

## TRACING THE MISSING LINK IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ONE HEALTH APPROACH IN KENYA: THE BIG QUESTION IS 'HAS KENYA IMPLEMENTED THE CONCEPT OF ONE HEALTH APPROACH WITHIN ITS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM'



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### Key Note Address Abstract:

There is evidence that Kenya has already started the implementation of One Health (OH) approach that integrates human, animal, Plants and environmental approaches to management of zoonotic diseases which has gained momentum in the last decade as part of a strategy to prevent and control emerging infectious diseases. However, there are few examples of how an OH approach can be established in a country. Kenya establishment of an OH office, referred to as the Zoonotic Disease Unit (ZDU) in 2011 is a step in the right direction but not enough for Kenyans start reaping the benefits of OH approach in the management of diseases at all levels. The ZDU bridges the animal and human health sectors with a senior epidemiologist deployed from each ministry; and a goal of maintaining collaboration at the animal and human health interface towards better

prevention and control of zoonosis but seems to have lost out completely on the Plant component together with Nutrition and Dietetics which actually gives a direct link to the human continuum. However it has been noted that the country is adding an ecologist to the ZDU to ensure that environmental risks are adequately addressed in emerging disease control. In Conclusion, OH has not gained track in the Ministry of Health in Kenya despite being implemented since 2011 by the veterinarians through ILRI and COHESA. Hence the need to Institutionalize OH in the MOH.

### About

Prof. Gordon Nguka (PhD) holds a Dip in Clinical Medicine and Surgery, Bsc. Foods Nutrition Nutrition and Dietetics from Egerton University, Msc. Clinical Nutrition and Pediatric epidemiology, McGill University in Montreal Canada, PhD in Medical Dietetics and Pediatric Physiology and a Post doctorate in Randomized Control Clinical trials of Nutrients and Food products from Emory University, Atlanta Georgia and is serving as an Associate Professor in clinical nutrition and Dietetics in the department of Nutritional Science and Director Open, Distance and E-Learning of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST). He is also a registered consultant in Kenya in the Area of Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics. From November 2018 was elected the chairman and President of the African Nutritional Sciences Research Consortium (AN-SRC) for a Five year term. From September 2018 was elected by Nutrition and Dietetics academic representative Public and private Universities to represent them in KNDI council as per cap 253B of the Laws of Kenya and Now Chairing The accreditation committee of the Kenya Nutritionists and Dieticians Institute (KNDI).