

WHERE'S SANELE?



SCHOOL - MORNING



HURRY UP MAMA!
I DON'T WANT TO BE
LATE ON THE FIRST DAY
AND SANELE IS PROBABLY
WAITING FOR ME.





WELCOME
BACK!

PLEASE FIND
YOUR NAME AND
SIT AT THE DESK
WITH YOUR
NAME ON IT.



WHERE'S SANELE?



AFTER SCHOOL



WHAT HAPPENED?
WHY DO YOU LOOK SAD?
DID SOMEONE TAKE
YOUR FOOD?



SANELE WASN'T IN CLASS
TODAY AND THE TEACHER
SAYS SHE WON'T BE
COMING BACK TO
SCHOOL WITH US.






I'M SORRY
MY BABY.

LATER IN THE EVENING

WHAT DOES
"UNCONDIMENTED" MEAN?





UNCONDIMENTED?
WHERE DID YOU
HEAR THAT?

THE TEACHER SAID TODAY THAT
SANELE CANNOT COME TO SCHOOL
BECAUSE SHE IS UNCONDIMENTED



DO YOU MEAN "UNDOCUMENTED"?
IS THAT WHY YOUR FRIEND
CAN'T COME TO SCHOOL?
BUT I THOUGHT THAT WAS NOT
ACCEPTABLE ANYMORE? EVERY CHILD IS
NOW ALLOWED IN THE CLASS WITH OR
WITHOUT DOCUMENTS?



BEING UNDOCUMENTED MEANS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE THE PAPERS TO SAY WHAT IS YOUR NAME, WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY, OR WHERE YOU WERE BORN. MAYBE THE SCHOOL WANTS HER BIRTH CERTIFICATE BEFORE SHE CAN GO TO CLASS ?




BUT WHY DOESN'T SHE HAVE
THEM? DO I HAVE THEM AND
CAN I GIVE HER MINE?



NO BABY, YOU CAN'T GIVE HER
YOURS. SHE NEEDS HER OWN
DOCUMENTS WITH HER NAME ON
THEM AND ONLY HER PARENTS
CAN GET THEM FOR HER.





CAN'T WE HELP HER?
WE LEARNED HOW TO COUNT TO 20
TODAY IN CLASS. IF SHE DOES NOT
COME TO SCHOOL, SHE WILL
NEVER BE ABLE TO COUNT
LIKE ME.

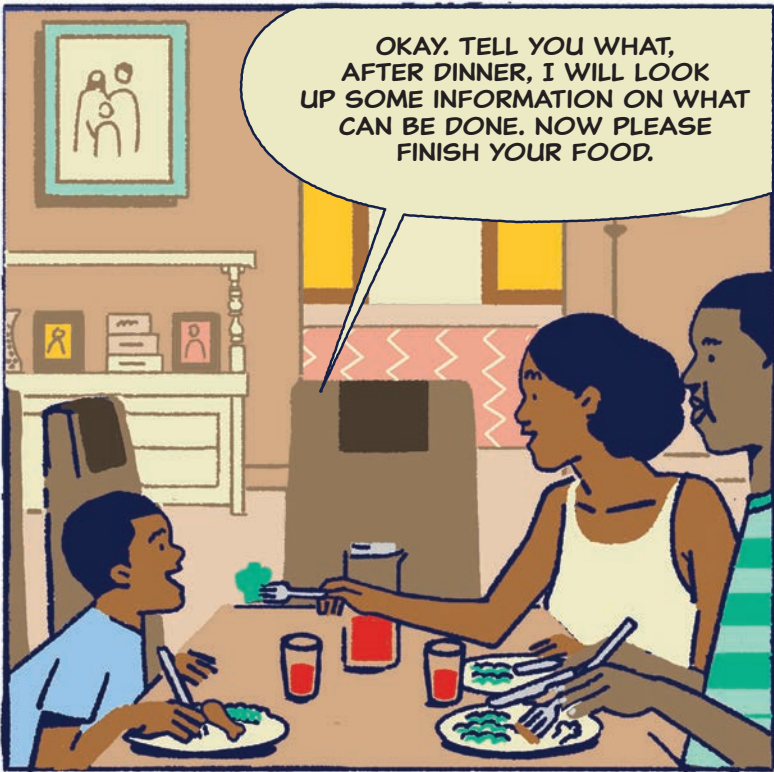
I'M SURE HER PARENTS
WILL TEACH HER.





NO THEY WON'T. SHE LIVES WITH HER OLD GRAND-MOTHER. MAMA YOU ARE ALWAYS SAYING I SHOULD TAY IN SCHOOL SO THAT I CAN BE A DOCTOR WHEN I'M OLDER. SANELE WANTS TO BE A DOCTOR TOO WHEN SHE'S OLDER . WE WILL BOTH BE DOCTORS. SHE CAN'T BE A DOC-TOR IF SHE CAN'T STAY IN SCHOOL. PLEASE CAN WE HELP HER?

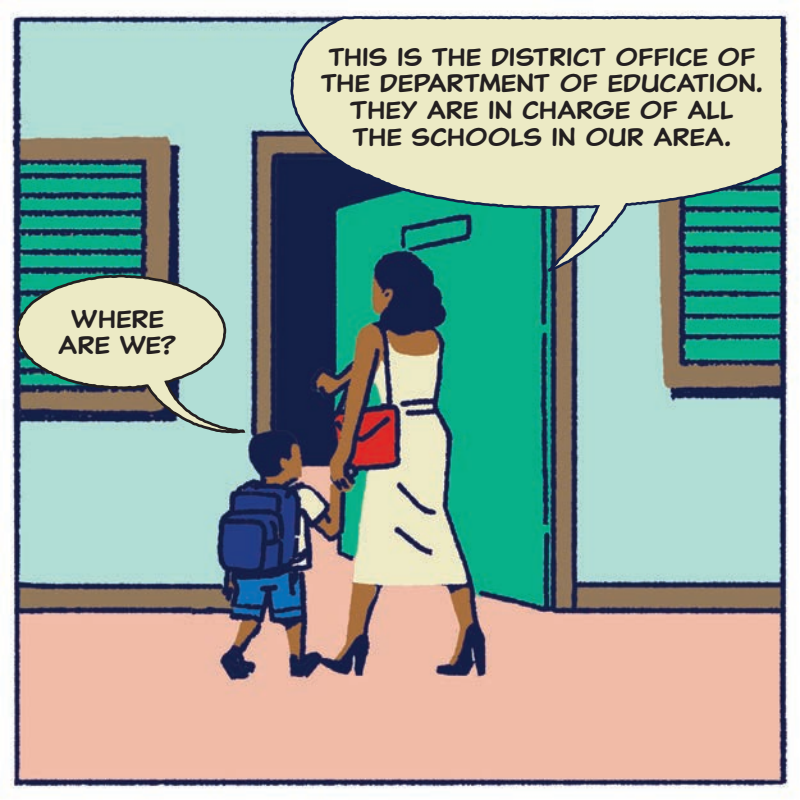
OKAY. TELL YOU WHAT,
AFTER DINNER, I WILL LOOK
UP SOME INFORMATION ON WHAT
CAN BE DONE. NOW PLEASE
FINISH YOUR FOOD.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EASTERN CAPE DISTRICT OFFICES



A woman with dark hair, wearing a white sleeveless dress and high heels, is walking towards a large green doorway. She is holding the hand of a young boy who is wearing a white shirt, blue shorts, and a blue backpack. The boy is looking back over his shoulder at the woman. The background is a light blue wall with two windows that have green horizontal blinds. The floor is a solid light pink color.

THIS IS THE DISTRICT OFFICE OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.
THEY ARE IN CHARGE OF ALL
THE SCHOOLS IN OUR AREA.

WHERE
ARE WE?

HI SISI. WHO CAN I TALK TO ABOUT
AN UNDOCUMENTED LEARNER WHO IS
BEING DENIED ACCESS TO SCHOOL?



HELLO. YOU CAN GO TO THE FIRST
FLOOR TO SIS LINDA'S OFFICE. SHE
USUALLY WORKS ON SUCH CASES.
HER OFFICE IS THE FOURTH
ONE ON THE RIGHT.





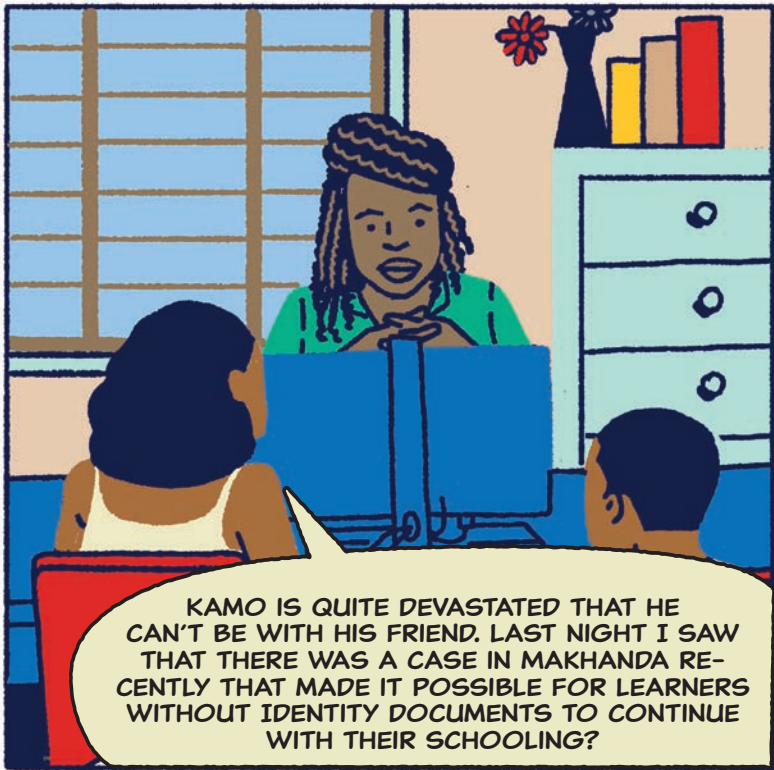




HOW CAN I HELP?




MY NAME IS NANCY.
THIS IS MY SON KAMO.
HIS FRIEND SANELE HAS
BEEN DENIED ENTRY AT
SCHOOL THIS YEAR
BECAUSE SHE IS
UNDOCUMENTED.
WE JUST WANTED TO
FIND OUT WHAT CAN BE
DONE TO ENSURE THAT
SHE COMES BACK
TO SCHOOL.



KAMO IS QUITE DEVASTATED THAT HE CAN'T BE WITH HIS FRIEND. LAST NIGHT I SAW THAT THERE WAS A CASE IN MAKHANDA RECENTLY THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR LEARNERS WITHOUT IDENTITY DOCUMENTS TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR SCHOOLING?



WELL KAMO, YOUR FRIEND
SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL LIKE
YOU. EVERY CHILD HAS THE
RIGHT TO EDUCATION
IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER
THEY HAVE IDENTITY
DOCUMENTS OR NOT.




NO SCHOOL CAN
TURN A CHILD
AWAY FOR THIS
REASON AND
DOING SO IS
ACTUALLY ILLEGAL.
YOU ARE QUITE
RIGHT,

THE GRAHAMSTOWN
HIGH COURT RULED
THAT, IN LINE WITH
THE CONSTITUTION,
ALL CHILDREN
MUST BE A
LLOWED ACCESS
TO EDUCATION.







WE CAN VISIT THE
SCHOOL AND TELL
THEM THAT EXCLUD-
ING YOUR FRIEND IS
NOT RIGHT.

THEY NEED TO ALLOW
ALL CHILDREN INTO
SCHOOL EVEN IF THEY
WERE NOT BORN IN
SOUTH AFRICA.




SOUTH AFRICAN CHILDREN AS WELL AS CHILDREN LIVING IN SOUTH AFRICA FROM OTHER COUNTRIES CAN BE UNDOCUMENTED. THERE ARE SO MANY REASONS WHY CHILDREN DON'T HAVE IDENTITY DOCUMENTATION, AND STRUGGLE TO GET THEIR BIRTHS REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS.



SOMETIMES THEIR MOTHERS DON'T KNOW HOW TO REGISTER THE BIRTHS, OR THE CHILDREN COULD BE ORPHANED OR ABANDONED. OTHER CHILDREN LIVE WITH THEIR GRANNIES, WHO DON'T HAVE ALL THE PAPERS TO REGISTER THE CHILDREN, AND THEN GIVE UP BECAUSE IT IS SUCH A STRUGGLE.





CHILDREN WHO HAVE
ESCAPED TO SOUTH AFRICA
FROM OTHER COUNTRIES
OFTEN HAVE TO LEAVE IN
A HURRY. THEY THEN LOSE
THEIR DOCUMENTS, OR THEY
GET DESTROYED.

THAT IS TERRIBLE.
YOU KNOW,
SANELE LIVES
WITH HER
GRANDMOTHER.

MAYBE SANELE'S GRANNY
ALSO STRUGGLED TO GET A
BIRTH CERTIFICATE
FOR HER



SANELE'S HOUSE





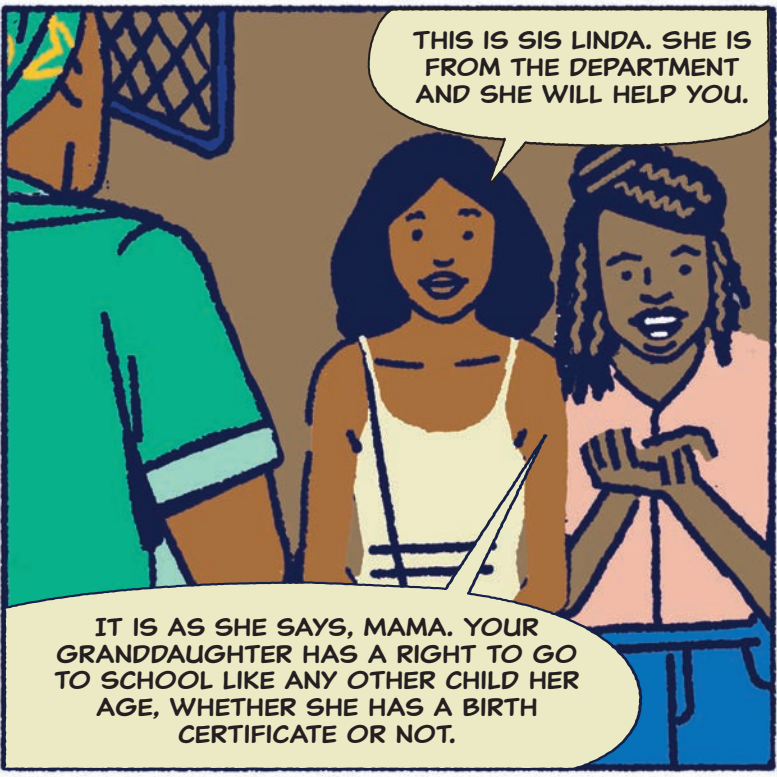


YOU CAN COME
TO SCHOOL!

WHAAAT?

MY NAME IS NANCY. KAMO IS MY SON. HE TOLD ME
THAT SANELE HAS NOT BEEN ALLOWED BACK AT
SCHOOL BECAUSE SHE IS UNDOCUMENTED.
HE ALSO INSISTED THAT I HELP BRING HIS FRIEND
BACK TO SCHOOL.





THIS IS SIS LINDA. SHE IS
FROM THE DEPARTMENT
AND SHE WILL HELP YOU.

IT IS AS SHE SAYS, MAMA. YOUR
GRANDDAUGHTER HAS A RIGHT TO GO
TO SCHOOL LIKE ANY OTHER CHILD HER
AGE, WHETHER SHE HAS A BIRTH
CERTIFICATE OR NOT.

OH, WHERE ARE MY MANNERS. PLEASE
COME INSIDE FOR SOME TEA AND WE
CAN TALK SO I UNDERSTAND
YOU CLEARLY.




WHEN I WENT TO REGISTER SANELE AT THE SCHOOL, THE PRINCIPAL TOLD ME THEY CANNOT TAKE HER IF SHE DOES NOT HAVE A BIRTH CERTIFICATE. I WAS SO UPSET, BUT I DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO.



I TRIED GOING TO HOME AFFAIRS TO GET ONE FOR SANELE BUT THEY SAY ONLY HER MOTHER CAN DO IT. SHE WAS BORN HERE AT HOME. I BROUGHT HER INTO THIS WORLD MYSELF. MY FIRST AND ONLY GRANCHILD. HER MOTHER IS OFF IN THE CITY SOMEWHERE WORKING.



A comic panel with a brown background. On the left, a woman with dark skin and curly hair is wearing a green headwrap with yellow patterns and a green top with a yellow collar. She is looking towards the right. On the right, another woman with dark skin and long, dark, curly hair is seen from the back, wearing a pink top. A speech bubble from the woman on the left contains the text. Another speech bubble at the bottom contains the text.

HER PHONE WAS STOLEN A WHILE
BACK AND WE HAVE LOST CONTACT
BUT I HOPE SHE WILL CALL US SOON
WHEN SHE CAN GET A NEW PHONE.

WAS SHE HOME FOR
THE HOLIDAYS? DOES SHE
KNOW SANELE CANNOT
GO TO SCHOOL?

NO, SHE DOES NOT KNOW. I THINK
HER PHONE WAS STOLEN BEFORE
ALL THIS. SHE ALSO DID NOT
COME HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
BECAUSE I DON'T THINK SHE
HAD THE MONEY.



SANELE'S MOTHER LEFT WHEN SHE WAS SO YOUNG, AND WE DON'T SEE MUCH OF HER. I RAISED SANELE ON MY OWN, AND IT IS NOT ALWAYS EASY.







GET SANELE READY FOR SCHOOL TOMORROW MORNING. I WILL PERSONALLY SPEAK TO THE PRINCIPAL TO MAKE SURE THAT SHE CAN START WITH CLASSES FIRST THING TOMORROW.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

PRINCIPAL





AS I SAID, I AM FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND
I AM HERE BECAUSE I UNDERSTAND
THAT SANELE HAS BEEN REFUSED EN-
TRY BECAUSE SHE DOES NOT HAVE A
BIRTH CERTIFICATE?



THE SCHOOL HAS
DENIED ALL CHILDREN WITHOUT
BIRTH CERTIFICATES, PASSPORTS,
OR PERMITS ADMISSION,
BECAUSE WE THOUGHT THAT IS
WHAT THE DEPARTMENT SAID
WE SHOULD DO.



PRINCIPAL, THAT WAS BEFORE THE COURT RULING. NOW ALL CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO EDUCATION, WHETHER THEY HAVE IDENTITY DOCUMENTATION, WERE BORN IN SOUTH AFRICA, OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. IF THEY LIVE IN SOUTH AFRICA, THEY CAN GO TO SCHOOL.

WE WERE NOT
AWARE OF THIS.





THAT IS FINE. SOMETIMES THIS INFORMATION
TAKES A LONG TIME TO GET TO SCHOOLS.
PLEASE CALL ALL THE PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF
THE CHILDREN THAT ARE NOT IN SCHOOL BECAUSE
OF A LACK OF DOCUMENTATION, AND TELL THEM TO
COME TO SCHOOL TOMORROW.



PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SINCERE APOLOGIES.
IT APPEARS WE WERE WORKING ON OUTDATED
INFORMATION. I WILL SEE TO IT RIGHT AWAY THAT
SANELE DOES NOT MISS ANYMORE CLASSES I WILL
GET THE OFFICE TO CONTACT ALL OTHER PARENTS
CURRENTLY EXCLUDED ON THIS BASIS.

BOTH OF YOU RUN
STRAIGHT TO CLASS. THE BELL
WILL RING ANY MINUTE.



CAREFUL!



6. ԽՈՒՐՈՒՄ, ԽՈՒՐՈՒՄ
7. ԽՈՒՐՈՒՄ, ԽՈՒՐՈՒՄ
8. ԽՈՒՐՈՒՄ, ԽՈՒՐՈՒՄ
9. ԽՈՒՐՈՒՄ, ԽՈՒՐՈՒՄ
11. KAMO, SANELE





...EIGHTEEN,
NINETEEN,
TWENTY!

Do you need support?

Legal Resources Centre

- Cape Town – 021 879 2398
- Johannesburg – 011 836 9831
- Durban – 031 301 7572
- Makhanda – 046 622 9230



Facebook - <https://m.facebook.com/LRCSouthAfrica/>



LinkedIn - Legal Resources Centre



Email - info@lrc.org.za



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LRC

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