glad to note that it is now bearing fruit."

He further indicated that the National Social Security Scheme, which seeks to establish an insurance through which workers and their employers contribute for pension and retirements benefits, was only awaiting presentation in parliament, "so that the Bill is approved and turned into law".

The PS also spoke about the Workmen's Compensation Act, which he said should ensure employees are compensated if injured at the workplace.

"I am quite aware and concerned that your employers do not report your injuries at work to the Labour Department so that you are compensated accordingly. That is illegal in terms of that Act, and should stop forthwith."

Labour Commissioner 'Mamohale Matsoso also addressed the workers and emphasised the need for them to "unite and form one big federation because that way, your concerns will be easily addressed by government."

Yet it was news of AGOA's renewal that had the workers dancing the day away.

Meanwhile, eligibility for AGOA is based on certain criteria, namely having or working towards a market-based economy, rule of law, the elimination of trade barriers, economic policies that reduce poverty, systems to combat corruption, protection of workers' rights; not engaging in activities that undermine US national security; and not engaging in gross violations of human rights or supporting terrorism. Countries are reviewed annually to ensure they meet or are making progress towards meeting these criteria.

AGOA was initially meant to expire in September 2008, but legislative amendments signed into law by US President George Bush in July 2004 served to extend AGOA to 2015. At the same time, a special dispensation relating to apparel was extended by three years to 2007, but in December 2006 these were extended to 2012.

In 2007, the apparel "abundant supply" provisions were enacted, but repealed in 2009. Their intention was to set requirements for local textile fabric sourcing where it was considered that sufficient quantities were available in AGOA-eligible countries. Third country fabric (the provisions related only to denim initially) would thus first have to be sourced locally or regionally before third country imports could be utilised for onward exports of denim garments. A subsequent legislative revision in September 2012 extended the apparel provisions to the end of 2015 to coincide with the initial expiry date of the AGOA legislation.

The apparel provisions grant countries defined by the legislation as "lesser developed", and which have implemented a special apparel visa system, favourable rules of origin requirements.

Union leader slams "pigsty" schools

By thabo On 3 May, 2015

Lesotho Association of Teachers (LAT) President, Mosaletsane Kulehile, has called on government to improve the state of the country's schools some of which he said looked like "pigsties".

Mr Kulehile made the remarks as he addressed teachers during a Workers Day rally at Maseru Club on Friday.

According to Mr Kulehile, most schools in Lesotho were in such deplorable state they resembled pigsties. "Some of our schools are in such poor condition they resemble pigsties; they are not fit for human habitation at all because of the terrible state they are in. Even those that look better have a problem in that they don't have the required furniture for the students to undertake their studies under a conducive environment," Mr Kulehile said.

"We need to have schools which are equipped with proper furniture, sports fields which enable students to realise their full sporting potential, proper dining halls and teachers' accommodation which are fit for human occupation.

"It is not acceptable that students in the schools we teach, are served food in classrooms and the kitchens are also horrible. We call upon the government to improve this infrastructure which puts our teachers and children at risk."

Mr Kulehile also said the other challenge teachers face are large classes which make effective tuition extremely difficult, if not impossible.

"You will find a very large number of students in a class, which makes teachers' work very difficult. We suggest that the teacher/students ratio be looked into seriously, so that we don't have this problem in the classroom".

Mr Kulehile further said teachers were "saddened" by the current government's decision not to split the Ministry of Education and Training into two, and yet dividing those that are "not even overloaded with work".

"We have more than 16 000 to 18 000 teachers who need to be assisted and yet the government did not see the need to have two ministries focusing on education.

"We were expecting the government to have a Ministry of Basic Education and a Ministry of Higher Learning so that there can be better focus and proper monitoring of what is really happening in our education system."

Mr Kulehile also spoke about the on-going attack of foreign nationals in South Africa, which have displaced thousands and also seen several being killed.

"We don't support what is happening in South Africa, where foreign nationals are being attacked for no apparent reason.

"The South Africans are attacking people who used to support and give them shelter when they were under the apartheid government. We call upon workers' unions in South Africa to do something about these attacks and make sure they stop immediately and never happen again," Mr Kulehile said.



Soloane Hot Springs off beaten tourist trail

By *thabo* On 3 May, 2015

Mohalenyane Phakela recently in Soloane

THE Soloane Hot Springs are among this nation's most enchanting tourist destinations, yet remain largely unknown.

The natural plateau is situated in the remote area of Soloane, which is adjacent to Khubelu River and 10km north of the Letšeng Diamond mine in the district of Mokhotlong.

The hot water springs from a small area surrounded by grass, then cascades down the rocks to form a small waterfall barely higher than the height of an average person, which the people from the nearby villages call the "Natural Shower" from which they bath on a regular basis.

Despite Mokhotlong being one of the coldest districts in the country with heavy snow a regular feature during winter months, the hot water continues to ooze from the ground. According to tour guide Renang Konese, the Soloane Hot Springs maintain a constant temperature throughout the year.

"We experience very cold temperatures here which sometimes causes the water in the Khubelu River to freeze, but the water from the springs remains warm all year round and people come to bath here," Konese said.

He added that the hot springs also create jobs for the surrounding communities of Mapoka and Maloraneng as they are able to accommodate tourists for a fee during peak tourist periods.

"During Easter, Independence and December, we normally have tourists from as afield as Europe and America who wish to see this place," Konese said.

"It creates business in that they sleep at the community-owned resort, Maloraneng Lodge, or rather sleep in their tents at Mapoka Camp Site. Furthermore, they hire our horses to get to the springs and pay for our tour services."

The Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation – a parastatal body that mandated to promote the tourism sector, has expressed concern that the springs are not being well taken care of as animals can also access them.

Konese, however, said "nature works in mysterious ways", and believes that fencing off the area would result in the springs becoming dormant.

He said the community's plea to government was to construct "a proper route" that will enable tourists to easily reach their village and access to running water.

From allAfrica

16th March 2015.

PM Mosisili Steps Onto Lesotho's Merry-Go-Round

Photo: [GCIS](#)

Lesotho's Prime Minister, Pakalitha Mosisili, left, with South African Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, in Maseru in September 2014.
By John Allen

Long-serving Basotho Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili returns to power on Tuesday, faced with an array of challenges including holding together a coalition government, handling the fallout from corruption charges against some of its key members, and dealing with politically polarised security forces.

The government-aligned [Lesotho News Agency](#) reports that large screens are being erected at overflow venues in the capital, Maseru, to accommodate the crowds wanting to attend Mosisili's inauguration, which will take place at the 20,000-seat Setsoto Stadium two days after his 70th birthday.

The South African government has announced that President Jacob Zuma will attend, together with his deputy, Cyril Ramaphosa, who nursed the drawn-out process in which new elections were arranged last month following an army rebellion and the breakup of the last



10th March 2015

Lesotho's New Parliament to Sit for First Time

Maseru — Lesotho's King Letsie III has summoned the newly elected Parliament to a special meeting on Tuesday which will signal the start of processes to install the new government following the country's elections held on 28 February.

When the final results were announced last week, former Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili of the Democratic Congress signed an agreement to enter into a coalition with Deputy Prime Minister Mothetjoa Metsing's Lesotho Congress for Democracy and five other parties.

The wheels are now in motion to install that new coalition into government.

A Special Notice has been issued calling all 120 members of the National Assembly to attend Tuesday's session when they will be sworn in.

The National Assembly will then elect a Speaker and Deputy Speaker. The Speaker will formally begin the process of voting for the new Prime Minister culminating in a swearing-in ceremony.

At least 23 political parties out of 24 registered with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) will be represented at this ninth parliament.



Lesotho's Parliament building. Photo: [OER Africa](#)

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)