What can I do to promote the SADC Model Law?
A Busy Day In Southern Africa

Wow, scary weather! Luckily our meeting with the community is tomorrow and not today!

While you do that, I'll workshop with the teachers, the health practitioners and so on.

We've come far with Wait to Wed, haven't we?

How many girls in this district have died giving birth?

Good. That's a great result!

Indeed. Wait to Wed could be a tough sell because we can't alienate anyone.

You'd better speak with the elders, Fanaka...

...you know they wouldn't listen to me so talking to them is your job.

She often drops out of school, for one. But there's so much more...

Let me explain...

But what's wrong with a girl getting married at 15?

While you do that, I'll workshop with the teachers, the health practitioners and so on.

How many girls in this district have died giving birth?

It's come down since the law made marriage under 18 illegal.

Good, that's a great result!

We've come far with Wait to Wed, haven't we?

We've studied the SADC Model Law. We know it inside out.
We know where and what we need to focus on. And we've consulted to make sure we know what the law in each country says about child marriage, and where the gaps and loopholes are.

We know where and what we need to focus on.

Yup, and we've made great contacts in government for some direct advocacy with the decision-makers.

Just think of all those briefing sessions we did.

...Sho, remember that meeting with the minister of justice where we said 18 MUST be the minimum legal age for marriage for EVERYONE?

Yes! That got us to the very top.

Sorry sir, but there can be no exceptions.

Nothing like parental consent for early marriage, or special permission from you.

You're right, the deadline is looming. We must follow up and hold them to account! We're guardians, remember!

He's come around, but not all his colleagues have. And it's action we need to see.

I mean, the court gave the government one year to amend the law, but 12 months are almost up and I've heard nothing so far about it being done yet.
And that profile they did on Chisisi! Do you remember?... There she was, speaking with such confidence.

We’ve had an excellent partnership with the media. That is so important for our Wait to Wed campaign!

AND THAT PROFILE THEY DID ON CHISISI! DO YOU REMEMBER?...

NEXT QUESTION, PLEASE!

I think we’re going to raise public awareness big time tomorrow! The media will all be there.

WE’VE HAD AN EXCELLENT PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MEDIA. THAT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR OUR WAIT TO WED CAMPAIGN!

...There she was, speaking with such confidence.

Wow, that was so inspiring! It even trended on social media!

Well, she is the youth champion for Wait to Wed... and we’ve trained her well.

Yes, she’s going to talk to all her peers.

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Elders, traditional leaders, teachers, doctors, parents, the children themselves.

It’s true grassroots stuff.
Yup, but we’ve got to work from the ground up. It’s the only way to take the model law from preaching to practice!

Yup, and we’ve got to keep working on ways to demystify it.

Eish, that reminds me. I’ve got some training material specifically designed for religious leaders. I mustn’t forget to take it!

That was the police station commander. She says more people are reporting child marriages, and she wants them to know how to handle these cases.

The work never stops!

Nope, not until every girl has the right to wait to wed...

...and not until everyone in society unites behind it!
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