



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**REPORT**

**OF THE**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON  
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES IN  
COMBATING LIVESTOCK DISEASES IN ZAMBIA**

**FOR THE**

**SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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## **FOREWORD**

Honourable Madam Speaker, the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources has the honour to present its Report for the Second Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly. The functions of the Committee are set out in Standing Orders No. 197(a) and 198 of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2021.

In order to acquaint itself with the topic under consideration, the Committee sought both written and oral submissions from different stakeholders, the list of which is at Appendix II of the Report. The Committee's Report has summarised the submissions from stakeholders, and highlights the observations and recommendations made by the Committee.

The Committee's Report is organised in two parts: Part I contains the findings on the topical issue. This part also contains observations and recommendations of the Committee on the topical issue. Part II is the consideration of the outstanding issues from the Action-Taken Reports of the Committee for the First Session of the Thirteenth National Assembly.

The Committee is grateful to the stakeholders who tendered both written and oral submissions. It also wishes to thank you, Madam Speaker, for affording it an opportunity to carry out its work. Gratitude further goes to the Clerk of the National Assembly and his staff for their assistance and advice throughout the Committee's deliberations.



Mr Kasauta Saiti Michelo  
**CHAIRPERSON**

June, 2023  
**LUSAKA**

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

DVOs – District Veterinary Officers  
DLOs – District Livestock Officers  
Vas – Veterinary Assistants  
FISP –Farmer Input Support Programme

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## **1.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee consisted of Mr Kasauta Saiti Michelo, MP (Chairperson); Mrs Maureen Mabonga, MP (Vice Chairperson); Mr Mayungo Simushi, MP; Mr Yotam Mtayachalo, MP; Dr Kabwe Taulo Chewe, MP; Mr Mweemba Malambo, MP; Mr Nickson Chilangwa, MP; Mr Ronald Kaoma Chitotela, MP; Mr Andrew Tayengwa, MP; and Mr Lusale John Simbao, MP.

## **PART 1 – CONSIDERATION OF THE TOPICAL ISSUE**

### **2.0 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES IN COMBATING LIVESTOCK DISEASES IN ZAMBIA**

#### **2.1 Background**

The livestock sub-sector in Zambia was increasingly becoming an important component of the agricultural sector and the economy as a whole, contributing massively to the Gross Domestic Product. The sub sector was a key provider of food; nutrition security; manure; raw materials for industries; employment; and income generation. For the majority of the rural population, livestock acted as insurance in the case of crop failure. Furthermore, livestock offered an economic and social safeguard against shocks and therefore, represented part of the family's risk management strategy.

Despite the importance of the livestock industry to the development of the Zambian economy, the sector had continued to face many challenges among which were the frequent outbreaks of livestock diseases. This was a major challenge on record which had prevented the sector from realising its full potential. Livestock diseases had a devastating impact on animal productivity; trade in live animals; meat and other animal products; human health; and consequently, on the overall process of economic development.

In the recent past, at Mwase Livestock Breeding Centre in Lundazi District, the Minister of Fisheries and Livestock expressed disappointment at the way the Department of Veterinary Services was responding to livestock diseases in the country. He stated that the very poor response by the Department of Veterinary Services towards livestock diseases had the potential to negatively affect the development of the sector. He wondered why the country continued to experience disease outbreaks when the Department of Veterinary Services had qualified staff and other resources to prevent and control livestock diseases.

In view of the foregoing, the Committee resolved to undertake a study on the effectiveness of the Department of Veterinary Services in combating livestock diseases in Zambia. The specific objectives of the study were to:

- i. appreciate the adequacy of the legal and policy framework in promoting livestock development, as well as combating livestock diseases in Zambia;
- ii. appreciate the institutional capacity of the Department of Veterinary Services to effectively combating livestock diseases across the country;
- iii. ascertain the proactive measures, if any, that had been put in place by the Department of Veterinary Services to combat livestock diseases, and their effectiveness;

- iv. appreciate the financing mechanisms and budgetary allocations by Government towards the Department of Veterinary Services to combat livestock diseases year by year in the last five years;
- v. appreciate any gaps and challenges faced by the Department of Veterinary Services in effectively combating livestock diseases in Zambia; and
- vi. make recommendations on the way forward.

## **2.2 Summary of Submissions by Stakeholders**

### **2.2.1 Historical Background**

Stakeholders submitted that delivery of veterinary services in Zambia had evolved over the past 50 years. It was stated that shortly after independence in 1964, the Department of Veterinary and Tsetse Control, was established within the broader Ministry of Agriculture and its role was mainly to proactively prevent the spread of livestock diseases and to quench their spontaneous outbreaks, particularly among indigenous livestock keepers. During this time, commercial farmers running big ranches were able to source their non-public veterinary services.

The Committee was informed that in the early 1980s, following assistance from the World Bank and the subsequent introduction of the training and visit extension approach, veterinary messages were generally included in animal husbandry farmer training sessions. However, veterinary services continued to be sporadic. The Committee was informed that economic liberalisation of the 1990s and the realised need for agricultural diversification brought about a rejuvenated livestock sector covering the poultry, beef and dairy subsectors, which led to the corresponding increase in the demand for veterinary services and the need for necessary legislation to guide livestock development in Zambia. Stakeholders submitted that the increase in the population of livestock in Zambia also came with an increase in livestock diseases.

Stakeholders submitted that livestock diseases in Zambia were categorised into diseases of national economic importance and management diseases. The diseases of national economic importance were those that were highly contagious and whose death rates could reach up to 100 percent. These diseases included the east coast fever; contagious bovine pleuropneumonia; foot and mouth disease; trypanosomiasis for ruminants, african swine fever for pigs; and newcastle disease, which could hardly be differentiated from avian influenza H5N1, for poultry.

The Committee was informed that diseases of national economic importance had the ability to spread quickly from kraal to kraal within the affected area, as well as to other kraals in other areas. The cost of controlling these diseases was beyond an individual farmer's capacity. Stakeholders submitted that in some instances, control measures required slaughter of affected herds and compensation of farmers where such cases occurred. In such circumstances, the Government moved in to control the disease, as the resources required to do so were enormous. Therefore, reduced disease incidence and improved sanitary conditions would enhance Zambia's chances to access regional and international markets.

Stakeholders submitted that management diseases on the other hand, were those whose effect was not so drastic. Their spread was slow and could be controlled by individual farmers if they carried out stipulated measures like regular vaccinations, de-worming and dipping. These diseases included anthrax; hemorrhagics epticemia; blackleg; lumpy skin; mange; worms; and



other tick-borne diseases like anaplasmosis and babesiosis. The control, prevention and treatment for these diseases were at the cost of the livestock owner.

The Committee was informed that at present, the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, was mandated, through the Department of Veterinary Services, to ensure animal health in Zambia. The Department of Veterinary Services was responsible for providing veterinary services that supported animal health; trade in livestock and livestock products (exports and imports of livestock and livestock products); providing diagnostic services for stock movement to facilitate trade in livestock and livestock products.

The Committee was further informed that the main functions of the Department of Veterinary Services included: provision of veterinary services; animal health training; tsetse control services, animal health research and specialist services, (vaccine production, diagnostic services and clinical services); animal health advisory and extension services; control and prevention of animal disease; and animal identification and traceability.

### **2.2.2 Adequacy of the Legal and Policy Framework in Promoting Livestock Development as well as Combating Livestock Diseases in Zambia**

#### **(a) Legal Framework**

Stakeholders informed the Committee that there were a number of pieces of legislation in Zambia that promoted livestock development, as well as the control of livestock diseases. Some of the legal instruments highlighted by the stakeholders were as set out below.

##### **i. The Animal Health Act, No.27 of 2010**

The *Animal Health Act, No. 27 of 2010*, provided for the appointment of the Director responsible for veterinary services and other staff and further defined their powers and functions; prevention and control of animal diseases; quarantine of animals; regulation of the importation and exportation of animals, animal products, animal by-products and animal feed. The Act also provided for the Animal Disease Control Fund. The Committee was informed that the *Animal Health Act*, however, lacked regulations to enforce stock movement control, as well as those to implement the law effectively.

##### **ii. The Veterinary and Veterinary Para-Professions Act, No. 45 of 2010**

The *Veterinary and Veterinary Para-Professionals Act, No. 45 of 2010*, provided for the establishment of the Veterinary Association of Zambia; continuation of the Veterinary Council of Zambia; registration of veterinary and veterinary para-professionals and to regulate their professional conduct; licensing of laboratories and animal health facilities; recognition and approval of training programmes for veterinary and veterinary para-professionals; and matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing. The Committee was informed that despite the Act providing for the existence of the Veterinary Council of Zambia, currently there was no Council in place, which had negatively affected service delivery. Stakeholders informed the Committee that the *Veterinary and Veterinary Para-Professionals Act, No. 45 of 2010* also had no regulations to make it fully functional thereby negatively affecting service delivery.

### **iii. The Animal Identification Act, No 28 of 2010**

The *Animal Identification Act, No. 28 of 2010*, provided for the registration of animal identification marks and marking operators; the appointment of the Registrar of Animal Identification; and for any matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing. The Committee was informed that there was an urgent need to repeal and replace this Act in order for it to reflect modern methods of identification and traceability of livestock.

### **(b) Policy Framework**

Stakeholders informed the Committee that there were a number of policies in place that contributed to livestock development, as well as combating of livestock diseases in Zambia. Some of the policies are discussed below.

#### **i. The National Livestock Development Policy and its Implementation Plan for 2020-2024**

The Committee was informed that up until the year 2020, Zambia did not have a specific policy on livestock development. The overall objective of the National Livestock Development Policy was to transform the livestock industry in order to enhance socio-economic development. The policy's specific objectives included promoting sustainable livestock production and productivity; promoting standards and quality of livestock and livestock products; strengthening livestock research and development; promoting sustainable management of farm animal genetic resources; improving animal welfare and the livestock production environment; to promote animal health service delivery; and to establish a livestock information management system. The Policy was operationalised by a separate document called the National Livestock Development Policy Implementation Plan, covering the period 2020 up until 2024.

The Committee was informed that the above policy however, failed to acknowledge the role of the private sector in addressing animal health. Stakeholders informed the Committee that public sector provision of veterinary drugs and services, only contributed to the costly provision of such services, and further added pressure on an already constrained Treasury. It was suggested by stakeholders that the Policy should outline measures and incentives provided by Government to encourage and guide private sector investments in the provision of veterinary drugs and services.

#### **ii. World Organisation of Animal Health**

The Committee was informed that in addition to the local legislation and policies, the control and prevention of animal disease in Zambia, was also guided by the World Organisation of Animal Health. This was an international body which had the mandate to improve animal health and welfare throughout the world, as it was an oversight organisation.

Pertaining to the legal and policy frameworks, stakeholders informed the Committee that Zambia had sufficient legal and policy frameworks which promoted the development of the livestock sector and combating of livestock diseases, but pointed out of the need to carry out necessary amendments to most of the laws so as to bring them in tandem with current trends in livestock development and disease control.

### **2.2.3 Institutional Capacity of the Department of Veterinary Services in Effectively Combating Livestock Diseases in Zambia**

The Committee was informed by some stakeholders that the Department of Veterinary Services had competent and well qualified staff with vast years of experience in the delivery of veterinary services. Further, the Department had an expansive establishment structure which reached all the way to the districts and had presence at the village level in form of veterinary camps that were manned by Veterinary Assistants. These Veterinary Assistants were involved in the delivery of animal health extension services and worked closely with livestock farmers and the communities.

Stakeholders informed the Committee that in the delivery of field animal health extension and other veterinary services, the Veterinary Assistants were supported by the District Veterinary Officers and Livestock Officers at the district level and Provincial Veterinary Officers at the provincial level.

The Committee was informed further that while the Veterinary Services Department may have a robust structure that was present countrywide, it was important to review the structure's appropriateness and ensure that positions were filled to optimal levels. It was also important to ensure that the structure was supported by appropriate systems, including testing laboratories and supplies, transport and communication facilities. The structure also needed to be appropriately filled to ensure optimal service delivery. Stakeholders submitted that the Department of Veterinary Services required support to ensure capacity was built in the officers, in order to have an early warning system and also improve traceability and disease surveillance not only in diseases of national economic importance but also management diseases.

The Committee was informed that the extent to which the institutional capacity of the Department of Veterinary Services was effective may be measured by the extent and prevalence of livestock diseases in the country. Stakeholders submitted that at present, livestock diseases continued to hamper the growth of the livestock sector and were causing significant loss of livelihoods in some cases.

Other stakeholders informed the Committee that the Department of Veterinary Services in Zambia was operating below its full capacity, with characteristic inadequate staffing and poor support infrastructure. The livestock farmer to veterinary officer ratio was quite low, with a huge number of veterinary camps lacking appropriate housing for staff.

The Committee was informed that the persistent outbreaks of the contagious bovine pleuropneumonia some parts of the country, was one of the pointers to the breakdown in infrastructure support, as was with the failure to reinforce cordon lines. Stakeholders informed the Committee that the Department of Veterinary Services needed support towards diagnostic facilities, vaccine production, as well as transport for enhanced mobility of veterinary officers.

### **2.2.4 Proactive Measures that have been put in Place by the Department of Veterinary Services in Combating Livestock Diseases and their Effectiveness**

The Committee was informed that the provision of livestock disease prevention and control fell under two categories. These were the public and private good categories. In the public good category, which mainly addressed diseases of national economic importance, the Government took responsibility for the prevention and control of highly infectious animal diseases and those

of public health significance. However, farmers and other stakeholders were allowed to play specific roles to ameliorate the situation during outbreaks.

Stakeholders informed the Committee that diseases of national economic importance were mainly epidemic in nature, spread quickly and had the potential to cause national food security risks. The diseases in question were also trans-boundary in nature and could thus spread across borders if not controlled. The Committee was informed that vaccines for this category of diseases were highly controlled and were usually availed on a Government-to-Government framework. In addition, such vaccines were not readily available off the shelf until a number of pertinent examinations were completed to ascertain the appropriate vaccine for the particular outbreak.

The Committee was informed that with the private good category, which mainly addressed management diseases, most of the preventive and control measures were a mandate of the citizens. The management diseases were those that could easily be prevented by good husbandry practises, and when they occurred, their control was easily achieved by particular outlined treatments. However, Government still offered extension services for these diseases and ensured the community used preventive and control measures that were appropriate.

The Committee was informed that the Department of Veterinary Services had developed a number of disease control strategies for most of the major infectious diseases in the country, such as contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, foot and mouth disease; African swine fever; and east coast fever, among others. Stakeholders stated that the prescribed control measures in place included the control of movement of animals; mass vaccinations; aerial spraying; test and slaughter; and enhancing bio security.

The Committee was informed that the above control measures had effectively helped in preventing and controlling diseases when they occurred. However, the major challenges for the Department of Veterinary Services to effectively combat livestock diseases included low staffing levels; the high cost of the vaccine; inadequate and erratic Government funding, leading to failure to follow vaccination schedules to halt spread of disease due to low vaccination quantities; failure to implement scheduled preventive measures such as vaccinations or bio-security; disruption of local trade due to restriction of livestock movement from high-risk areas; and lack of a reliable animal movement and traceability system, leading to illegal movement of livestock without permits and using of undesignated roads.

The Committee was informed that another proactive measure by the Department of Veterinary Services in combating livestock diseases was the construction of veterinary laboratories. The Committee was informed that the Central Veterinary Research Institute's vaccine production unit had started to make progress through the Zambia Animal Vaccine Institute, in contributing towards addressing disease control and diagnostics, that is, strengthened link between the public and private sector in procuring relevant materials and equipment in the lab.

The Committee was informed that the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, through Central Veterinary Research Institute in Chilanga, had shown capacity to produce most common vaccines for animal diseases, such as, anthrax; rabies; newcastle disease; black quarter; and haemorrhagic septicaemia. Stakeholders, however, informed the Committee that in most cases,

production of the doses for specific vaccines had been below the target, despite the fact that administering vaccines had shown to be effective in countering livestock diseases.

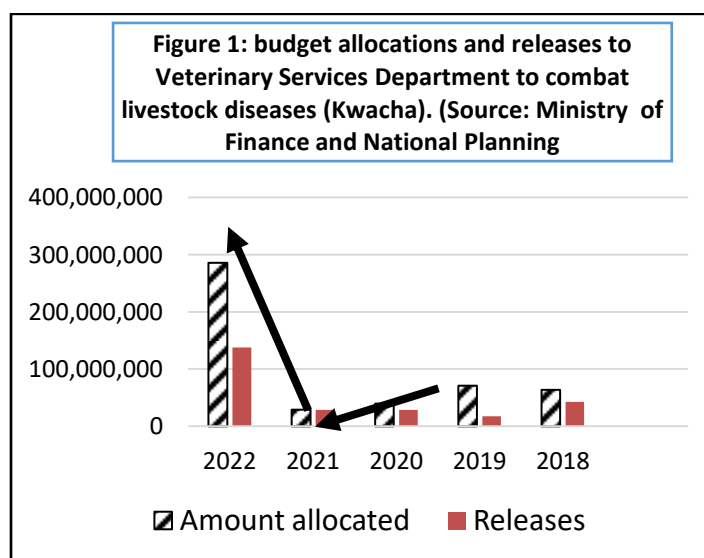
### 2.2.5 Financing Mechanisms and Budgetary Allocations by Government towards the Department of Veterinary Services to Combat Livestock Diseases Year by Year in the Last Five Years

The Committee was informed that investment in the animal health sector in Zambia had not been concomitant to the growth and modern dispensation of the livestock Industry. This had created gaps and inadequacies in facilitating seamless growth of the sector. The Committee was informed that the Department of Veterinary Services was funded through budgetary allocations that were appropriated through Parliament. The Government, through the *Animal Health Act No. 27 of 2010*, had also created an Animal Disease Control Fund to curb emergency outbreak of diseases in the country and offered guidelines for compensation under the fund.

The figure below illustrates the appropriated funds and budget releases to the Department of Veterinary Services for the period 2018 to 2022.

**Table 1: Budget allocations and releases for veterinary services to combat livestock diseases (Source: Ministry of Finance and National Planning)**

Year	Amount Allocated	Releases	Percent Variance
2022	285,937,802	137,639,891	-52
2021	29,441,550	28,341,550	-4
2020	39,592,258	28,776,669	-27
2019	71,241,399	17,687,871	-75
2018	63,782,200	42,602,659	-33



The Committee was informed that as shown in Table 1 and Figure 1, there was a general decline in the budget allocations to the Veterinary Services Department between the period 2019 and 2021. Stakeholders submitted that despite the low investment witnessed over the years, the Department of Veterinary Services in Zambia had made several strides in disease prevention and control. The Committee was informed that due to the low levels of disease outbreaks, the country

had recorded a positive growth in the livestock sector over the last 5 years. For example, the country had recorded an increase in cattle from 3.8 million in 2017 to 4.6 million in 2022 (Source: 2022 Livestock Survey). Similar trends had been recorded in other livestock species.

**Table 2: Distribution of various types of livestock by Province –2022 (Source: Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock)**

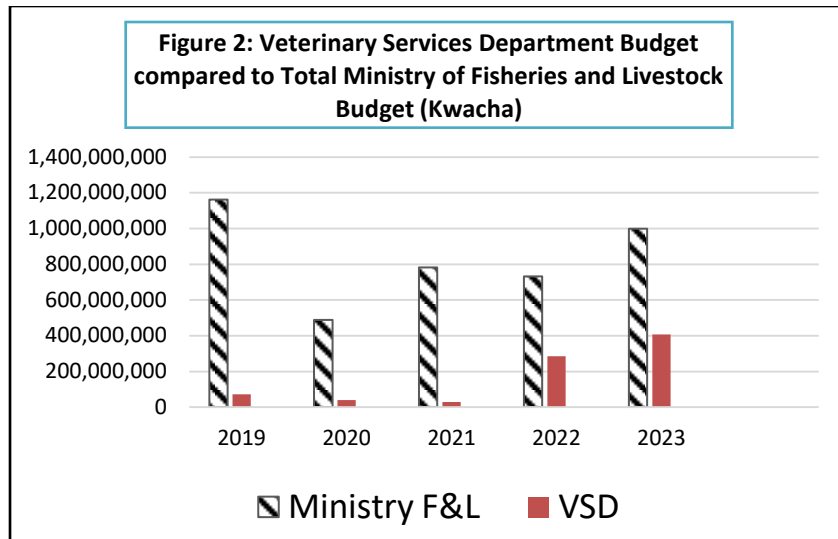
Province	Livestock type							
	Cattle		Goats		Sheep		Pigs	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Central	786,842	16.7	759,113	17.0	54,542	20.9	119,092	10.3
Copperbelt	77,823	1.7	207,423	4.7	19,913	7.6	100,612	8.7
Eastern	716,368	15.2	420,590	9.4	16,331	6.3	192,464	16.6
Luapula	14,072	0.3	179,523	4.0	5,749	2.2	17,406	1.5
Lusaka	146,828	3.1	206,022	4.6	15,097	5.8	151,987	13.1
Muchinga	88,277	1.9	195,124	4.4	768	0.3	53,027	4.6
Northern	104,760	2.2	245,588	5.5	1,684	0.6	82,821	7.1
North-western	64,897	1.4	180,343	4.0	8,543	3.3	63,745	5.5
Southern	2,216,076	47.2	1,934,299	43.4	137,285	52.7	323,249	27.8
Western	483,030	10.3	127,836	2.9	647	0.2	56,440	4.9
<b>ZAMBIA</b>	<b>4,698,973</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,455,860</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>260,560</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,160,842</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The Committee was informed that despite the budget decline over the past few years towards the Department of Veterinary Services, in 2022, the budget was increased by over 900 per cent. This reflected the importance that the Government had placed on the operations of the Department of Veterinary Services.

The Committee was further informed that comparing the Department of Veterinary Services budget to the total budget for the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock showed that the Department's allocation had been increasing. In 2019 the Department's allocation accounted for only 6 per cent of the Ministry's approved budget, while in 2022 and 2023, the Department's budget represented 39 percent and 41 percent of the Ministry's budget respectively (See Table 3 and Figure 2).

**Table 3: Veterinary Services Department Budget compared to Total Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Budget (Kwacha)**

Year	Total Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Budget	Veterinary Services Department Budget	Percentage (%)
2019	1,160,757,614	71,241,399	6
2020	488,463,178	39,592,258	8
2021	781,722,804	29,441,550	4
2022	730,448,391	285,937,802	39
2023	997,894,943	407,299,437	41

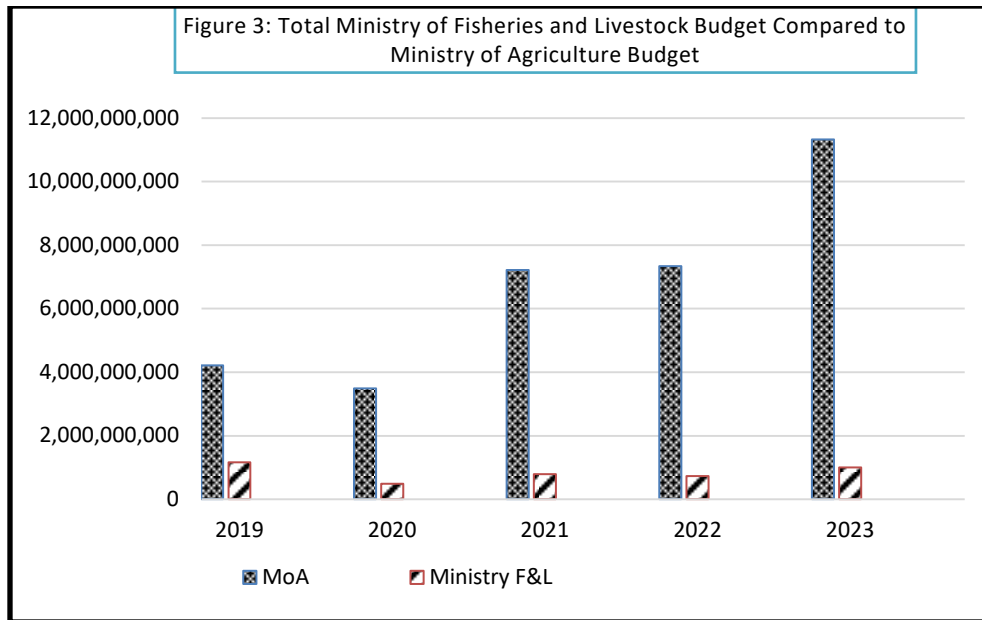


### 2.2.6 Comparison of Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Budget to Ministry of Agriculture Budget

The Committee was informed, as shown in Table 4 and Figure 3, that the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock had over the years been allocated significantly less budgetary resources as compared to the Ministry of Agriculture. In the approved 2023 budget for example, the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock budget was approximately 9 per cent of the budget allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture. Stakeholders submitted that there was need, therefore, to continue reviewing and rationalising resources allocation to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and the Department of Veterinary Services in particular, going forward. (See Table 4 and Figure 3).

**Table 4: Ministry of Agriculture Compared to Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (Source: Ministry of Finance and National Planning)**

Year	Ministry of Agriculture Budget	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Budget	Percentage (%)
2019	4,213,714,551	1,160,757,614	28
2020	3,484,785,858	488,463,178	14
2021	7,209,802,795	781,722,804	11
2022	7,336,328,903	730,448,391	10
2023	11,325,109,654	997,894,943	9



### 2.2.7 Challenges Faced by the Department of Veterinary Services in Effectively Combating Livestock Diseases in Zambia

The Committee was informed that the effective combating of livestock diseases by the Department of Veterinary Services in Zambia faced many gaps and challenges, some of which were as outlined below.

#### a) Slow Disbursement of Funds

The Committee was informed that although there had been successive improvements in budgetary allocation towards animal health, there was need for timely, adequate allocation and disbursement of funds for the Department to undertake planned activities. For instance, out of the budget allocated to Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock in 2021, only 55 percent of the funds were released (Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, 2021).

#### b) Low Staffing Levels

The Committee was informed that the Veterinary Assistant to farmer ratio in Zambia was quite high. Stakeholders submitted that according to the National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy, livestock extension officer to farmer ratio was 1:3000 against the recommended being 1:400 (Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock 2016). The Committee was informed that this could be resolved by either recruiting more veterinary personnel or creating community livestock workers or groups.

#### c) Insufficient Funding to Control Diseases

The Committee was informed that there was need for more funding towards the control of diseases, especially those of national economic importance, such as foot and mouth disease and CBPP. The norm was that vaccinations were mostly done when there was an outbreak, when in actual sense, there should be routine vaccinations to prevent diseases. Stakeholders submitted that there was need for more funding towards preventive measures, as disease treatment was costly.



The Committee was informed that in the year 2022 alone, the country recorded an outbreak of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia in Chisamba and Chibombo Districts, and this was the third time the disease was reported outside the traditional areas of Western; North Western; and Northern Provinces. The outbreak led to the slaughter of 11,187 cattle in the two districts. Earlier in the year, an outbreak of African swine fever led to the slaughter of 2,134 pigs across 35 facilities in Lusaka district.

**d) Poor Disease Surveillance**

The Committee was informed that poor disease surveillance by the Department of Veterinary Services was another challenge faced in combating livestock diseases. Stakeholders stated that disease surveillance across the country was not routinely done and this contributed to a false sense of security in terms of disease prevalence. The Committee was further informed that while the Department of Veterinary Services had a disease surveillance system in place, it had not been very effective as evidenced by rampant disease outbreaks, especially in cattle and pigs, notably in Central; Lusaka; Southern; and Western Provinces. Stakeholders submitted that there was need for enhanced disease surveillance for early warning, which needed to be extended to abattoirs as well.

**e) Inadequate Laboratories and Testing Facilities**

The Committee was informed that in Zambia, laboratories and other testing facilities for animal diseases were inadequate. Stakeholders informed the Committee that consequently, samples from most parts of the country had to be transported over long distances to the Central Veterinary Research Institute in Chilanga and the recently commissioned regional facilities in Mongu; Choma; and Chipata.

**f) Inadequate Infrastructure for Disease Control and Management**

The Committee was informed that inadequate and the poor state of infrastructure for disease control across the country was among the main factors limiting effectiveness of service delivery by the Department of Veterinary Services. In number terms, the availability of disease control infrastructure was limited which hindered effective control of diseases. Stakeholders submitted that in particular, dip tanks, crush pens and spray races, were effective tools for controlling tick-borne diseases but were inadequate. The Committee was informed that owing to limited geographical coverage and inadequate numbers, not all livestock farmers had access to these services.

Stakeholders informed the Committee that to effectively control diseases in livestock, the provision of adequate livestock and veterinary services could not be over emphasised. This was not the case, as most small holder livestock farmers were denied the opportunity directly or otherwise. In instances where such services were available, livestock farmers were constrained from receiving them on account of long distances they needed to travel to obtain relevant livestock services.

**g) Illegal Movement of Livestock**

The Committee was informed that the illegal movement of livestock by some farmers by using undesignated routes was another major challenge faced by the Department of Veterinary Services in combating livestock diseases in Zambia. Stakeholders submitted that in some cases, livestock diseases had been spread as a result of illegal movement of livestock from affected areas to the non-affected areas.

#### **h) Inadequate Outreach Programmes to Farmers Resulting in Lack of Cooperation from Farmers**

The Committee was informed that the outreach programmes to farmers were not intense, and in some cases non-existent at all. Stakeholders submitted that there was need to increase the promotion of sensitisation programmes on expectant periods of disease occurrence and the specific vaccination programmes.

#### **i) Low Livestock Disease Control Interventions**

The Committee was informed that ticks and fleas were the main vectors for most livestock diseases. Thus, control of ticks was cardinal to curbing sporadic outbreaks of tick-borne diseases. However, due to long distances to dip tanks, majority of the farmers resorted to using spraying methods to control ticks. The Committee was informed that spraying was not as effective as dipping the animals. Stakeholders submitted that among cattle owning smallholder households, the main tick control method was spraying while for the other livestock types, the majority of farmers did not control ticks.

**Table 5 Tick control methods by farmers**

<b>Livestock Type</b>	<b>Control methods by farmers</b>					
	<b>Dipping</b>	<b>Spraying</b>	<b>Pour-On</b>	<b>Hand dressing</b>	<b>Injectable</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>Cattle</b>	18.2	44.4	0.3	2.2	4.7	30.1
<b>Goats</b>	2.7	21.2	0.3	0.9	1.5	73.5
<b>Pigs</b>	1.4	14.3	0.3	1.2	1.5	81.4
<b>Sheep</b>	15.1	14.9	1.9	0.0	0.4	67.8

Source: CSO, Rural Agricultural Livelihoods Survey: 2012

#### **j) Broken Down Cordon Lines**

The Committee was informed that as a result of broken-down cordon lines in Zambia, the control of livestock diseases had not been very effective. The Committee was further informed of the need to make the existing cordon lines effective, if livestock diseases were to be combated by the Veterinary Services Department.

#### **k) Animal Health Act No. 27 of 2010 and the Animal Identification Act No. 28 of 2010**

The Committee was informed that the *Animal Health Act No. 27 of 2010* and the *Animal Identification Act No. 28 of 2010*, were the principal laws that governed livestock disease management in the country. Stakeholders however, informed the Committee that both laws above were not supported by sufficient regulations for effective application and implementation. As a result, the application of the law in the absence of regulations had not been so effective.

#### **l) Inadequate Transport by Extension Staff to Adequately Respond to Livestock Diseases**

The Committee was informed that limited transport, in the form of vehicles and motorbikes, particularly at provincial and district levels, impeded effective field work by the Veterinary Department in combating livestock diseases. The Committee was further informed that in some cases, there was even no financial support to manage and use the vehicles and motor bikes. Stakeholders informed the Committee that there was a lot of unauthorised movement of livestock across the country, and if this remained undetected by the Department of Veterinary Services because of inadequate transport and extension officers, it would be difficult to combat livestock diseases in Zambia.

#### **m) Inadequate Veterinary Camp Houses**

The Committee was informed that due to deplorable housing and office accommodation at community levels, most para vets were not resident in their designated camps, as they sought better accommodation elsewhere. This affected accessibility of services by the livestock farmers. Therefore, it was recommended that, where possible, staff accommodation and office space should be rehabilitated. Where not available, construction was recommended as this would reduce distances covered by farmers to seek the relevant services.

#### **n) Inadequate Funding Towards Vaccine Development**

The Committee was informed that unlike previously, when most of the veterinary services were being provided for free by the Government, this was no longer the case. Livestock farmers were expected to contribute in monetary terms for veterinary services, except in instances of diseases of national economic importance control. Chemicals and drugs were usually expensive for an individual farmer to bear. It was, therefore, recommended that funding towards veterinary research and vaccine production should be increased.

#### **o) Low Level of Private Sector Participation in Disease Prevention and Control**

The Committee was informed that the provision of veterinary services in the rural or peri-urban parts of Zambia was largely through the Government due to poor infrastructure among other amenities such that the private sector could not thrive. Stakeholders informed the Committee that there were inadequate incentives and collaboration between the Government and the private sector, especially in handling diseases of national economic importance. Stakeholders submitted that there was need to strengthen the entrepreneurial support for enhancing veterinary services delivery so that the private sector could participate in areas where veterinary businesses could thrive. This required partnership with various stakeholders, including the Government, which could provide infrastructure such as dip tanks; spray races; and breeding centres which in turn would be run by private enterprises.

Stakeholders informed the Committee that the Government of the Republic of Zambia after privatisation of veterinary services no longer offered free veterinary services to livestock farmers. In this vein, private sector participation in the livestock sector was cardinal if the country was to make headways in the combating of livestock diseases.

#### **p) Non-Existence of the Veterinary Council of Zambia**

The Committee was informed that the Veterinary Council of Zambia was not in place as required by law. This had negatively affected the regulation of veterinary service providers, especially those employed by the Government. The Committee was further informed that the non-existence of the Veterinary Council of Zambia had equally affected performance of other statutory functions of the Council.

#### **q) Low Uptake of Veterinary Services**

The Committee was informed that as of 2019, only 44 per cent of livestock farmers accessed veterinary products and services for at least one type of their livestock, cattle being the most treated using veterinary methods. About 41 per cent did not treat their livestock with any methods and the remaining 15 per cent used traditional methods. The Committee was further informed that animal disease control challenges persisted mainly due to non-adherence to preventive measures.

**r) Absence of the Department in Abattoir Inspections**

The Committee was informed that abattoirs were currently being managed by the public health officers from the Ministry of Health under the Council. The job of the public health officers was to determine whether or not the animals being slaughtered were fit for human consumption. However, having an animal health specialist present as well could help identify and trace diseases early enough. That meant that the Veterinary Departments' presence would act as an early warning system for disease outbreak prevention.

**s) Inadequate Animal Identification and Traceability System**

The Committee was informed that in the absence of an effective identification and traceability system the country had seen illegal movement of animals which had led to transfer of diseases from one region to the next without the ability to easily trace where exactly the animal(s) came from. Stakeholders submitted that animals needed to be identified to ensure easy traceability as they moved from one location to another, especially, during a disease outbreak. It also helped in curbing stock thefts. Stakeholders submitted that there was an urgent need by the Government to amend the *Animal Identifications Act No. 28 of 2010* so that the law should provide for latest methods of animal identification and tracking, besides the brand marks.

**t) The Predominantly Subsistence Nature of Livestock Production in Zambia**

The Committee was informed that as in many African countries, livestock production was predominantly subsistence, consisting of 60 to 80 per cent of the whole livestock resource. Only about 20 to 30 per cent was commercial. The subsistence nature of livestock had the under listed limitations.

- i) The breeds used were low productivity breeds. There was insufficient motivation to improve these breeds on the part of the owners. This reduced motivation and scope of investment into the breeding industry;
- ii) Almost zero or minimal inputs such as feed was used. Most of the animals were maintained on free range grazing, and an insignificant amount of commercial feed was used. Similarly, this reduced motivation and scope of investment into the industries related to feed and other inputs.
- iii) Most animal owners would only worry about diseases and health of their animals when they had a disease problem. They did not engage in proactive disease prevention programmes such as regular vaccinations, de-worming and dipping/cleansing.
- iv) Given the free-range nature of grazing in this sector, most of the animals in this system considerably contributed to environmental degradation, which in turn led to depletion of grazing land and resources.
- v) Animal welfare principles were rarely considered. As a result, the quality of animals and animal products became prone to being poor.

**u) Research and Development**

The Committee was informed that research and development were essential for Zambia's livestock sector, as the country continued to grapple with the effects of climate change that brought new pests, parasites and diseases in the environment. Stakeholders submitted that with a well-funded research and development program; up scaling of local veterinary medicine development for major animal diseases for Zambia, was possible, especially that infrastructure was partly in place at the Central Veterinary Research Institute.

The Committee was informed that an improvement in research and development would help in coming up with better disease control methodologies and reduce the cost of disease control and management by using more affordable but effective locally produced medicines.

#### **v) Vast Veterinary Camps versus Improvement of Animal Health Service Delivery**

The Committee was informed that most of the veterinary camps in the country were too large to be serviced by a single officer. While this was so, some were manned, while others were not. Stakeholders submitted that in order to improve the delivery of livestock health services, there was need to strengthen institutional collaboration on primary animal health care. The Committee was further informed that there was need to demarcate the veterinary camps further to enhance coverage and delivery of veterinary services effectively. The huge camps, coupled with inadequate housing for staff in the department, were a deterrent to service delivery.

### **2.3 LOCAL TOUR**

#### **Local tour to Southern, Lusaka and Central Provinces**

In order to consolidate its findings from the long meetings on the effectiveness of the Department of Veterinary Services in combating livestock diseases, as well as livestock development in Zambia, the Committee undertook a local tour to Southern, Lusaka and Central provinces. In Southern Province, the Committee interacted with the District Veterinary Officer in Livingstone, management at Heartland's Best in Livingstone, the District Veterinary Officer in Zimba, management at Silverlands Ranching Limited in Zimba, Livestock Farmers in Kalomo, the District Veterinary Officer in Kalomo, the Provincial Livestock Coordinator in Choma, management at Mochipapa Research Station for Livestock in Choma, Management at Livestock Development Trust in Choma, the District Veterinary Officer in Namwala, Livestock Farmers in Namwala and management from the Zambia Institute of Animal Health in Mazabuka. In Lusaka province, the Committee interacted with management from the Central Veterinary Research Institute in Chilanga. In Central province, the Committee interacted with the Provincial Livestock Coordinator in Kabwe, Livestock Farmers in Mpima, the District Veterinary Officer in Chibombo, management at Zambeef Limited and management at Chisamba Ranching and Cropping.

#### **2.3.1 SOUTHERN PROVINCE**

Arising from the tour of some of the Department of Veterinary Service offices and subsequent stakeholder meetings in the Southern province, the findings of the Committee were as set out hereunder.

##### **i. Poor Transport System especially at Field Level**

During the tour meetings, the Committee observed and was informed that in most of the districts as well as at camp level, there was a shortage of transport for the veterinary officers and hence affecting service delivery. At the Livingstone veterinary office, the Committee observed that the institution only had one old vehicle which was reported not to be mechanically fit as it was often breaking down. The Committee further observed that there were also broken-down motor bikes at Livingstone veterinary office of which only two were running. As in the other districts visited, the Committee observed that the Zimba veterinary office, completely had no transport facilities for their operations and had to rely on the district administration.



**Two of the old motor bikes at the Livingstone district veterinary office in use**



**ii. Lack of Laboratory Facilities in Districts**

In the three provinces visited, all the stakeholders submitted that there was lack of laboratory services in the districts, which negatively affected the operations of the Department of Veterinary Services in combating livestock diseases.

**A room meant to be a lab at the Livingstone district veterinary office**



### **iii. Regional Laboratory in Choma**

The Committee observed that there was a regional laboratory in Choma to cater for the farmers in Southern province. It was however noted that the regional lab in Choma was not so effective as samples were still sent from Choma to the Central Veterinary Research Institute in Chilanga for analysis. The Committee further observed the regional laboratory in Choma depended on reagents sent from the Central Veterinary Research Institute in Chilanga for their operations, which in most cases were not sufficient.

### **iv. Inadequate Funding for Veterinary Services**

In all the districts visited, the Committee observed that there was a concern from all the stakeholders about the inadequate funds to the Department of Veterinary Services for them to be effective.

### **v. Vastness of Veterinary Camps**

Stakeholders informed the Committee that in most of the districts, the camps were often too vast to be managed by one officer. The Committee was informed that the farmer to Veterinary Assistance ratio was too high if the officers were to be effective in their duties.

### **vi. Government Owned Dip Tanks**

The Committee was informed that in almost all the districts, most of the Government owned dip tanks were non-functional and this affected service delivery by the Department of Veterinary Services in combating livestock diseases in Zambia. The Committee was informed that most of the Government owned dip tanks in Southern province were non-functional. The Committee observed during its tour that the private sector in a number of districts had rehabilitated some of the Government abandoned dip tanks in some areas and some farmers were depending on them for dipping their animals at a minimal fee. One of the private stakeholders was Silverlands in Zimba who have revamped a number of abandoned dip tanks for the benefit of the local farmers.

#### **One of the dip tanks supported by the private sector in Zimba District**





**Livestock dipping at Mantanyani dip tank in Zimba supported by the private sector**



**List of Dip Government Tanks in Southern Province (Functional and Non-Functional) as submitted the Provincial Livestock Coordinator in Southern Province**

	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>NO. OF DIP TANKS FUNCTIONAL</b>	<b>NO. OF DIP TANKS NOT FUNCTIONAL</b>
1	ZIMBA	7	1
2	CHIKANKATA	3	0
3	KALOMO	19	37
4	MAZABUKA	0	30
5	NAMWALA	0	13
6	GWEMBE	1	3
7	LIVINGSTONE	0	3
8	ITEZHI-TEZHI	39	18
9	CHIRUNDU	0	2
10	SIAVONGA	0	11
11	PEMBA	7	23
12	CHOMA	0	21
13	MONZE	25	16
14	KAZUNGULA	5	7
15	SINAZONGWE	0	7
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>192</b>



**vii. Veterinary Staff**

In most of the districts visited, the Committee was informed that there were a number of unfilled and vacant positions both at district and field level. This negatively affected the operations of the Department of Veterinary Services in combating livestock diseases.

**viii. Poor Staff Accommodation for some Camp Officers**

The Committee was informed that while some veterinary camps had accommodation for officers, most of the camps had dilapidated housing while others did not have anything at all.

**ix. Inadequate ICT Provisions**

The Committee was informed that in most of the districts, officers did not have internet connection as well as computers, yet they were expected to receive the results of their samples for the livestock farmers electronically.

**x. Non-Availability of Latest Data on Livestock Population**

The Committee observed that in most of the districts visited there was no latest data on the latest population on livestock as the officers kept on relying on old data.

**xi. Non-Existence of quarantine facilities in almost all the Districts**

The Committee was informed that in almost all the districts, there existed no quarantine facilities to allow for the isolation of livestock suspected to be positive on some diseases as well as for the custody of livestock that could have been impounded for various reasons.

**xii. National Animal Health Policy**

The Committee was informed that a draft of the National Animal Health Policy was developed but has not yet been published. It was submitted that once published the policy will provide guidelines on veterinary extension, disease diagnosis, research and financing issues that generally affected the livestock industry.

**xiii. Mochipapa Research Station for Livestock in Choma**

The Committee was informed that the Mochipapa Research Station was the largest agricultural research station in Zambia with a mandate to conduct adaptive and applied livestock production research in the priority areas including breeding, reproduction, nutrition, livestock products, range and pastures. The Committee was informed that in order to facilitate growth in the livestock sector, there was need by the Government to strengthen the livestock research programmes in the country.

The Committee was informed that due to insufficient support coming from the Government the Station was not able to fully achieve its mandate, and hence livestock development at national level was being hampered as a result of neglect on institutions such as Mochipapa Research Station.

The Committee was informed that the Station had not been receiving sufficient funds for its operations from central Government in order to achieve its objectives. There were low staffing levels at the station hence affecting service delivery. There was lack of staff accommodation as well as office accommodation. Mochipapa being a very old Station, most of the infrastructure was broken down. The Committee was informed that there was a block that was under

construction at Mochipapa Research Station meant for use as offices, however, the works have stored as there were no funds for the completion of the building. The Committee was also informed that as a result of not having sufficient specialised equipment at the institute, service delivery was negatively affected.

**An Incomplete building since 2016 at Mochipapa Research Institute for Livestock meant for use as offices**



**xiv. Chitongo Livestock Service Centre in Namwala**

The Committee was informed that as a result of frequent outbreaks of livestock diseases in Namwala's Chitongo area, Chitongo Livestock Service Centre was built under a grant from the World Bank. The project included two staff houses, a dip tank, a borehole and a block of offices. The Committee was informed that since 2016 when the World Bank pulled out, the project had stalled and as a result had been vandalised. The Committee was informed that the water pump that was installed had equally been stolen. The Committee was informed that despite the importance of the project to livestock farmers, it has remained non-operational since 2016 when the project was 95 per cent completed.



**The two vandalised houses at Chitongo Livestock Service Centre in Namwala**



**One of the vandalised window panes to one of the offices at Chitongo Livestock Service Centre**





### **A dip tank at Chitongo Livestock Service Centre in Namwala**



### **xv. Zambia Institute of Animal Husbandry in Mazabuka**

The Committee was informed that the role of the Zambia Institute of Animal Husbandry included training in animal disease control, research and animal production among others. The Committee was informed that institute was currently facing a number of challenges which were infrastructural, lack of modern laboratory equipment, lack of chairs and stools and financial challenges among others. As a result of the challenges that were being faced the institute was unable to fully carry out its mandate.

### **A class room at the Zambia Institute of Animal Husbandry in Mazabuka with insufficient desks for the learners**



**One of the laboratories at the Zambia Institute of Animal Husbandry without modern equipment and also lacking stools for the learners**



### **2.3.2 Central Province**

Arising from the tour of some of the Department of Veterinary Service offices and subsequent stakeholder meetings in Central province, the findings of the Committee were as set out hereunder.

#### **i. Statistics on Livestock**

The Committee was informed that Central Province had eleven districts with a total of seventy-one Veterinary camps. The Province which ranked second to Southern Province in terms of Livestock production had a total of 784,872 cattle, 759,113 goats, 119,093 pigs, 54,542 sheep, 3,800,782 village chickens and 853,073 broiler chickens.

#### **ii. Common Diseases in the Province**

The Committee was informed that the most common diseases in the province for cattle farmers were east coast fever, anaplasmosis, heartwater, blackleg, foot and mouth disease and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia which broke out recently in Chisamba and Chibombo Districts.

#### **iii. Vastness of Veterinary Camps**

The Committee was informed that the Veterinary Camps in the province were too vast for one Veterinary Assistant. These needed to be further demarcated in order to reduce the farmer to Veterinary Assistant ratio.

#### iv. Low Staffing Levels

The Committee was informed that Central province had eleven districts with a total of seventy-one Veterinary camps. However, if livestock development was best to be achieved, the number of officers on the ground was not equivalent to the load of work. The Committee was informed that some positions such as Veterinary Officer positions in Kapiri Mposhi and Chisamba had remained frozen positions including some at the camp level.

	DISTRICT	NO. OF CAMPS	NO. OF DVOs	NO. OF DLOs	NO. OF VAs
1	Kabwe	7	1	1	6
2	Ngabwe	3	0	0	2
3	Chibombo	10	1	1	12
4	Chisamba	5	0	1	5
5	Shibuyunji	6	1	0	5
6	Mumbwa	10	1	0	12
7	Kapiri	7	0	1	7
8	Luano	5	1	0	2
9	Mkushi	7	1	0	7
10	Serenje	8	1	0	6
11	Chitambo	3	0	0	2
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>64</b>

#### v. Transport Challenge

The Committee was informed that there was a big challenge in terms of transport at both district and camp levels. However, it was gratifying to note that the department had been assured that transport for Districts and camps would be procured in this year's budget, while a Land cruiser had already been procured for the Provincial Veterinary Office and was already in the province.

#### vi. Non-Functional Dip tanks

The Committee was informed that ticks were very important ectoparasites in the veterinary aspect. They transmitted disease causing parasites which caused various diseases in livestock. These diseases caused clinical conditions which led to reduced performance, poor productivity and death of livestock. In order to control these ticks and reduce their socio-economic effects on the farmers, the Committee was informed that dipping, spraying and pour-on's were used. The Committee was informed that dip tanks, however, were the best infrastructure to ensure control of ticks but most of the infrastructure was dilapidated and non-functional in most cases and only private dip tanks were available in some districts.

#### vii. Veterinary Camp houses

The Committee was informed that the Veterinary Extension Staff were charged with the responsibility of administering veterinary services to livestock farmers through the *Animal Health Act No. 27 of 2010* by providing extension services including prevention and treatment of livestock diseases at the Veterinary Camp level. These officers were expected to reside within Veterinary camps. However, there were no camp houses in some camps. Unfortunately, the Officers were not able to find houses to rent in most rural areas. Where Government houses were available, they were mostly dilapidated.



### **viii. Provincial Laboratory**

The Committee was informed that for the Province to effectively administer the Animal Health Act and other veterinary related legal instruments, diagnostic tools such as a laboratory were essential because they enabled the province to respond to disease challenges thereby reducing livestock mortalities. Unfortunately, the current regional laboratory had very low capacity to service farmers fully as it was too small and ill equipped and therefore only did simple diagnostic procedures. The Committee was informed that at district level, there were no functioning laboratories. The Committee was informed that farmers were forced to take diagnostic samples to the Central Veterinary Research Institute in Lusaka which sometimes caused delays, as there was no courier system in place. In Chibombo, the Committee was informed that the officers were relying on ordinary fridges to store their vaccines as they did not have vaccine fridges. The Committee was informed that the officers in Chibombo ended up to be storing their vaccines at ZAMBEEF LTD a private entity.

**A room meant to be the regional lab in Kabwe without any equipment for major tests by the officers**



## **Structure being used as an operating table for post-mortems at the provincial lab in Kabwe**



### **ix. Inadequate ICT Provisions**

The Committee was informed that there were generally inadequate ICT provisions like internet network which would enable prompt reporting of data from the field level to and from Head Office and storage of data which had led to delayed decision making.

### **x. Emergency Fund**

The Committee was informed that at provincial level, there was lack of emergency funds which made reaction to disease outbreaks somehow slow.

### **xi. Illegal Movement of Livestock**

The Committee was informed that generally the province experienced illegal movement of livestock. This was mainly as a result of lacking effective check points in the province.

### **xii. Inadequate Funding for Veterinary Services**

In all the districts visited, the Committee observed that there was a concern from all the stakeholders about the inadequate funds to the Department of Veterinary Services for them to be effective.

### **xiii. Poor Attitude from some Livestock Farmers**

The Committee was informed that in some cases, livestock disease control in Chibombo district was being hampered by lack of cooperation from some livestock farmers who were in some instances not willing to have their animals dipped or vaccinated.



#### **xiv. Non-Operational Insemination Centre in Chibombo**

The Committee was informed that in order to improve on livestock development in Chibombo district, the Government constructed an artificial insemination centre in Chibombo in 2016. The insemination centre has up to date not yet been operationalised.

#### **The artificial insemination centre meant for livestock development built in 2016 in Chibombo, yet not yet operational as works have stalled**



#### **2.3.3 Tour of the Central Veterinary Research Institute to Appreciate its Operations**

The Committee was informed that the Central Veterinary Research Institute was the National Veterinary Laboratory and a designated Reference Laboratory for animal health in COMESA. It was headed by the Chief Veterinary Research Officer and assisted by Heads of Sections, a Quality manager and the Chief Laboratory Technician who formed the management team. The Institute had an organisational structure, staff, laboratory equipment, laboratory facilities and environmental conditions that supported the provision of diagnostic services. In addition, the institute had a robust laboratory information management system that supported sampling, testing and result-reporting.

The Committee was informed that at national level, the Central Veterinary Research Institute was the Competent Authority in animal disease diagnosis and supported the surveillance of diseases of national economic importance as well as the production of animal vaccines. The Central Veterinary Research Institute had developed a comprehensive residue-testing programme performed for all animal products for export and internal consumption and subjected to routine quality assurance and regular evaluation.

The Committee was informed that the Central Veterinary Research Institute was responsible for the provision of diagnostic services, research, monitoring of antimicrobial residues in beef, pork and poultry products in all the commercial processing establishments in the country, production of animal vaccines and soya inoculum. The institute was also involved in the nation-wide poultry salmonellosis control program in commercial breeder farms and hatcheries to facilitate trade in poultry and poultry products. The institute operated as a unit under the Research and Epidemiology section of Department of Veterinary Service, headed by an Assistant Director.

The Committee was informed that the Central Veterinary Research Institute was funded through the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock through Head 86 of the National Budget. The funding allocations to the institute were as stipulated in the yellow book and disbursement was through the Department of Veterinary Service.

The Committee was informed that the Central Veterinary Research Institute was founded in 1984 and had witnessed some improvements and upgrading in recent times because of increased concern for disease surveillance aroused by recent outbreaks of disease such as foot and mouth disease, african swine fever as well as antimicrobial resistance and residue monitoring. Aside from the Central Veterinary Research Institute, there were seven regional diagnostic laboratories that catered for five regions in the country. The Committee was informed that currently, only three of the regional laboratories were fully operational. The rest were operating at a low capacity.

### **Challenges faced by Central Veterinary Research Institute**

#### **i. Insufficient Funding for the Institute to fully operate**

The Committee was informed that insufficient funding was one of the most critical issues faced by the Central Veterinary Research Institute and its regional laboratories. The current funding levels were so low that they failed to cover administrative costs estimated at K350,000.00 per month. The cost of laboratory consumables, test kits and other disease surveillance supplies could not be adequately paid for. Further, procurement and maintenance of modern laboratory equipment, continuous staff development, implementation of Quality Assurance System for testing laboratories and appraisal of the performance characteristics of novel diagnostic techniques and designing and specification of proper sample collection methods for disease surveillance cannot be attained under the current funding levels.

#### **ii. Procurement Process**

The Committee was informed that the Central Veterinary Research Institute depended on facilitation from the Directorate of Veterinary Services, but the procurement processes were never timely, sometimes up to six months late, leading to stock-outs. This inevitably caused delays in analysis of samples for disease surveillance and stock movement, raising the risk of disease spread in case of an outbreak and a potential loss of business for farmers, much to their displeasure.

#### **iii. Inadequacy of Organisation Structure**

The Committee was informed that there was an inadequacy of organisational structure to meet institutional demands at the Central Veterinary Research Institute. The structure currently in place, within which the Central Veterinary Research Institute operated as a unit under a section in the Department of Veterinary Service, was adequate at the time the institute was created

nearly forty years ago. Over the years, however, the livestock sector had seen massive growth along with the growth of the human population. This naturally demanded an upgrade of the diagnostic system to an autonomous one to match the growth and ensure a more efficient way of operating.

#### **iv. Transport Constraints**

The Committee was informed that currently the Central Veterinary Research Institute had no vehicle in good running condition officially designated to the institute. Therefore, the day-to-day running of the institute as well as field operations of both the Central Veterinary Research Institute and the regional laboratories are severely constrained.

#### **Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources appreciating the operations at the Central Veterinary Research Institute in Chilanga**



## **2.4 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Having interacted with various stakeholders and considering the submissions received, as well as the findings from the local tour in Southern, Lusaka and Central provinces, the Committee makes the observations and recommendations as outlined below.

### **2.4.1 Budget for Livestock Disease Control**

The Committee observes that over the years, allocations and releases to the Department of Veterinary Services for the purpose of combating livestock diseases have not been so impressive, as shown below. However, the Committee notes that in the 2022 budget, there was a notable improvement in terms of both allocations and releases for combating livestock diseases. Despite the notable increase in the 2022 budget, all the stakeholders the Committee interacted with during the local tour bemoaned poor funding for the livestock sector.



### **Budget allocations and releases for veterinary services to combat livestock diseases**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount Allocated</b>	<b>Releases</b>	<b>Percent Variance</b>
2022	285,937,802	137,639,891	-52
2021	29,441,550	28,341,550	-4
2020	39,592,258	28,776,669	-27
2019	71,241,399	17,687,871	-75
2018	63,782,200	42,602,659	-33

In view of the above, the Committee recommends for a further increase in the budget for combating livestock diseases. The Committee also recommends that there should be consistency from the Government in terms of allocations and releases of funds to the Department of Veterinary Services, if livestock diseases are to be combated in Zambia.

#### **2.4.2 Re-demarcation of Veterinary Camps to Improve Animal Health Service Delivery.**

The Committee observes that most of the veterinary camps in the country are too large to be serviced by a single officer. In all the districts toured by the Committee during the local tour, there was a complaint of having too vast veterinary camps for a single officer. According to the National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy, livestock extension officer to farmer ratio is 1:3000 against the recommended 1:400.

In light of the above, the Committee recommends the re-demarcation of the large veterinary camps across the country if the extension officers on the ground are to be effective in carrying out their duties.

#### **2.4.3 Increase the Number of Staff under the Veterinary Services Department**

The Committee observes that the Veterinary Assistant to farmer ratio in Zambia is quite high, thereby working against the effectiveness of the Department Veterinary Services in combating livestock diseases in the country. In view of the above, the Committee recommends the recruitment of more extension officers in the country. The Committee further recommends for the re-distribution of extension officers, to be guided by the number of livestock in the area to one extension officer and not per farmer to extension officer.

#### **2.4.4 Construction of more Laboratories and Testing Facilities**

The Committee observes that in Zambia, laboratories and other testing facilities for animal diseases are inadequate across the country as was proved during the local tour. In Kabwe, the Committee observes that what is being termed to be a provincial lab is not worthy the standard of a provincial lab as it is merely a room without any reasonable equipment. In Livingstone, the Committee observes that an empty room that has gathered dust is what is being termed to be the district laboratory. Further the Committee observes that in most cases, samples from most parts of the country are transported over long distances to the Central Veterinary Research Institute in Chilanga, which compromises the results if storage is poor.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends for the construction of adequate laboratories and other testing facilities across the country to avoid livestock farmers travelling long distances to have their samples tested.

#### **2.4.5 Construction of Disease Control Infrastructure**

The Committee observes that the inadequate and poor status of infrastructure for disease control across the country is among the main factors limiting the efficacy of service delivery by the Department of Veterinary Services. During the local tour, the Committee observed that most of the Government owned dip tanks across the country were non-functional and, in most cases, the private sector has managed to rehabilitate some of them and were now being run by them to help livestock farmers. The Committee notes that in number terms, the availability of disease control infrastructure in the country is limited and hinders effective control of diseases.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends for the construction of livestock disease control infrastructure, such as dip tanks; crush pens; and spray races in places where livestock is predominant, as well as rehabilitation in places where such infrastructure is run down.

#### **2.4.6 Research and Development**

The Committee observes that research and development is essential for Zambia's livestock sector development as the country continues to grapple with the effects of climate change that continues to bring new pests, parasites and diseases in the environment. However, during the local tour, the Committee observed that institutions that are mandated to promote research and development in the country such as Mochipapa Research Station for Livestock and the Livestock Development Trust in Choma have been neglected. Further, the Committee observes that with a well-funded research and development programme, up scaling of local veterinary medicine development for major animal diseases for Zambia, is possible, especially that infrastructure is partly in place at the Central Veterinary Research Institute.

In light of the above, the Committee recommends for an increase to the budget towards Research and Development institutions like Mochipapa Research Station for Livestock in order to improve service delivery.

#### **2.4.7 Enhance Animal Identification and Traceability System**

The Committee observes that in the absence of an effective identification and tracing system, the country has seen illegal movement of animals, which has led to transfer of diseases from one region to the next without the ability to easily trace where exactly the animal(s) came from. Further, the Committee observes that animals need to be identified to ensure easy traceability as they move from one location to another.

In view of the above the Committee recommends the review of the *Animal Identifications Act No. 28 of 2010* so that the law should provide for latest methods of animal identification and tracing, besides the brand marks.

#### **2.4.8 Appointment of the Veterinary Council of Zambia**

The Committee observes that currently, the Veterinary Council of Zambia, a creation of the law is not in existence as provided for by the *Veterinary and Veterinary – Para Professions Act, No. 45 of 2010*. This has therefore, negatively affected the regulation of veterinary service providers, especially those employed by the Government. The Committee further observes that the non-existence of the Veterinary Council of Zambia, has equally affected performance of statutory functions of the Council.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends for the urgent appointment of the Veterinary Council of Zambia as required by law, to enable it to carry out its statutory functions.

#### **2.4.9 Local Vaccine Development**

The Committee observes that previously, most of the veterinary services were being provided for free by the Government. However, this is no longer the case. Further, the Committee observes that livestock farmers are expected to contribute in monetary terms for veterinary services, except in instances of diseases of national economic importance control. Furthermore, the Committee observes that chemicals and drugs are usually expensive for an individual farmer to bear.

In light of the above, the Committee recommends for increased funding to the Central Veterinary Research Institute in Chilanga in an effort to promote local vaccine development that will enable the country to produce vaccines, including those needed for diseases of national economic importance.

#### **2.4.10 Veterinary Camp Houses**

The Committee observes that due to deplorable housing and office accommodation at community levels, most para vets are not resident in their designated camps as they seek better accommodation elsewhere. This has affected accessibility of services by the livestock farmers.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends that staff accommodation and office space should be rehabilitated. Where it is not available, construction is recommended as this will reduce distances covered by farmers to seek the relevant services.

#### **2.4.11 Transport for use by Extension Staff to Adequately Respond to Livestock Diseases**

The Committee observes that limited transport, particularly in the form of vehicles and motor bikes at provincial and district level, has impeded effective field work by the Department of Veterinary Services in combating livestock diseases. The Committee further observes that in some cases, there is even no financial support to manage and use the vehicles and motor bikes. This makes the fight against livestock diseases by the Department difficult.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends the procurement of sufficient vehicles and motor bikes for use by extension officers across the country in an effort to combat livestock diseases country wide. Further, the Committee recommends for financial support to the users of the vehicles and motor bikes in terms of fuel and other expenses in an effort to improve service delivery.

#### **2.4.12 Animal Health Act No. 27 of 2010 and the Animal Identification Act No. 28 of 2010**

The Committee observes that the *Animal Health Act No. 27 of 2010* and the *Animal Identification Act No. 28 of 2010*, are the principal laws that govern livestock disease management in the country. However, both laws are not supported by regulations for effective application and implementation.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends for the urgent formulation of regulations for the two pieces of law for purposes of providing guidance in the implementation of the law.

#### **2.4.13 Curb Illegal Movement of Animals**

The Committee observes that the illegal movement of livestock by some farmers using undesignated routes is another major challenge faced by the Department of Veterinary Services in combating livestock diseases in Zambia. Further, the Committee observes that in some cases, livestock diseases are spread as a result of illegal movement of livestock from affected areas to non-affected areas. In other instances, the Committee observes that some Veterinary Officers were conniving with some farmers to illegally move livestock from one area to the other.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends that stringent measures should immediately be put in place to curb the illegal practice of moving livestock, which in some instances is aided by Veterinary Officers and ends up promoting the spread of livestock diseases.

#### **2.4.14 Enhancement of Cordon Lines**

The Committee observes that as a result of broken-down cordon lines in Zambia, the control of livestock diseases has not been very effective as seen in continued spread of some livestock diseases in the country.

In light of the above, the Committee recommends that the existing cordon lines are fully enhanced for the effective control of livestock diseases.

#### **2.4.15 Enhance the Livestock Disease Surveillance Department**

The Committee observes that poor disease surveillance by the Department of Veterinary Services is another challenge faced in combating livestock diseases. Further, the Committee observes that disease surveillance across the country is not routinely done and this contributes to a false sense of security in terms of disease prevalence. Despite having a Department responsible for surveillance of livestock diseases, this has not been very effective as evidenced by rampant disease outbreaks especially in cattle and pigs, notably in Central, Lusaka, Southern and Western Provinces.

In view of the above the Committee recommends for the reorganisation of the department responsible for surveillance in order to make it effective in its statutory mandate, if livestock diseases were to be combated.

#### **2.4.16 Low Uptake of Veterinary Services**

The Committee observes that as of 2019, only 44 per cent of livestock farmers accessed veterinary products and services for at least one type of their livestock, cattle being the most treated using veterinary methods. Further, the Committee observes that about 41 per cent of farmers do not treat their livestock with any methods and the remaining 15 per cent use traditional methods. The Committee is of the view that animal disease control challenges persist mainly due to non-adherence to preventive measures.

In view of the above the Committee recommends that the Department of Veterinary Services should urgently come up with sensitisation programmes, especially among the subsistence livestock farmers, so as to increase the uptake of veterinary services by livestock farmers. The Committee further recommends that Government should consider dipping to be mandatory to all livestock farmers.

#### **2.4.17 Enhance Private Sector Participation**

The Committee observes that the provision of veterinary services in the rural or peri-urban parts of Zambia is largely through Government due to poor infrastructure among other amenities, such that the private sector does not thrive. Further, the Committee observes that private sector participation in the livestock sector is cardinal if the country is to make headways in combating of livestock diseases.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends that Government should create an enabling environment that will allow for the full participation of the private sector in combating livestock diseases in the country. This includes expansion of infrastructure such as electricity, cooling facilities and transportation.

#### **2.4.18 Livingstone District Veterinary Lab**

The Committee observes that at the Livingstone veterinary office, there is a room which is intended to be the veterinary laboratory. However, this room does not have any equipment in it. In this vein, the Committee recommends for an urgent need to have the district laboratory operational in an effort to curb livestock diseases in the district.

#### **2.4.19 Regional Vet Lab in Choma**

The Committee observes that the regional vet lab in Choma does not have the vaccine fridges in place as they have not yet been installed and is currently relying on ordinary fridges to store the vaccines. In this regard the Committee recommends for an urgent need to install vaccine fridges so as to improve service delivery.

#### **2.4.20 Mochipapa Research Station for Livestock**

The Committee observes that the Mochipapa Research Institute for Livestock, an institution whose mandate is to promote livestock development has been neglected in terms of infrastructure and financially among others. This has negatively affected livestock development. In this regard the Committee recommends for increased funding to Mochipapa Research Institute as well as an urgent completion to the office block, at 95 per cent whose works have stored since 2016 due to lack of funding.

#### **2.4.21 Chitongo Livestock Service Centre in Namwala**

The Committee observes that due to rampant livestock diseases in Chitongo, the community in the area lobbied for the construction of a livestock service station to help in the combating of livestock diseases. With donor support from the World Bank, Chitongo Livestock Service Centre in Namwala was constructed in 2016 on which there is a dip tank, office space, two houses for staff and a borehole. The Committee observes that, since 2016 when the project was completed, there has been no certification from relevant authorities to allow for the use of the facility by the farmers.

In light of the above, the Committee recommends for an urgent need to have the Chitongo Livestock Service Centre in Namwala certified, if livestock diseases are to be combated in the area.

#### **2.4.22 Zambia Institute of Animal Health in Mazabuka**

The Committee observes that the Zambia Institute of Animal Health in Mazabuka is one of the institutions in the country with a mandate to train vet officers who are very crucial in combating



livestock diseases. However, the Committee observes that despite the important role played by the institute, it has been struggling in its operations due to a number of challenges including the lack of modern equipment in the labs, shortage of lab stools and poor finance among others.

In light of the above, the Committee recommends for financial support to the Zambia Institute of Animal Health in an effort to improve its service delivery.

#### **2.4.23 Central Veterinary Research Institute in Chilanga**

The Committee observes that inadequacy of organisational structure to meet institutional demands at the Central Veterinary Research Institute is one of the reasons leading to poor service delivery by the institute. The structure currently in place, within the institute operates as a unit under a section in the Department of Veterinary Service which was adequate at the time the institute was created nearly forty years ago. Over the years, however, the livestock sector has seen massive growth along with the growth of the human population. This naturally demands an upgrade of the diagnostic system to an autonomous one to match the growth and ensure a more efficient way of operating. The Committee further observes that currently, the institute is facing a number of challenges such as late procurement of vaccines by the head office, sometimes they are even late for six months, lack of reliable transport, lack of a budget for research purposes, lack of sufficient machinery to support production of livestock vaccines on a large scale among others.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends that in an effort to improve service delivery at the Central Veterinary Research Institute, there is an urgent need for the institute to be made into a department that will directly receive its own funding.

#### **2.4.24 Provincial Livestock Regional Lab in Kabwe**

The Committee observes that despite Central province being the second highest livestock producer from Southern province, there is no infrastructure worthy to be called a regional vet laboratory for the province. The room referred as a lab does not meet the standards of a regional lab. The committee further observes that when carrying out post-mortem on some livestock, officers have improvised an operating table, that is the roof of a small structure built under a tree outside, due to lack of facilities.

In view of the above, the Committee recommends for an urgent need to construct a regional veterinary laboratory in Kabwe that will ease the operations in combating livestock diseases in the province.

#### **2.4.25 Artificial Insemination Centre in Chibombo**

The Committee observes that in 2016, an artificial insemination centre was constructed in Chibombo in an effort to promote livestock development in Chibombo. The centre has however up to now not been operationalised due to non-completion of the project. In light of the above, the Committee recommends for the operationalisation of the Artificial Insemination Centre in Chibombo.

#### **2.4.26 District Vet Lab in Chibombo District**

The Committee observes that Chibombo district has infrastructure meant to be a vet lab, however, the infrastructure lacks equipment to make it fully functional in combating livestock

diseases. In view of the above, the Committee recommends for an urgent need to have necessary equipment installed in the lab.

#### **2.4.27 Inadequate ICT Provisions**

The Committee observes that transmission of results from the Central Veterinary Research Institute to the districts is done electronically. However, as most of the district vet offices do not have computers and internet connectivity, this causes delays in the transmission of results to the livestock farmers in need of the results. In this vein, the Committee recommends for an urgent need to computerise all the veterinary offices as well as providing them with internet connectivity so as to improve service delivery.

#### **Non-availability of Latest Data on Livestock Population in some Districts**

The Committee observes that in some districts, officers are relying on some old statistics to indicate the number of animals in their areas. The Committee is of the view that accurate data in terms of livestock population helps the officers to determine the amount of vaccines that must be requested. In view of the above, the Committee recommends for an urgent need to make the latest livestock data available to all areas across the country including Chitongo area in Namwala.

## **PART II**

### **3.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION-TAKEN REPORT ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **3.1 A Review of the Implementation of the Farmer Input Support Programme**

##### **3.1.1 Review of the Farmer Input Support Programme**

The previous Committee observed that the Government was reviewing the implementation modalities of the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) in line with its aspirations to have an equitable, efficient and comprehensive programme. In this regard, the previous Committee recommended that the Government should expeditiously conclude the review of the implementation of the FISP so as to cure the implementation challenges in FISP.

##### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that Government was committed to expeditiously concluding the review of the FISP in order to address some of the challenges experienced in the past. As part of the process, the FISP steering committee met at the end of August 2022 to review the Programme. A detailed report of the review process would be availed to the Committee at an appropriate time.

##### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation and awaits a progress report on the matter.

### **3.1.2 Weak monitoring and evaluation of the programme**

The previous Committee observed that the monitoring and evaluation aspects were not included in the initial design of FISP, which had resulted in poor targeting of beneficiaries. In this regard, the previous Committee urged the Government to introduce a biometric mechanism in the programme that would enhance the monitoring aspect.

#### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the observation by the Committee was well noted. The Committee was informed that the Ministry of Agriculture was working closely with Smart Zambia Institute to put up a biometric mechanism in place for the 2022/2023 farming season.

#### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation and awaits a progress report on the matter.

### **3.1.3 Lack of a formal structure to implement FISP**

The previous Committee observed that the Department of Agribusiness and Marketing whose core mandate in the Ministry of Agriculture was agriculture finance among others, was implementing FISP without a formal and dedicated staff establishment. The previous Committee further observed that as a result, FISP had overshadowed the implementation of other equally important activities in the Department. In this vein, the previous Committee recommended for the establishment of a standalone department whose core mandate would be to oversee FISP management.

#### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Agriculture would soon be restructured. The restructuring process would re-define the functions and recommend appropriate structures and staff establishments including that of the Department of Agribusiness and Marketing.

#### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation and awaits a progress report on the matter.

### **3.1.4 Lack of an exit strategy**

The previous Committee observed with concern that FISP beneficiaries did not graduate from the programme. This was despite the programme having been originally designed with an exit strategy to run for a period of three years, where beneficiary households were expected to graduate from the programme after being enrolled for three consecutive years. In light of the above, the previous Committee recommended that the Government should come up with a well-researched exit strategy which should be strictly adhered to in order to ensure that beneficiaries graduated from the programme at the appropriate time.

#### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the FISP was undergoing a comprehensive review. The exit strategy would be part of the outcomes of the review.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation and awaits a progress report on the matter.

#### **3.1.5 Limited network and cellular connectivity**

The previous Committee observed that there was limited network and poor cellular connectivity in some parts of the country and as a result, this had made implementation especially under the e-voucher system difficult due to lack of telecommunication infrastructure. In this regard, the previous Committee recommended that the Government should improve the telecommunication infrastructure across the country so as to enhance FISP management.

#### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Agriculture acknowledged this challenge in the implementation of the FISP and the E- Voucher in particular. The Ministry had engaged the Ministry of Transport and Logistics and other relevant stakeholders to resolve the issue of poor connectivity.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation and awaits a progress report on the matter.

#### **3.1.6 Corruption and malpractices**

The previous Committee observed that corruption and malpractices in the management of FISP had been identified to be among the major challenges in the implementation of FISP. In view of the foregoing, the previous Committee strongly recommended that the Government through the Anti-Corruption Commission, in conjunction with the Zambia Police Service should follow up all cases of alleged corruption and malpractices in FISP and quickly bring the perpetrators to book.

#### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Agriculture was working closely with the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Zambia Police to follow up on all alleged cases of corruption. Further, the Ministry released funds to the Anti-Corruption Commission to facilitate a tour of all provinces for awareness.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation and awaits a progress report on the action that has actually been done to curb corruption and malpractices.

#### **3.1.7 Weak monitoring of beneficiary Farmers**

The previous Committee observed that as a result of weak monitoring systems, there were small-scale farmers that benefited from both the Food Security Pack managed under the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services which was meant for the vulnerable and viable farmers in communities, and the FISP under the Ministry of Agriculture. In this regard, the previous Committee urged the Government to devise a system that would be able to electronically link the Food Security Pack programme and FISP to avoid double benefit by some individuals.

### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that plans were underway by Government, through Smart Zambia, to develop a single window registry where systems would be integrated.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation and awaits a progress report on the development of a system that will electronically link the Food Security Park programme and FISP to avoid double benefit by some individuals.

#### **3.1.8 Blanket recommendation of inputs distributed**

The previous Committee noted that regardless of soil fertility status and crop suitability analyses, inputs under the programme had in some cases been distributed wholesomely. The previous Committee further observed that Zambia was sub-divided into three distinct agro-ecological regions that had different soil types, duration of rainfall and other biophysical features.

In light of the above, the previous Committee recommended that the Government should conduct a soil mapping exercise in order to properly determine the type of inputs that were suitable for various areas across the country as was recently done in Malawi.

### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Agriculture did undertake soil analyses from time to time and provided advice to farmers to ensure that they planted the seeds and crops suited to their agro ecological zones.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee resolves to await a progress report on what type of inputs were recommended for various regions in the country.

#### **3.1.9 Inadequate Quantity of inputs given out per Household**

The previous Committee observed that the amount of inputs that the beneficiaries were getting was inadequate if farmers must graduate from the programme. It was observed that farmers received only six bags of fertiliser which resulted in small scale farmers to be dependent on FISP and fail to graduate from the Programme as initially conceptualised. In light of this, the previous Committee urged the Government to urgently review FISP and come up with a sound policy that would make FISP an economic and not a social programme, where there was no mechanism for graduation.

### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the review of the FISP programme was underway and that the Ministry would factor-in the observation by the Committee in the review of FISP.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation and awaits a progress report on the matter.

### **3.1.10 High cost of Imported Fertilisers**

The previous Committee observed that the cost of importing fertiliser for FISP was exorbitant and a serious drain of the national resources. In this vein, the previous Committee urged the Government to recapitalise the Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia, as a matter of urgency, as well promote other investments in the local fertiliser industry, which would in turn help to reduce the cost of fertiliser in the country.

#### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that Government in 2021, through the Industrial Development Corporation, injected a total of ZMW 638 million into Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia to support working capital requirements and facilitate investment in the Fertiliser Blending Plant. The procurement of a contractor to develop the blending plant was currently in progress with the commencement of construction expected before the end of the year 2022. The Committee also informed that the blending plant would enable the Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia to produce blended fertilisers allowing it to diversify its product offering for supply to local market and improve its cash flows. This investment would enable the company to compete effectively with private sector players and thus support efforts to reduce the cost of fertiliser in the local market.

#### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation and awaits a progress report on the recapitalisation of the Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia.

### **3.1.11 Policy Inconsistencies**

The previous Committee observed that there were a number of policies that guided the management of FISP. However, the policy environment had remained inconsistent and unstable, as it usually changed from season to season. In this regard, the previous Committee urged the Government to develop a clear policy framework that was stable and consistent.

#### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the policy inconsistency observed would be addressed through the comprehensive review of the FISP programme.

#### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee resolves to wait for a progress report on the matter.

### **3.1.12 Recruitment of Extension Officers**

The previous Committee observed that the extension officers available in the country were insufficient to provide effective extension services. In this regard, the previous Committee recommended that the Government should, as a matter of urgency, recruit more agricultural extension officers to provide extension services to farmers across the country.

#### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Agriculture had received Treasury Authority to recruit more extension workers. The Committee was informed that Government would continue setting aside funds in the medium term for net recruitment, including extension officers.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee resolves to wait for a progress report on the matter.

#### **3.1.13 Publishing names of beneficiaries**

The previous Committee observed that there were many complaints from beneficiaries under the Programme citing lack of transparency in the way many things were done. In some cases, despite beneficiaries being on the list, they did not receive the inputs. In view of the above, as a measure to enhance transparency, the previous Committee recommended that names of beneficiaries under the programme should be made public, as was the practice in Malawi.

#### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Agriculture had since revised the guides for Camp Agricultural Committees and one of the recommendations was that names of beneficiaries are published at the Camp in order to enhance transparency.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee resolves to wait for a progress report on making public the names of the beneficiaries to enhance transparency.

#### **3.1.14 Accommodation for extension officers**

The previous Committee observed that almost all extension officers in the country did not live in their camp areas as there was no institutional accommodation. In places where accommodation was available, it was dilapidated and not fit for human habitation. As a result, most extension officers were compelled to rent in the nearby towns. In light of the above, the previous Committee urged the Government to seriously consider building decent accommodation for extension officers in their respective camps, if they were to be effective in their duties.

#### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Agriculture had taken note of the observation and would engage the Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development to come up with appropriate and decent housing units for extension officers.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee resolves to wait for a progress report on the matter.

## **4.0 The Fishing Industry in Zambia: Opportunities and Challenges**

### **4.1 Legal Framework**

The previous Committee had noted the response from the Executive that the *Fisheries Act, No. 22 of 2011* and the *Animal Health Act, 27 of 2010*, overlapped and needed to be harmonised in order not to hamper the implementation of the provision of both Acts. The Committee noted the response from the Executive and resolved to await a progress report on the harmonisation of the *Fisheries Act, No. 22 of 2011* and the *Animal Health Act, No. 27 of 2010*, so as to avoid implementation challenges.

### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Executive was developing the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and the National Animal Health Policy. The two policies would be streamlined to clear the ambiguities, duplication and lacunae in the legal framework of Animal Health and Fisheries and Aquaculture. Once the Policies were approved, *the Fisheries Act No. 22 of 2011* and the *Animal Health Act No. 27 of 2010* would be amended accordingly.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee resolves to wait for a progress report on the matter.

## **5.0 Zambia's Response to the Impact of Climate Change on the Agriculture Sector**

### **5.1 Lack of a Comprehensive Legal Framework for an Integrated Climate Change Response.**

The previous Committee had noted the response from the Executive that the Climate Change Bill was expected to be finalised and tabled before Parliament during the 2022 legislative meeting. The Committee noted the response from the Executive, and resolved to await a progress report on the status of the Climate Change Bill.

### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment had concluded the stakeholder consultations on the Climate Change Bill. The draft Climate Change Bill was in place, awaiting recommendation for the approval by the Steering Committee of Permanent Secretaries to the Council of Ministers before submission to Ministry of Justice.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee resolves to wait for a progress report on the matter.

## **6.0 Management of the Forestry Sector in Zambia**

### **6.1 Limited Support for Reforestation and Afforestation**

The previous Committee had noted the response from the Executive that the operationalisation of the Forestry Development Fund, for purposes of support for reforestation and afforestation, was under way and that the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources was exploring modalities on how to operationalise the Fund, given the new guidelines in the *Public Finance Act, No. 1 of 2018*. The previous Committee had awaited an update on the operationalisation of the Forestry Development Fund.

### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Office of the Secretary to Treasury advised the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to facilitate the operationalisation of the Forest Development Fund to support Afforestation and Reforestation Programme. Therefore, the Ministry was working on the modalities of ensuring that this was done.



## **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee resolves to wait for a progress report on the matter.

### **6.1.1 Inadequate Regulation of Mukula Trade**

The previous Committee had noted the response from the Executive that after consultations with line Ministries and other Government agencies, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources drafted a statutory instrument, which was submitted to the Ministry of Justice for scrutiny and approval. The Statutory Instrument was yet to be finalised. The previous Committee took note of the response from the Executive and resolved to await a progress report on the finalisation of the statutory instrument to declare mukula as protected flora.

### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the draft Statutory Instrument on Protected Flora was drafted but still not concluded and that it was with the Forestry Department.

## **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee resolves to wait for a progress report on the matter.

### **6.1.2 Unregulated Charcoal Burning**

The previous Committee had noted the response from the Executive that the Statutory Instrument to regulate the production and trade of charcoal had been drafted and a Regulatory Impact Assessment had been done. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources was yet to send the Statutory Instrument to the Ministry of Justice, as the procedure for approval of the issue at hand was that it had to undergo an impact assessment. Therefore, the Ministry was yet to send the Statutory Instrument to the Business Regulatory Agency for approval. The Committee noted the response and resolved to await a progress report on the finalisation of the Statutory Instrument.

### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Statutory Instrument on Charcoal was drafted and the consultative process continued. The National Indaba was held to discuss among other issues Charcoal regulation. The outcome of the Indaba has contributed to further consultation and inputs. Once the consultations were concluded, the Statutory Instrument would be submitted to Business Regulatory Review Agency and then to the Ministry of Justice.

## **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee resolves to wait for a progress report on the matter.

## **7.0 State and Management of the Fisheries Sector in Zambia**

### **7.1 Revision of the Fisheries Regulations**

The previous Committee had noted the response from the Executive that the draft Aquaculture Regulations had been finalised and submitted to the Ministry of Justice for legal counsel before being enacted into law. The previous Committee had resolved to await a progress report on the finalisation of the draft aquaculture regulations. The previous Committee had further noted the

response that the aquaculture regulations were submitted to the Ministry of Justice for a legal opinion and were still waiting for feedback.

In view of the above response, on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources requested the Permanent Secretary to provide an update on the matter.

In response, the Permanent Secretary submitted that the draft aquaculture regulations that were sent to the Ministry of Justice were reviewed together with the technical officers from the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. However, during the review process, it was observed that the *Fisheries Act, No. 22 of 2011*, also needed to be amended in order to adequately address some pertinent issues that required being included in the aquaculture regulations.

Therefore, engagements between Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock were still active in order to put in place appropriate aquaculture regulations with what was provided for in the *Fisheries Act, No. 22 of 2011*, in the short term, which was at the Ministry Justice for drafting and formatting. The draft would be discussed with the Department of Fisheries on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. In the long term, the review of the *Fisheries Act, No. 22 of 2011* had been recommended.

The Committee resolved to await a progress report on the finalisation of the aquaculture regulations.

### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that after further consultation with the Ministry of Justice, and considering the scope of regulations being envisioned by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, it was agreed by both Ministries that such amendment of the Fisheries Regulations could not be supported by the *Fisheries Act, No 22 of 2011*. It was, therefore, resolved that the Ministry should start the process of amending the Fisheries Act. The Ministry was, therefore, mobilising resources to initiate the amendment of the Act in order to accommodate the proposed Aquaculture Regulations.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee resolves to wait for a progress report on the matter.

## **8.0 Management of Irrigation Systems in Zambia**

### **8.1 Whether the Ministry of Agriculture had been undertaking irrigation projects efficiently and effectively**

The previous Committee had noted the response from the Executive that the Ministry of Agriculture was constantly engaging with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the resources were provided on time. The Government was also engaging the Cooperating Partners to make counterpart contribution through other means such as foregone taxes and staff time of government workers. The Committee resolved to await an update on the outcome on the engagement between the Government and Cooperating Partners with regard to making counterpart contribution through other means such as foregone taxes and staff time of government workers.

### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperating Partners were designing new projects that included in-kind contribution by beneficiaries, foregone taxes for all procurements as well as value of Government staff and office space as part of Government or counterpart contribution.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee resolves to wait for a progress report on the matter.

## **9.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE ACTION-TAKEN REPORT ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON FOOD SECURITY IN ZAMBIA: A FOCUS ON MAIN CROPS, FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **9.1 Government Measures to Address the Impact of Climate Change on Food Security in Zambia**

#### **9.1.1 Research Priorities**

The previous Committee had observed that Government had not prioritised research going by the limited funds allocated for research in the agriculture sector.

In this regard, the previous Committee recommended that the Government should allocate sufficient funds for research, to promote the development of innovations and technologies such as drought climate stress tolerant seed varieties suitable for different regions.

### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Agriculture had since 2022 started increasing budget towards research unlike previously when money was budgeted for but not released.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee resolves to wait for a progress report on when sufficient funds shall be allocated for research so as to promote development of innovations and technologies such as drought climate stress tolerant seed varieties.

#### **9.1.2 Climate Change Legislation**

The previous Committee had observed, with great concern, that there was no climate change legislation to support the implementation of the climate change policy. The report also highlighted the fact that although there was an institutional framework for climate change coordination at country level, the Ministry of Agriculture had no deliberate coordination mechanism to address climate change. In this regard, the Committee recommended that a legal framework on climate change should be put in place.

### **Executive's Response**

In the Action-Taken Report, the Executive submitted that the Ministry of Agriculture took note of the Committee recommendation for a legal frame work on climate change.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

In noting the response from the Executive, the Committee resolves to wait for a progress report on the matter.

#### **9.1.3 Institutional Coordination between Actors**

The previous Committee had observed that there was no coordination in the implementation of climate change programmes among the actors and institutions.

In this regard, the Committee recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture should put in place a coordinating mechanism in the Ministry to address climate change. This coordinating mechanism should fit in the overall climate change coordinating mechanism at country level. Further, the Committee recommended that there should be enhanced information sharing between Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit, Zambia Meteorological Department and Water Resource Management Authority on climate change, in order to foster effective climate risk and preparedness decision making.

### **Executive's Response**

The Ministry has had close engagements in the recent past with various stakeholders to enhance collaboration between the Ministry and the private sector in order to address matters that concern climate change.

The Ministry had also taken measures to improve monitoring and evaluation of the functions of the Ministry to improve the uptake of results for decision making.

### **Committee's Observations and Recommendations**

Being unsatisfied with the response from the Executive, the Committee reiterates its earlier recommendations and resolves to await a progress report on the matter that will truly reflect what is obtaining in reality.

## **10.0 CONCLUSION**

The Committee notes that the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock is mandated, through the Department of Veterinary Services to ensure animal health in Zambia. The Department of Veterinary Services is responsible for providing veterinary services that support animal health. However, the Department has faced a number of challenges in combating livestock diseases in Zambia, some of which include poor funding and erratic release of funds over the years; inadequate extension staff and other essential staff in key areas such as border control points; and large veterinary camps which makes it difficult to reach some livestock farmers.

The Committee is of the view that, in order for the Department of Veterinary Services to be effective in combating livestock diseases, there is an urgent need for the Government to fully support the Department through increased funding, recruiting more extension staff, reducing the size of veterinary service camps and constructing more effective laboratory facilities among others.



Mr Kasauta S Michelo  
**CHAIRPERSON**

June, 2023  
**LUSAKA**

## **APPENDIX I – List of National Assembly Officials**

Mr Francis Nabulyato, Principal Clerk of Committees (SC)  
Mrs Chitalu K Mumba, Deputy Principal Clerk of Committees (SC)  
Mrs Angela M Banda, Senior Committee Clerk (SC)  
Mr Alvin Himululi, Committee Clerk  
Ms Annette Maluwa, Administrative Assistant  
Mr Daniel Lupiya, Committee Assistant  
Mr Muyembi Kantumoya, Parliamentary Messenger\



## **APPENDIX II – List of Stakeholders**

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock  
Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry  
Ministry of Finance and National Planning  
Veterinary Council of Zambia  
Caritas Zambia  
Pelum Zambia  
Veterinary Association of Zambia  
Zambia National Farmers Union  
Golden Valley Agriculture Research Trust  
Zambeef Products Plc  
Central Veterinary Research Institute  
Livestock Development Trust  
Livestock Services and Cooperative Society  
Indaba Agriculture Policy Research Institute  
University of Zambia – School of Veterinary Medicine  
Natural Resources Development College  
Zambia Agriculture Research Institute  
Musika Development Initiatives