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
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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Current registered</th>
<th>Authorised</th>
<th>Training institution in RSA</th>
<th>Required estimates</th>
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<td>Animal Welfare Assistants</td>
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<td>None</td>
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</table>
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 stakeholders
Role of Veterinary profession

Training and Skills development
- Children
- Youth
- Farmers
- Professionals and Para-professionals

Improving human Health
- “One world one Health concept”
- Research and Investigations
- Reviewed Animal disease Control measures
- Awareness (Zoonosis and Food safety)

Research and Technology development
- Joint data On Priorities
- Create Capacity (GOV)
- Translate outcomes For users

Services for Economic development
- PAHC model
- Animal production (Herd Health) Food safety Market Access

Enabling Environment
- Gov
- Legislation
- Funding
- Infrastructure
Thank you all