Like the Soccer 2010 event the Visitations 2010 have been on the calendar for a number of years and preparation has been in the schedules of Council for over a year. Bafana Bafana had the support of 49 million South African citizens and it is Council's request that the veterinary and para veterinary professions pool their resources and give their support to the Visitation teams who will be visiting UNISA and NWU.

Council reported previously in Newsletter 58, September 2009 of its intention to undertake two visitations in 2010. Furthermore that the purpose of the visitations is to verify and where appropriate, supplement and complete the information provided in the self-evaluations reports (SERs) of the institutions. It now wishes to announce the “open hour”, confirm the dates of both these visitations, inform members of the appointment of Dr P Kegakilwe as representative of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) to the team; and inform members of the veterinary and para veterinary professions of their role in the process.

The Visitation team wishes to obtain factually substantiated information on the present state of animal health technician education and research from as broad a representative spectrum as possible. Council requests the assistance and cooperation of all members of the veterinary and para-veterinary professions in particular through the various associations and regulatory authorities. These entities will nominate representatives from their constituencies as well as from the veterinary and para veterinary professions at large to meet with the Visitation Team; The associations and regulatory authorities were requested to draft their written submissions along the lines of a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) which should increase the usefulness and focus of the meeting with all representatives.

There is also an opportunity for anyone who wishes to discuss a matter privately to meet with the Visitation team during the “open hour”.

Two separate meetings are also scheduled with former animal health students who left UNISA and NWU less than 5 years ago to compare their training received at UNISA / NWU with the needs encountered in practice. The South African Association of Animal Health Technicians received an invitation to meet with the team as a separate request.

The importance of this first visitation to the recognized training institutions for animal health technicians in South Africa cannot be exaggerated and the input by members of the veterinary and para veterinary professions will add great value to the quality of the Visitation Team report. It is the wish of the Team Leader, Prof CM Veary, the team and the Council that the Visitation becomes a valuable exercise in the training of animal health technicians in our country and to dispel any possible misgivings in this regard. Full details are available at: Tel: (012) 342 1612/ Email: exams@savc.org.za.
The meetings have been scheduled as follows:

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources,
University of South Africa (UNISA), Florida Campus in 2010.

Meeting: Representatives of the Alumni (Associations)
Date: Wednesday, 28 July 2010
Time: From 12:35 to 13:15
Venue: Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, A-Block, Florida Science Building

Meeting: “Open Hour”
Date: Thursday, 29 July 2010
Time: 11:30-12:45
Venue: Summit Guest House, 49 Hendrik Potgieter Avenue, Florida Glen, Roodepoort

Meeting: Representatives of the Regulatory Veterinary Authorities
Date: Thursday, 29 July 2010
Time: From 14:35 to 16:00
Venue: Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, A-Block, Florida Science Building

Faculty of Agriculture Science & Technology, School of Agriculture,
North West University (NWU), Mafikeng Campus in 2010.

Meeting: Representatives of the Alumni (Associations)
Date: Wednesday, 25 August 2010
Time: From 12:35 to 13:15
Venue: Animal Health Centre, School of Agriculture, North West University, Mafikeng
Meeting: “Open Hour”
Date: Thursday, 26 August 2010
Time: From 11:30 to 12:45
Venue: Garden View Guest Lodge, cnr North & Havenga Streets, Mafikeng

Meeting: Representatives of the Regulatory Veterinary Authorities
Date: Thursday, 26 August 2010
Time: From 14:35 to 16:00
Venue: Animal Health Centre, School of Agriculture, North West University, Mafikeng