

## Curriculum Vitae: Dr Rebone Moerane

Dr Rebone Moerane, currently the President of the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) and Chief Director: Agricultural Technical Services in the Northern Cape Province, was born in 1965 and matriculated at the Dr WF Nkomo High School in Pretoria in 1982.



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He studied at Medunsa and obtained the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVMCh) in 1990. In 1991, he registered with the SAVC as a veterinarian. Due to his interest in rural development and, in particular, the improvement of the economy within the rural poor communities, and livestock production, he started his career at Agricor (Agricultural Co-operation) as District Veterinary Officer stationed in Mafikeng, where he was involved with animal disease control and surveillance and the supervision of animal health technicians and veterinary public health officers, among others.

From 1994 until 1996 he was acting Deputy Director of Veterinary Services in the North West Province. In 1996 he was appointed as Provincial Deputy Director of Animal Health for the same province, a position that he held until he was appointed Director: Specialist Services in 2002 and subsequently as Chief Director in the Northern Cape. He is responsible for Veterinary Services, agricultural research and sustainable resource management divisions in the province. He is also the Chairperson of the Agricultural Project Committee for the province and assists with agricultural policy analysis and development.

Rebone Moerane's passion and interest in the animal health and wellbeing, food security and general public health led to him being nominated to participate in various policy developments nationally that included the Livestock Commodity Sector strategy and ultimately being selected to the SAVC in 2003.

Dr Moerane has served on the SAVC for two terms to date, the last one as President. He has also been re-elected to serve as President until July 2013.

## Sir Arnold Theiler Memorial Lecture

### The Role of the Veterinary Profession in the Current Developmental Agenda in South Africa

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South Africa has, since the 1994 democratic elections, experienced changes in the interest of building a united country with democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights. In an attempt to develop the country, and promote economic growth and equal participation, a number of policy narratives and plans were deliberated upon and implemented.

However, prior to the 2009 general elections, it became apparent that the majority of South Africans were not satisfied with the impact of the approved/implemented development initiatives and thus, the identification of the five priorities in the manifesto of the ruling party that focuses on decent work, education, health, safety and rural development. The ruling party is therefore very clear on its agenda for development with particular emphasis towards the rural poor.

Pioneers of the veterinary profession, such as Sir Arnold Theiler, had the skill and courage to garner the full support of the then government and to date we are still reaping the benefits thereof. However, during the past two decades, the veterinary profession and other stakeholders have on several occasions and at various levels tried to highlight a plethora of challenges experienced by the profession and we all agree that there is, to date, no tangible improvement or results. Therefore, it is upon the veterinary profession to align its services with the current mandate in order to be relevant to the development agenda of the government. Failure to do so will continuously relegate the profession to the bottom with no consideration or recognition of its impact in rural development and poverty alleviation. A number of proposals on the role of the profession linked to the identified government priorities or outcomes are highlighted to stimulate further debate and consolidation of a common approach on a few key strategies.