

TRANSCRIPT . NOVEMBER 2009

## Blinky Bill: “We Desperately Need A New Generation.”

*Blinky Bill is one-third of Just A Band; a Kenyan electronic music outfit.*

**Are we a nation of whiners?**

I think it's [true] that we whine a lot, but I've seen how the people who go to stadiums and make noise are treated.

It's a very high price to pay, and I doubt that there's many people who are willing to put their lives out there like that.

**Why the same old people running for government?**

We don't have a lot of options in terms of leadership. If you look at the guys who are in Government, it's the same people who ran for the elections in 2007, who will run for elections in 2012 and who will probably run for elections – even if they don't have teeth – in 2018.

We desperately need a new generation to come up and start being involved in politics. Kenyan politics is dodgy, we all know that. You have to bribe people.

At the ground-level, things are very hard for young, aspiring politicians because you have to have funds to be able to run against some of the established guys.

Where will someone like me, for example, get the funds that I need to go against some of the guys who've looted and plundered the country for 20, 30, 40 years?

Yes, there's a lot of people who want to get involved in politics, but the cost might be too high.

I've heard the story of someone who ran and won the nomination for some seat somewhere, and when they went to the party headquarters the next day, the nomination had been given to someone else.

The problems that this country faces are not simple. There's a lot of things that need to be done at the grassroots level to change things. The [problem] is not politicians anymore, when it comes to Kenya.

Every citizen has a role to play; we all know that these guys are bad, we all know these guys don't care; they don't give a damn – but you move on with your life like nothing's happening. That is where the problem is.

There needs to be consensus; everyone decides “OK. We're tired of these guys.”

Either we don't vote or we raise a new set of people, and when [they] go to campaign, don't start asking them for money because if you keep asking for money that's the way you propagate corruption, and that's the way nothing will ever change.

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Just A Band are an electronic music band from Kenya, known for their DIY aesthetics and unconventional visuals. They have released two studio albums to date. Find out more about them on their website - [www.just-a-band.com](http://www.just-a-band.com)

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