

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE THREE: " The black and white leather ball"

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INTRO:

- 1. NARRATOR:** Hello and welcome to your favourite radio program, where we get to learn by listening. You are just in time for the third episode of our soccer radionovela entitled . Last week, Safina's dream of playing football seemed to have ended, because her aunt won't allow her to play. On the other hand, the stakes are getting higher as Hon. Makemba seeks audience with the player in charge of running a soccer clinic in town, but who is he? What will be the outcome of the meeting? And will the streetkid Chedede get the chance to attend the soccer clinic? Stay tuned for our third episode entitled "**The black and white leather ball**". We begin our story with Hon.Makemba and his son meeting one of the most successful and decorated African footballers playing in Europe.

SCENE ONE: MEETING AT THE VIP LOUNGE IN A HOTEL

- 2. HON.MAKEMBA:** Hallo, uhm..wait a minute! (**not believing his eyes**)
This can't be real.. Metogba! Wow! What a pleasant surprise.
- 3. METOGBA:** So you must be the guest, right? I'm Metogba.. And you are?

4. **HON.MAKEMBA:** Makemba, Hon. Makemba. Member of parliament for Tambarare. It's a real pleasure to meet you. I didn't expect that the football federation of our country would invite a player of your standing. Oh, I almost forgot, here is my son Jonathan.
5. **JONATHAN:** (in shock at seeing Metogba so near) Ha..a.llo.
6. **METOGBA:** Hi Jonathan. So, Mr. Makemba, what can I do for you? As you know, there is so much to do before we start the soccer clinic and so little time, but all for a good cause. Peace and reconciliation in your country.
7. **HON.MAKEMBA:** Right, I won't take up much of your time. My son, Jonathan is a big fan. Me too. (**chuckles nervously**) I understand that the team of eleven youngsters that you will choose, will travel to Europe to play friendly matches.
8. **METOGBA:** That's right.
9. **HON.MAKEMBA:** So my.. I was wondering if.. all I'm asking is that you give Jonathan a chance to be in this team. He is a good player with a passion to succeed just like you.
10. **METOGBA:** If i'm not wrong, you are proposing that I include your boy, even before the soccer clinic starts, right?

11. HON.MAKEMBA: (chuckles again) Aha.. just give the boy a chance.

You will be rewarded greatly.

12. METOGBA:

I'm afraid sir, I can't. Football is about fair play. Send your son to the clinic like all the others. If he is good enough, I will take him. As for your money or favours, I would like you to know, that I and my team are paying all the expenses for the eleven kids while in Europe. So, if you really want to help, just donate to the team's fund. Thank you and have a nice evening.

13. SFX: CHAIR BEING PULLED AS WHEN PEOPLE STAND TO LEAVE

14. HON.MAKEMBA: Wait, can't we at least talk about this over a drink?

15. METOGBA:

Sir, you forget one thing. I'm a footballer not a politician.

16. NARRATOR:

Such a response from Metogba caught Hon.Makemba off guard.He was used to getting his own way by any means. Will that stop him? At the street cafe Komora and Chedede were winding up their talk. Let's listen in.

SCENE 2: IN THE CAFE

17. SFX: VOICES OF PEOPLE TALKING, ORDERING MEALS ETC.

18. CHEDEDE: So, Komora what do you think? Should we give it a try? The sports newsman said all young people from the age of 12 to 16 are allowed to try out for the soccer clinic. I'm 14. And you?

19. KOMORA: **(Bursts out laughing)** Dede, you are actually crazier than I thought. Look at you, look at us! Who do you think will give us a chance to attend the soccer clinic? And even if they do, you know very well that once they know your ethnic background, you will be dropped like a hot potato.

20. CHEDEDE: Come on, what has my language got to do with football? I play with my legs, not with my tongue!

21. KOMORA: Yeah? Well, tell that to our national coach, since all the players are from his ethnic group. Forget it, Dede. We were destined to live on the street and die on the street.

22. CHEDEDE: But Komora, this soccer clinic will be led by a professional player from another country. He won't care what language I speak or whether I am a street kid.

- 23. KOMORA:** You talk as if you are a foreigner in Tambarare. You and I know very well, that they already have a team on paper and this whole soccer clinic is all about fooling the public. I may be a street kid, but I'm not a fool.
- 24. CHEDEDE:** **(Takes a deep resigned breath)** I guess you are right. I don't have a chance. This was just another one of my dreams that will never come true. Just like I dream of finding out who my real parents are.**(almost in tears)** I give up.
- 25. KOMORA:** Hey, Dede, we've got each other, right? Be strong man. Now where are you going?
- 26. CHEDEDE:** Nowhere. I have reached a dead end.
- 27. KOMORA:** Aren't you forgetting something? Your ball, here.. catch!
- 28. SFX: BALL OF PLASTIC BAGS BEING CAUGHT IN BETWEEN HANDS.**

29. NARRATOR: Chedede took his ball and disappeared into the shanty narrow streets of Tambarare feeling remorseful and discouraged by what Komora had told him. Do you think he should he have ignored Komora's advice? As the first cock crowed, he woke up, took his ball and went to the small dry, dusty playground where he usually played. Little did he know it would change his life completely. But let's first join the sports journalists as they wait for Metogba to give a press conference at the hotel.

SCENE THREE: METOGBA'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE HOTEL

30. JOURNALIST: Here he comes!.

31. SFX: HUGE APPLAUSE FOLLOWED BY SOUNDS OF CAMERA FLASHES

32. METOGBA: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Please let's get on with the questions right away.

33. JOURNALIST: Metogba, how do you think football can help bring peace and reconciliation to our country? And what is the purpose of this soccer clinic?

34. METOGBA: Right, hmm.. Can I have a ball please? Thank you. Now what colour is this leather ball?

35. JOURNALIST: Black and white.

36. METOGBA: Correct! Let's just imagine that this ball's colours are the two main ethnic groups in this country. The colours of this ball are equal, they have no conflict with each other. In fact they complement each other so well that when this ball is deflated....

37. SFX: BALL BEING DEFLATED OF AIR INSIDE

38. METOGBA: ...the entire ball loses air. Not the black side, not the white side. The whole ball. And when we put the air back... can I please have the pump. Thank you.

39. SFX: BALL BEING PUMPED WITH AIR GRADUALLY.

40. METOGBA: See, the ball inflates with both colours equally. Now, the purpose of this clinic I'm going to run is to help unite the country and of course to scout for young talented players who can make it in the football industry.

41. JOURNALIST: There have been reports and speculation, that the team has already been selected by the country's football federation. What do you say about these rumours?

- 42. METOGBA:** I can only say this. They are just rumours. Corruption and nepotism have damaged soccer in Africa. But I assure all football fans in this country that I will treat each player with respect, fairness and dignity, because I know how it feels to be treated unfairly because of colour, language, social background, religion or gender.
- 43. JOURNALIST:** What do you think about the football wrangles between governments and soccer federations in most other African countries?
- 44. METOGBA:** I think football should be run by footballers and not by politicians. We all know that most of our politicians have only self interest at heart. They do not really care about the players' welfare.
- 45. SFX: HUGE APPLAUSE**
- 46. METOGBA:** Football is the richest sport in the world. And, if it is run well, football can generate a lot of income for a country. The right to host a major football event like the Africa Cup of Nations, or the World Cup is an opportunity not only for the players of the host country but for the entire nation to develop its infrastructure, and create employment.
- 47. SFX: CROWD MURMURS AND SHOUTS.. MORE CAMERAS FLASHING**

48. JOURNALIST: **(Calls out)** Thank you very much for being with us, Metogba! Can I please have an autograph?

49. NARRATOR: As the press conference ended, and Metogba left the hotel, ChedeDe was standing alone with his ragged ball in the playground.

SCENE FOUR: AT THE PLAYGROUND

50. CHEDEDE: **(speaking to himself)** Okay, let's see the power of my kick... ball down on the ground... ten steps back.

51. SFX: FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL GROUND AS CHEDEDE COUNTS

52. CHEDEDE: One, two three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. Oh, maybe one more, eleven. Let's see if you can stop this penalty shot.

53. SFX: BALL (OF PLASTIC) IS KICKED HARD.....THEN FOLLOWED BY GLASS WINDOW BEING SHATTERED.

54. CHEDEDE: Oh my goodness! Oh, no! Oh, no! What have I done?

OUTRO:

55. NARRATOR: As the broken window shattered into pieces, Chedede knew one thing. His dreams too were shattered. But are they? Whose window has he broken? And what will be the outcome? At the soccer clinic, what challenges await Metogba as he seeks to form a team? This and much more await you in the next episode. If you wish to listen to this episode again or send us your give comments, just visit www.dw-world.de/lbe. Until next time. Cheer on!