



MUNI UNIVERSITY

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EULOGY AT THE FUNERAL OF PROFESSOR CHRISTINE DRANZOA AT MUNI UNIVERSITY GRADUATION SQUARE ON SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2022

Today I stand in front of you to pay tribute to my supervisor, mentor, sister, and my senior colleague, Prof. Christine Dranzoa.

My first encounter with Prof. Christine Dranzoa occurred in Makerere University in 1991. when I joined the Faculty of Science as a first-year student. She did not waste time to advance guidance and advice at that time. I still remember her words to a group of students from the West Nile region, that: ***"You have not come here to fail but to pass; the trick is focus and hard work!"*** She mentioned these words without even inquiring to know the part of West Nile we came from! These words sunk deep in my heart and I am sure this guidance contributed to what I am today.


The time I have spent with Prof. Christine Dranzoa in Muni University brought me closer to her values, virtues, and principles. I can competently say that Prof was:

- 1) Dynamic, strong, and hardworking lady, who invested most of her lifetime in seeking for solutions to challenges afflicting the University and society. In search for solutions to societal problems, she touched the lives of so many vulnerable and underprivileged persons.
- 2) I have known her as a no-nonsense person who actually was so much interested in the welfare of everybody. She had a soft heart for the suffering person! She would therefore readily find time for students who were genuinely suffering; students who were problematic; and staff with social challenges. This was the true character of Prof. Cristine Dranzoa. She was a counselor, an advisor, a mentor, a good Samaritan, and a person with empathetic heart.
- 3) She would handle student issues calmly and indeed took time to understand students' voices by creating time to listen to students at least once a semester. This earned her the respectable title of MAMA.

- 4) When she readily identified a good student with an insurmountable challenge, she would quickly identify an opportunity for such a student so as to redeem his/her problem.
- 5) She was so extremely passionate about Grants writing. Christine was an environmental police woman. When she got to know about the bamboo tree and its values, the entire world knew the passion Christine had in promotion of bamboo species in environmental restoration and other uses.
- 6) In administration and leadership, she was a courageous, fearless, and a spirited fighter for the course of justice, equity, and fairness.
- 7) She executed her role as a vision bearer with empathy, responsibility, accountability, honesty, and humility. She was a great philanthropist in all spheres of life and would not hesitate to make use of her personal resources to make people happy.
- 8) She was a dynamic social payer. Any social formation focusing on the wellbeing of humanity would be a great attractor to her emotions. Therefore, she was a member of:
 - (i) A rotary club of Arua,
 - (ii) A God-fearing person,
 - (iii) SACCO groups,
 - (iv) Gender activist,
 - (v) Educationist,
 - (vi) A modern urban farmer,
 - (vii) A lady with a high business acumen. The list is long!

On behalf of Muni University Senate, Management, staff, and students, I would like to thank everyone who has joined us in celebrating the life of our fallen heroine; all those who have condoled with us during this difficult moment; all the staff of Muni University for the solidarity and support during this difficult moment. The words: THANK YOU are grossly insufficient to appreciate your indulgence. May the good Lord Bless you more and more.

I pray that the Good Lord rests the soul of Prof. Christine Dranzoa in eternal peace.



Assoc. Prof. Simon K. Anguma
DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (AA)

EULOGY FOR LATE PROFESSOR CHRISTINE DRANZOA
Presented on 4/7/2022 at Muni University Graduation Ground,
Courtesy of Muni University Council

By
Dr. James Lam-Lagoro (PhD)

Chair and members of Muni University Council, Chair and members of Muni University Appointments Board, Ag. Chair and members of Muni University Senate, the Academic and Non-academic Saff, the Students, the bereaved family and the entire Muni University community, fellow mourners.

I feel strongly grieved and heartbroken to give this un timely eulogy in honour of late Prof. Christine Dranzoa who was not only my supervisor at work, but close friend and neighbour at Anyafio. At the same time I feel humbled that I have been honoured to join the Muni University Community at this sad event. If I did not come to pay homage in the funeral of late Prof. Christine then my spirit would have troubled me.

I came to know late Prof. Christine in early January of 2010, following our appointments by government to be on the task force of West Nile University (Muni University) on 30th December, 2009.

My impression about her at the first meeting we held in her office at Makerere University, Directorate of Research and Graduate Studies was that His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda made the right choice in appointing late Prof. Christine as chair of the taskforce of Muni University.

Late Prof. Christine was quite thorough about the core objectives of higher education in this country, which vacillates around; promoting access for all who qualify to join higher education, provision of quality and relevant education, equity in enrolment, the support for affordability of programmes offered, the promotion of supportive governance and preferment of the Public Private Partnership as a strategy for sustainable university development.

In the same meeting, I noticed that late Prof. Christine was quite passionate about girl child education, the people' of the North and particularly the people of West Nile region to the extent that whenever she wanted to make a strong point about the region, she used to say; "the coming

of Muni University in West Nile region should become a launch-pad for meaningful transformation of the region". Her vision was that Muni University attains the state-of-the-art standing in all University's functions.

On 30th may, 2012 she appointed me as Chairperson of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) steering committee for West Nile region. Her silent instruction to me as chair to this committee was; "I want you to use this office to uplift our region and not for using the appointment for just enriching your Curriculum Vitae (CV)."

Indeed in the first enrolment of Muni University in the Academic Year 2014/15, she supported our enrolment plan of giving West Nile region 60% of the 100 slots given by government under the Government's Sponsorship Scheme. To do this, we had to invoke Article 28(3) of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, thus:

"The admission committee of a Public University shall take into consideration affirmative action in favour of marginalized groups on the basis of gender, disability and disadvantaged schools."

Our plan was to continue petitioning this clause for at least 5 years so as to make Muni University relevant and enable the West Nile region to continue sharing into the few slots of Government Sponsored Students.

Late Prof. Christine knew and was keen about growing University's Departments and Faculty as well as promoting Academic Collegiality, Innovations and Research (which is why she appointed the Director of Research Dr. Alfred Alumai with the coming of the taskforce). She was keen on publications and storage of academic facts in repositories. Late Prof. Christine was always fast to delineate statements of Academic Freedom from Free Speeches and this earned her the Managerial and Administrative support from most of us!

At times late Prof. Christine proved too tough if she wanted to be heard at Top Management meetings and this toughness would earn her the desired results to propel the university forward.

She was quite particular about those who were to be appointed to the various Organs of the University and she wanted persons of reputable accolades. Late Prof. Christine was a champion of multi-tasking and respected every person's contribution. She was skilled in networking as well

as in creating partnership and collaborations. My single prayer is that the Muni University Search Committee will find a near caliber of Prof. Christine to put on the shoes she left.

Late Prof. Christine had a very high level of resilience too. In the near 7 years I worked in Muni University I only noticed her low moment once and that was in 2015 when she actually wanted to resign because of some administrative hitches!

Finally what has baffled me most about Prof. Christine after my tenure of service ended at Muni University pre-maturely in March 2016 was that she continued to seek me, consult me and would always want to find out about my progress.

Prof. Christine my Chair of the taskforce, Prof. Christine my VC, Prof. Christine my Mentor, Prof. Christine my neighbour, Prof. Christine the Chair of that small committee you called Team No Sleep, Prof. Christine my Parish companion with whom we met at Christ the King for the 11 o'clock Mass; FARE THEE WELL AND MAY THE REPOSE OF YOUR SOUL FIND SOLACE WITH GOD ALMIGHTY. AMEN! **Thank you Chair of council!**

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Lam-Lagoro', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. James Lam-Lagoro (PhD)

Member of Muni University Taskforce/Former Academic Registrar

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