

**SPEECH BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR  
AGRICULTURAL RESERACH AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Assoc. Prof. Alexander Kalimbira**

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

The Malawi Institute of Management

14<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

The Director of Ceremony

Dr. Charles Jumbe, Director of Research and Outreach at LUANAR and  
also one of the Facilitators,

The Acting Director of CARD - Dr Alexander Kalimbira.

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

Class Representative, Ms Marjorie Shema

Training Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

I stand here today to perform the official closing of the Training course on  
*Data Management and Analyses Using STATA: An Introductory Course*.  
Indeed, this was an important and special training programme.

**The Director of Ceremony, Ladies and Gentlemen:** LUANAR through the  
Centre for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD) 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. CARD mounted this advanced STATA training course to build on the skills to undertake complicated analysis.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:** I wish to convey my appreciation to the delegates for showing interest and participating in this course. CARD received an overwhelming response to the course beyond what the limited budget could cover. In this regard, it is my sincere hope that the officers who had been nominated to attend this training programme took this course seriously. Your interest and dedication to this introductory course has surely been an incentive to hold another course, and CARD has already embarked on the process of seeking for funding to mount a similar and/or advanced STATA Course.

**The Director of Ceremony, Ladies and Gentlemen:** I believe that the delegates are now able to perform data entry, manipulation and analysis in STATA and that they have greatly benefited from the lecture notes, training manual, free lessons delivered by the facilitators and also from the free latest version of STATA 13 SE installed in the respective laptops.

I also believe that the skills gained during the training will go a long way to improve development planning and investment management at national, regional and district levels in our nation Malawi, and abroad.

**The Director of Ceremony, Ladies and Gentlemen:** Allow me to mention LUANAR's sincere appreciation to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the financial support to the "Guiding Investment in Sustainable Agricultural Intensification in Africa (GISAMA) Project" through which this

course is one of the Project's capacity building outputs. I would also like to recognise Purdue University and the Michigan State University for their collaboration with CARD/LUANAR on the success of the GISAMA Project, as well as these institutions' participation in the capacity building outputs of the Project.

Lastly, may I applaud CARD, the Course Coordinator - Dr Charles Jumbe, the Facilitators and the Secretariat for the wonderful job carried out in hosting such an important course. Your preparations and delivery of the course have been successful as evidenced by the delegates' attendance and participation to this course.

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

Thank you very much for your attention.