

SPEECH OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR THE MINISTRY OF
LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES DR. CHARLES NYAMURUNDA
AT THE OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE WORLD ORGANISATION
FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE) TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR NATIONAL FOCAL
POINTS ON WILDLIFE DISEASES AT NAURA SPRINGS HOTEL,
ARUSHA, 19TH MARCH 2010

The OIE Regional Representative, Africa,
Dr. Abdoulaye Bouna Niang

The OIE Regional Representative, Middle East,
Dr. Ghazi Yehia,

The Regional Administrative Secretary for Arusha ,
Ms Nuru Milao,

The OIE representative, Sub-Region Northern Africa,
Dr. Faouzi Kechrid

The OIE Representative, Sub-Region Office for Eastern and Horn of Africa,
Dr. Walter Masiga

The OIE Representative, Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa,
Dr. Bonaventure J. Mtei,
Invited Guests,

Workshop Facilitators, Workshop Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, allow me to extend my sincere gratitude to you for inviting me to grace the closing of the *World Organisation for Animal Health* (OIE) Training workshop for National Focal Points on wildlife diseases in Anglophone African and Middle East countries here in Arusha. Indeed, I feel greatly honoured to have privilege to officiate the closing of this important workshop

Dear participants,

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the organizers for their wise decision to hold this important training here in Tanzania the land of Serengeti and Ngorongoro just to mention a few touristic attractions existing in Tanzania.

I am very happy to learn that you had an opportunity to visit the Tarangire national park where you might have seen a good number of wild animals and saw the real livestock - wildlife - human interface, I will however advice you either individually or in groups to purposively find time to visit other wildlife attraction centres in the country. I would in this regard like to thank the Arusha regional administration for agreeing to host you, and I am sure that you had enjoyed your stay, in particular the "*nyama choma*"!!

Dear participants,

I have been informed that the training provided the OIE subject matter focal points on wildlife diseases with the necessary information, updates and skills to better assume their responsibilities and obligations towards their National OIE Delegates in their respective countries and strengthen the interaction with OIE. I urge the participants to not only put into practice what they have learned, but to timely report on the occurrence of wildlife diseases, and such reporting should as much as possible be transparent.

In Tanzania there is a saying that "*death reveals a hidden disease*", thus hiding wildlife disease outbreaks does not help but tarnishes the country's image; contrarily, timely and transparent reporting are crucial in early and proper management of the outbreak, as well as in sourcing donor's support.

Dear participants,

Timely and transparent reporting goes hand in hand with a well established and functioning animal health data capturing system. Countries should therefore make efforts to improve their respective national passive and active surveillance systems. This can be achieved through :

- increased budgetary allocation,
- strengthening of national and regional diagnostic capacities,
- introduce technology such as the digital pen, for point of disease event capture at field plus participatory epidemiology with community and private veterinary sector involvement
- establish a national and regional epidemio-surveillance network incorporating the livestock, wildlife, and human medical experts for surveillance of infectious and zoonotic diseases.

Dear participants,

Wildlife and or livestock diseases are not static so is science and technology, the OIE collaborating centres, the national laboratories and institutions of higher learning should therefore develop continuous education programmes to keep the focal points and others involved in national surveillance updated and well informed on the current developments.

Dear participants,

Let me conclude by wishing all of you a good and safe journey back home, and having said that I now officially declare this training workshop closed.

Thank you very much for listening!!!!