

CHARACTER: DIOLA

AGE: Late 20s

18. INT. BULA BUILDING- SANI BULA'S OFFICE- EARLY EVENING

Sani Bula is tired but getting ready to leave, glancing at his watch when the intercom buzzes. He ignores it and it buzzes again. He is irritated

SANI BULA

I thought I said I didn't want to be disturbed. I'm on my way out

SECRETARY

Sorry Sir..just that the lady insisted on seeing you

Sani Bula pauses, confused

SANI BULA

Lady? Which lady?

SECRETARY

She says she is from Chief Mba...Miss Diola XXXX.

Sani pauses, then after a moment he speaks

SANI BULA

Send her in

He puts down his bag and jacket just as she comes in, slow and deliberate. Her eyes are hooded and she has a slight smile on her face

DIOLA

Good evening Sir...I'm sorry for coming so late

SANI BULA

It's fine. Please...have a seat

She sits, crossing her legs elegantly, relaxed and looking straight at him

SANI BULA (CONT'D)

So...my friend sent you?

She smiles and shakes her head slowly. Sani appears slightly surprised. She speaks

DIOLA

I only said that to get to this office

Sani raises his brows and gives an amused smile

SANI BULA

Oh really? Was it necessary? You could have simply given your name

DIOLA

My name wouldn't have gotten past the second floor. We both know that in this part of the country, a woman's audience is greatly determined by what man backs her up

SANI BULA

And is that a bad thing, Diola?

DIOLA

Not necessarily...but then, I like to do things on my own terms. I rarely follow the rules

She gives him a look that seems to unnerve him. He clears his throat

SANI BULA

So...what exactly are you here for? Business, I presume

DIOLA

Well, it wouldn't be for pleasure...would it?

He smiles and narrows his eyes

SANI BULA

I have a flight to catch, Diola. Make this worth my while

DIOLA

I know you do: Kowa, for a condolence visit. Very sad news.

He raises his brows

DIOLA (CONT'D)

I'm here because I've decided to strike out on my own and start my consulting firm. I already have the structure, registration and all that...

(MORE)

DIOLA (CONT'D)  
but what I need is the powerful  
client. And I thought of you

Sani chuckles incredulously

SANI BULA  
Does Chief know?

She smiles

DIOLA  
I handed in my resignation just  
before coming here...and will be  
moving to my new apartment tonight.  
Its my time to fly, Alhaji. Surely  
you can appreciate the need to be  
free and soar?

SANI BULA  
Yes...but how wil this affect my  
friendship with Chief?

DIOLA  
It wont. He may be upset at  
first...but he will eventually  
respect my decision. Besides, my  
consultancy doesn't affect his  
business with you.

SANI BULA  
You're very confident, I'll give  
you that. I'm intrigued

She shrugs

DIOLA  
You wouldn't have let me through  
the door otherwise

SANI BULA  
Proposal?

She reaches into her bag and brings out a slim sheaf of documents and walks over to stand in front of him, with very little space between them. There is evident tension/attraction going on as she looks straight up at him and reaches to drop the sheaf on his desk. She steps back

DIOLA  
I know you are a very busy man  
but...please do look at it and when  
you decide...my phone number is on  
it

She smiles and then goes to get her bag

DIOLA (CONT'D)

I wont keep you longer. Thank you  
for your time and safe trip

She turns to walk out

SANI BULA

Even if you hadn't come under  
Chief's name...I would have still  
seen you

She turns to him ,a small sensuous smile on her lips

DIOLA

I know. And we will definitely meet  
again

She walks out and Sani looks almost shocked at himself. He  
picks the proposal, looks at it and then slides it into his  
bag, looking at the door

FADE OUT.