

## News from DLN

Another newsletter from DLN is ready. Hope you will enjoy. Most of the newsletter is dedicated to the corona-situation.

The text in Danish is about the DLN AGM.

DLN har sat en ny dato for **generalforsamling, som er d. 30. august.** Det afholdt virtuelt som et **videomøde på Zoom.** Læs mere under Nyt fra bestyrelsen.



Photo: tv2oestjylland.dk

People waiting for the train to come. To cover nose and mouth is now prescribed in public transport and the waiting areas.

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**Membership of DLN**

## News from the Board – August 2020

By: *Karina Ruby*

It is summer now in Denmark and winter in Lesotho. The seasons are almost symbolic of the situation in our countries.

## Nyt fra bestyrelsen – aug. 2020

Af *Karina Ruby*

I Danmark er det nu sommer, i Lesotho er det vinter. Årstiderne kan næsten symbolisere landenes situation.

As the weather has become warmer, lighter and milder in Denmark the impact of the Covid19 pandemic has also softened. There are far less infected people in Denmark now as compared to three months ago, fewer hospitalized and society is slowly reopening. Many people go to work again and most schools and educational institutions have opened. However lately some schools and workplaces have partly closed again due to local spread of the virus. Assemblies of up to 100 people are now allowed. Our borders are open for many other Europeans and the Danes can travel to many other European countries. However, we must still take care, wear masks in some places and generally keep a physical distance to other people and observe good hand hygiene. DLN has decided on a new date for our AGM which will be held on August 30<sup>th</sup>.



*Snow in Malealea in June*

In Lesotho it's different. Winter and cold. Infection rates are growing and the country is still partly closed down. According to WHO, 996 people have tested positive and 30 have succumbed to the disease (August 21). It is difficult for us in Denmark to follow the situation in Lesotho closely. We assume that more people than the official numbers are probably infected, given that fewer people have been tested than in better-off countries. The tests cannot be analyzed in Lesotho, but have to be sent to a lab in South Africa. Of course, this limits the possibility of large-scale

I takt med at vejret er blevet varmere, lysere og mildere i Danmark er covid19-situationen også blevet mildere. Der er nu langt færre smittede end for 3 mdr. siden, færre indlagte og en langsom genåbning af landet finder sted. Mange mennesker går igen på arbejde, og de fleste skoler og uddannelsesinstitutioner er åbne. På det sidste er der dog igen delvise nedlukninger af skoler og arbejdspladser pga. lokale smittespredninger. Det er nu tilladt at mødes op til 100 personer af gangen. Landets grænser er åbne for mange andre europæere, og danskere kan rejse til mange andre europæiske lande. Det skal dog ske med omtanke, nogle steder med mundbind, og stadig med afstand til andre mennesker og ekstra god håndhygiejne. DLN har sat en ny dato for generalforsamling, som er d. 30. august.



*Sne i højlandet midt i august*

Omvendt er det i Lesotho. Det er vinter og køligt. Her er der en stigning i antal smittede, og landet er stadig i et vist omfang nedlukket. I følge WHO er der indtil nu i alt 996, som er testet positive, og 30 er døde (21. august). Det er svært for os i Danmark at følge med i præcis, hvordan situationen er i Lesotho. Vi antager, at der kan være flere smittede end de officielle tal, da der ikke bliver testet så mange personer i Lesotho, som i rigere lande. Testprøver kan ikke analyseres i Lesotho, prøverne sendes til et laboratorium i Sydafrika.



testing of the Basothos. There are probably considerable dark numbers.

In Denmark 1.5 million people have been tested since March, and 16.000 of these were infected, 620 have died (by 21 August). 20 people are hospitalized with Covis19 out of a total population of 5,8 million.

In June we assumed that we could hold our AGM as a physical meeting in Aarhus as usual. However, that is not possible as Aarhus is amongst the places that have experienced increased local infection rates lately. The AGM will therefore be held virtually as a video meeting via Zoom. Amongst the topics for debate will be DLN's future direction as a follow up to our vision day last year: Should DLN continue to concentrate only on sustainable development work, or could we broaden our scope to include other activities such as recycling of goods from Denmark to Lesotho? That discussion probably has to be postponed to next year when we can hopefully convene physically. It is an interesting, professional discussion. And also a question of how many resources we have in DLN in terms of voluntary workers among our members. During all the 18 years of existence DLN has had around 25 active members, who have carried out the work. At the vision days the ideas sprout as to how best to support development in Lesotho. However, the challenge is to mobilize sufficient active members to carry the ideas forward.

DLN is 18 years old and we have developed a stable and long-lasting relationship with CISU. Since 2005 CISU has granted app. 17 million DKK to DLN's partners in Lesotho, and it is our impression that CISU recognizes us a professional, competent and reliable development organization. That is also an obligation. The demands for documentation are increasing in terms of accounting for granted funds as well our policies and procedures. Both for DLN in Denmark and for our partners in

Det svækker naturligvis mulighederne for at teste befolkningen i stort omfang. Der må antages at være et betydeligt mørketal.

I Danmark har vi i alt siden marts testet 1,5 mio. personer, 16.000 er konstateret positive, 620 er døde (21. august). Kun 20 personer er hospitaliseret med Covid19. Danmark har 5,8 mio. indbyggere.

Vi regnede i juni med at kunne gennemføre generalforsamlingen i DLN som et fysisk møde i Århus, som vi plejer. Det gør vi ikke alligevel, da der i Århus og flere andre steder i Danmark er et stigende antal smittede.

Generalforsamlingen bliver afholdt virtuelt som et videomøde på Zoom.

Der var bl.a. lagt op til en debat om DLN's retning fremover, en opfølgning på visionsdagen sidste år. Skal DLN fortsat kun arbejde med ren bæredygtig udviklingsarbejde, eller kan DLN brede sig ud i andre aktiviteter som f.eks. at sende genbrugsting fra Danmark til Lesotho? Den diskussion må nok udskydes til næste års generalforsamling, som forhåbentlig kan afholdes som et fysisk møde. Det er en faglig interessant diskussion. Det er også et spørgsmål om, hvor mange ressourcer vi har at gøre med i DLN. Med ressourcer menes frivillig arbejdskraft blandt medlemmerne. Der har i alle 18 år været ca. 25 aktive medlemmer, som har udført arbejdet i DLN. På visionsdagene sprudler ideerne frem, og der er store visioner for DLN og arbejdet med at støtte udviklingen i Lesotho.

Udfordringen er så at have tilstrækkeligt med aktive medlemmer til at arbejde videre med de gode ideer.

DLN er nu 18 år gammel, og vi er efterhånden et stabilt og langvarigt medlem af CISU. Siden 2005 har CISU bevilget ca. 17 mio. kr. til DLN's partnere i Lesotho, og vi kan mærke, at CISU anerkender os som en faglig dygtig og pålidelig organisation inden for udviklingsarbejde. Det forpligter også. Der stilles større og større krav til vores dokumentation, både i forhold til forbrug af



Lesotho. It is time-consuming work for the Board and the project groups. CISU will soon celebrate its 25th anniversary. They would have appreciated participation from partners in the South, but that is not possible due to Covid19 and travel restrictions. DLN has been invited to participate with a video greeting from our partner, RSDA, and a seat on a panel that will discuss development work. (The video will be a two-minute extract from the films we produced last year). We are looking forward to that. CISU's jubilee party will be held on September 19<sup>th</sup>, and both board members and project groups will participate. During June and July there were hardly any new infections in Denmark but as people started to travel and take holidays the infection came back. We keep our fingers crossed that the corona situation in Denmark will soon stabilize, so that CISU can celebrate as planned and all other activities can also restart.

donerede penge og i forhold til politikker og procedurer. Det gælder både DLN i Danmark og vores partnere i Lesotho. Det er tidskrævende for bestyrelsen og for projektgrupperne.

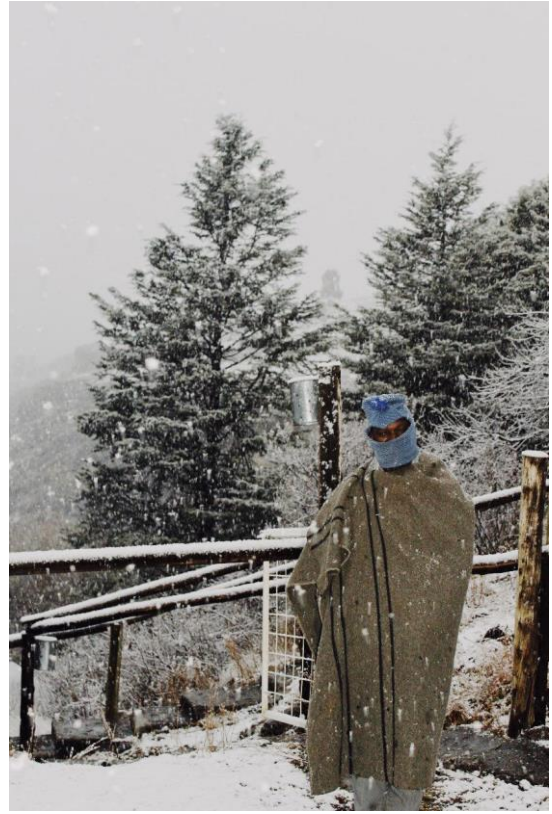
CISU kan snart fejre sit 25 års jubilæum. CISU ville gerne have haft nogle syd-partnere med som deltagere, men det er pga. covid19 og rejserestriktioner ikke muligt. DLN er inviteret til at deltage med en videohilsen fra vores partner RSDA og deltagelse i et panel om udviklingsarbejde. Det ser vi frem til. CISU's jubilæumsfest er d. 19. september, og både bestyrelsesmedlemmer og projektgrupper vil deltage. I juni og juli var der næsten ingen smittede i Danmark, men så begyndte folk at rejse rundt og holde ferie, og nu er smitten tilbage.

Vi krydser fingre for, at corona-situationen i Danmark igen snart bliver stabil, så CISU kan fejre jubilæum som planlagt og alle andre aktiviteter også kan genoptages.



*Snow in Semonkong June 2020*





*The winter in Lesotho has been cold and has given beautiful sceneries*

## Denmark and the Corona pandemic

Some of our partners and friends in Lesotho are interested to know how Denmark has handled the Covid19 pandemic until now, so below follows a brief account.

The Danish government acted quite fast, when the seriousness of the threat was realized.

Particularly the pictures and figures from the epicenter in northern Italy were frightening, and one of the major fears were that our health system would not be able to cope with the situation if the number of critically ill would rise dramatically. On March 12<sup>th</sup> it was therefore announced that society would be closed down to avoid social contact and spread of the virus. All government employees, who did not carry out critical functions, were sent home and requested to work from home if possible. Most private companies also sent people home or reduced activities to a minimum that did not involve physical contact. Schools and other educational institutions were closed and students were taught via the internet. Restaurants, cinemas, sports and all other kind of entertainment were closed, and events, big and small, public as well as private, were canceled or postponed indefinitely. The public was cautioned through the media daily to avoid social contact, wash or disinfect hands regularly, avoid coughing and to keep a distance of min. two meters, if they had to go out.

The pandemic was seen as a major national and international crisis. The worst experienced since World War II. The interventions were agreed by all parties in the Parliament, and the general public have accepted and adhered to the rules and advice, virtually without violations. It hasn't been necessary for NGO's or others to intervene or support.



The strategy has apparently worked well in terms of keeping the number of critically ill people at a level where the hospitals have been able to cope -although it has required hard work and changed priorities. The steep rising curves that were feared have been avoided, and the death toll has also been comparatively low so far.

At the same time, the government has launched various financial aid packages to compensate companies, institutions, and employees, at least partly, for their losses in order to avoid a major economic breakdown and mass unemployment.

From late April and onwards, society has gradually been cautiously reopened and various activities have been resumed. However, the general precautions and a number of restrictions still apply. We are reminded regularly that the pandemic is still serious and by no means over. There is still fear that a second wave may hit the country later in the year.

## **COVID-19 REDIFINES CIVIL SOCIETY WORK BUT DPE REMAINS AFLOAT**

*By: Sofonea Shale*

The outbreak of COVID-19 in China has taken the world by shock, Lesotho has not been an exception. Observing how health systems of well-established economies were stressed, fear in Lesotho was that the already ailing system would simply collapse. Perhaps this has informed early decisions of the government to lockdown. The reaction of government and the people of Lesotho to COVID-19 has generated an interesting contradiction that defined departure in the thinking within state from that outside the state purview.

### **STATE VERSUS NON-STATE RESPONSE**

The government reacted to COVID-19 by setting up a National Emergency Command Centre which brought together servants from various ministries to inform the national response. The NECC was a multilayered structure with Ministerial Sub-Committee, Secretariat headed by a senior officer from Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Coordinator. He led the several sectors inclusive of but not limited to health, procurement, humanitarian, communication, and security which included intelligence and law enforcement. This structure was supposed to have a seat for civil society, but the Lesotho Council of NGOs Programmes Director deployed there had to pullout because of attitude of civil servants. The structure was too bureaucratic and hard to influence. "At one point I was locked out of the meeting where I was told that it is for Ministers and civil servants only...not for civil society..." Said Sekonyela Mapetja reporting to the civil society. In terms of delivery the NECC was very slow and people began to complain about the expense primarily on meals.

The *Alibaba* of Jet Ma has donated a consignment of necessities to be used against COVID-19. This included machinery, protective clothing, testing kits, gloves, masks and others yet health professionals were beginning to call for Personal Protective Equipment. Put differently this was not reaching to the last man in need. Minister of Health reported that they are opening a theft case on the part of the consignment. Later coalition of Health Professional led a strike where frontline workers demanded PPE and risk allowances. Last week the Prime Minister admitted that health professionals, nurses, doctors and support staff like drivers account for a considerably high number of reported COVID-19 death incidents. DPE Community Animators conducted a mini survey on the situation at the clinics during the PPE outcry. The general picture was that services are being rendered but under very tense situation. The DPE sister organisation, Transformation Resource Centre took a country





wide survey with Lesotho Nurses Association to assess situation of PPE at the health centres. The results were appalling. This informed their advocacy work. They also mounted a well-received joint broadcast with radio stations.

Although the government declared that it has set aside M700 Million Maloti to react to this Corona threat, no support has come out to the people. Instead Minister of Planning announced that such was only a budget while Finance confirmed that there was money. On the other hand the local business companies namely Nthane Brothers put aside M5.5 Million to be used for food supplies to the street vendors in the capitals of 10 districts of Lesotho starting with Berea, Leribe and Mohale'shoek. This was done. The Matekane Group of Companies provided M2.5 Million to the national response and pledged COVID-19 testing machine to the tune of over M25 Million set to operate in early April 2020. Management at the Ministry of Health refused to accept this facility and it was only accepted few weeks ago. Civil society was active in persuading government to utilise this offer but it was not easy. Currently Lesotho has made more than 15023 tests and 1051 tested positive, 526 recovered while 31 died.

## **CIVIL SOCIETY WORK RETARDED BUT DPE KEEPS AFLOAT**

The work of civil society generally has been affected badly by this situation. Some organisations are laying low, others closed, while many more are stranded because they operate on the activity of the society. However, some including DPE are trying their level best to keep alive and afloat.

Besides lockdown, government released police and the army to enforce compliance where several people were tortured and injured. Civils society rejected enforcement and opted for education. DPE was barred by the NECC from reaching out to communities but finally won the fight. Community Councils and other community leaders were met with key messages on COVID-19 and DPE staged a drama that was played at the national television every Saturday following evening news. Thanks to the small fund that DLN was able to raise quickly.

DPE led a delegation of civil society organisations to meeting Army Commander and the Commissioner of police on the brutality. It was agreed that a compilation of complaints be done and sent to the two institutions. DPE did the compilation and only the Army Commander has response. The Commissioner promised he was about to.

DPE facilitated civil society discussion that led to the formation of People's Response Platform on COVID-19. This was a broad church of actors which petitioned NECC on several issues from various sectors including taxi industry, labour, artists, small traders, teachers, students, business etc.

Politicians were busy fighting in the midst of COVID-19. Parliament was prorogued, opened by courts and there was change of government without necessity for elections. There is a sigh of breath as the new approach, NACOSEC has introduced Risk Determination and Mitigation Strategy which makes decisions on lockdown more scientific. DPE has been approached by the owners of Hair and Beauty saloons to make their case to NACOSEC that they be opened with conditions. Although no formal correspondence has come, the response is applauding DPE stance and constructive engagement.

DPE has not been insulated from the COVID-19 hardships. It is operating from home, with only skeleton staff remaining in office. The Peace Education Researchers are struggling but a number of dialogue sessions have taken place virtually. The meetings included that on tertiary education institutions opening, SADC People's Summit, Lesotho Peace Ambassadors petitioning government of South Korea, Teachers workshop on Peace Education and Gender Based violence, Parliamentary Portfolio Committees Session on Section 85 of the Constitution and Reforms, DPE is currently running the *marking of 100 days of new government in office initiative* on line.



The DPE staff have been empowered with laptops and phones. There is going to be a training on how to keep effective working from home. This will also increase activity of DPE social media platforms and the visibility and audibility of the organisations generally. Besides, the psychological support is in place. DPE bemoans its Community Animator for 'Mabaebana Ntate Mahloana Rotang who passed on in the past weeks.

### **POST-COVID -19 AND RECOVERY THINKING**

Currently DPE is in talks with UNDP and the British High Commission Lesotho to support its proposed intervention named; *Revitalisation of Social Cohesion & Community Resilience on COVID-19*. This is an antithesis to the understanding that central government and officials can fight COVID-19 through orders and instructions or even enforcement. DPE believes that Basotho can and indeed shall triumph over COVID-19 not at Maseru Avani, Health Auditorium, Qhobosheaneng nor at the top of Mpilo Hill but right in the villages and households. DPE intervention wants structures of community leadership village health workers, women, youth, community policing fora, workshop and traditional leaders under the chief to education, facilitate village dialogue on by-laws to domesticate and adapt WHO standards and national regulations, report new arrivals, liaise with health centres, councils and district rapid response teams.

These teams shall be linked to DPE through a software and Community Libraries shall play a critical part in terms of enabling communities to send their reports. It is believed that this initiative prepares community for the post-COVID-19 life. Further DPE is planning to involve students in planting fruit trees in their schools once they open and commit to ensure that every tree planted represents lives of those infected by COVID-19 and shall survive. These local communities shall be tried in 115 villages in the DPE areas and each committee needs at least one smart phone. This is an area that makes the initiative very expensive yet a very critical component because we want real time, standardized, reliable and accurate information to be shared with NACOSEC and the district structures for prompt action.

This approach is premised on the collaboration among partners, bridge the gap between planners and practitioners, strategists and activists because all of those are needed as players of a single winning team. Critical though, is the protection and safety of NGO people on the ground.

DPE is powered by DLN(CISU Grant), Bread for the World and Open Society Initiative in Southern Africa.

### **The summer we will never forget.**

The summer of 2020 was different from what we'd expected. Travels, events, celebrations were cancelled. And the world appears quite differently from what it was just a few months ago.

Below follows an interview from the Danish TV2 channel with a well-known Danish politician on how the Corona pandemic

### **Sommeren, vi aldrig glemmer.**

Sommeren 2020 blev ikke, som vi troede. Rejser og festlige begivenheder er afløst. Og verden ser helt anderledes ud end for bare få måneder siden.

I denne artikel interviewes en kendt dansker om, hvordan coronakrisen har ændret hendes sommer, og hvordan hendes liv blev påvirket af virussens indtog. (forkortet af red.)





changed her summer and affected her life after the outbreak. *(shortened by the editor)*

## The severity hit Pernille Skipper when the message came from the Prime Minister's office.

For political leader of the Red-Green Alliance, Pernille Skipper, the seriousness of the Corona crises became clear early. The responsibilities were felt heavily when she had to make some of the most difficult decisions ever during her political career Denmark locked down.

### How did the Corona crises change your summer?

My boyfriend, Oliver, and our daughter had plans to take the train to Italy – of all places, but we soon realized that it would not be possible. The night train down through Europe has therefore been put on hold, and instead we will spend a week on a farm-holiday in the island of Fejø. That is a part of Denmark I have never seen before and it is certainly a charming



*Pernille Skipper in the Parliament*

place. In fact, it occurred to me already in March that the Italy trip would probably not be possible this summer. It was a time when many people talked about the time after the Corona as if it were merely a curve that would soon stop. But when we are close to the processes and monitor the figures from other countries so closely as we did at the time it became clear to

## Alvoren ramte Pernille Skipper, da beskeden kom fra Statsministeriet

7. juli. 2020

For politisk ordfører for Enhedslisten, Pernille Skipper, meldte coronakrisens alvor sig tidligt. Ansvarer tyngede Enhedslistens politiske ordfører, da hun under Danmarks nedlukning stod over for nogle af de sværeste beslutninger i sin karriere.

### Hvordan har coronakrisen ændret din sommer?

Det har den meget konkret: Min kæreste Oliver, vores datter og jeg havde egentlig planer om, at vi skulle på togtur til Italien af alle steder, men meget hurtigt gik det op for os, at det nok ikke blev til virkelighed. Derfor er turen med nattog og bumletog ned gennem Europa blev parkeret, og i stedet skal vi nu simpelthen en uge til Fejø på bondegårdsferie. Det er et stykke af Danmark, som jeg ikke har set før, og det har bestemt også sin charme. Faktisk gik det op for mig allerede i marts, at Italien nok ikke blev denne sommer. Der var en periode, hvor mange gik og talte om tiden efter corona, som om det bare var en kurve, der skulle stoppe. Men når man er tæt på processerne og kigger så meget på blandt andet kontakttallet i andre lande, som vi har gjort i denne periode, så stod det ret tidligt klart for mig, at Italien simpelthen ikke ville blive i år, fordi det var et af de steder, hvor det stod allerværst til.

### Hvordan oplevede du den aften, hvor Danmark blev lukket ned?

For mig og alle de andre partiledere ramte alvoren faktisk allerede et par dage før, hvor vi med meget kort varsel blev kaldt ind i Statsministeriet. Det sker meget sjældent. Statsministeriet er et ekstremt tjekket sted, så



me quite early that Italy would not be this year, as Italy was amongst the worst hit places.

### How did you experience the night Denmark was locked down?

In fact, for me and the other political leaders the seriousness was already understood a couple of days before when we were all summoned to the Prime Minister's office at very short notice.



*Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen*

That does not happen often! The Prime Minister's office is a very well-managed and controlled place that does not normally request your presence at a few hours' notice. Already on that Monday we had some very serious talks with the Prime Minister and amongst the political leaders. Two days later, on March 11<sup>th</sup>, we were again summoned to the Prime Minister's office and all sat there until the Prime Minister went over to address the nation. The seriousness from both the Monday and Wednesday is very clear in my memory and how concerned we all were.

During my almost ten years as a member of Parliament this seems the most serious event I have experienced. I felt the heaviest sense of responsibility and of course also some doubt as to whether we were doing the right thing. After the meeting of the party leaders I went home on my bicycle and switched on the TV. At the end of the press briefing I monitored the reactions, which were very intense – particularly in the social media. I remember

der indkalder man altså normalt ikke med bare et par timers varsel.

Den mandag havde vi allerede nogle meget alvorlige samtaler med statsministeren og partilederne imellem. Derfra gik der to dage, så blev vi genindkaldt 11. marts og sad sammen alle partiledere ovre i Statsministeriet helt indtil, at statsministeren gik over i Spejlsalen og talte til resten af nationen. Så jeg mindes rigtig meget alvoren både fra om mandagen og onsdagen, hvor man virkelig kunne mærke, at vi alle sammen var rigtig bekymrede.

Det har været noget af det mest alvorlige, jeg har været med til, i de snart ti år jeg har siddet i Folketinget, og der, hvor jeg har haft den allerstørste følelse af et ansvar, der tynger, og som selvfølgelig også bringer én i tvivl om, hvorvidt man gør det rigtige.

Efter partiledermødet cyklede jeg hjem til mig selv og tændte fjernsynet. Da pressemødet sluttede, fulgte jeg reaktionerne, som var meget voldsomme – særligt på de sociale medier. Og der kan jeg huske, at jeg faktisk blev rigtig bekymret for, at folk ville gå i panik. Det var også noget af det, vi havde talt om på mødet med statsministeren.

### Hvilken oplevelse har været den mest skelsættende for dig de seneste måneder?

Jeg tror simpelthen ikke, at jeg kan rangere dem. Der er sket så meget.

En af de ting, der blandt andet gjorde indtryk, var, da vi første gang skulle ned og stemme i Folketingssalen, og der var sat tape på gulvet, så vi huskede at stå med to meters afstand til hinanden. Det var ikke specielt skelsættende. Det var bare meget mystisk.

At skulle ned klokken fire om natten i Finansministeriet for at sende ekstremt mange milliarder afsted i hjælpepakker var også en vild oplevelse.

Det har været så surrealistisk, hvad vi lige pludselig har skullet tage stilling til.

that I was quite concerned that people would start to panic. Something we had also talked about avoiding in the meeting with the Prime Minister.

## **Which experience has been the most epoch-making for you during the latest months?**

So many things happened and I don't think I can rank them. However, one thing I do remember made an impression was the first time we had to come down to the Parliament to vote. They had put markers on the floor reminding us to keep a distance of two meters to each other. It wasn't particularly epoch-making, but it just felt very odd. To be summoned to the Ministry of Finance four o'clock in the morning to dispatch aid packages worth billions of DKK was also an extraordinary experience. It has been so surrealistic what we have had to decide so suddenly.

## **What was the most difficult choice you have faced during the Corona crisis?**

If I have to choose one I think it is the reopening, where all political parties had picked one group that they wanted to allow reopening first. Of course, we couldn't allow everything to reopen at the same time, but how were we to decide on where to start? There was a little 'overbidding' at the time as some parties wanted to reopen more of society than others. But we decided that we wouldn't go down that road. Most important for all – inclusive of the vulnerable groups - was to ensure that the reopening was safe. It was a difficult decision because it wasn't quite as popular as some of the other measures had been.

## **What did you learn about yourself during the Corona crisis?**

## **Hvad er det sværeste valg, du har stået over for under coronakrisen?**

Hvis jeg skal vælge ét, må det være genåbningen, hvor alle de politiske partier gik ud og valgte en gruppe, som de ville have åbnet for først.

Vi kunne jo ikke åbne alt på én gang, så hvordan skulle vi lige bestemme rækkefølgen for, hvad der måtte åbne først? Der var lidt overbud på det tidspunkt (nogle partier ville åbne mere af samfundet op end andre, red.), men vi traf en beslutning om, at det ville vi ikke gøre.

Men vi tog en beslutning om, at det vigtigste for alle – inklusiv de sårbare grupper – var at sørge for, at genåbningen rent faktisk var forsvarlig. Det var en svær beslutning, fordi det ikke var så super populært, som noget af det andet var.

## **Hvad har du lært om dig selv under coronakrisen?**

Det, tror jeg, er svært at sige endnu. Men jeg



*Pernille Skipper*

har i hvert fald lært lidt om, hvor mit maksimum er henne, for jeg trænger godt nok til ferie.



I think it is difficult to say yet. But I have learned a bit about my own limits. I really do need a holiday now.

## News from Lesotho:

### Covid-19 exposes Lesotho's lack of diversification- Seleke



By Lesotho Times On Aug 18, 2020

THE chief executive officer of Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), Mohato Seleke says the Covid-19 pandemic has badly exposed Lesotho's limited market destination options for its products. Mr Seleke said this in an interview with the *Lesotho Times* on Monday adding that



Bereng Mpaki

the country's textile industry was feeling the economic impact of Covid-19 because of its overreliance on United States (US) and South African markets.

Lesotho takes advantage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to access the US market duty and quota free, while it uses its membership of the South African Customs Union (SACU) to export duty free to South Africa.

Mr Seleke said both the US and South African economies had been hit hard by Covid-19 resulting in job losses and the eventual reduction of disposable income. This in turn, has reduced the amount of those markets' imports from Lesotho.

He attributed this to the redundancy obtaining in the country's manufacturing industry.

The dynamics have resulted in job losses in Lesotho with one of the biggest employers in the textile industry, the Nien Hsing Group, which employs over 12 000 of the country's nearly 50 000 factory workers, laying off 1 300 workers from its Glory International factory in Ha-Tikoe.

The company has told its workers that its operations were no longer profitable under the Covid-19 pandemic.

And Mr Seleke attributes this to the lack of diversity in terms of markets.

"For us to begin appreciating the impact of Covid-19 on Lesotho, we must consider the demand side of our industrial output, which goes to primary market destinations like the US and South Africa," Mr Seleke said.

He said about 38 million Americans have lost jobs as a result of Covid-19, which has reduced in the country's reduced buying power.

"This impact we are experiencing points to the issue of lack of diversification that I identified as a major risk area when I came into the LNDC.

"It is an unfortunate fulfilment of the prophecy I made in the past. It only tells us how urgent the issue of diversification is and policy makers should understand what this actually means. This is more urgent as it can lead to an implosion....," Mr Seleke said.

To mitigate this challenge, the LNDC has embarked on a drive to diversify its market and products. "The LNDC has commissioned a study with the Commonwealth Secretariat titled: 'New Products New Market'. The study has formed the blueprint for the LNDC's new strategic plan because it is a study about Lesotho's trade profile.

"The study has revealed that we are producing too few products and we are exporting them to a few markets such that market shocks on either the demand or the supply side, the country will be in a tail spin.

"Covid-19 has proven to be that kind of shock because we have not diversified from an industrial and market destination point of view...

"Imagine what would happen if China was one of our market destinations, which has as big a market as US as it has recovered from Covid-19 right now. We would therefore have an alternative



market destination for our products, but we are instead trapped in the US and SA markets, the worst performers in terms of Covid-19,” Mr Seleke said.

## ‘Online shopping could be the next big thing in Lesotho’



By Lesotho Times On Aug 18, 2020

**Nthatuoa Koeshe**

Taeli Mofelehetsi, a diploma in Accounting and Business Studies student at the Institute of Development Management (IDM) says online shopping could soon be the next big thing in Lesotho.

Mr Mofelehetsi runs Qiloane e-Store, a platform meant to provide e-commerce services for different entities and products. Qiloane e-Store was launched in April this year starting off with vegetables before adding meat, cosmetics and household cleaning products.

Mr Mofelehetsi told the *Lesotho Times* on Monday that thrives on marketing and selling local produce in Lesotho and globally.

“We are currently working on getting more products on board and also expanding to other districts,” Mr Mofelehetsi said.

He said the initiative was meant to promote online shopping which is currently in line with the National COVID-19 Secretariat NACOSEC regulations which promote social distancing and cashless transactions.

The store lists products on its website and clients can easily navigate around and add products they want to purchase into their basket and proceed to checkout before adding their details and placing an order.

“We deliver the goods to the client’s destination choice of the client within 24 hours and transactions are done before the delivery and are cashless.

“At Qiloane e-Store we exclusively market and sell local produce because we understand that by promoting and selling local produce, we’ll be growing our economy and simultaneously creating jobs.”

He said increasing demand for local produce is bound to force producers to increase their production and thereby create jobs along the value chain.

“This will create jobs and increase our buying power. It will also increase market demand and a fast and large circulation of taxable currency contributing to the growth of the economy.”





He said while his vision was to promote local produce globally with the intention of exporting it, the platform also offers business development consultancy services.

## LNDC unveils M410 million finance package



By Lesotho Times On Aug 18, 2020



### **Bereng Mpaki**

THE Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) on Thursday unveiled new financial instruments aimed at supporting local businesses to alleviate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The instruments were launched during a dialogue between the government and the private sector to find ways of collaborating between the two parties in creating jobs. The dialogue was chaired by Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro.

Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) chief executive officer Mohato Seleke said the financing instruments were offered under the LNDC's development finance unit.

He said one of the instruments, the Covid-19 Response Partial Credit Guarantee scheme (Covid-19 Response PCG), is a stimulus package tailored to cater for businesses affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

To access the funding, businesses that have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic must apply for loans at their respective banks. The government will guarantee 75 percent. The remaining 25 percent loan security is shared equitably between the client and the bank.

“The three products are the restructured Partial Credit Guarantee scheme (Covid-19 Response PCG), the Quasi Equity and the Project Preparation Facility, with a total value of M410 million,” Mr Seleke said.

Of the M410 million, M350 million has been pledged by the government for the Covid-19 PCG, with the balance being financed by the LNDC.

He said the PCG scheme started as a pilot in 2011 and has leveraged M34 million worth of lending to small and medium enterprises since its inception.

“The scheme is now restructured, simplified and scaled up to respond to effects of Covid-19 on the economy and to improve its impact and reach. It expands guarantee cover from the previous 50 percent to 75 percent of the loan; waives all fees; covers all sectors and business activities...”

The maximum amount to be guaranteed by the government is now a maximum of M8 million up from the previous M5 million set in 2011. The minimum loan supported is M200 000.

Theko Bereng, the general manager of the LNDC development finance unit, said the instrument is accessed only through applying for a loan directly to participating commercial banks, namely Lesotho PostBank, Standard Lesotho Bank, First National Bank Lesotho and Nedbank Lesotho, which in turn approach the LNDC on behalf of their clients.

On quasi equity, Mr Seleke said applicants would not need to go via the bank to access it but instead directly approach the LNDC. He said half of the funds under this instrument would go towards agriculture and agro processing projects.

“The Quasi Equity instrument will provide innovative finance to fast growing local companies which promise high development effects, mostly in agriculture and manufacturing. The product will be offered as a standardised profit-sharing arrangement with up to two years of moratorium.

“The Project Preparation Fund is designed following a trust fund model where the government and the LNDC contribute funding along with external partners, and the LNDC acts as the administrator. A broad range of feasibility studies and other related activities will be supported to prepare private sector projects to bankability, mostly those that go through the Lesotho Economic Labs programme. Applications for both the quasi equity and project preparation funding can be done on the LNDC website. No hard copy applications will be accepted.”

Mr Seleke said the development finance unit was established to address the financing part of the LNDC’s mandate, which it has overlooked for many years.

“The LNDC is mandated to raise, lend or borrow money and make credit advances to any company, firm or person engaging in any activity similar to that of the corporation. The corporation can also guarantee any payment of cash for performance of contracts by any such company.

“Essentially, the LNDC is a development finance institution but for the past 50 years, this has not been given enough attention by the corporation. However, after a new strategic plan launched in 2018, we decided to pay more attention towards helping the private sector to raise finance to develop their businesses after we noted that one of the major challenges for private sector development is access to finance,” Mr Seleke said.

For his part, Dr Majoro said the government was committed to removing obstacles inhibiting the private sector from creating jobs.

“Notwithstanding Covid-19, Lesotho still needs to create hundreds of thousands of jobs and although the government does not create jobs, ...it intends to facilitate job creation through consultative and regular engagements with investors on how jobs can be created,” Dr Majoro said.





From **BT** (Danish Newspaper)  
9th July 2020

## Sydafrikansk dronning er død

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To view this text in English, please use Google Translate or other e-translators.



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Dronning Ntloyiso Sandile fra Sydafrikas amaRharhabe-stamme er afgang ved døden som konsekvens af coronavirus.

En dronning i en af de mest prominente royale familier i Sydafrika er død med coronavirus. Der er tale om dronning Ntloyiso Sandile, skriver [BBC](#).

Dronning Ntloyiso Sandile er søster til kong Goodwill Zwelithini, der er monark i den berømte Zulu-stamme.

Samtidig var dronning Sandile gift med amaRharhabe-stammens kong Maxhoba Sandile. Han gik bort tilbage i 2011.

Derfor har Ntloyiso Sandile været amaRharhabe-stammens regent siden.

Det skyldes, at det royale pars søn, prins Jonguxolo Sandile, var for ung til at sidde på amaRharhabe-stammens trone.





Den 56-årige dronning Sandile var tidligere blevet indlagt med covid-19, da hun oplevede komplikationer ved virus-sygdommen, som også har ramt Sydafrika hårdt.

Ifølge Johns Hopkins University er 224.665 sydafrikanere blevet konstateret smittet med covid-19.

Af dem er 3.602 afgået ved døden. Dermed er Sydafrika den afrikanske nation, som er hårdest ramt af den globale pandemi.

Den triste statistik er dronning Sandile nu en del af.

I Sydafrika er der i alt syv anerkendte royale familier blandt stammer og etniske grupper.

I en pressemeddelelse torsdag er den sydafrikanske regering gået ud og hyldet den nu afdøde dronning.

»Under hendes lederskab har amaRharhabe-stammen formået at gå den svære balancegang mellem forandringer fra et moderne samfund, mens man holdt fast i sin stolte historie, traditioner og identitet,« udtaler Sydafrikas præsident, Cyril Ramaphosa, i meddelelsen.

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

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

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**KHOTSO – PULA – NALA**