

## **LBE 2009 – Migration**

### **Episode 6: Successful Africans in Germany**

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**Translator: ---**

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#### **Characters:**

**1 Narrator**, male or female

**5 voice overs:**

- **Petra Molnar**, female, mid-forties
  - **Tumenta Kennedy**, male, 33 years
  - **Florah Ikawa-Witte**, female, 29 years
  - **Patrick Mahassen**, male, early fifties
  - **Jan Witte**, male, early thirties
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#### **Intro**

Hello and welcome to our Learning by Ear series about migration between Africa and Europa. Today we are going to meet Tumenta and Florence, two Africans who came to Germany some time ago. They have been successful in building their futures in Germany. How did they do that? If you want to know the answer, stay with us and listen to their stories.

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## **Scene 1**

### **1. Soundclip Petra Molnar (German)**

**“I am happy to introduce you to Tumenta, who is lecturing us today. A few years ago, he was a student like you, but now he is working for a foundation that deals with the complex issue of global ethics.”**

### **2. Narrator:**

When he is announced to the audience like this, Tumenta Kennedy realizes yet again how far he has come. The eyes and ears of ten students from Africa and Asia are turned towards him. The students wear jeans and T-Shirts and are quickly scribbling notes on the writing pads in front of them. Two years ago, he used to look like them. Today, things are different.

### **3. Soundclip Tumenta Kennedy (German)**

**„My Name is Tumenta Kennedy. Unfortunately, I never had the chance to attend a German course. (I will divide my presentation into three parts... – *not audible in insert*)”**

### **4. Narrator:**

Today, Tumenta Kennedy wears a black suit, a white shirt and a round pair of spectacles. He looks like a bank manager. He’s a program director at the Wittenberg Centre for Global Ethics, a German foundation that gives advice to government institutions as well as the private sector on how their behaviour could contribute to the benefit of society. Today

he has been invited to give a presentation at this seminar for foreign students in Halle, Eastern Germany.

### **Scene 2:**

#### **5. SFX Typing**

#### **6. Narrator:**

180 kilometres to the north-east in Berlin, Germany's capital, Florah Ikawa-Witte has started her day on a less glamorous note. She sits in her office at the international headquarters of Transparency International, a non-governmental organization that fights corruption. Florah is busy writing a proposal for a donation.

Three simple wooden desks stand next to each other, a wooden shelf and a poster on a wall showing a hand pressing a judge to the ground – the reminder of a campaign against corruption in Eastern Europe's judiciary. Florah Ikawa-Witte left her native Kenya in 2005.

#### **7. Soundclip Florah Ikawa-Witte (English)**

**“I am a goal-getter, I want to make it wherever I am, so I will seek out ways of getting somewhere, wherever I am, because I believe I am experienced to be able to get work and really strategize to get myself into work. It was not easy, but I have to say it was worth it.”**

### **Scene 3:**

#### **8. SFX: Video Tumenta in Cameroon**

## 9. Narrator:

In his office at the Wittenberg Centre for Global Ethics, Tumenta Kennedy shows a video on his computer. It was shot during his recent visit to Cameroon. In it are some of the clues as to why many Africans struggle to survive in Germany – and others like him and Florah Ikawa-Witte end up at the top.

In the video, he stands on a balcony. Below him is a sea of pupils from local primary schools in their brown and white uniforms, standing together to hear him share the secret of his success.

## 10. Soundclip Tumenta Kennedy (English)

**“What happened to me was that I was able to tell my family back home very early that I would not be able to call them every day on the telephone, because telephone bills are too much. I couldn’t send them money every week, every day, because I would have to do something that is not legal. I would have to sell drugs, if I am a lady, I would have to prostitute myself to meet my family’s demands.”**

## 11. Narrator:

Instead, Tumenta spent his energy to learn German – a necessary prerequisite to make it in Germany. His other priority was his university education. Instead of working hard on the side to make money to send home to his family, he focused on his university studies and earned a degree.

## **Scene 4:**

### **12. Soundclip (English)**

#### **a) Patrick Mahassen**

**“Florah, come in, what is it?”**

#### **b) Florah Ikawa-Witte**

**“I just wanted to know when we can reschedule the meeting, it did not happen today.”**

### **13. Narrator:**

But nobody knows better why they succeeded than their respective bosses. Patrick Mahassen is the director of Transparency International’s fundraising office. He is a cheerful man in his early fifties, with white hair and a broad smile. He chose to hire Florah out of more than a hundred applicants. Patrick Mahassen has never seen a university in his life – he started out as a rock singer, before venturing into the development field. But he would not recommend anybody to try it the same way he did.

### **14. Soundclip Patrick Mahassen (English)**

**“What we are looking for from Africa are people that first of all understand the process by which corruption is being performed, what a hindrance it is to development and that at the time have standard studies that allow them to integrate in an office where the level is pretty competitive. So it is like general secondary studies, master is usually required, requested, but also as for Florah, it is the experience of working for development in the field.”**

## **Scene 5:**

### **15. SFX Video**

### **16. Narrator:**

Tumenta Kennedy still sits in his office. Books are piled up on the shelves and on his desk. They deal with all sorts of topics. A book about “Creative Capitalism” stands next to the works of Pope Benedict XVI called “The Salt of the Earth”. A poster listing the names of MPs from Germany’s parliament hangs on the wall. This mix is just another example of Tumenta Kennedy’s interests. They range from theology to economics and from politics to African cultures. Many people say that people like him actually hurt Africa’s development, because they live in Europe, rather than using their skills for the development of Africa. It’s an accusation he doesn’t agree with.

### **17. Soundclip Tumenta Kennedy (English)**

**“I help policy makers to understand that the issues of the free market is not about opening borders, but to help people in your countries to become competitive. So in this situation, my job is like being a middleman: I take the knowledge I research in Africa to educate Europeans what real Africa is all about and I take the knowledge I got in Europe to discuss it with Africans.**

## **Scene 6:**

### **18. SFX: Karabiner (dann darunter legen)**

**19. Narrator:**

Florah Ikawa-Witte has left work for the day. The sun is shining in a blue sky, all the trees are covered with green leaves. It's a day to really feel at home in Berlin. Together with her German husband Jan, a medical doctor, she has decided to take advantage of the beautiful weather.

**Atmo kurz hochziehen****20. Narrator:**

They stand in front of a huge concrete cone, a bunker from the last war. It's open for climbers that want to try out their skills. Florah fixes a rope to a loop on her husband's belt. While he slowly climbs up, carefully placing his feet on the narrow ledges in the wall, she holds the rope to secure him. That's what prevents him from crashing on the ground if he slips. Florah explains that she has made many friends in the climbing community. That's one of the reasons why she feels more at home in Germany now.

**21. Soundclip Florah Ikawa-Witte (English)**

**“For you to feel comfortable in any situation, we are all human, if you live in an island, who will take care of you if something goes wrong? You have to make friends across the board, you have to go out to do it. I have seen several of my African colleagues who only meet 2 or three people that they know very well, who are mostly Africans; and they do not seek to go beyond these borders. But in order to socialize, to live a full life, you have to go and meet many people in the land you are living in.”**

**22. Narrator:**

And to one person she has grown really close: her husband Jan. They met in Nairobi five years ago, when he worked there as a volunteer with HIV-infected Kenyans. They have been married now for almost two years. Some people might say she's living the dream of many African women, being married to a white man. But, as Jan explains, skin color is not an issue in their marriage.

**23. Soundclip Jan Witte (English)**

**“You have to feel that you are very connected to someone who comes from a different part of the world and this is the most important thing. This is how a marriage or a relationship can work, even if people come from different parts of the world. For me personally, it does not matter where the person comes from but who it is and if I can live together with a person, if I can share a life, if I can argue with the person. This was the major point, it is not the intercultural aspect of the relationship that makes it work.”**

**Scene 7:****24. SFX: Glocken****25. Narrator:**

After work, Tumenta Kennedy likes to take a stroll on the cobblestone streets in Wittenberg's city centre. He likes the small town. A waitress from a restaurant greets him with a broad smile as he passes. A friend of his stops for a brief chat. But Tumenta Kennedy likes Wittenberg for



another reason: For him, this historic town holds endless lessons that provide some of the answers to challenges Africa faces today. Tumenta Kennedy is heading for the Castle Church. It's here where Martin Luther is said to have nailed his 95 Theses on the gate heavily criticising the Catholic Church. It led to the birth of the Protestant Christian movement.

**26. Soundclip: Tumenta Kennedy (English)**

**“I think back in Africa we have to understand that we all share fundamental values and that the peaceful co-existence between Catholics and Protestants here in Wittenberg was initiated by a change of mental models, a change of perspectives, where Germans never saw Protestants and Catholics as enemies. So in Africa where we see tribal clashes, where we have people in a family having Muslims, Christians and others believing in so-called Evangelical movements, that we can all co-exist together.”**

**27. Narrator:**

This might just be another bit of knowledge that Tumenta Kennedy would like to share with Africa – to make clear once more that he can also contribute to the development of Africa, even though he is thousands of kilometres away.

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**Outro:**

And that's all for today's Learning by Ear programme on migration. It was written by Daniel Pelz. If you would like to find out more about this or other Learning by Ear programmes, or if you just like to listen to this show again, go to our website at [www.dw-world.de/lbe](http://www.dw-world.de/lbe)

Thanks for being with us.