

News from the DLN

New Executive Committee in place after AGM

By Karina Ruby

In Hundested 14 members gathered on 21st April for the 5th annual general assembly of DLN. It was a smooth meeting with interesting discussions on how to go forward with the organisation. The general opinion is that we should be more clear about a focus area and select partners and projects according to that. It is also a wish from many members that more work is done to support friendship and contact between Basotho and Danes.



The term expired for members of the EC, Karsten Lund and Helga Højsager. Helga Højsager was prepared to stand for reelections and serve in EC for another period. Karsten Lund was not prepared for another period. Bodil Mathiasen was willing to run for election. Helga Højsager and Bodil Mathiasen were elected for a period of two years, 2007-2009. Elections were applauded by the AGM.

Anders Hedegaard, Anders Foghsgaard and Laurids Green were prepared to stand for elections as substitutes to the EC. Anders Hedegaard and Anders Foghsgaard were elected with Anders Hedegaard as the first substitute.

Claus Løshenkohl was prepared to stand for reelection and serve as internal audit, and Claus Bo Jensen accepted to continue the position as alternate. Elections were applauded by the AGM. The External Audit Company is still Mortensen og Beierholm.

The Information Group is now Karsten Lund.

The RSDA Watertank Project Group is formed by Karina Ruby, Karen Steffensen, and Anders Hedegaard.

A "tipsmidler" funding Group is consisting of Claus Løshenkohl.

However, all working-groups are open for other DLN members who have the interest in the work. Succeeding the AGM on April 21st 2007 the EC Members met and formed the EC-committee as follows:

Chairperson: Mrs. Helga Højsager

Treasurer: Mrs. Karen Steffensen

Secretary: Mrs. Karina Ruby

Member: Mrs. Bodil Mathiasen

1. substitute: Mr. Anders Hedegaard

2. substitute: Mr. Anders Foghsgaard



The 2007 AGM of DLN

By Karsten Lund

This years AGM was held in homely surroundings at Claus & Joan Løschenkohls residence in Hundested. 14 people participated.

This year there was a change in the board as Karsten Lund had decided not to run for an other period hence a new board member was elected. DLN is happy to announce that Bodil Mathiasen, one of DLN's founding members has rejoined the board as ordinary member. Bodil is a big resource in development issues and has a lot of drive. Lets hope she can help bring us even further in our work. Otherwise the board continues unchanged. Anders Foghsgaard became the new alternate replacing Laurids Green.

After the meeting most participants stayed for a wonderful dinner prepared by Joan and socialising went on till late. Some even stayed over and had breakfast together the next day.

It is our hope that even more members will participate in next years AGM set to be held at Fyn. Read the minutes from the AGM at <http://www.lumela.dk/agm2007.html>

Project visit July 2007

By: Karen Steffensen



DLN is about to end the first project with RSDA. In July, Karina Ruby and I will go to Lesotho to wind up and evaluate the project. RSDA and DLN are still to decide on the details of the programme, but we expect to spend some time visiting the farmers who built tanks. We are going to Lesotho in winter time, the dry season, and we are very interested to see the effect of the tanks and hear what the farmers have to say. We got positive feedback from the tank owners when Anders and I visited in November 2006. At that time the farmers had plenty of water in the tanks. That will probably be different now.

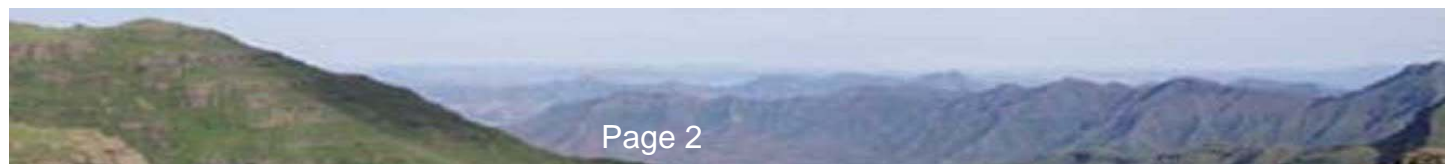
Another project with RSDA is coming up.

Both RSDA and DLN have expressed an interest to continue and develop the cooperation and DLN has now received a draft proposal from RSDA. The project has 3 objectives:

1. To strengthen the leadership capacity among the small-scale farmer groups and to build up their self-organizing, lobbying and advocacy skills
2. To establish 2 learning and demonstration centres for the groups
3. To provide revolving fund to scale up food production and income generating activities in the farmer groups

The DLN board and RSDA are working on the proposal and we are planning to meet the deadline for "The Mini-Project Fund" 1. October.

We are no doubt also going to discuss the proposal with RSDA in July in Lesotho.



Hvad med at blive "Small Scale fundraiser" for DLN?

Af: Anna Marie Haslund



På sidste generalforsamling talte vi om, at DLN altid kan bruge ekstra funding, men hvordan skal pengene skaffes? Projektrådgivningen støtter større projekter, som ligger indenfor veldefinerede fokusområder, men mange andre, mindre organisationer udfører et flot stykke arbejde, som det ville være godt at støtte.

Har du en ide eller et initiativ til at skaffe midler til vores forening, er det velkomment! Du kunne f.eks. rydde op i dine gamle ting og lave et loppemarked eller garagesalg. Du kunne arrangere en indsamling på dit arbejde, stå for en fredagsbar eller noget helt tredje. Sidst, men ikke mindst, kunne du også bare sende et ekstra bidrag til DLN, hvis

din tid ikke er til noget af de foreslåede ting. Det handler bare om, at vi får skaffet midler til at støtte gode initiativer i Lesotho. Og så skal du selv stå for udførelsen af det praktiske arbejde ved dit initiativ, da DLN's bestyrelse i forvejen laver masser af frivilligt arbejde. Det skal understreges, at jeg ikke selv er medlem af bestyrelsen, men blot menig medlem af foreningen.

English version:

How about becoming "Small Scale fundraiser" for DLN?

By: Anna Marie Haslund (Translation by Karsten Lund)

At the last AGM we talked about the fact that DLN needs extra funding but how shall this money be raised? Projektrådgivningen supports larger projects that lie within well defined focus areas but many other smaller organisations carry out fine work that it also would be fine to support.

Have you got an idea or an initiative that can bring funding to our organisation, then it would be welcomed. You could for example clear out old stuff at home and make a flea market or a garage sale. You could arrange a collection at work or a Friday bar or even something totally different. Last but not least, you could send your own contribution to DLN if your time isn't available for other activities. It's all about getting money to support good initiatives in Lesotho. Try to arrange it so that you your self carry out the work in your initiative as the DLN board already doe's heaps of voluntary work.

I must emphasise that I am not a member of the board, but only an ordinary member of our organisation.



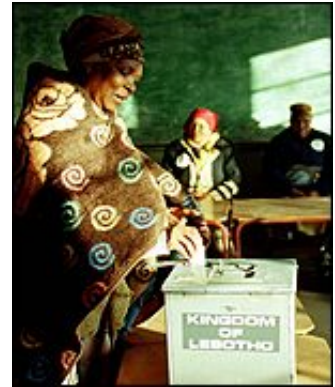
News from Lesotho:

Political Situation:

Source: Foreign & Commonwealth office UK

Parliamentary elections were held on 17 February 2007. The ruling LCD party won by a sizeable majority but legal challenges by opposition parties are expected.

Following a number of incidents of political violence the Government of Lesotho on 16 June 2007 declared a state of emergency and has imposed a 6pm to 6am curfew. You should exercise caution if you intend to travel to, or are currently in, Lesotho. We do not know when the curfew will be lifted. You should comply with the curfew.



Over the last 12 months there have been a small number of shooting incidences involving high level political figures in and around the capital Maseru, most recently a grenade and semi-automatic weapon attack on a house owned by the former Minister of Tourism on 27 February 2007. The occupants of the house, expatriate workers, were unhurt. An attack on the residence of the Trade Minister on 24 November 2006, resulted in the death of a Dutch aid worker and serious injury to her driver. You should monitor events through the local media and avoid all demonstrations, rallies and other large public gatherings.

Look to Lesotho for better Aids strategies

Sunday Times of Johannesburg | 10 Jun, 2007 | South Africa | Page: 20



DR FRANCOIS Venter has called for mandatory HIV testing of all South Africans in "Make HIV tests compulsory for South Africans" (June 3). He rightly points out that individual human rights must be balanced against this perceived public health failure.

I agree with Dr Venter — the voluntary, client-initiated counselling and testing model has not worked effectively — but I do not concur with the need to make testing compulsory.

I am aware of only one nation that undertook compulsory testing of its entire population (Cuba 1986-1993). Its health authorities also went one step further — placing HIV-positive people in well-equipped care facilities, apart from the general population.

Cuba's forced quarantine of people in the Santiago de las Vegas Sanitarium was widely



criticised. Fortunately, in 1993, forced quarantine ended. As controversial as it was, this policy resulted in HIV rates which today are significantly lower than Cuba's neighbours.

We, of course, could not follow such drastic measures given our country's profound respect for human rights. Apart from this, it could be the first step to implementing a drastic measure such as Cuba's in those earlier years.

Furthermore, if testing is compulsory, everyone would know that we all knew our status. How many women would be coerced by their partners to disclose what they know? How many small, private-sector employers would apply pressure on their domestic workers to share the result?

We live in a society where people, mostly women, have suffered profound physical abuse from their partners when disclosing their status, and stigma and prejudice is not only still alive and well in South Africa, it is thriving.

In a sense, Dr Venter is making an extreme call for the normalisation of HIV, a call previously made by many eminent South Africans, including most notably Nelson Mandela and Edwin Cameron.

Why can we not "normalise" HIV in our society? I am not sure of the answer to this, but I do know that if anyone stood up in front of the delegates at this week's HIV Conference in Durban and asked how many participants had ever had TB, a number of hands would be raised. Follow this up with a question as to how many had ever been infected with syphilis and I suspect all hands would remain firmly in their laps.

After 400 years, we have not yet managed to destigmatise syphilis (a treatable and curable condition). I suspect that it has something to do with the way we are raised and made to view sexual issues from an early age.

Why, then, are people not testing? Why is behaviour not changing, even in the face of high levels of HIV knowledge and accessible facilities for testing?

If voluntary counselling and testing has limited efficiency and compulsory testing is too Draconian, what is the answer? We should look to our smaller neighbour Lesotho.

With the third-highest rate of infection in the world, Lesotho hopes to become the second country in the world to test its entire population over the age of 12 through its Know Your Status campaign, with its slogan "Leave no Mosotho out. Every Life counts."

Lesotho plans to take its testing out of the clinics and into the community, with the help of traditional leaders and 3 600 community health workers — in addition to community-based counsellors, who are being trained.

Villages decide if they want house-to-house testing, mass community testing or facilities-based testing. Interestingly, so far almost nobody is opting out.



Admittedly South Africa has a larger population than Lesotho, but then it also has more resources. We are not winning the war against HIV and it is time to be innovative. Let us leave no South African out, for indeed every life does count.

Dr Greg Munro, a World Bank-funded adviser to Lesotho's HIV Global Fund programmes, writes in his personal capacity

Single currency for Southern Africa?

Mail & Guardian | 08 Jun, 2007 | South Africa | English | Page: 60



The SADC hopes to create a monetary union by 2018, writes Tumi Makgetla

The same currency will be traded from Kinshasa to Kimberley, if the vision of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is realised. The SADC hopes to create a free trade area by 2008, a customs union by 2010, a common market by 2015 and an economic and monetary union by 2018. As envisaged, the monetary union would resemble the European Union, in which several European countries use the same currency, the Euro, under the watch of a single centralised bank.

Economic integration is viewed as part of a wider effort to achieve political integration and closer ties on the continent.

At present several Southern African countries make up a common monetary area, which consists of South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia.

South African Reserve Bank Governor Tito Mboweni has suggested that the common monetary area could form the basis of a monetary union for all of the SADC.

Mboweni also said currencies would have to converge around the South African rand and the Botswana pula.

The SADC countries would have to meet economic targets before a monetary union could be formed, such as reining in inflation to single-digit figures by 2008 and to 5% or less by 2012, he said.

The budget deficit would have to be at least 5% or lower than the gross domestic product by 2008 and 3% or less by 2012.

Mboweni explained that this was necessary to force governments to strengthen revenue collection and become less dependent on borrowing from the central bank.



If countries could not meet these targets, they would not be able to join the monetary union, he said.

However, some analysts have argued that the Southern African region is not sufficiently integrated to form a monetary union.

In a recent article, University of KwaZulu-Natal academics Kopano Mataseng and Nicola Viegi debate whether a common currency is necessary for economic integration in Africa. Their argument stems from theories that an optimal currency area is necessary before Southern African countries can create a monetary union.

The criteria for an optimal currency area are the extent of trade between potential members, the similarity of economic structures, the degree of factor mobility and the existence of a system of fiscal transfers between the countries.

Although the authors find that Southern Africa is not an optimal currency area in terms of these criteria, they still maintain that there may be room for dynamic gains from a common currency.

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 97578252, e-mail:

karen.steffensen@mail.dk

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KHOTSO – PULA – NALA

