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**13/08/2002**

On August 13th 2002, I visited a certain industry called aero plastic, and while there I met a certain man who is guarding at the next petrol depot camp and that camp is just opposite to a certain farmers fertilizer revolving fund, and on the gate of that company, there are always women who do sell some food to the workers of that area. They bring some bananas, potatoes, mangos and buns, and among those women was a certain woman who he said is called Kedson's mother and I got seated at the gate where that man named Nkhani is guarding, and he pointed to that woman and said to me: "do you see that woman who is selling the buns, she is was in love with a certain cook from V\_\_\_ transport company that is next to here, and man is the owner of that son she is bearing. That woman has got her own husband but she is still having an extra-marital affair because her husband is not fertile. And the man she is moving with has got his own wife, too. But the affair of that woman and this cook has stopped since the cook has developed some sores on his head, and some people are suggesting that he has got AIDS, because even his body is not looking as healthy as before. And that woman has decided to stop having the affair, so that other men shouldn't realize that she was having an affair with that cook who is now looking sick. These days, we don't have to go for women only after seeing their beautiful looking, but we have to know their background information before we go for them. Just imagine, if someone who doesn't know the record of that woman comes, do you think that he can wait this time to know more about her background? Probably no. He can just go for her, thinking that she is a nice and faithful woman, only after seeing her beauty. In so doing, he can get infected and at the time, go and infect his innocent wife at home. In so doing, AIDS is not going to spare anyone in this world until the cure is found.

We continued chatting and after a short time, two women crossed, and when he saw them, he said: "can you see those 2 women, these are the great killers of men in these days of AIDS, as you can't know what's in their bodies, since they are beautiful, and you can just go for them thinking that they are infections-free whilst they aren't free at all!" I left that place at the time I realized that the person I had been looking for had arrived.

**20/08/2002**

On August 20th 2002, I visited *D\_\_\_ (sp?) market* where I was going to buy some groceries and while there I found two people who were quarreling and a number of people had gathered to hear about their argument, and when I saw them, I also went closer and I saw that they were a man and a woman. The other people reported that the woman was a bargirl, and I got interested in hearing what was going on between that bargirl and that man, and while I was there I heard the man shouting: "you are stupid, you ran away with my money, which you stole at my house, and not only that but you gave me an infection and it can happen that you infected me with AIDS and in so doing, there is nothing that I am going to do here other than just kill you!"

The bargirl tried to apologize to him but the man did not hear whatever she was saying. Meanwhile, the market chairman came to rescue the woman and before the man started fighting her, the chairman asked them to give him their statements for that quarrel in that market. And the man was the first person to talk and he said: " This girl was working at a certain bar where I found her and on that particular day, I slept with her at my home and while there I gave her the money she demanded from me, and when she was leaving the day after, she took the other money that was left in my bedroom. When I noticed that my money was missing, I suspected her because nobody else had been in the house on that particular day. And I followed her at the bar where she was working and I found that she was not there. I asked her fellow bargirls about her whereabouts and they told me that she had left for her home in the morning of that very

same day. I went back to my home, but my heart was burning since that was the only money I had to spend. And since that time, she was missing, and this is the second month since she missed and I met her here at the market. And she has to do one of the two things that I want from her: the first thing is that she has to give me my money back, and if she fails I am going to hit her to death. And moreover she gave me some infection and maybe she was aware of that infection and that's why she ran away so that I shouldn't realize that she is the one who infected me."

Chairman: "before I ask the lady about anything concerning that, I have some questions for you. You have said that you took her from the bar where she was working, were you drinking beer at the same bar on that day?"

The man: "yes, sir"

Chairman: " were you drunk on that particular day you slept with her?"

The man: "I got drunk, but normally so that I was able to judge normally. And I was able to remember anything that happened on that day."

Chairman: " how much money do you suspect she stole from you?"

The man: "K150"

Chairman: "Did you not lose it at the bar where you were drinking beer?"

The man: "No I put my money under my pillow case after we came from the bar and she saw me putting it there."

Chairman: "where were you when she stole that money while you were together in your house?"

The man: "I am sure she did it when I went to the toilet."

Chairman: "Madam, how do you know this man?"

The woman: "he used to drink beer at the bar where I was working and that's how I know him."

Chairman: "he has said that one day you slept together at his home, is that true?"

The woman: "yes"

Chairman: "he also said that you stole his money, what can you say about this?"

The woman: "since he is suspecting me that I am the one who took that money, I can promise that I can give him his money back, so that there'd be peace between him and me."

Chairman: "he has also said that you infected him but we don't mind about that since the problem has mounted on the stolen cash..."

The woman: " I don't think that I have infected him nor anybody since I don't feel or see any symptoms of infections in my body."

The man: " when is going to give me my money back, since I need it right now and she might go missing again after that meeting?"

The woman: "I'm going to borrow it from some of my fellow workmates..."

Chairman: "Which bar are you working at this time?"

The woman: "At D\_\_ bar"

Chairman: "do you think that your friends are going to assist you with some money to give him if we can go there?"

The woman: "definitely"

The three of them left for the bargirl's residence and those who were interested to follow them there were free to do so, and I was among those who followed them. When they reached the bar, the bargirl went into one of her friend's room and she spent almost 6 minutes in there and when she came out of that room, she had some money which she gave to the chairman and the chairman checked the amount and found that it was K150.

Chairman: "You have said that it was K150 that was missing in your home, haven't you?"

The man: "that's it"

Chairman: "here is your K150. We don't have to hear that you were harassing this lady anymore and we will deal with you accordingly if that is ever to happen again and be reported again, because your problem has been solved here so peacefully. You lady too, be careful when you take care of your customers, or you will be punished and sent out of this area. Are we together both of you?"

The man and the woman: "altogether"

Chairman: "greet each other so that we can be sure that there is peace between you".

The two greeted each other, and the Chairman and the two together with the audience left the place. But the audience left the place while singing a talking song: "*wamunona hule, hule iwe! Wandiona bwaa? Nawenso hule!!*" they went on singing while each and everybody was taking his or her home direction. I also left for the market myself. And on the way to the market, I was in the company of two men who were there with me. We discussed some of the issues related to that story and one man said: "that man is so foolish, because nobody isn't aware that there is AIDS that is killing many people and at the same time he goes for bargirls who are the major source of the spread of that disease as they don't entertain only one customer." Then the other man said he is really foolish and when time goes and he starts suffering from some sickness he will start to think that he has been bewitched, forgetting the way he was behaving with women. Many people have lost their lives through that kind of behavior and others instead of taking the victims as their examples, they still stick to the same behavior." We parted as they took another direction.

### **21/08/2002**

On August 21st, I was on my way to D\_\_\_ industrial site and on my way I saw a certain boy who stood on the road side with a girl and they were chatting and some of the boys who know that boy were also passing by, and they saw that boy escorting that girl and one of the boys started calling him and said: "You Raphael, leave that prostitute and go home if you don't do that, I'm going to tell your mum that you've decided to catch AIDS from prostitutes." The boy did not respond to what his friend was saying and kept on escorting the girl until they disappeared.

### **22/08/2002**

On August 22nd, I visited a certain drinking place at D\_\_\_ at Abiti's Ngome's house and while there, I met a

certain man who is working at Malawi S\_\_ Authority as a driver, Nahipa. And at this drinking house, they do sell Kachaso and they also do open a radio for their customers to listen. And on that particular day, the radio was open and when it came to news time, they said something about HIV-AIDS activities, which were to be held in that particular place. And we were about 4 people at that place. When Master heard about HIV-AIDS issues, he said: "gentlemen, HIV-AIDS was created by the whites with the aim of depopulating the Africans. You can see that this disease is mainly killing people of the African nation and it is rarely heard to be troubling the European nations and this simply shows that this disease was deliberately created with an aim of depopulating Africa. And when the whites will feel satisfied with their target, you will hear that a cure for AIDS has been found. The cure for this disease exists in their countries, and they use it and the cure is marginalized to come to Africa as they know that their aim will not be fulfilled if they introduce that cure to African countries, as it will save the people's lives, and once they will get satisfied with the African population, they will introduce that cure in Africa."

And one man in that group agreed with Master, he is named Ndafa, and he added: "I agree with most of what you said. The whites created AIDS and they have got its cure which they are not giving to the africans." The other men did not say anything on this issue. And since time had gone by, we started leaving the place one by one.

### **23/08/2002**

On august 23rd I visted D\_\_ industrial site and on my way the company where I was going, I passed at Venetian Blind specialists company which manufactures water pipes and that factory is along the road to the other companies and was just fenced so that the workers are able to see the workers inside that fence of that company and on that particular day, there was a certain girl who was passing by on that road, and one of the 4 workers there was calling her and two of his workmates said: "just follow her, do you think that a girl can respond in such an open area like this?" And one of them said, "in these days of AIDS, when you ask a woman to stop and talk to you, and she doesn't agree to talk to you, just thank God because maybe she has saved your life because it can be possible that she has AIDS. And when a girl says no these days, don't force her, just leave her because things arn't the same as they were before." And the man who was calling the girl laughed and did not follow her, as it was their working time. I proceeded to where I was going by then."

### **26/08/2002**

On august 26th, I visited D\_\_ charcoal market, and I was there to look for a certain friend who had gone there to buy a bag of charcoal. And while there, I found a certain businesswoman who was selling some bananas. And one of the men who were selling charcoal went at the place where the woman was selling bananas and when he reached there, the woman told him that there came a certain woman who was waiting for him. And the man smiled and told her that the one who was looking for him was her sister in-law. And the woman said, "you are just changing woman the way you want, just like you don't know there is AIDS, why don't you change your behavior?" And the man responded to this by saying "AIDS is really there but it is not there to stop us from falling in love, but AIDS is just the same as there is in any disease like Malaria or TB. Do you want to tell me that in the past people were not dying because there was no AIDS?"

The woman: "they were dying of other diseases for sure, but the death rate wasn't the same as it is these days and in those days only the aged were dying but today, the young adults are the ones who are dying. And that is giving a proof that this is caused by the prevailing AIDS."

The man: "don't mind about death and don't think that AIDS is the only cause of death, even if can be hit a car, you can also die." The man left her as he was attending the customer who had visited him. I got the friend I was looking for and he escorted me home.

**28/09/2002**

On August 28th, I visited a *Bauto* (*sp?*) playing center, we were about eight men at that place. And while there, as the place is on the roadside, there passed two girls who were going to D\_\_\_ market. And these two girls greeted one man among us, named Tengani, who is also a tailor at the nearby tailoring shop. After the girls' disappearance, one man named Hussein who is also a carpenter at the nearby shop said that it is better to just stay without having sexual contact than to have sex with those two girls because they don't say no whenever they are approached by any man, to have sex with them. And another man who is also a tailor said: "it is better to dip one's penis into acid because you can develop some sores on your penis and treat them, but those girls can straight away give you AIDS and kill you". And one man named Oswell who sells fried meat touched Tengani's shoulder and said: "do you hear what people are saying about your friends who have just passed hear?" And Tengani said: "don't touch me because you can give AIDS!" And Oswell said "who told you that AIDS can be transmitted through touching each other" And Tengani said: " you have got AIDS yourself" And Oswell said: " you are the one who has got AIDS and the day you will suffer from malaria, that will be the end of your life because you are already a victim." And Tengani got angry with this statement and left the place and went into his tailoring shop.

On the evening of August 28th I visited a certain beer-drinking place where Kachaso is sold at Abiti Ngome and there I found six men who were drinking Kachaso and I got my seat near those six men. And one man among them was telling them a story that had happened with a certain poison seller. He said that a certain man who was selling rats poison called "tarmec" deliberately drank that poison to test if it can kill people and that as soon as he took the poison, he went unconscious and was taken to the hospital at the same time and that he was now normal after receiving treatment at the hospital. And one man among them said: "he did well by drinking the poison because if he had HIV he is now free from this virus because it died from the poison." And another man said: " you are lying. That virus can't die from poison" The other two men agreed and at this point stopped that topic and started talking about politics on the current news of the third term bill.

**30/08/2002**

On August 30th I visited my friend Rashid who is working as a motor mechanic at D\_\_\_-C\_\_\_ and on that particular day he was connecting some motor parts in Mr. Pesulani's car. And he was doing this at the open ground near Mr. Pesulani's residence that is situated along the road to D\_\_\_ market and was working with friend named Mr. Nasitanzia. And as we were chatting there, there passed two women, and when Rashid saw these women he admired their beauty and he said: "you women are the ones who are going to kill us with AIDS because you are looking so beautiful that we do sometimes fail to control ourselves so that we do make sure that we have fallen into love with them. And at the same time it happens that you are not the only man who seem to have admired her beauty and fall in love with her, there are also other men who felt the same way. In so doing, the transmission of the disease goes on. And with that behavior, no one is going to be spared in this world"

And Nasitanzia said: "beautiful women on their own are not a problem, but those who do go for many sexual partners at one time are the problem, and I do mostly worry with the behavior of truck drivers. These men are the ones who do promote the spread of AIDS because whenever they go abroad or somewhere to deliver goods, they make sure they go with the women they find where they happen to spend a night and when they go somewhere from there they also look for women to spend nights with them. In so doing they promote the spread of that disease. When they visit Tanzania they make sure that they get a sexual partner there when they go to Zambia they get another sexual partner and they do the same whenever they go on duty." The story was cut as the two left on a road test of the car they were fixing and I left for home.

**01/09/2002**

On September 1st as it was Sunday, I went to D\_\_\_ CCAP church and on that day there were some announcements in the church. And on the list of these announcements, there were some names of some

church members who were dismissed from that church. And on the list of the dismissed people, the first one was a certain man who was dismissed from that church because he divorced his former wife and he married a new wife. They said that this one did not follow his marriage promises because he promised that death only could separate them, thus dismissed. But the divorced woman is still a member of the church and she will still be the member though she can get married with another man because she is not the one who demanded divorce. And the second person to be dismissed on that day was a certain single lady and she was dismissed because she hijacked someone's husband and married him. As soon as the church elder announced the reason for her dismissal, the whole church burst into laughter.

**03/09/2002**

On September 3rd, I visited the *bawo* playing center where some of the men do gather and play *bawo* when they are free from their duties. And this playing place is along the road to D\_\_\_ market at Mr. *Hussein's* carpentry workshop. And on that day, we were about seven men present at that particular time and as the place is along the market road and there do pass a number of men and women even children going and coming from the market all day long, and on that particular day, there passed two women who were dressed in the modern fashion clothes and one of these two women was put in a certain long dress with a long sheet up to the thighs, so that her thighs were being seen when she was moving and her friend was put in a woman's suit with a short skirt and a short sheet on the back of the skirt with her thighs half displayed, and one man among the men who were there, known as "Kaka", and he said that we people, we are not going to survive from getting AIDS of the women wearing that kind of clothes. "Just see how these women are dressed, if they come at you and beg you for some money in a seductive manner, can't you fall into their behavior? You can obviously fall head down! You can see that they are dressing half naked so that men should be easily attracted and go for them." Then another guy named Michael said "don't mind of AIDS when you go for such beautiful girls, you have to go out with such beautiful girls, provided they are looking beautiful and healthy."

Then another man named *Nasitanzia* said: "you have not in mind of AIDS when going out with these girls, you can go with any girl, even a bargirl, without any fears. I am saying this because one doesn't know what he/she will die of. So to die of something, AIDS, because you were womanizing is better than to die in a car accident." Then there came a certain man who was looking for *Nasitanzia* and escorted him. As soon as *Nasitanzia* left, Kaka said that *Nasitanzia* was defending this behavior because he was a womanizer himself. Kaka further said: "you can see we, the adults, are the ones who are mostly dying these days as compared to the elders. And if we don't have strong self-control, we are going to perish because no one is going to be spared." Then another man named Mr. *Kekala* said: "it is simple when we just talk of that AIDS in such a group, but you can feel sorry if you can go and see for yourself at TB or R\_\_\_ central hospital and you can agree that AIDS is really a dangerous disease. You can see the patients there just having only the body skeleton remaining and no hope of life in their hearts. And do you know what they do at the hospital when you are tested positive, they just tell you that you are having TB, and when they want to admit you they put you in a TB ward (?). And if you go there, you will never hear that there is a ward for AIDS patient."

This simply shows that this is not a disease to tell someone openly about. It is only after one's agreement that he/she wishes to be given the results of his/her HIV status after blood test. And you can see these boys moving with condoms in their pockets seeming to be protecting themselves but in actual sense, they just use them in the early days of their affair and after only two weeks, they say that their partner is faithful and never continue using the condoms and when time goes on, you hear them coughing, or complaining of body pains and after two months you hear that they are in TB ward admitted at R\_\_\_, and then you hear that there is a funeral. The best way is to just trust your spouse and have strong self-control on any temptation. The problem with our children is that you can try to advise them but they do tell you that they want to enjoy their life. There is no enjoyment with sex in these days, we are the ones who enjoyed the women because the diseases back then were curable, like gonorrhea and syphilis and when you get these, you were just going into the bush, and look for curing herbs. But there is no chance with the prevailing AIDS once you get it, you end up into the grave, and that's it."

Another man named Mr. *Dawa* said that he enjoyed women during his young adult age and said that he used to move with the South African women when he was visiting that country. And he said that there are so beautiful Zulu women in South Africa and said that there are no beautiful women in Malawi and said that he doesn't see any beautiful women in Malawi that make the boys of Malawi say that they are enjoying women. He said that in their days, they were free from fears of dreadful infections. That story ended as the men started talking of the football results.

#### **08/09/2002**

On September 8th, I went to *L\_\_ in C\_\_* where I was visiting relatives and I took a certain road that passes through *H\_\_*. And on my way I found a certain garden boy who was working outside a certain man's house and he was visited by a certain girl and they were talking about some issues and in their chatting the girl told the man to stop taking food for two days, so that his body could stop growing fat. And in his response the man said: "If I stop taking food, I will grow thin and you are the same people who will start saying that I have grown thin because of AIDS while in actual sense I am trying to have a normal body structure." Then the woman said: "No, you just have to say that you can't manage to live for two days without taking food." As I was a passer by, I kept walking on my direction.

#### **11/09/2002**

On september 11th, I visited *D\_\_* industrial site and on my way from there I was coming after some four guys who were coming form their workplace at *D\_\_* Garments. And on the way, a certain girl who was going on our opposite direction crossed. And one guy said: "if you want to go for such girls you have to be the first guy to have sex with them, because in their first experience, they are free from AIDS, and once the affair ends you have to totally avoid her because she can't just live without having a new sexual partner and the first three guys to fall in love with her can be safe from getting AIDS, but the fourth guy to go with her is the one who is always on the high risk of getting AIDS from her." Then the second guy said: "that is obvious that the last person can be on the high risk to get infections as you know that late people always eat bones. And if you want to be safe, you better go for senior primary school girls, because they are very safe from any infections at this age. " The other two guys did not put their comments on this issue until we took different directions.

#### **14/09/2002**

On september 14th, I visited *D\_\_* market where I had gone and buy some chips, and while I was at the chips selling shop, there crossed a group of people and among them, there was a girl who was crying and in the same group, there was a woman who was shouting angrily over the reason behind the girl's cries. One of the men who were at the chips shop was aware of that incident and he said that that girl has got a sexual partner and one day her sexual partner found her with another guy chatting somewhere and when he asked her about that guy, the girl told him that the guy she was chatting wit his her schoolmate and the boy did not take any action on that day though he suspected these two. Meanwhile, as time was going on, the relationship of these suspected people matured and that the girl was even carrying photos of the guy she was found chatting with. And one day, her former sexual partner found the photos of that guy, and he then asked her about this guy for the second time, but now that he was furious because he was in possession of the other guy's photos and that he instantly started slapping her until she started crying and the boy snatched the photos from her.

The girl reported this to her mother who then escorted her to hear from herself from the boy who slapped her and when she reached the boy's destination, they found him there and when she asked him why he slapped her daughter, the boy told her that he was in love with her daughter and that he was on the other supporting her financially and that in the course of their affair, the girl fell in love with her schoolmate and that the photos caused his anger and that he slapped her and also snatched the photos from her. Angrily, the

mother shouted at the boy, and they were now on their way back. Upon hearing this story, another man who was also at the same shop said: "this nother is very stupid, these days, everybody is aware that there is AIDS and every parent has got the responsibility to advise his/her children on the dangers of that disease and with her instead of that, she is shouting at the boy, which means that she is defending her daughter, thus encouraging her to be moving with guys, and when she consequently start suffering of AIDS, because of her behavior, she will start changing her statements by starting pointing fingers at her relatives or other people saying that she has been bewitched. She is not the only one, this problem is mostly taking place among the town dwellers parents who do expect to get support form their daughters who are not even employed, and that their daughters end up falling in love with different men so they should be getting some money from money and find support for their poor parents, and in so doing they end up catching AIDS and die in their early stages, leaving their poor parents continuing to grow poorer because of their daughter's loss.

And the problem with such parents remains the same that they do know sometimes that their daughters are sexually misbehaving and when they start getting sick they insist on pointing out fingers on their relatives, that they have been bewitched and totally forget the way their daughters were behaving with other people's husband. And even worse, when these parents are used to getting support from their single daughters, they don't encourage them to get married as they do know that once they get married, they will stop giving them the daily support which they were giving them before marriage, as they do realize that they will be busy supporting their families and not them as they were doing when they were single." Then the chips shop attendant said: " we are all going to perish with that AIDS because the single or married women are failing to say "no" when they are proposed by men.

And with that behavior, no one is going to be spared. There are some but mostly those elderly couples who seem to be faithful to their spouses and maybe these can be spared. But still they are on the risk because of those elderly men and women who do go for young adults in the name of sugar daddies and mummies. And this behavior is common in such urban areas and such young minded elderly people are the ones who can put the other faithful elders on the risk of catching AIDS. The problem is that it can happen that one elderly married parent is faithful and his/her spouse is weak-minded with that behavior of going for young boys or girls, thus putting AIDS on the high spread, even among the elderly people, and no one will be spared before the cure is discovered. And even so, it will be very difficult for poor people like ourselves to be able to afford that cure as it will obviously be expensive on the drug markets." We started to leave the shop one by one, as we had already been served by then.

**15/09/2002**

On September 15th, I visited a certain beer drinking place in *D*\_\_\_ called *L*\_\_\_ where they do sell Kachaso and as this place is along the road to *D*\_\_\_ market, I was on my way to the market and I stopped at that place because I had seen some four men who were gathered there, taking some beer, and among them, there were two gentlemen who are just friends to me. I know their homes, they know mine, and I do meet with them everyday and one of them is named Yahaya and the other one is named Aaron. And when we were chatting, one man among us who is a friend of Aaron wanted to know from Yahaya about his marital status, and he said to Yahaya, "Are you married?" And in his response Yahaya said "I am not married and I will never marry because all the women have got AIDS. There is no one among them these days who is faithful, and in so doing, I will never get married and stay free of AIDS." The other man said: " But you have got a sexual partner, don't you?" Yahaya said: "not even a sexual partner, what for? I have got no desire for any woman in this world so that I will live a long life." Hackson said: "there is no need to get married these days. Let us just be living single like that." Since there was no more beer, we all left the place and I proceeded with my journey to the market.

*Yahayai (?)* is working as a machine operator at *D*\_\_\_ garments while Hackson is divorced and has never remarried since his first divorce. And that is the same with his former wife who is working as a tailor at her father's store within *D*\_\_\_.