

LEARNING BY EAR

“DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE – THE HIGH THAT BRINGS YOU LOW”

EPISODE 9: “Fighting Drug Abuse”

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List of characters by scene:

SCENE ONE: AT THE AIRPORT

- **Hon. Kizito (m, 55)**
- **Mugo (m, 40)**
- **3 Journalists (sex and age not important)**

SCENE TWO: CHUNGA SANA BUS STOP

- **Chambo (m, 30)**
- **Jabali (m, 18)**
- **Zula (m,18)**
- **Jane (f, 35)**

SCENE THREE: IN A CAFETERIA

- **Beri (f, 45)**
- **Minister Kafegi (m, 55)**
- **Inspector Tino (m, 40)**
- **Presenter (f, 25)**

SCENE FOUR: AT HOME WITH ZULA AND CHAMBO

- **Jabali (m, 18)**
- **Mugo (m, 40)**

Narrator (m/f)

INTRO:

Hi everyone, welcome to Learning by Ear. This is the ninth episode of our radio novella on drugs and substance abuse. In our last episode, tragedy struck when Jabali and Zula found their friend Okosho dead from a drug overdose. Police commissioner Beri and Inspector Tino both quit their jobs, and Beri went to the press to talk about the drug scandal, which involves top government officials. Among them are Honourable Kizito, a member of parliament, and the Honourable Kafegi, the Interior Minister. We last saw Jabali and Zula waiting for the youth worker Chambo at the bus stop and wondering why he hadn't showed up. What's happened to Chambo? Listen on. Today's episode is called “**Fighting Drug Abuse**”, and it opens at the airport, as Honourable Kizito arrives back in the country.

SCENE ONE: AT THE AIRPORT

1. **SFX: AIRPORT ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**
2. **HON. KIZITO:** Hey! Can you take my luggage to the car?
3. **SFX: LUGGAGE ON WHEELS BEING PULLED**
4. **HON. KIZITO:** I'll be waiting outside.
5. **SFX: SLIDING DOOR OPENS**
6. **HON. KIZITO:** (**shocked**) What in the world is this?

7. **SFX: SHOUTS AND SEVERAL CAMERA FLASHES FOR A WHILE**

8. **MUGO:** Hon. Kizito! I am Mugo from “The Voice” newspaper. Is it true that you are a suspect in the trafficking of a large consignment of heroin?

9. **HON. KIZITO:** Who said that? This is slander - my political opponents will resort to any means to silence me.

10. **MUGO:** But there is evidence that drugs were found in your house, hidden in imported motor vehicle parts.

11. **HON. KIZITO:** **(trying to act shocked)** What! When did this happen? This is the first I’ve heard of it.

12. **MUGO:** So are you denying doing business with Puyanga? You know he’s in prison now.

13. **HON. KIZITO:** I have no further comment.

14. **SFX: POLICE SIRENS APPROACHING**

15. **HON. KIZITO:** What is this? A police escort?

16. **MUGO:** That doesn't look like a police escort, sir. I believe it's the police anti-narcotics unit.

17. **NARRATOR:** Mugo’s right. The anti-narcotics police have been feeling the pressure from Interpol and the blanket media coverage. They’ve been forced to take action, and Honourable Kizito is their first target. Who’s going to be next? Meanwhile, at the bus stop, Jabali is about to give up on Chambo...

SCENE TWO: CHUNGA SANA BUS STOP

18. **SFX: BUSY STREET AMBIENCE**

19. **ZULA:** Jabali, your friend isn’t coming. Let's go.

20. **JABALI:** He would have said so yesterday. Maybe he’s counselling new addicts. There are so many now – there’s been a huge increase in substance abuse, you know.

21. **ZULA:** Well, we’d better go soon. I have a bad feeling about that drunk who’s coming our way.

22. **JABALI:** What drunk? Where?

23. **ZULA:** Right behind you.

24. **JABALI:** **(shocked)** Chambo?! Not you too! What happened to you?

25. **CHAMBO:** (drunken stupor) Ah... ah... Jaba...li... Let's go to work.
26. **SFX: CHAMBO FALLS DOWN**
27. **ZULA:** Don't tell me this is the guy... Jabali - isn't he the one from Club 2000?
28. **JABALI:** Yes, this is Chambo. But... I don't know how to explain this. Do you think it's a relapse?
29. **ZULA:** I think it's a total collapse. He looks finished! What's a relapse, anyway?
30. **JABALI:** When we visited the rehab centre, Chambo told me that if addicts aren't really committed to undergoing treatment it's easy for them to relapse. It means going back to substance abuse.
31. **ZULA:** (sings Amy Winehouse song)
*They tried to make me go to rehab, I said, "No, no, no".
He's tried to make me go to rehab, I won't go, go, go*
32. **JABALI:** (serious) This is no time for silly jokes, Zula! Drugs have already killed our friend Okosho, you obviously need help, and Chambo... I don't know. How can I help him?

33. **ZULA:** Take him home, let him rest and sober up. Then we can talk to him.
34. **JABALI:** **(excited)** That's a good idea! Now, help me to support him. Ah! He's so heavy.
35. **SFX: JABALI AND ZULA HEAVE CHAMBO UP ONTO THEIR SHOULDERS – GRUNTS AND NOISES OF PHYSICAL EFFORT (studio)**
36. **SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGING**
37. **JABALI:** Is that your phone, Zula?
38. **ZULA:** No, man, I sold mine some time ago... to buy... you know...
39. **JABALI:** Then it must be Chambo's phone! Hold on a minute.
40. **SFX: FUMBLING IN POCKET (studio)**
41. **JABALI:** **(answers phone)** Hello, Jabali here.
42. **JANE:** **(at the phone)** Jabali? Hi, this is Jane. Remember me? I'm back at work now that I've overcome my addiction to nicotine. Can I speak to Chambo? I have some good news for him.

43. **JABALI:** Oh, hi, Jane! Well, Chambo isn't in the best position to answer your call right now. But I can give him a message.
44. **JANE:** Please tell him that my bosses were so impressed when I told them about my experience in rehab that they want to go into partnership with Chambo in starting a drug awareness campaign! They'll give him an office and a salary, and they even want to improve the facilities at the rehab centre. Isn't that great?
45. **JABALI:** **(thrilled)** Wow! That's terrific!
46. **ZULA:** I'm getting tired here propping up this drunk.
47. **JANE:** Sorry? I didn't hear what you said.
48. **JABALI:** Eh? Ah no, that wasn't me... an old friend of mine. Jane, thanks for the call. I'll pass on your message to Chambo. Bye.
49. **ZULA:** **(curious)** Mmmh... Jane. All right. Seems like a lot has happened since I've been away.

50. **JABALI:** It's not what you think. I know Jane through Chambo. But Zula, since you and Okosho shared a syringe, and you told me about the wild nights you've been having ... I think it's best you get tested for HIV.
51. **ZULA:** Come on! Are you serious? Do I look like I have HIV?
52. **NARRATOR:** Jabali is, of course, very serious. The time he spent with Chambo taught him a lot about the dangers of contracting HIV through sharing syringes such as heroin and cocaine addicts use. Will Zula agree to a test? And if he does, what will be the result? Chambo's efforts to educate people about the dangers of drugs are starting to bear fruit. But will Chambo himself manage to stay sober? Keep listening - we'll soon know the answer. Not far away, Beri and Tino are having tea in a local cafeteria when Beri receives a call.

SCENE THREE: IN A CAFETERIA

53. **SFX: CAFE AMBIENCE + RADIO MUSIC**
54. **TINO:** Now that your husband is in jail, maybe we should get married and live happily, but broke, ever after.
55. **BERI:** **(laughs shyly)** You have no shame, Tino.
56. **SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGING**

57. **TINO:** It seems I’m not your only admirer.
58. **BERI:** Trust me, this is not an admirer. It’s my anonymous caller. **(answers call)** Hello, Honourable Kafegi. What can I do for you, sir?
59. **HON. KAFEGI:** Commissioner Beri, because of your clean record you have been promoted to head the national police anti-narcotics unit. You will start work immediately.
60. **BERI:** **(in total shock)** Eh... eh...
61. **SFX: MOBILE PHONE CALL DISCONNECTED**
62. **TINO:** Well... what is it?
63. **SFX: MOBILE RINGING WITH DIFFERENT TONE**
64. **BERI:** Answer that call first.
65. **TINO:** **(answers call)** Tino here, who am I speaking to?
66. **HON. KAFEGI:** Inspector Tino. You have been reinstated. You will assist Commissioner Beri in the national police anti-narcotics unit. Report to work immediately.
67. **TINO:** **(in total shock)** Ah... ah...

68. SFX: MOBILE PHONE CALL DISCONNECTED

69. **TINO:** Is this for real?

70. **BERI:** Coming from the Interior Minister, Honourable Kafegi, yes, I believe it's for real.

71. **TINO:** Then what are we waiting for? Let's get to work!

72. **BERI:** Take it easy, Inspector. What if this is a trap? Have you thought about that?

73. **TINO:** Trap? What trap? The anti-narcotics unit is one of the few police units that's independent, efficient, and free of corruption.

74. **BERI:** Yes, I know. But the Minister has not yet cleared his name. What if he's just putting us there to cover up his crime? I told you before, a consignment of drugs that big could only be brought into the country by people in high positions - people with influence and connections.

75. **TINO:** Beri, you're...

76. **SFX: NEWS BEING READ ON THE RADIO.**

77. **BERI:** Waiter, could you please turn up the volume on your radio?

78. **PRESENTER:** We've just received this breaking news! According to reliable sources the Interior Minister has resigned. Our sources told us that Minister Kafegi has stepped aside to clear the way for investigations into the drugs scandal, which it seems also incriminates him. Another suspect, Puyanga, a businessman and friend of local Member of Parliament Honourable Kizito, now faces fifteen years in prison for illegal drug trafficking. It's believed that many more high-ranking government officials might also be involved. Minister Kafegi will give a press conference soon, which we'll bring you live. The Peace and Security Council of the African Union is about to gather in Nigeria's Capital Abuja this evening. At the top of the agenda are discussions about the situation in Libya. For tomorrow the heads of state of fifteen African countries are expected to arrive in Abuja to sign an agreement on the AU's position. **(Presenter's voice fades down as volume is turned down again)**

79. **TINO:** There's your answer. So? Can we get to work now?

80. **BERI:** Yes. Let's get started.

81. **SFX: CUPS BEING PLACED ON SAUCERS**

82. **NARRATOR:** Beri and Tino are thrilled, and quickly leave the cafeteria to start their new jobs. It seems that the war on drugs is intensifying after all. But is that the end of the story? Meanwhile, Jabali is struggling to deal with dozens of calls to Chambo’s phone from various people, institutions and organisations. Some are worried because he hasn’t shown up for an appointment, and they desperately need his help. But others are calling because they’ve heard about his work from the publicity surrounding the drugs scandal, and they’re keen to work with him, fund him, or interview him. Mugo, the editor-in-chief of “The Voice”, is one of them.

SCENE FOUR: JABALI AT HOME WITH ZULA AND CHAMBO

83. **SFX: MOBILE PHONE RINGING**

84. **JABALI:** **(tired)** I swear, if this phone rings one more time I’ll throw it down the toilet. **(answers phone with tired, bored voice)** Yeees... Halloooo...

85. **MUGO:** Am I speaking to Chambo? Chambo of the Youth Watch initiative?

86. **JABALI:** **(still bored)** Noooooo...

87. **MUGO:** Oh, I’m sorry. Wrong number, then.

88. **JABALI:** It's not a wrong number. This is his phone, but Chambo is unavailable today. I'm his... work mate. What can I do for you?
89. **MUGO:** Would you mind telling Chambo that Mugo from “The Voice” would like an exclusive interview with him? We want to hear about his experiences working with drug addicts, and his work in helping young people stay free of substance abuse.
90. **JABALI:** I hope he can come back.
91. **MUGO:** What do you mean? Has he left?
92. **JABALI:** **(resigned)** Yes. Let's just say he's left.

OUTRO:

With that remark from Jabali we wind up the ninth episode of this drugs and substance abuse radio drama called “**The High that Brings You Low**”. Join us for our next and final episode to find out how the story ends. Will Chambo return to his work? Or will he fall deeper into addiction? If you'd like to listen to this episode or previous ones again, or send us your comments, please visit our website at dwworld.de/lbe. Until we meet again, it's bye bye for now.