

GHANA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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African Veterinary Association (AVA)

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Ghana Veterinary Medical Association Hails "Feed Ghana Programme," Pledges Full Support to Bolster Food Security and Poultry Production

The Ghana Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA) expresses its strong endorsement of the Government's ambitious "Feed Ghana Programme," lauding the significant allocations made to the agricultural sector in the 2025 budget. The Association particularly welcomes Government's resolve for the deployment of 5,000 graduates in agriculture and veterinary science, recognising it as a transformative step towards achieving national food security.

The initiative, which prominently features support for the revitalization of the poultry industry through the 'Nkokɔ Nkitinkiti' poultry scheme, aligns perfectly with the GVMA's commitment to advancing veterinary standards and ensuring a safe, secure, and sustainable animal protein supply for the public.

The Ghana Veterinary Medical Association emphasizes that a robust veterinary sector is the unsung backbone of any successful food security strategy. While increasing crop yields is vital, protecting our livestock from disease and ensuring their health and productivity is what truly secures our nation's nutrition. The 'Feed Ghana Programme' presents a golden opportunity to integrate veterinary science directly at the grassroots level, and our members are ready to contribute decisively, especially to the flagship poultry production initiative by the current administration.

The GVMA has outlined the multi-faceted role its members will play in ensuring the programme's success:

I. Safeguarding Animal Health and National Herds: Veterinary professionals are essential in preventing and controlling devastating transboundary animal diseases like Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) and Newcastle Disease. Protecting the national flock, especially the expanding 'Nkokɔ Nkitinkiti' poultry, is non-negotiable for securing our food supply.

II. Direct Support to Poultry Production: The GVMA will mobilize its members, including the new graduates, to:

- a. Provide on-farm veterinary care, vaccination programs, and biosecurity advisory services to poultry farmers.
- b. Offer technical expertise on nutrition, housing, and animal welfare to maximize productivity and profitability for farmers.
- c. Work within the 5,000-strong graduate corps to provide integrated extension services, ensuring farmers receive holistic support.

III. Ensuring Food Safety and Public Health: Veterinarians are guardians of public health. They will ensure that poultry and other livestock products entering the food chain are safe for consumption, protecting consumers from zoonotic diseases and foodborne illnesses.

Areas for the Government to take critical note for a vibrant animal health sector

1. Establishing of veterinary services as an authority: This will empower the veterinary services which is the competent authority of animal health and welfare, with updated laws to enforce biosecurity standards, movement of animals and their products within Ghana and export, responsible use of veterinary drugs and biologicals and ensuring safe slaughtering of animals to meet internal standards. **This a reminder of NDC's Government manifesto promise.**
2. Retooling Veterinary Services: Many veterinary offices in the districts and laboratories are dilapidated, and making animal health workers frustrated as they deliver their services. Logistics such as vehicles, PPEs are inadequate for providing the best of animal health care.
3. Constant employment of animal health workers: The ratio of animal health workers per districts and critical animal health areas is nothing to write home about. In developed countries, animal health workers are treated well because they play a role in food security, food safety and public health
4. The conditions of service for animal health workers: Many animal health workers especially the veterinary doctors, have left the country for greener pastures due to poor conditions of service. The government should work on it as soon as possible to serve as motivation to retain them.

A Call to Action

The Ghana Veterinary Medical Association calls on all stakeholders, farmers, aggregators, and district assemblies to actively collaborate with veterinary professionals.

The GVMA is committed to providing the necessary professional expertise and oversight to ensure that this national endeavour not only increases food production but does so sustainably and safely, securing a nutritious future for Ghana.

About the Ghana Veterinary Medical Association

The Ghana Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA) is the professional body for registered veterinary surgeons in Ghana. It is dedicated to advocating for the profession, promoting the highest standards of veterinary practice, continuous professional development, and supporting national efforts in animal health, production, and veterinary public health.



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