

NYUKI

The Bee Story: A Metaphoric Tale of Wealth Disparity & The Need to Tax the Rich



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THIS BOOK WAS DEVELOPED BY AKINA MAMA WA AFRIKA (AMWA). WE THANK DIANAH BWENGYE, FAITH LUMONYA, JENNIFER LIPENGA, PATRICIA MWOROZI, PRECIOUS TRICIA ABWOOLI, MUBEEZI TENDA, AND NDILOKELWA NTHENGWE WHO COLLECTIVELY DREAMT AND DEVELOPED THE SCRIPT. WE ARE PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL TO DIANAH BWENGYE, WHO CREATIVELY DREW THESE ILLUSTRATIONS AND WEAVED THEM TOGETHER INTO A BEAUTIFUL ART WORK THAT PORTRAYS HOW COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM, AND PATRIARCHY FACILITATES WEALTH INEQUALITY TODAY, AND WHY ADDRESSING IT WILL REQUIRE A REDISTRIBUTION OF TAX OBLIGATIONS, ENSURING THAT THE WEALTHY PAY MORE. SPECIFIC THANKS ALSO GO TO EUNICE MUSIIME AND SARAH NANNYONDO OKELLO, WHO REVIEWED THE CONTENT TO ENSURE IT ALIGNS WITH THE BROADER ORGANIZATIONAL ASPIRATIONS. WITH THIS BOOK, WE DEMAND A WEALTH TAX.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION



THE BEES ILLUSTRATE AFRICAN PEOPLE. THE QUEEN BEE IS THE LEADER OF THE HIVE, SHE LEADS WITH KINDNESS AND GRACE.



YOUNG XXORA IS ONE OF THE BEES, WHO LIVES IN THE HIVE CAREFREE AND HAPPY.



GRANDMOTHER XXORA CARRIES WITH HER THE BEES' ANCESTRY, AND HAS ENSURED THAT SHE SHARES IT WITH EVERY BEE. SHE HAS LIVED THROUGH THE HIVE BEETLES' RULE AS AN ACTIVIST AND THE VOICE FOR THOSE SILENCED.



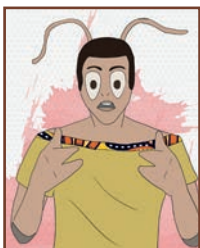
XONA, WHO IS XXORA'S SON AND XOE'S FATHER, LIVES WITH HIS FAMILY ON A SMALL PLANTATION AND WORKS AT THE AETHINA* PLANTATION.



XOE, XXORA'S GRAND DAUGHTER AND XONA'S DAUGHTER. AN ACTIVIST AT HEART, SHE WORKS AT THE HIVE BEETLE PLANTATION.



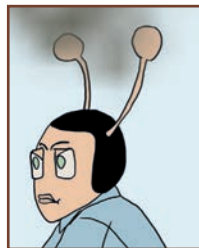
XAVI, WHO WORKS WITH XONA AND XOE, IS EMPLOYED AT THE HIVE BEETLE PLANTATION.



XINTI, XAVI'S SON, WORKS AS A SUPERVISOR AT THE HIVE BEETLE PLANTATIONS. HE IS EAGER TO PLEASE HIS BOSSES.



REFERRED TO AS "EXPLORERS" OR AS THE HIVE BEETLES IN THIS BOOK, THIS GROUP ILLUSTRATES THE COLONIALISTS, IMPERIALISTS, AND WHITE SUPREMACISTS WHO INVADED AFRICA IN THE 1870S TO THE 1910S, TO-DATE.



AETHINA REFERS TO THE CHIEF ADVISOR OF THE HIVE BEETLES. THE CHARMING INVADERS OF THE BEE HIVES, SWOOPING IN TO DESTRUCTIVELY COLONIZE EVERYTHING IN SIGHT.



MFLAME, THE SO-CALLED KING OF THE HIVE BEETLES, RULING WITH ALL THE CHARM OF A DUST STORM IN THE SAHARA.



PRINCESS FARA, A HIVE BEETLE AND THE DAUGHTER OF MFLAME, LIVING BLISSFULLY.



GENERAL 1: MFLAME'S LOYAL CRONY, EVER THE OBEDIENT SERVANT, JUMPS AT EVERY COMMAND LIKE A GAZELLE AT A POND.



GENERAL 2: MFLAME'S LOYAL CRONY, EVER THE OBEDIENT SERVANT, JUMPS AT EVERY COMMAND LIKE A GAZELLE AT A POND.

HIVE BEETLES DAMAGE BEEHIVES BY EATING HONEY, POLLEN, AND STRESSING BEE COLONIES.

MY GRANDMOTHER XXORA ALWAYS BUZZES ABOUT THE GOLDEN DAYS WHEN OUR COLONY WAS FILLED WITH UNITY, PROSPERITY, GENEROSITY, FERTILITY. OUR HIVE WAS THE EPITOME OF HARD WORK; WE WERE THE BEES THAT PUT THE 'BUSY' IN 'BUSYBODY.' HONEY WAS SO PLENTIFUL, WE HAD MATOOKE WITH HONEY, UGALI WITH HONEY, EVEN HONEY FOR DESSERT!



THE COLONY

BECAUSE WE HAD SO MUCH IN ABUNDANCE, WE STARTED DOING WHAT BEES DO BEST—SHARING IT WITH EVERYONE. FREE HONEY, FREE PROPOLIS, FREE WAX..., JUST NAME IT!



...IT WAS LIKE THE VILLAGE VIBE WHERE YOU CAN'T EAT ALONE. EVEN THE ANTS CAME KNOCKING LIKE, 'YOU GOT SOME HONEY FOR US TOO?'



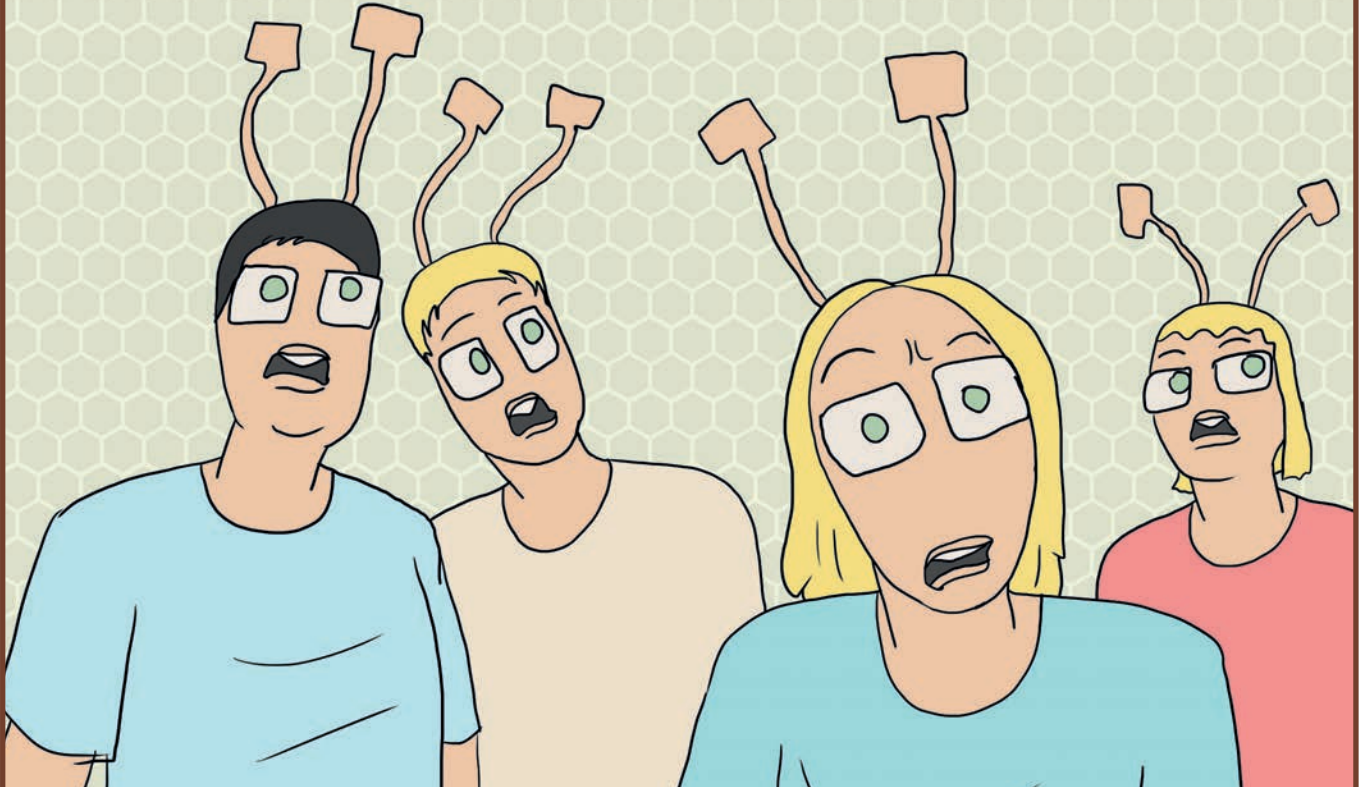
ONE BRIGHT AFTERNOON, A CREW OF HIVE BEETLES STRUTTED INTO OUR WOODLANDS, ORCHARD AND MEADOWS - ABUNDANT WITH FLOWERS, JUICY FRUITS, GRASSLANDS, AND LARGE TREES, THEY CALLED THEMSELVES "EXPLORERS" YES, "EXPLORERS"! THEY CLAIMED THEY WERE HERE TO ADMIRE THE WONDERS OF OUR TERRITORY AND, IF WE'D BE SO KIND, MAYBE EVEN LEARN THE SECRETS TO OUR SUCCESS..



THE QUEEN, IN HER ENDLESS GRACE, GAVE THEM THE GRAND GO-AHEAD, AND THERE WE WERE, PROUDLY SHOWING THESE HIVE BEETLES AROUND LIKE IT WAS MARKET DAY.



ABSOLUTELY SHOCKED BY OUR WEALTH AND BEWILDERED BY OUR GENEROSITY. SHARING? HAH! SUCH A CONCEPT WAS LIKE A VILLAGE FOLKTALE WHERE THE HIVE BEETLES CAME FROM.



IN THE HIVE BEETLES LAND, THE ONLY THING THEY WERE USED TO SHARING WAS A WELL-PLACED JAB OVER WHO COULD GRAB THE MOST! BUT HEY, MAYBE THEY'D LEARN A THING OR TWO ABOUT HOSPITALITY-IF THEY COULD HANDLE IT.

THE BEETLES STRUTTED OUT OF OUR HIVE, SMUGLY CARRYING JARS OF OUR HONEY, WAX, PROPOLIS NODDING ALONG AND PROMISING TO "BRING OUR WISDOM" BACK TO THEIR HUMBLE LAIR.



THEY EVEN CALLED US THEIR "NEW BEST FRIENDS" - OR SO WE THOUGHT. LITTLE DID WE KNOW, THE ONLY THING THEY'D BE REPLICATING WAS HOW TO TAKE HONEY WITHOUT LIFTING A WING! AH, FRIENDSHIP, HIVE BEETLE-STYLE.

ONE SUNNY AFTERNOON, THE BEES WERE HAPPILY PARTYING IN THEIR COLONIES WITH HONEY BREWS, UNAWARE OF AN IMPENDING DANGER FROM OUR NEW "BESTIES" THAT WAS ABOUT TO DISRUPT THEIR CELEBRATION.



THE PARTY



A SWARM OF "OUR NEW BESTIES" LED BY THE EVER CHARMING *AETHINA RAIDED OUR COLONIES, THEY KILLED OUR QUEEN BEE AND TOOK OVER OUR COLONIES. THEY ALSO DESTROYED THE PLANTS AND LOOTED OUR JUICY FRUITS.. THEY DEMANDED MORE HONEY AFTER THEY HAD OBLITERATED THE NECTAR SOURCES. AH! TRUE FRIENDS INDEED.





AFTER AGES UNDER AETHINA'S EXPLOITATIVE REIGN, THE BEES FINALLY HAD HAD ENOUGH!. THEY FOUGHT BACK AND VOILÀ-A FLAG! A MAJESTIC CLOTH FLAPPING IN THE WIND, PROMISING EVERY BEE A SWEETER FUTURE.

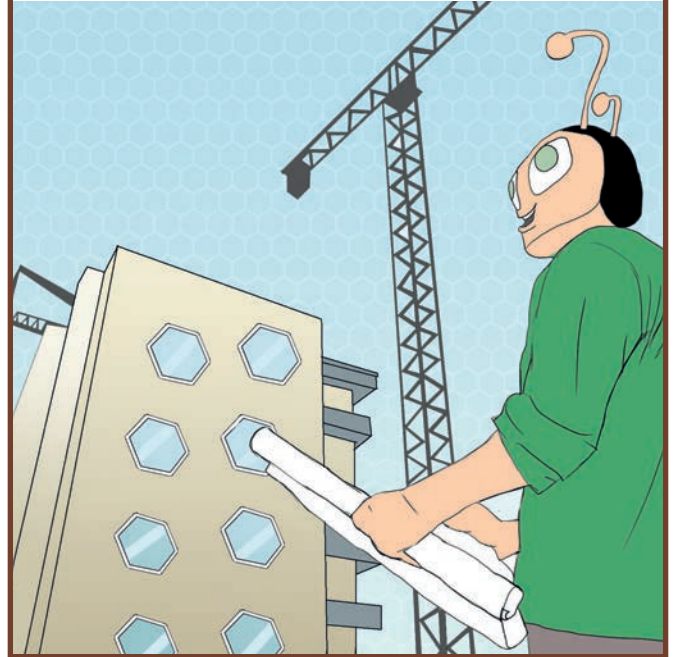
WE THOUGHT WE WERE HIVE BEETLE-FREE! BUT NOPE, THOSE SNEAKY HIVE BEETLES STILL SNEAK BACK TO STEAL OUR HONEY STASH. THEY EVEN RAID OUR WAX, PROPOLIS, ROYAL JELLY, AND POLLEN-BASICALLY EVERYTHING SHINY AND SWEET. AND THE WORST PART IS, THEY EVEN CLAIM WE OWE THEM MONEY!



LAST APRIL, THE HIVE BEETLES SLYFULLY INTRODUCED OUR WISE LEADERS TO A "GLOBAL MONEY SUMMIT" WHERE THEY UNKNOWINGLY WELCOMED A GROUP OF HIVE BEETLES INTO OUR TERRITORY - THIS TIME AS INVESTORS AND MULTILATERAL LENDERS. UNBEKNOWN TO US ALL, WE HAD ONCE AGAIN OPENED OURSELVES UP TO FURTHER PLUNDER AND EXPLOITATION!

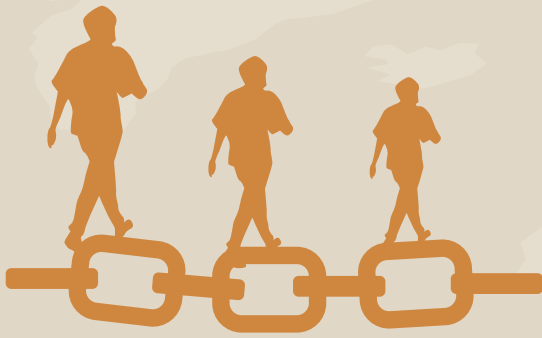


I THOUGHT OPPORTUNITY WAS KNOCKING AT THE DOOR WHEN OUR LEADERS CONCLUDED ALL THOSE DEALS - BUT IT WAS ONLY CREDITORS! FROM THEN ON, EVERYTIME WE HAD A BIG HARVEST, THE HIVE BEETLES FORMED A FLASH MOB. THEY DEMANDED THAT EVERY BEES PAYS MORE "TAXES", EARNS LESS, AND REDUCES THEIR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT.



THE HIVE BEETLES SET UP THEIR INVESTMENTS AND DEMANDED THAT THEY THEMSELVES DO NOT PAY TAXES. AETHINA PULLED STRINGS WITH OUR LEADERS AND SCORED A DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY, WITH JUST ENOUGH LOOPHOLES TO COVER THE HIVE BEETLES! SO GUESS WHO'S SKIPPING THE TAX LINE ENTIRELY? YEP, ITS THE FREELOADING GUESTS! THEY GOT A SHINY "TAX SHELTER", THAT'S LEAVING US BEES TO FOOT THE BILL. NOW, OUR ONCE BUSTLING WEALTHY COLONIES HAVE BECOME STICKY SWAMPS OF SICKNESS AND POVERTY.





The **violent separation of African poor farmers and indigenous communities from their land**, plays a significant role in unpacking the role of **colonial power** in the process of capital accumulation by the minority.



It explains how certain individuals, particularly **Western imperialists**, got land and other forms of wealth while African communities became landless and dependent on wage labor.



This perspective is very critical as wealth has been used as a tool by those that have it to wield **"invisible power"** and **sustain colonial legacies of exploitation and domination** long after the **end of direct colonialism**.

THIS IS MY COLONY, I LIVE WITH MY FATHER AND GRANDMOTHER. IF I BECOME A QUEEN BEE, I WILL MAKE SURE THAT I FORCE THE AETHINA, THE SLY HIVE BEETLES OUT OF OUR COLONY.

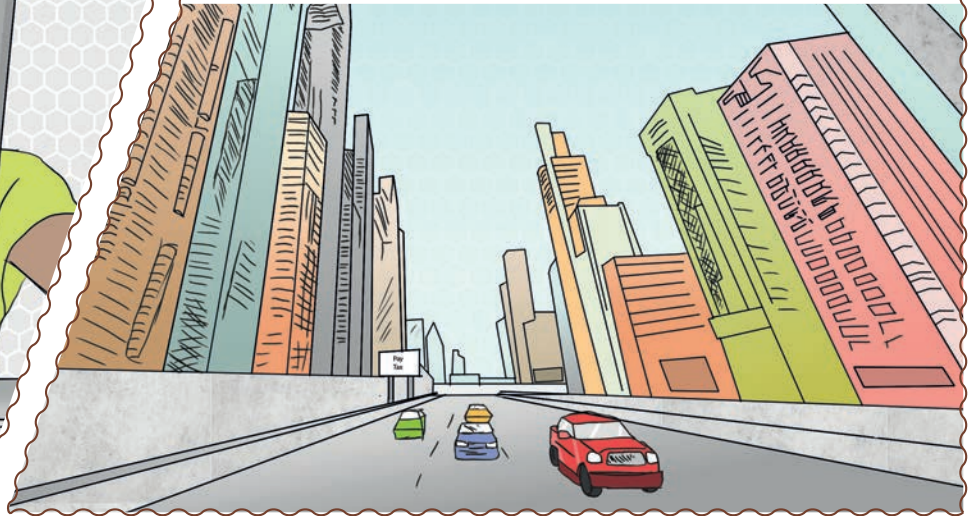
WAKE UP XOE, WE NEED TO START EARLY TODAY IF WE ARE TO MEET OUR QUOTA, YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DON'T.



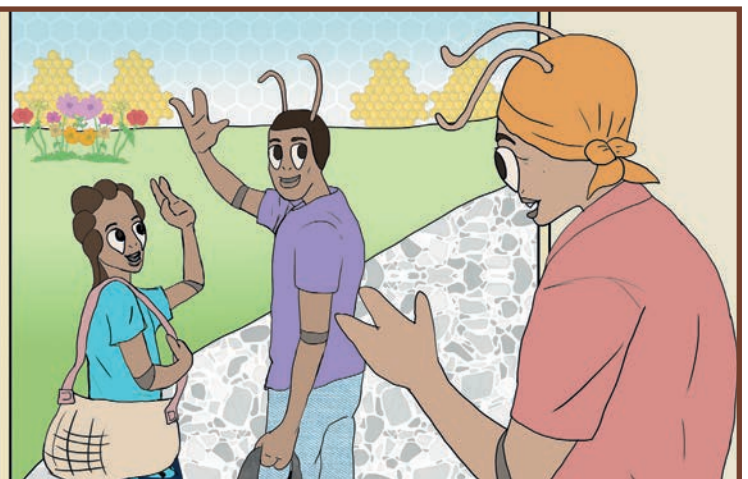
THE COLONY

THE BEES THAT DO NOT MEET THEIR QUOTA* COULD FACE IMPRISONMENT OR EVEN DEATH. WHILE THE IMPERIALIST HIVE BEETLES THRIVE ON EATING AND DESTROYING OUR HONEY...

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE DEMAND REAL INDEPENDENCE FROM THE HIVE BEETLES-AND REPARATIONS FOR ALL THE HARM THEY HAVE CAUSED IN OUR TERRITORY. AND HEY, MAYBE OUR ECONOMIC POLICIES COULD, FOR ONCE, ACTUALLY BENEFIT THE BEES INSTEAD OF THE FREE LOADERS.



OK PAPA... BEFORE YOU BEGIN TO SOUND LIKE ME, LET ME GET READY...



*QUOTA IS A SET TARGET OR GOAL THAT WORKERS NEED TO ACHIEVE WITHIN A SPECIFIC TIME PERIOD.

THE AETHINA FIRM

MFLAME, THE IMPERIALIST AND SELF IMPOSED RULER OF BOTH THE BEES AND BEETLES, AND HIS DAUGHTER FARA, DROP BY THE AETHINA FIRM TO INSPECT HOW HARD THE WORKER BEES ARE TOILING AWAY. CLASSIC ROYAL OVERSIGHT!



MY DEAR FARA, I WANT YOU TO LEARN THE FAMILY BUSINESS, SOON YOU WILL TAKE OVER AND CONTINUE TO GROW OUR FIRM.

THANK YOU FATHER, THIS IS EXCITING TO WATCH. THE WORKERS ARE ALL HARD WORKING, PROUD OF WHO WE ARE!

TOTALLY FAIR, RIGHT? WE BARELY PRODUCED ANY HONEY OR WAX THIS YEAR, BUT WE'RE STILL FORCED TO GIVE A HUGE CHUNK TO THE HIVE BEETLES—WHO DO NOTHING, OWN NOTHING, AND YET DEVOUR EVERYTHING WE MAKE. NOW THEY'RE EVEN SPRAYING FLOWERS WITH 'ENHANCEMENTS' THAT MAKE US SICK, ALL WHILE IGNORING OUR ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE IN FAVOR OF PROFITS. LOVELY SYSTEM, ISN'T IT?



BE QUIET, DON'T LET AETHINA'S MEN HEAR YOU. TODAY, MFLAME IS COMING TO CHECK ON THE HARVEST YOU COULD GET INTO SO MUCH TROUBLE



FATHER, THIS EXPLOITATION NEEDS TO END. SOMEONE HAS TO SPEAK UP, THIS ISN'T FAIR.



LISTEN TO ME XOE, PLEASE KEEP SILENT, I WILL NOT LOSE YOU LIKE I LOST YOUR MOTHER.

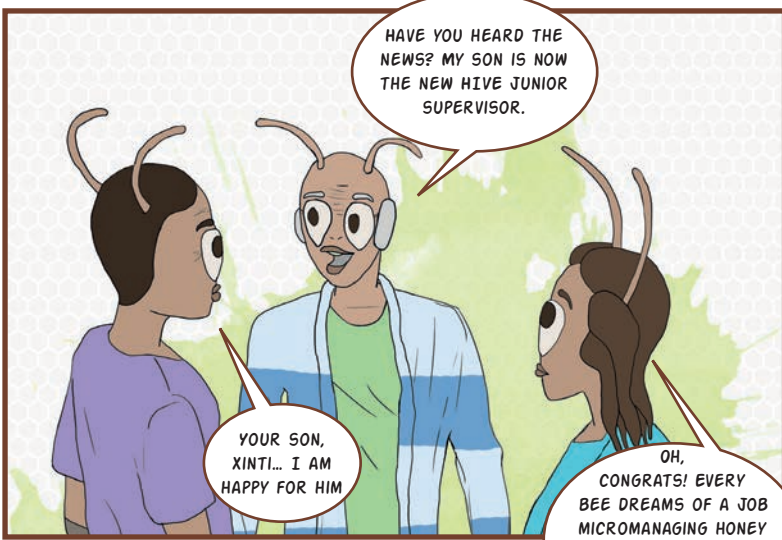


DON'T FORGET THAT YOUR MOTHER TRIED TO FIGHT THE HIVE BEETLES AND ENDED UP IN JAIL, WHERE SHE DIED DUE TO AN INFECTION. XOE, I WILL NOT LOSE YOU TOO...



HELLO XONA, HELLO XOE! HOW ARE YOU DOING?

HELLO XAVI



HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS? MY SON IS NOW THE NEW HIVE JUNIOR SUPERVISOR.

YOUR SON, XINTI... I AM HAPPY FOR HIM

OH, CONGRATS! EVERY BEE DREAMS OF A JOB MICROMANAGING HONEY QUOTAS AND DRIVING OTHERS TO WORK HARDER. TRULY A POSITION OF GREAT HONOUR!

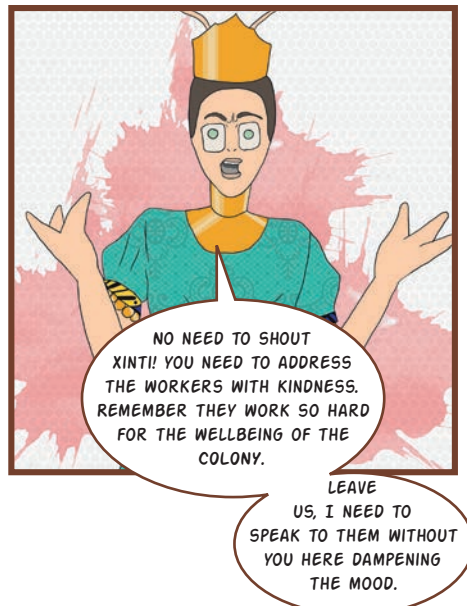


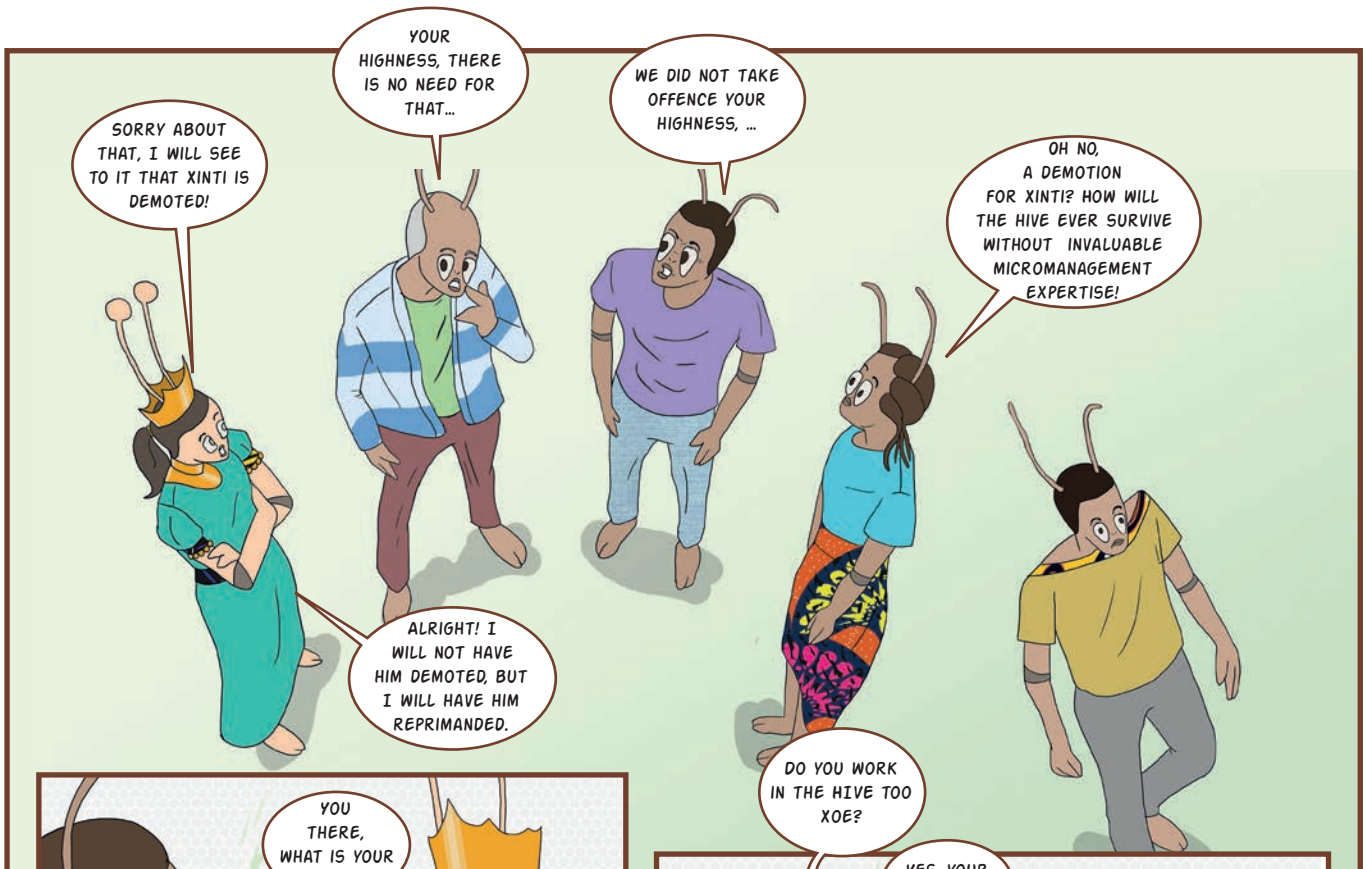
XOE! SHOW SOME RESPECT! IT IS A JOB TO BE PROUD OF. HE COLLECTS HONEY ON BEHALF OF THE HIVE BEETLES, WHO IN TURN PROVIDE SERVICES LIKE SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS...



WHAT SCHOOLS?... WHAT HOSPITALS?

NOT NOW XOE!



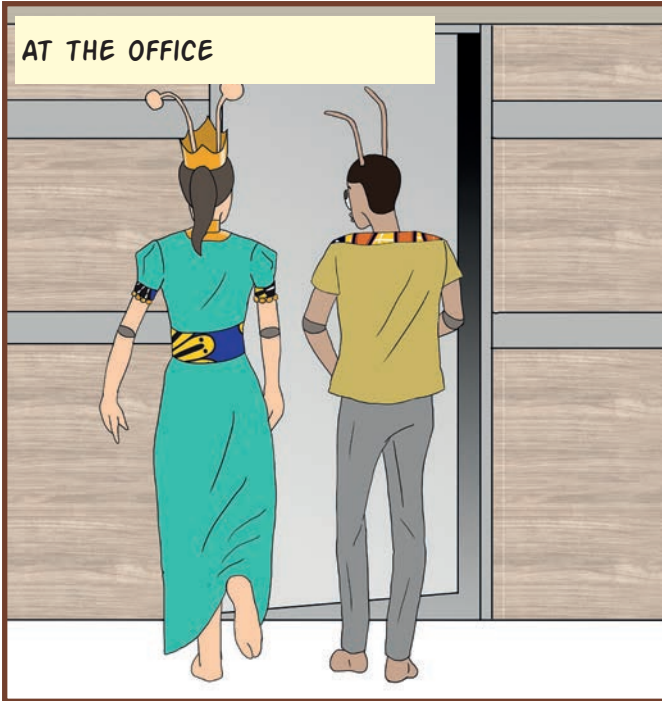


WHOA, HOLD ON THERE! I WAS JUST TRYING TO UNDERSTAND, BUT NOW I'M WORRIED I'VE STEPPED INTO SOME KIND OF SARCASM COMPETITION. ARE YOU OKAY? DID I MISS SOMETHING?

I DON'T MEAN ANY DISRESPECT YOUR HIGHNESS... BUT WE DO NOT RECEIVE ENOUGH FUNDS TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES FUNCTIONING, WE BARELY HAVE HONEY LEFT FOR OUR HOUSEHOLDS...

THAT CAN'T BE TRUE... MY FATHER ASSURED ME THAT THE FUNDS REACH THE COMMUNITIES... I BET THERE IS A MISUNDERSTANDING SOMEWHERE... OR SOMEONE WHO IS NOT DOING THEIR JOB RIGHT... I HAVE TO TALK TO HIM RIGHT AWAY.

AT THE OFFICE



MFLAME AT THE SUPERVISORS' OFFICES MEETING WITH HIS GENERALS



THE YIELD OF THIS SEASON'S HARVEST IS LESS IN COMPARISON TO THAT FROM THE PREVIOUS SEASON... WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED THIS?

THE RAINS THIS SEASON WERE SCARCE YOUR MAJESTY...

YES, IT HAS BEEN SO DRY, WE HAD TO USE DRASTIC MEASURES TO BE ABLE TO PLANT FLOWERS THIS YEAR... EVERY HOUSEHOLD HAS HAD TO WORK AT LEAST 2 SHIFTS IN THE GARDEN TO BE ABLE TO MEET THEIR QUOTA.



FORGIVE THE INTRUSION FATHER, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU IN PRIVATE



LEAVE US...



I JUST FOUND OUT THAT THE FUNDS WE GET FROM THE HONEY EXPORTATION DO NOT REACH THE COMMUNITIES... THE SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS LACK RESOURCES.

MY DEAR, THE FUNDS WE GET FROM TRADING ARE NOT ENOUGH TO SUPPORT ALL THE COMMUNITIES...

BUT FATHER, THE RICH AETHINA IN THE CITY DO NOT GIVE THEIR HONEY PORTIONS TO THE KINGDOM TO EXPORT, WOULDN'T IT HELP IF THEY DID... MAYBE THIS CAN INCREASE THE FUNDS...

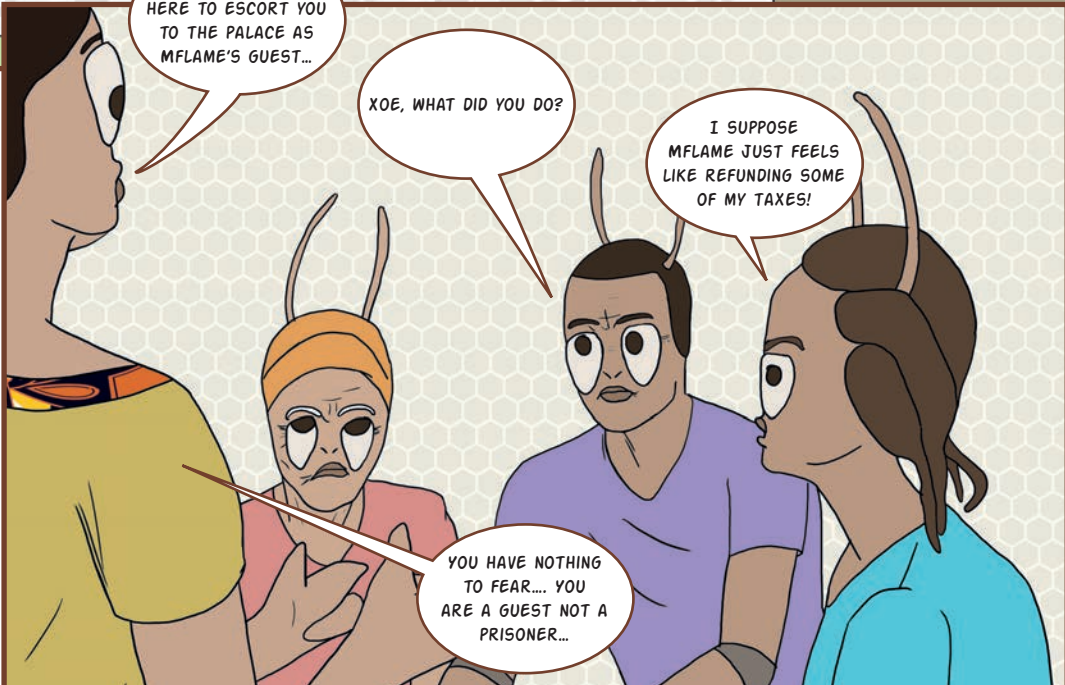
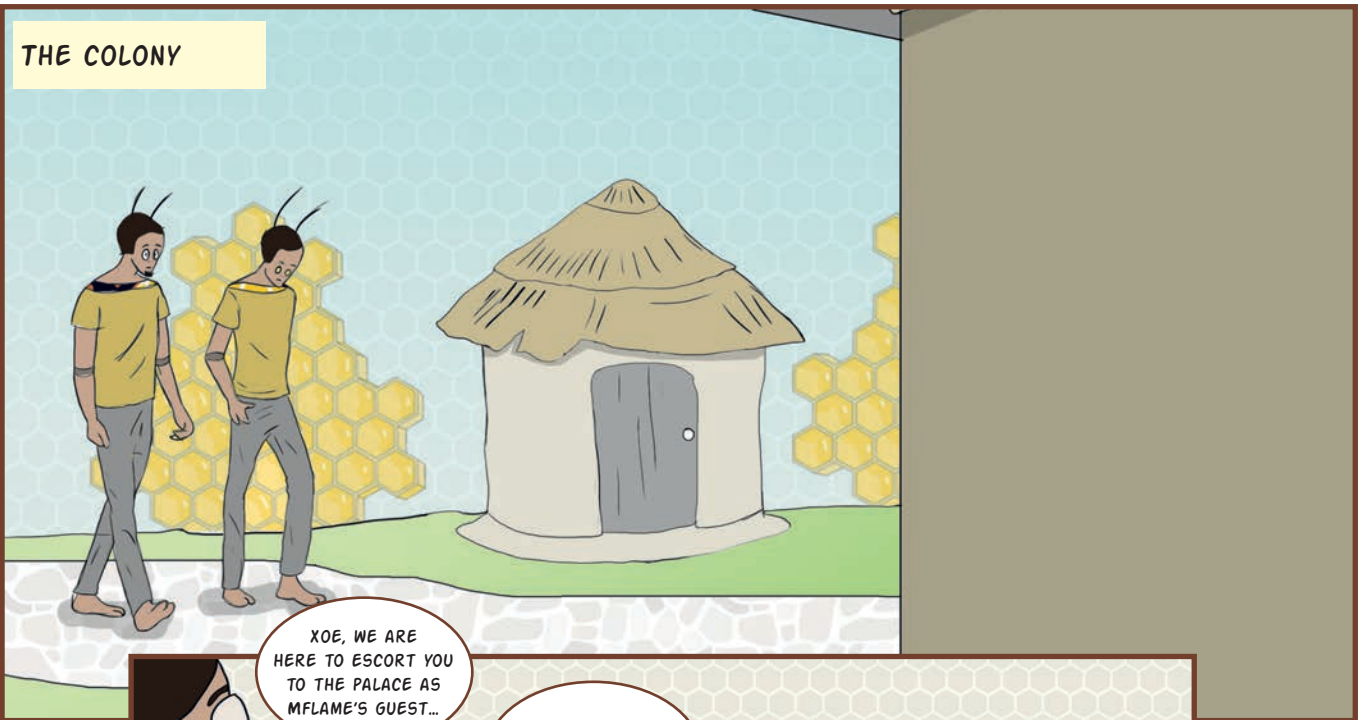


MY DEAR, IT WOULDN'T HELP... BESIDES THE RICH AETHINA OWN MOST OF THE GARDENS IN THE COMMUNITIES WHERE THE REST OF THE BEES WORK... THEY ARE ALREADY PLAYING THEIR PART TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITIES... BESIDES... IT IS AN EXAGGERATION THAT THE FUNDS DO NOT HELP THE COMMUNITIES... WHERE DID YOU HEAR THIS?

XOE... ONE OF THE WORKERS TOLD ME THIS...

I'M SURE SHE MISUNDERSTOOD YOUR QUESTION. LET US INVITE HER TO THE PALACE TO GET MORE INFORMATION.

THE COLONY



XOE, WE ARE HERE TO ESCORT YOU TO THE PALACE AS MFLAME'S GUEST...

XOE, WHAT DID YOU DO?

I SUPPOSE MFLAME JUST FEELS LIKE REFUNDING SOME OF MY TAXES!

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR... YOU ARE A GUEST NOT A PRISONER...



MAY THE GODS BE WITH YOU MY CHILD... WE SHALL BE HERE WAITING FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN

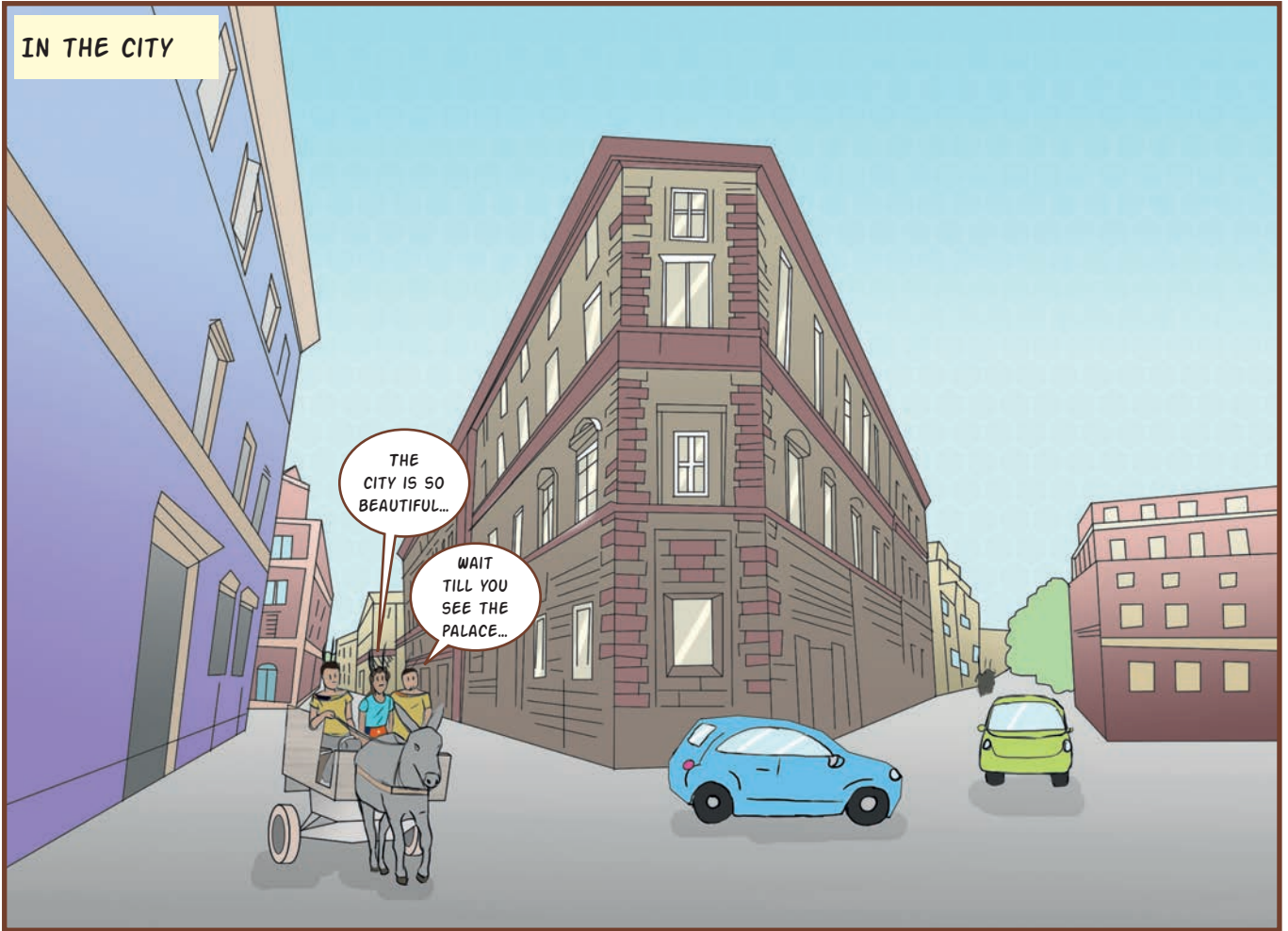
THANK YOU GRAND MAMA



REST ASSURED XXORA AND XONA, SHE WILL BE OKAY

XINTI, TAKE CARE OF MY XOE.

IN THE CITY



THE CITY IS SO BEAUTIFUL...

WAIT TILL YOU SEE THE PALACE...

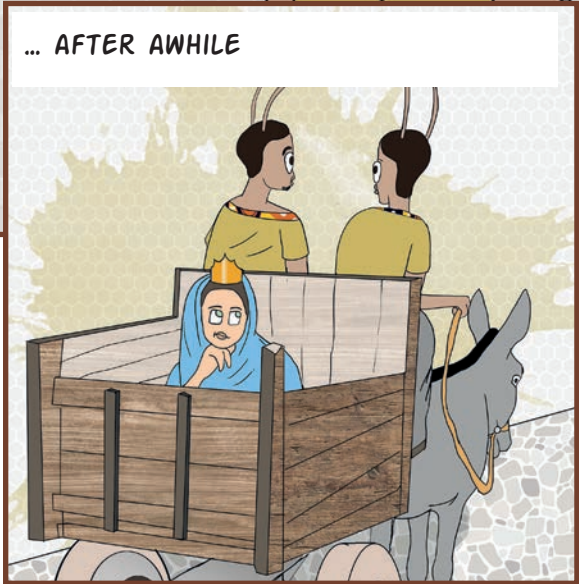
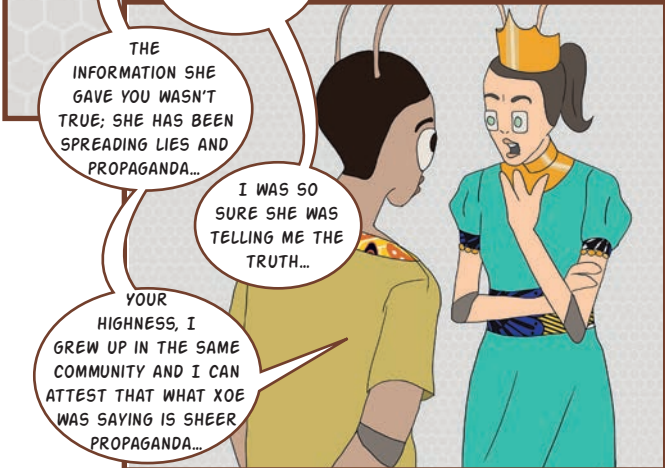
MFLAME'S PALACE



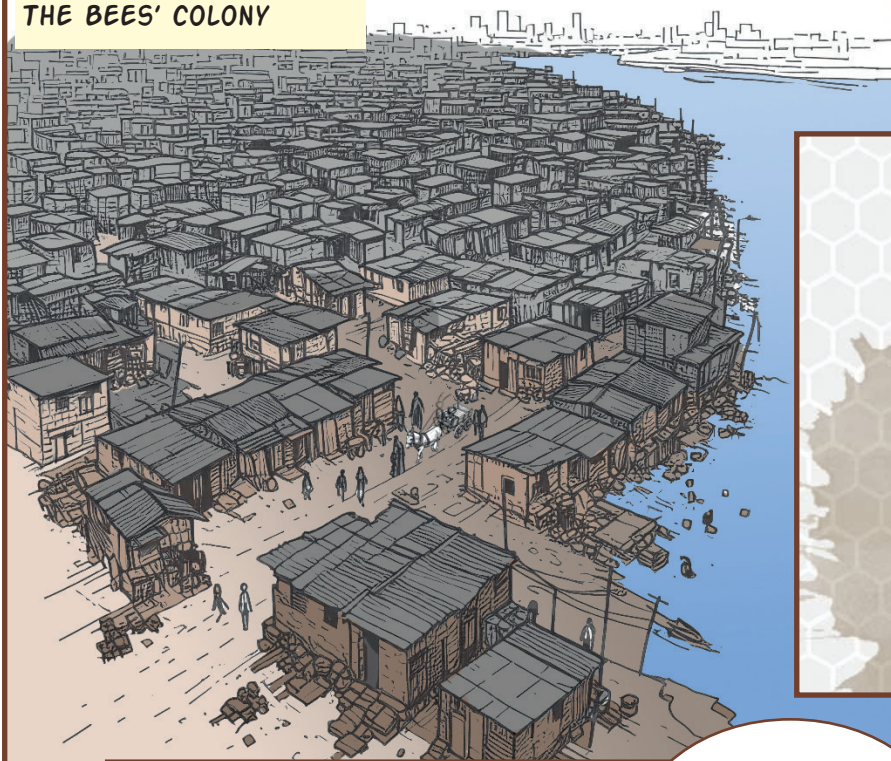
...THIS IS BREATH TAKING

I TOLD YOU...

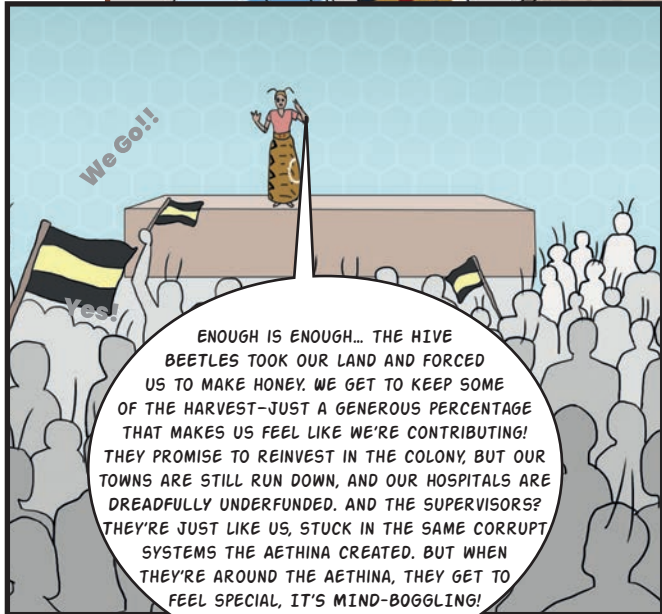
YOU MUST BE XOE...

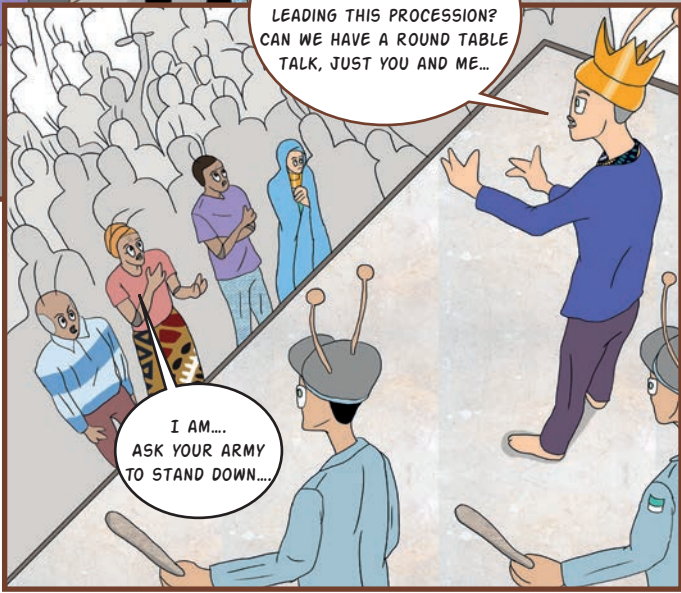


THE BEES' COLONY



XOE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH... THE TOWN IS RUNDOWN...





ATTENTION... PLEASE REMAIN CALM... WHO IS LEADING THIS PROCESSION? CAN WE HAVE A ROUND TABLE TALK, JUST YOU AND ME...

I AM... ASK YOUR ARMY TO STAND DOWN...



STAND DOWN!



RIGHT THIS WAY XXORA

XXORA, IF YOU WANT XOE TO LIVE, ASK THE CROWD TO LEAVE THE CITY THIS INSTANT!

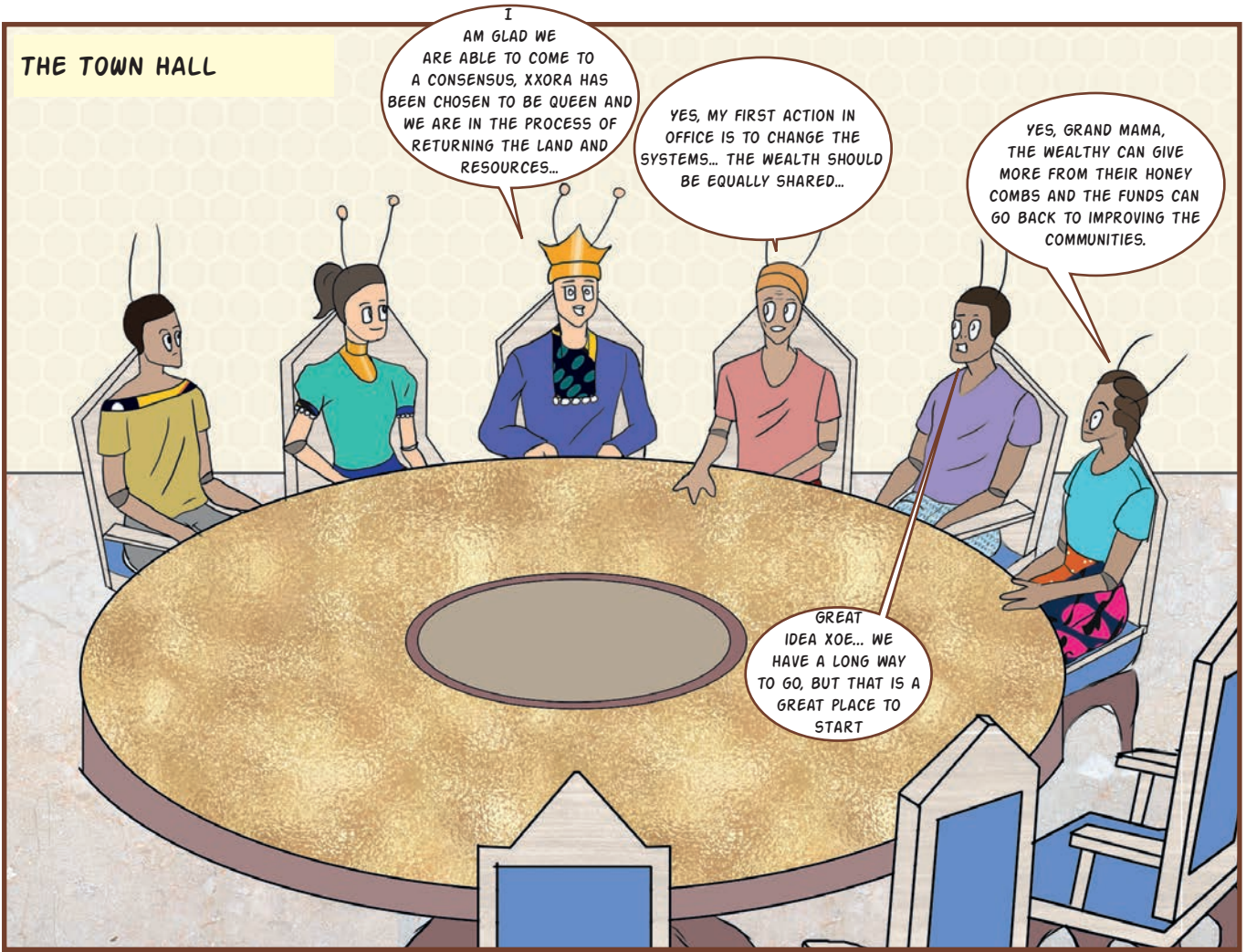


OH, ABSOLUTELY! LET ME ASK THE CROWD TO LEAVE THE CITY LIKE I'M GIVING OUT FREE MATOOKE. I'M SURE THEY'LL ALL JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO PACK UP AND GO ON MY SAY-SO. MAYBE I'LL EVEN THROW IN SOME SPICY KACHUMBARI FOR THE JOURNEY!

LISTEN HERE, MFLAME... EVERY BEE FROM THE COLONY IS STANDING OUTSIDE YOUR PALACE, AND WE'RE READY TO DIE FOR THIS CAUSE. RELEASE MY GRANDDAUGHTER, AND LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR GRIEVANCES IF YOU TRULY WANT PEACE.



THE TOWN HALL



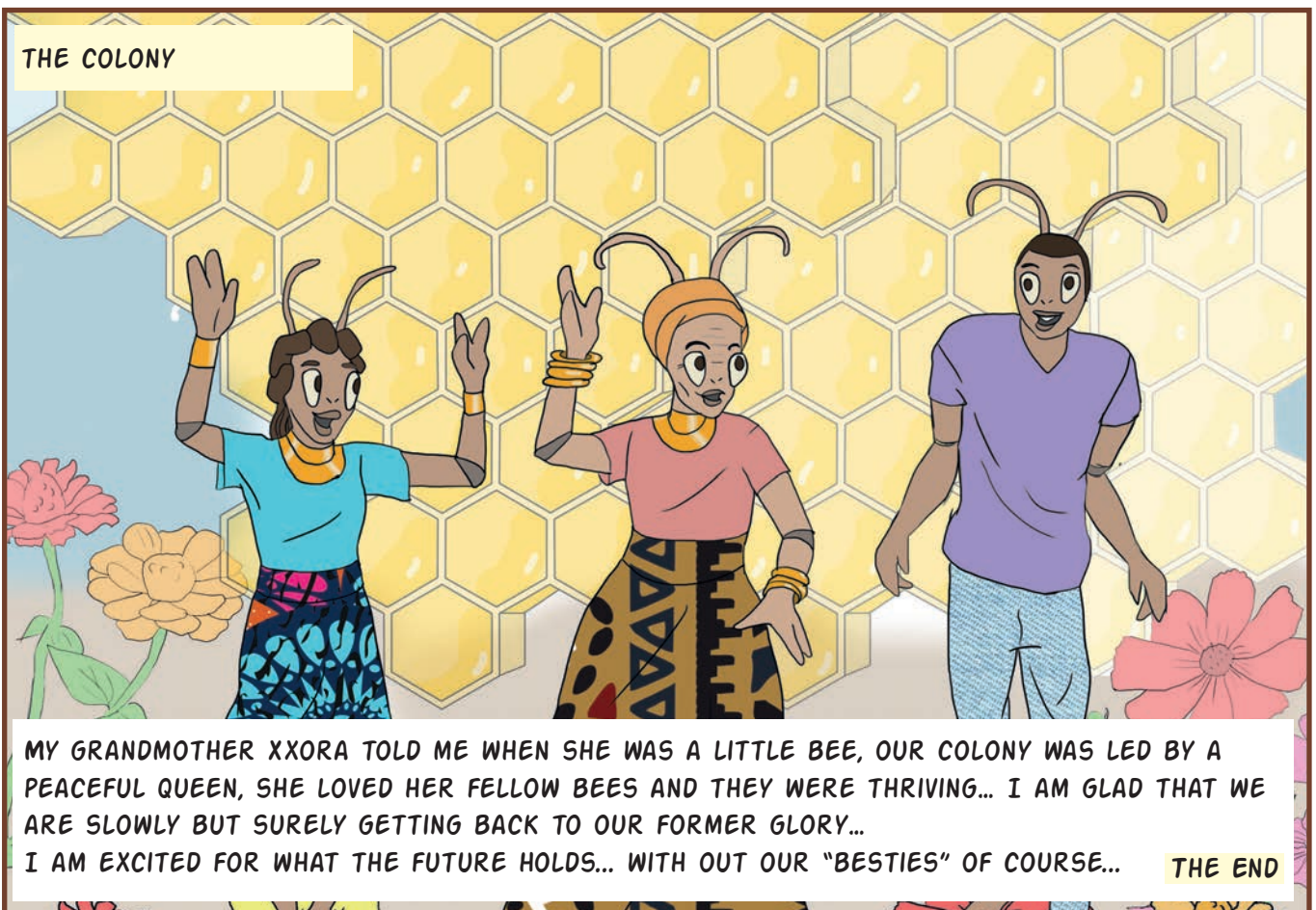
I AM GLAD WE ARE ABLE TO COME TO A CONSENSUS, XXORA HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO BE QUEEN AND WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF RETURNING THE LAND AND RESOURCES...

YES, MY FIRST ACTION IN OFFICE IS TO CHANGE THE SYSTEMS... THE WEALTH SHOULD BE EQUALLY SHARED...

YES, GRAND MAMA, THE WEALTHY CAN GIVE MORE FROM THEIR HONEY COMBS AND THE FUNDS CAN GO BACK TO IMPROVING THE COMMUNITIES.

GREAT IDEA XOE... WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO, BUT THAT IS A GREAT PLACE TO START

THE COLONY



MY GRANDMOTHER XXORA TOLD ME WHEN SHE WAS A LITTLE BEE, OUR COLONY WAS LED BY A PEACEFUL QUEEN, SHE LOVED HER FELLOW BEES AND THEY WERE THRIVING... I AM GLAD THAT WE ARE SLOWLY BUT SURELY GETTING BACK TO OUR FORMER GLORY... I AM EXCITED FOR WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS... WITH OUT OUR "BESTIES" OF COURSE...

THE END



When the **wealthy do not pay their fair share of taxes, countries particularly in Africa that already suffer shrinking fiscal space struggle to raise revenue to provide essential public goods and services for their population**, especially the most vulnerable.

African states should **adopt a decolonial approach to taxation**. This can be done through several concrete steps.



1. **Collaborating with global organizations** and focusing on progressive tax reforms, along with regular monitoring and public awareness, can help create a fairer global tax system. This approach aims to reduce wealth disparities, aligning with the core idea of wealth taxation—ensuring a more even distribution of resources by tackling tax evasion strategies



2. **Remove tax breaks and special exemptions:** This ensures that financially capable individuals contribute their fair share. However, the current system provides relief to those who can afford it, placing a heavier burden on those who cannot



3. **To lessen taxes for people with less money**, it's better to move from regressive taxes like VAT to fairer options like wealth taxes.



4. **Create support systems:** Use money from taxing the wealthy to build strong safety nets. By ensuring that marginalized communities, including African women, benefit directly from revenue generated through wealth taxation. This idea supports the broader African feminist goal of making a fair society that helps historically marginalized people.



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