

News from the DLN

The first part is only in Danish. It is reflecting the invitation to the AGM 2012.

Årets generalforsamling i DLN bliver afholdt lørdag den 24. marts 2012 i U-huset, Klosterport 4 A, 3. sal, 8000 Århus C fra kl. 10.00 – 16.00.

Sæt en lørdag af til at deltage i DLNs generalforsamling. Det er en rigtig god lejlighed til at få opdateret viden, få diskuteret og få indflydelse på det arbejde, der bliver gjort i foreningen. Du kan møde folk, der har været i Lesotho indenfor det sidste år.

Samtidig kan du være med til at sætte dit præg på, hvordan DLN skal fejre, at det er ti år siden, foreningen blev oprettet. Bestyrelsen synes, at det er en god ide at holde festen samtidigt med, at der kommer besøg fra Lesotho i uge 27, hvor to personer fra RSDA kommer på informationsbesøg.

To store ting at fejre, så hold godt øje med næste nummer af Lumela.dk, hvor et program både for 10-års festen og for besøget fra Lesotho vil få meget mere omtale.



Comments to the Parliament build by the Chinese. Could it be a Chinese in front looking like a nice flower? If you look closer you will find thorns.

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(AGM)

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Membership of DLN

Evaluation Visit to Lesotho

By Helga Halck Højsager

Marie Willumsen and Helga Halck Højsager have from 28 Jan to 8 February visited the Development of Peace Education (DPE) for the final evaluation of the project "Capacity Building and Advocacy for community participation in political processes and decision-making". The project ended 30 November 2012 after an extension of 3 months.

We had decided to test the method Most Significant Change (MSC). At the same time, we decided to use a local consultant to collect reports from 2 of the 3 areas the project has covered. We managed to get an appointment with Mrs. Makokoli whom we met shortly after arriving in Maseru. She delivered a comprehensive report of the collected reports.



This should be our background material for visits in the 2 areas PoliHali and Mammaebana. We chose not to visit Lebakeng because of the very long distance, uncertain weather and road conditions.

The evaluation was very positive, and a seed is put in the ground and grows quietly. Two things were absolutely dominant in the focus groups. Human Rights and Local Government. Stories to illustrate this:

I've been a member of many groups, but always experienced exclusion, that the money disappeared, that it was always the chairman

Evalueringsbesøg i Lesotho

Af: Helga Halck Højsager

Marie Willumsen og Helga Halck Højsager har fra den 28. jan til 8. feb. besøgt Development of Peace Education (DPE) til afsluttende evaluering af projektet "Capacity Building and Advocacy for community participation in political processes and decision making". Projektet sluttede 30. nov. 2012 efter en forlængelse på 3 måneder.

Vi havde besluttet at afprøve metoden Most Significant Change (MSC). Samtidig besluttede vi at benytte en lokal konsulent til at indsamle historier fra 2 af de 3 områder projektet har dækket. Det lykkedes at få en aftale med Mrs. Makokoli, som vi mødte kort efter ankomsten til Maseru. Hun afleverede en fyldestgørende rapport med de opsamlede historier. Det skulle være vores baggrunds materiale for besøg i de 2 områder, PoliHali og Mammaebana. Vi havde valgt ikke at besøge Lebakeng på grund af den meget lange afstand, usikre vejr- og vejforhold.

Evalueringen var meget positiv, og et frø er sat i jorden og gror stille og roligt. To aktiviteter var de absolut dominerende i fokus grupperne. Menneskerettigheder og Community Parliament.



Historier til at belyse dette:

Jeg har været medlem af mange grupper, men altid oplevet udelukkelse, at pengene forsvandt, at det altid var formanden, der besluttede, og

who decided, and there were many conflicts within the groups. Now I am in a group that has made statutes, created an account, everyone knows their role, and now we can support the people that the group has targeted. I know my rights, and it makes me strong. It has been a great experience for me to get close to ministers and MPs. To have been given the opportunity to talk directly to them and not least be allowed to express my opinion. It has always been my view that it would be impossible to invite someone from parliament to a direct conversation; this would only be attainable for people of importance. The entire process has been an eye opener for us in the local area.

These stories are examples, but also reflect the importance of the project. It has simultaneously led us towards agreement on a new project application, which will include elements of monitoring and further development of the process that is underway. The political situation is tense. Parliament was extraordinarily called in, since the opposition, with thrown-out-minister Metsing at the lead, wanted to declare lack of trust in Prime Minister Mosisili. However, this was averted in the last minute when the parliament was adjourned with a declaration of an election in May.

Prime Minister Mosisili has lost power in Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD), which is now divided into two lots. The new party formed by Mosisili is the Ntsu Democratic Conference (NDC) and former Minister for Communications Metsing is now the new leader of the LCN.

Despite the tense political situation in Lesotho, which went on in the days we were there, we managed to get a meeting with the Finance Committee, where several members had been involved in the local government.

Unfortunately, a meeting appointment with the Minister of Finance was canceled because there were more important items on his agenda that day. Karen Steffensen and Maria Clausen

der var mange konflikter i grupperne. Nu er jeg med i en gruppe, som har lavet vedtægter, oprettet en konto, alle kender deres roller, og nu kan vi støtte de mennesker, som gruppen har som målgruppe. Jeg kender min ret, og det gør mig stærk.



Det har været en stor oplevelse for mig at komme tæt på ministre og parlamentsmedlemmer. At få givet den mulighed at tale direkte med dem og ikke mindst få lov til at udtrykke min mening. Min opfattelse har altid været, at det at få en person fra parlamentet i tale, var uopnåeligt og kun for folk med betydning. Hele forløbet har været en øjenåbner for os i lokalområdet.

Disse historier er et udpluk, men også et udtryk for projektets betydning. Det har samtidigt ført os mod aftale om en ny projektansøgning, som vil indeholde elementer til opfølgning og videreudvikling af den proces, som er sat i gang.

Politisk udspændt der sig store spændinger. Parlamentet blev ekstraordinært samlet, da oppositionen, med en afsat minister Metsing i spidsen, ville fremsætte et mistillidsvotum til statsminister Mosisili. Dette blev dog afværget i sidste sekund, ved at Parlamentet blev lukket, og der blev udskrevet valg til maj.

Statsminister Mosisili har mistet magten i Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD), som nu er splittet til to partier. Det nye parti dannet af Mosisili, hedder Ntsu Democratic Conferens NDC og tidl. minister for kommunikation

also were in Lesotho for some of the time, and the last day I was there, we received an invitation from the Minister for Culture, Environment and Tourism Mrs. Mannete Ramaili.



Karen, Maria, Mannete and Helga

Karen, Maria and I were picked up to drink a cup of coffee with the minister. We were together for one and a half hour and talked about the political situation, her view of Lesotho's future and not least her personal ties to Denmark.
Greetings to all who read Lumela.dk from Mrs. Mannete.

TOUR DOWN MEMORY LANE.

Revisiting Lesotho 28 years after.

By: Anni Pettersson

I worked as a developing country volunteer social worker in Lesotho 1980-83, and my daughter Kirsten was born there in 1983. In October 2011 we both went back for the first time. The following are just a few impressions. The trip in Lesotho was organized by Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN). We were 10 people, who departed on 7 October 2011, among them Kirsten, her boyfriend Lars and me. We went with British Airways to London and then on to Johannesburg. There two cars were waiting to take us the last 3-400 kilometres to Lesotho.

Metsing er nu den nye leder af LCN.

På trods af den spændte politiske situation i Lesotho, som udspandt sig i dagene, vi var der, lykkedes det os, at få et møde med finansudvalget, hvor flere af medlemmerne havde deltaget i den lokale regering. Desværre blev en mødeaftale med finansministeren aflyst, da der var vigtigere emner på hans dagsorden den dag. Karen Steffensen og Maria Clausen var også i Lesotho i noget af perioden, og den sidste dag jeg var der, kom en invitation fra ministeren for kultur, miljø og turisme Mrs. Mannete Ramaili. Karen, Maria og jeg blev afhentet for at drikke en kop kaffe med ministeren. Vi fik 1½ times samvær og snak om den politiske situation, hendes syn på Lesothos fremtid og ikke mindst hendes personlige tilknytning til Danmark.
En hilsen til alle som læser Lumela.dk fra Mrs. Mannete.

TOUR DOWN MEMORY LANE.

Gensyn med Lesotho 28 år efter.

Af: Anni Pettersson

Jeg arbejdede som u-landsfrivillig socialarbejder i Lesotho 1980-83, og min datter Kirsten blev født der i 1983. I oktober 2011 vendte vi begge tilbage for første gang. Det følgende er blot nogle få indtryk.
Turen i Lesotho var organiseret af Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN). Vi var 10, der tog af sted den 7. oktober 2011, her iblandt Kirsten, hendes kæreste Lars og jeg. Turen gik med British Airways til London og derfra til Johannesburg. Der ventede to biler for at køre os de sidste 3-400 km til Lesotho. De to biler

The two cars crossed the border at two different places. I was in the one that had to pass Maseru Bridge. A few kilometres before the border the road is way high up compared to Maseru, and you see the city beautifully situated in front of you. It was to this beautiful sight, we always returned home after our long holidays around southern Africa.

Maseru was at first almost unrecognizable. In 1998, a large part of the city burned. The Basotho Hat had been burned and rebuilt. A bypass road was built to direct traffic away from Kingsway, there were robots and many new buildings. Eventually I was able to recognize more and more buildings. My old bank Lesotho Bank, Hotel Victoria, Queens II (the government hospital) and a whole lot more. It seemed as if the crime had increased, houses were fenced in with lots of barbed wire. DVS's (Danish Volunteer Service's) old office with related guest house was walled and fenced in, so you had to stretch your neck to see anything.

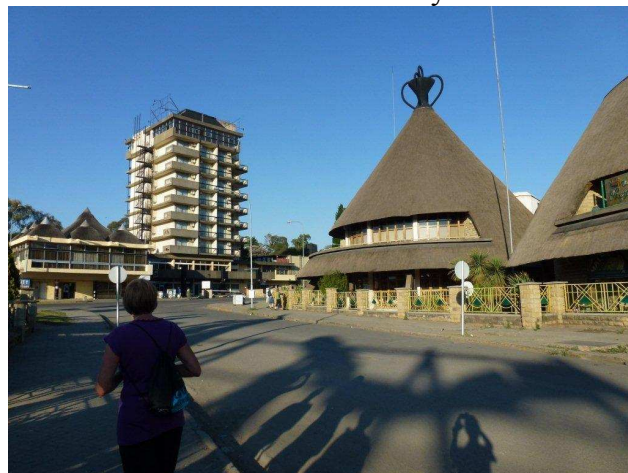


There was a placard announcing that MS is housed here. MS (Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke) has not been here for years, but the sign was still there.

Western aid agencies had pulled out except a few. The Chinese had come instead. They had taken over much of the old factory area and built a new one. Some of them lived in the old factory area and cultivated vegetables in the adjacent soil. They had taken over much of the

passerede grænsen to forskellige steder. Jeg var i den, der skulle passere Maseru Bridge. Nogle få km før grænsen ligger vejen højt oppe i forhold til Maseru, og man ser byen smukt beliggende foran sig. Det var til dette smukke syn, vi altid vendte hjem efter vores lange ferier rundt i det sydlige Afrika.

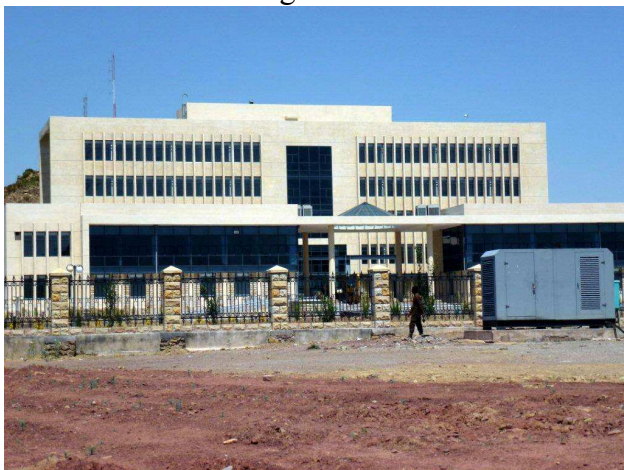
Maseru var i første omgang næsten ikke til at kende. I 1998 var en stor del af byen brændt.



Basothohatten havde været brændt ned og var genopbygget. Der var bygget en omfartsvej for at lede trafikken væk fra Kingsway, der var robots og mange nye bygninger. Efterhånden kunne jeg genkende flere og flere bygninger. Min gamle bank Lesotho Bank, hotel Victoria, Queens II (regeringshospitalet) m.m.m. Det virkede som om, kriminaliteten var steget, huse var heget ind med masser af pigtråd. DVS's (Danish Volunteer Services) gamle kontor med tilhørende guesthouse var muret og heget ind, så man måtte strække hals for at se noget.



business. I learned that when we in the West outsource to China, they in turn outsource to Lesotho and other African countries where wages are even lower than in China. I heard that they pay a salary, you can hardly live on and that they sell too old food cheaply with amended date marking.



The new built Parliament

They have built a beautiful parliament building situated overlooking Maseru. It has not been handed over to the Lesotho government yet. One explanation is that the installations have not yet been approved; one other is that they want an area of Maseru to the construction of a "china town" in return. In this area Basotho have lived for generations, now they may have to find somewhere else to go. Basotho do not think their government will accept this. It is apparent that money has come to the country. They are building a new hospital in place of Queens II. There are new paved roads and old roads are improved and paved. Many new, beautiful homes have been built, like "Strandvejen" in Lesotho scale. The social differences appear to grow, and wealth is not evenly distributed geographically. In the area around Mafeteng south of Maseru the old houses are in decay, and the place is a little deserted and gloomy. It is one of the areas where I previously worked some of my time. Also Lesotho gets its outlying areas. Our guest house in Maseru is located in my old town, Three blocks and a few minutes walk

Der var nu et skilt, der annoncerede, at her havde Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke (MS) til huse. Det har MS ikke haft i årevis, men skiltet var der stadig.

Vestlige bistandsorganisationer havde trukket sig ud bortset fra nogle få. Kineserne var kommet i stedet. De havde overtaget en stor del af det gamle fabriksområde og bygget et nyt. Nogle af dem boede i det gamle fabriksområde og dyrkede grøntsager i den tilhørende jord. De havde overtaget en stor del af forretningerne. Jeg lærte, at når vi i vesten outsourcer til Kina, så outsourcer de til Lesotho og andre afrikanske lande, hvor lønniveauet er endnu lavere end i Kina. Jeg hørte, at de betaler en løn, man næsten ikke kan leve af, og at de sælger "for gamle" fødevarer billigt med ændret datomærkning. De har bygget en ny flot parlamentsbygning beliggende med udsigt over Maseru. Den er ikke blevet overdraget til Lesothos regering endnu. Én forklaring er, at installationer endnu ikke har kunnet godkendes, en anden er, at de vil have et område af Maseru til indretning af en "chinatown" til gengæld. I dette område har der gennem generationer boet basotho, som så må flytte andet steds hen. Basotho mener ikke, deres regering vil acceptere dette.

Det er tydeligt, at der er kommet penge til landet. De er ved at bygge et nyt hospital i stedet for Queens II. Der er nye asfalterede veje, og gamle veje er forbedret og asfalteret. Der bliver bygget mange nye flotte boliger, Strandvejen i Lesotho målestok. De sociale forskelle vokser tilsyneladende, og rigdommen er heller ikke geografisk ligeligt fordelt. I området omkring Mafeteng syd for Maseru forfalder de gamle huse, og der så lidt affolket og trist ud. Det er et af de områder, hvor jeg tidligere arbejdede en del. Også Lesotho får sine udkantsområder.

Vores guesthouse i Maseru ligger i min gamle bydel, tre gader og få minutters gang fra min gamle vej, hvor jeg boede. Den var tidligere en grusvej uden navn. Den er nu asfalteret og har fået et meget fint navn, Lepoqo Road. Lepoqo

from the old road, where I used to live. It used to be a gravel road with no name. It is now paved and has a very nice name, Lepoqo Road. Lepoqo was King Moshoeshoe II's name before he became king. The house is still there. It is Basotho, who now live in the area that is fenced with barbed wire around the houses, our lovely garden is used for parking, but two of the 9 or 10 trees we planted are still standing. The two eucalyptuses have become enormous.



Anni and Kirsten in front of their "old" house.

Great that they are still there and nice to revisit something alive, I planted in my garden! Kirsten found out that her Sesotho name is more than a series of letters on official documents. It gives status to be born a Mosotho. She got a namesake, bitso, the hostess at our guesthouse. We went to Morija to see the hospital where she was born. There was still a nurse from that time.

We visited a number of well known sites and took on an 8-day trip through Lesotho's magnificent mountains, where we passed several of the steepest passes. There are new national parks and good lodges for tourists. We saw the Katse Dam high in the mountains. The dam is about 180 metres high and impounds a huge lake of water. The water is exported to South Africa, that lacks water and electricity production for themselves. Their goal is to become self-sufficient in electricity. All this water is flooding many valleys where people used to live their lives, cultivated agriculture,

var kong Moshoeshoe II's navn, før han blev konge.



Huset ligger der endnu. Det er basotho, der nu bor i området, der er indhegnet med pigtråd tæt på husene, vores dejlige have bliver brugt til parkering, men to af de 9-10 træer, vi plantede, står endnu. Det er to eucalyptustræer, der er blevet kæmpestore. Fantastisk at de er der og dejligt at gense noget levende, jeg plantede i min have engang!



Anni og Kirsten ved hospitalet, hvor Kirsten blev født

had their animals and their ancestors' graves. Many people have been relocated and also ancestral graves. They have arranged a botanical garden to preserve and protect the flora, which belonged in the valleys. How it will ultimately affect the nature, only time will tell. This first part of this water project, which covers large parts of the mountains, was inaugurated by the present King of Lesotho Letsie III and President Nelson Mandela in 1998.

The tour featured hikes in the mountains, visits to villages and projects, visits to Thaba Bosiu with the royal tombs, Kome Caves, Roma and Ramabanta and more. In a village in the mountains women still went for water at the river and carried it home in a bucket on their heads.



The girls begin to learn to carry of five liters bucket on the head at the age of six. One would have wished for them to have just a single water tap. We saw projects for single mothers and women affected by AIDS. Many funeral parlours have appeared and cemeteries are

Kirsten fandt ud af, at hendes sesotho navn er mere end en række bogstaver på officielle dokumenter. Det giver status at være født mosotho. Hun fik en navnesøster, bitso, i værtinden på vores guesthouse.

Vi var i Morija for at se hospitalet, hvor hun blev født. Der var stadig en sygeplejerske fra dengang.



Vi så forskellige kendte steder og var bl.a. på en otte-dages tur gennem Lesothos pragtfulde bjerge, hvor vi passerede flere af de stejleste pas. Der er kommet nye nationalparker og gode lodges til turister. Vi så Katse Dam højt oppe i bjergene. Dæmningen er godt 180 m høj og opstemmer en kæmpe sø af vand. Vandet eksporteres til Sydafrika, som mangler vand og el-produktion til dem selv. Deres mål er at blive selvforsynende med el. Alt dette vand oversvømmer mange dale, hvor folk tidligere levede deres liv, dyrkede landbrug, havde deres dyr og deres forfædres grave. Mange mennesker er blevet flyttet og ligeledes forfædrenes grave. Man har indrettet en botanisk have for at bevare og beskytte det planteliv, der hørte hjemme i dalene. Hvordan det på sigt vil påvirke naturen, kan kun tiden vise. Denne 1. del af dette vandprojekt, der dækker store dele af bjergene, blev indviet af Lesothos nuværende kong Letsie III og præsident Nelson Mandela i 1998.

Turen bød på vandringer i bjergene, besøg i landsbyer og projekter, besøg på Thaba Bosiu med kongegravene, Kome Caves, Roma og

showing more in the landscape than previously. This is undeniably reminiscent of Africa's scourge, HIV and AIDS.



We met interesting people from the two projects that have become support from DLN. We had a very pleasant meeting with the Lesotho Tourism Minister and her department. Lesotho will focus on tourism. We were asked to come up with ideas and suggestions. A journalist and a photographer from the TV was present. That evening we could see ourselves in Lesotho Television. These meetings and conversations made the trip something quite special. I never cease to be fascinated by how people in Africa can move around on all social levels. One day you can visit some of the poorest and the next meet with a minister. The last days in Lesotho we had a rented car, in which we had to drive to Cape Town. Our friendly and helpful hostess in Maseru helped me find my interpreter from then. There are not many with his last name in the phone book, and his brother gave me his telephone number. It turned out that he lives in Cape Town where we were going. What a wonderful world! I managed to actually meet him and his family. Our m'e I did not locate. Her surname is very common, but if I had had one more day in Lesotho I would have managed to find out something about her.

The day after the rest of the group had started the return journey, we crossed Maseru Bridge again on 23 October. Albeit for a short period,

Ramabanta m.m. I en landsby i bjergene hentede kvinderne stadig vand ved floden og bar det hjem i en spand på hovedet. Pigerne begynder at lære det i seksårs alderen med en fem liter spand på hovedet. Man kunne have undt dem bare en enkelt vandhane. Vi så projekter for enlige mødre og aidsramte kvinder. Der var dukket mange begravelsesforretninger op, og gravpladser synede mere i landskabet end tidligere. Det leder unægtelig tankerne hen på Afrikas svøbe, hiv og aids.

Vi mødte spændende mennesker fra de to projekter, DLN støtter. Vi havde et yderst behageligt møde med Lesothos turistminister og hendes departement. Lesotho vil satse på turisme. Vi blev bedt om at komme med ideer og forslag. En journalist og en fotograf fra fjernsynet var til stede. Samme aften kunne vi se os selv i Lesothos fjernsyn. Disse møder og samtaler gjorde turen til noget helt særligt. Jeg holder aldrig op med at fascineres af, hvordan man i Afrika kan færdes i alle sociale lag. Den ene dag kan man besøge nogle af de fattigste og den næste holde møde med en minister. De sidste dage i Lesotho havde vi en lejet bil, som vi skulle køre til Cape Town i. Vores venlige og hjælpsomme værtinde i Maseru hjalp mig med at finde frem til min tolk fra dengang. Der er ikke mange med hans efternavn i telefonbogen, og hans bror gav mig hans telefonnummer. Det viste sig, at han bor i Cape Town, og der var vi på vej hen. What a wonderful world! Det lykkedes mig rent faktisk at møde ham og hans familie. Vores m'e fandt jeg ikke frem til. Hendes efternavn er meget almindeligt, men hvis jeg havde haft én dag mere i Lesotho, var det lykkedes at få noget at vide om hende.

Dagen efter at resten af gruppen havde påbegyndt hjemrejsen, krydsede vi den 23. oktober igen Maseru Bridge. Omend for en kort periode havde jeg nydt at sige lumela og andre sesotho fraser til alle, jeg mødte. Gensynet med mit land i Afrika var fantastisk og bevægende, dette venlige, hjælpsomme, imødekommende

I had enjoyed saying lumela and other Sesotho phrases to everyone I met. Reunion with my country in Africa was amazing and moving, these helpful and friendly people have a special place in my heart. I left Lesotho with a feeling of finally having been at home again.

After an exciting tour of South Africa the trip home began on 2 november from Cape Town to London, where we landed the next day's evening very tired after four eventful weeks. We all three returned home with unforgettable experiences in our luggage, and I had done what I wished, namely to present this beautiful country for Kirsten.

Diary of a Project Visit to Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) February 2012

Participants: Maria Clausen and Karen Steffensen

Purpose: To gain an overview of the status of the project, visiting Phamong training centre and to explore possibilities for a third phase

By: Karen Steffensen

We traveled from Denmark on Wednesday 1st February. We had planned a short visit for only a week in Lesotho, and therefore also took in the weekend for a project visit. As we traveled with Turkish Airlines, we had to change planes in Istanbul. In Istanbul, there was a snowstorm. As the exit of Copenhagen was already delayed, our next flight was canceled when we got to Istanbul. Therefore, we spent the next 24 hours, first at the airport, then at a hotel in town and were sightseeing in Istanbul, where we saw the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace. And the mood went from bad over wasted time to enthusiasm over this bonus. We were tired when we got to Johannesburg a day late. I had been a little worried that we had no map, so I found a driving directions online. It was

folk har en stor plads i mit hjerte. Jeg forlod Lesotho med en følelse af endelig at have været hjemme igen.

Efter en spændende tur i Sydafrika begyndte hjemturen den 2. november fra Cape Town over London og Kastrup til Billund, hvor vi landede næste dags aften godt trætte efter fire begivenhedsrige uger. Vi vendte alle tre hjem med uforglemmelige oplevelser i bagagen, og jeg havde gjort, hvad jeg ønskede, nemlig at præsentere dette dejlige land for Kirsten.

Dagbog fra et Projektbesøg hos Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) februar 2012

Deltagere: Maria Clausen og Karen Steffensen

Formål: At få overblik over status på projektet, at besøge Phamong træningscenter og at undersøge muligheder for en 3. fase

Af: Karen Steffensen

Vi rejste fra Danmark onsdag den 1. Februar. Vi havde planlagt et kort besøg med kun en uge i Lesotho, og derfor var også weekenden inddraget til projektbeøg. Da vi rejste med Turkish Airlines, skulle vi skifte fly i Istanbul. I Istanbul var der snestorm, så afgang fra København var allerede forsinket, og da vi nåede til Istanbul var vores næste fly aflyst. Derfor tilbragte vi de næste 24 timer, først i lufthavnen, derefter på et hotel inde i byen og var på sightseeing i Istanbul, hvor vi så den Blå Moske og Topkapi Paladset. Og humøret gik fra ærgrelse over tidsspilde til begejstring over denne bonus. Vi var trætte, da vi nåede til Johannesburg et døgn forsinket. Jeg havde været lidt bekymret over, at vi ikke havde noget kort, så jeg havde fundet en

amazingly simple and very easy to follow. The last of the journey's many and long queues we found at Maseru Bridge at around 7 PM, but then we were almost "home". Helga and Ditlev (on DPE evaluation visit) waited in the Foothills Guesthouse, where we cooked together. It was great to finally to have come to the house.

Saturday 4th February

M'e Thulo (RSDA's director) came while we were eating breakfast, and we arranged a meeting at RSDA on Sunday morning. Then we did the necessary shopping (food, simcard, a transformer that did not work). We had the problem that the new notebook's power connector has 3 legs, and they do not fit into any of the local sockets.

Helga, Ditlev and I visited Berea Agricultural Group. We were invited to lunch with my old boss M'e Molly in TY. Six board members were present. We sat under M'e Molly's orange tree. BAG has received money to build eight water tanks at eight schools from the Lauritzen Foundation. After construction of the eight tanks there will be a surplus of approx. 20,000 Maluti and it was partly what we should discuss with them what the 20,000 Maluti should be used for. They had decided that they would like to have gutters and downspouts to the eight tanks. For some schools, they want to have a roof on the tanks because they will use the water for drinking. It is also about schools with tanks that are built on an earlier date. This is what the 20,000 shall be used for. Moreover, they would like an extra mold to build the tanks. The one they use now is in repair. They want to be able to build faster. It usually takes 3-4 days to build a tank and head teachers complain that they have to do without teachers on a school day. If they have two molds, they can build a tank on a weekend. We promised to try to raise money for a new form.

Then we went and saw the newest two tanks, they have built. One at Getsemany Primary School and one at Zenon High School.

kørselsvejledning på nettet. Den var forbavsende simpel, og udmærket at køre efter. De sidste af rejsens mange og lange køer fandt vi ved Maseru Bridge ved 19 tiden, men da var vi jo næsten "hjemme". Helga og Ditlev, (på DPE evalueringsbesøg) ventede i Foothills Guesthouse, hvor vi lavede mad sammen. Det var skønt endelig at være kommet i hus.

Lørdag den 4. februar

Me Thulo (RSDA's direktør) kom, mens vi spiste morgenmad, og vi aftalte et møde hos RSDA søndag formiddag. Derefter gjorde vi de nødvendige indkøb (mad, simkort, en transformer, som ikke virkede) Vi havde det problem, at den nye bærbare strømstik har 3 ben, og de passer ikke ind i nogen af de lokale hunstik.

Helga, Ditlev og jeg besøgte Berea Agricultural Group. Vi var inviteret til frokost hos min gamle chef Me Molly i TY. Seks bestyrelsesmedlemmer var til stede. Vi sad under Me Mollys appelsintræ. BAG har fået penge til at bygge 8 vandtanke på 8 skoler fra Lauritzen-Fonden. Efter bygning af de 8 tanke vil der være et overskud på ca. 20.000 Maluti og det var bl.a. det, vi skulle diskutere med dem, hvad de sidste 20.000 maluti skulle bruges til. De var nået frem til, at de gerne vil have tagrender og nedløbsrør til de 8 tanke.



Vandtank ved Getsemany Primary school

Til nogle af skolerne vil de gerne have tag på tankene, fordi de vil bruge vandet til



Lunch with M'e Molly

Sunday 5th February

Maria and I went to meeting at RSDA at 9 AM. M'e Thulo was there and the staff of the DLN project arrived by now: The bookkeeper M'e Lelimo, The manager Mathaba, M/E part-time consultant Mike, Lineo Lekhanja who has made a database and performs the Monitoring/Evaluation, a voluntary Rabeisi who has been on study tour in Japan and will support Fuma in Phamong.

We reviewed the entire project with its objectives, the activities, what was achieved and what was not achieved and why. A very constructive and effective meeting, which gave us the overview we hoped for. M'e Thulo does not think they need to extend the project period. She believes that they can obtain the delayed activity during 2012.

At noon, we were assigned a car to drive to Phamong. On the way we looked for a place to eat, and in Morija, we turned in and drove up past the museum. By means of a local we found Morija House. It lays a little way up a hillside. "Follow the White Stones". Although they were out of meat, they quickly fixed us a very good meal. Arrived at Phamong at 6 PM. Two thirds of the road is renovated. Very nice. We ate our packed bread, salad and canned fish, and before we went to bed, we sat and talked with Mathaba and the watchman, as a large rat suddenly emerged from the thatched roof. It balanced across a curtain rod and then

drikkevand. Det drejer sig også om skoler med tanke, som er bygget på et tidligere tidspunkt. Det skal de 20.000 bruges til. Desuden vil de gerne have en ekstra form til at bygge tankene efter. Den, som de bruger nu, er til reparation. De vil gerne kunne bygge hurtigere. Det tager normalt 3-4 dage at bygge en tank og skolelederne beklager sig over, at de skal undvære lærere på en undervisningsdag. Hvis de har to forme, kan de bygge en tank på en weekend.

Vi lovede at forsøge at skaffe penge til en ny form. Derefter kørte vi ud og så de to seneste tanke, de har bygget. En på Getsemany Primary School og en på Zenon High School.

Søndag den 5. februar

Maria og jeg til møde hos RSDA kl. 9.00. Me Thulo var der, og de ansatte i DLN projektet ankom efterhånden: Bogholderen Me Lelimo, Manageren Mathaba, M/E deltids- konsulenten Mike, Lineo Lekhanja, som har lavet database og udfører Monitorering/Evaluation, en frivillig Rabeisi, som har været på studietur i Japan og skal støtte Fuma i Phamong.

Vi gennemgik hele projektskemaet med mål, aktiviteter, og hvad der var nået, og hvad der ikke var nået og hvorfor. Meget konstruktivt og effektivt møde, som gav os det overblik, vi ønskede. Me Thulo mener ikke, at de har brug for at forlænge projektperioden. Hun mener, at de kan indhente de forsinkede aktiviteter i løbet af 2012.

Ved middagstid fik vi overdraget en bil til at køre til Phamong i. På vejen ville vi finde et sted at spise, og i Morija drejede vi ind og kørte op forbi museet. Ved hjælp af en lokal fandt vi Morija Guesthouse. Det ligger et stykke oppe ad en bjergside. "Follow the white Stones". Selvom de var udgået for kød, tryllede de meget hurtigt et fint måltid frem til os. Ankom til Phamong kl 18.00. 2/3 af vejen er renoveret. Meget fin.

Vi spiste vores medbragte brød, salat og dåsefisk, og inden vi gik i seng, sad vi og snakkede med Mathaba og vagtmanden, da en

fell down the curtain, from which it got up and fought back to the straw roof. It did another few tricks on a bar beneath the thatched roof, after which it disappeared. We were a bit shocked over this four-footed company, but our sleep was not disturbed.

Monday 6th February

We were a little disappointed by Phamong Demonstration Centre. Not much has happened since we were there the last time. However, some hens had come and horticulture seemed to work. Cabbages were planted in the flower beds, and there were other vegetables growing in the garden. M'e Thulo had prepared us for the fact that construction had not yet begun. It had not been possible to find a craftsman in Phamong who would build the rondavel for a reasonable price. RSDA has now established business with a craftsman from another area. There has been dug out for the new rondavel and supplied stone for the building, which should start in the coming week. They had chairs, so farmers have something to sit on when they are meeting. It is planned that Rabeisi takes over the operation of Phamong and Fuma will assist him.

The umbrella organisation for Phamong area should meet to schedule a meeting where they will present their plans for all members. Before the meeting we talked to the treasurer of the umbrella organisation. A cheerful and joking lady: Mamello J. Moholo-Holo from Mafoseng village. She was very excited about the visit to an umbrella organisation for some other farmer groups in Leribe. It had been highly inspiring for her and she was full of ideas on how they could improve their agriculture, including the purchase of a tractor, which will then be able to plow for many farmers. She also talked about the workshops she had participated in. They had learned how to make statutes, how to reach out to politicians for influence, and how important it is that they are many. The umbrella organisation was registered and had a bank account, and they had more than 6,000

stor rotte pludselig kom frem fra stråtaget. Den balancerede hen af en gardinstang og faldt så ned i gardinet, hvorfra den fik sig kæmpet op og tilbage til stråtaget. Den optrådte med endnu et par numre på en bjælke under stråtaget, hvorefter den forsvandt. Vi var en smule rystede over dette firbenede selskab, men vores nattesøvn blev dog ikke forstyrret.

Mandag den 6. februar.

Vi var lidt skuffede over Phamong Demonstration Centre. Der var ikke sket meget, siden vi var der sidst. Der var dog kommet høns, og havebruget så ud til at fungere. Der var plantet kål ud i bedene, og der var andre grønsager på vej i frøbedene. Me Thulo havde forberedt os på, at byggeriet ikke var kommet i gang.



Det havde ikke været muligt at finde en håndværker i Phamong, som ville bygge rondavlen for en rimelig pris. RSDA har nu entreret med en håndværker fra et andet område. Der er gravet grund ud til den nye rondavel og der er leveret sten til byggeriet, som skulle starte i den kommende uge. De havde fået stole, så farmerne har noget at sidde på, når de er til møde. Det er planen, at Rabeisi skal overtage driften i Phamong, og Fuma skal assistere ham.

Paraplyorganisationen for Phamongområdet skulle mødes for at planlægge et møde, hvor de vil præsentere deres planer for alle medlemmerne. Før mødet snakkede vi med kassereren i Paraplyorganisationen. En munter

Maloti on the account. During the meeting was charged contingent from groups, 100 - Maluti from each. 10 out of 14 paid.

At around 2 PM we drove back to Maseru. Did some shopping for our joint dinner with Helga and Ditlev.

Tuesday 7th February

Meeting with Mateboho Lelimo on the financial statements. We got cleared up some things we did not understand. Maria presented a format for the accounts, which would make it more manageable for us. We are working on this in conjunction with M'e Lelimo. We saw her files with receipts and were explained how the system worked. It all looked very properly. At 11:30 o'clock we drove to Mafeteng, Tsitas Nek with Lineo to meet the umbrella organisation there. On the road we listened to a local radio station, because there would be a press conference at 12 o'clock on the planned demonstrations and strikes, which would take place the following day. At one point we lost the connection.



Mafeteng chairman of the group

og spøgefuld dame: Mamello J. Moholo-Holo fra Mafoseng village. Hun var meget begejstret for besøget hos en paraplyorganisation for nogle andre farmergrupper i Leribe. Det havde været stærkt inspirerende for hende, og hun var fuld af ideer til, hvordan de selv kunne forbedre deres landbrug, bl.a. ved indkøb af en traktor, som så vil kunne pløje for mange farmere. Hun fortalte også om de workshops, hun havde deltaget i. De havde lært, hvordan man laver vedtægter, hvordan man henvender sig til politikere for at få indflydelse, og hvor vigtigt det er, at de er mange. Paraplyorganisationen var blevet registreret og havde fået en bankkonto, og de havde mere end 6.000 Maloti på kontoen. I løbet af mødet blev der opkrævet kontingent fra grupperne, 100,- maluti fra hver. 10 ud af 14 betalte.

Ved 14-tiden kørte vi tilbage til Maseru. Gjorde lidt indkøb til vores fælles aftensmad med Helga og Ditlev.

Tirsdag den 7/2

Møde med Mateboho Lelimo om regnskabet. Vi fik opklaret nogle ting, vi ikke forstod. Maria præsenterede et format for regnskab, som ville gøre det mere overskueligt for os. Det arbejder vi videre på sammen med Me Lelimo. Vi så hendes files med kvitteringer i og fik forklaret, hvordan systemet fungerede. Det så alt sammen meget ordentligt ud. Ved 11.30-tiden kørte vi til Mafeteng, Tsitas Nek sammen med Lineo for at møde paraplyorganisationen der. På vejen hørte vi en lokal radiotation, fordi der skulle være en pressekonference kl 12.00 om den planlagte demonstration og strejke, som skulle finde sted den følgende dag. På et tidspunkt mistede vi forbindelsen.

Paraplyorganisationen var i gang med at finde ud af, hvad de skal producere, forarbejde og sælge i fremtiden. De vil søge penge fra en UN-fond. De startede med kyllinger; men de endte med at satse på tørret frugt, tørret kød (biltong), hvilket nok er et klogere valg, da det skal være originalt, for at de kan gøre sig håb om at få

The umbrella organisation was contemplating what to produce, process and sell in the future. They will seek money from a UN fund. They started out with chickens, but ended up focusing on dried fruit, dried meat (biltong), which is probably a wiser choice, as it must be original, so that they can hope to get money for it.

Just as in Phamong the chairman held a little speech to thank us for our support and I answered this with a little speech on DLN's behalf, in which I wished them luck with their projects. We got a couple of slices of bread with cheese, and then we drove back to Maseru. On the way home we found out from the radio that the strike was called off.

In the evening we had a little party. We had invited Bob, an Australian working for the Lesotho government, to Brai. M'e Makokoli, who has made an evaluation report to the DPE project, appeared somewhat unexpectedly. We had only expected to see her the next day.

Wednesday 8th February

M'e Thulo called and said that we were welcome to come to the office. We had a very good meeting on the plans for a third phase. M'e Thulo, M'e Lelimo and Lineo participated. It was agreed that M'e Thulo and the chairman of the RSDA board (he is also a farmer) come to Denmark for an information visit in the first week of July, so that they can also participate in DLN's 10th anniversary.

At 6:30 PM we had a meeting with the Minister of Tourism and Environment Mannete Rammali. We know her from the MS Policy Advisory Board 1997 and since then she has been the ambassador of Lesotho in Denmark. We were picked up in the minister's car and driven to a coffee shop in Pioneer Centre. Besides the old acquaintance, she is interested in the DLN, because DLN organises tourist trips to Lesotho.

Thursday 9th February

Our last day in Lesotho. Helga and Ditlev

penge til det.

Lige som i Phamong holdt formanden en lille tale for at takke for vores støtte, og jeg svarede på den med en lille tale på DLN's vegne, hvori jeg ønskede dem held og lykke med deres projekter. Vi fik et par skiver brød med ost, hvorefter vi kørte tilbage til Maseru. På hjemvejen fandt vi ud af fra radioen, at strejken var afblæst.

Om aftenen havde vi et lille party. Vi havde inviteret Bob, en australier, som arbejder for Lesotho government til Brai. Me Makokoli, som har lavet en evalueringsrapport til DPE projektet, dukkede lidt uventet op. Hende havde vi først ventet at se dagen efter.

Onsdag den 8.02



Maria og Lineo

Me Thulo ringede og sagde, at vi gerne måtte komme til kontoret. Vi havde et meget godt møde om planerne for en 3. Fase. Me Thulo, Me Lelimo og Lineo deltog. Det blev aftalt, at Me Thulo og formanden for RSDA's bestyrelse (han er også farmer) kommer til Danmark på informationsbesøg i den 1. uge af juli, så kan de også deltage i DLN's 10 års jubilæum.

Kl 18.30 havde vi et møde med Turisme og miljøminister Mannete Rammali. Vi kender hende fra MS Policy Advisory Board 1997 og siden har hun været ambassadør for Lesotho i Danmark. Vi blev afhentet i ministerbil og kørt til en kaffebær i Pioneer Centre. Foruden det gamle bekendtskab er hun interesseret i DLN,

drove early. They would visit the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg. Maria went through RSDA's reports. We did some shopping and raised the money we needed to pay off the 4x4 we had hired and accommodation at Foothills Guesthouse. We drove up and saw the new parliament, which the Chinese have built above Lesotho Sun. The guard said I could not take a picture of the building, because it is not finished!! I was then still allowed to take a single picture.



Image of parliament

M'e Thulo and Lineo arrived at 3 PM and Maria had some additional questions. Then we said goodbye.

Friday 10th February

It is raining cats and dogs. We pack and run to the main house and eat breakfast. The Internet has not worked for the last few days, and Maria, to be on safari in Kruger, has to go to an internet cafe to see if the safari company has replied to her mail.

We have to go through rivers of water to get our passports stamped out of Lesotho and into the RSA. And it continues to rain heavily almost all the way to Kroonstad. We eat lunch at the Broncos, and drive to the airport without any problems. There is good signing all the way, and we don't need a map. We part at the airport. Maria has made contact with her hotel and will be picked up there. I go to check in with Turkish and hope for a smooth return.

fordi DLN arrangerer turistrejser til Lesotho.

Torsdag den 9. 02

Vores sidste dag i Lesotho. Helga og Ditlev kørte tidligt. De skulle på Apartheid museet i Johannesburg. Maria gik igennem RSDA's rapporter. Vi gjorde lidt indkøb og hævdede de penge, vi havde brug for til at betale den 4x4, vi havde lejet og for overnatning på Foothills Guesthouse. Vi kørte op og så det nye parlament, som kineserne har bygget ovenfor Lesotho Sun. Vagten sagde, at jeg ikke måtte tage et billede af bygningen, fordi den ikke er færdig!!!! Jeg fik så alligevel lov til at tage et enkelt billede.

Me Thulo og Lineo kom kl. 15.00 og Maria havde nogle supplerende spørgsmål. Derefter tog vi afsked.

Fredag den 10.02

Regnen styrter ned. Vi pakker og løber ind i hovedhuset og spiser morgenmad. Internettet har ikke virket de sidste par dage, og Maria, som skal på safari i Krüger, er nødt til at gå på internetcafe for at se, om safariselskabet har svaret på hendes mail.

Vi må igennem floder af vand for at få vores pas stemplet ud af Lesotho og ind i RSA. Og det fortsætter med at regne voldsomt næsten hele vejen til Kroonstad. Vi spiser frokost på Broncos, og kører til lufthavnen uden problemer. Der er god skiltning hele vejen, og vi savner ikke kort. Vi skilles i lufthavnen. Maria har fået kontakt med sit hotel og bliver afhentet der. Jeg går til check in hos Turkish og håber på en problemfri hjemrejse.

News from Lesotho:

From:



Lesotho: Snap Election for Politicians in Disarray?

BY TSOEU PETLANE, 13 FEBRUARY 2012



Women collect water from a communal tap in the village of Ha Rantismane in the mountains of Lesotho.
(Photo Courtesy *Mujahid Safodien/IRIN*)

Maseru — Lesotho is due for a general election to choose a new national government between February and May of this year. Despite a legal framework that stipulates a general election every five years, it appears none of the actors on the national stage are ready for it. So, are we building up to another snap election?

The last election in 2007 was labelled a snap poll by analysts and politicians primarily because it came three months before the expected date - mid-February instead of May.

This has been attributed mainly to panic by the ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) after the defection of communications minister Tom Thabane and 17 MPs to form the All-Basotho Convention (ABC) in October 2006, which reduced the LCD's majority in the National Assembly to just over 50 percent. In the event, the LCD was returned to power, and Thabane proved to be no threat: today the ABC holds just over 10 seats in parliament.

But for the past two years, the LCD has been locked in a succession battle between party Secretary-General Mothetjoa Metsing and Minister of Natural Resources, Monyane Moleleki. Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili, who has yet to pronounce his future plans, appears unable to bring this contest to an end-even if only for the purpose of uniting the party to win an election.

The ruling party has so far failed to hold a court-ordered special conference that would indicate which of the two contenders is likely to lead it into the 2012 campaign. On the ground, MPs are fighting challengers for nomination as candidates in the election. And ambitious politicians who fail to secure party endorsement are threatening to stand as independents, splitting the party vote.

Last week Mosisili survived embarrassment in parliament when an opposition-sponsored vote of no confidence collapsed after Metsing withdrew his name as the candidate to replace him as prime minister.

Mosisili had fired Metsing and two other members of the LCD's executive committee from Cabinet after the abortive special conference two weeks ago, thus ostensibly throwing his weight with the Moleleki faction.

But the stalemate within LCD remains, while opposition has also failed to inspire. Opposition parties are experiencing similar debilitating divisions, and there are suggestions that they would like the poll to be postponed because the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) is not ready.

With Lesotho's politicians in disarray, an election would take them all by surprise: none have completed the process of selecting a full slate of candidates-and are unlikely to do so before the 90-day election campaign period; few can present the nation with a single, undisputed leader; almost all are led by men who have passed their sell-by dates (Mosisili has been premier since 1998); none has yet presented a clear roadmap of where they want to take the country; and at least 10 groups have been struck off the roll of parties by the IEC because they are virtual one-man outfits with no visible and verifiable structure on the ground.

The argument for postponement made publicly by parties is that the IEC is unprepared.

Here they are likely to cite local government elections held last October, where the performance of the IEC left many questions unanswered: the voters' roll was in a shambles, and the IEC is yet to convince the nation that this problem has been resolved; voter turnout was low (in places as low as 10 percent), threatening the credibility of the poll; and the conduct of the poll itself left much to be desired.

The argument therefore is that if 2011 was a dry run for 2012, the IEC needs to improve its preparations substantially before such an important national undertaking is embarked upon.

A second argument for postponement is precedent: the local government election was originally scheduled for the early part of 2010 but was postponed to October 2011.

Perhaps the only party ready for a poll is the electorate, who appear anxious to exercise their democratic right to choose the next government.

While the grounds on which the politicians are advocating a postponement are understandable, they are not acceptable, and postponing the election would be a mistake.

First, the internal conflicts of political parties show organic weaknesses which should be the drivers of the democratic process; second, the IEC's weaknesses cannot be resolved by technical means only-eliminating the culture of mistrust is a national effort; and third, abrogating constitutional requirements for the timing of national elections, however legally done, is the thin end of the wedge of lawlessness.

Lesotho does not face easy options. A snap election would catch all parties equally unprepared, but postponing the polls cannot be the route to consolidating the country's teetering democracy.

Unfortunately, as usual, the scenario lays the seeds of post-election contestation, in which losers refuse to accept the verdict of the ballot. Just as in the past, minimising the potential for instability will call for statemanship in the country and the region.

Tšoeu Petlane is an independent governance researcher and political analyst in Maseru.

From: Informative News (Homepage)

Lesotho launches HPV vaccine

Written by Informative

Monday, 16 January 2012

MASERU-Lesotho has done it again. It has geared a very big move in ensuring the wellbeing of the citizens. Like in the past when the country launched campaigns such as *Know Your Status* and the *Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) Strategy*, this time the country is launching the Human Papiloma Virus (HPV) countrywide.

The launch of HPV, through the ministry of health, is intended to combat cervical cancer in women.

Dr. Mphu Ramatlapeng, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, said during the launch that this has been applauded by many countries as a very good initiative that will help reduce the number of women who die of cervical cancer in 10 years from now.

Dr. Ramatlapeng said it is vital that every Mosotho understands the importance of the vaccination.

She said to introduce this vaccine, they first conducted a pilot project on girls aged between 9 and 13 in the districts of Maseru's Hoek and Leribe in 2009. She said they chose those two districts because they both have urban and rural areas. She said throughout the campaign, no health complications and side effects were registered. She further said they target that age because they want girls who have not yet engaged in sexual activities.

"The findings show that girls are mostly infected when they have sex for the first time and though they are infected by boys, cancer does not impact in any way on boys," she stated.

.....

The minister said they are working together with the ministry of education because girls of that age group are by law supposed to be in schools, so they will all be vaccinated. She said that even those areas which are difficult to reach will be accessed, even if it means with the usage of helicopters.

"The aim is that by 2013, we would have vaccinated every Mosotho girl child of those ages because this HPV is 100% prevention against high risk types of HPV," she said.

Dr. Ramatlapeng also explained that all parents should ensure that their children take their clinical booklets to schools and that they finish all the three courses of the vaccine because if they do not, then they would not be protected at all.

The ministry of health is coughing up M15 million for this project.

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 98677185, cell: +45 23880099, 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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