



Opening Remarks by the Ag. Director of AU-IBAR, Dr. Nick Nwankpa during the Executive Committee Meeting of the African Association of Veterinary Education Establishments (2A2E-V), 31st May 2022, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, Onderstepoort campus, Pretoria, South Africa

- President of the African Association of Veterinary Education Establishments (2A2E-V)
- Members of the Executive Committee of 2A2E-V
- Members of Faculty, University of Pretoria
- Colleagues from AU-IBAR
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me honour and pleasure to make this opening remarks during this Meeting of the Executive Committee of 2A2E-V whose purpose is to review the implementation of activities of 2A2E-V in the six project areas you are addressing in line with the strategic objectives of the 2A2E-V which are:

1. To enhance collaboration among all Veterinary Education Establishments.
2. To establish continental quality assurance.
3. To harmonise veterinary curricula, research and community service by establishing reference standards.
4. To enhance dissemination of innovation and good practice.
5. To build capacity among educators in African Veterinary Education Establishments.
6. To promote quality facilities at African Veterinary Education Establishments.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Veterinary Education Establishments (VEEs) are operating in a rapidly changing environment with increasing demand for animal and animal products; technological innovations; globalization; emerging and re-emerging health threats; climate change; biodiversity loss and pollution. Within this context it is therefore necessary to strengthen veterinary education in order enhance the quality of veterinary services to responds to the emerging issues and to respond to the needs of the society and industry.

The Africa Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), a specialized Institution of the Africa Union Commission whose mandate is to support and coordinate the sustainable development and utilization of animal resources is pleased to support veterinary education establishments in their quest to promote quality training and research for improved veterinary services in Africa.

Colleagues, Since 2A2E-V was launched in Cairo, Egypt on the 26th July 2018 during the 1st Pan-African Conference of the Association, 2A2E-V has recorded a number of achievements. A key achievement is the development of guidelines '**Re-Profiling of Veterinary Profession: Day 1 Competencies for Veterinarian in Africa**'. The guidelines identify key competencies to improve and strengthen the quality and the performance of the Veterinary services in Africa based on the OIE recommendations. The guidelines aim is to reinforce competencies that address challenges peculiar to the African continent. The guidelines serve also as an important tool to inform harmonisation of the Veterinary Curriculum in the continent.

Colleagues Ladies and Gentlemen, I also note with appreciation the initiative by 2A2E-V to enhance networking of 2A2E-V with other networks such as the Council on International Veterinary Medical Education (CIVME) and efforts in promoting twining programmes with other Universities, enhancing information sharing through 2A2E-V community of practice among other key achievements.

Colleagues, as you continue with the stewardship of the 2A2E-V and as you continue to promote the incorporation of emerging issues of our times in the veterinary curricula, I urge you to bring the matter of aquatic veterinary training to the attention of veterinary schools in the continent in line with the guidelines you helped develop. This follows concerns raised by various stakeholders on the urgent need for the provision of veterinary services to Africa's aquaculture sector. Currently the lack of veterinary services to the aquaculture sector is a hindrance to establishing and compliance to regional and international standards compromising productivity, trade and food safety.

Aquaculture is the fastest growing animal sector on the continent, and aquatic animals in the near future will be among the common farm animals. We also need to protect the wild stock because we farm our wild species within the same water bodies. This falls within the continent's current continental strategies – Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS) for Fisheries and aquaculture, The Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES), Animal Health Strategy for Africa (AHSA) and the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA).

I take note that the University of Pretoria has established an Aquatic Health Unit and an aquatic veterinary program at the undergraduate level and I urge other Universities to consider mainstreaming aquatic health in veterinary curricula.

Last but not least, to support the global efforts to keep the world rinderpest free, I urge you to retain rinderpest as one of the important TADs in the veterinary curriculum and to support

efforts for safe keeping of Rinderpest containing Materials at AU-PANVAC in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

As you continue to provide stewardship of the Association, I wish you every success and assure you to count on AU-IBAR as an important partner.

I take this opportunity to thank European Union through the Sustainable Development of Livestock for Livelihood Project (LiVe2Africa) for supporting your desire to establish and operationalize the 2A2E-V and for supporting this meeting.

I wish you productive deliberations and I declare the meeting officially opened.

Thank you.

Dr. Nick Nwankpa
Ag. Director of AU-IBAR