EPISODE 7

CHARACTERS
Announcer: Male/female
“Young Junior” Male, 15 years old
“Sister P.” Female, 16 years old
“Charlie” Male, 18 years old
“Ezra”: Male, 22 years old. Brother to “Young Junior”.
Director Press Council Adult female
INTRO

In today’s episode of LBE- “Media & Information” our bunch of future hacks discover what a press council is all about. In the meantime, Young J. is putting the finishing touches to his DJ career- in his bedroom. Let’s have a listen in.

SCENE ONE

Young J’s bedroom. Morning.

SFX Morning sounds. Young J rehearsing his radio show.

1. Young J: Tumpa tumpapatu tumpa tutumpa pilililili tumpa tumpapapatu tumpa.

(Whistles the tumpa beat for some seconds and stops)

(In a fast radio presentation style) Hellllooo hey and this is the time to rise and shine with your kick start sunrise show. You are listening to D.C FM, your favourite and only Dot.Com FM radio station, broadcasting in beautiful stereo and I hope you had a pleasant night. Saying hi to you this morning, ready to cheer up is none other than your fantastic, fabulous and famous, incredible DJ known by the name DJ Young J and I’m on the mike and on the mix with all the best sounds and the licks. GOOD MORNING EVERYONE!
Hoooo. Tumpa tumpapatu tumpa tutumpa pililililili tumpa tumpapapatu tumpa.

Yes, it’s our favourite time of day – it’s Rush Hour. I have something very special to say to all of you! Don’t touch the dial. Just hang on to Dot.Com FM stereo for the best music and best information. Hoooo! Tumpa tumpapatu tumpa tutumpa pililililili tumpa.

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**SFX Door opening**

4. Ezra: Young J, what is going on here?


6. Ezra: Young J?

7. Young J: Ezra, you are interrupting me man. I am already on the air. I’m rehearsing the show I’ll do when our radio station starts up. What did you think?

8. Ezra: Well, you seem to be doing ok! I saw a bunch of youngsters listening to you on the street. They were all staring at you through the window and shaking their heads. Have you got anywhere in terms of collecting funds?
9. Young J: Yes we have had some tremendous success. Most of the places we submitted proposals to, have responded. Some have actually pledged financial support - like local NGOs and some business people. Others have given in kind: like that big hardware shop downtown said they will provide supplies for the studio. And you know what’s the coolest: “Burgers & Buns”- you know, the one next to the main minibus terminal - they say they will pop by with sandwiches if we run an ad for them every now and then. I am telling you - their spicy chicken surprise is to die for!

10. Ezra: That is good news.

11. Young J: This afternoon I am meeting Sister P and Charlie to discuss how to get the rest of the budget.

12. Ezra: As you are getting on so well, I think it is time that I gave you some more tips about community radio which I think you should share with your friends.


14. Ezra: The first thing you have to worry about is applying for a license. In the past this has proved to be a very big stumbling block. It took some radio stations up to five years to get awarded a license.

15. Young J: That sucks, Ezra. Why so long?
16. Ezra: Well, lots of different reasons. Sometimes it was because of corruption. Sometimes the authorities were afraid of the impact a station could have if it were in the wrong hands. Have you ever heard of the famous Kangura newspaper and RTLM?

17. Young J: No, I haven’t. Who are they?

18. Ezra: They are examples of media which were abused to incite hatred which led to the genocide in Rwanda. Around a million people were killed in just one hundred days. So, sometimes delays are due to such fears but also sometimes delays are the result of bureaucracy moving slowly.

19. Young J: I understand what you are saying. Well, we will see what happens.

20. Ezra: Another thing. As you are planning your radio station, you have to decide how many hours you intend to broadcast per day. Then you have to ensure that you have enough interesting and catchy programmes to fill the airtime.

21. Young J: And, of course, lots of good, lively music.
22. Ezra: Sure, lively music is needed to keep programmes alive. Then you should think about making your own local programmes or sourcing in material from other stations. Also, you have to consider live programming including interviews, group discussions and phone-ins etc.

23. Young J: (Laughs). Telephones? Ezra don’t let school make you forget where you came from. I mean, come on, honestly speaking, how many people actually own telephones in our village?

24. Ezra: Well, then pick what is useful to you and leave out what isn’t. Another thing to keep the audience interested in the programmes, you need to encourage feedback and involvement from the listeners.

25. Young J: Ezra, that is a lot of work.

26. Ezra: Yes, but you need to go into the thing informed. You also need to establish editorial guide lines, determining what kind of news you cover, the type of music played, adverts etc.

27. Young J: Oh, please stop before my head explodes.
SCENE TWO

A class at the City Institute of Journalism

SFX: Noise of tables and chairs pushed on the floor, murmurs and footsteps of people leaving the room. The class has just ended and the students are excited.

30. Sister P: (talking to someone some distance away) Charlie wait, don’t go. Let’s first try and agree on what to do.

31. Charlie: (Approaching) All right, here I am.

32. Young J: So, what do we do next?

33. Charlie: Go for lunch since we have no more classes now.

34. Young J and Sister P: Laugh

35. Charlie: Now, why are you laughing, guys?

36. Sister P: Charlie, we know it is lunchtime but for a while forget your F.F. motto: FOOD FIRST!, and think about our business. Young J, tell him what we are talking about.

36b. Young J: We mean our radio project. What do we have to do next between planning more fund raising and checking the licensing details.
37. Charlie: I have been off target completely. It is like aiming at an elephant and you shoot a mouse. So, what do we do? Who else can help us apart from Ezra?

38. Sister P: How about other connections to the media fraternity like the Press Council for instance?

39. Charlie: What the heck is that, Sister P.?

40. Sister P: The high Press Council. These guys might be able to help us get a license or assist us with our funding and if not, then suggest other places that might help us.

41. Young J: That is like asking a naked man for a shirt to wear.

42. Charlie: Hey, why do you say that, Young J.

43. Young J: I think the organization is more of a watchdog and has its own problems finding funds.

44. Sister P: You never know, they could have different directives.

45. Charlie: I also think they have other things to do with journalism. They can't just be watchdogs in a game they are not part of.

46. Sister P: Why don't we give it a try?

47. Charlie: Food first, before my stomach stages a revolution.
48. Sister P: That I would like to see, Charlie. Look, we can have a bite on the way but I really think we should go and check out what the Press Council has to offer us and then we will know what their role is. Ok, guys?

SCENE THREE

Outside the high press council offices, traffic noise.

50. Sister P: All the offices are closed.

51. Charlie: Yes, they must have gone for lunch.

52. Young J: What about the lady we met going down the stairs, she could be from the Press Council. Why don’t we ask her and find out.

53. Sister P: Look, there she is getting in her car.

SFX: A car door closing.

55. Sister P: Young J, run and stop her.

SFX: A car starting. Running footsteps.


SFX: Car engine stopped.
59. Woman: **off mic.** Are you talking to me?
60. All: Yes, madam.

**SFX:** *Fast foot steps as they run down the steps.*

62. Young J: **Breathing fast.** Sorry, madam for disturbing you.
63. Woman: Yeah. What is your problem?
64. Sister P: We came to visit the Press Council for some vital information but all the doors seem locked. We wondered if you are on the Council and whether you could help us.
65. Woman: Where are you from?
66. Young J: We are from the institute of journalism.
67. Charlie: We are from the Dot.Com Club.
68. Woman: Don’t confuse me. Which of you should I believe? Are you from the institute or from the club?
69. Sister P: We are members of the DCC (Dot Com Club) and at the same time we are attending a course at the city institute of journalism and we are planning to start up a community radio station.
70. Woman: That’s good. Well, I am the director of the Press Council, so how can I help?
71. Sister P: Does the Press Council help people to get licenses for media concerns?

72. Young J: And also we want to ask about raising funds. So far we have found about half of what we think we need and we are still trying to find the other half.

73. Woman: Sorry, we can’t help you with either of these problems.

74. Charlie: What?

75. Sister P: So, what do you do?

76. Woman: Well, what the Press Council does is monitor professionalism in the media with regard to media law.

77. Young J: I told you guys, they are just watchdogs, always trying to control the media.

78. Charlie: So, you are the guys that gag journalists.
79. Woman: Not at all. Maybe in some countries press councils have been manipulated to silence and torture journalists, which is, of course, terribly wrong. Actually, the Press Council’s job is to make sure that messages and information in the media is in line with media law, with the journalists code of ethical conduct and with human rights as well as promoting freedom of speech through regulation of the media and legal compliance.

80. Charlie: So, there is nothing you can do for a new radio station apart from waiting to monitor it when it starts up.

81. Woman: Well, we are also tasked with identifying problems facing the profession and try to improve the quality of journalism through training. So, maybe once you are up and running, you might benefit from our training courses.

82. Sister P: What about financing?

83. Woman; (laughs) We only have enough to last us until the end of the year and not a penny extra. Sorry, guys

**SFX car engine starts**

**END EPISODE**
OUTRO/NARRATOR

So, there’s no money to be found for our heroes at the Press Council. Just how are they going to raise the rest of those 20,000 Euros to buy equipment and rent a small office? You have been following our media series for some time now. What interests us is, do you think the idea of setting up a community radio station to report on local issues and play some serious good music will catch on? Can you see yourself running a radio – or a newspaper for that matter – yourself? Visit our Learning by Ear website and tell us your opinion The address is: d w world dot d e slash l b e. Once more: d w world dot d e slash l b e. We’d love to hear from you. Good-bye from all of us until next time.