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17 – 10 – 06

I went to Vingula Health Centre for the under five clinic since I have a new born child.

I found two Health Surveillance Assistants who one of them is called Miss Chizombwe or Mrs. Nauwa but her workmate is a new person to me so that I don't know his name.

There were also other two people who were the Home Based Care Volunteers. They were a man and woman but I also don't know them by their names.

The speech came from the male Home Based Care Volunteer. He was teaching us about the child spacing methods. This man explained about the importance of the child spacing. He firstly asked the women who came for underfive clinic to explain if they know the importance of the child spacing.

People were talking and the first woman put on [wearing] a green suit said that child spacing is good because it gives the parent enough time for resting and giving the child time to grow up well.

The second woman put on [wearing] a red chitenje said that child spacing is good because the parent becomes healthy since she has enough time for resting.

The HBC volunteer asked other women to add on what their friends said but nobody raised up her hand.

Many women started murmuring saying that he was asking about the already known things they started talking about the spacing the long time ago which means that everyone now knows about its importance and its disadvantages.

Other people were just laughing. The HBC volunteer thanked the women and he now explained that the child spacing has its advantage though other people hate it.

As other women said, if a woman has a child and she is taking the child spacing method, that woman will stay for a long time looking after her child before she has another pregnant. She can look healthy because she is not busy looking after many children at the same time. The woman who takes the child spacing method has enough time for developing her house or her family. She cannot be busy with looking after children but she can have time for working like doing some businesses, working if she is employed somewhere, and she also looks smart since there is nobody who disturbed her body.

Even to men, the child spacing is also very good. If the woman is taking the child spacing method, her husband as well feels free to do different jobs which can help his family. He can manage to look after his children very well if he has enough time for working for each one of them but if the children are many, the man is also busy helping his wife looking after those children instead of going somewhere to look for a certain piece work and have money for buying good things in his house.

But there was a certain woman, she put on [was wearing] a green Chikwanje suit, that woman said that not all men help women looking after their children. Most of men are very bad because they just know bearing children but they don't even help their wives anything concerning those children.

Many women are having pregnant while they are married but for them to have money to pay for the Antenatal Clinic, the women fetch the firewood in the bush and sell them at the market in order to have money to pay for the Antenatal clinic yet they have their husbands.

They are women as well who do everything needed for children in most cases. They also sell the firewood, charcoal and other things in order to have money for buying clothes and soap for their children yet they are married.

That is why women in these days like to take the child spacing because they are tired. They are looking after their children and at the same time, they also work for their husbands and children. It is now better to have few children who you can manage to feed and buy some clothes for them.

The HBC volunteer asked women to mention the types of child spacing methods which they know.

Women were mentioning about the injection method, Tablets, Norplant, Loop, Depo method and condoms.

The HBC volunteer agreed and he said that all those methods have their advantages. At the same time he also said that there are other disadvantages of these methods. It depends to how the person's body is or we can say that the type of blood. There are other people who find problems when they are taking other types of child spacing like injection and tablets. Those two methods oftenly cause some problems in the bodies of women, but if they follow the rules properly they easily feel well and love the method.

There was the woman who put on [wore a] green zitenje suit. She asked, why is it that if you have started an injection type of method, you don't feel well. You oftenly menstruate seriously. Every month, you do the monthly period in many days and sometimes you have the monthly period at the whole month.

The HBC volunteer said that is what I have said that there are some disadvantages like

those which you are mentioning most of the women meet with that problem but it does not take a long time. It is only three months which a person meets with that problem.

But that woman refused, she said there was a time when I started taking the child spacing method. Chosen the injection type of method, but when that injection started working in my body, I started the continuous monthly period. I had no time to rest and it was too much, I went to the hospital to explain on what was happening to me but nothing was good. I was told that the problem which I had will end after three months. But since I was sure to space I waited until those three months, but nothing changed. It was still the continuous menstruation so that it reached the point of changing the method. I now started taking the tablets but still I was meeting with the same problem. When I got tired, I just left both methods because I was always ill so that I became very thin since that time until now, I don't admire any type of child spacing methods.

When she finished talking, the male HBC volunteer said there are also other methods of child spacing which are checking the dates of which a woman starts her menstruation and there is also another method where a woman looks at her fluid. That fluid from her private part tells her if she is ready to get pregnant or not.

Another method is by breast feeding when a woman is oftenly breast feeding it is difficult for her to get a pregnant. Because other food which she eats which was supposed to go to feed the child in her womb, it is the same food which her child is being fed.

I did not get well how the method of looking at the fluid from the private part I asked the HBC volunteer to tell me very well how that methods works, he told me that he cannot explain it very well.

He said, I know that your question is very good because you would like to know the truth. But what is needed there is to be educated. If you would like to know that method you have to tell us privately then we can organise the day to teach you how to do.

After learning then you can start the method. I was not happy with the answer so that I told him that I am afraid, I cannot accept to learn that method because there is no need of hiding the methods here. You would have been revealing all the methods, their advantages and their disadvantages. But if other methods are privately, then it means to me that they are very dangerous to a person.

All the women started laughing and others were commenting that I was saying the truth. There was no need for the doctors to hide the child spacing methods at a public place yet they are the same people who are supposed to follow those methods.

The HBC volunteer added nothing but stop talking and start to weigh children. When I finished everything, I decided to go to Miss Devis my grandmother. She is my sister's grandmother. My Aunt and that daughter called Triphonia who stays with her grandmother at Vingula. Her father's mother is the one who she is staying with since she was young.

On my way, I saw three young women coming back from the under five clinic as well. One of them covered her child with a white shawl, another covered with a pink shawl and the third one covered her child with the green shawl.

They were talking among themselves. The one who had a pink shawl was reminding her friends about me. The woman who was asking questions at the clinic is going to our way, where does she stay.

Nobody knew me so that they all refused and said that we don't know her.

Then she continued, what she was asking was true. The doctors sometimes know nothing they just do things because they are employed but they don't want to learn things properly first before they talk to people. Myself I don't believe that there is a true child spacing. She said, there was a time when I wanted to take the child spacing and what happened was that I experienced my monthly period. As soon as I finished that monthly period, I stayed for a day then I went to the hospital to ask for the child spacing method and I was given an injection. I stayed for three months while having my monthly periods and during that time I was taking the child spacing. But after those three months, I stopped the period then I was just staying. I wondered thinking that maybe I left the period because of an injection of the spacing. After 5 months I asked the doctor to tell me the truth since I was also taking the child spacing method. I was taken my blood and measured then I was weighed on a scale and found that I was pregnant. I was told that I had a 5 month pregnant. When I explained the situation to the doctor, he told me that the time that I was starting the spacing was bad. It means that I was already pregnant but I did not know. I did not believe until now but what I know is that an injection did not work on me. The other problem which happened there was that during the delivery time, I lost a lot of blood so that I was asked if I was taking the child spacing. I was then told that method of child spacing. Otherwise I will die of it. Since that time until now, I never went to take any type of child spacing and I don't want to attempt taking it. They stopped there.

THE END

20 – 10 – 06

The village headman Ntaja came to my house on 19-10-06 to tell me that there was a meeting at his house by the Salvation Army Reverend and his Coordinator.

Soon after he departed, I saw Mr. Bayson Chiwaya who is our Chairman of the AA Orphan care club. He came to tell me about the same meeting which was at the village headman's house by the Salvation Army members.

I thanked him and I promised him that I will join him if God will wish. Very fortunate enough that the day came so that I managed to go there to attend that meeting.

The visitors came and they came to tell us that the Salvation Army Organisation which is

looking after the Orphan children in Masambuka village, has decided to start giving people some money for business. That money will be a credit and it will be K7,000 to each person.

The first priority has gone to all the Executive members who are running the orphan club. Since the orphan children received goats, school uniforms and school fees, the committee members should also receive something which will be helping them.

The Reverend said that the committee members are 10 of them which means that they will make a group of 5 people each. After that, each group will open an account where they will be keeping their money when the Treasurer will be collecting the money has the interest of 10% when refusing to an organization, and people will be giving it back for 16 weeks and each week a person is supposed to pay K500. After those 16 weeks, the organization will now be giving people the amount of K14,000. The third trip will be K21,000 then K28,000 if we shall be giving them back their money in a right way and good behaviour.

In addition to that, we were told that we should now write the names of all orphan children who have no parents who are looking after them. We should look for those who are just orphans and they are meeting with many problems because they are looking after their own. That job was given to me and other two people Bright and Chiwaya.

At the same time other people like Miss Sophia Mumba had an advantage of asking me what they planned in the village with the village headman. She asked me to open the Nursery school and the Youth club.

I told her that I have nothing to open those two things. The Nursery school needs teachers, utensils and even food especially milk and sugar. Other things for the children to be playing with like footballs, see-saw and other things. All those things need money to run it. The same as the youth club. There are other things needed there like books, footballs and money. The problem is that here in the village we are poor people cannot manage to contribute some amount of money to run one of it on our own. We always need help from other organizations since we are poor. What we can manage is only to layer some bricks and fire them. Picking up sand and other jobs. Then I continued to say that I don't have any other room which is empty where we can open the club or the nursery school. We are also lacking water. We don't have the boreholes now where will those children be taking water to drink.

All these two things [nursery school and youth club] are good and I am free. I can run those two things if the necessities are there. If the things which are supposed to be used during that time are ready. I am also ready working with you the village headman and your people.

The headman Masambuka told me that I should write a letter to the government and other organizations which I know to help us with money which I can be using to run those projects.

I agreed but I told him that I have never wrote a letter to the government or any organization ever since but this will be my first time to do that. But I promised that I will try to write those letters and see how we shall be helped.

Miss. Sophia Mumba asked me why I am not asking my bosses to help me with my village problems.

I told her that my boss has no organization which is helping the orphans here or elsewhere. If they have it, maybe but I know nothing. They never told me about that organization but maybe they can help me writing the proposal letters to other organizations if I ask them to do so.

The village headman told me that I should try my best to ask my bosses to help me in any way how they can manage, especially the borehole and the orphan clubs and schools.

I told him that I will try my best to ask them to help us in any way that they can manage. The meeting ended there.

THE END.

23 – 10 – 06

I went to the well to wash my clothes when I reached there I found Miss Kalombe washing her clothes. At the same time, Miss Notice came to draw some water. We started chatting there.

Miss Kalombe is a married woman. She is married to Mr. Ganisani but at the same time she has another sexual partner called Mr. Timba. Abiti Kalombe looked for her own sexual partner because she has only two children.

The hospital told her to stop bearing because she was bearing through an operation therefore when she had the third pregnancy, things were not good. She was operated but she took a long time to start breathing when she failed.

When the hospital saw that problem, they told her to stop bearing so that she closed the same time. Since that time until now she has only two children but the owners are still very young.

Her husband [Ganisani] saw a certain woman with a good shawl which she covered her child. He admired that so that he decided to marry another woman who can be bearing children with him.

Ganisani looked for another woman and married her. He did not tell his wife that he has married another woman in order to have a child but he was telling her that he was admiring a new shawl which a certain woman has brought and covered her child.

After some days people told Miss Kalombe that her husband has married another woman. She got annoyed and she had all the hope that her husband sleeps somewhere in some days but he cheats [lies to] her that he sleeps at his job. The man works in the maize mill.

That is where he cheats his wife that he sleeps in the maize mill if he is [too] tired to walk back home or if he is very busy and knocks off at the late time. But that was not true. He was going to sleep to his married wife who he married in order to bear other children.

When Miss. Kalombe heard about that, she asked her husband to tell her the truth if he has married another woman in order to be bearing other children. But the husband refused.

He told her that he just wanted other children and he is ready to buy that new and beautiful shawl. She knew that what people were telling her was true therefore she looked for her own other sexual partner.

That meant the man had another sexual partner and the woman had another sexual partner as well.

Now on that day she heard that a certain woman called Madiresi is caught red handed with another man while her husband is in South Africa. Her marriage has ended here before her husband has come back but his relatives ended that marriage.

When Miss Kalombe heard about that, she was afraid. She started to tell us that she was challenging that each one of them should have another sexual partner but now I am afraid.

Lovesness is caught red handed with the village headman Efeti yet he has three wives while Madiresi husband has only Madiresi and he is in South Africa. It was news to me therefore I asked her to explain properly on what happened to Madiresi.

Miss. Kalombe said, Madiresi is caught red handed with the village headman Efeti. But though she was doing that her husband sent her a bag full of clothes for her and her children. Her husband phoned her telling her that he is coming very soon in December and he asked her to keep rice and groundnuts for him.

This is not the first time for her to be caught red handed with another man. She has her first son child who she gave birth with Abraham.

This year, she started having sex with Abraham again in order to be receiving some fish since Abraham is selling fish at the market of Vingula.

When she was initiating her children, she initiated two children the one who she gave birth with Abraham and the one who she gave birth with her husband. But since her husband is away, Abraham and his relatives were free to do anything at the initiation

ceremony showing that the child was for them.

Madiresi's mother-in-law came to help her feeling happy with the initiation but when she saw what was happening there, she did not feel happy so that a pot of rice that she cooked went back to her home.

She told Madiresi's grandmother that she came to attend the initiation ceremony because she did not know that her daughter-in-law will ask the owners of her children to come and attend the initiation ceremony therefore she was going back home.

She really took her pot of rice going back to her home. After some days it was also heard that she is also sleeping with her husband who married her during her first time to get married. That man earns money through taking people escorting them where they are going. It is like hiring them.

And now she has added other thing. She has taken a man who has three wives. Though that man is a village headman, but he has no job which he is doing. His first wife is a Madrassa teacher. Through that job she is helping herself when she has received some money. His second wife is learning at Vingula how to sew some clothes through the Muslim Association of Malawi. She is also receiving a small amount of money which she is helping by herself. And his third wife is a business woman. She is selling some local clothes and through that, she is able to help herself.

Mr. Efeti's business is selling the tablets. If nobody on that day has not buy some tablets from him. Nothing can be good there.

People are thinking that all those women are being helped by him. They did not know that each one of them does her own means of having a help.

Now Miss Kalombe said that she was much concerned with what Loveness has done. Now I think that the same thing can happen to me.

Miss Kalombe said Madiresi has lost her marriage at the last minute. What will those other men do to her? Her husband will come here and he will marry another woman leaving her to continue what she was doing.

I commented on what she was talking and I said what you are talking is true therefore you should learn a lesson there. If Loveness's husband is away and we can say that he is very far from Malawi. He can't see what his wife is doing and he cannot know what she is doing. But his relatives tried to help him looking at what their relative's wife will be doing. And they have managed to catch her she is now caught red handed and the marriage has ended, what about you who your husband is here. He is just going to work at Vingula but he is staying with you in your house. His relatives are just near by people can tell them that you are falling in love with Timba and he can tell his relatives to make themselves busy looking at what you are doing. Very unfortunate enough, it will [be] found that you are caught red handed as what has happened to your friend Madiresi.

What happen do you have Miss Kalombe with your husband? He is buying food for you and he is buying clothes for you. Can you say that he is not helping you that is why you have decided to look for another sexual partner? And if it is so, why haven't you tell him to change his behaviour or divorce him before you find another man?

Miss Kalombe answered me that it was not my aim, my husband Ganisani loves me very much and he buys everything for me. But there are two things which has happened at my home. The first thing was that there was a time when my Uncle Mr. Time stole things and money in Blantyre where he was working. But before he decided to steal his Boss's properties he asked my husband to join him working in Town. He promised that he will ask his boss to ask his Indian friend to employ my husband. His boss accepted and he did that. My husband was employed in town by an Indian person who was the friend of my uncle's boss.

But after some time, Mr. Time told my husband to stop the job. He cheated him that his boss told him to tell Ganisani to stop working there and go back home for the few days. He would like to employ him at a good job which he will be receiving much money. He told him that he will go back in town very soon but he cannot employ him direct from his friend's house. Now Ganisani did not know anything. He thought that my Uncle was loving him so that he wanted him to be employed at a good place. He told me that we should come back home for few days then after some days we shall go there again therefore we were coming home. We did not know that he wanted to steal his boss's properties now he knew that if he does that while Ganisani is there, he will trouble him and him to our home and find him.

We came here but after some few days we saw him [uncle, Mr. Time] coming at a car hire with many properties and money. He did not stay at home, he just took his wife and a child going where he planned to go when his boss came to look for him he found my husband here and the boss said that they were together or that he knew where he gone. He said why was it that the same time that he left his employment which time looked for him was the time that Time stolen some properties of his boss in addition with money?

The Policemen took my husband and arrested him to reveal where my Uncle went. When his relatives heard about that case, they became furious. They said that Ganisani will die for nothing yet he never stolen anything in his life since he was born.

When he came back from Police, he was told to leave me and go back to his home but he refused. Since that time, his relatives started to hate me. They were saying that their relative will die because of me as if I am a real woman. My husband has forgotten that there are many women in this country or women who have no relatives who are thieves. They tried to force my husband to leave me but he was refusing.

That was the first [scene] and it is still working until now. After some time, my husband went to Vingula where he was very lucky that he was employed at the maize mill as a miller. He started going there fore his job everyday but after some time he looked for another sexual partner there then he was sometimes sleeping there. He was telling me that

he was becoming tired if there is lights off because he was working up to a very late time tonight now he was becoming tired and he was fearing to walk alone during that night time.

But after some days, he started to tell me that he would like a new born child because he has seen the beautiful shawl and that shawl is very expensive. He was telling me that he would like to have a child and buy that shawl. Now he knew that I stopped bearing and I have only two children with him.

It was not my aim to stop bearing but I had a problem I was always bearing by an operation therefore I was told at the hospital that I should not continue bearing, otherwise I can die with bearing. Because of that I was asked to stop bearing and since that time until now, I am not bearing some children I am just staying.

After some days I heard that he has married another woman who he would like to be bearing some children with when I asked him about that second wife, he was challenging me that he would like to have a child. That is why he has married another woman and he cannot leave her because of that, I asked him to leave me alone and go to marry another woman who he has loved to be bearing children with.

But he was refusing he was saying that he would like to have two women at the same time. He cannot leave me as if there is something which is wrong between us.

But I was still telling him to go back to his home but he was refusing when his parents heard that Ganisani has married another woman at Vingula, they became happy and they were encouraging him to leave me and marry the woman who is at Vingula.

Still Ganisani was refusing so that it came a time when I was very annoyed. I decided to look for a method which he can easily leave me and go to his home. I was proposed by Timba and I accepted him. I told him that I am married but I am free to have another sexual partner.

Our friendship started and Timba told me as well that he is married.

Timba was coming to my home during the day hours when my husband is away. I was keeping him in my young sister's house. I was cooking food for him and be giving [it to] him in my young sister's house. Sometimes Timba was coming while my husband is there but he was staying at my young sister's house until my husband goes away. Timba had been helping me in many ways. He was buying me some maize for food, he was buying me some clothes and he also bought me two hoes. Very soon he has employed people to work in my maize garden I was selling firewood and grass therefore I was cheating or lying to my husband that I was buying those things with my own money which I was selling some firewood and grass.

We agreed with Timba that we shall marry each other. It will be a marriage so that each one of us should divorce his / her marriage. But very soon I have seen that Timba was

just lying. He cannot leave his wife and marry me. He told me that he chased her back to her home to stay and that will be the end of his marriage. But it has found that he has followed her there and they have come together. They are there at their home as of now can that be true that he will marry me yet his wife has a pregnant? She is pregnant and they are together at Timba's home. It will be impossible for him to marry me and he is not coming here in these days.

I asked her, didn't you agree of being two wives with Timba's wife? She said no. Timba refused to have two wives. He said that he never got married to two wives and he don't think that he can manage to have two wives therefore he will just wait for his wife to bear a child then their marriage will end there. My marriage will come to an end and I will get shy to [be ashamed with] my relatives. And my friends now I would like to tell him that we shall now stop what we were doing and each one of us will concentrate with his / her marriage.

We left there but I encouraged her to stop because she can also get infected with the sexually infected diseases but she refused. She said that my husband will be the one to be infected because he was the one who looked for another woman before me.

I have just followed what he has done then we left there. But in the following day, I went to the CADCOM where we were working. We were working in the maize garden preparing for the growing season.

When we finished, the Executive Committee secretary asked us to sit down and hear what he heard from Vingula mission. He firstly read out the names of people who went to work there and then he told the club committee to write letters to all the people who were absent in that day without sending any message. After that he pointed out people who were supposed to receive some goats in the following day. He talked with them how to care those goats because they are not for free. It is a credit so that each one of them should care those goats, after they will have some children, they are supposed to give those goats to the office where they will know what to do with them. After that he asked all the people to go except the club committee members where I am the Secretary.

At the same time I heard Miss Knife talking. She said you people I am asking you to come here at the village headman's house at 12 o'clock noon. I have the case here. I was caught red handed by men yet my husband is in South Africa.

We started laughing because we thought that she was joking. But she assured [us], she said that I am not joking I am saying the truth. Now she among the club committee members therefore she was there waiting to hear what the Executive Secretary wanted to tell us.

He was encouraging us to work hard in the club. He said that the time is over therefore we have to work very hard and finish very fast because the owner of CADCOM have said that they will not help us with seeds unless we finish our show garden. Even if we finish our gardens in our houses, but if we don't finish this club show maize field, they will not

give us some seeds.

When everything ended I was coming back home with Miss Lot on our way she asked me do you think that what I was telling you is not true.

I said no, I know that you were just joking since that is how you were born.

How can you caught red handed yet you are not married? Which husband of you who is in South Africa?

She said no, I am saying the truth that I have some case today at this place of the village headman Ntaja's ground. What happened was that people were talking that I am prostitute so that I have caught red handed. I received a letter from South Africa that letter was from my grand daughter Madiresi's husband. He wrote a letter and sent it through someone who was coming here in Malawi from South Africa. It was a luggage for his young brother then he put that letter in that bag. When the bag came to his parents, they started to look for some clothes which he sent for his young brother and at last, they found a letter which was signed my name Miss Lot. The people there took that letter and gave it to a certain young boy who is not their relative to give me.

When the letter came, we read it and it was written like this, 'My grand mother, tell me clearly on what is happening there. I have been hearing about many things happening there, why is it so? Sit down with your grand daughter and ask her about her problems. What is wrong with her? Why cant she tell me if there is something wrong? Would you like me to get thin here because of thinking about her? Please my grandmother tell her to change her behaviour.

I wondered because I did not know what my grand daughter has done. I went to Chidziwitso to the man's parents who sent me that letter to ask them to tell me if they know something.

The grand son's mother refused to answer. She said that her husband will be the one to answer what I was asking therefore I should go back home. She will tell him when she will be back from where she went.

In the following day, I saw him with his niece Notice coming to my house. When I greeted them they told me that they cannot tell me anything there at my home but they would like to take me to the right place where something happened.

I did not refuse, we went somewhere near the bush and they said this is the place where your grand daughter was caught red handed.

Only that this person Notice did not call people to see what was happening but she asked, what are you doing my sister in-law? She answered nothing since she knew that nothing was good there.

This man came to tell us therefore we sent that message to the owner in South Africa. That is why he wrote that letter.

I asked them to sit down with us meaning the marriage counselors of those two people but they refused. They said that cannot do that job there is nothing to discuss there now I have seen that they have something to us. They dislike us to be their wife.

Now I have summoned them to meet with us today. They should tell me how they caught me red handed. But I told her that I will not have time to attend that case meeting.

I have some visitors who are coming to chat with me to my house. Then I asked her to tell me the results after they finish talking.

In the afternoon, I saw people from Chidziwitso passing by my house going to the village Headman Ntaja. When they finished talking, I saw them again going back home. Notice came to my house, he wanted to see my brother. He was one of the people who went to hear what Miss Lot was talking. I asked him, how was the case my son?

He told me that the case hasn't yet finished. Madiresi was caught red handed though it was not in the house but it was at the bush. The other problem was that when Miss Lot heard that her grand daughter is caught red handed, they came home and started talking the bad words to us.

Now the village headman has said that it has shown that Madiresi was caught red handed. But since her husband is away, they should all wait [until he] comes back from South Africa.

He will be the one to say that he will divorce her or not. If he will think that his parents are not saying the truth, he will continue their marriage but if he will believe that his wife is a prostitute therefore it must be true that she was caught red handed that marriage will end there.

I asked again, are you sure that you caught Madiresi red handed with another man?

He said yes this is not the first time. There was a time when she was caught with her first husband but people left her because the man lied that he came to see his child. Otherwise things wouldn't have been good all.

I said okay thank you.

THE END

26 – 10 – 06.

Mrs. Nazombe who is also Miss Theu came to my house. She was coming from her home at Namathika village. She was going to the funeral where her other relatives are staying.

Mrs. Nazombe is from Namathika village and she got married to Nazombe who is also her neighbour at her home. I once stayed with them at Chikwani Estate where Nazombe was the Tractor driver and she was there with her husband.

Mrs. Nazombe is a very difficult woman so that she was often beating with her friends. She was thinking that all the women who were there were falling in love with her husband.

She was found of quarrelling with her friends at the Estate. Because of that, her husband got tired with her behaviour so that he became the womanizer. He had several sexual partners there and he was found of getting married to several women.

But Miss Theu was following him where he has married and she was beating with her co-wives. When Nazombe saw that his wife is a very difficult woman, he just took her back home. He went to live at her home.

At the same time, Nazombe left the job at Chikwani Estate so that he decided to go to Maliseni where he stayed for 5 years and he married another wife there.

Since that time until now which have maybe passed some 15 years. I was not meeting with her.

On that day, I saw her coming to see me when she was going to attend the funeral which was at her relatives who stay at Ingilesi village.

I greeted her and I asked about her Uncle Mr. Brake. She told me that Brake died last year in September. He was bewitched by his sister Miss Baluki. The problem was that Mr. Brake had a big land which his mother left for him.

He had also some cattle which he bought for his future use. But his sister Miss Baluki was feeling jealousy of that. She wanted the land to be for her. After that she started to teach my son to be a witch.

She was telling my son that he should kill me so that he should have a chair tonight and if he can manage to kill me, he will receiving much maize at Vingula Mission and he will be staying with my elder sister Miss Namphimba.

My son revealed that to me therefore I summoned her when we went to the village headman, she was refusing that she never taught anything especially witchcraft to any of my son and herself is also not a witch.

She does not know how people become a witch. But my son said that she was just refusing because she was getting shy with people who were there. But Miss Baluki is not a good person.

The village headman told her that she should be careful. If something will happen at our home unknowingly we shall know that you are the one who are killing those people in the village.

If I will know that you are the one, you should know that you shall migrate to another area. I don't want witches in my village.

You are killing people who could have been developing this country and you are remaining the witches who cannot develop the country.

She agreed that if something will happen at our home and the village headman agrees that I am the person who has done it, the village headman has all that authority to chase me away.

Then we were coming back to our homes.

I then asked, where is your husband Mr. Nazombe?

Miss Theu said my husband is in Mchinji. He stays there and he has married a woman there. He left me here three years ago. He is not helping me but if I ask him to allow me getting married to another man, he refuses.

But in these days since he left me here, I am feeling well and happy. You can see my body, it is different to how I was looking and feeling in the days gone when I was with him.

The problem was that I was mostly getting worried with what he was doing. Talking was giving me tough time and what he was doing of having many sexual partners was also making me becoming thin.

I was eating but I was not feeling happy.

I am just feeling happy in these days seeing that my body is very healthy. I thought that I am infected with Aids since my husband is a womanizer. He was not feeling well to have one wife like myself therefore he was having three or four wives at the same time and in addition to that, he was having many other sexual partners.

But I am happy that I am healthy, I don't have Aids. Did you go for the blood test for you to know that you are negative or positive? She said no. I did not go for the blood test but I know that I am negative because I am looking healthy and I am growing fat.

It is not true that a person who has Aids can become fat. Aids is a very dangerous disease.

It cant allow a person to become fat while he is suffering from it.

I asked her, don't you know that other people have Aids but they are looking healthy and strong. They are fat, healthy and strong but they have the HIV don't you know that? She said no. that cannot be true. Once a person is found with HIV that one has gone automatically.

Don't be cheated that a person who can be found with HIV can look healthy. I answered she then said byee to me that she was rushing to the funeral because she received the message that the funeral will be buried soon because the person was bewitched.

Her whole body was expanding now it will not be good to leave it in the house for a long time. I allowed her to rush to the funeral and we agreed to meet at the next time when she will be back from the funeral.

THE END

28 – 10 – 06.

Early in the morning, I saw our village headman Ntaja coming to my house to tell me that the vouchers of buying fertilizer have come and people will be going to Chawichawe school to write down their names and maybe they will receive the vouchers today therefore I have come to tell you that you should go there and receive those vouchers if you have money for buying that fertilizer.

I thanked the village headman and I told him that I don't have much money. I cannot manage to buy fertilizer for K3,500 per bag now if you have decided to help me a voucher and buy a bag of fertilizer for K950 that will be good.

I am thanking you very much for what you have said.

The village headman was going to Vingula. After he departed, I took my pail going to the well to draw some water.

When I reached there, I found many people at the well waiting to draw some water.

Other people there were Miss Notice, Miss Alecki, Miss Abel, Miss Daniel and other children.

I found them talking about the vouchers which people will be receiving for buying fertilizer. Miss Notice was saying that I don't have some clothes, I mean the washed clothes for me to put on when going to Chingwe therefore I would like to rush and wash them so that I should put on [wear them] in the afternoon.

Miss Alecki asked, are you going to receive the fertilizer vouchers today in your village?

Miss Notice said yes. You are very lucky indeed. But our village headman Mandawela is doing nothing until now, we haven't heard anything concerning the vouchers.

He would like to write down his relatives only to receive those vouchers. We shall just hear that the vouchers came but they have ended.

Miss Daniel answered. That system also is found in our village. Every year, they choose people who he knows and write their names. Those names are those who receive vouchers and food.

But if it comes to the village development, he needs all the people in his village to be there working forgetting that he was choosing people to receive some food. But myself I cannot do that even the village headman himself knows that I am not a person of doing that village development job.

This year I received three summons which the village headman wrote me that I was not going to lay some bricks but I teared them while the owners were there.

I told his messengers that you should tell your headman that I have teared the summons and I will never come there to do any job. The village headman has no power to force me working in his village I am not staying at his land but I am staying at my grandparents land.

He cannot tell me to leave this place because he has no land.

Today I am going there to receive the voucher. They will know me today if they are used to do things secretly, today that will not be secret. I will give them a word which they will know that we are tired with what they are doing Miss Daniel added.

I asked Miss Notice what time did the village headman mention for us to be found there?

She said 12 O'clock. Visitors will be there at 12 O'clock exactly because I have heard that the vouchers will be divided into a villages should receive their own vouchers.

Miss Notice told Miss Daniel that she should go but she should avoid talking nonsense things there.

We must all receive those vouchers as Malawians but not that some people receive the vouchers and others remain unless a person refuses by himself that he will not receive it.

I asked her, what about if the vouchers are only for 20 people in each village. Do you think that all the people in the village will receive those vouchers.

It is impossible that all the people who stays or live in the village can receive anything which comes in the village.

When the government is sending food and other items to be done in the village, not all the children in the village can receive the vouchers or fertilizer? We should learn to thank a person who has given us something which we had no that thing.

We stayed at the well for a long time then we left the well. We all left the well going to our homes and then we all started our journeys going to Vingula.

When we reached there, the owners who came to give people the vouchers.

We saw some relatives coming out from the headman's house. They were the elders of the village development committee and then the chairman, secretary and Treasurer are all there to do their job.

One of the visitors who came to work here stood up. That one was the chairman he said to all the people that the committee members of each village should meet together and discuss on how you shall be sharing some seeds.

In the village, we are many people but we cannot all receive vouchers for buying fertilizer others will not receive the vouchers because we don't have money for buying fertilizer.

Others will fail because the vouchers are not many. Others will be misfortunate. But the committee members should meet together and discuss on what they will do with vouchers so that every person in the village should have even 25Kg of it.

Myself I am the secretary of the village development committee. The chairman was late therefore I was asked to call all the committee members to meet.

I tried to do so and the committee members met together. But Miss Daniel saw us meeting together she thought that we have started to write the names of people who are supposed to receive the vouchers.

She did not want to ask other people to tell her what was happening there.

She stood up and started shouting she said, you have started your behaviour you have started to show your behaviour. Why are you saying that the committee should meet together.

Would you like to share them to you and your relatives only? There is no that behaviour today. Though you are keeping on taking those things, where are you becoming rich?

I can see you that you are still poor, you have no other clothes, you don't have food. Each and every year you keep on buying food. Why can't you change and stop that bad behaviour?

But today, there is no chance of doing that thing we would like everyone to be written. I

answered Miss Daniel, can you keep quiet and see what will happen. Do you think that the committee members can share all those vouchers how much money do we have?

We are the same as any person in the village who needs a help only that it can happen that other people can fail to receive if still we have tried hard but the vouchers are few and we are many but we shall try to make anyone happy just accept to share one bag for two people so that each one of us should have it.

Miss Daniel thought that I was lying. She continued talking I know you people what you want here is to write the names of people who you know and of your relatives. These vouchers are not from your houses. These are from the government everybody should receive them.

Though you always hate others, where are you becoming rich? You don't have many clothes, the clothes which you always put on are the same clothes. You don't have many you are poor like me and you don't harvest enough food every year but you buy some food.

You shall see what I will do if you don't write my name here today.

The committee members became furious. Our chairman Mr. Khoza asked her mother to come and explain well if her daughter is a mad person or not. She said that my daughter is a normal person but the problem is that she is a witch.

Since she is [has] nobody who she fears in her life. Even myself I don't talk with her I just look at her on what she does and what she talks with her relatives at home.

But Mr. Khoza said that he will summon her that she has said the bad words to the village development committee members because she is now used to [it]. We have been looking at her always on what she was doing and what she was talking but now this is worse.

She is a person who dislike to work with her friends in the village. We do have the village development job which needs all the people in the village to go and work but she is the only woman who refuses to do that job in our village.

If the village headman writes a letter of summon to her asking her to come and work with her friends or calling her to his house in order to ask her why she is refusing going to work with her friends she just tears a letter in the presence of a person who has come with it and she do tells that person that you should tell the person who has given you this letter that she has teared your letter and she cannot come here.

Do whatever you want but she cannot work in the village free of charge.

Now we would like to let her know that those people who accept working in the village free of charge are not stupid and they also have their own problems. Now since they just work with no pay, it is better for them to receive these vouchers or food as their

payments.

There is no need for her to receive anything in the village though things come from the government. She should know that the food, vouchers and even the village development job come from the government.

I asked Mr. Khoza to stop that story because the Executive Members wanted us to start writing names for all the people who are ready to buy fertilizer in the village.

We asked all the people to meet together so that I should write down their names.

I did that and I finished. Daina Daniel was there and I wrote down her name, when I finished I gave them to the Executive Committee to share the vouchers through calling out those names.

It was found that all the names which I wrote there received vouchers including Miss Daniel.

When we were now coming back she started talking by herself on our way but nobody was answering her she was talking. Have you seen you people what has happened today?

Everyone has received the vouchers because of what I was talking I will be doing the same always if things will be coming in this village for people to receive. I cannot go for the village development job yet I don't receive anything.

Those who eats food from the government should be doing that but myself no. I cannot do that and even if I will be receiving some food, I cannot do that job. I have my own job which I do at my house which gives me money for buying some food and everything I want.

Nobody answered her but she was still talking until we reached home. When we reached home, I was busy cooking in my kitchen then I saw her coming. That was tonight at maybe 7:30 pm she found me and asked me to keep her voucher because she was fearing that her relatives can come and tear it.

She knows that her relatives are not happy with her because she has received the voucher therefore they can tear it.

I asked her. Am I a good person to you now? Have you forgotten that you were talking the bad words at a large group of people like that one? Did you ever seen me buying 10 bags of fertilizer using those vouchers or ever you seen me or heard that I do sell the vouchers when they come in this village for people to share?

She answered me that I was not meaning you. This is your first time and year giving you that job of writing those names and share the vouchers.

That is why things were good. Nobody can say that I did not receive the voucher unless those who refused by themselves that they don't have money and they have no mean of having money for buying fertilizer.

But everyone in our village has received the vouchers. Myself I was meaning the people who always do that job in the village. I said okay I shall keep this voucher only because I don't hate anybody.

Otherwise I would have refused to keep it, you would have gone to look for another person to keep it for you because you are a rude woman.

Daina said sorry, just forgive me then I received her voucher and kept it. She was going to her house.

THE END

30 -10 – 06

I went to Mtambo Hospital for check up.

When I came back there I was walking going to see my grand father Mr. Nyengani who is now sick. I found people at Mtambo market and most of them were men. I thought that where they stood there was something which someone was selling therefore I was not busy with it.

But among them, I heard someone talking that the UDF people cannot lose Bingu [President Bingu wa Mutharika] thought that all the people who are in the UDF party can be removed.

What he wants is that the UDF party should be out. Bingu is failing to develop his country but arresting people. He is mostly hating people who have remained in UDF party.

He would like all the country to be in his country. I did not know who was speaking but I was just hearing the sound.

A certain woman among them asked, will he just be arresting all the MPs who are in the UDF party and the former President Dr. Bakili Muluzi only and not other people?

Other men said, Yes. He is hating Bakili he knows that Bakili is not his friend. He is a child to him; Bakili Muluzi is a man of men. He was leading very well in this country.

We were enjoying this country because everyone was staying safely. We don't mean that he was doing everything good for us but still we were enjoying the country. We were not lacking money as it is in these days.

Bakili was not a jealousy man. People were working according to their education level and their experience. But Bingu is not like that, he is thinking that his relatives only are those who are well educated therefore all the people who are ministers members of Parliament and even the former President should get arrested why?

Bakili was the President here and he has ruled here for almost 10 years. People were supporting him that he was doing a good job and everyone was happy.

He left ruling this country and now the President is Bingu. Why saying that Bakili should be arrested because he was ruling the country while he had no MSCE Certificate.

Is he a President as of now?

Why didn't they arrest him during his time of ruling?

Where were those books which was written that the president should be arrested if he is not a holder of a MSCE Certificate? Where was Bingu during that time. Why didn't he tell people to arrest Muluzi that he was just ruling without any Certificate.

He has realized that he had no Certificate at a wrong time. This is now too late.

The same thing happened to Lucius Banda. That man has no case, he will come back from that prison. If he is hating him because he is the MP and he is of the UDF party that is not a real reason for him to hate a person.

Whether he has that Certificate or not, he is our MP. Bingu will know the Yao people in this year. He will know that people are not happy with what he is doing.

I did not stand there for a long time because I was late. I was rushing to see my grand father and go home very fast. When I reached to my grand father's house, I found his last born daughter and the grand father.

But the grand mother was not there, they greeted me and I told them that I went to see my grand mother because I heard that he is ill.

His daughter said yes that is true my father is ill and it has mixed with his old. He is now old therefore his body has tired. He has also drunk many tablets in his life. Everyday he is supposed to drink some tablets when he goes to sleep now his brain is not working properly.

I said sorry then I asked where my grand mother went? She said that she was at the funeral. In the village there are some rich people whose children stay in towns. There is a certain man whose son was in Lilongwe and he was a rich person.

Since he had much money, his money were forcing him to enjoy the world in different

ways. Women were not refusing him since they knew that he was the only man to give them much money.

Now God wanted to punish him. He was not going to the hospital for the blood test. He knew that he was not well according to what he was doing therefore he was just staying.

Now when he started ill, he became serious at a short period of time.

The Doctors tried to see the problem which that man had, but it was found that the disease has destroyed many things in the body.

There was no chance for the doctors to help but letting him die.

Now since they are rich people that funeral has stayed in mortuary for three days then they went to take it and stayed in his house for two days.

This is the third day which they would like to bury and now they have taken the funeral by a car going to the Church at Chimbuwira Anglican Church.

They would like the Reverend to pray for it so that God should forgive him on what he was doing.

At the same time I saw my grand mother coming. She found me talking that the Aids disease will kill or is killing many people I have seen a certain old man with his wife at the hospital.

Can say that he is my grand father's agemate but he is found infected with HIV. He was advised and he is now waiting for the date to start taking the ARVs.

I was very surprised that this old man, where has he taken that disease?

My grand mother answered. We shall all die with that disease. It seems now it is not because you are a prostitute it is a general disease like any other disease which is found in this country.

Then she started to greet me. And she explained how my grand father is feeling, she then told me that I should go to see where my young sister Rose is staying. Rose has gone to stay with her husband at his home, she has taken all her 6 children going there.

Now the problem is that she has only one child with that man but all those five are not for him. I asked why has she decided to go and stay at her husband's home? What is wrong with our home where she was staying?

The problem is that there is not enough land to stay, her husband has nowhere to work and harvest many food. Your young grand father Mr. Everson Namphimba has chased her away and he has told her that there is no her land there.

She should go somewhere and look for the land to stay but not where she is. Mr. Everson would like to sell the place therefore Rose has nowhere to stay. I said okay, but I told Rose that she should just leave that place because our parents have died.

They were telling them that they should look for their own land and leave that place.

I knew that something will happen there because the owners of that land need it to be staying or working. Now the one who need it is our relative.

Since he is staying at Nansongole, he has seen that here is no need to leave this place with Rose but the best way is to sell it.

Now where is he thinking that Rose will go to stay safely and work without any problem?

My grandmother said that you should go there and agree with her on what to do because she will put her children in trouble. She has her own children who she did not give birth with that man.

Now she is taking all those children going there. She should know that her children are in trouble. Where shall she go to stay after her marriage ends? Can she come to stay with you including her children? Shall you manage to look after all those children including her? I said no.

I cannot manage I am looking after six children at my house and in these days I can say that I am better off because one person is staying in Blantyre.

Though he sometimes needs my help but it is not a serious help I am now looking after five children. Still those are many to me because I have no means of earning much money for me for easily helping those people.

I will go there next time to see her but not today. I don't have money for transport.

I chatted with them until I got tired then I told them that I am now going back to my home. I will come here again at any day to see you and Rose. We shall meet again if God wishes.

I then went to the bus stage to wait for the bus. As soon as I reached there I saw the bus coming and I boarded it. In that bus there was a certain man. He put on [wore] a black trouser and he was going to Mangochi. There was also another man who put on [wore] a white short sleeved shirt.

He was also going to Mangochi they both started talking about the behaviour which Bingu is showing in this country.

The man who put on a black trousers said that people in Malawi will remain poor until

Bingu will stop ruling this country. Though he has tried to make the vouchers for people to be buying fertilizer at a low price but still things are not good.

People are failing to have K950.00 for buying that fertilizer. Where will people get that money yet he is refusing them to do any type of business. People here depends on selling firewood and charcoal but Bingu has said that nobody should be found selling charcoal or firewood because they are destroying nature.

He knows that we have no companies in Malawi and we have nothing to depend on. People were selling some small things like groceries, food along the streets but he refused them.

He told them to stop selling their businesses there because they were spoiling town. Many places were looking dirty. Instead of putting people to be looking at those places so that they should be clean always, he just decided to tell them to stop their business.

Where will they go and sell their things? Where will they get money for buying their needs?

If people will start stealing from the rich people will they be wrong?

His friend answered Bingu is a very stupid President. Nobody likes him in this country. What he knows is only arresting people. He will know, he will arrest the one who is a witch then he will bewitch him and die.

Arresting Lucius Banda he is just singing his songs there as a prisoner and his friends are helping him. But he should know that Lucius will win that case. Lucius has no case and he will continue working as the member of the Parliament.

What you should know is that if Lucius will come back from prison, things will not be good in this country because many people will be happy with his coming therefore they will be dancing and making parties.

Because of that, Bingu will be bored [angry], he will look for another mistake which Lucius did so that he should get arrested again.

They kept on talking in the bus all the way and people were just laughing because of them, I just saw that I have reached at Vingula bus stage then I dropped down leaving him going to Mangochi and other people who were in the Bus.

As soon as I reached Vingula, I heard people singing and beating drums. I thought that it was an initiation I entered in the market to buy some relish. After that I started my journey going back home then I found the people dancing, singing at the hall. I asked a certain man I do call him my customer.

Is there any initiation today? He said no. there is no initiation but the UDF people are

happy, they are saying that they have heard that Lucius has no case so that he will be out of prison. He will continue ruling this country as the member of Parliament.

But will this person be chosen again in 2009? I asked

My customer said that cannot happen and it is not known that Bingu will reach 2009 many people are hating him only that others are fearing him others dislike the habit of killing but if he will be continuing with this behaviour people will get tired.

There will be someone who will just think of killing him through magic.

Can't he think and ask himself how the speaker Mr. Munyenembe died. Was it the real death from God? Was he ill when he was going to the Parliament.

Did God really made him to die on that day at the parliament?

Nobody knows but everybody was surprised. We all not believed that Munyenembe died how nothing shown that he was ill. It was shown that something happened in the parliament.

People are very dangerous. Now he is thinking that he is the only one who is clever in this world. The problem is that maybe Lucius cannot do anything but other people can do. They can just get bored [angry] and bewitch him then die.

I said the world is like that let us wait and see what will happen when the day comes.

Then I said byee.

THE END