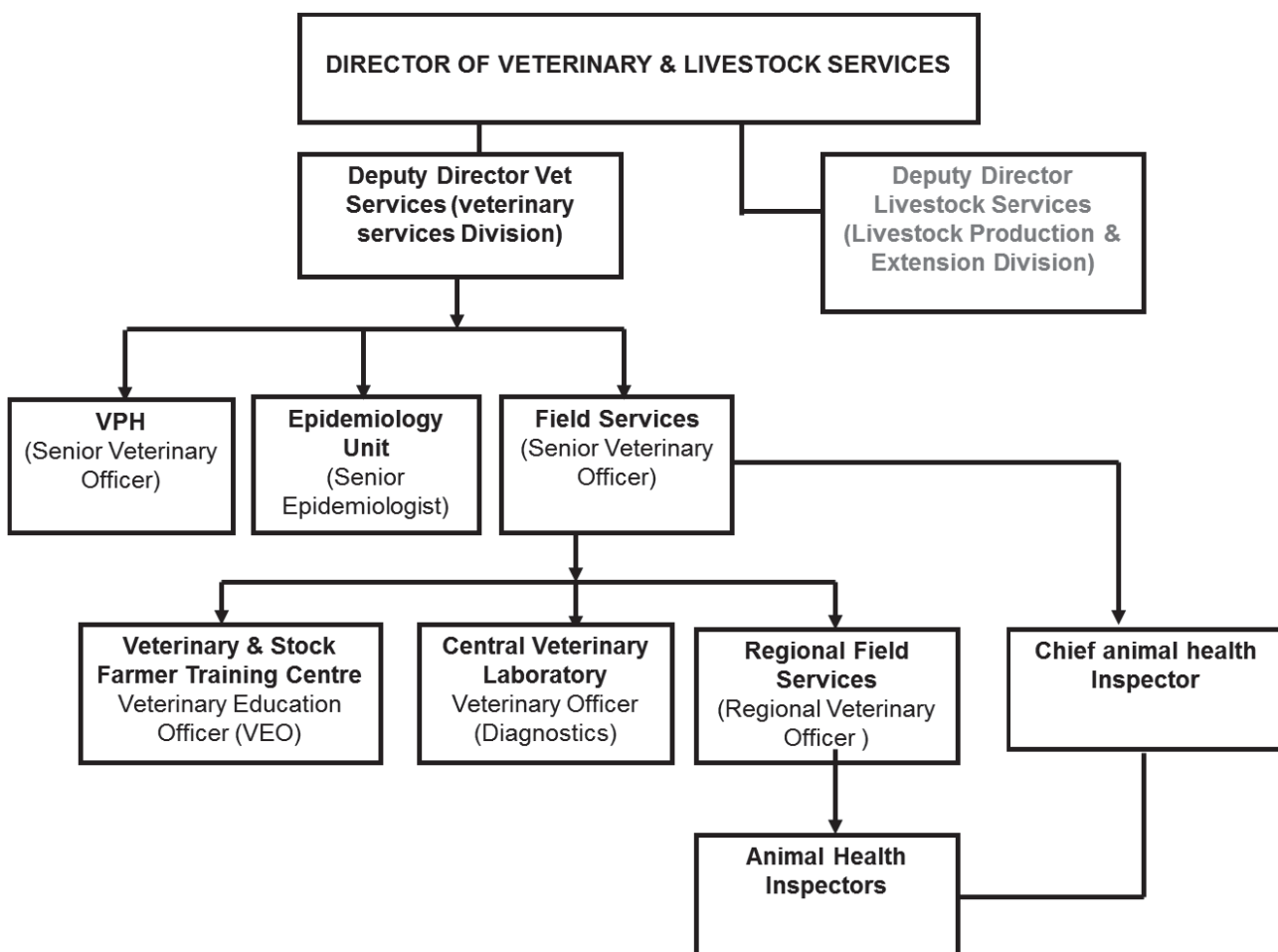


# 1.0 Organisation of the National Veterinary Services

National Veterinary Services (Veterinary Services Division) falls under the Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services in the Ministry of Agriculture, the latter Department which is under the leadership of the Director of Veterinary and Livestock Services (DVLS) who heads the two Divisions, Veterinary Services, and Animal Production and Extension. The DVLS is amply assisted by two Deputies, first being the Deputy Director - Veterinary Services in-charge of Veterinary Services and the Deputy Director - Animal Production and Extension in-charge of Livestock Production and Extension Divisions respectively. The organogram for National Veterinary Services is shown below.



**Figure 1:** Organisational Structure of the Department of Veterinary Services

The Veterinary Services Division is divided into three main sections being Field Services, Veterinary Public Health and Veterinary Epidemiology Unit which are all headed by Senior Veterinary Officers.

### Veterinary Field Services Section

The Field Services Section is headed by the Senior Veterinary Officer who is responsible for four category units being Regional Veterinary Field Services, Central Veterinary Laboratory and Veterinary Training.

### **Veterinary Field Services**

Under the Veterinary Field Services, the country is divided administratively into four (4) regions headed by Regional Veterinary Officers and Veterinary Officers who both report to the Senior Veterinary Officer (Field Services). In carrying out the administrative and technical work of the region Veterinary Officers are assisted by Senior Animal Health Inspectors. Regional veterinary authorities share the responsibility of managing 28 sub-regional offices divided as follows; eight in Lubombo, six in Hhohho, seven in Manzini and seven in Shiselweni. Sub-regional offices are under the jurisdiction of Animal Health Inspectors and Assistant Animal Health Inspectors who report to the Senior Animal Health Inspectors. At the primary animal health level, which is the dip-tank there are Veterinary Assistants who conduct dipping and all other allowed primary animal health activities at farm and dip-tank level. Veterinary Assistants are assisted by Dip Tank Assistants (DTA) and Dip tank Committees (DTC) in managing and carrying out their duties at the dip-tank level/interface. DTAs and DTC members are community members selected for the purpose by the community. Veterinary Assistants are supervised by Assistant Animal Health Inspectors (AAHI) and Animal Health Inspectors (AHI) at the sub-regional level.

In facilitating the work at Field Service level, there is a support wing at headquarters also supervised by the Senior Veterinary Officer (Field Services), the wing of the Chief Animal Health Inspector (CAHI). The CAHI assist the SVO and Directorate in national and administrative issues pertaining to technical work of the animal health inspectorate level and leads the dip-tank construction team with its resources.

### **Central Veterinary Laboratory**

The Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) whose head is the Veterinary Officer (Diagnostics) is responsible for all veterinary diagnostic work. The Veterinary Officer (Diagnostics) is assisted by the Senior Laboratory Technologist who supervises Laboratory Technologists and the rest of the staff.

### **Veterinary and Farmer Training Centre**

The Veterinary and Farmer Training Centre (VFTC) is responsible for training of Veterinary Assistants who once taken by the system advance to occupy the various levels in the Animal Health Inspectorate Cadre. The VFTC is headed by the Veterinary Officer (Education) duly assisted by the Assistant Veterinary Education Officer, Lecturers and other technical and non-technical support staff. The Veterinary Officer (Education) reports to the Senior Veterinary Officer (Field Services).

### **The Veterinary Public Health Section**

Veterinary Public Health (VPH) is a section that is headed by the Senior Veterinary Officer (VPH) and is responsible for ensuring that food of animal origin produced in the country and that which is imported meet safety requirements according to local and international guidelines and standards. The Meat Hygiene Section is a specific area under the VPH whose mandate includes the provision of inspection services for purposes of export as well as for locally consumed products. Meat Hygiene activities directly falls under the responsibility of the Veterinary Officer (Meat Hygiene) who then reports to the Senior Veterinary Officer (VPH). Categories of staff under the VPH and Meat Hygiene Section include the Meat Inspectors, Veterinary Assistants and various support staff.

### **The Veterinary Epidemiology Unit**

The Veterinary Epidemiology Unit reports to the Directorate (DVLS and Deputy Director Veterinary Services) The function of the Unit is the collection, collation, and synthesis of data to produce animal health situation and analysis reports for local and international purposes; the type of reports that will provide technical and scientific advice to the Director on animal health control strategies to keep the Department relevant to its mandate. Risk analysis forms part of the analysis tools used by the Unit. The Unit is headed by the Senior Epidemiologist working with the Epidemiologist. Other categories of staff in order of seniority are the Senior Animal Health Inspector, Assistant Animal Health Inspector, Veterinary Assistant and Information and Network support officer.