

LEARNING BY EAR

“Africa’s physically challenged people”

EPISODE 8: “Not that easy”

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INTRO:

Hello and welcome to Learning by ear. This is the eighth episode of our continuing radio drama entitled “Africa’s physically challenged people”, In the last episode, Oluanda joined hands with the rest of the disabled in Maganye and all of them have agreed to take part in a peaceful march. But at the police station, Gidi and Oluanda, the two leaders of the movement, did not succeed in getting a permit for the march from Inspector Joe. So, what next? Let’s find out, in today’s episode entitled, “**Not that easy**”. And we start the story as Oluanda shares his plan to hold a peaceful demonstration with Karemi and his sister Zabibu.

SCENE ONE: OUTSIDE KAREMI’S HOMESTEAD

(ZABIBU IS SWEEPING THE COMPOUND WHILE SINGING)

- 1. ATMO:** **BROOM SWEEPING LEAVES / DIRT**

- 2. ZABIBU:** **(SINGING)**

- 3. OLUANDA:** **(JOINS IN THE SONG)**

- 4. ZABIBU:** Hello Oluanda, I didn’t even hear you coming.

- 5. SFX:** **SOUND OF CRUTCHES APPROACHING**

- 6. OLUANDA:** That is because I wanted to hear the song until the end. You sing very well. Where is Karemi? Is he back from school?

- 7. ZABIBU:** Yes, he is inside. Just go right in. Grandmother has gone to the market.
- 8. OLUANDA:** Actually, it would be nice to talk to you both. Then you can inform your grandmother when she comes back.
- 9. ZABIBU:** Hmm... you sound serious. **(Now smiling cheekily)** Are you getting married? You know we have heard the rumor about you and Kangwa.
- 10. OLUANDA:** **(Chuckles)** Ah well, Maganye people seem to be really interested in my life. But no, it’s not a wedding invitation. Not yet. Can you please ask Karemi to come? I’d rather we talk outside. It’s such a beautiful evening.
- 11. ZABIBU:** No problem. **(calls out)** Karemiiii !... Oluanda wants to talk to us.
- 12. NARRATOR:** Oluanda left Karemi and Zabibu bubbling with excitement at the prospect of joining the march. The following day, the rumor about Oluanda and Kangwa being friends, was on everyone’s lips. Most were shocked. How could it be, that the prettiest, most sought after girl could be involved with a one-legged shoemaker? Lot of boys were jealous of Oluanda, including Chitoto who could not contain his emotions during break-time at school.

SCENE TWO: BREAK-TIME AT SCHOOL

- 13. SFX+ATMO:** **SCHOOL BELL RINGS FOLLOWED BY
NOISY STUDENTS**
- 14. CHITOTO:** **(Calls out)** Kangwa! Kangwa!... **(Approaching)**
Can I have a minute with you?... What is that
note in your hand?
- 15. KANGWA:** You will see. What do you want from me?
- 16. CHITOTO:** **(maliciously)** Hmm, I see your shoes are
shinier than ever. Maybe next time I can help
with the polishing? I may not be a good
shoemaker but I can...
- 17. KANGWA:** Chitoto! You will never be like Oluanda. He is
100 times better than you.
- 18. CHITOTO:** **(Loudly)** So, that’s it? You prefer some lame
guy on crutches to a real man like me?
- 19. KANGWA:** **(Sarcastic)** Real man? Don’t make me laugh.
Chitoto, you are nothing but a big baby. Not yet
a man.
- 20. CHITOTO:** What is it you want? Hmm... just tell me? I will
do it for you.
- 21. KANGWA:** I want you out of my life! Oops, your one
minute is up. Bye.

22. NARRATOR: Kangwa walked ahead, leaving Chitoto biting his lip in frustration. But was this the end of his pursuit? Kangwa headed to Mrs. Nina’s office to request her permission to stick up the information about the peaceful march on the school notice board. Let’s listen on.

23. SFX: GENTLE KNOCK ON DOOR

24. KANGWA: Hello Mrs. Nina, can I come in?

25. MRS. NINA: Yes, come in Kangwa. What is it you want?

26. KANGWA: Nothing much. Just the permission to pin this up on the board.

27. MRS. NINA: Yes, just go ahead and pin it up. I am rather busy now.

28. KANGWA: **(Excited)** Thank you madam.

29. SFX: HURRIED FOOTSTEPS WALK DOWN A CORRIDOR

30. KANGWA: **(Calls out)** Karemi!... Hey Karemi, please come and help me here.

31. KAREMI: What is it?

32. KANGWA: Just help me to stick it up on the notice board. Here are the masking tape and the scissors.

- 33. SFX:** **CELOTAPE IS OPENED THEN CUT BY SCISSOR.**
- 34. KANGWA:** Good, now remove this old one here, then stick it right in the middle here for all to see.
- 35. SFX:** **PAPER BEING RIPPED APART FROM BOARD**
- 36. KAREMI:** **(Read out)** “Dear Teachers and students, you are all invited to take part in a peaceful demonstration to show solidarity to the physically disabled people of Maganye. The march will take place this weekend on Saturday and will start from the market place, go through the town and back again. Your presence will be highly appreciated. Invitation sent out by Oluanda. Former student, now disabled, fighting for equality.”
- 37. KAREMI:** Wow! Oluanda is really determined, isn’t he? So I guess you will be there, right Kangwa?
- 38. KANGWA:** I will be next to Oluanda. My dad is also coming and hopefully my mother too.
- 39. KAREMI:** That’s wonderful! Zabibu would have loved to be there, but you know the march takes place at noon and that’s not good for her skin. But our grandmother Theresa said she will come. She even promised to invite Porojo, the medicine man and other elderly people of Maganye.

40. KANGWA: Great! So we shall have almost every part of the society. This is going really well.

41. SFX: **SCHOOL BELL RINGS**

42. NARRATOR: Yes, according to Kangwa things were going pretty well, but as the bell to resume classes rung, Oluanda and Gidi were about to get the biggest setback in their campaign for equal rights for the disabled - as they returned to the Police station for the permit. Inspector Joe was there to give them the feedback.

SCENE THREE: AT MAGANYE POLICE STATION

43. ATMO: **POLICE STATION**

44. GIDI: **(Very upset)** What do you mean by you can't grant us a permit?

45. INSP. JOE: That is what has been decided by my superiors. There is nothing more I can do to help.

46. OLUANDA: Who are your superiors? Why did they refuse us a permit? What are they afraid of? I mean it's not like we will start looting and vandalizing.

47. INSP. JOE: Listen, I have told you what I was told. I am only following orders.

- 48. GIDI:** **(Cuts him short)** Orders! That’s what you all say. Come Oluanda, we need to sit down with the others and come up with another plan. Obviously someone powerful somewhere does not like the thought of us making our case known. But don’t worry, we shall not give up.
- 49. INSP. JOE:** **(Threatening voice)** I would suggest for your own good that you don’t go ahead and protest without a permit. If you do so, it will be against the law and hence will be met by force. And I don’t want to imagine what will happen.
- 50. OLUANDA:** Well, Gidi. Your worst fears have come true. We have to cancel the demonstration. We have enough struggles, there’s no point adding more broken legs and arms, by facing the batons of the security officers.
- 51. INSP. JOE:** Wise decision. Very wise decision.
- 52. NARRATOR:** It was once said that it’s better to have ones’ finger broken than have one’s heart broken. And that was evident in Oluanda and Gidi’s faces as they left the Maganye police station. They didn’t even have the courage to face their fellow colleagues. So they went their separate ways. Oluanda back to his shoe-work at home, Gidi to begging at the market-place. But later on, that same day after school, Kangwa, who by now had made it a habit to stop by Oluanda’s place every afternoon after classes, came to see him. Only this time she was accompanied by her dad, Mr. Mali.

SCENE FOUR: OUTSIDE OLUANDA’S HOME

53. **SFX:** **OLD CAR ENGINE REEVES AND STOPS
(FROM INSIDE CAR)**
54. **MR. MALI:** Is that him seated over there at the corner?
55. **KANGWA:** Yes, that’s Oluanda. He looks sad though.
Come let me introduce you to him.
56. **SFX:** **CAR DOORS OPENED AND CLOSED,
FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING – OUTSIDE
AMBIENCE**
57. **KANGWA:** **(Cheerfully)** Oluanda, hi! I have someone I
would like you to meet.
58. **MR. MALI:** Oh actually, it’s the other way round. I am the
one who has been looking forward to meet you.
59. **KANGWA:** Oluanda, this is my father. Dad, meet Oluanda.
60. **OLUANDA:** It’s a pleasure to meet you sir. Please have a
seat.
61. **MR. MALI:** Are you sure it’s a pleasure? Because your
face is saying otherwise.
62. **KANGWA:** **(shouts)** Dad!?! **(lower voice)** Oluanda I’m
sorry. My dad has a very strange sense of
humor. But as I told you, he supports our plan.
And today at school...

- 63. OLUANDA:** The planned demonstration is off, Kangwa.
- 64. KANGWA:** **(Surprised)** Off? What do you mean off?
Everything is ready.
- 65. MR. MALI:** Yes, what happened? Why are you cancelling it
at the last moment?
- 66. OLUANDA:** It wasn’t our fault, the police station denied us the
permit to have it, and in a way even threatened
us.
- 67. MR. MALI:** What? That is ridiculous. You have every right to
hold a peaceful demonstration and in this case,
you are fighting for your human rights, which you
have been denied of for a long time.
- 68. OLUANDA:** True, but there is little we can do now. As you
know most of those with disabilities are very poor
and no one really wants to talk to us, let alone
listen.
- 69. KANGWA:** This is not fair, this is not justice.
- 70. MR. MALI:** No, the march will go ahead as planned. I shall
see to it, I will talk to the business community,
and the media, we shall invite international
journalists to cover it. Then we will see if they
shall break up the demonstration. Cheer up
Oluanda, you planted a seed, now it’s time to
water it... who knows how big this tree will grow.

OUTRO:

The stakes are getting even higher. Mr. Mali had just assured Oluanda that this was now not just their issue, it was becoming a regional issue and spreading outwards inviting international attention. So will that be enough? Remember that the teacher Mrs. Nina had not read the invitation note to the march that was now stuck on the notice-board. Will she allow her school to attend? That is if it actually takes place? Besides how does Mrs. Mali feel about all this? Especially seeing her daughter getting closer and closer to Oluanda? For this and many more interesting twists, don't forget to tune in for our ninth episode next time. If you wish to listen to the same episode or the earlier ones that have been aired, simply visit our website at www.dw-world.de/lbe. You can also send in your comments and share your experiences on the same topic. But for now, it's goodbye from us.