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"I was on my way from M_____ where we had the Annual General Meeting for all 8 associations in Malawi [she is referring to a farmer's association]. When I was on the bus, I was at the back seat with a certain man from Zomba. He went to M_____ where he always goes for his business of selling rice. He began by asking me where I was coming from and I told him that I was coming from the annual General meeting in M_____.

He then began to propose me to be his sexual partner and I refused. I told him to depend on his wife and he should know that the world has changed nowadays, therefore everyone should take care of his/her life. He asked me why I answered him like that and he asked me if I was fearing that I can get AIDS from him. I told him that I have no any experience which can help me know about his body unless he himself tells me that he has AIDS. He asked me if I ever went to the hospital for the blood test about AIDS and I told him that I did not go but I will sometime because I would like to know the truth about my body.

When I said that the man told me that he was okay though he did not go to the hospital for the blood test. He said that he was sure of his body because he is always faithful to his wife. He doesn't move with other women though he stays in M_____ for many days, or even if he goes to any other place for some days. He doesn't see the reason why he should sleep with other women while he is married. I asked him why he proposed me to be his sexual partner yet he knows that he is married and he dislikes having sex with other women because he has got his own wife? He told me that he wants to have two women as his wives. He said that proposing me to be his wife does not mean he likes moving with women but God has shown me to him and he told him to talk with me about marriage. When he finished speaking I asked him why he decided to have two wives yet he knew that there is AIDS in these days and he has already supported that is wife is very faithful. I wanted to know about his wife's problem that made him to look for another wife, but he told me that even Muhammed had 12 wives and in the Bible it said that Abraham had two wives, therefore having more than one wife is not wrong. the best thing and the most important thing that must be followed is being faithful to each other. The women should be faithful and depend on their husband only. the same should apply to the man, he must be faithful and depend on his wives only.

I asked him if it is true that one can be faithful to two or more people in terms of sex, but he said that faithfulness means that nobody in the family, especially the marriage, should have sex with anyone outside. A man can marry more than one wife, he can marry three or 4 wives, but he must make sure that he just depends on those wives and not any other woman who is not his wife. I still continued by asking him about the faithfulness of his wives. I asked him on why he could know one of his wives is unfaithful and I asked him if he doesn't know that many lives can be spoiled because of one partner because if she is not faithful. I told him that having more than one wife is very dangerous in these days unless he uses condoms always to one of his two wives. And I told him that if he has three wives, he should make sure that he is using the condoms with two of his wives and he should not use the condoms with one of his wives. But he told me that he cannot use the condoms because that is a sin to God. God created a person who was called Adam and after some time he created a woman called Hawa. These people married each other and they were bearing children. Had it been that God did not want other people in his world, he could have left Adam and Hawa only and these people couldn't have given birth to any child. But God wanted many people in his world, that is why we are many in this world. He added by telling me that my parents were not abnormal for bearing me, had it been that my parents were using condoms I could have not been born. Condoms are a sin to God and those people who use them will be punished in the day of the judgement.

I tried to convince him by telling him that in the days before things were better because there was not this serious disease of AIDS. The diseases which were there were syphilis, gonorrhoea, bubos and some other diseases excluding AIDS. All those diseases had their treatment and people were healed to them, but in these

days of ours the opposite is true. There is only one dangerous disease which is called AIDS and it has no treatment which can cure it. Many people are passing away because there is no treatment which they use and get recovered. That is why the Government decided to make condoms which can help people to protect their lives against AIDS. To those who manage to abstain themselves from sex, they can stay, but to those who cannot manage without sex they must use condoms in order to protect their lives.

The man continued refusing about the use of condoms and he said that the Islam religion does not accept any Muslims to use the condoms and he said that the Muslim is told to be away from sex and not doing sex but using condoms [I think she meant to say that the Muslim is told to abstain rather than told to use condoms]. Sex is sex and once you do sex with anyone who is not your spouse just know that you have sinned to God. A Muslim is told not to sin therefore if he/she uses a condom when having sex that is a sin., whether to use a condom or not, if you have done sex with anyone who is not your spouse, that is [also?] a sin to our God. We did not continue with our conversation because I reached N_____ Turn-off and I dropped there leaving him proceeding his journey to A_____.

2 November 2002

Some of my friends close to my home came to greet me when I reached home. My friends were Mrs. Y. and N. They both greeted me and Mrs. Y asked me on how I traveled to M_____. I told her that my journey was not fantastic because my son had diarrhea and he was vomiting at the same time. After some minutes I myself began vomiting and I also had diarrhea. In the following day I went to the hospital at D__ Research Station where I received the treatment. When I was on my way speaking on what happened to me, N. asked me if I did not get married there or if I did not sleep with any man there. I told her that I did not sleep with anybody though I had no money for buying what I wanted, but still I did not think of having sex with anyone. I told her that I went there for the Annual General meeting and not to get married. And I also told her that I was ill which means that I couldn't have done anything though I could have that aim of having sex there.

Mrs. Y. asked N. she ever heard somewhere that I have a partner somewhere or if she knows anyone who slept with me? N.refused. She said that she knows nobody and that was why she thought that I do have sex with men somewhere when I go away. During that time we were chatting we heard in the radio news report that people should bear in mind that the most dangerous way of getting AIDS is through having sex with one who is infected. They continued by saying that the best way to avoid it is to be going to MACRO for the blood test. If you are lucky you don't have the virus which causes the AIDS disease. You are lucky enough, therefore you should begin to abstain yourself from having sex with anyone if you can manage. But if you think that you cannot manage abstaining from sex then it is your time to use condoms to protect your life against AIDS.

The announcer also said that if you go to the hospital and be told that you are HIV positive, you must also take care by protecting your life for many days that you can stay alive. You have to use condoms always if you want to have sex but the best way is to stop or abstain from having sex because when you have sex you also add some virus in your body which they spoil some parts of your bodies and kill all the soldiers in your body. In the end you shall see that you keep on being sick oftenly and maybe die.

We all kept quiet listening to the radio and when the announcer finished speaking Mrs. Y. asked N.about the news she had heard in the radio. She told her that these are not happy days. There is no need to make your life happy through sex. Money is nothing [compared to] your life therefore you must take care. She continued telling her that she must go for the checkup and hear the truth about her. If she will hear that she is very well, then lucky she could be, therefore she must follow the instructions which she will be given there at the hospital and it will be very good because she will be told to visit the hospital regularly for more information. But if she doesn't follow the instructions she has done nothing.

N. answered her that she is okay though she did not go to the hospital for her blood test. She thinks that she is okay because her husband was very faithful and she doesn't think that he was having sex with any other woman during the time that they were together in marriage. Since that time she got remarried to another silly man who was fond of drinking but she is sure that her second husband had no time for having sex with anybody but only drinking beer. He always over-drank in his house, it was very difficult to have sex with his wife because he was always tired because of beer. She added that since she was divorced by her second husband she did not get remarried again and she also did not have sex with anyone, therefore she is sure that she has no AIDS. But Mrs. Y. asked her if she knows how her husband was moving and she said to her that the husband was fond of

sleeping outside where he had gone to drink, he was sleeping there. Has she got the whole hope that her husband was only sleeping outside because of beer?

N. said that she only heard about one woman from M_ village who wanted to get married to her husband and he bought a *chitenje* for her. But she also said that the woman her husband wanted to marry was looking silly [retarded?], that that one cannot get AIDS because it is very rare for her to be proposed for marriage or just being a sexual partner.

We all laughed and Mrs. Y. told her that she was lying because if that woman from M_ Village was a silly woman she couldn't have been proposed by Mr. P. (N.'s husband). Had it been that it was very unlikely for her to get married Mr. P. couldn't have proposed her. She is a normal woman as everyone is and that is why your husband proposed her. She continued by telling N. that if her co-wife has AIDS she must know that she has it also, therefore it is good to go to the hospital for a blood test and know the truth about her body. But if she says she is okay before visiting the hospital, that cannot help her.

But N. said that she cannot go to the hospital for that AIDS check-up. If she has it, she will die of it and if she is okay that is her opportunity. She also said that she is not worried because she is not married and she has no any sexual partner. She is just staying like a baby. We all left that story and began chatting, talking about other stories.

4 November 2002

On 4th November, 2002, I went to the Trading Centre where we had the SMAG [farmer's group] meeting in order to tell people about what we heard in M_____ at the Annual General Meeting.

In our SMAG there was one man called Mr. B., the Field Assistant, who our Chairman Mr. N. refused him to join our group. On that day of our meeting, Mr. B. came and he was looking healthier than before.

Before we started our meeting, Mr. Chairman asked the Board of Trustees to meet before the general meeting began. He began by telling us that Mr. B. came but he doesn't know how he can tell him not to come again. He also said that Mr. B. went to the hospital for the Tuberculosis checkup and he was told that he has the T.B. but not serious. He was not admitted to the hospital but he was just given the tablets to drink at home and he was told to go to the nearest hospital for the injections.

Mr. Chairman added that he is not sure that Mr. B. is suffering from Tuberculosis. He thinks that Mr. B. has AIDS therefore he can die anytime.

Our treasurer, Mr. K. asked the chairman on what symptoms or signs that he has seen on Mr. B. that he believes that Mr. B. has AIDS. And Mr. N. the chairman said that he is thin, weak, and found sick most of the times. He also said that Mr. B. himself told him that he was told from the hospital that he should avoid having sex for one year full. He should abstain from having sex even with his wife. He was told that he must begin sleeping with a woman after one year and he should also make sure that during the time that he will begin having sex, he should always be using condoms. He should also avoid hard workings and he should also eat the balanced diet always. He continued by saying that he is doubting that it is the T.B. because he never heard about the use of condoms if one is suffering from Tuberculosis.

Mr. K. told the Chairman that he was wrong, him as the chairman must have waited for his committee to discuss about that matter, and he is there to give the conclusion but not giving out views before his committee members say anything. In addition to that, he said that people who have AIDS are the same as everyone. There is no need to separate them from us. They have the right of doing everything they want. We can even choose him to have a leading position in our SAG because nobody will get his AIDS because we were having meetings together, unless one of our women will think of sleeping with him in order to have money since he is the Field Assistant. But if he will just do what he wants in a SAG as a farmer, that is none of our concern. Let him use his rights and live happily in the world.

Mr. M. added that if he will be chased away from our group he will be feeling lonely and he can die soon because of the loneliness.

Abiti A. said Mr. B. knows what he is doing and there is no need to disturb him. If he has AIDS he will follow what the doctors have told him, he will stay without sleeping with a woman for a year which means that he will be healthy for that whole year as he is today. He will next year be using the condoms with his wife or any other woman, therefore he still will be healthy if he will manage to follow the instructions. What we should all know is that death has no choice. Death kills everyone, not only the AIDS patients. One can die of headache or

without suffering, from any disease, death is everywhere therefore there is no need to chase out someone from our group. Please the Chairman, do him a favor, give him seeds and fertilizer to grow his crops and allow him to be with us always when we have our meetings.

The chairman accepted the request that his Board of Trustee members asked him and he said that he will not say anything about him any more though things may go astray.

Mr. K. told the chairman that he is president of our SMAG therefore he has to accept anything from his people. We closed the small meeting and then we went to the real general meeting for the SMAG.

5 November 2002

I went to the funeral at a closest village to where I am living. A certain young woman died there. She was called M. and she left 3 children.

M. once went to South Africa where her husband was working and she came back because she was sick. When she died, her mother was crying by saying that some jealous people killed her daughter because she is rich, therefore people bewitched her. Many people began murmuring, gossiping, that the mother whose daughter died was just cheating that her daughter was bewitched. I sat near 3 women who were speaking about that story. The women were Abiti B., Abiti A. and Abiti E.

The first person to speak was Abiti B, who said to her friends that the funeral's daughter [the mother] was crying for money which her late daughter was sending her and not that she was concerned about the death of her daughter. Abiti A. answered her that the mother was crying for the money that she was receiving from all three men, those being her son-in-laws. She continued by saying that the late young woman was married to two men and she also had a boyfriend at U. a carpenter. She was once beaten by the carpenter's wife at D_ village.

E. asked Abiti A. to explain how a woman can get married to two men at the same time. Abiti A. explained that M. was first married to a certain man from Blantyre called Mr. C. She gave birth to a child with that man and their marriage ended. After some months gone, she then got remarried to a certain man from D_ village and she went to South Africa (Jubeck) with him. While they were there the woman was divorced and she came back home. She gave birth to two children with her second husband. After some time she went back to South Africa alone for the job and she was working there. When she met with her husband who divorced her, they remarried again and after some time, M. came back home and she went to Blantyre to see her first husband who she gave birth with to one child and agreed to remarry again. The man from Blantyre came to his wife's home and employed piece workers to dig in his wife's land and then he went back to Blantyre where he was working. After some days some properties came from South Africa including money from her husband sending her that she should be going back to South Africa.

She also added that her 3rd sexual partner, Mr. B., is now becoming thin and thin and he mostly is found sick these days. All three of his wives had children but all of them have died, and nobody knows why that thing had happened. Some people are saying that all of B.'s wives are not looking healthy. It seems that all the children died of AIDS and if that is true, then M. has also died of AIDS and not that she was bewitched by anybody as her mother is saying.

E. said that she once heard that M. had the Tuberculosis and she stayed in the hospital for almost a month and she said that she was thinking that M. died of Tuberculosis, but her mother is saying that she had a wound on her leg which started by swelling of that leg. E. said that nobody knows the truth about that death because the woman was pregnant and nobody knows about the owner of that pregnancy among those three men. And she added that M. cannot die of AIDS because she knew about many ways of protecting herself against AIDS since she was going in outside countries and staying there.

Abiti B. answered and she said that going to South Africa does not mean that you have run away from getting AIDS or you have run away from death. AIDS is everywhere in the world. Nobody will escape from death. If we are told that M. was using the condoms which were original, those which people buy here in Malawi, we could have said that it is true [that she could protect herself?] because South Africa is one of the rich countries therefore it can be possible that in South Africa one has bought the condoms which are very expensive. But life is not a thing to cheat with. The same applies to death, everyone will die through different diseases.

Abiti A. still continued by saying that she has died because of one of the two things that she knew like the Tuberculosis or the AIDS disease, but not what her mother was saying when crying. Who bewitched her since she was in South Africa? Does she mean that B.'s wife bewitched her because she beat her? Her mother was

happy because she was receiving money from B. the carpenter, From C. who stays in Blantyre and from her husband in South Africa. It was a business to her to earn some money from her daughter, that is why she is crying like that today because she knows she will be poor now.

They did not continue speaking because the men were ready to carry the funeral to the grave yard, therefore they asked all people who were there to sit closer and hear the speech from the Head of Compound, Area Chairman, Village Headman and the Sheikh, then carry the funeral to the grave to be buried.

5 November 2002

On the same day of 5 November 2002, I went to V____ market after I left from the funeral at D____ village. I went to market to buy some relish. It was around 4:30 p.m. when I was now going back home and I met with two men who have groceries in the market. The men were Mr. A. and Mr. K. These people are friends and that day they were coming from the mosque. They both have two wives each, and they have other women only for partnerships.

During the time that I met them, they were talking about the goodness of the following day when the Muslims were supposed to begin fasting for Ramathan. Mr. K. was telling his friend that the good month has come for people to prevent themselves from doing bad things like having sex with other women who are not their wives, and protecting themselves from getting diseases. He also said that it is the only time when [he? a person?] can manage to avoid quarrels with other people, therefore he was very happy and he said he was thanking his God. Mr. A. said his friend was true and him, he sometimes admires that it could be better if the fasting would be for the whole year because people wouldn't have been making sins to fear their God. Nobody who is a Muslim can have sex with unknown women during the month of Ramathan therefore it means that no Muslim can be infected with the AIDS disease during the month of fasting Rhamathan. They stood up under the big tree which is near the Traditional Authority Kalembo's house and it's where I was when I stood waiting for my friend who went back to the market to buy sugar.

Mr. K. said that most people, especially men, usually say that they cannot manage to stay for a month without having sex for a woman. What about when they are fasting, do they have sex any time they want?

His friend, Mr. A., said no. The ones to have sex during the month of Ramathan are only those who are married and did *Ndowa* [formal wedding]. To those who just married without *Ndowa*, they are not allowed to have sex in their houses during the month of fasting. In addition to that, those who have not done *Ndowa* have to follow some rules. The wife should not cook anything for her husband to eat until the fasting is finished. But for those who did *Ndowa*, everything is o.k., the wife can cook food for her husband and they can have sex tonight but not during the day when they are fasting. They should wait until they eat some food tonight.

Mr. K. continued by saying that it could be better if all the people including the Christians were fasting and if that would be for the whole year or 6 months only, it would be better because we would have no time for having sex, therefore only a few people would have died of AIDS and not as it is in these days. Everyday we hear from the radio that many people have AIDS and many of them are passing away at the hospitals and even at their homes. Though there are condoms which people are told to use, but still many people are passing away as if they are not using the condoms.

Mr. A. said the condoms are very bad things and that is why many people are passing away. They know that there is AIDS, the most dangerous disease in this world because it is killing people and they know that one gets it through sex. The best way to avoid getting that disease is by not having sex unknowingly. Having sex with every woman is bad in these days. There is no need for one to have sex with women who are prostitutes because those women are doing business. They accept every man who has asked them to have sex. They do so because it is their business, therefore a man who is normal [sensible] cannot go to those women and have sex with her. Secondly, there are some women in the villages who don't go to the bars as prostitutes, but we know that they are prostitutes. They are the village prostitutes only that they hide their job from other people. Men should avoid having sex with them because they don't depend on one man only.

He continued by saying that there are some men who say they cannot manage to stay without sex for even a week. That is not true. How did we stay for the whole month of fasting Ramathan without having sex with anybody? How do we stay without sex for about six months when our wife has a new born baby? We manage to stay for about six months waiting for the baby to grow up. We also sometimes stay for about some months without sex if our baby has died before 6 months of his/her birth. How come a normal man says that he cannot

manage to stay with no sex for a long time?

Mr. K. answered him and he said that many people manage to stay many months as such because they fear death. Nobody can have sex with a woman who has just given birth to a child. That man who can challenge to have sex with that woman will automatically die at the same spot or place. During the month of Ramathan, not many people manage to stay for the whole month without having sex. Most of the men say that fasting is done during the day and not night hours. What they do is avoid having sex during the day when they are fasting. But at night, they feel free and do whatever they want. And the use of condoms is not good because it encourages people to have unnecessary sex. Though there are condoms which people use for having sex as their protection, still many people are passing away and the number of people who died of AIDS is high and is still increasing now and then. Does it mean that people are not using condoms always or that they don't use them properly? Mr. K. asked.

His friend answered him that the condoms are not working properly. They sometimes break when using them and the other reason is that not many people are using the condoms. Especially the real Muslims and the real Christians don't use them. What they believe in is that a Muslim should not come near sex. A Muslim should not do sex with anyone who is not his/her spouse. If once a Muslim has done sex with anyone who is not his/her spouse, that is sin to God and that one will be punished in the day of judgment.

Mr. A. continued by saying that he will never use the condoms, but what he knows that he can follow to protect his life is by depending on his wives that he has. Unless one of his wives will sleep with other men and get AIDS there, he will also be infected and die. After he said that statement, they began walking to their business shops and they continued speaking about their story but I was unable to understand them therefore I just left the place.

6 November 2002

I received a visitor on 6 November 2002. He was the Home Based Care worker and he was called A. N. I was pounding maize at my house with my friend N. who came to assist me pounding the maize, and she told me that I should pay her the waste matters from the maize. It was around 9:30 a.m. when I saw a certain young man coming to my house. When I greeting him, he said that he was the civil servant working as the Home Based Care in the village. I asked him why he decided to visit me at my house and he told me that he came with the family planning message and he also came with the best information about AIDS. I told him that he was most welcome and he should being speaking about whatever he had for me.

He began by telling me that his name was A. N. He then continued by telling me that he was from O_ village in C__ district. He was a Civil Servant and working as a Home Based Care, but he began by being a volunteer for three years and then he was chosen to be one of the Home Based Care servants.

In his speech he began by asking my name and I told him frankly. He then continued by asking me about the number of children that I have given birth to in my life. I told him that I have four children and all are boys. He then asked me if I would like to have a baby girl in addition to the number of children that I have already, but I told him that a baby girl is needed since I don't have even one but I cannot force matters. If God had given me four boys, he knew why he did that and in addition to that my husband died in 1999.* I am the one who looks after all of them including my last young brother who will now be in Form Two. I am failing to look after them properly because things are very expensive here in Malawi including the school fees. I told him that I spend K5000 school fees for each term and so much money for his needs and buying food for us at home.

He asked me about the hunger that has come in our country, if I am one of the people lacking food. And I told him that I am really concerned since I don't have anybody to help me. If I have money I try to buy food which costs K1,200 per bag of maize. I sometimes sleep without eating anything since I have many people to look after.

He then continued by asking me if I ever heard about the family planning and child spacing? I told him that I know that there is child spacing methods and the family planning. I do hear them from the hospital, radio, and even when people speak about it elsewhere.. He then asked me if I ever used one of the methods that I heard elsewhere and I told him that I use the modern method and that is injection. I go to Banja La Mtsogolo which is at M_____ after every three months and I pay K40 for every injection that I receive. I also told him that I was advised about the other methods of child spacing like pills, loop, the Norplant and others but I chose the injection as my beginning method.

He then asked me about stopping bearing since I told him that I am failing to help my children properly since things are expensive. He then wanted to know if I can feel happy if I stop bearing other children, but I told him that I have not yet planned on making the Tubal Ligation because at the Banja La Mtsogolo it is very expensive. I was told at the Banja La Mtsogolo hospital that I should pay K1000 for the small operation for me to stop bearing other children. Now I will be using the injections for the child spacing until I will be ready for the small operation because I would like to stop bearing but not this time.

He then thanked me for my answers to him and he told me that he came with pills and condoms as the other ways of child spacing but since I told him that I am already using the injections there was no need for me to receive the pills or condoms for child spacing. But he encouraged me to go to the hospital for help so that I should stop bearing. He told me that if I go to the Banja La Mtsogolo and tell the Doctor that I don't have much money for the operation but I would like to stop bearing, they can do a favour for me and do the operation for K100 only. I told him that I will tell them in December when I will go for my injection for the child spacing. He stopped there speaking about the family planning methods and then he continued by speaking about the AIDS disease. He began by asking me about the diseases which are very troublesome in our village and I told him that the most well known disease which many people are suffering from is Tuberculosis and some people are suffering from AIDS but not many of them. The most common disease here is coughing, most people here are coughing and some of them are found with the T.B. at the hospital.

He then told me that he came with information about AIDS. He said AIDS is now common in many different countries including Malawi. The number of people who have AIDS here in Malawi is much higher than before. Our parents were very lucky because during their time, there were not any serious diseases like AIDS. They had only the bubos, syphilis and gonorrhoea, but those were big diseases during that time but the treatment was being given and they were healed. But these days of ours, the opposite is true from comparing the way that people were living. Our disease of AIDS has no treatment that shows that the person will be healed or will get recovered soon. People would have been happy that there is some treatment which cures the disease. Since AIDS has no cure, there are some ways which the Government planned and decided to teach its people. The best way to avoid getting AIDS is by abstinence. It would be much better that all of us in the world are abstaining from sex. Had it been that we are all staying with no sex, I think things would have been better because there would be nobody to be infected from AIDS through sex. It would only be a few people suffering from it, maybe through transfusion and the injections which we use in our villages, he said. Since it is not possible for all the people in the world to stay without having sex, but people who are not married can stay without sex and those people can avoid being infected by abstaining from sex. But those who are married have one best way of avoiding getting AIDS, and that best way is by being faithful to each other. They should depend on each other and for the men they should avoid other cultures like having more than one wife. These days are different from the days before because the sexually transmitted diseases were there but not as serious as AIDS is. The diseases which were available in those time had their treatment for curing, while AIDS has no treatment. Since it is very difficult for people to depend on each other, it is also very difficult for all the women who someone has married at the same time as polygamy to be faithful and all depend on one husband. To avoid this disease, it is better to have one wife and be faithful to each other by depending on each other. If people will be faithful in their marriages, it can be better because the disease cannot spread as much as it is now. There is yet another way of avoiding getting AIDS. This way was made for the people who think they cannot manage to stay without having sex. There are some people who know that they are married but they still need to have sex with other partners who are not their spouses. The Government decided to make condoms for those people to use in order to avoid getting AIDS. The condoms are there to be used always when having sex with other partners who are not your spouse. These condoms have two things which they do to a person. The first way is to avoid getting any sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS, and the second way is for child spacing. You can use condoms to avoid getting pregnant before time. He added by saying that since AIDS has no treatment, he did not carry with him any tablet which can cure it, but he took condoms which he was sharing with people for use to avoid getting disease and for child spacing. He then asked me if I was interested to use the condoms in order to avoid getting Sexually Transmitted Diseases since for child spacing I already told him that I am using the injection which I receive at the Banja La Mtsogolo Clinic at M_____.

I just thanked him for the information he brought for me but I did not accept receiving the condoms because I

would have just kept them with no use since I am not married and I don't have any sexual partner as of now. When he finished speaking with me, he asked my friend N. if she would like to use the condoms and the pills for the child spacing method but N. refused also and she said that she cannot use the pills or condoms for child spacing because she always stays for about three to four years before she gives birth to another child. And in addition, she said that she cannot carry condoms for her protection from AIDS because she has nobody who she has sex with as of now, therefore if she receives the condoms she will just give them to her children who like pumping them like balloons.

The visitor left both of us and thanked us for our good chatting and he proceeded with his journey.

7 November 2002

It was at 7:30 evening the 7th of November 2002, when I was listening to the radio programme concerning the bad habit of raping the women.

Selina Khonje who is working at the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation as the radio announcer was interviewing the two people in Zomba district about the men who are raping the women. The people who were being interviewed were Mrs. Banda and Mr. Kachjale who works there in Zomba.

In her interview she asked Mrs. Banda if it is true that many women in Zomba are being raped by men and the women are not living happily in the district? Mrs. Banda said that it is very true that most young women including the young ones are usually being raped in Zomba. The system of raping women is now increasing and many young women are not leading a happy life. She said that she doesn't know why these things are happening in the district and she cannot see the real reason why a man, a normal man who can manage to propose a woman about marriage, can have that idea of raping women including the young ones.

Selina Khonje from the M.B.C. asked the same question to Mr. Kachale, why men are raping women in Zomba district. Mr. Kachale said that he doesn't know what men are thinking about. He said Zomba is not as good as it was in the past, but though men are doing that, most of them are married but they are leaving their wives at home and begin raping young women in the streets.

Salina still asked Mmrs. Banda why the men have decided to rape the women of Zomba district only. Why weren't they doing that before?

Mrs. Banda said that she just thinks that because some women are not dressing properly. They don't respect themselves because they usually put on short skirts with slits. They just walk while their laps are outside, therefore some men are being attracted and in the end, they just rape them.

Mr. Kachale also answered to that question that though the women are dressing in short skirts, the men should not be attracted. What would they do in America where many European women put on short trousers with their laps outside? Will they manage to rape all of them there? Dressing does not mean tantalizing someone but they need to look beautiful.

Mrs. Banda continued by saying that she is very worried because raping is also the other way of spreading this dangerous disease of AIDS. It might happen that the man has the HIV/AIDS and has raped the young girl who was very well in her body. Because of being raped, she can also be infected with the AIDS disease. Then the man continues raping more than three or four women, it will mean that all of them will be infected and die of it. But Mr. Kachale said that if it is like that, then the women should stop putting on the short skirts or short dresses with slits in order to see the changes from the men who have that system of raping women. He also said that all men who like raping should be arrested.

* She had a brief subsequent remarriage as well, the father of the fourth boy.