

Learning by Ear – Political Participation
Radiodrama „Family Affairs – How to become a political player“
Episode 9: “A surprise for everyone”

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Radiodrama: “Family Affairs - How to Become a Political Player”

Episode Nine: “A Surprise for Everyone”

Author: Chrispin Mwakideu

Editor: Maja Dreyer

CHARACTERS: Eveline (female, 19), Mayor (male, 50), Councilors (male, 30+), Betty (female, 12), Ronnie (male, 14), Mapito (male, 40), Mixed Crowd

Intro

Narrator:

You are at the right place at the right time for this is the time for our radio drama, “Family Affairs - How to Become a Political Player”, written by Chrispin Mwakideu. In the last programme, Eveline won the civic seat. Mind you she is only 19 and she had to face major opponents but her determination and honesty won the hearts of the voters. Her Dad, who had been shot, is still in hospital following surgery. In today’s episode there is “A Surprise for Everyone”.

Scene one: At a Local Restaurant

SFX: LOUD PARTY MUSIC/NOISY CONVERSATION

- 1. EVELINE:** Attention! Attention everyone (**calls out**). Hey can you please turn the volume down.

(Volume is lowered, still can be heard in the background)

Thank you. I just wanted to say that this is not just my victory, it is our victory! Together we made it possible. We have always been told that we young people are the leaders of tomorrow, but in school we also are taught that tomorrow.... never...

- 2. CROWD (together) COMES!!**

- 3. EVELINE:** Exactly, so we can't wait around for tomorrow. It begins today. Today we showed that young people can be leaders. I look forward to the time when more and younger people, especially females, get involved in the politics of our country.

3A: CHEERS AND WHISTLES

As you all know, this will be my first time serving on the council, but I promise you that I will represent you and fight for the rights of every resident of our area, whether you voted for me or not.

- 4. NARRATOR:** Many people enter politics because they think it promises a quick, easy way to get rich. But this is not true of our new councilor for Milimani. She is a new kind of politician, a kind that the council is not used to as we will see later... Meanwhile, at Mapito's home:

MUSIC BRIDGE

Scene two: Mapito's Home

- 5. BETTY:** (**Calls out**) Ron! Ronnie! There's a letter here for you and one for Eveline and another one for me! So, who is your new secret admirer?
- 6. RONNIE:** Give me that! Hm... can't remember last time I got a letter.
- 7. BETTY:** That's because you never write any... daaaah!

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8. RONNIE: Hey! Betty you know there is no one here at the moment to protect you, so you'd better behave yourself.

9. BETTY: (Excited) But Dad is coming home this afternoon...

SFX: LETTER BEING RIPPED OPEN

See...you don't even know how to open a letter (**Betty giggles**)

SFX: SHUFFLING WITH PAPER

10. RONNIE: Betty, shut up and mind your own business!
(After reading shouts aloud) YEEEEAH...I made it!!!! Hear this Betty (**Excited...reads letter**) Dear Ronnie Mapito, it is our pleasure to inform you that our coaches were very impressed with your talent during the Final and we have all recommended you to join the national under-16's team that will represent our country in the up-coming international tournaments. (**Screams with joy**) yeeeeeah!!

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11. BETTY: Woooow! That’s great. But I don’t understand, didn’t you lose the match?

12. RONNIE: You are a girl. You don’t understand this, Betty! This is my dream come true.

13. BETTY: Enough Mr. Dreamer. Now it’s my turn...oh, and this is how you open a letter

SFX: LETTER BEING OPENED NORMALLY, PAPER SHUFFLING

Nooo... No, it can’t be! Nooo! (**Cries out**)

14. NARRATOR: That was a cry of disbelief and despair... Betty could not believe what she was reading as she explained in tears to her brother what the letter said. Meanwhile, the Milimani council was meeting for the first time after the election.

Scene three: First Council Meeting

15. MAYOR: Welcome gentlemen to our first council meeting. First, let me congratulate each of you for winning the election in your respective wards and I wish to invite you all for a party to get to know each other as usual in my residence.

16. EVELINE: Your Excellency, the Mayor, first let me say I'm disappointed that you addressed this council to gentlemen only. I might be the only female in this gathering but I deserve to be recognized. Secondly, I wish to let you know that I will not be coming to your party because I prefer to work and get to know you and the other councilors right here.

17. COUNCILORS: all laugh

18. MAYOR: Who is this girl? Are you new here? You must be a stranger.

19. EVELINE: I'm Eveline Mapito, the new councilor for Milimani, and yes, it is my first time here.

20. MAYOR: Aaah it's you...honestly, I didn't expect to see you. I apologize for my ignorance. I think you can understand. It's the first time a lady, a young lady, has been voted in as councilor. So, somehow you have changed the traditions here in this house. But I still invite you to my party. With your beauty, you will surely make this year's party even more colourful. Only

please don't bring your mobile phone with you.

21. COUNCILLORS Jeers and boos

22. EVELINE: I maybe young, female and inexperienced but I'm not intimidated. I have a vision for my people and I intend to work and serve only them. Thank you, your Excellency, the Mayor.

23. COUNCILLORS few clap here and there

24. MAYOR: So you want to play tough on your first day, do you? Good, we also know how to play tough. I've not been Mayor all these years through sheer luck.

25. EVELINE: Your Excellency, I'm not here to make enemies. It's just that I...

26. MAYOR: (Sternly) Council dismissed!

27. NARRATOR: So this was the welcome that Eveline got from the Mayor and other councilors: rude, unwelcoming and unfriendly. At home, Mapito had returned from the hospital to find her little African queen in tears.

Scene Four: Mapito’s Home

- 28. MAPITO:** Betty, eat your meal, it’s getting cold
- 29. BETTY:** I can’t. I’ve lost my appetite.
- 30. MAPITO:** Now, now, my little African queen, I know you feel bad about the letter. I also don’t understand why they chose another school to go and sing at the State House when it was you and your choir that were the winners. But Betty, don’t despair, the future looks very bright for you.
- 31. BETTY: (In tears)** Bright? No, it doesn’t look bright Dad. Not when someone else just decides that winners should be losers and losers should be winners. We worked very hard for this festival. We had bitter disagreements before we could even go on the stage. We should be the ones selected to sing for the President.
- 32. MAPITO:** I know, I know, now stop crying. I read in the letter that they will take you somewhere else instead. At least that’s better than nothing.

- 33. BETTY:** No...(Bitterly) They have stolen our victory. And what can I say to the other members of my choir?
- 34. RONNIE:** Betty, take it easy...you are a good singer and you won. Nobody can take that away from you. Cheer up!
- 35. BETTY:** It's easy for you to say. You are in the National team now.
- 36. MAPITO:** Betty, why don't you ask Eveline? She is a councilor now. She could follow it up with the Ministry of Education.
- 37. BETTY: (Brightens up)** Yeeeah, I forgot! Eve, yes Eve will definitely help us.
- 38. MAPITO:** Is she back from the Town Hall yet?
- 39. RONNIE:** No, not yet. I'm really curious to hear how it went.
- 40. MAPITO:** I'm not. I can imagine how she must have felt in the midst of all those men.

41. BETTY: You know what, Dad? My appetite has just come back.

42. MAPITO: Ah it has, has it...? Well, that's good! Ronnie, I'm really proud of you, you and Betty too. So, when do you meet the rest of the National Team?

43. RONNIE: Next week. I don't know what to expect. People tell me it's very different from school.

44. BETTY: Daddy...

45. MAPITO: Yes, dear?

46. BETTY: It's good to have you back home.

END OF EPISODE NINE

Outro

Narrator: So, Ronnie has been called up to the national under-16's team. A bigger and tougher challenge awaits him there. Is he up to it? Betty was very disappointed about the news regarding her choir and Eveline has found it

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hard to make friends in her first council meeting. To discover what happens next in our radio drama, “Family Affairs”, don't forget to join us next week for the final episode. If you want to send us your comments or listen to the programme again, then visit our webpage at www.dw-world.de/lbe. Good-bye for now.