

Learning by Ear – Political Participation
Radiodrama „Family Affairs – How to become a political player“
Episode 1: “Leaders are created, not born”

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CHARACTERS: Mapito (male 40), Ronnie (male 14), Betty (female 12), Eveline (female 19), Coach (male 35), Samu (male 14), 2-3 Boys (14+)

Intro

Narrator: Sons and daughters of African gentlemen, we welcome you to Learning by ear and our new drama series, “Family affairs - how to become a political player”. In the next ten programmes come on a journey with us where we meet Mapito’s family. Mapito is a dedicated police officer and widower trying to raise his three children; Eveline is 19 years old, and has just finished high school. She wants to go in a new direction. 14-year-old Ronnie is a talented footballer and aspires to lead his team while Betty who is just 12 years old dreams of becoming a great singer. All of them have to face tough obstacles that will cause them to work together in finding solutions.

In our first episode, entitled “Leaders are created, not born” we join Ronnie and his family at the breakfast table.

Scene 1: Breakfast table

SFX: CUTLERY SOUNDS WHEN PEOPLE EAT/DRINK

- 1. RONNIE:** Dad, you never told me, why did you decide to become a police officer? I mean, it's a dangerous job! **(makes police sirens and gunshots sounds)**
- 2. MAPITO:** Ronnie, please let me enjoy my breakfast. It's too early for interrogation.
- 3. BETTY:** Mmmh, I think Daddy wanted us to be safe, right Dad?
- 4. MAPITO:** That's right my little African queen.
- 5. RONNIE:** But I don't get it, you could have been a runner, I've seen the awards you got at high school. Maybe you could have run in the Olympics and won a gold medal! That's my dream, to play football for my country and win against the European teams in the World Cup.
- 6. MAPITO: (Sternly)** Listen to me boy! And listen well! Since your mother died I've worked very hard to provide for you

and to ensure your school fees are paid. I don't expect you to reward my hard labour by chasing after an old, dirty, worn-out, leather ball thinking you are some sort of Pele. I want you to study and become a judge, is that clear?

7. RONNIE: Yes, Dad. I didn't mean to make you angry, I only wanted your advice, because what I really want to do is to captain my team to the finals but I don't know how to get there.

8. MAPITO: Captain? And then what do you do next, huh? What next?

9. RONNIE: But Daddy, I love playing football, and I'm good at it. I know if I work extra hard I'll be chosen to lead our team. Please, Dad, let me play.

10. MAPITO: OK. But you can only play this term and then that's it.

11. RONNIE: Yeeeeeah!!!!!! Thanks Dad, Betty where are the shoes and socks I use for playing football?

12. BETTY: I took them away because they were soo...sooo...fuuuuu! I washed them for you and they are hanging outside on the line, your shoes are also drying outside.

13. MAPITO: (laughs) Boys will always be boys. Ronnie, remember, to lead others you must be willing to serve and sometimes sacrifice yourself for them. And in answer to your question: that’s why I became a police officer. Betty, go and wake your sister up, just because she has finished high school doesn’t mean she can sleep all day.

14. NARRATOR: So, that was a glimpse of Mapito’s family. Later that same day..

Scene 2: At the Football pitch

SFX: Football Training then Whistle blow

15. COACH: Ok, ok, boys lets make a circle. Today’s practice was the worst ever! Some of you are still being very selfish with the ball. I want you to play as a team, ONE team. Who brought the ball?

16. SAMU: It was Ronnie. He arrived first at the pitch.

17. COACH: Now, that’s the kind of team spirit I’d like to see. Well done, Ronnie. OK. That’s it for today practice. Hands together, hip hip -

18. BOYS: (Aloud) Hurrrah!

19. COACH: Ronnie, can you stay behind, I'd like to have a word with you. I'll see the rest of you tomorrow.

BOYS NOISES FADE OUT

20. COACH Ron, you are a talented player with a bright future. But this is football not tennis! You need to play together with your teammates. You can't always be in the position to score! Do you understand?

21. RONNIE: Yes, coach. Teamwork. I'll do my best from tomorrow.

22. COACH: Good. People are expecting a lot from you. Now you can go. Your friends are getting impatient.

23. RONNIE: (Whistles after them) Hey! Samu! Guys, wait!

24. SAMU: **(sarcastic)** Here comes our super hero.

25. RONNIE: So what do you say? Who do you think will win tonight in the Africa Cup of Nations match?

Dead silence

26. SAMU: Ronnie, we are quitting the team, you don't need us.

27. RONNIE: (Disbelief) What!? Samu, you are joking, right?

- 28. SAMU:** This isn't a joke. We want out Ronnie. Look, since we began playing, teachers like you more. All the girls are flocking around you, and now it seems like Coach is going to make you Captain.
- 29. RONNIE:** Aaah, so this is what this is all about... the girls? Come on guys! This is our team, OURS! And everyone is a player and important. I couldn't have scored all those goals if it hadn't have been for you. I admit I've been a bit... well... proud, selfish, maybe. But I'll change, I promise. Please, don't quit now. We are close to becoming champions!
- 30. SAMU:** Hmmm...yeah, I think you are right. Ok, we'll stay in the team. But tell the girls we also exist eh?

31. BOYS: ALL LAUGH

MUSIC BRIDGE

- 32. NARRATOR:** A wise saying has it that, no man is an island.. Ronnie was beginning to learn that. As evening came...

Scene 3: Living Room

SFX: KNOCKING ON DOOR

33. BETTY: Who is it?

34. RONNIE: (from outside, Imitating a heavy monstrous voice) IT IS
MEEEE...OPEN THE DOOR, WHOAAA!

35. BETTY: Wuuuuui, Ronnie you scared me!

36. RONNIE: (Laughs) Is Dad home?

37. BETTY: (Catches Breath) No, but Eve is cooking in the kitchen. Oh,
that reminds me, I wanted to ask her something...
(Calls out) Eve, Eve!

38. EVELINE: (Coming into the room) Now what? Don't tell me you
want me to help you with your homework.

39. BETTY: I already did it. I have a question, how can I persuade
my classmates to join me in forming a choir?

40. EVELINE: You?!! You want to start a choir? That's great! But does
Dad know about it?

41. BETTY: No, ... eeh, actually I wanted to tell you first and then
hoped that you would tell him.

42. EVELINE: Betty, if you want to be a leader, you have to have
courage. And it begins at home, here with your family.

Talk to dad and let him know how important this is for you. As for your classmates, you need to inspire them so they can follow you. Tell them about the benefits of joining the choir. Like the trips they will go on, skills they will learn.

43. BETTY: I never thought about it that way. You know, I love singing and thought everyone else does too.

SFX: **DOOR CREAKS OPEN**

44. BETTY: **(With a pleasant voice)** Hi Dad! May I take your cap and coat?

45. MAPITO: Oh, I smell a rat.. what do you want from me, Betty?

46. BETTY: Eh, I would like to start a choir in my class and then take part in the Music festival competition, actually Dad..

47. MAPITO: What!? That’s beautiful, I always wondered why you didn’t want other people to hear your lovely voice. You have my permission, Betty!

48. BETTY: Thanks Dad, I’ll go and help Eveline with supper now.

49. MAPITO: Hello Ron, come and sit down near me. How was school?

50. RONNIE: Tough, my Coach is pushing me hard and is always finding fault with me. I even think some of my team mates are ganging up against me!

51. MAPITO: I wouldn't be surprised. You see, when you start climbing the ladder of success, you begin to learn who your true friends are. But don't worry, focus on your ambitions when you get kicked from behind, it just means you are out in front.

52. BETTY: Supper is ready!

53. MAPITO: **(Yawns)** At long last. I was beginning to wonder what was taking so long to cook.

END OF EPISODE ONE

Outro

54. Narrator: So that's the beginning of our story about three siblings and their quest to achieve their dreams. What is Eveline's goal? Will Ronnie be made Captain of his team? And will Betty overcome her shyness to start a choir? You will learn all this and more in our next episode.

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