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Diarist: Diston

1/09/01

On my way from M___ to C___ in August this year, I stopped in L___ where I was visiting my nephew in L___ Market, near his shop there were two men who were talking to each other with louder voices and one was a Yao and one was a Chewa. The Chewa man said that he can't get AIDS because his foreskin acts as a condom and he told his Yao friend that he has got a high chance of getting AIDS because he was circumcised so that he has got no protection from getting AIDS. I did not take much time there and I left for C___ . All there were vendors in that market. In another incident of the vendors' conversations, I visited M___ Market where I found my friend from C___ Market who is now vending in M___ – C___ and when I was approaching him I found him in a conversation with his fellow vendor and he was telling him that he has got a friend who is a womaniser and when he tells him to be using condoms, he said that his friend does say no to using condoms because he doesn't feel the real taste of sexual contact and that delays him to finish the action so that he doesn't use the condoms though he does tell him to do so.

1/09/01

Prisoners at D___ Prison in C___ were given a chance to go for HIV/AIDS tests at Malawi AIDS Counselling Resources Organisation (MACRO) and on 20/08/01 one prisoner asked the prison guard to escort him there for the test. He was tested and the results showed that he was HIV positive. He was then taken back to the prison using the main road escorted by the guard men who were two by then. With the anger of his results that he was found HIV positive, he jumped into the running vehicle's tires and died on the spot before they reached the prison camp.

20-08-01 (M.B.C. 7:30 am)

In another development, MACRO has said that people who are reporting for AIDS tests are much more this year than last year. In C___ MACRO centre the number of clients who came for the test was 45 clients the whole year and this year the number of clients rose up to 105 clients. And at N___ MACRO centre, which has just been opened this year, the centre is receiving 125 clients for HIV tests per month. This improvement is due to the other non-governmental organizations that are sensitizing people about the importance of testing for HIV status. The MACRO reporter said that they do meet with a client in a counseling room and before blood test they do ask the client about his/her future plans if she/he is found HIV positive or negative. And after that they take the blood test and tell the client the results after some hours.

Meanwhile, most of the people that are reporting for HIV/AIDS tests are young men and women who are ready to get married and some men too. The reporter said that married women are the ones who are not coming up for HIV tests in all the three MACRO centers of C___, M___, and N___.

21/08/01 (Radio News, MBC 1:30 pm)

In an interview, a boy was interviewed on the radio on the same day at Macro about the reason why he decided to go for HIV test and he said that he did this because of the pressure that he was getting from the community people who were saying that he has got HIV because he is a womaniser and he said that he did this so that he gets the truth about his health status. He said that at first he was afraid to go for that test but he later on encouraged his heart to do so, so that he went for the test and was found negative of HIV. He is a school boy in M___ . After him a girl was also interviewed and she was asked the reason that made her go for HIV test and she said that she went for the test so that she know her health status so that she knows whether it is good for her to give another birth or not. She is single, not schooling, has got one child from

sexual partner and was doing this so that if she is found with HIV she doesn't give another birth because the child will not survive, said the respondent in a radio interview in M___ at MACRO centre.

1/09/01

A certain man in K_ Village in C___ is being accused by the community because he is sleeping with many women in that village. He has got four sexual partners not including his wife. The village headman is the one who is the one who is finding women for him and the community is worried of that because the man is suspected by the community that he has got HIV. The community is worried that him and the village headman are contributing to the spread of the virus in the community. From your correspondent Diston in C___.

05/09/01

For your own information there have come the following beliefs within some people who have got HIV/AIDS:

1. When they have got HIV/AIDS, they can drink so much beer so that the virus gets drunk so that there is no multiplication of the virus as the virus gets drunk in the body.
2. When they have got HIV/AIDS, they can reduce the infection of the virus through having sexual intercourses with many people.

Meanwhile, a certain man at M___ in E___ in South Africa in November last year bound the hands and mouth of his son in his bedroom and was doing homosexual with him believing that he could cure his AIDS that he is having. The neighbours of him are the ones who discovered this. They discovered this after seeing that the boy was not seen around the compound for a number of days. Then they reported this to the police who came and found him in that bad situation. The son is suspected to have been infected with HIV by the father. This was happening while his mother was at the hospital there in South Africa where she is admitted as she is suffering from AIDS. The man ran away from his home because of shyness and after seeing that the policemen visited his home. The boy is at the hospital where further examinations about his health are to be carried out.

05/09/01 (Radio 2 FM 1:10 pm News)

In another development, it has been noted that some people do believe that AIDS was there in the past, that AIDS is *Chinyela*, that they can't AIDS by sleeping with teenagers, and lastly that teenagers don't have AIDS.

On a radio interview on 04/09/01, a certain local band whose artists were being interviewed to state the problems they do face when they go around singing, they have stated that one of the problems is that they are being shouted at by people in the community that they are bishops and fools when they sing AIDS messages to the audiences in their village of C_ in A___. They said that the community doesn't want them to spread AIDS messages there and they do take them as fools whenever they try to do so.

06/09/01 (M.B.C. Radio 2 FM 7:30 pm)

A certain man whose wife was selling tomatoes in the location of O___ in A___ has committed suicide after finding his brother in sexual action with his wife in the bush on her way back home. He was following her to the market as she was much later than all the days. And on the way, it's when he found the two in action. He did not interrupt them, he then just turned home, bought some poison and drank the poison and died on the same spot. When his brother who was in action with his sister-in-law heard that his brother committed suicide because of what he did with his sister-in-law, he also took a rope and hung himself so that he too has died because of the same incident.

In C___, a certain man has married his first born daughter at D___. He did this as his wife died. The cause of the wife's death has not been mentioned. When his children saw that their father got a sexual partner that he wanted to marry after their mother's death, the children stopped him doing this and instead, the children organised and agreed that he should marry his first born daughter. The man agreed with his children's

decision so that he is living with her as his wife and the rest as his children in the same house. Many people in this area are blaming him for agreeing with his children's decision. But he is not changing his mind so that the two are still living together as a couple.

31/10/01

On 31/10/01 I boarded a bus from C___ to N___. As soon as the bus left C___ bus depot, it had some faults so that it was taken to the garage, while there we were told to get out of the bus at the gate of the garage and we did that. I sat close to some men who were onboard, they were three men from K_ village in N___ and these men were talking about a certain man in their village who is faithful but his wife is having extra-marital affairs so that he one time found a man in his house. His reaction was that he got separated from her for three days and came back on the fourth day. When he found them, the man said that his wife told her sexual partner not to run away but to leave the room freely without fearing him. When he left for his home for those three days, the extra-marital partner took his position for these three days so that he left the day he came back and he did nothing when he found him at his wife's home. They said that the extra-marital partner is also married. I asked them about how his wife reacted when this happened. They said that his wife knows him best that he is a womaniser so that she does nothing when she hears that he has got another affair because that's how he lives all these years. I asked him if his wife has got an extra-marital affair too. And they said that she has never been heard to have extra-marital affairs though her husband is often caught with other people's wives. I said, what do other people say about this wife that is calm while her husband is a womaniser? They said that people do say she is foolish because she will die innocently of AIDS because this husband will one day get her this infection. They said that she'd better divorce him, but she is not doing that. She is just living with him though she knows that he is a womaniser and that there is AIDS that is killing those who are sexually not behaving well. I asked them if that man who caught his wife with another sexual partner has got extra-marital affair an himself and they said that he has got no extra-marital affair. Only his wife is the one who does this because she sometimes brews "Kachaso" and she does go with some men who do come there for "Kachaso". One of the men said that he can divorce his wife just after hearing a rumour that she has got an extra-marital affair because that behaviour can make her to infect him with AIDS. He said that it is good for both a husband and a wife to totally avoid sexual intercourse outside marriage in order to be safe from catching AIDS. The conversation ended when we were told to board the bus after it was checked and we took different seats in the bus.

13/11/01

A certain woman who sells cosmetics in K_ is very shy because of the ten (10) men she "slept with" in a day. She was drinking beer with some men in a bottle store so that she started telling the men that she wanted to have sex with them so that she gets pregnant. She was saying this when she got drunk. There were then some men who took her words into action so that they took her outside the bar in a dark corner and the ten men had sexual intercourse with her one after the other. These men did this as they were drunk too. It was said that it seems that there was no use of protection during this casual sex the men had with that woman. People who know that woman's behavior have said that it is her behaviour of "sleeping with" other women's husbands whenever she is drunk. They have added that she has never slept with ten men at the same time as she did on that particular day. She is moving only during the night as she is shy to be seen by the public during the day because of what she did. They said that he seems to be regretting, and that's why she is shy.

11/09/01 (7:30 MBC Radio 2 FM)

In another similar development, a certain woman at N_ village in C___ has troubled the village because of the eighteen (18) sexual partners that she is having right now. She says that she has got such a number of sexual partners so that she should be getting support for the two children she has. It is said that she manages to have sex with seven (7) of them in a day. Most of her sexual partners know each other as sexual partners for the very same woman but they don't harm each other. The village headman has said that he is going to chase her from the village if she continues with that behaviour.

10/11/01

On 13th November 2001 on my way to a certain market in the location I am lodging in C___ called L___, I met a certain man called Mr. Tumba from the same location. He was telling me that he has got a wife and five children and he has got one extramarital affair. He said that it is possible for a man to have a number of extra-marital affairs as he wants but there is no chance for a wife to have extra marital affairs. He did not state the proper reason for saying this as we took different directions at the market so that we failed to discuss more.

There is a certain woman who is married to a man who is an assistant truck driver. She had one child before she was married to him. She was caught by a certain man having sexual intercourse with another man in the forest. She does this when her husband is abroad on duty. She told the man who caught her not to reveal this to her husband and promised to give him something as a thanks if he doesn't reveal this to her husband. She said that she is moving with other men so that she gets one more child as she has lived for a long time with her husband but has no children with him. When she saw that the man did not reveal that to her husband, she bought him shoes as a thanks for keeping the secret when she was caught with a sexual partner in the bush. She is named Abiti Missa. Not yet pregnant. She is my neighbor in the location.