

Learning by Ear 2010 – Urban Exodus

Episode 09: “Dark clouds on the horizon”

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CHARACTERS:

Scene 1:

- **HADARI** (48 YEARS OLD, HEAD OF RURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT)
- **TINGO** (32 YEARS OLD, MODERN FARMER)

Scene 2:

- **ZEINA** (24 YEARS OLD, ECONOMIST, FRIEND OF BAKI AND BEN'S)
- **NANA** (22 YEARS OLD, PRESIDENT OF YOUTH ASSOCIATION)
- **HADIA** (45 YEARS OLD, NANA'S MOTHER)

Scene 3:

- **BEN** (AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER, 29 YEARS OLD)
- **KABO** (FARMER, BEN'S UNCLE, 57 YEARS OLD)
- **BAKI** (26 YEARS OLD, SOCIOLOGIST, FRIEND OF ZEINA AND BEN'S)
- **ZEINA** (24 ANS, ECONOMIST, FRIEND OF BAKI AND BEN'S)
- **NANA** (22 YEARS OLD, PRESIDENT OF YOUTH ASSOCIATION)

Intro:

Welcome to Episode 9 in our *Learning by Ear* series on urban exodus, called "Against the Current". We have been following the adventures of Ben, Baki and Zeina, three unemployed young graduates who have decided to escape the lack of prospects in the capital and set up an agricultural cooperative in their village.

But the cooperative's success is not good news for everybody. Join us at Hadari's office and find out who's the important opponent to the cooperative...

Scene 1: Hadari's office.**HADARI, TINGO**

1. **ATMO** **OFFICE SOUNDS. COMPUTER KEYBOARD, TELEPHONE RINGING, SNIPPETS OF CONVERSATION IN THE BACKGROUND.**
2. **SFX** **DOOR OPENS, STEPS COMING IN (TINGO), DOOR CLOSING**
3. **TINGO** My dear Hadari...
4. **HADARI** Mr Tingo...! What can I do for you?
5. **TINGO** Usually, when I need you, I ask you to come to my farm but today was an emergency!
6. **HADARI** An emergency?

- 7. TINGO** Absolutely! But first, tell me... Is it true that you have told those young ruffians to apply for the subsidies?
- 8. HADARI** It's my role to make certain information accessible to anybody who is interested. If you're interested as well, it's not too late!
- 9. TINGO** You have to block their application!
- 10. HADARI** I've already submitted their pre-registration documents. Moreover, we're not talking about one application but three. They can apply for three different subsidies. The first has to do with soil recuperation, the second will help to buy improved seedlings and the third...
- 11. TINGO** Are you plotting my downfall with them or what?
- 12. HADARI** Not at all! They're not planning on competing with you – they're not interested in peanuts.
- 13. TINGO** Fool! They won't be competing with me in terms of production but in terms of means of production. No-one will want to work for me anymore!
- 14. HADARI** Don't worry. They don't want to be employers like you. Any villager who chooses to work with them will be taking a risk and that is not easy. There will always be people willing to work in the fields.

- 15. TINGO** You're not saying anything new but you have no idea what the impact of this chaos will be – wages will have to go up. I won't be able to cope. This is a disaster for me!
- 16. HADARI** That's true! But what can I do about it?
- 17. TINGO** Hadari, you have to stop all this. You won't regret it, I promise!! Listen, this is what you have to do – let them file their applications but when you submit them, make sure that one or two crucial documents are missing...
- 18. HADARI** Honestly! You're asking me for the impossible!
- 19. TINGO** I'm just asking you to omit something here and there... Nothing more! Or you could just submit the documents in the wrong order. You know, with one file missing a document, another one with the wrong papers... Do you see what I'm getting at?
- 20. HADARI** No!
- 21. TINGO** Aarghhh! ... Yet, it's so simple! ... Listen my friend, my dear Hadari, if you do it, you'll see... You'll be able to take it easy for the rest of your days... **(Long silent pause)** ...Have you got nothing to say at all?
- 22. HADARI** I can't do that! These young people are doing exactly what I've been supposed to be promoting for the past ten years... I can't sabotage their project. Do you understand? It's almost as if they're helping me right my wrongs...

- 23. TINGO** Very well! You've chosen your camp and that's your right. But be warned! I will destroy you all. I'm going to have this cooperative banned. And if you're lucky, you'll end up on the streets begging! And that's no lie!
- 24. SFX** **FURIOUS STEPS GOING AWAY (TINGO), THE DOOR OPENS (OFFICE)**
- 25. HADARI** Mr Tingo ! ... Mr Tingo...
- 26. SFX** **DOOR SLAMMING VIOLENTLY (OFFICE)**

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Scene 2: At Nana's.

HADIA, NANA AND ZEINA

- 27. ATMO** **AT NANA'S. KITCHEN NOISES, HENS**
- 28. HADIA** What's this I see? Zeina is in my house?
- 29. ZEINA** Yes, auntie Hadia! I came to see you.
- 30. HADIA** Well first of all, you have to explain why you've only decided to come today! Nana, what is going on?
- 31. NANA** Nothing at all! Zeina just came to say hello, that's all.
- 32. HADIA** Is this about Baki's health?
- 33. ZEINA** No! Baki has left the clinic. He's even started work again.

- 34. HADIA** So... Tell me the truth straight away! I can sense there's a problem in the air... A man problem, right?
- 35. NANA** No, you're completely wrong, mom! Like you always are!
- 36. HADIA** Whatever you say! But you didn't even tell me about the meal. Did he like it?
- 37. NANA** Yes, he did.
- 38. HADIA** What did he say? Tell me! Zeina, your cousin hides everything. I bet she didn't even tell you about the lover's meal that she took to...
- 39. ZEINA** Nana told me that you had cooked.
- 40. HADIA** Ah ha! You know all about that?
- 41. ZEINA** Of course! Nana doesn't hide anything from me. Nor does Ben for that matter.
- 42. HADIA** Ben? What's he got to do with anything?
- 43. ZEINA** Now, I don't understand anything. Didn't Nana tell you the meal was for Ben?
- 44. NANA** Ben told me to thank you for your attention, mom. He really appreciated the food!
- 45. ZEINA** What's for sure is that Nana will never be as good a cook as you.
- 46. HADIA** So, Ben is the one?

- 47. ZEINA** What do you mean? Who else? I don't understand anything anymore. Have you got another boyfriend in the village?
- 48. NANA** No.
- 49. ZEINA** Now I feel like you're hiding something from me...
- 50. NANA** Nothing at all! At least I'm not.
- 51. HADIA** What does that mean?
- 52. NANA** Who knows?
- 53. HADIA** My dear Zeina, take a seat. Take a seat! What's your news?
- 54. NANA** She's going to marry Baki. She came to ask you, if you wanted to be her wedding godmother.
- 55. HADIA** Of course I would! I'm not called the matchmaker for nothing. And I'm really happy. This is an honour, really!
- 56. ZEINA** Thank you! Who knows, maybe this will incite all the old maids in the village to get married.
- 57. HADIA** I hope the heavens are listening. Invite him to come and tell him the meal will be even better.
- 58. NANA** Who? Baki?
- 59. HADIA** No! Ben!

(THEY ALL LAUGH)

----- MUSIC -----

Scene 3: At Ben's. Late at night.

BEN, BAKI, ZEINA, NANA, KABO

- 60. ATMO** **AT BEN'S. LATE AT NIGHT. CRICKETS, NIGHT BIRDS, FROGS**
- 61. BEN** There's something wrong, there's a discrepancy between the problems we're experiencing and the results we're expecting.
- 62. ZEINA** Stop criticizing other people's work Ben! We've spent two weeks on those applications.
- 63. BAKI** Exactly! All the more reason not to botch them up!
- 64. ZEINA** Baki! Each time you open your mouth, you tell us we've forgotten this or not done that!
- 65. BAKI** It's normal! I haven't taken part in this application process so I can see the problems. That's all!
- 66. KABO** In any case, what's for sure is that you're feeling better!
- 67. BAKI** I'm not trying to upset you. But here, for example, we have highlighted that the villagers' educational level is weak and that they do not know much about the cooperative system. However, we haven't proposed anything to address these issues.
- 68. NANA** Well, we'll have to redo the whole logical framework from scratch.

- 69. ZEINA** All cooperatives have to teach their members about the principles of association and cooperation. This is also necessary if all the members of a cooperative are going to participate in a creative and responsible manner.
- 70. BEN** But does it absolutely have to be integrated in the project?
- 71. BAKI** Yes, of course! It's logical. We have to develop a project that trains people in cooperative life and takes both the realities of the village and our program priorities into account.
- 72. ZEINA** This is going to burst the budget.
- 73. BAKI** What's important is not how much the program costs but how relevant and efficient it is. If we have to, we'll reevaluate other aspects and see if we can lower the costs.
- 74. KABO** Kids, I'm done, I can't go on anymore – let's call it a day now!
- 75. ZEINA** We also have to reevaluate our finance plan because....
- 76. KABO** Listen, we've been working since the morning. Let's stop for now, please! I'm not 20 anymore!
- 77. NANA** I agree – let's stop now.
- 78. BAKI** We've still got two days before we have to submit the applications.
- 79. BEN** OK, let's call it a day!

- 80. KABO** Before we part, however, I want to tell you that we owe a lot to Hadari. He's not a saint for sure but he's really helped us a lot. That's what matters. We should be grateful to him!
- 81. BAKI** What do you suggest?
- 82. NANA** And now we're off again – another endless round of discussions.
- 83. KABO** No way! I've broached the subject. Let's all think about it and come to a decision together, later. In the meantime, let's adjourn this session!
- 84. BAKI** By the way, have you heard that peanut stocks have fallen dramatically?
- 85. NANA** That's not good news for Tingo!
- 86. BEN** Nor for the village. More than two thirds of the village's revenues come directly from wages paid by Tingo.
- 87. BAKI** Even if they are a pittance!
- 88. ZEINA** They are and this will be a big blow for people and will have considerable repercussions.
- 89. NANA** Sometimes bad things can be good though... People will understand in a concrete and brutal way what we've been trying to tell them! This is a cheap way of promoting our cause!
- 90. BAKI** When I heard the news on the radio I laughed, but really, it's not funny at all!

- 91. BEN** It all depends on how he reacts. If all he wants to do is save his money, it will be a massive disaster. Otherwise, this could be a good way of transforming agricultural activity in this area.
- 92. BAKI** You're overestimating that snake's intelligence.
- 93. ZEINA** Maybe you're underestimating his survival instinct.
- 94. BEN** If only this crisis could make him see things differently, we might have a solid partner in him.
- 95. NANA** Ben, don't tell me you're thinking of cooperating with that guy!
- 96. BEN** Why not? So long as we can keep our vision, our independence and our aims, we can do business with anyone who's on the market.
- 97. NANA** What?
- 98. BAKI** Don't worry Nana! This guy isn't going to turn humane any time soon!
- 99. SFX** **GENERAL LAUGHTER**
- 100. BEN** Let's meet again tomorrow at 9 a.m. But leave the files with me...
- 101. NANA** What for?
- 102. BEN** I want to read over them again...

- 103. NANA** No way! We said we were stopping for the day. And that means everybody! You said you would come home with me. Mom is waiting for us!
- 104. KABO** Ben, my boy! Life isn't only about work!
- 105. BAKI** No, it's about life as well...
- 106. KABO** I'm falling asleep here! Good night!
- 107. ALL** Good night! Good night, Uncle Kabo!

Outro:

This is how *Learning by Ear* ends today. This was the ninth episode of our series on urban exodus.

Don't miss the last episode to find out whether Tingo will carry out his threats against Ben and his friends.

If you want to listen to this program again or give us any feedback visit our website www.dw-world.de/lbe or send us an email at lbe@dw-world.de.

Don't forget to tune in next time!

END OF EPISODE 9