

**Speech Read at the Graduation Ceremony of the Masters of Science Program in
Land Management & Land Tenure on the 29th March, 2006**

Madam Vice President, Invited guests, graduands, liebe Damen und Herren, herzlich willkommen. Ach so, wir sind in Deutschlad und wir können auch Deutsch sprechen however I ask for permission *to continue in a language that is not as perfect as German.*

On behalf of the graduating class, it gives us great pleasure to address you on this auspicious occasion marking our graduation from the Master of Science Land Management and Land Tenure Program.

First we would like to register our sincere appreciation to those who have continued to support this program. Specifically we would like to acknowledge the roles played by:

1. Die Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD)
2. Die Foerderkreis Bodenordnung und Lanentwicklung Muenchen eV - for their kind gesture in paying fees for up-to 10 students in this program.
3. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for sponsoring 2 students
4. The Hans Seidle Stiftung Foundation.
5. We also acknowledge the presence of self or privately sponsored students
6. Technische Universität München

In addition we wish to acknowledge the support offered to this program by institutions such as the Deutsche Gezellschaft für Technische Zussamen arbeit (GTZ). In addition we are aware that certain individuals have continued to support this program in one way or another. We are indeed grateful to all of you and we forever remain indebted. To you we say *vielen dank, ahsante sana, meda ase, madlobt, gracias, thank you very much*

Let us join in giving a hearty clap.

Secondly, we would like to extend our gratitude to those who have spent time to ensure that we have achieved our desire to graduate today with a Masters Degree in Land Management and Land Tenure. On this note we appreciate the efforts of Prof. Magel. In particular however, we acknowledge the tireless efforts of Dr. Babette Wehrmann. In addition we acknowledge the collective efforts of the staff of department including Dr. Klaus and Ms. Huberta Bock.

Ladies and Gentlemen, The program in Land Management and Land Tenure has given us an opportunity to interact and therefore exchange ideas at great levels. We have learnt that land issues are not and should not be restricted to developing countries. We can point out with confidence that countries all over the world need land management in one form or another. For example in the context of the EU this is evidenced by the Village Renewal and Land Consolidation programs. Through this program we have become aware of the dynamism in land management issues. These range from land conflicts, informal settlements and customary tenure systems. Sharpening and bringing at par our skills was thus inevitable. The interdisciplinary approach to the issue of Land Management and Land Tenure in addition suited our desire to contribute substantially in the formulation of an integrated approach towards land management and land tenure in our respective countries.

However, we feel obligated to bring to your caring attention that this program still requires a lot of polishing to turn it into a great program. The course is weakened by the fact that it lacks adequate teaching and supporting staff. Work has essentially been left to one person!

We think this is overburdening, does not provide for in-depth coverage of issues, is taxing to the students and does not provide for collegial decisions necessary for transparency and accountability. This course has also not been adequately integrated in the university, and while this may not be restricted to this program but common to the exclusive English taught courses, efforts must be made to have participation from German students. A point to take in is that we are in Germany, and we are looking

forward to interacting with our hosts not only socially but also academically. Let us remember that interaction in an academic setting cannot be left simply to social gatherings.

There is need to review this course to develop a focus and remove the generality that is currently dominant in the program. This would serve to introduce a critical academic outlook. In addition the course should be made flexible to allow students to specialize in different aspects of land management.

We advice that urgent steps be taken to employ more staff for the program, to ensure continued appeal. If employment is a problem then the course could simply be integrated with other University programs. It is clear that the University has very good staff who could be involved but they are not fully involved.

Madam Vice President, the university should rise to the occasion and take ownership of this program. This is a great program that needs to be supported to enable it grow and have a positive effect in the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, criticism when offered should present a case for study and action. We believe that failing to speak is harmful and irresponsible. We do hope that those concerned will take necessary steps to sort out the issues that we have raised.

Madam Vice President, according to a recent survey by the Spanish based organization, TUM is the best university in Germany, the 8th best in Europe and 46th best university in the world. We are proud to have been associated with the TUM.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have enjoyed our stay in Germany. As a group or individually we have visited several parts of your beautiful country. We admire your infrastructure, your culture, your technology, your hardworking citizens and we forever remain your ambassadors.

Liebe Damen und Herren, vielen dank und wir wunshen ihnen einen shoenen abend.

Eric Nyadimo

29th March, 2006.