

SPEECH BY PRINCIPAL CAVS

DURING THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE TRAINING ON SURVEILLANCE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY OF TRADE-RELATED TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES AT THE KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT - MAY 22, 2014.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Afternoon!

Let me take this opportunity to thank the organizers for inviting me to closing ceremony of this training. I recognize that the training was sponsored by USAID through African Union -InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources and implemented by the University of Nairobi .

The training involved participants from six countries of the Greater Horn of Africa including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Southern Sudan, Djibouti and Ethiopia. The region is comprised mainly of arid and semi-arid lands dominated by livestock resources. Livestock production and trade play a key role in supporting livelihoods, food security and economic growth in the region.

Let me congratulate the trainees for enduring through the intensive training away from their families. The training you have undergone was offered for the first time in the region. The curriculum was carefully designed to enable trainees acquire adequate knowledge and skills to deal with the menace of Transboundary Animal Diseases and enhance access of livestock and livestock products from Africa to international markets.

You realize that African states have vast livestock resources, but have not benefitted from the lucrative international livestock and livestock product markets due to the existence of Transboundary Animal Diseases that cause great livestock losses due to frequent disease outbreaks. The impact of TADs is aggravated by differing animal health regulations amongst the countries of the region, uncoordinated disease surveillance and control programs and recurrent livestock trade bans by importing countries for fear of introduction of TADS to their territories.

This training was quite relevant considering that African states are grumbling with prevention of Transboundary Animal Diseases, provision of adequate animal disease data, implementing internationally recognized Animal Health

Certification System, running a quality Animal Health Delivery System with adequate diagnostic facilities.

This training has provided participants with the required skills and knowledge to enable them implement standard methods, procedures and strategies to control TADs, collect, analyse and disseminate animal disease data, develop and implement internationally recognized Animal Health Certification System and quality Animal Health Delivery System in their respective countries for enhanced market access of livestock and livestock products.

In addition, the training has set a foundation for enhanced collaboration, partnerships and networking among veterinary departments of member states for the required concerted effort in combating TADs. In addition, it is expected that, there will be enhanced animal disease and livestock marketing information sharing among member states.

The University of Nairobi has fully supported the training in every respect and ensuring that the participants acquired the knowledge and skills envisaged in this program.

At this moment, I wish to thank USAID, IGAD and African Union-Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources for supporting the training, and the Department of Public Health, Pharmacology and Toxicology and all facilitators for implementing the training. We look forward to supporting more of such trainings in future.

I must thank the Kenya School of Government for agreeing to host this training as the University was constrained with space

With those few remarks, I wish all participants safe journey to their respective countries and work stations.