

News from the DLN

Welcome to the Newsletter. Hope you will enjoy reading it. You can read about the DLN AGM, Jeppe Hedegaard at his internship in Lesotho and about a new application from Rural Selfhelp Development Association (RSDA).



This is how March spring looks like in Denmark this year.



News from the Board

By: Karina Ruby, Chairman

2018 has started and we have held our DLN Annual General Meeting on March 3rd and a new Board has been elected.

Nyt fra Bestyrelsen

Af Karina Ruby, formand

2018 er allerede godt i gang. Der har været afholdt generalforsamling d. 3. marts, og en ny bestyrelse er valgt. DLNs kasserer gennem alle

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Membership of DLN

The new Board:

From left Arne Pedersen, Lisbet Kristensen, Anne Andersen, Nis Skau, Karina Ruby, Helga Halck Højsager.



Karen Steffensen receives a present for her great efforts in DLN

Our Treasurer through all the years since our beginning in 2002, Karen Steffensen, has chosen not to stand for election. She received many thanks for the great efforts put in by her though all the 16 years that went well. Nis Skau is the new Treasurer. The AGM was attended by 17 members and was very cosy as usual.

Anthropology student Jeppe Hedegaard made an interesting presentation about his internship in Lesotho. (More about the AGM elsewhere in this newsletter).

Anders Hedegaard went on a project visit to RSDA in February, and an application to CISU for a new project is prepared at the moment. The current project is coming to an end, and RSDA has expressed a wish for a new project together with DLN and is hoping that funds will be allocated.

Member of the Board, Carsten Brønden has recently been on the first project visit to our new partner, Lesotho National Council of Women (LNCW). The project aims at capacity building and teacher training in vocational schools.

A new project in the making concerns reuse of Danish school computers in Lesotho schools. Arne Petersen is looking into the possibilities for transport and ensuring correct handling and distribution in Lesotho. A new and interesting project in an area where DLN has not previously been engaged.

årene siden stiftelsen i 2002, Karen Steffensen, genopstillede ikke til valget.

Hun fik mange tak for sin store indsats i de 16 år, det er godt gået. Nis Skau er ny kasserer. Generalforsamlingen var som sædvanlig hyggelig og med deltagelse af 17 medlemmer. Antropologistuderende Jeppe Hedegaard holdt et spændende oplæg om sit praktikophold i Lesotho. Læs mere om generalforsamlingen længere nede i nyhedsbrevet.

I februar har Anders Hedegaard været på projektbesøg hos RSDA, og der arbejdes nu på at skrive en ny ansøgning til CISU. Det lakker mod enden med det nuværende projekt, og RSDA ønsker et nyt projekt sammen med DLN, og håber det kan bevilges.

Bestyrelsesmedlem Carsten Brønden har lige været i Lesotho på det første projektbesøg hos vores nye partner LNCW (Lesotho National Council of Women). Projektet handler om opkvalificering af underviserne på erhvervsskoler.



GF handler også om at mødes til uformelle snakke.

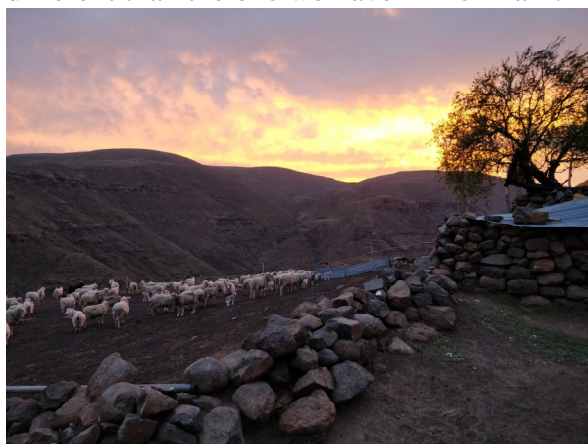
I støbeskeen er der et nyt projekt omkring brugte computere fra danske skoler til skoler i Lesotho. Arne Pedersen undersøger mulighederne for transport og sikring af levering til de rette i Lesotho. Det er et nyt og interessant projekt indenfor et område, som DLN ikke tidligere har været engageret i.

“Going Native” Internship in Lesotho

By: Jeppe Hedegaard

“My Alarm goes off at half past 5am. I get out of bed onto the cold floor to switch on the water heater. It usually takes about an hour to heat enough water to fill the bottom of my little tub, so I jump back into bed for a while. My colleagues have taught me how to wash properly, without using too much water - “Basothostyle” they called it. You have to kneel down into the tub and bring the water up over your head with cupped hands.

“Remember always to begin with your head!”, they had laughed. It makes sense to me now. After washing I make a cup of coffee and sit down on a chair outside my cabin. I am gradually getting used to the taste of the coffee that is available at our local market. It is quite different than the one we have in Denmark.



Here the sun is raising over Mafeteng

The sun has risen now and my neighbor are already up and about. There is a smell of smoke in the air and I can already hear the radios of hundreds of taxis blasting afrobeats in the distance. My neighbor, a mother of 4, is stirring a big pot of Niekue on the fire. She greets me through the fence, “Khotso Ntate!”. Our guard dog, a long haired mixture the size of a Great Dane, comes up to my cabin to say good morning as well. He always barks a couple of times and then lies down at my feet

“Going Native” Praktikophold i Lesotho

Af Jeppe Hedegaard

“Min alarm vækker mig halv seks. Jeg tripper søvndrukken ud på det kolde gulv for at slå den gamle vandvarmer til og håber på ikke at kvase for mange kakerlakker under mine fødder undervejs. Når den gamle varmer har kørt i en times tid, er der nok vand til, at jeg kan fylde bunden i mit lille kar, så jeg hopper tilbage under tæppet for en stund igen. Mine kollegaer har lært mig, hvordan man vasker sig ordentligt, når man ikke har så meget vand - “basothostyle” kaldte de det. Det foregår i knælende position nede i karret, og med hænderne skovler man så vandet op over kroppen. “Husk altid at starte med ansigtet!”, havde de grinet. Det giver mening nu... Efter vask laver jeg en kop kaffe og sætter mig ud på plastikstolen foran min lille hytte. Jeg værner mig aldrig til den sørgelige flade version af Neskafe og creamer, som er den eneste vi kan få ved vores købmand. Havde jeg været en smule mere kaffe-connaisseur ville en praktikplads i Etiopien godt nok have givet mere mening.

Solen er stået op, og mine naboer er for længst gået i gang med dagens pligter. Der lugter af røg i luften, og allerede nu kan man høre de hundredvis af taxa-bussers gamle anlæg buldre af sted med skrattende afrobeats. Nabokonen har gang i en stor gryde på et bål - nok en portion Niekue til hendes fire børn, inden de skal i skole. Hun hilser igennem pigtrådshegnet, “Khotso Ntate”. Kasper, vores vagthund, et langhåret gadekryds på størrelse med en Great Dane, kommer også op til skuret og siger godmorgen. Han gør altid lige to gange, hvorefter han lægger sig kælent ved mine fødder. Han har nok stadig ikke vænnet sig min blege kulør, tænker jeg.

Turen ind til kontoret fra forstadsområdet Ha Pita, hvor jeg bor, tager mindst en time med bus. Heldigvis har jeg fået lov at låne organisationens off-road motorcykel, hvilket

playfully for a padding. He still hasn't gotten used to my pale color I think to myself. It takes about an hour to get to the office by bus from my neighbourhood Ha Pita. Luckily I have gotten permission to borrow the organisations motorbike which makes the trip half an hour faster and a lot more fun. The first 6 kilometers are on ditched, twirly, gravel road through Maserus suburbs. I stop several times for herders and their sheep crossing the road in their colorful blankets and gumboots. They look sharp! But the warm blanket and the boots are first and foremost very practical in Lesotho's always changing weather conditions. The last couple of kilometers to the office is through the chaotic, traffic-jammed Pioneer Road. This bit requires focus. Luckily I can sneak the bike between the hour long queues. I've also learned a couple of traffic-appropriate Sesotho swearwords for when the busy taxis suddenly jump lanes or take the wrong way in the roundabouts.



Jeppie has arrived at the RSDA office at the bike

At the office we start the day with a prayer. We all hold hands and the organisation driver says the words. I don't quite understand what is being said. But I love this joint way of starting the day with colleagues. Amen!

I am an intern at the NGO RSDA (Rural Selfhelp Development Association). The organisation works with development of smallholder farmers of Lesotho. The internship was arranged as a part of my studies of

gør turen en halv time kortere og en del mere spændende. De første 7 kilometer er på hullet snørklet grusvej igennem Maserus forstadsområde.



Et meget sædvanligt syn i Lesotho

Jeg stopper regelmæssigt for krydsende hyrdedrenge, der iført farverige Basothotæpper og gummistøvler, genner deres får ud til de omkringliggende græsområder. De ser flotte ud. Men det store tæppe og gummistøvlerne er først og fremmest utroligt praktisk til Lesothos altid omskiftelige vejr. Det sidste par kilometer til kontoret skal jeg igennem den store Pioneer Roads trafikkaos. Her er det med at være vågen. Heldigvis kan jeg snige motorcyklen imellem de timelange bilkøer. Jeg har også lært et par trafik-egnede bandeord på Sesotho, til når de ivrige taxa'er krydser ind foran én eller tager den forkerte vej rundt i rundkørslerne. På kontoret starter vi dagen med en bøn. Det er organisationens driver, der fører ordet, mens vi alle holder hinanden i hænderne. Jeg forstår ikke, hvad der bliver sagt, men jeg synes, det er en utrolig rar måde at starte dagen med sine kollegaer på. Amen!

Jeg er praktikant i NGO'en RSDA, som laver udviklingsarbejde for Lesothos landmænd. Praktikpladsen fik jeg i forbindelse med mit 5. semester på antropologi-studiet på Københavns Universitet. Jeg kunne vælge imellem at tage et halvt år med 4 valgfag på det allerede teori-tunge studie eller at finde en praktikplads. Da RSDA og Lesotho blev en mulighed, var beslutningen ikke svær!

Anthropology at the University of Copenhagen. I had the choice of choosing a semester of 4 different theoretical courses in Denmark or finding an internship abroad. It wasn't a hard choice for me!

The first thing on the program of the day is a meeting with the chairmen of farmer's associations of 5 of Lesotho's districts. They have made the trip to the organisation office to give feedback and inputs to a DLN and RSDA project that has been running for 2 years. The goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the farmer's associations and facilitate dialogue with and influence on politicians and other authorities in Lesotho. The organisation chief, the projects manager and I attend the meeting with the 5 chairmen. The director and the projects manager act as moderators of the meeting, where I primarily write up and categorize the input that we are given.



A view over the farmland and mountains.

The meeting is mostly in Sesotho. After a couple of months in Lesotho my vocabulary in Sesotho extends to a little more than greetings, so the project manager translates phrases throughout the meeting. "We need infrastructure to bulk and package our produce.", "It's almost impossible to have veterinarians come and treat our livestock.", "We need capital for establishing irrigation systems, but the banks will not support us with loans". "The agents will only buy our produce at too low prices - prices so low that it is hard

Første punkt på dagens program er et møde med formændene for landboforeningerne i de 5 distrikter, hvor RSDA arbejder. De har taget turen ind til organisationens kontor i Maseru for at komme med feedback og input til et projekt DLN og RSDA har kørt i 2 år. Målet med projektet er at kapacitetsudbygge landmændenes organisationer og at styrke deres dialog med og indflydelse på politikere og andre beslutningstagere i Lesotho.



Møde med landbrugsorganisationernes distriktsformænd

Ud over de 5 formænd deltager RSDA chefen, projektlederen og jeg selv på mødet. Hvor chefen og projektlederen agerer ordstyrer og mediator på mødet, er jeg primært til stede for at skrive og kategorisere de input, vi får. Møderne med landmændene foregår forståeligt nok på Sesotho. Mit ordforråd begrænser sig efter et par måneder i landet kun til lidt mere end hilsner, så projektlederen oversætter undervejs til engelsk. "Vi mangler bygninger til at kunne samle og pakke vores afgrøder.", "Det er nærmest umuligt at få dyrelæger til at komme og tilse vores kvæg", "Vi mangler penge til at kunne oprette vandingssystemer, men bankerne vil ikke samarbejde omkring lån", "De private opkøbere kræver alt for lave priser for vores afgrøder. Vi kan dårligt forsørge vores familier på det lille overskud!". Min landbrugstekniske viden er ikke stor, men jeg fornemmer tydeligt på formændenes udsagn, at de har alvorlige udfordringer ude i distrikterne.

Da samtalen kommer ind på den flere måneders lange tørke, der netop er ophørt, og

to sustain families”.

Even though I have very limited knowledge about agriculture, it is very clear to me that farmers are facing serious challenges in the districts. The topic of discussion moves to the consequences of the several months long drought which has just ended. This topic makes the atmosphere tense and sad. There is a certain degree of resignation to trace in the chairmen's body language and in there is a lot sighs in their voices. I write all their inputs and these observations down. Even though it is very sad to hear about the very real struggles the farmers are faced with, it is usable input for the project. We also learn that the project had brought a lot of positive changes in the districts. One of the accomplishments mentioned is that several of the districts are now in dialogue with stakeholders and authorities in agriculture about policy changes. Quite a few of the farmer's organisations have applied for and received grants from the government. One of the districts has also managed to established a joint bank for its members.



A woman in Mohale's Hoek with her firewood

After the meeting and farewell to the chairmen, the director, the projects manager and I sum up about the inputs we have gotten. Later we will categorize and analyze these inputs for adjustments of the project interventions and for application for a project-extension. The chief is worried about the consequences of the drought

dens konsekvenser, bliver stemningen i rummet trykket. Formændenes kropssprog er opgivende, og tonelejet er præget af suk og magtesløshed. Jeg skriver det hele ned. Selvom det er trist at høre om disse problemer, er det gode input for projektet. På den positive side har projektet bl.a. medført, at flere af distrikterne nu er i dialog med Landbrugsministeriet omkring ændringer i lovgivningen. Flere af de mindre landbrugsorganisationer har søgt om og modtaget tilskud fra statsorganer. Der er også et af distrikterne, som har oprettet en central bank for alle deres medlemmer. Efter mødet og farvel til distriktsformændene samstemmer organisationschefen, projektlederen og jeg de input, vi har fået. Vi skal senere have kategoriseret og analyseret disse input mod justeringer i projektets indsatsområder og mod en ansøgning til en projektførlængelse. Chefen er bekymret for tørkens konsekvenser, især i Mafeteng-distriktet, hvor de har været særligt hårdt ramt. Min fornemmelse er, at RSDAs indsats falder på et meget tørt sted, også i bogstavelig forstand.

Jeg holder for det meste frokostpause med de 3 andre yngre medarbejdere i organisationen. Vi deler en stor boks med papa, stuvning og moroho. Vi fægter altid lidt om de store stykker kød med vores plastikskeer. Det her er nu hyggeligere end at sidde med vær sin tørre stanniol-indpakkede leverhørmer, synes jeg. Det er også under disse stunder, hvor vi sidder og deler mad, at jeg virkelig føler, at jeg lærer mine kollegaer at kende. Måske danske arbejdspladser kunne lære noget her. Efter frokost skal 3 kollegaer og jeg til Mafeteng-distriktet og fange kyllinger. RSDA har ved siden af projekterne en kyllingefarm, hvorfra de sælger befrugtede æg og kyllinger. Landmænd kan købe disse kyllinger til en billig pris, og de får samtidig et kursus i at holde dem. Vi kører i RSDAs halvgamle Izuzu i lidt mere end en time til farmen i Mafeteng. Jeg elsker at køre ture med organisationens chauffør. Han snakker som et vandfald, griner

and how it has affected especially the Mafeteng district. I have a feeling that RSDA's work is on point with and incredibly crucial to the farmers of Lesotho.

I usually have lunchbreak with the 3 other younger staff members of the organisation. We share a box of rice, stew and moroho. In these moments of food sharing and talking I really feel like I am getting to know my colleagues. I like this social way of sharing lunch better than the more individual model I know from Denmark, where each person has a sandwich for themselves. Maybe Danish workplaces could learn a thing or two here.



The RSDA project car

After lunch 3 colleagues and I are off to the Mafeteng district to collect chickens. Beside the projects RSDA has a chicken farm where chickens and fertile eggs are sold to farmers for good prices. RSDA also supply the farmers training in keeping the chickens. We drive in the organisation Izuzu pickup for a little more than an hour to reach Mafeteng. I really enjoy these drives with RSDA's charismatic driver. He tells jokes, sings, laughs and brings smiles to everyone in the car while driving. At the farm we cooperate to catch the chickens and put them in crates. I am clumsy and slow in catching chickens compared to my colleagues. They laugh at me when the chickens wiggle themselves out of my hands. "Are you afraid of the Mokroho (chickens) Ntate?". Catching chickens may not be relevant to my

og synger altid bag rattet. Ude ved farmen hjælpes vi ad med at fange kyllingerne og putter dem i kasser.



Ntate med kyllingeboksene

Jeg er klodset og langsom til at fange kyllinger i forhold til mine kollegaer. De griner også lidt af mig, når kyllingerne smutter ud af fingrene på mig. "Er du bange for Mokroho (høns) Ntate?!" Man skal være lidt kreativ, hvis man skal relatere kyllingefangeriet til antropologistudiet, men det er sjovt og afvekslende i forhold til arbejdet på kontoret. Som jeg står der i den bagende eftermiddagssol med hønselort op af armene og grinende Basothoer omkring mig, føles en læsesalspult på KU (Københavns Universitet) i efterårsdanmark meget lang væk. Vi kører på vejen tilbage til Maseru forbi køberen af kyllingerne, som glad tager imod kasserne. Han har bygget et fint hønsehus, som han viser frem. Det er rart at slutte arbejdsdagen af med en optimistisk landmand. Da vi når tilbage til kontoret, er klokken 17, og det er lukketid. Jeg siger tak for i dag til

anthropology studies but it is fun and it is nice to leave office work for a bit and get my hands dirty. We drive back to Maseru and make a stop on the way to load off the chickens at the buyer. The farmer is excited about getting the chickens. It is nice to conclude the workday with an optimistic farmer.



The director of RSDA at a meeting in a farmer's organisation.

When we reach the office it is 5pm and "knockoff" time. I wish my colleagues a good evening and drive up the hill to Avani Lesotho - one of Maseru's hotels. I can just make it for a swim in the pool and a cold drink before it gets dark. I drive home to Ha Pita and go early to bed. Tomorrow is another day, and I have get up and start the water heater again!"

This was a little flashback to a typical day in Lesotho during my internship. I am now driving my old bicycle around cold Copenhagen instead of the motorbike in sunny Maseru. The daily stew and rice is substituted for potatoes. And I am reading theories about other peoples interviews instead of doing my own interviews with farmers.

My internship has been incredibly giving for me in several ways. At RSDA I got the opportunity of using the methods and tools that I have mostly just read about in my studies. I got to do interviews and focus group interviews in English and with a translator. I have made observations and collected data for

kollegaerne og drøner op ad bakken til Avani Lesotho - et af Maserus Hoteller. Jeg kan lige nå en dukkert i poolen og en Black Label, inden solen går ned. Jeg kører hjem til Ha Pita inden det bliver helt mørkt. Jeg skal tidligt i seng, for der er jo vandvarmer der skal startes."

Her var et lille flashback til min hverdag i Lesotho under mit praktikophold. Off-roaderen og Maserus trafikkaos er nu byttet ud med min gamle havelåge, og Københavns ordentlige og nærmest cykelfascistiske veje. Papa'en er erstattet af spaghetti. Og samtaler med landmænd, interviews og deltagerobservationer er nu erstattet af teorier og læsning om andres deltagerobservationer.



Besøg ved landsby

Mit praktikophold har været utroligt givende på mange måder. I RSDA i Lesotho fik jeg muligheden for at anvende de metoder og værktøjer, vi igennem studiet for det meste kun har læst om. Jeg har f.eks. forberedt og udført mange timers interviews og fokusgruppeinterviews og prøvet dette både på engelsk og med tolk. Jeg har anvendt observationer og deltaget i at indsamle og analysere data og input for at evaluere RSDA projekter. Praktikken har også givet mig erfaring i, hvordan mine færdigheder som antropologistuderende kan bruges i en arbejdsmæssig kontekst. Her har jeg også fået indblik i, hvordan antropologien med sine naturlige begrænsninger fungerer i samspil med andre faggruppers ekspertise, f.eks. i

evaluations of projects. I have been part of the comprehensive task of preparing of project application. My internship has also given me insight in the ways anthropology can be used in a multidisciplinary work environment. At RSDA I got the unique experience of contributing to a team work - something that I hadn't experienced previously in my studies. I contributed to the objective of developing better opportunities for farmers of Lesotho. My 4 months in Lesotho has also given me experiences which exceed the professional aspects. To eat, wash, work and live with - and as - the people of Lesotho for a period of time, has been unique. At the end of my internship I had the feeling of being settled and of having a meaningful daily life in Maseru. The classic anthropological term, "Going Native", describes how one must adapt values, norms and behavior of other cultures to properly study them. In my gap year travels I have been to a lot of different countries and met people from many different cultures. But in these short encounters I always had the feeling of not really connecting with people and getting behind the facade. I now have a feeling that I have deeper connection with the people of Lesotho. I also have a notion of the challenges, opportunities and joys they experience in their lives.



A heard boy in his colorful blanket

This next half year I will be writing bachelor thesis about Lesotho Highlands Water Project and the commodification of water - so I will

forhold til landbrug. På RSDA fik jeg undertiden følelsen af at være en vigtig brik i samarbejdet. Oplevelsen af, at jeg med mine færdigheder havde en vigtig og bidragende funktion i samarbejdet, har været unik, og noget jeg hidtil ikke har prøvet i mit studie. Jeg bidrog på daglig basis i samarbejdet mod at skabe bedre levevilkår for landmænd i Lesotho. Og så har jo også lært at fange kyllinger!



Personalet på RSDAs kontor

Mine 4 måneder i Lesotho har også givet mig erfaringer, som når ud over det faglige. Det at bo, spise, bade, arbejde og leve sammen med - og som - Basothoerne i en kortere periode har for mig været helt unik. Jeg havde i slutningen af mit ophold en fornemmelse af at være faldet til og at have en meningsfuld hverdag og et socialt liv i Maseru. Det klassiske antropologiske begreb, "Going Native", beskriver, hvordan man for at kunne studere en anden kultur, skal prøve at tilpasse sine værdier, normer og adfærd til den pågældende kultur. Hvor jeg tidligere på mine sabbatårs rejser har besøgt mange lande og mødt mennesker fra mange forskellige kulturer, har jeg altid haft en fornemmelse af ikke rigtigt at komme om bag facaden. Jeg har nu en fornemmelse af at have dybere kendskab til befolkningen i Lesotho og de udfordringer, muligheder og glæder deres liv byder dem. Det næste halve år skal jeg skrive bacheloropgave om, hvad Lesotho Highlands Water Project's damme og kommodificeringen

still be occupied with the little, fantastic, mountainous Kingdom for a while.
Thanks to DLN for supporting my internship and to my fantastic colleagues at RSDA for hosting me with such great hospitality and kindness.

af vand har haft af betydning for Basthoerne, så jeg har ikke helt sluppet det lille, fantastiske, bjergrige kongerige endnu...
Tak til Denmark Lesotho Network for hjælp og støtte til mit lille Lesotho eventyr!

Annual General Meeting in DLN

By: Anne Andersen



The yearly report is published by Karina Ruby

The AGM of DLN was held on March 3rd at the 'U-huset' Aarhus, attended by 17 members. The day started with coffee and morsels. In addition to the serious parts of the proceedings, the breaks and bites are very important parts of the AGM. This is where member have a chance for an informal talk and exchange of experiences. In fact, one of the most important reasons for attending the AGM.



Jeppe Hedegaard is sharing his points of view

Generalforsamling i DLN

Af Anne Andersen

Den 3. marts mødtes 17 medlemmer til generalforsamling i U-huset i Aarhus. Dagen startede med kaffe og lidt brød. Ud over den seriøse del af dagen, er pauserne med lidt til ganen en meget vigtig del af GF. Det er her, medlemmerne kan få en snak og udveksle erfaringer på et uformelt plan. Det er en af de vigtige grunde til overhovedet at møde frem til GF.

Jeppe Hedegaard startede den formelle del med at fortælle om sit praktikophold hos Rural Selfhelp Development Association (RSDA). Det var spændende at høre hans iagttagelser både omkring RSDA og det at leve blandt Basotho. Jeppe fik stor ros for sit oplæg af generalforsamlingen. Læs Jeppe's egen historie et andet sted i nyhedsbrevet.



Der bliver lyttet intenst

Det var også spændende og givtigt at høre om DLNs generelle aktiviteter og om, hvad der foregår i de forskellige projektgrupper. Der er 9 forskellige projektgrupper og med meget forskelligt aktivitetsniveau. Der er de to store

Jeppé Hedegaard started the formal part of the programme by presenting his experiences from his internship with Rural Self Help Association (RSDA). It was interesting to share his observations about RSDA and his experiences of living amongst the Basothos. Jeppé received great praise from the AGM for his presentation. Jeppé's own story can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

It was also exciting and useful to hear about DLNs general activities and the work undertaken by the various projects groups.



Anders Hedegaard speaks about the next project with RSDA

There are nine project groups, which differ quite considerably in terms of levels of activity. In the two big projects with RSDA and Development of Peace Education (DPE) activities are happening continuously in both Lesotho and Denmark.

Project Working Kids has finally taken off and Carsten Brønden was visiting the project at the time of the AGM and had submitted an update. There is a big need to strengthen 'Training Needs Assessment', 'Course Design' and 'Train the Trainer' which are the first activities that have started.

Another group that has been very active during 2017 is the travel group, which sent 11 persons to Lesotho from 3-16 November. Six participants had never been to Lesotho before, and the feedback from them indicated that the tour had been really interesting and well

projekter med RSDA og Development of Peace Education(DPE). Her er der konstant aktiviteter både i Lesotho og i Danmark. Projekt Working Kids er endelig kommet i gang. Carsten Brønden var på projektbesøg i Lesotho og havde sendt en opdatering på, hvordan, det gik. Af den fremgår det, at der er et stort behov for Training Needs Assessment, Course Design og Train the Trainer, som er de første aktiviteter, der er kommet i gang.



Snak over kaffen

En anden gruppe, hvor der har været meget aktivitet i 2017 er rejsegruppen, som havde 11 personer i Lesotho fra 3. til 16. november.



Rejsedeltagerne ser på hulemalerier i Masetise

Der var 6 deltagere, der aldrig havde været i Lesotho før, og fra dem lød det, at det var en rigtig interessant og veltilrettelagt rejse, hvor de blev præsenteret for virkeligheden i et land, hvor forskellene i levestandarden er meget store. Læs en af deltagernes beretning på hjemmesiden www.lumela.dk.

Generalforsamlingen ønsker at have som mål,

organised.



The AGM and concentration

They experienced the realities of a country where levels in the standard of living differ tremendously. (Read one of the participant's story at the website www.lumela.dk). The AGM expressed a wish to maintain the aim of organising a culture tour to Lesotho every second year. This is despite the difficulties of mobilising enough participants – given the stiff competition in the travel market. We have not succeeded in establishing partnership with any of the well-established travel agents, so participants must continue to trust the words of the DLN tour leaders.

A new project group was started in 2017 with Arne Petersen as the initiator. His idea is to collect used, yet operational PCs from schools in Vejle Municipality and donate them to schools in Lesotho. He has put in a lot of effort, but the task is challenging. Approvals are needed as well as cooperation with various parties. When app. 450 operational PCs have been collected and tested, transport is needed, and the cost of moving a container from Denmark to Lesotho is not small. However Arne and Carsten are working undeterred on the task, so the prospects of succeeding are good.

Other groups have implemented fewer activities, but they are not forgotten. However one group, the fundraising group, has dissolved itself, as no one volunteered to substitute Anders Foghsgaard, who has been working on

at der skal arrangeres en rejse til Lesotho hvert andet år. Dette til trods for, at det har været særdeles svært at skaffe rejsedeltagere, da konkurrencen på rejsemarkedet er enorm. Det har været umuligt at få et etableret rejsebureau til at gå ind i et samarbejde, så deltagerne må blot stole på DLN rejseledernes løfter.

En helt ny gruppe er kommet til i 2017. Det er Arne Pedersen, der er initiativtager til den. Han fik den ide, at ville samle brugte og brugbare PC-ere ind fra skoler i Vejle Kommune og forære dem til undervisningsformål i Lesotho. Han har gjort et stort stykke arbejde, der ikke er så lige til. Der skal være godkendelser forskellige steder fra og samarbejde med forskellige aktører. Når ca. 450 brugbare PC'er er samlet ind og testet, skal de transporteres. Det at flytte en hel container fra Danmark til Lesotho er ikke gratis, men Arne og Carsten arbejder ufortrødent på opgaven, så det skal nok lykkes.



Der lyttes til årsberetningen

De andre grupper har haft færre aktiviteter i løbet af året, men de er ikke glemt. En gruppe er blevet opløst. Det er fundraising gruppen, hvor ingen ville afløse Anders Foghsgaard, som har arbejdet alene nogle år. Han ønskede ikke at fortsætte, så det blev vedtaget, at projektgrupperne nu selv må ansøge om alternative midler fra andre fonde end CISU.

Den nye bestyrelse kom til at se sådan ud:
Formand Karina Ruby

his own for some years. He didn't want to continue, so it was decided that the project groups themselves will be responsible for also raising alternative funds, i.e. other than from CISU.

The new Board constitutes itself as follows:

Chairman Karina Ruby

Vice-chairman Lisbeth Kristensen

Treasurer Nis Skau

Secretary Carsten Brønden

Member Bodil Mathiasen

Member Arne Pedersen

Member Helga Halck Højsager

1st Alternate Grete Mygind

2nd Alternate Anne Andersen

The AGM finished with an evaluation and a speech in honour of Karen Steffensen, who has been a member of the Board since the first AGM in 2002 when DLN was founded. Throughout all the years she has served as DLN's treasurer. Karen received a lot of praise, flowers and chocolate for the great work carried out throughout all the years. We wish Karen good luck and all the best in her new life outside the Board of DLN.

See full minutes of the AGM at the website
www.lumela.dk

Næstformand Lisbeth Kristensen

Kasserer Nis Skau

Sekretær Carsten Brønden

Medlem Bodil Mathiasen

Medlem Arne Pedersen

Medlem Helga Halck Højsager

1. suppleant Grete Mygind

2. suppleant Anne Andersen

Dagen sluttede med evaluering og med en tale til Karen Steffensen, der har været i bestyrelsen lige siden den allerførste generalforsamling og stiftelse af foreningen i 2002. I alle årene har hun varetaget jobbet som kasserer. Karen fik rosende ord, blomster og chokolade som tak for den store indsats, hun har ydet gennem alle årene. Held og lykke med et nyt liv udenfor DLNs bestyrelse, Karen.

Læs referatet i sin fulde længde på
hjemmesiden www.lumela.dk



Snak i pausen

Application for a new project

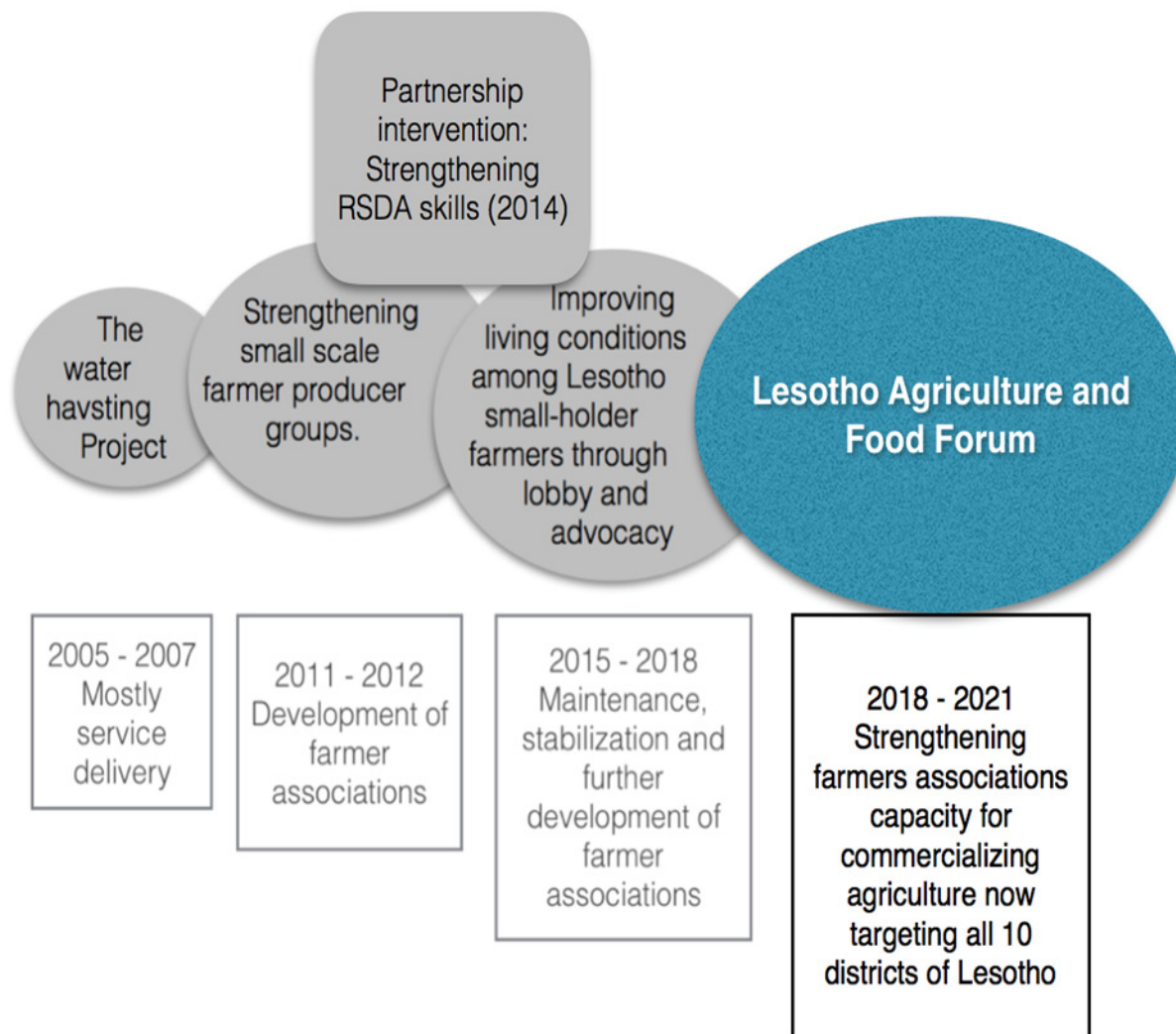
By: Anders Hedegaard

The DLN-RSDA project group has asked The Civil Society Fund for another 3-year project. The lessons learned from previous DLN-RSDA-projects have led to the development of the project at hand, where the focus will be on partnerships at all levels. The Assessment Committee's reply to the application will be July or August.

THE PROJECT: LESOTHO AGRICULTURE AND FOOD FORUM

The intervention

The overall vision of this project is smallholder farmers having political influence and ability to do viable agri-business in Lesotho. The outcome of the project will be a Lesotho Agriculture and Food Forum building smallholder farmers' social capital alongside doing incisive lobbying and advocacy towards the Government of Lesotho for them to provide the necessary infrastructure and enabling environments in the rural areas of Lesotho.



The lessons learned from previous DLN-RSDA-projects have led to the development of the project at hand, where the focus will be on partnerships at all levels. Working together with likeminded organisations, building social capital and providing the necessary infrastructure will allow smallholder farmers' organisations and forums to both speak with one strong voice and at the same time together aggregate the volumes and the quality produce required by commercial buyers. The proposed project will maximize the outcome of previous projects by synchronising with other interventions across rural areas all over Lesotho so that RSDA and likeminded stakeholders will reach more beneficiaries within the target group.

This project will be decentralising and at the same time densifying the role of RSDA as a leading initiator, coordinator, and facilitator of joint efforts. The joint effort between RSDA and likeminded organisations will be assisting smallholder farmers across all of Lesotho to organise and carry out own advocacy initiatives and lobbying duty bearers at all levels and contexts.

Most of all this project will organise smallholder farmers from all 10 districts of Lesotho and the number of smallholder farmers organised will increase from 5.000 to 10.000.

News from Lesotho:

Mail & Guardian

02 March 2018

Ramaphosa plays the hand he was dealt



Ramaphosa got rid of no less than 10 ministers and made changes to 21 ministerial posts out of 36. In addition, he appointed four new deputies and moved one. (Ruvan Boshoff/Reuters)

The true art of politics is to extract the maximum benefit out of imperfect bargains. The successful politician takes even the most minimally advantageous position and gains something from it until he may, incrementally, derive the maximum available.

And because the dynamics of power are never static, the successful politician knows how to play the game of accumulation, rolling with the punches and swimming with the tide, all the while biding his time until he can accumulate enough power to reshape the environment to his advantage. On this score, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa is not doing badly for himself. He won the presidency of the ANC by a whisker only eight weeks ago. Since that narrow victory against a faction loyal to Jacob Zuma, he has used his still precarious position to achieve several goals calculated to consolidate his power leading to and after the 2019 general election.

He started a thorough clean up of Eskom, the state-owned company at the centre of the Zuma state capture project, got the president out of office with minimal fightback, consolidated his hold on the

national executive committee and national working committee and has isolated the two remaining Zuma loyalists among the top six officials.

Then, in the drive to get the ruling party fighting fit for a difficult general election in 2019, this week he cleared the Cabinet of the core group of Gupta-appointed state capture ministers and restored credibility to key executive posts that will determine the success of the anti-corruption clean-up going into next year.

None of these moves have been easy or come without resistance, and the results are not yet perfect. But Ramaphosa's drive is not for perfection, it is for incremental advantage. This week's Cabinet reshuffle is a case in point. There has been much gnashing of teeth at the survival of some ministers from Zuma's Cabinet, who are perceived to either be state capture actors or general disasters in their own right.

These objections are a bit uncharitable. Ramaphosa got rid of no less than 10 ministers and made changes to 21 ministerial posts out of 36. In addition, he appointed four new deputies and moved one. In all the key portfolios — the ones on which the party's fortunes may hang in 2019 — he made the sort of tactically astute appointments that could very well tip a potentially delicate balance in favour of the ANC.

At the finance ministry, the return of Nhlanhla Nene from the fictional Brics Bank sojourn to which Zuma sent him some two years ago has been universally welcomed. The country's first black African finance minister will now have the chance to complete his rudely interrupted 2014-2019 term of office.

Malusi Gigaba appears to have done no visible damage during his short stint as finance minister and, in the latter months — especially since Nasrec, funnily enough — made all the right noises and moves to right the wrongs at the state-owned enterprises (SOEs). But because of the manner of his elevation to the job, his continuation in the post was never going to be palatable.

Ramaphosa was given a timely reminder of Gigaba's credibility gap during the latter's only budget speech, which was boycotted by the Economic Freedom Fighters and briefly interrupted at the beginning by the Democratic Alliance. The department has been destabilised and lost many high ranking (and highly regarded) professionals since Nene's sacking in 2015, so he and his new deputy Mondli Gungubele — himself widely considered among the best in the ANC's 249-strong caucus — will have their rebuilding work cut out for them.

Gigaba may not have done much damage at the treasury but that is in part because he shot most of his nefarious load at the departments of public enterprises and home affairs. In both portfolios he did his best to enable the Gupta's near wholesale takeover of the state, either by packing SOE boards with Gupta cronies or waving them through pesky naturalisation processes. This week he returned to the latter crime scene, where senior officials may have cause to wonder what they ever did to deserve getting him twice.

Pravin Gordhan now has the unenviable task of scooping up the poo at the public enterprises department left by Gigaba and his even worse successor Lynne Brown. There was some clamour for Gordhan to return to cabinet as finance minister again, but I would not be surprised if he rejected this and chose public enterprises himself. As a member of that portfolio committee he revelled in holding the boards and management of SOEs to account and must have been itching to get stuck into them as the person in charge of the oversight department.

If Eskom is South Africa's most important SOE, then the state's two main transport companies are a close second. Transnet is the backbone of freight rail, which is meant to keep bulk and consumer



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goods moving, and is the main custodian of the national rail infrastructure. The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) is meant to be — but sadly is not — the dominant mode of long distance and urban commuter transport for millions.

Prasa, beset with board and management instability as well as operational and financial underperformance, will now be overseen by Blade Nzimande, the new minister of transport. Nzimande is another returnee shafted by Zuma in his last Cabinet reshuffle, as the state capture project grew more desperate and brazen. He was treated particularly badly by Zuma, who spent months throwing him under the free higher education bus by side-lining him from the raging debate. Nzimande was otherwise an effective minister who worked tirelessly to establish two new universities. He will get the transport ministry right, if only because he'll spend his time doing his job rather than gerrymandering SOE boards to pack them with cronies.

Ramaphosa appointed Naledi Pandor as higher education minister, a move that immediately lends gravitas and depth to the free higher education debate. Pandor has a reputation for integrity and administrative effectiveness. She is passionate about research and innovation, and her enthusiasm elevated the science and technology portfolio even as she served a president who couldn't care less for it.

In the key economic portfolios, Ramaphosa's biggest gambles were the appointments he made at the departments of energy and mineral resources, where he chose Jeff Radebe and Gwede Mantashe respectively. Radebe's job will be to put South Africa's integrated resource plan back on track after the scandalous and corrupt flirtation with nuclear energy. He is clean and trustworthy enough to be entrusted with that. Remarkably, in nearly 25 years in the national executive, he has never been implicated in any dodgy business — the odd C.L.I.T request aside. Radebe is the second oldest minister in Ramaphosa's Cabinet, and it's unlikely he has a future there beyond 2019.

Mantashe knows the mining industry like the back of his hand but does have a reputation for brashness. It's a sector where confidence and co-operation are at an all-time low, not least because of the risible tenure of Mosebenzi Zwane, the corrupt Gupta stooge Zuma foisted on the industry. Both mining companies and unions could have done with a sweet-talking conciliator who has Mantashe's knowledge and experience. It does not help that Mantashe has worked within the state. For the purposes of 2019, those are probably the key appointments. But the president has faced unhappiness over the retention in Cabinet of Gigaba, Nomvula Mokonyane (who was moved from the water and sanitation department to communications), and Bathabile Dlamini (from social development department to the presidency). But these retentions have much to do with the politics of incremental accumulation. Ramaphosa did not sweep the Zuma cabal aside at Nasrec. He has them in the top six, so it is unsurprising that he must live with them in his Cabinet.

The president's true moment of reckoning will come in 2019. That is how David Mabuza's appointment as deputy president should be seen. Ramaphosa could have overlooked Mabuza and was probably tempted to do so.

But Ramaphosa cannot spend the next few months looking at his shoulder at his deputy or staring down the remnants of the Zuma project. His job now is to win the general election and do so in such a way that the ANC is grateful and indebted to him for its continued hold on power. Only then will he be able to fully dictate terms. For now, he has chosen a Cabinet to help him do that. He is not doing badly.

Vukani Mde is a founder and partner at LEFTHOOK, a Johannesburg-based research and strategy consultancy



Lestho Times:

03 2018

Lesotho in crisis-Majoro

...urgent action required to halt economic decline

Bereng Mpaki

LESOTHO is in dire straits and the government must “bite the bullet” and implement painful decisions to avoid political and economic chaos befalling the country, Finance Minister Moeketsi Majoro has declared.

Dr Majoro made his unprecedented bold admission while unveiling an austere 2018/19 budget in Parliament yesterday.

He said the country is in a crisis underpinned by a high rate of poverty, hunger and joblessness ill health and a mismatch between the skills needed to grow the economy and those being produced by local educational institutions. Many young people on the job market had dropped out of school at the end of primary schooling when they were 12 years old or at Form E when were only 17 years of age, meaning they lacked the requisite skills to get gainful employment.

“The fiscal resources required to redress the situation are scarce and limit any meaningful participation by the government,” said Dr Majoro in a seemingly very frank assessment of the economic and political challenges bedeviling Lesotho.

The government was effectively broke and its programmes would have to be financed by more borrowing pushing the country further towards a fiscal cliff.

“Our government now has to bite the bullet and make decisions that would be painful but which if not taken would impose political and economic chaos on Lesotho,” declared Dr Majoro, vowing that the government would nonetheless remain committed to foster an environment to create jobs in the private sector.

Although Dr Majoro did not fully explain the painful decisions that he says required to be taken to avoid chaos, he outlined a number of expenditure cutting measures including curtailing foreign travel, improved procurement procedures, price caps on goods procured by the government, rationalization of the government fleet, improved management of the wage bill through the elimination of ghost workers, among other things.

Dr Majoro unveiled a M16.5 billion budget for the 2018/19 financial year whose major highlights include a 4 percent salary increase for civil servants and a one percent hike of VAT from 14 to 15 percent to mirror a similar increase in South Africa last week.

Old age pensioners will however not receive any increments as has been the norm over the years. There is also little to celebrate for the general public in the budget which is more focused on cost-cutting to try and contain the increasing deficit.

There will be a phased increase in VAT on telecommunications and electricity.

Of the M16.5 billion budget, M10, 7 billion would be channeled towards recurrent expenditure while the rest would for the capital expenditure.

The government will also undertake capital projects including road and dam construction as well as a M60 million solar plant in the Mafeteng district to provide electricity.

“The Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship plans to construct 198.4km of urban roads and 1102km of rural community roads adding to 281.7 km and 37.9 km respectively achieved in the 2017/18 financial year,” Dr Majoro said.



“Low-income housing of 60 housing units are already being built in Linakotseng, Maseru and Qacha’s Nek. Bus terminals will be constructed in Leribe, Mafeteng and Semonkong.”

Themed on Pursuing Job Creation and Restoring Fiscal Stability and Sustainability, Dr Majoro said the budget was prepared against the background of the tough fiscal situation where Lesotho’s South African Customs Union (SACU) revenue share for 2018/19 financial year was expected to decline by M616.1 million from the 2017/18 financial year.

The situation has been compounded by indications that the Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA) will not meet its target for the second year running and it is expected that the deficit will be M684 million.

As part of measures to make up for the shortfall, VAT has been increased to 15 percent from 14 percent “to align with that of South Africa and to avoid smuggling”.

Dr Majoro also proposed to gradually increase VAT on telecommunications and electricity, which presently stand at 5 percent to align to the unitary rate of 15 percent. This coming financial year the VAT will be increased by 4 percent for telecommunications and 3 percent for electricity.

Civil servants will however, take comfort in the 4 percent across the board wage increase. This represents a marginal improvement from the 3 percent increase they were awarded in the 2017/18 financial year.

“At 4 percent across the board wage increase, the wage bill will remain high, but it will have to be complemented by additional austerity plans in the medium term,” Dr Majoro said.

However, the tax increases are likely to affect disposal real incomes as there will be increases on the general VAT and on VAT on telecommunications and electricity.

There was however, no joy for pensioners whose allowances have not been increased.

Speaking to the media after the budget presentation, Dr Majoro, said the austere budget and the failure to increase pension allowances owed to the fact government had to “bite the bullet” and make decisions that were “painful”.

He said the country was facing challenging times economically and an upward review of the pensions would only aggravate the situation.

“This budget is being prepared amid the tough fiscal position confronting the country. SACU revenue is significantly down in both nominal and real terms.

“Net International Reserves are below the target we set to maintain parity with the (South African) rand currency, government deposits have finally run out and any fiscal deficit will now have to be financed through new borrowing.

“These are new times. Our government now has to bite the bullet and make decisions that would be painful, but which if not taken would impose political and economic chaos on Lesotho,” Dr Majoro said.

So dire is the situation that Dr Majoro even proposed the introduction of a lottery as part of efforts to boost revenues. He said the government will modernise the Lotteries Act of 1975 to allow for the introduction of a government lottery.

Dr Majoro proposed to cushion vulnerable groups by ensuring that the Ministry of Social Development increases the coverage of the National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA) to all community councils to cover at least 350 000 households.

“The Child Grants Programme and the Public Assistance Programme will target to increase the benefits to at least 25 percent of consumption needs,” he added.

He said given the unstable fiscal outlook, the government intended to implement a number of revenue mobilisation initiatives including the introduction of the Voluntary Disclosure Programme which is estimated to yield M225 million in additional revenue.



In terms of this programme, tax offenders would be allowed to regularise their tax affairs without incurring any penalties.

He further said the LRA would also enhance tax administration measures, targeting improved compliance by major tax contributors in a move that is expected to yield an additional M350 million.

The government will also study the introduction of levies on alcohol and tobacco and will consider their introduction in the not too distant future.

Turning to job creation, Dr Majoro said the government intends to venture into commercial agriculture where it will pay particular attention to increasing the production of meat, hides, wool and mohair.

“The government will also support the expansion of orchards and the development of a deciduous fruit industry as part of the strategy to create additional jobs.

The Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation, Trade and Industry, Small Business and Cooperatives and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security working with banks, insurance companies, buyers, and investors will lead the roll out of fruit orchards. Their efforts will build on the successful operation of the Likhothola Orchard in Mahobong, Leribe.”

On tourism, Dr Majoro said the government will bring into operation the Butha-Buthe Tourist Centre, Sehlabathebe National Park and the Bokong Nature Reserve Chalets.

He intimated that measures to stimulate economic growth would only succeed in a climate where government and all the stakeholders vigorously worked for the implementation of multi-sector reforms as recommended by the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The reforms are aimed at creating lasting peace and stability in the country without which economic growth cannot be achieved.

“Peace and stability is desired by all Basotho. The political instability and insecurity we have experienced in recent years...was made possible by the loopholes in our constitutional and political framework.

“Our government is therefore committed to inclusive reforms in which all groups of society should feel free to participate. The recent dialogue by political dialogue facilitated by the Christian Council of Lesotho and witnessed by civil society is testimony to the commitment and openness to broad participation,” Dr Majoro said.

But Dr Majoro was also quick to caution that efforts to achieve stability would not be achieved quickly.

He warned that the task to unify society would take many years because of the “extreme polarization pursued by Lesotho politicians”.

He lamented the poor policy formulation and implementation by the government and the lack of coordination among its ministries. The rise of government ministries had been accompanied by fragmentation of government initiatives, he said.

03 March 2018

Southern Africa: 'SADC Standby Force Has Stabilised Lesotho'

By Pascalinah Kabi

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has commended its two month old Standby Force for its efforts in fostering a conducive environment for the implementation of multi-sectoral reforms required to foster long term peace and stability in Lesotho.

A high-powered SADC delegation that includes SADC Executive Secretary, Stergomona Lawrence Tax, has been in the country since Sunday to assess the progress of the Standby Force which is also



known as the SADC Preventive Mission in Lesotho (SAPMIL). The delegation will depart the country tomorrow after site visits to the areas of deployment.

Other members of the delegation are Zambia's Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Ambassador Chalwe Lombe, Zambia's Police Inspector General Kakoma Kanganja, Ambassador Innocent Eugene Shiyo of Tanzania and South African Police Service's Major General Charl Annandale.

Addressing a press conference in Maseru this week, SADC Oversight Committee Chairperson Matias Bertino Matondo said there were clear indicators that SAPMIL was well on course to fulfilling its mandate of creating a conducive atmosphere for the implementation of all-inclusive multi-sectoral reforms in the country.

Zambia's Brigadier General Michael Mukokomani who is a member of SAPMIL and Angola's Lieutenant General Americo Jose Volente who is the head of the SADC Standby Force, joined the delegation at the press conference.

Dr Matondo said the prevailing peace and stability in the country was one of the indicators that SAPMIL had so far succeeded in deterring rogue military elements that were capable of fomenting chaos.

He said other indicators included SAPMIL's success in commencing negotiations with civil society organisations as well as self-exiled opposition leaders. The leaders have so far thrown spanners into the reform process by refusing to return home to participate in it.

"The first and most important indicator is the fact that there is peace and stability in the Kingdom of Lesotho," Dr Matondo said, adding, "The fact that there is peace and stability in the country demonstrates by itself that SAPMIL is here for a reason".

"We have also been engaging the leaders in exile and also the CSOs. The civilian component of SAPMIL has been playing its role to make sure that all the grey areas among all Basotho stakeholders are addressed and as we speak, some CSOs that could not talk to each other a couple of weeks ago are now talking."

Dr Matondo said SAPMIL was also participating in the investigations into the assassinations of army commanders Lieutenant General Maaparankoe Mahao and Khoantle Motšomotšo in 2015 and 2017 respectively.

He also said that SAPMIL had also begun fulfilling its mandate of providing training and capacity building to the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) to fully equip the police with skills to enable them to effectively resolve crimes.

"One of the main objectives of SADC is training and capacity building.

"Right now our colleagues from the SAPMIL police component are training their LMPS counterparts in the forensic techniques they need to deal with crime scene evidence," Dr Matondo said.

The visit comes on the heels of a similar mission by the African Union (AU) Technical Assessment Mission which toured the country a fortnight ago.

The AU team also expressed satisfaction with the work of SAPMIL, saying it had helped to restore peace in Lesotho and improved the working relations among the various security agencies.

And this week, Dr Tax said she had come to Lesotho "after the AU mission because this (peace) process is not only about SADC".

She said, the regional body requested AU's support for the SADC mission in Lesotho.



"They (AU) accepted our proposal and they were here at our request to help us. They were very impressed with the progress but there is also a need to continue supporting the Kingdom of Lesotho. "The M20 million that we requested is still under negotiations because you cannot request and get resources immediately. We have to negotiate and we will see what the results will be at the end of the day," Dr Tax said.

This was in reference to SADC's appeal to AU member states, the United Nations and development partners to offer technical and financial support to SAPMIL to enable it to meet its budget shortfall of US\$1, 6 million (approximately M20 million).

AllAfrica

16 February 2018

Kingdom of Lesotho (Maseru)

Lesotho: EU Grants Millions to Support Civil Society in Lesotho

The Minister of Finance, Dr Moeketsi Majoro says Civil Society plays an essential role in providing social services, giving a voice to the people and monitoring governance sector performance.

Speaking at the signing of a Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the Government of Lesotho and the European Union (EU) held at the Ministry's boardroom on Friday, Dr Majoro delineated that Civil Society contributes significantly towards the development of the country. He expressed joy that a component of support has now come to fruition in the form of the signing of the financing agreement, noting that it is going to be used to support Civil Society in Lesotho to ensure accountability of public institutions.

He noted that importantly, the agreement aims to contribute in maintaining peace and security, and to create a stable and democratic environment.

Also speaking, EU Ambassador, Dr Christian Manahl said EU acknowledges that the role Civil Society groups play thus; providing a voice to the poor and marginalised groups is an important role that can very often be performed by active and accountable Civil Society Organisations.

He expressed believe that the fund will be used for the betterment of Basotho and to promote development.

In an interview, the Executive Director of the Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN), Mr. Seabata Motsamai expressed appreciation over the support from EU, saying he hopes it will enhance better service delivery and promote development.

He noted that as LCN, they will ensure that the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) use the money to fulfill the mandate it is intended to, adding that each organisation will present its report time and again to show progress.

The total funding that the European Union has granted Lesotho is 4.5 million Euros (about 65 million Maloti), with a proposed operational implementation period of 60 months (5years).

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 Nis K. Skau på tlf: 74506417 eller mail: nisskau@gmail.com

Contact DLN:

E-mail: dln@lumela.dk

Homepage: www.lumela.dk

KHOTSO – PULA – NALA

Responsible Editor: Anne Andersen

(submission of articles to
dln@lumela.dk or any board member)

