

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

As Chairperson of the Council of Veterinary Surgeons of Zimbabwe (CVSZ) it was indeed my privilege to oversee the activities of such a highly esteemed professional board over the past year. The CVSZ is proud to be looking after and serving veterinarians and the Zimbabwean public. As the only health discipline with expertise across multiple species and ecosystems, veterinary medicine in the country plays a vital role in protecting and enhancing human and animal life. However, the public, policymakers, and even medical professionals are frequently unaware of how veterinary medicine fundamentally supports both animal and human health and wellbeing. Hence, broadening the public's understanding will require a commitment by CVSZ, the academe, and practitioners to develop and promote the profession. The CVSZ performed its core functions in terms of the Veterinary Surgeons Act: holding inquiries and all other things required or permitted by the Act that are necessary or desirable for the proper regulation of the practice of the profession of veterinary surgery and medicine and the improvement of veterinary services in Zimbabwe. In the paragraphs and pages that follow, the CVSZ provides the members of the profession its scrutiny of the CVSZ's annual report and financial statements.

During the year under review CVSZ came up with the following objectives/programs of activities:

- Review of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (main objective)
- Establish legislation specific for veterinary medicine instead of having it under other institutions
- Review of Council Election Regulations and Code of Conduct for Elections
- Formulate other necessary Council Subcommittees
- Improvement on CVSZ communication with the profession
- Veterinary Jurisprudence Course Outline Review
- CVSZ/SAVC Harmonization Program

The Compliance and Legislative subcommittee was established to deal with compliance and legislative (updating the legislation/regulations) issues. Of concern to Council is the ever increasing numbers of bogus veterinarians and de-registered people who continue to practice after de-registration. The Council and the subcommittee continue to have such criminal offences reported to the police and during the year one bogus veterinarian was convicted and fined. However, one of the major challenges faced by Council is resources to make follow-ups of cases reported to the police. With respect to de-registered veterinarians, Council reminds the profession that it is our responsibility as individuals to be proud and committed to the profession and maintain our registration with Council. The SAVC/CVSZ Harmonization subcommittee deliberated on a proposal received from SAVC to harmonize its training standards with CVSZ. As recommended by the subcommittee, Council agreed in principle to the SAVC/CVSZ proposal on harmonization of training standards. In response to the proposal of setting up veterinary satellite clinics in high density suburbs, the Council established a subcommittee on Guidelines for Veterinary Facilities Establishment. This subcommittee is still to submit its findings and recommendations to Council. Due to

persistent Medicines Regulations problems, Council formulated the CVSZ/AHICZ/DLVS/MACZ/ZVA Subcommittee to deal with all issues related to veterinary medicines.

The formulation of different subcommittees is greatly improving the effectiveness of Council in carry out its functions. However, Council is concerned at the slow pace on the review of the Veterinary Professions Act. Additionally, it is worried on the delay to have a functional Council Webpage.

On the international scene, the Chairperson and Registrar were invited to the Continental Meeting on Veterinary Education (*Improving quality of veterinary training for enhanced veterinary services and socio-economic development*) held in Dakar, Senegal (5-7 July 2017). The details on the objectives and recommendations of the meeting can be obtained from the Registrar. As a follow-up to this Continental Meeting, the Council had a meeting with Dr WN Madzima on Capacity Mapping Status of Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSBs) in Africa. This was a consultancy work by the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) to establish whether VSBs existed in countries and if so, their functionality and whether the VSBs are fulfilling the requirements as stated in the OIE 3.4.12. The details of the meeting can be obtained from the Registrar.

There will be things we have missed, things we have not accomplished to your expectations, but it is our hope to continue to work hard, to be focused and committed to the core functions of the Council. My gratitude goes to all those who have given up their time to meet with us, share ideas, provide constructive criticism, and assist in shaping the work of the Council. As I commend this report to you, may I also thank the Registrar, Dr R Madekurozwa and her staff for the excellent work they accomplished during the year under review.

Thank you

**Prof D M Pfukenyi**

The Chairperson