

# The Role of the Veterinary profession within the current development agenda in the Republic of South Africa

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# Introduction



- Since the **1994 general elections**
  - South Africa has experienced changes
- Interest - building a **united country** with
  - democratic values,
  - social justice and
  - fundamental **human rights enshrined in the constitution.**

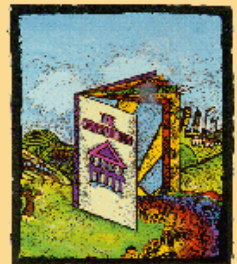


# Introduction



- Constitutional rights relevant to the Veterinary professions namely
  - Freedom of trade, occupation and profession
  - Education (basic and further education) and
  - Health care, food, water and social security
- Animal control and diseases is a concurrent function(Schedule 4)
- Veterinary services and Abattoirs a Provincial function (Schedule 5)
- Poor understanding & different interpretation
  - Different approaches and policies
  - Services – inconsistent and poor accessibility

**The  
Constitution**  
of the Republic of South Africa, 1996



# Introduction

- Developmental & Economic Policies and plans since 1994
  - Reconstruction and Development plan (RDP) - 1994
  - Growth Employment And Redistribution (GEAR) strategy - 1996
  - Rural development framework - 1997
  - Integrated and Sustainable Rural Development Strategy (ISRDP) – 2000
  - Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative in South Africa (ASGISA) – 2005
  - Growth development strategies

# New Mandate



- Prior 2009 general elections
  - majority of South Africans not satisfied with the impact
- Thus, priorities in the manifesto of the ruling party
  - Creation of decent work and sustainable livelihoods
  - Education
  - Health,
  - Safety and
  - Rural development.
- **Clear agenda for a developmental state – rural communities/poor**

# New Mandate conti..

- Priorities translated into the 12 government outcomes
  - with clear outputs and targets.
- Limited fiscus
  - identify ourselves with the identified priorities,
  - demonstrate and market our contribution



**“There are no rules of architecture for a castle in the clouds – G.K. Chesterton”**

# Challenges for the Profession

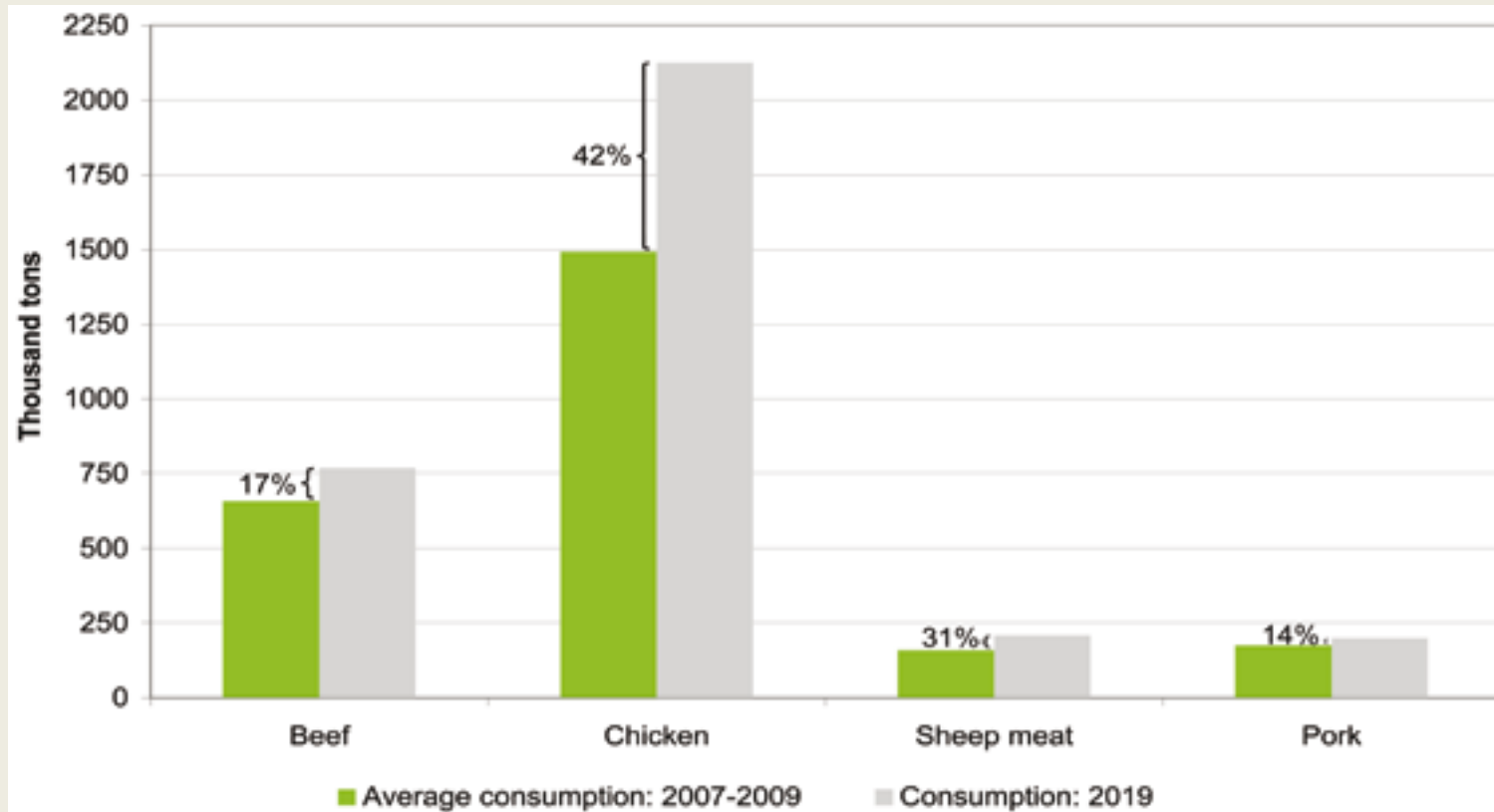
- Plethora of challenges - among others,
  - Poor **accessibility** to services
  - Deteriorating **State veterinary** services
  - Slow **transformation** within the profession
  - The increase in **animal disease outbreaks** related to globalisation of trade
  - **Lack of interest** in research and technology development field
  - Inadequate **funding**
- No tangible improvement or results to date.
- **Are we united as the Veterinary profession in packaging our issues and proposals or ideas in line with the identified development agenda?**



# Opportunities

- Growth originating from Agriculture twice effective in reducing poverty
- Food production must be increased
  - >40% by 2030 and
  - >70% by 2050 worldwide.
- Livestock contributes about 50% of the agricultural output in RSA.
  - 60-80% of the livestock is estimated to be in the hands of the previously disadvantaged.
- Recent 2010 Agriculture Outlook
  - Fresh milk and dairy products
    - demand to increase by 13% (2019)
  - Meat - demand to increase by 24% (2019)





# Role within identified Gov Priorities

- Four priorities relevant to the Veterinary profession
  - Improved quality of basic education
  - A long and healthy life for all South Africans
  - A skilled and capable workforce to support and inclusive growth path
  - Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all
- Identify few key areas and concentrate effort to demonstrate impact

# Improved quality of basic education

- Training material for Early Childhood Development (ECD) through to Grade 12
- Focus
  - animal health and welfare
  - Responsible animal ownership
  - Food safety
- Methods
  - Interactive training material
  - Mobile demonstration units
  - School competition (certain topics)
  - Programmes by Tertiary institutions
- Use of qualified professionals in developing material for ECD
  - Faculty including the expertise within the University is well positioned



# A long and healthy life for all South Africans

- Indicators
  - increasing life expectancy,
  - decreasing maternal and child mortality and
  - strengthening health systems
- Research and epidemiological investigative methods
  - Food security and safety (value chain)
  - Processing techniques
  - Adaptive research and sharing of information
- Promoting the “One World one Health” concept at undergraduate level.



# A long and healthy life for all South Africans

- **Drastic review of the current animal health policies and schemes (Pro-poor)**
  - Alternative to Culling
  - Current schemes not effectively achieving the required results
- **Multi-disciplinary team** to develop new initiatives based on identified risks
- **Improve relations or linkages between the animal health and human health programmes** e.g. Rift Valley fever outbreak
  - 2010 outbreak – 229 human beings infected with 26 deaths
  - Could have been handled better
  - Research on socio-economic impact??



# A skilled and capable workforce to support and inclusive growth path

Profession	Current registered	Authorised	Training institution in RSA	Required estimates
Veterinarians	2 770	15	UP	Not certain
Vet Nurses	519	4	UP	Not certain
Specialists	134	0	UP mainly	Not certain
Animal Health Technicians	994	49	NWU and UNISA	Not certain
Vet Laboratory Technologist	207	61	TUT	Not certain
Laboratory Animal Technologist	24	9	None in RSA	Not certain
Animal Welfare Assistants	0	194	None	Not certain

Courtesy of SAVC

# A skilled and capable workforce to support and inclusive growth path

## Selection of candidates - Critical base

- willing to work in the deep rural areas
- Inculcate a developmental oriented attitude
- Emphasis on moral and social responsibilities.
- Holistic approach and not narrow minded focus. **e.g Building communities from grassroots programme**





# A skilled and capable workforce to support and inclusive growth path

## Training - Focus

- Primary Animal health care
  - approach or model.
  - Various veterinary professions as part of a team and not a Veterinarian on his/her own
- Herd health inclusive of Economics (production animals including Aquaculture) - farmers need a package
- Specialists (Aquaculture, Equine, Poultry, Epidemiology, Game)
- Food safety, Food safety, Food safety
  - animal products along the value chain
  - Recent Consumer Law
- Disaster management

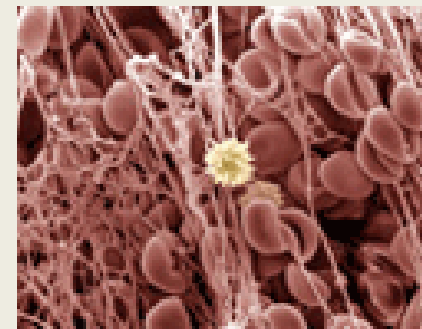


# A skilled and capable workforce to support and inclusive growth path

- Veterinary training institutions
  - New institution for training Veterinarians in the country ?
  - Agreements with other institutions within and internationally – necessary (satellite?)
  - Global accreditation - influence the outcome without loosing focus of the local needs
  - Continuous Professional development for all Veterinary and Para-Veterinary professions

# A skilled and capable workforce to support and inclusive growth path

- Research and Technology development
  - capacity and continuity seriously under threat.
  - Tangible joint planning and agreements required
    - between the State and the 3 institutions of the Onderstepoort complex
    - with active participation of State Veterinary services and Industry on field investigations and research.
    - Common data capturing – current research projects and problem statements



# Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all

- Rural development - a complex phenomenon
- Comprehensive Rural development strategy developed - requires a multi-disciplinary approach and focus
  - Sustainable agrarian reform
  - Improved access to affordable and diverse food
  - Rural services and sustainable livelihoods
  - Improved employment opportunities and promotion of economic livelihoods

# Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all

- No model adopted in RSA – pilot sides identified
- Strategic involvement in the land reform projects and identified pilot projects e.g. Moeshe and Mier.
  - PPP model
- Focus – a combination
  - Skills development
  - Primary Animal Health Care
  - Animal production
  - Food safety
  - Market access



# Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all

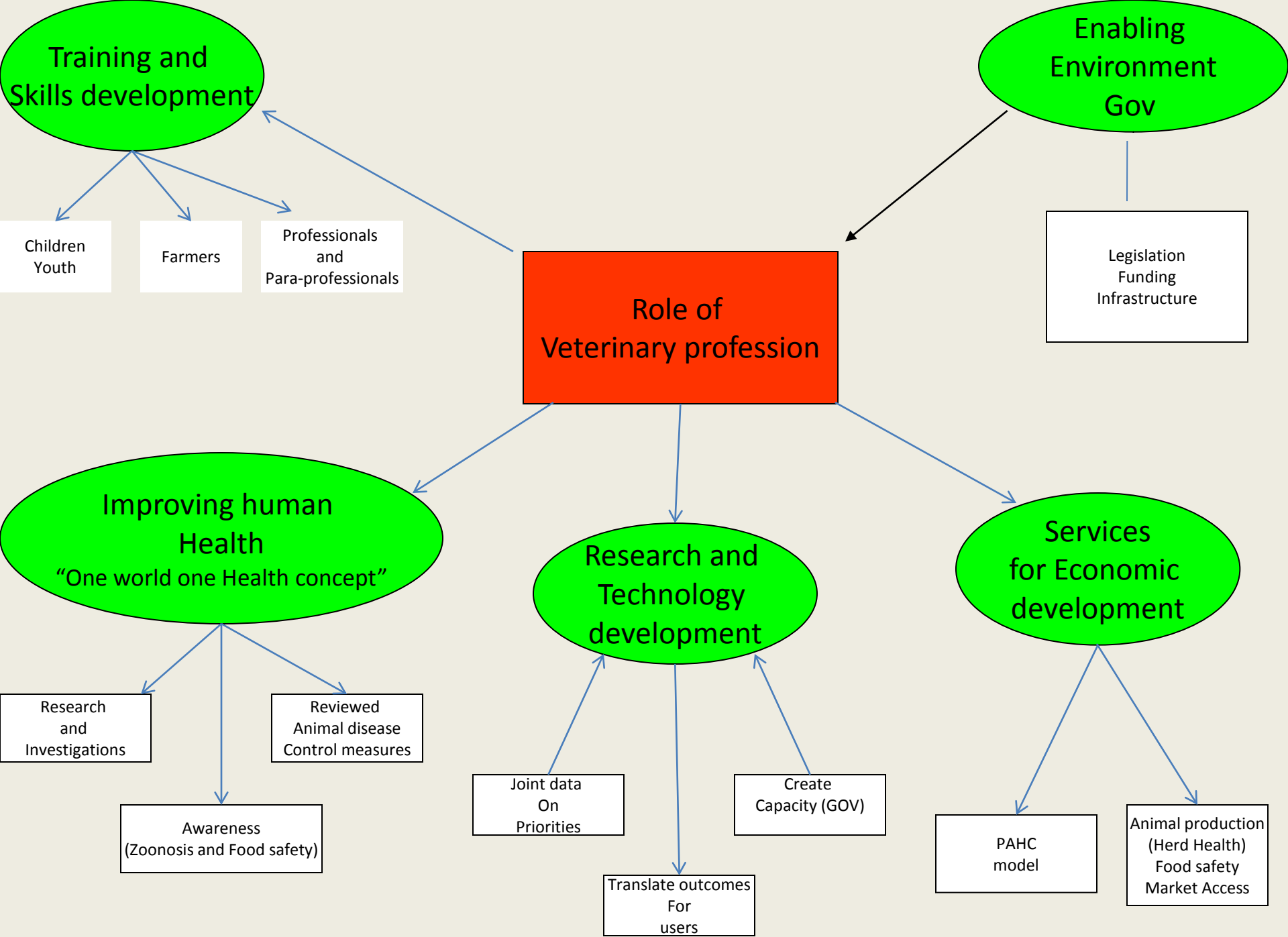
- Increase the number of Para-Veterinary professionals
  - review the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Act re: duties
  - Creative method or non qualified people encroaching into the field with detrimental consequences for the public at large
- Employment of Animal Health Technicians by Private Veterinarians (rural setup)
- Participation at local government level
  - to advance animal welfare and holistic human health approach



# For Successful implementation

## Government must

- Design appropriate framework
  - Review legislation and policies
  - Finalise required programmes (e.g. Primary Animal health care, Community Veterinary Service).
- Conduct PVS in line with OIE guidelines
- Funding and recognition of the profession
  - Infrastructure
  - Salaries
  - Institute a proper structure and system to engage role players and stake holders





# Thank you all

