



## **Expression of interest to participate in Compulsory Community Service Programme for Veterinarian; Department of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries**

Agriculture is an important sector for many rural communities. Productivity of livestock could be improved by animal health inputs and interventions. A critical limiting factor in rural communities is the distorted distribution of veterinary services as well as an uneven access to animal health care.

To address the aforementioned imbalances the Department of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF) focuses on improving access to veterinary services across the country. Two strategic national initiatives namely (1) Compulsory Community Service (CCS) Programme and (2) Primary Animal Health Care (PAHC) are being implemented.

The CCS programme aims to provide accessible and affordable veterinary services in the whole country especially the rural communities. The programme will involve the deployment of newly qualified veterinarians across the entire country and will focus on disease prevention, rendering ambulatory services and providing education especially regarding responsible pet ownership, resource utilization and optimizing livestock production. This programme will offer the newly qualified veterinarian the opportunity to render their much needed service to rural areas and gain valuable experience and knowledge.

Veterinarians performing compulsory community service will not compete with the private sector, but will complement services delivered by all sectors in the veterinary fraternity. Clinical services rendered in respect of the compulsory community service programme shall be aimed at, but not limited to, exposing and promoting access to clinical veterinary services among communities not currently aware or making use of it.

Compulsory community service will be centrally funded by the DAFF and CCS veterinarians will be the employees of DAFF. However, CCS veterinarians may be placed or seconded to any strategic partner such as Animal Welfare organizations, private practitioners, and other veterinary community outreach service providers in order to achieve the objectives of the programme.

All costs of salaries and other employee-benefits will be paid directly to the individuals performing compulsory community service by the DAFF regardless of the placement or secondment, at a salary scale as prescribed in terms of Public Service Act.

Operational costs associated with CCS programme may, on request, be made available by the DAFF subject to agreed MOU that may be signed between the parties. The Department wishes to optimize the use of the available veterinary infrastructure and resources across the country. In this regard, the Department wishes to utilize facilities of animal welfare organizations, private veterinarians and other entities for the deployment of CCS veterinarians in order to complement the existing government infrastructure.

Interested members of the veterinary profession such as Animal Welfare organizations, private practitioners, and other veterinary community outreach service providers who wish to make their facilities available for the CCS programme are invited to express interest in participating in CCS programme by completing the attached form.

All interested parties will be required to provide supervisory and mentorship to the CCS veterinarians.

Interested parties wishing to acquire CCS veterinarian shall complete the attached application and send to:

The Director: Veterinary Public Health, Private Bag X 138, PRETORIA, 0001  
Attention Dr Tina Engel, email: to TinaE@daff.gov.za Fax +27 12 319 7699