Surname: Murekatete
Other Names: Brigitte
Gender: Female
Reg No: 08/M/KAB/MADS/097/W
Programme: Master of Arts in Development Studies
Academic Unit: Postgraduate Unit
Title of Dissertation: HUMAN SETTLEMENT POLICY (IMIDUGUDU) AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA :A CASE STUDY OF KITAZIGURWA MODEL VILLAGE RWAMAGANA DISTRICT 2009-2010
Supervisor: Prof. George Alibaruho
Submission Date: 2010

ABSTRACT
The human settlement policy (IMIDUGUDU) of the Rwandan government was a response to the pressing settlement needs brought about by the 1994 genocide which caused millions of deaths of Tutsi and internal displacement of the population. The objective of this research was to evaluate the role of IMIDUGUDU policy in addressing the consequent human settlement challenges, taking Kitazigurwa Model Village in Rwamagana District from its creation in 2009, as a case study. Specifically, the research focused on the following questions: are there prospects that the National Human Settlement Policy can improve the quality of houses in rural areas in view of the fact that most houses that were built in rural settlement centres during the emergency period (1997) are still incomplete? Given, that there are still many homeless families, particularly those who are vulnerable, could the IMIDUGUDU policy facilitate the creation of new and adequate housing? What are the socio-economic consequences of the IMIDUGUDU policy for people living in Kitazigurwa village and how does the policy improve Agriculture, Livestock and Environmental protection. A sample survey covering 30 families in this village and interviews (unstructured and structured) and conversations with respondents were conducted. Additionally, a questionnaire and structured interviews were administered to twelve (12) local leaders of Rwamagana District and the Eastern Province. Analysis of the data and the results showed that after settling in this village since 2009, the living conditions have been improved in the new houses compared to the previous houses, which were very small, scattered and constructed with poor building materials. The current houses have helped the local population to improve the standard of living, and limit the spread of many diseases such are skin and respiratory diseases. Improved security was another factor that the local population appreciated in the village. The social and economic conditions of people living in the model village have moderately improved. On one hand, there was an improvement for some sub-sectors like Health, Water and Sanitation and Social Cohesion; on the other hand, there was still a lot of work to be done for improvement in some sectors like Education, Creation of off farm activities and a culture of saving. From the perspective of agriculture and livestock, the population of this Model Village which had a culture of cultivating small and scattered mixed crops farms, now has adopted the new policy of land consolidation. They started also to adopt improved domestic animal breeding where new breeds (hybrid of purebred) have been introduced. Concerning environmental protection, the villagers adopted the use of energy saving stoves which do not
require big quantity of firewood or charcoal; they also dug ditches in their landholdings to fight against erosion and to protect their lake Muhazi. All in all IMIDUGUDU policy has made a difference, compared to what was the case before, but much more lies ahead to be done.