

CLIMATE CHANGE ON RADIO

EPISODE 1: A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE

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A PROJECT OF



Episode One

Act 1

At Adaora's house

Intro

The rain ceases to be our friend again, the sun laughs in tears inducing its hard smile on our crops which, whispers in great pain shrinks its leaves and withers away. The livestock reacts with heavy kicks on the bucket making us lose our only means of surviving the unforeseen days ahead. As if the trees of the forest have grown legs, they have all faded away. The river gradually loses its elegant flow and its fishes lying on their backs dot its surface. All these calamity or something akin to it are happening in Umuezeala, a rural and remote village made of small farmers who are mostly women.

TAPE IN : Why is the world shaping

TAPE OUT : IGWEEEEEE !!!!

DURATION:

(Adaora enters with distress, full of fears and agony)

Adaora: Why is the world shaping against us? What kind of frustration village is this? How can a whole me... Adaora and my family stay without food on my table? My crops die as if it is being killed by the spirits cheeei! is it calamity that has befallen me or my enemies at work... ihe ojo ga kwa anya-anya

[knock on the door kpoi kpoi kpoi...]

Adaora: (clears throat) who is that?if it is for good kindly enter.

Ugwego: Let the gods be unto this home

Adaora: (reluctantly responds) eehhhee!

Ugwego: Adaora....ha!... this face of yours is not worth seeing this early morning. Is your husband well at all...

Adaora: (Adaora cuts in) Stop it !!! Ugwuego, everything is not well at all!!!

Ugwuego: Were ya nwanyo!!!... Hot thing will later become cold. Our elders always say that what is happening in lizards family is also going on in rats house

Adaora: My sister I don't understand what is going on. ...Just this morning I went to our farmland near Nkuku river that has been sustaining I and my family for over 25 years now to pick corns as usual to my greatest surprise, I couldn't even come back with even a seed of corn.... Ugwuego ama m akwachiela (.. starts sobs)

Ugwuego: Nne.. don't worry too much, I know yours its even better...

Adaora: ehh ehh! What's the meaning of that? Are you here to mock me or to laugh at me at my bad luck, see oh... the door is not far fetched from your back

Ugwuego: Take it easy, my own is worse... since I lost my husband through that illness, his brothers forcefully collected all the land that my husband left behind on grounds that I don't have a male child. In fact they collected virtually everything except the small hut where my 5 children and I are staying now...

Food to eat has become our greatest problem. The small garden I do in front of my hut the vegetables will shrinks and dies before sunset.... (starts crying)

I came to see whether I can borrow some tuber of yams from you but (continues crying)

Adaora: Ugwuego don't cry, I think there is hope

Ugwuego: No hope, I lost them when he died.... He left me with something but now I have nothing.... Look at those 5 children , Nkiru and Ogadinma have to drop from school....and.....

[voice from outside] ewu ata m ibu n'isi onye mere ihe aaaahh oohhh!!!

Ugwuego: Whose voice am I hearing, is it not your neighbor Oge?

Adaora: Ekwu la ozo, lets go and see...I hope all is well

(door slams voice from outside continues....)

Oge: Our gods have raised necks with red eyes by wiping us like this. Why has the gods choose to deal with us with hunger. What kind of calamity is this? Our husbands where are you oooo.....eeeehhhhhh!!!....

Ugwuego: Oge... what is wrong with you? Why are you disturbing the peace of this village under this scorching afternoon sunshine

Oge: Ugwuego... we are not living in face I face you house.... Let that sun shine me to death since it has destroyed everything I have on my farm. Please allow me to continue with my sorrow, let they trees, air everything hear what has befallen on us....

(tries to continue shouting)

Adaora: Oge my sister, what is your problem that we women cannot hear?

Oge: I wish I could turn back the hands of time. I would have pushed it 15 years back when I eat the fruit of my labor. Can you believe that after struggling, borrowing farmlands for farming, renting farmland when I have money... Adaora my friend you know how I usually work now....

Adaora: yes, yes my dear I know..

Oge: I haven't finished paying for the land I rented from Mazi Elekwachi just for me to go this morning to see how my crops are faring. On getting there only to discover that the yams I planted are all rotten in the soil....

WOMEN EXCLAIMS.... EKWULA IHE A A A OZO !!!

Oge: I will say it over and over... my cassava and cocoyam are all rotten in the soil... Two days a strange diseases came into my house and before dawn two of my goats are dead... Umu nwanji ibem just like that... the only goat remaining I can't even get good leaves for it ... just look at what I collected from Obullu Forest since morning.

Ugwuego: Problem !!! it seems this thing is everywhere

(Oge continues to panic)

Oge: What do you mean?

Adaora: What you are encountering right now is also applicable to us. We are facing them too.

Oge: Really?

- Ugwuego:** Yes my dear.. my own is worst.. I don't even have goat neither do I have land..
- Adaora:** Umunwanyi ibem... I think it will be good for us to tender these issues to the king
- Ugwuego:** Good talk.. Igwe Amadi will listen to us
- Oge:** My sister... I will go with you, since our husbands are keeping silent... women should take the lead. It will be wise to bring the attention of the king to this matter.

ACT 2

The King's (Igwe's) palace

(The king and his cabinet are discussing issues of the land before they women enters.... **Murmurings at the background**)

- Women:** Your Highness... may your throne seize not to exist, let the sun shine at you with mercy at the day and let the moon smile at you with gladness at night. May your blessings flow like fountain of waters. We bow before your mighty throne....

(all women together says iseeeh!)

- Igwe Amadi:** May you rise women.. (clears throat) our elders say that the frog does not run in daylight for nothing, either it is pursuing something or it is being pursued.

The tortoise said it is an abomination not to conduct his mother's funeral with a cow, but if asked to produce one he couldn't afford it. Free your mouths for the ears of your king. For his ear is not small to hear your problemsfor there must be something that drives you to this palace which seeks my attention.

- Adaora:** Oh! Your Highness there is fire on the mountain. A heavy fire which might swallow the village.

- Cabinet:** They gods forbid!

(murmurings in the background continues)

- Igwe Amadi:** Hold your peace...elders, our wives If a snake fails to show its venom, little kids will use it in tying firewood... I command you to speak. Lets see this fire that water cannot quench.

- Adaora:** We ... women of Umuezeala came here to know whether we have committed any atrocity that might warrant the gods to punish us the way they are doing now because our lands has become so infertile. Umunwanye akwa ya....

- Women:** Yes , ride on...

(Adaora continues)

- Adaora:** Our livestock die mysteriously from local sickness to a foreign ones. The rains has not fallen for 3 months now. Leaves of the Obullu forest has disappeared turning Umuezela into a wilderness.. Your Highness it is getting out of hand that is why we women have decided to come to your palace and lay this complaint . However, we are insisting that we won't leave the palace until a solution is proffered. Hope I have said your mind my fellow women.

- Women:** Yes ooo!

(Murmurings continues in the background)

Igwe Amadi: (clears throat) I have heard you our wives. If the yam used in sacrifice does not die prematurely, it will eventually germinate.. elders isn't it?

Elders: It is your highness

Igwe Amadi: There is no problem without a.....

(Cut short with the running and panting of Anaele into his Palace)

(Anaele panting heavily)

(Background murmuring stops)

Anaele: Igwe.....you will live long, my elders I greet you

Ichie Obi: What is it, even if you are being pursued by a wild beast is that why you run sarcastically into Igwe's palace like this and even interrupting the discussion of the elders council

Anaele: My sincere apologies. Your Highness (still panting) the Nkuku river...

(Cut short by Ichie Obi)

Ichie Obi: Anaele and what about Nkuku river

Okoro: Ah... Ichie Obi allow him to talk

Ichie Obi: Ibe rie shi, ri juya onu

Okoro: May the gods strike that your tongue that seems like your fathers. Ichie Obi.. are you talking to me

(Minor fighting and pushing)

Igwe Amadi: Silence!!!

(All keeps quiet)

Please my son can you continue what you were saying.

Anaele: Your Highness, my elders, I went to the river this morning to cast my net, low and behold I saw dead fishes all over the river

Women: eh! Heh!

Igwe Amadi: Tufiakwa!!!

Cabinet: Aru emela n' obodo

Ichie Obi: Your Highness... If I may suggest lets us stop farming for now to lets say 2-3 years and find something else so that our land will regain its nutrients because it seems that we are over laboring our land.

Okoro: What did you just said...

Women: (Referring to Ichie Obi) how then do you want us to sustain our families

Okoro: Hold your peace everybody, I have told Ichie Obi that he did not suck his mothers breast very well

Ichie Obi: Okoro (calls him x3) how many times will you say something stupid here. Igwe call him to order oh! Because I will deal with this ma here oo...

Okoro: Try me and I will show you why they call me ikpo okporo oji.

Igwe Amadi: Elders be calm. In situation like this, we are not meant to be fighting ourselves. It is time we put heads together to proffer solution to this unprecedented problem.

Ichie Okeke: In addition to what Igwe has said there is nothing the gods cannot see and there is nothing they don't know the answer to... We need to seek for the eyes of the gods

[all accepts with a YES chorus]

Igwe Amadi: Thank you Mazi Okeke, lets send for Ikenga, the native doctor (calls his servant) Chime! Chime!! Chi...

Chime: Yes your highness

Igwe Amadi: Go and fetch Ikenga immediately.

Chime: Yes your highness

(chime runs out...Voices in the background fills the air)

(Incantation with proverbs fills the background in Igbo)

(Ikenga rings sound with his staff starts)

Ikenga: You shall live long your highness ,you sent for me... here I am.

Igwe Amadi: Ikenga the wise one... before I ascended the throne of our ancestors you were. You have the vision to see near and far. You saw yesterday, you have seen today... You will see tomorrow.

Wise one, we sent for you because strange things are happening in Umuezeala. Our crops are dying, our animals are dying. We no longer see rainfall, the heat of the sun is too much on us. The fishes of the great Nkuku River dies in their numbers, even the river is shrinking. The trees of Obullu Forest have lost their leaves.

We have no source of income, no means to survive, expect our hardwork on the farms. Tell us what punishment has the gods brought upon us. What wrong did we do. Our children are weeping, our women are crying... even the elders have started crying too... Wise one the situation is unbearable.

Ikenga: **(clears throat...)** **(incantations and proverbs in Igbo Language clears throat again)** aha aha... I see ehe... ehe....ehehe

(Clears throat.. continues short incantations)

I have seen it. The gods says we are the architect of the calamity that has befallen us...

(Voices at the background murmuring becomes louder... sounds of Tufiakwa fills the background)

Igwe Amadi: Silence! Wise one is it the entire Umuezeala or **(Cut short)**

Ikenga: Yes! Hear this Umuezeala and hear it very well for this is a message from the gods. We are the architects of our own misfortune. The gods has blessed us with strength to work on land, knowledge to plant crops and rear our animals, skills to cast our net to get fishes, a rich forest to shelter and feed us. Umuezeala, we destroyed these blessings that the gods has given to us. Today we lament.

(SILENCE)

Igwe Amadi: (Clears throat) Our ancestors says that a goat that dies in a yam barn was not killed by hunger. We have the means Tell us wise one what is the solution to our problem.

Ikenga: The gods says the solution to our problems is within us, we must come back to nature. We must change from our unnatural practices cutting down our trees and burning our forest. We must consult our neighbors even if they are our enemies to solve our problems, we must talk to our friends and share experience because our ancestors says collaboration is power

Igwe Amadi: Wise one.. thank you very much....my people we have heard what wise one have said. It is important we have behavior change about the way we treat our own nature. The time is now. **A stitch in time saves nine.** We must plan from this day...how to turn around this problem that has be fallen us. Umuezeala this is all I have to say for now. I rise...

Everybody: IGWEEEEEEEE !!!!

ACTORS IDENTIFY TEHMSSELVES AND SAY WHAT THEY FARM

1 ADAORA

2. UGWUEGO

3. OGE

4. IGWE AMADI

5. ICHIE OBI

6. ANAELE

7. OKORO

8. ICHIE OKEKE

9. CHIME

10. IKENGA

(Traditional songs follows....)

Discussion points Episode 1:

1. What is going in Umuezeala?
2. Have you noticed some of the changes happening in Umuezeala in your village?
3. What have your village done about it?
4. Has there been improvements to this or any effort?
5. Why should we treat nature well?

Please send you voice mails through AIR and Smallholders Listeners Clubs, SMS and voice mail to 008060292346, write letters to, invite us to your village.