

Filename: **DISTON000703**

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Notebook kept by Diston of conversations overheard in C___, brought to me by Linda Tawfik in the end of June. Dates are European style, and each anecdote in the notebook was headed "AIDS", "Extramarital Affairs", etc. I very occasionally changed the grammar, e.g. to make subject and verb agree, or the vocabulary if I was certain he had the wrong word; if I wasn't sure it's in brackets. Some of the incidents happened elsewhere, which is noted.

06/08/99

AIDS/Malawi

A man by the name of Francis Majawa whom I met at the bus depot in C___ said that it's not true that there is AIDS. He started talking about it when some prostitutes passed near us. He said that his habit is that of sleeping with bargirls since 1989 up to now. He is a businessman. To talk about using condoms, he said he has never used a condom and added that he doesn't think of using. He is married based in O___ District, Central Region, Malawi

09/08/99

Polygamy/Zimbabwe

I paid a visit to Zimbabwe where I was surprised to see more than seven polygamists in a certain big village of labourers [laborers] keeping two wives in one house. The wives have different utensils. There are regular quarrels between the women. The people of that country have been given the freedom to marry up to four wives as one wishes, provided that you are able to support them. The people of that particular place, most of them don't care about using condoms when having extra marital affairs. It's a big village with almost 1000 mine workers, not including their daughters and sons or wives. One man is said to have brought a bargirl into his house while the wife was there, and told the wife to provide some space for the bargirl and slept with her on the same bed shared with the housewife. The wife had nothing to say. [Diston is clearly shocked]

Almost four men came into my notice having extramarital affairs with married women. The men are married too. This is a common system that is taking place at this village. The people have good families with radios and TVs in their houses, just to mention a few. The wives don't lack anything, but their brains have a problem of wanting extramarital affairs. The people are likely to be AIDS sensitive [aware] but still don't have self control about it. About four people have been thought of having died of AIDS.

The people are family planning sensitive using modern family planning methods. The average number of children per family with the range of 0,3,12/3=5. The average number of children was taken from the sister-in-law that I interviewed on 30/08/99. Others have no children due to infertility problems. The smallest family is said to have 3 children and the biggest is said to have 12 children. Child spacing is in use.

In a newspaper report, the people in this country have been said to take the children as their wealth, especially female children for the *lobola* (giving some money to the parents to marry their daughter). You can give them four cattle and some even pay Z\$2500 on top of the cattle by demand. It depends on how the parents have thought about the demand for their daughter. The highest price for *lobola* is said to be up to Z\$40,000. It is being paid by installments in most cases.

3/09/99

Extramarital Affairs/Zimbabwe

This system is very common at that place. I was surprised to hear about some women who take boys of the age of their sons and take them as sexual partners. There are two cases of that kind that I have taken first hand information from a man involved in that practice.

There are four cases or more about the people whom I was shown that they are fond of extramarital affairs, to talk about the unshown [unseen/uncounted] actors they can be double as much.

The condoms are being distributed to the people free of charge, but they don't use condoms at all. One said condoms have side effects.

12/10/99

Extramarital Affairs/Zimbabwe

People that I met at a *Bawa* playing game were saying that the women in the cities of this country Zimbabwe pull up their dresses in the evening hours when they see a vehicle approaching, so that the drivers should see their naked body structures and take them for sex. They do this with the mind of seducing the drivers. He further said that they do get arrested with that behavior if found by the policeman.

The other man also said that if they want to charge the amount for the work they have different rates. There he said it is Z\$150 if you use a condom and Z\$200 without using a condom. He said it's more without condoms because it's risky.

13/10/99

AIDS/Zimbabwe

Some men I met in the bus were discussing about AIDS, one of them said that all the people are going to perish of AIDS including himself, he is not married and he said he is one of the people to perish because he has slept with many girls in his life. One said AIDS started in the 1980s. He further said that AIDS was created by scientists, but did not mention the reason why they created it. The others did not comment on this. The man had drunk some beer and was talking a bout this loudly so that the people were not commenting but just listening to what he was saying. He did not specify the scientists' country of origin where he had heard that AIDS was created (I would have asked him more if it was an interview).

14/10/99

AIDS/Zimbabwe

I had a talk with two [relatives] who were saying that if a person dies while thin the people's talk is that he/she has died of AIDS. This talk came about as they were talking about body structures.

21/11/99

AIDS awareness/Zimbabwe

The country publishes small copies in which people are told the ways people can get AIDS and the ways people can follow to avoid getting AIDS. The copies are given to the public free of charge.

There are many times where I have found people talking about sex but they don't include the use of condoms in their conversation. The ages of the people of that area ranging from 17-30 years are seeming to be sexually mad though they know the presence of the killer disease AIDS.

6/12/99

AIDS/Malawi

A man I met in C___ told me he doesn't like to drink beer together with bargirls because he is afraid he might get AIDS and transmit it to his housewife.

19/12/99

Family planning

I had a private interview with a certain lady in our village. On what we talked, she told me that if a woman gives birth, the man is not supposed to go for any other woman. If the man does that they believe that this may cause the death of the wife. She further said that to avoid that death, the man should tell the wife about the sex he may have outside the family on arrival. Then the woman is supposed to invite another man who is not her husband to have sex so that they can neutralize the danger of death (*tsempho*). This is done due to their cultural beliefs.

29/12/99

Family Planning

The same lady in my village told me that the baby has to be strengthened (this means the wife should sleep with a man) at the age of six or eight months. Failure to do so at this age, they believe that the baby may grow weak or even die. So if the husband is away or abroad at this age they take another man who is called a hyena (*fisi*). Failure to find a hyena [appears to end]

There is a custom that they follow and I will tell you about this lively custom. The time for a man and a way to start sleeping together is disturbed from six months to nine months due to a certain problem a baby may be born with called *chinyela*. This is a condition at which a baby is born while surrounded with feces (said the lady). If the husband sleeps with the wife before the ninth month, he is believed to suffer from a disease called *chinyela* too. The husband may also suffer from this *chinyela* if he sleeps with a wife before six months after giving (normal) birth. *Chinyela* is the condition the baby is born with, and if the man sleeps with that woman before the completion of the post-partum he suffers of a disease known as *chinyela* too. The signs of this *chinyela* are said to be similar to AIDS signs, like: pale hair, paining stomach heavily and becomes blackish on the stomach skin; growing thin as if you are suffering from AIDS; protruding fingers; open bowels.

I said how can you compare a person suffering from *chinyela* and another one suffering from AIDS. She answered that there is no proper difference. But she said that the man can't transmit the disease to another woman. She said that people believed that AIDS is what is known to be *chinyela* but the whites or scientists gave the *chinyela* an English name known as AIDS. But the respondent said that it might be sure that there is AIDS because women are suffering too while *chinyela* doesn't kill women because they lose blood through monthly periods. But that *chinyela* is said to be cured if the man starts taking medicine on its early stages. But if the man delays taking the medicine, then the disease becomes incurable and death results.

20/01/00

AIDS

A man by the name of M. told me that it's wise to use a condom whenever you want to have sex with a woman that you don't know her background information in order to avoid AIDs. He started talking about this when a certain man talked about his girlfriend who is also married. They were talking this at a place where they were drinking *kachaso*.

21/01/00

Extramarital affairs

A certain primary school teacher was telling me about his sexual affairs with some two married women. The teacher is not yet married but is just moving around with other married women secretly. He is a close friend of mine.

22/01/00

My uncle came into my room at home and told me that I should be careful with the girls because boys who are fond of moving around with girls are dying rapidly. He told me that after the death of a certain boy in

the L___ area who was heard to have died of AIDS. I told him that I was glad to hear his advice.

22/01/00

A certain primary school teacher named Denzio told me that he would have been AIDS/HIV positive if he wouldn't have left his extramarital affairs, behaviour that he said he left in the year 1997 after being aware of the killer disease AIDS. He is married with three children. He is a friend of mine and I have surely learned that he doesn't go for other women other than his own wife.

11/02/00

AIDS

I met and chatted with two men at a certain market called D___ in C___, who told me that there are a great number of AIDs patients in that area. They told me a bout one beautiful girl who died of AIDS. They talked about this girl after her young sister passed near where we were chatting. The man who was telling me about this is also reported to have lived in this area for six years but has no girlfriend. He is a welder and has become a friend of mine.

14/02/2000

Extramarital affairs/C___

A certain factory named C___ that makes biscuits in C___ at D___ Industrial Site has supervisors who are employing women in a way of having sexual intercourse instead of bribery for two or three days. The women are said to be married women and the men are married too. The women accept the conduct in order to get employed. I got the information from some other job seekers who knew more about this. The company has a large number of women compared to men. For men, they pay almost K100 to get employed.

16/02/00

C___

I noticed some small business women who sell foods outside the company premises and also go for men who work in those companies. The women are likely to be married according to my assessment. I have therefore noticed that extramarital affair habit is being encouraged by poverty in that particular area. But other women are taking this habit to be their business.

19/02/2000

C___

Some workmen of T___ Fund of Malawi were telling a driver to hit some two girls who were passing near their working place saying "Hit those viruses that kill", meaning that they are HIV carriers.

21/02/00

Extramarital Affairs-C___

A certain man that I met in C___ but is a citizen of C___ told me that he conducted sex with all the bargirls that we see at V___. He is married. He told me that story as we were moving from C___ City to D___ Location. He said he was doing that because when he is drinking beer and becomes sexually aroused, he sees it difficult to run home and conduct the sex with his wife. He told me that he sometimes spent a week without going home and conducting sex with bargirls the whole week. He said he was doing all this in the years 1997-99. There is a number of about eight bargirls that he mentioned their names to me. He said that

what he was telling me was a story about bargirls and he was not including other village girls that he had been having sex with. He told me that he conducts that sex without using a condom.

I asked him about his fears about AIDS, he told me that it is just somebody's misfortune to catch AIDS. He seems not to have stopped his behavior.

He is a friend of mine and he comes from C__ village at L__ T.A.

He further told me that in 1995, he gained more money when he was doing his business in M__ and he spent five days at a bargirl's home.

The name of the man is Peter Awali. He is of the age of 30s.

22/02/00

Extramarital affairs-C__

A certain friend told me that somebody's wife was seducing him when he was in the bathroom. The woman, who is the neighbor of that boy, went into the bathroom following the boy and seducing him to conduct sex with her. The boy told me he did not accept the offer, but he said that he will accept this if he woman will repeat doing that. The woman is married with one child. She was doing this while her husband was at work. And the one she was seducing is just a neighboring boy. That was in C__, O__ Area. The man who was telling me that story was the man who was being seduced.

22/02/00

A certain boy in C__ (O__ area) was saying that his brother's wife was calling him to have sex with her while the husband was away on duty. The husband is a driver. He said that his sister-in-law did that for two days. But the boy did not accept what she wanted. The two were sleeping in the same house. The boy said that his elder brother had been conducting sex with that wife when the husband was away. So the wife was thinking that this boy may have the same system of accepting to slepe with her when his brother is away. He also said that his sister-in-law does invite some men into the house when the husband is away. The boy said that there is a number of his brother's friends who come and sleep with the wife when the husband is out on duty. This takes place even if the boy is there. He said that he once told his brother about the occuring system. But his brother took no action after hearing all this.

The woman and the husband are of the Yao tribe and their original home is N__. The man is a polygamist, having three wives. But the one that is doing this system has no children while the other two have children. The woman is suspected to be barren, said the boy. The boy who was telling that story is age 29. He was saying this as we were talking about unfaithful women at a certain place in C__.

The boy said that he is to look for another place to live because the wife may be hating him as being disturbing her to what she wants with other men freely. He further said that in their original district N__, especially in his home area N__, if you marry a wife you can also be conducting sexual intercourse with the sisters-in-law if the chances to sleep with them are there. He further said that if you can't have self control you may even sleep with your mother-in-law because of their behaviour in your presence. He said you can do that provided that you take the action in secret. He said that the mothers-in-law don't have proper manners to their in-laws in terms of sexual behavior. He said that this wife has taken her home behavior into town.

01/03/00

Polygamy/radio

One day in the *Nkhani Za Uku Ndi Uku* program they said that there is a man who married one hundred wives in Kenya and has one hundred and fifty children. After hearing this, some men started talking about their thoughts in connection to what they heard. One said that he wishes he would have married ten wives but he fails because of poverty. The other said that he can't even marry two wives because of the same problem. Another said that the one who married one hundred wives is enjoying because he goes to sleep with any other woman when he finds that the one he was supposed to sleep with is in abnormal condition due to other natural/cultural problems.

I was in my room when they were talking about this. I also heard the news from Kenya about the man who has one hundred wives, and took note of what the men were talking after the news report.

24/12/00

I had forgotten to write my own experience on extramarital affairs:

On 24 December 1999 a certain woman seduced me to have sex with her, I did not accept her offer, she even bought me a bottle of beer so I should accept what she wanted. But I drank the beer and still did not do what she wanted. She is married, and the husband is a cashier at V___ Rural Council. She has no children and the family have lived there for three years. She said she wanted to sleep with me so that she may otherwise get pregnant. She was sending messages to my home so that I should meet with her somewhere, but I was not paying any attention to this. This is what I have experienced lively.

8/03/2000

Extramarital affair

A certain woman is in love with another married man. These two live in K___ village, C___. The woman's husband works in M___ and she has got four children.

10/03/00

Culture

Some men were saying that if the man is caught having extramarital sex while the wife has a young child, they follow a certain custom where they take another man into the house and have sex with the wife in the presence of the husband. They said that the man is called a hyena. They said that they do that in order to protect the wife from suffering from a disease which they call *tsempho*. I heard this at D___ in C___ at a public meeting. They believe that failure to do so may lead to the death of the wife and the young baby from what they know as *tsempho*.

22/02/00

A man named Daniel in C___ said that his uncle died of AIDS because he was moving around with women because of the wealth he had. He said this as we were talking about the behavior of some rich people. He also disclosed to me that he has other sexual partners, about two, apart from his own wife. He lives in C___.

24/03/00

A certain foreman told me that he is in love with a certain primary school girl. The man has a wife and three children and the girl is about sixteen years old. This is in C___ D___ Industrial area.

26/03/00

Extramarital affair

A man named Mr. Bernard Size of N___, C___, sent me to a sexual partner about a message of where they had to meet each other. The man is married and the woman is married too, but her husband is in prison. The man is said to have many sexual partners apart from the one I was sent to. I was told this report by a friend of Mr. Bernard Size.

26/03/00

Extramarital affair

A man named Lamud told me that he has five children and three of the children were born to his housewife while the other one was born to a girlfriend and the other one to a girlfriend too. He said that he was once caught by his wife in a girlfriend's house in 1993. He lives in C___ City. He said this as the group of five people was talking about girlfriends. He is a builder.

27/03/00

Death after Sexual Intercourse

A friend of mine named Faki told me that his friend died after having sexual intercourse with a certain woman that sells *kachaso*. He said that his friend died a year after the action and is believed to have died because of the sex that he had with that particular woman. But he did not tell me the kind of the disease that he died of so that they connect their beliefs to the sex conducted.

28/03/00

Two men named Daniel and Lamud saw a woman with sores on her mouth and some reddish colours on her skin or some parts of her face and hands. After seeing this they said that they can't propose such a girl because the signs she had were the signs of AIDS. The woman was selling bananas and she came to the place where we were working to sell some of the bananas to the workmen.

2/04/00

Gender (Yao)

One day I saw a man on the way with his wife, the man carried the baby on his back which is the part of the job which is always carried by the woman. I was interested in that and I asked him about the reason for him to carry the baby. "I like doing this in order to give my wife a hand", he said. "How often do you do this per day?" I asked. "As often as it is necessary for me to do that", he answered. We parted from there. He is the man of my village named Livson with two children.

25/04/00

Two men fought each other at N___ market after they realized that they were both in a secret love affair with a certain married business woman. They fought as they met at the place where the woman sells her product. On hearing about the news, the husband asked the wife about the scene and the woman's response to the husband was "all the things that we use in this house are bought by those men." The marriage is said to be still going on. I was told that news by a friend who came from N___ that week, named Lyson Mada.

26/04/00

Extramarital affairs

A certain policeman at V___ Police Station told me that he has slept with more than 18 girls of the surrounding area. I asked him about using protection. He said that he cannot use condoms because if he uses them he will never enjoy the sex. He is a friend of mine and I do know some of his sexual partners. I asked him about his concerns regarding the risk of STDs, including AIDS. He told me that when going for women, if you consider the risks of diseases then you will lose your time instead of just proposing without regarding the risks of diseases. He was telling me this the day we met at the *bawa* playing (bawa is a game played by men). We were two only at that particular time. He was once said to be responsible for a pregnant woman at a certain school [girl] but he was not responsible for it. He is married but has no children. He is of the ages of 28-30.

27/05/00

AIDS

I got a lift one day and the driver who took me started talking about prostitutes, he was saying that some prostitutes can infect more than 20 men and some of this 20 men can die. But you can see her still surviving without any signs of HIV/AIDS. He was saying that these prostitutes of such type do act as careers [carriers]. While some of them die of AIDS as soon as they start this practice.

The man is a Chewa and lives in M____. He took me from N____ Turn-off to V____. It was on this route that he was feeding me with this news. I did not say anything or give any recommendations. I was just listening to what he was saying until I dropped from his car.

After this there is a page on *chinyela*, headed "Understand *Chinyela* please".

1) This is a condition at which a baby is born with some feces. And this condition leads to the extension of the post-partum abstinence to nine months instead of six months.

2) This is a disease that a man gets if he sleeps with a woman who has given birth to a baby with the *chinyela* and the disease that a man gets is known as *chinyela* too. But: A man suffers from this only when he sleeps with a woman who has given birth to a baby with *chinyela* and he sleeps with her before the extended post-partum abstinence is fulfilled (9 months).