

## News from the DLN

Summer is drawing to its close in Denmark again, and in Lesotho it is about to begin. A newsletter from DLN has appeared 45 times now and you are sitting with the latest issue right in front of you. Happy reading!

Sommeren I Danmark er endnu en gang gået på held, og i Lesotho er den på vej. 45 gange er der udkommet et nyhedsbrev fra DLN. Du sidder nu med den seneste udgave foran dig. God fornøjelse med læsningen.



*Spring time in Lesotho*



*Late summer time in Denmark*

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**Membership of DLN**

## News from the Board

### *North – South – North*

Civil Society In Development (CISU) has celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and organised a seminar in April accordingly. At the seminar Position Paper no.6 was presented, which discusses how organisations like DLN can contribute to broadening the global understanding of conditions in the countries where we work. The focus is on strengthening information efforts in the North in order to make people here aware of the complexities that exist in the world, and that people in the South are not simply passive, poor recipients of aid. That people in both the South and the North are dependent on climate, political stability, the market etc. CISU emphasizes the need to share in the North all the stories of successes, challenges and the circumstances that Danes experience when cooperating with partners in the South. This is in order that the understanding can become broader and clearer of how we are interlinked and what causes for example the flow of refugees and poverty. Why conditions in the South should concern people in the North.

DLN has various initiatives that serve such informative purposes. That is one of the reasons why DLN has organised a nature/culture tour to Lesotho in October this year. The Danes come to Lesotho and experience close encounters with both nature and culture because DLN's personal contacts enables us to go places where 'ordinary tourists' cannot come. When the visitors return to Denmark the experience will spread in their networks. This is not an offer of joining, as the tour is long sold out. Maybe there will be another tour later, so keep an eye on [www.lumela.dk](http://www.lumela.dk). And look forward to reading some of the participants travel accounts in the next newsletter. The travel group is aware of the political instability in Lesotho, which has now lasted more than a year. However

## Nyt fra Bestyrelsen

### *Nord – Syd – Nord*

Civilsamfund i Udvikling (CISU) har i år 20 års jubilæum og holdt i den anledning i april et seminar. Her blev fremlagt positionspapir 6, hvor der bliver set på, hvordan organisationer som DLN kan medvirke til at udvide den globale forståelse for de forhold, der er i de lande, organisationerne arbejder i. Der er fokus på, at oplysningsarbejdet i Nord bliver styrket for at gøre befolkningerne i Nord bevidste om den kompleksitet der eksisterer i verden, og at befolkningerne i Syd ikke blot er passive fattige, der modtager hjælp. At folk i Syd og folk i Nord er afhængige af klima, politisk stabilitet, markedet mm. CISU har fokus på, at Nord får del i de historier om succes, udfordringer og forhold, som danskere oplever ved at samarbejde med partnere i Syd, så forståelsen bliver bredere og bliver klarere og sammenhængen i, hvorfor f.eks. flytningestrømme og fattigdom opstår. Hvorfor forhold i Syd kommer folk i Nord ved. DLN har tiltag, der har et oplysende formål. Det er en af grundene til, at DLN har arrangeret en natur/kulturrejse til Lesotho til oktober i år. Danskere kommer til Lesotho og oplever både naturen og kulturen på nærmeste hold, og fordi DLN har personlige kontakter, er det muligt at komme steder, som en "almindelig turist" ikke kan komme. Når deltagerne vender tilbage til Danmark, kan oplevelsen brede sig til deres netværk. Dette er ikke et tilbud om at deltage, for rejsen er for længst udsolgt. Måske bliver der arrangeret en ny rejse senere. Så hold øje med hjemmesiden [www.lumela.dk](http://www.lumela.dk). Glæd dig til at læse nogle af deltageres beretninger i næste nyhedsbrev. Rejsegruppen er opmærksomme på, at der er politisk ustabilitet i Lesotho, som der har været i over et år nu, men indtil videre går dagligdagen videre dernede, og der er forskellige tiltag – forhandlinger og møder i regionen - i gang for at nå til en løsning. Vi har



everyday life seems to continue as usual and various initiatives in terms of meetings and negotiations in the region are underway to find a solution. We are in close contact with our partners and monitor the situation.

DLN is on Facebook, and the website and the newsletter is also part of our information work in both Denmark and Lesotho. There could be an untapped potential in DLN here. This should be discussed in the future.

### ***DLN and Aarhus Festival***

Another initiative to inform and discuss in the North will be the Aarhus Festival, where DLN will have a stall in the tent 'Verdensspejl' in Mølleparken. On Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a stall with some different things from Lesotho. In the evening of Monday August 31<sup>st</sup>, the first major feature film ever produced in Lesotho will be shown in the tent, and afterwards it will be possible to ask questions. (See more elsewhere in this newsletter).

Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> we will show a documentary that was made when the film was shown in the local areas and villages where it was shot and the reactions that ensued. Various items produced in Lesotho will also be sold at the stall. Tsepiso, who is both a Mosotho and new volunteer in DLN will be in the play corner and show games played by children in Lesotho. Toys from Lesotho will also be available.

### ***Projects and partners in Lesotho***

In the latest newsletter it was mentioned that Mette and Louise were going on a project visit to Development of Peace Education (DPE) in July. They did not go! Shortly before they were leaving we received the message that Lieutenant Maaparankoe Mahao had been killed. Ntata Mahao was the leader of Lesotho Defence Force under Thomas Thabane, who lost government at the election in February this year. Obviously, people in Lesotho were shocked, and no one could guarantee that

tæt kontakt til vores partnere og følger situationen.

DLN er på Facebook, og hjemmesiden og nyhedsbrevet indgår ligeledes i oplysningsarbejdet både i Danmark og i Lesotho. Der er måske et uudnyttet potentiale i DLN. Det må en fremtidig diskussion åbne for.

### ***DLN i Århus Festuge***

Et andet tiltag for at oplyse og diskutere i Nord er, at DLN har en stand på Århus Festuge i Verdensspejl teltet i Mølleparken. Søndag den 30. august er der en bod med forskellige ting fra Lesotho. Mandag den 31. august om aftenen vises den første spillefilm, der er produceret i Lesotho i teltet, og bagefter er der mulighed for at stille spørgsmål. Se omtalen et andet sted i nyhedsbrevet. Tirsdag den 1. september vises den film, der er blevet til, da spillefilmen blev vist i de lokale områder og landsbyer, hvor filmen er optaget og de reaktioner, der kom på denne. Der vil også være salg af forskellige ting produceret i Lesotho. Tsepiso, som både er Mosotho og ny frivillig i DLN vil være i legehjørnet og vise lege, som dem, børnene i Lesotho leger. Der vil også være eksempler på legetøj fra Lesotho.

### ***Projekter og partnere i Lesotho***

I sidste nyhedsbrev blev der beskrevet, at Mette og Louise skulle på projektbesøg i Development of Peace Education (DPE) i juli måned. Det kom de ikke. Lige før, de skulle af sted, fik vi besked om, at Løjtnant Maaparankoe Mahao var blevet dræbt. Ntate Mahao var leder af Lesotho Defence Force under præsident Thomas Thabane, som tabte regeringsmagten ved valget i februar i år. Det siger næsten sig selv, at folk i Lesotho var rystede, og at ingen med sikkerhed kunne garantere, at Mette og Louise kunne komme til at udføre deres arbejde i Maseru og ude i landet. Det blev derfor besluttet at udskyde besøget. Hvornår det kan lade sig gøre, er endnu uvist. Mette og Louise skulle have brugt

Mette and Louise would be able to do their work in Masuru and elsewhere. It was therefore decided to postpone the visit. It is still uncertain as and when it will be possible. Mette and Louise would have used their summer holidays on the visit, and they cannot simply go any other time as they need to have a new holiday available for the purpose. With some luck Marie may be able to spend a couple of days when she is working in Zambia. Lisbeth will pay a financial visit in October in connection with the tour. However this has been planned for quite long and cannot substitute the project visit.

The contacts between DLN and DPE shows that DPE is still working to make the voice of civil society heard with legislators. Ntate Shale is working hard to get civil society on the agenda in the political negotiations.

The RSDA group explains that Rural Self-Help Development Association has made a good start with their 2015-2018 project. There are weekly contacts to the director Me Thulo, and Me Lelimo, the accountant.

Carsten is still in the start-up phase of project Working Kids. Amongst others, he has made contact to Tsepiso's sister, who works with NGOs in Lesotho. But it is a bit difficult to start a project in Lesotho from Carsten's base in Denmark despite his contacts to people in Lesotho. A working group consisting of old as well as new members of DLN, who are interested in the idea, has been established recently, so the prospects are still good.

Lisbeth and Nis are working on the agenda for a common meeting for DPE, RSDA and DLN that will focus on administration, when Lisbeth, Nis and Solveig go on a project visit in October.

Karen and Vibeke will visit Berea Agricultural Group (BAG) in October. BAG has built the

deres sommerferie til besøget, og de kan ikke blot tage af sted på et andet tidspunkt, da de skal have en ny ferie til formålet. Måske er vi så heldige, at Marie kan afse et par dage, når hun er på arbejde i Zambia. Lisbet kommer på finansielt besøg i oktober i forbindelse med rejsen. Dette har været planlagt længe og kan ikke erstatte projektbesøget.

Den forbindelse, DLN har med DPE viser, at DPE stadig arbejder på at civilbefolkningens stemme bliver hørt hos lovgiverne. Ntate Shale er meget aktiv for at få civilsamfundet på dagsordenen i de politiske forhandlinger.

RSDAgruppen beretter, at Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) er kommet godt fra start med deres 2015 – 2018 projekt. Der er ugentlig kontakt med direktøren Me Thulo og med Me Lelimo, som er bogholder.

Carsten er stadig i opstartsfasen med projekt Working Kids. Han har bl.a. været i forbindelse med Tsepisos søster, der arbejder med NGOs i Lesotho. Det er noget svært for Carsten at starte et projekt i Lesotho her fra Danmark, selv om han har forbindelse med folk i dernede. En arbejdsgruppe bestående af både nye og gamle DLN medlemmer med interesse for sagen er netop blevet etableret, så det skal nok lykkes at få gang i projektet.

Lisbet og Nis arbejder på dagsordenen for et fælles møde mellem DPE, RSDA og DLN med fokus på administration, når Lisbet, Nis og Solveig er på projektbesøg i oktober.

Karen og Vibeke vil besøge Berea Agricultural Group (BAG) i oktober. BAG har bygget de vandtanke og overdækninger, der var planlagt og har fået næste rate til flere tanke og overdækninger. Det er en bevilling fra Lauritzenfonden, der er kommet til udbetaling.

DLN ser frem til at følge de forhandlinger, der gerne skulle føre til stabilitet i Lesotho i



tanks and covers what were planned and has received the next rate for more tanks and covers, i.e. the committed funds from 'Lauritzenfonden' have been released.

DLN looks forward to observing the negotiations that will hopefully lead to stability in Lesotho in future so that all the good powers of Basothos can bring benefit and joy to the entire region.

fremtiden, så alle de gode kræfter, Basotho har, kan komme til gavn og glæde i hele regionen.



## Verdensspejlfestival

DLN is part of the 'Verdensspejlfestival' (World mirror festival) during the Aarhus Festival.

**Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup> and Monday August 31<sup>st</sup>** we will have a stall with different things from

## Verdensspejlfestival

DLN er i år en del af Verdensspejlsfestivalen i Aarhus Festuge.

**Søndag d. 30/8 og mandag d. 31/8** har vi en bod med forskellige ting Lesotho og vi deltager i Børnehjørnet med lege og legetøj.

Lesotho, and we participate in the Childrens' corner with games and toys.

**Monday August 31<sup>st</sup>** we will show Lesotho's first ever real feature film **The Forgotten Kingdom**

This is a lovely film showing numerous beautiful pictures from Lesotho. Here is what the director himself says about it:

**Mandag d. 31/8 kl. 21** vises Lesothos første rigtige spillefilm **The Forgotten Kingdom**.

Det er en flot film der viser en masse smukke billeder fra Lesotho. Her er hvad instruktøren selv siger om den:

*Vast and rugged landscapes. Horsemen wrapped in blankets moving through snow peaked valleys. Thatched-hut villages lost in time. In **The Forgotten Kingdom**, I wanted to make a film that was primarily visual, told through the colors of the land and the faces of the Basotho people. My own experience of discovering this mostly overlooked country called Lesotho was like finding something exquisitely beautiful and unique. I wanted to convey that experience to an audience through the journey of the main character, Atang Mokoanya. This is a man who unwillingly experiences a life transformation when he returns to a place that had he long ago chosen to forget. He meets a radiant young woman, Dineo, a spark from his past, and the subsequent events anchor him to his homeland in a mystical way. The characters he meets, from the nameless orphan boy to the old woman afflicted by a witch doctor's curse—they are mirrors to Atang's inner journey. The lyrical, allegorical style of storytelling I applied was inspired by films such as John Sayles's *Men With Guns*, David Lynch's *The Straight Story*, and Nicolas Roeg's *Walkabout*.*

*My intention was to take on a classical approach to the directing and cinematography of this film. Except for the kinetic opening sequence that takes place in Hillbrow (Johannesburg), most of the cinematography is in static shots or on slow dollies. I was interested in creating a quiet, meditative tone that parallels the character arc of the protagonist.*

*Authenticity was always of the highest priority to me. The story is fictional, but it represents a common scenario whereby Basotho men leave their homeland to seek employment in Johannesburg, the "city of gold." Often these men only return when they are brought back to be buried. I spent nearly a year living in Lesotho before filming, collecting stories from the people, many of who gave valuable feedback to keep the story culturally genuine. Despite financial incentives for filming in South Africa, I never considered making this movie anywhere but in Lesotho. It was never an option to have the characters speak anything but the native Sesotho dialect.*

*The film is a universal story, but it is told from a unique perspective. My producers and I embraced the challenges of making a feature film in a country*



*with mostly rough dirt roads, no professional actors, and no film industry (yet!). **The Forgotten Kingdom** is the first major feature film produced in Lesotho. Like all journeys, it was a voyage into the great unknown.*

**Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> at 5 pm** we will show a 30 minute documentary on how the film was received when it was shown in the villages where it was shot.

**Read more about the film and the documentary here:**

<http://www.forgottenkingdomthemovie.com>  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Forgotten-Kingdom/187613144594850?fref=ts>

**And about Verdensspejl here:**

<http://verdensspejl.dk/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1615225258745434/>

Kind regards  
Communication Group - DLN

**Tirsdag d. 1/9 kl. 17** viser vi en ½ times dokumentar om hvordan filmen blev modtaget, da den blev vist i de landsbyer, hvor den blev optaget.

**Læs mere om filmen og dokumentaren her:**

<http://www.forgottenkingdomthemovie.com>  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Forgotten-Kingdom/187613144594850?fref=ts>

**Og mere om Verdensspejl her:**

<http://verdensspejl.dk/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1615225258745434/>

Med venlig hilsen  
Kommunikationsgruppen - DLN

## New volunteer in DLN

*By: Tsepiso Khama*

I came to Denmark about 4 and half years ago. I've always wanted to travel the world and see new places, meet different people and experience a different culture. A country in Europe sounded like a good idea since I had already been to North America. I therefore came to Denmark through a cultural exchange program and later completed my masters' degree. I didn't know much about the country then, except that the global warming conference was held there in 2009. I was placed in Denmark through an agency, so it was not something I planned, it could have been any other European country.

## Ny frivillig I DLN

*Af: Tsepiso Khama*

Jeg kom til Danmark for ca. fire et halvt år siden. Jeg har altid ønsket at rejse rundt i verden og se nye steder, møde forskellige mennesker og at opleve en anderledes kultur. Et Europæisk land lød som en god ide, for jeg havde allerede været i Nordamerika. Jeg kom derfor til Danmark gennem et kulturelt udvekslingsprogram og senere gennemførte jeg et Master studium. Dengang vidste jeg ikke ret meget om landet, bortset fra, at konferencen om global opvarmning var blevet afholdt der i 2009. Jeg blev placeret i Danmark gennem et agentur, så det var ikke noget, jeg havde planlagt. Det kunne være blevet et hvilket som helst andet europæisk land.

Det lyder altid som en rigtig lang ferie, når man tænker på at bo i et andet land, og alle de ting, man bekymrede sig om derhjemme,



It always sounds like a really long vacation when one thinks about living in another country and all the things one worried about at home don't matter, because you are in this cool new place trying all these new things. And it does feel like that for a little while, but then eventually you realize that you have to make a life in this new place, you face challenges you never anticipated, culture shock, making friends, finding a job, learning a new language, and all of the stresses that come up on a daily basis still come up, now they're just partially in another language.

No doubt Denmark is a really cool, beautiful place with a rich culture. The education system is one of the best, etc. However being a foreigner in Denmark can be challenging.

betyder ikke noget, for nu er man i et nyt sejt sted og skal prøve alle de nye ting. Og det føles da også sådan en kort tid, men man indser på et tidspunkt, at man bliver nødt til at skabe sig et liv på dette nye sted, man møder udfordringer, som man aldrig have forestillet sig, kulturchok, at få venner, finde et arbejde, lære et nyt sprog, og alle de stressfaktorer man oplever dagligt dukker stadig op, men nu er det bare delvis på et andet sprog.

Der er ingen tvivl om, at Danmark er et sejt, smukt sted med en rig kultur.

Uddannelsessystemet er et af de bedste, osv. men det er stadig noget af en udfordring at være udlænding i Danmark.





## News from Lesotho:

### SADC rejects additions to commission's terms



Posted by : Lestimes Posted date : **August 20, 2015 In Local News**

*Bongiwe Zihlangu*

The terms of reference of the SADC Commission of Inquiry will remain untouched, contrary to a government gazette published last month seeking to expand the committee's scope of investigation.

The decision was reached this week by the 35<sup>th</sup> SADC Heads of State and Government Summit held in Botswana, thereby vindicating the decision by Commission chairperson Justice Mpaphi Phumaphi to reject the government gazette in favour of the regional bloc's original terms.

The *Lesotho Times* understands regional leaders informed Lesotho to establish its own probe instead of "diluting" the SADC Commission's mandate.

Also rejected by the regional bloc were additional terms of reference proposed by SADC Facilitator to Lesotho, Cyril Ramaphosa, as well as those suggested by the opposition.

A statement issued by the office of Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili this week, states "due to financial and time constraints as well as expertise and competencies" of the present commissioners, the terms of reference of the SADC Commission of Inquiry, would be restricted to those originally agreed to on 3 July 2015 in Pretoria, South Africa.

The statement adds: "This means the additional terms of reference suggested by the government of Lesotho, the SADC Facilitator and opposition are to be abandoned."

The duration of the commission's investigation would be expanded by another month, meaning it would now be completed in 90 days and not the initial 60.

"The envisaged completion date is now the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2015. This is mainly due to delays by commissioners to arrive in Lesotho and commence their work," reads the statement.

The Commission, which is headed by Botswana judge Justice Phumaphi, was established to investigate the 25 June 2015 assassination of former Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) commander Maaparankoe Mahao by his army colleagues, for his alleged role in a foiled mutiny plot against the military top brass.

However, government sought to expand the commission's mandate, by adding its own terms of reference, which included investigating key decisions made by former premier Thomas Thabane, such as the appointment of Court of Appeal President Justice Kananelo Mosito (KC) and the increase of police salaries in the absence of a budget to cover the cost.

However, Justice Phumaphi rejected the additional terms of reference, expressing his discomfort with the expanded mandate to government.

Thereafter, Mr Ramaphosa announced all the proposed additional terms of reference would be tabled before this week's summit for deliberation.

Meanwhile, the SADC decision must have come as a resounding victory for civic society, after three local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) namely Transformation Resource Centre (TRC), Law Society of Lesotho and Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) wrote to the regional bloc ahead of the summit, requesting the commission's mandate to "remain focused on the purpose for which it was established".

"We have called for a commission with a mandate to investigate and make recommendations on the political-security nexus that appears to be at the heart of Lesotho's crisis. The current terms of reference fail to do this," the NGOs' letter read.

"We are concerned that the commission's current mandate seeks instead to deal with matters in which effective criminal investigation, prosecution and trial are both possible and more appropriate, such as investigating the fatal shooting of Maaparankoe Mahao."

The NGOs, had added that they were concerned about the expanded terms of reference and lack of clarity regarding whether the commission will “work within SADC-defined terms or those published in the gazette”. Contacted for comment on the decision, to confine the mandate of the commission to SADC-defined terms, government spokesperson—Communications, Science and Technology minister Khotso Letsatsi—told the *Lesotho Times* that they were “accepting the decision reached by SADC”.

“We have always maintained that government would accept whatever SADC puts on the table. If SADC is saying the mandate of the judicial commission of inquiry be confined to the original terms of reference, then so be it,” Mr Letsatsi said.

Quizzed on whether government would go ahead and establish a commission to pursue its own investigation, Mr Letsatsi said this would “depend on the outcome of the current commission”.

“Let me not be hasty to say we’ll establish our own commission of inquiry to investigate those aspects that we wanted included. We’ll only consider such a move depending on the outcome of the Phumaphi Commission,” Mr Letsatsi said.

Meanwhile, the Commission has commence its inquiry and is inviting members of the public to provide it with the necessary information.

“The Commission of Inquiry will hold its proceedings in public, except for those witnesses who indicate that they prefer to testify in camera.

“Therefore, members of the public who wish to give evidence before the Commission may call the numbers below, from 9am to 4pm on weekdays, to register as witnesses: +266 22327515 and/or +266 50688818,” notes the SADC secretariat in a statement

## From Public Eyes Online:

### Lesotho agrees with proposed SADC reforms - Ramaphosa

2015-08-13 08:32

#### SADC has failed to deal with Lesotho’s instability, says report

PASCALINAH KABI

MASERU—Intervention efforts in Lesotho by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have failed to address the country’s cyclical nature of political instability and violence, a regional think tank has said.

The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) said this in its Southern Africa Report on Lesotho’s 2015 elections, focusing on instability and challenges facing the country beyond 2015.

The report tears into the regional body’s ‘failed approach’. Penned by the ISS Conflict Prevention and Risk Analysis researcher Dimpho Motsamai in April, the report said it was unlikely that the February elections outcome would solve the recurring and structural shortcomings of the country’s politics.

The report, which according to ISS provides an analysis of Lesotho’s post 2012 political and security crisis, is a product of field research carried out in September 2014.

“A peace process facilitated by the South Africa’s Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa on behalf of the SADC resulted in an agreement in October to schedule snap elections,” Motsamai recalled.

Despite peaceful February elections, Motsamai said, insecurity persisted along with doubts on whether existing political institutions would be capable of accommodation and sustaining the changes required by the SADC peace settlement.



Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa



She said the changing character of, and interplay between security and political interests in the country have increasingly manifested in ways that have circumvented the SADC resolutions.

"While this is SADC's fourth major intervention in Lesotho and its resolutions have seemingly been positive, its approach may thus fail to address the cyclical nature of political instability and violence," she cautioned. The report is structured in five sections – a tradition of violence, dynamics of negotiating a coalition, key actors, dynamic and challenges of SADC mediation and findings and conclusion. It stressed that without paying attention to these five, Lesotho remained conflict prone.

Motsamai also noted the SADC peace deal may signify a short-term and deficient political settlement. She further criticised the Ramaphosa-facilitated Maseru Security Accord, which she charged overlooked serious factors leading to the country's security developments at the time.

"The accord, however, had some loopholes. For instance, it did not explicitly state the duration of the secondments and their respective roles afterwards, nor did it deal with issues of criminality associated with the coup and the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF)," she argued.

Like any other SADC intervention, the 2014 regional body's involvement only stabilised the immediate and medium-term politic and security situation.

There were several factors identified in the mediation process that could make the conflict protracted or unusually difficult to resolve, Motsamai said.

She added such several factors included the clarity of the mandate, which was arguably ambiguous when it came to addressing insecurity and defining more clearly the SADC position on the coup attempt.

"The mediation was also critiqued for lacking a conflict prevention focus but also integrating root causes more robustly into its process," Motsamai said.

Another factor was lack of clarity on the South African Police Services (SAPS) deployment.

"There was little transparency regarding the agreement under which the SAPS members were deployed to Lesotho," she highlighted.

The third factor was SADC mediation team's composition, which Motsamai said was perceived as 'South Africa heavy' despite the neighbouring country's role as part of the three-member SADC troika.

According to the report, the number of South African security personnel deployed was also perceived to be disproportionate to that of other countries that contributed to the regional observer team.

"This fed perceptions of a conflict of interests by South Africa in handling the mediation and that there was a preference for a quick fix to protect its own economic interests as opposed to Lesotho's future political stability," Motsamai said.

She added: "The degree to which public opinion and participation could influence the peace initiative was also overlooked, despite expectations that the public participates in the implementation of some of the resolutions – the elections, for example."

She further put the past coalition government's failure to honour the Windhoek Declaration on the SADC's door step, saying the body failed to manage the transition from negotiations to the implementation of the agreement.

The ISS report also discovered that "the toxic mix of political suspicion and intolerance amongst the country's political parties has reached the point where violent politics is a mode to defend or advance political causes".

"This state of affairs is also exacerbated by a context of historical impunity towards political violence. The lack of reconciliation amongst parties adds more hostility between these polarised groups," Motsamai contended.

The University of the Witwatersrand international relations graduate further discovered that there was lack of consensus, especially by political parties, on the nature and causes of general instability.

"Also, the military's involvement in Lesotho politics is still an aberration and symptomatic of a malfunctioning political system. It also undermines the inevitability of the politicisation of security institutions because security forces have been drawn into high-level political disputes," she noted.

Motsamai pointed out that Lesotho's past governments tended to impose control over security forces, rather than to negotiate a new political arrangement since the latter might see their authority eroded.

She further focused on the efficacy of the 2015 polls in bringing an end to instability in government, as well as addressing long-standing and deep-seated security challenges.

"Indeed, the 2015 election was recommended by SADC *in lieu* of a constitutional alternative to reconstitute government. But, as in the past, electoral outcomes in Lesotho have not been able to resolve prevailing rivalries between parties or create different political arrangements that limit stability in government." Motsamai added: "SADC's 'Track One' mediation has had some success but it will take political commitment, currently lacking, to set Lesotho on a sustainable political and development path."

## **SADC's trail of intervention efforts in Lesotho**

The regional body facilitated the return of the Basutoland Congress Party (BCP) to office after the LDF, Basotho National Party (BNP) and Marematlou Freedom Party (MFP) backed the party ousting by King Letsie III, in August 1994, in what was referred to as a Palace coup.

- The BCP and the BNP contested election results after the Lesotho Congress for Democracy won 79 of the 80 constituencies in the First Past the Post (FPTP) election model. The crises saw SADC initiating the Pius Langa Commission, whose findings were clouded with controversy as the Commission's veracity was challenged by the opposition. When the Langa report failed to break the impasse the SADC intervened militarily, which eventually stabilised the country's security situation.
- After the 2007 elections, which saw opposition parties crying foul over results accusing the LCD of manipulating the new Mixed Member Proportion (MMP) compensatory mechanisms after taking 61 of the 80 constituencies, SADC mediated the impasse beginning 2007 to 2009.
- The first ever coalition government of the All Basotho Convention (ABC), the LCD and the BNP collapsed resulting in fresh general elections in February ushering a new government. Following a series of claims of political and security challenges, SADC has been called in again.

## **From Facebook:**

[Sofonea Shale](#) 13. August 2015

Lesotho civil society will have a lot of activity in Botswana this week mainly on the political and military situation in the Kingdom. SADC Summit will be in Gaborone and there is a lot of civil society activism running parallel to the Summit. (i) Sofonea Shale will address the 11th Civil society Forum on "Is Elections a Component of Democracy or just a Conflict management among Political Elites-Case of Lesotho" (ii) Cde Seabata Motsamai will be on panel with Dr Khabele Matlosa AU Governance and Cardoso Director of SADC Organ on Defence at the SADC-CNGOs, FOCCISSA, SATUCC civil society Forum about Lesotho situation, the role of SADC and alternative views (iii) Sekonyela Mapetja and 'Mankhatho Selepe will be in a panel in the special session with Zimbabwe and Swaziland at the SADC People's Summit hosted by Southern African People's Solidarity Network (iv) Christian Council of Lesotho (Peter Potjo and Seisa Mokitimi), Pelum Lesotho, Esaf ('Mamalefetsane Phakoe) are attending several meetings on debt, climate change etc. (v) Rural women and public dialogue sessions will be attended by Khathang Tema and Women Business Association. Civil society grouping in Lesotho have written a letter attaching their views on Lesotho developments and copied the Right Hon the PM (I am not able to attach this)

## **Govt approves Mothae sale to Paragon**



Posted by : Lestimes Posted date : **August 13, 2015**

Mothae is in the diamondiferous northern Lesotho kimberlite field.

THE government of Lesotho has approved Paragon Diamonds Limited's acquisition of a majority stake and operatorship of Mothae Diamond Mine.





The approval follows Paragon's finalisation of an agreement on 14 July with Lucara Diamond Corporation to purchase its 75 percent stake in Mothae for \$8.5-million (about M92.42 million).

Situated on the southern edge of the Kaapvaal Craton, which hosts the diamondiferous northern Lesotho kimberlite field, Mothae Diamond Mine is 25 percent-owned by the government of Lesotho.

Next to Gem Diamonds' Letseng mine, Mothae Diamond Mine has an indicated resource of one million carats and an inferred resource valuation of \$1 billion.

According to Paragon's Executive Chairman, Philip Falzon Sant Manduca, following the approval, they would now proceed with the finalisation and subsequent completion of the acquisition. Lucara will receive five percent of the profits derived from the sale of polished diamonds from Mothae and five percent of the profits achieved from the sale of rough diamonds that are not selected for polishing.

Once completed, Paragon plans to develop and commence production at both Mothae and its nearby Lemphane project simultaneously, to take advantage of economies of scale and minimise costs. In the first full year of production, Paragon says it is targeting combined revenues of approximately US\$36 million from both Mothae and Lemphane.

Said Mr Manduca: "The process to obtain formal approval to acquire Mothae took longer than all parties anticipated, having received verbal approval from the Minister at my meeting with him on the 22 June 2015. In any event, with the approval now to hand, we can now progress the acquisition and development of Mothae."

He said the company was now working on concluding the funding for both mines, and has held several high level discussions with potential investors, with the aim of securing an investment partner for the long-term.

"There is clear and present evidence to hand that our strategy of focusing on the investment grade diamond sector as an alternative to paper money is correct. I am so bullish about our prospects as a company and I look forward to updating shareholders in due course," said Mr Manduca.

"I believe that analysts are focusing more and more on our vertically integrated strategy for the diamond industry, as the wholesale market gets squeezed into having to occupy a smaller role, allowing producers such as Paragon to capture the additional profit margin by transacting directly with investors and consumers."

He continued: "Indeed, I think a valid analogy is that Paragon could be viewed, by those seeking to invest in the currency of diamonds, like a central bank, producing a financial currency, whilst our distribution approach downstream is akin to a commercial banking system through which real wealth can be acquired and stored in that currency."

Investment grade diamonds are a better, more mobile currency and store of wealth than financial paper, real estate, art, cars or gold. Paragon is in the right place at the right time and remains deeply undervalued to its asset base." – Staff Writer

## Semonkong set for transformation

By [Sunday Express](#) On 9 Aug, 2015 At 12:44 PM | Categorized As [Local](#), [News](#) |



*Rethabile Pitso*

WATER and Sewerage Company (WASCO) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mathealira Lerotholi says a dam would soon be constructed in Semonkong, paving the way for further development in the area.

Mr Lerotholi made the remarks on Thursday in Semonkong during the inauguration of the second phase of the Semonkong Water Supply Project.

The venture was divided into two stages, with the first phase financed by the Millennium Challenge Corporation to the tune of M104, 684,769:00 and implemented by the Lesotho Millennium Development Agency.

During phase one, new water treatment works and a network were constructed among other facilities, to cope with increased demand due to population growth.

Mr Lerotholi said Phase II of the project, which would not be funded by the compact, would see the construction of a dam at the confluence of the Mphatšoenyane tributary and 'Maletsunyane river, as well as a five-kilometre gravity pipeline in the event of limited flow in the main river.

According to Mr Lerotholi, WASCO had engaged various stakeholders to develop Semonkong into a modern town. The WASCO boss, who sounded upbeat about the initiative, added the first port of call would be the construction of a dam to supply water for domestic and industrial needs for the next 20 years.

"We have begun discussions with Semonkong Urban Council officials about transforming the town by mapping roads to enable easy installation of pipes and other infrastructure," Mr Lerotholi said.

"We will also need communities to conform to WASCO's standards such as setting up sewerage systems which is the best channel of managing water. We are not only a water company but of sewerage as well."

WASCO, he further noted, had also engaged the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Lesotho Electricity Corporation, Lesotho National Development Corporation and the tourism sector to collaborate in face-lifting the town as well as setting up industries.

"We believe this plan could manifest through the construction of a dam that would have water from the Mphatšoenyane tributary and 'Maletsunyane River," said Mr Lerotholi.

"On its own, 'Maletsunyane does not have enough water, but when it is collected, it can be more sustainable and available to supply firms we intend to woo with the developments."

On her part, LMDA CEO, Sophia Mohapi, expressed satisfaction with the manner the money had been spent, which also included the construction of three staff houses and a WASCO office.



"We are happy to see these improvements and also appeal to the private sector to take advantage of the growing opportunities in Semonkong," said Ms Mohapi.

"There is potential for economic growth and job-creation here and I urge those who have a keen interest for development to cast their eyes this way."

In his remarks, Water Affairs Minister, Ralechate 'Mokose, said government had undertaken to bring further developments to Semonkong this year, with the main focus being remote villages such as Ha Tsoinyane and Khilibithing.

"Through my ministry, this year alone, we are going to provide over 82 villages with water, including two from this village namely Ha Tsoinyane and Khilibithing," Mr 'Mokose said.

"We are also going to erect 9 000 pit-latrines in those villages and maintenance will also be provided for previously built equipment."

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:dln@lumela.dk)

**Homepage:** [www.lumela.dk](http://www.lumela.dk)

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