

## News from the DLN

### New Board in DLN



*The new board elected on the Annual General Meeting this year. Behind from left: Vibeke Kjeldsholm, Anne Andersen, Marie Villumsen, Lisbet Kristensen, Mette Jørgensen, Anne-Marie Erikstrup. In front: Karina Ruby and Karen Steffensen. Absent Sara Nicolaisen*

**40 newsletters** are now produced and sent to members and other interested people. Yes Denmark Lesotho Network is alive and lively. A lot is happening in the association at the moment. You can read about the Annual General Meeting, which took place in March, about the new initiatives from the Board and about a visit at the Development for Peace Education (DPE) in March. What you can not read is that there recently are handed in a new application to Civilsamfund i Udvikling (CISU) for finalization of a new project together with Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA). Look forward to read about it in the coming newsletters.

**40 nyhedsbreve** er nu produceret og sendt ud til medlemmer og andre interesserede. Jo, Denmark Lesotho Network og nyhedsbrevet Lumela.dk er stadig både i live og livlig. Der sker en masse i foreningen i øjeblikket. Du kan læse om generalforsamlingen, der fandt sted i marts, om bestyrelsens nye tiltag og om et besøg i Development for Peace Education (DPE) i marts. Hvad du ikke kan læse om er, at der lige nu er sendt en ansøgning til Civilsamfund i Udvikling (CISU), som handler om færdiggørelse af ansøgningen til et nyt projekt med Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA). Glæd dig til at læse om dette i kommende numre af Lumela.dk.

### In this issue:

Page 1: *News from the DLN*

Page 2: *News from the Board/ Nyt fra bestyrelsen*

Page 3: *Annual General Meeting March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014/ Generalforsamling 22. marts 2014*

Page 7: *Visit at DPE in March 2014/Besøg hos DPE i marts 2014*

Page 12: *The DPE-group is growing/DPE-gruppen har vokseværk*

Page 16: *News from Lesotho*

Page 20: *What is Denmark Lesotho Network?*

Page 21: *Membership of DLN*

AND – we are working on a new **tourist trip** to Lesotho. It is planned to take place in October 2015.

OG – der bliver arbejdet på en ny, spændende **TURISTREJSE**, som skal finde sted i oktober 2015, så start opsparringen NU!!

## DLN is on the social Medias!

Denmark Lesotho Networks (DLN) is now on Facebook. The group is open for everybody who is interested in the Southern Africa, development work, Civil Society work and especially in the Kingdom in the Sky, Lesotho. Please find DLN on Facebook [www.facebook.com/denmarklesothonetwork](http://www.facebook.com/denmarklesothonetwork) and 'like' us!

## DLN er kommet på de sociale medier!

Denmark Lesotho Networks (DLN) facebookgruppe er for alle, der interesserer sig for det sydlige Afrika, udviklingsarbejde, civilsamfundsarbejde og særligt det lille kongerige Lesotho. Find os på Facebook [www.facebook.com/denmarklesothonetwork](http://www.facebook.com/denmarklesothonetwork) og 'like' os!

**The homepage** [www.lumela.dk](http://www.lumela.dk) has been hacked again. That is not nice, but we are working on reconstruction it.

**Hjemmesiden** [www.lumela.dk](http://www.lumela.dk) er igen ramt. Alt er der, men den fil, der skal sørge for, at vi kan se det, er pist forsvundet – ØV, hvor surt, men der bliver arbejdet på at genoprette den.

This is about a suggestion on a party to take place if 'M'e Makokoli visits Denmark.

**Sidste nyt, sidste nyt...** Det forlyder, at 'M'e Makokoli kommer til Danmark sidst i juli – først i august. I den forbindelse vil der med største sandsynlighed blive en festlig sammenkomst. Er der nogen, der har lyst til at give en hjælpende hånd med til et arrangement, skriv venligst en mail til [dln@lumela.dk](mailto:dln@lumela.dk).

## News from the board

*By: Marie Villumsen*

DLN's new board held its first meeting in April in Århus and the two new alternates were introduced. The working groups gave an update on the project activities with the Basotho partners DPE, RSDA and BAG. An important agenda item was a discussion about the internal cohesiveness in the organisation. DLN has recently recruited many new active members and there is a need for strengthening of knowledge sharing, communication and coordination in the organisation so the new and old members can

## Nyt fra bestyrelsen

*Af: Marie villumsen*

DLNs nye bestyrelse holdt sit første møde i april i Århus hvor de to nye suppleanter blev budt velkommen. Der blev givet en opdatering på DLNs forskellige projektaktiviteter med DPE, RSDA og BAG. Et vigtigt punkt på dagsordenen var en diskussion af sammenhængskraften i foreningen. Med de mange nye aktive medlemmer i DLN er der nu et øget behov for at sikre videndeling, kommunikation og koordinering i foreningen, så både nye og gamle medlemmer i fællesskab kan videreudvikle



consolidate and develop the organisation. In 2013, the board will update information material with an overview of the organisation's history and activities, which can be circulated to new members. The communication committee is developing a work plan for further development of internal and external communication on the website, Facebook, newsletter and other media and it was decided to strengthen the internal communication and coordination by strengthening the documentation of the working groups' activities and meetings. The MANGO test was concluded and the board agreed that the process had been informative and led to practical changes in the financial management of DLN.

## Annual General Assembly 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014

By: Karina Ruby

As the two past years DLN's Annual General Assembly was held in Aarhus. 15 persons participated in the meeting, including many new young members who have become members of the project groups. In this way there was a good balance between old members who have been part of the organisation since its foundation in 2002 and new members who want to contribute actively to the organisation.



As usually there was a lively and engaged discussion of which direction DLN should take and the resources we have.

DLNs fremtid. Bestyrelsen vil i løbet af 2014 derfor opdatere foreningens informationsmateriale, som kan bruges af nye medlemmer til at få et overblik over foreningens historie og aktiviteter. Kommunikationsudvalget er i gang med at udvikle en arbejdsplan for udvikling af den interne og eksterne kommunikation via hjemmesiden, Facebook, nyhedsbrevet og andre medier, og det blev besluttet, at den interne kommunikation og koordinering kan styrkes ved at styrke dokumentationen af arbejdsgruppernes møder og aktiviteter. MANGO testen blev færdiggjort med et fint resultat, og bestyrelsen er enige om, at det har været en lærerig proces, der har medført nogle brugbare ændringer i foreningens økonomistyring.

## Generalforsamling d. 22. marts 2014

Af: Karina Ruby

Som de to foregående år blev DLNs generalforsamling afholdt i Århus i U-Husets lokaler, som vi kan benytte gratis, da DLN er medlem af U-Huset.



15 personer deltog i generalforsamlingen, heriblandt var der flere nye unge medlemmer, som er kommet ind i DLN via projektgrupperne. Det var således en god blanding af gamle medlemmer, som har været med siden foreningens stiftelse i 2002, og helt nye medlemmer, som gerne vil bidrage aktivt med

A widely debated topic at the Annual General Assembly was communication, both internally and externally. It was suggested to create a Facebook group (a closed group where smaller groups of people can discuss common interests). This will enable members of DLN to post comments on interesting meetings, courses and events, which could be relevant for other members.



It could also give opportunity for debates about different topics in between the quarterly newspapers send out by DLN (Lumela.dk). It was also suggested to create a Facebook page making it possible for everybody to follow DLN's work. (It is now created. Find 'Denmark Lesotho Network' on facebook, or find it on [www.facebook.com/denmarklesothonetwork](http://www.facebook.com/denmarklesothonetwork)). In this way DLN could get new members who would not have noticed DLN otherwise.



On the other hand it is a time consuming job to administrate a Facebook page with current updates, preferably every week, if it should be relevant for everybody. It was also suggested to spend more time on improve our existing

frivilligt arbejde i en ulandsorganisation. Der var som sædvanlig en engageret diskussion af, hvor DLN skal bevæge sig hen, og hvad vi har ressourcer til.

Et livligt diskuteret emne var kommunikation, både internt i DLN og eksternt rettet mod omverden. Der var forslag om at oprette en facebook gruppe, (lukket rum, hvor små grupper af personer kan kommunikere om fælles interesser). Her vil medlemmer af DLN nemt kunne droppe en kommentar om f.eks. interessante møder, kurser og arrangementer, som kunne interessere andre medlemmer. Det kunne også give mulighed for nem debat om forskellige emner ind i mellem de fire årlige numre af nyhedsbrevet (Lumela.dk).

Der var også forslag om at oprette en Facebook side, så enhver kan følge med i DLN's arbejde (siden er nu oprettet. Find 'Denmark Lesotho Network' på facebook, eller find os på [www.facebook.com/denmarklesothonetwork](http://www.facebook.com/denmarklesothonetwork)). Dette kunne give mulighed for at nå bredt ud til andre end medlemmer af DLN. Hermed ville DLN måske kunne få nye medlemmer, som ellers ikke ville få øje på DLN. Det er dog et stort og tidskrævende arbejde at holde en



Facebook side kørende med løbende nye opdateringer, helst hver uge, hvis det skal være noget værd.

Der var også forslag om at bruge kræfterne på at forbedre vores allerede eksisterende hjemmeside, som der lige nu ikke sker meget på, udover at der fire gange årligt lægges et nyt nummer af nyhedsbrevet ind. Der var også forslag om at



webpage, which is not updated very often besides the quarterly newspaper. It was also suggested to make an information paper about DLN in english, which can be distributed in Lesotho.



A communication group was formed at the General Assembly which is going to continue with these suggestions. It consists of Louise Bau Jensen, Mette Damgaard Jørgensen, Anne Andersen and Lisbet Kristensen.

Last year the planned tourist trip to Lesotho had to be cancelled due to too few participants. On the meeting it was therefore discussed how DLN can organise trips to Lesotho. It is a good way to make more people in Denmark interested in Lesotho, which otherwise is a relatively unknown country. On the other hand the two DLN trip in 2009 and 2011 was very successful and resulted in new members of DLN.



However there are already many travel companies on the market so it a question about organising the right type of travel, perhaps a themed trip and reach the right target group, if

udarbejde en folder om DLN på engelsk, som kan uddeles til interesserede i Lesotho.

Der blev nedsat en kommunikationsgruppe, som arbejder videre med emnet. Den består af Louise Bau Jensen, Mette Damgaard Jørgensen, Anne Andersen og Lisbet Kristensen.

Sidste år måtte den planlagte turistrejse aflyses pga. for få deltagere. Det blev diskuteret, hvordan DLN eventuelt kan arrangere rejser til Lesotho. Det er en god mulighed for at få flere danskere til at interessere sig for et ellers noget ukendt lille land i Afrika. De to DLN-rejser i 2009 og 2011 var succesfulde og gav efterfølgende nogle nye medlemmer til DLN. Der er dog mange rejsearrangører på markedet, så det er nok et spørgsmål om at finde frem til den rette type rejse, måske en tema-rejse, og den rette målgruppe, hvis DLN skal arrangere rejser. Der blev nedsat en turist-gruppe bestående af Vibeke Kjeldsholm, Louise Bau Jensen, Lisbet Kristensen, Anne Andersen og Bodil Mathiasen.



DLN har fortsat 3 samarbejdspartnere i Lesotho, de samme som gennem flere år, nemlig RSDA, DPE og BAG. Der er arbejdsgrupper, som kører projekterne: RSDA-gruppen (ca. 5 personer), DPE-gruppen (ca. 10 personer) og Fundraising gruppen + Karen Steffensen til BAG.

RSDA, Rural Selfhelp Development Association, har fortsat gang i projekter omkring små landbrug i flere distrikter, lige nu arbejdes der på at oprette landbrugsorganisationer efter dansk forbillede. De små bønder i Lesotho kan se en

DLN should be successful in organising trips. To work further with issues a tourist group was formed consisting of Vibeke Kjeldsholm, Louise Bau Jensen, Lisbet Kristensen, Anne Andersen and Bodil Mathiasen.

DLN still have three partners in Lesotho: RSDA, DPE and BAG, who have been the same for many years. Different work groups in DLN are coordinating the projects in Denmark: the RSDA group (around five people), DPE group (around 10 people), Fundraising group and BAG (Karen Steffensen).

Rural Selfhelp Development Association (RSDA) continues to have projects focusing on small-scale agriculture in different districts of Lesotho. At the moment they are working actively to form an agricultural organisations after the Danish model. The small-scale farmers see an advantage in organising as a larger group, when they need support from the government to maintain the production of crops. DNL also assists RSDA in applying for fund at CISU. Development for Peace Education (DPE) focus on democratization of local areas in some of the most remote parts of Lesotho. The new structure of local elections is very different and something the citizens want help to learn. DLN is supporting the work of DPE and assists DPE in applying for funds at CISU.



Barea Agricultural Group is an association of schools in Barea District, which is working to give school children a healthy meal a day by cultivating vegetables in school gardens. DLN have applied for funds at the Lauritzen Fund and

fordel i at organisere sig og stå som en samlet gruppe, når de vil have støtte fra staten til at opretholde en produktion af fødevarer i Lesotho. Midler til at støtte RSDA's arbejde søges gennem CISU.



DPE, Development Peace Education, arbejder på demokratisering af landsbysamfund i nogle af de mest øde og utilgængelige egne af Lesotho.



Den nye struktur med lokale parlamentsvalg er anderledes og noget, som befolkningen har behov for hjælp til at lære at få indflydelse på. Dette arbejde støtter DPE. Midler til DPEs



at the Ministry of Culture to build water tanks so the school can collect rain water to water plants. In addition DLN has added a small amount of money from our own funds. Election of the board and accountants only resulted in a few new names. DLN's Executive Board now consists of:

Chair: Anne Andersen  
Vice-chair: Marie Villumsen  
Treasurer: Karen Steffesen  
Secretary: Karina Ruby  
Web-Master: Lisbet Kristensen  
Member: Anne-Marie Erikstrup Hansen  
Member: Sara I C Nicolaisen  
1st Alternate: Vibeke Kjeldsholm  
2nd Alternate: Mette Damsgård Jørgensen

Externally accountant continues to be Kulturrevision and internally accountant Claus Løschenkohl and substitute Claus Bo Jensen.

After the homepage was hacked and broke entirely down in Autumn 2013 it is now up and running again. On the homepage you can read the entire summery from the Annual General Assembly, report from the Executive Board and more about DLN's projects.



## Visit at DPE in March 2014: Finalization of a new project application

*By Louise Bau Jensen*

In October 2013 I went on holyday together with Marie Villumsen. Marie is a good friend of mine

arbejde søges af DLN gennem CISU.

BAG, Berea Agricultural Group, er en sammenslutning af skoler i Berea District, som arbejder på at give skoleelever et sundt måltid mad om dagen ved at dyrke grøntsager i skolehaver. DLN har skaffet penge fra Lauritzen Fonden og Kulturstyrelsen til bygning af vandtanke, så skolerne kan samle regnvand til vanding af grøntsager. Der er også suppleret lidt med midler fra DLNs egen kasse.

Valg til bestyrelse og revisorer medførte kun et par nye navne på suppleantposterne. DLNs bestyrelse består af:

Formand: Anne Andersen  
Næstformand: Marie Villumsen  
Kasserer: Karen Steffensen  
Sekretær: Karina Ruby  
Web-ansvarlig: Lisbet Kristensen  
Best.medlem: Anne-Marie Erikstrup Hansen  
Best.medlem: Sara I. C. Nicolaisen  
1. suppleant: Vibeke Kjeldsholm  
2. suppleant: Mette Damgård Jørgensen

Ekstern revisor er fortsat Kulturrevision, og intern revisor er fortsat Claus Løschenkohl og revisorsuppleant er Claus Bo Jensen.

Hjemmesiden er efter at have været hacket og totalt nedbrudt i efteråret igen kommet op at køre. Her kan man bl.a. læse hele referatet fra generalforsamlingen, beretning fra bestyrelsen og mere om DLN's projekter.

## Besøg hos DPE i marts 2014: Færdiggørelse af ny projektsøgning

*Af Louise Bau Jensen*

I oktober 2013 var jeg på ferie med Marie Villumsen. Marie er en god veninde og samtidig

and also an experienced member of Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN). She has talked warmly about DLN and Development for Peace Education (DPE) and convinced me to be part of the group. Then in November I received an e-mail from Marie:

“Can you go to Lesotho in March?” - and suddenly I was part of DLN’s DPE-group.

Sometimes you don't have to think twice and in January I met the other members of the group for the first time. A meeting that only made me wish, to be part of the project even more: a cooperation with Development for Peace Education (DPE) in Lesotho focusing on civil participation in democratic processes.

DLN has cooperated with DPE for many years and at the moment they are finalizing the second one-year project. As part of the planning of a new long-term project Marie Villumsen, Andreas Dybkjær and I went to Lesotho 10 days in March.



DLN and DPE have gotten more familiar with each other during the past years and DPE has improved their organisational capacity. Based on this, DLN and DPE have decided to apply for a larger long-term project that is going to take part the next three years. This is going to be a project with special focus on civil education in democratic and organisational processes. The focal area will be 10 villages located in different areas of Lesotho and the project will relate to a new law on decentralisation of the state institutions.

et garvet Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN)-medlem. Hun fortalte så varmt om DLN og Development for Peace Education (DPE), at jeg var nødt til at være en del af det. I november fik jeg en mail fra Marie: ”Kan du tage til Lesotho i marts?” Og så var jeg medlem af DLN’s DPE-gruppe.



*Henter vand ved floden i Seforong, Quthing*

Nogle gange skal man bare kastes ud i det, og det blev jeg: I januar mødte jeg første gang de andre i gruppen. Et møde, der kun gav mig endnu mere blod på tanden og lyst til at engagere mig i projektet: Et samarbejde med Development for Peace Education (DPE) i Lesotho med fokus på borgerdeltagelse i demokratiske processer.

DLN har samarbejdet med DPE i flere år, og er p.t. ved at færdiggøre det andet 1-års projekt med DPE. Som en del af planlægningen af et nyt og større projekt drog Marie Villumsen, Andreas Dybkjær og jeg til Lesotho 10 dage i marts. DLN og DPE er blevet mere og mere fortrolige med hinanden gennem årene, og DPE har øget deres kapacitet. På den baggrund er DLN og DPE blevet enige om at søge CISU om et større og længerevarende projekt der skal løbe over 3 år. Et projekt med særlig fokus på borgerdeltagelse i



The preparation of the visit was very intense. Not only did I have to plan a visit with workshops, field visits and meetings with stakeholders, I also had to understand DLN as an organisation, DPE as a partner and CISU as a donor. At that time DLN's DPE group was so small that we needed to look for new volunteers to go with us, and that is why Andreas got part of the group as well.

## Meeting with the target group

On the first day of the visit Marie, Andreas and I passed by DPE's office in the centre of Maseru and said hello to the office: a National Coordinator and his team of nine employees, consisting of five Peace Education Researchers (who communicate with the local areas), the administrative staff and a book keeper.



*The DPE office and staff*

The following days we met the target group in the two areas: Lkhalango/Mamaebana (Mohales Hoek) and Seforong (Quting). The participants included CBO's (Community Based Organisations), citizens, traditional leaders, local politicians and District Council representatives from Mohales Hoek and Quting.

The focus on the meeting was DPE's role in the local areas and implementation of the decentralisation. The local areas are in need of DPE's support to capacity build CBO's, traditional leaders and local politicians as well as information about the decentralisation, information work regarding roles and

demokratiske og organisatoriske processer.

Omdrejningspunktet er i alt 10

områder/landsbyer fordelt over hele Lesotho, og projektet vil lægge sig tæt op af en nyligt vedtaget lov om decentralisering i de statslige institutioner.

Optakten til turen var intens: Jeg skulle ikke blot være med til at planlægge et besøg fyldt med workshops, besøg 'i felten' hos folk, og møder med interessenter – offentlige samt andre organisationer. Jeg skulle samtidig forsøge at forstå hele DLN som organisation, DPE som samarbejdspartner, og CISU som donor. Samtidig var DLN's DPE-gruppe så lille, at vi søgte efter en ekstra frivillig til at tage med os: her kom Andreas ind i billedet.

## Møde med målgruppen

På besøgets første dag nåede Marie, Andreas og jeg forbi DPE's kontor i centrum af Maseru, og fik hilst på hele kontorets stab: en National Coordinator og hans team af 9 medarbejdere bestående af 5 Peace Education Researchers, der tager sig af kontakten med lokalområderne, samt administrative medarbejdere og en bogholder.



*Møde med district representatives, Quthing*

De efterfølgende dage brugte vi på at møde målgruppen i de to områder Lkhalango/Mamaebana (Mohales Hoek) og Seforong (Quting). Deltagerne inkluderede CBO's (Community Based Organisations), beboere, traditionelle ledere og lokalpolitikere, samt District Council repræsentanter fra hhv.

responsibilities in different level of the public institutions and education in conflict and problem solving.



*Workshop in Seforong, Quthing*

As a newcomer in DLN these meeting are absolutely the most rewarding and effective way to understand DLN and DPE's cooperating and areas of work and to get directly in contact with DPE's beneficiaries. It is important to look them in their eyes, listen to their wants, frustrations, worries, thoughts and ideas – it can not be done from the distance. These people are the foundation of DPE's work and the reason why DLN is engaged in Lesotho. That is why the first were not only the most intense, but also most informative on the entire trip.



*Workshop in Maseru with community animators*

It did not make this two-day trip less memorable that our car broke down on a mountain top and our 'rescue' lost a front wheel and we was send to the river to gather water the following morning.

Mohales Hoek og Quthing.

Fokus på møderne var DPE's rolle i lokalområderne såvel som i udførelsen af decentraliseringspolitikken. Der var stor efterspørgsel efter DPEs hjælp til kapacitetsopbygning af CBO's, traditionelle ledere og lokalpolitikere; oplysning om decentraliseringspolitikken; informationsarbejde vedrørende roller og ansvar i de forskellige niveauer i de offentlige institutioner; og undervisning i konflikt- og problemløsning.

Som nytilkommet til DLNs DPE-gruppe er sådanne møder den absolut mest givtige og effektive måde at forstå DLNs og DPEs arbejdsområde på: At komme i direkte kontakt med de folk, der er modtagere af DPEs arbejde, at kigge dem ind i øjnene og lytte til deres ønsker, frustrationer, bekymringer, tanker og ideer – det kan ikke klares på distancen. De mennesker er årsagen til DPEs virke, og årsagen til, at DLN arbejder i Lesotho. Derfor var de par dage ikke blot de mest intense, men også de mest informative på hele besøget.

Det gjorde naturligvis ikke denne 2-dagestur mindre mindeværdig, at vores bil brød sammen på en bjergtop, at vores 'redningsbil' mistede et forhjul, og at vi kvinder blev sendt til floden for at hente vand den følgende morgen.



*Workshop i Maseru – med community animators*

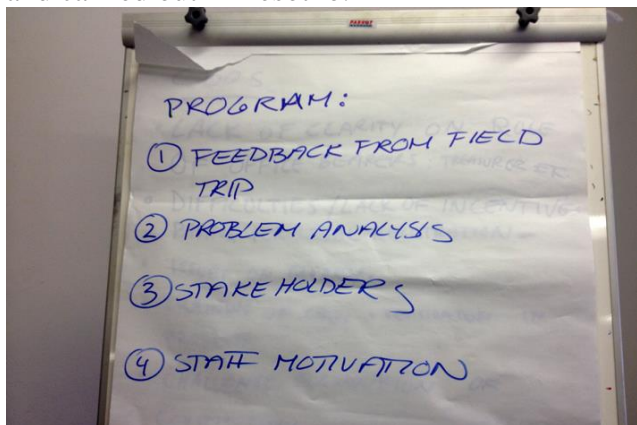
## Workshops, workshops og ...

Besøgets hovedformål var at færdiggøre en



## Workshops, workshops and...

The main purpose of the visit was to finalize the project application together with DPE. So after we had collected a large amount of information during the past days meetings, we started the actually work in Maseru starting with a three days intensive workshop from morning to evening. These workshops contributed to define the sections of the project application – one by one. During the different workshop we identified the stakeholders and the target area, defined the immediate objective, decided which activities should be carried out to achieve the goal, made a risk analysis, discussed how to set-up a monitoring and evaluation system, discussed how to carry out a capacity building programme for DPE and made a budget. In addition we defined the development objective: to ensure that public participation in governance and development is implemented in legislation and carried out in Lesotho.



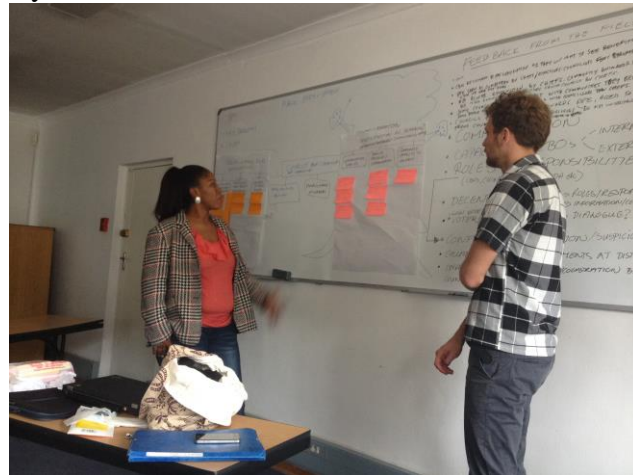
In the same way as the field trip, these workshops were very educating for a new member of DLN as me. Shortly before I went to Lesotho I had taken a course in Logical Framework Approach (LFA) with our donor CISU, which made it even more relevant for me.

## Meeting with stakeholders and the executive board of DPE

In the end of the visit we arranged a meeting with the stakeholders of DPE. The stakeholders included representatives from different ministries, representatives from civil society (e.g.

projektansøgning sammen med DPE.

Så efter at have indsamlet en hel bunke viden på de forrige dages møder, smøgede vi ærmerne op og satte gang i 3 dages intensive workshops fra morgen til aften på kontoret tilbage i Maseru. Workshops, der alle bidrog til at formulere kapitlerne i projektansøgningen - stykke for stykke.



I de forskellige workshops fik vi bl.a. identificeret interessenter og målgruppen, defineret projektets delmål, besluttet hvilke aktiviteter, der skal føre til opnåelse af målet, udarbejdet en risikoanalyse, diskuteret etableringen af et monitorerings- og evalueringssystem, etableret et kapacitetsprogram for udviklingen af DPE, og ikke mindst fastsat et budget. Desuden fik vi naturligvis formuleret det overordnede problem/mål med projektet: at borgerdeltagelse i regeringsførelse og udvikling er implementeret i lovgivningen og udført i praksis i Lesotho.

Som dagene 'på vejen' var disse dage enormt givende for et nyttilkommet DLN-medlem som mig. At jeg umiddelbart inden afgang til Lesotho, havde været til kursus hos CISU i den projektformuleringsmetode, vi brugte (Logical Framework Approach (LFA)), gjorde absolut ikke de forskellige workshops mindre interessante.

## Møde med interessenter og DPE's bestyrelse

Som afslutning på besøget holdt vi møde med

Lesotho Council of NGO's) and donors (as UNDP). It was apparent that DPE's work is highly valued and respected by all agents of society, and many of the invited organisations and individuals showed interest in establishing a partnership with DPE regarding the decentralisation legislation.



*In the Parliament*

In addition the last day we met with two representatives of DPE's executive board. They acknowledged the relevance of the project and expressed their appreciation of the increased cooperation with DLN, which makes part of the new project.

At home we made the final adjustments of the application and handed it in 1st of April. At the moment we are waiting for the approval of the project – so cross your fingers for a positive answer in the end of June.

## The DPE-group is growing

Besides Andreas who went to Lesotho together with me and Marie, the DPE-group is fortunate to have four new members. We would like to present them:

DPEs og projektets interessenter. Interessenterne inkluderede repræsentanter fra forskellige ministerier, repræsentanter fra civilsamfundet (bl.a. Lesotho Council of NGO's), og donorer (herunder UNDP). Her blev det klart at DPEs arbejde respekteres og værdsættes af alle aktører i samfundet, og flere viste interesse i at etablere et samarbejde med DPE i forbindelse med decentraliseringspolitikken. Derudover mødtes vi den sidste dag med to repræsentanter fra DPEs bestyrelse. De bekræftede os i projektets berettigelse, og udtrykte deres påskønnelse af det øgede og tættere samarbejde med DLN, som det nye projekt lægger op til.



*DPE incl. 2 bestyrelsesmedlemmer*

Hjemme igen blev ansøgningen finpudset, og sendt ind 1. april.

Så nu mangler vi blot at få projektet godkendt hos CISU – kryds fingre for positivt svar midt i juni.

## DPE-gruppen har fået vokseværk

Udover Andreas, som tog med Marie og jeg på projektbesøg, kan DPE-gruppen pryde sig af tilslutning fra hele fire andre nye kræfter. Derfor synes vi det vil være oplagt med en lille introduktion af os alle:



## Mette Damsgaard

Mette was born and bred in the Danish countryside where she lived with her parents and four siblings. She has since moved to Odense, and is the proud mother of two sons Noah and Johan aged 10 and 5.

Mette has been working as a school teacher for 6 years and is currently finishing her Masters degree in Educational Sociology. Mette's main focus has been on political sociology, communication and research methods. She has applied this knowledge and experience on smaller projects concerned with politics and educational systems for museums etc.



## Mette Damsgaard

Mette er født og opvokset på Fyn, hvor hun boede sammen med sine forældre og fire søskende. Siden er hun flyttet til Odense, hvor hun bor sammen med sine dejlige drenge Noah på ti og Johan på fem år.

Oprindeligt er hun uddannet folkeskolelærer og har undervist i folkeskolens udskoling i 6 år. På nuværende tidspunkt er hun ved at afslutte en kandidatuddannelse i Pædagogisk Sociologi med fag i bl.a. politisk sociologi, kommunikation og forskningsmetoder. Derudover arbejder hun på mindre projekter med politik og udvikling af uddannelsesmateriale til bl.a. museer mv.

## Carole Kouassi

Carole holds a Bachelor in European Studies (University of Maastricht) and studies at the moment African Studies (MA) (Copenhagen University). She is currently active at Afrika Kontakt in the Zimbabwe working group and the board.

In late 2013/early 2014 Carole had a 4-month internship at a local youth and civil society organization in Zimbabwe, named Youth Forum. This experience offered her a priceless first hand and on the ground experience of the everyday struggles as well as successes of Zimbabwean NGOs in a politically restrictive



## Carole Kouassi

Carole har en bachelor i Europæiske Studier fra Maastricht Universitet, og studerer p.t. Afrikastudier (kandidat) på Københavns Universitet. Hun er frivillig i Afrika Kontakt i Zimbabwe-gruppen og i bestyrelsen.

I okt. 2013-febr. 2014 var Carole 4 mdr. i praktik i Zimbabwe hos en lokal ungdoms- og civilsamfundsorganisation; Youth Forum. Denne oplevelse gav hende et unikt førstehåndsindtryk og 'on the ground' erfaring af de

<p>environment under the leadership of an authoritarian government. Carole hopes that working with Denmark Lesotho Network will allow her to increase her knowledge on capacity building and grass-roots movements in Africa, and on political lobbying and campaigning in partnership with people and organizations in Lesotho. She very much looks forward to being part of the DLN family</p>		<p>problemer folk står overfor i dagligdagen og for NGO'er der arbejder i et restriktivt og autoritativt samfund. Carole håber at hun hos DLN kan øge sit kendskab til kapacitetsopbygning og græsrodsarbejde i Afrika, samt til politisk lobbyarbejde i samarbejde med folk og organisationer i Lesotho. Hun ser meget frem til at blive en del af DLN-familien.</p>
<p><b>Isabelle Mairey</b> Isabelle has studied economics with focus on health and development and currently works as a Ph.D.-student at University of Southern Denmark focusing on economic evaluation and incentive structures of health technology implementation.</p> <p>Isabelle has previously spend 6 months working with the Danish health sector programmes in Kenya and 6 months at UN-habitat working with issues of urban migration and spill over health effect of invenstments in infrastructure in informal settlements. She looks forward to gain experience with public participatation and practical hands-on implementation in regards to the coming project "Public Participation in Governance and Development".</p>		<p><b>Isabelle Mairey</b> Isabelle har studeret økonomi med særlig fokus på sundheds- og udviklings økonomi. P.t. er Isabelle Ph.d. studerende ved Centre for Health Economic Reseach under Syddansk Universitet, hvor hun arbejder med økonomisk evaluering og incitamentsstrukturer indenfor sundhed. Tidligere har Isabelle tilbragt et år i Kenya som praktikant henholdsvis under Danidas sundhedsprogram på Den Danske ambassade og hos Global division, UN-habitat, hvor hun i forbindelse med sidstnævnte arbejdede med urban migration og sundhedsudfordringer i uformelle bosættelser. Isabelle ser frem til at få et bredere kendskab og praktisk erfaring med borgerdeltagelse i forbindelse med DLNs forestående samarbejde med DPE.</p>



## Vibeke Kjeldsholm

Vibeke lives in the centre of Copenhagen, is married and has two children. She has a degree in Political Science and for many years she has worked with administration of funds, but has decided to look for new challenges. In the end of 2012 she finalized a Master Degree in Africa Studies. At the moment Vibeke is starting up a new company with two other women. They are going to sell children clothes produced in Africa (at the moment Kenya). Vibeke became member of DLN because she wanted to get hands-on experience with development projects in Lesotho in an organisation with engaged and active members.



## Vibeke Kjeldsholm

Vibeke bor i hjertet af København, er gift og mor til 2. Hun er uddannet cand.polit og har i mange år arbejdet med gode råd om og forvaltning af penge, men fik lyst til ny udfordringer og blev i slutningen af 2012 færdig som cand.mag i Afrikastudier.

Lige nu er Vibeke i gang med at starte firma op sammen med to andre piger. De skal sælge børnetøj, som er produceret i Afrika (pt. Kenya). Vibeke er medlem af DLN, fordi hun gerne vil arbejde aktivt med praktisk udviklingsarbejde i en organisation, hvor der er rummelighed og engagerede, aktive medlemmer.

## Andreas Dybkjær

Andreas has studied Development Studies in the UK and Denmark and now works and Save the Children Denmark with areas of responsibilities regarding partnerships in Save the Children International and as coordinator of the so-called Child and Youth Network in which different NGOs focusing on children and youth co-operate. Andreas has come across public participation in various ways - but does not have hands-on experience with this before now and got interested in DLN and DPE due to the interesting context in how the work was described.



## Andreas Dybkjær

Andreas har studeret udviklingsstudier i England og Danmark. P.t. arbejder Andreas hos Red Barnet med partnerskaber i Save the Children International og som koordinator af Børne- og Ungdomsnetværket, hvor NGO'er samarbejder på børne- og ungdomsområdet.

Andreas fandt DLN's og DPE's arbejde interessant fordi det inddrager områder omkring borgerdeltagelse, som han har læst om ift. Udviklingsstudier, og som han synes det kunne være interessant at få praktisk erfaring med.

## **Louise Bau Jensen**

Louise lives in Copenhagen. She has a Bachelor Degree in English and International Studies and a Master Degree in Africa Studies.

At the moment she works with marketing of online education systems. She has travelled in Eastern and Southern Africa and has lived six months in Kenya working with an organisation of street vendors and garbage collectors in the capital cities. Her interest in workers organisation as a way to give citizens a voice is very relevant for DPE's work in Lesotho which focuses on public participation. Louise is looking forward to be part of DLN in the future and hopes that DLN will continue to play a role in capacity building Lesotho.



## **Louise Bau Jensen**

Louise bor i København. Hun har en bachelor i Engelsk og Internationale Studier, og er cand.mag. i Afrikastudier. P.t. arbejder hun med markedsføring af online efteruddannelse. Udover at have rejst i det østlige og sydlige Afrika, har Louise tidligere tilbragt et halvt år i Kenya og arbejdet med faglig organisering af gadesælgere og affaldssamlere i storbyerne. Interessen for organisering som en metode for at give befolkninger en stemme, passer fint overens med DPE's arbejde i Lesotho, hvor fokus er på borgerdeltagelse gennem bl.a. organisering i CBO's. Louise ser meget frem til at være en del af DLN i fremtiden i håbet om at DLN fortsat kan spille en rolle i kapacitetsopbygning af Lesothos befolkning.

## News from Lesotho:

### From Public Eye:



## **Sani Pass to be tarred**

Published on May 22, 2014

The road, famed for being a gruelling 4x4 vehicle drive, links Underberg with Mokhotlong.

KwaZulu-Natal transport MEC Willies Mchunu said that the tarring of the road would improve trade relations between South Africa and Lesotho.

"As well, seamless and legal movement of people between the two countries will help strengthen our economic ties, grow shared



opportunities and ensure sustainable and mutually beneficial development for both countries,” said Mchunu. The announcement that the road would be tarred follows a lengthy opposition campaign from tour operators and community members in the Underberg area.

Environmental groups were also at loggerheads over the benefit of having the road tarred.

The Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa was one of the groups opposed while the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife were in favour of the project.

“From an environmental perspective, it makes economic sense to upgrade the road from gravel to tar as gravel roads require regular maintenance every two years. Furthermore, retaining the road in its gravel state will actually negatively impact the surrounding environment,” said Mchunu.

## Top gravel

Russel Suchet, a tour operator, said: “We are extremely disappointed.”

He had been a part of a concerted effort to keep the top portion of the pass gravel.

He said that the appeal of the pass was its gravel status.

Initially when the tarring of the pass had been mooted many locals opposed the proposal.

The department of environmental affairs approved the upgrading of the road as long as the final 5km stretch up the pass to the border post remained gravel.

Mchunu said that the total cost of upgrading the 19km from Old Good Hope Trading Post to the summit of the Sani Pass at the border post would cost R887m.

## PM says Lesotho open for investment

Published on April 22, 2014 · 1 Comment

BERENG MPAKI

MASERU-Prime Minister Motsoahae Thomas Thabane last week declared Lesotho open for business at an investment forum in London meant to raise awareness of growing economic opportunities in the country.

Thabane was speaking at the Lesotho Investment Forum, which was convened by the Commonwealth Business Council in which around 100 delegates were in attendance.

The forum highlighted opportunities for investment in Lesotho and showcased its sectors including mining, manufacturing, agriculture, financial services, infrastructure and tourism.

“My sincere wish is that this forum will rekindle interest for Lesotho as a destination for investment plans. We are indeed open for business.” Thabane told the forum.

He indicated that Lesotho offered investors a young labour force, flexible tax incentives, competitive wage rates and a gateway to lucrative markets in the Southern African Development Community.

“This investment forum has made us have a fresh look at ourselves, at our problems and at possible solutions, as seen by others who are our friends and who see opportunities in raising the standard of living in our country, and looking at investment opportunities which naturally will create jobs for our people which we need very badly,” he noted.

However, Lesotho’s openness to business can be assessed in terms of the impediments that are said to be deterring investment as articulated in a study called Lesotho Investor Roadmap of 2012 which was done by the Lesotho National Development Corporation in collaboration with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Southern Africa Trade Hub.

The study shows that access to land for commercial use by foreign investors is still a problem despite the enactment of a new law on land administration in 2010.

“The key to enhancing access to land for Basotho and to support their entrepreneurial activity is to accelerate the process of the provision of land leases and adequate zoning of land. The fundamental

objective regarding access to land for foreign investors is to support them in obtaining land for construction of factories,” the report said.

It further highlighted in the past Lesotho has lost up 15 000 job prospects because investors were unable to set up business due to unavailability of land for purchase.

The study also identified Lesotho’s uncompetitive business environment, including high regulatory burden to register property and deal with construction permits.

According to the study it takes more than 30 days for one to obtain a construction permit from the Maseru City Council, and more delays follow in on-site inspections.

“Lack of resources and capacity constraints at the municipality hamper their ability to carry out these inspections. Once a building is completed, all the necessary utilities are connected. The time it takes to get a telephone connection is estimated at 180 days while the cost for connection depends on whether the business is foreign or locally owned,” the report continues.

Lesotho is also known to have a list of investors who are waiting to come in and set up business operations, but due to the inadequacy of infrastructure i.e. factory shells furnished with enough power and water supplies, they are unable to do so.

While the problem of water shortage for industrial use is expected to be a thing of the past once the construction of Metolong Dam is complete, it will take some time before the country attains self- sufficiency in its power supply, something, which is already negatively affecting the mining industry. Currently about half of Lesotho’s power consumption is imported from South Africa and Mozambique.

The report has recommended that Lesotho should allocate space to all investors wishing to do business in the country, citing they have the capacity to bring about significant increases in employment and economic growth.

=> All remaining space at Tikoe Industrial Estate should be immediately allocated to investors. The Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) and Lesotho electricity company (LEC) should deliver all necessary to these sites.

These are several solutions for LNDC to finance these operations:

- LNDC can apply for commercial loan from Lesotho or international banks. Given LNDC’s strong financial situation this should be feasible provided the investments in infrastructure, including factory, would be on cost recovery bases.
- LNDC can enter into joint venture operations with prospective investors and become at least a 20% stakeholder in the investments. This will allow for the investors to lease land outside of the current LNDC-owned estates. However, the supply for industrial land from the private sector and government is limited and might not satisfy the needs of an investor.”

## PSs face suspension

Published on March 28, 2014 · 2 Comments

### LEKHETHO NTSUKUNYANE

**MASERU – Parliament’s Public Accounts Committee (PAC) this week recommended the suspension of two principal secretaries from government service pending the conclusion of their cases before the courts of law.**

The portfolio committee recommended this in its report presented before the National Assembly on Tuesday this week.

The 25-member committee, which is chaired by the Marematlou Freedom Party (MFP) leader Mr Moeketse Vincent Malebo, says the government should show its commitment to fight corruption by suspending Mr



Lebohang Phooko and Mr Mosito Khethisa, who are PSs for the ministries of public works and transport, and finance, respectively.

They both face fraud and corruption charges before the Maseru Magistrate's Court.

Phooko is accused of contravening provisions of the Prevention of Corruption and Economic Offences Act No. 1 of 1999, alongside the ministry's director of roads network and maintenance, Mr Tikoe Matsoso.

The duo is said to have unlawfully abused functions of their office between January and March 2012, to procure equipment and vehicles for the ministry.

Khethisa, on the other hand, faces charges of defrauding government of over M19 million in 2010.

He is charged alongside the then finance minister, Dr Timothy Thahane, and Civa Innovation Management (proprietary) limited director, Mr Mokhethi Moshoeshe.

Their charges revolve around a contract awarded to the latter on April 29, 2010, for a wool and mohair project, allegedly in contravention of government's procurement regulations.

Thahane, who was redeployed to take charge of the energy ministry when the coalition government took over the reigns in 2012, has since been booted out of the cabinet.

Now, in its report on the Auditor General's Report for the 2008/2009 financial year, the PAC observed that though the office of the Auditor General has always pointed out cases of corruption and misuse of government resources, "...there seems to be no political will to redress the situation."

The PAC this week expressed concern that whereas Phooko and Khethisa were indicted and remanded before the Maseru Magistrate's Court on fraud and corruption charges, they still held their posts "as though nothing has happened".

The committee recommended the PSs be suspended from their posts "until they have cleared their names in the courts of law in order to allow smooth wrap-up of investigations in their cases, and also as it usually happens with other junior officers in the civil service who are in the same dilemma."

However, the committee recommended the PSs be suspended with full benefits.

*Public Eye* further observed the PAC has given Khethisa an ultimatum to account for a M759 000 shortfall reported in the auditor general's report.

Khethisa, the PAC noted, failed to provide the committee with the breakdown of figures, totaling M759 000.

The committee also ordered him to report to provide them with a report before the end of this financial year (2013/2014), detailing how the shortfall occurred and when.

In another report issued last month, the committee also indicated Phooko should be investigated by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences for possible corruption.

The committee suspected that the public works and transport ministry's tender panel, which included Phooko, had sinister motives and interests which bother on corruption after the ministry delayed to finalise the tender process for the construction of the senate building.

But Phooko, in an earlier interview with *Public Eye* said the PAC's accusations should be rooted in law.

Contacted for comment yesterday, Khethisa said new precedence would have been set if the committee's recommendations are considered by the cabinet.

He said: "PSs, as chief accounting officers in their respective ministries, are accused all the time and face charges before the courts of law. But that does not mean they are guilty already."

He added: "Many PSs were charged before but none of them was ever suspended from work before he was found guilty by the courts".

Khethisa further explained civil servants are only suspended from service after they are found guilty in disciplinary cases.

"I was never called for a disciplinary hearing myself so it is baseless that I should be suspended," he noted.

The PS refused to respond to other questions relating to the report, indicating he had not yet seen the document.

## Human rights commission set up delay riles villagers

Published on April 4, 2014

**KHUTLISO SEKOATI**

**MOHALE'S HOEK**—Delays in the establishment of a human rights commission has left villagers in the Hloahloeng constituency disillusioned and furious, *Public Eye* has established.

The residents' anger was evident when two non-governmental organisations, the Transformation Resource Centre (TRC) and the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) sought public opinion on the yet-to-be established unit, aimed at promoting and guarding against the violation of human rights.

The organisations jointly held public meetings beginning April 1 where the need for the formation of the commission was extensively discussed with members of the public at Ha Phafoli and Hloahloeng areas. The villagers highlighted there was urgent need for legislation allowing for the establishment of the commission.

Plans to set up the commission were put in place about three years ago, and the constitution was amended to allow for such establishment, but since then the institution has not been in place, attracting fierce discontent among civil society organisations.

The Bill seeking to establish the body is yet to be tabled before parliament to be crafted into law.

"We strongly welcome calls for the formation of the institution. Legislators go to parliament but never come back to report, and so are the councillors. They are accountable to the people they represent so if the commission is established the public will know the state of public affairs pertaining to development, human rights protection, service delivery and governance.

"We will know where we are coming from and where we are headed in those respects," said a highly irritated 'Maliengoane Lerotholi during a public gathering held at Ha Nkau.

Also irked by the delay was Motiki Motiki, who argued that the commission would be a platform for the public to voice their grievances arising from violations by an assortment of state organs.

He regretted that inaccessibility of receipt of information was negatively impacting on them "...due to the fact that a society without knowledge is dead as information is power."

"We urgently need the commission as there are many problems that engulf us," observed Khotso Mpota, saying the construction of the Katse Dam had negatively affected communities living downstream along the Senqu River.

He indicated the water levels of the river had drastically been reduced, resulting in indigenous plants dying, rights which he said could be protected if the commission was up and running.

However, the envisaged commission came under criticism relating to its appointment.

"Will that commission be elected by us? We believe it has to be elected by us through our vote," opined 'Maretsepile Letlala during meeting held at Ha Nkau on April 2.

Yesterday another meeting was held at Ha Topa in the same constituency where the two civil organisations' officials sought public opinion in an attempt to exert pressure on government to fast-track the enactment of the law establishing the body.

## 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)  
DLN's address is: Denmark Lesotho Network, C/O Anne Andersen, Hjembækvej 32, DK 8500, Grenaa, Denmark. E-mail: [dln@lumela.dk](mailto:dln@lumela.dk)

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