



PROPOSED LIBERIA VETERINARY AND ANIMAL DISEASE LAW 2015



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

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PROPOSED LIBERIA VETERINARY LAW

To make provision for the regulation, control and registration of veterinary practitioners in Liberia and for the constitution of a veterinary council and for matters connected therewith.

Whereas it is expedient to make provision for the regulation, control and registration of veterinary practitioners in Liberia and for the constitution of a veterinary council and for matters connected therewith.

1. Short title - This Law shall be called the “Liberia Veterinary Law, 2014”.

2. Definitions- In this Law unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context-

- (a) Council means the Liberia Veterinary Council constituted under this Law;
- (b) Member means a member of the Council
- (c) Prescribed means prescribed by regulations made under this Law;
- (d) President means the President of the Council;
- (e) Recognize Veterinary Qualification means any of the veterinary qualification included in the schedule
- (f) Register means the register of veterinary practitioners maintained under this Law;
- (g) Registered veterinary Practitioners mean a person whose name is for the time being entered in the register;
- (h) Registrar means the person appointed as registrar by the Council and
- (i) Veterinary Institution means any institution which trains for, or grants, or both trains for and grants, degrees, diploma or license in Veterinary Medicine/Science.

3. Constitution of the Council I -

(1) There shall be constituted a council which shall consist of the following members, namely:-

- (a) the Head of Veterinary Services, ex-officio
- (b) one registered Veterinary Practitioner from each county and district of Liberia, to be elected in the manner prescribed; provided that the president shall have power to nominate a registered veterinary practitioner if no such practitioner is elected from any county and district under this clause;
- (c) one registered veterinary practitioners, to be nominated by the University of Liberia;
- (d) the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences of the University of Liberia, ex-officio;
- (e) the President of the Liberia Veterinary Association, ex-officio;
- (f) one member, belonging to the legal profession, to be nominated by the Chief Justice of Liberia; and
- (g) one member of the armed forces possessing recognized veterinary qualification, to be nominated by the Defense Minister; provided that for the constitution of the council for the

first time, all the members, other than the ex-officio members, shall be appointed by the Government of Republic of Liberia.

- (2) The members shall elect a President from amongst themselves in such manner as may be prescribed:

Provided that for the constitution of the Council for the first time, the President shall be appointed by the Government of Republic of Liberia.

4. ***Incorporation of the Council***- The Council shall be a body corporate by the name of the Liberia Veterinary Council having perpetual existence and common seal with power to acquire and hold property, both movable and immovable and to contract and shall, be the said name, sue and be sued.

5. ***Term of office***

- (1) The President shall hold office for a term not exceeding four years and not extending beyond the expiration of his/her term as member, and shall be eligible for reelection.
- (2) The president shall be deemed to have vacated office on the day the Council holds its meeting after its reconstitution.
- (3) The President may resign his/her office by notice in writing addressed to the Government of the Republic of Liberia through the Ministry of Agriculture and shall be deemed to have vacated office on such resignation being accepted by the Government of the Republic of Liberia.
- (4) A member, other than an ex-officio member, shall hold office for a term of four years from the date of his/her nomination or, as the case may be, or until his/her successor has been nominated or elected.
- (5) A member shall be eligible for reelection or, as the case may be, re-nomination.
- (6) A member, other than an ex-officio member shall vacate office if be-
 - (a) resigns his office by notice in writing addressed to the President and the resignation is accepted by the President;
 - (b) fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Council without leave of absence granted by the Council
 - (c) remains out of Liberia for a continuous period exceeding one and a half year;
 - (d) Fails to represent the particular interest for which he/she was elected or, as the case may be, nominated.
- (7) Any casual vacancy in the office of member, including the President caused by death, resignation, removal or otherwise shall be filled by election or, as the case may be, nomination and the person so elected or nominated shall hold office for the unexpired period of the term of office of his predecessor.

6. *Meeting of the Council-*

- (1) The Council shall meet at least twice in a year at such time and place, and shall be summoned in such manner, as may be prescribed: Provided that unless requisitions are made, the President may call a meeting of the Council by sending notice to each member.
- (2) To constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Council not less than five members shall be present.
- (3) All meetings of the Council shall be presided by the President and in his/her absence, by a member who is a Registered Veterinary Practitioner elected by the members present at the meeting.
- (4) All questions at a meeting of the Council shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting, and in the case of an equality of votes, the person presiding shall cast the deciding vote.
- (5) No act done by the council shall be invalid merely on the ground of the existence of any vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of, the Council.

7. *Appointment of officers, etc.-*

- (1) The Council shall appoint a Registrar and such other officers and employees as it may consider necessary on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.
- (2) The Registrar shall act as Secretary to the Council and shall until another person is appointed as also treasurer.
- (3) All persons appointed under this section shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of the Civil law of Liberia.

8. *Fund of the Council –*

- (1) The Council shall be funded from annual budgetary allocation from the Government of Liberia.
 - a. The Council shall seek for Donor funding to carry out special Project of the Council.
 - b. The Council shall also collect registration fees from its members.
 - c. Income from investments and properties;
 - d. Aids and grants, if any, received from foreign countries in connection with the works of the Council.
- (2) The fund of the Council shall be utilized by the Council through annual budgetary appropriation to meet the charges in connection with the functions of the Council and payment of salaries and allowances to its officers and employees.
- (3) The fund of the Council shall be kept in such bank or banks as may be approved by the Council.
- (4) The Council may invest its funds in such securities as may be approved by the Government.

9. *Accounts and audit-*

- (1) The Council shall maintain regular accounts of all moneys received and expended by it.

- (2) The accounts shall be audited regularly as in keeping with the Audit requirement of the Government of the Republic of Liberia
- (3) For the purpose of an audit under sub-section (2), the Auditor-General or any person authorized by him/her in this behalf shall have access to all records, books, documents, cash, securities and other properties of the Council and may examine the President or any member officer or employee of the Council.
- (4) The Auditor-General shall, as soon as possible after the completion of the audit, send to the Council his/her audit report and the Council shall forward it, with its comments thereon, to the Government of The Republic of Liberia.
- (5) The Council shall take steps forthwith to remedy any defects or irregularities pointed out in the audit report.

10. *Register of Veterinary Practitioner-*

- (1) The Council shall, as soon as may be after its constitution, arrange for the registration of veterinary practitioners and, for that purpose, shall, by notification in the official hand-bill and publish ~~publishing~~ notice in at least two daily newspapers of wide circulation, appoint a date on or before which applications for registration of names shall be made by veterinary practitioners possessing recognized veterinary qualification.
- (2) The names and addresses, the recognized veterinary qualification together with the degrees on which such qualifications were acquired and the dates of registration of all veterinary practitioners registered under this Law shall be entered in a register to be maintained by the Council for the purpose.

11. *Custody and maintenance of register-*

- (1) The Registrar shall maintain the registry in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed and shall make from time to time such entries, corrections, alterations and modifications in the entries therein as may be directed by the Council.
- (2) The Registrar may, for the purpose of carrying out his duties imposed under sub-section (1), call for any information he may require from any registered veterinary practitioner or a veterinary practitioner applying for registration.

12. *Persons entitled to be registered-*

- (1) Every person possessing a recognized veterinary qualification may be subject to the provisions of this Law and on payment of such fees as may be prescribed, apply to the Council to have his name entered in the register.
- (2) Every person making an application under sub section (1) shall-]
 - (a) satisfy the Council that he is in possession of a recognized veterinary qualification;
 - (b) specify in his application the date on which he/she acquired the qualification which entitles him/her to claim registration ; and
 - (c) furnish such other information as the Council may require for the purpose of registration.

13. **Registration-**

- (1) The Council may on being satisfied that a person applying for registration possesses a recognized veterinary qualification and has paid the prescribed fee, allow the application and direct the Registrar to enter his/her name in the register.
- (2) The Registrar shall, on the registration of the person's name, give him a certificate of registration signed by him and counter-signed by the president.
- (3) The Council may after giving the person concerned an opportunity of being heard, deny the registration, or cancel the registration of the name of any person-
 - (a) who has been convicted by a court for any offence involving moral turpitude;
 - (b) whom the council, after due enquiry, finds guilty of infamous conduct in his/her professional capacity.
- (4) The Council may, on its own motion or upon an application made to it by any person, direct, after giving the person concerned an opportunity of being heard-
 - (a) for the purpose of rectification of any error, amendment or any entry in the register ;
 - (b) cancellation of any registration which has been fraudulently made or effected.
- (5) Where the name of a registered veterinary practitioner is removed for any reason under this Law, the Council may, on its own motion or upon an application made to it by the concerned veterinary practitioner, allow the name of the veterinary practitioner to be registered again in the register.
- (6) The Registrar shall by letter sent by registered post, inform the veterinary practitioner of his/her registration any amendment of cancellation of his/her registration or restoration of his/her name in the register.
- (7) If any person whose name is entered in the register obtains any recognized veterinary qualification other than the qualification in respect of which his/her name has been registered, he shall, on payment of such fee as may be prescribed, be entitled to have such additional qualification entered against his/her name in the register either in substitution of or in addition to, any entry previously made.

14. Appeal: - If any person is dissatisfied with the decision of the Council denying or canceling the registration of his/her name or directing the correction or cancellation of any entry in the register he/she may, at any time within thirty days from the date of such decision and on payment of such fees as may be prescribed, prefer an appeal to the Circuit Court pursuant to the decision from such court may be appealable to the supreme as final orbital of cases.

15. Amendment of the Schedule:- The Government of The Republic of Liberia, after consultation with the Council, may, if it thinks fits, by notification in the hand-bill amend the schedule so as to include therein, or omit there from, any veterinary qualification granted by any veterinary institution.

16. Power to call for information, etc.- The Council shall have power to call on the authorities of any veterinary institution in Liberia to furnish such particulars as the Council may require of any area of study and examinations the applicant has completed in order to obtain the degree, diploma or license granted by that veterinary institution and as to the minimum age at which such area of study can be undertaken, examinations required to be undergone prior to such degree, diploma or license being granted, and generally as to the requisites for obtaining such degree, diploma or license.

17. Notice of deaths and removal of names from register- On receipt of any reliable information regarding the death of any registered veterinary practitioner, the Registrar shall, after making such inquiry as the deems fit, remove the name of the deceased from the register.

18. Publication of and presumption as the entries in the list of registered veterinary practitioners-

- (1) The Registrar shall once in every four years, on or before such date as may be determined by the Council, cause to be published in the hand-bill a list in alphabetical order the names of all persons who are registered in the registry register together with their addresses and recognized veterinary qualification and the date on which such qualifications were obtained.
- (2) The Registrar shall also cause to be published in the month of January every year, an annual supplement to the list published under sub-section (1) showing therein the additions, alternations or corrections made in entries in the registry during the preceding year.
- (3) The Register shall be deemed to be a public document consistent with the law of the Republic of Liberia.

19. Responsibility of Registered Veterinary Practitioner-

- (1) Every registered veterinary practitioner shall inform the Council any change of his/her address within sixty days of such change and, on receipt of the information; the Registrar shall make the necessary corrections in the register.
- (2) No registered veterinary practitioner shall use or publish in any way whatsoever any name, title description or symbol indicating or circulated to lead persons to inform that he/she possesses any recognized veterinary qualification bigger than that he/she or other professional qualification unless the same has been conferred upon him/her by a legally constituted authority within or outside Liberia.

20. Privileges of registered veterinary practitioner-

- (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law for the time being in force, no one, other than a registered veterinary practitioner, shall be competent to hold any veterinary appointment in a veterinary institution, hospital, dispensary or abattoir maintained or aided by the Government of The Republic of Liberia or any local authority.
- (2) Notwithstanding provision contained in any other law for the time being in force, no certificate required by any such law to be signed by a veterinary practitioner shall be valid unless it is signed by a registered veterinary practitioner.

- (3) No person shall be entitled to recover any fee or charge in any court for any veterinary advice or attendance, or for the performance of any operation, or for any medicine supplied, unless he shall prove upon the trial he/she is a duly registered veterinary practitioner.

21. *Persons not registered under the Law not to practice-*

- (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law for the time being in force, no one, other than a registered veterinary practitioner, shall practice, or hold himself/herself out as practicing, the Veterinary Medicine or Surgery or Theriogenology.
- (2) Whoever, after the coming into force of this law, contravenes the provision of sub-section (1) shall be punished with fine not to exceed LD \$ five hundred.
- (3) The provisions of sub section (1) shall not apply to any person who performs any of the following acts, namely:-
- (a) Rendering to any animal first-aid for the purpose of saving life or relieving pain;
 - (b) destruction of any animal by painless method;
 - (c) castration of any animal or caponizing of any poultry or bird;
 - (d) docking of the cattle or dogs before its eyes are open;
 - (e) amputation of the claws of a dog before its eyes are open;
 - (f) inoculation or vaccination of any animal, poultry or bird.

22. *Proceedings in inquiries-* For the purpose of any enquiry under this Law, the Council shall take evidence in an administrative hearing. The decision of the Council shall be appealable to the Circuit court where the hearing will be conducted. The ruling from the Circuit court is also appealable to the Supreme Court.

23. *Indemnity-* No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall be brought against the Council or any officer or employee thereof for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Law.

24. *Power to make regulations-* The Council may, consistent with this law notwithstanding, make regulations that will enhance the work of the Council.

The Schedule
(See section 2(e) and 15)
Part A-Degree in Veterinary Science

1. Bachelor of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry (BVSc & AH), Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from the University of Liberia or any recognized university of the world.
2. Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeon, United Kingdom

Annex 4

PROPOSED ANIMAL'S DISEASES LAW

STATUTES - relating to diseases of animals

1. *Short Title and Commencement:-*

(1). This Law (shall) be cited as the **“animal’s Diseases Law of (and shall apply to) the Republic of Liberia”**

(2). It shall come into force from the date specified in Official Hand-bill Notification.

2. *Definition:* - In this Law unless anything repugnant in the subject or context otherwise requires –

a. **“Specified”** means anything specified by the rule.

b. **“Registration”** means any registration given under section 18

c. **“Animals”** means all forms of animal life including insects, all aquatic animals and birds, reptiles, as well as the larger species- except human.

d. **“Animal Products”** means anything originating or made where in whole or in part from an animal or from a carcass includes meat, blood, bones, marrow, dairy and dairy products, eggs, fat, foodstuffs of animal origin, semen, embryo, veins, veinules, hair, skin and hides, offal or any other part of animal and fish or animal and fish products for human or animal consumption, for pharmaceutical use or for industrial use specified by the government notification in the official hand-bill will also be included.

e **“Animals for breeding or rearing”** means an animal which is not destined for immediate slaughter.

f. **“Animal for slaughter”** means an animal destined to be transported or taken to an officially approved abattoir for immediate slaughter.

g. **“Biological Products”** means

- (a) Biological reagents for use in diagnosis of certain diseases
- (b) Sera for use in the prevention and treatment of certain animal diseases and possible sero – vaccination against certain diseases
- (c) Inactivated or modified vaccines for use in the preventive vaccination against certain animal diseases.

h. “Case” – means an animal affected with one of the infectious or parasitic diseases recognized by the Minister of Agriculture.

i. “Carcass” dead body of any animal or any portion thereof and its flesh, bones (whole, part or smashed), hide, fur, hair, feather, horn, hooves, blood or any other part of it may be included.

j. “Code of criminal procedure” means Code of Criminal Procedure law.....

k. “Director” means the Director, National Livestock Bureau.

l. “Veterinary officer” means any officer working under the National Livestock Bureau who is registered veterinary practitioner defined under section..... of Liberia Veterinary Practitioner Law.....

m. “Infected area” means the infected area declared under section

n. “District” means of Liberia with clearly defined boundaries and having an appropriate animal veterinary health organization.

o. “Exporting Country” means a country from which there is sent to a destination in another country, animals, animal products, pathological material or biological products.

p. “Fodder” means any substance commonly used for food of animals.

q. “Carcass” means the carcass of an animal and includes part of a carcass and the meat, bones, skin, hooves, horn offal, or any part of an animal separately or otherwise or any portion thereof and butter.

r. “Local Authority”

s. “Litter” means any substance commonly used for bedding or otherwise for or about animals.

t. “Stock” means cattle, sheep, goats, horses, mules, donkeys, swine and poultry.

u. “Cattle” means bulls, cows, oxen, heifers and calves

v. “Meat” means any edible part of a carcass of an animal

w. “Fresh Meat” means meat which has not been subject to any treatment modifying irreversibly its organoleptic and physic – chemical characters; it includes frozen and chilled meat.

x. “**Prepared Meat**” means products of meat which have been subjected to treatment such as cooking, drying, salting, brining/and/or smoking.

y. “**Products of animal originally, destined for human consumption**” means egg products, milk, milk products, honey.

z. “**Semen**” means the sperm of reproducing animals for artificial insemination.

z₁. “**Ovum**” means the female reproductive cell or gamete of animals; egg.

z₂. “**Fish**” means a limbless cold-blooded vertebrate animal with gills and fins living wholly in water.

z₃ “**Official Veterinarian**” means a civil service veterinarian or a specially appointed veterinary Administration of a country.

z₄ “**Vehicle**” means of transport by land, air or water.

z₅ “**Veterinary Administration**” means the central veterinary services in the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Liberia.

z₆ “**Infected Areas**” means an extended territory in which any disease is confirmed.

z₇ “**Disease**” means Africa swine fever, avian leucosis complex, classical swine fever, anthrax, blue tongue, brucellosis, contagious bovine pleuro pneumonia, Dourine, enzootic porcine, encephalomyelitis, epidemic tremors, fowl pest, food and mouth disease, glanders, Johnne’s Disease, pasteurellosis rabies, rinderpest psittacosis, Newcastle, pullorum disease, ulcerative lymphangitis, epizootic lymphangitis, swine erysipelas, trypanosomiasis, leptospirosis, ornithosis, trichinosis, tularemia or any other disease declared by the relevant Minister of the Government of Liberia, to be included in the term “disease” for the purpose of the law.

z₈ “**Focus of Disease**” means the occurrence of outbreak (s) of disease within a sixteen square degree

z₉ “**Outbreak**” means occurrence of disease

z₁₀ “**Poultry**” means birds of the following species

(a) Domestic fowls, turkeys, geese, ducks, guinea fowls, pigeons, pheasants and partridges

z₁₁ “**Minister**” means the Minister of Agriculture

z₁₂ “**Stock Inspector**” includes an official veterinarian and any person authorized by the Minister to perform the duties of a stock inspector under the law.

z₁₃ “**Suspected**” means of suspected of being diseased.

z₁₄ “**Permit**” means a written authorization to carry on specified activities.

z₁₅ “**Permitee**” means a person who holds a valid permit.

z₁₆ **“Quarantine”** means the detention of animals and its products (meat, meat products, milk, milk products, eggs, eggs products), carcasses, litter, fodder, dung or vehicle in such place and for such period of time as may be specified by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

3. Providing Information Regarding Animal Diseases:-

(1) Every owner or any person having in charge or manager, supervisor, caretaker or person having in control or veterinarian while attending an animal in course of his/her practice or any other veterinarian through any other means or any Animal Health Assistant of National Livestock Bureau (NLB) have the reason to believe that any animal is infected, the owner, person having in charge, manager, supervisor or person having in control, veterinarian or Veterinary Assistant or Community Animal Health Workers will inform in writing to the Director, NLB or the Veterinary Officer /District Superintendent empowered by him/her without any delay.

(2) The Director or empowered veterinary officer by the Minister on receiving information regarding any disease of any animal under subsection (1) and if he is confirmed through necessary test and investigation about the infected animal and infected premise and he/she feels that immediate action is necessary for the disease and infected area then he/she will take necessary actions against the disease and infected place.

4. Segregation of diseased animals:

Every owner or any person having in charge or manager, supervisor, or person having in control is confirmed that the animal is infected, then he/she will make arrangement to segregate the infected animal from other animals and he/she will do his/her best, for the purpose to make necessary arrangement for preventing the non-infected animals ones to come in contact with infected ones.

5. Declaration of infected area:

(1) The Director, NLB, if he/she has the reasons to believe that disease has broken out or there is a danger for the spread of any such disease in a specific area, he/she may declare such place as an infected area by official gazette notification.

(2) The notification under sub-section (1) shall include description of matters stated below and other information specified by the Director, NLB, namely:-

- a) Boundaries of the infected area;
- b) Time limit for infected area declared;
- c) Description of the spreading diseases in the infected area;
- d) Name of animals which may be infected; and
- e) Measures to be under taken by the owner, person in charge, caretaker, and person having in control, Veterinary officer or any other authority.

(3) If any area is declared infected under sub-section (1) by Official Hand-Bill, it shall remain generally in effect for not more than 3 (three) months of notification.

Provided that, if outbreak and spread of the disease cannot be prevented for any reasons within the time mentioned, the Director, NLB with prior permission of Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) may extend the time not exceeding another three months by official Hand-Bill.

(4.) If any area is declared to be an infected under sub-section (1) the declaration shall be widely published for information of the public of the area.

6. Prohibition of movement of animal & animal origin product from the infected area:

(1) From infected declared under section 5

(a) No person shall move any animal, alive or dead, or animal origin products, part of any animal or animal related any other products or shall not be allowed to transfer any animal from the affected area nor he shall be allowed to move animals which he/she owns, manage or transfer or move any animal from infection free area to infected area.

Provided that prohibitions of this section shall not be enforced in the following matters namely;

i) To bring animals for religious custom and festivals;

ii) To bring in animals into any livestock farms and;

iii) To bring in animals for other purpose specified by the Director, NLB for any other instances authorized by the Director, NLB or any veterinary officer empowered by the Director NLB;

(b) Nobody shall buy or sell any meat, milk, egg, or other product originated from animal, which is considered as diseased or from animal which has come in contact with diseased animal.

(c) Ban may be imposed on movement of animal waste, animal feed or any material used for housing of animals from infected area.

(2) Notwithstanding any cases in subsection (1), animals, animal origin products, animal feed, animal waste or any materials used for housing of as mentioned in subsection may be transported by any means approved by the MoA may be transported following the conditions specified by the Director, NLB.

Provided that, if any such animal or any other goods, while transportation by means of transport through the infected area are unloaded due to any reasons, in that case it cannot be transferred again from the mentioned area to the fulfill the objectives of the sub-section (1).

7. Preventive vaccination in the infected area:

(1) If it is possible and practicable to control the disease by preventive vaccination against which an area is declared infected under section 5, the Director, NLB shall arrange vaccination of all or any kind or class of animal in a specified method.

(2) If any initiative for preventive vaccination is made under subsection (1), owner of the animal, person in charge, supervisor or person having control shall be bound to render every facilities and assistance in carrying out such vaccination activities.

8. Disinfection, etc.-

(1) The Director, NLB may by issuing orders in writings to the owner of the animal, person in charge, supervisor or person having control of any shed, establishment, transport, animal farm, animal breeding farm, stable, cage or any other premises or yard where infected animals are kept

or conserved or animal feed container or bucket for disinfection and owner of the animal, person in charge, supervisor or person having control shall be bound to take necessary action as specified in the order.

(2) The veterinary officer may issue appropriate order not to reuse any shed, establishment, transport, animal farm, animal breeding farm, stable, cage or any other premises or yard where infected animals are kept or conserved or animal feed container for which an order has been issued for disinfection until they are properly disinfected in accordance with the order.

9. Examination of animals:

(1) If veterinary officer has sufficient reason to believe that any animal has become infected, in that case, he may make arrangement for any test in a specific manner which he/she deems suitable.

(2) Blood, milk, feces, urine or any other material may be collected for the purpose of tests under subsection (1).

(3) The Veterinary Officer may pass such orders for the purpose of carrying out tests under subsection (1)

a. To produce any such animal in a specified place and time directed by him; and

b. Not to transfer such animal from the said place without his prior permission.

(4) Under this section, concern owner, possessor, caretaker or controller of the animal is bound to provide necessary help and all kinds of facilities to perform any examination or investigation.

10. Postmortem examination:

(1) Any veterinary officer may conduct postmortem examination under established procedure, of any animal which is suspected infective at the time of death and where necessary may collect carcass whole or in part for purposes of examination in the laboratory in a specified manner.

(2) For purposes of postmortem examination any veterinary officer may order to exhume any dead animal and may take any other necessary actions as found necessary by him/her.

11. Disposal of any such animal that died due to disease:

(1) The carcass of any animal which at the time of death was suspected died of any disease, shall be buried at least under six (6) feet of soil with skin or destroyed by incineration or any other specific manner for removal of such carcass.

(2) Except in the case of exhumation or disposal of a carcass by any other means under section 10, no person shall disinter or otherwise remove the carcass of an animal or otherwise remove the carcass of an animal buried in compliance with the provisions of subsection (1).

(3) No person shall dispose or order to dispose any carcass infective at the time of death or throw any such straw, grass, excreta, or any other material which has come in contact with such diseased animal which may cause potential threat to public and animal health.

12. *Prohibition of marketing animal or animal origin product:*

Any animal or animal origin product of infected area declared under section (5) cannot be marketed in the said area without permission of veterinary officer empowered for the purpose.

13. *Inspection of Hatcheries:*

- (1) The veterinary officer specially empowered by the Director, NLB for the purpose may inspect any hatchery prior to hatching any eggs of ducks or chickens for commercial use, to ascertain whether the eggs carry pullorum or any egg transmitted diseases.
- (2) The veterinary officer may examine the eggs or ducks or chickens for the fulfillment of the purpose of Section (1)
- (3) If pullorum or any other egg transmitted diseases are found in the eggs, ducks or chickens during the course of examination under subsection (2) in that case, such eggs, ducks and chicks may be destroyed following the rules or in absence of such rules as may be directed by the Director, NLB.

14. *Compulsory segregation and treatment of animals in infected area:*

- (1) If veterinary officer is confirmed through investigation that any animal has been affected by any infectious or contagious disease, he may, by orders in writings, direct the owner of the animal, person in charge, supervisor, caretaker or person having control in matters mentioned below-
 - a. To keep that in a specified place, to remove it or to take necessary actions for segregation in manner directed by the said officer.
 - b. To administer treatment.

- (2) If any order issued by any veterinary officer under subsection (1), owner of the animal, person in charge, supervisor, caretaker or person having control will carry out the said order:

Provided that where there is no owner of the animal, person in charge, supervisor or person having control or its owner is unknown or cannot be ascertained without undue delay, or the order passed by the Veterinary Officer cannot be communicated to him without undue delay or an owner of the animal, person in charge, supervisor or person having control of the animal fails to comply with the order of the Veterinary officer within such time as in the opinion of Veterinary Officer is reasonable, the Veterinary Officer shall seize the animal or remove it to a place of isolation and segregation and may subject it to treatment as may be necessary.

- (3) If an owner of the animal, person in charge, supervisor or person having control of the seized animal or under subsection (2) his/her authorized agent applies for the return of such animal to his possession, the animal shall be so returned if such owner of the animal, person in charge, supervisor or person having control or his authorized agent pays any expenses, incurred for upkeep during seizure.

Provided that on the release of the animal to the owner, person in charge, supervisor or person having control or to authorized agent shall comply with which the Veterinary Officer may deem fit to issue to his/her opinion for the animal.

(4) If an owner of the animal, person in charge, supervisor or person having control or his authorized agent does not apply for release of the animal under subsection (2) and the animal is, in the opinion of the veterinary officer, no longer likely to infect any other animal with the contagious disease in respect of which it is seized, in that case, the veterinary officer shall make arrangements to send the animal to any place authorized by him and if within 30 days an owner of the animal, person in charge, supervisor or person having control or his authorized agent does not apply for release of the animal, in that case the veterinary officer shall take necessary action which to his/her opinion is appropriate.

(4) Notwithstanding anything in any other section, if the Veterinary Officer, after due examination of any animal, certifies in writing such animal affected with any disease and the said animal shall not be cured by the treatment, in that case, he/she may destroy, dispose or settle by any other means in specified manner.

15. *Restriction on market, fair etc., in infected area:*

No person, institute or organization shall organize, concentrate or assemble animal market, fair or animal exhibition for the purpose of sports or trade or promotion anybody for the same purpose in the infected area without prior permission in writings by the Veterinary Officer.

16. *Registration for animal farm, animal origin product, processing plants, etc.*

(1) Subject to provisions of subsection (2) no person for commercial purpose without registration shall-

- (a) Establish and operate animal hospital or provide clinical service at any place or premises for the purposes of treating animals;
- (b) Establish and operate animal farm, ducks or chicken farms ;
- (c) Establish and operate any animal origin product;
- (d) Collect or process semen for breeding purposes and;
- (e) Rear any bull of cattle or buffalo, buck or any other animal for purposes of breeding and donor cows, she goats or any other animal for the purposes of embryo production and transplantation.

2. No registration shall be required for the following cases:-

- (a) Operation and establishment of any veterinary hospital, livestock farm, chicken or duck farm, embryo transplant or animal origin product processing factory established and managed by the public sectors.
- (b) For raising and of any farm run by the academic/research institutes for purposes of collection and processing of semen for breeding purpose, rearing any bucks and bulls or any other animal for breeding purpose, rearing cows or she goats or ewe or saws any other animal for the purposes of producing and transplantation of embryo; and

- (c) Duck and chicken farms or livestock farm established and managed for the purpose of family use and for keeping a specified number of bulls, bucks, rams, boars or any other animal for breeding purposes or in the said farm.

17. *Pre-inspection for registration, etc.:-*

Prior to issue a registration under section- 18 the Director, NLB or Veterinary officer/District Superintendent empowered by him/her may inspect the premise of livestock farm, ducks or chicken farm and animal origin product processing plant or may collect any information from the applicant.

18. *Registration, etc.:-*

- (1) Director, NLB or Veterinary officer/District Superintendent empowered by him for the purposes shall issue specified registration certificate for fulfillment of the activities mentioned under section-16.
 - (2) Each application for registration certificate shall be submitted to the Director General or Veterinary officer/District Superintendent empowered by him under subsection-1 in a specified manner, condition and with payment of fees.
 - (3) Any application submitted under subsection-2, may be accepted or rejected in accordance to this Act or rules framed under it, Director, NLB or Veterinary officer/District Superintendent empowered by him/her shall consider the following matters among others for taking decision about such application, namely :
 - a. Whether he/she is financially sound to operate the activities mentioned in the application.
 - b. Whether the activities mentioned in the application are consistent with the main objectives for undertaking activities as mentioned in section- 16 and
 - c. Whether it will be consistent for public health and environment protection, if registration certificate is given.
4. Duration and time of renewal will be specifically mentioned under this.
5. Every registration certificate issue under this section shall be renewable and applicant shall pay specified fees for renewal.
6. The Director, NLB or the Veterinary officer/District Superintendent empowered by him/she shall-
- (a) Take decision of accepting or rejecting the application within 60 days of submission under subsection-2; and
 - (i) Shall issue the registration certificate within 15 days of acceptance;
 - (ii) Shall inform the applicant in writings stating the reasons within Seven (7) days in case of rejection.

- (b) If it is not possible to take decision within 60 days, the applicant shall be informed immediately mentioning the reason for delay and shall take decision regarding the matter within next 30 days.

19. *Preservation of copies of registration certificate:*

Each copy of registration certificate issued under section-18 shall be preserved.

20. *Cancellation of registration, etc.:-*

- (1) Notwithstanding anything in any other sections of this act, the Director, NLB or Veterinary officer/District Superintendent empowered by him/her may cancel any registration, if he/she has reasons to believe that the recipient of registration -

- (a) The law or any section of the rules framed under it has been violated; and

- (b) Has been convicted for committing any crime under this Act.

- (2) No cancellation of registration issued under subsection-1 can be made without giving the recipient of registration minimum 15 days time for showing causes.

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- (3) Any person aggrieved by any order passed under subsection-1 of this Law, He/she within 30 days of issuing order can appeal for remedy -

- (a) To the MoA; in case of the order given by the Director, NLB and

- (b) To the Director, NLB in case of the order given by the Quarantine Officer/District Superintendent

- (4) If any appeal is submitted under subsection (3), that should be disposed before exceeding 60 (sixty) days of submission.

- (5) The decision of the appealing authority as mentioned in subsection (4) shall be final.

- (6) If any registration is cancelled under this section, a recipient shall not be eligible for claiming compensation from any authority or any court for loss incurred owing to cancellation.

21. *Registration in respect of existing livestock farm, duck and poultry farm etc.:-*

The veterinary hospitals, livestock farms, duck and poultry farms or animal origin processing factory, bull or ram, buck or any other animal rearing farms and for purposes of production and transplantation of embryo, donor cow, she goat/ewe/saw or rearing of any other animal, at the time of enforcement of this law shall have to procure registration within 6 months of enforcement of this law.

22. *Crime committed by company, etc.:*

If any crime is committed under this law by any company then all such directors, managers, secretaries, shareholders, official and employees of the companies who are directly related with that crime shall deemed to have committed the crime, on the

contrary if he can prove that, the crime was committed beyond his knowledge, or he/she had whole heartily tried to prevent the occurrence.

Explanation – In this Section

- (a) “Company” shall mean any commercial establishment, share business, society, committee and also organization shall be included: and
- (b) In case of commercial establishment “Director” shall mean any of its shareholder or member of the board of directors

23. *Acceptance of charge and trial:*

- (1) No court shall accept any complain for trial under this law, without a written complains of veterinary officer.
- (2) All crimes committed under this law shall be tried by the magistrate, or in places, by the metropolitan magistrate.

24. *Cognizable or bail of the crime:*

All crimes under this law shall be non-cognizable and bail able.

25. *Punishment:*

If any person violates this law or any rules or regulation under this law or fails to perform responsibility or fails to abide by orders and directions under this law, then for such violation and failure, he shall be convicted for not more than two years of imprisonment or not more than 10 LD(\$) fine or shall be convicted by both.

26. *Appeal:*

Whatever may be the contents of criminal procedure, any judgment or order delivered under this law by any magistrate, or at instances, by the metropolitan magistrate, appeal can be made to the authorized related civil court.

27. *Application of criminal Procedure:*

Crime investigation, judgment, appeal and other related matter under this law, on conditions if not being contradictory with the different sections and clause of this law, criminal procedure shall be in effect.

28. *Indemnity:*

The Director, NLB or any officer or any employee or any other person working under him/her performing any action on good faith under this law, and for this performance if any individual suffers loss or if there be any possibility of loss, for that reason civil or criminal or any other lawful procedures cannot be drawn against them.

29. *Right of entrance, etc.*

The Director, NLB or any veterinary officer empowered by him/her in respect to the law and its rules and regulations, at any logical time, along with other helps to his/her requirements and consideration, shall hold right of entrance to any farm, places of animal residence, land, buildings or animal derivative processing factory, any other places or transportations for the following purposes; e.g.

- (a) To perform any duties delegated under this law.
- (b) Inspection of any sick animal,
- (c) Inspection of animals which has been infected by that sick animal.
- (d) Inspection of products derived from animal
- (e) Inspection of straw, grass, and other items used by animal attacked by infectious diseases and
- (f) To perform any other duty as indicated by the government from time to time.

30. *Delegation of Power:*

The Director, NLB with a general or specific order, if necessary, may delegate his/her power or responsibility to any veterinary officer under him/her or to any officer of the NLB.

31. *Power to formulate rules:*

For purposes of fulfilling the aims of this law, the MoA, may formulate rules and regulations through Hand-Bill notification.

32. *Revocation & Protection:*

1. Despite such revocation, if any work or work schedule in respect to the revoked laws remain under settlement just prior to promulgation of this law, such work or work schedule must be settled in accordance to such revoked laws in a manner as if this law has not been promulgated.

Schedule

[Section-2 (e) annexure]

Description of animal diseases

Anthrax, Hemorrhagic Septicemia, Black Quarter, Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Johne's Disease, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, Melioidosis, Bovine Genital, Campylobacteriosis, Vibriosis, Leptospirosis, Foot and mouth disease, Rinderpest, Bovine Viral Diarrhoea, Malignant Catarrhal Fever, Vesicular Stomatitis, Lumpy skin disease, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis, IBM/IPM, Proliferative Stomatitis, Bovine Viral Leucosis, Trypanosomiasis, Trichomoniasis, Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, Theileriosis, Warble Fly, Hypoderma Bovis and Blineatum, Dermatomycosis, Glanders, African Horse Sickness, Infectious Equine Encephalomyelitis, Epizootic Lymphangitis, Equine Infectious Anaemia, Japanese B.

Encephalitis, Pateurollorsis, Contegious Caprine Pleuropneumonia, Fool rot, Vibriofoetus, Q. Fever, Contagioius Pustular Dermatitis, Blue Tongue, Maeda, Visna, Adenomatosis, Scrapie, Peste des petits Ruminants, PPR, Sheep Pox, Goat Pox, Swine Erysipelas, Intestinal salmonella infection, Vesicular Exanthea, Classical Swine Fever, African Swine Fever, Aujesky's Disease, Atrophic Gastroenteritis, Canine Parvovirus Infection, Canine Parvovirus Infection, Canine Herpesviral Infection, Feline Infectious Anemia, Feline Leukemia Virus and Related Disease, Feline Panleukopenia, Infectious Canine Hepatitis, Canine Influenza Virus, Canine Parainfluenza Virus, Feline Enteritis, Canine Distemper, Pullorum Disease, Fowl Typhoid, Fowl Cholera, Avian

Tuberculosis, Fowl Plague, Newcastle Disease, (RaniKhet), Marek's Disease, Avian Eucosis, Gumboro Disease, Infectious Laryngotra Cheitis, Avian Infectious Bronchitis, Duck Virus Enteritis, Dug Plauge Fowl Pox, Mycoplasmosis, Chicken Anemia Virus Infection, Inclusion Body Hepatitis, Duck Viral Hepatitis, Necrotic Enteritis, Rotaviral Infections in Chiken Thrush Candidiasis, Goose Viral Hepatitis, Lymphoid Leukosis, Myeloid Leukosis, Omphalitis, paratyphoid Infection, Staphylococcosis, Streptococcosis, Viral Arthritise, Encephalomyelities, Egg Drop Syndrom, Aspergellosis, Infectious Coryza, Avian Influenza, Quail Bronchitis, Swollen Head Syndrome and Psittacosis.

Annex 5

Introduced Law in the need of restraining of animal disease outbreak and its spread, and to protect public health, quarantine of animal and animal product, control of import and export and pertinent matters.

Whereas the making of legislation, to restrain outbreak and spread of animal disease and to protect public health, quarantine of animal and animal product, control of import and export and about the related matters, is judicious and necessary;

Therefore hereby Laws have been made as bellow:-

Section 1... Brief title and inducement-----

- (1) This Act shall be called “Liberia animal and animal product quarantine Act, 2014”.
- (2) This Act will be effective instantly.

Section 2... Definition---- Anything if not antagonistic to the subject and related matters, in this Act -----

- (A) “Import” means importation of any animal or animal product into Liberia by land, sea and air port;
- (B) “Fitness Certificate” means fitness certificate issued by quarantine officer about the competency of any animal product as human or animal feed or of use;
- (C) “Fixed” means fixed by rule;
- (D) “Animal” means including all types of animal stated below:--

- a) All mammals other than human;
- b) Birds;
- c) Reptiles types of animals;
- d) Other aquatic animals including fish;
- e) Any other animal declared by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) by Hand-Bill;
- (E) “Animal Product” means animal or wholly or partially collected/prepared any stuff, flesh, blood, bone, bone marrow, milk or milk product, egg, fat/lard, feed stuff made of animal, semen, embryo, veins-sub veins, hair, skin/hides, offal; and any other part of animal body or animal product declared by the Government in Hand-Bill notification will also be included.
- (F) “Criminal procedure” means The Code of Criminal Procedure,
- (G) “Director” means Director of National Livestock Bureau (NLB);
- (H) “Carcass” means dead body of any animal and its any part would also be included;
- (I) “Health Certificate” means Certificate about the health of the animal issued by Quarantine Officer;
- (J) “Export” means sending of any animal or animal product from Liberia to abroad by land, water and air ways;
- (K) “Diseased” means affected by any infectious or contagious disease or affected by any other disease declared by the MoA by Notification time to time;
- (L) “Regulation” means regulation framed under this Act;
- (M) “Quarantine Officer” means Quarantine Officer seconded under this Act; and
- (N) “Quarantine” means isolation of animal or animal product in to a place or a yard, designated by the MoA, and kept enclosed up to a definite period for examination.

Section 3... Quarantine, Ban on import and export of animal and animal product, etc. ----- Any animal or animal product which might cause animal or human disease, could be controlled partially or otherwise, by quarantine, ban on import/export through conditions stated in import/ export policy, promulgated time to time by the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI) under “The Import and Exports (Control) Law”.

Section 4... Effectiveness of orders promulgated under Section 3. ----
The orders promulgated under Section 3 will be effective in such a way that, as if it is The Custom Law,, after that in this Act this section has promulgated under the section of The Custom Law. Under this Law, the power of custom officers in applying bar-restriction on importing/exporting goods from time to time would remain the same in case of import/export of animal and animal products.

Section 5... Selection of entry and exit points--- The MoA shall determine the incoming and outgoing points and its boundary for import/export of animal and animal product by Hand-Bill.

Section 6... Control of animal and animal product for Quarantine---- All the seized animals and animal products will be kept under the control of Quarantine Officer who will take measures of quarantine of these animals and animal products.

Section 7...Authority and Job description of Quarantine Officer----
Considering the other rules of this Act, authority and job description of the Quarantine officer will be as follows:

- (A) Detention of animal and animal product for Quarantine;
- (B) Inspection of animal and animal product detained for quarantine;
- (C) Fixation of Quarantine time span;
- (D) Release of animal and animal product from Quarantine measures;
- (E) Passing appropriate order to carryout determinate examination;
- (F) Issuance of health certificate for animals detained for Quarantine;
- (G) Passing of settlement order, to destroy the animals identified as diseased and contaminated animal products in a prescribed process or otherwise, after completion of determinate examination;
- (H) Passing of order of removal of all animal body cover, excreta, equipment, grass, straw, and cages came in contact of diseased animal or animal product;
- (I) Taking measures to disinfect vehicles used for carrying animal and animal product and contaminated yard;
- (J) Imposing ban on exportation of animal not eligible to travel;
- (K) Issuance of certificate on inspection of animal and animal product at stop over during transportation for import/export;
- (L) Passing of order to return, the imported animal and animal product on which ban is declared by the MoA, bearing the cost by the importer or order to settle down in a determined procedure; and
- (M) Taking any other measure to perform above mentioned responsibilities and activities properly.

Section 8... Appointment of Officers and staff etc. ----

- (1) The MoA will recruit required number of Quarantine Officers and Staff under the NLB to perform the activities properly under this Law.
- (2) Service terms and conditions of Quarantine Officers and staff recruited under the sub-section (1) shall be fixed by the MoA.
- (3) Until Quarantine officers and staff are recruited under the sub-section (1), officers and Staff from the NLB will be selected by the MoA to bear responsibilities and perform activities as Quarantine officer and staff.

Section 9... Information about importation by the Importer--- Every importer must inform a Quarantine Officer, at least 15 days prior about the importation of animal and animal products, in a prescribed procedure.

Section 10... Sizeable animal and animal products, etc. ---- If after the completion of scheduled examination of imported animal or animal product, in the quarantine period, is found ----

- (A) examined animal is identified as diseased, and the disease is not curable by treatment;
or
- (B) the animal product identified as contaminated and it is not eligible as human or animal feed; then the identified diseased animal or diseased animal's in contact animal body cover, excreta, equipment, grass, straw, cage or other stuff or this animal product will be sizeable.

Section 11...Settlement or arrangement of seized animal etc. ---- Sizeable animal and animal product or animal body cover, excreta, equipment, grass, straw and cage, under section 10, shall be handed over to the concern District Superintendent (DS) immediately after seizing order, and he/she (DS) will take measure, of its use, handover,

destruction or removal or in any other procedure to settle or arrange according to determined procedure.

Section 12... Rules for exportation of animal or animal product---- In case of exportation of any animal or animal product, conditions of quarantine to be followed will be fixed by regulation.

Section 13... Rules regarding Importation of animal or animal product without legal import license --- If any animal or animal product is imported without legal import license, and if this animal is not affected by infectious or contagious disease, or the animal product is not contaminated, then the MoA could settle all required processes by determined procedure.

Section 14... Appeal against Administrative Order, etc. ---

(1) To fulfill the purpose of the law, any order or instruction given by Director, NLB or Quarantine Officer (QO) that makes any person affected or aggrieved, then to get retribution, that affected or aggrieved person may appeal within 30 days of the order given, ----

(A) to the MoA, if the order is given by the Director, NLB; and

(B) to the Director, NLB, if the order is given by the Quarantine Officer.

(2) Any appeal filed under the sub-section (1) that has to be settled less than 90 days of filing.

Section 15... Non-encumbrance (Indemnity). --- Civil or Criminal case could not be filed or any other legal action cannot be taken against the MoA, Director NLB, QO or his/her subordinate staff or any person, if any person is affected or aggrieved due to any action taken by them innocently under this Law.

Section 16... Exemption. --- The MoA can exempt any class of animal or animal or animal product, through Hand-Bill notification subjected to conditions listed in that Notice.

Section 17... Offence committed by Company etc. ---- Under this Act, if any offence is committed by any company, it will be considered that such every director, manager, secretary, partner, officer and staff of that company, which is directly involved in the offence, has committed the offence unless he/she can prove that the offence was beyond his/her knowledge or he/she tried his/her best to restrain.

Explanation— in this section ---

(A) “Company” includes commercial organization, shared business, committee, association and organization; and

(B) In case of commercial organization “Director” means its any partner or member of board of directorate.

Section 18... Offence undertaken for trial ----- Any court shall not undertake any case under this Act for trial without the written complain of Quarantine Officer.

Section 19... Trial of offence by Magistrate, etc. ---- Offences under this Act will be trialed by a Civil Court Magistrate or Judicial Court Magistrate where applicable.

Section 20... Sentence/punishment.--- If any person violates any of this Act or any Rule of Regulation or fails to accomplish responsibility or fails to carry out order, then

the person shall be imprisoned for maximum two years, or maximum LD\$. 10,000 (LD\$ ten thousand) penalty or shall be sentenced by both because of such violation or failure.

Section 21... Appeal. --- Appeal could be lodged in an authoritative session court against any judgment or order given by a Civil Court Magistrate or Judicial Court Magistrate under this Act.

Section 22... Application of Criminal procedure. --- Depending on the non-inconsistency with the Rules of this Act, criminal procedure will be applicable in case of inquiry of the offence, judgment, appeal and other pertinent matters.

Section 23... Cognoscibility and bailability of offences --- Offences will be Non- cognizable and bailable under this Act.

Section 24... Authority of making regulation ---

(1) To fulfill the objectives of this law, MoA shall make regulations by Hand-Bill Notification.

(2) Rules shall be made on all or any of the subjects stated below in this regulation, without hampering the totality of the power given under the sub-section (1), viz. –

- (A) Determination of conditions to be followed before, during or after importation of animal and animal product;
- (B) Determination of disembarkation, inspection, quarantine, seizure, detention and treatment system of animal and animal product;
- (C) Determination of proper examination system to identify disease;
- (D) Assessment of fees for health certificate, if necessary treatment or vaccination in case of animal import or export;
- (E) Assessment of fees for eligibility certificate and form in case of animal product import or export;
- (F) Determination of boundary of embarkation and disembarkation place for import and export;
- (G) Fixation of rate of quarantine expenditure of animal and animal product and arrangement of its collection;
- (H) Determination of cleaning and disinfection system of premises, vehicle and other places related with quarantine; and
- (I) Determination of identification procedure of imported animal.

Section 25... Annulment and Protection -----

- (1) The Plant and Animal Quarantine Act. 1949-50 (XXXIX, sec.2; L. 1948-49, Ch. IX; L.1937, ch.II, L. 1949-50, Ch. XXIX, sec.3) has hereby been annulated.
- (2) Despite this annulment, immediate before activation of this Law, if there is any case under trial, then that will be settled by the annulated Act as if this Act has not been activated.