

Episode 1

SP DEH COME

Ihria Enakimio

CHARACTERS

SUPERINTENDENT JOE

DPO SALISU

SERGEANT

KAMORU

PRISON SUPERINTENDENT

CORPORAL

CONSTABLE REBECCA

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (CP)

STD: ROUGH RUSTLE OF LARGE NEWSPAPER

DPO SALISU: (*Angrily*) Nonsense! These journalists! They think they know Everything! Everyday they keep writing nonsense about the Police. Can they do so to the army! (*Calls*) Alabi! Sergeant Alabi!

SEAGEANT: (*Off*) Yes, Sir.

DPO SALISU: I beg come! come!

SEAGEANT: (*Off-On*) I am here, sir I hope nothing sir.

DPO SALISU: Everyday-everyday! Everything they blame the police! What do they want us to do? Are we Magicians?

SERGEANT: No, Sir.

DPO SALISU: The way they write about us, you will think we are NADECO¹. If somebody's wife is pregnant it is the fault of the police. Are we NADECO?

SERGEANT: No, Sir!

DPO SALISU: Oho! (*Dismissive*) I beg collect one plate, there, send one Constable to go and buy me rice from that mama.

SERGEANT: Yes sir.

STD: Sound of metal plates (*Aluminum*)

DPO SALISU: Thirty Naira rice, twenty Naira meat... no, make it twenty Naira rice, thirty Naira meat, with plenty stew

SERGEANT: Yes, Sir.

SFX: TELEPHONE RINGS!

DPO SALISU: Wonderful! So this thing is working today!

STD: RECEIVER IS PICKED UP

¹ NADECO is the acronym for National Democratic Coalition, one of the pro-democracy groups that fought against military dictatorship in Nigeria.

DPO SALISU: Hello! ah! Goodmorning, sir ... Busy sir? when my CP² is talking to me? Not at all, sir I'm not busy, sir... immediately, sir Yes, sir....very important ... sir?? signal sir? A new Sp if the vehicle is not working I will enter Okada³, sir ... Yes, sir,

STD: RECEIVER DROPPED

SERGEANT: Excuse me sir,.... the money sir

DPO SALISU: (*Not understanding*) Which money?

SERGEANT: For the rice, sir.

DPO SALISU: (*Livid*) Rice? Is that all you can think about? There is fire on the mountain, sergeant Alabi, and you're talking about rice!

SERGEANT: I'm sorry, sir!

DPO SALISU: Be sorry for yourself!

SFX: BRIDGE FADE TO

STD: KNOCK A DOOR

CP: Yes, come in!

STD: DOOR OPENS AND SHUT

CP: Ah! Salisu! That was quick!

DPO SALISU: (*OFF-ON*) I used siren, sir

CP: Why?

SALISU: Emergency, sir.

CP: You know what the regulation says about sirens, ASP! We must show good example

DPO SALISU: Yes, sir, I'm sorry, sir.

CP: In fact, that's the reason I sent for you. For your own good, please sit down.

² CP is the acronym for Commissioner of Police

³ Okada is the local slang for commercial motorbike.

DPO SALISU: Thank you sir.

CP: Here (*Paper rustle*) This is a signal I just received!

DPO SALISU: (*Pause*) With due respect, CP sir! Why are they sending us a new SP instead of promoting someone, sir?

CP: I expected that! You miss the point. They are not sending us a new SP. Superintendent Joe Aigbodion is coming here on special duties. He is attached to the IGP's⁴ Office, monitoring unit!

DPO SALISU: Monitoring unit, sir. To monitor what?

CP: That's the point! Nobody told me. The man is from IGP'S office and that smells trouble. If I were you I'd go and clean out my stable!

DPO SALISU: (*Getting serious*) "Clean out my stable", sir!

CP: I don't want to hear any funny reports about my division, DPO!

DPO SALISU: No funny report, sir!

CP: Dismiss!

SFX: BRIDGE CROSS FADE TO POLICE STATION
ATMOSPHERE.

DPO SALISU: (*OFF-ON*) Sergeant!

SERGEANT: Yes, sir!

DPO SALISU: Corporal!

CORPORAL: Yes, sir!

DPO SALISU: Both of you, follow me to my office. (*OFF-ON*) Constable will take charge at the desk for now. Come along.

SERG & CORPL: Yes, sir!

STD: DOOR OPENS.

⁴ IGP is the acronym for Inspector General of Police.

DPO SALISU: (OFF-ON) Come in. Come in!

STD: Door shuts.

DPO SALISU: Sit down. There is fire on the mountain, what did I say?

SERG&CORPL: "Fire on the mountain", sir!

DPO SALISU: I have just had a serious meeting with CP and the signal is "SP Deh Come"

SERG&CORPL: The signal is "Esprit de Corp"!

DPO SALISU: I didn't say that. I said SP deh come. They are sending us a spy. One new Superintendent Joe is coming here to spy.

SERGEANT: See what these journalists have caused now!

DPO SALISU: Don't worry. There is nothing to fear. We have done Nothing wrong, we are not perfect but we do our best. CP has ordered that we clean our stable before the SP comes. And that is what we shall do. The only thing anybody can complain about in this place is cell congestion. But that is not our fault. Is it?

SERG&CORPL: No, sir!

DPO SALISU: We did not give birth to them. Too many criminals and not Enough cells. That's the problem. So! ... We shall decongest

SERGEANT: Everyone, sir? What of Presido.

DPO SALISU: Presido go Presido come. By tomorrow the new suspects will elect another presido. What's your problem?

SERGEANT: No problem, sir. This evening, every suspect to Awaiting Trial Men.

DPO SALISU: Good! Fall out!

SERG&CORPL: Yes, sir!

STD: Door opens and shuts

DPO SALISU: (Laughs) Cunny man die, cunny man burial am. (Sings)"Constable Joe we know, you stole a cow from Jumbo's farm ...

SFX: BRIDGE crossfade to prison song "Sinsi morning, I never simoki, I never dirinki, God go purnishi worda, Okere high colleji" (*FADE UNDER*.....)

PRISON SPT. I have been listening to that song since I was twenty-two. I have heard that same song for more than thirty years. From prison to prison it sounds the same even when the name of the prison changes.

SPJ We are part of the same chain, Bros. We arrest them, and you keep them.

PRISON SPT: What will you be doing when you're sixty?

SP J I don't know I'm only thirty-five! I haven't thought that far ahead.

PRISON SPT: You have risen fast! At thirty-five, you're superintendent of police. I'm fifty-three. I don't want to hear that song when I am sixty!

SFX: Fade In - Lorry arrives and stops (*OFF*) Mix with yells and cat Calls.

PRISON SPT: That's a new batch of prisoners, most of them are for ATM.

SP J: The police cells are full!

PRISON SPT: Our cells are full too! ATM cells are particularly overcrowded. ATM is hell. The inmates have no numbers. They don't exist! (*Sighs*) Ah! There is a man you must meet. You're resuming tomorrow, not so?

SPJ: I am

STD: Receiver is lifted. Dialling of phone

PRISON SPT: Hello!. This is Superintendent Ordia. Bring Kamoru to my office immediately.

STD: Receiver is dropped.

SPJ: Who is kamoru?

PRISON SPT: One of our prisoners. He is an Awaiting Trial Man. He was brought in here from Central Police Station. He is accused of kidnapping a child ... No trying to kidnap a child.

SPJ: He didn't succeed?

PRISON SPT: He says he wasn't trying to kidnap the child.

SPJ: And nobody believes him! And the parents want their pound of flesh!

PRISON SPT: No. They haven't pressed charges!

STD: Knock on the door.

PRISON SPT: Yes? Come in

STD: Door opens

SPJ: (*Aghast*) Good Lord. This is no longer a man. This is a mere skeleton!

PRISON SPT: Kamoru!

KAMORU: (*OFF - ON, barely audible*) Yes, sir.

PRISON SPT: Please sit down (*Pause*). This is Superintendent Joe. Please tell him your story!

KAMORU: (*Barely audible, weak*) My father is a farmer, my mother is

PRISON SPT: Not that one, when did you come here?

KAMORU: I don't know, sir.

PRISON SPT: He has lost count. He came here sixteen months ago. He was detained in Central Police Station initially.

SPJ: Why were you arrested.

KAMORU: As God is my witness, sir. I am not a thief. (*Coughs*) I used to do Megad, I was I was trying to help a child to cross the express, the mother ran across and left the child ... so I tried to help the child (*Cough*) then someone shouted "Gbomogbomo⁵!" They grabbed me and started to beat me. Then police came and took me to the station (*Coughs uncontrollably ...*)

PRISON SPT: He has been here since! Find him a cup and give him some water

⁵ Yoruba word for kidnapper.

SPJ: Did the child's mother press charges?

PRISON SPT: Not that I know of. They held him in police custody for a while, and then ...here he is! Forgotten!

SPJ: (*Sighs*) And there are others?

PRISON SPT: This is a particular pathetic case. And those ones who have just come in, they could just end up like this! Unless ... well, ... unless ...

SFX: BRIDGE

STD: Knock on door.

CP: (*Sharply*) Yes!

STD: Door opens

CP: (*Sharply*) Yes, Constable! Say what you have to say. And quick!

CONSTABLE: (*Slightly Off*) There's an officer here to see you, sir. One Superintendent Joe.

CP: (*Yelling*) It's too early in the morning to see anybody Constable Rebecca. Tell him ... Superintendent who?

CONSTABLE: (*Slightly Off*) Superintendent Joe, sir. Joe something.

CP: (*Curious*) Joe Aigbodion?

CONSTABLE: That's the name, Sir.

CP: (*Angry*) Then why are you keeping him outside? Send him in at once!

CONSTABLE: (*Going OFF*) Yes sir! (*OFF*) You may go in sir

CP: Ah! Supol! You are here early!

SPJ: (*Coming ON*) Yes, sir. An early bird catches the worms, sir.

CP: No-o! There are no cans of worms here, Superintendent

SPJ: No pun intended, sir.

CP: We were not expecting this early. In fact not until next week. But you're welcome all the same.

SPJ: Thank you, sir.

CP: And we have already arranged a guest house for you until we can get you appropriate quarters

SPJ: Thank you, CP.

CP: How did you get into town so early?

SPJ: Actually, sir. I have been in town for a while, sir.

CP: *(Shocked)* You're been what?

SPJ: I spent the last week of my leave with an uncle, sir. Superintendent Ordia...

CP: Of the Prisons

SPJ: Yes, sir.

CP: Hm! The forces are full of members of your family. I'm sure you have relations in all the armed forces as well.

SPJ: *(Laughing)* All Nigerians are relatives, sir.

CP: Hm! You could say that. Well, ... since we received signal that you are coming we have been trying to put in place all facilities that can make your job possible.

SPJ: Thank you, sir.

CP: Except ! Well, we have not really been fully briefed what your job is.

SPJ: Oh, that! Actually, sir that's not possible, sir. The IC may re-order my assignments as he may deem fit, sir.

CP: That's true. Well, I will suggest that you retire to the guest house today while we try to put all in place all that you may require-your office, a decent vehicle and assistants. Maybe everything will be

ready by the beginning of the coming week?

SPJ: That won't be necessary, sir. I can operate minimally even now.

CP: I see.

SPJ: In fact, sir one little matter, sir.

CP: Yes?

SPJ: Central station, sir.

CP: Yes?

SPJ: Actually, it has to do with ATM, sir.

CP: What ATM?

SPJ: Well, some suspects were transferred to ATM yesterday.

CP: Really?

SPJ: I have looked at the reports that are available to the prisons, sir. Most of them really ought to have gone home on bail. They've already spent too long in detention!

CP: You're sure?

SPJ: Certainly, sir. And then there's a Kamoru who has been in ATM for the last sixteen months. If the human rights people get wind of him it would give all of us such a terrible image, sir. And the IG is particularly concerned about our image, sir.

CP: Ah, definately. Me too! I will look into it immediately!

SPJ: I'm sure of that, sir.

CP: The public must be made to realise that we are their friends.

SPJ: Definitely.

CP: And that we need each other!

SPJ: Most certainly, sir.

CP: Ah! You're a Good officer, Supol. You're a man after my heart!
Let me get someone to settle you into your guest house
immediately. Constable!

CONSTABLE: *(OFF)* Yes, Sir!

STD: *(Pause)* Door opens

CP: Constable! Sergeant Musa is the one assigned to Supol! He should
take him to his guest home immediately and any other place he
may wish to go

SPJ: I'm grateful, sir. *(Slightly OFF)* I'll back in the afternoon, sir.

CP: Good! Then I'll take you round the place

SPJ: Yes, Sir

STD: Door shuts!

CP: I warned that DPO! Salisu or whatever his name!

STD: Receiver is lifted. Dialling

CP: Salisu! He is here ... Yes. SP Joe! And I warned you! Listen.
And this is an order, you will review all the cases of suspects in
your custody immediately ... You have sent them to ATM?
Why? Don't be a fool! He knows. Go and bring them back
immediately. If by tomorrow morning there are any persons being
held who ought not to be in custody, you will answer to me
personally!

STD: Receiver is dropped with a bang

