

## News from the DLN

In Denmark the harvest is well under way. This year the weather has been excellent, so the farmers have no need to complain and everything indicates that the harvest is going to be successful. The summer has been very sunny. There have been days with sunshine and high temperatures and there has been just the right amount of rain for the crops to grow. It is apparent in the private gardens as well as in the fields.



Kornhøsten i Danmark er i fuld gang. I år er det fint høstvejr, og bønderne brokker sig ikke, så noget tyder på, at det bliver en god høst. Sommeren har i år vist sig fra sin gode side. Der har været gode dage med sol og varme, og der er kommet netop den mængde regn, der skal til for at planterne gider gro. Det kan ses både i haverne og på markerne.

### In this issue:

**Page 1: News from the DLN**

**Page 2:** News from Lumela.dk editors, Eng. & Da.

**Page 3:** News from the board, Eng. & Da.

**Page 4:** Personelbistand i Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke i 50 år, Da only

**Page 6:** Readers comments, Eng & DA  
Lesotho independent day 4<sup>th</sup> October

**Page 7: News from Lesotho**

Sehlabathebe National Park  
NOW called The Maloti  
Drakensberg Park

**Page 8:** Dry winter spells bad news for farmers

**Page 9:** PostBank to introduce electronic banking

**Page 10:** Thabane says corruption an even bigger threat than AIDS

**Page 11: What is Denmark Lesotho Network?**

**Page 12: Membership of DLN**



*Birthday party coming up*

## News from Lumela.dk editors

On the 17'th of June 2013 DLN was informed by Civil Society in Development (CISU), that the application for the joint finalisation: "Strengthening RSDA skills/Political influence of small scale farms" together with Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA) had been approved. Subsequent Anders and Signe Hedegaard went one week to Lesotho to work together with RSDA. They have not yet had time to describe the trip, but they have sent many pictures from Lesotho and made sure, that in the next newsletter they will write a detailed description about their visit. So please enjoy the pictures in this newsletter and look forward to the next edition.

Lumela.dk strongly urge everybody in Lesotho as well as Denmark to send in articles, which have interest for Lumela.dk readers.

## Nyt fra Lumela.dk redaktionen

Den 17. juni 2013 fik DLN besked fra Civilsamfund i Udvikling (CISU) om, at en ansøgning til færdiggørelse af det næste projekt: "Strengthening RSDA skills/Political influence of small scale farmers" sammen med RSDA er blevet godkendt. Anders og Signe Hedegaard har efterfølgende været en uges tid i Lesotho for at arbejde sammen med Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA). De har endnu ikke nået at skrive om turen, men de har sendt en masse billeder fra Lesotho og har lovet, at i næste nummer af Lumela.dk vil der komme en fyldig beskrivelse af, hvad det er, de har arbejdet på. Derfor nyd billederne i dette nummer og glæd jer til at læse mere i næste nummer.

Der skal fra Lumela.dk-redaktionen lyde en stor opfordring til folk både i Lesotho og i Danmark om at sende indlæg, der kan have interesse for Lumela.dks læsere.





*Mabile House and the MS Guest House*

## News from the DLN board

*By Anne Andersen*

During the summer the DLN board have not been very active. Many of the board members have been on vacation, but now they have all returned to work.



*Tourists*

In Lesotho the activities have also continued. Anders and Signe have visited Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA). DLN have worked hard to raise funds for the next visit to Lesotho to identify the last details of the upcoming project. This will be a continuation

## Nyt fra bestyrelsen

*Af Anne Andersen*

I DLNs bestyrelse har der ikke været den store aktivitet i de sidste par måneder. Der har været holdt ferie på skift, men nu kalder arbejdet igen.

I Lesotho har vinteren ikke sat aktiviteterne helt i stå. Anders og Signe Hedegaard har været på besøg i Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA).



*Partnership intervention Recoffe Break*

DLN fik ved hjælp af hårdt arbejde med at skrive ansøgning bevilliget midler til at rejse til



of the previous projects, which DLN and RSDA have already worked together on. Development for Peace Education (DPE) is well under way implementing the current DPE-DLN project. The main activity in August and September is the Community Parliament with over 100 participants.

There have been replacements in the Lumela.dk editorials. Thank you very much Peter Rathmann for the effort you have given Lumela.dk and welcome to Sara Nicolaisen, who has replaced Peter.

Lesotho for at få de sidste detaljer på plads til det næste projekt. Det ligger i forlængelse af de projekter, DLN og RSDA har samarbejdet om indtil nu.

I Development of Peace Education (DPE) er der godt gang i implementationen af det igangværende projekt. Hovedaktiviteten i august/september er et stormøde med omkring 100 deltagere.

Der er sket udskiftning i Lumela.dk redaktionen, idet Peter Rathmann har trukket sig ud af udvalget. Der skal lyde en stor tak til Peter for den arbejdsindsats, han har ydet. Velkommen til Sara Nicolaisen, som er trådt ind i udvalget i stedet for Peter.



*The road to Mafetheng. Winter in Lesotho as it is: Dry*



*Traffic in Maseru has increased*

The next text in Danish is invitation from MS to all Danish people send out by MS the last 50 years. They want to celebrate the 50 anniversary.

## Personelbistand i Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke i 50 år

14. september. I september 2013 er det 50 år siden, at de første ulandsfrivillige rejste ud med Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke. Det vil vi fejre med et arrangement for tidligere ulandsfrivillige, udviklingsarbejdere, udsendte til landekontorerne og andre med tilknytning til programmet lørdag den 14. september, kl. 14 -17 hos Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke, Fælledvej 12, 2200 København N. Programmet vil se tilbage på, hvordan personelbistanden har udviklet sig i de 50 år og vi vil sætte fokus på, hvordan vi i MS i dag arbejder med personelbistand. Der vil blive lejlighed til at mødes med andre udsendte og MS vil byde på et glas mm. Der vil være mulighed for at købe øl, vin og vand fra kl. 17 til kl. 20. Tilmeld dig arrangementet:

1. På mail til [bjensen@ms.dk](mailto:bjensen@ms.dk) eller



2. Brev til Birgit Møller Jensen, Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke, Fælledvej 12, 2200 København N, hvor du oplyser dit navn, hvilket land du var udsendt til, samt hvilken periode, du var udsendt.



*Winter in Lesotho*



*Popes Podium now has a shopping centre as neighbour*



*Malealea*



*Beautiful Dongas - still there*



## Readers comments

Lumela.dk editor has got some comments from readers in Lesotho in connection with some links, brought in the last number of Lumela.dk (36). This time Lumela.dk brings the comment from Mampaka Kunene:

Lumelang bohle,

I read this newsletter (Lumela.dk no. 36 red.) with great interest and overwhelmed by the fact that they (DLN red.) still do some thing for Lesotho - civil society organisation, governance, etc.

The issue of chieftainship also shocked me as I thought that all stereo typed laws were made to accommodate all. This calls for a great mind to start thinking of Millenium Development Goals (MDG's), that even if the report indicated that Lesotho is doing well in gender balance, but the fact is, it is not in all the areas that biasness is worked out.

This a call  
Mampaka Kunene

## Læsernes kommentarer

Lumela.dk redaktionen har fået et par kommentarer fra læserne i Lesotho i anledning af et par af de links, der blev bragt i sidste nummer (36). Denne gang bringer Lumela.dk Mampaka Kunenes kommentar:

Lumelang bohle

Jeg har læst jeres nyhedsbrev (Lumela.dk nr. 36) med stor interesse og jeg er overvældet af, at I (DLN) stadig gør noget for Lesotho - i forhold til civilsamfundet, organisationerne og regeringen.

Problemet med den traditionelle lovgivning (i høvdingenes distrikter) chokerede mig meget, da jeg troede at alle stereotype lovgivninger var lavet for at imødekomme alle. Dette får mig til at tænke på FN's 2015 mål. Selvom rapporten indikerer at Lesotho klarer sig godt i forhold til ligestilling mellem kønnene, er det tilsyneladende ikke alle områder, hvor uligheden er mindsket.

Dette er hermed en opfordring,  
Mampaka Kunene

## Lesotho Independence day 4<sup>th</sup> October

**Shortly before deadline DLN got an e-mail from Niels Lerato Wall now working in Denmark. The mail is edited by the editors.**

Niels writes:

I have been in contact with the Embassy in Dublin, whom I think you know represent the Nordics; and we have discussed that it would be nice to hold something in the 4th of October which is Lesotho Independence Day.

My goal is to bring together people from Lesotho Living here in DK, hopefully the Nordics and including people who have something to do with Lesotho.

The Embassy will be paying for everything for this event so it's no cost for anyone, only you time; which in my terms is also money.

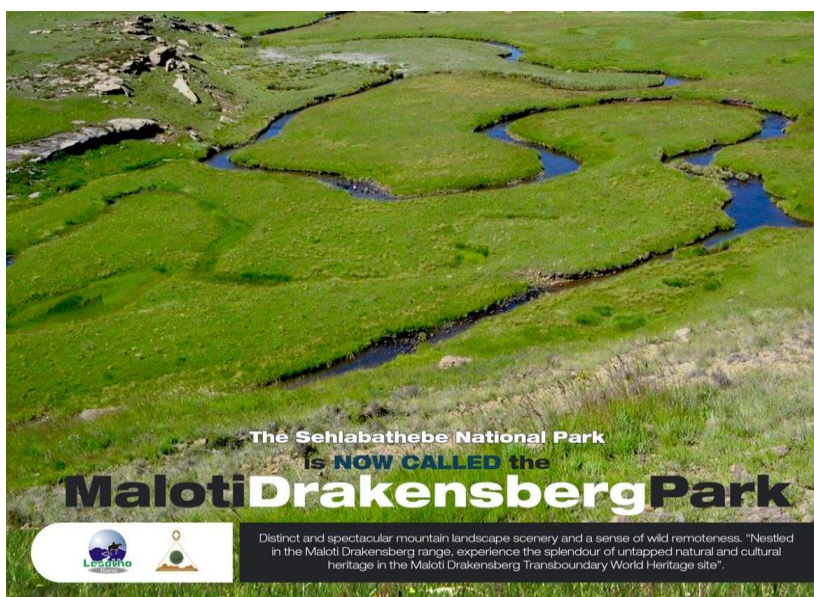
About the venue, that's where I thought since it seams that most people are in Jylland, we could hold it there.

I am still also at the moment with the Honorary consul trying to locate other sotho people here. Anyone who is interested could join.

If you want more information and would like to join the event, please write to Niels: [maluti-info@gmx.com](mailto:maluti-info@gmx.com)

## News from Lesotho:

### Sehlabathebe National Park NOW called The Maloti Drakensberg Park



The formally known park as SEHLABATHEBE NATIONAL PARK currently named THE MALOTI DRAKENSBERG PARK is now listed under the WORLD HERITAGE SITES. Putting Our Mountainous Kingdom on the map. On the posters please do not miss the so beautiful sea lion-like rock feature. POWERED BY LTDC and THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE – showing LESOTHO MOUNTAIN KINDOM IN THE SKY to the GLOBE.



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From:



## Dry winter spells bad news for farmers

[Leaders/Features](#) | [Pepper](#) | August 30, 2013 6:06 am

MASERU- On a windy day in Thaba-Bosiu, 40km from Lesotho's capital, Maseru, Nkoliopa Mosotho is inspecting his parched fields. Like many other rural farmers in Lesotho, he was banking on winter snowfall to soften the iron-hard ground and allow him to plough, but none fell.

"It is a very worrying situation; normally by this time of the year it is good to prepare your soil so that in October, it will be easy to cultivate, but it's so dry," he told *IRIN*. "It will take many days to finish ploughing my fields, and my oxen will tire or even die after that."

Ntsieng Mafeto, 65, in nearby Qeme, is also struggling. "I should have planted some hay for my sheep, but we last had good rains in March, and I am really concerned because its lambing season now, but the streams are dry and there is no single shoot of green grass on the ground."

After two disastrous years for Lesotho's farmers, the 2012/2013 planting season yielded much improved harvests of maize – the staple crop – and sorghum. However, the lack of early rains and snow needed for winter cropping and soil preparation suggests a less promising outlook.

### Winter cropping poor



Snow only fell in the mountainous areas of the country and not in the lowlands, which have the most productive land.

"It's true we received some rain, but in general it was below average and generally, the winter was warm," said Mokoena France, climate statistician with the Lesotho Meteorological Service.

The consequences are far-reaching. Winter cropping is crucial to the livelihoods of many people in rural Lesotho. Wheat, one of the main staple foods, is mostly sown in winter to take advantage of the moisture from

snowfall and early spring rains. Thousands of Basotho who live in mountainous areas, where crops such as maize and sorghum do not do well, rely heavily on growing wheat, which can then be exchanged for maize with people in the lowlands. Winter cropping also includes planting peas and hay for animals, but the farmers *IRIN* spoke to said they have not succeeded in growing either.

Like many farmers in her area of Ha Moruthoane in Maseru District, Maletuka Moroka, 70, relies almost entirely on a nearby spring to water her vegetable garden, but the lack of precipitation has caused the spring to dry up. "I make all my living from the vegetables I plant



here, but if there is no water it means I will have to stop and wait for rain. I tried planting some vegetables, especially peas, a few months back, but they have now dried up," she said. Sekhonyana Mahase, senior crop production officer in the Ministry of Agriculture, said the lack of moisture this winter was bad news for farmers and for the government's crop-sharing scheme, which is running in eight of the country's 10 districts. In return for paying the full costs of seed, fertilizer and tractors for planting wheat, the government takes 70 percent of the harvest, leaving farmers with the remaining 30 percent. But Mahase said yields are expected to be low due to the lack of rain.

## Forecasts not promising

"The dry winter has had an impact," confirmed Victor Ankrah, a child survival and development specialist with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Lesotho.

According to a recent household assessment of nutritional status carried out by UNICEF, 12 percent of the population is currently food insecure. "The reason they're food insecure is because the winter harvest was not good," Ankrah told *IRIN*.

Although the figure is down from the same time last year, Ankrah said the number was likely to increase between January and April – the peak of the lean season before summer crops are harvested.

Ankrah said that the wells and boreholes rural communities rely on for water were not expected to dry up, providing the country received normal rainfall levels between August and December. "However, for quite some time now the rainfall pattern has been very erratic, with very low rainfall levels during those months."

The Lesotho Meteorological Service has forecast that rain will be average or below average over the next three months, and that many areas will remain dry.

According to Mahase, of the Ministry of Agriculture, this is likely to have a negative impact on summer cropping. "We are really faced with a momentous task. Even if it rains now, it may be a little too late for some farmers who have not prepared their soil," he told *IRIN*. *IRIN*

## PostBank to introduce electronic banking

[Business](#) | [Pepper](#) | August 5, 2013 8:00 am

By Bereng Mpaki

**MASERU- In a bid to improve the quality of service delivered to clients, the Lesotho PostBank is introducing electronic banking which uses debit cards.**



Before this project funded by the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) to the tune of US\$1.5 million, the bank relied on a manual [system](#) of banking which uses passbooks and paperwork. The project was started in 2009, with the issuing of the first debit card to clients done in February this year. The official launch of this new system is expected this month (August).

According to the bank's acting Managing Director, Mrs Refiloe Lehohla, the debit card would get rid of volumes of paperwork that needed to be done when serving customers, which often led to errors when information was being captured.

"Changing to the debit card was a natural progression for us as Lesotho PostBank, as we try to improve the quality of service we [offer](#) to our target market which is the unbanked and under-banked population of Lesotho," Lehohla said on Wednesday this week.

"The debit card will improve the quality of service we give to our customer in terms of security, cost-effectiveness, and accuracy than the manual system, which involved a lot of paperwork that took long to process and sometimes resulted in errors in data-capturing. So the time-efficiency of the new system will also allow us to [serve](#) a bigger clientele base," she added. Lehohla further said the new system would offer clients the convenience of transacting beyond working hours.

"The plan is to have 10 auto-teller machines and 60 point-of-sale devices in merchant shops across the country by the end of the year, so this system will offer our customers the convenience of transacting beyond the working hours of our banks."

Apart from the switch to the electronic system, the bank has also ventured into the lending business aimed at assisting small and medium-sized enterprises, groups of people and individuals, with loans. The service was introduced in 2010.

"Switching to the electronic system is one of the highlights of the bank since its establishment in 2004, along with the introduction of the lending service which we did not have until 2010. We have also successfully been approved by the Central Bank to offer the SIRESS facility, so we see that as another milestone since our clients can be able to transact into other countries within the common monetary area."

Lehohla said the new system would initially only use the Lesotho PostBank infrastructure but would be synchronised with the infrastructure of other local banks in the near future.

## [Thabane says corruption an even bigger threat than AIDS](#)

[Business](#) | [Pepper](#) | July 26, 2013 7:20 am



By Bereng Mpaki

**MASERU-Prime Minister Dr Motsoahae Thabane has urged the public to blow the whistle on corrupt individuals abusing the country's resources.**

Thabane made the call on Tuesday this week at the opening of a three- day National Dialogue on Corruption organised by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences.

The dialogue, which involved 250 stakeholders from different sectors of society sought to explore and formulate ways of tackling corrupt practices.

"We may pass all sorts laws to support the fight against corruption, but the best solution is to get

rid of corrupt individuals among us, because they do not belong among us. They suck our blood and leave us lifeless.

"Corruption is the biggest enemy of our country; more so than HIV/AIDS. We have successfully fought against HIV/AIDS which used to be our biggest threat. Now let us work together again to fight and defeat corruption," Thabane said.



The Premier noted Lesotho has been relegated into the least-developed country (LDC) bracket due to corruption, particularly in the public sector, and not necessarily because of lack of economic resources.

"Our LDC status is maintained by corruption, and this is simply because we are misusing our national resources and not because we do not have enough of them.

"We often look at corruption as a concept around which we can philosophise. We cannot philosophise around that which is wrong. Corruption is something that is wrong. It is something that should not be condoned and tolerated."

Thabane further said if well-executed, the fight against graft could ensure that corruption is a thing of the past just like cannibalism, which was expertly disposed of by Basotho founder, King Moshoeshoe I.

"Corruption must be removed from our history books; it's something that needs to be removed from dictionaries. It would be removed from the dictionary if we all stopped being corrupt.

"Our history as Basotho reflects that there was a time when we had cannibals in our midst. But our great King, Moshoeshoe I [brought](#) them back into civilised society despite having eaten his grandfather. So, in a diplomatic and lasting manner, cannibalism was ended among the people."

Speaking at the same event, the United Nations Development Project Resident Representative Karla Robin Hershey said corruption hinders the economic development of nations.

"Corruption is a global menace since it affects many countries across the world. In some countries, corruption has been the order of the day, and continues to hinder economic development by distorting markets and damaging both private and public sector integrity."

"In order to illustrate the extent to which corruption has been deeply entrenched, I would like to cite some facts and figures on corruption: \$ 1,000 billion is paid in bribes per country. It can cost up to 17 percent of the Gross Domestic Product of a country," she said. Robin Hershey further said good governance is key in the fight against corruption as it is a "preventive measure".

"Good governance saves a lot of resources that go into bringing those who perpetuate corruption, to book," she 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](mailto:karen.steffensen@mail.dk)  
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Homepage: [www.lumela.dk](http://www.lumela.dk)

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