

Everybody Plays The Fool...

By

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. LAW OFFICES OF RIMI, OKAFOR & ADELEKE OFFICE - DAY 1

In the heart of Lagos Island, a law firm's large sign shines brightly.

DISSOLVE TO:

2 INT. LAW OFFICES OF RIMI, OKAFOR & ADELEKE OFFICE - DAY 2

TOCHI, a light skinned corporately dressed lady with a long hair weave-on and fully made up face comes into the office with a big statement handbag. She is chewing chewing gum loudly.

TOCHI

Well done Aunty Joke.

JOKE, a stern looking middle-aged lady with no make-up and wearing a pair of unattractive reading glasses is at one of the two desks in the room working on her computer.

JOKE

Welcome Tochi. But since morning?
Hah, hah! Going to the bank just to deposit a check shouldn't take you so long now.

TOCHI

Hah! Aunty Joke, hmm. The go-slow today eh? No be for here oh. I don tire for this Lagos traffic sef. Come see eh, people way dey waka fast past us inside car sef.

TOCHI (V.O.)

Hian! See me see this gbeborun woman oh. Wetin concern am with me? Make she no come use her bad belle monitoring spirits dey monitor my movement oh. So, make I no sell my market for bank eh? Na this kobo kobo dem dey pay me here make I carry for head like wig? Abeg, I no follow them come Lagos. Na my two left legs I take waka come. Make she commot joor. Look am, Mary Slessor. I no blame am. She kukuma no sabi d koko.

JOKE rolls her eyes and twists her lips in disbelief.

(CONTINUED)

JOKE

Ehen. Okay oh. Anyway, Mr. Rimi has been waiting for you because of the brief for the Usaka-Fubara case brief he told you to type. He also mentioned you should pick up his dry cleaning, book his flight to Paris, get the gift he is taking to Senator Ekpeyong's birthday party and schedule his car's maintenance car with the dealership.

TOCHI removes the chewing gum from her mouth and wraps it in a tissue paper in her hand as she walks to her desk.

TOCHI

Ehen? Hian. This man no go kill person oh.

TOCHI hisses

TOCHI(V.O.)

This man no well at all oh. Na so im three wives day house, dem day enjoy and na me e wan use work kill.

JOKE (V.O.)

Hmm hmm. Lagos geh, with tentacles everywhere! No where im legs never reach finish. I sure say she don waka the whole of this Lagos today. She come day lie say traffic day. One day na one day. Na sack letter she go get fiam.

TOCHI sees a can of coke, a pack of biscuits and a note on her chair as she is about to sit down. She reads the note.

TOCHI

Hey, this village boy has started again oh!

JOKE

Tochi, what is it?

TOCHI

Is it not that useless Onoyom up to his nonsense again. Imagine him putting biscuit and mineral on my chair? Hey! I don suffer oh. Kai!

JOKE laughing.

(CONTINUED)

JOKE

Wetin day do you? Onoyom no be man?
And to like woman na crime? E like
you and you no kuku get husband.
You fit consider am now. Make I
tell you true. E no easy to get
husband for Lagos oh.

TOCHI

Consider wetin? Aunty Joke abeg.

TOCHI hisses.

JOKE

Just because e just come from
village no mean oh. E fit be good
husband material.

TOCHI

Abeg, abeg, abeg Aunty Joke. Please
forget that one joor.

TOCHI, hisses as she gently throws the can of coke and pack
of biscuits on the floor under her desk.

TOCHI

Ehen Aunty Joke, make we talk
better thing. You see wetin my eye
see ?

JOKE

Wetin you see? Abi you dey talk
about Onoyom's love gift?

TOCHI

No oh. Hah! Onoyom's useless gift
ke? Me I no get time for that one.
Aunty Joke, ah ah, you no even talk
anything. Like you no see our new
Americana lawyer?

JOKE

Ehen? I see am now.

TOCHI

So you no see say anything do am?

JOKE

Ah, I no see oh. Na my job I face
oh.

TOCHI

Ah, ah Aunty Joke. Dem no born me yesterday oh. So you go say you no see say na inside wheel chair im day?

JOKE

If I see am nko? Na dat one I come here come do?

TOCHI

Ah, ah Aunty Joke. You mean to say you no see anything wrong for the matter?

JOKE

No oh. Wetin concern me with am?

TOCHI

Ehen? So na how you see the matter be dat?

JOKE

Oya tell me oh. How make I see am?

TOCHI

Ah, well, I just think say them for tell us say e no get legs before e come na.

JOKE

Wetin concern you with am?

TOCHI

Ah, Aunty Joke, e concern me oh. E concern me well, well.

JOKE

As for me oh. I no see how e concern you at all, at all. No face your work oh. Na lawyer get leg or e no get leg make you carry for head.

TOCHI

Hah! I know that na wetin you go talk. Aunty Joke, e easy for you as you don marry. Na we way never marry go care if new lawyer get leg or e no get leg.

(CONTINUED)

JOKE

Wetin you day talk? I say make you face your work. You say I don marry. Wetin be that?

TOCHI

Abeg, me too wan marry now. You just no know the plans I been don get for am. Kai, this legs im no get if you know how e don affect my plans ehn. Ah! no be small oh.

JOKE

Plans? For Barrister Osahon? Hey! Which plans? No be today you just see am like all of us?

TOCHI

Yes now, but when oga been day yarn tay tay, say new lawyer go come join us from Yankee, I don promise myself say the man go be my husband by choice, force or fire. I don invest money, time and effort for the matter no be small oh.

JOKE

Eh hen?

TOCHI

Yes oh. No be small thing for my mind oh.

JOKE

You serious so?

TOCHI

Aunty Joke, I don take such play with you before?

JOKE

But how you go day think say man you never see before go marry you?

TOCHI

Why not? Aunty Joke, no dull oh. These days people day jam for Facebook and marry. E day happen well, well.

JOKE

Hey! You girls of these days, the things way you day do, na only God fit help una. Hmm...

(CONTINUED)

TOCHI

This na jet age oh. E no be like your time when man go find woman for im papa house. Things don change pata pata. Na woman day chase man now.

JOKE

But you no even know if e don marry already or even if e get girlfriend for America.

TOCHI

And if he don marry nko? As long as im wife no follow am come office, dat mean to say road clear. Or na me go first marry Tokunboh husband or be second wife?

TOCHI (V.O.)

Chimoo! Why I get bad head so? Even the small, small girls wey day my village, rich men and even abroad men day go village go marry them. Me way day Lagos, just to catch one man marry, na wahala. Which bad head I take carry come this world nah!

JOKE

But seriously Tochi, Chief day for you and na every day Onoyom day beg you too, but you no gree am. But you wan marry lawyer you never see before. You dey siddon think so?

TOCHI

Aunty Joke mba, mba, mba! Na now now now I know say you no like me at all at all. I don tell you say Chief no go marry me, so because of that make I gree for common clerk way no fit pay my bride price when God fit do lawyer for me? Wetin I day work here for if not to marry lawyer? Abeg, talk better thing oh.

JOKE

So, I no fit talk to you?

TOCHI

Aunty Joke, no be so, but if Onoyom don bribe you make you, pack im

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TOCHI (cont'd)
 money give am back quick quick
 because I go never gree am lai lai.
 Tufiakwa! God forbid! Shuo! That
 thing way no fit pay my bride
 price. Na im make I follow? I no
 fit.

JOKE winks at TOCHI.

JOKE
 Mrs. Mbuk to be!

TOCHI
 I rebuke that oh in Jesus
 name. Aunty Joke, I no like am oh.

MR. RIMI, a tall slim man his sixties wearing a grey suit opens the door and comes into the office with OSAHON, a wheel chair bound slim handsome young man in his thirties wearing a beige suit.

JOKE and TOCHI stand up to acknowledge the men entering their office.

ISA
 So, Osahon, as I was saying, we are very happy you agreed to join us. Having you head the Disability Rights team is a dream come true. Since international civil society organizations have prioritized Persons With Disabilities, we have no choice, but to follow suit to stay relevant. I know you have already met Joke and Tochi. Their work is invaluable to us. They are my hands and ears in this place. They will make your stay here very comfortable.

ISA turns to the ladies.

ISA
 Ladies, you already met Barrister Osahon, but I have personally come to introduce him to you again. He is my personal person. He left a very promising career in Washington, DC to join us. So, get him anything he wants or needs and send me the bill. He will be staying at the company guest house till his place is ready.

(CONTINUED)

JOKE

Yes Sir.

TOCHI

Yes Sir.

ISA

Osahon, Joke is our paralegal. She has been with us since Kunle, Emeka and I started with nothing, but our hopes, dreams and faith many years ago. Tochi is relatively new. She's the receptionist/administrative assistant. Feel free to ask them for anything.

OSAHON

Thank you. Nice to meet you again ladies.

JOKE

Same here sir.

TOCHI

Thank you sir.

ISA

So Osahon, I want you to join all the clubs I belong to, so you can have a social life. I don't want you working all the time...

TOCHI

Aunty Joke, na wah oh. How God take do am now? Why this young fine lawyer go day for wheel chair? I sure say na im village people do am.

JOKE

Ha Tochi! Sometimes ehn, I been day wonder if you go school at all? Barrister Emeka say na polio do am.

TOCHI

Ehen? Hay yah.

JOKE

Yes oh. And the man eye don see ehn? Schools reject am, sometimes teachers no want make im day their class, sometimes e no go fit reach class because ramp no day for im

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOKE (cont'd)

wheel chair, and people go carry
am, but when the wahala too much,
because im get brain, na so im
family send am go America go study.

TOCHI

I happy for am oh. Im people try
for am well, well. Person way get
two legs never become lawyer
finish, na im inside wheel chair
become lawyer.

JOKE

Na so God dey do im own oh.

ONUYOM, a small man in his mid-twenties wearing a cheap
looking faded shirt and trousers enters carrying several
letters and packages.

TOCHI

Onoyom! come, come, come oh.
Onoyom! Onoyom, Onoyom! Dem swear
for you? You well at all?
Abi something day do you and your
ancestors? Wetin be all this gift
today, gift tomorrow nonsense? You
wan marry your mama? No try me for
this office again oh. Idiot.

JOKE

Onoyom don't mind her. Leave
everything on my desk and go.

ONUYOM looks totally dejected. He drops the packages on
JOKE's desk and leaves immediately.

TOCHI

Now, the man don come and im day
inside wheel chair. Hah! Wetin I
wan do now?

JOKE is laughing and claps her hands.

JOKE

Hen? Tochi you do go far for this
man matter oh. Ehn, well, wheel
chair or no wheel chair, e
no matter. As long as im manhood
dey work. Nothing do your plan. Go
ahead marry am.

(CONTINUED)

TOCHI

You day mock me?

JOKE

No oh. How I go do dat now?

3 INT. OSAHON'S OFFICE - DAY

3

ISA and OSAHON are presenting on disability rights to the entire office who have all crammed into his office.

ISA

The current trend of putting persons with disabilities in the fore front is crucial. Organizations are receiving financial and technical support from different organizations from all over the world to assist. That's why we decided to create your new department.

OSAHON

Yes, Mr. Rimi. You are absolutely right. International conventions like the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities have guided disability laws. Though much still needs to be done to implement to reflect the authors' real intentions. Now disabilities are viewed from a human-rights perspective.

ISA smiles as he watches Osahon speak.

ISA (V.O.)

Hmm, I hope our plan to get our share of the disability rights cake because of him will work. Otherwise his being here will be a waste. There is too much competition for the few contracts out there, so it was very smart of Emeka to come up with the idea. I hope our plan works...

FADE OUT:

THE END