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### **3<sup>rd</sup> March 2001**

I write this article in order to tell you about my late uncle Mr. B. N. Wayson whom I believe died of Aids on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2000 though parent and relatives say he died of *Likango*. To me, the reason why I say he died of Aids is because of his illness background. But before I go to that, I will tell you about his marriage background. He first married his first wife with whom he had two children with and divorced in 1998. That wife is still alive. He then married his second with whom he bore three (1<sup>st</sup> born passed away 2<sup>nd</sup> born twins – 1 passed away) children and the last two children passed away before they reached the age of 8. He also divorced that wife because of gambling. She was gambling too much when he was staying with her in Lilongwe. After that divorce, the wife's health was not all that good. She then died a year later after suffering from severe diarrhea and she had also swollen legs. By the time when the 2<sup>nd</sup> wife was dying, the Uncle had already married his third wife. He divorced the 2<sup>nd</sup> wife in 1990's and married his third wife in 1992.

In 1994, the uncle left Lilongwe for South Africa searching for greener pastures. From that time, he had been working in South Africa until his death and used to come home during Christmas holidays. By the time when he was leaving for South Africa, his wife had already given birth to a baby girl and her health was doubtful that time because she used to complain of lack of blood. And in 1996, she again gave birth to a baby boy. The boy looked weak and unhealthy and he died after 3 months of his birth. Still aunt's health was not good and months later, she developed Malaria plus diarrhea. She was then taken to Malosa hospital where she passed away in mid 1997. By then Uncle was in South Africa and when he came in December of that year, he prepared *SADAKA* [funeral feast] for his late wife and was given ok to marry by his wife's relatives. He then married his fourth wife in 1999 after staying for 1 year while being a widower. The wife that he married for the fourth time was also a widow. He did not bother to know what disease her late husband died of neither did she also bother to know what his wives died of. After finalizing everything for marriage, he called the wife to South Africa where she stayed for about 5 months and was sent back while pregnant. When she came home, she gave birth to a baby boy and the Uncle came in December as usual, this time he had lost weight. He told parents that he had diarrhea and his stomach always ached as if he was constipated. But that time he said he was alright. He left in Jan. 2000 to South Africa but in March parents received a letter from him saying that besides that tummy ache, his legs were also giving him problems and they were all swollen such that he failed to go to work. The situation did not change until in April when he thought of coming back. When he came he said, the tummy-ache had stopped but was consistently having diarrhea. His hair was pale and had lost almost 80% of his body weight. And instead of going to the hospital he told the parents that they should consult traditional doctors because he said he had been going to different hospitals while in South Africa but showed no progress and he saw it weathy [worth it?] to try traditional doctors. Lucky enough, his leg problems changed and the Malaria attacked him very seriously. This time, he was rushed to M\_\_\_\_\_ hospital where he was admitted. And for your own information, he was also coughing all that time that he was suffering from all those diseases. While at M\_\_\_\_\_ hospital, his spittum was tested for TB, and he was found positive. He was then transferred to TB wards. After two weeks of getting TB medication, the situation did not improve until he died. But before he died, those last two that he was at TB wards, he developed diarrhea such that he used to do everything while in bed. But parents and relatives still believe that he died of *likango* and I never talked with anyone saying that it was Aids that he died of for fear of the consequences. People believe that the wife that he married has *likango* since my Uncle was the 2<sup>nd</sup> man to die.

## 12<sup>th</sup> March 001

On 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March there was an Aids awareness seminar at V\_\_\_ primary school which was organized by Scripture Union, a church NGO (Non Governmental Organisation). The seminar was for primary school pupils from all the schools around V\_\_\_\_\_ village. They wanted pupils whose ages ranged from 10 and above. According to the source of the story, Mr. Chilowa, a teacher of Ulongwe II primary school where the children were camping, said that SCRIPTURE UNION organized that awareness seminar in order to teach the pupils how they can keep away from contacting Hiv/Aids. He further went on to say that they targeted only pupils of that age because he said they are the most vulnerable group due to the CHIMOYA MAKANDO (Sugar Daddies) System. And on the day of departure, I had a chance of chatting with two participants, Ogala Abel from V\_\_\_ primary and Liness Blackson from V\_\_\_ primary school. Ogala had problems in explaining what he was taught but he only remembered a question that he was asked as part of their lessons. I then asked him what the question was and in response, he said he was asked if he can have sex with a girl whom he has just met. I also asked him about what his answer was, then he laughed and went on to say that he answered by saying that he can not have sex with a girl whom he doesn't know about because he also doesn't know how many partners she has had before. He also said by answering that, he was given a *Chisango* [brand of condoms marketed by Population Services International] T-shirt as a prize. Ogala is in std 7 and said he is 16 years old. And when I met with Liness, I also asked her about what she was taught. This one just told me that they were encouraged to work hard at school and they should also depend on their parents for anything that they need and also they were cautioned not to be demandful because she said by doing so can make them fall in love with Sugar Daddies who have a lot of cash and also have several partners thereby exposing themselves to Hiv/Aids. Liness said she is 12 years and she is in std 4 at V\_\_\_ primary school. They were provided with food and accommodation all the three days that they camped at the school.

N:B I left for BLANTYRE on 16<sup>th</sup> March.

## 21<sup>st</sup> March 001

On a certain day, I and Soft visited Mr. Katonga's home. Soft was a frequent visitor to that man's home but when we visited him that day on 19<sup>th</sup> March, he saw a girl who was strange to him. He then asked who she was while approving that the girl was beautiful. That time, it was when I learnt a lot. KATONGA is Soft's friend and he is living with his Uncle. Upon hearing Soft's question, it was when he told him the whole story of the girl. He went on by saying that the girl's name is NORIA and was born to South African parents. But when she was young, her parents divorced and her mother got married to a Malawian man who is a friend to KATONGA's uncle. The man went to South Africa to work and later he came back to Malawi together with the South African woman and the child. And they settled in Lilongwe. The girl has been brought up by her step father but when she was in Secondary School, it was when her prostitution life began. Katonga went on to say that, sometimes, Noria would leave home as if she was going to school only to spend the whole term out with men. At one time, he said she went as far as O\_\_\_ in Mocambique with an Asian who went there for business. When she came back her step father threatened that he will beat her and when she heard that, she escaped and came to Blantyre to stay with Katonga's uncle, a friend to her step father. While here in Blantyre, it was when she is enjoying most because there is no-one whom she is fearing. During the weekends, she is hardly found at home. At one time, Katonga continued, men fought because of her after she had agreed by both of them to go out for a dance. Before Katonga finished telling the story, a Nissan twincab came and a man came out with a CD which he surrendered to Katonga and asked him if Noria was around. Katonga called Noria and she went together with the man and we were later told that he was one of the men who fought. Soft, when he heard the story, regretted for having recommended that she is beautiful and went on to say that he felt sorry for her since these days of Aids, she will not live long. He further went on to say that if she was not a prostitute, she could have got married to a man of her choice whether a rich man or not because of her beauty but shame that she is a prostitute. He then switched on to another story and Noria's story ended there.

### **28<sup>th</sup> March 001**

As you might recall, in the last diary that you collected, I wrote an article about Dr. Kachoka who claims that she has a cure for Aids. This time again, there is another woman who also claim that she has a cure for Aids (Malawi News March 17) She says that she was shown by her ancestors and the drug is only found in Phalombe district. Her name is Ireen Ntonyo and she resides at Chirimba [an industrial suburb] in Blantyre. And during the interview with the News reporter, she was asked why the government still push them aside when they say that they have a cure for Aids and in her response, she said that it was really shameful that the government does not consider them as part of the gorillas [guerillas] to fight in the war of Aids. Surprisingly, those top government officials are the first people who came to her home to drink the drug and yet they are discouraging people by saying that there is no Aids cure. And besides that, she said that there are some NGO's that are getting funding from other countries like America and Britain because of that disease therefore when they approve that we have found a cure, they are afraid of freezing the funding since they are enjoying because of Aids funds, and other people also have found employment in those NGO's.

P/S Refer to the articles enclosed.

### **8<sup>th</sup> April 001**

On 7<sup>th</sup> April, a bus tout (call boys) at D\_\_\_ Bus Stand told me that his brother in-law left on the day of his son's funeral and never came back because of suspecting that he has Hiv/Aids. He told me the story after I had asked him why he did not show up on 6<sup>th</sup> April since by that time, I was a conductor in Soft's Minibus, and that one was our bus call boy. In reply its when he told me that he was attending his nephew's funeral service. He further went on to say that when the child was sick, the doctors requested his in-law who was a father to the son to donate blood to the son because he did not have enough. And before transfusion, his blood was tested and according to the bus tout said the doctors told his brother in-law that he had Malaria plus plus. Days later the child died and the child's mother has been on and off with Malaria. When the husband heard that his son has died, he just disappeared and is no where to be seen. The bus call-boy said his brother-in-law suspected that he has Hiv/Aids because he said doctors do not tell the person directly that he/she has Aids. I was also told that his sister was seriously ill by the time when her son was being laid to rest and the bus call-boy also believe that the couple has Hiv/Aids because he said the son was born prematurely and looked unhealthy until he died and also the couple does not look healthy.

### **12<sup>th</sup> April 001**

My brother Jawadu is on Separation with his wife due to pressure from the wife's parents that he should change his behaviour failing which they should divorce. It all happened when the wife reported to her parents that her husband (my brother) always came home late in the night while drunk. She also told them that he has a girl friend nearby and she suspected that he do spend all that time while there at his girl friend. He told me this when I visited his home only to find out that my in-law was not there. When I asked him, its when he was telling me all these. He further went on to say that, that particular night, when he was coming back from the bottle store, he found out that his wife was not there. As he was drunk, he did not bother to go to the wife's parents but instead, he went there, the following morning. He indeed found that his wife was there, at her parent's home and when he asked his wife why she was found there, the wife did not answer him but instead called her grand mother to explain. When the grand mother came, she did not hesitate but told my brother that if he still wanted his wife for marriage then he should change his behaviour because this time there is Aids. She further went on to say that its better to lose marriage other than losing life. When my brother heard that, he said he was annoyed because it was like saying that he was Hiv positive then he said in response, he challenged the grandmother that if she believe that Aids is the only killer on earth, then he was ready to divorce but if there are other diseases that a person can die of, then he wanted his wife back. As a result, they did not agree on what to do next. And as I am writing this article, they are still on separation waiting for the wife's brother who works in N\_\_\_ to sort out the matter. And when I asked him if he really has a girl friend nearby, he accepted that he indeed has a sexual partner and its only one and not as what people think that he has so many girl friends.

### **17<sup>th</sup> April 2001**

On Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) radio II, there is a programme called Zam'maboma which is aired daily from 7:30 p.m. In this programme, Strange Stories that happen country wide are read. And on 6<sup>th</sup> March, there were two stories that attracted my attention. The first one happened in Nkhata Bay where the widow refused to receive money from her neighbours as a condolence due to the death of her husband because she said that those neighbours publicized that her late husband had died of Aids therefore she saw as a mock when they came with their money as condolences. The second story happened in Nsanje where dowry is a must. A man was forced to marry his sister-in-law after his brother who married the woman had died of Aids related diseases. The man was forced to do so following the *chokolo* custom. The man refused giving an excuse that the woman looked sickly but the village headman in conjunction with the head of the compound pressured him to marry her as per custom saying that there was no-one who could do so except him. The man reluctantly married the woman and after two months while a marriage, the woman developed Shingles and weeks later, she died of diarrhea. When the man also started suffering from Aids related diseases, he called his Uncle who was head of the compound and told him that he was dying because of them since he was forced to marry a woman who had Aids. He went on to say that unless other customs are changed, Aids will not be prevented. Months later, the man also died.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> April 001**

In the weekend Nation of April 14-15<sup>th</sup>, there was an article which read "WOMAN DEFILES 14 YEAR OLD." In the article, I read that a Grace Majowa, 38 from Zomba district defiled a boy of 14 years when his mother asked Grace to keep the boy at her home for a few nights. The boy told the court that his mother asked him to sleep at Majowa's house because theirs was small. And during the night, Grace used to go to the boy's bedroom and drag him to her bedroom where he was enticed to have sex with her. When the boy's mother noticed a discharge of blood mixed with puss on his beddings she took him to Queens Elizabeth Central hospital (QECH) where he was diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease, Syphilis. The woman has been sentenced to 18 months imprisonment with hard labour. While on the same issue of defilement I also heard from Television Malawi News that a man from Mangochi is under police custody for raping a young girl of 12 years whom he found harvesting in her mother's maize garden. When the man saw that the girl was alone he dragged her and raped her on the spot and hospital reports have indicated that the girl was really raped and the man will soon appear before the court. I have decided to write this article because, due to this Hiv/Aids, some boys and girls fall victim due to rape and the government is giving stiffer punishments to those people who rape others.

### **29<sup>th</sup> April 001**

On 26<sup>th</sup> April, I was chatting with my friend Richard who lives in D\_\_\_\_\_ township where I said there is Mrs. Ireen Ntoyo who says she has a cure for Aids. I then asked Richard if he really know this woman's household. In response, he said, he doesn't know about her household and has never heard of such a woman. He then promised me that he will try to trace about her household, because he said he is also in need of such a drug because he knows that he is Hiv positive himself because he has been going out with prostitutes for quite a long time during the time when he was drinking a lot. He assured me that next time that he will come, he will tell me that he has found the household. I and Richard, who was with me on that day, just laughed while knowing that we have something to write for you .