

## News from the DLN

### Photos from the AGM in Odense 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010.



*Debating one of many issues*



*Some of the participants in DLN AGM*

Read the minutes from the AGM on page 4

**A new cultural tour to Lesotho is being planned to take place in October 2011. The next issue in Danish is about that.**

### In this issue:

Page 1: *Photos from AGM*

Page 2:  
-Tag med på rejse til Lesotho i oktober 2011  
-News from the Board/Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Page 3: *PATC Annual Meeting/Årsmøde i Projektrådgivningen*

Page 4: *Minutes from Annual general meeting 2010 (AGM)*

Page 8: *New substitute/ny suppleant*

Page 9:  
-In Memoriam  
-From the visit to Lesotho/Fra rejsen til Lesotho

Page 11: *News from Lesotho: Copies from different papers and websites*

Page 17: *What is Denmark Lesotho Network?*

Membership of DLN

## Tag med DLN på rejse til Lesotho i oktober 2011

Vi er i gang med indledende planer omkring en grupperejse til Lesotho. Rejsen vil være på omkring 2 uger og foretages i forbindelse med efterårsferien i 2011. Der vil max. være plads til 20 personer. Vi skal møde venner af DLN, besøge de projekter DLN støtter og selvfølgelig ud at se på bjergene og den fantastiske natur. Nærmere detaljer følger, men interesserede kan allerede nu henvende sig til Lisbet Kristensen på: [lisbetstjerneklar@gmail.com](mailto:lisbetstjerneklar@gmail.com)

## News from the Board

*By Helga Halck Højsager, May 2010*

On 17<sup>th</sup> April we held our annual general meeting in Odense. It was attended by 17 members and all participated in a good day of debate and discussion.



### AGM debate

These days DLN is absorbed in our project activity. On 1st April we submitted an application to Projektrådgivningen (PATC) asking for 500,000 kroner to support Development of Peace Education, DPE, for one year. The application became possible after the DLN team's visit to Lesotho in late February to finalize the application with DPE team and Board. The project is about capacity building of DPE, developing tools to measure the impact of DPE activities, prepare a manual for their role plays and finally develop a curriculum for the training of animators. We expect a feedback from the PATC around 1st July.

Lately the second team has returned from Lesotho, where they have made a preliminary study with Rural Self-help Development Association, RSDA. In the next issue of

## Nyt fra bestyrelsen

*Af Helga Halck Højsager, maj 2010*

Den 17. april havde vi vores årlige generalforsamling i Odense. Der deltog 17 medlemmer, og vi havde en god og debatfyldt dag.

Projektaktiviteten fylder DLN i denne tid. Den 1. april blev der indsendt en ansøgning til projektpuljen på 500.000 kr. til at støtte Development Peace for Education, DPE, i et år. Det blev muligt, efter at første hold var i Lesotho i slutningen af februar for at lave forundersøgelsen.



### The goals are formulated

DPE vil bruge pengene til at opbygge organisationens egen kapacitet, udvikle redskaber til at måle effekten af deres aktiviteter, udarbejde en manual for deres rollespil og endelig udarbejde et curriculum til uddannelse af animatorer. Vi forventer tilbagemelding fra Projektrådgivningen omkring den 1. juli.

Netop i disse dage kommer det andet hold hjem fra Lesotho, hvor de har lavet en





Lumela.dk we will bring a report from the group on their visit.

forundersøgelse sammen med Rural Self-help Development Association, RSDA. Næste nummer af Lumela.dk vil indeholde en rapport fra gruppen om deres besøg.

## PATC Annual Meeting

*By Helga Halck Højsager*

On 24th April I participated in the Projektrådgivningen's (PATC) Annual Meeting. The main theme was the PATC's Strategic Plan for the next five years. They have focused on three areas:  
1. *Strategic Objective:* To strengthen and develop the member associations' capacity and motivation to make a serious contribution to development in poor countries based on their own popular support and professional and organizational skills.  
2. A strong developing political role of civil society in Denmark.

*Strategic Objective:* To strengthen the development organizations' influence on the policies, that affect the poorest, and holding up the government on its responsibility to fight poverty and strengthen democracy and human rights in developing countries.

3. Support for long-term cooperation with civil society in South.

*Strategic Objective:* To strengthen member associations' capacity and competence to advocacy, capacity building and long-term partnerships with the developing countries' own organizations and networks in order to strengthen the building of a democratic, independent and diverse civil society in the South.

We were discussing small organizations' ability to make qualified claims. It is maintained that it is quite ok that it is difficult to make an application, since we have to take partners and other interested bodies seriously. Furthermore, it was expressed that organizations can do much more than development through the project

## Årsmøde i Projektrådgivningen

*Af Helga Halck Højsager*

Den 24. april deltog jeg i Projektrådgivningens (PR) Årsmøde. Her var hovedtemaet PR's strategiplan for de næste 5 år. De har sat fokus på tre områder:

1. *Strategisk mål:* At styrke og udvikle medlemsforeningernes kapacitet og motivation til at yde et kvalificeret bidrag til udvikling i de fattige lande med udgangspunkt i deres egen folkelige forankring og deres egne faglige og organisatoriske kompetencer.

2. En stærk udviklingspolitisk rolle til civilsamfundet i Danmark.

*Strategisk mål:* At styrke de folkelige u-landsorganisationers indflydelse på de dele af regeringens politik, som har betydning for verdens fattigste, samt at fastholde regeringen på dens ansvar for at bekæmpe fattigdom og styrke demokrati og menneskerettigheder i u-landene.

3. Støtte til langsigtet samarbejde med civilsamfundet i Syd.

*Strategisk mål:* At styrke medlemsforeningernes kapacitet og kompetence til fortalervirksomhed, kapacitetsopbygning og langsigtede partnerskaber med de fattiges egne organisationer og netværk for derved at styrke opbygningen af demokratiske, uafhængige og mangfoldige civilsamfund i Syd.

Der blev diskuteret små organisationers mulighed for at udforme kvalificerede ansøgninger. PRs styrelse fastholder, at det godt må være svært at formulere en ansøgning, da vi må tage partnere og andre involverede instanser seriøst. Desuden blev der også givet udtryk for, at organisationerne

pool as a condition for being a "good" organization.

This year's initiative award was given to the Municipality of Randers.

The Randers Millennium is an ambitious collaboration between Randers, a town in Denmark and Mbale in Uganda. They are friendship towns. The initiative began in 2008 when the Randers City Council decided to make an effort to make the UN's 2015 goals a reality. With the municipality as the traction, still more companies, institutions and ordinary citizens in Randers became involved in the 2015 goals and the partnership with Uganda.

Some of PATC's courses will now be altered, as it has been a problem that the participants were at different levels, for example if one has already learned to prepare an application, others are about to start right from the beginning. Especially the Logical Framework Approach was highlighted as a problem area.

kan gøre meget andet end have udviklingsprojekter gennem projektpuljen som betingelse for at være en "god" organisation.

Årets initiativ pris blev givet til Randers Kommune.

Randers Millennium er et ambitiøst samarbejde mellem venskabsbyerne Randers og Mbale i Uganda. Initiativet startede i 2008, hvor Randers Byråd besluttede at gøre en indsats for at gøre FN's 2015-mål til virkelighed. Med kommunen som trækraft er stadig flere virksomheder, institutioner og almindelige borgere i Randers blevet involveret i 2015-målene og partnerskabet med Uganda.

Nogle af PRs kurser vil fra næste sæson blive niveaudelt, da det har været et problem, at deltagerne har været på forskellige niveauer. Det er f.eks. om man har udarbejdet en ansøgning før, eller skal til at starte helt fra en begyndelse. Det var specielt Logical Framework Approach, som blev fremhævet som et problemfelt.

## **Minutes from the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Denmark-Lesotho Network (DLN) in Odense 17th April 2010.**

### Agenda:

- a) Election of Chair for the AGM and minute takers
- b) Report from the Chair
- c) Report from working groups
- d) Report from the treasurer
- e) Received proposals for debate
- f) Approval of budget
- g) Election of Executive Committee (EC) and Auditors
- h) Any other business

### Participants:

Ditlev Krause, Claus Løschenkohl, Anders Foghsgaard, Helga Halck Højsager, Karen Steffensen, Bodil Mathiasen, Anne Andersen, Signe Hedegaard, Anders Hedegaard, Anna-Marie Haslund, Michael Hansen, Max Schrøder og Grethe Winkler Jørgensen.

### **a. Election of Chair for the AGM and minute takers**



Chairperson Helga Halck Højsager welcomed the participants.

Proposed was as the Chair of the AGM Anna-Marie Haslund and Max Schrøder. Proposed were as minute takers Claus Løschenkohl and Anders Foghsgaard. The proposals were approved by the AGM.



Anna-Marie Haslund concluded that the meeting was settled according to the constitution and thus formed the decisive body of the DLN.

## **b. Report from the Chair**

The written annual report for 2009 was distributed to all members before the meeting. Helga Højsager highlighted some of the points in the report. Projects in process :

### **1. Development Peace and Education ( DPE )**

The title of the project is : Capacity Building and Advocacy for community participation in political processes and decision making. The Danish Project Group has 5 members. Two of them have spent 14 days in Lesotho in order to plan the final application.

### **2. Rural Self-help Development Association ( RSDA )**

The title of the project is : Strengthening small scale farmer producer groups in Lesotho. The Danish Project Group has 6 members. Two of them go to Lesotho in the month of April in order to plan the content of the project together with RSDA.

### **Executive work**

The Executive committee has held 3 meetings during the year. Skype is used for updating of executive members. 5 Skype meetings have been held.

The report from the Executive Committee was approved.





## **c. Reports from the Working Groups**

### **1. New project with RSDA.**

DLN has supported RSDA in other projects like capacity building and establishing water tanks / containers. The new project should run over 2 years. Anders Hedegaard gave an orientation about the work of the group.

### **2. Fundraising Group.**

DLN has applied to the Ministry of Culture for 49.000 DKK from the “tipsmidler”. The plan is to support Berea Agricultural Group ( BAG ) in building 10 water containers at local schools.

### **3. Youth Group.**

There is for the time being no need for a special youth group. It was suggested to send invitations, if matters of interest should appear.

### **4. Lumela and Homepage.**

The newsletter Lumela is distributed 4 times a year. Anne Andersen is taking care of both Lumela and the homepage to the audience’s full satisfaction.

## **d. Report from the treasurer**

Karen Steffensen presented the accounts for DLN. The main figures are:

Income: DKK 13.653

Expenses - 25.685

The result of the year: DKK -12.033

Assets and liabilities : - 30.218

The account was approved.







## **e. Received proposals for debate**

Anne Andersen informed of a suggestion about DLN arranging a travel to Lesotho for tourists. The assembly agreed that it could be nice with a new travel arrangement, as the visit last year was a success.

## **f. Approval of budget**

EC's suggestion for a new budget 2010 was presented by Karen Steffensen. At first it was discussed, whether member's contribution for 2010 should be raised. A big majority of the assembly wishes to keep the payment at DKK 100,- for the year.

Then the 2010 budget was approved with a few changes as demanded by the assembly.

## **g. Election of members of EC and Auditors**

The term expired for members of the EC Anne Andersen and Karen Steffensen. Both Anne and Karen were prepared to stand for re-election for another period. Karen Steffensen and Anne Andersen were elected for the period 2010 – 2012. Elections were applauded by the AGM.

Helga Højsager and Bodil Mathiasen were elected last year and will serve until next AGM (April 2011).

Signe Hedegaard and Lisbeth Kristensen were prepared to stand for elections as substitutes to the EC. They were both elected with Signe Hedegaard as the first substitute.

Claus Løschenkohl was prepared to stand for election as internal audit, and Claus Bo Jensen has accepted to continue the position as alternate. Elections were applauded by the AGM.



As external audit company is elected Mortensen & Beierholm, but the assembly could accept that the board can change this decision, if it should be relevant.



*The new board. From left: Anne Andersen, Helga Halck Højsager, Karen Steffensen and Bodil Mathiasen*

## **h. Any other business**

It was announced by Helga, that AGM 2011 should take place in Jylland on 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2011.

There was great interest for repeating the “Pitso” after summer holidays.

Finally Helga Højsager gave thanks to Anna-Marie Haslund and Max Schrøder for their smooth running of the AGM.

Minutes taken by Claus Løschenkohl and Anders Foghsgaard ‘

## **New substitute:**

Lisbet Kristensen

I was a Danish development worker in Lesotho from 1988 to 1992. I was working with women groups in Berea district and lived in T.Y. with my son Andreas and my husband Jan.



## **Ny Suppleant:**

Lisbet Kristensen

Jeg var frivillig for MS i Lesotho i 1988 - 1992, hvor jeg arbejdede med kvindegrupper i Berea District og boede i T.Y. sammen med min søn Andreas og min mand Jan.

Da jeg kom hjem var jeg i nogle år aktiv i MS i Århus, men det ebbede ud da afdelingen måtte lukke. Jeg har rejst over det meste af verden men har ikke været tilbage til Lesotho siden min udsendelse.

Jeg arbejder nu med regnskab og IT i en folkeoplysende virksomhed.





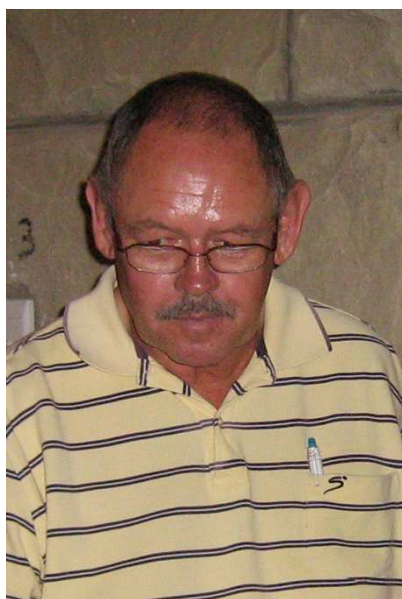
During the last years I've been travelling a lot but have newer managed to get back to Lesotho.

## In Memoriam

*By Bodil Mathiasen*

We have just received the very sad news that Ntate Melvin – owner of Foothills Guesthouse in Maseru has passed away. Many DLN members have been staying at Foothills in Maseru West during the past years, and the 2008 tourist trip had Foothills as a safe and cosy haven.

We all enjoyed the hospitality and warm



personality of Ntate Melvin which made Foothills a "Home away from home". Our deepest sympathies with Ntate Melvin's family and the people of Foothills. All honour to his name!

## From the visit to Lesotho

*By Helga Halck Højsager*

On 15th February Marie Villumsen and I traveled to Lesotho to do a feasibility study in collaboration with Development for Peace Education (DPE). Along went my husband Ditlev Krause, my sister-in-law Hannah Sachtler and Marie's mother Kirsten

## In Memoriam

*Af Bodil Mathiasen*

Vi har netop modtaget den sørgelige nyhed, at Ntate Melvin – ejeren af Foothills guesthouse i Maseru er død pludseligt.

Mange DLN medlemmer har igennem de sidste par år boet hos Melvin i hans dejlige villa og have i Maseru West. Og på turistturen i 2008 var Foothills vores "hjem", hvor vi følte os velkomne og rigtig godt tilpas. Takket være den varme gæstfrihed og venlige atmosfære som Melvins personlighed gav stedet.

Vores tanker går til Melvins familie og personalet på Foothills. Ære være Melvins minde.



## Fra besøget i Lesotho

*Af Helga Halck Højsager*

Den 15. feb. rejste Marie Villumsen og jeg til Lesotho, for at lave en forundersøgelse i samarbejde med Development Peace for Education (DPE). Med på rejsen havde vi min mand Ditlev Krause, min svigerinde Hanne Sachtler og Maries mor Kirsten Villumsen. Vi



Villumsen. We were a good travelling team, and as for Marie and I it was a great relief to be surrounded by people who saw to it that we got the best support. Their presence made the task both constructive and a pleasure.



*Marie surrounded by the backing group in front of Foothills*

The purpose of the study was to analyze DPE's need for capacity building, defining a target group and prepare a final project design. Ultimately, the project was approved by the DPE board.

Together with a team from the DPE, we visited the three areas that will be covered by the project. These are Mokhotlong district, Mammaebana in Mafeteng district and thirdly Lebakeng in Qacha's Nek district.



*The road to Lebakeng*

These three areas have in common being so remote that no other NGO's are involved here, which status is one of the conditions DPE has

blev et godt rejseteam og for Marie og jeg, var det en stor lettelse at være omgivet af personer, som sørgede for, at vi fik den optimale støtte. De var medvirkende til at opgaven blev både konstruktiv og en fornøjelse.

Formålet med undersøgelsen var at analysere DPEs behov for kapacitetsopbygning, definere målgruppen og udarbejde endeligt projekt design. Endelig skulle projektet godkendes af DPE's bestyrelse.

Sammen med et team fra DPE besøgte vi de 3 områder, som vil blive omfattet af projektet.



*Meeting in Mokhotlong*

Det er Mokhotlong distrikt, Mammaebana i Mafeteng distrikt og endelig Lebakeng i Qacha's Nek distrikt. Fælles for alle 3 områder taler vi om steder, som ligger så langt ude, at ingen andre Ngo'er er engageret her, hvilket er et af de betingelser, DPE har brugt i udvælgelsen af målområder.

5 dage blev brugt på disse besøg, da de virkelig er off road. Det var fysisk hårdt, men andre oplevelser gjorde det alligevel spændende. Ganske uforudset fik vi en mulighed for at møde The Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili i hans hjemby på vej fra Lebakeng. DPE benyttede muligheden til at præsentere DLN for ham. Her mødte vi også en stor støtte og ikke mindst stor respekt for, at vi havde været i Lebakeng. For at forstå hvor afsides Lebakeng er, så taler vi om 6 timers kørsel fra hovedstaden Maseru til Qacha's Nek, herfra 2 ½ time off road, ½ times gang til en lille robåd,



used in the selection of target areas.

Five days were spent on these visits, because these places really are off road. The trip was physically hard, but other experiences made it nevertheless exciting.

Quite unexpectedly we got a chance to meet The Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili in his hometown on the way back from Lebakeng. DPE took the opportunity to introduce DLN to him. We enjoyed great support, and not least great respect that we had been all the way to Lebakeng. To understand how remote Lebakeng is, we are talking about a six hour drive from the capital Maseru to Qacha's Nek, from there two and a half hours off road, half an hour's walk to a small rowing boat, which took us across the river, and then again two and a half hours walk to Lebakeng. The Prime Minister also had the opportunity to tell us about his visit to Denmark on the occasion of the climate summit in Copenhagen.



*Those three men followed us to Lebakeng*

We met the Minister for Public Service (MP) for Lebakeng, Mr. Semano Sekatle, at his office. He was very enthusiastic about teaching and training, and his input was primarily focused on the desire for better education and problems with crime in the area. He did not hesitate to express his disappointment that Denmark, in the form of Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke (MS), chose to withdraw from Lesotho. This decision, on the other hand, gave some credit to DLN and our efforts to fill some gaps left by MS. The Minister was very

som førte os over floden, derfra igen 2½ times gang til Lebakeng. Prime Minister benyttede også lejligheden til at fortælle om sit besøg i Danmark i anledning af klima topmødet i København.



*In Lebakeng*

Ministeren for Public Service (MP) for Lebakeng Mr. Semano Sekatle, mødte vi, på hans kontor. Han var meget optaget af undervisning og uddannelse, og hans input omfattede primært ønsket om bedre skolegang og problemer med kriminalitet i området. Han undlod heller ikke at udtrykke sin skuffelse over, at Danmark, Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke (MS) havde valgt at trække sig ud af Lesotho. Det gav dog kredit til DLN. Ministeren var meget tilfreds med, at DPE netop havde valgt Lebakeng, da det er et meget utilgængeligt område, og aldrig har tiltrukket nogen anden NGO.



*We are waiting at the boat*

DPE er en organisation, som ud fra vores observation ved besøget, arbejder ganske



pleased that DPE had just chosen Lebakeng as it is a very inaccessible area that has never attracted any other NGO.

According to our observations during the visit DPE is an organization that works quite differently from other development organizations. Contact with the local population is established by animators who often spend a long time in the villages. DPE has an intention to keep a balance of spending 14 days away and 14 days in Maseru. DPE uses role play as a training method, which means that many in the local area are involved in the process.

DPE is also conscious about providing links between local and national policy levels and the building of a local capacity that serves to strengthen the awareness that it is possible to influence decisions affecting people's own lives and living conditions.



Our first meeting with the DPE was held at Mabile Road, in what used to be the MS Office. It was a strange experience. It did not at all appear as it did in the "old days".

I noticed that Maseru appears wealthier now, and that there is not so much waste lying around in the streets.



## News from Lesotho:

forskelligt fra andre udviklingsorganisationer. Kontakten til lokalbefolkningen etableres af animatorer, som ofte opholder sig i længere tid i landsbyerne. DPE har en intention om, at forholdet er 14 dage ude og 14 dage i Maseru. DPE anvender rollespil, som pædagogisk metode, hvilket betyder, at mange i lokalområdet er involveret i processen. DPE arbejder også bevidst på, at der skabes forbindelse mellem de lokale og nationale politiske niveauer, hvor kapaciteten opbygges lokalt, og derved styrker bevidstheden om, at det er muligt, at få indflydelse på beslutninger, som omfatter ens eget liv og livsbetingelse.



Vores første møde med DPE blev afholdt på Mabile Road, MS kontoret. Det var en besynderlig oplevelse. Det så dog ikke ud, som i "gamle dage".

Jeg bemærkede, at Maseru ser mere velhavende ud nu, og at der er ikke så meget affald rundt omkring i gaderne.

From Informative News:

## **Minister clarifies on project**

Written by Administrator

Thursday, 27 May 2010

MASERU- The Minister of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation 'Mathabiso Lepono this past week, called on the media to try and clarify issues that have been coming up concerning the National Volunteer Corps Project.

The Minister denied allegations made by the opposition that the project is being run only for a certain group of youth. She said the project has been established in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and that the criteria used was straight and proper.

To qualify the students had to be citizens of Lesotho, with a degree or diploma including interpersonal skills.

This project was established in October last year, 2009, following the ever increasing socio-economic challenge that the country is faced with.

The high prevalence rate of HIV, high rate of unemployment estimated at 41% among the youth, it is also estimated that half of the 25,000 university graduates who enter the labour market each year, do not find jobs, hence the government through the Ministry of Gender, being also informed by the PRSP to develop a national policy whose aim is to promote effective participation of the youth in the economic and socio-political development of Lesotho through four areas of intervention.

Out of 5548 applicants, 153 got placed and 395 remain to be placed, of the placed, 43 are with EU while 110 are with different ministries, with the duration of three years, the project is in the pilot phase which will end in September 2012. It is expected that the project will be adopted as the national programme beyond 2012 with the passage of a legislation that will layout a framework for future implementation.

To boost this program, there is another in the pipeline through AU that will be based regionally to cater for young volunteers to sail the world in order to have different experiences.

From Lesotho News:

Tue May 11, 2010

## **Lesotho: UNICEF applauds enactment of Education Act 2010**

Free education becomes legally compulsory in Lesotho as the Government enacts the Education Act 2010, advancing progress towards education for all and the Millennium Development Goals.

## **Lesotho towards enactment of the Children's Protection and Welfare Bill**

The long awaited enactment of the Children's Protection and Welfare (CPW) Bill is closer to becoming a reality with the decisive action, last week, of the Honourable Speaker of parliament, Ms. Nthloi Motsamai to have the Bill tabled before parliament. UNICEF applauds the Government of Lesotho for tabling the Children's Protection and Welfare Bill in parliament.

Wed May 05, 2010

## **Wild shootout on SA border**

Charles Smith, Volksblad Bloemfontein - Five heavily armed robbers were shot dead in a wild shootout on the Free State border with Lesotho.



## **Qatar and Lesotho sign pact to boost relations**

HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani receiving King Letsie III of Lesotho at the Emiri Diwan yesterday Qatar and Lesotho signed a memorandum of understanding following a round of official talks at the Emiri Diwan between HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and King Letsie III of Lesotho.

**From Ha Ntatae:**

27<sup>th</sup> April 2010

## **LENAFU to brief farmers and stakeholders about its achievements**

The Lesotho National Agricultural Farmers Union (LENAFU) will brief farmers and other stakeholders about its achievements, during a meeting to be held at the premises of the department of Agriculture in Teyateyaneng on Thursday next week.

The chairperson of this union at district level, Mr. Lits'oane Lits'oane says the commitment of his union is to facilitate agricultural activities by securing assistance from donors for farmers, whether technical, financial or otherwise.

Mr. Lits'oane said the union is also entrusted with the responsibility of encouraging the government to assist farmers in different ways that will ensure agricultural progress, and progress of activities of entrepreneurs and traders.

He disclosed that ever since its inception in 2004, the union has achieved among others, its affiliation to the South African Farmers Union (SAFU) and an office that is located at the then Senqu Project's building in Maseru that is equipped with furniture.

## **Chinese businessmen establish partnership with Basotho**

A group of Chinese business men who have been trading in Lesotho for some time have established a partnership with their Basotho counterparts with the aim of contributing towards the country's economic growth.

The Director of Jackpot (PTY) Limited, Mr. John Xie said this at a press briefing aimed to inform the media about the Chinese plans to venture into business with Basotho.

Mr. Xie said partnering in various ventures would not only build strong ties between the two communities but could also bring a positive change in the country's economy through local economic empowerment.

He said it will also include local businessmen involved in big business as it will help in transferring business skills where necessary.

On the other hand, the Managing Director of Afri-Works (PTY) LTD, Mr. Dickson Monaheng who is already in this partnership, advised other Basotho businessmen to take this opportunity offered as it will bring positive results in the improvement of their lives and the country's economy.

## **Democracy is the back bone of good governance - Mr. Lehohla**

The Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Lesao Lehohla says democracy is the back bone of good governance as well as maintenance of peace and stability.

Mr. Lehohla who is also the deputy leader of Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) said this when addressing the party supporters at a rally held in preparation for Seapala constituency No.66 by-elections scheduled for May 22.

He said democracy also enables the public to elect government of its choice that will meet its interests such as enhancement of livelihoods and maintenance of peace and stability.

He encouraged attendants at the rally to exercise their right to vote and elect LCD during the by-elections, adding that the ruling government will continue to ensure that the lives of Basotho are improved through among others good health, quality education, job creation and infrastructure.

Speaking at the same occasion the Minister of local government Dr. Ponts'o Sekatle appealed to members of LCD to familiarise themselves with the manifesto of their political party as this will make it easier for them to respond to questions when people complain that the ruling government is not improving the lives of Basotho.

She pointed out that Land Bill of 2009 is intended to improve the lives of Basotho and ease land services, adding that her Ministry will continue to improve the bill to meet Basotho's land interests until it is passed before parliament.





The by-elections will be held to replace the late Member of Parliament Mrs. Mats'eliso Monyakane who died in December last year.

## From ReliefWeb Lesotho:

### **LESOTHO: PREVENTING HIV THROUGH THEATRE**

Source: [United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#)

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> Apr 2010

Young people speak to the soul to prevent HIV and take control of their lives

Maseru, Lesotho 14 April 2010— In Berea, one of the highest HIV prevalence districts in Lesotho, Thabo\* a young 16 year old boy is on stage, enacting the story of an HIV positive father unable to disclose his status to his children and expressing his distress through abusive actions.

"It touches me deep inside, when I tell my story and I realize I inspire and touch many more in the audience" says Thabo.

The play is part of a UNICEF supported project, named 'Young people in Theatre Against HIV and AIDS' implemented by the NGO Coalition on the Rights of a Child (NGOC). It employs interactive theatre where young people write their own scripts on issues that concern them, such as HIV prevention. The aim is to engage young people and communities to acquire new knowledge and skills by connecting with each other through a common thread - real life experiences.

By using live performances to share their story, actors and audiences alike feel safe to communicate their feelings without fear or judgement, breaking the silence and shame around issues such as gender, HIV and AIDS, violence and abuse.

As Lineo\* plays back her story, Puleng\*, a grandmother in the audience, responds "It reminds me of my daughter in law who died of AIDS. She had different ministers [sugar daddies] for transport, entertainment, finance and more. She didn't live a year from the time she found out her HIV status. I was angry with her because she took both my son and my granddaughter's lives with her. I realize now that she was very young and I should have done more to support her, to listen and talk to her without judging her".

The young members who put their lives on stage have all in some way been affected by violence, discrimination and HIV. Their heart-warming stories unveil common challenges and promote empathy, understanding and learning. "Sharing these experiences makes me realize we are all connected and we are all in this situation together, the behavior of one will affect others. We cannot isolate ourselves, it is our common responsibility to prevent HIV and stop it from killing us all, it is our choice!" said Thabo\*.

The project has been officially launched in Lesotho in November 2009. To date it has reached over 650 community members and young people in acquiring HIV risk reduction and avoidance information. Future plans include linking performances to other critical services.

In a country with the third highest HIV prevalence rate in the world, where young people, especially girls, are disproportionately affected and over 220,000 children are orphans, this intervention provides a fresh approach to HIV prevention and a critical step towards ensuring a young generation free of HIV.

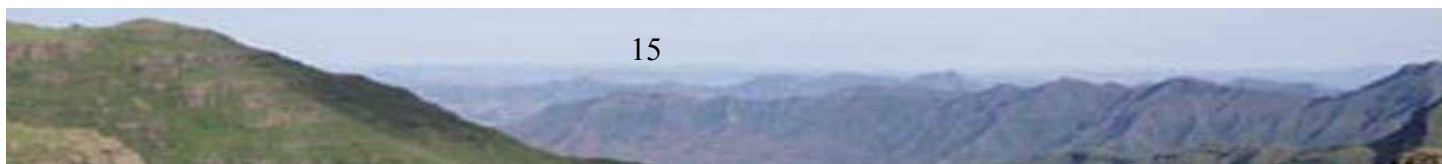
From allAfrica.com

### **Lesotho: African Peer Review Mechanism - Deteriorating Country has a Steep Mountain to Climb**

Raymond Louw  
19th April 2010

Johannesburg — ROCKETS are reverberating around the mountains of Lesotho over reports in SA that it is about to lose its sovereignty and become the 10th province of SA. The event that gave rise to these reports was a discussion about the outcome of Lesotho submitting itself for assessment under the African Union's African Peer Review Mechanism.

The discussion was held by the South African Institute of International Affairs at the University of the Witwatersrand recently, before a group of foreign diplomats and South Africans interested in the peer review



process. The suggestion over the future of the landlocked kingdom - SA-locked, as one person described it - arose because of the deteriorating economic and social situation in Lesotho disclosed in the country's self-assessment report, conducted as part of the peer review process.

The report was presented by ambassador H Masuhla Leteka, who was the focal point in the Lesotho African Peer Review Mechanism Secretariat. Leteka rejects any thoughts of Lesotho's 10th-province status as absurd.

Among the startling indicators in the report of a country in distress are extensive poverty and a country headed for negative population growth. About 3,5-million Basotho live and work in SA and, of the remaining 1,88-million in Lesotho, 56,7% live below the poverty datum line.

There is also high unemployment of about 30%. Traditionally, a large number of Basotho worked in SA's mining industry, but that number has dropped substantially, from 127 000 in 1990 to 50 100 in 2007.

Historically, labour migration to SA contributed to a reduction of unemployment in Lesotho but the current large number of retrenched Basotho migrant workers poses economic and social challenges.

Another disturbing statistic was the drop in life expectancy, which showed trends similar to those in SA, largely due to the onset of HIV/AIDS.

Life expectancy had dropped from 59 in 1990 to 42,4 in 2006, with the average about 40 this year. Lesotho had the third-highest adult HIV prevalence in the world, with the figure currently standing at 23,2%, and with an estimated 62 new infections and 50 deaths a day in 2007.

The report described the HIV pandemic "as a major threat to the survival of the country", given its small population and a slow population growth rate of 0,1%.

Declining population growth was unique for a developing country. Factors causing the decline were decreasing life expectancy, migration, falling fertility rates and rising mortality. "If present trends continue, Lesotho will be faced with the ominous threat that its population would cease to grow or even decline to below replacement level," the report says.

The high dependence on Southern African Customs Union revenue and donor aid, in particular the aspect that finances capital formation, could also pose long-term risks for Lesotho's policies of promoting sustainable and effective development planning and financing.

The growth rate per capita as indicated by the average annual rate of the gross domestic product (GDP) was 3,86% between 1990 and 2006, and this had dipped to 3,1% in 2008.

Leteka said Lesotho had undergone the African Peer Review Mechanism process because of the imperative need for good governance and the contribution it made to development. Without it, the country would have continued dealing "softly" with issues.

Among the findings of the Country Review Mission on the section dealing with good governance was that although the mixed-member proportional electoral system of 2002 had brought about relative political peace, there was the lingering threat of internal conflict fuelled by intra-party and inter-party tension.

Leteka said Lesotho should consider another method of elections.

Another finding was that, though the country had been a signatory of treaties and protocols relating to the protection of rights, it lagged behind in the ratification and implementation of these agreements.

Although local government began in 2005 with the election of 128 councils, there were capacity constraints and debilitating tension between the councils and traditional authorities, it was reported.

Corruption affected all sectors and was accompanied by cronyism.

Anti-corruption institutions had human and financial constraints and were thus ill- equipped to tackle the menace.

Public-service efficiency was poor, as was the role of oversight bodies such as the office of the auditor-general.

A number of recommendations had been made to deal with these issues, including strengthening the judiciary and the capacities of the Independent Electoral Commission.

On economic governance and management, the recommendations ranged from the need to attract domestic and foreign investment, to improving the compilation of timely and consistent statistics and strengthening institutions combating corruption and money laundering.

On corporate governance, the country review found that most of the laws governing business activity were antiquated and needed revision. The robust labour law required enforcement, and safe working conditions in the textile and garment factories should be maintained.

In terms of socioeconomic development, the report recommended that Lesotho implement a growth strategy and public- sector accountability, improve enrolment in education, especially among boys, and provide access to anti-retroviral therapy to combat HIV/AIDS.

Lesotho's enclave status and its need to develop an independent foreign policy in order to enable it to live with neighbouring SA meant that it was severely constrained in its capacity to determine sustainable development policies.

This situation meant that regional economic integration was undoubtedly the most optimal for the country.

The economic integration option would rescue Lesotho, Leteka said.

The generally negative report on the country and the suggestion that economic integration was essential led some observers to the view that Lesotho was preparing itself for political integration with SA.

Though economic integration may promote thoughts along those lines, the theme running through the report is that Lesotho intends to retain its identity and its monarchy, which it describes as one of the few constitutional monarchies in the world and unique in Africa.

It will have a tough job achieving that.

Answering questions at the discussion, Leteka accepted that a serious omission was the failure to include the promotion of a free and independent media as a requirement for good governance.

He said he believed the media had a very important role to play in the country and in regard to the African Peer Review Mechanism, but could not say why that requirement had been left out of the report.

*Louw is the editor and publisher of the weekly current affairs newsletter, Southern Africa Report.*

## 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.

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