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It was on Friday after noon around 14:00 hours when I went to Ulongwe and dropped by the stage and went straight to the Bau place where they were at least about 10 people gathered men for that matter.

I sat down watching the Bau being played while people around were supporting around. women passed by while singing going to the maize in a group of about 20 women.

Then one ma of Mr. S about 50 years said that Eee! Its time for Litiwo now they want their maize to get finished cant they see the starvation of this year people we fools this Litiwo involves a lot of eating but they are crying that there is no adequate food this year oh its up to them.

Then another man, Mr. O commented aaa! That is our culture Litiwo is a very important traditional custom this is an initiation ceremony where by when one is married is advised how he gonna be caring the husband sexually and physically when women do not go there that's why you see men divorcing the women because the women soon after getting married they are advised how they can handle men during sex because when a lady doesn't know sex if we men if we are not sexually satisfied. Because of that we go and get sexual partners and if she can be good sexually you stick to the partner all the Bau people laughed and said oh yes it is true.

Then another man Mr. P commented that yes this Litiwo is very important initiation ceremony because ladies are often groaned, bedroom acrobatics being part of it which in turn engage the ladies to be good in the bedroom and the men do not for outside sexual partners they stick into their spouses hence after these ladies graduate from Litiwo they become expert in ground work bedroom acrobatic in so doing men do not have sexual partners and in so doing Aids is prevented hence once a woman is not satisfying a man during sexual intercourse you see men automatically going for other sexual partners ending up getting contracted with Mlili.

So Mr. S. you should not bother of starvation GOD will provide us food it is better for the women to be trained good work.

The people laughed some were nodding heads.

Then lastly one of the men Mr. X said that aids shall not end in Malawi because we Malawians especially men are dying because of women especially in remote areas you see a woman very responsible but she got confused because of money she is tuned because of a K500 note being taken up and ending up making sex plain for that matter

and if they see such a big bank note they do not even demand for a condom plain basi (Nyama to Nyama) all the people laughed: Oh plain! Plain

He continued Mr. X saying that I do not doubt we are getting infected because of women may be you want an example how do you see people who work at Olive Camp Hotel drivers workers the Junior staff support staff they make sex any how through the Luka villages spreading the Aids it is because of money they give money to the women which is not good that is why I say it is difficult for aids to get finished this Mlili shall finish us do not trust a woman just love!

Especially the Yaos and Chewas they are not straight women I admire the Tumbuka at least they keep they tradition strictly that's why they marry 1 man 1 woman until death even if they die the property can be shared accordingly but we Yaos here we marry up to 2, 3 women having a lot of children after death you see a couple left 10 children from 2 different wives as they go up they lack financial assistant so they end up having sexual intercourse with sugar dads and then start prostituting ending up dying of Mlili hence because of lack of financial support from us parents we should avoid sexual intercourse with other people except our wives and the wives should stop doing sex with men whom they are not their spouse.

All the people said that eee Mr. X you have given us facts eh you can talk Eee an advisor.

Then another young man of the middle aged group of about 30 years Mr. U said that aa gentlemen I have been listening to what you have been saying to you 4 gentlemen it seems you are just targeting women in marriage that they are victims of sex why cant you talk of MAHULE we men also so for mahule then goes in our houses giving also the mlili to our spouses there is no side which can be defended all the couples are worse to some extension what is necessary is for the Government and the Judiciary to put a law in place to get rid of prostituting in Malawi to stop girls in bars once found they must be arrested throughout the country but if this happens I remember in 2003 prostitutes were arrested in the city of Blantyre but one of the non Governmental organization of Human Rights criticized the Police and the Government for arresting the ANAMASUPUNI we people we just rush for laws forgetting that people are dying because of ANANAMSUPUNI yet the NGOs are encouraging people to use condoms why cant the police be arresting all women and girls moving in town at night and conserve the lives of men who are public figures professional.

aaaa! I become worried I see ANAMASUPUNI moving around people were very concerned with the man he seemed to be a teacher of one of the Primary Schools because he dressed smartly and he had books with him.

He continued taking people were laughing he said oh yes go in District hospital I went home last Christmas Holiday and I went to Mulanje District Hospital I tell you it is worse Aids cases a lot of patience i was disappointed until now I don't know what GOD has planned for us.

Then Mr. U then said that I am going home now but you must think to what I have said Government should do something now to get rid of the victims of aids otherwise our country will still be losing professional workers and the resources will be wasted.

The Bau people said byee and all the people left going in their various homes then I also left the place and went to the stage then went for a sleep.

09 – 08 – 2005.

It was in the after noon when people from Balaka came at Mphula school ground the organization was from Balaka Town called the Save the Children US doing a Project called THE BRIDGE PROJECT.

The Aids Coordinator welcomed the people and told them that this project is targeting 4 traditional authorities just to mention a few T/As like Luka and Bwanali.

There aim is to raise awareness of HIV – Aids as one of their goals.

He started Mr. S. by telling the people why they came to the area. He told the people that they should take care of HIV / Aids hence it is not curable.

He urged them to avoid sex any how hence the main spreader of this is through sexual intercourse so men should be faithful to their spouses.

He insisted that men should rest when their wives have just delivered and 2 months before birth there is a cultural practice that spouses abstaining from sex the woman is 7 months pregnant and when the baby is 8 months old people believe that the couple should do sex in order to strengthen the bones of the baby and if they do not do sex also the baby will catch unidentified infection and die do it may be found the husband at this period is away for other business there is a tendency where by women get attached to other men ending up contracting the aids so he urged them to avoid this because these are old cultural practices people should stop doing this.

It is common in Balaka and he also urged the men to stop doing sex with other partners when their spouses have also delivered most of the men keep themselves busy looking for other women when their spouses have delivered this system is common all the women said eee its true these men are not straight they leave us in the household going for some women.

Then he urged the people about condom use that in rural settings people are not using condoms they just use without the condoms with other partners but this is dangerous if they are having outside they should use condoms to prevent the virus that causes Aids at least people from the urban areas they at least use them than the people in the rural areas they said he ahs a survey which he conducted in 2003 which showed that people in the rural settings are left behind on condom use comparing with the people of urban areas.

Lastly he urged all the people not to follow some cultural practices which can lead them to death they are hearing messages on radios through dramas church leaders, NGOs political leader's chiefs so it is not time to play with the deadly pandemic kachilombo.

The adults must sexually behave well then their children will follow what parents are doing he said a proverb (Like Father like son)
Hence men and women are doing bad sexual behaviours that's why the youth are also doing bad sexual behaviours hence they copy from their parents.

The parents were told to be extemporary to the youth keep the youth busy so that they can refrain from immoral behaviours.

Lastly he urged the people to go well and be faithful to their spouses it is not time to do bad sexual behaviours people are dying Aids has no choice all people doing bad sexual behaviours are getting injected and are dying.

He finally thanked all the parents for having attended the meeting and also thanked them for listening to the meeting he hoped that whatever was talked was taken into account.

All the people left and went home. I also left for Ulongwe.

12 – 08 – 2005.

I dropped at Mphula Trading and went down to Dasiyo village and found 6 women who were fetching water at the borehole I stood near the tree at least some 15 metres away from the water source, they were some 2 ladies who were selling Thobwa (sweet beer) under the tree near the borehole: I stayed for about 20 minutes.

Then heard one of the woman at the tap saying that I went to Mphula ground 2 weeks ago there was a group which conducted a Aids meeting by the school ground they were criticizing women that we go for sexual partners yet we have our husbands and they said that we deny to use the condoms the other women laughed and said condoms!

Another woman Mrs. R said that why using a condom how can one feel that she is doing sex with a condom it is better to stay without doing sex, she continued to say that condoms are for prostitutes who stay in bottle stores and bars not for a married woman if we want sex in the village we do without a condom and this is our system before.

She said that in my life time I have never touched a condom I just hear I cant use it. Another lady P said that Aids groups started advising people to be using condoms since long time ago may be over 12 years ago but Aids is worse Aids cases is worsening now yet people are using condoms why cant they just ban them this is encouraging sex people say Aa let me go and test the condom I can not get infected with HIV / Aids so they go for now professional prostitutes whoa re positive and may be the village men do not know how to use the condom properly may be they burst so they end up contracting the virus because they have a trust that if now uses the condom he can not contract the virus.

All the women commented that Eee! You are telling us the truth because as far as this bargirls are concerned all of them are beautiful and nice looking so our men our husband go for them because of their beautiful looking frankly speaking they are beautiful so the men are dying because of prethness of these Anamasupuni and ending up getting the MLILI.

After they contract the mlili they spread it to their spouses.

Another woman Mrs. Q said that you ladies come from the trading centre of Mphula but there was a family of a business man who married a good woman very faithful and unfortunately this man was a womanizer who was having a lot of sexual partners and it was found out that the wife of this man got contracted to the HIV / Aids and she died

earlier leaving the husband who caused the mlili to her a lot of people were saying that Aa it is the woman who contracted the HIV / Aids why did she die earlier?

All the women were confused saying that how do Aids affect people and who died earlier is it that if a man contracts it he dies earlier?

So it is not known about the death plan.

Then another woman Mrs. X commented that when one is contract to HIV / Aids the one who contracts it will die earlier.

Then lady Q said that Aa! That is not true Aids is spread through men they are the ones who spread it to women.

Then the women took their dishes then left the water borehole. Then I also left and bought a litre of sweet beer at K30 after I drank it I left for Mphula and took a ride back to Ulongwe

15 – 08 – 2005.

It was on 15 – 08 – 05 when I went to Phiri village for a visit in the morning around 08:00 hours and stood at one of the village grocery and a small market where they sell fish and bananas.

I found at least 5 men and 6 women who were selling their items food, items like Matemba, utaka and bananas.

Then an ambulance passed by with a dead body going down. It was coming from town.

One lady Mrs A said that Eee! Death is at an alarming rate now we are just dying like chicken. See what is happening now almost weekly people are just coming from town dead I think it is witchcraft and kachilombo which is causing these rapid deaths.

Another woman commented that aaa! Aids is the major cause of most deaths nowadays.

Kachilombo has worsened cases of property grabbing as people are now cashing in on deaths of their male relatives to take away property belonging to the widow.

She continued to say that the government should sensitize the rural masses that dispossession of property was a form of gender – based violence because women are the most affected.

She continued to say that she has come across different cases but she observed that the women are mostly marginalized and traditional practices do not allow for property inheritance.

This is done because of lack of awareness hence if there was an awareness people can be reporting such cases to the social welfare department hence if they are grabbed the property the woman just stay in the villages starving without reporting the matter elsewhere.

Another woman lady B commented that Aaa this practice of property grabbing is common with marriages without (Lobola) because here in Balaka we just marry anyhow and divorce anyhow that's why after death there are a lot of problems arising but if marriages of the north of Malawi and down South lower shire people pay for Lobola and you will never hear of property grabbing after deaths.

Another man Mr. D. said that aaa! Yes people should grab the property because you women after few months gone you always get married as soon as possible the man who marries you should buy his property for you why should you have property yet you get married that is good.

Then the people started talking on how business stories. I left the place and went back to Ulongwe around 12:00 hours back to the Trading Centre.

18th August 2005.

After I stayed at the bus stage until 19:15 hours I went to the trading centre and stood at the tuck shop where people were listening to the radio at around 19:30 hours there was Zammaboma programme which started and there was one news which was much of my concern where by they were referring to what happened in Zomba Township where by one of the men of 30 – 40 years of age went for VCT and unfortunately he was found that he was + positive to the HIV / Aids and the man went at his household and locked himself in a bed room then he took a knife and started cutting his pennies almost half away cut and he cut also his face people outside heard the man crying they ran into the house and found blood all over.

His aim was to commit suicide to kill himself hence is had HIV / Aids the relatives took him to Zomba Central Hospital for treatment where he was admitted and the police said that after he will be cured he will be locked up by the police for a hearing by the court.

Sources said that most of the people flocked to Zomba central Hospital to see the victim.

Then I boarded a mini bus going to Mwendo Township while on the mini-bus people were still talking about the issue and one of the ladies in the busy lady A said that the man was stupid if one is found positive to the pandemic it is not the end of the world people are staying up to 10 years alive why can he trouble himself trying to kill himself see he wanna be locked by the Police.

Then another man B said that Aaaa! I think he was fearing for his wife that he might be divorced when she will come across the fact that her husband is positive to the pandemic.

All the people were laughing and another lady in green suit of about 25 – 30 years old lady C also commented that I think the man was very faithful to his wife may his wife is the one who contracted to the HIV / Aids he had it through his wife that's why he wanted to get rid of his life he knew that he was faithful and he will die because of his wife all the people said Aaa!

Oh yes! May be he was very depressed how can he try to kill himself,

Then the driver of the bus said that but you people you are just making your own predictions you don't know the truth HIV / Aids has many ways how it is spread do not just say that the woman is the one who was bringing the virus to her husband may be the man he was just feeling sorry for himself that he was going to die.

The driver continued to say that to my side I can not go for voluntary counseling & testing to the hospital because once you hear a positive result you become confused and the man was not wrong to try to commit suicide it is better just to be staying not going for VCT.

No. I can not go for a test noway? The women started laughing and one woman lady E said that Eee! Achimwene phukusi la moyo sakusungira wina!!! Muziyang'anire nokha! In Chichewa proverb meaning to say that "Every bodies life is kept under himself no one can keep your life is precious look after yourself".

"Mr. driver" the woman lady E continued to criticize the driver that no you should go for blood testing to test for HIV / Aids and know your status then your stand if you can be positive like the man of Zomba all the people laughed.

And one said Eeee! Mpaka kuzidula pa moyo! Eee cutting at his life.

If one can be positive he can go for counseling and be taught how he may be staying, what he gonna be eating what type of drugs he gonna be taking and how he can be preventing it not to get spread again. So you brother meaning the driver that now it is not time to hide go for a test aids is affecting all sorts of people whether you are rich or poor, uneducated, educated, politicians, pastors, reverends, professors, doctors all sorts of people we are all dying if we do not take care aids is depopulating the countries population and sex is a high rate now.

All the people laughed and one man F said that Eee but today I have met people who can talk Eee I have learnt a lot especially lady E what she has said that Aids has no choice everybody it getting infected and that we should not fear we should go for the test because once we know our status we will be able to know what to do next that is very encouraging Madam do you work for the Ministry of health are you a Nurse?

Lady E said know I work for save the children US in Mangochi.

Then Mr. F said Oh! That's encouraging you have taught us a lot most of the people in the mini-bus commented that oh yes that fine she ahs taught us its really true we should not get shy to go for the blood test.

The driver did not comment anything he was just nodding his head and kept on saying Aaaa! I cant do that.

We are all dying. Then we reached Mwendo then I dropped out and went to the Bus Depot and sat down then left for my house very late around 20:00 hours.

20 – 08 – 2005.

I went to the school ground near Nyenga around going to the camp just after the bridge as we go down Playe road.

There was a public meeting for people around the area which composed of different village around group village headman Che Playe: People gathered about 300 people of all the ages it was in the afternoon where by 3 chiefs were the main speakers like chief Playe Mponde and Damalesi.

They started with a Islam prayer then welcomed the people for sparing their line and having time to participate in this meeting.

Chief Playe told the people that the meeting was more about Health Issues.

They went for a seminar at Dokotala for 2 days right at Dokotala School where by the health personnel from Balaka District Health Office called on chiefs to participate in this important meeting of HIV / Aids.

Then he told the people that they should listen very careful he started saying chief that Tepewe! Tepewe

Then the people said people that Edzi chifukwa ilibe mankhwala

Chief: Tipewe! Tipewe

People: Aids chifukwa ilibe mankhwala.

“Now I would like to tell you what we learnt at the Seminar firstly we learnt how the Aids is spread these are the following ways of which Aids is spread.

Through sexual intercourses with many partners except spouse.

Through sharing of razor blades.

Through transfusion blood transfusion

Through village injections getting injected anyhow in the rural areas.

Through contacts blood cuts if one has a cut and the other has a cut if these cuts are in contacts the virus can get spread.

If during an HIV / Aids funeral if one has sores or cuts in hands of he / she bathes the dead body without using gloves one can get infected then the people commented that mlili

“One woman stood up and asked the chief! She said that lady P I have a question to what you have just said that last option about baths of HIV / Aids dead bodies how can we know that this one has died of aids Chief?

The chief said that it is difficult to predict that one has died of Aids but if the patient HIV / Aids patient has died at the hospital the nurses from the hospital discloses to the people that they should use gloves when bathing the dead body they really informs the people but they do not disclose about the cause of the disease but what they do they always tell the people to use the gloves so as we hear about this we automatically predict that straight this is Aids.

So it is difficult to know right in the village when one can die of Aids right in the village so I do not know what we can do there because the hospitals do not provide gloves in the villages.

The lady P said oh we will be dying because of that I think you should tell the Government to budget for gloves to be distributed to chiefs and the church leaders so that if any death occurs these people should distribute the gloves to the deceased families as soon as possible because it is difficult to predict the cause of death as of now.

All the people said in Yao yakuona!! Meaning IT IS TRUE!.

Then the chief said that those are one of the ways how HIV / Aids is spread then he begged the people to sit down and the other chief stood up and proceeded to talk the same issues now he informed the people.

“Now 2nd chief I would like to tell you how Aids can be prevented as you have said that Aids is not curable! And has no drugs to cure it.

The only ways is abstinence, he just said this in general in yawo saying kulisunga anyamata ni wandu wosope wa munawasa. He said all the youth and those in marriages must be abstaining.

The other way is to avoid sex with any partner except spouses.

Avoiding use of injections form untrained people in the villages.

Avoiding exchange of razor blades.

Avoiding transfusion getting transfused with in tested blood.

All these are ways how we can prevent this mlili currently the situation is worse for those who are failing to do this please you can use the so called condoms but do not trust a condom the only way is being faithful to your spouse and the spouse should also be faithful.

All the people laughed and I heard one of the times where by at Playe one of the ladies was demanded to use a condom but the lady denied this she said sweet jangalira mchipepala ni sweet nganong'atu:

Then the man ended up using without a condom and the man was a visitor a businessman from Ulongwe we heard this incident which happened last year 2004 in February.

Do even if you take a condom most of the yao women denies to sue this! So I urge you to be faithful to your families this is not time to do sex anyhow.

Then he finally thanked all the people for having attended the meeting he told them that the seminar was conducted by the Balaka Hospital staff and a lot of chiefs participated at Efelemu and they were told I've were told to be conducting such meetings at least once every two months but eeeee since I came back it is only once I have conducted this meeting.

He concluded t say that please we have said a lot her lets die of something else we see a lion there do not go to a lion it will eat you so Aids is like a lion we must fear it.

I thank you all GOD BLESS YOU all the people started going in their various homes and villages.

Then I took a road going back to Ulongwe with 5 men who were also going back and they started talking about the same issues then one said that all Mr. X what ahs been said its only one which has torched me in my heart the issue of bathing the dead bodies if you have a sore or a cut that is too risking because there are a lot of people who are dying in the villages and cause of death is not known we just say he / she has died of witchcraft and I heard that if people are taking the ARVs drugs they became fat an normal so we don't know who are taking the drugs because they do not disclose .

So if those dies in the villages we can not predict of the cause of the death of that particular person.

Then another man Mr. Y commented that Aaa! People should use plastic bags or jumbos I don't think this government can provide the gloves for the whole country I doubt.

But he continued to talk Mr. Y. saying that my concerns are on the condoms where by the chief said that women are rejecting the condoms that is common now most of the women are discouraging the use of condoms I have an evidence it happens to me at Damalesi village I proposed one woman I went there at night and I told her that lets use Chishango (condom) she refused and told m that I should go back if I do not want sex she can not waste time with the tube?

And she said that she once stayed in Blantyre around 1980 and she was working in one of the companies she said that the condoms and Aids the condoms came first and aids ahs come after the condoms were already in and their main purpose is to prevent pregnancies not the Aids.

The other men laughed and said Eee there you have talked.

Another man Q commented saying that do you mean we waste time if we use the condoms?

Mr. Y said that no but it is not 100% perfect what I wonder of is this;

When you men want to buy the condoms you buy then indirectly you send young boys to buy for you

Do you know how to use them properly do you fit them properly.

Do you check on the expiring date because most of them are bought at night.

Lastly when taking it out you direct touch it with your hands do you put on gloves if the chief was saying that the HIV / Aids patients if died we should bath them by using gloves so it the same when using a condom we should also use gloves because one can have a cut in fingers or hands.

He proceeded of saying I have doubts on the condom use it is not perfect.

25 – 08 – 2005.

I went to Mwantaya on Thursday when I found Moslem leaders gathered near a mosque and a lot of people gathered there as a group.

I went there and attended the meeting then the Sheikh told the people that he called them because he went to Ulongwe Hall to attend a one day workshop with one of the Sheikhs of Playe mosque and other mosques within Luka the people who conducted that meeting were from Blantyre and he forgotten the name of the Organization.

He said that they were told how aids can be prevented and how it is spread and they were informed to be advising their follow Moslems how they can be preventing it.

So he started telling the people that I do not mind how the aids is spread but the best way of preventing it is prayers, prayers can protect because one who prays to God with truly life I don't think one can do sex GODS person can not do sex so I urge you my fellow Moslems that please commandments are there lets avoid sex and pray 5 times a day don't you think this can be one of the ways we can prevent Aids.

It is disappointing because aids has no choice Moslems in Malawi are dying of Aids yet we say we pray 5 times a day what should we do now. Time has come. People are dying daily messages are spread at every of hour sex is not a new thing on radios even a 4 year child is aware of the name Aids, TVs, NGOs Hospitals where over you go the Aids is advertised pictures hanged everywhere but we are still dying.

I think the introduction of condoms have contributed to the spread of the Aids because people take a condom to be a control that's why sex is common because they take it for ranted that they have a gun to protect it.

He proceeded to say that he asks a question himself that Aids was known in Malawi in 1985 lets assume that if condoms were not allowed in Malawi till now how were the HIV / aids cases today the number would have increased or decreased I as a Sheikh and with to what I have seen the past 19 years with no doubt if condoms were not available the Aids cases would have deceased because these have increased the cases hence people were taking chances that protectors were there everybody wanted to test for the condom ending up encouraging sex in Malawi.

Some do not know how to use a condom some use them while they are drunk (beers how can one use it while he is too drunk do you think he can use it properly. Lets not be in a risk.

The only way is prayers can protect lets pray 5 times a day and ignore all the social things.

It was on Friday morning when I was crossing at Mponde village near a water pump a borehole I found 3 women dressed in zitenje they seem to have known me that I do work for MDIU survey they started talking about the lets chat project I don't know may be because I put on a lets chat T / shirt soon after I crossed near the borehole one of the woman dressed in a blue dress and brown chitenje started saying that a lot of people have benefited from this project hence they have been given presents how some for 4 or 5 times now since 1998 because they target the very same people and not only the presents gifts but also as of now in 2005 people have changed their sexual behaviours from bad to good because of the type of questions on Aids section and sexual partnerships the type of questions they ask can make and makes a person to change a sexual behaviour.

Another woman who dressed in a green chitenje and a green dress commented that aa it is true people have changed I can give you a good example of my own brother he started using condoms after the lets chat group started the voluntary counseling and testing last year 2004 he was on a sample and I can say that the lets chat project is very beneficial especially when they started the blood testing for HIV / Aids this has benefited people hence they are aware of their body status on the mulili.

The other women commented oh yea that's true then the other woman Mrs. B said how have they benefited after the test?

This woman in a green dress and green chitenje responded that yes they have benefited in three 3 ways.

They know their health status whether they are + or - they will know what to do hence once they disclosed their results there was some counseling and they know how they can plan for their life depending on the results because once one gets the results she / he will know what to do next like preventing it from getting spread, planning not to give birth eating good balanced diet that is if the person is found positive to the mlili.

If he / she is found negative one can start being faithful to her spouse and avoid doing sex to any partner except the spouse.

Then this lady Ms. B said Ee! You know much because you have educated us I know because you are a working class and you were educated this lady laughed and said you know what when these Aids clubs announces that they have a meeting at such a venue we should be flocking there these plays and dramas are very regardless of education level if you participate in such meetings it is of a advantage so you must be participating in such meetings you and me will learn more we are in a learning process there are a lot of meetings nowadays from these Aids Clubs but the Turn up is very low yet they are very educative and very important to our communities what is needed is to fully participate in such meetings.

The lady who dressed in a blue dress and a brown chitenje ended up saying that Aa! But the lets chat group at least they should test all the people not only those who are in the sample this can help because we can all get the sugar and we can be able to know our status and the advantage is that they come in the village at an individual so this will make it possible for the majority to go for the test because for a person to go to a VCT centre most of the people get fears and shy to go but as what lets chat do to visit the people in their communities people can go for the test at least majority can go only a few people can deny but a lot can go for the Blood Test.

And as of now things have changed because of the lets chat team and the type of questions on the questionnaire made people to know the ways how they can prevent the mlili and ways how the mulili is spread.

26 – 08 – 2005. afternoon

on my way back I stopped at Mponde Grocery near the road going to Olive Camp Hotel Camp Hotel just along the road there were a lot of middle aged men playing BAU under a big Tree which has a big shade near the grocery I joined them watching the BAU.

After some minutes one man Mr. A. said that near the grocery said that Eee! But the lets chat people are coming here very year maybe twice it has been conducting surveys since long time ago but I don't know their aim of the project to them a lot of whites comes here in Mini-buses they ask the very same questions in all the years the very same respondents the very same villages what do they want to the village people.

Then another boy of about 19C said that Aa! I was asked in 2004 they ask very important questions on sexual partnerships, Aids, Religion, Economic questions and transfers and Time use.

They ask about very important questions I am still studying I am in form III at community day secondary school but the problem is that they sampled the respondents and when conducting the interviews they always say that whatever will be discussed in (yamtemela in yao) meaning whatever will be discussed will be confidential so people the respondents most of them to do not disclose to people hence they disclose that confidentiality should be there.

But as far as the type of questions are concerned I tell you people have and are changing their sexual behaviours.

Then Mr. a. said that Aa! You say thy are important questions because you receive gifts (hand outs) that is why you say they are of importance but t us is a news I don't know how important they are?

And what you should know as you have said earlier on that they as about sexual behaviours Aids people do accept to be interviewed because of the Gift otherwise no body can accept to be interview for an hour + without anything people are attracted because of the sugars and the soap.

Then another man Mr. E. commented that this group of research team hence they always give gifts to the hundreds of respondents so the respondents are responding so well because of the gifts others wise without these gifts the respondents can refuse to be interviewed but because of poverty and high pricing of commodities in Malawi people are just accepting to be interviewed.

Then at around 16:30 hours people started leaving the Bau venue going to their homes then I also left back to Ulongwe Trading Centre and reached around 17:40 hours.

Then after I reached at Ulongwe trading around 19:00 hours I went for supper at Misomali restaurant where I found the café full of people about 8 men and 6 women busy

having evening meals I joined then while I was in the same T-shirt I was putting on the moment I entered the café people changed the conversations to yao hence they thought that I do not speak and hear the yao they thought I was a visitor or a business man: They started talking in yao saying like this:-

Mr. G. said that Ee! This group is in it hates people doing bad sexual behaviours they ask a lot of questions on sexual behaviours Aids and etc but those people are stopping us to be enjoying with girls may be they re in now they have even reached an extent of VCT people being tested for HIV – Aids and some people have changed their sexual behaviours for fear of being found positive to the kachilombo the other people laughed.

Then another man Mr. G said that Ee! Yes we have a lot of ZIMBAYAMBAYA here at ulongwe these must go for the test these are killing people here why do they not test these, another man Mr. H. said that no they have a sample of people in various communities they do not ask everybody it's a couple number of people at a particular village not all may be about _ of the village only.

Mr. G said Aa! These Zimbayambaya are infecting people too much I think if one is found positive to the mlili the Government should isolate these people in a special place like a prison so that these can be cared for there because the girls women who are found positive are still prostituting no one can know them that they are positive so if these can be isolated and quarantined this can help to prevent it from getting spread each District must have this Clinic to keep the sick of HIV / Aids, all the people laughed in the restaurant an one Mr. I said that you can get disappointed after seeing pastors, medical doctors, professors, ministers, governmental senior officials , poor people, religious leader found positive to the mulili as there is a proverb in chichewa which says Aids ili mu Ufa)

Meaning that HIV / Aids is an flour we all eat msima daily so all those who eat msima daily so all those who eat msima have a chance of contracting it hence all people do sex so through sex the chances of not getting the virus are very slim it has no choice regardless of post, education, profession what so ever all the people laughed and one fo the woman Mrs. J said that but I was thinking to what Mr. G was talking about you can be disappointed that in the villages only the aged and children can be left but the majority can be found positive to mlili people also laughed and one of the ladies Mrs. K said that last month or this month a man in Zomba was trying to get rid of his penis when he was tested positive to the virus that causes aids this story was announced on radio 1 FM and radio 2 FM he was trying to commit suicide and as of now he is in prison answering charges.

All the people laughed and one woman Mrs. L. said was the penis caused him to catch the virus I thought it was his bad sexual behaviours which led him to catch the kachilombo does a penis speaks to have sex I thought it was his mind and his bad sexual behaviours all these people who were in the restaurant laughed, laughed and started going out hence most of them completed eating their meals going out after the response from Mrs. L. particularly the statement which she said the penis that does it speaks to have sex!

Then all the people got out of the restaurant and I too joined them going out.

27 – 08 – 2005.

I went to Playe village on 27 – 08 – 05 it was on Saturday morning I found people moulding bricks behind the market at least 10 people of which 7 were women it is near a road going to Sheikh Tzbulo's residence just along that road.

It was extreme (too hot on this day, I stopped under the Tree for a rest. I heard people one of the women Mrs. P. saying that see we are just very few here working but when there will be an assistance you shall see a lot of people joining the Club, then they stopped talking until 20 minutes then I wish I could talk to one of them but they were busy some were putting bricks in a heap some were moulding.

Then I just joined the three women who were heaping the bricks timber bricks at one place helping them carrying the bricks to the heap, they greeted me and asked me why I was after I told them that I was waiting for a friend who went to Olive Camp Hotel Camp and I had to wait for him at lunch hour.

Then is aid that I was interested to help them heaping the bricks then they thanked me and one of them said that they are very few who can help people while working.

Then I started asking them that what were the bricks for since I saw that they were about 8 of them?

One lady Q said that they would like to construct a resource centre.

I kept on asking them for what?

Then Mrs. P said that since there are a lot of Orphans there are a lot of orphans due to aids and these orphans are cared for by the aged persons we would like to form a Home based care club and after that we shall be assisting those aged persons and the orphans.

I asked them how they gonna be assisting them?

They said that Mr. X we gonna have a garden where by we shall be planting maize and potatoes then after sales we shall be buying necessities for them and be assisting them financially and with material support.

I asked them why they decide to do so?

One of the man Mr. R said that as earlier on one of the ladies stated that due to the pandemic which is taking lives of people leaving burdens of orphans we sat down and decided to form this club hence there is no any NGO or government which is helping the orphans currently the past 2 years there was a youth Aids club since 2003 it was assisting but now it has gone down the members were proposing one another within the club then a lot of the girls dropped out and as of now it is dull there is nothing which they are doing they just meet once a month there is no any assistance they do and there is no any organization which is assisting them to promote the club.

So when we saw this we have decided to form this club so that after our crop sales in may next year we shall start assisting the orphans.

I asked them how the members are drawn from is it only Playe?

Mrs. P said that they are all from different village withint group village Playe and Playe will be like where the resource centre shall be built.

I asked them what messages if any do they tell to the people as far as HIV / Aids is concerned Mrs. P said that Yaa! That is a good question Achimwene! Aa we have already started telling people the dangers of the Pandemic, how it is spread? How it can be prevented? Effects of the pandemic the knowledge about it and encourage the people to voluntarily go for blood test and for counseling.

Then I asked them that how are they going to sustain the club since most of the clubs are starting actively then ends up astray?

Mrs. P said that they have already started a programme where by they will be cultivating various crops like maize then after sells they will be assisting the orphans.

She continued to say that they will try to beg assistance from NGOs and Government for an assistance.

They will be also performing dramas and poems in Ulongwe so if they source funds from these shows they will be assisting the needy in such ways of sourcing the funds.

Then I said byee to the group and left for Ulongwe at lunch.