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THE SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL'S [SAVC]  
SUBMISSION TO THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE  
AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
ON REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION MAY 2013

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**The South African Veterinary Council**



**High Standard Veterinary Practice**

**Vision**

A representative organisation of the veterinary and para-veterinary professions, promoting the health and well-being of all peoples of South Africa through the promotion of animal health, production and well-being

**Mission**

The South African Veterinary Council seeks, through the statutes of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 to

- serve the interests of the people of South Africa by promoting competent, efficient, accessible and needs-driven service delivery in the animal health care sector;
- protect the health and well-being of animals and animal populations;
- protect and represent the interests of the veterinary and para-veterinary professions;
- regulate the professional conduct of the veterinary and para-veterinary professions; and
- set and monitor standards of both education and practice for the veterinary and para-veterinary professions

**Veterinary services as referred to in the constitution**

- in Schedule 4 (Part A) "animal control and diseases" is identified as a functional area of concurrent national and provincial legislative competence.
- In Schedule 5 (Part A) of the Constitution, "abattoirs" and "veterinary services excluding regulation of the profession"
- in Schedule 5 (Part B) "municipal abattoirs" are identified as functional areas of exclusive provincial legislative competence.
- Section 156 further makes provision to assign these functions to municipalities.

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**SAVC's Submission on the problem identification  
Constitutional imperatives**

It is the SAVC's submission that State Veterinary Services need to be centralised.

**Background reasons for the SAVC's submission**

- Provincialisation of veterinary services in South Africa failed the people of South Africa.
- Provincialised veterinary services are driven by dysfunctional management.
- Animal Diseases know no boundaries.
- When Animal Health was provincialised in the 1990s, Plant Health was seen to be a national-asset, on par with Security and Defence, and remained centralised, streamlined and functional.
- The malfunctioning of the State Veterinary Services [SVS] should be seen in the light of a political mistake. It is serious and has cost the country much, but it is not too late, it can still be rectified, but the interests of the national herd will need to be paramount and will have to weigh more than personal ambitions.
- The lack of resources is often attributed to the line of command and the lack of understanding of veterinary requirements, planning & implementation.
- The constitutional arrangement, to decentralise veterinary services further defragmented the delivery of services, poor coordination of services and poor implementation of policies.
- A report, compiled in 2006 by Dr NVH Nombekela-Madiba, with regard to state veterinary services was submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries [DAFF].
- An extensive two day workshop was held in July 2011 and DAFF with all provincial state veterinary services were represented. These reports need to be consulted.
- The questions is - If the State Veterinary Services [SVS] cannot supply what is needed now, how is it going to run the now legislated Compulsory Veterinary Community Services [CCS] in 2014?
- Building capacity to develop the various industries in food supply failed.
- Time is running out for the people of South Africa and the strategists to rectify the situation.

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**The SAVC's Submission on solutions**

- The role of the supply of Veterinary Services in South Africa needs to be recognised by the political strategists as a major player in the execution of the National Development Plan [NDP].
- A national centralised strategy to deal with animal diseases, primary animal health care and support to farmers need to be developed and implemented.
- A national centralised strategy needs to take the needs of ALL the people of SA into consideration and align the strategy with the SADC strategies and international strategies.
- The Performance of Veterinary Services [PVS] Report of the World Animal Health Organisation [OIE] needs to be consulted.
- ALL stakeholders need to be consulted and should include agri-business, emerging and subsistence farmers and private veterinarians [both in rural and urban areas].
- Animal Disease Control needs to be centralised.
- Primary Animal Health Care [PAHC] needs to be controlled and rolled out under a national strategy.
- Public-private-partnerships need to be developed in conjunction with CCS.
- Veterinary professions should plan, control, manage and implement veterinary services and be accountable.

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT AND  
WHAT SHOULD OUR  
CONCERNS BE?**

**THE SURVIVAL OF THE NATIONAL HERD  
SAFE FOOD  
AND HUMAN WELL-BEING IN SOUTH AFRICA**

