



Malawi Veterinary Association Workshop on the Animal Regulatory Environment 28 November 2017

Recommended actions arising

1. Establishment of a Malawi Veterinary Surgeons Board - issues for an interim Board

- The interim Board should work on guidelines for registration and supervision of veterinary practitioners and para-veterinary practitioners
- Regulation and inspection of premises for registration purposes and practice:
 - eg veterinary clinics/hospitals, dog baths, veterinary drug retailers.
- Regulation for the quality training of veterinary and para-veterinary professionals, including continuing professional development (CPD).

2. Response to the OIE report of the Veterinary Legislation Identification Mission Report - Malawi - August 2016.

- The workshop considered that this report should be accepted and that priorities should be given for the suggested next steps in the report as follows:
 1. Review and revise the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Practitioners Act
 2. Review the Control and Diseases of Animals Act and draft a new Animal Health Act but keep the Animal Welfare Act separate.
 3. Establish a multi-disciplinary policy hub for 'one health' with endorsement at ministerial level.
 4. Review and revise the Meat and Meat Products Act and the draft revised Milk and Milk Products Act in order to harmonise responsibilities between the Health and Agriculture Ministries.

3. A road map for modernising veterinary legislation:

- DAHLD should seek technical assistance from outside (eg OIE, FAO) and expedite the development of comprehensive legislation appropriate for the animal industries.
- The Livestock Policy for Malawi should be finalised and released as soon as possible.
- DAHLD should collaborate and coordinate with other relevant agencies with respect to milk & milk products standards, meat & meat product standards, pharmaceuticals standards, import/exports.
 - However, DAHLD should first ensure its own capacity to ensure defensible standards which meet contemporary requirements.
 - Immediate steps in respect of meat inspection:
 - DAHLD should arrange for a multi-agency consultation among DAHLD, MoH, city councils, educational institutions (eg Polytechnic, LUANAR, NRC). Objective is to know role of each agency and to do a situation analysis.

- In developing policy, DAHLD should define comprehensive list of stakeholders for each task at hand, including individuals and institutions, and consult widely to ensure the widest range of inputs. Stakeholders themselves should be asked to assist DAHLD to undertake the necessary tasks.
- The Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Practitioners Act is structurally okay but needs amendments, especially on distinction between veterinarians and para-vets. It should not be merged with any other legislation. However, there should be consultation regarding regulations under the Act and promulgation of same.

4. Animal Welfare Guidelines for Malawi

- The coordinator for overall action should be Dr Julius Chulu, Deputy Director of Livestock.
- Further revision of the draft guidelines would be organised under the following areas:
 1. Companion and work animals - coordinated by Lieza Swennen
 2. Poultry - coordinated by Pat Boland plus Bill Mfitlodze, Timothy Gondwe, PIAM.
 3. Farm production animals (beef, dairy, pigs, goats, sheep) - coordinated by Tino Razemba plus Joseph Nkhoma, Martyn Edelsten
- An outline format for these sections should serve as a guideline for further revision of the draft document.
- An action plan was agreed as follows:
 - Circulate outline format within one week;
 - Receive draft sections by mid January 2018;
 - Circulate the revised draft and consolidate comments by mid February;
 - Submit to Ministry by 1 March 2018 with a view to launching the document by mid March.