



UGANDA VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (UVA)

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Hon Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries,

Hon. Minister of State for Animal Industry,

Honorable Members of Parliament Present

The Country Representative, FAO Uganda,

The Associated Partners (VSFG, ZOETIS, UNHCR, COVAB)

The Commissioner Animal Health, MAAIF

The Commissioner Public Health, MOH

The Resident District Commissioner,

The LCV Chairman, Arua District

The Chief Administrative Officer, Arua

The District Veterinary Officers

Colleagues Veterinarians from Public, Private sector and Industry

Members of the Media Present,

Our Esteemed Guests today,

It is with profound honor and my utmost pleasure to address you on the 14th Celebrations of the World rabies Day since its first observation in 2007 by the World Health Organization and 126 years since the death of Louis Pasteur the inventor of the first rabies vaccine. .

The Uganda Veterinary Association (UVA) is an umbrella Organization of over 1,223 members with a mission of promoting professionalism, welfare and interests of members to foster better livestock service delivery

Hon Minister, over the years, UVA has had the privilege of partnering with MAAIF and other stakeholders in commemorating the World Rabies Day (WRD) in different districts including Busia(2018) and Kiryandongo (2019). Again this year we are celebrating world rabies day in Arua District which is still the poster district of Rabies. The ultimate

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"To foster socio-economic development and improved livelihoods through optimisation of animal resources"



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purpose is to contribute to the Global Alliance for Rabies Eradication vision of no human deaths from dog rabies by 2030.

Uganda Veterinary Association wishes to express its sincere gratitude to you for taking lead in organizing this year's WRD commemoration activities that have reached their climax today in Arua District. We are really grateful that this time in history the days that we commemorate in the livestock sector have been captured on the MAAIF calendar.

In the countrywide there is continued awareness of rabies by the veterinary and human medical personnel under the One Health approach and we thank our counterparts for always helping us with vaccination storage facilities whenever approached. The Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) provides the vaccine and the vaccination certificates. The Local Government veterinary staffs under the Agricultural Extension Conditional Grant then carry out awareness to the different stakeholders who then bring their dogs and cats for vaccination. In occurrences of a dog/cat bite, the victim reports to the state veterinary personnel who assesses the history of the culprit before forwarding him/her to the medical personnel for the human vaccine regime.

This year's theme Rabies FACTS NOT FEAR focuses on sharing facts about rabies and dispelling myths or misconceptions. This theme is very befitting as it is in a time when cross cutting issues in the livestock sector are under serious reviews and considerations because of their unpleasant states.

Honorable Minister, your state of the Nations address on rabies on Friday 24th September 2021 was quite informative about this enigma and we appreciated it.

CHALLENGES:

- **Insufficient funding for Animal Industry and Veterinary Affairs** right from ministry to local governments level this is evidenced by the fact that all vaccines against priority animal and zoonotic diseases are imported, there are no regional vaccine banks, quality assurance and standardization facilities, inadequate district level vaccine storage facilities and field based cold chain equipment, dilapidated veterinary offices across districts
- **Lack of Commensurate Pay to Veterinarians:** Hon Minister, the pay increment for scientists in other fields excluding Veterinarians has led to the discomfort of Veterinarians and is resulting in the extensive migration of more competent veterinarians, His Excellency the President has always pronounced increment of pay to

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Medical workers without any consideration for veterinary counterparts who are carrying heavier load than any other ordinary scientists. Whereas today, the country may not immediately feel the impact of this, within a period of 3-5 years, the result will be reflected in the performance of Animal Industry.

Our prayer to Government in view of the above is as follows:

- The Government should fast track the implementation of Presidential directive for MAAIF to take charge of veterinary drugs regulation and control.
- Re centralization of veterinary services so that there is one chain of command from the CVO (Chief veterinary Officer).
- Increase the sector's budget to reflect the 10% Malabo declaration,
- Enhance the salaries of Animal health professionals to be commensurate with that of the other professionals in the same bracket.
- Expand and support private sector provision.
- Develop, amend or update key policies (Animal Disease Act, Veterinary Health Act, Feed and Animal Drug Act) and fast track their implementation.
- Consolidating all the one health policies and regulations to suit the control all the zoonotic diseases.
- Improve on disease diagnostics and laboratory services by improving and equipping District laboratories.
- Improve staffing at national and local levels.
- Rehabilitation of veterinary offices so that asbestos sheets are removed (Even our veterinary offices in Wandegaya need urgent rehabilitation).
- Come up with a vaccination calendar addressing all major epidemics. This will promote block treatments.
- Choose other days to be observed that will boost considerations of our other enigmas like FMD.
- Allocate more funds into research of a thermal stable vaccine (Comparison with the New castle Disease Kuku star vaccine by Brentec).

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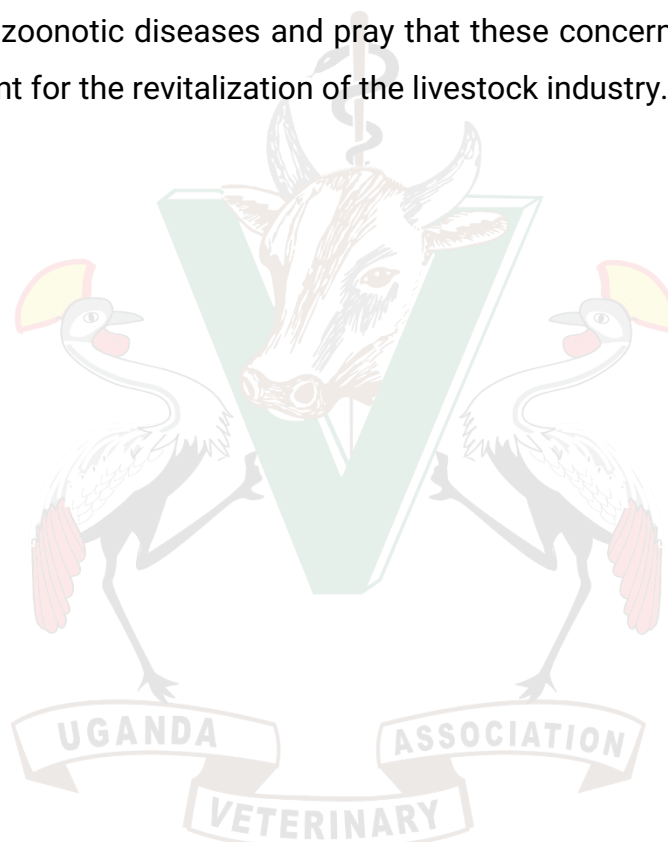


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- Vaccination funds to come independently to Local Governments as conditional grants.
- MAAIF should develop and implement a national herd health program with meaningful funding for major epidemics vaccination calendar, Develop and disseminate SOPs for the major epidemics (FMD, African Swine Fever (ASF), New Castle Disease (NCD) and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD).
- Reinstatement of the Veterinary scouts an equivalent of the VHTs.
- Fasten the gap filling of critical positions in the animal sector from Local Government to the Ministry.
- Commit meaningful resources to manufacture of priority vaccines (FMD, NCD, Rabies) Inadequate storage facilities as the vaccine once released from the central stores needs to always be kept under stipulated temperature ranges up to the time of its use.

Review the policy on delivery of veterinary services to define public, private and both public and private diseases. On Minister, as we look towards a vibrant animal industry, we reiterate our commitment to align our actions for a future free of rabies and other priority animal and zoonotic diseases and pray that these concerns amongst others be considered as urgent for the revitalization of the livestock industry.

Dr Kasibule Daniel
President UVA.



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