

**Minutes of meeting of Umma wa Wapanda Baisikeli Dar es Salaam
10th November 2007**

Attendance

Ally Saidi Mohamedi
Ally Saidi Mwishehe
Aseli Wilison
Bushira Yahaya Rashidi
Dominata Rwechungura
Elaine Baker
Filbert Mbecha
Frank Peter Rioeyongeza
Husein Hamza Hamisi
Juma Ali Salehe Jongo
Kassim Bakari
Kibwana Mohammad Msiga
Mussa Omari
Rahma Ali
Sudi Saidi Ramadhan

Guests :

Venant William
Damas Nderumaki

Climate change event

The two guests Venant William (an activist) and Damas Nderumaki (an activist from Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development) were welcomed and everyone introduced themselves. Damas gave examples of other projects he was involved in including campaigns for better environmental management of Lake Victoria. Elaine had met Venant in the climate change meeting at the World Social Forum last January and he put us in touch with Damas.

Damas and Venant gave an explanation of the issue of climate change, its causes and its effects to the UWABA members. They also said that cycling is a good way of combatting climate change as it does not give carbon into the atmosphere like vehicles do so that it is very appropriate that UWABA be an organiser of the day of action on climate change.

Elaine outlined the plan to do a cycle to the State House of Tanzania and the US embassy to present letters signed by various organisations, as well as to get journalists to cover the event. She also has drafted two letters in English for this purpose.

The details of the route and a press conference were discussed but it was decided that the first priority was to make a list of participating organisations and to have as many of them as possible attend next week's meeting so we could finalise these aspects.

Dominata gave ideas for how to publicise and organise the event and suggested we start the cycle from Mnazi Mmoja. She has contacts in the media for publicity. Other ideas for publicising the event include radio one, radio Mlimani and JET.

Organisations which were suggested included Joint Environment Development Action (JEMA), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (chair is Sylvan Mngaye), Roots and Shoots, University Students Union, EPMS (contact person Euster), Journalists Environment Tanzania (JET) and Tanzania Association of NGOs (TANGO) (Mary Mwingira the leader of TANGO has nominated a person called Samuel to represent TANGO).

Damas said he would follow up closely this week so that he has a list of organisations by Wednesday and by Friday he has got a finalised draft of the letter approved by the organisations. Then next Saturday we can finalise the other parts of the plan.

Venant said he will translate the draft letters into Kiswahili.

Cycle caravan

Elaine finished writing the report for the Embassy of Netherlands with input from Mejah and submitted it together with photocopies of receipts, photographs and copies of newspaper articles to the embassy of Friday. Azzan Zungu MP phoned Elaine during the week to ask how the caravan went. Juma photocopied the report together with the photographs and newspaper articles for Azzan Zungu MP, Guta company, Bakhresa and the Chinese embassy (the major sponsors) and will deliver them next week.

The dvd which was made by a studio for Sosthenes contains only the visit by the Ibike tour and part of the speeches part of the caravan, not the main part of the caravan. The video of the caravan seems to be missing although Sosthenes told Elaine he is still following up. The members were very disappointed about this. Dominata said there was another person videoing also but no one had taken his contact details.

National Institute for Transportation (NIT)

Elaine called into see Mr Wemba the head of Road Safety at the NIT this week. He said they will give UWABA members a free one-day course in road safety as part of their public awareness activities, and that we should write a letter requesting this. The training will be on a Saturday, date to be decided. Juma delivered the letter during the week and he will follow up on it this week. The members were very pleased about this and are looking forward to the training.

Follow up on letters

Juma called into both TANROADS and the City Council this week to follow up on getting answers to our letters. Mrs Mlamba in the City Council gave him a document with drawings of the proposed design of Morogoro Road for the DART project. All parts of the road have a place for cyclists although the width is variable and while some parts are protected by trees from the main road others are not. However, the members were very encouraged by the priority given to cyclists in the plan. She told Juma that we would get a reply to our letter about the Dar es Salaam Transport Master Plan.

TANROADS have still not replied to our letter – Juma is continuing to follow up.

Office

Ally Saidi Mohammad said that buying soft board for the office notice boards will cost Tsh 50,000. Juma will give him this money this week (as Tsh 90,000 was withdrawn from the bank this week for guta parts but the parts are not yet available).

Guta

The spare parts for the Guta are still not available as they are stuck in the port. Bushira said he will continue to follow this up this week.

Other business

Elaine said Violeth has started translation of the minutes.

Elaine sent an email to Wamba Memorial Fund but has not yet got a reply.

David from Bike Nouveau in Italy said by email that he has transferred the donation money (850 euros) but it has not yet arrived in our bank account. Elaine will follow up next week.