**Sali’s Story: Investing in the young talent of Uganda**

**MASTER SCRIPT**

**Show opens**

**Intro**

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ROGER SALI: Let's go where I normally buy my stuff.

ROGER: Do you have a change of 50,000 shillings? I want a coke.

Nats: metal door opening

MARKET OWNER: So you play golf?

ROGER: I play golf. You want me to teach you, you can come to my home there.

MARKET OWNER: Oh.

ROGER: It's just over there.

**Planting the Seeds**

ARNOLD WA RICKMAN: From the catch here.

Nats: background noise

ROGER: We are heading to Namulonge golf course to see kids, how they are playing, and other players as well.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

FRANCISCO SARAXVIA: Okay, Roger. See you.

Namulonge Golf Course

Nats: Motorcycle engine

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ROGER: Where are your clubs? You all don't have clubs? What do you use normally? Is it your size? Sure? Yeah, I think that's your size. I last saw him in the Uganda Open. So I gave

him some balls. But now I'm giving him this putter. You like it?

Kid: Yes.

ROGER: Yeah. That's good. We are going to go to the course, and have some drills and play with these guys. We are doing closest to the pin. So the one who wins will take a couple of gifts. Okay? These golf caps are made by Birds of Condor from Australia. So I think it's a good gift, right?

Nats: Yes.

ROGER: So who goes first?

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ROGER: Yeah. It's good. It's good. Yeah. All right.

JAMES: Currently, I'm the one in charge of the kids program here. I played for the National team for three years.

ROGER: Oh. Oh. No. Nice.

Nats: [APPLAUSE]

JAMES: The community, they really admire the discipline we have and the progress we are in because of this game. So they have trusted us with these young kids to get them into the game of golf.

Nats: [APPLAUSE]

ROGER: Nice.

Nats: [LAUGHTER]

JAMES: You find that we have good talent, even in Uganda in different sectors of sports. We lack golf equipment.

ROGER: The closest to the pin will take the other putter I came with.

Nats: Ooh. Wow.

Nats: [CLAPPING]

ROGER: You take this putter. I think it is more challenging now.

THEO: The only scary thing about Uganda is the amount of talent you're going to see. Everybody is looking and waiting for the next Tiger Woods.

ROGER: Nice.

THEO: This is also a great place to start.

ROGER: This guy is a very good player.

CHARLES: I like golf because it is my talent. I admire some people like Rory McIlroy.

ROGER: Yes.

CHARLES: I want to become like one of them. I want to play in PGA TOUR.

Nats: [LAUGHS]

ROGER: Nice, bro.

Nats: [APPLAUSE]

ROGER: Yes. Oh.

Nats: [LAUGHS]

JAMES: Now we've got good players, those even who are now playing for the National team.

Nats: [CHEERING]

[APPLAUSE]

Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

ROGER: Now, this is the winner. What is your name?

COLLIN: Matovu Collin

ROGER: Why do you love golf?

COLLIN: It helps me in studying.

ROGER: Yes.

COLLIN: Because, golf is the one paying for my school fees.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Nats: golf swing

JAMES: Kids get a challenge of school fees. So through golf, outside support from members, those who can pledge a little. And we keep pushing them to school. Education first, then accompanied with talent.

Nats: clapping

ROGER: Here, here. Bro.

LATIFAH: I like golf because it helps me in many things.

ROGER: So you are also getting school fees from golf?

LATIFAH: Yeah.

ROGER: Smile. Smile.

Nats: [LAUGHTER]

JAMES: My goal is to make them the best in this world. To enjoy the best life, best discipline. And also to help others. We keep pushing forward. The future is bright for them.

COLLIN: Talent in golf in Uganda, it's good. We had some challenges going to Italy. We had some issues of passport, visa. It was expensive. So we never went anywhere. So that's the challenge we have, it is expensive.

ROGER: Yeah, challenges are there but keep doing what you are doing.

COLLIN: Yes.

ROGER: One day, one time.

COLLIN: Yeah.

THEO: Namulonge, that's really a more depiction of golf in Uganda. That's the conditions of the facility they have. Once you see the talent that they have, you really feel like you want to do more. And we want to grow it more.

ROGER: One piece of advice I want to give to you guys is, even if you don't have a golf club, you have to keep playing. You have to listen to your elders, like the Pro. Whatever he tells you, the one thing you have to do is stay humble. Keep down to Earth. You understand?

THEO: All these smaller clubs have got juniors. So that's really I feel where Roger and his program can come in more to see how we can assist those individuals and give them a better platform to work from.

Entebbe Golf Club

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Nats: lawnmower

THEO: We're at Entebbe. It's one of the junior programs that's here. The good thing is, the Uganda golf union do try to get these kids together. Where you were from Namulonge, this is now that next level. So the big question that we all keep asking is now, what next? What next? And that's the answer we need to get.

ROGER: This is my friend, he came. Gavin. Here is the bag. Are you able to play with these clubs? He's a good player. I met him in Uganda Open last year. So I gave him some transport to come from 9 hours from Cassius, his home. Let's go and register and I will pay for you.

ROGER: Hello.

Nats: Hi.

ROGER: How are you? Are you also going to play? All of you?

Nats: Yeah.

ROGER: How much are they paying for that?

Nats: It's 30 dollars.

ROGER: 30? OK. Let me take my boy. He's going to smash you.

Nats: [LAUGHTER]

ROGER: Yeah. [LAUGHS]

Nats: The others have their clubs. You should also have yours.

ROGER: This is for the caddie. After you pay him.

Nats: Where is Mark Fisher?

ROGER: Hi, Theo.

THEO: Hi. How are you?

ROGER: Ah.

THEO: Good, man.

ROGER: Here is my friend, Gavin.

THEO: This is the one at Serena that played--

ROGER: Yeah. He's played 38, 9 holes.

THEO: Ah. How are you? Good. You ready for today?

GAVIN: Yeah.

THEO: Let's play a good round?

GAVIN: Yeah.

THEO: Putt well and we'll support you. There's so much natural talent and all of them are willing to work hard.

GAVIN: Yes.

ROGER: You have balls?

STUDENT GOLFER: I do.

ROGER: Okay.

STUDENT GOLFER: I have two.

ROGER: Only two? I can hand you one more ball. I have very many balls here. You will be confident when hitting the ball.

Nats: [LAUGHTER]

THEO: A lot of them would like to go a lot further. It's just really supplying the support. He played in the Uganda Juniors. This is a very good player.

GOLF OBSERVER: Young boy here?

THEO: Yeah.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

THEO: These are kids that don't have swing analysis, fitted clubs. I've seen kids with oversized clubs, oversized shoes, and they're hitting every green in regulation.

THEO: They are naturally gifted. Roger, with his use of a phone and Instagram, shed some light on a group of kids that has got a lot of talent.

ROGER: Namulonge golf course?

Nats: Yes.

ROGER: OK. So you came to represent?

Nats: Yeah.

ROGER: OK. That's good.

THEO: A lot of these programs do have previous Uganda professionals that do lessons as well. Because even for professionals in Uganda, the prize money is only limited.

EMMA: I will let them go.

THEO: So you've got 37 kids here?

EMMA : Yes. Yes. Just from Entebbe.

THEO: Wow. Because that's the thing. A lot of the guys like Chinwe and yourself, and all the other coaches do this kind of work. It's just fantastic that you managed to get some light on that.

EMMA: Yeah. True. True. Most of us, the pros in Uganda, we never got a chance to play when we were younger. You know? A big number of us started at the age of maybe 14, 15, as caddies. But seeing these kids, 8, 7 years playing already, it means a lot.

ROGER: Yeah. That is why I started it for kids, that young because if a kid starts young to play golf, imagine when he turns 18, all that experience.

EMMA: Experience there.

ROGER: Yeah.

EMMA: Yeah. It helps.

THEO: So the whole thing is what next?

EMMA: Yeah. What's next. Yes.

ROGER: Maybe you know what's next.

EMMA: I do. I do already.

ROGER: What is it?

EMMA: So, you say, you go out to schools and you really want to have those kids on the golf course? We must work together. We have a golf course here. We welcome kids. So it's--

ROGER: I have very many. If you want me to get you kids, I have over 100.

EMMA: Yeah. Small challenge however though. We tend to have so many kids here, and we tend to run out of golf clubs.

ROGER: Golf clubs.

EMMA: Yeah, if we can start looking at that angle of how we can secure golf clubs for kids and golf balls for range, for starters, that will enable them. Because we find about 6 or 7 kids sharing a golf set on the course, and it's a challenge. Yeah.

ROGER: That's tough.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

THEO: How are you?

JOVIA: Good. How are you?

THEO: Are you good?

JOVIA: Fine. Thank you. Good to see you.

THEO: Good.

EMMA: Hi.

THEO: You know Roger?

JOVIA: Hi.

ROGER: Hi.

THEO: Thanks for organizing this.

JOVIA: Yeah, thanks.

THEO: It's great. You've got a good turnout.

JOVIA: Yeah. When we have such tournaments, it helps us to spot out the talents and we keep following them in schools. Those who want to continue, they contribute. That is

our dream. And we give a chance to ladies, even if they are not members, even if they've never played golf. But we give them a chance of what it means to be a golfer.

TOM: For me, yesterday, in those three schools.

ROGER: Yeah.

TOM: I loved it.

ROGER: Yeah.

TOM: What I saw is that you are more into helping others than really benefiting from it. Your passion is, "how do I make the game popular to the young generation?"

ROGER: Yeah.

TOM: I loved your interaction with the young people.

ROGER: Yeah, because that's the way forward.

TOM: So you're sowing seeds with the hope that they will--

ROGER: They'll grow.

TOM: You don't teach golf just for the sake, but it has real life lessons.

ROGER: Yeah.

TOM: Wow.

TOM: So, is that the technique?

ROGER: Yeah. It's the skill that you develop over time.

TOM: So your dream?

ROGER: I want to study.

TOM: To reach that level?

ROGER: To go to USA and study to be a PGA-certified trainer.

ROGER: How many did you play?

GAVIN: 86.

ROGER: 86? That is good. Did you lose the balls?

Nats: Yeah.

ROGER: All of them?

GAVIN: No.

GAVIN: All of them are there but one.

ROGER: You can give them to your--

GAVIN: To my friends.

ROGER: Yeah.

GAVIN: Both of them.

ROGER: OK. And tees.

GAVIN: That glove is nice.

ROGER: You tried it?

GAVIN: Yeah.

ROGER: But you said you don't like gloves.

GAVIN: It's nice.

ROGER: Yeah. I can give it to you. You can keep it. I've never been able to do something special like use my own money to transport someone from a long distance. So I feel good about that.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ROGER: We are going to give out some backpacks, caps, and some shirts. So it's like giving back to the kids.

MOSES: Having been in this situation in the past. And then comparing to what I see right now, I see hope. About five years ago, on an event like this, you would've had to find about 30 kids. Today, if you look around, 100-plus. This has not come from nowhere. It's come from special involvement of so many people beyond myself. A person like Roger. He's one of the type that gets out on pro-bono basis and starts to do something that is-- could be life-changing in the country in terms of golf.

ROGER: Good smiles, good people, good golfers. A lot of improvement, inspiration, and friends as well. Yeah. Because that's what life is about, making friendship and connections.

MOSES: We really support as much as we can and call upon anybody that can support that kind of a gesture in any way they can support to make sure that the game of golf wins at the end of the day.

THEO: Roger, we've got a call for you.

ROGER: It is.

DERRICK: Yes, it is.

ROGER: Ah, hello?

DOWD SIMPSON: Hello.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ROGER: How you doing?

WEBB SIMPSON: I'm good.

ROGER: Yeah.

DOWD: I'm Dowd Simpson.

WEBB: And I'm Webb Simpson.

ROGER: Yeah. I've heard about Webb Simpson.

[LAUGHTER]

WEBB: Well, we've heard a lot about what you're doing with the junior golf in Uganda, also helping kids growing up in poverty, not only teaching them the game of golf, and growing the love for the game of golf, but also just bringing joy to their lives.

ROGER: Yeah.

WEBB: And so, we just want to tell you that the PGA TOUR--

ROGER: Yeah.

WEBB: --is partnering and donating with Compassion International--

ROGER: Oh!

WEBB: --really because of you and all your efforts.

ROGER: That's really nice. I'm so happy for that. Yeah.

WEBB: That you have-- you've spent so much time and given so much of your talent to help grow the game of golf there in Uganda for youth.

ROGER: Yeah.

WEBB: So they just want to say, thank you, Roger. And keep up the good work and continue to do what you're doing.

ROGER: All right. Thank you so much. We're so happy for that. And we can't wait to see the good fruits that are coming out of that. Yeah. Thank you so much.

DERRICK: We look after the needy of the neediest. And golf is a little bit expensive for that category. You know, people that we have to support. So with this giving, it will at least bring those also on board to be able to play such a game. Yeah. So thank you. Yeah. Thank you very much. That's very good news. I think it's a great opportunity, number one. But also, because of the nature of our program, we support bits of education, health, and all that.

ROGER: Yeah.

DERRICK: So this money coming in will go pretty much a long way. When you come and you're teaching them, and doing all this, you need to move around, probably we get clubs, probably more equipment or resources.

ROGER: Yeah.

DERRICK: So at least that's a basket and although the bucket where we'll get it from to basically support what you're doing with the young people.

ROGER: Yeah. It's a good start.

DERRICK: Yes.

ROGER: You start small, and it will keep going.

DERRICK: Yeah. We are excited. We're looking forward. And we are praying for now for good health.

ROGER: Yeah.

DERRICK: That everything will work out very well.

ROGER: Yes. Thank you so much.

DERRICK: Yeah, no, thank you.

ROGER: Yeah. All right.

DERRICK: Thank you. Thank you.

ROGER: We are going to give the kids a first-time golf course experience. It will be like a new world to them. So this is the golf course. This is the green. I want you to all touch it and feel it. This is not a carpet. This is grass. It's very delicate.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**OUTRO**