BB COMICS PRESENTS:

THE COMIC BOOK

Luthando's MisAdventure with Mis- & DisInformation

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

MEDIAMONITORING AFRICA

WRITTEN BY: SISEKO MANDLA, BOKAMOSO MOGOROSI, NJABULO RAKGOLE, PRIORITY ZITHELO MTHIMKULU, TSHEGOFATSO TSHATSHU, THAPELO MTHIMUNYE, DAKALO MASHAPHA, OTUMISENG RAKGORO, KARABO NWAMUSI, DEJORNDRE MOOSA
ART BY: JOE MO
COMPILED BY: GUSHWELL F. BROOKS

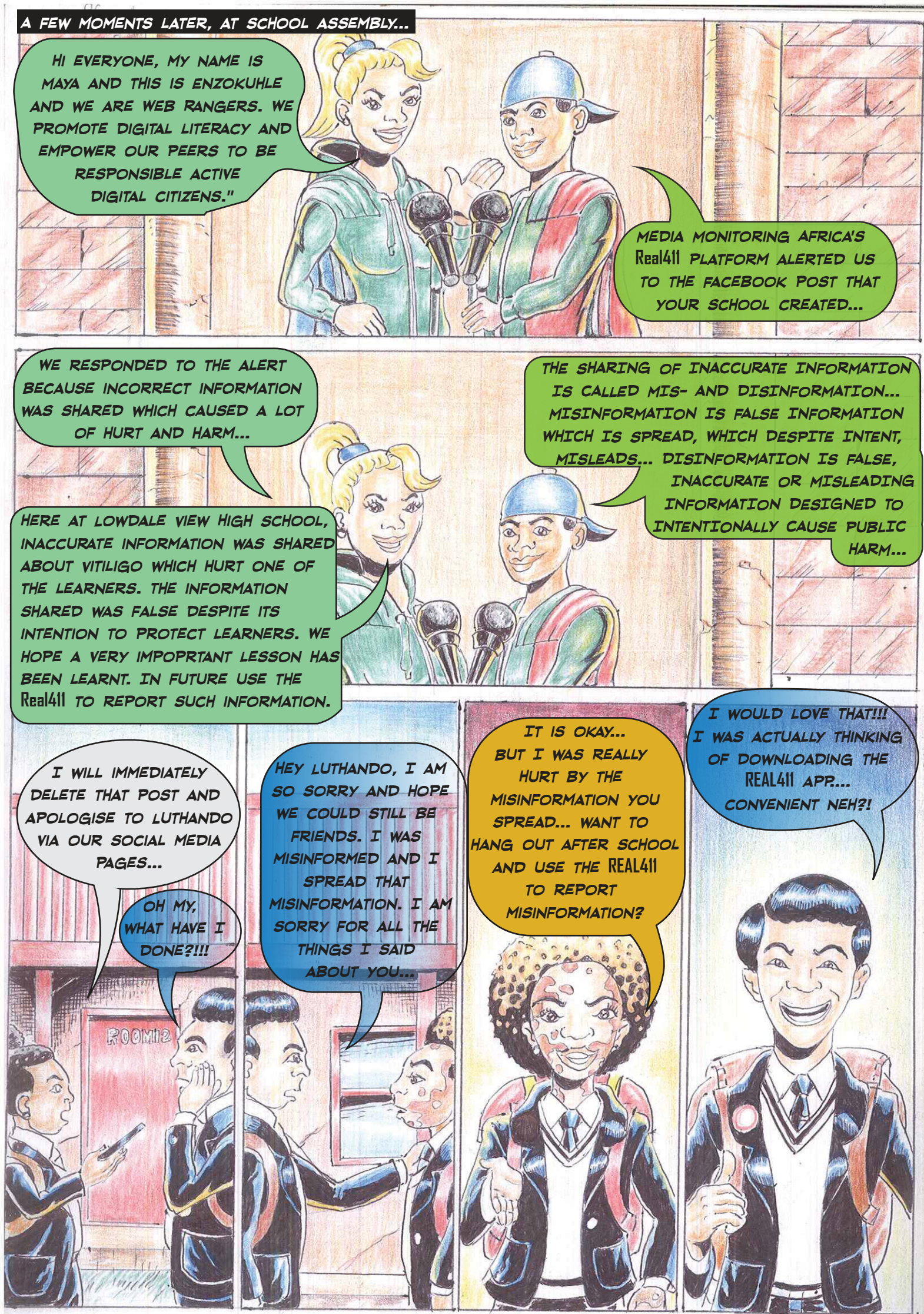
BREAKFAST IN THE KHUMALO HOME...
I KNOW THE FIRST DAY AT A NEW SCOOL IS SCARY... BUT I KNOW YOU'LL DO GREAT!
BUT MOM...
NO BUTS LUTHANDO... YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, THAT IS WHAT YOU NEED TO REMEMBER...
LOVE YOU MOM...
LOWDALE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL, A NEW BEGINNING FOR OUR HEROINE... LUTHANDO KHUMALO
WELCOME TO LOWDALE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL
WELCOME TO LOWDALE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL
I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE OUR NEW LEARNER JOINING US TODAY, WELCOME LUTHANDO...
THANK YOU AND GOOD MORNING MA'AM...
THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR... BE TRUE TO YOURSELF...
GOOD MORNING CLASS, PLEASE MEET OUR NEW CLASSMATE, LUTHANDO KHUMALO, MAKE HER FEEL COMFORTABLE...
GOOD MORNING LUTHANDO!!!

OKAY ENOUGH EXCITEMENT CLASS, PAY ATTENTION...
3+1/2
HI THERE, MY NAME IS AIKO, DON'T LOOK SO NERVOUS, WE DON'T BITE...
HA HA HA!!!
LUTHANDO, AIKO GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE MAKING FRIENDS BUT PLEASE SETTLE DOWN...
AFTER SCHOOL... IN THE LEE HOUSEHOLD...
GOOD AFTERNOON GRANDMA...
GOOD AFTERNOON AIKO MY BOY...
OBACHAN, HOW DO WE CURE ABNORMAL SKIN?
WHY DO YOU ASK MY SON?
THERE'S A NEW GIRL IN MY CLASS, SHE IS VERY NICE AND FRIENDLY, BUT SHE SEEMS TO HAVE A SKIN PROBLEM, LIKE THE ONES WE SEE ON TV... I THINK ITS CALLED VITILIGO...
VITILIGO IS A DISEASE THAT CAUSES THE LOSS OF SKIN COLOUR IN BLOTCHES. VITILIGO OCCURS WHEN PIGMENT-PRODUCING CELLS DIE OR STOP FUNCTIONING. LOSS OF SKIN COLOUR CAN AFFECT ANY PART OF THE BODY, INCLUDING THE MOUTH, HAIR AND EYES.

YOU BETTER STAY AWAY FROM THAT GIRL OR ANYONE WITH VITILIGO!!! WHEN WE WERE GROWING UP, WE ALWAYS HEARD STORIES ABOUT HAKUHAN AND THAT THOSE PEOPLE ARE CURSED AND AS A FURTHER PUNISHMENT, THEIR CONDITION IS CONTAGIOUS, BECAUSE PEOPLE BACK THEN DID NOT FIND VITILIGO ATTRACTIVE...
ARE YOU SURE OBACHAN!?
YES! NOW PLEASE LET'S NEVER TALK ABOUT THIS AGAIN!!!
YES OBACHAN, I WILL STAY AWAY FROM HER...
THE NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL...
HEY AIKO, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU SINCE BREAK STARTED, IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
UHM... UHM...
SANITIZER
...UHM, I, I AM OKAY, BUT I HAVE TO GO.. SORRY...

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO UPLOAD THE SCHOOL CHESS CLUB'S VIDEO TO FACEBOOK OKAY... THANK YOU...
WAIT, LEBO WAIT!!! I NEED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING!!!
YOU KNOW THE NEW GIRL IN MY CLASS, TURNS OUT SHE HAS VITILIGO...
LEBO, AS THE SCHOOL'S SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER, YOU HAVE TO ALERT THE SCHOOL OF THE DANGER WE ARE IN...
MY GRAN TOLD ME THAT VITILIGO IS CONTAGIOUS, SO YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO WARN THE LEARNERS!!!
OH WOW AIKO!!! THE LEARNERS NEED TO KNOW... I'LL PERSONALLY PUT IT ON THE SCHOOL'S SOCIAL MEDIA...
ATTENTION! ALL LEARNERS LUTHANDO HAS VITILIGO AND YOU CAN CATCH IT, STAY AWAY!!
ACROSS TOWN, IN THE WEB RANGER'S HIGH-TECH HEADQUARTERS...
WARNING NEW MISSIOIN
UH, OH.. I'M PICKING UP A MISINFORATION POST FROM LOWDALE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL - LET'S SEE IF WE CAN ASSIST...
WEB RANGERS

LATER, DURING SECOND BREAK, LUTHANDO IS MET BY GIGGLING, BUT UNFRIENDLY FACES...
ROOM12
OKAY.. WHAT NOW? WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY THE UNFRIENDLY MOOD?
ATTENTION! ALL LEARNERS LUTHANDO HAS VITILIGO AND YOU CAN CATCH IT, STAY AWAY!!
Like
Comment
SEE LUTHANDO, EVERYONE IN SCHOOL KNOWS... BUT THERE IS A WAY YOU CAN BE HEALED... OBACHAN, AIKO'S GRANDMOTHER, SAYS THAT ONION AND AVACADO WILL MAKE YOU LOOK MORE NORMAL...
LUTHANDO, BLINDED BY HER TEARS, RUNS INTO HER TEACHER - MS. VILIKAZI'S ARMS...
WHAT IS WRONG LUTHANDO?
THEY ALL THINK I'M SICK. THEY EVEN WROTE A STORY ABOUT ME ON THE SCHOOL'S FACEBOOK PAGE...
I WISH I KNEW HOW I COULD MAKE THIS BETTER...
DON'T WORRY LUTHANDO AND MS VILIKAZI!!!
WE ARE HERE TO HELP!!!!


A FEW MOMENTS LATER, AT SCHOOL ASSEMBLY...
HI EVERYONE, MY NAME IS MAYA AND THIS IS ENZOKUHLE AND WE ARE WEB RANGERS. WE PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY AND EMPOWER OUR PEERS TO BE RESPONSIBLE ACTIVE DIGITAL CITIZENS."
MEDIA MONITORING AFRICA'S Real411 PLATFORM ALERTED US TO THE FACEBOOK POST THAT YOUR SCHOOL CREATED...
WE RESPONDED TO THE ALERT BECAUSE INCORRECT INFORMATION WAS SHARED WHICH CAUSED A LOT OF HURT AND HARM...
THE SHARING OF INACCURATE INFORMATION IS CALLED MIS- AND DISINFORMATION... MISINFORMATION IS FALSE INFORMATION WHICH IS SPREAD, WHICH DESPITE INTENT, MISLEADS... DISINFORMATION IS FALSE, INACCURATE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION DESIGNED TO INTENTIONALLY CAUSE PUBLIC HARM...
HERE AT LOWDALE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL, INACCURATE INFORMATION WAS SHARED ABOUT VITILIGO WHICH HURT ONE OF THE LEARNERS. THE INFORMATION SHARED WAS FALSE DESPITE ITS INTENTION TO PROTECT LEARNERS. WE HOPE A VERY IMPOPRTANT LESSON HAS BEEN LEARNT. IN FUTURE USE THE Real411 TO REPORT SUCH INFORMATION.
I WILL IMMEDIATELY DELETE THAT POST AND APOLOGISE TO LUTHANDO VIA OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES...
OH MY, WHAT HAVE I DONE?!!!
ROOM12
HEY LUTHANDO, I AM SO SORRY AND HOPE WE COULD STILL BE FRIENDS. I WAS MISINFORMED AND I SPREAD THAT MISINFORMATION. I AM SORRY FOR ALL THE THINGS I SAID ABOUT YOU...
IT IS OKAY... BUT I WAS REALLY HURT BY THE MISINFORMATION YOU SPREAD... WANT TO HANG OUT AFTER SCHOOL AND USE THE REAL411 TO REPORT MISINFORMATION?
I WOULD LOVE THAT!!! I WAS ACTUALLY THINKING OF DOWNLOADING THE REAL411 APP.... CONVENIENT NEH?!

Media Monitoring Africa (MMA), together with the Impact Amplifier and Web Rangers are excited to bring you this cool and informative comic book for you to enjoy as part of their Understanding Disinformation Drawing in Children project.

Now that you have read this awesome comic book, we would like for you to give us feedback HERE

This comic book has been created to help children better understand mis and disinformation. To help you remember these concepts, please continue reading:

MMA defines misinformation as "false information that is spread, regardless of intent to mislead."

Disinformation is defined as "false, inaccurate, or misleading information designed, presented, and promoted to intentionally cause public harm."

In the comic book, we focus on misinformation because our experience working with children shows that young people often fall victim to misinformation rather than disinformation. When looking at the comic book itself, we see that an innocent conversation between two people about an unknown issue has the potential to cause such great harm.

Should you come across content (a WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram post) that you think might be mis- or disinformation, please report it on the Real411 platform - https://www.real411.org.

In the comic book, you also get introduced to two Web Rangers that come to the school and taught learners about mis- and disinformation. These Web Rangers are actually real-life children that use create innovative online campaigns, as well as outreach to promote safe internet usage and champion their rights in the digital world. To find out more about Web Rangers or if you would like to join in and become an awesome Web Rangers - Please visit our website on:

https://webrangers.co.za

THIS COMIC BOOK WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE COLLABORATION OF:

MEDIAMONITORING AFRICA

communications & digital technologies
Department: Communications & Digital Technologies
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

WEB RANGERS

IMPACT AMPLIFIER

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REAL 411
FIGHT DISINFORMATION TOGETHER