



Livestock & Meat Advisory Council

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OVERVIEW

On 22nd November, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Professor Mthuli Ncube, made his maiden budget presentation against a backdrop of much expectancy from the various sectors within the economy.

The agricultural sector will receive support from the budget to promote:

- Irrigation development, mechanisation and subsidy arrangements in grain marketing;
- Rollout of the revised 99-year lease to facilitate private sector financing to farmers;
- Adoption of measures that address low productivity in agriculture, including addressing land utilisation;
- Addressing price distortions by benchmarking to import parity;
- Establishing a Commodities Exchange, hence opening up space to the private sector and shifting the burden from fiscus;
- Addressing loan recovery leakages;
- Restructuring of the Grain Marketing Board;
- Promoting outgrower schemes by the private sector; and
- Addressing crowding in financial institutions.

To this effect, the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement was allocated \$989.3 million.

Zimbabwe Antimicrobial Resistance Program: AMR Dissemination Meeting for Civil Society Organisations and Other Non-State Actors

It has been reported that nearly 700,000 people die annually from anti-microbial resistance and this global statistic is anticipated to soar to 10 million by 2050. On 13th November, the Anti-

Microbial Resistance – One Health Core group called for a meeting to sensitise stakeholders on the recently adopted Zimbabwe National Action Plan to address AMR.

This event is part of the activities to commemorate the annual World Antibiotic Awareness Week, whose aim is to increase global awareness of antibiotic resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance.

Since their discovery, antibiotics have served as the cornerstone of modern medicine. However, the persistent overuse and misuse of antibiotics in human and animal health have encouraged the emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance, which occurs when microbes, such as bacteria, become resistant to the drugs used to treat them.

Presenters from the environmental, animal and human health sub-sectors shed more light on how the use of antibiotics affects the environment, human beings and livestock, identifying strategic areas and activities that stakeholders can carry out to address AMR.

All classes of microbes can develop resistance and some of these are zoonotic. AMR in animals is attributed to use of medicated feeds, maladministration of antibiotics by over or under medicating or not adhering to withdrawal periods before slaughter. Farmers are encouraged to vaccinate their animals, employ good hygiene measures, engage in good agricultural practices and practice prudent use of antibiotics.

Enclosures:

- Zimbabwe Economic Report: Building a New Zimbabwe, African Development Bank Group