Dear Honourable Minister Zokwana

MEETING HELD WITH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SAVC

On behalf of the South African Veterinary Council we wish to express our sincere appreciation for the meeting afforded to the Executive Committee and Registrar on Monday, 24 August 2015 amongst your busy programme.

We are grateful for your immense support and recognition of the value of the veterinary team and insight into the activities of the veterinary team viz veterinarians, animal health technicians, veterinary technologists and –nurses and laboratory animal technologists. Furthermore, that the veterinary profession made South Africa proud and both Dr Mike Modisane and Roy Bengis were congratulated on their achievements in the World Animal Health Organisation.

The SAVC wishes to re-iterate its support for the development of:

- The emerging farmers in SA, including in fish production: to ensure that production is grown
  - by informed and educated use of medicines and feed in production animals;
  - veterinary management of the health of production animals;
- Primary Animal Health Care rendered to all animal owners in SA;
• The roll out of state veterinary services within an improved state veterinary structure in the interest of national disease control, trade and access to safe food.

As poverty needs to be combated in SA it is important that veterinary services, as a key player in the economy and in creation of jobs, need to be rolled out and expanded in all communities in SA. We therefore wish to regularly enter into discussions with the honourable Minister and the Chief Veterinary Officer of SA, Dr Mike Modisane to ensure that the SAVC supports the Ministry and the DAFF in meeting the needs of the country.

We wish to confirm our appreciation that matters would, in the interim, be dealt with as follows:

A. Compulsory Veterinary Community Services [CCS] will be introduced in 2016. To ensure that it is indeed the case all relevant regulations and rules under Amendment Act 16 of 2012 will be submitted by the SAVC to the honourable Minister by 31 October 2015 for enactment;

B. A request was made by the profession of animal health technicians [AHTs] that the AHTs be included in the planning and implementation of Primary Animal Health Care [PAHC] as AHTs are intimately involved in PAHC. Dr Modisane took note of this request and will meet with the AHT representatives;

C. Matters will be facilitated by Dr Modisane between

The honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and -

I. The Minister of Health, Minister Aaron Motsoaledi regarding-
   a. Food safety and the use of medicines, in particular the use of anti-biotics in food producing animals [Acts 101 of 1965 and 36 of 1947]. In this regard the DAFF and DoH should work together; prudent use of anti-biotics through training should be supported; and a position statement should be issued. Dr Modisane will prepare the relevant DoH correspondence;
   b. Promulgation of the profession of veterinary physiotherapists and the objections by the human physiotherapists regarding the promulgation of the profession;

II. The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Minister Edna Molewa regarding-
   a. The requirement that veterinarians have to obtain permits under the Threatened or Protected Species [TOPS] permit system, whilst owners are already in possession of permits. Furthermore, that apart from the permit system, additional requirements on veterinarians were muted by role players which indicated that veterinarians will in future have to submit details of veterinarian-client-patient relationships to third parties. The SAVC objects to these requirements in toto as the arguments under which these requirements are placed indicate that the SAVC is not able to regulate the veterinary profession. The SAVC introduced the changes to Rule 10, to ensure that veterinarians are the end users of highly scheduled
medicines for purposes of anaesthesia [darting of animals] and the medicines will not be made available to game farmers, increased the maximum fine from R 25 000 to R 500 000 and with the Amendment Act coming into operation by the end of 2015 the SAVC will have investigative powers. Therefore the arguments that the SAVC cannot regulate the veterinary profession are not valid.

b. Game farming as a major contributor to food security and job creation in South Africa should resort under DAFF as it is essentially farming with aspects of conservation.

c. The legal section of DAFF should be present during these discussions;

D. The concerns regarding the production of vaccines [Onderstepoort Biological Products] critical for food security and food safety and trade will be addressed by a one-on-one meeting between DAFF, OBP and the SAVC. Dr Modisane will facilitate this meeting as soon as possible in view of the intellectual property issues and that Africa may lose its advantage over other competitors.

E. The concerns regarding the state veterinary structures will be dealt with by Dr Modisane and the SAVC was advised to liaise with Dr Modisane in this regard.

F. The SAVC took note of the appointment of Dr Mphane Molefe as DAFF representative and thank the honourable Minister for the appointment. The SAVC will once formal notice is received formally appoint and welcome Dr Molefe.

We again request that the honourable Minister as requested by Dr BR Ntshabele to meet with the Council and the Executive Committee and stakeholders at the Council's next meeting on 20 or 21 October 2015, to discuss the matters on which the SAVC needs to advise the Minister.

We thank you once again for the opportunity to engage the honourable Minister and look forward to the next meeting.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jana Pretorius
Acting President, SAVC

Dr BM Modisane, Chief Veterinary Officer
Dr M Molefe, DAFF representative