

## **EPISODE 4 “PLAY AND PAY!”**

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**SCRIPT WRITER**                      **Njoki Muhoho**

**EDITOR**                                      **Jan-Philipp Scholz; Katrin Ogunsade**

### **CHARACTERS**

**ANNOUNCER**                      Male Adult

**ZAPCOM**                              A 23-year-old computer geek, by village standards.

**GEORGE**                              20 years old. Waits tables at his Uncle Kilu’s restaurant.

**AUNTI BONGI**                      38-year-old ICT Manager in the big city and Zapcom’s favourite Auntie

**CUSTOMER**                      Mid 20’s

**UNCLE KILU**                      55 years old. George’s uncle, owner of KULA TU FOODS.

**OMWA**                                      19 years old and jobless. Female.

## **INTRO**

### **1. MUSIC: THEME MUSIC**

### **2. ANNOUNCER** HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANOTHER EPISODE OF THE ‘LEARNING BY EAR’ SERIES ABOUT NEW MEDIA. THIS IS EPISODE 4, ENTITLED ‘PLAY AND PAY’

IN THE LAST EPISODE, AFTER ZAPCOM  
COMMISSIONED AN INTERNET SERVICE  
PROVIDER COMPANY TO SUPPLY THEM  
WITH THEIR INTERNET CONNECTION,  
THEIR BUSINESS GREW FASTER THAN  
THEY EXPECTED. THEY ALSO  
ENCOURAGED THEIR CUSTOMERS TO USE  
THEIR PHONES TO CONNECT TO THE  
INTERNET. IN THE PROCESS, GEORGE  
DISCOVERED THE LUCRATIVE BUSINESS  
OF SELLING SCRATCH CARDS. HOWEVER,  
THE ENTIRE TEAM IS BEGINNING TO FEEL  
THE PRESSURE ASSOCIATED WITH  
EMBRACING NEW MEDIA AND  
TECHNOLOGIES WHILE LIVING IN AN  
ENVIRONMENT WITH A LIMITED  
INFRASTRUCTURE. WILL THEY CRACK  
UNDER THE PRESSURE? LISTEN ON....

**SCENE 1: KULA TU FOODS**

- 3. A-SFX: SHUFFLE OF FEET AS UNCLE KILU WALKS AROUND THE RESTAURANT PANTING**
- 4. UNCLE KILU (MUTTERING TO HIMSELF)** No...taken...not available... taken... (VERY ANGRY) aaaaggggghhh. Can't I find a free electricity plug anywhere in my own business?
- 5. ZAPCOM (CONCERNED)** Mzee, what is the matter? Are you ok?
- 6. UNCLE KILU (ANGRY)** Am I ok? How can I be ok when I can't listen to my favourite radio programme.
- 7. ZAPCOM** Why can't you? You have it right there in your hand?
- 8. UNCLE KILU (MORE ANGRY).** That is the problem. It should not be in my hands and me walking around my restaurant like a broody chicken. It needs to be plugged into a power socket. (PAUSE) Radio... Electricity... Electricity Radio... get it, Zapu?
- 9. ZAPCOM (CALM)** I see, you have a problem.

- 10. UNCLE KILU (GETTING BALLISTIC)** Me, I have a problem?  
No, Zapu. I don't have a problem. You do,  
you... you... and all these young people here.  
You have taken up all the power sockets in  
this place. Look... look everyone in this town  
comes to charge their mobile phones here...  
why... why do you think do you think they do  
it?
- 11. ZAPCOM** Eeeh.. because... because ee
- 12. UNCLE KILU (INTERRUPTS)** Yes, you got it right, because  
of you... you're responsible. You and your  
many computers and everyone else who comes  
here with mobile phones plugged into their  
ears on one end and into my power sockets on  
the other. Have you seen my electricity bill  
lately?
- 13. B-SFX: DOOR OPENS WITH A BANG AND SHOPPING BAG  
PAPERS SHUFFLE**
- 14. OMWA** Hallo everyone. Guess what I brought you....
- 15. (MORE SHUFFLING OF PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS)**

- 16. OMWA** (VERY EXCITED) Extra power extension leads!  
You see... look... look every socket is taken,  
so, if we use more extension leads, then more  
people can charge their phones....
- 17. UNCLE KILU** (**EXASPERATED**)...OMWA... don't, don't do  
it... don't!
- 18. ZAPCOM** Omwa wait, wait...
- 19. C-SFX: BIG BANG AS THE POWER SWITCH TRIPS**
- 20. (SILENCE)**
- 21. UNCLE KILU** (CONTROLLED CALMNESS-STILL WITH  
ANGER) And then, there was darkness!
- 22. ZAPCOM** Amen. (**PAUSE**) Omwa?
- 23. OMWA** (**SCARED**) Zap.
- 24. ZAPCOM** We are fried meat!

**25. ANNOUNCER** EVERY DEVELOPMENT COMES AT A PRICE. THEY MAY BE ENJOYING THE NEW TECHNOLOGY OF MOBILE PHONES, BUT THERE ARE OTHER THINGS THEY HAVE TO STRUGGLE WITH, LIKE HOW AND WHERE TO CONSTANTLY CHARGE THEIR PHONE BATTERIES. WELL, IT IS NOT THE FIRST TIME AFRICA HAS TO FACE TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGES, BUT IT IS NO REASON TO SHUN THE NEW MEDIA...OR SO, ZAPCOM AND GEORGE HAVE DECIDED. THEY AND THEIR CUSTOMERS MUST MOVE ON. BUT FIRST, THEY HAVE TO APPEASE UNCLE KILU, WHO TAKEN THEM INTO HIS BACK OFFICE.

**MUSIC: BRIDGE MUSIC**

**SCENE TWO: BACK OFFICE OF KULA TU FOODS, SILENCE**

**26. D-SFX: HEAVY BREATHING.**

**27. ZAPCOM** We are very sorry, Mzee

**28. GEORGE** We didn't realise...

- 29. UNCLE KILU** True, you do not realise what you are doing to my business... my intension is to provide customers with good food every day. I have never failed... It never occurred to me, that I would be supplying electricity to over 20 small phones scattered all over my restaurant.
- 30. GEORGE** But Uncle, they have no electricity at home and they want to use their mobile phone anywhere and everywhere.
- 31. UNCLE KILU (RUNNING OUT OF PATIENCE)** Why, why buy new technology if you don't even have the fuel to use it?
- 32. ZAPCOM (IN HIS TEACHER MODE)** You see, we here in Africa do not have everything they have as basics in Western countries. That does not mean we have to be left behind when the world moves on. We can't tell them not to buy mobile phones because they do not have electricity to charge the phones at home.
- 33. UNCLE KILU** I guess when you put it that way...but... but...

- 34. GEORGE** We will contribute to the electricity bill and the repairs.
- 35. UNCLE KILU** That is not the real issue, what is annoying is I cannot continue with my normal business because all the power points are taken and now... the fuses keep blowing. This place is a hazard, a fire just waiting to happen!
- 36. ZAPCOM** Let's get an electrician immediately to check out the place.
- 37. UNCLE KILU** That means spending more money and my dear old radio has to have a power socket that is mine and only mine!
- 38. ZAPCOM/GEORGE** Deal.
- 39. GEORGE** Meanwhile, here (**RUSTLE OF CLOTHES**) listen to your favourite programme on my phone radio... go ahead... use the head phone.
- 40. E-SFX: STIFLED. ZAPCOM AND GEORGE TRY TO SURPRESS LAUGHTER AS UNCLE KILU MOVES AWAY HUMMING TO MUSIC FROM THE MOBILE PHONE RADIO**



**41. ANNOUNCER** IT IS ALL ABOUT THE ATTITUDE AND HOW TO TAKE EACH CHALLENGE IN YOUR STRIDE. THE YOUNG MEN ARE LEARNING THAT, AFTER ALL, RUNNING AN INTERNET CAFÉ IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS THEY THOUGHT. BUT ARE THEIR PROBLEMS OVER? DUE TO THE HEAVY WORKLOAD, ZAPCOM AND GEORGE HAVE RECRUITED THE JOBLESS OMWA TO HELP WITH ADMINISTRATION OF THE CAFÉ. WELL, HER COMPUTER SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE ARE STILL SUSPECT, BUT AT LEAST SHE CAN LOG PEOPLE ON AND OFF AND BILL THEM FOR THE SERVICES PROVIDED.

### **SCENE THREE: BACK OFFICE KULA TU FOODS**

**42. E-SFX: HEAVY ANGRY FEET STRODDING IN**

**43. ZAPCOM**           **(ANGRY AND LOUD)** OMWA! Why are you not answering your phone? We keep you here in the office to handle the administrative work. That includes answering the phones. We cannot employ you to assist us here if you never answer our calls when we are out.

**44. OMWA**           It's, it's... well... no money...

- 45. ZAPCOM** ... No business, no money and no job for you, how many times must you lose jobs in a single month!
- 46. GEORGE** Easy Zap, easy on the girl.
- 47. OMWA** I don't have credit.
- 48. ZAPCOM** Oh?
- 49. OMWA** I would like to talk to you and all my friends on the phone, but what do I do if I do not have money to buy credit for my phone.
- 50. ZAPCOM** Not you as well. Uncle Kilu thinks we should not have phones if we can't charge them at home. You have a phone and no credit. Why, why do they advertise them like they are the best things that happened since sliced bread and we all forget it comes with a price! This is just not my day.
- 51. CUSTOMER** **(SHOUTING LOUDLY)** You, I won't pay for this!
- 52. ZAPCOM** **(FRUSTRATED AND MUTTERING)** Now what **(LOUDLY)** ... what is the problem?
- 53. CUSTOMER** **(ANGRY)** Look, look, look at this screen.

- 54. ZAPCOM** (BUFFLED) Yes... what?... I don't see much.
- 55. CUSTOMER** (WITH GLEE) Precisely... precisely... nothing. I have been here 'chewing' minutes away watching a screen that has been loading for the last 10 minutes. (GETTING ANGRIER), What speed is this? I am spending all my money and I can't even surf the web. Man, your download speeds are slower than the African tortoise.
- 56. OMWA** (MEEKLY) No, not a tortoise surely.
- 57. CUSTOMER** Make that an African snail! I am not paying.
- 58. SFX: HE PULLS CHAIR ROUGLY AND WALKS OUT.**
- 59. ZAPCOM** (SOFTLY) This is not happening to me.
- 60. ANNOUNCER** IF THERE WAS A DAY WHEN ZAPCOM WAS HIT BANG IN THE FACE BY THE CHALLENGES OF NEW MEDIA IN AFRICA, IT IS TODAY. HE HAS A CHOICE, HE CAN SIT BACK AND WISH HE WAS WORKING IN THE WEST WHERE THERE IS BETTER CONNECTIVITY OR, HE CAN MAKE THE BEST OF WHAT HE HAS. LIFE IS BECOMING A BIT LONESOME FOR ZAPCOM.

- 61. G-SFX DIALING OF A PHONE**
- 62. AUNTIE BONGI (VO) (EXCITED)** Zapcom, my dearest nephew,  
I have not heard from you for a while!  
How are you and the café? I...
- 63. ZAPCOM** (**VERY LOW**) Auntie, I am fine. But I  
need some advice.
- 64. H-SFX: LOW BATTERY PEEP**
- 65. AUNTIE BONGI (VO)** You are in trouble! I can tell. Your  
energy sounds down! What's up?
- 66. ZAPCOM** Talk of energy, I am low, I had a bad day, our  
internet connection speeds are painfully slow  
and (**BATTERY BEEP**), my phone battery is  
almost empty. We've had no electricity for  
most of the day after a mishap. Besides that,  
I am goo...
- 67. ZAPCOM** (**SADLY**) Ooh no, the battery is dead.
- 68. OMWA** (**MEEKLY**) Zapcom, do you... do you think I  
could get an advance?
- 69. I-SFX: HEAVY SHUFFLE OF FEET**

**70. UNCLE KILU** Zapu, you look sad. You know tomorrow is a new day. Things will get better.

**71. ZAPCOM** Will they? This is one time that I really need a bowl of your goat soup. It will lift my spirits.

**72. UNCLE KILU (HESITANT)** Sorry, Zapu... there was no goat meat today... eeh sorry.

**MUSIC: BRIDGE MUSIC**

**73. ANNOUNCER** INDEED ZAPCOM IS HAVING A BAD DAY.  
WILL HE REMAIN ZAPPED OR HAVE THE  
PROBLEMS SAPPED OUT ALL HIS ENERGY?  
HE IS DOING THE BEST HE CAN, BUT  
PROBLEMS KEEP CROPPING UP.

**MUSIC: THEME MUSIC**

## OUTRO

**74. ANNOUNCER** TALK OF PUTTING NEW WINE INTO OLD BOTTLES, ZAP BROUGHT THE NEW TECHNOLOGY BUT CAN IT SURVIVE IN THIS TYPICAL AFRICAN VILLAGE TOWN. WILL HE GIVE UP? WILL UNCLE KILU, AFTER ALL HIS TROUBLE HAVE ANY WISH TO CONTINUE AS A BUSINESS PARTNER? INDEED, NEW MEDIA IS LIKE A RIVER. IF YOU START SWIMMING THEN YOU HAVE TO GO WITH THE FLOW AND WHEN IT FLOWS FASTER, YOU SWIM ON. BUT WILL ZAPCOM AND COMPANY MANAGE TO KEEP AFLOAT?

TUNE IN TO OUR NEXT EPISODE AND FIND OUT. YOU CAN ALSO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.dw-world.de/Ibe](http://www.dw-world.de/Ibe) FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LEARNING BY EAR PROGRAMMES. DON'T FORGET TO SEND US YOUR COMMENTS AS WELL. UNTIL NEXT TIME – GOOD BYE.