

### News from the DLN

Denmark Lesotho Network has issued 59 newsletters in total. The one at hand is number 59! Hope you will enjoy the reading and pictures.

The following text in Danish concerns DLN's AGM.

Hvis du savner formandsberetningen i forbindelse med invitationen til GF, fortvivl ikke. Den vil komme i løbet af næste uge. I år har DLN valgt at lave en weekend med visionsdag og GF. Det er **den 30. og 31. marts i Nyborg**. Sæt kryds i din kalender. Vi håber, at mange har lyst at møde op.



*From a previously DLN AGM*

If you have changed your e-mail, please forward your new address to [dln@lumela.dk](mailto:dln@lumela.dk)

### News from the Board

On February 6th we had the first show of our four new small films about Lesotho and DLN. It was a great success with more than 80 people turning up for this public, free event at DOKK1 in Aarhus. Some were members of DLN, but many others also wanted to learn

### Nyt fra Bestyrelsen, februar 2019

Den 6. februar 2019 havde vi præmiere på de 4 nye små film om Lesotho og DLN. Det var en stor succes med mere end 80 fremmødte til det gratis offentlige arrangement på Dokk1 i Århus. En del var medlemmer af DLN, men der kom også mange andre, som ville høre

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Membership of DLN

about Lesotho. Each of the four films has a duration of between 5 and 15 minutes. The themes are DLN, Democracy, Climate and Tourism. Together they convey a good impression of DLN's work and some of the challenges that face Lesotho as a country. In between the films time was set aside for questions, coffee and cake. The event lasted for two hours. The films have been produced by Mie and Janus Wejding, who had their travel and accommodation only refunded from DLN. Numerous hours of voluntary work have gone into the production of the films, and DLN wants to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the great efforts made.



*Karina hands over a gift for Janus and Mie.*

The small project for recycling of PCs for schools in Lesotho has been completed. It has taken more than a year from when the school in Egtved, Vejle municipality, donated 33 computers to DLN until they are now installed at a school in Morija. Read more in a separate article.

Karina Ruby  
Chairman

noget om Lesotho. De 4 film varer hver især fra 5 til 15 min. og handler om: DLN, Demokrati, Klima og Turisme. Tilsammen giver de et godt billede af, hvad det er, vi arbejder med i DLN og nogle af de udfordringer, Lesotho har som land. Mellem filmene var der tid til spørgsmål samt kaffe og kage. Arrangementet varede to timer. Filmene er produceret af Mie og Janus Weidling, som kun har fået rejse og ophold i Lesotho betalt af DLN. Der ligger rigtig mange frivillige arbejdstimer i en sådan filmproduktion, og DLN vil gerne takke dem meget for det store arbejde.

Husk: Vi har snart en weekend med **visionsdag og generalforsamling**, ligesom den vi havde for snart 3 år siden. Det bliver d. 30.-31. marts 2019 i Nyborg. Alle medlemmer er velkomne til at deltage, så sæt straks X i kalenderen og tilmeld dig, hvis du gerne vil med. Der sendes information om tilmelding og program til alle medlemmer via e-mail.

Der er blevet afsluttet et projekt, nemlig det nye lille projekt omkring genbrug af pc'ere til skoler i Lesotho. Det har taget et år fra skolen i Egtved, Vejle Kommune, gav 33 pc'erne til DLN, og til de nu er installeret på en skole i Morija. Læs mere i en separat artikel.



*Fra aftenen på Dokk1*

Karina Ruby,  
formand

## Presentation for talk/film at DOKK1:

### News from the Roof of Africa.

Lesotho's challenges and changes. Films and dialogue about democracy, climate, responsible tourism and Denmark Lesotho Network.

Climate change and fragile governments impair living conditions in large parts of Africa. In the videos we meet H.M. King Letsie 3dr., NGOs and small hold farmers, who all contribute to the story about the country Lesotho that struggles with the challenges.

Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN) cooperates with NGOs in the small mountainous kingdom in southern Africa. DLN also organises experiential tours to Lesotho.



*At the sett*

In September 2018, even before we had started the shooting of the films in Lesotho, the team (Bodil, Lisbeth, Janus and myself) had decided that we would show the outcomes of our efforts at DOKK1 in Aarhus.

After our return in October 2018, Janus and myself have actually been more or less living

## Vores oplæg til foredrag/filmforevisning på DOKK1

### Nyt fra Afrikas tag.

Lesothos udfordringer og forandringer. Film og samtaler om demokrati, klima, ansvarlig turisme og foreningen Denmark Lesotho Network.

Klimaændringer og skrøbelige regeringer forværrer levevilkårene i store dele af Afrika. Gennem videoer møder vi H.M. Kong Letsie 3., NGO'erne og småbønderne, der alle bidrager til fortællingen om landet Lesotho, der kæmper med udfordringerne.

Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN) samarbejder med NGO'er i det lille bjergland i det sydlige Afrika. DLN arrangerer også oplevelsesrejser til Lesotho.



*Udsigt fra Malealea Lodge*

Ja allerede i september 2018 besluttede vi i filmteamet (Bodil, Lisbet, Janus og jeg), at vi ville vise vores produkt fra vores rejse i oktober 2018 på DOKK1 i Århus – så forevisningen på var faktisk planlagt, inden vi havde lavet optagelserne i Lesotho.

Så efter vi kom hjem i nov. 2018, har vi (Janus og Mie) nærmest levet i de optagelser - 940 klip - som vi havde med hjem, så vi kunne få filmene færdige til premiere på DOKK1 den

inside the recordings we brought back, i.e. 940 clippings in all, so that we could complete the films for release on February 6<sup>th</sup>.



*Janus makes a shooting*

We followed our storyline closely, and on 23 January we showed the four short films to the Board of DLN. They were all approved. In short, our aim throughout has been that more people should gain knowledge of Lesotho. We used local advertisements, flyers and social media. But how many people would actually find their way to a lecture/film about an unknown country was hard to predict. So when crowds of spectators started to turn up between 18.30 and 19.00 we were quite overwhelmed by the support, curiosity and interest shown. We had chosen a hall with 70 seats, but we had to collect extra chairs from the café. More than 80 people attended the event.

The evening was very successful with many good questions and great interest, and, not least, better knowledge of Lesotho and DLN.

*Mie Leth Wejdling*

*Former volunteer to Lesotho*

*Member of DLN*

*Film assistant and member of the team.*

The film are now on the homepage [www.lumela.dk](http://www.lumela.dk) "Video Tales" not all in English yet.

6.februar.

Vi fulgte nøje vores storyline, og den 23. januar 2019 viste vi så DLN's bestyrelse de 4 små film. De blev godkendt.

Vores mål har jo hele tiden kort og godt været at flere skulle have kendskab til Lesotho.

Vi lavede lokale annoncer, flyers og brugte de sociale medier. Men hvor mange, der ville finde vej til et foredrag om et ukendt land, var ikke nemt at spå om.



*Mie laver et interview*

Så da der fra 18.30 til 19.00 praktisk talt væltede ind med tilskuere, så var vi meget overvældede over den store opbakning, nysgerrighed og interesse, der blev vist. Vi havde valgt en sal med 70 siddepladsermen vi hentede til sidst ekstra stole fra cafeen. Der var mere end 80 personer, der havde fundet vej til vores arrangement. Det blev en rigtig god aften med gode spørgsmål, stor interesse og ikke mindst større kendskab til Lesotho og DLN.

*Mie Leth Wejdling*

*Tidligere frivillig i Lesotho*

*Medlem af DLN*

*Filmassistent og medlem af filmteamet*

PS! Videofortællingerne ligger nu på hjemmesiden [www.lumela.dk](http://www.lumela.dk) under "Video Tales"

## Workshop in Lesotho – similar to workshops in Denmark

*By: Anne Jakobsen og Ole Kristensen*

In January we visited Lesotho and our local partner Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA) to participate in the project launch for the 4<sup>th</sup> term in the agricultural project.

The main activity was the kick-off of the project in Butha Buthe: A workshop on day 1 and a local “expo” with a public presentation of the project on day 2.

It has been incredible to experience the positive reception of the project in the district and great to see such a professional presentation from our very skillful partner, RSDA.



*Projects manager Mrs Lineo Makarabelo Makhoebe welcomes the participants*

A workshop in Lesotho is very close to if not similar to equal events in Denmark. Both in the way it is organized and completed by RSDA but also in terms of the commitment, and the way the participants work and contribute throughout the workshop.

Their background with small-scale farming, and the fact that farmers are mainly women, is of course different to the Danish context. But a request for silencing all mobile phones for the duration of the meeting, and the four phones

## Workshop i Lesotho - minder om workshops i Danmark

*Af Anne Jakobsen og Ole Kristensen*

Vi besøgte i januar Lesotho og Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) for at deltage i projektstarten for den fjerde projektperiode i landbrugsprojektet. Hovedaktiviteten var projekt kickoff i Butha Buthe: En workshop på dag 1 og en lokal ”expo” med projekt præsentation på dag to. Det har været fantastisk at opleve den positive modtagelse i distriktet og skønt at overvære en topprofessionel præstation fra vores dygtige partner, RSDA.

En workshop i Lesotho er meget lig tilsvarende begivenheder i Danmark. Både i den måde, det bliver tilrettelagt og gennemført af RSDA, men også engagementet og måden deltagerne arbejder og bidrager på.

Deres baggrund med små landbrug og at landmænd primært er kvinder, er naturligvis anderledes. Men en opfordring til at sætte mobiler på lydløs og de fire mobiler, der alligevel ringer under mødet, minder meget om et dagsmøde i Danmark.

Gruppearbejde, hvor man udvikler ideer, skriver dem op på flip-overs, som præsenteres og diskuteres, minder også om en typisk dansk workshop.

At der startes og slutes med bøn og sang er anderledes – desværre, for en gang startede landmandsmøder også med en sang. Efter bøn og sang var der en kort præsentation af RSDA, DLN, projektet og målet med dagen ved Leniro og en præsentation af deltagerne.

Der blev brugt powerpoint og projektor til præsentationen, Flip-over til at fastholde pointer fra gruppearbejdet – som det typisk også ville være i Danmark.

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that despite of this ring during the meeting, is very similar to a meeting in Denmark.

Group work where you develop ideas, write them on flip overs, which are then presented and discussed in plenum, is also very typical for a Danish workshop.

The fact that you start and end with a prayer and a song is different however – unfortunately, because once upon a time, farmer meetings in Denmark also started with a song.



*Group work – membership lists are being drawn up with the aim of legal registration of the groups*

After the prayer and the song there was a short presentation of RSDA, DLN, the joint project, the goal of the day (presented by Mrs. Lineo Makarabelo Makhoebe from RSDA), and a presentation of each participant.

Powerpoint and a projector was used for the presentation. Flip-overs were used to maintain the key points from the groupwork – which is also how it would typically be in Denmark.

On top of this was a personal power and impact from projects manager, Mrs. Lineo

Dertil kom en personlig power og gennemslagskraft hos projektleder, Leniro og direktør Me Thulo, så vi tydeligt kan mærke, at det er ildsjæle, vi har som partnere.

Efter de indledende præsentationer var der gruppe arbejde, hvor deltagerne gik sammen i grupper med fælles interesser: Uld & mohair, planteavl, mælkeproduktion, grøntsagsproduktion, frugt- honning- og brødproduktion, grise samt en gruppe med de statsansatte rådgivere.

Opgaven var at finde muligheder for bedre vilkår, først og fremmest ved at finde nye afsætningsmuligheder. Der blev gået til opgaven med stor energi.

Resultaterne blev præsenteret af grupperne. De var tydeligt generte ved at komme på scenen og præsentere, men gjorde det med super gennemslagskraft. Alle deltagere engagerede sig i hinandens ideer og kom med yderligere forslag.



*Managing Director Mrs. Mampho Thulo lægger op til gruppearbejde*

Me Thulo ledte processen top professionelt med nærvær, begejstring og anerkendelse. Det var en dejlig oplevelse at se, hvordan hun med sit nærvær og støtte, gjorde deltagerne trygge ved at stå på scenen. Og dejligt at mærke, hvordan hendes energi smittede af på deltagerne.

De muligheder, der kom frem i gruppearbejdet,

Makarabelo Makhoebe, and managing director, Mrs. Mampho Thulo from RSDA.

After the initial presentations had been carried out, the group work started, where the participants formed groups based on their line of produce: Wool & mohair, crop/cereal, dairy, vegetables, fruit, honey, bakery, piggery, as well as a group of ministry advisors.

The task at hand was to identify possibilities to better the conditions for the farmers, first and foremost by finding new outlets for product placement. The task was solved with great energy.

The results of the work were presented by each group. They were clearly a bit shy at having to go onstage and making a presentation, but they all did it with remarkable power. All the groups were very engaged with each others' ideas and came up with additional suggestions for new outlets.



*Coffiebreak*

Mrs. Mampho Thulo led the process very professionally with great presence, enthusiasm, and acknowledgement. It was a wonderful experience to see how her presence and support made the participants feel safe with being on the stage. And wonderful to feel how her energy rubbed off on all the participants. The suggestions that came from the group work were all realistic – such as selling local produce to local mining companies, schools, and hospitals. They also debated the possibilities of getting more money for their

var realistiske som f.eks. at sælge flere lokale produkter til mineselskaber, lokale skoler og hospitaler. De diskuterede også typisk muligheden for at få en højere pris, hvis de samler deres produkter til en større mængde og sælger større partier.

Planteproducenterne lavede en liste over velegnede lagerbygninger, der findes allerede og som bare skal repareres for, at de kunne samle deres produktion på ét sted og få en bedre pris ved at sælge et større parti. Den store drøm var dog at kunne bygge en ny silo.



*Præsentation af gruppearbejdet*

Vi har det klare indtryk, at dagen satte noget i gang hos deltagerne – netværk, ideer og håb. RSDA står klar med støtte i form af uddannelse, udvikling af forretningsmodeller, opbygning af læringscentre og videre udvikling af samarbejdet med de lokale statsansatte rådgivere.

Alt sammen opgaver som RSDA har erfaringer med fra de foregående projektperioder. Som de selv siger: Vi har aldrig været så kompetente og klar til opgaven som nu.

De erfaringer, vi har fra opstart af de første fem distrikter betyder, at vi kommer langt bedre fra start i de næste distrikter.

Butha Buthe var godt forberedt, fordi den lokale DEO (district extension officer) havde gjort et godt forarbejde, så der allerede var

produce, if they were to gather their produce so that they increase the volume and sell it in larger quantities.

The crop/cereal production group made a list of suitable warehouses for storing their produce. Such a site already exists and just needs fixing up in order for them to gather their produce in one site in order to get a better price by selling a larger party. The big dream of the day, however, was to be able to build a silo.

We have the distinct impression that the day started some processes for the participants – networks, ideas, and hope.



*Networking being done at break time.*

RSDA is ready to further facilitate this process with the farmers in the form of education, development of business models, further construction of learning centers, and further development of the collaboration with the local advisors employed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

All tasks that RSDA has gained experience in, amongst other, during the previous terms of the project. As they say themselves: We have never been as competent and ready for the job at hand, as we are now.

The experiences we have had from starting up the project in the first five districts means that we will start off even better in the last five districts.

Bhuta Bhute district was well prepared, because the office of the local DEO (district

etableret foreninger for produktionerne, før vi kom. Vi tror, at hun er blevet inspireret af RSDA' visioner og af samarbejdet. Vi håber, de vil opleve samme gode samarbejde i de næste distrikter.

### **Præsentation af produkter, besøg i marken og baseline**

Anden dagen i Butha Buthe var en festdag, hvor alle lokale var velkomne til at komme og høre om projektet, samt se og købe nogle af de lokale produkter.



*Et udsnit af produkterne*

Vi sluttede dagen af med at besøge et ressourcecenter, hvor landmændene - primært kvinder - typisk havde en jordlod på 0,25 ha, svarende til 1/2 fodboldbane. De dyrkede grøntsager som kål, rødbeder, gulerødder og majs og solgte det fra en fælles bod ved vejen. Ud over deres små jordlodder havde de en fælles produktion af tomater, grøn peber og butternut græskar i drivhus.



extension officer) had done an impressive preparatory work, so groups for each type of produce had already been established before our arrival.

We believe that the DEO had been inspired by the visions of RSDA and by the collaboration between RSDA and the DEO. We hope the collaboration between the two can be copied in the last four districts.

### **Presentation of produce, field visit and baseline**

The second day in Bhuta Bhute was a day of celebration, where all locals were welcomed to see and hear more about the project, and buy some of the local produce.



*Consultant P.J. Lerotholi interviews one of the local farmers on the morning of the second day in Bhuta Bhute. Individual interviews are being carried out for the baseline of the project.*

We ended the day with a visit to a resource center, where the farmers – primarily women – typically have a piece of land of 0,25 ha, corresponding to ½ a football field. They were growing vegetables such as cabbage, beetroots, carrots, and maize, and selling it from a shared stall by the roadside.

Besides their pieces of land, they had a shared production of tomatoes, green peppers, and butternut squash in greenhouses. The Ministry provided the land for this shared production, and the mining company has donated the



*Besøg i en landmands mark*

Staten lægger jord til og mineselskabet har doneret drivhuset - så vidt vi forstod. Det giver området en ekstra indtægt og viser en mulighed for en bedre fremtid.



*Drivhus med tomater drevet af fællesskabet*

Før vi tog ud på festpladsen gennemførte P.J. Lerotholi individuelle interviews til baseline.

greenhouses – as far as we could make out. It provides the farmers with an extra income, and showcases the possibilities for a better future.

## Tea with His Majesty King Letsie of Lesotho

**Excerpts from real life and the making of four video films about Lesotho.**

**Four themes about democracy, climate, tourism and DLN.**

*By: Janus Wejdling (JanusFilm)*

We were a bit nervous – Bodil, Mie and I – on the scheduled day for our interview with King Letsie. After all, none of us had ever met royalties before.

We were very fortunate that when planning for the films in Lesotho N'tate Shale from Development for Peace Education (DPE) had helped us contact The Palace, and His Majesty had agreed to meet us. We were truly honored.



*Janus, H.M. Letsie 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bodil and Mie*

Already during summer, we had communicated with our DLN partners in Lesotho. Both DPE and Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA) were written into our story-lines together with people at Malealea Lodge and of course King Letsie.

## Til the hos kongen i Lesotho.

**Et uddrag fra det virkelige liv om tilblivelsen af 4 videofilm om Lesotho.**

**4 temaer om demokrati, klima, turisme og om DLN.**

*Af: Janus Wejdling (JanusFilm)*

Vi var lidt oppe at køre – Bodil, Mie og jeg. Der var ikke lang tid til, at vi skulle interviewe Hans Majestæt Kong Letsie den 3. Men Shale var ikke dukket op endnu. Vi kiggede på hinanden. Vi kommer ikke til den aftalte tid. Men endelig dukkede han op. Shale er koordinator for Development of Peace Education (DPE) projektet og gammel ven af kongen. Det var ham, der havde sparket døren ind, så vi kunne få vores interview.

Allerede i løbet af sommeren havde vi skrevet sammen med DLN's partnere i Lesotho. Både DPE og Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) var skrevet ind i vores storylines sammen med folk på Malealea Lodge og så selvfølgelig Kong Letsie. Vi havde bestemt os for fire temaer: demokrati, klimatilpasning, ansvarlig turisme og præsentation af DLN. Gennem Shale havde vi sendt 8 spørgsmål til hoffet, hvoraf 7 blev slettet, da de var for politiske. De blev omformuleret flere gange, og til sidst var vi stuerene.

### **How are you?**

Vel ankommen til sommerresidensen i Matsieng blev vi anvist plads i salonen. Selvom vi kom mindst halvanden time for sent i forhold til det, vi havde aftalt, var der ingen sure miner.

### How are you?

Well arrived at the homestead of Matsieng we were shown into the parlour. We had rehearsed our questions and the protocol on how to address His Majesty and thus prepared with two active cameras we awaited his arrival. And in came a smiling King thrusting forward his hand and welcoming us with "How are you?" The tone was set, we exchanged greetings and filmed the session.

### Now Let's chat

Having successfully completed the interview His Majesty exclaimed: "Now let's chat and have some tea."

We felt at ease, the atmosphere was very pleasant and we started exchanging facts about families and other topics of common interest while sipping tea, coffee accompanied by the famous Lesotho "fat-cakes".



*Thaba Bosiu and the Basotho hat mountain*

King Letsie's straightforward and yet reflective way of relating to us and our work made a big impression. Quite obviously a descendant of the Moshoeshe dynasty, known as kings of the people and for peace loving extended democratic governance.

## Computers from Egtved School

*By Arne Pedersen*

On December 15<sup>th</sup> Camara, our new partner in Maseru, received the recycled computers donated by Egtved school in Vejle

Nu var det sådan, at vi havde øvet os ihærdigt på tiltaleformen. Hver gang at sige: His Majesty og ikke you. Tøjet var også formelt. Jeg havde lånt slips af min søn. Selv har jeg kun et med julenisser på – måske ikke det mest passende. Således forberedte med 2 aktive kameraer på stand by afventede vi hovedpersonen.

Ind ad døren kommer en smilende konge, stikker mig næven og siger: "How are You?" – Så var tonen lagt, vi kunne slappe lidt mere af, og vi kunne begynde takketalere og gaveoverrækkelse. Shale rømmede sig og antydede, at vi havde lidt flere spørgsmål end de censurerede, der var overbragt af kabinetssekretæren. Kongen trak på smilebåndet og sagde – kom med dem, så skal jeg nok selv afgøre, om jeg må svare som konstitutionel monark.

### Now let's chat

Efter veloverstået interview slog kongen sig på låret og udbrød: "Now let's chat – do you want coffee or tea?" Straks blev stemningen lidt mere løssluppen og vi kunne udveksle familiære facts og vores meninger om dette og hint. Kaffe, the og kage bliver serveret af en trivelig dame i sutsko og forklæde. Jeg er bestemt ikke royalist, men Letsies ligefremme og reflekterende måde at forholde sig til os og vores arbejde på, gjorde stort indtryk. Helt tydeligt en efterkommer af Moshoeshe dynastiet, der er kendt som fredens og folkets konger med udstrakt demokratisk styreform.

## Computerne fra Egtved Skole

*Af Arne Pedersen*

Den 15. dec. modtog Camara i Maseru, DLNs nye samarbejdspartner, de brugte computere,

Municipality.



*Girls welcomes the Danish delegation.*

However, a couple of days later, Camara informed us that seven computers were missing, i.e., they had 26 computers rather than 33. Where the missing seven computers have gone I have no idea and will probably never know. Moreover, Camara needed a code to start up the computers, and they received this from Vejle Municipality on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Makhetha from Camara wrote to me that everything was now OK, and within one week they would be delivered at Mosoang High School, Morija.

Around February 1<sup>st</sup> I mailed Mr Makhetha and asked if the computers had been delivered to the school and put to use. Much to my surprise he answered that it would happen within one week. I have phoned him to apply a bit of pressure. It was agreed that the computers would be delivered on 11<sup>th</sup> February. I also informed Mosoang High School about the new delayed agreement.

I called the school on February 11<sup>th</sup> and the headmaster confirmed that the computers had been delivered and that Camara had trained the teachers on the usage and would continue this for one more day. We will visit Mosoang High School on 18<sup>th</sup> February and Camara on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

som er doneret af Egtved Skole i Vejle Kommune.

Et par dage derefter meddelte Camara, at der manglede 7 computere. Dvs. de havde 26 stk. i stedet for 33. Hvor de 7 manglende computere er, aner jeg ikke og får det aldrig at vide. Camara havde brug for en kode til at opstarte computerne. Det fik de fra Vejle Kommune den 18. dec.



*Computerne bliver taget i brug.*

Mr. Makhetha fra Camara skrev til mig, at nu var alt ok og indenfor 1 uge ville levering finde sted til Mosoang High School, Morija.

Ca. 01. februar mailede jeg til Mr. Makhetha og spurgte, om computerne var leveret til skolen og taget i brug. Til min forundring svarede han, at det ville de blive i løbet af 1 uge. Jeg har ringet til ham og har lagt pres på ham. Det blev aftalt at computerne ville blive leveret den 11. februar. Jeg gav også besked til Mosoang High School om den nye forsinkede aftale.

11. februar har jeg ringet til skolen. Skoleinspektøren bekræfter at computerne er leveret, og at Camara i har undervist lærerne i at bruge dem og fortsætter denne instruktion en dag mere.

Vi besøger Mosoang High School mandag 18. februar og Camara torsdag 21. februar. Det har været et kæmpe arbejde at finde ud af,



*Anni, Urzula, a girl, Arne, a girl and the principal at Mosoang High School, Morija*

It has been a lot of hard work to figure out how it would be possible to donate recycled computers from Denmark to Lesotho. Requests for recycled, yet good and functional, computers, have been made to a numbers of municipalities and leading companies. However the new law on handling of personal data has made municipalities and companies nervous that their data may fall into wrong hands, and they have stopped donating accordingly. The efforts that ultimately resulted in 26 PCs for Mosoang High School has taken more than one year. The hope is now that the computers will be of great benefit, although the project has experienced delay after delay.

hvordan det kan lade sig gøre at give brugte computere fra Danmark til Lesotho. Der har været spurgt i forskellige kommuner og virksomheder om donation af brugte gode computere, men den nye persondatalov gør firmaer og kommuner nervøse for at deres oplysninger kan komme i forkerte hænder, og derfor donerer de ikke længere.



*Morija boys giver danseopvisning på festdagen den 18. februar.*

Arbejdet, der er endt med 26 computere til Mosoang High School har taget omkring et år. Så nu er håbet, at de 26 computere vil være til stor gavn, selv om projektet har oplevet forsinkelse på forsinkelse.

## News from Lesotho:

### Fra Lesotho Times:

February 26, 2019

#### **ABC infighting spills into govt.**

- *as MPs loyal to Mahao vow to vote against budget speech*
- *move could paralyse govt operations*

**Pascalinah Kabi**

THE infighting within Prime Minister Thomas Thabane's All Basotho Convention (ABC) threatens to paralyze the government as disgruntled legislators loyal to Professor Nqosa Mahao are planning to sabotage the national budget process.

The legislators have been courting fellow coalition government legislators to vote against Finance Minister Moeketsi Majoro's budget speech, when parliament reconvenes next week, unless efforts to derail Prof Mahao's election as the ABC's deputy leader are reversed.

Prof Mahao was elected to deputize Dr Thabane at the party's elective conference on 1 – 2 February 2019. Prof Mahao beat Dr Majoro to land the top party post but he and fellow incoming ABC national executive committee (NEC) members are yet to start work. This is because their election is being challenged in the High Court by two cabinet ministers, Habofanoeh Lehana (Trade and Industry) and Keketso Sello (Mining) and the ABC's legislator for the Rothe constituency, Mohapi Mohapinyane.

The trio want the court to nullify the election of Prof Mahao and others to the party's NEC. They also want the court to order fresh elections within three months of the finalisation of their court application.

The election of the new ABC NEC, but particularly that of Prof Mahao, has sharply divided the party. Dr Thabane had harshly rebuked Prof Mahao before the party polls. Even though he subsequently retracted his criticism, it is understood that he is still seething over Prof Mahao's election and is not ready to support the latter's election.

But frustrated ABC legislators backing Prof Mahao are standing by their man. They have launched an audacious fightback by courting legislators from the party's governing coalition partners to vote against Dr Majoro's budget speech to be presented any day after the national assembly reconvenes on 1 March 2019.

If successful, the rejection of the budget speech would cripple the government as it would not be able to withdraw money for operations from the consolidated fund without parliamentary approval. Some of the ABC legislators who are said to be loyal to Prof Mahao are Samuel Rapapa (Mosalemane constituency), 'Matebatso Doti (Lithabaneng), Sentje Lebona (Mohale's Hoek), Sello Mooki (Bobatsi), Fako Moshoeshoe (Mabote), Nto Moakhi (Mantšonyane), Thabo Sophonea (Thaba-Bosiu) and Motebang Koma (Koro-Koro), among others.

The ABC is in a four-party coalition with Deputy Prime Minister Monyane Moleleki's Alliance of Democrats (AD), Communications minister Thesele Maseribane's Basotho National Party (BNP) and Labour minister Keketso Rantšo's Reformed Congress of Lesotho (RCL).

The BNP this week confirmed that they were approached by some of the ABC legislators who requested them to vote against the budget speech when Dr Majoro finally delivers it before parliament. The BNP however, said it would not heed the request as it was keen to support government programmes.

Some of the ABC MPs, who spoke to the *Lesotho Times* on condition of anonymity, confirmed that a decision to reject the budget speech had been taken and that they were already mobilising other party members to join them in their “action for justice”.

They said that Dr Thabane and his “team” had forced them to resort to extreme counter-measures because of the premier’s refusal to accept the outcome of the party’s elective conference which voted out all the former NEC members with the exception of Mr Lebohang Hlaele who assumed the post of secretary general.

One of the ABC officials said that Dr Thabane had until next Thursday to accept the new NEC and work with it or risk being embarrassed in the national assembly.

“It is true that we are mobilising other members to reject the budget speech. How do they expect us to react when they are doing everything possible to frustrate us? Do they expect us to sit down and watch them in awe?”

“The three legislators (Messrs Lehana, Sello and Mohapinyane) should withdraw their case from the courts to pave way for our official inauguration before parliament reconvenes or we will reject the budget.

“We know that the High Court is taking orders from the ABC leadership and they must tell (Acting Chief Justice ‘Maseforo) Mahase to deal with the matter urgently and pass judgement on Friday (tomorrow). They should not dare touch Justice (Kananelo) Mosito or else we are going to reject the budget,” one of the disgruntled ABC officials told this publication.

There have been rumours that the Thabane administration is unhappy with Justice Mosito and could consider removing him from his post as Court of Appeal president. This follows the 1 February 2019 apex court judgement that overturned Justice Mahase’s ruling which had upheld the former ABC NEC’s disqualification of Prof Mahao from contesting the deputy leader’s post.

Another ABC legislator accused the outgoing NEC, which is said to have the support of Dr Thabane, of using underhanded tactics to retain control of the party.

“They are doing everything they can to frustrate us and we are fighting back. The government needs an approved budget to operationalise their policies and rejecting the budget speech will force them to accept us,” the legislator said.

Meanwhile, the BNP spokesperson, Machesetsa Mofomobe said his party was approached by some of the ABC legislators who requested them to vote against the budget speech when Dr Majoro finally delivers it before parliament.

“I can confirm that we have been approached to oppose the passing of the budget by the finance minister. However, our stand point is that we will adhere to the mandate given to us by the BNP community and Basotho as a whole. We stand with the government on the budget and we will vote for it,” Mr Mofomobe said.

The AD and the BNP recently told this publication that that they would not interfere in the ABC’s internal affairs and the latter should be left alone to deal with its potentially damaging fissures that escalated in the run up to its disputed elections.

The two parties also said they hoped the ABC would speedily and amicably resolve its internal power struggles so that it re-focuses its energies on national governance issues.

BNP spokesperson Machesetsa Mofomobe said “all the four coalition partners have had their own share of internal problems and that each partner was allowed to solve such issues without any interference”.

“We chose to form a coalition government because there was that common understanding that we want to work together in government as political friends.

“We all have our own internal issues as political parties. The BNP has its own share, so does the AD and the ABC but those issues are left for the individual parties to resolve in accordance with their own internal remedies provided for by their respective constitutions.

“It is not for us to take any side and say Team Thabane or Team Mahao is right, ours is to provide the support they need and let them solve their own problems. It is for the ABC members to decide which team is wrong or right.

“But we are talking to each other and they (ABC) have assured us that they are not going to fall in the trap of allowing their internal fights to cause the government to collapse. So, it is up to the ABC to solve its own problems. We just wish them well and hope that they will ultimately find a long-lasting solution to their problems,” Mr Mofomobe said.

AD spokesperson Thuso Litjobo said his party would continue to support the ABC at all times without interfering in its affairs. He said his party will always strive for peace and tolerance among political parties.



“We are very worried by what is happening in the ABC. We are trying to assist where possible while maintaining neutrality. We are not supporting any sides in the ABC but we hope that they will ultimately find ways of peacefully working together,” Mr Litjobo said.

## 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 DLN:

**E-mail: [dln@lumela.dk](mailto:dln@lumela.dk)**

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

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