



REPORT ON VISAK LAUNCH ON 16TH AUGUST 2019 AT SERENA HOTEL REPORT



Board members and some of stakeholders during the launch

On 16th August 2019, Veterinary Inputs Suppliers Association of Kenya (VISAK) was officially launched. The event was presided over by the PS, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation, State department of Livestock - Hon. Harry Kimtai. In attendance were various stakeholders from regulatory authorities, professional associations, animal health industry associations, financial support partners, NGO's, and agrochemical companies.

VISAK was established in order to take care of interests of the animal health industry stakeholders following the establishment of Veterinary Medicine Directorate (VMD) a body that is now mandated to regulate veterinary medicine in Kenya. The launch marked the first inaugural event/activity that involved all members and stakeholders since VISAK registration at the Registrar of Societies.

Speaking during the launch, Mr. Wachira Mureithi, the interim Chair of VISAK stated that since formation of the association, it has been actively engaging VMD Council, VMD Secretariat and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Fisheries and Irrigation (MOAL&F) on various occasions on matters related to trade, drugs registration, GMP audits, human



resource empowerment of VMD Secretariat and other challenges facing the industry. He applauded VMD over its efforts in dealing with matters related to trade, drug registration and local GMP audits.

The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries – Hon Harry Kimtai in his remarks applauded the formation of VISAK and reiterated the fact that this was a step in the right direction. He reported that the Ministry has had a very cordial working relationship with Agrochemicals Association of Kenya (AAK) in the past and therefore hoped that VISAK will take cue and engage with the ministry so as to attain the “Big 4” agenda and develop this country.

“To ensure animal welfare, VISAK to purpose to encourage and promote just, fair and honourable practices within the industry”

Hon Harry Kimtai – PS – MOAL&F



During his speech, Hon Kimtai enumerated the following:

Role of Industry

The State Department expects VISAK to promote public education and raise awareness on the safe and prudent use of veterinary drugs and other animal health products. The industry to also encourage research in the proper application of animal health products under its unique conditions.



Membership to the VMD Board

The PS – MOAL & F noted that that the term of current council members was coming to an end by October 2019 and that membership to the VMD Board is all inclusive. The industry was therefore urged to take the opportunity to nominate strong council members to the Board when called upon as this will ensure that the industry remain strong.

On Kenya Food Drugs Authority (KFDA) Bill 2019

Since members felt that food, medicine and health products do not belong in the same regulatory policy fields as their regulatory process are different, the PS assured members that there was a taskforce reviewing KFDA bill and promised the industry to expect a positive outcome.

Capacity Building at VMD

Efforts to make VMD fully operational is ongoing. He indicated that the VMD Human Resource Manual will be ready by 30th September 2019. The HR Manual will enable the VMD to start the process of hiring its staff. Staff will include inspectors who will ensure that inspection is done thoroughly to rid the industry of counterfeit products. Digitalization of VMD operations will also commence within the next 1 year.

Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Inspection

Despite having a lean staff at the VMD, GMP inspection has already commenced. The PS MOAL&F – Hon. Harry Kimtai assured the association that it is committed to jumpstart the process of overseas GMP inspections.

Transition process between Veterinary Medicine Directorate (VMD) and Pharmacy and Poison Board (PPB)

Hon. Kimtai indicated that he had given instructions and a date to VMD and PPB for official handing over of all the documents

In conclusion, Hon. Kimtai thanked VISAK for putting the event together and reiterated the fact that the industry and the ministry will work together for the betterment of the industry hence achievement of the Big 4 agenda. The PS, then, declared VISAK officially launched.