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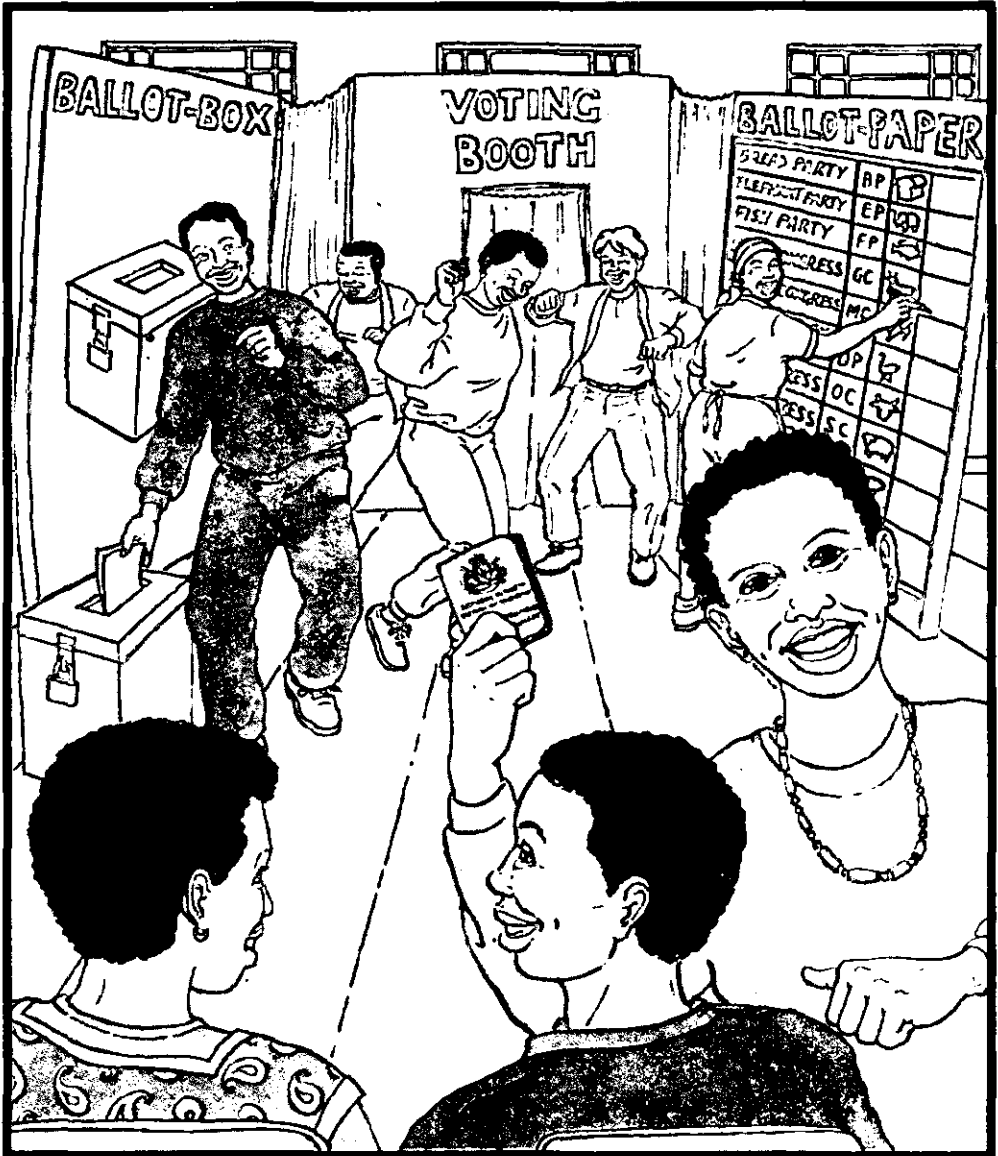
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OUR TIME TO CHOOSE



A VOTER EDUCATION COMIC BOOK

*Produced by Matla Trust on behalf of the
Independent Forum for Electoral Education*

Dear Voter,

Soon our country South Africa will have its first democratic election. All South Africans over the age of 18 years - black or white, young or old, worker or peasant, man or woman - will be able to decide who should be the government of South Africa.

This is our time to choose. Our time to choose freedom over oppression, peace over war, equality over apartheid.

In order to make an informed choice, we must know what we are doing, what we are choosing and how to do it. This comic book is just one of the ways in which *Matla Trust* and other organisations of the *Independent Forum for Electoral Education* are preparing all of us for the forthcoming election.

Enjoy it, learn from it, and share it with your family and friends.



Billy Modise,
Executive Director, Matla Trust.

This comic book is published by Matla Trust on behalf of the Independent Forum for Electoral Education (IFEE). The content and format of the comic book were overseen by the Media Commission of the IFEE.

Member organisations of the IFEE Media Commission are:

Akanani ◇ Applied Broadcasting Centre (ABC) ◇ Audio Waves ◇ Broadcast Monitoring Project
Centre for Development Studies (CDS) ◇ Electronic Media in Education Forum (EME) ◇ Film
and Allied Workers Organisation (FAWO) ◇ Free Market Foundation ◇ Institute for Contextual
Theology (ICT) ◇ Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa (IDASA) ◇ Institute for
Multi-Party Democracy (MPD) ◇ Lawyers for Human Rights ◇ Matla Trust ◇ National Youth
Development Co-ordinating Committee (NYDCC) ◇ Rural Research and Reporting Corporation
South African Council of Churches (SACC) ◇ Speak Media Project ◇ The Storyteller Group
Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

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Translations :	Afrophone Translation Service

CAST OF CHARACTERS



THEMBI
Leader of Unity sewing
co-operative



TSHEPO
A student in standard 9
at the local school



FATHER AMOS
A minister
of the local church



MA THABO
The head of
Progress stokvel
and an influential
community member



KARL, CHRIS & BONGKI
Voter education workshop facilitators

One afternoon in a village somewhere in South Africa.

CHAPTER
1

Oh, my back is killing me. I hope the rains come this year. If they don't, our children will go hungry.

I believe the rains will come, ma.

I've also got hope, but it's not the rains I'm waiting for. They say there is going to be an election.

Don't tell me about elections, my boy. They're just dirty tricks!

He introduced us to a somebody and said: "Vote for this man and your lives will improve."

Gha! The only thing that changed was the chief got a big car.

I remember when our chief first called us to a voter meeting.

We were so hopeful. Everybody voted for that man.

And now we call the chief "Chief Promises". And no one bothers to vote any more.

Except the pensioners. They are afraid they won't get their pensions.

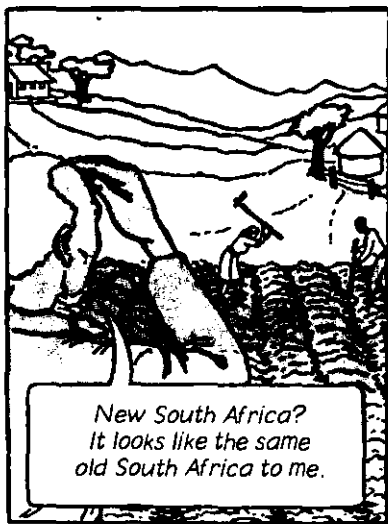
The election I am talking about will really make a difference. It is not just another homeland election.

This election is for everyone in South Africa.

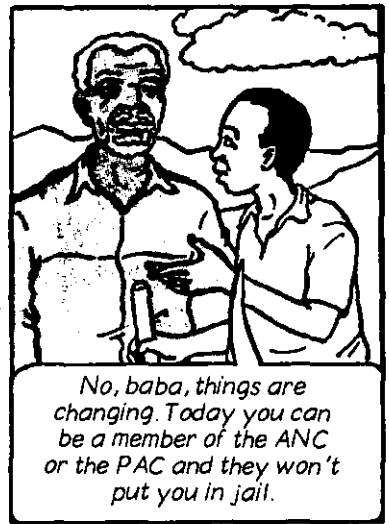


You are dreaming, mfana!

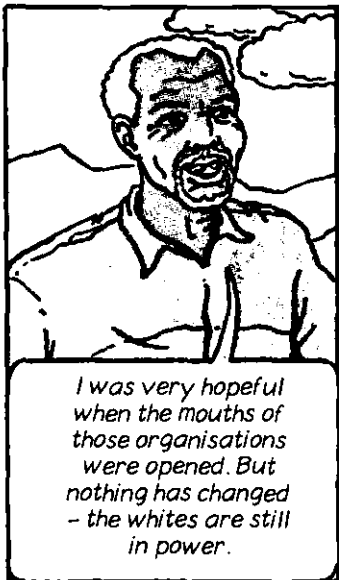
No, ma, this is the new South Africa!



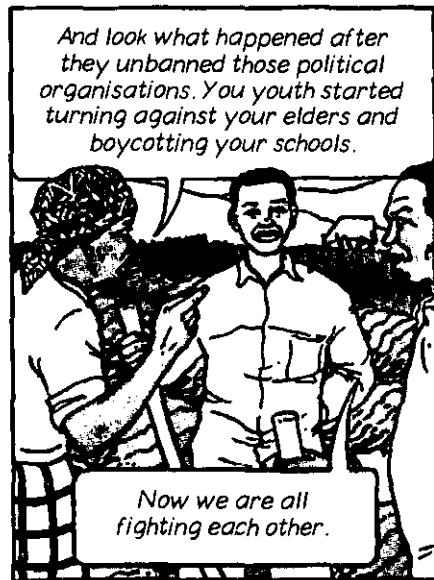
New South Africa?
It looks like the same old South Africa to me.



No, baba, things are changing. Today you can be a member of the ANC or the PAC and they won't put you in jail.



I was very hopeful when the mouths of those organisations were opened. But nothing has changed - the whites are still in power.



And look what happened after they unbanned those political organisations. You youth started turning against your elders and boycotting your schools.

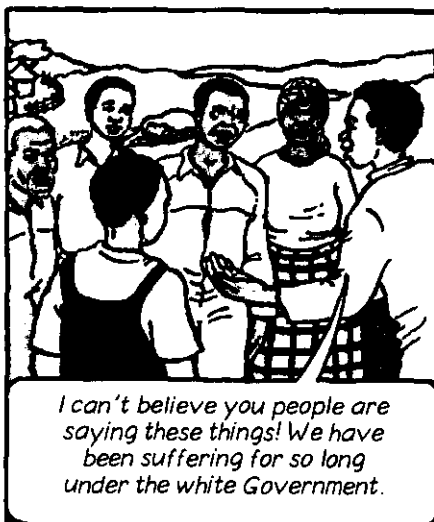
Now we are all fighting each other.



I don't want anything to do with an election - it will just cause more trouble.



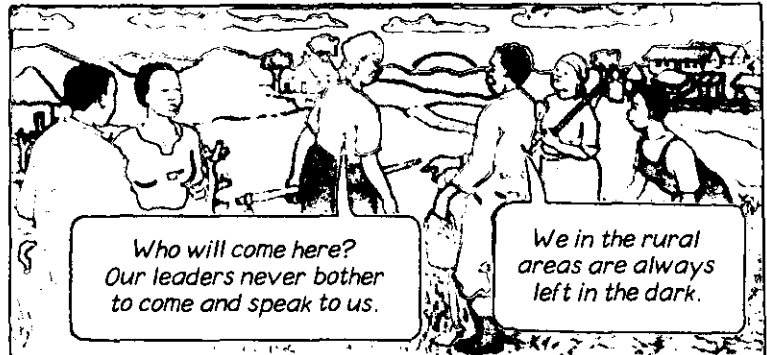
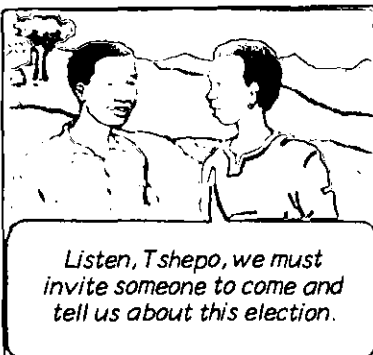
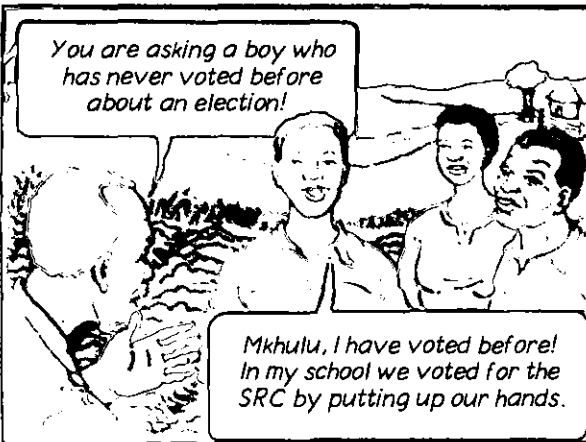
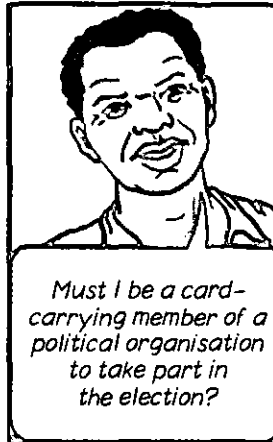
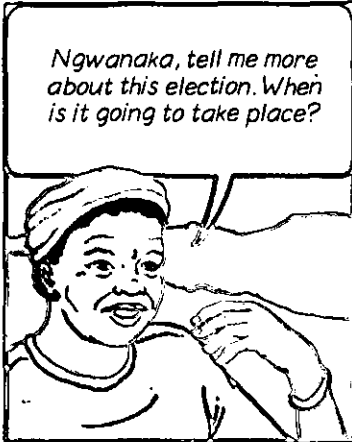
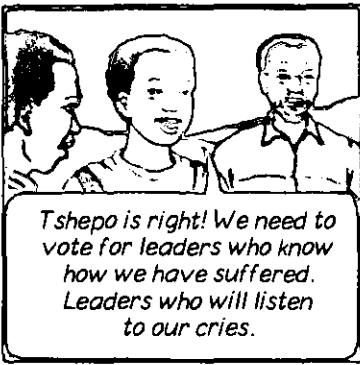
I don't think the vote will change anything.



I can't believe you people are saying these things! We have been suffering for so long under the white Government.



At last we have won the chance to vote for our own government. Do you want to throw that chance away?



Later.

They're right!
Nobody cares about
us in the rural areas.

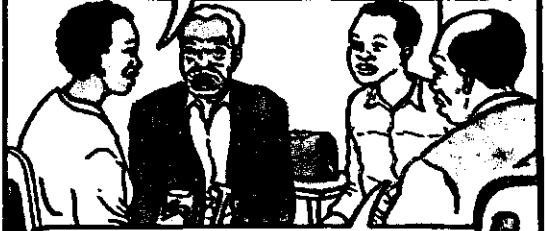


Hey! Let's go
and see Father
Amos. Maybe he
can help us.



They visit Father Amos at his house.

So, Father Amos, have you
heard about this big election?



Yes, my daughter. I went to a
meeting of all our churches last week
to talk about the national election.

I am going to talk about the
election on Sunday. Our church is
calling on everyone to vote.



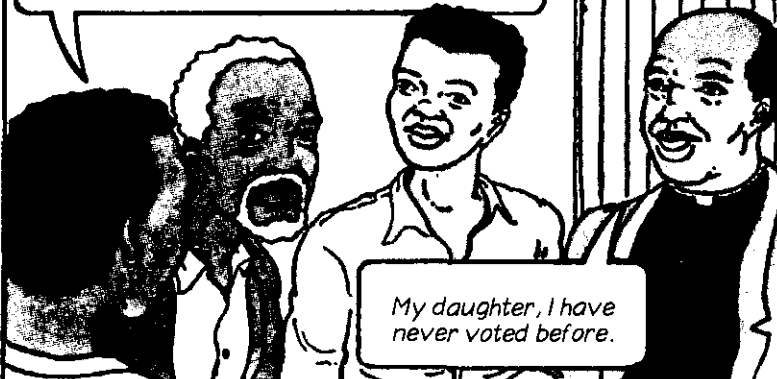
But, mfundisi, the church
should stay out of politics!

The church does not support
political parties. We only speak
against those who oppress people
and cause human suffering.



We believe an election
will end apartheid and
bring justice to our land.

Father, people in the
community need to learn how
to vote. Can you teach them?



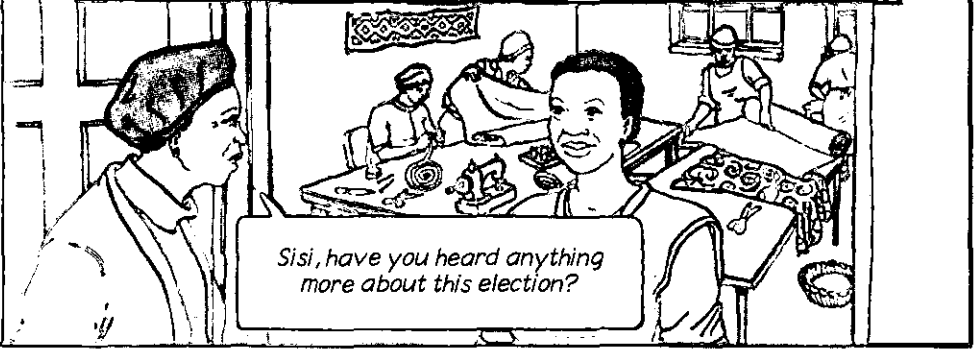
My daughter, I have
never voted before.

But I will try to find
out more information
about voting for you.

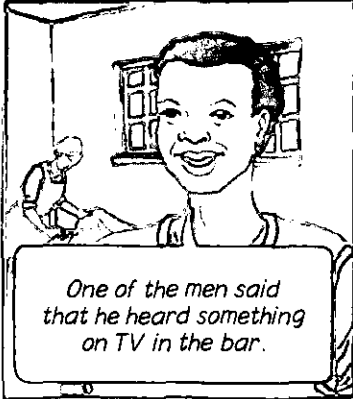


A few weeks later Ma Thabo visits Thembi at the Unity sewing co-operative.

CHAPTER
2



Sisi, have you heard anything more about this election?



One of the men said that he heard something on TV in the bar.



He said that on election day big bottles of beer would fall from the sky.

Ag, he must have been drunk!



Mnganiwam', we talked about the election at our stokvel meeting yesterday. Everyone is very confused.

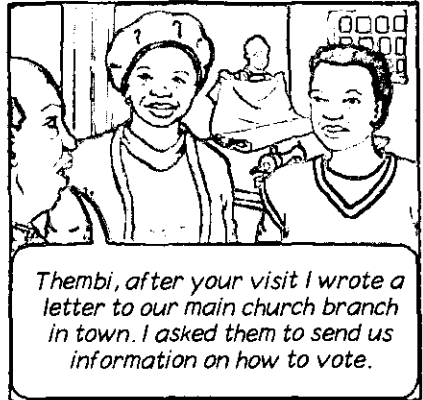


Here is a customer.

Oh, it's Father Amos.



San'bonani bantwabam'. I've got news for you.



Thembi, after your visit I wrote a letter to our main church branch in town. I asked them to send us information on how to vote.



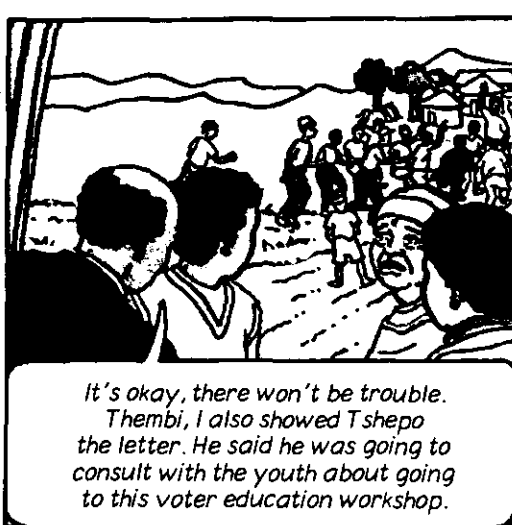
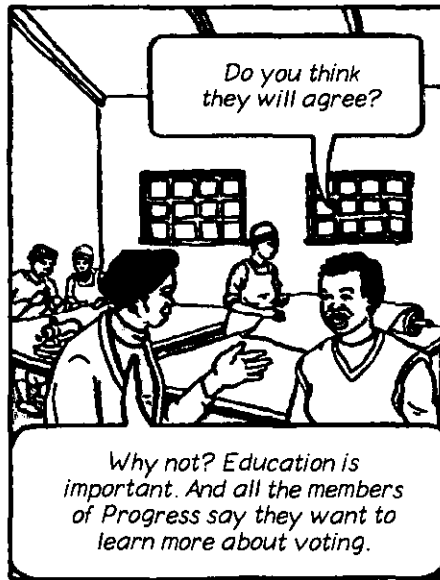
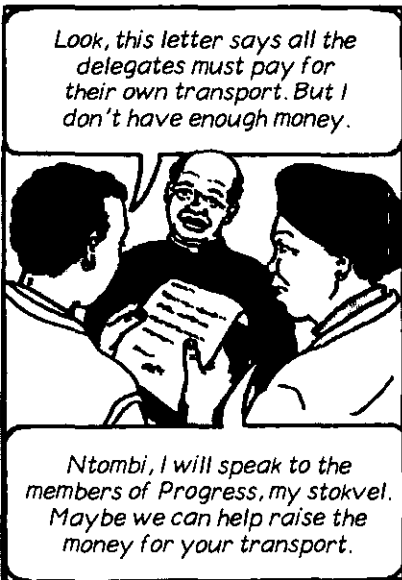
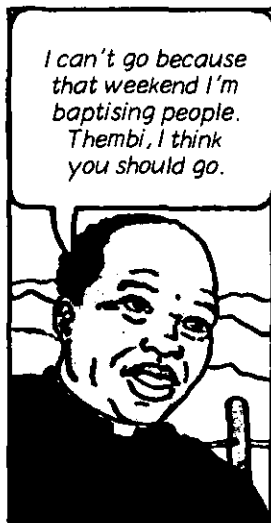
Oh good, Father. We have all been asking many questions about this election. But no one knows anything.



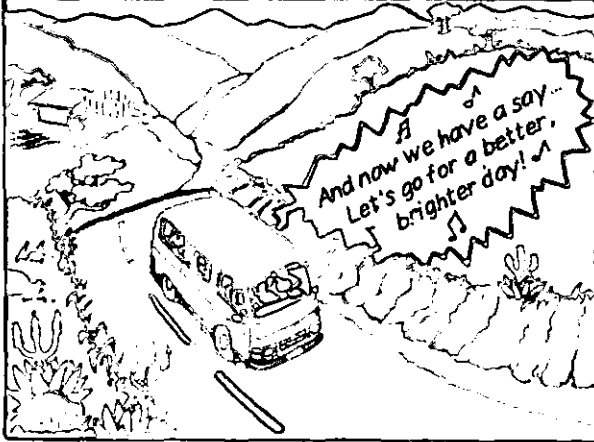
Just today I received this answer.



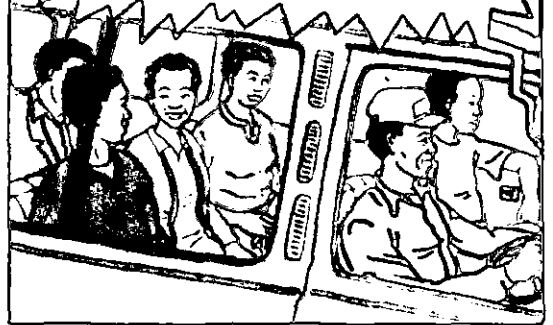
"We are pleased to tell you that there is going to be a voter education workshop in your region on the weekend of the 24th."



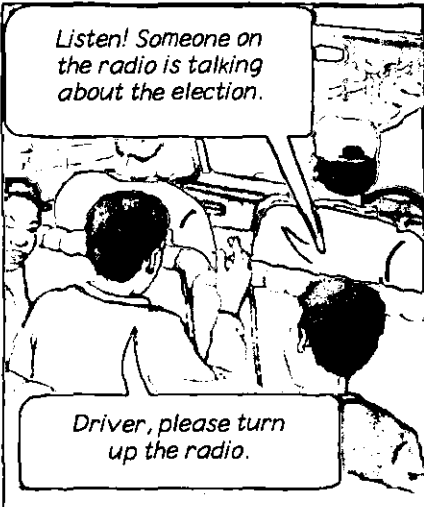
Four weeks later Thembi and Tshepo go to the voter education workshop.



Now is your chance to bring an end to the inequalities of the past... Now is your chance to vote for a government of your choice!



Listen! Someone on the radio is talking about the election.



Driver, please turn up the radio.



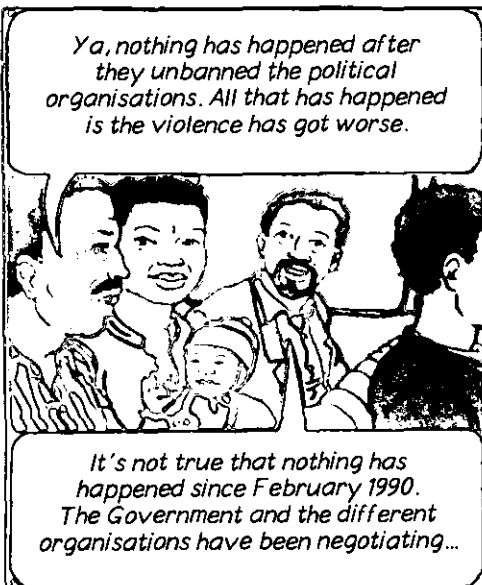
I'm not playing the radio. This is a tape about the election.

They all listen to the tape.



Election?! Gha! When they unbanned the political parties we were all singing that Mandela would take over from De Klerk. But De Klerk is still in power.

Ya, nothing has happened after they unbanned the political organisations. All that has happened is the violence has got worse.

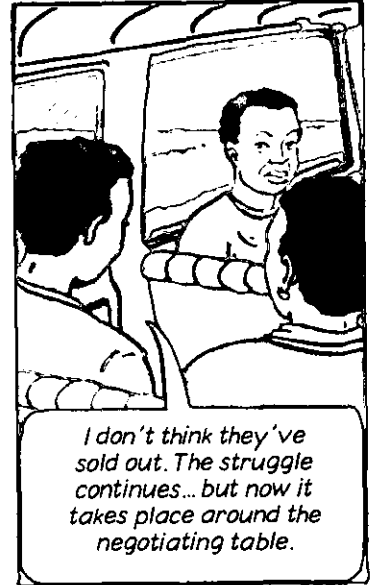


It's not true that nothing has happened since February 1990. The Government and the different organisations have been negotiating...

So what! Our leaders have sold out the struggle with all their talking!



I don't think they've sold out. The struggle continues... but now it takes place around the negotiating table.



Who is calling this election - the Government? I think it's just another one of De Klerk's tricks!

No, mfana, the election was decided at Codesa.

Codesa? I heard talk about Codesa on TV. But I was not sure what it was about.

Sisi, Codesa is a dance - we dance it in the township.

No. Codesa means the Convention for a Democratic South Africa.

Codesa was the name given to the first multiparty negotiations between the Government, the ANC and Inkatha...

And sixteen other parties.

I thought it was great when all those different organisations sat down together!

Ya, some important things came out of Codesa. The parties managed to lay a foundation for further negotiations and for a non-racial election.

Gha! What has come from all these negotiations? Look, they can't even stop the hit squads. And more and more people are losing their jobs.

I hear what you are saying, but negotiations move very slowly...

Because it is important that all political parties are involved at every stage of planning this election.



What's going to happen to the police and the army?

There will have to be some kind of joint control of the police and army - maybe by a transitional government.

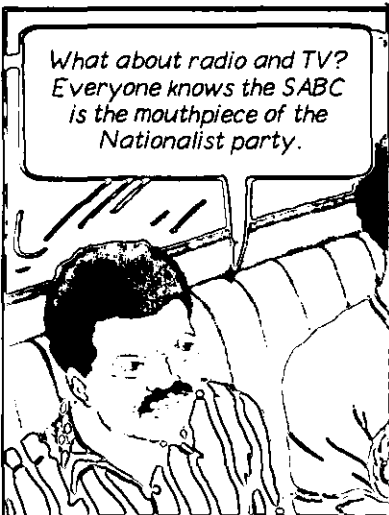


What is a transitional government?

It's a body that is made up of different political parties. The transitional government will help to run the country until the election.



We will need a neutral army and police to make sure that everyone is safe on election day.



What about radio and TV? Everyone knows the SABC is the mouthpiece of the Nationalist party.



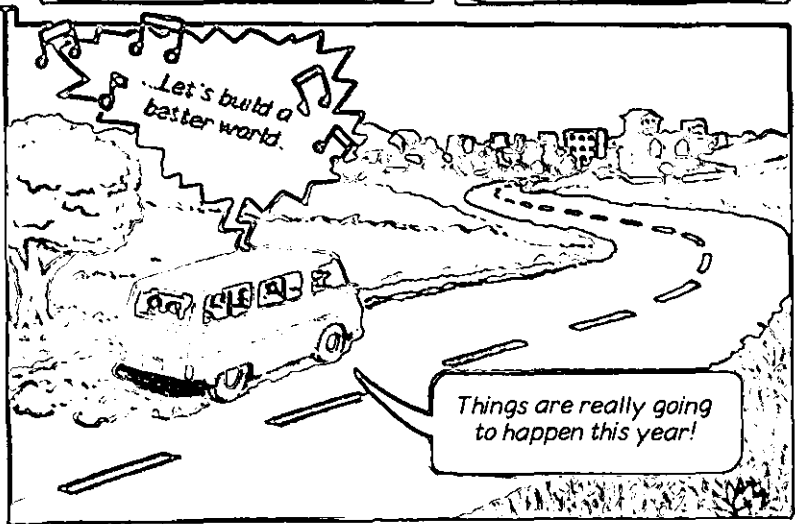
Don't worry. Steps are being taken to make sure that the SABC presents the views of all the political parties.



The SABC will also be running programmes on voter education made by non-partisan organisations.



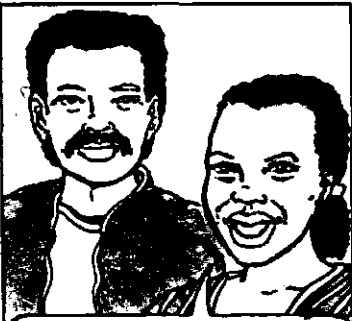
I must find out when those programmes will be running.



Things are really going to happen this year!

CHAPTER
3

The next morning the voter education workshop begins.



The purpose of this workshop is to teach you about voting and elections. So that you can go back and teach people in your communities.

As you know, South Africa will soon be holding a non-racial, democratic election. For many of us this will be the first time that we will be voting in a national election.



Our people need voter education so that they can vote with confidence.



The government will only be representative if everyone takes part in the running of the election.



Many political organisations are working together to draw up the Electoral Laws. The Electoral Laws will say when the election will take place, who will be in charge, how voters have to register, and so on.

Bongi, do we have to wait until all these details are decided before we can start teaching voter education?



No. Time is running out. We need to prepare ourselves and our people for this election.

Who will be able to vote in this election?

That's a good question. Let's take a look at this poster.



Tell me about the people in the poster.

There are young people

Old people

White people

Black people

Men and women


People from urban and rural areas

All of these people will be able to vote in the election. **EVERYONE** who is eighteen or older and is a citizen of South Africa can vote in this election.


What about the people in the independent homelands?

Don't worry, brother. People in Ciskei, Venda, Transkei and Bophuthatswana will be able to vote in this election.

The people in the poster are holding up identity books. Does that mean you can only vote if you have an ID book?



You will need some kind of identity document to prove your age and to show that you are a citizen of South Africa.




The parties drawing up the Electoral Laws might decide to issue voter cards to people who don't have identity documents.


But the safest thing is to get an identity book as soon as possible.



My mother has been waiting for months for an ID book! The Government will take their time because they only want white people to vote.




Well, the Department of Home Affairs says it is working hard to try and issue everyone with ID books.




But it's up to us to make a noise so that everyone gets their IDs before the election.

If you apply for an ID and you have a problem, you can go to the Black Sash or your nearest Advice Office. They will help you.




The poster does not show people in hospitals and prisons. Will they be able to vote?




People in hospitals will be able to vote. But we are not sure about people in prisons.

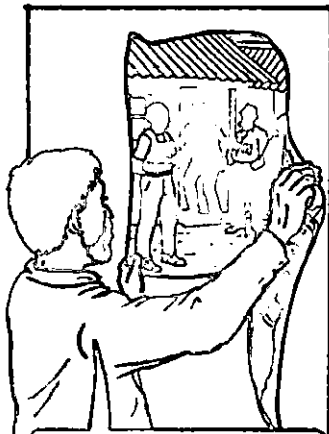
My friend is a migrant worker from Malawi. Will he be able to vote?



We don't know yet...



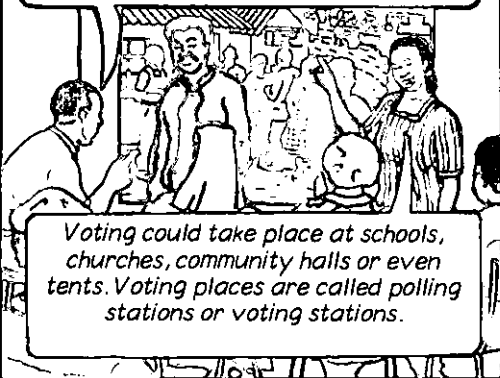
But usually you can only get an ID book if you have been born in South Africa. Or if you can show that you have lived or worked in South Africa for five years. Or if you are married to a South African citizen.



Here is the next poster. It shows people going to vote on election day.



The poster shows people at a school. Does this mean that the voting will take place at schools?



Voting could take place at schools, churches, community halls or even tents. Voting places are called polling stations or voting stations.

Will you have to travel far to vote?



No, every community should have its own polling station.



I think the people in that poster are looking too happy. This is South Africa. Some people will be very afraid on election day.

It's true. I predict that there will be a lot of intimidation and violence. Parties will come and say: "Vote for us, or we will burn your house."



It's already happening.

Ja, and then the government will come and say: "Vote for us or you'll lose your job."



It is important that the election is free and fair if our country is to have a future...

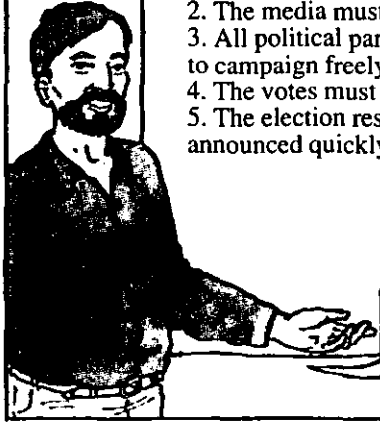
What do you mean by a free and fair election?



An election is free if everyone is allowed to vote for the party of their choice without intimidation or bribery.

FAIR:

1. Everyone must be allowed to vote.
2. The media must be neutral.
3. All political parties have the right to campaign freely.
4. The votes must be counted correctly.
5. The election results must be announced quickly.



And the way the election is carried out must be fair.



Will the Chiefs understand about free and fair elections?



Ya. And tsotsis who make our mothers drink oil?

And what about the boer farmers?



And the hit squads?



I am not very hopeful. Who will be able to stop people from intimidating others? No one has been able to stop the killings.



We heard in the taxi that a transitional government made up of all the political parties will take charge of the army and police before the election. Maybe that will help.

Yes. And all the parties will sign a code of conduct. In the code they will promise not to intimidate people or disrupt meetings.



Supporters of political parties need to recognise that other parties have a right to carry out their political work.

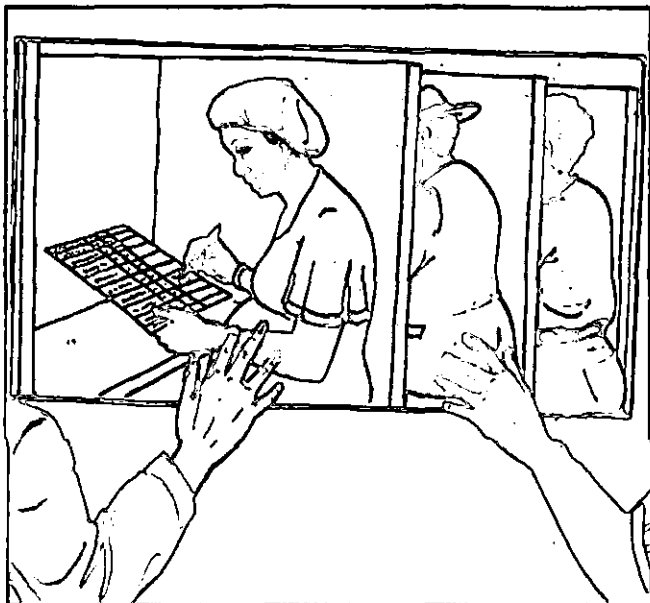


But it is really up to us the people of South Africa. We need to become tolerant of each other's viewpoints.

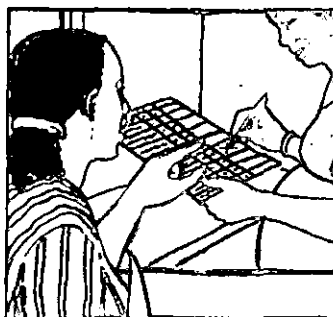
CHAPTER
4



The next poster shows how we will be voting on election day.



As you can see, this woman is alone inside a private place. This place is called a voting booth.

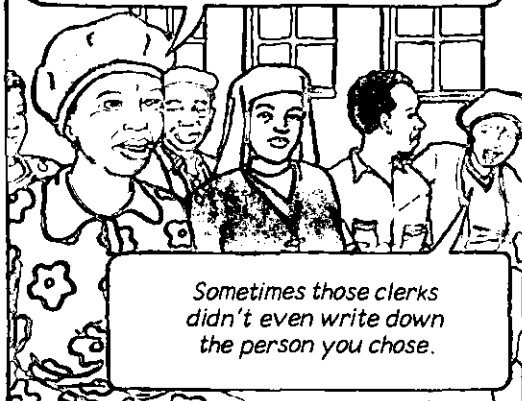


She is putting a cross in the empty space next to the party of her choice.



You know, in my village we used to vote by pointing to the pictures of the candidates. Then the clerk used to write it down.

Well, in my homeland we voted by calling out our candidate's name and the clerk used to write it down.



Sometimes those clerks didn't even write down the person you chose.



In the homeland elections, everyone knew who you voted for.



Well, in this election your vote will be a secret! No one will know who you are voting for.



A secret vote helps to make sure that an election is free and fair.

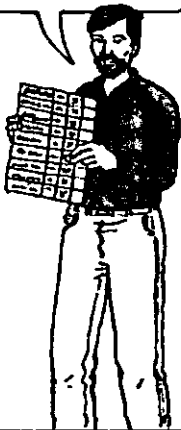


It doesn't matter if anyone - farmers, husbands, chiefs, homeland governments, the youth - tells you who you have to vote for.



You simply say you will vote for their party, but when you are alone in the booth you vote for who you want.

We call the voting paper a ballot paper.



Do we have to write our names on the ballot paper?



No. You only put a cross in the empty space next to the party of your choice.

Why do you put a cross?



That's because a cross is easy to see and to write.



But what about those who can't read and write at all? How can they vote?



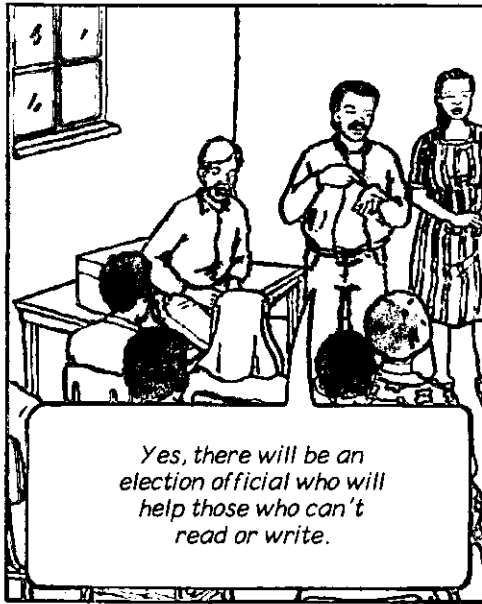
People who can't read and write must be able to take part in this election. We need to teach them to recognise the names and symbols of all the parties.

Can you give us copies of these ballot papers?



Yes, you can use the ballots to teach people in your community how to vote.

On election day will there be anyone to help people who can't read or write?



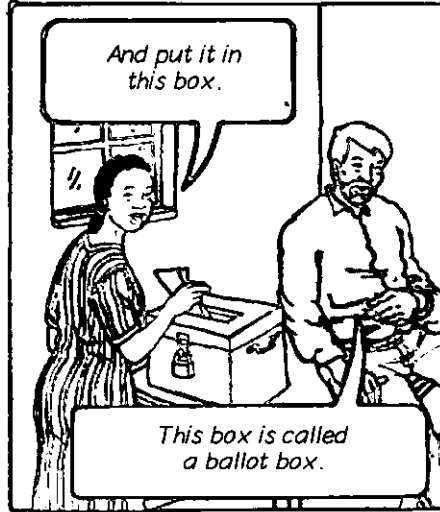
Yes, there will be an election official who will help those who can't read or write.



But it will be against the law for officials to tell those people who to vote for.

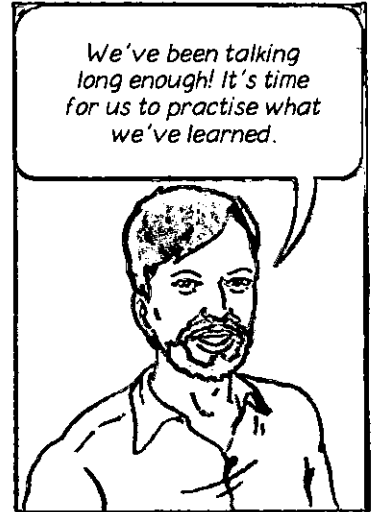


After you have voted, you must fold your ballot paper.



And put it in this box.

This box is called a ballot box.



We've been talking long enough! It's time for us to practise what we've learned.

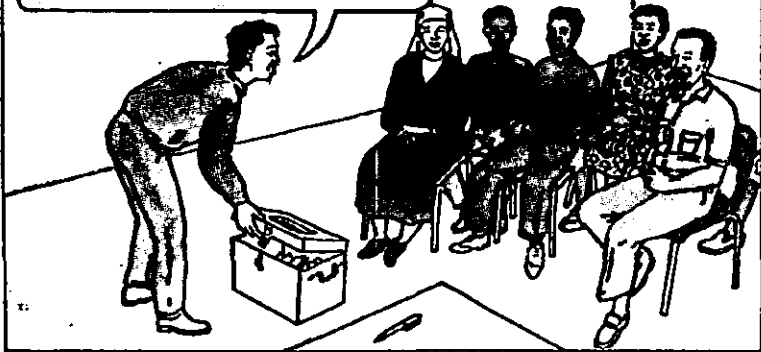
The people at the voter education workshop break into smaller groups and practise voting until lunch.



Who are you voting for?

Go away! My vote is a secret.

Because this is a practice election, we can open the ballot box to see if everyone has voted in the right way.



DEMOCRATIC PARTY	10
REPUBLICAN PARTY	10
LIBERAL PARTY	10
CONSERVATIVE PARTY	10
GREEN PARTY	10
LABOUR PARTY	10
TRIAL PARTY	10
CELEBRATION PARTY	10



Oops! This person has made a mistake and voted for two parties.



Maybe he thought those two parties would work well together!

And this person has written on their ballot paper.

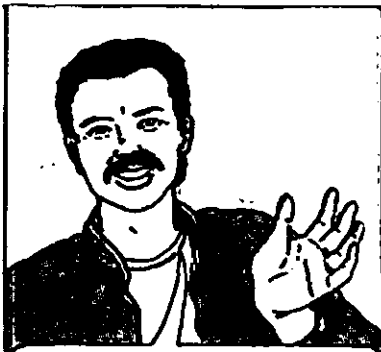


And this person has made such a big cross, it looks like he or she voted for three parties!

This person has scratched out a cross. And voted for another party.

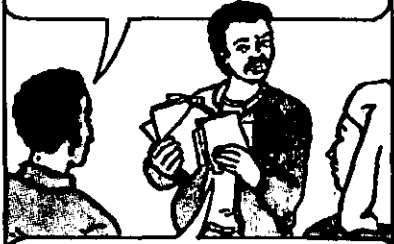


Remember, once you have made your mark you cannot change it.



Also, you can use a tick or a cross, but not both. You can only make one mark on your ballot paper.

But what if I make a mistake on my ballot and put it in the box?



If you vote in the wrong way, like these people, then you have spoilt your ballot paper. Your vote will not be counted.

After lunch, everyone watches Matla Trust's voter education play.

If I see the name of the party I hate. Do I scratch it out?

No, no, no. That's a spoilt paper, a spoilt paper.

If I see a mistake on the ballot paper, must I correct it?

No, no, no. That's a spoilt paper, a spoilt paper.

Know the name of the party you are voting for.

Put a cross next to the name of the party you are voting for.

I am learning so much today.

Me too. We'll have a lot to tell the people in our community when we go back.

CHAPTER
5

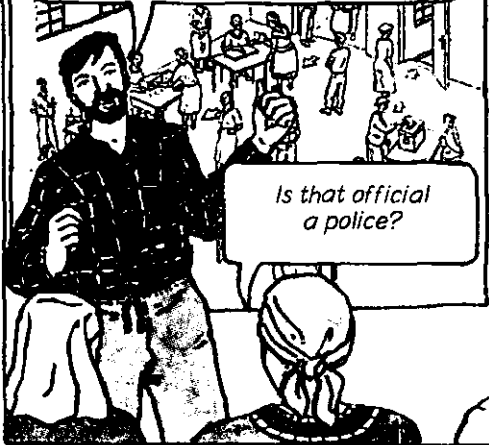
The next morning.



Now let's look at what will happen in the voting station when you go to vote.



When you walk into the polling station, you must show your identity document to the official. He will stamp it.



Is that official a police?

No. The officials will be ordinary people who have been trained to help on election day.



Each polling station will also have an official who is in charge of the station.



All officials will have to promise to obey a code of conduct.



There will also be people watching at the polling stations. These people are called monitors. They will make sure that this election is free and fair.

Where will these monitors come from?



Ordinary citizens will be trained to act as monitors. The political parties will also be able to have their own monitors.

And there will also be monitors from international organisations.



Shoo, I feel more confident about this election. No one can cheat with all these monitors!

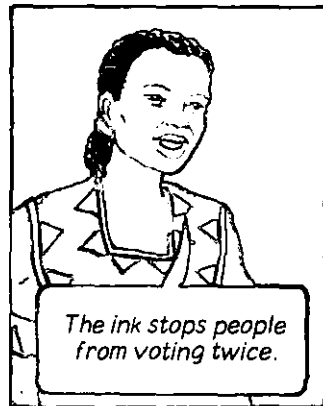


After you have shown your ID you put your hand in this box. This box checks that you have not voted before.

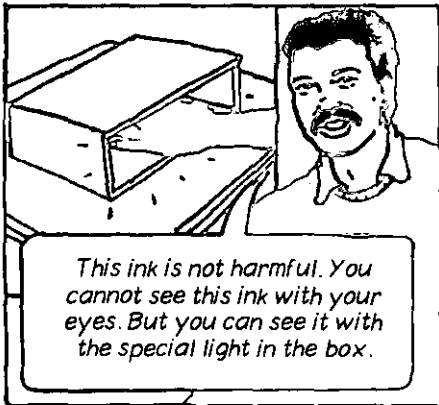


Then an official puts invisible ink on your hand with a sponge.

Why does he put ink on your hand?



The ink stops people from voting twice.



This ink is not harmful. You cannot see this ink with your eyes. But you can see it with the special light in the box.



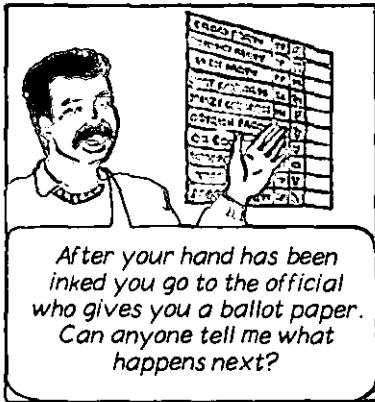
What happens if someone tries to vote twice?

They will be turned away.

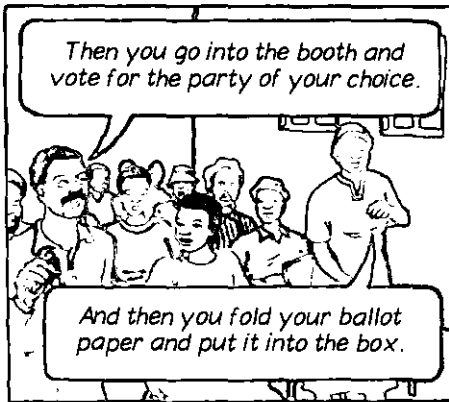


How long will this ink stay on our hands?

For about seven days.

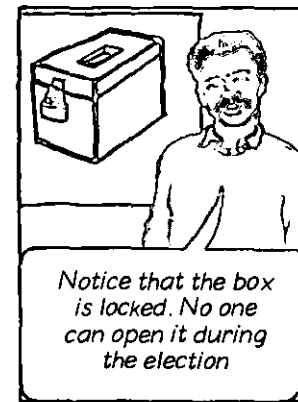


After your hand has been inked you go to the official who gives you a ballot paper. Can anyone tell me what happens next?

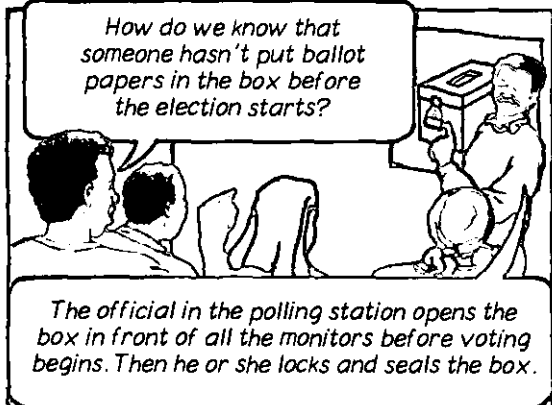


Then you go into the booth and vote for the party of your choice.

And then you fold your ballot paper and put it into the box.

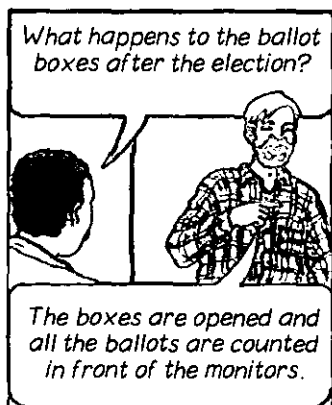


Notice that the box is locked. No one can open it during the election



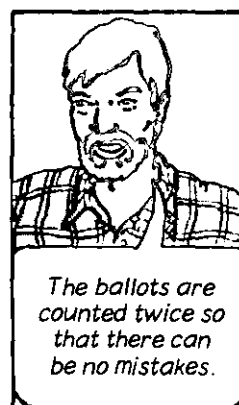
How do we know that someone hasn't put ballot papers in the box before the election starts?

The official in the polling station opens the box in front of all the monitors before voting begins. Then he or she locks and seals the box.



What happens to the ballot boxes after the election?

The boxes are opened and all the ballots are counted in front of the monitors.



The ballots are counted twice so that there can be no mistakes.

The winning party will be announced on radio and TV after all the votes have been counted throughout the country.



Will that party then become the new Government?

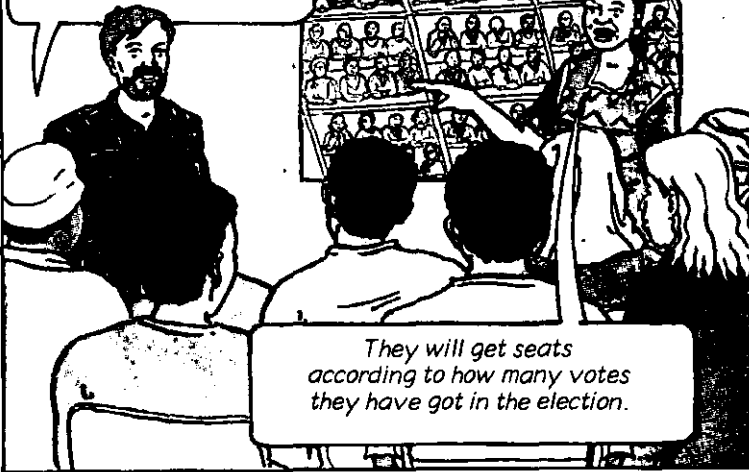


This election won't decide on a new Government. The purpose of this election is to elect a constituent assembly made up of different political parties.



The party that gets the most votes in the election will get the most seats in the constituent assembly.

What about the parties that get less votes?



They will get seats according to how many votes they have got in the election.

If my party gets ten seats, who will my party choose to go to the constituent assembly?



Before the election each party will announce a list of candidates. The first ten people on your party's list will go to the constituent assembly.

What will this constituent assembly do?



It will draw up a new constitution.

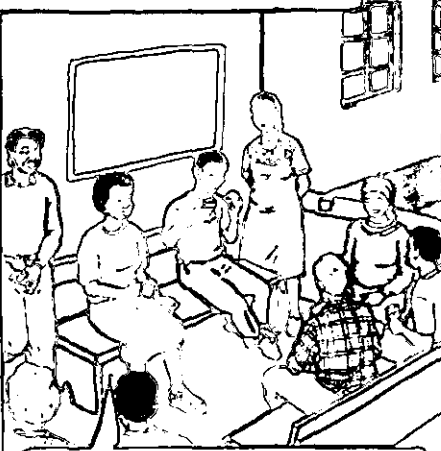


A constitution is a set of rules which decides how South Africa will be governed.



The parties which get the most seats will have more say in how the constitution is drawn up.

That evening.



We have struggled for so long. It would be terrible if we lost the election because our people did not know how to vote.

I am not worried! I'm confident that my party will win.



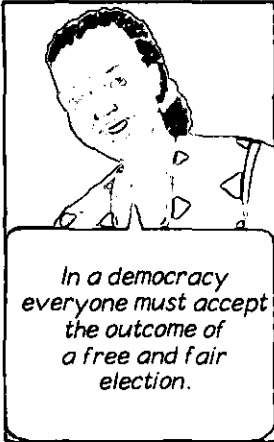
Ha! What will you do if your party loses?

Then we will go back to the armed struggle.

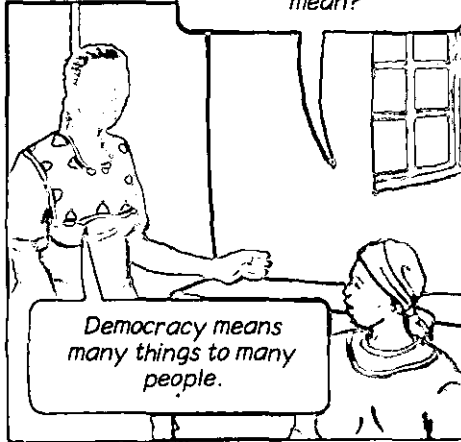


Tshepo, that is not the democratic way.

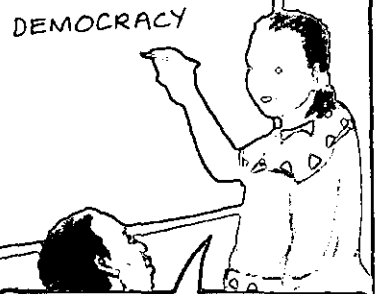
Tell me, what does this word democracy mean?



In a democracy everyone must accept the outcome of a free and fair election.

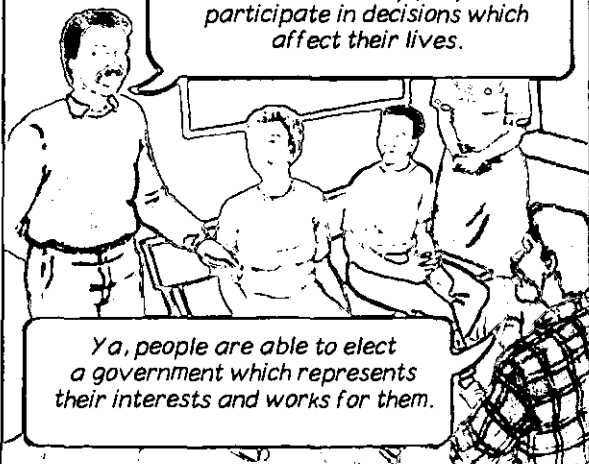


Democracy means many things to many people.



Most people believe democracy means a government made up of the people, chosen by the people, working for the people.

In a democracy people participate in decisions which affect their lives.



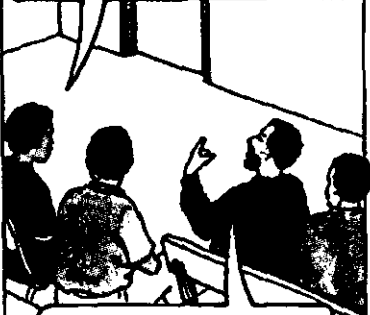
Ya, people are able to elect a government which represents their interests and works for them.

But not everyone shares the same ideas about how the country should be run.



Of course. That is why the majority rules in a democracy. But the rights of those people whose leaders don't get in must also be respected.

In some countries the Governments have banned their opposition parties after they got into power.



Those countries are not democracies.

For a country to be democratic the opposition parties must be allowed to have seats in Parliament.



They must be able to criticize the Government and ask it questions about what it is doing.

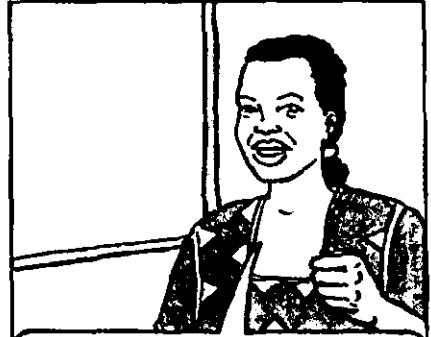


And most important of all there must be free and fair elections every four or five years.

If the Government does not keep its promises we need to be able to vote in a new government.



But how can we stop the Government from deciding to cancel all future elections?



We must organise ourselves. We need strong civics, unions and other community organisations.



Ja, we must all work together to make the new Government answerable to all the people.



There is a long road ahead of us.

Yes, we are all going to have to work very hard to build a democracy.

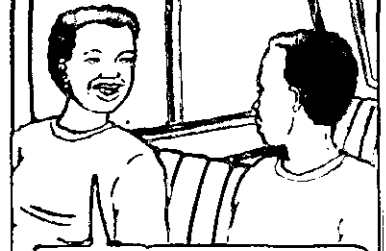


But at last we will be able to leave behind all the pain and suffering caused by apartheid.

CHAPTER
6

After the workshop.

Avoid the bullet
Use the ballot...
Vote for a better
nation.



Tshepo, let's run our first voter education workshop soon. Time is running out.

Yes. But first I must report back to the youth.



Okay, I also need to meet with the members of Progress stokvel and the women at the Unity co-operative.



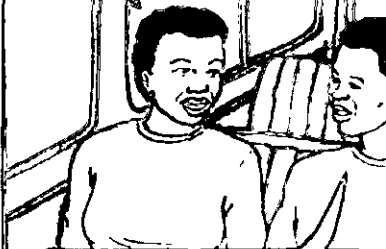
Let's hold the workshop in two weeks time. We can meet during the week to plan it.

I am pleased that we have these ballot boxes and ballot papers to use.



And these posters will get people talking.

Where should we run the workshop?



Let's ask Father Amos if we can use the church hall.



Look! People are marching. Something has happened.

Oscar Manaka and John Dube were gunned down on Sunday on their way to a peace committee meeting. No one knows who did it.



I can't believe it!

The next day Thembi and Tshepo visit Father Amos.

Bantwabam', this has been a tragic weekend.

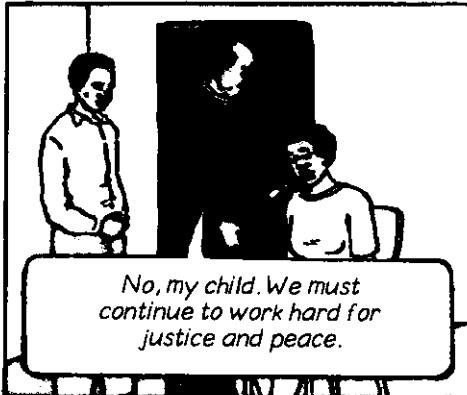
Yes, Father, we heard about the killings.

Have you brought back a lot of knowledge to share with us?

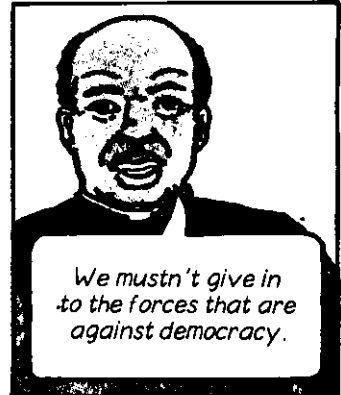
We were planning a workshop for two weeks time. But now...



Voter education is a waste of time. There is no hope for this country!



No, my child. We must continue to work hard for justice and peace.



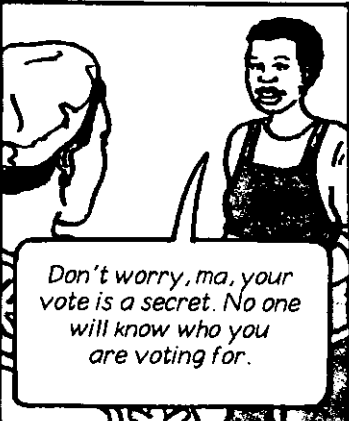
We mustn't give in to the forces that are against democracy.

The next week Thembi meets with Unity co-operative and Progress stokvel.

There is no time to lose. We all have to learn how to vote for the party of our choice.



But, Thembi, our husbands are a problem. They will tell us who to vote for.

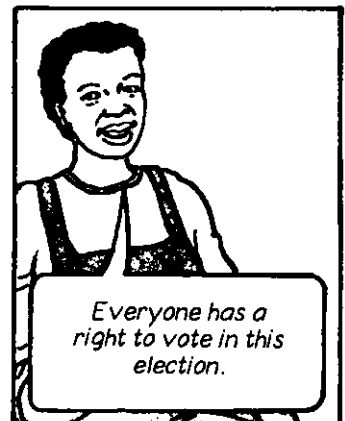


Don't worry, ma, your vote is a secret. No one will know who you are voting for.

Ya, say you will vote for their party. But then vote for who you like.

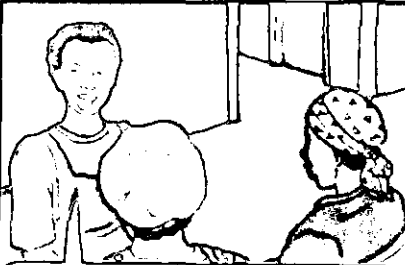


Well, don't tell our husbands that or they won't let us vote at all.



Everyone has a right to vote in this election.

If we women give our vote how can we be sure that the new government will meet our needs?



Ma, many women's organisations have come together to make sure that women's issues and needs are listened to.



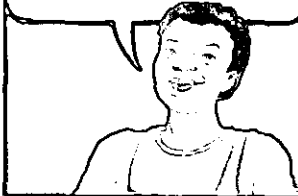
These organisations are writing a women's charter.

What is this women's charter?



It is a document that demands equal rights for all women.

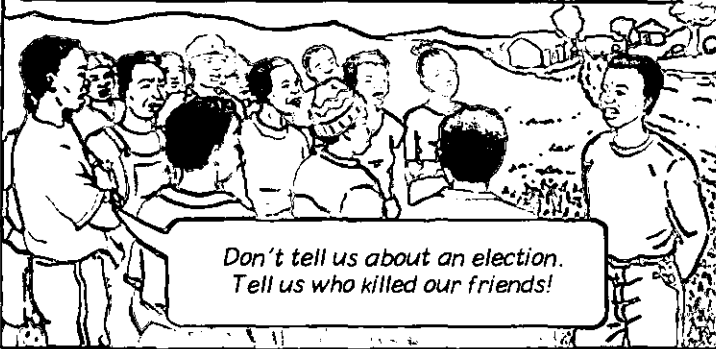
The document will be presented to the constituent assembly that will decide how the country will be run.



Our local women's groups must get involved. Our voices must also be heard.

Thembi invites all the women to a voter education workshop to be held at the church in two weeks' time.

A week later Tshepo meets with the youth.



Don't tell us about an election. Tell us who killed our friends!



All this talk is getting us nowhere. The time has come to fight back.

Can't you see that the forces that are killing people are against democracy?



Ya, they are too scared to fight an election because they know they won't win.



We have fought so long for a chance to run our country. We mustn't give in now.

Eventually the youth agree that voter education is important.

Two weeks later Tshepo and Thembi hold a voter education workshop at the church hall.

Do not waste your chance. Make sure you know how to vote before election day. And when you vote, vote with joy. For we have truly won a victory.

All South African citizens who are eighteen or older will be able to vote.

Don't wait. Apply for your ID book now.

Your vote will be a secret. No one will know who you voted for.

Put a cross in the empty space next to the party of your choice.

Now I know I will vote before I die. I won't be voting for myself, but for my children's children. So that they will never have to suffer something like apartheid.

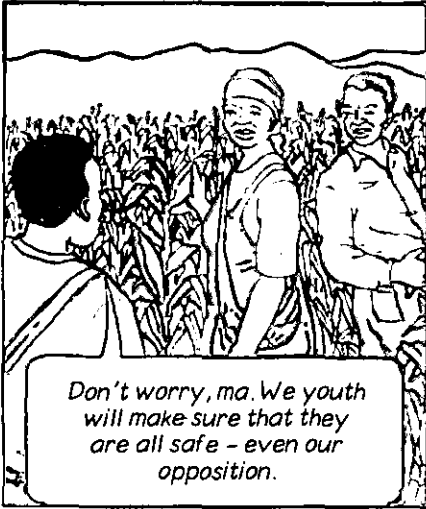
Thembi and Tshepo's voter education workshop at the church is a great success. Since then everyone in the community has been talking about the forthcoming election.

A few months later.

Is it true that different political parties will be sending speakers to our community in the next few months?



Yes. I hope all those speakers will be safe.



Don't worry, ma. We youth will make sure that they are all safe - even our opposition.

No way! We can't let our enemies come and speak here! Not after all they've done to us!



Mfo, do not become like them. Our community must be free to hear other people's views. Or this election will not be democratic.

I heard the leaders of all the political parties speaking on the radio. They were making lots of promises.



Ya, I read about their promises in the newspaper. They all sound the same.

What I want to know is: How are these parties going to make their promises come true?

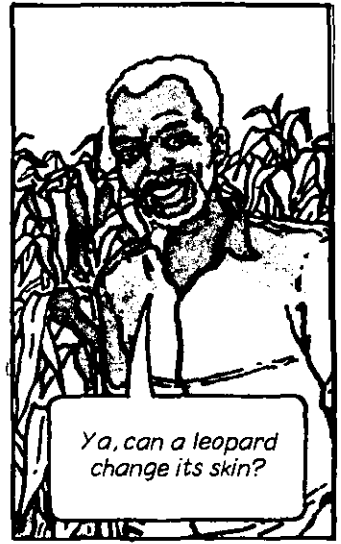


And are they really committed to a democratic country with equal rights for all?



Words, words, words! I think we must look at what each party has said and done in the past.

That will tell us what sort of party it is.

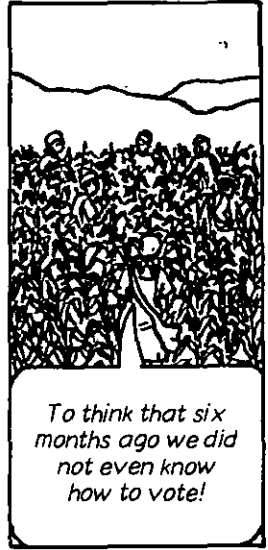


Ya, can a leopard change its skin?



These speakers had better do their homework. I have some difficult questions for them.

We talk too much. It's time to work.



To think that six months ago we did not even know how to vote!



Now that we have knowledge it's easier to speak out.



No one will silence us again!

ON ELECTION DAY

What will I be voting for?

On election day, we will be voting for a **constituent assembly**. This assembly will draft a new constitution for South Africa, which will determine the way our country is governed. The constituent assembly will then become the new **democratic government** which will rule the country until the next election.

The constituent assembly will be elected by the procedure known as **proportional representation**.

Proportional representation means that:

- ◆ Voters will be voting for political parties.
- ◆ Each political party will make a list of party candidates. The candidates names will be put on the list in order of preference.
- ◆ Each party will have to win a certain number of votes before they will be able to send a candidate to the constituent assembly.
- ◆ The number of candidates any one party sends to the constituent assembly will depend on the number of votes that party gets in the election.

What will I need to vote?

You will need some form of identification to be allowed to vote on election day. The best form of identification is an identity document (ID). An **identity document** is a small book that proves your age and that you are a South African citizen.

BLACK SASH

If you have a problem getting your ID, you can contact any of the following Black Sash advice offices:

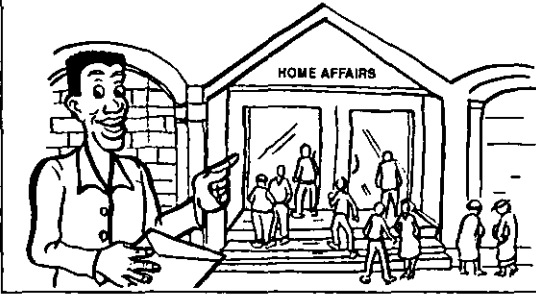
Albany Region
Tel: (0461) 28-091
Border Region
Tel: (0431) 439-206
Eastern Cape
Tel: (041) 546-274/5

Western Cape
Tel: (021) 685-3513/4
Knysna Region
Tel: (0445) 24458
Natal Coastal Region
Tel: (031) 301-9215

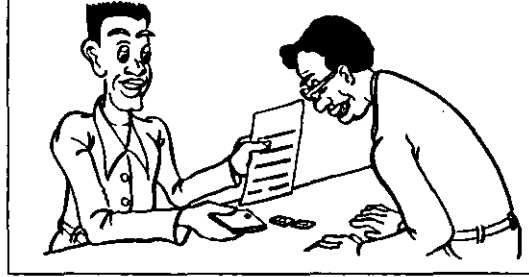
Natal Midlands
Tel: (0331) 426-368
Northern Transvaal
Tel: (012) 322-3969
PWV Region
Tel: (011) 834-8372

HOW TO GET AN IDENTITY BOOK

1 Go to the Department of Home Affairs office nearest to where you live.



2 You will need to take two photographs and your birth certificate with you.



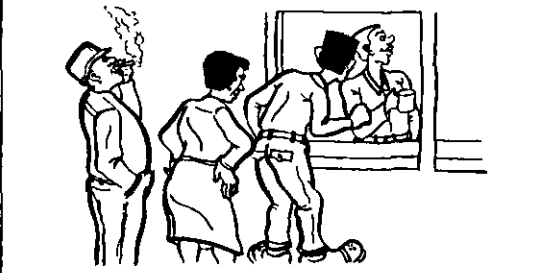
3 If you do not have a birth certificate, you can take any of the following documents:

- ◆ reference book
- ◆ baptismal certificate
- ◆ clinic card
- ◆ school letter
- ◆ house permit
- ◆ letter from chief
- ◆ letter from farm

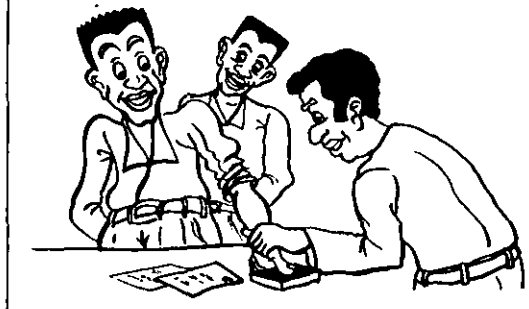
4 At the Home Affairs office, ask for an identity document form. Fill in the form. Pay the clerk R3 for the ID.



5 Take both the receipt and the form to another clerk. This clerk will tell you when your ID will be ready.



6 Go to another clerk who will take your finger prints for your ID.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

BALLOT BOX: is a voting box where voters put their marked ballot paper after they have voted.

BALLOT PAPER: is a paper that has the names of all the political parties taking part in the election. The voter puts a cross in the space next to the party he or she is voting for.

CODESA: stands for the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, which was the name given to the first negotiating body of political parties.

DEMOCRACY: is a system of government in which the will of the people is of most importance.

ELECTION: is a process that allows the citizens of a country to vote for a political party of their choice to become the government.

ELECTION OFFICIALS: are people who work in polling stations on election day.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY: means that the government must explain and justify its actions and policies to the people.

NEGOTIATION: is a process of talking to your opponent in order to resolve your differences.

POLLING STATION: or voting station is a place where people go to vote on election day. Schools, community halls, churches and tents can all be polling stations.

POLLING BOOTH: is a closed space into which a voter goes alone to mark his or her ballot sheet.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION: is an election procedure in which the number of votes a political party gets in an election determines the number of candidates the party can send to the constituent assembly.

SECRET BALLOT: means your vote is secret. No one will know who you are voting for on election day.

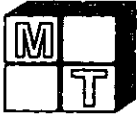
SPOILT PAPER: is a ballot that has been marked wrongly and will not be counted.

SYMBOLS: are signs that stand for something. Every political party has a symbol that stands for that party.

TOLERANCE: is when a person allows other people the right to support whichever party they choose.

VOTING: is the process in which members of society indicate by marking a cross on a piece of paper which political party they want to govern the country

WOMEN'S CHARTER: is a document that lists the demands of all women in South Africa.



Matla Trust

Matla Trust is a development and educational trust formed in April 1991. Its main purpose is to provide for the upliftment of the people of South Africa who have been deprived by apartheid.

Its largest project is the *Community and Citizen Education Programme* which provides education in democracy and elections. The Trust runs voter education *Training Programmes* throughout the country. It also produces a wide range of voter education materials, like this comic book. They include videos, booklets, radio and TV programmes, newspapers, cassettes, and theatre.

The Matla Trust is governed by a board of Trustees, made up of 14 prominent South Africans with a history of struggle against apartheid. The head office is in Johannesburg, with eight regional offices throughout the country.

Matla Trust Head Office

3rd Floor, Munich-Re Centre, 54 Sauer Street, Johannesburg, 2001
P.O. Box 7748, Johannesburg, 2000.
Tel: (011) 836-8061 Fax: (011) 838-1910

PWV Region

Office 23 Ekaya House
Ncube Drive, Dube, Soweto
Tel: (011) 982-2167 Fax: (011) 982-1074

Eastern Transvaal Region

1st Floor, Sabre House
57 Bester Street, Nelspruit
Tel: (01311) 25-838

Western Cape Region

403/404 Commerce House
57 Shortmarket Street, Cape Town
Tel: (021) 242-305 Fax: (021) 242-332

Western Transvaal Region

304/305 Vaneli Building,
Church & Boom Streets, Klerksdorp
Tel: (018) 462-1297 Fax: (018) 462-2199

Northern Transvaal Region

Room 316 Nedbank Building,
60 Landros Mare Street, Pietersburg
Tel: (01521) 915-073 Fax: (01521) 915-077

Natal Region

Computer House
5 Glenhuisie Road, Pinetown
Tel: (013) 726-306 Fax: (031) 726-878

Northern Natal Region

225 Nedbank Centre
Harding, Newcastle
Tel: (03431) 91237

Eastern Cape Region

5-13 CNA Building, Oxford & Union
Street, East London
Tel: (0431) 430-866 Fax: (0431) 430-910

Orange Free State Region

Library House, 44 West Burger Street
Bloemfontein
Tel: (051) 482-483 Fax: (051) 482-485

Witbank Region

Office No 3 Arras Court
Cnr Beatty & Arras Sts, Witbank
Tel: (0135) 903-297 Fax: (0135) 902-049

independent forum for electoral education

The Independent Forum for Electoral Education (IFEE) is a body of independent organisations that are working together on voter education. IFEE has been established to ensure that all citizens of South Africa can take part in a free and fair election, in order to create and sustain democracy in our country. These organisations are non-partisan. They are not aligned to any political organisation.

IFEE Co-ordinating Office

39 Honey Street, Berea, Johannesburg
P.O. Box 32804, Braamfontein, 2017
Tel: (011) 484-2984 Fax: (011) 484-2610

IFEE Media Commission

Munich Re- Centre, 54 Sauer Street, Johannesburg
P.O. Box 7748, Johannesburg, 2000
Tel: (011) 836-8061 Fax: (011) 838-1910

IFEE Member Organisations

African Independent Churches ◇ African Spiritual Church Association ◇ Barometer
Regional Research and Reporting Corporation ◇ Black Sash ◇ Centre for Contextual
Hermeneutics, Stellenbosch University ◇ Consultative Business Movement
Christian Citizenship Department of the Methodist Church of SA ◇ Centre for
Development Studies ◇ Catholic Institute for Education ◇ Church of the Province of
SA Justice and Peace ◇ Diakonia ◇ Ecumenical Confessing Fellowship ◇ Free
Market Foundation ◇ Foundation for Democratic Advancement ◇ Human Awareness
Programme ◇ Human Sciences Research Council ◇ Institute for Contextual Theology
Institute for a Democratic Alternative for SA ◇ Independent Mediation Service of SA
Joint Enrichment Programme ◇ Lawyers for Human Rights ◇ Learn and Teach
Matla Trust ◇ Institute for Multi-Party Democracy ◇ National Land Committee
National Youth Development Co-ordinating Committee ◇ SA Catholic Bishops
Conference ◇ SA Council of Churches ◇ Theological Exchange Programme ◇ The
Storyteller Group ◇ Wilgespruit Fellowship ◇ Young Christian Students ◇ Young
Women's Christian Association.

Matla Trust

ARE YOU READY TO VOTE?

Matla Trust is offering a play on democracy and voting. The play has a cast of sixteen, is an hour long and can be performed at community, church, school, workplace and other venues.

A video of the play is also available.

For more information contact:

Tel : (011) 836-8061

Fax : (011) 838-1910

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

Offers a Pastoral Letter titled
Towards a Democratic Future
which covers the issues of voter education and democracy.

Available for 20c from SACBC:

140 Visagie Street

Pretoria

0001.

Tel : (012) 323-6458

Fax : (012) 326-6218

THE BLACK SASH

* Offers **You And The Vote** booklet on how to vote. Available in Sotho, Pedi, Tsonga, Zulu, Xhosa, Tswana, English and Afrikaans.

* Workshops run on the election for first time voters.

* Workshops for trainers who wish to run workshops for first time voters.

For information contact:

Tel : (011) 834-8372

Fax : (011) 492-1177

The South African Council of Churches

The Education for Democracy Programme

operates to involve churches in the campaign to educate South African voters to participate in the country's first democratic elections.

Contact SACC at:

P.O. Box 4921 / 62 Marshall Street

Johannesburg

Tel : (011) 492-1380

Fax : (011) 492-1448/9

Centre for Development Studies

PROJECT VOTE

CDS offers voter education programmes based on the principles of adult education. The programmes consist of:

* training workshops

* provision of Election Training Kits, including videos, manuals, trainer polling booths, ballot boxes and ballot papers.

For more information contact:

Tel : (021) 959-2151

Fax : (021) 959-2317

INSTITUTE FOR MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY

MPD is a non-partisan organisation that strives to promote political tolerance and national reconciliation in South Africa.

MPD offers a **Democracy Media Programme**, a **Voter Education Programme** and a range of publications.

Contact :

Natal : (031) 304-3863

Transvaal : (011) 339-6412

Western Cape : (021) 251-120

Institute for Contextual Theology

Offers a voter education publication titled
The Road To Democracy
Democratic Elections in South Africa

Available at a cost of R2 from :

P.O. Box 32047

Braamfontein

2017.

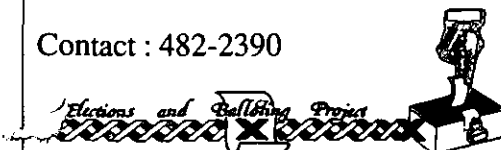
Tel : (011) 339-2513

Fax : (011) 339-3704

The IMSSA Elections and Balloting Project offers Voter Education based on "hands-on" experience of running elections and ballots since 1986 - which has included voter education for literate, semi-literate, illiterate and innumerate electorates.

**WE TRAIN TRAINERS TO TRAIN
VOTERS TO USE THE VOTE**

Contact : 482-2390



IDASA

YOU CAN VOTE

Voter Education Material for Trainers:

* 10 large, full-colour posters

* Trainer's Manual in English

The material contains information on voting and is designed to be used in small workshops, especially for rural communities.

Contact :

39 Honey Street, Berea, 2198.

Tel : (011) 484-3694

Fax : (011) 484-2610

LAWYERS for HUMAN RIGHTS

LRH has 14 regional branches around South Africa in both rural and urban communities. Programmes are run on both human rights education and on voter education.

For more information contact :

730 Van Erkom Building

217 Pretorius Street

Pretoria 0002.

Tel : (012) 212-135

Fax : (012) 325-6318

Young Women's Christian Association

Involvement in electoral education is through women's rights and development programmes.

For information, contact YWCA at:

420 Khotso House

62 Marshall Street

Johannesburg 2001.

Tel : (011) 838-1077/8

Fax : (011) 833-1987

REGIONAL RESEARCH & REPORTING CORPORATION

The BAROMETER PAMPHLETS deal broadly with education for democracy, including voter education.

Contact :

P.O. Box 13060

Clubview, 0014.

Tel : (012) 643-347

Fax : (012) 643-347