

LEARNING BY EAR

"Soccer made in Africa – much more than a game"

EPISODE TEN: "All that glisters is not gold"

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List of characters / EPISODE TEN:

- Narrator

SCENE ONE: CHANGING ROOMS AT CITY STADIUM

- Chedede (m,14)
- Safina (f,13)
- Jonathan (m,15)
- Metogba (m, 28)
- Football agent (european accent preferred. m, 40+)

SCENE TWO: ON THE STREETS OF TAMBARARE CITY

- Mr.Wakasa (chairman soccer federation. m, 54)
- Sports news presenter (f, 25)

SCENE THREE: BACK IN THE CHANGING ROOMS

- Jonathan (m,15)
- Metogba (m, 28)
- Chedede (m, 14)

SCENE FOUR: AT AUNT LILY'S

- Hon. Makemba. (m,55)
- Aunt Lily (f, 33)

SCENE FIVE: AT THE AIRPORT

- Chedede (m,14)
- Safina (f,13)
- Jonathan (m,15)
- Hon. Makemba. (m,55)
- Aunt Lily (f, 33)

INTRO:

1. NARRATOR: Hello and welcome to Learning by Ear. This is the tenth and final episode of the African football radionovela entitled, "**Soccer made in Africa – much more than a game**". In the previous episode, a friendly match between the young team from the soccer clinic versus Tambarare F.C. had to be abandoned when some hooligans stormed onto the pitch after Chedede had scored for the youngsters. Hon. Makemba's relationship with his son Jonathan became further strained due to his involvement in Chedede's arrest. On the other hand, Komora, once Chedede's best friend, showed his true colours after Chedede paid him a visit. And Aunt Lily still refused to offer an explanation to Hon.Makemba about something that happened a long time ago. So, what next? Stay tuned as we start the story in the changing room at the stadium.

SCENE ONE: CHANGING ROOMS AT CITY STADIUM

2. SFX: MURMURS AND VOICES FROM THE YOUNG PLAYERS.

3. METOGBA: I am sorry that the match got called off. That wasn't your fault. You scored against the champions and some hooligans just couldn't take it. I am very proud of you. So the time has come for me to name the Most Valuable Player...

4. **NARRATOR:** As Metogba was about to name the best player from the soccer clinic, Hon.Makemba had managed to get to where Aunt Lily was and, with the help of his bodyguard, managed to get safely out of the stadium into his car. Meanwhile, in the changing room...
5. **METOGBA:** So you will agree with me, that the best player...
6. **SFX: DOOR BEING OPENED**
7. **AGENT:** **(European accent)** Hi everyone! I am a football agent and first let me congratulate you on a wonderful game. Pity it was so very short. I will not take up too much of your time. I assume you know why I am here. This here...
8. **SFX: FOLDER/FILE BEING OPENED, PAPERS SHUFFLING**
9. **AGENT:** ...is a contract for the boy who scored the only goal in the match. If you can sign it now, that would be very good. Then I can immediately begin to sort out all the arrangements for you to come and play in Europe.
10. **METOGBA:** Uhm..Sir, you are a bit late. The player you wish to recruit is the same one I am about to name as M.V.P. That player is Chedede. So Dede, if you want you can join the junior team in my club until you are 18.
11. **SFX: HUGE APPLAUSE FOLLOWED BY CHANTS OF "DEDE"**

- 12. SAFINA:** Congratulations Dede! You did it! You actually did it.
- 13. AGENT:** Well, why don't we let him decide for himself then? Chedede what do you think? A place on the junior team or my contract? This could be your big break!
- 14. CHEDEDE:** **(Confused)** I don't know. This is all too sudden, I need time.
- 15. AGENT:** I do not have the time. My flight leaves tonight and I need a signed contract when I leave. So, if not you, maybe the other player who shot the corner kick? Sorry I don't know your name...you! Yes, you there!
- 16. JONATHAN:** **(Shocked)** Me? Jonathan. My name is Jonathan.
(Very excited) Yes! I would like to sign the contract. I will do it right now!
- 17. AGENT:** Good! So, here are the papers. You don't have to worry about reading anything. Everything has been taken care of. Just sign at the end where it says „Player”.
- 18. SFX: PAPERS BEING FLIPPED OVER PAGE BY PAGE**
- 19. METOGBA:** If you don't mind, Sir, I would like to speak to my players privately.
- 20. AGENT:** I'm almost finished here. I'll take the papers after Jonathan has signed them and I'll be on my way.

- 21. METOGBA:** Yes, I know. But I insist that you give us a minute. Before Jonathan has signed anything.
- 22. AGENT:** Okay. I'll be right outside.
- 23. NARRATOR:** Many players have fallen prey to greedy agents who offer them bogus contracts that promise heaven but offer hell. Was this one of those? And how can one avoid becoming a victim? We will soon find out. But first let's join Hon.Makemba and Aunt Lily as they drove in his car listening to the breaking news that was being aired live on television and on radio.

SCENE TWO: ON THE STREETS OF TAMBARARE CITY

- 24. SFX: CAR DRIVING SOUND FROM INSIDE. FADES IN
BACKGROUND AS PRESENTER TALKS**

- 25. SPORTS NEWS PRESENTER:** Welcome back, dear listener, to your national broadcaster. As we have been reporting, a football match between Tambarare F.C. and a makeshift team of teenagers who had been attending the soccer clinic, was abandoned just before halftime, after Tambarare F.C. fans went on the rampage when their team went a goal down. The match was being attended by the President. With me here to talk about this is Mr. Wakasa. the country's soccer federation chairman. Welcome Mr. Wakasa.

- 26. WAKASA:** Thank you.
- 27. SPORTS NEWS PRESENTER:** So, what action are you going to take against those responsible for this barbaric and irresponsible incident?
- 28. WAKASA:** First let me say that we are fortunate no one was hurt in the fracas. Secondly, as the chairman of the football governing body in this country I strongly condemn the actions by the hooligans and my federation will sit down soon and impose the strongest disciplinary actions against anyone found guilty.
- 29. SPORTS NEWS PRESENTER:** Does it mean that Tambarare F.C. will also be disciplined?
- 30. WAKASA:** I will not go into that now. But I assure all football-loving fans that a full investigation will be undertaken and those guilty will have to face the law, irrespective of status, popularity or wealth.
- 31. SPORTS NEWS PRESENTER:** Can we talk about the young player who scored...(Discussion fades out)
- 32. SFX: CAR DRIVING**
- 33. NARRATOR:** As the discussion continued on air, at the changing room...

SCENE THREE: BACK IN THE CHANGING ROOMS

- 34. METOGBA:** Jonathan are you out of your mind? How can you sign this contract without even reading it? Listen all of you. I know that you all dream of becoming the next best player in Africa. But not all that glitters is gold out there.
- 35. JONATHAN:** But..but, Coach...he is from Europe, it has to be okay. It's where all the best players are playing.
- 36. METOGBA:** So what? Just because he is from Europe you trust him beyond doubt? Let me be honest. Not all of you will make it and become famous successful players. But don't let anyone take advantage of you. I will not force you to do anything but my advice is take your time, read the contract carefully and then, only when you know it's the right thing, sign it. The same goes for you, Chedede.
- 37. CHEDEDE:** Alright, coach!
- 38. NARRATOR:** Metogba was right. All that glitters is not gold. And before you sign anything, read it and understand it. If you don't, ask someone who does understand it to explain it to you. Jonathan took Metogba's advice and declined to sign the contract immediately. A little while later, Hon.Makemba's car drew up outside Aunt Lily's flat.

SCENE FOUR: AT AUNT LILY'S

39. SFX: CAR COMES TO A HALT...DOOR OPENS.

40. AUNT LILY: Thank you for the ride, and for coming to my rescue at the stadium.

41. HON.MAKEMBA: You are welcome. So, don't you still want to tell me the truth about what happened with your pregnancy? Did you have an abortion? I said I was sorry for running away. I only want to know the truth then I will leave you in peace.

42. AUNT LILY: Are you still so blind? Okay. I will tell you. I did not have an abortion. I gave birth to a boy, named him and ran away, just like you.**(Sadly)** The worst decision of my life.

43. HON.MAKEMBA: (Excited) Tell me his name then? I will find him. What did you name him?

44. AUNT LILY: There is no need to look for him. You know him. You just watched him scoring the goal of his life.

45. SFX: CAR DOOR SHUT

46. NARRATOR: Shock, guilt and confusion - all these feelings suddenly hit Hon.Makemba. He had come face to face with his past. After being lost for what seemed like eternity. Then, a few weeks later, the day came for the young team to fly to Europe. And they were all gathered at the airport lounge excited, surrounded by journalists, families, friends and football fans..

SCENE FIVE: AT THE AIRPORT

47. SFX: AIRPORT SOUNDS, ANNOUCEMENTS IN THE BACKGROUND

48. JONATHAN: I am so glad, I didn't sign that contract. I would be working in a cafeteria five days a week and only playing football on two days! And all that without being paid!

49. CHEDEDE: Yeah, but don't worry. I am sure you will attract another team while we are in Europe. Oh, here comes Safina and her aunt.

50. SAFINA: Hi M.V.P. (**Cheerfully**) Jonathan, hi everyone!

51. JONATHAN: Hey, good you are here. People, we have to check in now. Bye Dad!

52. HON.MAKEMBA: Bye son. Enjoy your flight and good luck.

53. SAFINA: Bye Aunt Lily, say hi to my parents for me.

54. AUNT LILY: Bye Safina. Take care.

55. CHEDEDE: (Sadly) Uhm..bye everyone.

56. AUNT LILY / HON. MAKEMBA: (Whisper) Goodbye son!.

OUTRO:

56. NARRATOR: Later, as the plane took off from Tambarare into the skies, Chedede couldn't help but shed a few tears – he would have really loved to share these exciting moments with his parents too ... If he had only known that they both stood just in front of him a minute ago! But – were Hon.Makemba and Aunt Lily his real parents? Or could it be that they were now taking advantage of his rising success? Well, that is a story for another day, for we have come to the end of our African football series” **Soccer made in Africa – much more than a game”**. The author of this radio play is Chrispin Mwakideu.

We hope you have enjoyed listening and invite you to share your opinions, comments and even personal experiences concerning this series or football in your country, by visiting our website at www.dw.world.de/lb
Thank you and let's celebrate African football.