

News from the DLN

Here in Denmark the spring has come after a long and cold winter. The trees have turned green and a lot of nice flowers have almost jumped out of the soil and are shining in the sun. The new newsletter from DLN is ready for you to read. Hope you will enjoy the reading as much as the editor has enjoyed the flowers this spring.



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News from the board

By Anne Andersen

Since the latest edition of Lumela.dk was published, the Annual General Meeting has been held and a new Board elected. There is an article elsewhere in this newsletter. Please take a look.

A journalism student has turned to DLN because he and his sister had an idea that they

Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Af Anne Andersen

Siden sidste nummer af Lumela.dk udkom, har der været afholdt generalforsamling, og der er valgt en ny bestyrelse. Der er en artikel et andet sted i dette nyhedsbrev. Se venligst dette.

En journaliststuderende har henvendt sig til DLN, fordi han og hans søster havde en ide om, at de ville lave et filmprojekt om det

would make a film about the rite of passage, many young boys undergo when they travel to the mountains and are trained in culture and traditions. They would apply for Danida's Verdensbilledlegat, which is meant for the production of a short film from a developing country - with an original angle far from the usual stereotypes. There were some posts from DLN members via mail about what a secretive and difficult subject they had chosen. DLN reported that we are interested in knowing how it went, but at the time of writing we have not heard anything.

The three projects that DLN is working on with partners in Lesotho are running more or less as planned. At Berea Agricultural Group (BAG) a water tank more than originally budgeted was built. There are plans to apply for the last part of water tanks (13 pcs.) of the originally desired. The Fundraising Group was entrusted with the task.

At Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) the 2-year phase 2 project is finished and work is underway to apply for a partnership intervention before the 3rd phase. There has also been made an entry for new volunteers, as a few of the original have left the group.

At Peace Development Education (DPE) the new 1-year project has started, and the first quarterly report has arrived. Work is going on to send one or two down to mid term evaluation in July, when the main activity of DPE - public meeting - takes place.

Maria Clausen has participated in CISU's AGM and has sent the Board's detailed summary. Interested? See more at

<http://www.cisu.dk/Default.aspx?ID=30106>

The Tourist Trip to Lesotho in autumn 2013 is still being planned, and there are now two in the planning group, as Anni Petterson has come in to work with Lisbet Kristensen. So far there is plenty of vacancy, so if you plan a visit to Lesotho, you can read more about the journey on the website www.lumela.dk and sign up for it.

overgangsritual, mange unge drenge gennemgår, hvor de rejser op i bjergene og bliver uddannet i kultur og traditioner. De ville søge Danidas Verdensbilledlegat, som går til produktion af en kort film fra et u-land - med en original vinkel langt fra de sædvanlige stereotyper. Der var en del indlæg fra DLN-medlemmer over mailen om, hvor hemmelighedsfuldt og vanskeligt et emne, de havde valgt. DLN meldte tilbage, at vi er interesserede i at vide, hvordan det gik, men har i skrivende stund ikke hørt noget.

De tre projekter, som DLN arbejder med sammen med partnere i Lesotho, går rimeligt som planlagt. Hos Berea Agricultural Group (BAG) har man bygget en vandtank mere, end der oprindeligt var budgetteret med. Der er planer om at søge til den sidste del vandtanke (13 stk.) af de oprindeligt ønskede.

Fundraisinggruppen har fået overdraget opgaven.

Hos Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) er det 2-årige fase 2-projekt slut, og der arbejdes på at søge en partnerskabsindsats før 3. fase. Der er ligeledes lavet et opslag for at få nye frivillige, idet et par af de oprindelige er trådt ud af gruppen.

Hos Development Peace Education (DPE) er det nye 1-årige projekt i gang, og den første kvartalsrapport derfra er ankommet. Der arbejdes på at sende en eller to ned til midtterm evaluering i juli, hvor hovedaktiviteten i DPE – borgermødet - finder sted.

Maria Clausen har deltaget i CISUs generalforsamling og har sendt bestyrelsen et fyldigt referat. Interessert? se mere på

<http://www.cisu.dk/Default.aspx?ID=30106>

Turistrejsen til Lesotho i efteråret 2013 er stadig under planlægning, og der er nu to i planlægningsgruppen, idet Anni Petterson er trådt ind og arbejder sammen med Lisbet Kristensen. Indtil videre er der god plads, så har du planer om et besøg i Lesotho, kan du læse mere om rejsen på hjemmesiden www.lumela.dk og melde dig til.

The new DLN board



*From the left: Anne-Marie Erikstrup, Bodil Mathiasen, Karina Ruby, Anne Andersen, Sara Illeras Castellon Nicolaisen.
In front: Karen Steffensen. Absent: Marie Villumsen*

General Assembly 2013 in DLN

By Karina Ruby

The annual general meeting was held in Aarhus on 16 March with the participation of 16 members. There was as usual a good mood and engagement among participants. For many members the general assembly is a yearly opportunity to see old friends from the time in Lesotho. The biggest news this year was that Helga Højsager did not stand for reelection, so we have a new chairperson, and there are three new young members to the board. It's probably good and healthy for DLN with a little innovation. Are we talking about a generational change in DLN? I hope so, because this would mean that there are good chances that the association can also celebrate the 20th and 25th anniversary with time. The new young members entered DLN via project teams, and it is very positive that they will engage in the association's operations also. Their professional capacity is of great help in the projects, and it can probably also be so in

Generalforsamling 2013 i DLN

Af Karina Ruby

Den årlige generalforsamling blev holdt i Århus d. 16. marts med deltagelse af 16 medlemmer. Der var som sædvanlig en god stemning og engagement blandt deltagerne. For mange medlemmer er GF årets lejlighed til at se gamle venner fra tiden i Lesotho. De største nyheder i år var, at Helga Højsager ikke stillede op til genvalg, så vi har fået ny formand, og der er kommet tre nye unge medlemmer ind i bestyrelsen.



the Board. Be as it may, I went home from this year's GA in an optimistic mood. Quietly, DLN has evolved over the last 10 years and is now working with three NGOs in Lesotho on the development of the country in different ways, and DLN also organizes trips to Lesotho.



Ambitions are sometimes higher than the actual current activity, so more capacity and new forces are very welcome.

Minutes from the GA can be found on the website under AGMS. Here is a little summary:

Chairperson Helga Højsager welcomed, and Max Schrøeder was elected chairman of the meeting and yours truly was signed to take the minutes.



Helga Højsager referred to the chairman's report, which was sent via email. The year 2012 was marked by the project activities and the association's 10th anniversary.

The DPE project has completed the first 1-year phase in early 2012, and it got a little tough

Det er vist rigtig godt og sundt for foreningen med lidt fornyelse. Taler vi om et generationsskifte i DLN? Det håber jeg, for så er der gode chancer for, at foreningen også kan fejre 20 og 25 års jubilæum engang med tiden. De nye unge medlemmer er kommet ind i DLN gennem projektgrupperne, og det er meget positivt, at de vil engagere sig i foreningens drift også. Deres faglige kapacitet er til stor hjælp i projektarbejdet, og det kan den formentlig også blive i bestyrelsesarbejdet.



Jeg selv gik i alt fald meget optimistisk hjem fra dette års GF. Stille og roligt har DLN udviklet sig gennem de sidste 10 år og samarbejder nu med tre NGO'er i Lesotho omkring udvikling af landet på forskellig vis, og der arrangeres rejser til Lesotho. Ambitionerne er til tider højere end svarende til nuværende aktivitetsniveau, så mere kapacitet og nye kræfter er meget velkomment.



Referat fra GF kan læses på hjemmesiden under AGMs. Her er lille sammendrag:

criticism from CISU due to the chosen evaluation method. A new project has been initiated, second phase with a focus on administration and structure of DPE.



The RSDA project has been running fine, and the second phase is being completed.

Discussions are underway to seek CISU for money for a 3rd phase.

BAG has received DKK 48,000 to built 8 water tanks from Lauridsen Foundation. They now have built a total of 13 water tanks at schools that primarily use water to irrigate vegetable gardens.

The Board has in 2012 consisted of 7 people, and it has worked well. The Board has held three physical meetings and 4 skype meetings during the year.

Lisbeth Kristensen is working on a new tourist trip in October.



Participants from the Board and a few other members attended the reception of the ambassador, who was in Denmark. Among guests were a fine choir that can sing in Sesotho.

Formand Helga Højsager bød velkommen, og Max Schrøder blev valgt til dirigent og undertegnede til referent. Helga Højsager refererede fra **formandsberetningen**, som var udsendt via email. Året 2012 var præget af projektaktiviteter og foreningens 10 års jubilæum.



DPE-projektet har afsluttet den første 1-års fase i starten af 2012, og den fik en lidt hård kritik fra CISU pga. den valgte evalueringsmetode. Der er igangsat et nyt projekt, 2. fase med fokus på administration og struktur i DPE.

RSDA-projektet har kørt fint, og 2. fase er ved at blive afsluttet. Der er overvejelser i gang om at søge CISU om penge til en 3. fase.

BAG har fået 48.000 kr. til 8 vandtanke fra Lauridsen Fonden. De har nu i alt bygget 13 vandtanke ved skoler, som primært bruger vandet til at vande køkkenhaver med.

Bestyrelsen har i 2012 været på 7 personer, hvilket har fungeret godt. Bestyrelsen har holdt 3 fysiske møder og 4 skype-møder i løbet af året.

DLN has approx. 132 members.

Anders Hedegaard added that they were very happy to house the 10th anniversary celebration on July 7th 2012.

Karen Steffensen distributed and reported on



the financial statements for 2012. Some items were explained. Profit for the year is DKK 25,607. The financial statements were approved.

The Fund Raising Group with members Claus Løschenkohl and Anders Foghsgaard had submitted proposals to the General Assembly to discuss new areas of work for DLN. The Fund Raising Group has thought of health, street children in Maseru and agricultural projects with sustainable self-sufficiency. The Fundraising Group currently has no applications to relevant organizations, due to lack of projects to search for. The proposal was discussed. These initiatives will hopefully come from Lesotho, and then we will evaluate and decide if we can go into a collaboration on a project. Initially, we can expect an application from BAG concerning several water tanks, and so the Fundraising Group can once more seek funds from the Lauridsen

Lisbet Kristensen arbejder på at lave en ny turistrejse til oktober.

Deltagere fra bestyrelsen og et par andre medlemmer deltog i reception hos ambassadøren, som var i Danmark. Der var bl.a. et godt sangkor, som kan synge på sesotho.

DLN har ca. 132 medlemmer.

Anders Hedegaard tilføjede, at de var meget glade for at lægge hus til 10-års jubilæumsfesten d. 7. juli 2012.

Karen Steffensen uddelte og orienterede om **regnskabet for 2012**. Enkelte poster blev forklaret. Årets overskud er 25.607 kr.

Regnskabet blev godkendt.

Fund Raising Gruppen v. Claus Løschenkohl og Anders Foghsgaard havde fremsendt forslag om, at Generalforsamlingen skulle drøfte nye arbejdsområder for DLN. FR-Gruppen har tænkt på sundhedsområdet, gadebørn i Maseru og landbrugsprojekter med bæredygtig selvforsyning.



Fundraising Gruppen har p.t. ingen ansøgninger ude hos relevante organisationer, hvilket skyldes manglende projekter at søge til. Forslaget blev diskuteret. Initiativerne skulle gerne komme fra Lesotho, og så vil vi vurdere og beslutte, om vi kan gå ind i et samarbejde om et projekt. I første omgang kan vi forvente en ansøgning fra BAG vedr. flere vandtanke, og så kan Fundraising Gruppen igen søge midler fra Lauridsen Fonden eller andre. Hvis Fundraising Gruppen har en konkret sag (projekt, NGO) i tankerne, vil vi gerne høre om det. Bestyrelsen og de øvrige tilstedeværende

Foundation or others. If the Fundraising group has a specific case (project or NGO) in mind, we want to hear about it. The Board and others present at the AGM do currently not feel able to get more projects underway. We only have the capacity of the association to run the two projects through CISU (RSDA and DPE) and some water tanks with BAG. It will require more active members in DLN if we are to run more projects.

Karen Steffensen presented the draft budget for 2013. It was adjusted by the Assembly and the budget was adopted.

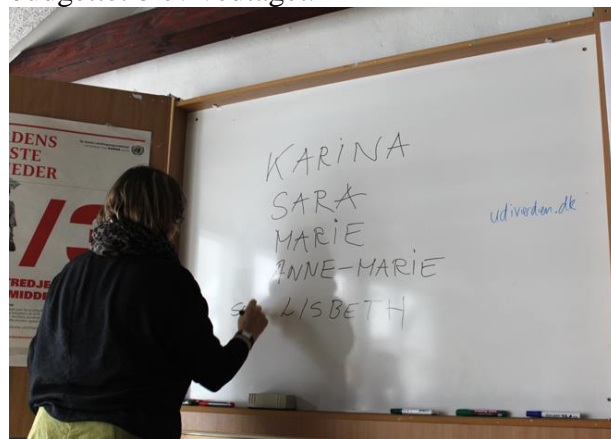
On election of the Board were Helga Højsager, John Knudsen, Lisbeth Kristensen, Karina Ruby. Helga, Lisbet and John did not stand again. Karina was willing to re-election. Sara Illeras Castellon Nicolaisen, Anne-Marie Erikstrup and Marie Villumsen (in absentia) ran for the Board.

Board of Directors: There were no contested elections, Sara, Anne-Marie, Marie and Karina were elected.

Substitutes: There were no contested elections, first sub. Lisbeth Kristensen and 2 sub. Bodil Højland.



på GF føler sig ikke lige nu i stand til at gøre et opsøgende arbejde i forhold til at få flere projekter i gang. Vi har kun lige kapacitet i foreningen til at køre de to projekter via CISU (RSDA og DPE) og nogle vandtanke med BAG. Det vil kræve flere aktive medlemmer i DLN, hvis vi skal køre flere projekter. Karen Steffensen fremlagde forslag til **budget for 2013**. Det blev justeret af forsamlingen, og budgettet blev vedtaget.



På **valg** fra bestyrelsen var Helga Højsager, John Knudsen, Lisbet Kristensen, Karina Ruby. Helga, Lisbet og John stillede ikke op igen. Karina var villig til genvalg. Sara Illeras Castellon Nicolaisen, Anne-Marie Erikstrup og Marie Villumsen (in absentia) stillede op til bestyrelsen.

Bestyrelse: Der var ikke kampvalg, Sara, Anne-Marie, Marie og Karina blev valgt.

Suppleanter: Der var ikke kampvalg, 1. sup. Lisbet Kristensen og 2. sup. Bodil Højland

Ekstern revisor: vi fortsætter med

Kulturrevision.

Intern revisor: Claus Løschenkohl fortsætter.

Intern revisorsuppleant: Claus Bo Jensen fortsætter.

Der blev klappet og takket og givet blomster til Helga for hendes 8 år som formand.

Umiddelbart efter generalforsamlingen konstituerede bestyrelsen sig som følger:

Formand: Anne Andersen

Næstform.: Sara Illeras Castellon Nicolaisen

External auditor: we continue with Kulturrevision.
Internal auditor: Claus Løschenkohl continues.
Internal auditor alternate: Claus Bo Jensen continues.

Kasserer: Karen Steffensen
Sekretær: Karina Ruby
Medlem: Anne-Marie Erikstrup
Medlem: Marie Villumsen
Medlem: Bodil Mathiasen

The AGM applauded, thanked and gave flowers to Helga for her 8 years as Chairperson.

Immediately after the general meeting, the Board constituted as follows:
Chair: Anne Andersen
Vicechair.: Sara Illeras Castellon Nicolaisen
Treasurer: Karen Steffensen
Secretary: Karina Ruby
Member: Anne-Marie Erikstrup
Member: Marie Villumsen
Member: Bodil Mathiasen



Baseline study

By Sara Illeras Castellon Nicolaisen

In January this year I went three weeks to Lesotho to visit DLN's partner organisation Development of Peace Education (DPE). I



have never been in Lesotho before and I arrived with high expectations. DPE had organised that I could stay with a Basotho family in the centre of Maseru with a woman and her two grand children. They were very hospitable and in the weekends they took me to barbecues with their family and friends.

Baseline studie

Af Sara Illeras Castellon Nicolaisen

I januar måned rejste jeg tre uger til Lesotho for at besøge en af DLN's partnerorganisationer Development of Peace Education (DPE). Det var første gang jeg skulle til Lesotho, og jeg var meget spændt på at skulle af sted. DPE havde kontakt med en Basotho familie midt i Maseru, hvor jeg kunne bo sammen med en dame og hendes to børnebørn. Min værtsfamilie var meget gæstfri og i weekenden tog de mig ofte med til grillfester og besøg hos deres familie og venner.

Som en del af mit besøg skulle jeg skrive en baseline rapport for DPE projektet, det vil sige en rapport der beskriver, hvordan udgangspunktet er inden projektet går i gang. Projektet som DLN har startet op med DPE fokuserer på borgerinddragelse i de politiske processer i Lesotho.

I løbet af de tre uger besøgte jeg Berea, Mafeteng og Mokhotlong, hvor jeg interviewede landsbyernes beboere, høvdinge og lokalpolitikere om deres politiske



As part of the visit I had to write a Baseline report for DPE and DLN, which means a report that, describes the point of departure before the project starts. The DPE and DLN project focuses on public participation in the political processes of Lesotho. During my stay I visited



Berea, Mafeteng and Mokhotlong and interviewed the community members, chiefs and local councillors in the areas. DPE staff members took me there in their car, up and down the mountains in the heating sun. When we arrived in the villages the community members had prepared large tents where we could have the meeting. Each time many people arrived who would like to talk to me and tell me about their experiences. They told me about the yearly community parliaments, organised by DPE, they have every year in July, where the community members can meet members of the parliament and ministers and discuss how the public spending should be prioritised.

After my visit in Berea, Mafeteng and Mokhotlong I returned to DPE's office in

indflydelse. Jeg kørte dertil i bil sammen med DPE's ansatte op ad snoede veje oppe i bjergene, og det var bagende varmt. Da vi ankom i de forskellige landsbyer havde beboerne sat store telte op, hvor møderne blev holdt.



Alle steder var der mødt mange mennesker op, som var ivrige for at tale med mig. De fortalte blandt andet om de årlige borgerparlamentar, organiseret af DPE, som de holder i juli, hvor folk har mulighed for at stille spørgsmål til de forskellige parlamentsmedlemmer og ministre og komme med deres syn på hvordan politikerne skal prioritere pengene det kommende år.



Efter mine besøg i Berea, Mafeteng og Mokhotlong vendte jeg tilbage til DPE's kontor i Maseru, hvor jeg havde tid til at samle op på mine interviews og skrive den endelige rapport.

Maseru, where I had time to gather an overview of all my findings and write the final baseline report.



I also found time to interview various organisations, members of parliaments and a minister of the government. It has been a wonderful stay and since my return to Copenhagen I have been in contact with my Lesotho family various times and I am very curious to follow what is going on in the DPE project.

Addition

Anders Foghsgaard has asked the editor to add to his article in Lumela.dk issue 35 about COWI. He wants to pinpoint that in Lesotho it is only possible to lease a plot in 99 years and not to own it as in Denmark.

New board member



Anne-Marie Erikstrup Hansen completed her training as an international social worker in 2012 and has previously worked in Africa in

Jeg nåede også at interviewe flere NGO'er, parlamentsmedlemmer og en minister, som både var meget positive, men også lidt kritiske over for DPE's ideer. Det var været en virkelig stor oplevelse, og siden jeg er kommet hjem til Danmark har jeg holdt kontakt med min familie i Lesotho, og jeg har fulgt spændt med i hvordan DPE's projekt udvikler sig.



Tilføjelse

Anders Foghsgaard har bedt om at få en tilføjelse til hans artikel om COWI i Lumela.dk nr. 35 med i dette nummer. Det skal pointeres, at man i Lesotho kun kan lease en grund i 99 år og altså ikke eje den ligesom i Danmark.

Ny i bestyrelsen

Anne-Marie Erikstrup Hansen er uddannet socialrådgiver fra den internationale linje i Aarhus i 2012 og har i den forbindelse tidligere arbejdet i Afrika. Hun har desuden en BA i Dansk og Medievidenskab. Hun arbejder pt. med integration af flygtninge i Danmark. I efteråret 2012 blev hun medlem af Denmark Lesotho Networks projektgruppe: Strengthening small scale farmer producer groups in Lesotho, hvis lokale partner er Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA). I

connection with this. She also has a BA in Danish and Media Studies. She currently works with integration of refugees in Denmark. In the fall of 2012 she became a member of Denmark Lesotho Network's projectgroup: Strengthening small scale farmer producer groups in Lesotho, whose local partner is Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA). She participated in the group's visit to Lesotho in February 2013.

den forbindelse deltog hun i et besøg til Lesotho i februar 2013.



New board member

Marie Villumsen has been a volunteer in DLN since 2009 and has been involved in development and implementation of the projects with Development for Peace Education (DPE). She has visited Lesotho several times to work with DPE on the design, implementation and evaluation of the projects. With a background in humanitarian and human rights work, Marie is very active in Danish development work though her volunteer engagement in DLN and other Danish development organisations and her present job at the Danish Institute for Human Rights.



Through her work, studies and travel in the Southern Africa region she has implemented projects with a wide range of NGOs and state institutions in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Sudan and

Ny i bestyrelsen

Marie Villumsen har været frivillig i DLN siden 2009. Hun har været involveret i udviklingen og implementeringen af projekterne med Development for Peace Education (DPE) og har i den forbindelse besøgt Lesotho flere gange i forbindelse med design, implementering og evaluering af projekterne.



Med en baggrund i humanitært og menneskerettigheds arbejde, er Marie meget aktiv i dansk udviklingsarbejde gennem sit frivillige engagement i DLN og andre danske udviklingsorganisationer og sit nuværende job hos Dansk Institut for Menneskerettigheder. Gennem sit arbejde, studier og rejser i det Sydlige Afrika har hun implementeret projekter med forskellige NGOer og stats institutioner i

Tanzania. She is dedicated to the promotion of public participation in development and through her engagement with DPE and visits to Lesotho she has become dedicated to working with governance and citizen engagement in Lesotho.

New Board member

My name is Sara Nicolaisen, I am 31 years old and I live in Copenhagen. I have a Master degree in International Development Studies and throughout my studies I have had a great interest in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Previously I have stayed 6 months in Zambia, where I did an internship for the Danish Embassy in Zambia, and recently I have travelled in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa. I am new in DLN and I have been a member of the organisation since January 2013, where I stayed 3 weeks in Lesotho conducting a Baseline study for DLN's partner organisation DPE. I have a great interest in Lesotho, and I am looking forward to work for DLN's executive board.

Zimbabwe, Zambia, Sudan og Tanzania. Hun er dedikeret til at fremme borgerdeltagelse i udviklingsarbejdet og gennem arbejdet med DPE og besøg i Lesotho er hun blevet dedikeret til arbejdet med borgerdeltagelse i Lesotho.

Ny i bestyrelsen

Jeg hedder Sara Nicolaisen, jeg er 31 år og bor i København. Jeg har en kandidat i Internationale Udviklingsstudier og har gennem mit studie interesseret mig meget for Afrika syd for Sahara. Jeg har tidligere været 6 måneder i praktik på den Danske Ambassade i Zambia og jeg har gennem den seneste tid



opholdt mig i Zimbabwe, Mozambique og Sydafrika. Jeg er ny i DLN og har været med siden januar 2013, hvor jeg var 3 uger i Lesotho for at skrive en rapport for en af DLN's partnere DPE. Jeg har stor interesse for Lesotho, og jeg ser frem til at arbejde for DLN's bestyrelse.

News from Lesotho:

From AllAfrica

Lesotho to Expand HIV and Tuberculosis Programs

8 May 2013

MASERU, LESOTHO — THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT IS SIGNING TWO GRANT AGREEMENTS WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF LESOTHO TOTALING US\$17

MILLION, TO ALLOW LESOTHO TO EXPAND PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF HIV AND MULTIDRUG RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS (MDR-TB).

Lesotho has the third highest HIV prevalence in the world, at 24 percent, and the fourth highest estimated TB incidence. The TB-HIV co-infection rates are the fifth highest in the world and multidrug resistant TB is a growing challenge.

"We are very pleased to be here today signing these grants," said Dr.

Leketekete Victor Ketso, Minister of Finance. "We expect to make great progress in the fight against the diseases through these and other grants. The Global Fund has also invited Lesotho as an interim applicant with US\$25 million for HIV and AIDS under its new funding model, which will allow for greater predictability of funding and more strategic investment."

Dr. Pinkie Rosemary Manamolela, Minister of Health, added: "The HIV grant signed today will target most vulnerable populations such as women and girls, people living with HIV, and youth out of school, in order to reduce the incidence of new infections and increase universal access to HIV counseling and testing services."

Most at risk populations will be reached with a basic package of prevention interventions, such as prevention messages, condom distribution, management of sexually-transmitted infections, and referrals to health facilities. They will be implemented in partnership with civil society organizations and community support groups.

The Tuberculosis grant will seek to address MDR/XDR-TB, TB/HIV co-infection, expand high quality TB treatment (DOTs), and engage communities in TB control.

"Lesotho is making significant efforts to address the emerging problem of multiple TB drug resistance strains and the serious challenge of HIV/TB co-infection," said Cynthia Mwase, Regional Manager of the Southern and Eastern Africa Team of the Global Fund. "However, there is still more work to do with treatment success and completion rates for new and previously treated cases. The Global Fund is pleased to be able to support Lesotho to work towards achieving global targets."

Lesotho has made progress towards the reduction of the HIV epidemic.

Incidence of new HIV infections declined by 16% between 2008 and 2011.

Evidence shows that 97percent of new infections are driven by multiple and concurrent partnerships.

The Global Fund has disbursed US\$123 million to support the fight against HIV and TB in Lesotho since 2003. There are currently 77,000 people on ART, amounting to 61 percent of the estimated number of people in need, and 246 confirmed MDR-TB cases on treatment. The Global Fund is the main financier of second line TB treatment in Lesotho.

Lesotho: Court to Rule on Women's Rights

BY RICHARD LEE, 15 MAY 2013

On 16 May, the Lesotho Constitutional Court will issue its decision on whether women in Lesotho can succeed to chieftainship. The ground-breaking case brought by Senate Masupha, the first-born child of a chief, challenged the Chieftainship Act, which only permits first-born sons to succeed to chieftainship.

"Denying all women the possibility of succeeding to chieftainship not only violates the right to equality under the Lesotho constitution but also reaffirms the notion that women are subordinate members of Lesotho society," said Priti Patel, Deputy Director of the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC), who intervened as friends of the court (*amicus curiae*) in the matter. "We will see tomorrow whether the court will affirm the rights of women in Lesotho or further entrench women's secondary status."

In its submissions, SALC argued that the law is unconstitutional under the Lesotho Constitution as well as under Lesotho's international and regional obligations. The submissions also document how laws that discriminate against women significantly harm the government's ability to effectively respond to Lesotho's HIV epidemic.

This case is part of a broader trend in the region to change or repeal laws which explicitly promote gender discrimination.

The Constitutional Court in South Africa has struck down laws which deny women the right to inherit or succeed to chieftainship. In Botswana, the High Court recently struck down a customary law which denied women the right to inherit.

Courts in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Tanzania have also all struck down laws which deny women the right to inherit due solely to their gender.

Lesotho Must Increase Citizen Participation

BY RICHARD LEE, 27 MAY 2013

ANALYSIS

Despite widely praised elections in 2012, the Lesotho parliament must repeal laws that restrict citizens' participation in political processes and pass new legislation to consolidate the country's impressive democratic credentials, said a new report issued today by the [Africa Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project](#) (AfriMAP).

Entitled 'Lesotho - Political Participation and Democracy', the 108-page report praises the country for its recent record of political stability and highlights the fact that the incumbent peacefully relinquished power in 2012 - 'a rarity in current-day political contestation on the African continent'.

However, the report also pinpoints a number of critical challenges, particularly the lack of political will to ensure that decentralization is fully implemented at the local level.

This, it says, continues to restrict the political space for effective engagement by ordinary citizens.

The report calls on the government to support effective decentralization by allocating the necessary resources to local councils to ensure they have the capacity to carry out their legal mandate, and by granting them the autonomy to provide citizens with the opportunity to fully participate in local affairs.

"Lesotho is an emerging democracy that - unlike many African 'democracies' - can point to years of political stability and the peaceful transition of power through the ballot box," said Ozias Tungwarara, Director of AfriMAP.

"However, Lesotho must now consolidate its impressive track record by giving all citizens more of a voice, developing its institutions, and promoting more transparent and accountable government."

Written by Motlamele Anthony Kapa, Head of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies at the [National University of Lesotho](#), the report warns the authorities not to miss the opportunity to repeal the Public Procession Act, which restricts citizens' right of freedom of association, as enshrined in numerous regional and continental treaties and standards.

The study also urges the government to prioritise an Access to Information law, which would contribute significantly to the development of a more credible and open government.

The issue of limited access to the state owned media by opposition politicians is another major issue that the report highlights. Routinely denying opposition figures access to state media - apart from during elections when they are granted limited exposure - ensures that there is no level playing field and no conducive environment for debate or the discussion of divergent views.

Therefore, the report calls upon the government to transform the state broadcaster into a public broadcaster that will serve the interests of all Basotho rather than just the ruling elite.

The unprecedented study squarely places the onus on parliamentarians to do more to open up the political process and promote public participation. For example, the report calls on MPs to invite, and assist, citizens to contribute during budget preparations.

It also urges parliamentarians to pass the Human Rights Commission Bill to establish the much-needed institution, which will help to promote and protect the fundamental rights of all Basotho.

The study, which is the first of three major reports on Lesotho to be released by AfriMAP and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), focuses on nine thematic areas - Lesotho's constitutional framework; equal citizenship; policy processes; elections; political parties; the legislature; local government; traditional authorities; and development assistance.

Documentation:

[Lesotho - Political Participation and Democracy](#)

From Mail & Guardian

Lesotho chieftainship for men only

[24 May 2013 00:00 - Eva-Lotta Jansson](#)

Judges find that banning daughters from inheriting positions is not a discriminatory practice.

In a case brought by Senate Masupha, the first-born female child of a chief, Lesotho's Constitutional Court has reiterated that daughters cannot succeed their fathers to become chiefs. The court said last week that not allowing daughters to inherit the role, based on Lesotho's customary law, was not discrimination and therefore not unconstitutional.

"It is our view that the applicant cannot be said to be discriminated against on the basis of her sex, but even if that were the case, it does not violate the constitutional provision to the extent that Section 10 of the Chieftainship Act may be declared unconstitutional," said the panel of three Lesotho High Court judges sitting as a Constitutional Court, in its ruling delivered on May 16.

Lesotho does not have a Constitutional Court, but instead convenes a panel of judges from the high court when issues of constitutionality are raised. The verdict can now be appealed in the country's regular appeals court.

Speaking from Rome, where she is the acting ambassador for Lesotho, Masupha said: "I'm disappointed with the ruling. I didn't expect it. I believe that justice has to be done."

At the crux of the case is a section of the Kingdom's Chieftainship Act, encompassing customary law in Lesotho, which allows only males to succeed their fathers to chieftainship. The traditional chieftaincy structure has its roots in a system devised by King Moshoeshoe I, who founded Lesotho in the late 1800s. The chieftaincy is composed of the king, currently King Letsie III, 22 principal chiefs, and ward and village chiefs.

Customary law in Lesotho says that while wives can become "caretakers" of the chieftainship until a male heir takes over, or if their chief husbands become ill or die, women cannot, on the basis of their sex, inherit the role or succeed to chieftainship.

In the case brought by Masupha, her mother was appointed "caretaker" of the chieftainship when her father died. Then when her mother died, her brother and half-brother vied for the chief's position. Masupha then intervened, wanting to inherit the position as the chief's first-born child.

Kuena Thabane, a lawyer, and head of the Federation of Women Lawyers in Lesotho, said the federation was disappointed with the ruling.



"This judgment takes us back to the stone age, referring to customary law and reiterating what is written in the books of law on male dominance," she said on the phone from Maseru. "Customary law is supposed to be dynamic and not written in cement." The federation filed an amicus curiae brief supporting Masupha's case. Together with Masupha's lawyers and the other parties supporting her case, a decision had been made to appeal, said Thabane. "Since we still have room to appeal, we intend going on appeal over legal issues that were raised by the judgment."

The judgment went against the trend in the region to uphold the rights of women and was worth appealing, said Priti Patel, deputy director of the Johannesburg-based Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC), which also filed an amicus curiae brief in the case.

"I think what they are saying is that the fact that daughters can't succeed to chieftainship is not unconstitutional," Patel said about the ruling.

This is contrary to moves in other countries in the region to amend or repeal laws that explicitly promote gender discrimination, according to the centre. In South Africa the Constitutional Court invalidated laws denying women the right to inheritance and succession to chieftainship. Laws denying women inheritance based on gender have also been struck down in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania.

The Lesotho court did consider arguments along these lines, but were not swayed by them, according to the ruling: "It could [sic] be argued that Lesotho is in fact lagging behind in its policies of equality between the sexes. That may be a fair comment; but it has equally not abolished the death sentence on the basis of the right to life; neither does this country consider itself bound by the principles of the rights of gay people to the extent of allowing same-sex marriages. Many countries in the world have not yet developed to that stage," said the ruling. "Each country must be allowed to make its choices in this respect."



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Mixed picture for Lesotho's food security

Early rains helped get the 2012-2013 farming season get off to a promising start

MBABANE, 25 March 2013 (IRIN) - It's a chilly autumn morning and Ntja Mphale, 62, and his wife, Malehlohonolo, are hoeing a dew-covered field just outside their village of Machache, 43km from Lesotho's capital, Maseru. They are among thousands of unemployed Basotho who depend on seasonal work weeding smallholder farmers' fields to earn a little cash.

The job will provide some temporary relief for Mphale and his family. "Some farmers are generous - they can give you as much as 40 maluti (US\$4.40) per day, while others give you only 20 (\$2.20), but we cannot decline any money, no matter how small. We need to survive," said Mphale.

Such work was scarce in the previous two planting seasons. Heavy rains and flooding during the 2010-11 season caused losses that were compounded by a prolonged drought at the start of the 2011-12 [season](#). Many smallholder farmers chose not to plant at all rather than risk incurring further losses. The total area planted to maize, Lesotho's staple crop, dropped by 40 percent, and piece-work labouring in fields dried up. "In previous years, the hoeing jobs were hard to come by because few farmers had the guts to compete with the weather," said Mphale. "However, this time around I bought shoes for my four grandchildren with the wages I got from hoeing."

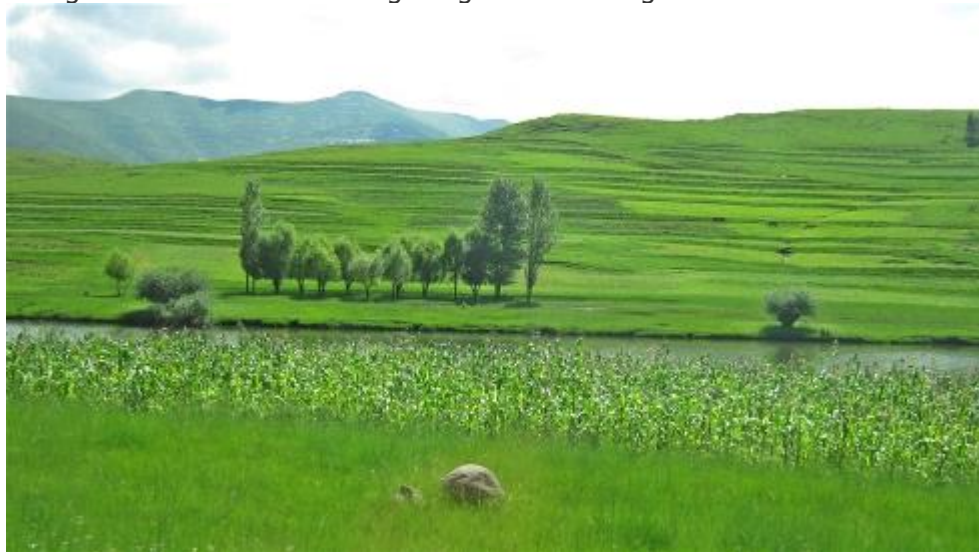


Photo: [Mpho Sheliile/IRIN](#)

Government steps in

Realizing that the 82 percent of Basotho who rely on agriculture for a living could not weather another poor harvest, the government declared the food security situation an emergency in August 2012 and called for donor support to help address the immediate needs of 725,000 people facing hunger, as well as the longer-term need to boost agricultural productivity. For the 2012-13 planting season, the government set aside 117 million maloti (\$13 million) for agricultural subsidies, tractors and other related costs. In selected villages all over the country, the government paid the full cost of seed,

fertilizer and tractors for ploughing. In return, they will receive 70 percent of the harvest, leaving farmers with the remaining 30 percent.

Early rains helped the government's interventions and the result has been that thousands of hectares of arable land which had lain fallow in recent farming seasons have now been planted. The prospect of a greatly improved harvest has brought hope to thousands of subsistence farmers. "The last time my crops looked so healthy, it was a decade or so ago - I am so relieved," said Tsepo Masupha, a farmer in Roma, 40km from the capital, Maseru.

"I am tired of buying mealie-meal [maize flour, a staple food] - it's so expensive. However, this year I will even be able to feed my animals". Informal traders in Maseru are already benefiting from this year's better planting season. Ahead of the main harvest in May-June, when dried maize cobs are gathered for milling and turned into mealie-meal, some farmers sell green maize (corn on the cob) to traders like Thabang Seetsa. In recent years, Seetsa was sometimes forced to travel to South Africa to buy green maize because it was in such short supply in Lesotho, but now he can get it from local farmers at a much lower price.

Army worm outbreak

However, Sekhonyana Mahase, the Senior Crop Production Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture, warned that the outlook was not as positive as it had seemed at the beginning of the year. Initial predictions of good yields were bound to be revised downwards after a lack of rain during February and an unprecedented outbreak of crop-eating army worms. The worms, in fact the caterpillar of a moth, eat the leaves of the maize plants, which are critical for photosynthesis causing the stalks to dry up, so no maize cobs are formed.

"Roughly, the worms have destroyed over 30,000 hectares of maize crops all over the country"

Reports about the impact of the army worms are still trickling in, but Mahase indicated that the government target of harvesting two tonnes of maize per hectare now looked unlikely to be met. "Roughly, the worms have destroyed over 30,000 hectares of maize crops all over the country [equivalent to nearly 25 percent of the planted area], including fields in the most fertile parts of the land," he told IRIN.

The caterpillars started appearing in January 2013, forcing the government to hire helicopters for spraying from neighbouring South Africa at a cost of M4 million (US\$444,000) in addition to the expense of hiring ground-sprayers in mountainous areas where the use of helicopters is too risky. According to Mahase, the crops that fell victim to the worms were those planted at the end of December 2012 and in early January 2013. "When the army worms came, they were successful in destroying those crops with soft and greenish leaves. As for those that were planted much earlier, very little damage was done," he said.

Tsepo Masupha lost half of his crops to army worms, but hopes he will still be able to get a harvest from the maize he planted earlier. "Though I am very hurt with the loss, I did not plough my crops at

the same time. In some of my fields, the crops are almost ready for harvesting; at least I will have something to eat.”

The lack of rain and intense heat during February caused more problems for farmers, but Mahase said it was still too soon to estimate the full extent of the combined damage from the army worms and lack of rain.

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Theme (s): [Food Security](#), [Governance](#),

[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]



[Lesotho's hospitality industry takes giant leap towards star-grading](#)

[Leaders/Features](#) | [Pepper](#) | May 10, 2013 7:32 am

By Tsitsi Matope

MASERU-Lesotho's hospitality industry took a giant step towards establishing the country's first star-grading system following last Friday's graduation of 28 assessors in Maseru.

The evaluators underwent an intensive one-month training programme conducted by American consulting firm, International Executive Service Corps (IESC), graduating with world-class accommodation facilities assessment qualifications to mark a critical step in the kingdom's quest for a structured hospitality sector.

With various skills in tourism, heritage, culture and hospitality, the 28 graduates became the first locals to acquire quality assessment skills that are in line with the newly harmonised requirements stipulated by the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA). But without the assessors, Lesotho would not have been able to implement the grading system—an undertaking expected to raise standards and improve services and infrastructure in the hospitality sector—hence the significance of last week's graduation at the State Library. The first batch of classified facilities is expected to be unveiled at the end of June this year, making way for the gradual implementation of the star-grading programme by the tourism ministry in close collaboration with the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC). The course-conductors from the IESC have been in the country since January this year and are working under a five-year World Bank-funded Tourism Development Programme (TDC) coordinated by the Private Sector Competitiveness Project (PSCP).

In an interview on Monday this week, the TDP national coordinator, Mr Tsepang Hatase, told Public Eye implementation of the Quality Star Grading System would make Lesotho the first country in southern Africa to implement RETOSA's synchronised evaluation system.

The harmonisation is expected to improve the marketing of the region based on similarities in quality of service tourists could expect in any southern African country.

"We are soon going to roll-out the implementation of unique features based on quality assurance, responsible tourism and universal accessibility. These standards recognise the

future of tourism in areas of responsible tourism and universal accessibility. Heightened community participation, fair trade, liveable wages, protection of the environment and how establishments are going to respond to various disability needs, are going to be the driving force of the sector in the near future," Hatase said.

The assessors, Hatase added, were prepared well-enough to be knowledgeable of the evolving tourism sector.

Out of the 28 trained assessors, the top seven would soon undergo Master Assessors Training, with the best student from the latter group set to be hired by the LTDC to assume the position of Master Assessor.

The other 27 are to work independently although still remaining partners of the corporation. They could also be contracted by the LTDC when need arises.

"The idea behind training more than we could immediately employ was to ensure we had enough skilled assessors in our pool. We are expecting the demand to grow gradually since assessment of facilities would be done annually in future," Hatase said.

He further explained the assessment and star-awarding would be conducted in a transparent manner in order to ensure credibility.

Upon completing the examination of establishments such as hotels, lodges, bed-and-breakfast facilities and guesthouses, assessors would make recommendations to be analysed by the programme coordinator, Master Assessor and Awards Committee Board for the final decision.

"The system will grade what is in place on the day of the inspection, not what establishment-owners intend to improve later. Proprietors throughout the country have been sensitised and more than 95 percent are aware of the on-going programme and what is expected of them."

Hatase also said 12 assessments would be piloted next month while selection would be based on the level of enthusiasm about the programme.

However, some of the newly trained assessors said they had not expected the evaluation to be challenging, until they visited various establishments during their practical course.

Miss Retselisitsoe Maloi, who last year graduated with a Master's Degree in Tourism at the Vaal University of Technology in South Africa, said visiting some of the establishments exposed her to realities she had not imagined.

"There is a lot of work to be done at some establishments for them to reach the minimum requirements for grading. For some facilities, there isn't much emphasis on quality service but how many visitors they can accommodate, for example. The training of staff would help improve services at some establishments we visited while even more could be done to make facilities visitor-friendly. There is also need to inspire owners to see beyond the Lesotho market," Maloi said.

She added although a significant number of establishment-owners were participating in the star-grading programme, implementation of the expected changes in order for facilities to acquire stars, was likely to be a challenge.

Another assessor, Mr Thobei Thobei, said landlords should prioritise raising capital to finance the upgrading of their facilities.

"Ensuring they become part of the grading is critical because this would lead to effective marketing and connect them to tourists who are willing to stay longer and pay more for quality services," Thobei said.

He added government and other development partners should also set aside a fund to help in the upgrading of some facilities, particularly where a lot of work needs to be done.

"The responsibility should not only lie with the owners because their failure to comply with new requirements would negatively impact on the whole sector and country at large. There is need for a network of efforts for the successful implementation of the programme."

Thobei studied Tourism Management at the Central University of Technology in South Africa, where he graduated last year.

He further explained with so much investment in tourism training, the country should take serious, the development and growth of the sector in order to absorb and utilise all available skills.

Another assessor, Miss Sebatso Santho, who studied Heritage, Cultural Tourism and Hospitality Management, said the available skills should be fully utilised to raise the standards of the hospitality sector.

"Some people running establishments are doing it informally and not out of genuine passion to enable them to invest in improving their facilities, which should not be the case," she pointed out.

Santho said in such instances, partnering or employing people skilled in tourism and hospitality management could help improve the establishments.

She further emphasised the need to continue strengthening current tourism legislation to support further development of the sector, protect assets, preserve cultural sites and retain skills.

"We need to develop local capacity so that indigenous establishments can thrive. Communities too, should be educated on the link between tourism, culture and heritage so they can also organise themselves and become an integral part of the tourism sector."

Santho also noted with such a rich culture admired the world over, Basotho have a unique selling point they alone, could present to the world.

Meanwhile, the International Executive Service Corps team leader, Mr James McGregor, on his part, said Lesotho's tourism sector had a lot of potential and many areas to tap into, for its growth.

Implementation of the star-grading programme, he highlighted, is set to provide standards and guidelines that would help tackle challenges emanating from poor service.

"The hospitality sector should enjoy many types of tourists and the programme provides a template on how to cater for those visitors, improve facilities, have confidence to increase rates and improve on revenue for sustainable and viable operations," McGregor said.

McGregor also said although it might take long for some establishments to meet the required minimum standards, the programme would motivate owners to work towards improving their facilities and services.

"The programme has also helped develop the capacity of establishment-owners to understand tourism is the bright lights of the economy. It is important to see the bigger image of its connectedness with other sectors, which can grow following its own development while the immense employment opportunities it provides are critical for poverty alleviation in Lesotho." He emphasised the programme also sought to enhance understanding on the importance for all stakeholders to work towards developing a self-sustained hospitality sector to allow the continual circulation of locally generated money.

A self-sustained hospitality sector, he explained, entailed its development so it could supply all goods currently bought in neighbouring South Africa.

"Money generated locally easily flows into South Africa before it circulates at least three times. Many tourists are educated and would like proceeds to largely benefit the local market. They would be happier to eat locally-produced bread and cheese and drink tea with locally-processed milk," he said.

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 Anne Andersen, DK-8500 Grenaa, Denmark

Homepage: www.lumela.dk

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Edited by: Anne Andersen,
Peter Rathmann

(submission of articles to
aan@nrdn.dk or any board
member)