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Received :  
Typist : Mwendo Communication & Business Bureau

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8<sup>th</sup> November, 2006

I was at home weaving my hair. Winece was the one who was weaving it. Then Baina came to chat with us.

Baina, I said. 'yes'she replied.

'Yesterday in the afternoon I saw a man who used to mend umbrellas he was passing here did you met with him?'I asked.

'Yes, he was coming at my house but I chased him 'Baina said.

Why have you chased him? Winece asked.

'That one was proposing me for marriage. So I have refused, then there was a day when there was rainfall in the morning hours. So he came to search for a shade. Then people who knew that he have proposed me, started to laugh at me by saying that I have married with him. But that time when he was hiding, I did not know that people can think so and yesterday I did not smile at him. So he did not take much time to go'. Baina said

I saw him when he was going which means that you don't want to get married but just have partners not so? Winece said.

'No'Baina said. Do you know that God has given us a plague of AIDS? Everyone has got this type of disease?

I can give you an example of myself, that I have got AIDS although I did not go for HIV test. Do you know why I am saying this? Winece said. Wyles has sent me here to work on our garden. We are on a polygamy system and I am a second wife, I know that Wyles cannot manage to stay without a partner. So he is sleeping with ladies there. He is free now because I am here. He was having partners in [the] presence of me and his first wife. Why wouldn't he have a partner in my absence? So I am just living because God has created me to be a person. Had it been that there was a choice before you are created, I could have chosen to be an animal, because animals are not thinking of AIDS. So we must forget about it because we are waiting for the day of death, Winece said.

'But you must not think that you have got AIDS. You should not say that unless you have tested for it. There were your friends who were saying so. But now they are now honouring their bodies because they were thinking wrongly I said.

But I do fear to go for that test because I will take termic [tarmac <poison>] if I will hear that I have got a virus. Winece said,

No you will be counselled when you go there. Do you know that Luwaza have got AIDS. Now she is having ARVs daily? But you cannot believe because she is growing fat. Baina said.

But she is doing much prostitution, I said. That one is sharing HIV in this village. Many people will die because of her, Baina said.

Is that true? Winece asked

'Yes, she has made a partnership with Mr. Nkhonde your Priest I said.

Mother of Catherina, you are joking now, Winece said.

She is not joking. What you should know is that Luwaza has given a virus to Nkhonde, Levison [a male]. Then Levison has given a virus to Mrs. Thaimu. And Mrs. Thaimu to her husband.

I didn't know if she had other partners. So Mr. Nkhonde have given to his wife? Baina said.

'No Mrs. Nkhonde is also a prostitute, they have given to each other. Do you know that Mrs. Nkhonde has made a partnership with Jonasi and Tijesi? And a rumour was saying that Mrs. Jonasi has died of AIDS. Jonasi has taken that AIDS from Naliyera Ndlovi who have died last year, Winece said.

Is the wife of a Priest behaving like that? I asked.

That one used to drink beer, anyone who will wish to sleep with her, so sleep, she don't know how to deny. Her husband knew about it. People say that her husband has put her for sale. He does use the money which she was given by her partners, Baina said.

Winece said he told me that he will come at my house to tell me about the overnight prayers which will take place at Mwendo.

Baina said 'you must be careful with him because he has a sweet talk. Don't show him a smiling face. He will propose you. And he can force you to fall in love with him '

I will not do it. I am waiting for my husband to come tomorrow 'Winece said.

Then Moni came, Winece can you escort me at Mwendo Market. I want to buy maize for flour. Moni said. 'I will finish to weave your hair tomorrow. Don't worry my friend Winece said. 'You can go'I replied.

So she stopped.

At five o'clock Mrs. Lazembe came to chat with me, you are most welcome, I said, so I gave her a mat to sit on. Thank you she replied.

Why you have come alone today. I do always see you with your daughter Chrissie.

Do you want to tell me that she is remaining with Loceness? I asked 'Had it been that you have known, you could have tell me that Chrissie is playing with her friends. And Loceness has been dismissed. She has been told to come and take her salary this month-end Mrs. Lazembe said.

So why because you were saying that Loceness is a good person, you were recommending that you cannot dismiss her although she will get married. And you were saying that she is keeping money for courses. So what made you to reach at that point? I asked again.

Loceness had a boyfriend. He was coming at our shop everyday when we were at school. So Loceness was forgetting that she is working there. She was busy chatting with her boyfriend. She was not attending customers. The customers were not happy with what Loceness was doing nowadays. They were reporting to us, we did not have any witness those days because the boy was departing before we came from school. There was a day when Myrtle (our daughter) told us. But we did not believe because she likes joking.

So we were thinking that she was joking. Then there was a change many customers were coming in the afternoon instead of coming in the morning. My husband decided to catch them, we went to school. He told me that it was true what people were saying that Loceness is not paying attention to the customers when we came back from school my husband called her. The boy was away we asked her if she wants to continue working, but we have given her a chance to choose. If she wants to get married and continue working or want to take care of marriage at home.

And we asked her if her relatives knew that she have got a boyfriend. She said that she wants to get married because she is tired with being a Spinster. And people have told her that her uterus needs to sleep with a man so she can manage to work although her husband is at home. I asked her about a person who can be a marriage counsellor to her side because she has said that nobody knew that she is on partnership with him..She said that it will be later on, Mrs. Lazembe said.

Did they start sleeping together? Baina asked.

Yes Myrtle told us that they were having sex at Helli river. And sometimes she was spending nights at his house. Her relatives were thinking that she was sleeping at our house. And she was also telling them so.

What made us to be angry is that, there was a day when she came late. We have told her to come at seven o'clock but that day she came at half past eight. That day she slept at her partner's house. We used to make an

exchange at seven o'clock, so that we should go to school in time. Then we closed the shop because we were thinking that she will not come that day. We were surprised to see that her partner came at school to apologise that it was him who have made her to be late because she was doing housework.

My husband told him that he must go and tell her relatives, not him, and what he should know is that he has dismissed her because what she is doing to the business. It is better for him to employ another one who can help him. Loceness has gotten tired with working. She wants to rest.

The boy did not say anything because my husband was angry that time. He must go and tell Loceness that there is no need for her to go at his shop.

If she wants, she must go home or just continue living with her husband. Then the boy departed. Mrs. Lazembe said.

Who is that boy? I asked.

A son of Mr. Kalinde who has left a wife at Kamoto village, Mrs. Lazembe said.

Does Loceness think that Kalinde can help her? How many wives does he have left? I said.

She is thinking that she has won him, she can stay with him, he was telling her that he have got a last choice which is Loceness. And Loceness was just smiling at him Mrs. Lazembe said.

'What she should know is that he is loving her because she is working but if she will leave that job and get married with him, then he will give her a child, he is going to search for another girl and leave her. So she will think about her job which she has left. Baina said.

I don't want to be late here, can you borrow [lend] me rollers, visitors are waiting for me at home she said. Then I gave her. Baina and I escorted her. 'what did the relatives say when she told them that she have slept at your house?

They were believing so my husband knew that one day her relatives will be angry at him if she will become sick there. So he went and told them that they must ask her where she sometimes sleep because there was no any day which she have slept at our house.

If she is going to have a pregnant it will not be his fault, Mrs. Lazembe said

'We must return here'Baina said. So we gave her a bag of rollers. Thank you Mrs. Lazembe said.

12<sup>th</sup> November, 2006.

I went to Mwendo market to buy some relish on returning I was with the children who were schooling at Kandiyero full primary school. They were talking about children who have written standard eight exams.

There were some children who have been dismissed from boarding school. Although the teachers had dismissed those children, they will be shy [ashamed] to see that they have [been] selected to go to secondary school and that the children who stayed at boarding have failed. Ellena said.

Those teachers were thinking that they are doing good [by dismissing the children?] Estere said. It will be better if the school committee had the authority of going to the Ministry and asking for other teachers.

The teachers are doing this because they have stayed for a long time at Kandiyero school, Ellena said.

What made teachers dismiss those children from boarding school? I asked

[Ellena:] I can tell you a little bit because that day when they were discussing about that matter, I was going to Mr. Kasito to buy fresh fish for relish. So when I was passing by that school, I found that there was a meeting among the parents of standard eight children, teachers and the chiefs and also school committee members. The meeting was concerning those children who have been dismissed from school. The teachers were saying that the children were making partnerships among themselves. This behaviour is not allowed at that school. So they have decided to dismiss them. This behaviour does encourage HIV to spread among the youth members. So to give a lesson to other children who have not yet started this behaviour it is better for them to leave school and take care of their marriages.

Then the parents went to the chiefs to complain about their children's dismissal so that those chiefs should talk to the teachers instead of them. So that they must forgive the children so that they should write the examinations only. If they will give them transfer letters to go other schools, they will not pass the exams because they don't know how they have going on with the syllabus. The parents were wondering because there were also children who have made partnerships but they have not dismissed at school. So the parents were thinking that there was corruption. The parents wanted to know why the teachers have decided to choose only their children to be dismissed. Then they were waiting to hear how the chiefs can judge that case. Estere said.

'Did the teachers choose only standard eight children to be boarders. not the other children? I asked.

It was during second term holiday only standard eight children were allowed to live at school. The teachers have volunteered themselves to teach them during that holiday. But before they started school, there was a meeting between the teachers and the parents. The chiefs were also invited. The

teachers told the parents that the children will be alone at school. Nobody will not know what they will be doing there at school.

So they read the rules which they want their children to follow when they were at school. The parents and the chiefs were happy with those rules. Among the rules, there was a rule which was saying that partnerships [were] prohibited. If there will be any child who is found that he / she have made a partnership, that child will be dismissed, which means that a teacher have failed its work of security. The parents were happy with those rules and they have promised to the teachers that they will also advise their children before they come at boarding school.

So that day the parents were angry to see that their children have been dismissed. So the chiefs went to the head master to complain what the parents have told them.

The headmaster told the chiefs that they cannot do otherwise because they have already agreed about the school rules before they start boarding school. If they have seen that the teachers are wrong, the chiefs should go and tell the parents that they should meet with the teachers and discuss about the case. Ellena said, 'Did the chiefs tell the parents to meet with the teachers? I asked.

'Yes they all replied. But they were angry when they were going to school. On the way they were saying that the teacher did not have an authority of dismissing a child because a school is for the community. The parents were the ones who have moulded the brick and built that school. They were working on development.

Then the teachers were also saying that the parents were not the ones who have employed them. They don't make any contribution to make their salaries. They are following the Ministry rules. If the parents will choose they can go to another school and work there, The school can be closed until other teachers came. Do they advise their children to make marriages at school or advise them to be concentrate at lessons? So it seems that the parents do encourage their children to make partnerships when they are at primary school, which is not good.

So the chiefs failed to calm their tempers. The parents told the headmaster that he is a stupid person because he has dismissed their children without telling their parents about the behaviour.

Then the teachers saw that the parents have got much intelligence so they told them that they [the teachers] are going home [i.e. if you're so smart, you teach them]. But they [the parents] must come everyday and teach their children. Then they [the teachers] left the parents and the chiefs there.

So the chiefs talked to the parents that they were wrong because they have shown arrogance to the teachers which means that they tell their children to

be arrogant to their teachers because they are not their relatives. Can they manage to teach their children like how the teachers do? The chiefs asked.

So the parents started to apologise that they were wrong. And the chiefs should go and tell the teachers that they must come and teach the remaining children because their children were on punishment. They are going to tell their children that they must study very hard at home so that they should pass the exams.

So the chiefs went to the headmaster's house and told him what the parents had said. Then the headmaster told the chiefs that they should tell the parents that they should come any day to finish their discussions because he can not manage to go to every teacher's house.

So the chiefs said they wanted the discussions to be the next day so that the teachers wouldn't miss many days of teaching their children.

So the following day they finished their discussions. The parents apologised that they cannot manage to teach their children because they don't have an experience of it. They were just talking that time when they were challenging.

Ester said I have heard also that Shawn has married.

Is that true? I asked.

Yes, What you have heard is a true story.

Shawn was learning at Kadewere primary school. He was in standard eight. His partner was in standard eight also. She was learning at Kandihero primary school. During this holiday Shawn was going at his partners house.

The parents did not know later on the parents knew that Shawn was coming at his partners house. One day the parents pretend as if they were sleeping. But they were looking through their window. Shawn came and knocked at Hana's house.

Hana knew that Shawn had come so she opened the door and Shawn got in. After few minutes her father went and knocked at Hana's house.

Who is that one who is knocking this night? She asked angrily. Her father said that he wanted to have two sticks of matches. So Hana called him to take through a window. Her father refused. He said that always she used to open the door and give him. So today she doesn't want to respect him, why? So Hana opened the door, she didn't want to confuse [refuse?] her father. As he opened the door her father had a chance to enter in her house. He immediately closed the door. He went straight to her room, he found that Shawn was there. He caught him and asked him a reason why he was found there that evening. Shawn said that Hana is his partner and they want to make marriage in future.

Then the father took them to Shawn's parents. The parents agreed that Shawn is going to marry Hana after writing standard eight exams. Then the father of Hana said that Shawn should marry her after exams although [even if? ]she will not have a pregnant.

That is why Shawn has married at that age, Ellena said.

What is she going to do? If she will found that she have got a pregnant than she have selected to go to secondary school? [if she's selected for secondary school but is pregnant, what will happen?] Estere asked.

That is a good question, a child needs to have feeding fluently [frequently?]. So what is she going to do in that condition I asked.

I have seen that she has also decided to leave school. And her parents want her to get married Ellena said

But those people do have luck of being selected, Loceness said

Yes I said

But now she is already injured (she have got a pregnant) she can't do otherwise than to get married Ellena said.

Then we reached at the road conjunction where I need to take my route. So they have promised that they will come to chat in with me next day.

13<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

I was at home waiting for my children to come from school.

Then Dalinesi came. I was wondering because they [Dalinesi and siblings? Friends?] used to come together. But this day she was alone. Where are your friends? I asked.

They are on the way they are coming I have left them because I am so hungry. Have you cooked *nsima*? she asked. I have not yet cooked. I was waiting for you to come. But don't worry my daughter you can have tea. Can you go and take a flask?

I am going to cook *nsima* now, I said okey, but don't join me here, she said 'I am full I said [unclear].

Her friends came, she invited them to have tea also before *nsima*.

Why were you late today?. Did a teacher give you a punishment to do? I asked Wawefe. Catherina called 'Yes.'Wawefe replied,

Tell her I told you that we should not wait for Melifa. So tell her the truth, Catherina said



Melifa is the one who have made us to be late today,

What did Melifa do? I asked.

She told us that we should wait for her, so that we come [home] together, Wawefe said.

You can just tell her that she was with her boyfriend so she was walking very slowly. She told us that her mother will be angry if she will see that she is the only one who is late. She always comes with us so she was thinking that her mother will ask us, Catherina explained.

Which means that Melifa also waits for you when you come with your boy friends? Not so? I asked angrily.

'No but he comes at school and calls Melifa during break time. So Melifa is not entering to finish classes with us. But I don't know why they have decided to walk together after classes. May be he was late today, we waited for her but we were not moving [walking] together. We did not think that you will be sad here. We will not do it again. Sorry, Wawefe said .

Now you have come here. But I have not seen them passing by, where is she and her boyfriend? I asked.

They have already passed here. She [Melifa] said that she doesn't want you to know that she is walking today with her boyfriend because next time you will laugh at her after she has gone, Wawefe said.

I don't have a time to laugh at her but I will advise you that I don't want to hear that you were with them again. Because you can learn [from] her behaviour. So that next time it will be you who will be moving with a boy. So you can teach Catherina [so you will set a bad example for Catherina?] . She can think that it is good to have partners at this age, which is not good I said. And you also don't have time to laugh at her. She has got parents who can advise her about the goodness and the badness of having boyfriends at her age.

The teacher also told her [Melifa] those days when he was coming to school that she can not go to secondary school because she is much concentrating to [on her] boyfriend. She is thinking that she is more beautiful than her friends at school. Then the teachers told her that if her boyfriend come again at school she will be dismissed. I hope [think] that she told him that is why he has come after classes, Wawefe said.

If she will be having a pregnant, will her partner marry her? I asked.

Maybe because she always says that although she will be selected to go to secondary school, she knows that she don't have a chance to go there, because her father failed to send her brother to secondary school because he did not have enough money for school fees. He was selected twice for two

years. So she fully thinks that her father can not manage to send her to secondary school. So it is better for her to have a boyfriend who can give her a pregnant, because she knows that a man who will be responsible for that pregnant can marry her, Wawefe said,

Do you think that Melifa is a good friend to you nowadays? I asked.

No because she made a partnership with Justen (a fisherman) and I have also heard that she made a partnership with Bulandi. If she will get Aids. She will not able to choose a man [choose a man = which man] who have given her that virus Wawefe said.

Or even a pregnant ."I said . It is the same.

But when I saw that she have started to move with Mauricio [?] Melifa also has her friends at school .We are just going together because we all using the same direction .If you will come at school any day, you will not find me with Melifa now that she have started a new life . But that new life will not help her. Because very soon, she will leave school, Wawefe explained.

"Wawefe!"Melifa called her.

"Wawefe, there is someone who is calling you outside,"Catherina said. Then Catherina got [up] and saw that it was Melifa. "Melifa is calling you."Catherina said .

"Melifa!"Wawefe called.

"Yes"she replied.

"Come here "Wawefe said.

"Is there your sister (a mother of Dalinesi)?"Melifa asked .

"No. She went across Kadewere river to collect firewood,"Wawefe said.

"Okey, I am coming,". Melifa said.

She found that I was there, she started to smile when she saw me.

What are you smiling at? I asked.

I was thinking that you are not here she said.

'You always come although I am here. But today only you wanted to come when I am away, why? What is wrong with me? I asked.

I have passed here with a boy. That boy is my partner so I was thinking that you have seen me when I was passing. So I was afraid that you can laugh at

me. And you can also tell my mother that you have seen me with a boy, Melifa said.

Which time were you passing here? I asked.

I was coming with Wawefe and Catherina. That time when they were coming here we were together, she said.

Do you want to get married I asked.

No, but I wanted just to have a choice of a man to marry me she said.

How many men are on partnership with you at this time? I asked.

Only four but one of them will marry me, she said.

Which one? I asked.

I will ask my mother to choose for me because she have told me that I should get married because I am just wasting my time with school. I will not go to secondary school, they will not have money to send me to secondary school. My brother has failed school also [failed? Or failed to go?] Melifa said.

Did your father know that you are on partnership with four men? I asked

'No.It is only my mother. She says that she will tell my father after I will have a pregnant, Melifa said.

Did you go for the blood testing for HIV with your partners? I asked.

For what? I cannot go, these are not the days of doing that. Do you know that I can lose a man because of HIV testing? And I hope [think, expect] that they can also refuse to do it. They do give me more money which my mother uses at home.

My father is not asking her for that money. And sometimes we do use the money when he is at Blantyre. Do you know that my father is working at Blantyre? She asked

Yes, but do you think that the men will not love you if they see that you have started to suffer from AIDS? Or even if they see that one of them has given you a pregnant, they can all refuse that pregnant I said.

I don't think so, because they don't know each other. If the two make an appointment for meeting with me I always tell the other one that I will not be there, my mother wanted me to do some work. So he changes days, Melifa said.

But maybe you can think that they don't know each other but maybe they know but they don't want to show you. I said. That [is] what they want.

It is better for me because [if] I don't know. My mother have sent me to buy pills at the grocery, so I am going there. Wawefe, can you escort me, she said.

I am doing a home work of Mathematics which the teacher gave us. After this I want to go to the borehole to draw water Wawefe said.

Okey, I will copy from you those Maths before we enter in the class, she said.

May be they are not correct.

I am afraid that the teacher will give me a punishment if I don't write them Melifa said. Then she departed.

Nowadays Melifa has changed her behaviour. She has taken a prostitution life. Even at school, she is chatting with girls who are prostitutes, Wawefe said..

You seemed as if you did not attend her, why? I asked.

Nowadays I don't want to play. Third term exams are near so I want to pass them. I want to write Maneb [the government body that gives the Standard 8 exams at the end of primary school] next year, Wawefe said. Then she took a pail and she went to a borehole to draw water with Catherina and Dalinesi.

16<sup>th</sup> November, 2006

Josephy came to Marysitola's house with a funeral message. She [He?] said that Manesi died last week. So he just came to let them know that her relative has died. So Marysitola came at my home to tell me that her cousin has died at Kathyai.

What did she suffer from? I asked.

It seems as if it was AIDS, she said

How do you know that she died with AIDS? I asked .

Manesi had a behaviour which made me to be angry with her. She was sleeping with my father who was also her Uncle. And I know that she will die because my father died with AIDS, Marysitola said.

How did you know that she was sleeping with your father? I asked.

I was living with my father at Kathyai. I was sleeping with Manesi in a separate house from my father. He had married another wife. Manesi was his real niece. My mother knew that her husband is sleeping with Manesi. One day she asked me if I knew that Manesi is sleeping with her Uncle. I told her

that I don't know but I was wondering because every night a man was coming in our house but I did not know that it was my father.

Another day my father came in our house as usual. Then my mother wanted to confirm if it was true what she was thinking. So she got out and sat on a veranda. There was nobody outside. So she saw that my father is coming out of our house.

Where are you coming from? She asked.

I wanted to see if these girls are in the house. I was thinking that may be they can go at their partner's houses, he said

But I already heard that you do sleep with your niece. Now I have got a witness of that rumour. I have seen with my own eyes. You are a man. So there is no need for you to go at the house of girls, you could have tell me to go see because we are of the same sex. Now you must marry your niece, I am going home, my mother said.

Then early in the morning she went home. Then my father followed her next day. He apologised to her so my father [mother?] forgave her. They were together our returning [when they returned?]. .

But my father did not stop sleeping with her then a time came to get married my father was not allow her to get married. But my mother told her that she should get married because if she will get married she will stop to sleep with her Uncle. The Uncle will be respecting her. Then she got married but the Uncle was becoming angry to her on just small things. Then he started also to tell her that she must chase him [her new husband]. She did what her Uncle told her so the man was gone. She was still sleeping with her Uncle, Marysitola said.

So had it been that you have stayed there for a long time, he could have also started to sleep with you. I said.

I was too young but I couldn't accept it. That is witchcraft and he knew that I can tell my mother the same day if he can tell me [?]. Then she had a pregnant of him. And she had a baby which people were saying that it was like my father. Then my mother told my father to let her go at her parents place because people were saying that my Uncle was following much sweetness of his niece which he was comparing to my mother. So my mother was feeling more shy [ashamed] to her friends who have known about it. Marysitola said.

'Does your father send on assistance to his baby?'I asked.

Only a little bit because he was loving her more when she was living with us here. Then I knew that he will need me to sleep with him so immediately I found a boy who was proposing me for partnership. I accepted him, I was thinking that he will not need me because of that partnership. When he heard

that I have fallen in love with that boy he started to ill-treat me. So I was not living in a happy life because of him. He was saying that my boyfriend was too young so he can not make a partnership with me. Then he heard that I have got a partner. He tried his best to know that boy. One day my partner was passing-by our house. He was with his friends my father saw him. He was on a veranda then he started to follow the boys. When he found them he caught my partner and asked him for a reason why he have made a partnership with me.

My partner said that we have agreed that we should make marriage in future.

Then my father told him that he is too young to me. He cannot marry his daughter. But my partner said that it was only him who is seeing that he is young. My [His] daughter is seeing that he is of her age. If he wants to marry his own daughter he can just say the truth because he has already heard that he was sleeping with his niece.

Then my father called me. When I reached there I saw that he was very angry. He asked me to tell him the truth about my partner. I said that he is the one who wants to marry me.

Then he told me that I should go home. I told him that if he wants me to go home, he must leave my partners [leave my partners = let my partners to go] also. I don't care although he can chase me at [from?] his house.

Then my father let my partner go. When we reached home, he started to shout at me.

He said that I must go home and I should not return to live with him. I accepted so he escorted me home. My mother welcomed me very well. He did not tell her a reason why he sent me home.

But I told my mother the truth what my father was doing. My mother said that I should not go there. So my father returned on the same day. My partner promised that he will follow me if my father will chase me. And he will marry me here. I started school in late time because I was expecting that he will come to marry me. But he did not come I don't know why. Marysitola explained.

May be your father told him that he should not come here? I asked.

I don't know she said.

Marysitola, have you seen Winece at her house? Molly asked.

No, may be she is there, Marysitola said.

You can just go and see on yourself because we don't see what is happening there, I said.

So she proceeded with the journey.

I didn't want to tell her the truth, Winece went to visit her friend at Sayenda village, she [Marysitola?] said.

So why? That [Molly] is a sister of your friend Moni. So if Moni knew that you have said so to her sister, do you think she will be happy with it? I asked

Yes because I hope [think] that you know that Moni, her mother and this one here the prostitutes. Moni was married at Lilongwe. And she was living there with a husband although she is a third wife. But you knew that this Molly made a partnership with Joseph? she asked..

No, Moni left that prostitute life but this one [Molly] was enjoying when she was on partnership with Joseph. But their partnership ends because Joseph met with the chief Yakobe and the other day he met also with Kalinde, all those were her partners. Joseph was building a house for her. It was about finished. So one day he went to break that house so that it fell down. He said that if she wants to have a house, [s]he must tell her partners to build it, not him. She also has a pregnant. Joseph said that he was not responsible for that pregnant. He will not buy anything for that pregnant because it was for those men. Although she was doing that, she was relying on Joseph's assistance. But a prostitute is a prostitute, she cannot change to be a normal person. That is why she had other partners besides Joseph. Joseph was about to chase his wife and marry her. Nowadays Joseph is going there. She is welcoming him very well also, but because she is sleeping with [at] her sister's house, they are not able to have sex, so Joseph used to pretend as if he is going, then Molly escorted him, they do go to the bush and have sex there. Then Molly returned when Joseph is going at his wife's home, Marysitola said.

What made Moni to quarrel with Molly? I asked. Joseph used to come and they are going to the bush to have sex so Moni was advising her that she must not allow him to sleep with her because he had broken her house. What she should know is that Joseph wants to see if she is a stupid lady. The day when he was breaking that house, he was saying that he cannot sleep with a lady who is a prostitute. She has got also AIDS, which she wants to share it with many people. The chief also has many partners, others [some] have got AIDS so he don't want to leave [leave standing?] a house whose owner have given him AIDS. So she should not accept him again it is better to search for another man to marry her rather than to be still living with Joseph on partnership. If she will see him again at that compound she will chase him Marysitola explained.

So what did Molly say to her sister? I asked.

Have you hidden your prostitution and reveal our prostitution? Have you forgotten that you were on partnership with Mr. Lazembe. He have built a house for you that time. Now he have left it. And Namadanitsa is sleeping in that house. You don't have only one partner. Do you want me to tell

Namadanitsa when he will come here? Had it been that God have created you to have children, how many children do you think you can have of different men? You are barren because of too much prostitution Marysitola explained.

How many children does Molly have? I asked.

She has four children [plus] another one is that one who have died with boiled water at her partner. Then the marriage ended after the funeral ceremony. A [The] partner also did not marry her, she said.

That is the badness of having a partner still in marriage I said.

Yes a partner loves you when you are with your husband. But when he hears that your marriage has been divorced, he runs away like what Joseph did to Molly. She is now just moving here and there to search for food. Her other partners are not going to her home either because Joseph broke up their partnership. They knew that she could tell them that they must continue the project which Joseph have started of building a house. Now she is eating Mangoes instead of *nsima* if she wants to taste *nsima* she goes somewhere to do a piece work of people's garden. And she tells the owner to give her flour instead of money. That is why she is surviving with her children Marysitola said.

If Joseph knew that he will be coming to need his partner, why did he break her house? I asked.

I don't know, maybe he had a high temper that day, Marysitola said.

How many children does Moni have? I asked.

She doesn't have a child. But she do tell us that there as a certain year when she got a pregnant and had a pre-mature baby. That baby had more wounds on its skin so it did not take time to die. She did not get another pregnant. All the men who are coming at her, are just heating on a railway metal (They can not have children with Moni) she said.

So why? I asked,.

Some people are saying that long ago she had sexual intercourse diseases. That is why a baby died and it is also a big reason which have made her to be barren. Sexual intercourse disease do affects [the] uterus. May be she used to have these diseases frequently, she said.

I also heard so some where, I said.

Then we saw that Molly was returning from Winece's house. So we stopped talking about her.

Did you find her? Marysitola asked.



No the children have said that they don't know where she have gone, you tell her that tomorrow I will come again, Molly said.

Okey Marysitola said. Then she disappeared.