



**CLOSED
SEASON**

CLOSED SEASON

The PNG Coastal Fisheries Management and Development Project is implemented by the PNG National Fisheries Authority with loan funding support from the Asian Development Bank. The Project promotes and encourages the sustainable use of living marine resources in PNG waters. This book belongs to a series of information materials produced by the project to raise awareness about various marine and fisheries related issues. For further information about the project, please contact the Public Relations Officer at the PNG National Fisheries Authority 309-0444

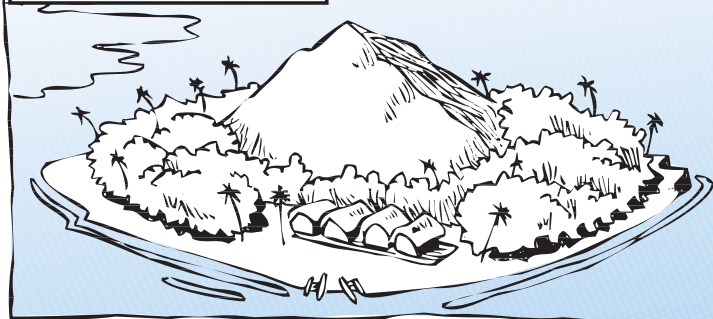
Written by Mary-Clare Ame
Illustrated by Gima Segore

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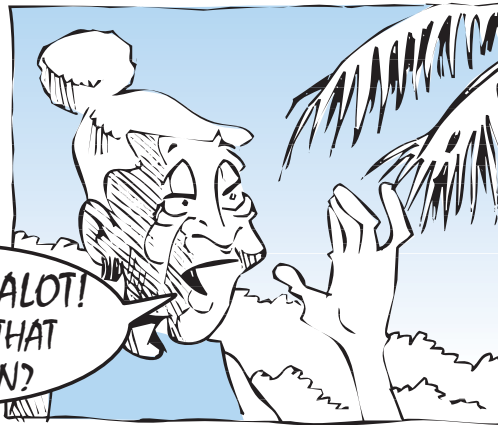
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The author thanks Kim Des Rochers and Garry Preston for their advice and input, and acknowledges the rest of the C-Fish project members for their assistance.

ON A SMALL ISLAND IN MILNE BAY PROVINCE...



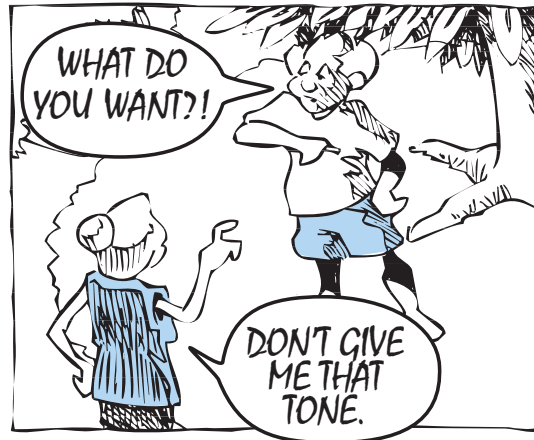
MALOT!, MALOT!
WHERE'S THAT
LAZY MAN?



MALOT!,
WHERE ARE
YOU?!



MONICA! I'M ENJOYING
MY TOBACCO!

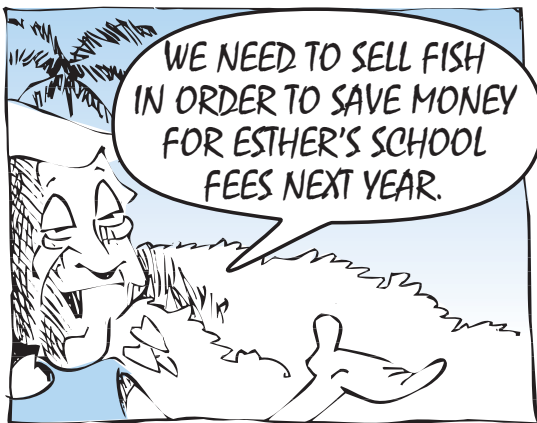


WHAT DO
YOU WANT?!

DON'T GIVE
ME THAT
TONE.



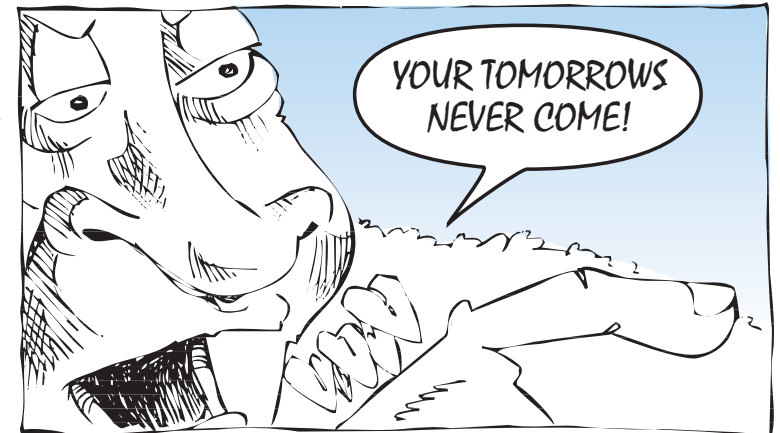
WHEN ARE YOU GOING
TO START FISHING?.



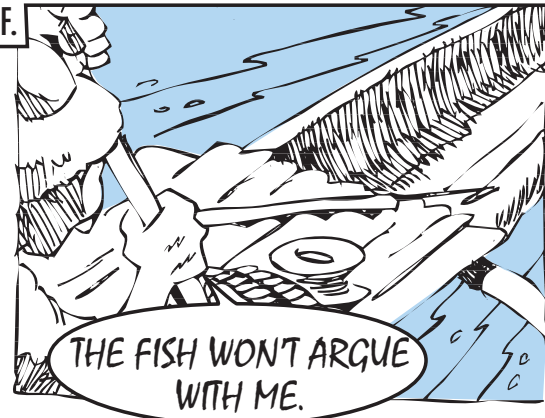
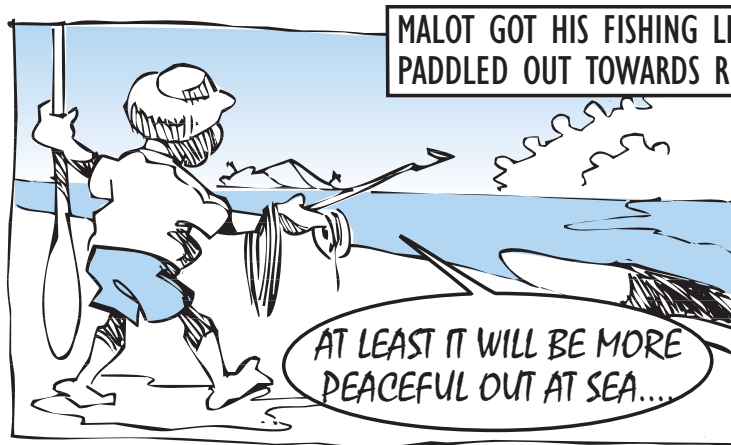
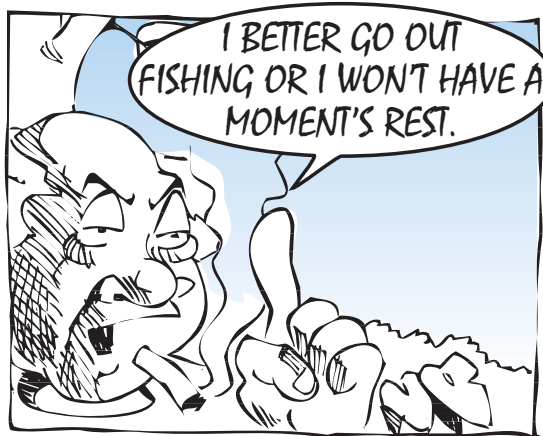
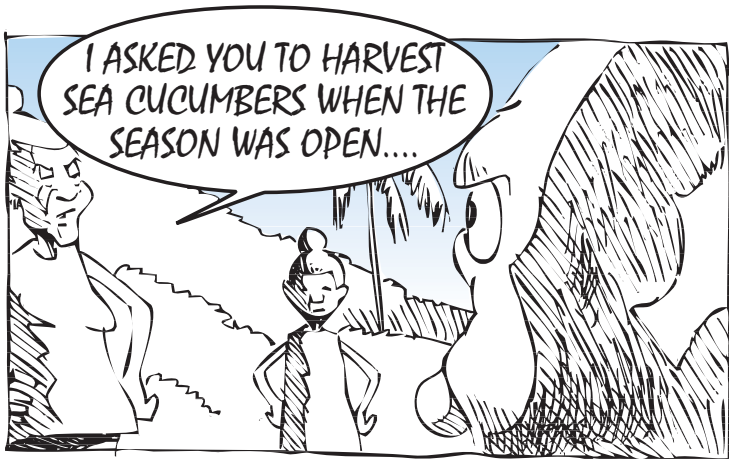
WE NEED TO SELL FISH
IN ORDER TO SAVE MONEY
FOR ESTHER'S SCHOOL
FEES NEXT YEAR.



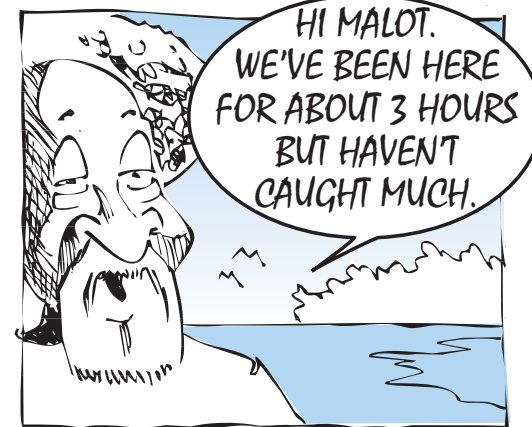
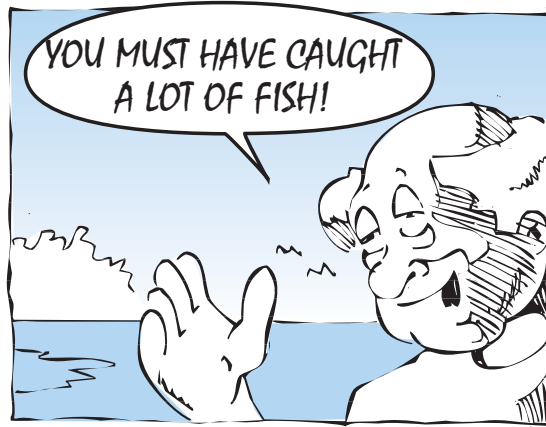
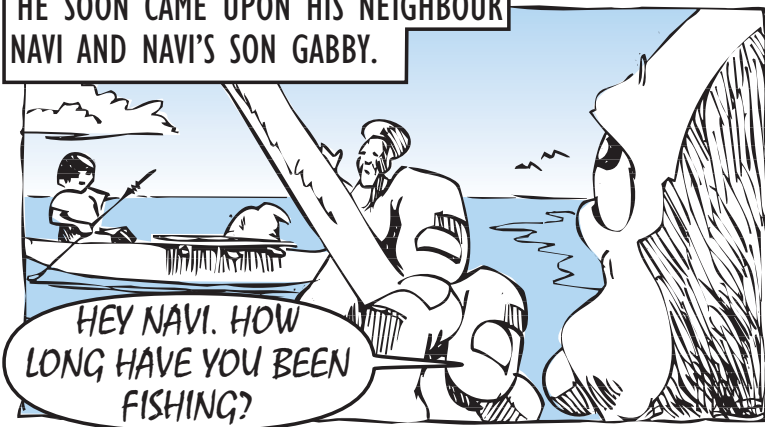
GIVE ME A
BREAK I'LL DO THAT
TOMORROW...

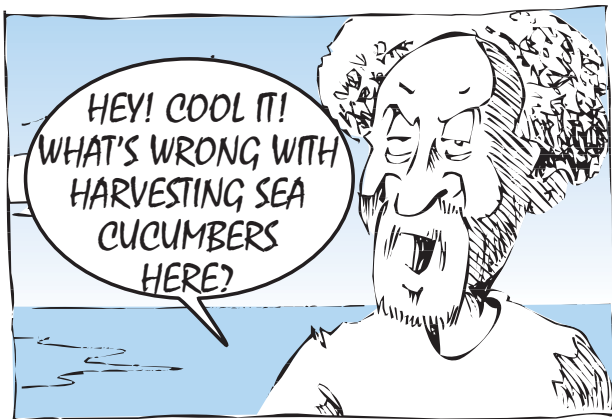
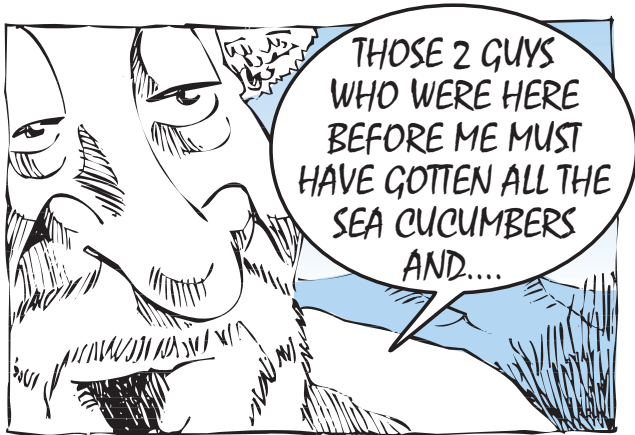


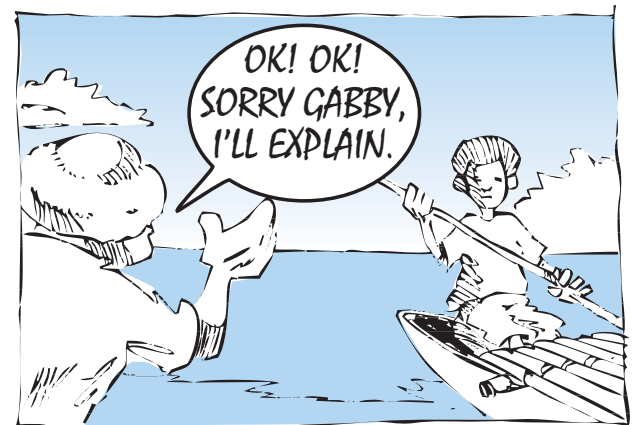
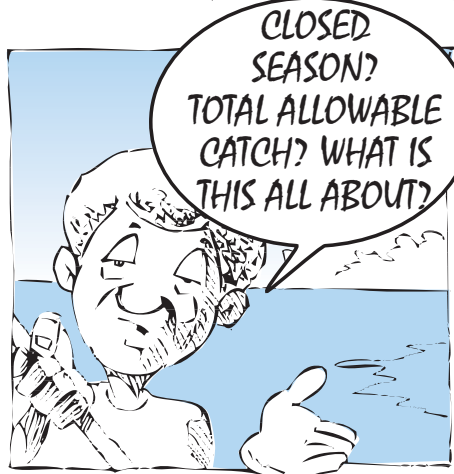
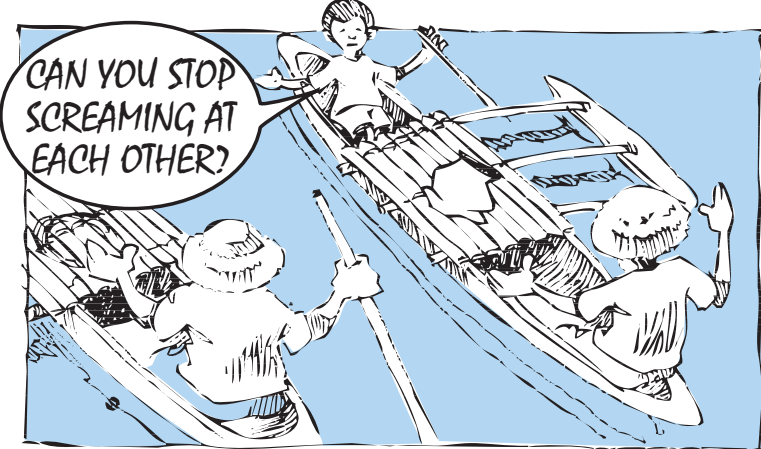
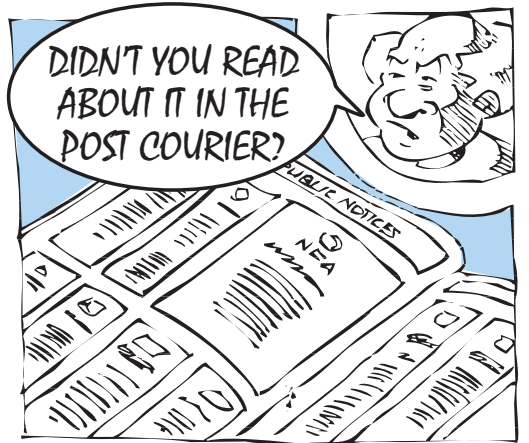
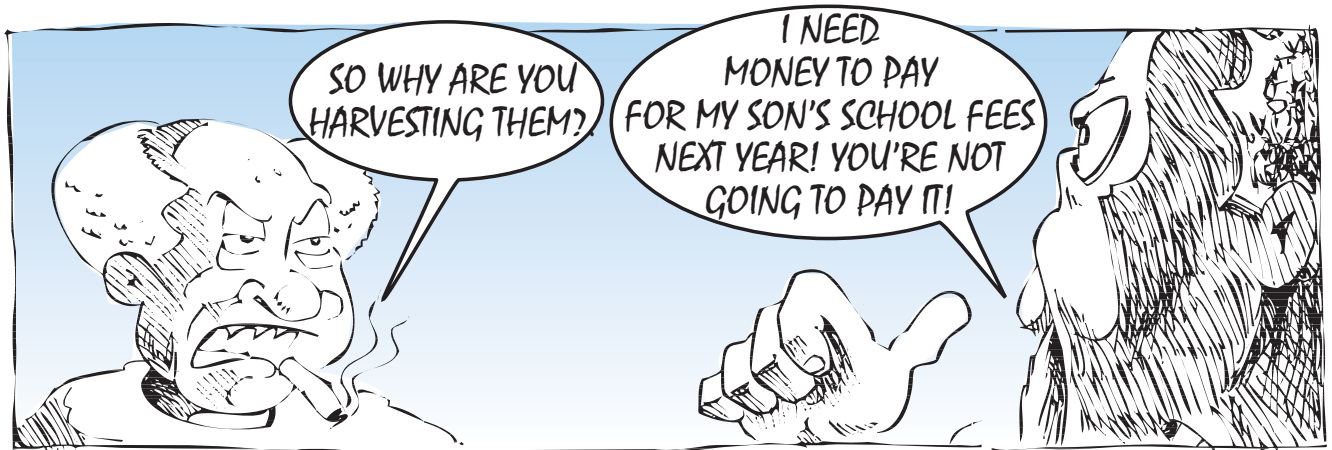
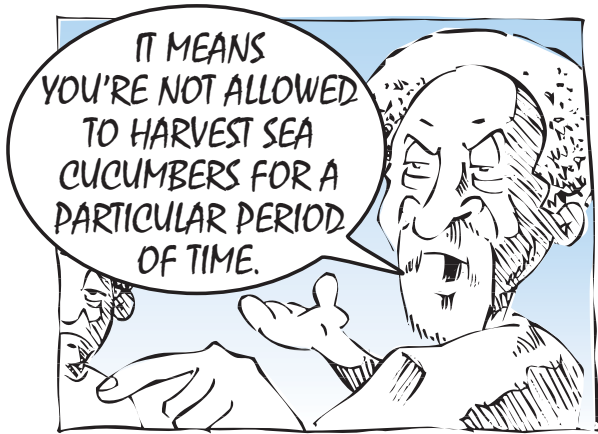
YOUR TOMORROWS
NEVER COME!

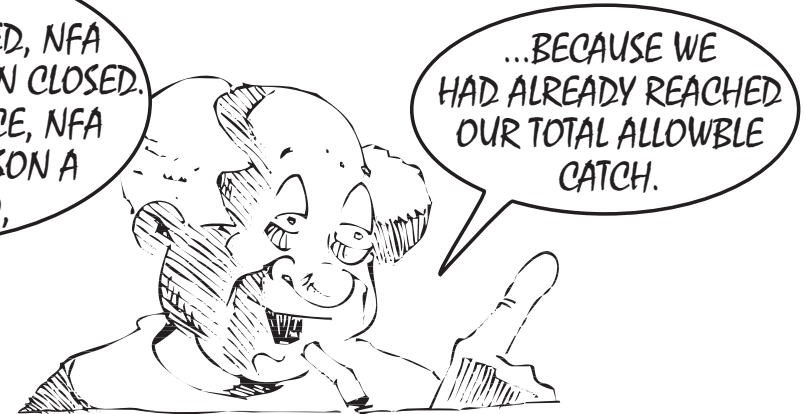
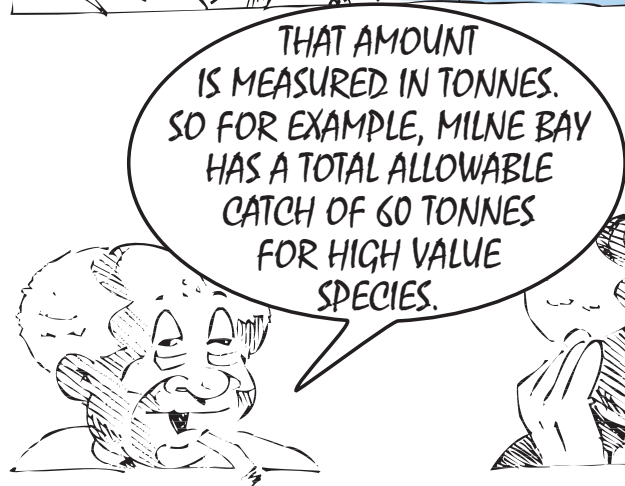
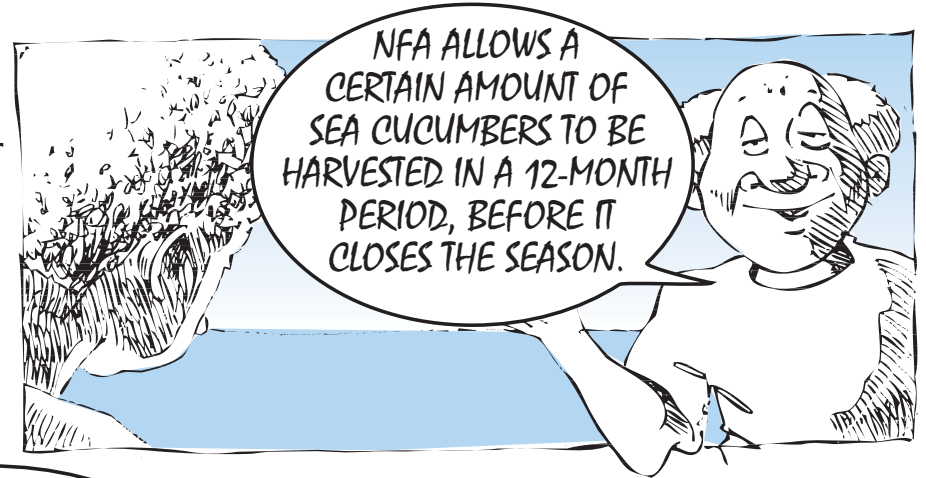
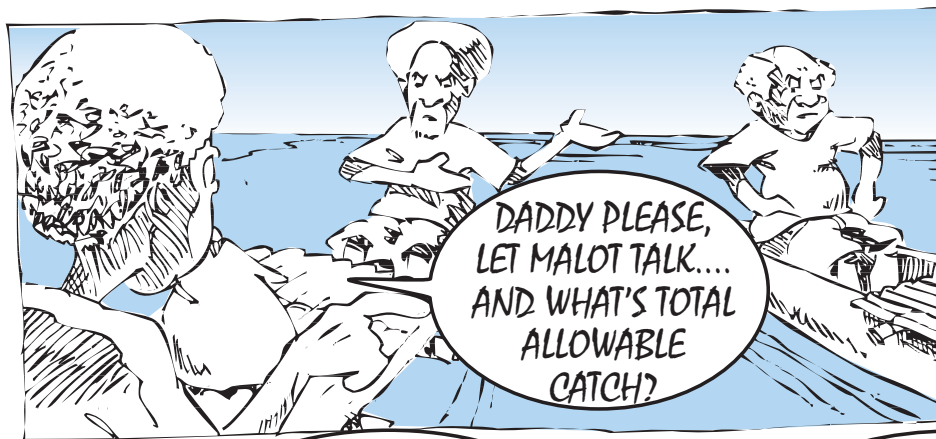
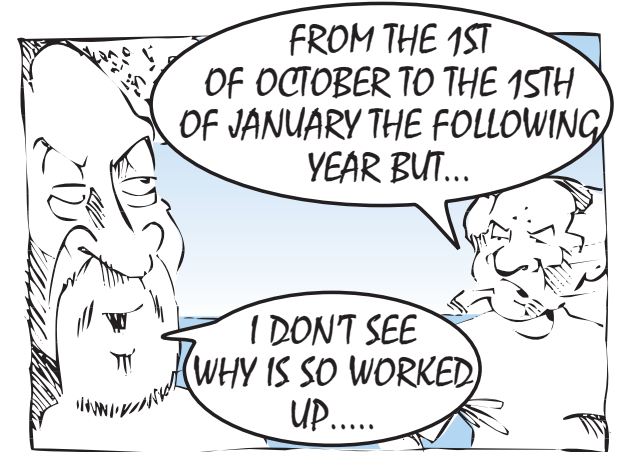
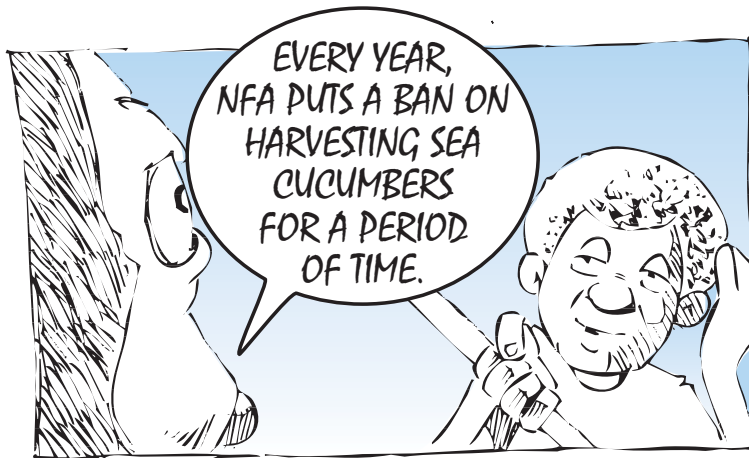


HE SOON CAME UPON HIS NEIGHBOUR NAVI AND NAVI'S SON GABBY.

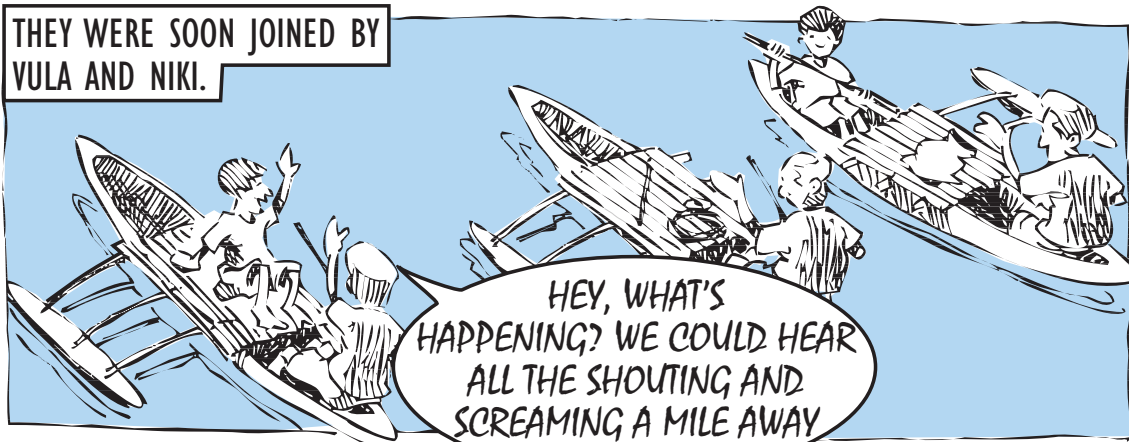








THEY WERE SOON JOINED BY
VULA AND NIKI.

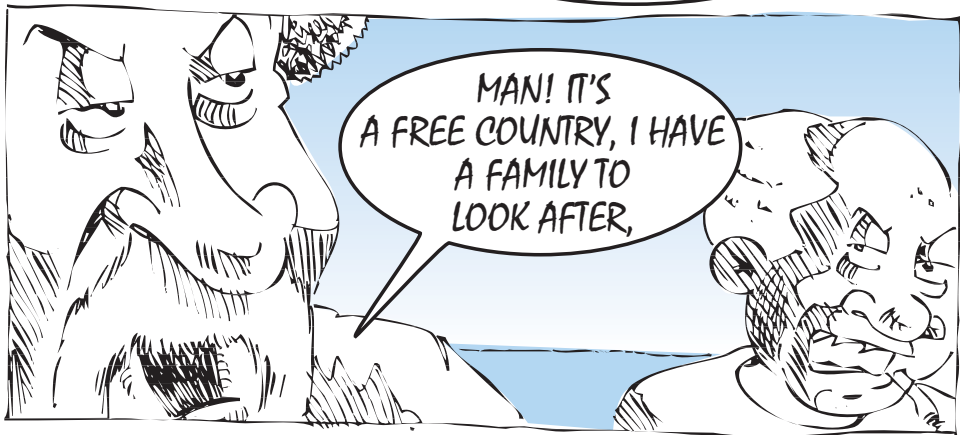


HEY, WHAT'S
HAPPENING? WE COULD HEAR
ALL THE SHOUTING AND
SCREAMING A MILE AWAY

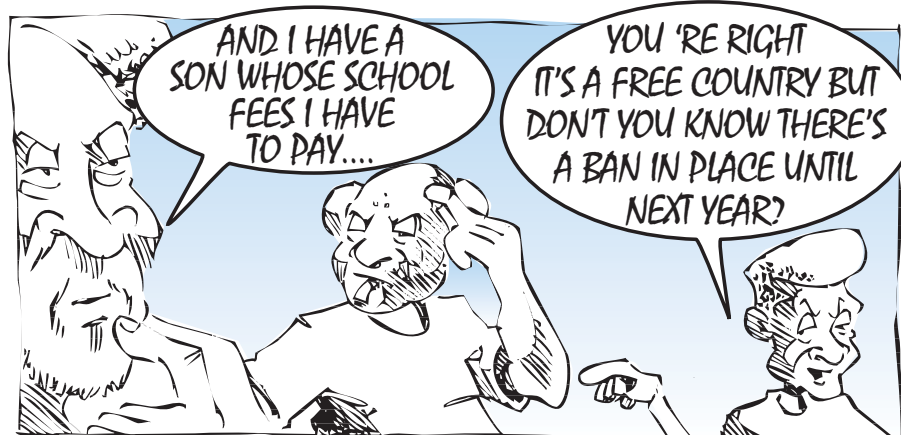
VULA IS THE SON OF A PROVINCIAL FISHERIES OFFICER AND
NIKI IS A FRIEND OF A LOCAL SEA CUCUMBER BUYER.



MALOT HERE
DONES'T WANT ME TO HARVEST
SEA CUCUMBERS.

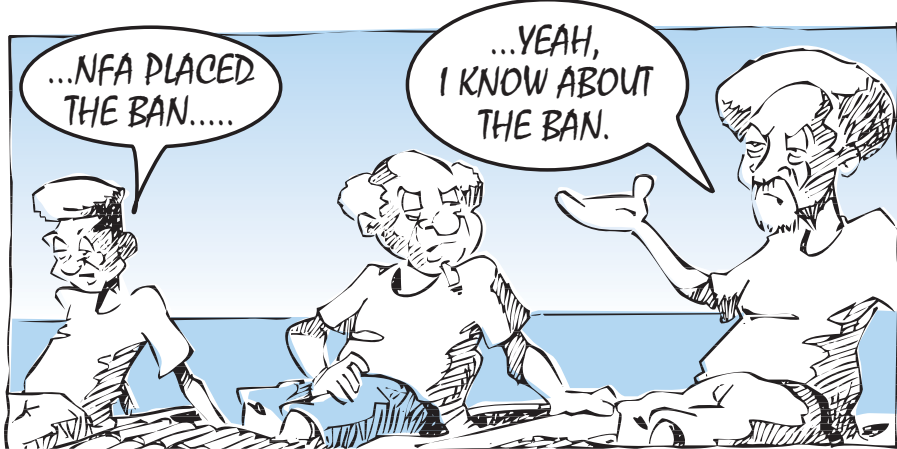


MAN! IT'S
A FREE COUNTRY, I HAVE
A FAMILY TO
LOOK AFTER,



AND I HAVE A
SON WHOSE SCHOOL
FEES I HAVE
TO PAY....

YOU 'RE RIGHT
IT'S A FREE COUNTRY BUT
DONT YOU KNOW THERE'S
A BAN IN PLACE UNTIL
NEXT YEAR?

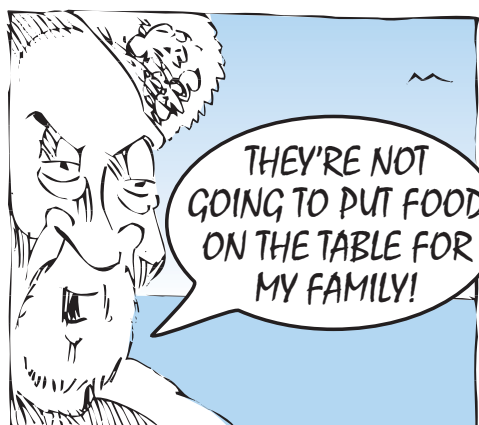


...NFA PLACED
THE BAN.....

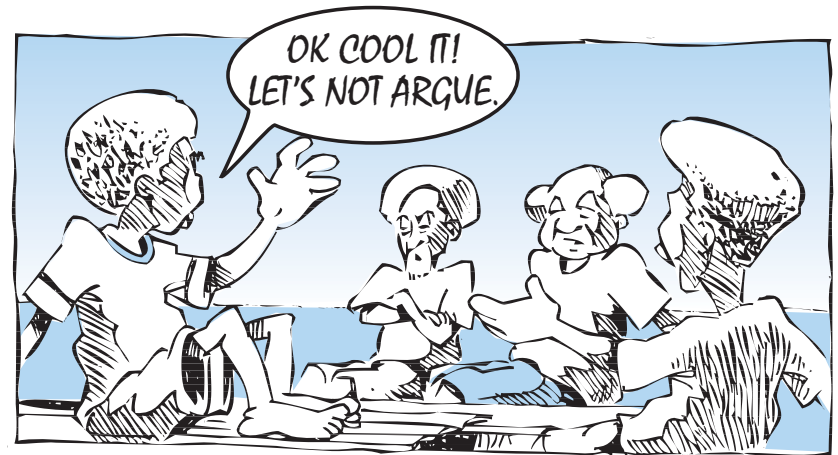
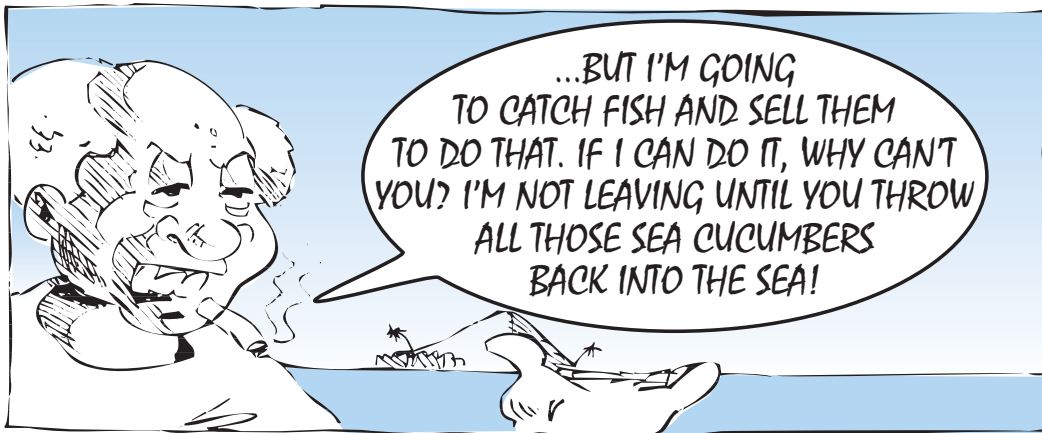
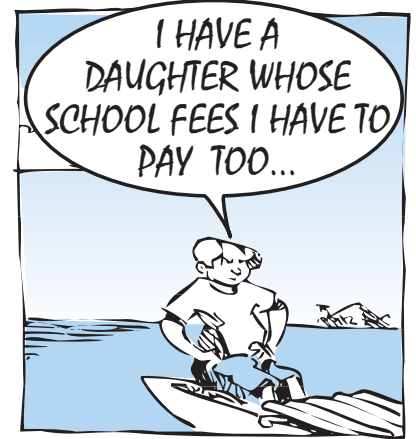
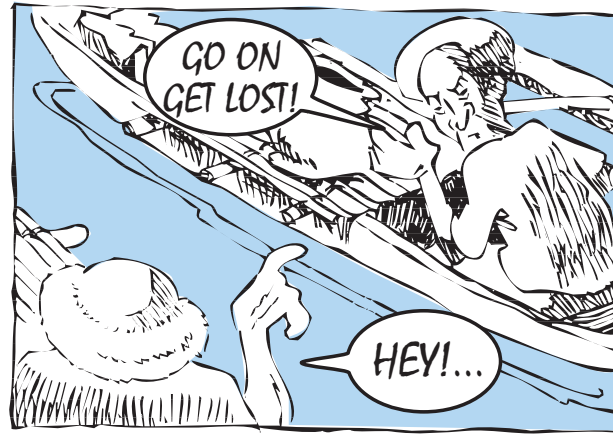
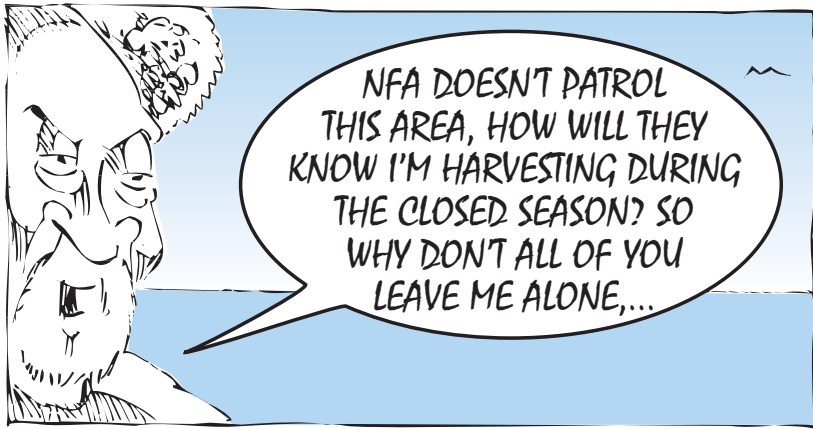
...YEAH,
I KNOW ABOUT
THE BAN.

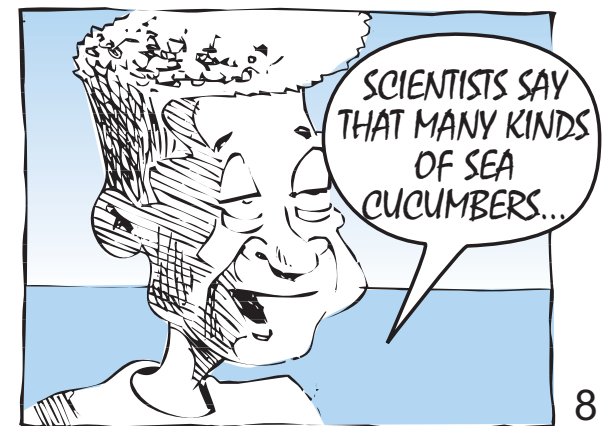
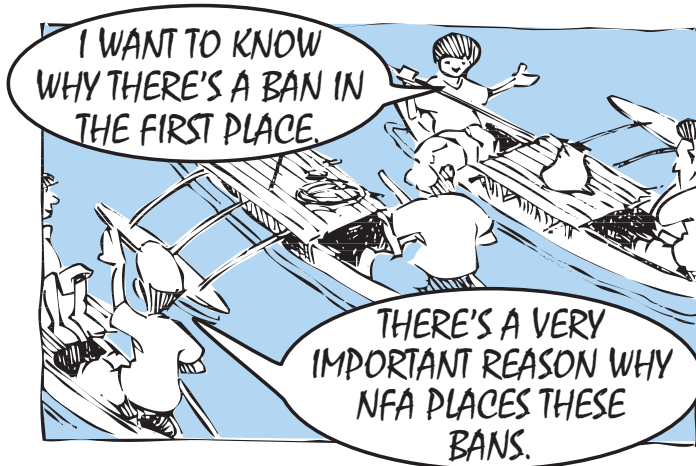
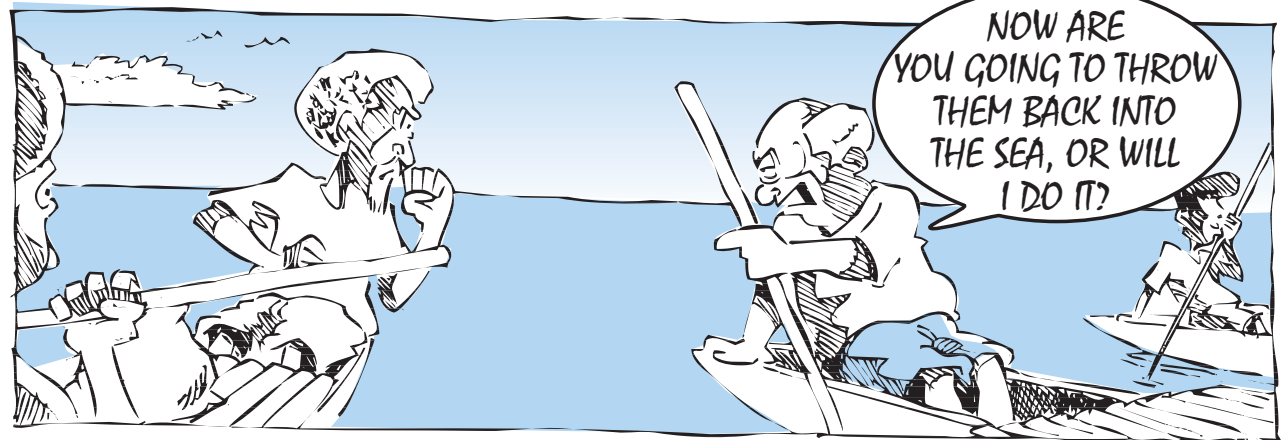
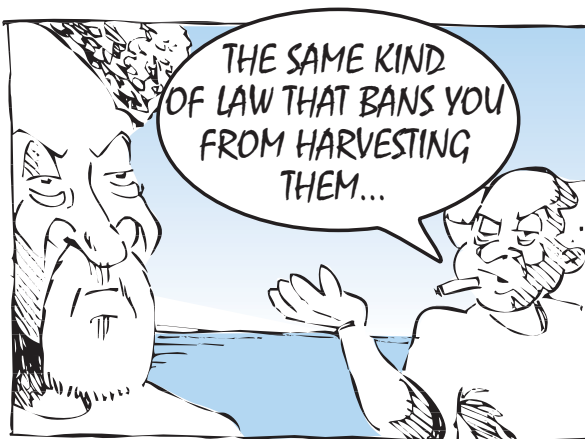
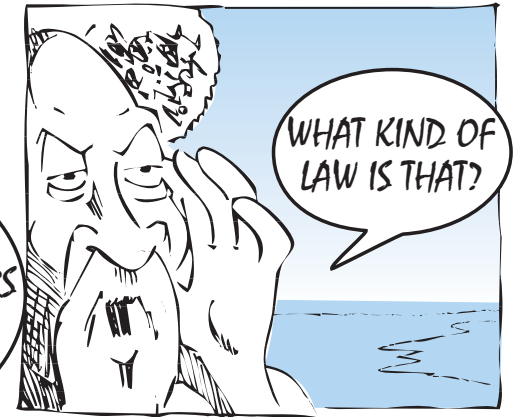
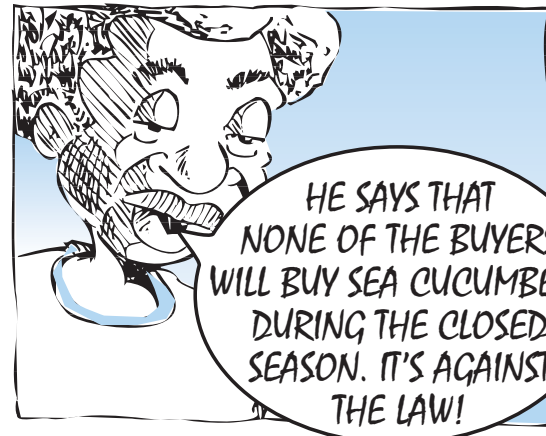
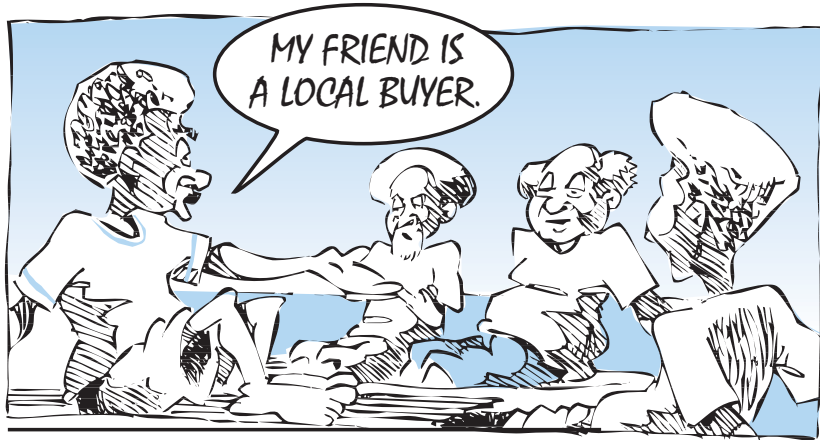


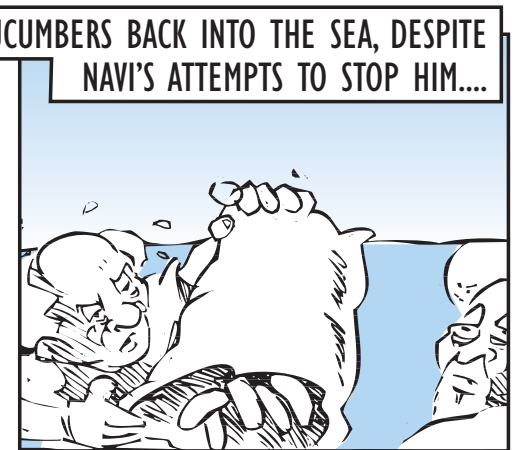
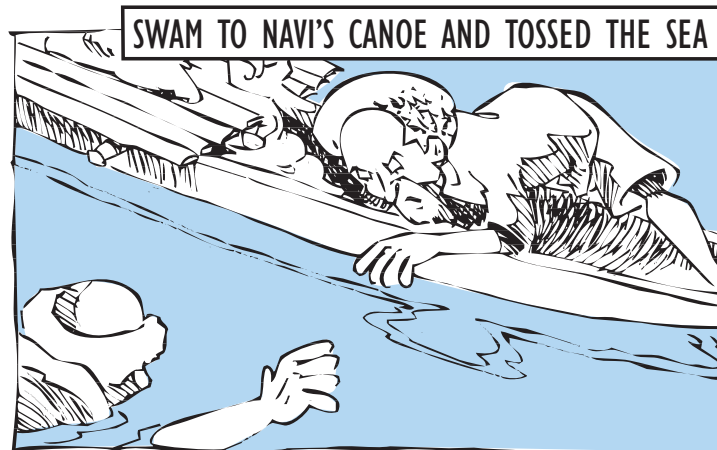
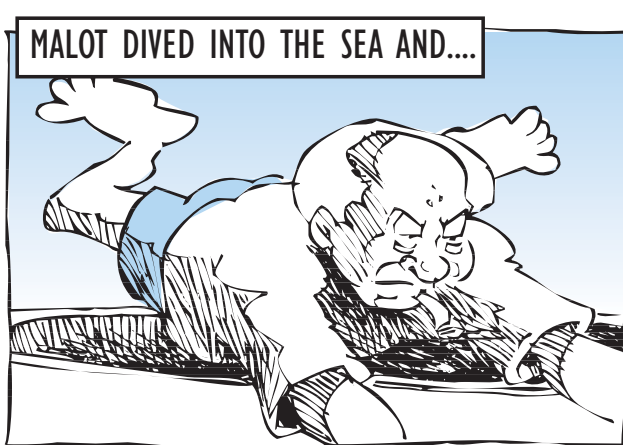
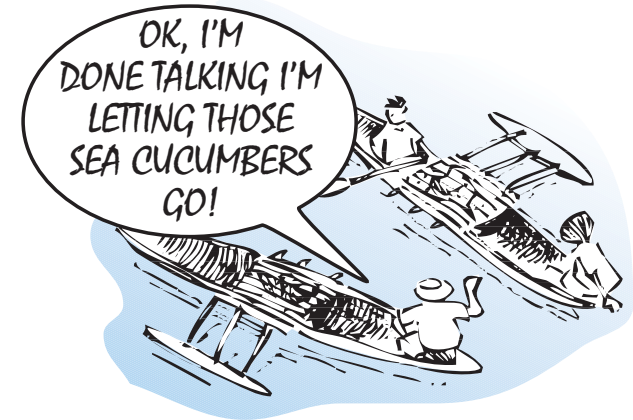
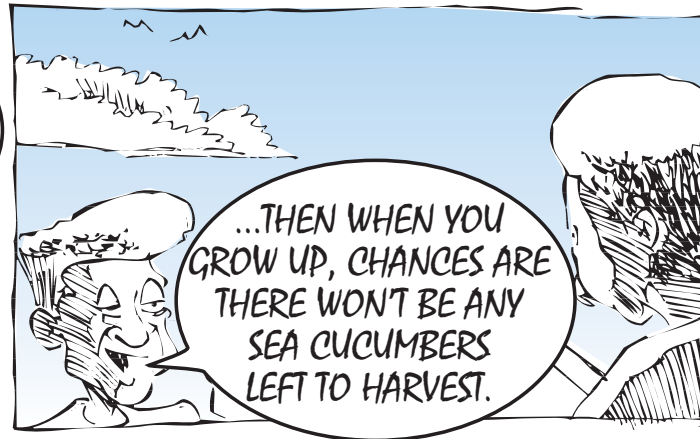
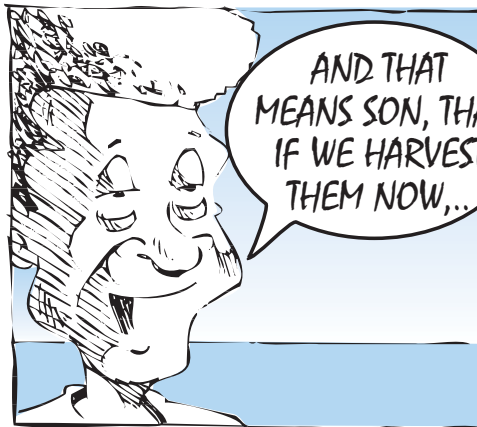
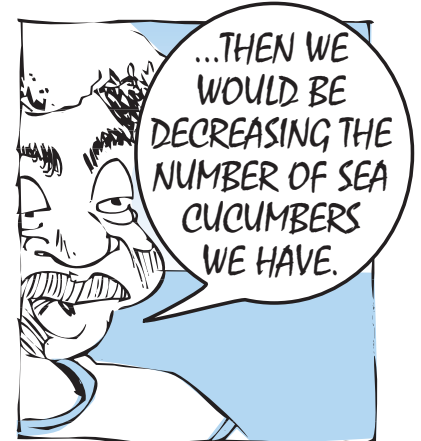
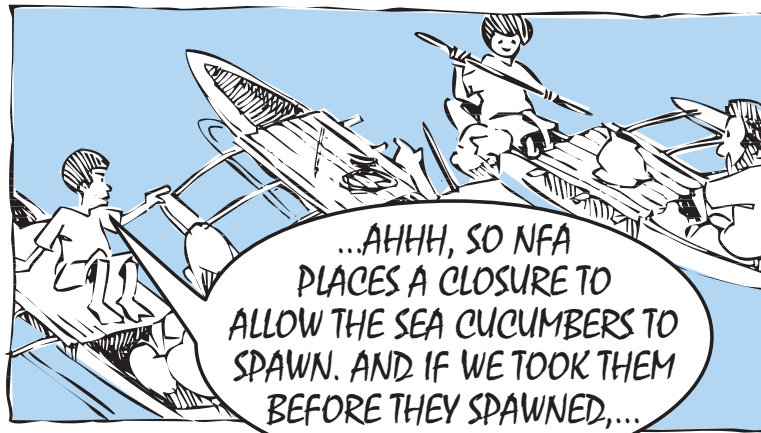
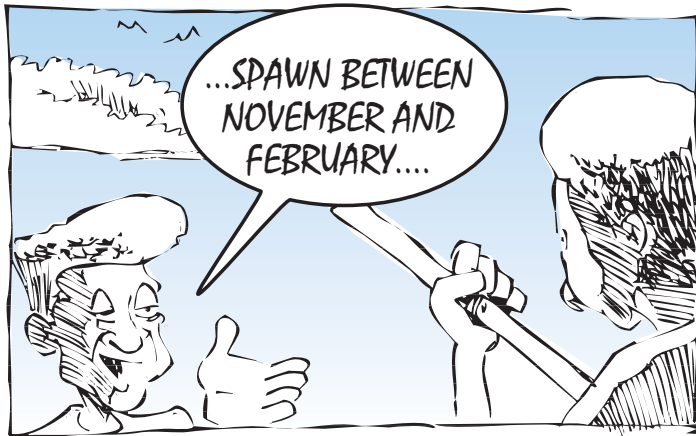
NFA! NFA! NFA!
WHAT DO THOSE
PEOPLE CARE?

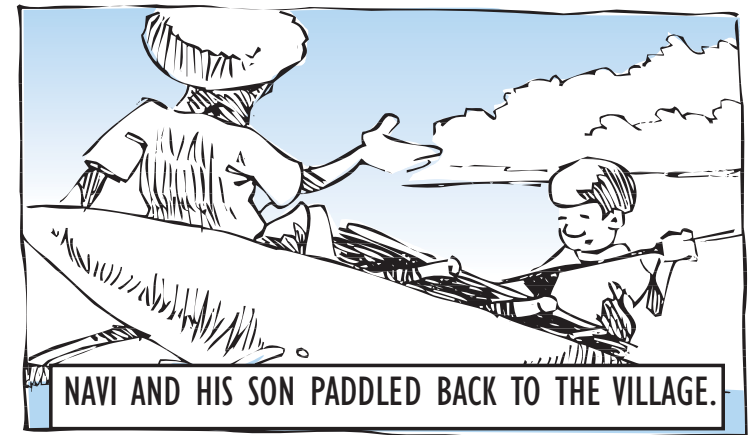
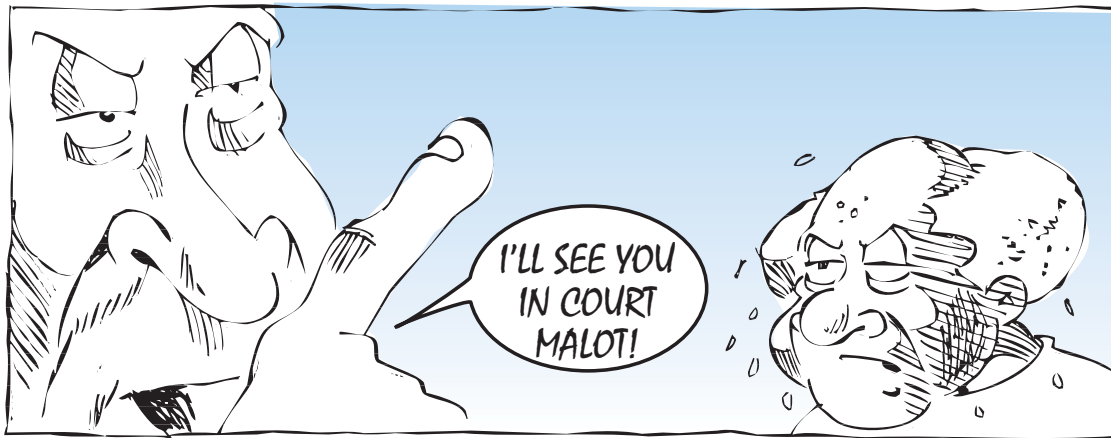
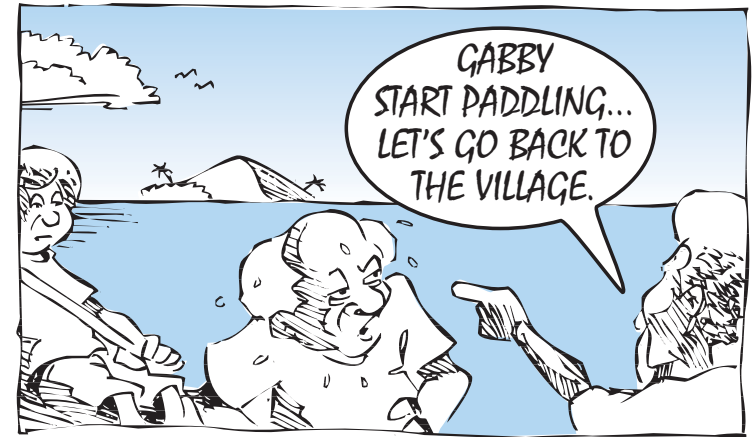
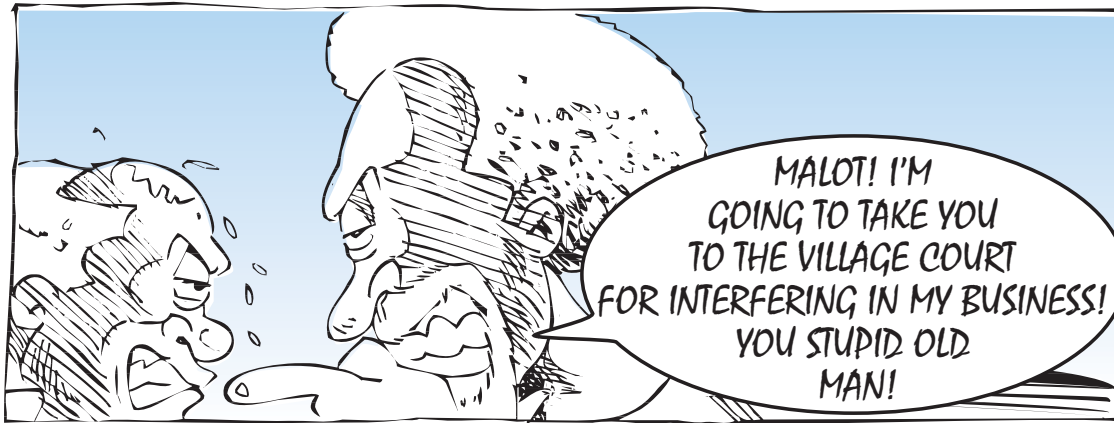


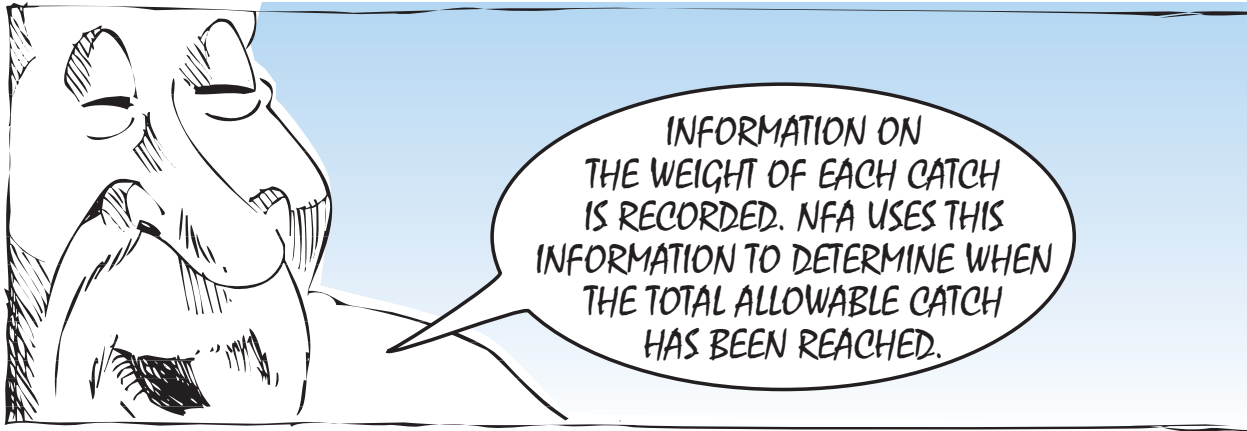
THEY'RE NOT
GOING TO PUT FOOD
ON THE TABLE FOR
MY FAMILY!











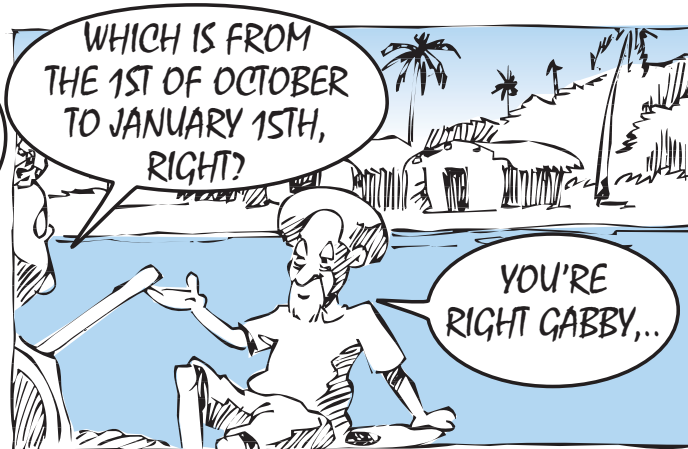
INFORMATION ON THE WEIGHT OF EACH CATCH IS RECORDED. NFA USES THIS INFORMATION TO DETERMINE WHEN THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH HAS BEEN REACHED.



OK, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. IF WE DON'T REACH OUR TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH,...

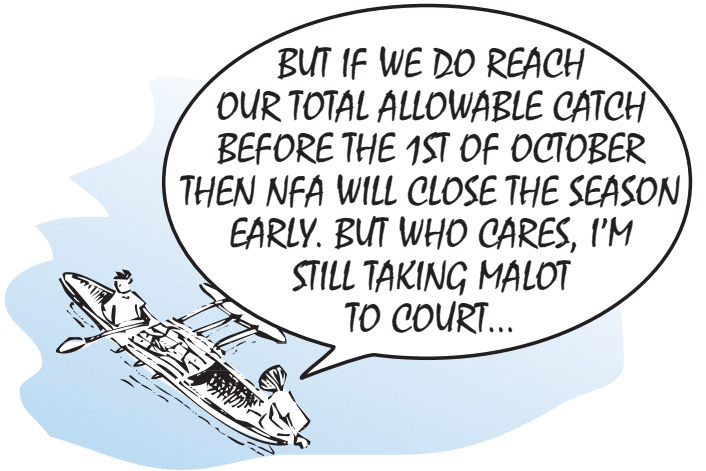


THEN WE CAN HARVEST SEA CUCUMBERS UNTIL THE CLOSED PERIOD BEGINS...



WHICH IS FROM THE 1ST OF OCTOBER TO JANUARY 15TH, RIGHT?

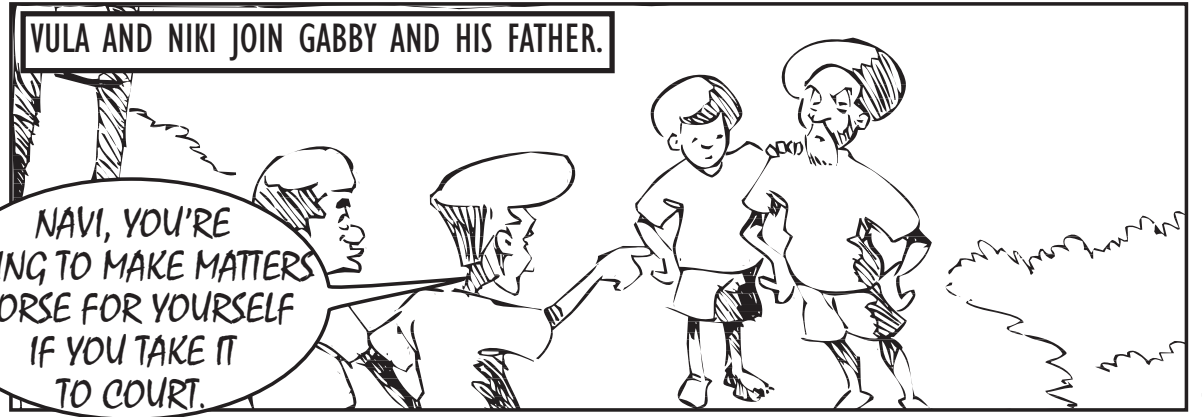
YOU'RE RIGHT GABBY,...



BUT IF WE DO REACH OUR TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH BEFORE THE 1ST OF OCTOBER THEN NFA WILL CLOSE THE SEASON EARLY. BUT WHO CARES, I'M STILL TAKING MALOT TO COURT...



AN HOUR LATER.....



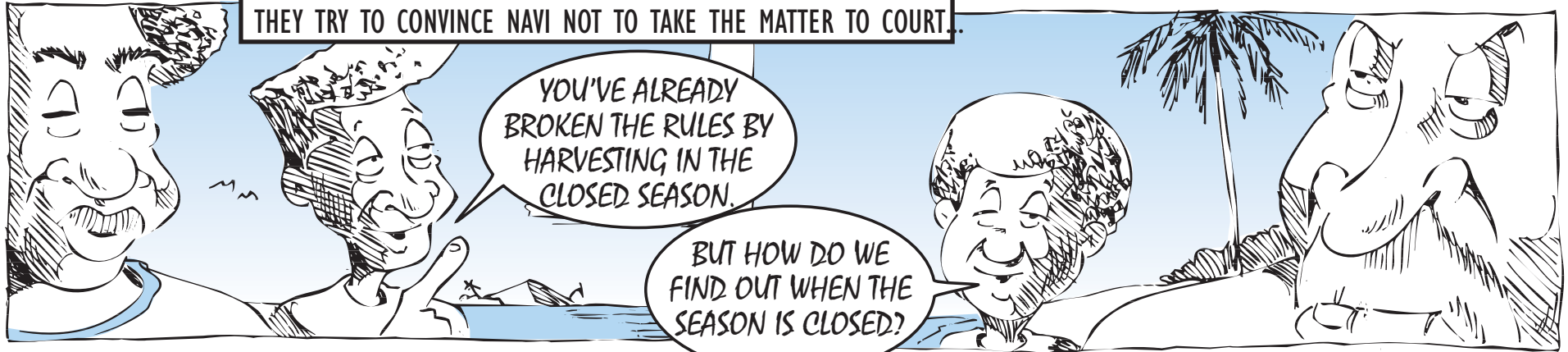
VULA AND NIKI JOIN GABBY AND HIS FATHER.

NAVI, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE FOR YOURSELF IF YOU TAKE IT TO COURT.

THEY TRY TO CONVINCE NAVI NOT TO TAKE THE MATTER TO COURT.

YOU'VE ALREADY
BROKEN THE RULES BY
HARVESTING IN THE
CLOSED SEASON.

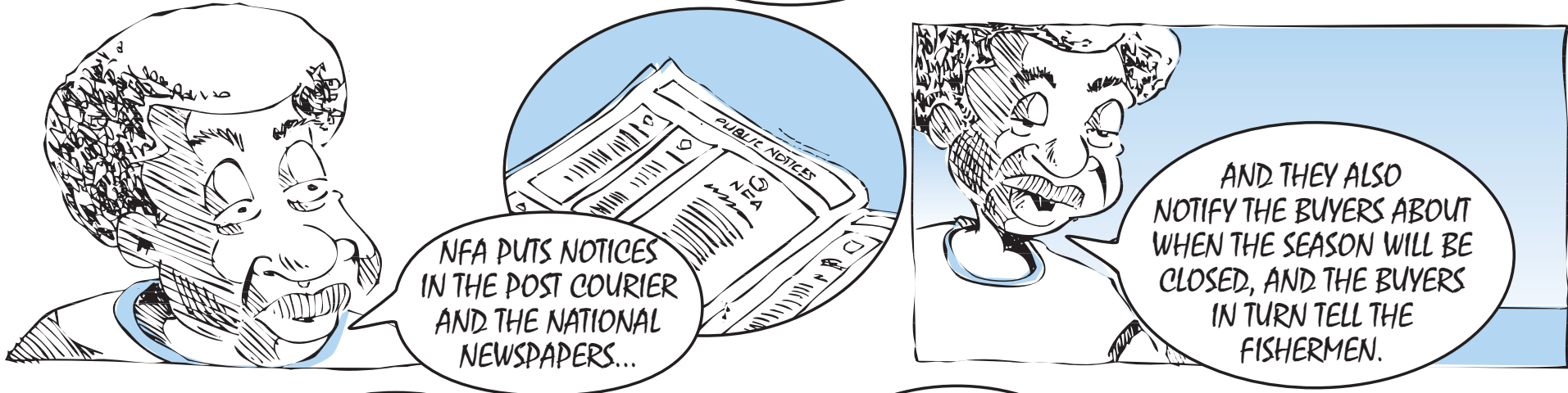
BUT HOW DO WE
FIND OUT WHEN THE
SEASON IS CLOSED?



NFA PUTS NOTICES
IN THE POST COURIER
AND THE NATIONAL
NEWSPAPERS...



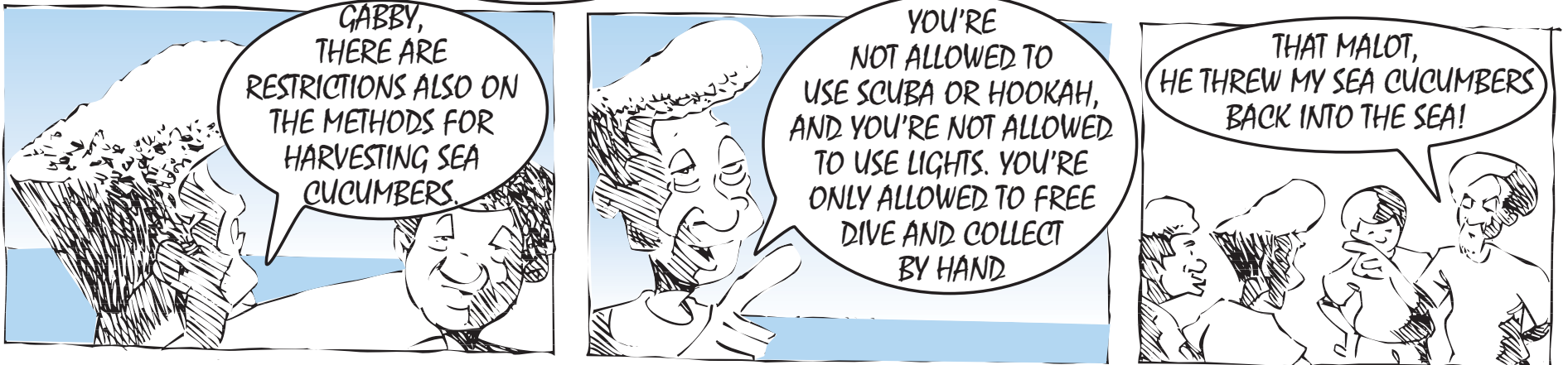
AND THEY ALSO
NOTIFY THE BUYERS ABOUT
WHEN THE SEASON WILL BE
CLOSED, AND THE BUYERS
IN TURN TELL THE
FISHERMEN.

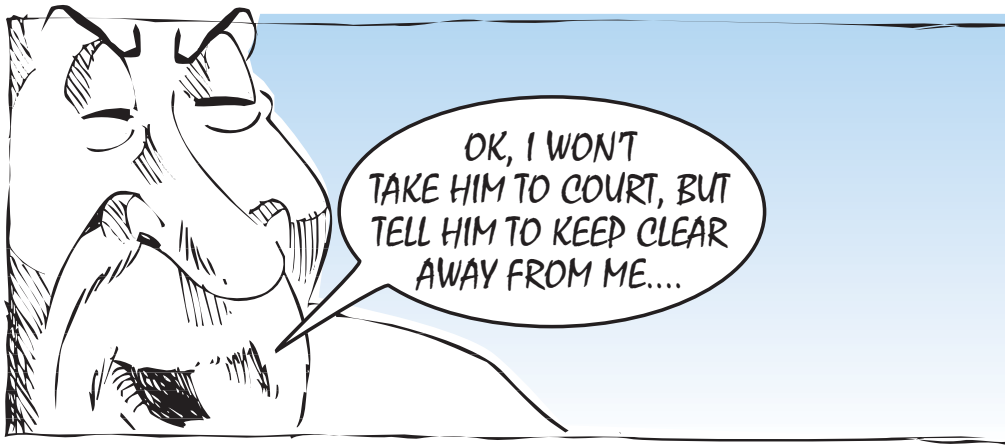


GABBY,
THERE ARE
RESTRICTIONS ALSO ON
THE METHODS FOR
HARVESTING SEA
CUCUMBERS.

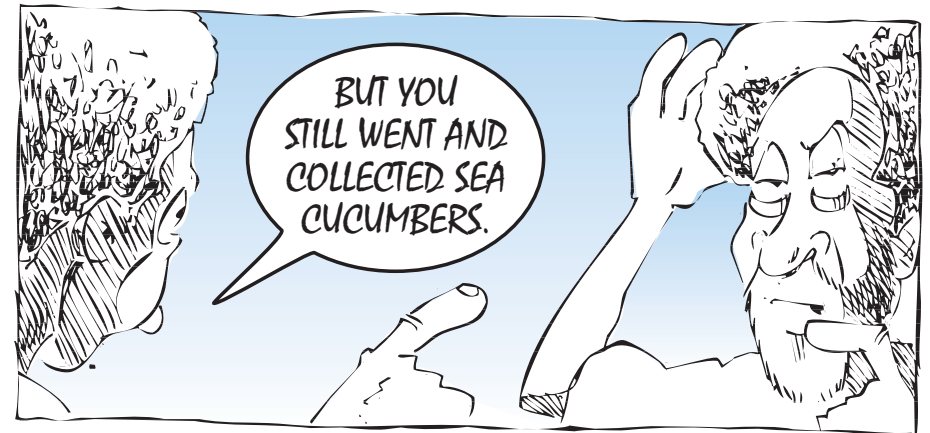
YOU'RE
NOT ALLOWED TO
USE SCUBA OR HOOKAH,
AND YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED
TO USE LIGHTS. YOU'RE
ONLY ALLOWED TO FREE
DIVE AND COLLECT
BY HAND.

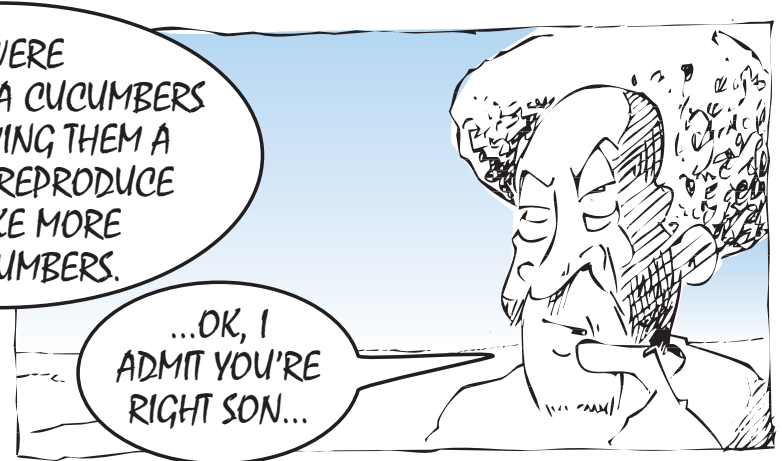
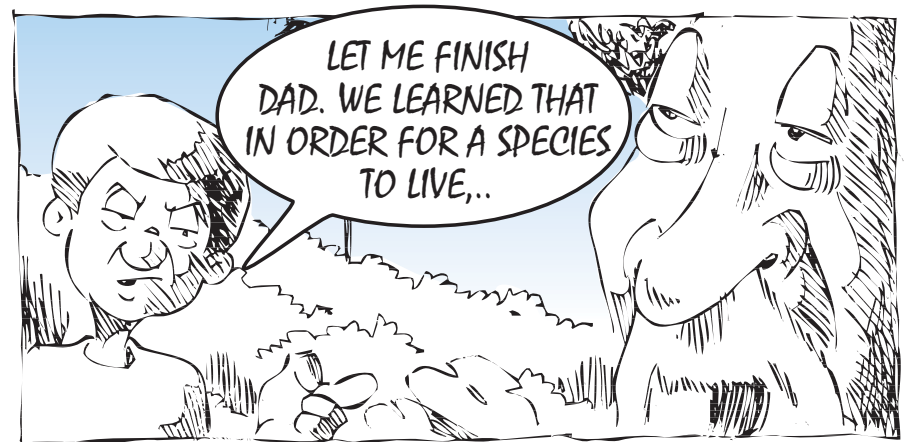
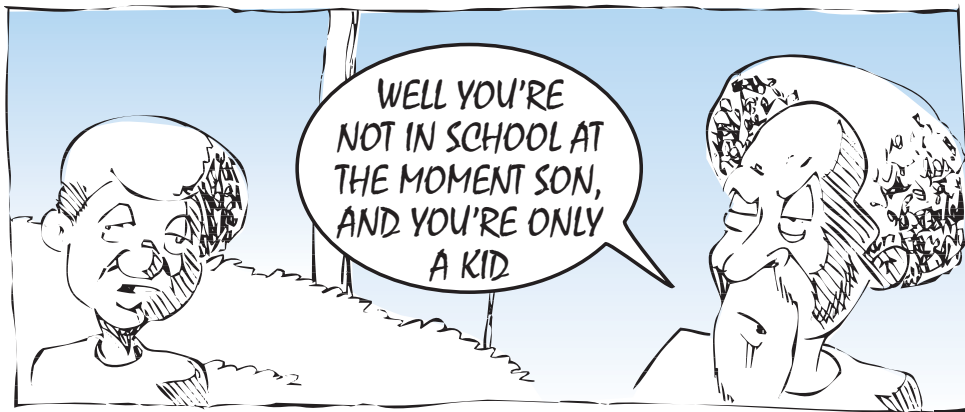
THAT MALOT,
HE THREW MY SEA CUCUMBERS
BACK INTO THE SEA!

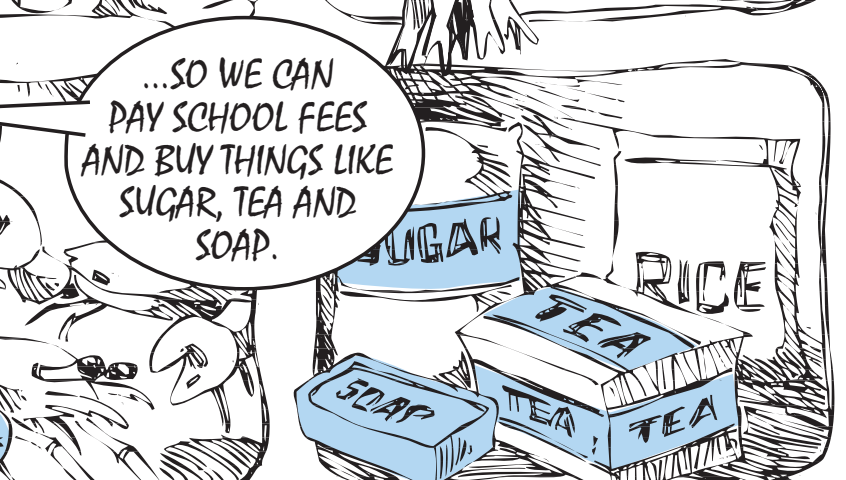
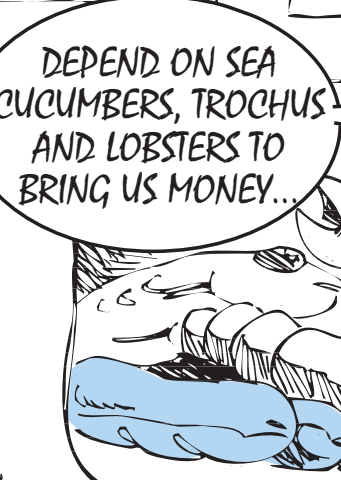
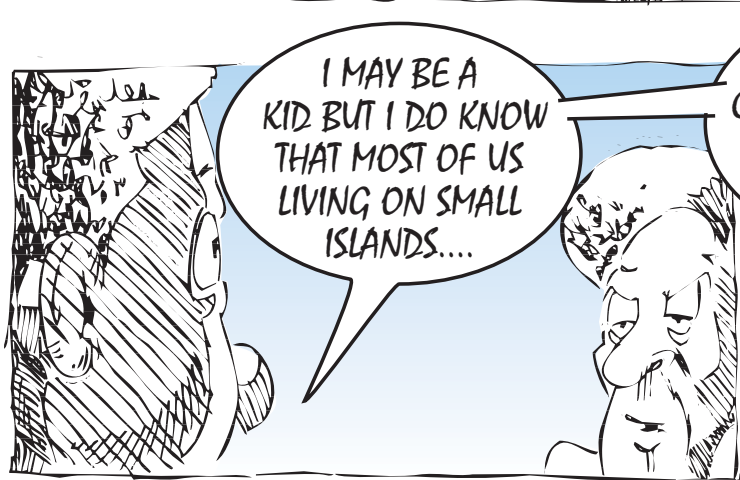
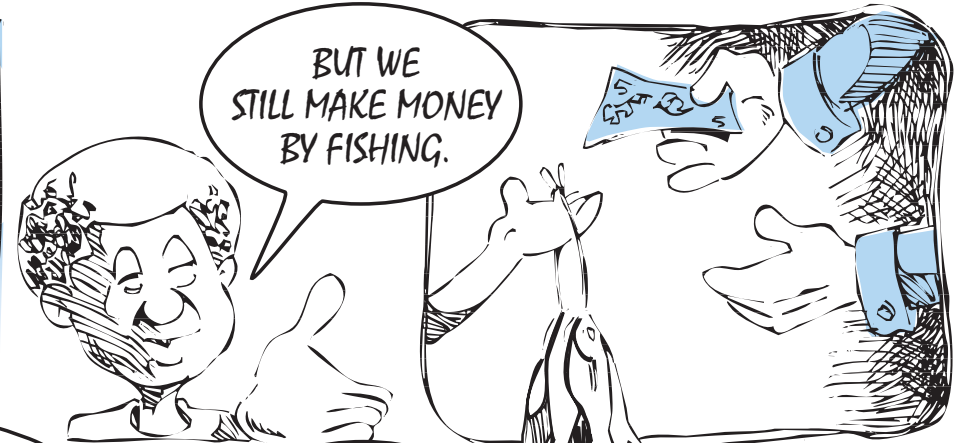
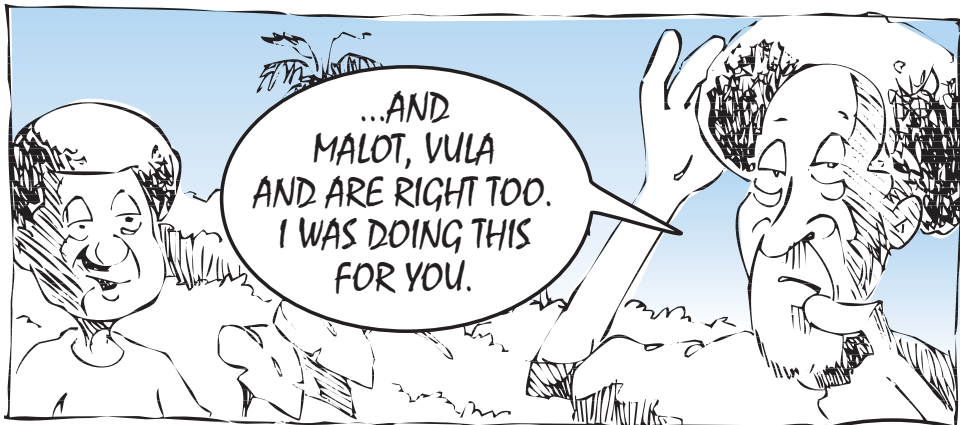


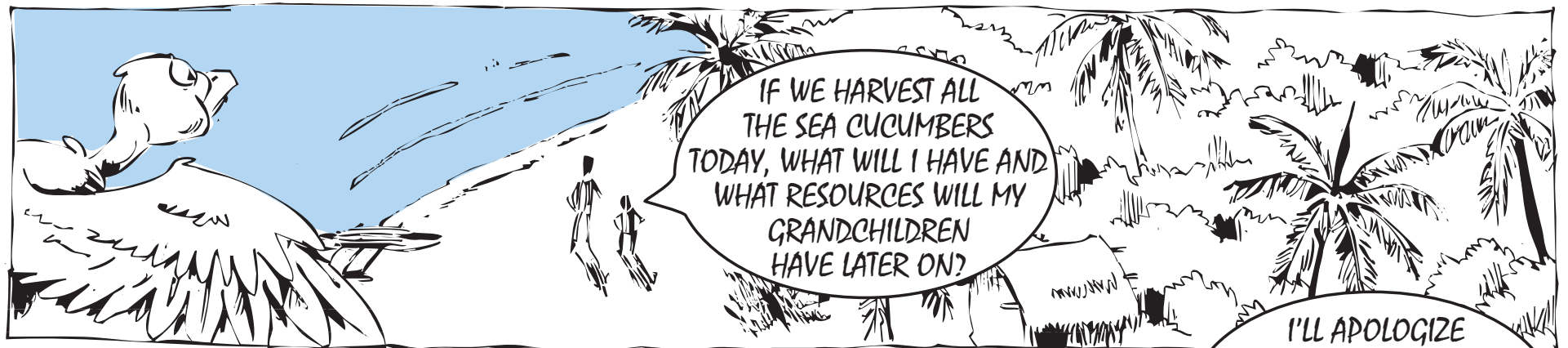
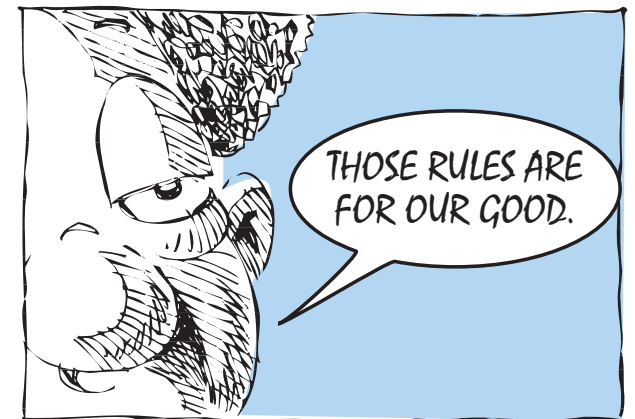


AFTER VULA AND NIKI LEFT, GABBY TURNED TO HIS FATHER...









THE END

The PNG Coastal Fisheries Management and Development Project is producing a series of information and awareness raising materials about how communities can better manage their reef and mangrove resources. One method our project is using to raise awareness is through comic books stories and posters. We would like to see our comics and posters used by:

- school teachers and school children,
- provincial fisheries officers,
- non-governmental organizations,
- fishermen's associations, and
- anyone else interested in managing coastal marine resources.

“Closed season” is the latest comic book to be produced by our project. We'd like to share it with you.

If you are interested in finding out what else our project is doing, or if you would like to receive more copies of our comics and posters, please contact the PNG National Fisheries Authority's Public Relations Officer at 309 0444. In New Ireland Province you can contact us at the National Fisheries College on 984 2266, or you can also visit us or ring our Contact Centre at Bagail in Kavieng at 984 1522. In Morobe Province you can contact the Coastal Fisheries Management and Development Office at Voco Point, phone number 472 7475.

