

EPISODE 5 “RECYCLING AND CONSERVING THE ENVIRONMENT”

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.

CUSTOMER In his 20’s

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

OMWA 19 years old and jobless

MUMBI 22 years old, Zapcom’s cousin and social worker.

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 5, ENTITLED ‘RECYCLING AND CONSERVING THE ENVIRONMENT’.

IN THE LAST EPISODE, ZAPCOM WAS GOING THROUGH A PARTICULARLY HARD TIME. HE REALISED HE NEEDED TO HAVE MORE ELECTRICITY TO SUPPORT THE NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGY. THIS PROBLEM WILL NOT SLOW ZAPCOM DOWN, OR WILL IT? LISTEN ON....

3. A-SFX: HARD OBJECT MAKES LOUD CONTACT WITH A METAL CONTAINER-A BUCKET

SCENE 1: KULA TU FOODS

4. UNCLE KILU Aiiii watch out... What have you just thrown into that bin? This is Kula Tu Foods not a dumpster.

- 5. ZAPCOM** **(DISMISSING)** My old mobile phone. It’s dead. Served its purpose, but it does not work anymore.
- 6. UNCLE KILU** Can’t you give it to someone else, someone who cannot afford one? You just can’t throw it away.
- 7. ZAPCOM** I could, if it would help them. But it is as dead as a dodo!
- 8. UNCLE KILU** Isn’t there somewhere... you know... someone who can buy it for spare parts?
- 9. ZAPCOM** **(LAUGHS)** Sir, you are always thinking of business opportunities! This is not like an old car that has some parts you can reuse.
- 10. UNCLE KILU** **(NOT CONVINCED)** Says who? **(PAUSE)**. I am not convinced that something that took so long to make and was so expensive can just be thrown away like ... like... like a banana peel. Anyway, is it safe to just throw it away in that bucket like that? **(PENSIVE)**. Something does not feel right.
- 11. ZAPCOM** **(PENSIVE)** Well... I see your point... and.. and...

12. UNCLE KILU (JEERING) Ha...ha... I caught you... this is one time you do not have a smart answer for me... now listen young man, it is time for goat soup... I will go get you some, while you go to that computer of yours and we start asking it questions. **(SFX FOOT STEPS)** Did you not tell me all the information in the world is in there... in the internet...GO!

13. ZAPCOM (MOCKING HIM) Yes, Sir, heading to the computer, Sir!

14. SFX FOOT STEPS COMING BACK

15a. UNCLE KILU Good... now eat your goat soup while you find out for us what these mobile phones are made of and how to dispose them safely. **(TO ZAPCOM)** You type... or what do you call it, surf, and you George, you read, and me, I'll listen. **(CHUCKLE)** A very fair division of labour, I think!

15b. ZAPCOM Now, where do I begin? Maybe I should type inrecycle phones...

15. C-SFX: RAPID TYPING ON KEY BOARD

- 16. GEORGE** Ooh, no, there are nearly one million sites to read. Too wide.
- 17. UNCLE KILU** Hurry up, young people, I do not have all day, the stew is almost ready back in the kitchen and soon it will start to burn.
- 18. GEORGE** I have an idea Zap, we need to get this search more focused.
- 19. ZAPCOM** I am listening.
- 20. GEORGE** It seems most of us have the same make of phone. Why don't we search the manufacturer's website.
- 21. D-SFX: RAPID TYPING ON KEY BOARD**
- 22. ZAPCOM** Well... well...it is all here (**SILENCE AS THEY READ**)
- 23. UNCLE KILU** (**REPRIMANDING**) George, your duty... Have you forgotten?

24. GEORGE (APOLOGETIC) So sorry Uncle... let me read.
(PAUSE AS HE MOVES FORWARD)

“... You may wonder what happens to all the old mobile phones out there. Where do they go? Currently, most end up in people’s desk drawers, sitting there, useless. The next most likely answer is that phones are often given to others or traded in for an upgrade. In today’s reality, recycling old phones is not such a common practice. This is something we are attempting to change.”

25a. UNCLE KILU (IMPATIENT) ...It does not tell me how to get rid of Zapu’ useless phone.

25b. ZAPCOM Hold on, there is more on another webpage.....

25. E-SFX: RAPID TYPING ON KEY BOARD

26a. GEORGE ...There's still a lot in an old phone. Old phones may seem worthless but they still contain many usable and valuable materials. Our idea is to make it easier for consumers to be green by offering the possibility to return old, used phones and accessories. Authorised Service Points, flagship stores, municipal collections, industry association's collections, or retailers' campaigns are all possible channels for returning used products..”

- 26. UNCLE KILU (MORE IMPATIENT)** I still don't know what to do with Zapu's useless phone and the stew is surely burning by now.
- 27. ZAPCOM** More.....
- 28. F-SFX: RAPID TYPING ON KEY BOARD**
- 29. GEORGE** Wait... there is a diagram here that shows the different parts of the mobile phone, what they are made of and what, when recycled, they can be used for.
- 30. UNCLE KILU (A LITTLE RELIEVED)** ... Now we are getting somewhere... what are you waiting for...read!
- 31. GEORGE** ...The mobile phone battery; it is made of coltan, nickel, copper and other things. When recycled, the material can be used to make more batteries, stainless steel, speakers etc.
- 32. UNCLE KILU** So... how does that help us... my stew is burning.
- 33. GEORGE** The silver or gold colour top cover,... this is good (CHUCKLES) when recycled, it can be used to make jewellery, electronics, medals etc.

- 34. UNCLE KILU (LOSING IT NOW)**...But I am asking you...
how does this help me dispose this very phone
in my very waste bucket in my very place in
my very restaurant in this Village town in
Africa!!
- 35. ZAPCOM** Patience Uncle, I'm sure when we have all the
fact, we will think of ways... Read on George.
- 36. GEORGE** The plastic cover...can be recycled to make
traffic cones, plastic fences, car bumpers...
- 37. UNCLE KILU** That's it, they wrote this for people in the
Western world. Zapcom, go throw your phone
outside... no one can help us. My stew must
be burnt beyond recognition by now.
- 38. G-SFX HEAVY FEET SHUFFLE AS HE WALKS AWAY
MUTTERING.**
- 39. UNCLE KILU (MUTTERING)** Car bumpers my foot! Who
owns a car?
- 40. GEORGE** What do we do now?

41. ANNOUNCER THE WILL TO DISPOSE THE MOBILE PHONE RESPONSIBLY IS THERE. THEY HAVE NOW ACQUIRED MORE KNOWLEDGE. BUT THE KNOWLEDGE HAS NOT YET TRANSLATED INTO REAL ACTION. ZAPCOM AND GEORGE TAKE THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THEIR OTHER FRIENDS.

SCENE 2 AT MUMBI’S SMALL OFFICE.

42. SFX: OFFICE SOUNDS

43. MUMBI Thanks guys for coming to see me in my office. It is a good chance to find out more about how to get rid of old phones. I hear most of the material they use to make mobile phones can be toxic.

44. GEORGE It is only one phone for Pete’s sake. Throwing it away will not kill the world.

45. MUMBI (**IRRITATED**) Don’t you say that, George! Do you know in America alone, for example, thousands of phones are thrown out everyday!

46. GEORGE That is the USA.

- 47. ZAPCOM** Well, Africa has the highest growth rate of mobile phone usage. There are more and more people taking advantage of this and many Western companies are developing products and services that we can afford, because they know the real growth markets, especially for technology are right here, here in Africa.
- 48. MUMBI** **(IMPRESSED)** Wow, Professor Zapcom! Where did you get that? Don't say it, your Auntie Bongie...
- 49. ZAPCOM** There is so much e-waste that poisons the environment. We also get a lot of second hand computers from the Western world for reassembling, so we end up with more toxic waste on our land.
- 50. GEORGE** **(SAD)** Then, we can't throw away your mobile phone out there in the field.
- 51. MUMBI** There is more bad news. As the demand for mobile phones gets greater and greater, so does the potential toxic waste.
- 52. ZAPCOM** There is more....

- 53. GEORGE** Oh no... all we want to do is get rid of a single and useless mobile phone, not save the whole wide world.
- 54. MUMBI** You are actually playing your part in saving the world. Did you know the main metallic ore material used to make mobile phones and other electronic materials is Coltan.
- 55. ZAPCOM** Coltan?
- 56. MUMBI** Yes, the proper scientific name is Columbite Tantalite. The Democratic Republic of Congo is the main source of it and unfortunately, it is a conflict area where some bad people mine it and sell it in order to buy guns for the civil war.
- 57. GEORGE** Ooh no, this is depressing, we just wanted to dispose a single phone and now we are into a world conflict. Are we the United Nations now? (MEEKLY). It is just a phone.
- 58. MUMBI** Well, in a war environment, a lot of bad things happen. The forests where the ore exists were also destroyed without any re-forestation.

- 59. GEORGE** Now we are Wangari Maathai, the Kenyan Environmentalist and Nobel Laureate. I don't believe we got into all this over disposing a small and useless phone.
- 60. ZAPCOM** (**VERY PENSIVE**) It might be small, we might be a small town in Africa, but we the young people, hold the future of the world in our hands.
- 61. (SILENCE)**
- 62. GEORGE** So, what do we do now?
- 63. ZAPCOM** Besides ordering your uncle's magic goat soup, I propose we visit all the websites of all the main manufacturers of mobile phones and ask them how they can help. Many have representatives in the big cities of Africa. Maybe, you never know, we can collect the unusable phones and ask them to take them back. Meanwhile, I shall keep the old phone until we know how to handle it.
- 64. MUMBI** That's very responsible. Let's go...
- 65. H-SFX: TAPPING OF KEY BOARD**

66. ZAPCOM George, what are you up to?

67. GEORGE Ordering goat soup, via sms!

MUSIC: THEME MUSIC

68. OUTRO

ANNOUNCER FOR THE YOUNG TEAM, A SMALL ISSUE LIKE THE DISPOSAL OF A SMALL PHONE HAS BECOME AN ISSUE OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN AND WORLD PEACE. THEY ARE HUMBLLED BY THE ROLE THEY SEEM TO PLAY. THEY HAVE LEARNT THAT, REGARDLESS OF THEIR AGE AND THE FACT THAT THEY LIVE IN A SMALL VILLAGE TOWN, THEY HAVE A MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY IN THE GLOBAL VILLAGE IN CONSERVING THE WORLD. NEW MEDIA HAS OPENED UP THE WORLD FOR THEM, BUT THEY HAVE ALSO REALISED THEY HAVE TO ASSUME A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY. IT IS THROUGH THE SAME MEDIA THAT THEY WILL GET ALL THE INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND IDEA ABOUT HOW THEY CAN INFLUENCE OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE IN A POSITIVE WAY. BUT WILL THEY TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY?

ANNOUNCER TUNE IN TO OUR NEXT EPISODE AND FIND OUT HOW THE STORY CONTINUES. YOU CAN ALSO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT 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.