

The last issue of Lumela this year is the one you have in front of you. We hope you will enjoy the stories and see new perspectives of people in Lesotho and Denmark working together. Probably it will remind you of experiences you have had by meeting people and a different culture. Maybe you even wish to meet again. This newsletter is bringing reports on how the meeting has taken place in October in Lesotho. Have a good time reading about it.

Det sidste Lumela i dette år er det, du nu har foran dig. Vi håber, at de gode fortællinger i dette nummer vil fornøje dig og bringe nye vinkler på samarbejdet mellem folk i Lesotho og i Danmark. Måske vil det få dig til at mindes oplevelser, du selv har haft i mødet med folk og forskellige kulturer og ønske, at det kunne lade sig gøre at mødes igen. Dette nyhedsbrev bringer beretninger om, at mødet har kunnet lade sig gøre på bedste vis. God fornøjelse med læsningen.



News from the DLN

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Membership of DLN

News from the Board

A Skype-meeting and a Board meeting has taken place since the last issue of Lumela. There was a meeting with Projektrådgivningen to discuss their refusal to meet the latest proposal from RSDA.

Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Der har været et Skypemøde og et bestyrelsesmøde siden sidste nummer af Lumela udkom. Fra disse møder kan det berettes, at der har været møde med



refusal to meet the latest proposal from RSDA.

Work is in progress to improve the proposal for a new presentation due January 1st 2009.

Ea has left Lesotho and has written a report about her work and observations. It is of good use for the future work of DLN.

She helped Development for Peace Education well on their way to formulate a proposal, which we in DLN will continue to work on. On the other hand, DLN has decided to put on hold the cooperation on a proposal with Teachers Resource Centre.

The DLN-tour to Lesotho became a great success with Bodil as the group's leader. Read the articles in this newsletter.

Coverage in the daily Politiken on the Lesotho-tour inspired readers to contact us. November 1st 2008 DLN could register 84 memberships.

In the last issue we called out for a webmaster to volunteer for being in charge of the DLN-website, but none applied. It has therefore been decided to consult a private company to help us keep the site sufficiently user friendly for every board member to master.

THANK YOU – REA LEBOHA

By: Bodil Mathiasen

To all our friends in Lesotho who made our journey very enjoyable and successful.

The friendship between Lesotho and Denmark has certainly been strengthened during the DLN journey to Lesotho and I want to express our gratitude for the warm welcome we were shown everywhere.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

- **‘M’e Makokoli for teaching us the basic sentences of Sesotho and inviting us to your home.**
- **‘M’e Thulo, Darren and Ntate Mathaba from RSDA for an unforgettable day in the countryside.**

Projektrådgivningen i anledning af, at der er givet afslag på RSDAs nye ansøgning. Der bliver nu arbejdet på at forbedre den, så den kan sendes ind igen til 1. januar 2009.

Ea (hun havde artikler i sidste nummer af Lumela) er rejst fra Lesotho og har afleveret en rapport om det arbejde og de observationer, hun har gjort. Den er til god gavn for DLNs fremtidige arbejde.

Hun har bl.a. hjulpet Development for Peace Education (DPE) et godt stykke på vej med at lave en ansøgning, som vi i DLN vil arbejde videre på.

Derimod har vi stillet samarbejdet med TRC om en ansøgning i bero indtil videre.

Ikke mindst så er DLN-rejsen med Bodil som rejseleder blevet gennemført med stor succes. Se artiklerne i dette nyhedsbrev.

Den 1. november 2008 havde DLN 84 medlemmer. Siden har omtalen i Politiken af DLN-rejsen til Lesotho affødt henvendelser fra interesserede læsere.

I sidste Lumela efterlyste vi en webmaster til hjemmesiden, men ingen meldte sig. Nu er det besluttet at få et firma til at hjælpe med at gøre den så enkel, at alle DLN-bestyrelsesmedlemmer kan gå ind og ændre i indholdet.



- **‘M’e Limakatso Mokhothu, Ntate Shale and Ntate Motsamai for sharing your Sunday with us in Mohale.**
- **Ntate Sello for spending time with us.**
- **Ntate Melvin and ‘M’e Retabile at Foothills Guesthouse for making us feel at home.**
- **Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy for hosting our fare-well party**
- **And last but not least to our wonderful local guides and friends: Thabo, Moletsane and Seamus.**



In the middle of nowhere we found a small art and souvenir shop.....

Lesotho Revisited

by Jette Johannessen

It turned out to become a fantastic experience to "come home" to Lesotho after 18 years of absence. Filled with both happy revisits and disappointment.

Draught after winter and a spring hardly without any rain was bad. But it was good to see green spaces around the rivers, and there were more trees both in the towns and in the mountains. Some one must have planted and cared for them since last time. Even

LESOTHO REVISITED

Af Jette Johannessen

Det var en fantastisk oplevelse at komme "hjem" til Lesotho efter 18 års fravær. Fyldt med både glædelige gensyn og skuffelse.

Tørken efter vinter og forår næsten uden regn var slem. Men det var dejligt at se grønne områder omkring floderne, og der var flere træer både i byerne og bjergene. Nogen må have plantet og passet på dem siden sidst.



planted and cared for them since last time. Even though it was a Friday afternoon, the number of busy people in the towns that we passed through was - overwhelming. It is said, however, that population growth in the country is now declining.

About people's living conditions we received a lot of other sad information during our trip: Unemployment is at a rate above 40 percent. Officially, about 30 percent of the population is infected by hiv or stricken by aids, most likely the percentage is higher. More than half of the population lives for less than 2 US dollar per day. According to information, the wages of the textile workers cover only housing and half the transportation cost for going to work. Prices on basic food have doubled since 2006, some even more. E.g. millie meal, the people's basic food supply, has risen from Maluti 24 in March 2006 to M 55-60 this year. (Source: Work for Justice, published by Transformation Resource Centre, August 2008).

As we should learn the next day on our tour around Maseru, conditions for workers have become possibly even worse than before. Back then a large part of grown up men worked in the mines in South Africa, but the introduction of new technology and the employment of more white workers after the abolishment of Apartheid have resulted in mass sacking of Basotho. They must now look for work in the Chinese textile factories that have popped up in big numbers in the western part of the country.

The Chinese have become very dominant in Lesotho, like in many other African countries in the later years. The Chinese have risen big palace-like buildings in Maseru for the use of public authorities, ministries, mail office and the like as well as road construction. You ask yourself whether the ministries with their minimal budgets need these grand buildings?

The Lesotho government offers good conditions for foreign investors, and so the fast expanding Chinese industries prefer to produce in this developing

Selv om det var fredag eftermiddag, var mylderet af mennesker i byerne, vi kørte igennem, overvældende.



Det oplyses ellers, at befolkningstilvæksten i landet nu er negativ.

Apropos befolkningens levevilkår fik vi mange andre triste informationer på vores tur: Arbejdsløsheden er på over 40%. Officielt er ca. 30% af befolkningen hiv-smittet eller har aids, formentlig er procentsatsen endnu højere. Mere end halvdelen af landets befolkning lever for mindre end US\$2 om dagen. Tekstilarbejdernes lønninger dækker efter sigende kun husleje og halvdelen af transporten til arbejde. Priserne på de basale fødevarer er fordoblet siden 2006, nogle endda steget endnu mere. Majsmel for eksempel, som er befolkningens basale næringsmiddel, er steget fra M 24 i marts 2006 til M 55-60 i år. (Kilde: Work for Justice, udgivet af Transformation Ressource Centre, august 2008).

Som vi skulle erfare næste dag på vor rundtur i Maseru, var arbejdsforholdene for arbejdere om muligt endnu ringere end tidligere. Dengang arbejdede en stor del af de voksne mænd i minerne i Sydafrika, men indførelse af ny teknologi og ansættelse af flere hvide arbejdere efter apartheid's ophævelse har resulteret i



country, where the standards for working conditions and pollution are now even lower than in China. The Caledon River, border between the capital and South Africa, is being heavily polluted by the waste of colouring materials from the production of jeans and T-shirts, which takes place inside the textile factories in Maseru.

It was about 30 degrees in the midday heat, as we climbed the Basotho's sacred mountain, Thaba Bosiu, but the view was heavenly from the flat top with the springs, where the first nation of Basotho survived during war and siege.



Below Thaba Bosiu an exciting project was going on. A beautiful tourist centre is being built with many small rondavels for renting to tourists. All of it in the traditional style with clay lining and thatched roofs. Mainly, it is very beautiful - but also fantastically functional in the harsh dryland climate.

Next trip went to Mohale's Dam, part of the enormous 30-year water project, that shall provide water to the Johannesburg area. In return, the South Africans are constructing water power stations to provide the Basotho with electricity. We had a competent female guide who explained all the technical stuff, while I was wondering, how it is with all the village populations that were forced away, and if they can cope in the new societies they have been moved to. During the very beautiful trip into the

massefyringer af basothoer. Disse må nu søge arbejde i de kinesiske tekstilfabrikker, som i stort tal er skudt op i den vestlige del af landet.

Kineserne er virkelig blevet dominerende i Lesotho, ligesom i mange andre, afrikanske lande i de senere år. Kineserne har opført store paladslignende bygninger i Maseru til brug for offentlige myndigheder, ministerier, posthus o.lign. samt vejanlæg. Man spørger sig selv, om ministerierne med deres minimale budgetter har brug for disse pragtbygninger? Med de meget lempelige vilkår for udenlandske virksomheder, som Lesothos regering tilbyder, foretrækker de hurtigt ekspanderende, kinesiske virksomheder at producere i dette udviklingsland, hvor kravene til arbejdsmiljø og forurening nu er endnu mindre end i Kina. Caledon river, grænsen mellem hovedstaden og Sydafrika, bliver stærkt forurenet bl.a. af farvestoffer fra produktion af jeans og t-shirts, som finder sted på tekstilfabrikkerne i Maseru.

Det var ca. 30 grader varmt i middagsheden, da vi besteg basothoernes hellige bjerg, Thaba Bosiu, men udsigten var pragtfuld oppe fra det flade bjerg med kilderne, hvor den første nation af basothoer overlevede under krig og belejring. Nedenfor Thaba Bosiu var et spændende projekt i gang. Der bygges et smukt turistcenter med mange små rondaveller til udlejning til turister. Alt sammen i den traditionelle stil, lerklinet og med stråtag. For det første er det meget smukt – og for det andet fantastisk funktionelt i det barske fastlandsklima.

Næste tur gik til Mohale's Dam, en del af det mægtige 30-årige vandprojekt, der skal skaffe vand til Johannesburg-området. Til gengæld bygger sydafrikanerne vandkraftværker, der skal forsyne basothoerne med el. Vi havde en dygtig, kvindelig guide, som forklarede alt det tekniske, mens jeg tænkte på, hvordan det går med alle de landsbybefolkninger, som er blevet tvangsforflyttet, om de finder sig til rette i de



mountains, we especially could point out the newly built villages by the construction of many pit-latrines - part of "the deal" with South Africa.



The big dams are totally changing the landscape and living conditions of rural people. Two dams have now been finished, and another 3 or 4 are to be built around the big rivers. Strange to see a nice tourist centre with boats for rent in the middle of the dry and barren mountains. We looked down into deep gorges with only little water left after the mighty river of earlier days.

Unfortunately, I cannot report from DLN project visit, as I chose to revisit known locations in Maseru, my old working place. The country office has been totally fenced in and taken over by a company, Leswales, that I cannot tell you anything about, but the sign "Mellefolkeligt Samvirke" was not removed. Karen Nannestad and I went around "spying" which resulted in an interview with Public Eye, a weekly said to be one of the less censored in the country. We visited Transformation Resource Centre whom volunteers and the country office once had good cooperation going with. The centre is now residing in nice, relaxing offices, opened by the King. That can be seen as a blue print of their activities. From the centre's publication, "Work for Justice", we learned that they are allowed to write critically about the government (see www.trc.org.ls).

nye samfund, de er blevet flyttet til. På den meget smukke tur ud i bjergene kunne vi især kende de nyopførte landsbyer på, at der var opført rigeligt med pit-latriner, en del af "handelen" med Sydafrika. De store damme forandrer landskabet og landbefolkningens levevilkår totalt. 2 damme er nu færdige, og der skal opføres endnu 3-4 damme omkring de store floder. Underligt at se et fint turistcenter med udlejningsbåde inde midt i det tørre, gølge bjerglandskab. Vi kikkede ned i vældige slugter, hvor der nu kun løb en ringe mængde vand af tidligere tiders mægtige flod.

Desværre kan jeg ikke fortælle om DLN projektbesøget, da jeg valgte at besøge kendte steder i Maseru, min gamle arbejdsplads. Landekontoret er hegnet totalt ind og overtaget af et firma, Leswales, som jeg ikke kan fortælle noget om, men skiltet "Mellefolkeligt Samvirke" var ikke fjernet. Karen Nannestad og jeg gik rundt og snusede, hvilket resulterede i, at vi blev interviewet af "Public Eye", en ugeavis, som skulle være en af de mindre censurerede aviser i landet. Vi besøgte Transformation Resource Centre, som frivillige og landekontoret i sin tid havde et fint samarbejde med. Centret havde fået nye, bekvemme faciliteter, som var blevet åbnet af Kongen. Det må vel være en slags blåstempling af aktiviteterne. Af Centrets publikation "Work for Justice" kunne vi se, at de får lov til at skrive kritisk om regeringen (se evt. www.trc.org.ls). Ellers synes ytringsfriheden at have trange kår i landet.



Otherwise, freedom of expression seems to have a poor standing.

On the main Kingsway uncountable numbers of taxi drivers fight for very few costumers. There are considerably less white people in the streets than in the 1990s. Most of the FWD's apparently belong to Basotho. There are not so many beggars as before, allegedly they have been chased away from the streets. The aggressive beggar with the stick at the supermarket is however still there - as he was 20 years ago! We saw for ourselves the gap between rich and poor being ubelievablely big, as we were invited home to people both in one and the other end of the scale.

Further to the southeast in the mountains in the village of Ramabanta we visited a poor family. The grandmother sat in the court yard surrounded by lots of children. It seemed the parental generation was almost absent - maybe victims of aids. The had prepared traditional courses for us, which we tasted - along with joala, homemade beer of course. We had nice quarters in the beautiful Ramabanta Lodge with a wonderful view to high mountains - Lesotho when it's best! There are tall trees around the old, former Fraser's Trading Store with its characteristic red roof. Some nice rondavel rooms have been set up, in which the King is said to be overnighing frequently. So, we experienced to sleep in "royal" surroundings. The hostess, Rosemary, cooked good and exciting food.

The programme included a visit to the local school with 300 pupils and 8 teachers. The authoritative, female headmaster showed us around, and the school children and we sang for each other.



På hovedgaden Kingsway slås utallige taxichauffører om de ganske få kunder. Der er betragteligt færre hvide i gadebilledet, end i halvfemserne. De fleste af de firhjulstrækkere, man ser, tilhører øjensynligt basothoer. Der er ikke så mange tiggere som tidligere, de er angiveligt jaget væk fra gadebilledet. Den aggressive tigger med stokken ved supermarkedet er der dog - ligesom for 20 år siden! Skellet mellem rig og fattig oplevede vi ved selvsyn som ufatteligt stort, da vi blev inviteret hjem til folk både i den ene og den anden ende af skalaen.

Langt mod sydøst i bjergene i landsbyen Ramabanta besøgte vi en fattig familie.



Bedstemoderen sad på gårdspladsen omgivet af masser af børn. Det så ud, som om





Not much space for the kids, but the conditions are probably better than in most schools, as the hostess of the lodge is collecting clothing and money and providing other form of support. E.g. by training youngsters from the village in singing and dancing for the lodge guests, and thereby gaining money. It was nice for us to experience the wonderful dances and homemade instruments. The kids do not pay any school fees and have a free meal per day paid by the government.

On the way back to Maseru we visited a home for abused children. It was dreadful to see the empty eyes of many of the children, who were also named street children. Aids and hiv have unbelievably high costs for the youngest - also in Lesotho.

As we had to return north to Denmark, we drove along the fastest route from Maseru to Johannesburg, through South Africa, so that we had time to see the interesting and heartmoving museum of Apartheid. The architecture contributed to the right feel of the museum's contains, cold and tough. A helicopter flew back and forth all the time to create the feeling of constant surveillance.



forældre generationen var næsten fraværende – måske Aids-ofre. De havde forberedt traditionelle retter til os, som vi smagte på – samt *joala* (hjemmelavet øl), selvfølgelig.

Vi blev indkvarteret på den smukke Ramabanta lodge med en vidunderlig udsigt til vældige bjerge – Lesotho, når det er bedst! Der er høje træer omkring den gamle, tidligere Fraser's Trading Store med det karakteristiske røde tag. Der er bygget nogle smukke rondavel-værelser, hvor Kongen efter sigende jævnligt overnatter. Så fik vi prøvet at sove "kongeligt". Bestyrerinden, Rosemary, lavede god og spændende mad.

Programmet omfattede også besøg i den lokale skole med 300 elever og 8 lærere. Den myndige, kvindelige skoleinspektør viste os rundt, og skolebørnene og vi sang for hinanden. Der var ikke megen plads til børnene, men forholdene er nok bedre end på de fleste skoler, da bestyrerinden fra lodgen samler tøj og penge ind og støtter på forskellig måde. For eksempel ved at træne unge mennesker fra landsbyen til at spille og danse for lodgens gæster, så de derved får samlet penge ind. Og det var dejligt for os at opleve de herlige danse og hjemmelavede instrumenter. Skolebørnene går gratis i skole og får et gratis måltid mad om dagen betalt af regeringen.

På hjemvejen til Maseru besøgte vi et hjem for misbrugte børn. Det var fortvivlende at se de tomme øjne på mange af børnene, som også blev betegnet som gadebørn. Aids og hiv har ufatteligt barske omkostninger for de yngste – også i Lesotho.

Da vi måtte vende næsen nordpå mod Danmark, kørte vi ad den hurtigste rute fra Maseru til Johannesburg, gennem Sydafrika, sådan at vi fik tid til at besøge det interessante og bevægende apartheid-museum. Arkitekturen var med til at give den rette stemning til museets





This is just an excerpt of all the impressions I took home. The nature side is overwhelmingly beautiful as always, but it is very depressing to see that living conditions of Basotho have become even worse than 18 years ago, when we worked there. Also most of all former donors have left Lesotho after the fall of the Apartheid-regime. It is still incomprehensible to me that it has been decided to cut off all Danish aid to Lesotho, one of the poorest countries in the world.

RSDA Village Day

By *Bodil Mathiasen*
DLN's Tour leader

On of the high-lights of the DLN journey to Lesotho was the full day that we spent in the company of DLN partner-organisation RSDA-Rural Self-help Development Organisation.



Escorted by horse-riding villagers our bus turned left from the Main South Road and we reached the small

indhold, kold og barsk. En helikopter fløj ustandselig frem og tilbage for at skabe stemningen af konstant overvågning.

Dette er kun et udpluk af alle de indtryk, jeg fik med hjem. Naturen er vidunderligt smuk som altid, men det er meget forstemmende at se, at basothoernes levevilkår er blevet endnu ringere end for 18 år siden, da vi arbejdede der. Også næsten alle andre donorer, som tidligere var til stede, har forladt Lesotho efter apartheid-styrets fald. Det er stadig uforståeligt for mig, at det er besluttet at lukke helt af for dansk bistand til Lesotho, et af verdens fattigste lande.

RSDA Village Day

Af *Bodil Mathiasen*
DLNs rejseleder

Et af højdepunkterne på DLNs rejse til Lesotho var en hel dags besøg hos vores partnerorganisation RSDA - Rural Self-help Development Association.

Vores bus drejede til venstre fra Main South Road og blev eskorteret af landsbyboere til hest, da vi ankom til landsbyen Ha Maholi og blev mødt af en mængde smilende skoleelever, lærere og beboere.

Ha Maholi ligger cirka 45 km syd for Maseru, blot en kilometer fra hovedvejen mellem Mafeteng og Morija. Ha Maholi er en af de landsbyer, som har fået støtte fra det nyligt gennemførte DLN-projekt om at bygge vandtanke og dermed forøge lokale landmænds muligheder for selvadministration. Landsbyen er typisk for Mafeteng-distriktet med sine rondaveler, lerklinede huse og aloeplanter overalt. Ha Maholi ligger på en klippefyldt



town of Ha Maholi where we were met by a crowd of smiling school students, teachers and local inhabitants.

Ha Maholi is about 45 km south of Maseru, just 1 km off the Main South Road between Mafeteng and Morija. Ha Maholi is one of the villages assisted by the recently –completed DLN project to build water tanks and increase the governance capacity of farmers' groups. The village itself is a typical village of the Mafeteng district, rondavels, thatched-roof houses, aloe plants everywhere. The village is set into a rocky hillside and is reached by a rough dirt road.

At the school we were met by local authorities, the head-master and teachers, students and people from the village.

After introductions and a warm welcome a small cultural programme took place. The school choir performed songs in Sesotho and the Danish group took up the challenge and sang "Jeg ved en lærkerede" – later to be known as "The bird-song" and to become our "trade-mark".

A dance performance took place in the yard to the amusement of many!

Later Ntate Mathaba who is RSDA's Mafeteng office manager took us on a village tour and we were shown how to build a keyhole garden.

bjergskrænt og kan kun nås via en bulet grusvej.



Ved skolen blev vi mødt af de lokale autoriteter, skoleinspektøren og lærere, elever og beboere fra landsbyen. Efter præsentationen og en varm velkomst blev der gennemført et mindre kulturelt indslag. Skolens kor optrådte med sange på sesotho. Den danske gruppe tog udfordringen op og sang "Jeg ved en lærkerede", som skulle blive kendt som "The bird-song" og blive vores varemærke.



En danseopvisning fandt til manges fornøjelse sted på gårdspladsen!

Senere tog Ntate Mathaba, RSDAs lokale repræsentant, os på en rundtur i landsbyen og





Another important activity that is currently taken place in the village is the building of a dam to harvest water and act as a possible fish hatchery and duck breeding site. The sun was shining from the clear blue sky, it was very hot – and not the slightest sign of rain.

After leaving Ha Maholi we went to the RSDA demonstration farm at Ha Notsi to see the chicken hatchery and dairy farm. We were given a very thorough and encouraging picture of the good work of RSDA.

Farming in Lesotho certainly has a lot of challenges, but it is good to know that RSDA staff and farmers groups meet those challenges with ingenuity and diligence.

Thanks a lot to Me Thulo, Darren, Ntate Mathaba, RSDA staff and the village of Ha Moholi for hosting this wonderful village day!

viste os, hvordan man bygger en "have med nøglehuller". En anden vigtig aktivitet, som finder sted lige nu, er bygningen af en dæmning til at samle regnvand og muligvis fiske- og andedam. Solen skinnede fra en klar, blå himmel, det var meget varmt - og ikke den mindste udsigt til regn..

Efter opholdet i Ha Maholi kørte vi til RSDAs udstillingsfarm ved Ha Notsi for at se deres kyllingeopdræt og mejeriprodukter. Vi fik et grundigt og opmuntrende indtryk af RSDAs store arbejde.

Det er forbundet med store udfordringer at dyrke jorden i Lesotho, men godt at vide, de ansatte hos RSDA og landmændene møder disse udfordringer med opfindsomhed og hårdt arbejde.

En stor tak til Me Thulo, Darren, Ntate Mathaba, RSDAs ansatte og beboerne i Ha Moholi for at forestå denne herlige dag!



DLN and RSDA are working on a new Project Proposal

By Karen Steffensen

If you received (and read) the previous newsletter, you can start reading from bullet nr 2

- It is a long time since RSDA and DLN started planning for a new project and work on a proposal. We received the first draft from RSDA last year, and when Karina Ruby and I visited RSDA in July 2007, we discussed the draft. Early 2008 DLN received the second draft and Anders Hedegaard and I took it to our advisors, Projektrådgivningen. The intention of the project is to support the same group of farmers in their efforts to organize them selves and to enable them to advocate and influence the local government. A part of the project is also to provide a revolving fund and technical support to the farmers. We submitted the proposal 1st of April to Danida and waited for the response. At the end of June we received the message that our proposal was refused. The project is regarded as relevant, but has some weaknesses. We have to start again and continue the work and we have arranged a new meeting with our advisors to discuss the refusal and the way forward. We are now hoping to meet the next deadline 1st October.
- We had a meeting with Projektrådgivningen in August and we discussed the refusal and the way forward. We have to work more on the micro finance element, the LFA part and a few other things. We agreed with RSDA that meeting the 1st January deadline is more realistic. We and Project Manager Lefu Sekete are working on the proposal. We are working by e-mail, sending the document up and down and right now, (9/11/2008) it is on Anders' and my desk for further discussion and development. RSDA is exploring the

DLN og RSDA arbejder på nyt Projektforslag

Af Karen Steffensen

Hvis du har modtaget (og læst) det forrige nyhedsbrev, kan du med fordel begynde her fra andet afsnit.

- Det er længe siden, at RSDA og DLN begyndte planlægningen og arbejdet med et nyt projektforslag. Vi modtog sidste år det første udkast fra RSDA og diskuterede udkastet, da Karina Ruby og jeg besøgte RSDA i juli 2007. Tidligt i år modtog DLN det andet udkast, som Anders Hedegaard og jeg forelagde for vores rådgivere i Projektrådgivningen. Ideen med projektet er at yde støtte til den samme gruppe af landmænd (fra vandtank-projektet) i deres bestræbelser på at organisere sig og give dem mulighed for at advokere og influere på de lokale myndigheder. En del af projektet er tillige at opbygge en fond og yde teknisk støtte. 1. april sendte vi en ansøgning til Danida. I slutningen af juni fik vi at vide, at forslaget var afvist. Projektet blev ganske vist anset for at være relevant, men det har svagheder. Vi bliver nødt til at starte forfra og har aftalt et møde med vores rådgivere for at diskutere afslaget og vejen frem.
- I august mødtes vi derfor med Projektrådgivningen. Vi skal arbejde mere med det mikrofinansielle element, LFA-delen og et par andre ting. Vi blev enige med RSDA om, at det er realistisk med en deadline 1. januar 2009. Vi arbejder sammen med projektmanager Lefu Sekete om projektforslaget. Vi kommunikerer via e-mail og sender papiret frem og tilbage. Lige nu (9/11/2008) ligger det på Anders' og mit bord for yderligere diskussion og



possibility of using Skype, so that we can have internet meetings.

udvikling. RSDA undersøger muligheden for at anvende Skype, som ville gøre os i stand til mødes på internettet.

Back to the roots

By: Grethe Jørgensen, Svendborg

Primary school, pitlatrines, village water supply and the roads are part of what has improved, since we left Lesotho December 1986 with our four month old daughter.

And what had happened before December 1986?

My husband Flemming and I left for Lesotho august 1984 to work on a two year contract for DVS Danish Volunteer Service. Flemming as a building engineer worked as an instructor in building department at Leloaleng Trade School, Leloaleng technical Institute.

I as a nurse, worked most of my time in children`s ward at Quthing hospital. Besides I taught science at Masitise primary school standard 6 and 7. I taught together with a Mosotho teacher, the topics being mostly health and hygiene. I helped her with the Red Cross youth club she had started. I also held some First aid courses under Red Cross for the young students at Leloaleng.

We stayed in a staff house at Leloaleng like most of the teachers, both the Basotho and the expatriate. We stayed as the violence increased in South Africa and South Africa bombed allegeded ANC buildings in Botswana and Maseru. The borders were closed until we began to lack petrol. There was a military coup in Lesotho, Lekhanya came to power, the migrants labors were sent home in increasingly numbers and we didn`t get much rain.

Tilbage til rødderne

Af Grethe Jørgensen, Svendborg

Folkeskolen, toiletforholdene, vandforsyningen og vejene er blevet bedre, siden vi i december 1986 forlod Lesotho med vores fire mdr. gamle datter.

Og hvad var der sket før december 1986?

Min mand Flemming og jeg rejste til Lesotho i august 1984 på en to års kontrakt med DVS, Danish Volunteer Service. Flemming, ingeniør, arbejdede som instruktør i byggeafdelingen på Leloaleng Trade School / Leloaleng tekniske skole.

Som sygeplejerske arbejdede jeg det meste af min tid på børneafdelingen på regerings-hospitalet i Quthing. Desuden underviste jeg i sundhed og hygiejne i Masitise Primary School på 6. og 7. klassetrin. Jeg underviste sammen med en lokal lærer. Jeg hjalp hende i den Røde Kors ungdomsklub, hun havde startet. Jeg afholdt også førstehjælpskurser i Røde Kors regi for de unge mandlige elever på Leloaleng.

Vi boede som de fleste andre lærere i et hus på skolens område, såvel basotho som udenlandske. Imens eskalerede volden i Sydafrika, og Sydafrika bombede påståede ANC-bygninger i Botswana og Maseru. Sydafrika lukkede en overgang grænseovergangene, benzinmanglen satte ind. Der skete et militærkup i Lesotho, Lekhanya kom til magten, Sydafrika skar ned på antallet af migrantarbejdere, så der blev flere og flere arbejdsløse basotho - og vi fik ikke meget regn.

Men stadig - Lesotho levede. Som en humlebi





And yet – Lesotho existed. Like a bumblebee for whom it should be impossible to fly, it shouldn't be possible for Lesotho to go on with that many odds against it. That night, where the first rain fell in spring, our first child was born giving a new Pulane and Me` Mapulane.

Back to the roots

Back in Denmark we extended the family with a little Rethabile, now giving two Danish children who have been carried on their mothers back in a "kobo a ho pepa ngoana." In this position they have also been dancing the Basotho way.

Furthermore they grew up in a home, where items from Africa were everywhere, guests and letters from Africa were received and the parents sometimes in nostalgic moments claimed, that they were speaking Sesotho.

The first years after our return to Denmark we kept in contact with our friends. After some years it faded out due to busy lives with small children at both continents. Then - in April 2007 we received a letter from some of our Basotho friends, and contact was restored. We, the parents, made a decision. It was now or never, we should go back to Lesotho. As soon as the youngest child had graduated from high school July 2008, we all-Mum, Dad, Pulane 22 years and Rethabile 19 years-left for nearly 5 weeks in Lesotho and South Africa. This gave a winter holiday in

der ikke burde kunne flyve, burde det ikke det være muligt for Lesotho at eksistere med så mange odds imod sig. Den nat, den første forårsregn faldt efter en lang tør vinter, blev vores første barn født. Pula betyder regn, Pulane er et pigenavn, og jeg blev til Me`Mapulane – mor til Pulane.

Tilbage til rødderne – vinterferie i august

Tilbage i Danmark forøgede vi familien med lille Rethabile og havde nu to danske børn, der var blevet båret på deres mors ryg i et tæppe- et "kobo a ho pepa ngoana" – siddende på min ryg har de danset på basotho maner.

Desuden voksede de op i et hjem fyldt med afrikanske genstande, gæster og breve fra Afrika, og i nostalgiske øjeblikke hævdede forældrene, at de talte sesotho.

Vi holdt kontakten til vores venner i de første år efter vores tilbagevenden til Danmark. Men efter nogle år ebbede det ud på grund af småbørn og travle liv på begge kontinenter. Men i april 2007 fik vi brev fra en basotho-ven, og kontakten var genetableret. Vi forældre traf en beslutning. Det var nu eller aldrig, vi skulle tage tilbage til Lesotho. Så snart den yngste afsluttede eksamen i juli 2008, tog vi, mor, far, Pulane, 22, og Rethabile, 19, til Lesotho og Sydafrika i fem uger. Det blev en vinterferie i august.

Som de unge mennesker formulerede det: "Vi ville finde ud af, hvad der gik galt - hvordan og hvornår - med vores basothoinfluerede opdragelse".

Hvad gør man, hvis man skal tilbringe fem uger i Lesotho og Sydafrika?

Vi fløj til Johannesburg og blev der nogle dage for at se Soweto, Pretoria og Voortrekker-monumentet. I 80erne kunne vi som danskere kun få udstedt transitvisa som følge af apartheid.



August.

As the young people did put it: "To see why what went wrong - how and when-with our Basotho influenced upbringing?"

What do you do, if you have to spend five weeks in Lesotho and South Africa?

We flew to Johannesburg and stayed there a few days, giving us the chance to Soweto, Pretoria and the Vortrekker monument. Last time we could, due to Apartheid and we being Danish, only get transit visas.

Then we spend one day driving, crossing the border at Pitseng and staying overnight with friends in TY. A great moment for Pulane to show her passport, documenting, that she was actually born in Lesotho.

The following day we drove down to Quthing. For 22 years we have wanted to return. Then it is actually not more difficult than to fly to Johannesburg, rent a car and drive for two days. And as a minor detail, pay the ticket. We spend part of our time in Lesotho and part of it in South Africa.

Greatest were the times, we spend with our friends in Mokanametsong with the cold wind sweeping down from the snow covered mountains. Their three children are the same age as ours, and they all went on very well together. It was strange to think of, that if we had stayed for a longer period in Lesotho, these five children would have grown up more or less together. It was great to see all these young people together with all their skills, abilities and energy. There is hope and a potential for the future.

What has improved?

Near TY there had come new firms that cut out sandstone for nice blocks for building. We enjoyed the new perimeter road at Maseru. We did not enjoy the sight of meager livestock and too many dongas with old cars and no vegetation. But coming closer to Quthing we saw, that the tree planting projects had apparently worked. Anyway

En dag gik med kørsel, vi krydsede grænsen ved Pitseng og overnattede hos venner i TY. Det var et stort øjeblik for Pulane at vise sit pas og dokumentere, at hun faktisk er født i Lesotho.

Næste dag kørte vi til Quthing. I 22 år havde vi drømt om at komme igen. Og så kræver det blot at flyve til Johannesburg, leje en bil og et par dages kørsel.



Den bedste tid tilbragte vi hos venner i Mokanametsong, hvor den kolde vind føg ned fra de sneklædte bjerge. Deres tre børn er på alder med vores, og alle kom fint ud af det med hinanden. Pudsigt at tænke på at de fem børn mere eller mindre ville være vokset op sammen, hvis vi var blevet længere i Lesotho. Det var herligt at se alle de unge mennesker forsamlet med deres evner og energi. Der er håb og potentiale for fremtiden.

Hvad er så forbedret?

Nær TY var der kommet nye virksomheder, som forarbejder sandsten til byggeri. Vi nød den nye omfartsvej ved Maseru. Vi nød ikke synet af de magre husdyr eller dongaerne blottet for vegetation og fyldt med bilvrag. Som vi nærmede os Quthing, kunne vi se, at træplantningsprojekterne havde gjort gavn. Der



planting projects had apparently worked. Anyway, there were tall trees at many of the steep slopes.

When we left in 1986, the road between Mohales Hoek and Mafeteng were under construction. I could still recall the feeling of driving on a newly grated road and especially the feeling of driving on a **not** newly grated.

There has been build a new bridge over Orange river / Senqu, replacing the old yellow Seaka bridge. The new and nicely tarred road now follows a new and much shorter track.

Basotho are still the same. The same gentle and polite way of treating guests and visitors

Primary school, pit latrines, village water supply and the roads are not the same.

I wonder: "How do the Basotho manage to do it?"



Everywhere you travel on the main roads you see one or more signs pointing towards a primary school. The primary education is now free, thus enabling most children to go to school. The literacy percentage is much higher than in South Africa. As a Boer couple told me: "It is because the blacks in S.A. don't want to go to school."

Really great was it to be guided to some rock paintings by a man of nearly 50 years. After a long

var nu høje træer på mange af de stejle skråninger.

Da vi rejste hjem i 1986, var den nye vej mellem Mohale's Hoek og Mafeteng under konstruktion. Jeg kunne stadig huske følelsen af at køre ad den høvlede vej og især følelsen af at køre på en IKKE høvlet vej.

Der er bygget en bro over Orange River/Senqu til erstatning for den gamle Seaka Bridge. Den nye smukt asfalterede vej følger en ny og langt kortere rute.

Men basothoerne er de samme. Altid venlige og høflige over for gæster og besøgende.

Folkeskoler, latriner, vandforsyning og vejene er ikke som før. Jeg undrer mig:

"Hvordan klarer basothoerne det?"

Uanset hvor man kører langs hovedvejene er der skilte, der viser mod en eller flere grundskoler -1.-7. klasse. De første syv års skolegang er nu gratis, hvilket gør det muligt for de fleste børn at komme i skole. Der er nu procentvis flere analfabeter i Sydafrika end i Lesotho. Som et boerpar fortalte mig: "Det er fordi, de sorte i Sydafrika ikke gider gå i skole."

Vi skulle ud for at se nogle malerier i nogle klippehuler og spurgte om vej i en landsby. En mand på nær ved de 50 år tilbød at følge os derud. Efter et langt liv som minearbejder i Sydafrika var han nu hjemme og gik i 3. klasse. Han var stolt over, at hans engelsk nu var så godt, at han kunne fungere som guide. Imponerende! Jeg mødte flere af hans slags. Børnene bliver undervist i og på engelsk fra de er helt små, ofte allerede i 1. Klasse.

Bygning af latriner og benyttelse af latriner var altid et emne, når vi underviste i sundhed og hygiejne på børneafdelingen og i skolerne. Nu er der latriner ved alle huse. Oftest ser man VIP latriner (ventilation improved pitlatrine) men også andre modeller. Da vi er i Lesotho bliver



life "khauteng" (in the mines), he was now in standard 3. He was proud, that his English had now improved, so he could do this guiding. Impressive! And I met a few more like him.

Pit latrines was always a topic, when teaching health at children`s ward or the schools. Now there are pit latrines everywhere. Mostly you see the VIP (ventilation improved pit latrine), but also other variations. Being in Lesotho the latrines are always nicely swept every morning.

Village water supply employed a number of Danish people via Danida and some local staff. Now there are pumps and taps all over Lesotho. While we stayed in Mokanametsong the water committee collected money, so a spare part could be bought and "Village water supply" could come and do the repair.

The roads have improved and thanks for that. Lesotho is a mountainous country, so driving will always be a challenge but that is a vast difference from playing "Russian roulette." Does anybody remember the old road to Mphaki? Or to Thaba Tseka?

The traffic culture has improved. The cars are better and the driving is better. You`ll still meet sheep on the road, but in contrary to South Africa, in Lesotho there is always somebody herding the sheep and goats.

AIDS /HIV have become a big problem. Friends have passed away. A friend of mine is living with HIV, but on treatment and doing her job. Her teenage child was diagnosed HIV-positive, while we were in Lesotho. "But she will get the treatment and be alright," the mother said.

Apart from AIDS/HIV it is mostly positive changes that, as I see it, have taken place in Lesotho. I still admire the Basotho for their ability to manage. I`m grateful, that I have been to Lesotho, and that I have had the possibility to return.

også andre modeller. Da vi er i Lesotho bliver latriner og omgivelser fejlet nydeligt hver morgen.

" Vandforsyning til landsbyer" blev støttet af Danmark gennem Danida med dels danske og dels lokale ansatte. I dag står der pumper og vandhaner over alt i Lesotho. Da vi var i Mokanametsong, indsamlede vandkomiteen penge til en reservedel og til reparationen, som skulle udføres af "Vandforsyning til landsbyer".



Vejene er forbedret og tak for det. Lesotho er et bjergland, og bilkørsel vil altid være en udfordring, men er ikke længere som at spille russisk roulette. Husker nogen den gamle vej til Mphaki? Eller den til Thaba Tseka?

Trafikkulturen har forbedret sig. Bilerne og kørslen er blevet bedre. Du støder stadig ind i geder og får, men modsat i Sydafrika er der i Lesotho altid en hyrde i nærheden.

Hiv og aids er blevet et stort problem. Venner er gået bort. En ven har hiv, men er i behandling og kan passe sit arbejde. Hendes teenagebarn fik diagnosen hiv-positiv, da vi var i Lesotho. "Men hun kommer i behandling og bliver alright", siger moren.



Med undtagelse af hiv/aids er de fleste forandringer i Lesotho, som jeg ser dem, sket til det positive. Jeg beundrer stadig basothoerne for deres evne til at klare sig. Jeg er taknemmelig for at have været i Lesotho, og at jeg fik muligheden for at vende tilbage.



Pit latrines are now all over Lesotho and nicely swept

Danish media focus on DLN

The Denmark Lesotho Network enjoyed rare attention when the daily Politiken offered its readers an interview with DLN-member Lisbet Lundby last month. Lisbet was among the participants in DLN's Great Tour of Lesotho. In the interview she states that it can be quite exhausting to be a tourist in the mountain kingdom. But the tourist is more than "paid back" by the beauty of the land.

She enjoys looking back on a visit to the home of a school teacher who invited the whole gang of travellers to her house. She taught them the greetings, and later the neighbours came by and danced traditional for the Danish.

Vi Rejser: Lesotho ikke et sted for magelige turister.

Lesotho er ikke for de magelige, kunne læsere af Politikens rejsetillæg Vi Rejser lade sig advare om.

Advarslen faldt i et interview med DLNs Lisbet Lundby i avisen den 1. november. Hun deltog i DLNs store rejse i oktober.

Turister i Lesotho skal have mod på strabadser. Men til stor gengæld er landet vanvittig smukt, konstaterer Lisbet i interviewet.

Hun fortæller videre - og begejstret - om et besøg hos en skolelærer, der inviterede hele





Lisbet also tells of poor infrastructure, at best overcome on the back of a pony, no running water or sewage. Over all a constant lack of water.

But Lisbet has taken Lesotho into her heart for the rest of her life, she tells Politiken.

News from Lesotho:

New SADC region news agency services launched

afrol News , 10 November – In Lesotho, a new independent news agency service covering the SADC region has been launched. The service is already providing local media and institutions with much needed regional news copy.

"The media market in Southern Africa is dominated by a few players, of which none treats our increasingly integrated region as such," says Lawrence Keketso, chief editor of the new "SADC+service", which is distributed as an exclusive addition to the daily newsfeed of the agency afrol News. "In our region, we have national, mostly state controlled, news agencies serving national media, in addition to large foreign agencies that look at our region from outside. A locally based regional agency covering Southern Africa therefore is strongly needed," Mr

holdet på 20 rejsedeltagere hjem. Her lærte læreren dem de formelle hilsener, og siden kom naboerne ind og dansede traditionelle danse for hele rejseholdet.

Lisbet fortæller om dårlig infrastruktur, som bedst forceres med et par ponyer, ingen rindende vand eller kloakering. I det hele taget mangel på vand.

Men Lisbet har fået Lesotho i hjertet i resten af sit liv, fortæller hun til Vi Rejser.

Uafhængig nyhedstjeneste med regionalt fokus

En god gammel kending, redaktør Lawrence Keketso, står bag lanceringen af et nyt og uafhængigt nyhedsbureau i Lesotho med fokus på SADC-regionen. "SADC+service" forsyner nu lokale medier og institutioner med regionale nyheder, som de længe har savnet:

- Mediemarkedet i det sydlige Afrika er domineret af få aktører. De forholder sig ikke til den voksende integration i vores region, hvor vi har måttet leve med nationale, mestendels statskontrollerede nyhedstjenester til at forsyne de lokale medier, siger chefredaktør Lawrence Keketso.
- Læg dertil de store internationale nyhedsagenturer som udelukkende ser på regionen udefra. Der er hårdt brug for en lokalt



Keketso added.

The SADC+ service is an initiative originating in Lesotho, where national media and their readers increasingly look beyond the borders of the Kingdom in their search for news and analyses. "What happens in South Africa, Zimbabwe or in Botswana increasingly has an impact on our lives as our region has become an economic, political and social block," notes Mr Keketso, who is also founder and editor-in-chief of Lesotho's long-lived "Mopheme" weekly newspaper.

The new service is a cooperation with the independent news agency afrol News, a major provider of African news since year 2000, actively used by independent newspapers throughout the continent. afrol News provides the basic daily African newsfeed of the service, while the Maseru-based agency provides a daily newsfeed addition focusing on the SADC region.

No external sponsor is behind the new service, guaranteeing a totally independent service. Interested will find contact information on the afrol.com website.

Journalist sentenced for defaming PM

The High Court of Lesotho sentenced broadcast journalist Thabo Thakalekoala to two years in prison for sedition or alternatively a fine of M200 (US\$18).

Thakalekoala was charged with sedition after he read a letter on air which called for the arrest of Lesotho Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili and his senior officials for corruption. High Court Judge, Gabriel Mofolo, sentenced Thakalekoala to a further two years for criminal defamation and subversion. The second two year sentence was wholly suspended on condition that Thakalekoala does not commit a similar offence in the next three years.

The state contends that the letter referred to Mosisili. Thakalekoala was arrested outside Harvest FM's offices on 22 June 2007 and then charged with

baseret, regional nyhedsservice, siger han i en pressemeddelelse.

Initiativet kommer fra Lesotho, hvor mange i stigende grad søger videre end til de hjemlige medier for at blive opdateret med nyheder og analyser.

- Udviklingen i Sydafrika, Zimbabwe eller Botswana får en større betydning for vores egne liv i takt med, at regionen bliver mere sammentømret økonomisk, politisk og socialt, siger Lawrence Keketso, mangeårig redaktør for ugeavisen Mopheme i Maseru og tidligere samarbejdspartner med det lokale MS-kontor.

"SADC+service" er et samarbejde med nyhedsleverandøren afrol News. Tjenesten kan udelukkende modtages via abonnement. Interesserede kan finde kontaktinfo på afrol.com

Journalist dømt injurier mod premierministeren

Lesothos højesteret har idømt en journalist to års fængsel eller alternativt en bøde på 200 maloti - svarende til 100 - 120 kr.

Journalistens brøde bestod i, at han læste et brev op i radioen, som kaldte på anholdelse af premierminister Pakalitha Mosisili og nærmeste mænd på anklager for korrupsion. Uanset at brevet ikke nævnte premierministeren ved navn, fandt dommer Gabriel Mofolo, at det tydeligt refererede til Mosisili. Han idømte samtidig journalist Thabo Thakalekoala en betinget dom for injurier.

Thakalekoala blev anholdt uden for sin arbejdsplads, radiostationen Harvest FM, i juni 2007 og anklaget for forrædderi på



treason. In his defence, Thakalekoala told the court that he read the letter after receiving threatening calls from people who claimed to have written it. He also stated that he did not think that the letter referred to the Prime Minister.

Thakalekoala has since paid the fine. The case was finished Oct 22.

baggrund af det anonyme brev. Han anførte til sit forsvar, at han følte sig presset til læse brevet op for lytterne efter truende telefonopkald fra de påståede skribenter. Han sagde også, at han ikke var klar over, at brevet var rettet mod premierministeren.

Journalisten har siden betalt bøden og undgår dermed fængsel. Sagen blev afsluttet den 22. oktober.

New editors



Peter Rathmann (b. 1962) is a journalist who worked for the Lesotho Council of NGO's 2000-2002. At the same time he was parttime information worker for the MS Subregion Office in Maseru, Lesotho, with programmes in Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and South

Africa. Currently, he is working as a reporter at the Danish News Agency in Copenhagen.

Peter Rathmann (f. 1962) er journalist og arbejdede for Lesotho Council of NGOs mellem 2000 og 2002. Samtidig var han på deltid for MS Subregions kontor i Maseru, Lesotho, som havde programmer i Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana og Sydafrika. Nu arbejder han som reporter på Ritzaus i København.

Anne Andersen (b. 1952) is a teacher who worked for Lesotho Preschool and Day Care Association 1998 – 2001 working from Quthing Office, Lesotho the south 1998 - 2001. Currently she is working with rehabilitation in Aarhus. She is as well a member of DLN-Board.

Anne Andersen (f. 1952) er lærer og arbejdede for Lesotho Preeschool and Day Care Association på kontoret i Quthing i det sydlige Lesotho fra 1998 til 2001. Nu arbejder hun med revalidering i Århus. Hun er også medlem af DLNs bestyrelse.



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

DLN's address is: Denmark Lesotho Network, C/O Helga Højsager, Asylgade 16, DK-5000 Odense C, Denmark

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KHOTSO – PULA – NALA

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(submission of articles to
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or any board member)

DLN wish all readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

DLN ønsker alle læsere en glædelig jul og et godt nytår.

