

## Learning by Ear – Media & Information Episode 9

Learning by Ear 2009

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### **EPISODE 9**

Announcer: Male/female

#### **SCENE 1**

##### *CHARACTERS:*

“Young Junior”	Male, 15 years old
“Sister P.”	Female, 16 years old
“Charlie”	Male, 18 years old

#### **SCENE 2**

##### *CHARACTERS:*

“Young Junior”	Male, 15 years old
“Sister P.”	Female, 16 years old
“Charlie”	Male, 18 years old
“Ezra”:	Male, 22 years old. Brother to “Young Junior”.

## **INTRO**

Hello everybody, and welcome to this penultimate episode in our Learning by Ear series: “Media & Information”. Things are coming to a head! After having refused the bribe attempt by the “honorable” MP (how honorable is the man one wonders??) Sister P, Young J and Charlie have in the meantime managed to secure funding for their dream project from a local NGO ! On the provision that the radio airs community health ads. Effectively, they have made our soon-to-be-up-and-running radio station their awareness campaign outlet- which is what community radio is all about in the first place. Well done, guys ! And what’s better still: Our aspiring journos have also found their own office and secured a license and– the process didn’t take half as long as anticipated. Somebody in that licensing office must have liked the idea of a community radio a lot. So, things are all go from here. Or are they?

Now, let’s catch up with our aspiring news hounds and see what they are up to next.

## **SCENE 1**

**The Dot.Com FM radio station late morning.**

**SFX Traffic noise is heard and there is loud music being played.  
Sound of CDs being sorted.**

1. Sister P:           Young J, is this a radio station office or a discotheque?

**SFX: Music turned down.**

2. Young J: So, Sister P, are you telling me that you were successful??

3. Sister P: Yes, you bet.

4. Young J: Are you kidding?

5. Charlie: Not kidding.

6. Young J: Show me. Let me have a look.

<b>SFX :</b>	<b>Opening hand bag.</b>
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7. Sister P; Here you are, Young J.

8. Young J: Goodness. Tumpa tumpampatu, Oh, my God! Our radio station has been granted a license. Yahoo! It's time to celebrate. Tumpa tumpampa tumpa. Rock and roll!

9. Charlie: Hey, easy. Where's Ezra, by the way? I thought he would be here to help us during the final stages of setting up our radio station.

10. Young J: He'll be back soon. He's gone looking for some technicians to help us set up those machines.

11. Sister P: I hope we have everything we need. And we have to learn the basics of operating those machines.

12. Young J: As we are talking about staff, I think we also need an office cleaner.
13. Sister P: That's rubbish. Guys, let's think of our radio station as our bedrooms. Who does the cleaning and tidying for you? We can't afford to waste money on on stuff like that.
14. Charlie: Sister P, I think we need to be clear about the difference between a bedroom and a radio station. We need to focus and concentrate on our radio productions. You can't mix up trash with broadcasting.
15. Young J: Or read the newspapers to get up to date news for our audience.
16. Charlie: Or mop the floor and clean windows when you have to dash out for an appointment to interview someone.
17. Sister P: Come to think of it, how will we be able to compile content for our programmes with almost no staff.
18. Young J: I think the first thing we have to do is subscribe to all the local newspapers and use them as the source of information.
19. Charlie: **(Laughs)** Sister P, he talks like he's from Mars.
20. Sister P: What do you mean, Charlie?

21. Charlie: You know how these newspapers and magazines are published. Some come out once a month, others maybe only twice a year.
22. Young J: That aside, by the time they get to us they will be out of date in any case.
23. Charlie: Many of the newspapers that attempt to be published regularly are those sponsored by the government and they carry partisan news and stuff that the government wants to tell people.
24. Sister P: So, what can we do? We have to keep our audience up to date with news and information!
25. Young J: I've got an idea!
26. Charlie: Go ahead.
27. Young J: Let's get our Internet connection up and running. That's one way we can get up to date news and information for our audience. Nonetheless, especially with the abundance of information on the net one has to be very careful. Always have a crosscheck with several sources!
28. Charlie: But even more important for a community radio: We have to go out and find the stories ourselves in the community. Think global, act local!

## SCENE TWO

**The balcony outside the Dot.Com FM radio station.**

<b>SFX Sounds of hammering on walls etc from inside.</b>
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29. Young J: Ezra, are you sure about those guys you brought with you?
30. Ezra: Yes. Why?
31. Young J: They sound like a wrecking crew.
32. Ezra: Don't worry. The guys know what they are doing. If all goes well, we might be able to broadcast a test transmission this evening.
33. Sister P: You are kidding? (**Excited**) I'm getting nervous, Ezra.
34. Ezra: You shouldn't be. It's going to be fun.
35. Charlie: Ezra, before you came, we were talking about programming and how we will get information and up to date news.
36. Ezra: That's not a problem. What you need is to get the Internet working. Then you have to subscribe to the Western news agencies so that you can get the news to give to your audience. If you just rely on the local news sources, I am worried you will be reporting history.

37. Sister P: But Ezra, why do those Western agencies have a monopoly on the news? What makes them so effective?
38. Ezra: Well, lots of reasons but those news agencies have large networks, unlike our local newspapers.
39. Charlie: They have correspondents in almost in every country.
40. Ezra: Also their professionalism over the years has earned them the trust which people from all over...
41. Sister P: (Interrupting. Excited.) Ezra has just hit the nail on the head. Sometimes quite interesting stuff happens here that is ignored by the local media but is reported by the Western agencies..
42. Ezra: Those agencies are well equipped to access news. Look at you guys. Still struggling to get an Internet connection. You haven't even got a phone line yet. It is going to be difficult to work as a broadcaster in these conditions.
43. Young J: So, what do we do then?
44. Ezra: Change my friend. I think it is high time we did something different.
45. Sister P: What, Ezra? I would do anything in my ability to make a difference.

46. Ezra: Why don't we start something African?
47. Charlie: African? How?
48. Ezra: I mean something about Africa and reporting about Africans and development in Africa.
49. Sister P: I like how Ezra makes it rhyme. Africa reporting about Africans and development in Africa...thank God, no disease and war.
50. Charlie: You could easily make a rap out of it.
51. Young J: Guys, I think Ezra's idea is great and we shouldn't ignore it.
52. Sister P: Oh, yes, sure. I was just having a quick commercial break. All work and no play makes jack a dull boy. Hey, we support the idea.
53. Ezra: Actually, I have a database of journalists from different countries in Africa. If we all agree I could try and sell the idea to those journalists and establish a network.
54. Charlie: Then, we would be able to get news from the North to the South and the East to the West of Africa.
55. Sister P: And that would save us from the embarrassment of having to search for African news using Western-based news agencies.



56. Young J: Can we face the competition?
57. Ezra: Why not? It is all about commitment and being focused.
58. Charlie: I am sure even those long-established news agencies would be willing to become partners of our news agency.
59. Ezra: Yes, with such an agency we'd be in a position to inform our audience about up to the minute news.
60. Sister P: Let's agree then that we are going to establish this agency and it has to succeed. What shall we call it?
61. Young J: Let's call it, "Africa News".
62. Charlie: That is not very original.
63. Ezra: Any ideas Charlie?
64. Charlie: I'm still thinking.
65. Sister P: What about if we call it PANA?
66. Ezra: Panya is a Swahili word meaning rat. How can we use that for our news agency's name, Sister P.
67. Sister P: I did not say Panya. I said PANA...The Pan African News Agency. That's not too bad, is it?

End

## **OUTRO**

Our novice journos are moving fast, aren't they? Not satisfied with simply airing news provided by the big news agencies, they now plan to set up their own outfit, providing news for Africans from an African perspective. Does this make sense to you? Do you feel Western media provide inaccurate information about the continent? Is it a biased picture of Africa? Tell us what you think about this and anything else you have been wanting to fire off to our Learning by Ear team in Bonn. Get in touch by clicking on to our website at: [dwworld.de/lbe](http://dwworld.de/lbe).

Till next time, take care of yourselves!