

Learning by Ear – Political Participation  
Radiodrama „Family Affairs – How to become a political player“  
Episode 7: “Together we stand”

## **Learning by Ear – Political Participation**

### **Radiodrama: “Family Affairs - How to become a political player”**

Episode Seven: “Together we stand”

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<p><b>CHARACTERS:</b> Eveline (19), Electoral Commissioner (65), Betty (12), Choir (12+), Ronnie (14), Boys (14+), mixed crowd, Announcer (male), Voice</p>
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### **Intro**

**Narrator:** Greetings to you, sons and daughters of brave African men and women, welcome to Learning by Ear and our political drama “Family Affairs – How to Become a Political Leader”. In our last episode Betty, a once shy, little 12-year-old, uses her mind and charms her rival in her group and convinces her to unite, so that the group sings together as one choir. They won the first round and now they have to sing in the final. Her elder sister Eveline, meanwhile, is very angry at some unknown people who

went around destroying her campaign posters by disfiguring her photograph. And today's the day for both brother Ronnie and his football team and Betty and her choir - will the teams stand together or fall apart? And let's not forget Eveline promised to visit the chairman of the Electoral Commission. All this coming up in today's episode called “United we stand”.

### **Scene one: At the Commissioner's office**

#### **SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSSES**

1. **COMMISSIONER:** Please have a seat. What can I do for you, young lady?
  
2. **EVELINE:** Well first, I'd like to know if I'm in the right place. Are you the Electoral Commissioner?
  
3. **COMMISSIONER:** Yes, and who are you? I hope you are not a regional observer. We have had enough of you already. We can handle these elections efficiently ourselves.
  
4. **EVELINE:** Good. I'm glad to hear that. My name is Eveline Mapito. I'm contesting for the civic

seat of Milimani. My campaign team has observed all the rules of peaceful campaigning without intimidating anyone.

**5. COMMISSIONER:** Excellent! I'm glad to hear that. So, is anyone stopping you from running your campaign?

**6. EVELINE:** A few days ago we went around putting up posters and banners depicting my face and message to vote for me. Mind you, Commissioner, we had to pay the council a fee to have the banners put up. Yesterday all my posters were destroyed and the banners ripped apart. I'd like to know how the Electoral Commission can help.

**7. COMMISSIONER:** I'm sorry, miss, but there's nothing my office can do to help.

**8. EVELINE: (Obviously shocked)** What? You must be joking!

**9. COMMISSIONER:** Do you see me smiling or hear me chuckling? Listen, such matters are dealt with by the police. But if you have evidence that a certain candidate did it, and then bring it forward and we will take disciplinary action.

**10. EVELINE:** And that’s it? Not one of my posters can be seen on the street and there’s nothing that the Electoral Office can do about it? What about the money it cost to print them?

**11. COMMISIONER: (Getting angry)** I’ve been doing this job for thirty years and I have never seen the commission paying for damaged posters of contestants. Our job is to ensure a free and fair election.

**12. EVELINE: (Strongly)** How can it be free and fair when my posters have been destroyed? Please clarify what you mean by free and fair?

**13. COMMISIONER: (Now getting impatient)** Who do you think you are, huh? Coming in here and lecturing me on how I should do my job? You aren’t the first or the last person to contest a civic seat! Don’t you have any respect?

**14. EVELINE:** I didn’t mean to disrespect you, sir, in fact I consider you to be one of my role models in public service. I just wanted to know if there’s anything you could do to stop this unfair and unjust practice. As you see I’m still young.

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**15. COMMISSIONER:** All I can say is: W.T.A.P.

**16. EVELINE: (Repeats)** W.T.A.P.? What does that stand for, sir?

**17. COMMISSIONER:** It's short for...Welcome To African Politics.

**18. EVELINE:** I am sorry to have to say this, but it is such attitudes, sir, which has kept us behind the rest of the world, decades after independence. We still practice politics of hatred, division, fear and intimidation. We should borrow a leaf out of a book from the other countries which conduct elections in an orderly and peaceful manner.

**19. COMMISSIONER: (Dismissive)** I suggest you should take the next flight, ship or bus away from here. If you'll excuse me, I have work to do.

**20. EVELINE (standing up from her chair):** Time will come and has to come when we will have politics that unite rather than divide. Thank you for your time.

**SFX: DOOR OPENS AND CLOSSES**

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## **Scene two: Before Final of football match**

**SFX: FOOTBALL STADIUM**

**21. CROWD: (Chanting)** Let’s go Milimani! Let’s go!

**22. RONNIE: (addressing his team)** This is it! It’s do or die. This is the day we have been training for and waiting for, for weeks. Let’s play as a team. I remember Coach told me once, this is football not tennis.

**23. Boys: (HEAVY BREATHING AND PUFFING)**

**24. RONNIE:** Hip Hip!

**25. BOYS:** HURRAY!

**SFX: WHISTLE BLOWS**

**NARRATOR:** And the match began. With Ronnie bearing the burden of the expectations of his school, family, and most of all himself. At the same time at the music hall...

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**Scene three: At the Music Hall/Football Match [fade in/out into the different settings during narrator texts]**

**SFX: MUSIC HALL**

**26. CROWD: (Huge Applause)**

**NARRATOR:** You probably guessed it right. Betty and her choir have taken timid steps towards the stage. And at the match Ronnie’s team was a goal down by half-time.

**SFX: FOOTBALL STADIUM**

**27. RONNIE: (Breathing hard)** Where is Coach? He should be here!  
We need him.

**28. BOY (also heavily breathing):** Ronnie, Coach trusted you to lead us. You tell us what we should do.

**29. RONNIE:** Ah, OK, good. Let’s keep playing as a team and put more pressure on them, and be careful not to let them score another goal. Hip Hip!

**30. BOYS:** HURRAY!

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**SFX: WHISTLE BLOWS -> MUSIC HALL**

**31. NARRATOR:** The second and final part of the match has begun, and at the Music Hall the results were being announced.

**32. Announcer:** The winner of this year’s inter-primary music festival who gets the privilege of singing at the State House in front of the President is....Milimani led by Betty Mapito!

**33. GIRLS:** Yeeeeeeeah!!!! (**starting to sing and cheer**)

**NARRATOR:** As Betty and the choir broke into song and dance celebrating their victory, they joined hands and formed a circle putting aside their earlier differences. Their dream had become a reality. Or so they thought. And at the football match...

**SFX: FOOTBALL STADIUM + Cheering**

**34. CROWD:** GOOOOOOAL!!!

**NARRATOR:** No, it’s not what you’re thinking. Ronnie had



not scored, the other team had. Sad and hard as it was, the final score was 2:0 (two – nil) and Ronnie believed his dream was over. Meanwhile, Eveline was having an emergency meeting with her election campaign committee.

## **MUSIC BRIDGE**

### **Scene Four: Eveline's meeting with her campaign team**

#### **34.A CROWD: MURMURING**

**SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGS (NOT EVELINE’S – see earlier part 4)**

**35. EVELINE:** Could you please switch off your mobile phones! We do have a serious problem to discuss...

**SFX: EVELINE’S PHONE RINGS**

**36. EVELINE:** Excuse me! I forgot to switch off my own. I’ll just take this call and come straight back to you... (**Answers call**) Yes, who is this? Could you call me back later? I’m in a meeting right now.

**37. TELEPHONE VOICE:** This is important, it can't wait!

**38. EVELINE:** It better be, because I'm keeping people waiting. Who is this, anyway? I don't recognise your number.

**39. TELEPHONE VOICE:** That's because I'm calling you from the police station. Eveline, you need to come here as fast as you can. Your Dad has been shot.

**40. EVELINE: (Terrified silence)** What...? Oh no... ! When? Where?

**41. TELEPHONE VOICE:** Just come to the station. I'll explain everything to you later.

**42. EVELINE: (Breaks down in Tears)** Is... is he...?

**43. TELEPHONE VOICE:** Just come...

## **END OF EPISODE SEVEN**

### **Outro**

**Narrator:** The drama continues. Mapito has been shot. Who did it and why? Does it have anything to do with Eveline? Will she continue with her campaign after all that's happened? And what's next in store

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for Betty and Ronnie after their tough contests? All these questions will be answered in our next episode of Learning by Ear: “Family Affairs” by Chrispin Mwakideu. To listen again or send in your comments, visit our webpage at [www.dw-world.de/lbe](http://www.dw-world.de/lbe). Until next time, good-bye!