

News from the DLN

DLN is looking forward to have another Cultural Trip to Lesotho in the beginning of November this year. It is a group of 11 people. Some have been in Lesotho several times and others will be there for the very first time. Those who have great friendships in Lesotho are looking really much forward to meet Basotho again and to show the beginners why we are so much in love with the Basotho Culture, people and landscape.



Young girl with a baby

News from the Board

Since the last newsletter our efforts have primarily concerned project group activities in Lesotho. The DPE-group and the RSDA-group have (together with the Fundraising group/Anders Fogsgaard) worked to solicit funds from various sources for supplementary activities with our partner organisations in

Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Siden sidste nyhedsbrev har der primært været aktivitet i projektgrupperne omkring arbejdet i Lesotho. DPE-gruppen og RSDA-gruppen har sammen med fundraisergruppen (Anders Foghsgaard) arbejdet på at søge penge hos fonde til supplerende aktiviteter hos partnerorganisationerne i Lesotho. Der er visse

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Membership of DLN

Lesotho. Some expenses that are necessary for implementing development activities cannot be covered from the big CISU grant. For example 'hardware' like computers and vehicles, for which funding is better sought with private donors. DPE is in the process of finishing a three-year project and starting up a new one. And for RSDA, an external Spanish consultant is currently carrying out an evaluation. Our two new project initiatives within education are working to establish partnerships and stable contacts in Lesotho. More about this later from the project groups.

Karina Ruby, DLN Chairman

Mission: Working Kids

By Carsten Brønden

We have been trying for quite some time to get our 'Working Kids' project kick-started, but progress has been slow. DLN therefore decided to sponsor a mission to Lesotho from its own means in order that I could come down and meet and discuss face to face with our new partner, Lesotho National Council of Women (LNCW). We needed to get to know each other better and agree on a plan of action.

So I visited Lesotho from 23 -30 April and had quite a busy week. The mission went very well indeed, and we have agreed on the next steps. But I must admit that during my drive down to Maseru on the first day I was about to think just like Lance Armstrong on his last appearance in the Tour de France: 'I am getting too old for this S***!' That was after having missed the appointment with our contact person in Jo'burg Airport, being fined 900 R for a claimed 'traffic offence' even before leaving the airport parking house, losing the way in the dark a few times, experiencing a couple of minor harassments at the SA border and elsewhere, hitting one of the pink traffic cones due to fatigue and having to crawl under the car to pull it out again, and so forth.

But when I finally found the Botleng guest house, late and dead tired, all my frustration

udgifter til udførelse af udviklingsaktiviteter, som ikke kan dækkes af den store bevilling fra CISU. F.eks. materielle ting som computere og biler kan med fordel søges hos private fonde. DPE er lige nu ved at afslutte et 3-årigt projekt og skal snart starte et nyt projekt op. RSDA er i gang med evaluering med ekstern evaluator fra Spanien. De to nye projektinitiativer omkring uddannelse arbejder på at få etableret partnerskaber og stabile kontakter i Lesotho. Mere herom senere fra de enkelte projektgrupper.

Karina Ruby, formand for DLN

Partnerbesøg, Working Kids

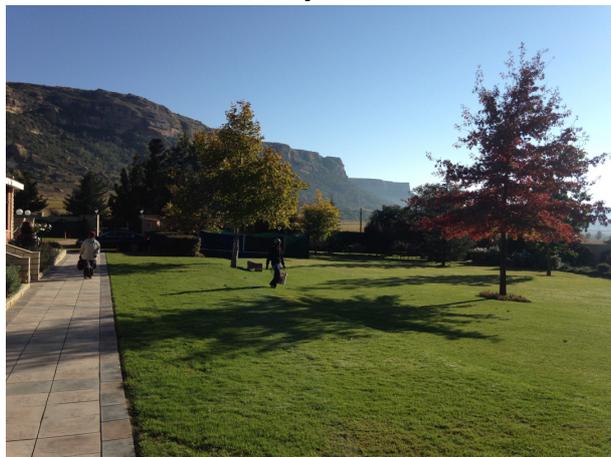
Af Carsten Brønden

DLN har prøvet at kickstarte vort nye projekt 'Working Kids' igennem snart længere tid, men det er gået noget langsomt. DLN besluttede derfor at bruge egne midler på et besøg i Lesotho, så jeg fik mulighed for at komme ned og mødes ansigt til ansigt med vor nye partner, Lesotho National Council of Women (LNCW). Det var behov for at komme til at kende hinanden lidt bedre og blive enige om en aktivitetsplan. Så jeg besøgte Lesotho 23.-30. april og havde en temmelig travl uge. Besøget gik over al forventning, og vi er blevet enige om de næste skridt i samarbejdet. Men jeg må da indrømme, at jeg under køreturen ned til Maseru fra Jo'burg den første dag nåede at tænke lidt ligesom Lance Armstrong under hans sidste optræden i Tour de France: 'Jeg er blevet for gammel til dette møg'! Det startede med, at jeg missede aftalen med vor kontaktperson i Jo'burg lufthavn, dernæst fik jeg en bøde på 900 Rand for en påstået 'trafikforseelse' allerede inden, jeg var kommet ud af parkeringshuset, senere for vild på vejene nær Lesotho i mørket et par gange, oplevede et par mindre chikanerier ved grænseovergangen, ramte en orange trafikkegle pga. træthed og måtte ind under bilen for at hale den ud, osv. i samme stil.

evaporated: Beautiful place and kind professional staff, who said they had been waiting for me! And sitting on the terrace in the sunshine the following morning after a good night's sleep, enjoying breakfast, nice coffee, and spectacular mountain views while greeted by smiling young people, I wondered where the thoughts of last night had come from.



So I headed for the LNCW school in Maseru East that I also visited last year, and we spent the rest of the week here with workshops, training and discussions. Ms. Mamotseoa Malebo, teacher at the school and our contact person, had taken good care of all the logistics together with the principal, Ms Ramangoaela. Most of the LNCW committee and the school board members participated in the workshops and contributed many good and new ideas. Particularly as to how we can modernise and capacitate the schools to interact more actively with society and respond better to needs for skills development. It was also agreed that we should invite other relevant NGOs to participate in future capacity development activities to obtain synergy and to broaden the range of beneficiaries. During the week, Mamotseoa and I also met with the Dir. of TVET in the Ministry of Education and the EU Delegation to solicit support for our project. It can be safely concluded that both the LNCW and the school are interested in getting started and that we now have a much better foundation



Men da jeg langt om længe kom frem til Botleng Guesthouse, forduftede al min frustration: Smukt sted, venlig, professionel stab, som oven i købet sagde, at de havde ventet på mig. Og mens jeg efter en god nats søvn sad og nød den dejlige morgenkaffe, den betagende bjergudsigt, omgivet af smilende unge mennesker, funderede jeg over, hvor alle aftenens frustrerede tanker var kommet fra.

Så jeg drog af sted til LNCW's skole i Maseru East, som jeg også besøgte sidste år, og vi brugte ugen på workshops, træning og diskussioner. Ms. Mamotseoa Malebo, som er lærer på skolen og vor kontaktperson, sørgede sammen med inspektøren Ms Ramangoaela for, at al logistikken klappede.

De fleste af LNCWs og skolens bestyrelsesmedlemmer deltog i workshops og bidrog med mange gode, nye ideer. Ikke mindst til, hvordan vi kan modernisere skolerne og opbygge kapacitet til at interagere mere aktivt med det omgivende samfund og imødekomme behovene for praktiske færdigheder. Der var også enighed om, at vi skulle invitere andre relevante NGO'er til at deltage, så vi opnår synergi og udbreder nytteværdien af aktiviteterne. I ugens løb mødtes Mamotseoa og jeg også med departementschefen for erhvervsuddannelse i Undervisningsministeriet og med en sagsbehandler fra EU delegationen for at informere om og opnå støtte til vort projekt. Det kan klart konkluderes, at både LNCW og

on which to base our future activities. Our partners fully appreciate that we are an NGO and not a donor, but that we will help solicit funds and support for relevant, agreed upon activities. Neither the committee nor the teachers aired any unrealistic expectations of grants or donations of any kind. Quite contrary, they made me aware of what they could themselves contribute.

However, it is also obvious that the resources, both human and financial, of LNCW and the schools themselves are quite limited. The current training is funded entirely from school fees and renting out of free buildings to another school (primary school). Funding of vocational training for the poor remains a challenge everywhere, not only in Lesotho.

Nonetheless, the biggest challenge here and now is probably that all teachers are volunteers who only receive a monthly allowance of less than half of what gvt. employed teachers would receive. However a solution to this problem could be within reach once the schools are correctly registered with the MoE and start to employ formally qualified teachers for new or revised programmes. As employees of a registered NGO such teachers would be entitled to a government salary.

The next agreed step will be to prepare an application to CISU for funding of the two activities that received top priority, i.e:

- (1) A 'live' training exercise in skills needs analysis, followed by design or revision of courses based on the findings.
- (2) A training of trainers course on how to deliver the training in a participatory, learner-centred way.

Provided we can solicit funds from CISU's 'Citizen Participation Intervention' facility, the intention is to implement the training activities towards the end of 2017 after the schools have closed for holidays. However some of the needs assessment field work should be completed in advance by local facilitators. In the meantime, Mamotsoea will follow up

skolen er interesserede i at komme i gang, og at vi nu har et meget bedre grundlag at basere vore aktiviteter på. Vor partner er helt på det rene med, at vi er en NGO og ikke en donor, men at vi vil hjælpe med at rejse midler og støtte til relevante, aftalte aktiviteter. Hverken bestyrelse eller lærere luftede urealistiske forventninger om nogen form for bevillinger eller donationer. Tværtimod gjorde de opmærksom på, hvad de selv kunne bidrage med.



Det er imidlertid også klart, at både de menneskelige og økonomiske resurser, såvel hos LNCW som på skolernes, er temmelig begrænsede. Den aktuelle undervisning finansieres udelukkende af elevernes skolepenge, samt fra udlejning af ledige lokaler til en anden skole (underskole). Finansiering af erhvervsuddannelse for fattige unge er og bliver en udfordring overalt, ikke kun i Lesotho.

Ikke desto mindre er den største udfordring her og nu nok, at alle lærerne er frivillige, som kun modtager en kompensation, som er det halve af hvad en statsansat lærer tjener. Men en løsning på dette problem kan måske opnås, hvis skolerne er korrekt registreret hos Ministeriet og begynder at ansætte formelt kvalificerede lærere til de nye og reviderede kurser. Som ansatte af en registreret NGO er sådanne lærere nemlig berettigede til løn fra regeringen.

Det blev aftalt, at næste skridt skulle være en ansøgning til CISU om midler til de to aktiviteter, der fik topprioritet i workshopen,

with the TVET director on the salary issue and other pertinent issues. We will keep in close contact.



Before heading home Sunday I also had the opportunity to briefly meet with both Shale from DPE and Joseph Thaba, chairman Karina Ruby's former colleague. Joseph and Mamotseoa both teach entrepreneurship, so it would probably make good sense to bring them together. They could examine if any of the modules (to be forwarded by me) that we developed in Namibia not long ago could also be used in Lesotho with some editing. At the same time, Joseph may also help Mamotseoa get access to the Internet, at least temporarily, at the Polytech, where he teaches. At the moment, Mamotseoa is doing everything from her smartphone, using her own airtime. That is of course not a sustainable solution, particularly when we want to manage large files.

External evaluation

By: Anders Hedegaard

During July and August Rural Selfhelp Development Association (RSDA) were occupied by a planned external evaluation of the project. Four local consultants led by the

nemlig:

- (1) Undervisning 'i marken' i træningsbehovs analyse, som skal følges op med undervisning i design og revision af kurser på baggrund af analysens resultater
- (2) Kursus for lærerne i, hvordan undervisningen kan gennemføres på en involverende, elevcentreret måde.

Forudsat at vi kan skaffe midler fra CISUs vindue for 'Medborgerindsatser', er det tanken, at vi vil gennemføre disse aktiviteter mod slutningen af 2017, når skolerne er ferielukkede. Men vi regner med, at noget af træningen i behovsanalysen 'i marken' kan gennemføres i forvejen af to lokale facilitatorer.

I mellemtiden vil Mamotseoa følge op på lønspørgsmålet og andre emner med Undervisningsministeriet. Vi vil holde tæt kontakt.

Før jeg startede hjemrejsen søndag fik jeg også lejlighed til at mødes med Shale fra DPE og Joseph Thaba, formand (m/k), Karinas tidligere kollega. Joseph og Mamotseoa underviser begge i 'iværksætter', så det forekom mig en god ide at bringe dem sammen. De kan undersøge, om nogle af de undervisningsmoduler, vi udviklede til samme formål i Namibia for ikke så længe siden (som jeg har fremsendt), måske kan bruges i Lesotho også med lidt redigering. Samtidig kan Joseph måske hjælpe Mamotseoa med Internetadgang på Polytech, hvor han underviser. I øjeblikket klarer Mamotseoa nemlig det hele fra sin egen smartphone - med sin egen airtime. Og det er selvfølgelig ikke en langtidsholdbar løsning, især ikke, når vi skal til at håndtere større filer.

Ekstern evaluering

Af Anders Hedegaard

En del af juli og august i Rural Selfhelp Development Association (RSDA) er blevet brugt på en planlagt ekstern evaluering af projektet. Fire lokale konsulenter ledet af den

Spanish consultancy Oicologica interviewed a number of farmers, collaborators, stakeholders, employees, The RSDA board and representatives of the project team. They are now working on the evaluation report.



The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the effectiveness, relevance, performance and overall potential sustainability of the project. The external evaluation will clearly identify success or (lack of it) in all key areas to be assessed. The report will capture all project activities, methods used to achieve project results, and also capture good experiences which can be built on in the future work of RSDA.

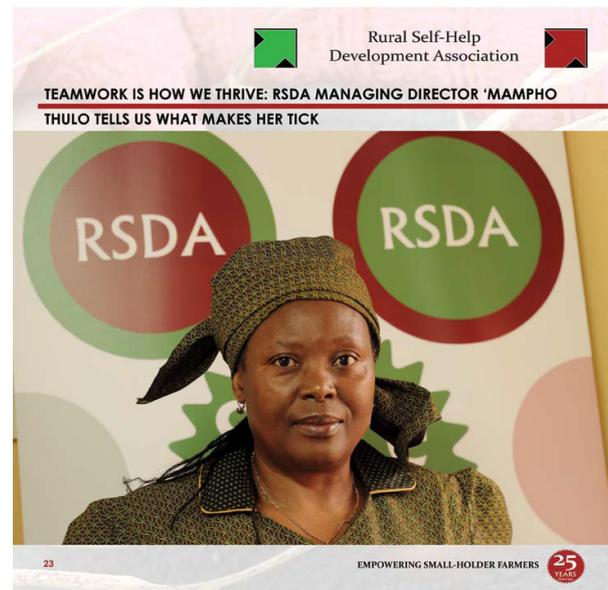
RSDA as well as the project group are convinced that the report will be a useful document for future applications.



Visit at RSDA office

spanske konsulentvirksomhed Oicologica interviewede en række landmænd, samarbejdspartnere, interessenter, medarbejdere, RSDA-bestyrelsen og repræsentanter for projektgruppen. De arbejder nu på at færdiggøre evalueringsrapporten. Formålet med evalueringen er at vurdere projektets effektivitet, relevans og overordnede bæredygtighed. Den eksterne evaluering vil blandt andet afdække succeser (eller mangel på samme) på alle nøgleområder. Rapporten vil omhandle alle projektaktiviteter og de metoder, der er brugt. Rapporten vil dokumentere projektresultater og fastholde erfaringer, som der kan bygges videre på i RSDAs fremtidige arbejde.

Vi (RSDA og projektgruppen) er overbeviste om, at rapporten vil blive et brugbart dokument i forbindelse med fremtidige ansøgninger.



Portræt af direktøren for RSDA Me Thulo, bragt i 25-års jubilæumsskriftet. Se hele jubilæumsskriftet her: www.lumela.dk Who we are - View Reports - Andre rapporter.

News from Lesotho:

From Lesotho Times:

SADC rejects opposition rigging claims



Posted by :Lestimes Posted date : **August 25, 2017**

Pascalinah Kabi

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has rejected the former coalition government's claim that the 3 June 2017 parliamentary elections were rigged and its call for a forensic audit of the polls.

Instead, the regional bloc has affirmed the SADC Electoral Observation Mission's (SEOM) statement soon after the elections that the electoral process was generally "peaceful, credible and transparent".

The 3 June 2017 polls resulted in the ouster of the Pakalitha Mosisili-led seven party government after four parties cobbled together their 63 seats to form a governing coalition.

The four governing parties consist of Prime Minister Thomas Thabane's All Basotho Convention, Alliance of Democrats, Basotho National Party and Reformed Congress of Lesotho.

The previous government was made up of Dr Mosisili's Democratic Congress (DC), Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD), Marematlou Freedom Party, Basotho Congress Party, National Independent Party, Lesotho People's Congress and Popular Front for Democracy.

The parties only served just two years of their five-year term after the now ruling coalition engineered a parliamentary no-confidence vote on 1 March 2017.

Ahead of Dr Thabane's 16 June 2017 inauguration, the former governing parties sent a letter to then SADC chairperson, King Mswati III, in which they claimed the elections were rigged by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

King Mswati III handed over the SADC chair post to South African President Jacob Zuma during the regional bloc's 37th Double Troika summit held last weekend in Pretoria, South Africa.

They accused the electoral body of "secretly" registering people many days after the deadline and also claimed that "busloads" of South Africans were ferried into Lesotho to illegally vote among other alleged irregularities.

"Many voters were transferred illegally from their constituencies and moved to certain targeted constituencies in order to enable a certain party to win in those specific constituencies," read part of the letter to King Mswati III.

The former governing parties further alleged that lower quality ink was used in some constituencies instead of indelible ink.

"This inevitably led to wide spread multiple voting, more so as the IEC had discarded use of ultra-violet light to check against multiple voting."

In light of their allegations, the parties had called for a forensic audit of the polls led by SADC "which will establish the extent of these irregularities and thereby make a determination as to whether the results of this election are a true reflection of the will of the people of Lesotho".

They had also urged SADC to push for a government of national unity that would include all the parties represented in parliament as well as a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

King Mswati III responded to the previous government's correspondence in a letter dated 23 June 2017 and addressed to Dr Mosisili.

In the letter, the Swazi monarch states that the SEOM was deployed to observe the polls in line with SADC principles and guidelines governing democratic elections.

"The SEOM preliminary statement, as issued on 5 June 2017, describes the electoral process as generally peaceful, credible and transparent," states King Mswati III.

"The findings of the SEOM are consistent with the preliminary statements of all the other international observation missions.

"Furthermore, SADC notes that 21 political parties out of the 29 that participated in the general elections accepted the results, by signing a statement of acceptance of election results that was signed on 7th June 2017."

This was in reference to the Election Acceptance Pledge facilitated by the Christian Council of Lesotho in which both the DC and LCD appended their signatures.

King Mswati III asserts that issues of concern would be discussed during a national stakeholders' dialogue that is set to be convened at the instigation of SADC.

"In line with the SADC Summit Decisions, we believe that the Kingdom of Lesotho will convene a National Stakeholders' Dialogue, a forum which will allow the exchange of views and ideas on how to foster prosperity and political stability in the Kingdom of Lesotho. This is the forum where different matters can be discussed," His Majesty says.

"Honourable MP (Dr Mosisili), SADC remains committed to supporting the Kingdom of Lesotho towards the realisation of durable peace, security, democracy and economic prosperity and encourages all stakeholders to support this endeavour."

Lesotho products a hit at World Expo



Posted by :Lestimes Posted date : August 17, 2017



Ministry of Trade and Industry Lihaelo Nkaota

Bereng Mpaki

LESOTHO products have proved to be a hit at the ongoing at the World Expo Astana 2017 in Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has revealed.

Lesotho is among 137 countries showcasing various products and investment opportunities at the expo which started on 10 June and ends on 10 September this year. Lihaelo Nkaota, the Information Officer at the Ministry of Trade and Industry said other countries were particularly impressed by and bought Lesotho organic products such as honey, cosmetics and ornaments.

“Our organic products such as honey and cosmetics that are made with indigenous aloes have been well- received at the expo,” Ms Nkaota said from Kazakhstan.

“Going forward, it will be important for us is to assist local producers so that they are able to satisfy demand for the products.”

Ms Nkaota also revealed that Lesotho was one of 22 African countries that participated in this week’s Africa Day exhibition at the Expo where they showcased the different investment opportunities offered by the country.

Lesotho presented on the three sectors of energy, manufacturing and tourism.

“Under the tourism sector, we focused on investment opportunities that would harness the advantages of the high altitude that our country is blessed with. Lesotho lends itself to high altitude games as an area of investment.”

She said the rugged and high mountains presented opportunities for hot air balloons, parachuting as well as skiing.

On the manufacturing sector, Lesotho showcased investment opportunities in waste management services especially for the textile industry.

“There is an existing opportunity where we can profitably re-use the off-cuts from the factory floor to manufacture other products such as pillows and madras fillers,” she said, adding, the liquid waste from the factories could also be used to manufacture fertilisers. On the energy sector, Ms Nkaota said that due to high altitude of the country, Lesotho was looking for investors to set up wind farms to generate energy.

“Also, our country is blessed with above average sunshine per year, and that makes us a good location for engaging in solar power generation.”

She added while concrete deals had not yet been secured at the Expo, it was important for participants to make useful connections for future cooperation and investment deals.

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

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KHOTSO – PULA – NALA