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Situation

Now I would like to write what I have heard on the above stated date.

I was at Mbakwindi.

It was I believe around past 3 p.m the place was outside the Dyman Bar situated at Mbakwindi the owner of the bar being Mr. Taulo. Its a well famous place in terms of beer entertaining place I call famous.

I was taking chibuku beer and then after I had taken two packets of chibuku I decided to come out of the bar just after the fence of this bar there is a place where Mang'ina is sold.

NOTE: Mang'ina is the term given I can say is a moniker (nickname) that is given by people meaning the roasted / fried meat / beef that people choose to eat it without nsima for instance.

Very small piece of the beef / mang'ina is sold at price of K10.00 as I said; I came out of the Dyman and bought 5 pieces of this beef. When I was there a certain man came. He wore a good black leathered show green trouser and white shirt – decent for sure in my eyes.

I recognised the man that one day we meet at Vingula trading centre and at the Bus depot and we were both of us waiting for transport and transport that day was a problem I remember it was past 4 p.m.

When we meet at that day outside Dyman Bar the man asked me as to how fine I was and reluctantly I responded that I was fine and he asked me if I was going to buy him one piece of beer / meat and then I said to him that the only money I had was K50.00 that I have only managed to buy 5 pieces that he saw me eating.

He smiled and the owner of the Mang'ina said: He is your friend and he has no money next time he will be the one buying for you. I did not answer.

Then the one who begged me I can say my acquaintance asked me: 'Do you remember me? I hope [believe] you have forgotten me?

I responded that: 'But it seems that we had once met some where your face is not new to me but I have forgotten as to exactly who you are. He smiled and said: 'I knew that you have forgotten me, I said yes.

He said, do you remember that there was a certain day that we all stranded trying to catch the minibus at Ulongwe trading centre, it was on Saturday and transport was a big problem. Then its when I came to recognise him and said to him that I had recognised him.

Then he reached in his pocket and produced K25.00 and he gave it to the owner who was frying the Mang'ina and asked for 3 pieces and the owner was very reluctant to give him 3 pieces for he said each piece is K10.00 and instead he said he will give him 2 pieces and he was returning K5.00 to him and then I offered myself to add K5.00 for the acquaintance and then he thanked me a lot and said he was in great need to eat Mang'ina.

We laughed together with the owner of the Mang'ina and the owner of the Mang'ina said beef is good.

The acquaintance welcomed me to joining eating the Mang'ina which he bought and I thanked him politely saying I had enough and he insisted me to take one piece and I was indeed shy and instead I indeed took one piece and with my shy I told the owner to add other 6 pieces so that we may share 3 each.

Chatting environment was created there. During the course of us standing there while eating a certain bargirl came also at the place where we were and she bought 4 pieces and she also stood there and be eating. To my surprise I noticed that she was taking much of the pepper which was there with the pieces of meat / beef which she bought.

After she had finished eating her 4 pieces she asked for 2 more and she bought and then she asked for 2 more to credit / owe and promised to pay the bill after an hour.

The owner refused to do so despite convincing him that she has the money but her friend (another bargirl there at Dyman Bar).

The owner of the Mang'ina indeed refused to give her polite said: Tomorrow I will give you but today I had also credited the meat and the owner of the meat that I had credited is about to come soon wanting his money as we agreed that he will come at 5pm to collect his money.

'Sorry sister forgive me you are my customer you always buy from me but next time it will do. Then she departed. Then we had finished eating ours and then when she departed its when we began talking about her.

The owner of the meat said: I can't do that crediting prostitutes meat, this is my business and they have their own business too. Do they offer their business free of charge or credit to men?

We laughed. Then he continued saying that: prostitutes are not good people you can be lenient to her for example giving or crediting / offering her the piece of meat as she asked but when you ask her for the money next time as she promised you find her saying: next time and be doing that with the aim that you should give it up. But you can give it up? I asked.

He said: 'I can't even if it is only one piece of meat. He added saying that its my business and she has her own business and she cant credit that to me. I laughed and asked him: 'But do you think she cant credit her business when you ask her for it? He laughed and said that she cant and if anything maybe paying the bill which she has credited from me say meat.

I laughed and said that it cant happen just for meat. My acquaintance said that most of the women or girls do credit men money or anything like a cassava or bananas only with the aim of wanting you to be sleeping with you (be having sex with you)

Indeed? I asked.

He said indeed and that's one way of proposing you and when you gives her and you ask for it and says I don't have money while smiling at you the other alternation that you follow is you just ask her: what should I do for me to get my money for every time you say I don't have?

The owner of the chips was busy loading some pieces of firewood to make it still burning.

My acquaintance went on saying that when you ask her like this kind of question her only response which she answers she says: 'it's up to you?'

We all laughed.

Yes, that giving you direction that if you are a real man you should ask her for sex and she cant refuse that.

Chatting continued and I only stood there just chatting and not eating the meat as I came prior for that.

During the course of chatting and be speaking like that the owner of the meat / roasted meat (Mang'ina) said that nowadays we men we are in great danger if we are not careful indeed I don't know what will happen he stopped speaking.

I asked as to what he meant when he said 'we men we are in great danger?' He answered saying that he meant that women are chasing on us, its not like the way things were in the past that we men we were the ones who were proposing them but now its women who are proposing us men.

I said to him that I have never met a girl or women proposing me. He said that you don't move you only stay at home with your mother or wife if you are married or else you don't run any kind of business.

My acquaintance added saying that what the owner of the meat was saying there is true. He added saying that of course it's rare to find the girl or woman proposing you direct but girls are the experts they do that very systematic that's indirect.

What do you mean, I asked curiously. He said nothing apart from begging you money or crediting things from you for example if you are the businessman and when you refuse to give her she becomes angry but if you keep on offering her she becomes your big friend that she is always ready to give you whatever you ask from her and only nothing apart from sex that knowing that she has a weapon to defeat you no matter how clever you are but you cannot run away from the girls private part which is sex.

We laughed and laughed. He added saying that census has shown that this disease is really killing a lot of people and majority of whom who has business. I said to them that, not only to those who are business people, every one who does sex with prostitutes, like the one who had come here buying meat.

You mean Cecilia, it is the time I came to know the name of the Bar girl. Now, he added that it is better to be having sex with a bar girl than those who are living in the villages over there.

I asked why? He said bar girls are safe nowadays and very few of them have Aids. My acquaintance agreed and said indeed it is true. I asked my acquaintance why he said it is true.

He added saying that many people go to sex with bar girls, they use condoms and by so doing the bar girls or the prostitutes is protecting from catching Aids and everyone use the condom when having sex and some men wise enough just go without a condom and NDI AMENE AMADYA BWINO. [Chichewa: [they] are the ones who eat properly rather who enjoys.]

We laughed and my acquaintance said: "serious and are the ones who really feel the natural taste of the partner than those who use the condoms to her." I laughed and then he went on saying that when you have sexual partner out there in the village, many men sleep with her plain and the chances of having Aids is high and when you are having sex with her you think you are safe just because she is from the village or because she doesn't live in the bar or she is a bargirl yet they are the ones who are really dangerous.

I was just listening then my acquaintance asked me as to what time I reached Mangochi turn off for I told him the first day that we met at Vingula trading that I live at Mphula trading.

Then I answered him that it was around past 1 when I visited Mbakwindi. I let him off by wanting to bring the conversation into life again. I said that I don't understand as to how one can be safe as to having sex with a bar girl or prostitute without using a condom.

Then my acquaintance answered me saying believe it or not but that you must know for sure. He added saying that many people are able to marry a bar girl, why? It is

because not all of them accept plain sex. They know that it is risky to have plain sex as the result they accept that.

And another thing is because their business of exchanging money with sex and accepting plain sex if they don't catch Aids, they get pregnant and for sure most of prostitutes and bar girls are clever indeed, they are much afraid of pregnancy because they know that once they are pregnant no one will care for the child except for herself and when she delivers then going home and taking care of the child alone and be suffering not having money for her business seems to have come to an end. No one can dare to sleep with her.

I said to him that I have been seeing many bar girls living rather staying together with her children or young babies with them at the bar and this is not new. He answered me that indeed but many of them some of them becomes shy to do so as a result they go to their respective homes till the child is at a good age of crawling or walking hence to them their business dwindles.

I laughed and I asked, Can you marry a bar girl? He said yes, why not? She is a person a female more over as any one else and most of them frankly speaking are more beautiful compared to our wives we stay with at our homes. I laughed as he added that he has two of his friends who married bar girls in Mkwepa and another one in Dziwe.

He said that all of them are living happily and health and they have healthy children as well. When was that? I asked. He said that the first friend of him who married it was in 2001 and the other one was 2004 till now no change in their body appearance like showing signs of having the Kachiroambo. [Kachiroambo meaning Virus causing Aids.]

Indeed, I asked, he just responded saying yes. I asked, but you can have sex with a bargirl?

He laughed and asked, one can marry or you can marry someone and never have sex with her. We are all laughed as he proceeded saying that he can have sex.

Using a Condom? I asked.

He answered No, no use of it and then the owner of the meat said, KONDOMU NDI YAUTSIRU. Ine sindingayerekeze kugwiritsa ntchito bola ngati sindikufuna kugonana naye mkaziyo ndingomusiya.

Meaning using a condom is stupid, I cannot use it and I cannot even attempt using it and if I don't want to have sex with a girl or a woman it is just better to stop/leave her and never sleep/have sex with her.

He added saying that condoms create diseases and majority who uses them the end result is that they develop health problems. What sort of health problem you mean? I asked the owner of the roasted meat. He answered me saying that if I can tell you can't believe that but you go and try for yourself.

You go and take a condom and if you have right away there bring it to me and you will see it to yourself and I said to him that I don't have a condom, if you have K20 go and buy there at the bar. Condoms are bought at the price of K20, I asked. He answered me saying in bottle store is that price in local shops is K10.

And I asked if I go home what should I do with the condom as you say I should believe for myself. He said to me that when I go home, I will make sure that I have a condom and open it very properly the way as I want to use it and then put small drops of water inside it very few drops of lukewarm water either and tie a condom and so that the water inside never leak and put it in a dry place for about fifteen minutes more especially at a place where there is warm temperature and after 15 minutes go and check what has happened inside the condom.

What happens, I asked. He answered saying that what really happens inside the condom is that is that you will see the water which you put small worms moving inside the condoms.

Really. I asked.

Yes, really try for yourself and you will believe me, he added saying that where the worms come from?

You mean real worms, I asked, yes but not big as real worms you see moving in the mud but the minute ones moving here and there inside which signifies that the condom has oil the one which causes trouble for both men and women who uses the condoms.

I was just listening, he proceeded on saying that the warm temperature in which the condom is subjected to the vagina and when the oil found in the condom comes to mix with that of the vagina (ovum) or mans sperm the virus gets created.

Which virus, I don't understand, I asked him. He said that don't you know that the whites are very clever indeed and that you cannot really understand them what they are really trying to do to the Africans is that they want us not to multiply a lot and exceed their population proportionally afraid that if we Africans a lot [outnumber them] we may invade them and be their leaders.

Indeed? I asked, he proceeded saying that as we Africans we normally increase rapidly and with intense increase the whites become very unstable for talking of family planning we energetic Africans we don't value and we don't even consider as to how many we may produce or have as compared to them as whites.

So he added, that is why before introducing the method of family planning in general by just sensitizing people verbally or by just telling them and see that it is not working then the whites went up to establishment of condoms which majority are now criticizing and I am one of them, he concluded.

And that not only reducing pregnancies occurrence but also changing health problems which in the long run many people die. What health problem do you mean, my friend, I am asking you for the second time. He responded saying that, for

example there are sores on the penis and as well as cancer, the viruses which are inside the condom causes cancer.

He added saying that the oil that the condom has the reason that is first of all causing cancer that people should be dying of it and also produces sores on the penis. He added saying that the whites established the condoms with the aim of reducing the population of us the black people.

Some customers came who wanted to buy meat from the man and they were three men and suddenly there was a short break since we just watched them and the owner was busy serving the customers. After I can say ten minutes the customers went and the conversation started over again for about five minutes.

My acquaintance remember said the whites are not dying of Aids as compared with us the blacks yet this Aids was created from their country. He said that is why is this so, the owner of the meat said that he agreed with him and he added saying that this is because the whites are clever they give people free food like flour where the whites have put chemicals that halt power for peoples family planning.

And again they established condoms which are porous and be cheating people that that its 100% perfect and people think that are safe if they use that they are 100% safe which is not and think of being using that to a woman or partner despite knowing that the partners husband or fiancé had died of AIDS and be running an affair with that one saying I will be using condoms which is cheating ones self for condoms are not 100% perfect.

He said whites don't use condoms to their partners and most of them are HIV free status but still there are the ones who really do much sex and have many sexual partners than us but why they don't die of Aids and they don't catch the kachiroambo since they don't use the condom.

This really shows he continued that this Aids is for the poor and we black people who are generally poorer.

My acquaintance added saying that indeed and the white are very clever and they can kill all the poor black people within a short period of time.

How? I asked. Its because we poor black people we just listen to anything or follows because we are poorer and we accept anything, everything.

If they put chemicals in free food that they donate to us considering poison we can die and when realising the nation of Malawi for instance have perished.

We laughed and he said he was saying the truth. We laughed and laughed and then he added saying that we are under power. Other customers came and then my acquaintance said he wanted to see some one inside the bar and I did not go back to bar and I wanted to go to catch the minibus so that I may reach home in good time.

It was past 5 that I then caught the bus going back here at home.

THE END

DATE OF WRITING: 16TH / 08 / 07

Situation

On 2nd / 08 / 07 I was at M'bawa village wanted to chat rather interview one of the 2000 interview of Inedi Schartz.

I wanted to re-interview the respondent known as Desiyo Malabwe of Mdoka village I went to his home after directed by another respondent known as Basikolo Tholo.

Desiyo Malabwe lives at the edge / boundary between Chatambala village and Mdoka – but in Mdoka a small river as a marking boundary just very adjacent to his house.

When I first visited this man I did not find him I learnt from his wife who is the second wife that he went to Mwendo to buy a bag of salt (25Kg) which he exchanges with maize and some by exchanging with money.

Then I left an appointment with his wife to visit him the following day. Then I departed the place together with Basikolo Tholo back to his house where someone whom I hired to pick me by his bike from Mkono to Mdoka village was waiting for me since I footed with my first respondent to this house.

Then I reached at his house where I was picked back to the Mkono as my centre of departure.

The following day I went back to the house of the respondent to be Mr. Desiyo Malabwe. When I visited the house I also found his second wife shelling maize.

And she recognised me and offered me a reed mat in front of their house.

This house is situated along the road, Masaf road (secondary road) that leads from Makombe, Chatambala small village trading centre to Nyenga village to Mdoka village.

Then when the wife of my respondent greeted me she told me that I should wait for the respondent a while for he had gone very early to the maize field to do land preparation (cultivating) and he told her that when I arrive she should follow him there and call him to chat with me.

She departed and then I was alone but when she departed someone a woman I believe the sister in-law to the wife of the respondent came and sat near me chatting with me not making me lonely.

20 metres opposite from the house I sat where I sat there was another two houses and some people including the husband sat there who were weaving palm leaves mats.

And indeed the wife of the respondent completely disappeared to call her husband. When we were chatting like that with my respondents wife in-law when she was asking me as to where I come from, what job I was doing is all about and the like, on the road near this house as I had already described as secondary road etc, a certain man was cycling his wife towards Nyenga road.

The man was short, having black short hairs, black in complexion and he wore the green khakhi short and t-shirt black. He was cycling a certain young woman, she was pregnant.

Then when they were about to completely pass the house the one whom I was chatting with sit next me but not in the same reed mat asked. Ana ni wakwa? Meaning: And where to?

And the man who was cycling the bike answered at Vingula. And then they completely disappeared. And when they were completely gone like that, women who sat opposite us in the two houses that I described and the one whom I was chatting with began laughing.

They said in the beginning Amwali nlagani niyeleyo (yao) meaning: sister you see that is the case! And they went on saying in yao laungage still.

One woman who sat opposite us the houses that I had described already laughed and said that they are going to Vingula clinic. They are running away from Mwendo Hospital to Vingula now, they are thinking that they are not going to be tested?

I was just listening.

The man who also sat there on opposite houses as I described asked: what happened at Mwendo hospital? The one who sat with me said to those sat opposite us 20 metres or less saying that the husband who was cycling his wife is afraid to be tested blood for HIV/AIDS status.

She went on saying that the woman (his pregnant wife) went to Mwendo Hospital to start antenatal clinic because of her pregnancy and she was told that she should first of all be tested for HIV / AIDS status before everything and she was told to go and bring her husband to undergo the process while together and when she was told that she came out of the hospital and meet with her husband who was waiting her outside the hospital (with the bike – I hope [believe]) and when she told her husband about that the husband was against that move and said "lets go home and they run away from there and now they are going to Vingula dispensary thinking that they are not going to be tested.

The other woman who sat opposite us said, they think that where they are going they are not going to be told the same? She added saying that its everywhere the system

of testing blood checking HIV / AIDS status is every where for any pregnant woman and its by compulsory.

They all agreed as they were laughing. Then their conversation proceeded as I sat quietly listening to them waiting for my respondent.

NOTE: HIV/AIDS status – they were saying magano akulinga myasi kuli alole naga ukwete kachiroambo ka yesi in yao language still.

Another woman opposite us said the husband is just cheating himself for he will get tired with cycling till he will finish visiting all the hospital and clinics with his pregnant woman.

The man, I believe the husband who was weaving the mat us asked: does this people of the government are doing right for testing blood of person to know whether she has the kachilombo or not by compulsory like that?

NOTE: kachiroambo here remains the same meaning – virus causing AIDS.

One who sat near me answered the man that the government people are doing fine for testing pregnant women like that together with their husbands as well because people are not listening.

They are told to minimise giving birth to many children but they don't understand and its when you see them still not child spacing and the government are clever people and they said that they are doing that deliberately so that people should be afraid of just be giving their wives unwanted pregnancies any how.

I laughed and asked: to the one whom I sat near with unwanted pregnancies what do you mean? She answered me saying that indeed pregnancies nowadays of lack of things like money to feed children and dress them some becomes unwanted pregnancies.

She went on saying that for example if one has more than 5 children that not normal bearing of children the limit maximum of having children is 4 that you can be able to feed, dress as well as educate them for nowadays things are scarce and very expensive.

And she even went on saying that for example the one who is just cycling his wife that pregnant is the 6th and his house is very small very small indeed that they are not comfortable enough to be accommodated by that house and he is even failing to build another one due to busy caring children and its now becoming a problem to him even going to town for example to look for the job because each and every year his wife is having the pregnant and while the previous children are still young and they keep on suffering and its hard for him to move to town leaving the whole responsibility of caring all the children alone to the wife to be caring.

I only laughed and I did not commented anything. And the man who was weaving said: but its completely wrong to be forcing people no matter pregnant to be testing their blood so what's the concept of voluntarily testing?

The other woman who sat with her agreed and said its very bad because if they say testing is voluntary why forcing because if they say every pregnant woman must be tested for kachilombo whether she wants or not and together with her husband or any other partner responsible for the pregnant where is the human rights gone for the voluntary testing?

The man said that where the world is now going is that there will be no any human rights and what the government want is that everyone should have tested and know his / her blood status.

Him and that woman I believe his wife who was also weaving agreed with that the man said: Then its better we should be depending on the ASAMBA whom we had been depending ever since who are the doctors, when did they come to be known as helping people to deliver?

Asamba are the ones whom we have been known them from the beginning and more nurses nowadays are very young and non experienced that majority of expectant women die nowadays because of negligence of the doctors or nurses when helping the pregnant women during labour time.

NOTE: ASAMBA is yao meaning Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) and in Chichewa its Azamba (different of a letter 'z'for's'is yao).

The one who sat near mother agreed and said that indeed but what the government is all looking after is that they are trying to sensitize people to go for blood test for the Kachiroambo they see that very few people goes for this move as compared to the whole number that we are here in Malawi and only alternative way that the government has seen is that they go towards pregnant women saying they want to protect the baby to be born to be free from Kachiroambo.

The other women added saying that the badness is that the government more especially the health sector is working hand in hand with the traditional birth Attendants who are telling them that they should refer all pregnant women who had delivered three or four children to the hospital.

And when a pregnant woman goes to the TBAs for delivery the TBA ask that woman as to how many children she has delivered born and you cannot cheat because they tell you bring your post natal or under five clinic card or health passport and in so doing wanting every one to be tested.

The man added in saying that in two or three years coming I believe that with this method that the Government people have implemented all of us will know about blood test with regards to Aids.

He added by saying that it cannot be avoided by just staying with your wife many many years and never give her pregnant that require the blood test so we are so now we are living in a dictatorship now we have no freedom of human rights now.

In the past people, women were going to the hospital for aid when they had pregnancies and its issue of testing blood for kachiroambo was not there and why nowadays it is compulsory?

He went on saying that then Government should not be cheating people that its voluntary testing [or] compulsory testing. They all agreed and then another woman said that if this system of forcing pregnant to have their blood tested before delivering continues many pregnant women will be dying during labour time because they will be choosing to give birth while at home because even the Azamba (TBAs) cannot allow help the pregnant women to give birth at their premises who had ever given birth to other children because the government is telling them not to do so but follow what the government is telling them.

Women said they are in great risk because some of the women don't want to know their blood status. They laughed and the one who sat with me said that of course one can die of worries and when the husband comes and knows that the wife together with him they have kachiroambo.

The husband can run away from her and can go to marry another woman leaving you alone with the children suffering. They laughed and concluded saying that what is surprising them is that the ones who emphasizes or enforces people to go for a blood test are the ones who don't go for a blood test but they do that because of their job.

Another woman said that she cannot allow to have her blood tested and if dying of pregnancy if she happens to have it, it is better for her to die than having her blood tested and unfortunately to be told that you are positive. "Mkwete kachiroambo" and be worrying for the rest of her life till dying just because of trying to satisfy someone's duty or job, she swore that she cannot do that.

Then the woman who went to call for my respondent came and told me that her husband was coming. And as soon as she just departed from the mat she sat telling me about the coming of her husband going inside the fence of her house (grass fence) after two minutes the respondent came with his hoe and panga knife (chikwanje).

He wore dirty ragged black short and bare. He came to greet me and noticed that he was a middle aged man having scanty grey hairs on his head as well as on his beard. He greeted me and told me that I should wait so that he should first take the bathe before we start chatting and I told him to go ahead and he went to bathe and after bathing he called me to enter inside and fence and the reed mat was taken inside the fence for us to sit on while chatting and then interview began. After interview I left the place together with someone who hired his bicycle.

THE END