

<b>Denmark Lesotho Network</b>	<b>Lumela.dk</b> <b>DLN – Newsletter</b>	<b>Nr. 6</b> <b>May</b> <b>2005</b>
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## 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.

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

## News from DLN's Executive Committee

### Projects

#### **Breakthrough for DLN: Funding for watertank project underway!**

The Denmark Lesotho Network has achieved funding for its first tangible project in Lesotho - a water tank project with the NGO Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA).

The funding for this pioneering project is almost secured with the DANIDA mini project funds, as these donors have approved of it on a few minor and only formal conditions.

The approval has come about due to hard footwork, which was done by DLN-members Karen Steffensen and Anders Hedegaard in close cooperation with RSDA in Lesotho.

Finally, funding is now granted because the water tank project is sustainable, manageable, feasible and serves the purpose of supporting civil society in improving living conditions. The project is expected to take off later this year.

DLN's chairperson, Helga Højsager, is no less than excited by this big news:

"Very well done by Karen, Anders and RSDA. Congratulations to all of us in DLN. Now we are really up to something", Helga Højsager says.

### **One more project is making progress**

The workshop project with Lesotho Child Counselling Unit (LCCU) is under the process of application writing. Helga Højsager and Karsten Lund are working on the application form to Projektrådgivningen to apply for funding for LCCU to run three workshops in communities. The purpose of the workshops are to improve the awareness about vulnerable children's rights and to educate a group of people to be able to protect and counsel needed children. The proposal is expected to be completed before the deadline in July.

### **Annual General Meeting 2005**

The Denmark Lesotho Network's Annual General Meeting 2005 will take place on **September 17<sup>th</sup>** in Horsens. More information will come up later, but make sure you block the date already now in your agenda. It is going to be something you don't want to miss.

### **Food Recipes from Lesotho on the homepage**

Our member Potso Jakobsen has collected some recipes for traditional food from Lesotho. She is now so kind to share them with us, and they can be found on the homepage. We thank Potso and her relatives in Lesotho very much for providing us with this very interesting information. See the homepage of DLN <http://www.lumela.dk/> under "Food Recipes from Lesotho".

## **News from Lesotho**

### **Local Government Elections 2005**

The April 30 Local Government elections saw the ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) candidates being under very heavy pressure from a plethora of independents and in some community councils in the Mokhotlong district, the Basotho National Party (BNP), having a distinct showing.

In preliminary elections results announced over Radio Lesotho over two days beginning May 1st, the LCD showed itself the dominating political force in most electoral divisions. In a majority of the divisions, the fight was mainly between the LCD and Independents.

The other political parties, such as the Lesotho Workers Party (LWP); Maramatlou Freedom Party (MFP); Popular Front for Democracy (PFD) managed to get some representation on community councils by sporadic wins in one or

other electoral divisions.

According to the different presiding officers on the actual polling day, there had been very few problems including cases where either people's names did not appear on the Voters' Roll or situations where voters did not have identification cards although their names appeared on the Roll.

These kinds of problems were solved by allowing the concerned people to vote using 'tendered' ballot papers.

There were also many instances in which LCD candidates stood unopposed which, according to the Local Government Act 1997, allowed to accede into positions on community councils.

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) announced during the initial publication of results that there also a few 'failed' elections, in which a candidate in one or more electoral divisions died before the actual election day. A new date was to be set in such cases, the IEC said.

An official and more comprehensive election result is still to be published by the IEC.

*02 May 2005*

## **Country Faced with Another Year of Food Insecurity**

Lesotho is facing a fourth successive year of severe food insecurity. An early assessment of the 2004/5 harvest shows that there will be some improvement in the cereal yield, although it is expected to be below the five-year average.

Poor harvests led the government to declare a state of emergency in February last year, and to appeal for international assistance. The World Food Programme (WFP) says factors resulting in poor food production include erratic rains, a reduction in the area cultivated and very limited use of fertilizers.

The WFP plans to feed 600 000 Lesotho people a month from this year - a figure that will gradually drop to 80 000 by the final quarter of 2007.

*17 May 2005*

## **Formal Network for People Living With HIV/AIDS**

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Lesao Lehohla will officially launch the Lesotho Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (LENEPWHA) at the National Convention Centre on May 27.

In an interview, LENEPWHA President Mr. Bakoena Chele said the network aims at enabling better communication between people living with the disease.

It is also aimed at making it easier for them to be located wherever they are and further work together towards improving the quality of life of individuals and families impacted by HIV/AIDS, by fostering a coordinated, comprehensive, accessible and integrated system for health and social support services in the country, he said.

A campaign was launched at the beginning of the year in which people living with HIV/AIDS were encouraged to form district committees, or join existing ones for better coordination of HIV/AIDS issues in the districts, Mr. Chele said.

LENEPWHA brings together all support groups or organizations that support each other and share information and experiences on issues related to the

prevention of new infections, care, treatment and support of the infected and affected as well as impact mitigation on the effects of the pandemic.  
*26 May 2005*

## **Measles Outbreak in South Africa**

Communities living in towns and villages bordering South Africa have been urged to get vaccinated against measles following an outbreak of the disease in the neighbouring country.

Health officials in Botha Bothe in the north of the country and Mohale's Hoek in the south have cautioned people to be on the lookout following an announcement of the outbreak in South Africa.

Botha Bothe Hospital public health nurse, Mrs. Mary Letsie appealed to visitors to South Africa to have their children take vitamin A tablets to help keep the disease at bay. Normal the vitamin A is given to children under five years of age but children up to 15 years of age are now being given the prophylactic, she said.

The measles outbreak has also raised concern in Mohale's Hoek, according to health inspector Mr. Thabo Williams who announced that awareness campaigns are already being held in villages along the border.

*10 May 2005*

## **IEC Announces By-elections in Liphakoe GO407 Electoral Division**

By-elections at electoral division GO407 in the Liphakoe local government community council will be held on May 28. This follows a tie between independent candidate and a representative of the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) in the April 30 local government elections.

Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) registration supervisor in Quthing, Mrs. Neo Mphiri said the 62 votes tie between independent Mr. Relebohile Koloi and Mrs. Malebohang Moroeng of the LCD caused the repeat event.

The two were closely followed by two other independents in Mrs. Mot'selisi 'Mika with 22 votes and Mr. Peterose Mahalika with 18 votes.

The Liphakoe community council was contested for by representatives of four political parties: Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD), Marematlou Freedom Party (MFP), Basotho Congress Party (BCP) AND Basotho National Party (BNP) and several independent candidates.

The community council has 11 electoral divisions, ten of which were won by the LCD.

*16 May 2005*

## **Still More Men Than Women in Local Govt Elections**

More men than women are still showing interest in taking part in the local government elections despite women being encouraged to participate more actively by having some electoral divisions reserved exclusively for them.

On the second day of nomination in nine of the 13 divisions within the Maseru Municipal Council (MCC) open to all, the ratio of men to women still favoured the former group though at least eight women had been nominated as candidates in two of the four electoral divisions reserved for women: Ha Tsosane and Stadium Area, according to IEC returning officers.

Of the five women nominated at Ha Tsosane electoral division, three are

independent candidates while two represent political parties, Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) assistant returning officer, Ms Mpho Thetsane, said.

At the other electoral division reserved for women, Stadium Area, three women had registered as nominees on the second day of nomination, one is an independent and the two represent political parties.

*31 March 2005*

## **EU to Assist in Six Towns Water Project**

The European Union (EU) is expected to approve an M200 million water reticulation project that will cover the Teyateyaneng, Mapoteng, Morija, Roma, Maputsoe and Quthing towns, EU Head of delegation, Mr. Peter Beck Christiansen announced at celebrations to mark Europe Day in Maseru on May 9.

Several procedural matters were still to be set in motion before the project could be up and running. These included the recruitment of the technical supervisory staff, procurement of equipment and tendering for the works, Mr Christiansen said.

Management of the project would be handed over to government when a solid public finance management system as well as a sector policy were in place, he said.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Monyane Moleleki, speaking at the same occasion, said since its inception on the 9th of May 1950, the Union has undergone very interesting developments, under various names, and yet has maintained its major focus as the centre-piece of European integration.

Many of the regional organizations that are found in the world today got their inspiration from, and are consequently modelled on the European Union.

The EU is one of the long-standing and dependable development partners of this country and it is hoped that the organisation's leadership will continue to extend a hand of partnership as Basotho tackle the challenges of development.

The country's education, health, rural development, local government, governance and public sector improvement initiatives continue to benefit from this partnership, Mr. Moleleki said.

*10 May 2005*

## **Government Private Sector Cooperation Imperative for Development**

The country's 2005/2006 budget acknowledges the need for effective cooperation between government and the private sector for Lesotho to achieve economic growth and sustainable development, Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Dr. Timothy Thahane has told the NEPAD Business Group Lesotho (NBGL).

In the budget speech we specifically pointed out that the first and most important challenge is to make the private sector a real engine for rapid acceleration of growth, job creation and poverty reduction.

To this end, a private sector development forum was called with the aim of identifying the role of the private sector in achieving growth and creating jobs to eradicate poverty.

Lesotho also realised the need for policy challenges, identification of new sectors for growth and export and removal of barriers to investment and

business development.

Dr Thahane noted that the NBGL comprises leading business organizations and persons, both inside and outside Africa, who are committed to helping the continent realise its full economic potential. The group will act as a medium between NEPAD and private companies who support its aims.

NBGL Chairperson Mrs. May Moteane said the group shares information on Africa and encourages private sector involvement in sustainable development projects.

One of the objectives of NBGL is to explore business opportunities in the NEPAD programme for members and work with the government to achieve the national priorities under the NEPAD programme.

Mrs. Moteane echoed the Minister's words about the need for government interaction with the private sector, as this is the only way to break poverty and unemployment in Lesotho as well as the whole of Africa.

*27 May 2005*

## **MISA-Lesotho Gender and Media Audience Study**

The Media Institute of Southern Africa -Lesotho (MISA) and the Gender and Media Southern Africa (GEMSA) Network launched a gender and media audience study on May 16.

The study will involve one-on-one interviews with approximately 180 men and women of different ages. It will be conducted in Maseru, Mafeteng, and Maputsoe and is expected to be completed by July this year.

Part of a study covering six Southern African countries, the research aims at finding people's responses to the media, specifically from a gender base perspective. As part of the study, MISA Lesotho and GEMSA will also be monitoring two radio talk shows: Radio Lesotho's 'Seboping' and PC FM's 'Let's Talk', a press statement from MISA-Lesotho said.

Conducted in three different geographical areas in each country, results from the six countries will feed into the regional sample from all other Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, including findings of the first phase of the study, which also covered six countries.

The Gender and Media Baseline Study of 2003, among others found that women are severely under-represented in the media in Southern Africa, the MILES statement said.

*18 May 2005*

## **National Assembly Loses Two Members**

The National Assembly lost two members within days of each other last week. Basotho National Party (BNP) MP, Mr. Arnold Morapeli Motaung died on May 7 in Maseru while Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) Member of Parliament for Qalo Constituency No 4, Mr. Mopshatla Mabitle died on May 9 at his home at Liphakoeng Ha Lijo.

Mr Motaung, a former journalist and sports administrator, died at the Maseru Private Hospital, at Ha Thetsane, after a short illness.

Joining the national broadcaster as a technician in 1967, Mr Motaung later branched into the broadcasting section where he worked his way up until he was made head of programmes, as well as head of news, in 1975. He was promoted to Director of Broadcasting in 1984.

He was made Director of Sports in 1990 after serving in the country's

soccer administration in several positions. In 1992, Mr Motaung became Deputy Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture.

Mr Motaung, who became a Member of Parliament as a Proportional Representation (PR) representative of the BNP after the 2002 national elections, leaves his wife and three children. He will be buried in Maseru on May 21.

Meanwhile, Botha Bothe administration manager, Mr. Ramabanta Majoro, announced the death of Mr. Mopshatla Mabitle, apparently from sugar diabetes, of which he was a long time sufferer.

Mr. Mabitle won the Qalo Constituency No 4 parliamentary elections in 1993 and was appointed Minister of the then Agriculture, Co-operatives and Marketing; of Local Government and; later, of Home Affairs and Public Security.

He is survived by one daughter.

*16 May 2005*

## **Local Authorities and their Structure**

The Ministry of Local Government has published the organisational structure of the local authorities as well as the decentralisation levels and their functions, which are to come into service as a result of the April 30 Local Government Elections.

The structure explains how the Maseru Municipal Council and ten other district councils and; 128 community and urban councils are to be structured.

Each District Council will be made up of two members (the chairperson and a nominated councillor) from each community council as well as two gazetted chiefs who will be representative of all community council areas within a specific district council. The Maseru Municipal Council will consist of between eight and 15 members from the electoral divisions within urban Maseru including a maximum of three gazetted chiefs nominated by the other chiefs within the Municipal Council Area.

The community councils will each consists of between nine and 15 elected members, one from each electoral division and a maximum two gazetted chiefs nominated by other gazetted chiefs with the community council area. The same will happen for the urban councils.

Electoral Divisions are the smallest subdivisions within a rural or urban area and consist of village clusters. A cluster can consist of one or more villages, depending on the amount of dwellers. They form the Community Council areas and elect one representative each as a Community Council member.

*06 May 2005*

## **The Challenge is to Turn prisons into Rehabilitation Centres**

Challenges facing correctional facilities in the democratic era include respecting the basic human rights of prisoners and turning what were initially prisons into rehabilitation centres. Staff therefore need appropriate skills.

Prisoners need to be rehabilitated properly to make them not return to prisons again but be equipped with the necessary skills that will assist them to be productive and never commit crime, the Minister of Justice,

Human Rights and Rehabilitation, and of Law and Constitutional Affairs, Mr. Refiloe Masemene said at a passing out parade at the Lesotho Correctional Services (LCS) headquarters in Maseru on May 6.

Mr Masemene called for the introduction of restorative justice programmes, where prisoners would be allowed to do community service instead of jail sentences, as well as amnesty and parole to reduce congestion in prisons.

Correctional Services Commissioner, Mr. Mojalefa Thulo revealed that plans are afoot to renovate the Central Prison.

Awards for discipline and leadership qualities were given to five trainees. Out of the 75 graduants of the six months of training, 20 were women.

*09 May 2005*

## **GTZ, AFRACA to Help Central Bank of Lesotho**

German development agency GTZ and the African Regional Agricultural Association (AFRACA) are to assist the Central Bank of Lesotho strengthen its microfinance operations by reviewing policy and legal framework, the Bank has reported.

Two consultants, one from Germany and the other from Kenya are in Maseru to help the Bank develop a policy on microfinance, review microfinance legislation and enhance its capacity to supervise the sector.

During their stay in the country, the delegation will meet with all the relevant players in the field collecting material necessary for the exercise, the statement from the CBL said.

Microfinancing deals with institutions that provide credit, savings and other financial services to people not usually served by the traditional financial institutions.

*31 March 2005*

## **The Prime Minister on a State Visit to Botswana**

The Prime Minister, Mr. Pakalitha Mosisili is on a three day state visit to the Republic of Botswana, beginning May 9 until 12th. The visit is at the invitation of his Botswana counterpart, Mr. Festus Mogae.

The Prime Minister's delegation includes First Lady Mrs. 'M'athato Mosisili; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Monyane Moleleki; the Minister of Local Government, Dr Ponto'o Sekatle; Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Motlohelo Phooko; the Minister of Tourism, Ms Lebohang Nts'inyi and; the Minister of Natural Resources, Dr 'Mamphono Khaketla.

The Ministers are expected to have bilateral discussions with their opposite numbers in Botswana.

Mr. Mosisili was invited to visit Botswana during President Mogae's state visit to Lesotho in April last year, following King Letsie III's state visit to that country in May 2003.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has in the meanwhile announced that the Prime Minister has sent a message of congratulations to British Prime Minister Mr Tony Blair on his re-election to a third term in office.

In his message, Mr Mosisili wished the British prime Minister well, saying his re-election was testimony to the confidence the British people had in him.



Mr Mosisili expressed confidence that the Labour leader's third term shall continue to be characterised by concerted efforts at working for genuine peace in the world; bold leadership in the eradication of poverty, terrorism and human suffering in the new millennium and mutual, beneficial relations among nations and governments of the world.

*10 May 2005*

## **Flying Doctor Service Extends its Services**

The Lesotho Flying Doctors Service (LFDS) is to start offering medical and psychiatric services at the Matebeng clinic in Qacha's Nek once a month, according to an agreement reached between the LFDS and the Machabeng hospital.

A meeting between the hospital and the Flying Doctor Services on May 27 agreed that there be a way in which services can be brought closer to communities in the larger Qacha's Nek district. The new system will help reduce the long trips taken by people served by the Flying Doctor Services, according to LFDS Public Health Nurse Mrs. Selloane Maepe.

Meanwhile, the Pharmacy Technician for the Machabeng hospital, Ms 'Mamopeli Posholi has said that the ARV clinic at the hospital has been in operation for the past year. This was in reaction to fears by rural communities who were reluctant to test for HIV, for fear of absence of Anti-Retroviral (ARV) drugs.

Plans were also being made to bring the ARV services provision closer to these communities.

The meeting was held to find solutions to problems in the health services, especially those that are under the LFDS.

*27 May 2005*

## **Water Rates Increase on April 1**

The Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) has announced that it will increase its tariffs by eight percent with effect from April 01 this year.

WASA public relations officer Mr. Khotso Letsatsi announced that for domestic use, the rates will increase from M1.72 to M1.86 per 1000 litres for consumption within the 0 to 5 kilolitres range with standing charges being raised from M2.60 to M2.81.

For non domestic use, all consumption will be charged at a constant M4.44 per 1000 litres from the earlier M4.11 charge. Sewerage will be charged M3.24 for 85 percent of water consumed, Mr. Letsatsi said.

The tariffs will vary according to the amount of kilolitres consumed with the highest charges for above 23 kilolitres being charged M7.62 per 1000 litres, previously M7.06.

The increase was necessary if they were to operate profitably so that they could be able to improve their services to their customers. They were determined by the inflation rate.

WASA provides over 100 000 people with drinking water mostly in urban areas of the country plus textile industries and commercial premises mostly based in Maseru as well as Lesotho Brewing company.

*29 March 2005*

## **Retirement Age Revised Upwards to 60 Years**

Public servants' retirement age is to be revised upwards from 55 to 60 years of age. An Act to this effect is expected to be published in the Government Gazette in April.

Acting Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Employment and Labour, Mrs. 'Mamots'eare Makoko told LENTSOE LA BASOTHO newspaper that the new law will be binding on all public servants employed after its publication.

Serving government employees would have the discretion to retiring and being given their pensions from the age of 55 or five years later at 60 years of age.

Pensions will be worked out according to whether individuals have chosen the 55 or 60 year retirement options, Mrs. Makoko said, cautioning however that people should announce their intention to retire at least six months before the actual dates so that their monies can be worked out in time.

The new law will also allow government to retire people prematurely if it is not satisfied with their performance and production. This category of employee would only qualify for a pension provided they had 10 years of service and were over 45 years of age.

Public servants who resign before retirement age will also not get any pension monies except if they have 10 or more years of service, Mrs. Makoko said.

Retirement age is currently 55 years of age.

*14 March 2005*

## **A Drugs Regulatory Authority Bill in the Pipeline**

A task force has been appointed to draft the Drugs Regulatory Authority Bill, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare Dr. Motloheloa Phooko has told the National Assembly.

Responding to a question in the House about the need for a body to register and control drugs, Dr. Phooko said government has adopted a national medicines policy which among other things stipulates the formation of the Authority, which will control the movement of drugs in the country.

*18 March 2005*

## **Rain Fed Crops that can Withstand Drought**

Farmers should place more emphasis on traditional rain fed crops that can however withstand the drought normally experienced during the summer cropping season, according to the agricultural research division of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Principal research officer Mrs Lefulesele Lebesa demonstrated at a farmers' filed day at Ts'ifalimali in the Leribe district how, faced with the problem of weather changes in which rain falls in December is late for most summer crops, farmers can resort to soya beans, peanuts, maize and sorghum, all of which are drought resistant.

Soya beans have first class protein similar to that of animal protein but without the risk of being high in cholesterol and with by-products such as cooking oil, coffee and breakfast foods such as porridge. It is also an immune system booster.

*17 March 2005*

## **M80 million in DCI Assistance Over the Next 3 Years**

Lesotho will get M80 million worth of assistance from Ireland for the next three years, according to the Consulate General of Ireland in Lesotho Mr. Bill Nolan.

Speaking at a press briefing at the Irish Consulate on March 16, Mr. Nolan said this Development Co-operation Ireland's (DCI) funding programme for 2005 - 2007 will be allocated to the sectors of health, education, HIV/AIDS sectors, including civil society groups dealing with vulnerable categories of the population. The money would be transferred into the concerned sectors on a quarterly basis.

DCI would continue to support the Treasury Department as it had over the past years, Mr Nolan said, showing how past assistance had been meant to improve public financial management across the entire system of government.

This year, the education sector will be allocated M13 million, health M10 million, AIDS stakeholders M7 million, water and rural access programmes M20 million and the range of governance related agencies M20 million. It is expected that the same amount of funding will be provided in 2006 and 2007.

*10 March 2005*

## **Road Safety Campaigns Are Successful, Department Says**

The number of deaths on the country's roads has been drastically reduced since the introduction of the road safety improvement programme in 1998, the Road Safety Department has said.

Departmental spokesperson Mr Moeketsi Molefe said records show that prior to and until 1999, 146 people were killed per 10 000 vehicles in the country. This figure dropped 46 people per 10 000 vehicles in 2000 until in 2004, only 38 people were killed per 10 000 vehicles.

The Department planned to introduce a "No substance Abuse " campaign from March 22 as part of the Easter road awareness campaign. A task force including members of the Road Safety department; Ministry of Health; Traffic Police and taxi associations will be formed.

*16 March 2005*

## **Bitumen for Mpharane to Kolojane Road**

A project to upgrade three gravel roads in the north-eastern districts of Leribe and Berea: the Mpharane to St. Theresa Mission road and two others branching off from this road to Kolojane and to Bela-Bela, will be officially handed over to the Minister of Public Works and Transport at Mpharane on May 27.

Awarded to South African roads construction company Raubex, the project started in September 2003 and was completed in March this year.

The M52.5 million was funded by the African Development Bank (ADB).

*26 May 2005*

## **Berea gets 60 Wheelchairs**

The Lesotho National Federation of the Disabled ( LENFOD) has donated sixty wheelchairs to the ten constituencies of the Berea district. Members of

Parliament for the constituencies accepted the wheelchairs on behalf of their constituents.

Officially handing over the wheelchairs, the Berea District Secretary, Mr. Mothoasebaka Lehloenyane appealed to the MPs to encourage families of the beneficiaries to take good care of the chairs so that they can be passed on to other beneficiaries should the need arise.

Member of Parliament for Khafung, Mr Thabo Shao, on behalf of the recipients, said they expected local chiefs to help ensure good use of the wheelchairs so that they could be passed on to other beneficiaries in case of death of the first user.

*31 March 2005*

## **Lesotho to Establish Sporting Links with China**

A five member sports delegation from the People's Republic of China is expected in the country from June 1 to 4 and will during their stay, sign a memorandum of cooperation in sports with their Lesotho counterparts. Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation, Mr. Makalo Theko announced the visit on May 23 and said Lesotho expects to benefit immensely from this East Asian nation that will be staging the 2008 Olympic Games.

The delegation will be taken on a tour of the various sports facilities in the country, including the National University of Lesotho (NUL) and the Ha Mohale site of the country's high altitude sports centre.

The visit follows discussions the Minister of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation held with China's Sports authorities during the Olympic Games in Athens, Greece last year, the Principal Secretary said.

*24 May 2005*

## **Tour de Lesotho Five Get Commonwealth Games Sponsorship**

The inspiring performance of five local cyclists in last Saturday's (May 7, 2005) Tour de Lesotho race has secured them the sponsorship of Exel Petroleum Lesotho and Nedbank.

Tekenyane Moubane, the first Mosotho cyclist to reach the finish line at Ha Mohale, 86 kilometres away from Maseru; Makhache Ramolungoa; Poloko Makara ; Tumisang Taabe and Moeketsi Makatile will get the sponsorship, which covers training, equipment as well as participation in other competitions.

Moubane (20) managed to finish the race at 2.59 which falls within the three hours standard time for local riders, according to a member of the Tour de Lesotho Organising Committee Sehaole Mpopo said.

Mpopo said the sponsorship had come at the right time, when the country's 14 member team, including the five, were preparing for the Commonwealth Games, in Melbourne, Australia in March next year. 'The assistance will go a long way towards ensuring that our riders get ready for this internationally acclaimed event,' he said.

Local cyclists will be participating for the first time in the Commonwealth Games.

This year's Tour De Lesotho has been won by South African Nicolas White for the second time in a row, covering the distance in 2.36 hours.

*09 May 2005*

## Potse Player of the Year

Likuena and Lesotho Correctional Services striker Refiloe Potse is the Buddie Premier League player of the year, Premier League Management Committee (PMC) chairperson Tlholo Letete, announced on May 26.

Matlama and Likuena's goalkeeper Lekunutu Ts'oeunyane has been chosen Mammoth Premier League Safe Hands winner.

Potse won himself a Kay Bon satellite television system while Ts'oeunyane won M2 500 in cash.

The LCS striker beat another contestant in the category, Peter Matekane of Rovers but both players are in the running for the golden boot of the year after each had notched more than 20 goals by the end of the season,' according to PMC chair Letete.

Ts'oeunyane played 20 league games and conceded only eight goals, beating the other candidate, Tumelo Ntsoane of the Lerotholi Polytechnic team, who played 21 games, conceding 20 goals.

The prize giving ceremony will be at the Bambatha Ts'ita Sports arena on June 2, Letete said.

*27 May 2005*

## News from members

Dear member. You are very welcome to participate with an article, an opinion nor just any comment on the work of DLN. Just send it on e-mail to someone in the information group:

Karina Ruby: [karinaruby@bigfoot.com](mailto:karinaruby@bigfoot.com)  
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**KHOTSO – PULA – NALA**