WIPO
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION



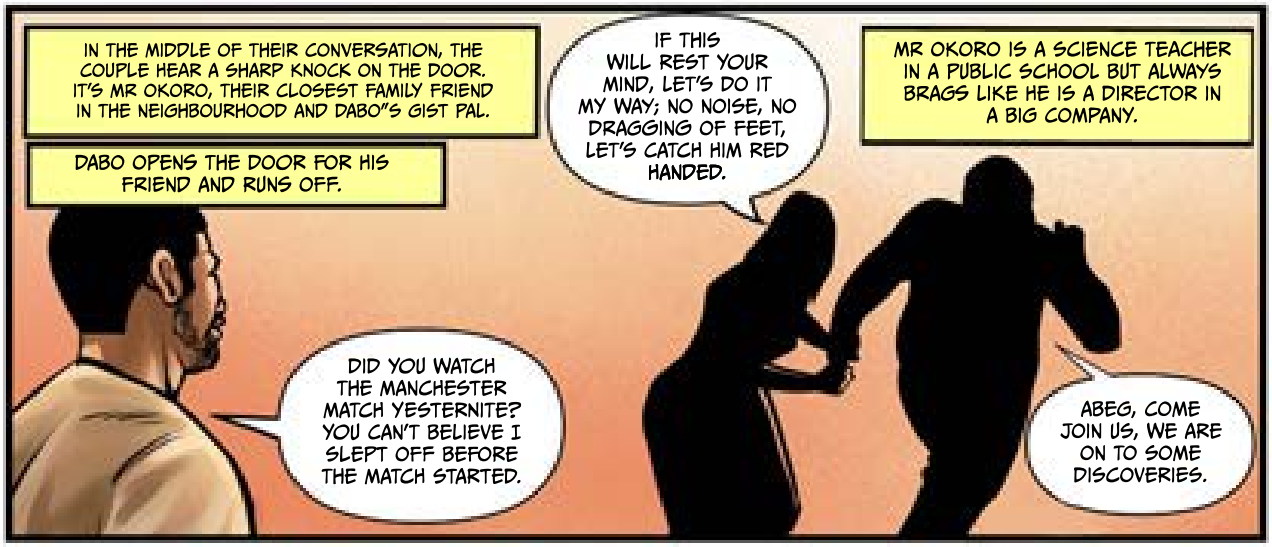
Naija IP Tales

Patent

PATENT

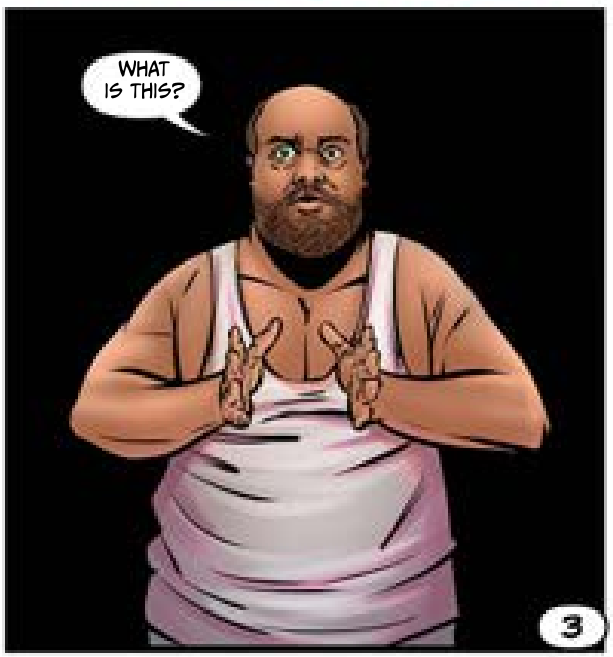

AKANNI STREET, SOMOLU...
LEKKI MAY BE THE HUB OF THE ELITE IN THE METROPOLITAN CITY OF LAGOS, BUT SOMOLU, LOCATED IN THE MAINLAND OF EKO HAS ALWAYS BEEN POPULAR FOR ITS THRIVING PRINTING INDUSTRY WHICH IS DIVERSE IN SO MANY WAYS...
AKANNI STREET IN SOMOLU IS THE HEART OF ALL KINDS OF DRAMA IN THIS BUZZLING AREA.
NO 14, AKANNI STREET, STIMULATES SOME INTEREST IN THIS REGARD.
PUZZLED TO KNOW WHY?
COME ALONG...
...ONCE YOU ARE READY TO EAT, YOUR FOOD IS ON THE DINING TABLE, I MAY NOT BE BACK UNTIL EVENING, IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG DAY.
ABOUT WHAT THIS TIME?
I'M A BIT WORRIED.
TOBERU IS AT IT AGAIN, HE HAS HAD HIMSELF LOCKED UP IN HIS ROOM FOR THE PAST THREE HOURS.


DABO ADEROMU: STRICT, INSECURE, RIGID, HE WORKS IN ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR PRINTING PRESSES IN SOMOLU.
ALLOW THE BOY TO BE HIMSELF, DABO! IF HE WANTS TO SPEND THE WHOLE DAY IN HIS ROOM MAYBE HE ENJOYS BEING ALONE.
I AM NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE WAY HE KEEPS TO HIMSELF.
TOBERU HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN INTROVERT, ALLOW THE BOY TO BE HIMSELF.
I WAS AN INTROVERT GROWING UP. I DIDN'T KEEP TO MYSELF LIKE YOUR SON IS DOING. I AM WORRIED
I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANYTHING PARTICULARLY WRONG WITH THE BOY, IF YOU ASK ME. I THINK YOU TAKE LIFE TOO SERIOUSLY.
ANYWAY, I'M OFF TO WORK.
I'LL SUGGEST WE BOTH CHECK OUT WHAT THE BOY HAS ALWAYS BEEN UP TO BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, BEFORE YOU GO OFF.
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IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR CONVERSATION, THE COUPLE HEAR A SHARP KNOCK ON THE DOOR. IT'S MR OKORO, THEIR CLOSEST FAMILY FRIEND IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND DABO"S GIST PAL.
DABO OPENS THE DOOR FOR HIS FRIEND AND RUNS OFF.
DID YOU WATCH THE MANCHESTER MATCH YESTERNITE? YOU CAN'T BELIEVE I SLEPT OFF BEFORE THE MATCH STARTED.
IF THIS WILL REST YOUR MIND, LET'S DO IT MY WAY; NO NOISE, NO DRAGGING OF FEET, LET'S CATCH HIM RED HANDED.
MR OKORO IS A SCIENCE TEACHER IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL BUT ALWAYS BRAGS LIKE HE IS A DIRECTOR IN A BIG COMPANY.
ABEG, COME JOIN US, WE ARE ON TO SOME DISCOVERIES.


WITH NO REGARD FOR HIS SON'S PRIVACY, DABO SLAMS THE DOOR OF TOBERU'S DOOR OPEN, AND....
WHAT IS...?
WHERE DID HE GET THIS?
WHAT IS HE DOING WITH THIS?

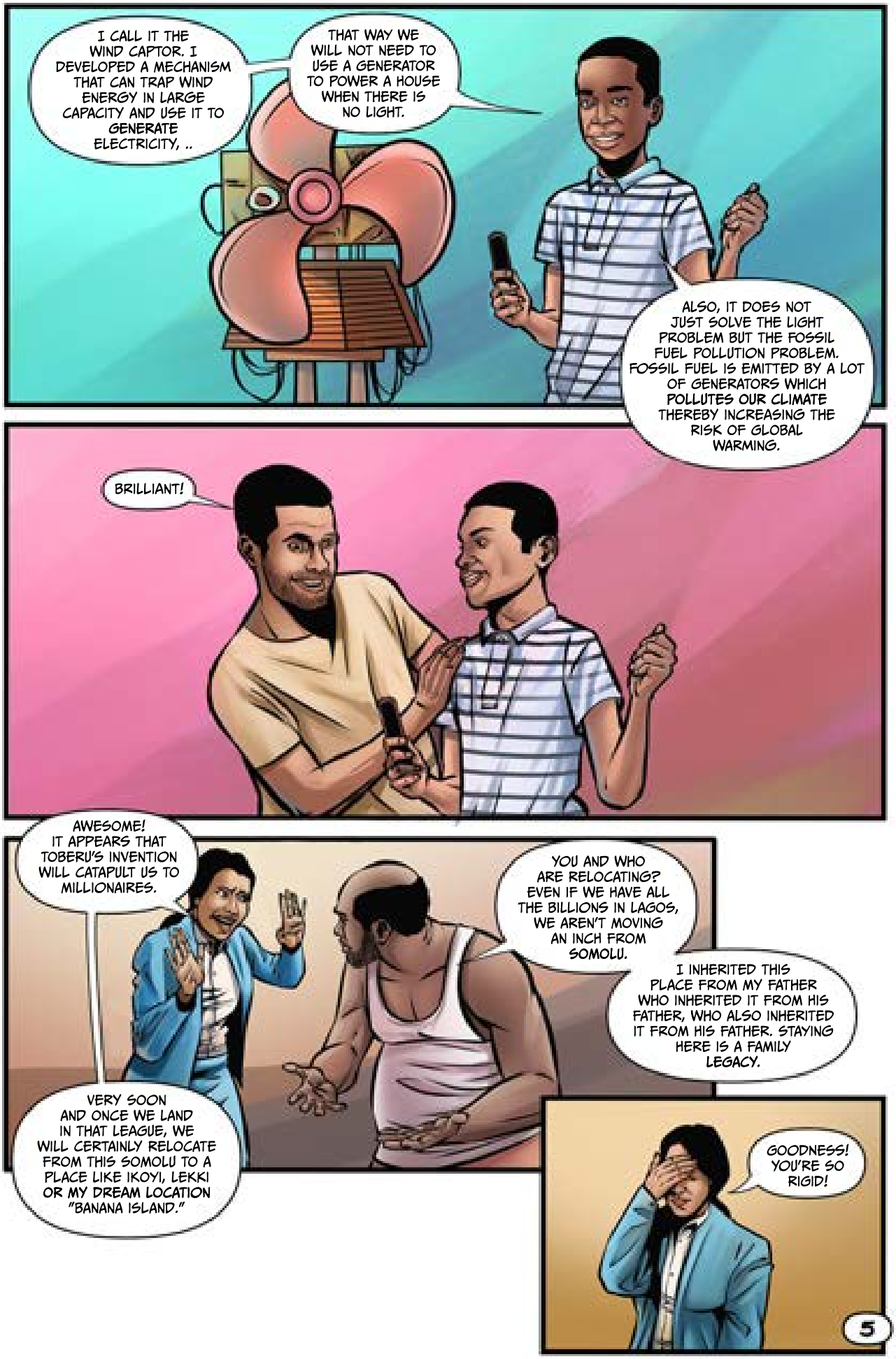



WHAT IS THIS?


WHAT'S WITH THE INTRIGUING LOOK, MR ADEROMU?
YOUR SON IS AN INVENTOR!
AN INVENTOR?
TO BE AN INVENTOR YOU HAVE TO BE AN INTELLECTUAL...
...ARE YOU SAYING MY YOUNG BOY IS AN INTELLECTUAL?
I GET WHAT YOU MEAN... BEING AN INTELLECTUAL HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH AGE.


YOUR SON REMINDS ME OF GREAT MINDS LIKE NIGERIA'S MOHAMMED BAH ABBAH WHO DEVELOPED A REFRIGERATING DEVICE THAT DOES NOT USE ELECTRICITY, RENDERING IMMENSE HELP TO PEOPLE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES, AND...
KENYA'S RICHARD TURERE WHO INVENTED THE FAMOUS LION LIGHTS IN KENYA WHICH LED TO THE REDUCTION OF LION ATTACKS WITHIN THE PERIMETERS OF HIS INNOVATIVE LIGHT.

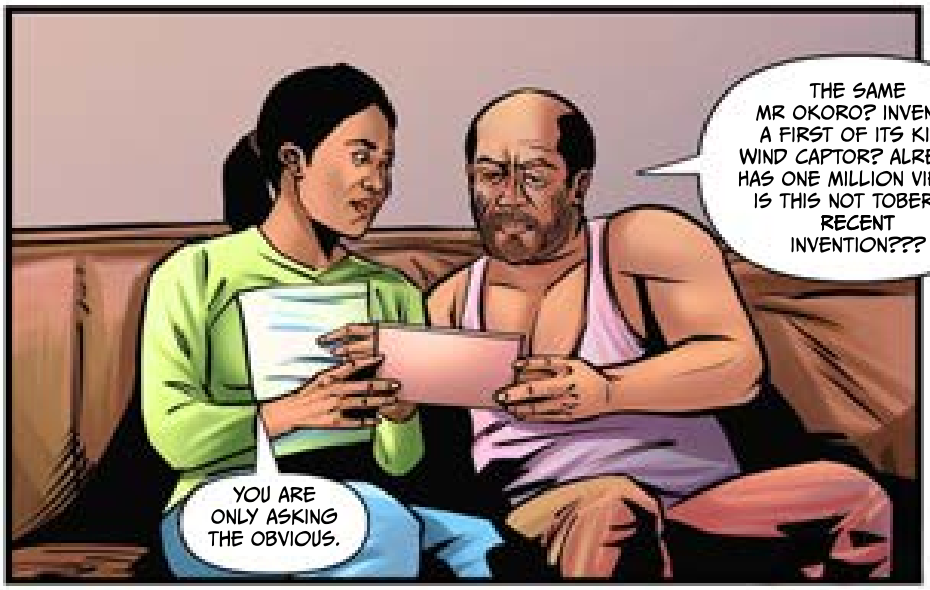

AS SEASONED SCIENCE TEACHER, I AM ENLIGHTENED ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT EVERY INVENTION SOLVES VARIOUS HUMAN PROBLEMS IN TECHNICAL WAYS.
TOBERU, TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR INVENTION.

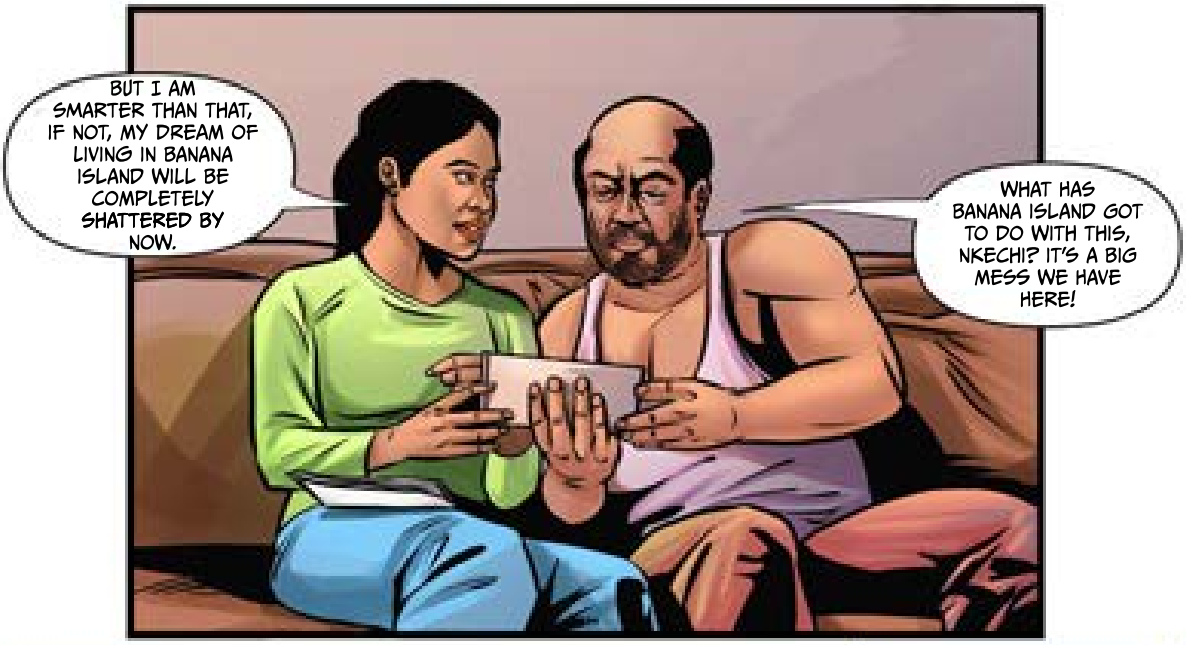

I CALL IT THE WIND CAPTOR. I DEVELOPED A MECHANISM THAT CAN TRAP WIND ENERGY IN LARGE CAPACITY AND USE IT TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY, ..
THAT WAY WE WILL NOT NEED TO USE A GENERATOR TO POWER A HOUSE WHEN THERE IS NO LIGHT.
ALSO, IT DOES NOT JUST SOLVE THE LIGHT PROBLEM BUT THE FOSSIL FUEL POLLUTION PROBLEM. FOSSIL FUEL IS EMITTED BY A LOT OF GENERATORS WHICH POLLUTES OUR CLIMATE THEREBY INCREASING THE RISK OF GLOBAL WARMING.
BRILLIANT!
AWESOME! IT APPEARS THAT TOBERU'S INVENTION WILL CATAPULT US TO MILLIONAIRES.
YOU AND WHO ARE RELOCATING? EVEN IF WE HAVE ALL THE BILLIONS IN LAGOS, WE AREN'T MOVING AN INCH FROM SOMOLU.
I INHERITED THIS PLACE FROM MY FATHER WHO INHERITED IT FROM HIS FATHER, WHO ALSO INHERITED IT FROM HIS FATHER. STAYING HERE IS A FAMILY LEGACY.
VERY SOON AND ONCE WE LAND IN THAT LEAGUE, WE WILL CERTAINLY RELOCATE FROM THIS SOMOLU TO A PLACE LIKE IKOYI, LEKKI OR MY DREAM LOCATION "BANANA ISLAND."
GOODNESS! YOU'RE SO RIGID!
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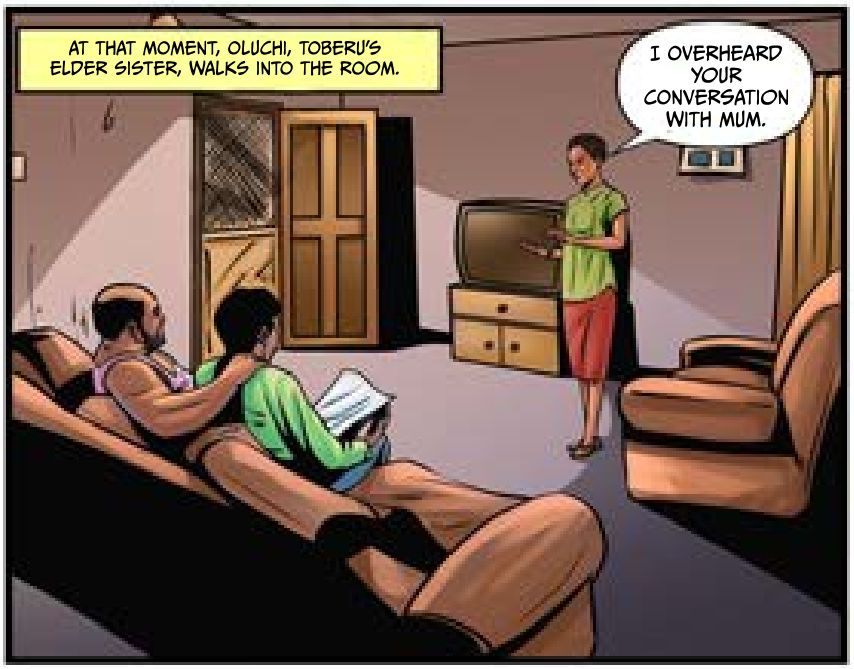

...SURE, ONCE YOU GET THE EXPLANATION I PREVIOUSLY MADE, YOU CAN REPLICATE THE


SOME WEEKS LATER...
HAA!
IS THIS A WAY TO GET ME INTERESTED IN WHATEVER YOU ARE READING ON YOUR PHONE?

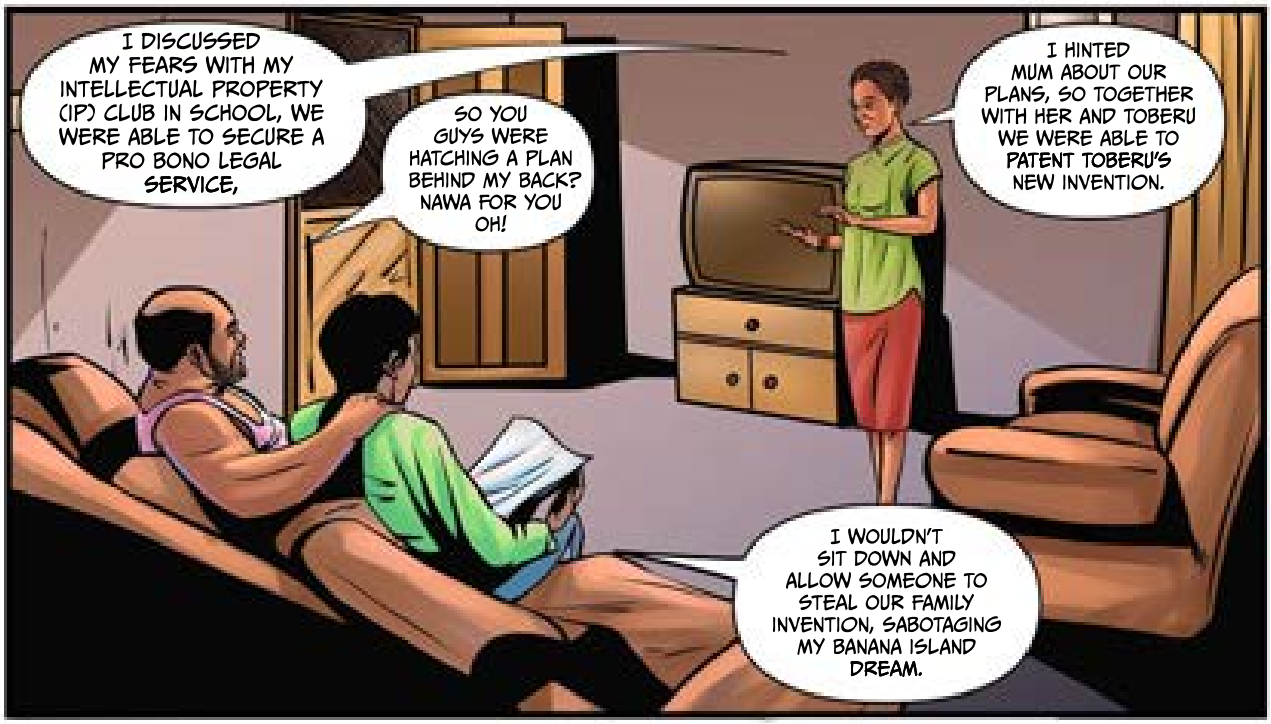

THIEF! THIEF! THIEF!


THE SAME MR OKORO? INVENTS A FIRST OF ITS KIND WIND CAPTOR? ALREADY HAS ONE MILLION VIEWS! IS THIS NOT TOBERU'S RECENT INVENTION???
YOU ARE ONLY ASKING THE OBVIOUS.


BUT I AM SMARTER THAN THAT, IF NOT, MY DREAM OF LIVING IN BANANA ISLAND WILL BE COMPLETELY SHATTERED BY NOW.
WHAT HAS BANANA ISLAND GOT TO DO WITH THIS, NKECHI? IT'S A BIG MESS WE HAVE HERE!

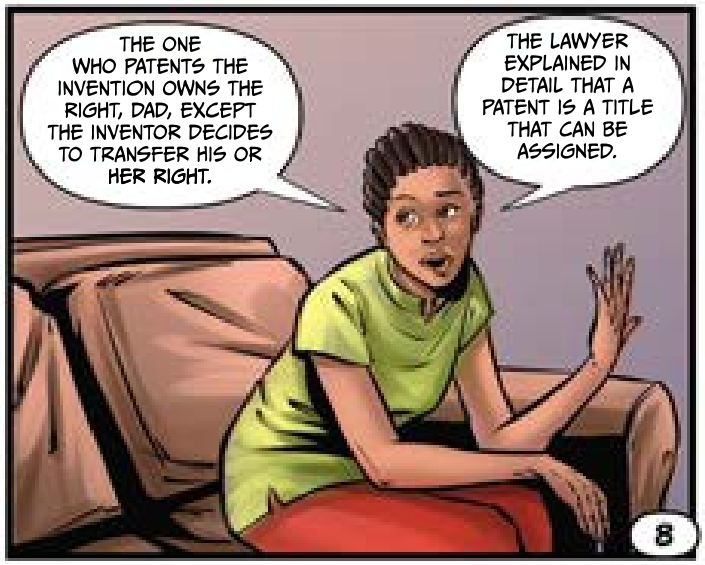

AT THAT MOMENT, OLUCHI, TOBERU'S ELDER SISTER, WALKS INTO THE ROOM.
I OVERHEARD YOUR CONVERSATION WITH MUM.


SHE IS IN SS1, OPINIONATED, HAS A PASSION TO STUDY LAW, EXTROVERTED.
I SNEAKED BEHIND THE DOOR THE OTHER DAY AND...
KNEW IMMEDIATELY SOMETHING WAS FISHY WITH HOW KEEN MR OKORO WAS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TOBERU'S INVENTION.

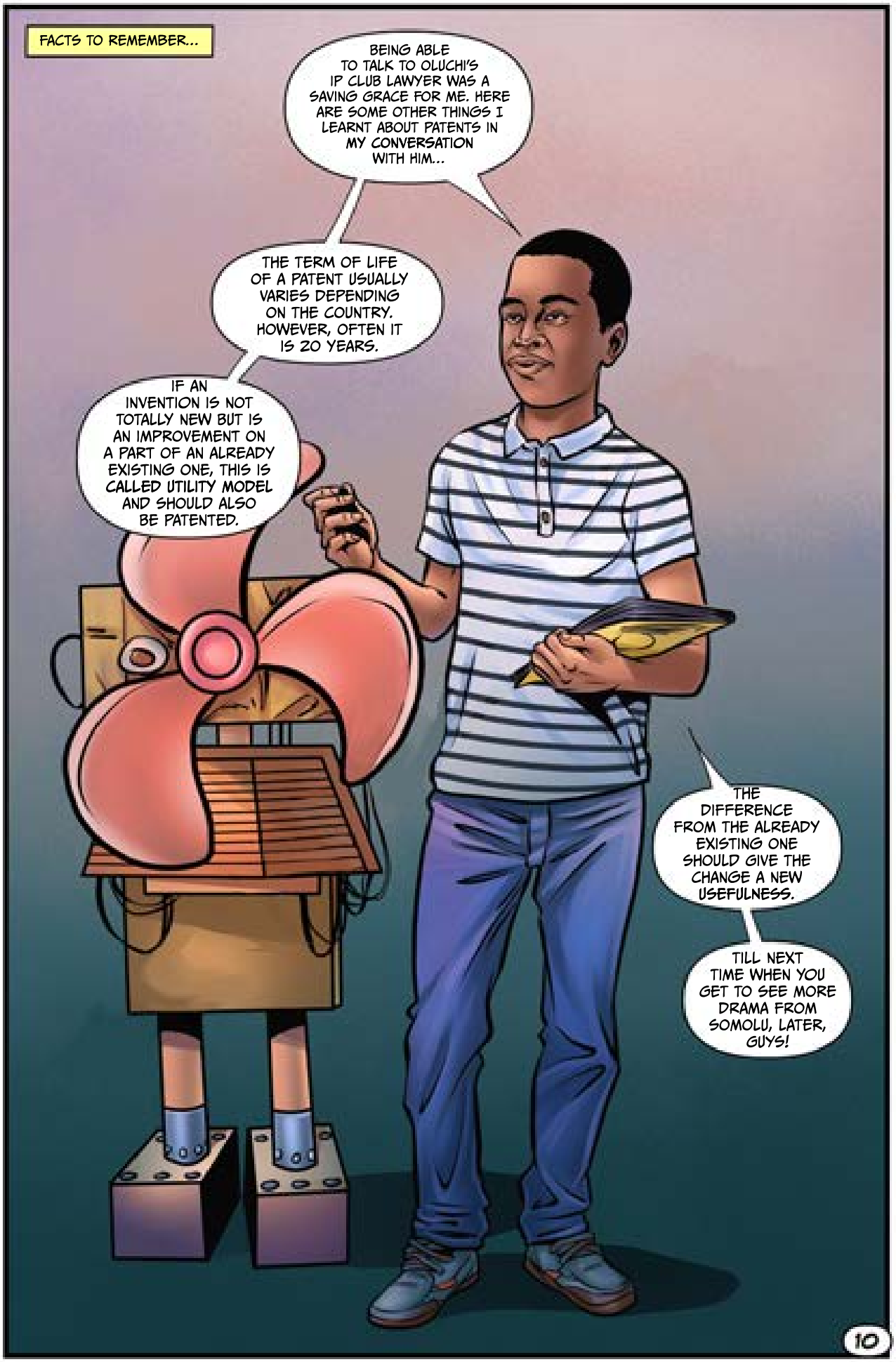

I DISCUSSED MY FEARS WITH MY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) CLUB IN SCHOOL, WE WERE ABLE TO SECURE A PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE,
SO YOU GUYS WERE HATCHING A PLAN BEHIND MY BACK? NAWA FOR YOU OH!
I HINTED MUM ABOUT OUR PLANS, SO TOGETHER WITH HER AND TOBERU WE WERE ABLE TO PATENT TOBERU'S NEW INVENTION.
I WOULDN'T SIT DOWN AND ALLOW SOMEONE TO STEAL OUR FAMILY INVENTION, SABOTAGING MY BANANA ISLAND DREAM.


WHAT IS A PATENT?
FROM EXPLANATION OF THE LAWYER WHO HELPED WITH THE PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE,
IT'S A KIND OF CERTIFICATE THE STATE GIVES TO THE CREATOR OF AN INVENTION TO GIVE HIM OR HER EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO IT.


THAT SCRUPULOUS MR OKORO HAS ALREADY GONE ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO LAY CLAIM ON MY SON'S INVENTION.
WHO HAS THE STRONGER RIGHT HERE? NO ONE EVEN KNOWS TOBERU MADE THAT THING.


THE ONE WHO PATENTS THE INVENTION OWNS THE RIGHT, DAD, EXCEPT THE INVENTOR DECIDES TO TRANSFER HIS OR HER RIGHT.
THE LAWYER EXPLAINED IN DETAIL THAT A PATENT IS A TITLE THAT CAN BE ASSIGNED.


TOBERU ENTERS THE ROOM AT THAT MOMENT...
WITHOUT YOUR ADVICE ON THE PATENT, I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROTECT MY LIFE'S INVENTION! THANKS, BIG SIS.
ENOUGH TALK! WE NEED SOME ACTION HERE.
LET'S GO AFTER THAT LOW-LIFE THIEF AND DEMAND HE DROPS MY SON'S INVENTION OR FACE THE FURY OF THE LAW.
LATER...
LIKE I SAID, THIS WAS NO EASY INVENTION, IT TOOK ME YEARS TO BREAK-THROUGH THE IDEA.
EXCUSE ME, I HAVE A LETTER HERE FROM MY LAW FIRM AND A PATENT CERTIFICATE FROM THE TRUE CREATOR OF THE INVENTION YOU ARE LAYING CLAIM TO.
I BELIEVE YOU ALREADY KNOW WHO MY CLIENT IS? YOU STOLE THE IDEA OF THE INVENTION! DO YOU MIND TELLING THE PRESS THE TRUTH OR I GO AHEAD TO...
I'M BOXED!


FACTS TO REMEMBER...
BEING ABLE TO TALK TO OLUCHI'S IP CLUB LAWYER WAS A SAVING GRACE FOR ME. HERE ARE SOME OTHER THINGS I LEARNT ABOUT PATENTS IN MY CONVERSATION WITH HIM...
THE TERM OF LIFE OF A PATENT USUALLY VARIES DEPENDING ON THE COUNTRY. HOWEVER, OFTEN IT IS 20 YEARS.
IF AN INVENTION IS NOT TOTALLY NEW BUT IS AN IMPROVEMENT ON A PART OF AN ALREADY EXISTING ONE, THIS IS CALLED UTILITY MODEL AND SHOULD ALSO BE PATENTED.
THE DIFFERENCE FROM THE ALREADY EXISTING ONE SHOULD GIVE THE CHANGE A NEW USEFULNESS.
TILL NEXT TIME WHEN YOU GET TO SEE MORE DRAMA FROM SOMOLU, LATER, GUYS!



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