

**SPEECH BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR THE
LILONGWE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Prof G.Y. Kanyama Phiri

**AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF A SHORT COURSE ON
DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSES USING STATA: AN
INTRODUCTORY COURSE**

The Malawi Institute of Management

10th November, 2014

The Director of Ceremonies- Dr. Charles Jumbe who is also Director of Research and Outreach at LUANAR

The Acting Director of CARD - Dr Alexander Kalimpira.

The Workshop Facilitators, Dr. Thabbie Chilongo from LUANAR and Mr. Francis Darko from Purdue University, USA

Training Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It with great pleasure and honour that I stand here this morning to perform the official opening of the Training course on *Data Management and Analyses Using STATA: An Introductory Course*.

Before I proceed any further, let me join all the previous speakers in

welcoming you to this important training course. Indeed, this is an important and special training programme because it is probably the first of its kind for the government officials in past few years.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, before I proceed any further, let me remind you that since agriculture is the mainstay of the national economy, we bear a special responsibility of designing, implementing and reviewing crucial national development programmes that significantly impact on national economic growth and improvement in people's livelihoods. This is a noble task that has to be undertaken with not only a sense of commitment but also with requisite technical skills.

Mr Chairman, , the Malawi Government developed the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) which sets government's priorities for achieving economic growth and improving rural livelihoods. You may wish to know that recognizes the importance of institutional development and capacity building to improve development planning and investment management at the national, regional and district levels.

Mr Chairman, it is in support of government's goals that the Centre for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD) at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) implemented a research project titled "Guiding Investments in

Sustainable Agricultural Intensification in Africa (GISAMA)” whose goal is to improve the incomes and food security status of African Farmers and consumers through contributing to sustainable agricultural productivity growth in Africa. This is a collaborative research project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for a period of over 4 years from 2012 to 2016. The project is led by the Michigan State University’s Food Security Group and involves 12 other African research and public sector organisations from Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia and Malawi.

This course is one of the capacity building outputs of the project being carried out by CARD in collaboration with Purdue University and Michigan State University. The course is specifically targeting Monitoring & Evaluation Officers, Development Planners, Data Analysts, Data Managers, Statisticians and Economists from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Water Development; the Department of Economic Planning and Development; the Office of the President and Cabinet; as well as interested members of academic staff at LUANAR. I do not need to over-emphasize the risks of government making policy decisions from officers who are not up to date in data analysis.

Ladies and Gentlemen: You may wish to note that STATA is certainly one of the best and the most user-friendly software currently

available for data management and statistical analyses in all fields and disciplines. This course is designed to suit the needs for those who wish to acquire basic skills to analyze statistical data sets and produce technical reports. The course is offered as a five-day short course on basic statistical methods and the use of the statistical package STATA version 13.

After completion of this course the delegate should be able to perform data entry, manipulation and analysis in STATA. It is my sincere hope that delegates will greatly benefit from the lecture notes, training manual, free lessons delivered by the facilitators and also from the free latest version of STATA 13 SE to be installed in your respective laptops or electronic media devices.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, LUANAR is committed to assisting the Government of Malawi to develop the capacity of its government officers to undertake the complex analysis for policy formulation and decision making. I have been informed that CARD will mount an advanced STATA training course to build on the skills that will be acquired during this introductory course for undertaking complicated analysis if this course is satisfactory. Its success depends on your commitment to the course. In this regard, it is my sincere hope that the officers who have been nominated to attend this training programme

will take it seriously. Your show interest and dedication to this introductory course will surely be an incentive to hold another course.

With these remarks, I wish to declare the training course on *Data Management and Analyses Using STATA: An Introductory Course* officially open and I wish you all the best.

Thank you very much for your attention.