

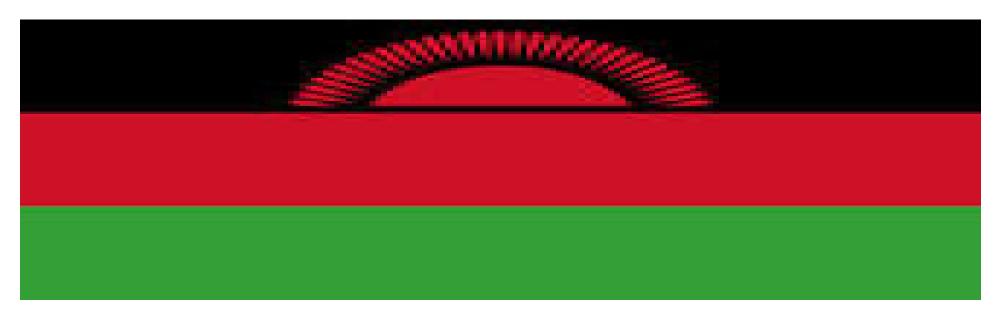
VETERINARY ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION OF MALAWI BRIEF PRESENTATION

VENUE: ST GEORGE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE PRETORIA SOUTH AFRICA

DATES: 13th - 15th OCTOBER, 2015

BY

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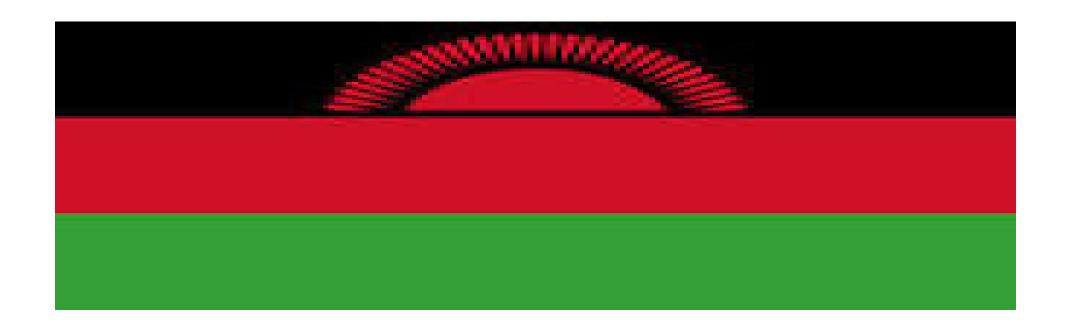


- •Malawi is one the African countries located in the southern part of the continent with a total land area of 118,484 square kilometres.
- •The country has a human population of 16.3 million. And almost 75% of the population keep one or two types of livestock.
- •There are only 14 Professional Veterinarians 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.



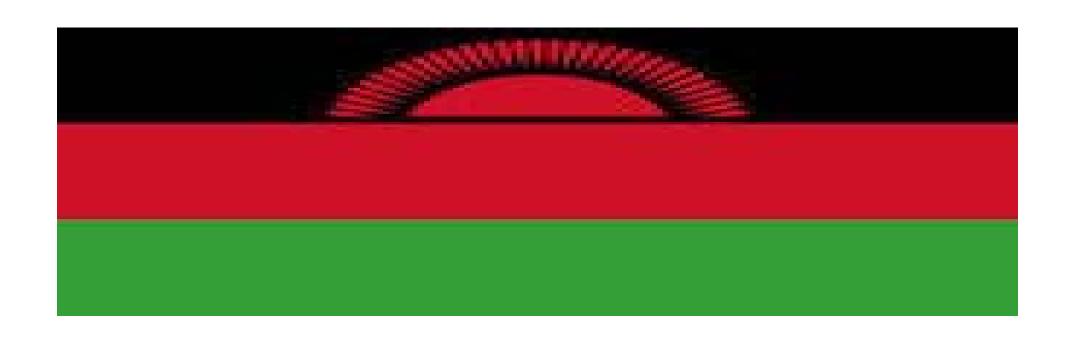
- >Lack of strategic plan (document) of core issues for the association that can easily be presented to stakeholders
- ➤ No refresher courses for old serving members and no induction courses for newly recruited Para Veterinarians due lack of financial resources.
- ➤ Weak linkages with other professional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