MEADERS FEEDS LTD

SYMPOSIUM 2016

LE LABOURDONNAIS HOTEL

THURSDAY 06 OCTOBER 2016

09:00 HOURS

Mr Yannick Lagesse, chairperson of the board of Meaders Feeds Ltd (MFL)

Mr Jocelyn Fanchette, Managing Director of MFL

Members of the board of MFL

Head of public institutions and private companies

International speakers

All Farmers and Partners of MFL
Ladies and Gentlemen

• I am greatly pleased and deeply honoured to be in this midst this morning and associate myself with this symposium which is indeed a laudable initiative convened every two years by the MFL to foster development of the poultry industry.

• The local poultry sector is undoubtedly our national pride and it is pointless to note here that it constitutes one of the main pillar of the agri-food industries.

• I learnt from historical records that, in about half a century ago, it all started out of no more than a small backyard chicken pen, which through will power,
business flair and sheer perseverance of one of our fellow countryman, turned into a fast growing business activity.

- Let me seize this opportunity to pay tribute and highly commend initiatives of this unmistakable figure of our local agri-business sector, Mr Michel de Speville.

- Our local poultry industry produces today around 48,000 tonnes of chicken meat and 12 million eggs to supply an annual per capita needs of about 40 kg in terms of chicken meat and 120 egg-units.
• Latest trend indicates that the consumption pattern is fast growing in absolute quantity as well as poultry-based product variety.

• I believe this would surely constitute a potential opportunity for further growth both in terms of markets and product development.

• Be it what it may, the capabilities developed to date assures the country not only a 100% self-sufficiency in poultry products but also a pool of exportable capacity in terms of experience and expertise in the poultry sector which are recognised and widely put to service of several countries in the Australo-African region.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

• the agricultural sector is very sensitive to natural calamities which from time to time unfortunately bring every forward leap to sudden check.

• As you all know, the country was severely hit by repeated disease outbreak over last three months. Firstly, we had the Foot and Mouth Disease which affected the livestock sector followed by unusually high level of salmonellose infection on small scale poultry farms.

• My Ministry has acted promptly and has taken drastic but bold measures to deal with the dire situation.
• These measures have proved fruitful and we have been able to limit casualties to affected sites and curb all risks of proliferation.

• Nonetheless, the country has incurred heavy financial losses as well as severe setback from a social and economic viewpoint.

• As a caring Government, our first action in response to this terrible situation was geared in providing quick relief to farmers who have had all of their breeding stock culled.

• Albeit our financial constraints, the Ministry has urgently mobilised an amount of Rs 30 million and
paid compensation to more than 87 importers and livestock breeders as at date.

- Let me take this opportunity to reassure all small scale poultry farmers who were affected by salmonellose problem and were forced out of rearing activities for bio-safety reasons that a compensation plan is being presently worked out by my Ministry and will be implemented shortly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- in dealing with this dire situation, our limited resources are being stretched, and technical capacity, in particular, bio-safety and surveillance system, as well, put to serious test.
• It is expected that this load of unpredictable events and setbacks will have serious impact on implementation of our 5-year Strategic Plan 2016-2020 for development of the livestock sector.

• As one and all would have noted several issues associated with farm management practices, bio-safety and disease surveillance have been highlighted and which indeed constitute areas of deep concern.

• I firmly believe that these issues need to be critically rethought, if not re-engineered, and translated into realistic short and medium term proposals intended to consolidate and strengthen our
bio-security and disease surveillance systems for the local animal production sector.

- This is indeed a challenging task to which Government and my Ministry are fully committed.

- But alone we cannot win. We would need a collegiate effort of all stakeholders.

- This symposium thus comes at opportune time and I note with keen interest relevance of the themes on the agenda which will for sure be intensely discussed by a floor regrouping international experience and competence.

- I am convinced that you will spare no effort in this endeavour and come up with meaningful proposals
to share and contribute in consolidating achievements of the local poultry sector.

- Let me end this note by reassuring my full support and conveying to you all best wishes for successful deliberation.

- Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.