



Detail from "The Education of Girls" by Ms. Koku Katunzi of Haki Elimu. The story tells about a Maasai girl, who wants to go to school. Full story on page 3.

Grassroots comics in Tanzania

Comics workshop report

Tanzanian NGO-activists made comics for their own NGOs during a four-day workshop in April 2003 in Dar es Salaam. World Comics-Finland and Tanzania Association of Non-Governmental Organisations, TANGO (a national umbrella organisation) arranged the workshop.

The participants were all drawn from TANGO member organisations. The comics they made were all poignant and relevant to their activities. All the workshop comics are included in this report.

None of the participants had made comics before or had any professional training in drawing, but the workshop proved the point that it is the story, its drama and humour, not the drawing skills as such, which is important in comics.

The stories were made as wallposters, an inexpensive format that can be made even with a photocopying machine.



The Tanzania Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO) and World Comics-Finland arranged a workshop on grassroots comics production in Dar es Salaam, April 14 - 17, 2003.

The objective of the workshop was to introduce the medium of comics as an inexpensive and effective communication method for the use of NGO-activists. The main format of comics was the four-panel wallposter comic.

TANGO selected and invited the participants from their members and nine different organisations sent their representatives to the workshop. None of the workshop participants had professional knowledge of making comics and/or drawing but all were NGO activists with a thorough knowledge of his/her own organisation and its communication needs.

The participants

Ms. Grace Daffa, Women Legal Aid Centre
Xavier Kahamba, Miombo Beekeepers' Association

Ms. Koku Katunzi, Haki Elimu (Right to Education)

Mathias Kimiro, Kinondoni Intermediary Gender Network

Ms. Naomi Makota, Women Advancement Trust,
Samwel Matiko, Tanzania Youth Awareness Trust Fund

Ms. Mariam Mrisho, Kinondoni Intermediary Gender Network

Bob Karashani, TANGO

Shima Sago, Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organisation

Ms. Scolastica Spendi, WAMATA hiv/aids counselling organisation

This cooperation project was funded by the Finnish Foreign Ministry's NGO Funds (80%) and by World Comics Finland's self-financing (20%)

Resource persons

Leif Packalén, (campaign comics specialist) and **Ville Tietavainen** (comics artist) from World Comics Finland, **Katti Ka-Batembo** (educational comics specialist) and **Nathan Mpangala** (cartoonist and comics artist) from Tanzania Popular Media Association, TAPOMA. Tango Liaison: **Mr. N.W. Masswe** (capacity building officer).

Programme of the workshop

Day one:

Comics communication basics - why it is clever to use comics.

Various formats of comics.

Inputs needed - steps in the production of comics.

Day two:

Preparing stories.

Work on the scripts.

Day three:

Work on the scripts - feedback and discussions.

Making the stories into comics.

Visual scripts.

Day four:

Finalising scripts and artwork.

Expanding the four-panel story to eight panels.

How to give an assignment to a cartoonist/comics artist. Feedback and discussion.

Each participant finalised a four-panel story which was designed as a wallposter comic (A3). At first, the participants' biggest worry was that their drawing skills would be too limited, but at the end of the workshop that worry had vanished.

During the process of making the comics everyone understood that it is the **story** and its drama, not perfect drawing, that is important and engaging to the reader.

Leif Packalén

Chairman

World Comics-Finland

ELIMU NA MSICHANA



BY KATUNZI - HAKIELIMU

"The Education of Girls" by Ms. Koku Katunzi, who is an Assistant Information Officer in the HAKI ELIMU-organisation (Right to Education). Her story is about a Maasai girl, who wishes to go to school. Her mother talks to her father, who in the end supports the idea, but only on the condition that the girl's Maasai traditions are respected and that she will not be subjected to a "foreign" culture in the school. In the last panel she is going to school together with a friend.

TUMIA JIKO BORA LA MKAA



© SHIMA SAGO

"Use an Improved Charcoal Stove!" by Shima Sago, the Assistant Coordinator at Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organisation, made this promotion story. In the first panel the businesswoman complains that her charcoal expenses have gone up. Her friend suggests to her that she should get a better stove, which she gets and in the last panel she marvels at the savings she has made.

HAKI SAWA⁵ YA MIRATHI



Naomi Makota: Women Advancement Trust (WAT)

“Equal Right to Inheritance” by Ms. Naomi Makota, Community Development Officer in the Woman Advancement Trust-organisation. In the first panel a newly widowed woman is chased away from her late husbands property, according to customary law. Her friend suggests she takes the case to a court. When the judge asks her if the marriage was adhering to customary law she has to say yes and loses her case. In the last panel she laments that the inheritance laws should be the same for everybody.

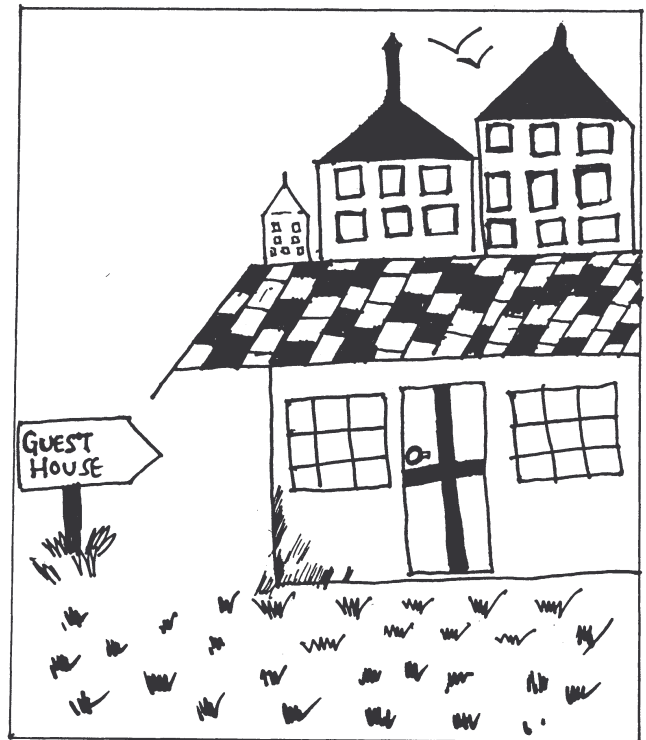
MWANAMKE NA SHERIA YA ARDHI 1999



By Grace D. (WLAG)

“Women and the Land Act of 1999” by Grace Daffa, Legal Officer at the Women’s Legal Aid Centre. The woman dreams of having her own farm and finally goes to the land bureau to make an application. The Land Officer says that women cannot get land. Then enters another woman who informs him that according to the new law, women too can own land. The Land Officer is taken aback, but when hearing this is the law, he acts and in the end the woman gets land and starts farming.

7 KONDOMU



© Samuel matiko@hotmail.com
TANZANIA YOUTH AWARE TRUST FUND (TAYOA)

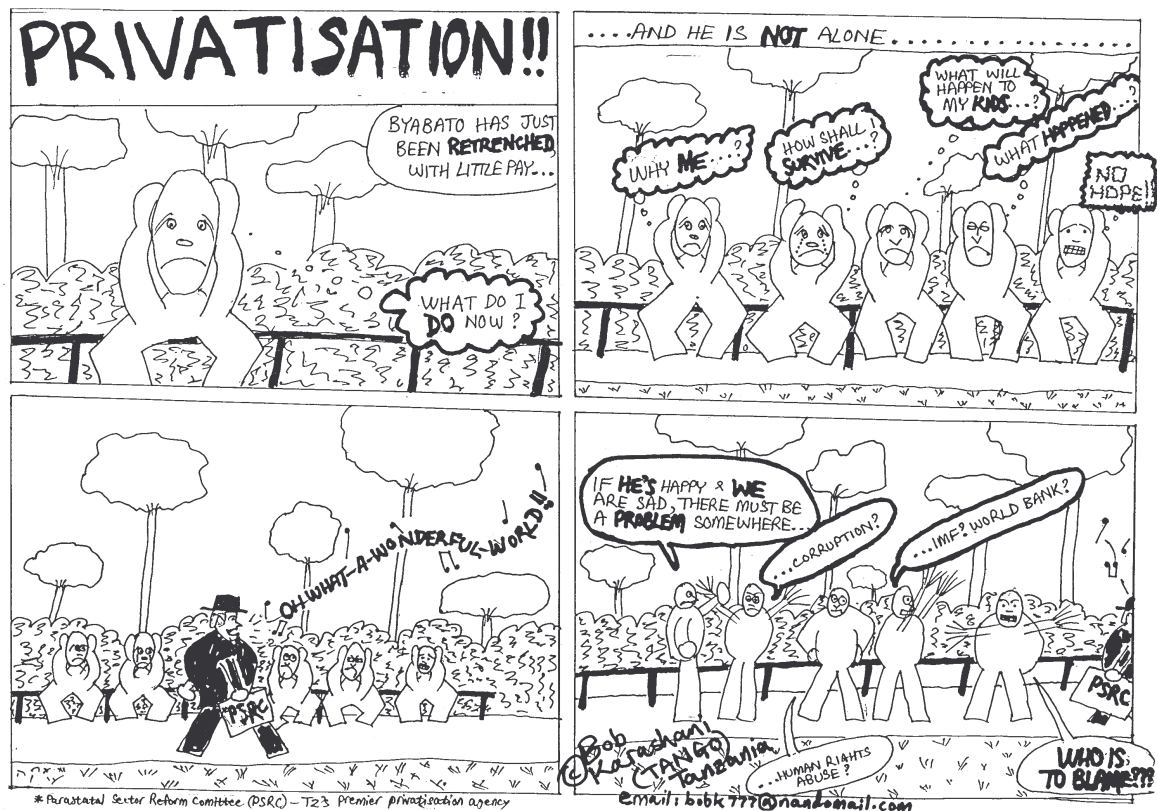
“Condom” by Samwel Matiko, Safer Sex and Arts Coordinator at the *Tanzania Youth Awareness Trust Fund*. The story begins at a bar, where the girl has got so drunk that she asks a boy to escort her home. He diverts them to a guest house. In the morning she asks if he used a condom, which he says he did not, because he had none. The last panel shows what the situation was after ten years.

KURITHI ARDHI



MARIAM MRISHO

"To inherit Land" by Ms. Mariam Mrisho, Changamoto Chairperson for Kinondoni Intermediary Gender Network. The woman is refused a part of her parents' land when they die. Her brother wants to farm it alone. She seeks legal advice and charges the brother to court. She wins the case and inherits her own piece of land on which she starts farming.



"Privatisation" by Bob Karashani, Information and Publications Officer of TANGO. There is a growing number of unemployed, when privatisation bites.

KUISHI NA VIRUSI VYA UKIMWI



“To live with the hiv/aids virus” by Scolastica Spendi, Youth Counsellor of the WAMATA-hiv/aids counselling organisation. A woman was told by her doctor she is hiv-positive and she is contemplating her fate in anguish. A friend of hers advises her to go WAMATA. She gets counselling and can go on with her life reasonably confidently.

UKOSEFU WA AJIRA HUSABABISHA UHARIFU



MATHIAS KIMIRO

Kimiro

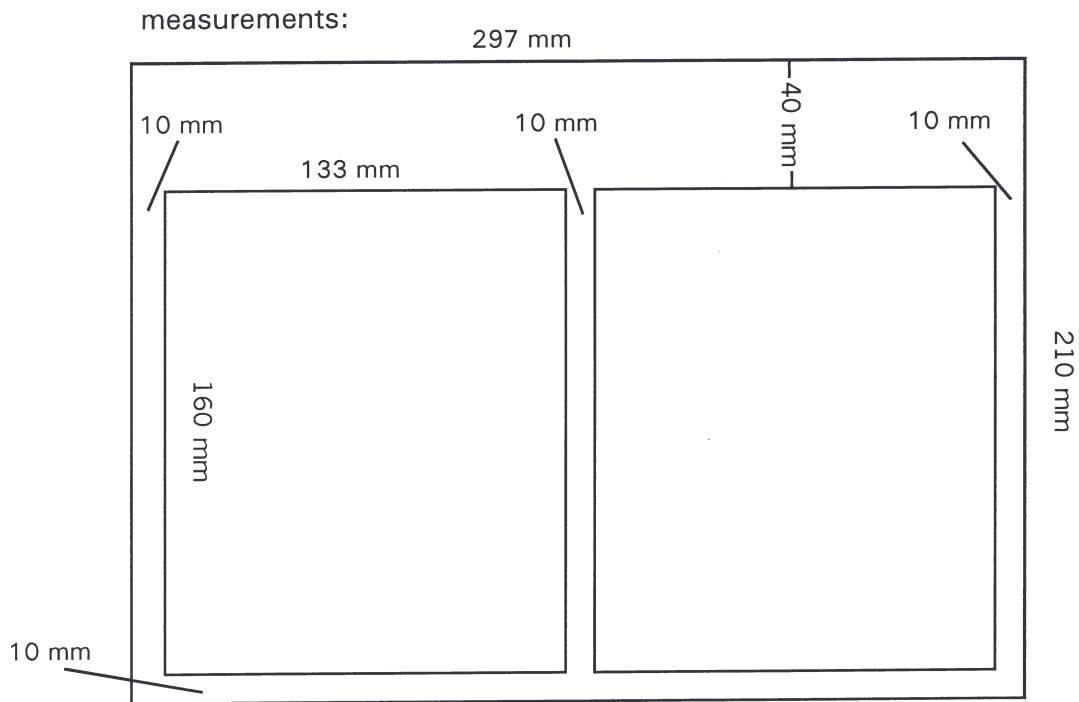
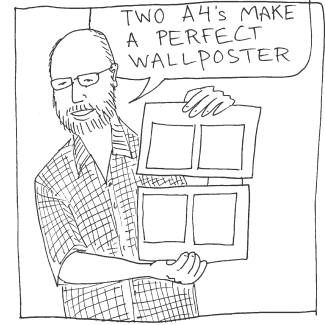


By KIMI ARTS © 0003

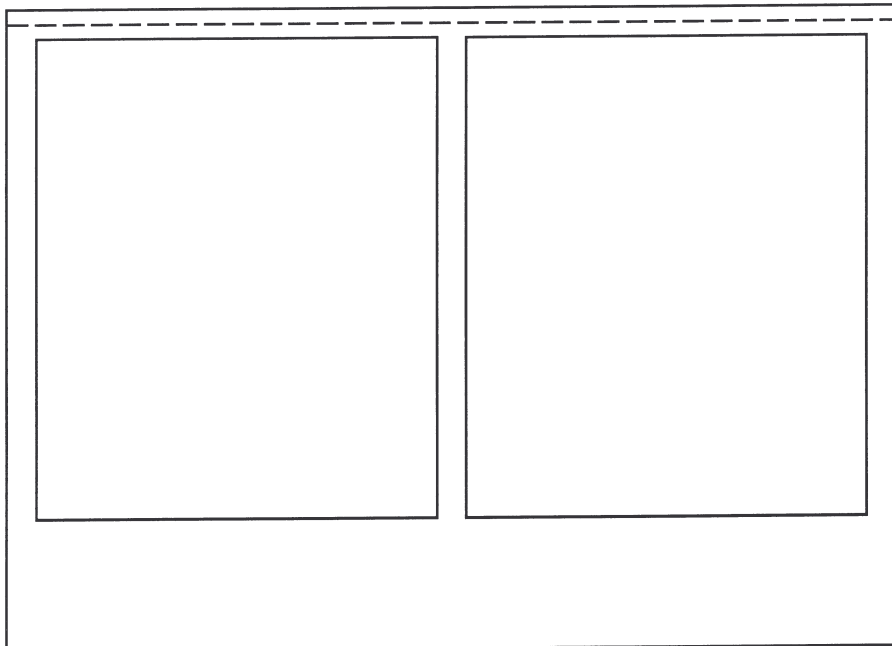
“Unemployment causes bad events” by Mathias Kimiro, Coordinator at Kinondoni Intermediary Gender Network. An unemployed boy turns into a robber and is finally burned alive by a mob. In the last panel some vocational training students congratulate themselves for not being in the robber’s position.

The wallposter format

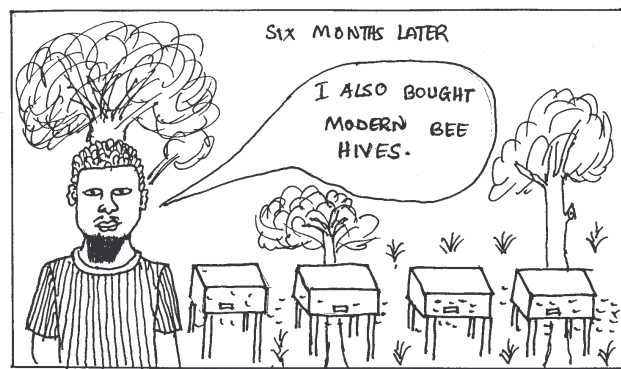
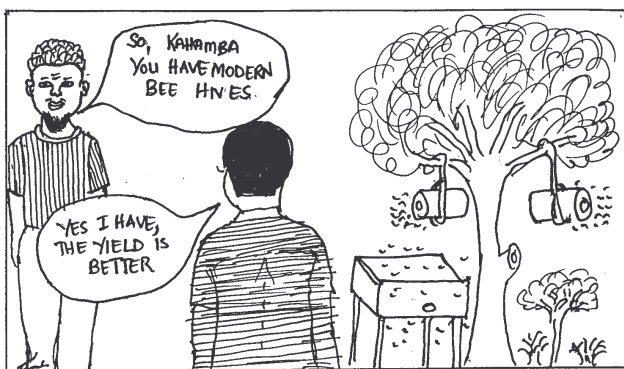
The idea of the wallposter comics is to combine two A4-sized papers into a small poster. Both parts have the same layout and measurements, but the parts are combined with the panel sections facing each other. This gives a basic poster design as below.



The two parts should be glued together with a 5 - 10 mm overlap.



MODERN BEEKEEPING PRACTICE



By **XAVIER KAHAMBA**

MIOMBO BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION (MIBA)

“Modern Beekeeping Practise” by Xavier Kahamba, Chairman of *Miombo Beekeepers’ Association* (Ifakara). The story promotes modern beekeeping methods.

World Comics- Finland was founded by comics artists and aid activists in 1997. It has members and affiliates in a worldwide network. The main common interests are:

- local comics as an information tool in development and human rights work
- local comics as a mirror of culture
- comics as a medium for self-expression in small and alternative groups

World Comics arranges comics workshops, courses, lectures, exhibitions, etc to promote comics as a communication medium. Currently we have cooperation with organisations in Tanzania, Mozambique, Kenya, Morocco and India. We have also invited comics artists from Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria, Cuba and India to Finland and presented their work there.

Comics that are created outside the mainstream genres are of special interest to us. In our workshops we have also taught NGO-activists how to make limited-edition, low-cost comics with copying machines.

World Comics-Finland

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