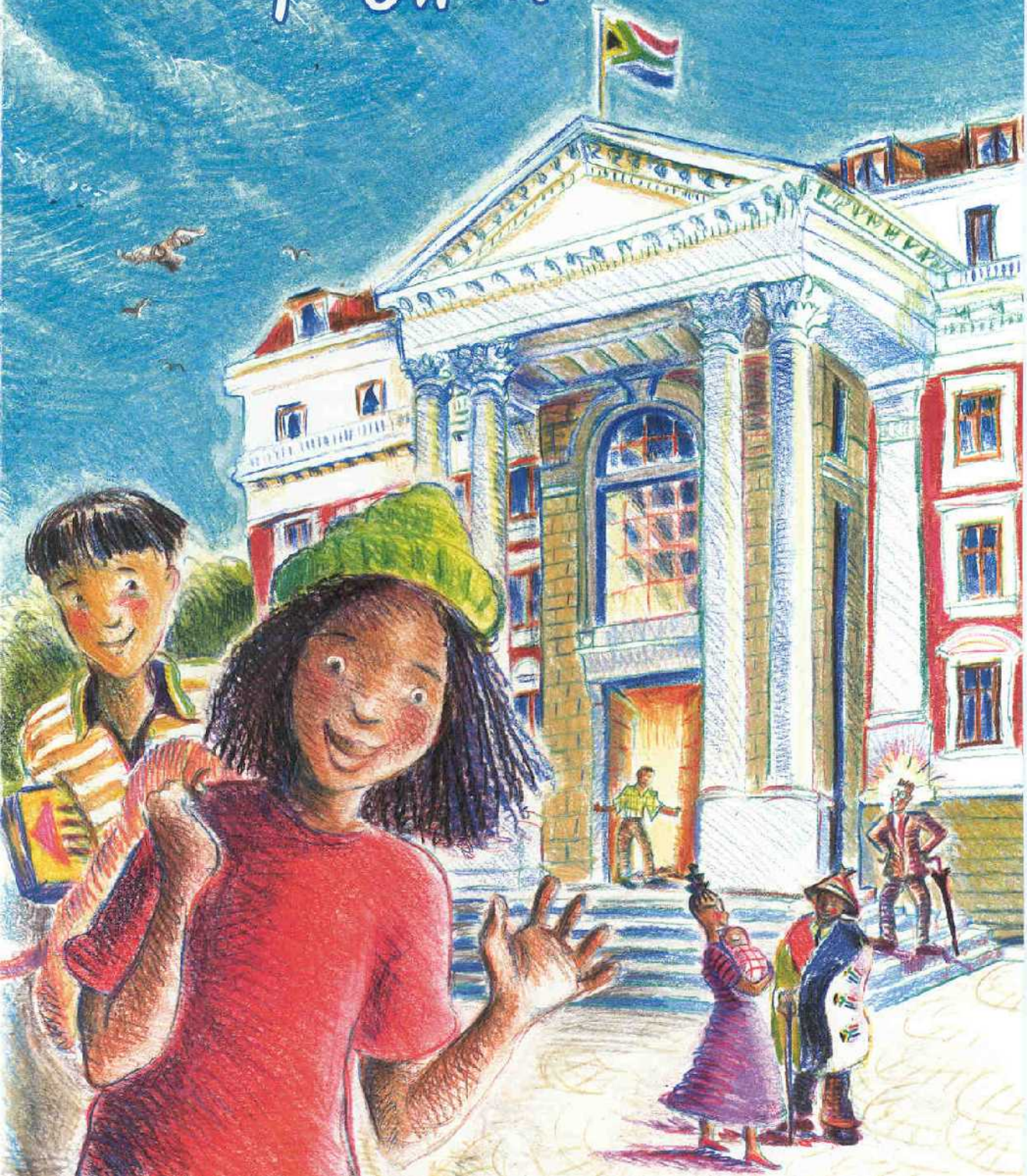
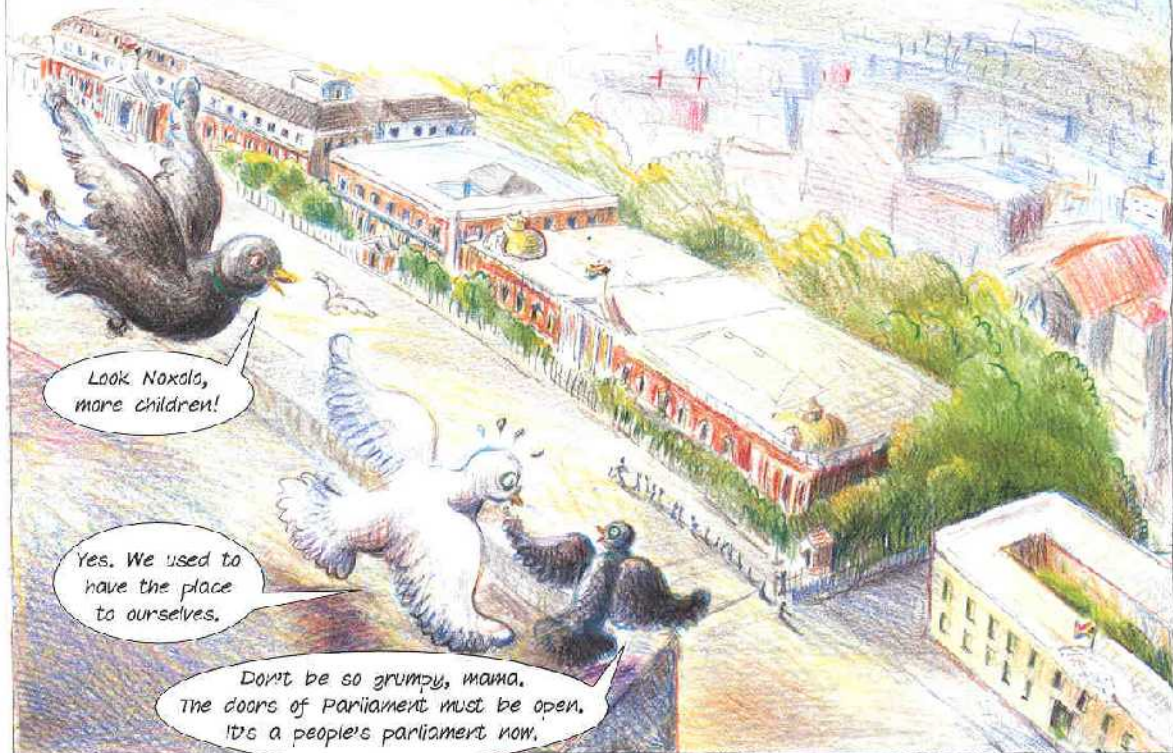


A Day in Parliament



A Day in Parliament





Welcome! I'm Archie, your guide.

Where's his suit and tie?

Very pleased to meet you.

This poor chap looks like he needs to relax a bit.

How do you do.

Sir's going through culture shock.

There are two Houses of Parliament. First we are going to the National Assembly.



Wow!

This is the visitors' gallery. The National Assembly is sitting.

Who are these people?

Members of Parliament (MPs) from the parties people voted for in the election.

The President sits to the right of the Speaker.



sitting? But some of them are standing up.

Who is this embarrassing person?

And there's the PRESIDENT!

Hey, little sister. You must show respect here. You can't talk in the visitors' gallery. These people have important work to do.



Now that the sitting is over, we can go down and have a look.



The press sit in the press gallery and report on proceedings.

The Speaker is the chairperson of the National Assembly.

The mace is the symbol that Parliament is sitting. It is carried in at the opening of Parliament.

Come Zinzi! Let's pretend...



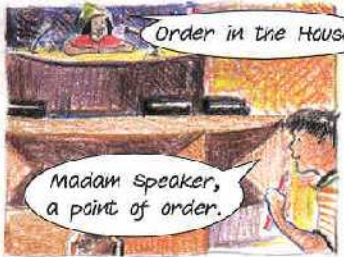
What is that child up to now?



I'm carrying the mace into the National Assembly.

Opposition parties

Order in the House!



Madam Speaker, a point of order.

I am the opposition and I disagree!

This government is doing a fine job!



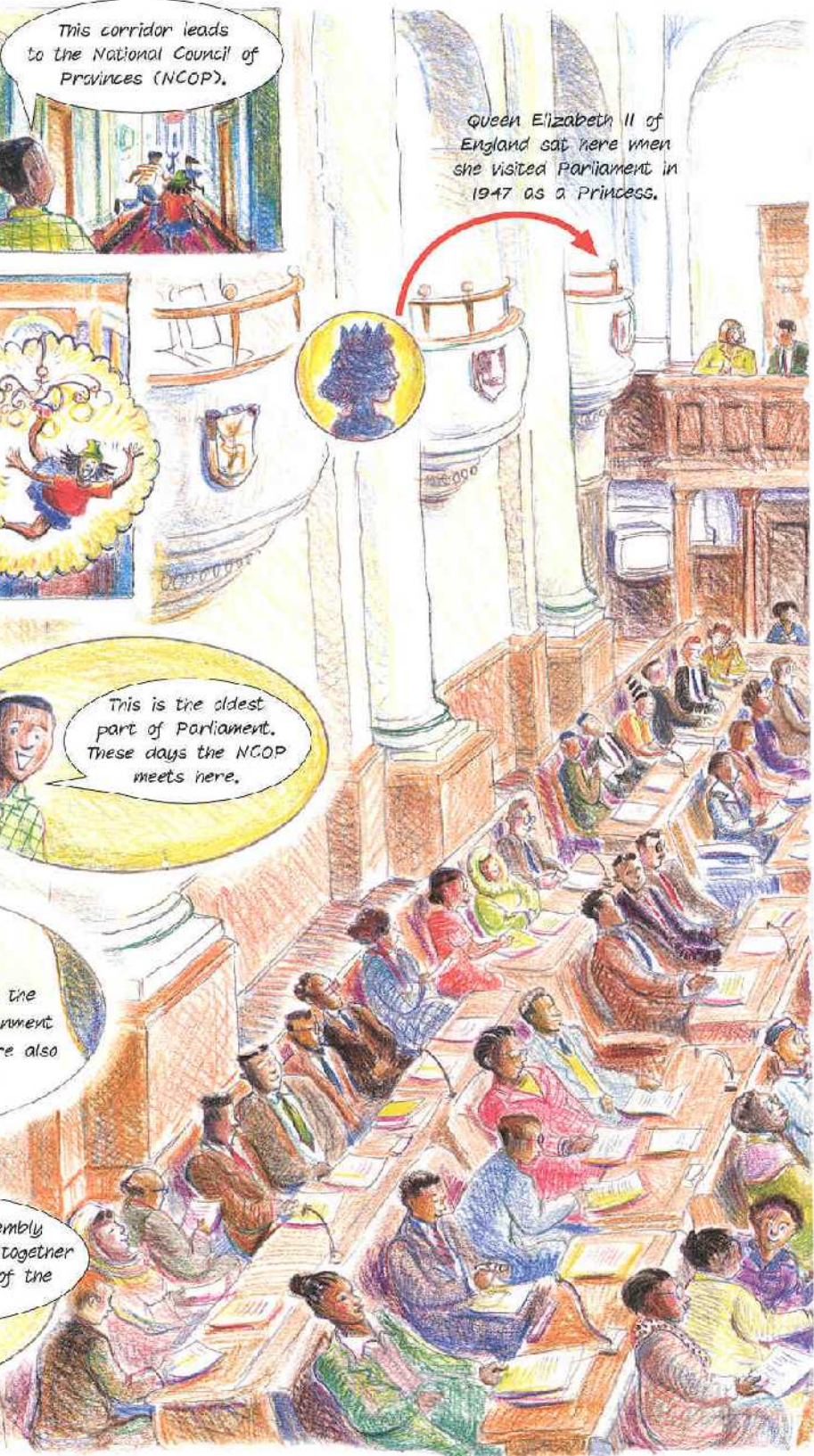
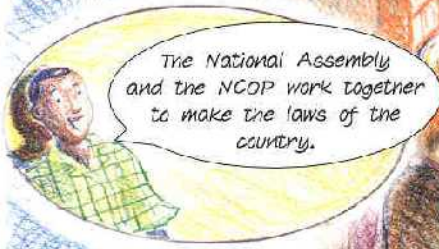
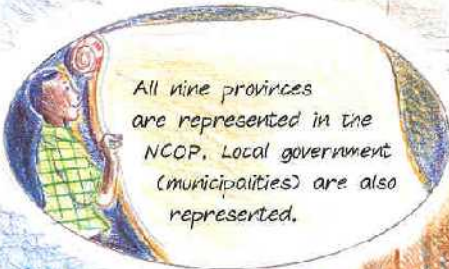
These children are completely out of control!

Relax, Sir! It's good that they learn that Parliament is a place of debate.





Queen Elizabeth II of England sat here when she visited Parliament in 1947 as a Princess.



The old British coat of arms. This part of Parliament was built in the days of Queen Victoria when the Cape was a British colony.



People in Parliament





The garden of Tuynhuis, the President's parliamentary office. The garden has been planted with indigenous fynbos.

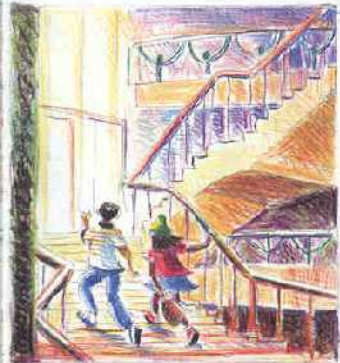


The National Assembly Chamber



The entrance to Tuynhuis





The main staircase to the National Assembly public gallery

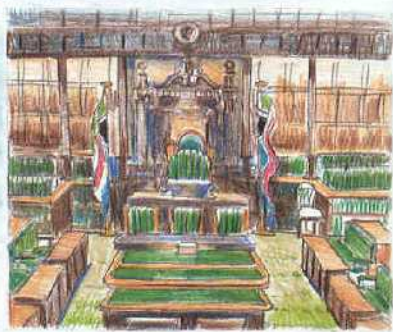


Offices



Committee meeting room





The Old Assembly Chamber



The library



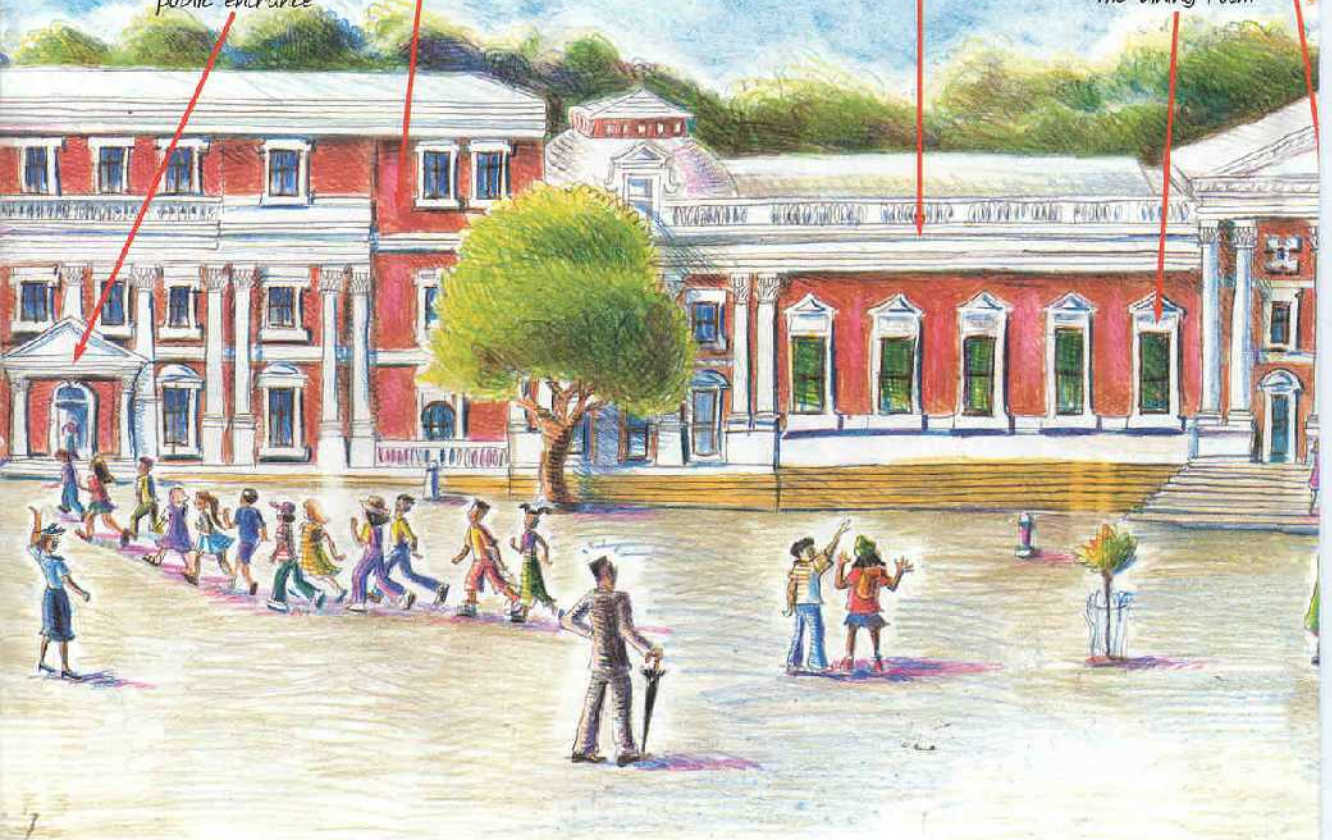
The Poorthuis
(Gatehouse)
public entrance



The long corridor
between the
House of Assembly
and the NCOP



The dining room





The cyber cafe
<http://www.parliament.gov.za>



NCOP offices

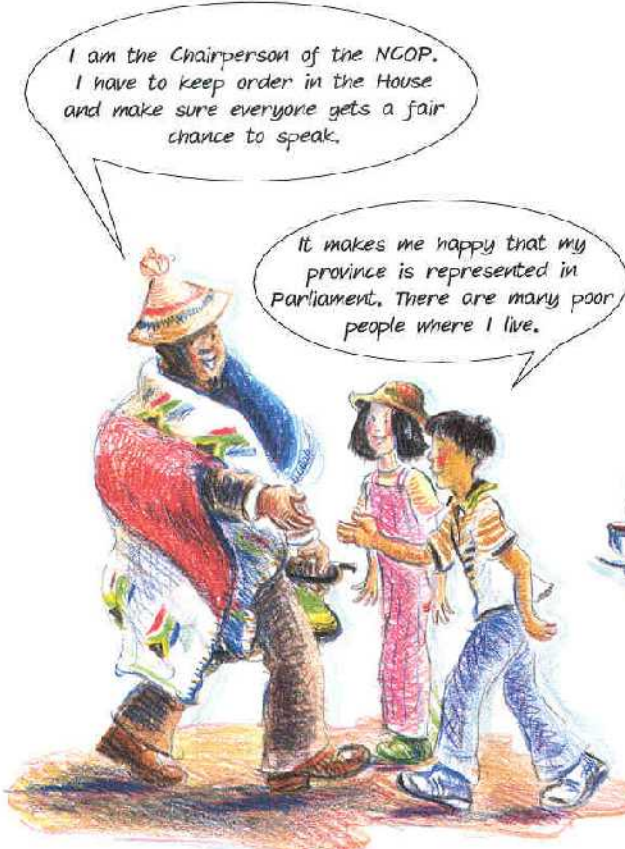


National Council of Provinces (NCOP) chamber




Gallery Hall





I am the Chairperson of the NCOP. I have to keep order in the House and make sure everyone gets a fair chance to speak.

It makes me happy that my province is represented in Parliament. There are many poor people where I live.



Our job as the opposition is to represent the people who voted for us. The political party who wins the most votes in an election becomes the government. Other parties that win votes become opposition parties. So, yes, we often argue, because we disagree.

Is that good? To argue all the time?


Yes, it is good. Because democracy means that all views must be represented in Parliament.



I thought Ministers were people who say prayers in church.

No, I'm not that kind of minister. I am the Cabinet Minister in charge of Trade and Industry. The President chooses a few MPs to be in charge of government departments. They become Ministers who work together as the Cabinet.

Another important woman! Now I know what I'm going to be when I grow up.



Are you also a very important person?

I am the most important person here. Without me, everyone would be too thirsty to talk. And this is a place of much talking.

How Laws are Made

The main job of Parliament is to make laws.

A law begins its life as a Bill, or draft law.

B I L L

Let us imagine that a Minister of the Cabinet wants to pass a law to protect children.

First she must write (draft) a Bill.

Then she must take it to Cabinet where it is discussed.

If Cabinet agrees to the Bill, the Minister introduces it in Parliament. Either in the National Assembly or in the NCOP.



Let us say that this Bill starts in the National Assembly.

Now the Bill must be properly discussed by Parliament. So it is sent to a Committee.

The Committee must debate the Bill.

As this Bill is about children, the Committee may want to talk to people with a special interest in children's rights.



It must also find out what the public thinks about this Bill.

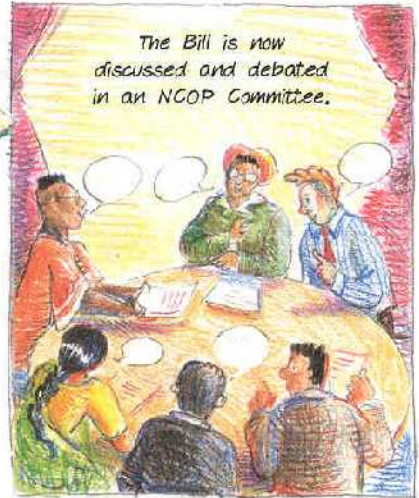
When the Committee has made its changes and has agreed to the Bill, it goes back to the National Assembly for the debate.



At the end of the debate, the members of the House must vote.



If most of them vote yes, the Bill will go to the NCOP for the second part of the law-making process.



The Bill is now discussed and debated in an NCOP Committee.

It may be sent to the Provinces so that they can decide how they think their representatives in the NCOP should vote.



When the Bill has been discussed by everybody, the National Council of Provinces must vote.



If the NCOP votes yes, the Bill goes to the President for his signature.



If the NCOP votes no, one of two things may happen. Either the two Houses must try to agree or the National Assembly must vote again. There are different rules for different kinds of Bills.

Now this Bill is a law or Act of Parliament and everyone must obey it.



THE PARLIAMENT GAME



How to play this game.

1. Use your dice and counters.
2. Roll your dice and move your counter around the board.
3. Follow the instructions in the block you land on.
4. The winner is the first to have a law signed by the President (block 25).



Make a dice and counters



1
The Minister introduces the Bill in Cabinet.

2
Cabinet likes your Bill. Move on to the National Assembly (5).

3
Cabinet refuses your Bill. Move back to start (1).



The Bill is introduced in the NCOP.

14
The Bill goes to the NCOP. Move on one block (15).

15
The Bill is introduced in the NCOP.

16
The Bill is sent to the Provinces for discussion. This takes time. Miss a turn.



17
The Provinces instruct their delegates in the NCOP how they must vote.

18
The NCOP Committee discusses the Bill.



19
The NCOP Committee agrees to the Bill. Move on to vote.



20
The NCOP votes yes! Have a well-deserved break. Move on to block 21.





5
Introduce your Bill in the National Assembly.

6
Pause for a moment of meditation or prayer.

7
The Committee wants to hear what the public thinks. Move to public hearing (9).



8
The Committee cannot agree. Move back two blocks (6).

13
Vote in the National Assembly.

12
Vote in the National Assembly.

11
Oops! Your cell phone battery has run out. Move back to block 9.

10
The Committee agrees to the Bill. Move on to Vote (12).

9
The Committee holds a public hearing.



25
The President signs the Bill. Now it is law.



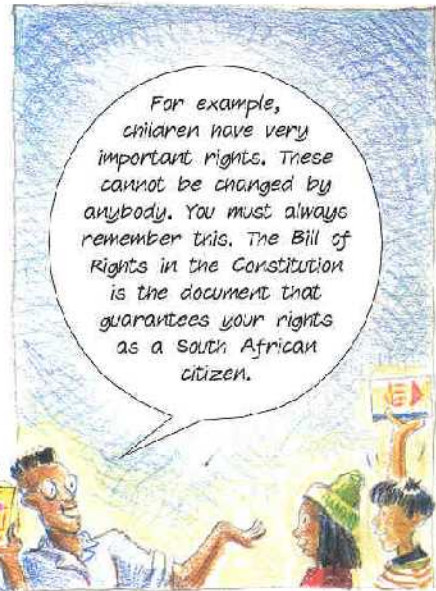
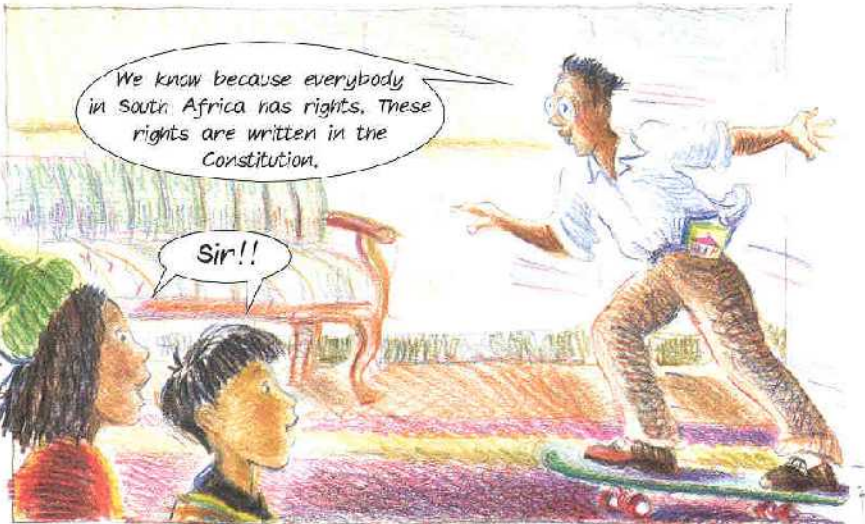
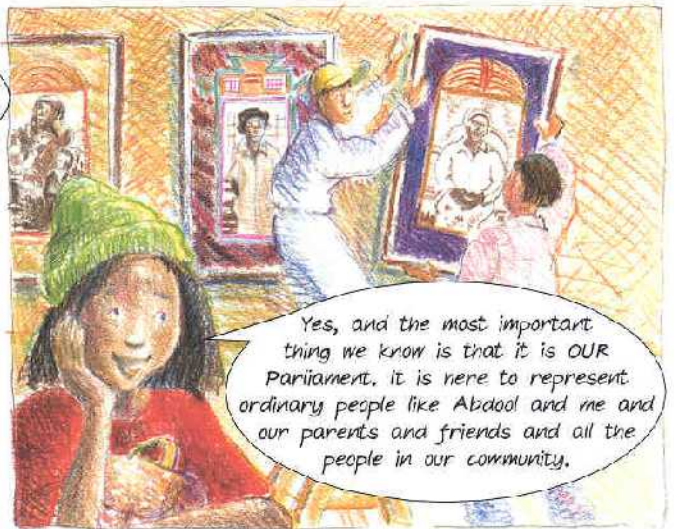
21
Tea break

22
Both Houses have agreed to the Bill. Move forward for the President's signature.

23
Both Houses have agreed to the Bill. Move forward for the President's signature.

24
Both Houses have agreed to the Bill. Move forward for the President's signature.





Offices in Parliament that may be useful to you

You can phone the following numbers for information about ...

	Phone	Fax
Public Relations and Information	(021) 403 2197/8	(021) 461 5372
Visits and Tours of Parliament	(021) 403 2537	(021) 461 5372/403 3817
Public Participation	(021) 403 8128	(021) 424 8144
Media Relations	(021) 403 2242/3218	(021) 461 9268
Help Desk (Room Y12)	(021) 403 2460	(021) 461 5372
Parliamentary Shop	(021) 403 2557	(021) 461 5372
Committees	(021) 403 3778	(021) 461 7969
Legislation and Proceedings	(021) 403 2218	
Parliament's Programme	(021) 403 2352	(021) 403 3627
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Registrar of Members' Interests	(021) 403 2467/7	(021) 461 0090
Provincial and Municipal Liaison	(021) 403 2624/2553/2457	(021) 403 2430
South African Local Government Association (SALGA)	(021) 403 8270	(021) 403 8277

To contact Political Parties, MPs or other sections phone the switchboard at (021) 403 2911.

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