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23/12/2000

A certain man by the name of Evason is fond of going for prostitutes at the beer centers and on that day his fellow friend by the name of Tambula was telling him that he will get AIDS if he continues going for prostitutes at the beer centers and Evason responded to this by saying that if he (Tambula) doesn't want to get AIDS he should be going for female babies at the maternity if he wants to avoid getting AIDS, because there is no-where he can get a girl who did not have sexual contact before at the time he can be meeting her. That was Evason's response to what Tambula said. They were doing this by shouting at each other when they were at the gate of the factory where they work. Meanwhile, Evason seemed to be friendly to me the moment I temporarily started working at the same company in C\_\_\_, Evason told me that he got married two times but divorced all these two marriages and the reasons are that he doesn't care for the wife properly and the wives do go out of his hands because his system of not sleeping at home when he receives the pay and instead he sleeps with bargirls at the resthouses until the money is out. He is divorced but has a number of sexual partners up to three or more there in C\_\_\_ at D\_\_\_ a location in C\_\_\_ City. He has now influenced his friend by the name of Mediam to be going for other women other than his wife and his friend has one partner besides wife and the partner is a primary school teacher there in C\_\_\_, she has one child. And these two have never mentioned about using condoms with their partners. The other friend of Evason is Kaombe, he is married but has a number of two partners besides wife, I noticed the partners of Kaombe one day when they came to see him at work one day respectively. Evason is a Lomwe by tribe.

23/12/2000

A certain workmate in C\_\_\_ by the name of Tambula told me that he is used to have a partner whenever the wife goes home to see her relatives, he said that he does that in order to be treating his sexual desires, he married in O\_\_\_ District and has got two children. He is a Lomwe by tribe, working at the same company where Evason is working. His wife is a Ngomi by tribe. I know this one better because we were staying in the same location and he doesn't mention about using condoms at all.

24/12/2000 (Nigeria)

A group of widows, divorced women and some unmarried (single) women amounting to 1000 matched to the chief of their area to tell him and command him that he should command single (unmarried) men to marry them, the chief was also commanded by these women to command men with one wife to add another wife so that their women may have the chance of getting married by this system, even men with two wives were also told to add another for the same reason. The women said that they decided to do so because they are experiencing poverty due to lack of husbands.

The Islamic rule there, says a man can marry up to four wives, but they are not doing so, that's why these women have decided that if they are not doing so, they should do so by command from their chiefs because there is a large number of widows, divorced and single women.

Another woman told the chief that since her husband died eleven years ago, only two men proposed her for partnership respectively, but none of these was serious about marriage. A system that she said did not please her as they did not turn up for marriage.

In reaction, the women gathered and found the better solution to the problems they are experiencing was to go and tell their chiefs about their feelings, so that the chiefs should assist them by commanding single and men with only two wives to marry additional women.

In response to this, men said they can't manage to do this because of two reasons behind this command. Firstly, the men said they are afraid to marry widows because they don't know about what their husbands died of as it may be that they died of AIDS, and they are afraid that they may catch AIDS if they marry

these widows. Secondly, the men said they can't afford to marry more wives because they are expensive to marry as it costs almost 8000 Malawi Kwacha (this is the value to the Nigerian currency for marriage compared to Malawi Kwacha) to marry one woman. So they said they can't manage to have additional women since they have to pay for them to marry them. This was a Radio News Report on Malawi Broadcasting Corporation on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2000 at the hour of 11:45 a.m.

Still in Nigeria a girl who was found pregnant before marriage was beaten by a rope, 180 times. The rule of "SHARIAH" (Islamic word) says if one is found pregnant before marriage she should be beaten 100 times using a rope by the rule of 'shariah'. But this girl was beaten 180 times because she mentioned about three men to be responsible for the very same pregnant which showed that she was not faithful in her conducts that's why the punishment was added.

The rule says one has to be beaten after delivery and it was the same with this girl that she was beaten sometime after she delivered.

That was also a Radio News Report on Radio Maria of Malawi that is based in N\_\_\_.

On hearing this a friend of mine named Chikuni said that if that rule is being strictly followed in most of the countries it can act as one way of reducing the spread of the killer disease AIDS because many single girls can be saying no to un protected sex as they might be afraid of the consequences thus reducing the spread of AIDS at the same time. Another friend responded to this by saying that the act of using condoms to avoid getting AIDS is being against God, because God created man in the way that he should be putting the sperms into the woman and if the man puts the sperms in the condom and throw them away, it means that this man is against God. He further said that yes it is one way the government may use to reduce the spread of AIDS by distributing those condoms to the public, so that those who want to use them may do so. But for him, he said he can't use the condoms to avoid being against God, he said if God made (created) a man and a woman there is no need to use condoms if it is the case of diseases like AIDS let the diseases be there as it is the time that these diseases should exist and everybody who was born is expected to die not because there is AIDS but because God himself created death. Chikuni is a Yao and a Moslem by faith. I simply probed him about what he can do if he thinks that his wife had got AIDS, and he told me that he can divorce her and leave her to die alone as she house found the disease on her own bad moves.

25/12/2000 (Zambia)

The Roman Catholic elders has asked the Ministry of Health to stop sensitizing the public about the use of the condoms to avoid getting AIDS because they were putting posters in public places about how people can use the condoms to avoid getting AIDS. They said that they have asked them to stop because the posters were showing secret parts of men as a demonstration of how to use the condoms. They have said that this was showing that the Ministry had lost respect over men to the public because even children were able to see this which is against the church rules that children are not supposed to see the secret parts of men. The Church has therefore asked the Ministry to find another way of sensitizing the public other than what they were doing, and the Ministry has stopped this and is to find another way of doing this. (Radio News Report)

26/12/2000 (Malawi, D\_\_\_)

Though I heard that you don't need more information about family planning, but I have decided to let you learn about a certain story which may otherwise seem to be different as I know that in most of our findings, it was mainly men/husbands who were not willing that their wives should go for family planning, but in this case it is chiefs and heads who are involved in the case: In D\_\_\_ district in the Northern region of Malawi, chiefs and heads were reported on the radio that they are telling families not to go for family planning, they are telling them that they are going to send away/dismiss any family that is involved in using family planning from their villages. The heads said that they are honoured/respected when there are many people in their areas. And they are going to lose there respect if the families are taking family planning. The Ministry of Health is now taking action by discussing with the chiefs about the importances of family plannings – Radio News Report (Malawi).

26/12/2000

A certain adult boy in N\_\_\_ – C\_\_\_ is said to be having sexual intercourses with his mother. The boy is a rapist and when the chances are not there in that day, he takes his mother, to go and drink 'KACHASO' together with his father, and he drinks with an aim in mind and when the mother and father all are drunk up to the point of sleeping at the place where they were drinking, he just take the mother home and have sex with her without her full knowledge as she thinks that it's the husband who is acting/working on her without knowing that it's the son as she is drunk by then while the husband is still asleep at the beer centre because of being drunk. This system has now become the game of the mother and her son. One day the father found them in action and the son tried to beat him but neighbors came to rescue these two as the whole family of three people was drunk as usual. The father just eased his mind by shouting at the child and her mother. But still the system is going on. The people's/public's worry is that this son will bring AIDS to the parents since he is a rapist. I was told this story by a friend named Nahipa who is living in the same area of chief Machinjini in C\_\_\_ – the moment I visited him. The son is named Billy.

27/12/2000 (Zimbabwe)

A certain man at Muriel mine in Zimbabwe behaved badly to his wife one day when he received a package of Z\$100,000 more – the moment there was a retrenchment pay at that time and he went to the beer centre after pay where he drank beer with a bargirl and at the end took the bargirl to his home where he found his wife asleep on bed, he told her to move out of bed and give chance to the bargirl to sleep with him. The woman did so as she was afraid she could be beaten by husband if she did not obey. The man said to the wife after getting in "You go out of bed, I want to sleep with a woman who is highly recommended by many people, who are you a dull woman." And she moved giving them a bed, and they slept there until morning and the bargirl went her way in the morning. The marriage is still current. I was told this story by a sister-in-law who has just come from Zimbabwe the same place. The public is worried that this man might bring AIDS into his family deliberately as it is said that he is not expected to have used any protection since he was drunk.

28/01/2001 (Malawi, Radio News)

In E\_\_\_ district in the central region 3 boys raped a 50 year old woman who was pregnant. The boys raped her as they found her bathing in a certain river there. Doctors have agreed that she was really raped after examination. The public is worried that the boys might infect that old woman with the killer disease of AIDS since they had no any protection. This happened in the mid days of January, 2001. The policemen are searching for the boys involved.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2001 as people were celebrating the new year of 2001, a certain lady accompanied by her partner of opposite sex as 'lovers' were on their way to a certain enjoyment center, on their way, they met 7 boys, who asked them to stop, and the boys beat this lady's partner and the partner ran away leaving the lady, these 7 boys started raping the girl one after another until all of them had sexual contact with her, then they left leaving her there. The girl said she is worried that she might have been infected with AIDS since it is rare that all these 7 boys can be that they were HIV negative. And it's a disaster to all these boys if the girl was HIV positive or if the first rapist is HIV positive since none of them used protection. The girl failed to report this to the police since she did not identify any of them. This happened in O\_\_\_ District in the Southern Region of Malawi. Meanwhile, the girl did not go for a medical test about HIV. This appeared in the weekend Nation Newspaper of 11/01/2001.

29/01/2001

There was a certain man in our village of M\_\_\_, he was working in South Africa from 1980's to 90s and when he came from South in 1993 he started suffering from frequent Malaria, diarrhoea and the like, his wife started suffering the same at the same moment, and many people in our village were saying that the

husband brought AIDS into the family from South Africa where he was working. The couple suffered for a long time and in 1994 the husband died like today and the wife followed the following day. There remained 4 children including a young baby that was left while unhealthy and the baby died, 4 months after mother's death the other girl of the same family who was a caregiver to the mother and the child also started looking unhealthy 5 years later and she also died. She was a girl of about 13 years old when she was a caregiver to her mother. And it was suspected that she might be infected by the recipients as she had no any protection when handling her patients as she was young and no one had told her about how to be safe from catching the disease from her patients. But this one was being cared for by her grandmother when she became serious. What amazed people was that the grandmother who was also acting as a caregiver for this girl, she also started developing swellings on her body randomly, this happened two years after the death of her patient and the grandmother died in the year 2000 after suffering for three months. She was cared for by her elder sister. It is showing that the people in the villages are lacking information about how to care an AIDS patient safely. Because the death of the girl and the grandmother might come due to lack of safety when they were carrying their duties as caregivers for AIDS patients. The father and the mother that died first might be the source of the other deaths as the caregivers were not sensitive about how to be safe from getting infected. The family that died of AIDS is of Mr./Mrs. Magombo.

30<sup>th</sup>/01/01 (In my village)

There was a certain funeral of a certain man who was working in M\_\_\_, the capital city of Malawi named Ben and this man suffered for a long time, he was first found with T.B. and he went to the hospital for treatment and lived there for 3 months but it did not work. This man was earlier having a habit of going for women who have more than one sex partner. He used to compete for women in short. So, after failure of T.B. treatment he was released and came home, after, two months at home while suffering from T.B. He started losing weight as well as hair and at the end he had diarrhoea for 3 weeks and he died. So on the day of his funeral, rumours were being heard that it was AIDS that he died of because he was going for women most of the times and he was sometimes going for women who do visit the bar for prostitution. There is one of the bargirls who was his partner during his lifetime, the girl is now losing weight so that people are saying that she is going to follow the steps of this man straight away. The name of the bargirl is Rena. She operates from V\_\_\_, N\_\_\_, M\_\_\_, and D\_\_\_. She started this in 1992. The man died late in 1998. A certain friend of mine at the funeral said that we are all going to perish with AIDS because nobody will avoid getting it. He said that he is thinking that we are all going to perish with AIDS because the husband may be totally free from extra-marital affairs, but the wife that he has is a victim of extra-marital affairs without protection. And in so doing it means that this man who was taking himself to be safe from getting AIDS, a wife has taken it for him. The same with a faithful wife, she can be totally free from extra-marital affairs, but you find that the husband is fond of going for other women apart from wife. In so doing it means that this man will infect the faithful woman with his behaviour. He further said that the government could have done something to reduce the spread of AIDS and he said that some of the ways is to close pleasure centers where many people do have the chance of having pleasure sex thereby encouraging the spread of AIDS. The name of this friend is Paul. The wife of this man died too.