ONE day Thapelo visited a club and in the early hours brought a woman back to his place. They enjoyed a pleasant conversation in the car, discussing football teams like Real Madrid, Orlando Pirates, Matlama, and PSG. The young woman, in her mid-twenties, asked if she could stay over, to which Thapelo quickly agreed. Upon arriving at his apartment, they parked and walked to Thapelo's bachelor pad.

Just before entering, Thapelo paused and looked at the woman, "Are you protected?"

She gestured towards the nearby security guard, saying, "Isn't that your security guy?" Feeling let down, Thapelo specified, "I mean in terms of protection during sex."

The woman, slightly flustered yet irritated, responded, "What kind of question is that? You're a man; it's your job to have condoms at home, not mine.'

Thapelo gazed at her in disappointment, regretting not trusting his instincts about her. What did he bring home this time around?

With a firm tone, he remarked, "I suppose you're not familiar with the Choice Manifesto... A clever woman like you should know better."

"Look, do you have condoms or not?" she snapped.

"Unfortunately, I don't. But it's not solely my responsibility anymore (has she been living under a rock?)" Thapelo replied confidently. "Let's just call it a night. I'll see you



next weekend, assuming you've figured out your choice of HIV protection."

This incident highlights a common misconception that protected sex solely refers to condom use. AWPCAB (African Women Prevention Community Accountability Board) with the endorsement of UNAIDS, has introduced what is called the CHOICE Manifesto. For the first time in the history of the HIV epidemic, women are calling for HIV prevention programmes to offer an array of protective options from which to choose.

The Choice Manifesto highlights the need for HIV prevention programmes to add woman-initiated protection that is discreet and does not need the male partner's consent. The Manifesto offers women a range of choices based on their individual needs and preferences. These include:

• Oral PrEP, Antiretroviral (ARV) medication to prevent HIV. It can be taken daily or, for men, around the time of sex using a "2-1-1" schedule in which individuals take two tablets two to 24 hours before sex, one tablet 24 hours after the first dose, and another tablet 24 hours later.

• The dapivirine vaginal ring, a longlasting antiretroviral device, inserted into the vagina monthly, releases ARV medication to prevent HIV transmission.

• CAB for PrEP, a long-acting injectable that offers protection—to men and women for 2 months (6 jabs/year) ; and LEN for PrEP, a 6-month (2 jabs/year) long-acting in-

# Why unprotected sex no longer means sex without a condom

"

U=U, Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) suppresses virus in individuals living with HIV and thereby prevents transmission to sexual partners

jectable coming to market soon (see my previous column Twice a year jab to keep HIV away).

• The DPP (Dual Prevention Pill) combines oral PrEP, which prevents HIV infection before exposure, with oral contraceptives to prevent pregnancy. DPP is coming to the market soon.

• U=U, Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) suppresses virus in individuals living with HIV and thereby prevents transmission to sexual partners (see my previous column A radical method to keep your partner HIV free).

And, of course, condoms, which serve as a barrier against HIV and other STIs; But these are not women-controlled so require negotiation for the male's consent.

And, still in research are a multitude of other HIV protection methods such as a monthly pill and further down the pipeline is an HIV vaccine, considered the Holy Grail of HIV prevention.

The Manifesto highlights the critical need for health clinics to programme accessible and affordable HIV prevention choices, along with thorough information and counseling, to facilitate informed decision-making. Its goal is to empower individuals to take charge of their health and make educated choices regarding their HIV prevention strategies.

Shall we go deeper into these options in the next column? Okay, great. It's a date!

• Mokone Rantsoeleba is a health and rights advocate based at Phelisanang Bophelong HIV/AIDS Network. He is 2024 AVAC Fellow.





## **ESTATE NOTICE**

# ESTATE LATE 'MATUMO JUDITH MOLELLE: D64/2025

Notice is hereby given in terms of **Section 44(1) of the Administration** of Estates and Inheritance Act No. 2 of 2024 that all persons having claims against the deceased or her estate to submit their claims within thirty (30) days of publication of this notice with the Executrix dative, MRS. LINEO MASALOME LEPHATSA, on the address given below.

## DATED AT MASERU THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2025.

Maseru Book Centre No.5, Block C Kingsway, Maseru P.O. Box 1604 Maseru 100 Cell : 58737788/59965701 22321791/59213345





## NOTICE OF LOST DEED DOCUMENT

NOTICE is hereby given that I intend to apply for a certified copy of a registered Title Deed/Lease to immovable property registered under No. 12282-442 on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1997 in favour of THABO GEORGE MONAHENG in respect of Every right or interest on and to the building(s) and other developments expressed or implied in certain Plot NO. 12282-442 (Deed NO: 25786) situated at Maseru West Urban Area on Plan No. 12282.

as held by Chief Surveyor.

All persons having objection to the issue of the said copy are requested to lodge such in writing to the land Registrar **within three weeks** from the last publication of the notice.

### ADDRESS:

Land Registrar Land Administration Authority

Lerotholi Road P.O. Box 11856 Maseru 100

#### **APPLICANT'S NAMES AND ADDRESS:**

Legal Spective Chambers c/o Marcus Holding Marcus Moeketsi Remedial Centre Building Maseru 100