

Development setback – or?

I often visit Greenland's southernmost town, Nanortalik. I have always greatly appreciated my visits to the town.

I am aware that it is a settlement with major social problems, and the town has lost momentum. The development of Nanortalik takes the wrong road. But the town has charisma.

Until 2009 Nanortalik was the principal town in its own municipality. Today the town is part of a much larger municipality, which includes the whole of South Greenland.

Nanortalik is now only the third largest settlement in the new municipality, and the municipal office in the town seems empty today.

The surroundings of Nanortalik are rich in natural resources. The mountains in the area hide the gold.

A gold mine has been active in the area, but the lacks of investors and qualified producers, who were able to manage a cost-effective extraction of gold, have closed the mine.

The waters around the town also hide a

rich natural resource. The cod has returned, and the fish factory is very active again, producing and exporting salt cod to Spain.

But social problems mean that some local workers do not fully grasp the chance in the new adventure with catch and production of cod.

Absence due to alcohol abuse within the days, the workers gets the payment of wages, threaten the local production. Maybe the foreign investors in the near future choose other towns as domicile for their economic activities?

In this entire developmental setback an individualist goes her own way. A young woman has grown up in Nanortalik.

In October 2014 Niviaq Korneliussen made her début with the first book Homo Sapienne. As a writer, she makes a name for herself abroad. In competition with thousands of young, aspiring foreign writers Niviaq was nominated for author prizes in Scandinavia.

The real life, however, really is unpredictable and fantastic.



Residential district in the sunset, Nanortalik, September 2015