

GHANA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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To all Media Houses/Farmers & Fisher Organizations,

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE GHANA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (GVMA) ON THE OCCASION OF THE 39TH FARMERS' DAY CELEBRATION, ON 1ST DECEMBER, 2023

The Ghana Veterinary Medical Association GVMA, hereby congratulates our gallant farmers and fishers on this special day. We acknowledge the enormous contribution and sacrifices that our men and women in the agricultural sector are making towards achieving food and nutritional security as well as contributing to economic growth. It is worth noting that, the agricultural sector has been the backbone of the economy and contributes significantly to the country's GDP and employment. Over the years, Veterinary services delivery systems have played a key role in reaching this milestone, by providing effective technical and advisory support for our farmers.

The theme for this year's celebration: "*Delivering Smart Solutions for Sustainable Food Security and Resilience*", is laudable and requires the application of digital and scientific approaches in an integrated way to provide solutions to challenges in the agricultural sector where every stakeholder has a critical role to play for sustainability is key.

Over the years, veterinary service delivery in Ghana has resulted in the successful containment of zoonotic and transboundary animal disease outbreaks such as Bird Flu (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, HPAI), Anthrax, Rabies, African Swine Fever (ASF), among others. We however, take this opportunity to remind our farmers that the Bird Flu (AI) outbreaks are still active and Government of Ghana is yet to lift the ban on movement of poultry and poultry products in the outbreaks areas.

We continue to advice poultry, livestock and fish farmers on improving farm biosecurity as a means of preventing infectious diseases, and the prudent use of antibiotics to reduce the increasing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) of pathogens worldwide.

Additionally, VSD, being a key stakeholder of the One health approach in solving health threats, contributed immensely to the control of COVID-19 in Ghana, by actively participating in the diagnosis of human cases at the Accra, Takoradi and Pong Tamale Veterinary laboratories.

As the competent authority in matters relating to animal health, in Ghana, VSD and the GVMA continue to pledge our support to our farmers and all citizens, we assure them of our unwavering commitment to providing

quality animal health care and advice, for an improved livestock and poultry production, food security and safety in the country. This will in turn contribute to the government's resolve to drastically reduce the importation of meat and other animal products which has caused a significant drain on our economy.

We also use this opportunity to appeal to the Government and the donor communities to increase their support to the animal health sector in this country, through retooling of the Veterinary services and its allied institutions such as Fisheries, Wildlife, Private Veterinary Hospitals/Clinics and the veterinary medical schools.

We plead that issues concerning the terms of employment/conditions of service of Veterinary Surgeons, and Para veterinary professionals should also be appropriately addressed to motivate them for an improved service delivery.

Happy farmers Day, Ayekoo to our Farmers,

Long Live GVMA; God bless Our Motherland.

SIGNED

Dr. Cyril Quist (0244825642)

President (Dated; 30th November, 2023)