



The Candidate

A

Radio Play

by

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THE CANDIDATE!

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Personae

(In order of appearance)

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Yaje | Holder of Masters Degree and daughter of Pa Nformi |
| Giyo | Graduate and son of Pa Nformi |
| Massa Money | Rich Man and incumbent Mayor of the Peoples Liberation Party (PLP) |
| Pa Nformi | Collage Principal and family head |
| Mabo | Primary school teacher and wife of Pa Nformi |
| Inspector | Police Inspector |
| Fon | Fon of Kullah village |
| Setting | Kullah, an imaginary village in Donga Mantung Division, North West Region of Cameroon |

THE CANDIDATE

.INT.ROOM - DAY.1

YAJE

So this is our plan to ensure individual as well as community development!

SFX. A heavy knock at the door!

VOICES

Who's there?

SFX. Door crashes open. Shouts of fear

MASSA MONEY

All of you, out!

YAJE

Why sir? What crime have we committed?

MASSA MONEY

This meeting is illegal!

YAJE

No, it's just an ordinary meeting sir.

MASSA MONEY

Shut up your mouth, you little woman! I say you've got no right to this assembly!

YAJE

There you've got it all wrong sirs! We all have a right to public assembly.

GIYO

Yes the right to meet our friends and work together in peace.

MASSA MONEY

Young man you're in for a bad deal! All of you, out before I loosen my anger!

SFX. Footsteps in commission and falling objects as they rush out in different directions

2. EXT. M

OTOR ROAD – DAY. 2

SFX. Fast footsteps of GIYO running and breathing seriously; He stops and calls

YAJE

Kiki! Tantoh! Giyo0000000!

GIYO

Yaje! Yaje! I am here!

YAJE

Where are the others?

GIYO

I don't know, we all scattered in different directions.

YAJE

You see Giyo, you are all cowards!

GIYO

Was there any other option sister?

YAJE

Of course Giyo, you people shouldn't have expressed any fear!

GIYO

You mean it Yaje!

YAJE

Oh yes; we all have the freedom to public gathering as you rightly said. When you know your rights, you don't have to panic. The meeting wasn't harmful, not at all!

In fact, a meeting to strategize on how to bring development in Kulah Sub Division can't a crime!

GIYO

But sister, it requires a lot of courage.

JAJE

Extreme courage of course, Giyo!.

GIYO

I'm scared already! I doubt whether I'll be able to continue.

YAJE

You see? That s a sign of weakness! Look Giyo, there is no way you can succeed without obstacles. Instead, they should strengthen one's

aspiration. Giyo, it's my greatest wish that you all rally behind me so we can realize my ambition I have for Kulah constituency.

GIYO

I understand you so well sister, but the beginning is tough, too tough for me to continue Yaje! Politics is not a fertile ground for me!

YAJE

Well, well, well, I know the moment you understand where I come from, you'll come around. Giyo, let go home, we'll talk later.

SFX. Motor bike passing

YAJE

Bike! Bike two places MBIYEH!

SFX. Footsteps as they go towards the Motor bike. They climb and motor bike rides off.

SFX. TRANSITION

3.INT. OFFICE – DAY.3

MASSA MONEY OFFICE.

MASSA MONEY

Pa Nformi, I'm extremely disappointed with the action of your daughter Yaje! In fact, if she doesn't withdraw herself I'll take a very rough action against her!

PA NFOR

You say it took place this afternoon?

MASSA MONEY

Just this afternoon! Yaje gathered a few youths and began to talk against my campaign strategies! Even Giyo your son was there, and supporting her very strongly!

PA NFORMI

Strange Massa Money! Strange that my daughter Yaje is daring to become the mayor of this village, the Kulah constituency! Yaje my daughter has never told me she would one day do politics! (*Exclaims*) Hei! Nformi nyame ayu!

MASSA MONEY

That's arrogance Pa Nformi! (*Hitting the table*) But she'll be brought to order!

PA NFORMI

You see Massa Money, if Yaje my daughter thinks, I educated her to come back home and create enmity with my friends, then I'll teach her a lesson!

MASSA MONEY

Yaje is going to live a bitter experience in this constituency! She seems to be ignorant of the fact that she's got no right as a young woman to aspire for this post!

PA NFORMI

Of course Massa Money! That status in itself is a number one constraint for her! She is a young girl, not yet a woman!

MASSA MONEY

(Laughs happily) Hah hah hah! I'm happy to hear that from you Pa Nformi. Yaje can't stand to convince these counselors whom the majority is men. What will she tell them?

PA NFORMI

Nothing, just nothing Massa Money!

MASSA MONEY

Then your daughter Yaje can't become the mayor of Kullah village! She shouldn't dare in a battle with people like us, she'll burn her fingers!

PA NFORMI

Oh Yaje, Yaje ! Heh Pa Nformi!

MASSA MONEY

You see Pa Nformi, I, Massa Money; have already lobbied thirty counselors to my side. This means I'm going to pay for their registration of two hundred thousand Frs. each. That gives me a total of six hundred thousand frs. Now, tell me how a young graduate like Yaje, is going to meet up with this kind of financial imperative? Eh? Practically impossible for her Pa Nformi!

PA NFORMI

That's not all Massa Money! Yaje is inexperienced as far as politics is concerned. She doesn't know her constituency; she claims she stands for development!

MASSA MONEY

Perfect! You see, I've suffered so much for this party in this village; condoling and sometimes seeking solutions for some pressing problems for the people! But Yaje your daughter has been cool in school studying political science. Pa Nformi, nobody knows your daughter in this constituency! Tell her, politics is practical and not theory in school. Yes; you can't feed your chicken on a market day!

PA NFORMI

Oh yes you can't climb a tree from the top!

SFX. SOUNDS EFFECTS

MASSA MONEY

Ehe, one last word! Let Yaje stop referring me to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights! If the so called freedom of public assembly means freely intoxicating the youths, to freely take a wrong move, then, we're out for a big war! Remember, an insect can't fight an elephant!

SFX. TRANSITIONAL SOUNDS EFFECTS

4. EXT. HILL—DAY.4

SFX. Blowing wind. YAJE is thinking to himself.

YAJE

Things have started off rather on a difficult note; Massa Money is a serious threat to my political ambition, my young supporters are retreating. What do I do now, retreat or continue? (**Pause**). Certainly my mum and dad will be instrumental in strategizing against Massa Money. Dad in particular, will be so impressed with my courageous move. It's all about obstacles and strategies. I must fight on!

SFX . TRANSITIONAL EFFECTS

5.INT. MABO'S KITCHEN, PA NFORMI'S RESIDENCE – DAY.5

MABO is singing. SFX. Kitchen utensils falling. MABO opens the lid of a pot. Food is boiling. She picks up a cooking spoon and stirs the food in the pot. . Footsteps of PA NFORMI at fast pace intruding.

PA NFORMI

Where's your daughter Yaje?

MABO

What kind of greetings Tarbo!

PA NFORMI

Mabo, Where's your daughter Yaje? It's not a joking matter!

MABO

Who's joking with another? Have you seen her here with me?

(Laughs) Hunger has turned you into anger!

SFX. Footsteps of YAJE walking in.

YAJE

Good evening dad.

PA NFORMI

I'm sure there's something wrong with you!

YAJE

I can't understand you dad?

PA NFORMI

Where're you coming from?

YAJE

From the hill, I was meditating on the hill.

PA NFORMI

Aha; meditating on how to instigate the youths of this village to fight Massa Money right?

YAJE

I'm not fighting Massa Money dad! I have a political ambition, to become the mayor of this village!

PA NFORMI

Who're you little girl to become the mayor of Kullah village when men of integrity have tried and failed?

YAJE

I'm development; I represent development!

PA NFORMI

(Mimicking) I represent development! Do you have the financial capacity to bring development in this village?

YAJE

Money doesn't bring development but ideas and the will dad!

MABO

Yaje, Yaje, heh nyame ayue!

PA NFORMI

Look Yaje, let me remind you that you're mistaken; highly mistaken my daughter! Massa Money is all powerful in this village, because he's rich. If you don't know, get it right away!

YAJE

Instead, you're mistaken dad! Riches in every circumstance are not equal to success!

MABO

Heh nyame ayoeeee Kula ba nimbi, Yaje Mangeh!

YAJE

Mum, how can you be disappointed at a daughter who's struggling to make a progress? You two have educated me, with the hope that I become a better person tomorrow, yet you prefer a rich man to your daughter!

MABO

Yaje, yaje, habai yabi! Tarbo, listen to this daughter of yours!

PA NFORMI

Don't turn to me you woman of no substance! If you had played your role as a good mother, this little daughter of yours would not have stood up today to defy me, Ta Nformi!

MABO

Heh ya ma bime !

PA NFORMI

All you know is to show off in njangi houses when you can't teach good morals to your own children!

MABO

Tarbo, be careful! Let this matter, not push you to insult me!

P A N F O R M I

Why will I not Mabo? It's a pity, pity that the children you even teach in school, will end up with no morals as Yaje!

Y A J E

No dad; you shouldn't use this incident to pour insults on my mother!

P A N F O R M I

Shut up your mouth! Have you not put us in this conflicting situation, eh Yaje, answer me?

Y A J E

Not me dad!

P A N F O R M I

(Mimicking) Not me dad! It's a pity Yaje, pity that all my sweat to educate you has resulted in defiance and insults!

Y A J E

No, not defiance and insults dad! Rather, good aspiration that would have met with an embrace from parents. Unfortunately and ironically, I have parents who prefer to sacrifice MY progress to a rich man, for the fear of the unknown. Kai, It's a pity indeed dad!

MABO

Yaje yaje hei biyuh mee! If you continue in that manner, I'll trash you out of this house, nonsense!

PA NFORMI

Yaje an ant does not fight with an elephant! We can't support an aspiration that is already a failure!

YAJE

How do you know it's already a failure dad?

PA NFORMI

Massa Money has already bought a majority of the counselors. Tell me, you young and aspiring woman, what have you as material resources to sustain this struggle?

YAJE

Dad you've got it all wrong! You see, buying counselors is already an indicating factor for failure! Oh Yes, Massa Money is not sure of himself, that's why he's resorting to buying counselors?

PA NFORMI

Massa Money is just responding to the exigencies of politics today. Yaje, you can't succeed in politics today without persuading people with money!

YAJE

That's corruption dad! Buying counselors is clear evidence that politics in Kullah constituency is not

free and fair! It's a pity dad, that you all have publicly sold your consciences for money, in this constituency. You're quite aware of the fact that we badly need basic necessities such as potable water and electricity. How do we solve the problem of youth's unemployment, fight against environment and climate change, agriculture and micro project when we continue with such attitudes? That's why I present this development project as mayor of Kullah native council. I therefore, plead on you to support me for charity begins at home!

PA NFORMI

Good development project, but you have a gender barrier! At your young age, are you going to spend time looking for a husband, eh, making children and taking care of your husband or running around to realize development projects? Yaje, as a woman you've failed! Please, be realistic!

YAJE

Sorry dad you're behind time! The trend today is more women in politics! Women have made it today in the world and I'm no exemption!

PA NFORMI

We are talking about women in the fifties, who have made children and demonstrated themselves as good house wives. Such women are good examples Yaje! They're succeeding today because of support from their husbands and other

men. Yaje, what example are you? I expected that, after your degree, you would have stayed in Yaounde to get a good job and even catch an important and wealthy personality as husband! That would have been a big pride for me here in the village, not you coming home to create enemies with my friends!

YAJE

It's a pity to hear this kind of language, coming out of an educated father's mind; a whole principal of a college! Dad, you mean you educated me, just to end up as a housewife with no profession?

PA NFORMI

Of course! Every parent wants their daughter to end up in marriage. That's why, I wanted you to read gender, in the domain of mother and child issues. But you vehemently refused and opted for political sciences, so that, you'll stand tall today and defy my personality!

YAJE

I'm not defying your personality dad! But I'm just working towards my plans in life to become a political woman. That's why, I've come back home with my development plan for charity begins at home.

PA NFORMI

Sorry, your charity is coming home rather too late! You can't climb the tree from the top! You would

have been on the ground air long to lay your roots; rejoicing and condoling with the people of your constituency. Remember Yaje, no customer is ready to buy a chicken that is fed on a market day! Oh yes!

Even if politics were imperative in your life Yaje, you needed time to observe the environment before gradually getting into politics!

YAJE

Time waits for nobody dad. The time used in studying, is good enough time dad!

PA NFORMI

This hasty spirit with no wisdom is a pure representation of a woman! Oh yes, that's why, from all indications you have failed. Yaje, listen carefully, politics isn't a job for women, I insist you're going out of our tradition!

YAJE

Well dad, you may fabricate your own tradition but I'm more concerned about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which calls for freedom of choice and no restrictions. I've made my choice to politics! This is final! Support or no support from you, I'll succeed and you'll be ashamed!

SFX. Footsteps of Giyo crashing in and breathing seriously.

PA NFORMI

Ok Yaje, since you've decided to disobey me, I'll teach you a lesson!

GIYO

What's wrong dad?

PA NFORMI

Don't you know what's wrong, Giyo?

GIYO

No dad; strange to hear you shouting at the top of your voice at a distance!

PA NFORMI

Shame Giyo, that a woman has succeeded in convincing you to support a wrong move against me!

GIYO

What a response from a father! Supporting a wonderful ambition from my elder sister Yaje becomes a problem? It's a pity dad, pity that all your efforts for Yaje to become a graduate today have ended up in jealousy!

MABO

Heh nyame ayoe Giyo Girba!

PA NFORMI

(Furious) Giyo, you refer to me as a jealous father? Eh, you refer to me as a jealous father?

Yaje, Giyo, remember that the shoulders can never grow taller than the head! In fact, the real family struggle has just begun!

(SFX. Effects + Fast footstep as he exits. MABO tries to comfort him.)

MABO

Tarbo, take it easy, calm down ba!
Heh nyame ayoe yaje, nyame ayoe Giyo!

Fast footsteps as MABO exits

GIYO

Yaje, don't you worry, be strong OK? I've just met with our guys and convinced them as you instructed me. They've accepted the meeting of tomorrow.

YAJE

Great! That's a good one, a good one of course!

SFX. TRANSITIONAL EFFECTS

6.EXT. ROOM—DAY. 6

YAJE is presiding a meeting attended by GIYO and other four.

YAJE

Well, I'll conclude by emphasizing that politics is commitment! Total commitment! Success can only come through determination. As I said before, I'm

glad you all are back and have understood that it's in the midst of heat that we can even succeed.

GIYO

In fact, the beginning has been very tough but we can assure you of our total support.

ALL

Yeah! Yeah!.. Oh yes! (*Applause*)

YAJE

Great, my development plan is right here. We have to present it to the counselors to convince them of my road map.

GIYO

Yes Yaje but I'm afraid we need a very strong strategy to get to convince them.

ALL

That's true!

YAJE

I can't understand!

GIYO

A majority of these counselors may not be easily found. Rumour holds that Massa Money has bought them and are packaged in a dormitory somewhere to limit any access to them

ALL

Laughter

KIKI

What a shame that people have been reduced to some common luggage! Where have they kept their consciences?

YAJE

Are you saying that Massa Money is using that as a strategy to stop other candidates from campaigning to those counselors?

GIYO

You've got it right! Sources say those counselors are fed and clothed in the cage until the D-day when they'll be transported to the polling station to vote and present the rest of the ballot Papers

ALL

(Sarcastic Laughter)

YAJE

This is not democracy! This isn't democracy at all! Politics in a democratic system shouldn't be practiced in this way! Yes democracy is freedom of choice! If Massa Money thinks that he can use his wealth to continue to practice dirty politics, then, with just a little evidence, I'll bring him back to order.

GIYO

You can now understand father's worry. Yaje, despite everything we need money! Politics in this village is money, otherwise with all our beautiful roadmap, sister, I fear!

YAJE

What!

ALL

True! True!, oh yes!

YAJE

Shut up your mouths! Is something wrong with you? We're here because we want an end to such practices and yet you're pushing us to promoting them. If Massa Money's syndrome has eaten you up in this village then all of you be ready to go through a democratic deliverance!

Sound effect

Look, I need a proof! Just a proof; no matter how small, to discredit Massa Money and his anti democratic politics in this village!

SFX; Door crashes open. Shouts of fear and footsteps agitating to flee. Police and Massa Money bump in.

POLICE

Nobody takes a step from their position!

MASSA MONEY

Yaje, I told you you're initiating the youths of Kullah into bad behavior!

YAJE

Can you point out the bad behavior, sir?

MASSA MONEY

I say you're a criminal!

YAJE

What crime have I committed Mr. Massa Money?

MASSA MONEY

You're holding an illegal meeting strategizing evil against me!

YAJE

Sir, don't I have a right to strategize for my political struggle?

MASSA MONEY

Yaje you'll answer that question in jail!

YAJE

You want to cage me, cage me like you've done to some counselors' rights?

MASSA MONEY

A child who disobeys the father will always end up in deep shit!

YAJE

Is that a word from my dad?

MASSA MONEY

If you listened to your father you would not have been in this mess today! Pick her up!

SFX; footsteps of GIYO, KIKI and TANTO vibrating to escape as POLICE grabs YAJE

YAJE

Don't touch me. I'm not a criminal!

POLICE

You! You're a criminal! (*To others*) Hey! I'll shoot! None of you should attempt to escape!

YAJE

Massa Money if this is what your own democracy is all about then I'm ready to fight to the end!

MASSA MONEY

You can fight! But let me remind you that an ant does not fight with an elephant!

SFX. Sirens and fades out

7.EXT. VERANDA, PA NFORMI'S RESIDENCE—DAY.7

SFX. Fast footsteps, breathing. GIYO meets mum on the veranda.

MUM

Giyo what's wrong?

GIYO

Mum where's dad?

MUM

What's wrong?

GIYO

(Heightens the voice) I say where's dad?

PA NFORMI

(Calmly) And why in that tone?

GIYO

Because the time has come for you to think twice!

MABO

Giyo, Giyo, nyame ayoe!

PA NFORMI

GIYO you say I should think twice?

GIYO

Yes dad I want my sister Yaje back home. She must not sleep in the police cell today!

PA NFORMI

(Giggles) So you guys have gone and provoked the police thinking that it's me right?

MABO

Heh nyame ayoe, nyame ayoe! What has taken my daughter Yaje to the police?

SFX. footsteps of Mabo as she dashes into the house

GIYO

Dad! You laugh at a situation that draws sympathy? Shame! Shame to a father who sacrifices a daughter and yet sits behind and laughs

MABO

Giyo , Giyo!

GIYO

Mum, something is wrong with dad and we have to bring him back to order! A dad who vehemently blocks progress from coming into a home should consult doctors for reasoning obsession!

MABO

Giyo your father is not a child that you address in such a disrespectful manner!

SFX. (Pa NFORMI Slaps GIYO and buttons him up, threatening.

PA NFORMI

Nonsense!

GIYO and MABO

Dad you slap me?/ Heh nyame ayoe Tarbo

MABO intervenes and pulls GIYO away)

PA NFORMI

Allow me Mabo I'll teach him a bitter lesson!

MABO

Please Tarbo, Tarbo please, you can't do this to your son, release him!

GIYO

Shame dad for fighting with children who're striving hard to succeed!

PA NFORMI

What success are you talking about Giyo? A daughter gets up one morning and wants to automatically become a mayor of a village she doesn't master and I accept?

GIYO

Reason why you've teamed up with Massa Money and have taken Yaje to the police custody, for no crime committed dad? All I want is my sister back home... now!

MABO

Tarbo please let's go to the police! Yaje must not spend time in that cold place.

PA NFORMI

I'm not going there! I don't support stubborn children! Why must Yaje think only about herself? Did she ever for once think about how her overwhelming political ambition could negatively

affect my position a Principal? Massa Money has the power to do anything. He can even have me transferred or dismissed as Principal. So, as you make your bed so shall you lie in it.

MABO

Abomination!

SFX. Fast footsteps as Mabo sets out

GIYO

Dad! How could you? So your hidden agenda is now out? You have betrayed this family just like Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus!

SFX. Fast footsteps of Mabo continues

PA NFORMI

Where're you heading to, Mabo?

MABO

To the police?

PA NFORMI

Come back here Mabo!

MABO

What nonsense! I can't stay here when my daughter is locked up in a cold-sticking police cell! Abomination! Let me remind you Tarbo, 'when you beat a child, send the child under the bed and not out to the wolves!'

SFX. TRANSITIONAL SOUND

8. INT. POLICE POST –EVENING. 8

YAJE

I repeat MR. Inspector I can't go into this cell!

POLICE INSPECTOR

(SFX. pushes her) Go in there!

YAJE

Don't push me Mr. Inspector, I'll not go there! I'm not a criminal to be locked up in this small room. People like Massa Money should be locked in there and not the innocents!

MASSA MONEY

Dare you call my name again and ill teach you a bitter lesson. Nonsense! You must sleep in this cell today, Yaje!

YAJE

Sorry Massa Money, I know my rights? The Universal Declaration of Human Rights clearly states that no one shall be subjected to unfair arrest, torture and detention!

MASSA MONEY

Lies Yaje! A criminal like you must live in detention!

YAJE

Yaje, a criminal Massa Money! What criminal charges do you have against me?

SFX; Footsteps of the Fon's entrance

POLICE

Hey young woman; you speak with respect, the Fon has just announced his entry!

YAJE

Thank you Mr. Inspector! My loyal greetings to my Royal Highness! Sir, before the entrance of your royal highness, the Fon of Kulah village, I was passionately asking Massa Monney the charges he has levied against me to justify my presence in this police post?

MASSA MONEY

What kind of embarrassment is that! Why're you embarrassing yourself in the presence of the Fon? You were caught red handed intoxicating public opinion. You have no right to hold public meetings and plot against me!

SFX. MABO in fast footsteps, breathing fast as well.

POLICE

Hey woman! You walk in with respect! By the way, who're you and where're you heading to?

MABO

I'm sorry sir. I'm Lydia Mabo, the mother of Yaje.

POLICE

Stand the other way and no word from you. Massa Money, you can continue.

MASSA MONEY

You see Mr. Inspector if I'm vibrating in this manner it's because this little girl standing here defies even our royal highness, sitting here. She believes she has acquired the end of education and can look low on just everybody!

POLICE

Please Massa Money go straight to the point!

MASSA MONEY

Mr. Inspector, Yaje knows very well that she has no right to hold any public meetings; more so without the consent of your royal highness sitting right here in front of us. I'm mad Mr. Inspector, I'm mad your highness! Since the arrival of this little girl in this village, she's been manipulating the dynamic youths of this village against me, in the name of politics. Yaje! I'm standing here today to sound loud and clear that I'm ready to fight you until my resources are exhausted!

YAJE

Shame Massa Money! Shame to the kind of politics and democracy you practice in this village. Democracy in politics is about everyone's right to present a candidacy if they meet up with the requirements. If a candidate is democratically beaten at the end, they should accept defeat. We belong to the same political party. We're still at the beginning of the campaign to choose the best candidate that will represent the party. Why is my

candidacy a big problem? Why are you harassing me?

MASSA MONEY

Shut up you little girl! I should be asking you that question! You remember I bombed into you in your meeting with my name on your lips? Yaje, that was a clear indication that my candidacy is a problem to you! You were harassing me! You were blackmailing me!

YAJE

You're mistaken, highly mistaken Massa Money. I was bordered when I heard that you've bought a majority of counselors and have packaged them in a room so that no other candidates campaigns to them. In fact, I was wondering to myself what a democracy in a land.

SFX; Footsteps of PA NFORMI and GIYO

MASSA MONEY

What a democracy indeed Yaje when women like you begin to hold public meetings even when you don't have rights and without the consent of your highness sitting right here. What do you expect?

YAJE

Sorry, sorry my dear comrade, if you're not informed get it right now that we all have the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. You see, our royal highness sitting here today was long informed about this assembly before this day.

That's why, if you're not informed in the world today sir, it's a crime, a big crime that can frustrate you forever, as it's doing to you now! You need to be updated!

MASSA MONEY

Yaje, you refer to me as a frustrated man, as an outdated man? A rich and an important elite like me? Inspector, I'll not stand and take this from this little girl.....;insulting word

YAJE

Yes, your feet should be dangling by now; Massa Money! Did I hear talk of riche; riches that are of disastrous effects to this constituency, riches that are used in corrupting and imprisoning counselors so that they cannot exercise their civic rights at elections?

FON

Kai, kai, kai, that's an abomination!

YAJE

Your royal highness, with all humility, I stand here today to levy this accusation against Massa Money and to plead that these counselors be released so that they can freely exercise their civic rights during this election!

MASSA MONEY

Inspector, I've lived in this land for about sixty years today and nobody has ever challenged and humiliated me in this manner! If your royal highness accepts that a thwart of about 25 years should insult me in his presence because she's had a master's degree, then, I'll use my resources to banish her for joking with the man who has the development of this land in his palms!

YAJE

What development are you talking about when my mothers' don't have portable water, when electricity is always a failure, when youths are dying of unemployment, when there are no health facilities, when nobody is making any efforts towards fighting climate change, when the farmers lack the new agricultural practice, when our roads have remained underdeveloped. Mr Inspector, your royal highness, that s why I'm peacefully working hard to become the mayor of Kulah constituency so that together we can address these issues!

MASSA MONEY

Inspector, I'm sounding this warning loud and clear; If you don't handle this matter the right way, then be sure I'll summon you to your headquarters in Yaounde!

YAJE

Mr. Inspector, everyone has the right to ask for legal help when their rights are not respected! Massa Money has violated my rights on two occasions; disrupting my peaceful meetings, subjecting me to unfair arrest and attempting detention. He has corrupted and caged counselors so that no other aspiring mayor campaigns to them. These are accusations I'm seeking for legal redress!

FON

Massa Money, you have this night to release those counselors, otherwise I'll send you away from this village by tomorrow morning!

INSPECTOR

Go back home and have a rest Yaje. We've now known the truth!

SFX.TRANSITIONAL EFFECTS; VILLAGE NIGHT SOUNDS

9. INT. ROOM -- NIGHT. 9

MASSA MONEY is thinking to himself

MASSA MONEY

But why did someone not advise me to do politics in the right way? Does it mean, they don't exist in this village? Or, was I so stubborn or ignorant? I've wasted so many resources in this whole thing without any achievements. Now, I must release those counselors and do politics with a human

face. I have to come up with a convincing roadmap to secure my position as the party's candidat just like that of Yaje which seduced everyone at the police. But where do I get the right people, to put up this strategic plan?! Look at where I find myself now! Massa Money! Oh, I didn't know what democracy is all about! I didn't know what human rights are all about! I didn't know that money, money of all, is not necessarily equal to success!

SFX. TRANSITIONAL EFFECTS. Cocks are crowing and birds are singing, announcing a new day.

**10. INT. ROOM, PA NFORMI'S RESIDENCE .
MORNING. 10**

PA NFORMI AND MABO are still in bed. Suddenly, MABO hears the sound of MABUH.

MABO

Tarbo! Liten, Mabuh is out! Surely, Massa Money has not yet released the counselors!

PA NFORMI

No! I was told about 2 o'clock last night, that he released them!

MABO

Then what's the Mabuh out for?

PA NFORMI

Surely, for peace, peace and security! You know, the Mabuh is a traditional regulatory board for peace and security, in the Wimbum land Tarbo, I'm glad the police scene was necessary.

PA NFORMI

Very necessary Mabo! It made us to understand our daughter Yaje.

You see, I came last night very late because some elderly people, invited me and were so Impressed about the wonderful project, Yaje our daughter intends to bring to this village .They say, from her projects, she seems to be the savior of this village as far as poverty and underdevelopment are concerned

MABO

Yes! On my way back home yesterday, from the police, the young boys and girls were equally electrified by the political programme of our daughter Yaje. The talk of imminent victory for her was on every lip.

PA NFORMI

Thank God, we've come to understand! I didn't know our little daughter could seduce this community with just her political plans.

11.INT . ROOM ,PA NFORMI'S RESIDENCE – MORNING.11
SFX. YAJE is sweeping the compound. Echoes of MABUH in a distance. Footsteps of YIYO, coming towards her.

GIYO

Yaje! Have you heard the echoes of the Mabuh?

YAJE

Oh yes! But why is it out Giyo?

GIYO

For peace and security! The Fon wants peace in this village. Congratulations sister! The Impact is very high! Your name is on every lip.Sister did you realize at the police that the Fon was taken away by you development project?

YAJE

(*Giggles*) I did! Thanks to our efforts! It's all our efforts!

Echoes of MABUH at a distance

TRANSITIONAL EFFECTS. Cocks are crowing and birds are singing, announcing a new day.

12.EXT. FON'S PALACE—DAY.12
A traditional dance is hitting the palace.

FON

Thank you all for coming! I'm delighted to have Massa Money, Yaje, Pa Nformi , Giyo , Mabo, our

counselors and all of you today, in the palace! Massa Money, Pa Nformi , I'm happy you've come to accept that everybody, both young and old, male and female, has a right to run for elections. In fact, It doesn't matter who brings development? Woman or man, young or old, all of us will benefit from it. So, Yaje, Massa Money, you're militating in the same party, fighting to be the party's candidate for municipal elections. Have this in your mind that the counselors will respond to you depending on the vision you have for this constituency. Go ahead and contest but know that the end can either be victory or defeat. No matter the outcome of the primaries, accept! That's what democracy is all about. From now on, we have to live with it! Eh Massa Money?

MASSA MONEY

Yes your royal highness! We learn every day! There's no going back! Democracy has come to stay!

YAJE

Thank you your royal highness! I'm particularly happy that we all have come to understand the importance of respecting the rights of all citizens, in our emerging democracy.

FON

Go ahead then and contest! Dance! Dance! Dance, for democracy has come to go no more!

TRADITIONAL MUSIC

END

The Candidate dramatises the story of Yaje, a young and dynamic female university graduate, who in her tenacity to become the mayor of her village, successfully brings a corrupt and traditionally conservative community to accept and promote democracy.

The radio play highlights various themes: gender insensitivity, cultural dictates, poverty, tyranny, wealth and corruption, democracy and human rights in contemporary society.

Born in Ndu, Donga Mantung Division in North West Region of Cameroon, Josephine Mankfu Talla holds a Master's in Performing Arts, specialised in TV and Film Production, from the University of Yaounde I.

She is a TV producer and director at the Cameroon Radio and Television, CRTV and staff Change Communications.