



**VETERINARY ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION OF MALAWI
BRIEF PRESENTATION**

**VENUE: ST GEORGE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE
PRETORIA SOUTH AFRICA**

DATES: 13th – 15th OCTOBER, 2015

BY

Patrick M. Saini



- Malawi is one the African countries located in the southern part of the continent with a total land area of **118,484** square kilometres.
- The country has a human population of **16.3** million. And almost **75%** of the population keep **one or two** types of livestock.
- There are only **14** Professional Veterinarians and **5** of them are private Veterinarians while the rest are state Vets.
- And the current Veterinarian - Farmer ratio is **1 : 873,214**



- The current livestock population for Malawi is **1,110,560** for cattle, **4,442,907** goats, **228,649** for sheep, **2,160,670** for pigs and **44,672,086** village poultry.
- The Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development in conjunction with SADC Animal Disease Control Project in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water development initiated and facilitated formation of **The Veterinary Assistants Association of Malawi (VAAM) in 1998.**



- This is a nonprofit making organization whose membership is open to all Veterinary Para – Professionals in the country.
- The association attracted and registered almost all Veterinary Para – Practitioners as members especially those working in the public sector.



The Association was formed with the following objectives:

- To enable Malawian livestock farmers have health animals by ensuring that drugs and quality veterinary services are timely provided to the farmers.
- To maintain the ethics and honor of the veterinary profession in the country through meetings with its members and farmers.



- To foster good relationship between members of the association, government and other organizations working with farmers in the country.
- The Association is a member of **The Board of Veterinary Surgery** which is the sole registering authority in the Veterinary Profession in Malawi.
- Currently the association has a membership of **241** both public and private Para - Veterinary practitioners across the country.
- And the VPP - farmer ratio is currently at **1: 50,713**



- The association, during its existence has also witnessed the mushrooming of veterinary drug stores and clinics being run and managed by its members.

- However the association (VAAM), has a number of challenges both administrative and technical:

- Lack of functional secretariat to effectively carry out activities of the association.



- Lack of strategic plan (document) of core issues for the association that can easily be presented to stakeholders
- No refresher courses for old serving members and no induction courses for newly recruited Para – Veterinarians due lack of financial resources.
- Weak linkages with other professional associations e.g. Malawi Veterinary Association (MVA)



➤ Non functional Veterinary Statutory Body in the country and this means that the association membership is not legally recognized.

Way forward:

❖ Strengthening collaboration with other associations like MVA to revive the functions of the non functional veterinary statutory body in Malawi in order to improve the current situation

❖ Continue meeting at regional level as African Veterinary Technicians Association where members can share regional experiences in order to foster the Veterinary Professional in Africa.





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**