

**Minutes of meeting of Umma wa Wapanda Baisikeli Dar es Salaam
15th December 2007**

Attendance

Ally Saidi Mohamedi
Ally Saidi Mwishehe
Aseli Wilison
Dominata Rwechungura
Elaine Baker
Filbert Mbecha
Hamadi Hatibu Bwaja
Husein Hamza Hamisi
Juma Ali Salehe Jongo
Jumanne Idd Selemani
Kassim Bakari
Sudi Saidi Ramadhan

Climate change event

The climate change cycle event last Saturday was discussed. The event was attended by UWABA, JEMA and TCSD members and we carried letters signed by ten environmental NGOs. We cycled from Mabibo to the Vice President's Office. At the Vice President's Office we were welcomed and Mejah gave a speech about climate change and the deputy director for environment replied with a supportive speech. After this we went to set off to the US embassy but we were stopped by police who told us we could not go without a letter of invitation from the US embassy and gave us a letter to this effect. The event was covered by Channel 10 news, the Majira newspaper and BBC radio, all of whom Dominata had informed about our event.

Members expressed their view that the police stopping our event was illegal as we had informed the police and the US embassy beforehand (although the US embassy had refused to see us on the day we had planned to at least deliver the letters to the embassy as a group). We decided to get a legal opinion from a legal NGO on whether our rights have been violated and whether the police were acting within the law. Recent events in the talks in Bali, Indonesia were also discussed, where the USA is also obstructing progress. During the week Elaine drafted and Juma delivered the ten letters from NGOs to the US embassy which we were supposed to deliver on the day, with a cover letter pointing out that our event being stopped was not a positive move for democracy, civil society participation or civil rights in Tanzania.

Sosthenes made two copies of a video of the event and Ally Saidi Mohammad said we could watch it next week on his TV and his friend's video player.

Elaine suggested that future campaigns on this issue should be led by organisations such as TCSD and UWABA could support them, as TCSD has a clearer mandate on this issue. However, UWABA has made an important contribution to debate on this important issue.

Guta

The guta spares have now arrived to the guta company. It was agreed that Juma and Elaine would withdraw Tsh 55,000 from the bank on Monday and this together with Tsh 45,000 which Juma is still holding of UWABA's money would be used to buy the new wheels. Juma and Jumanne will meet at Mabibo at 10am on Monday morning and go to buy them together.

Finances

The donation from Bike Nouveau Fabrique in Italy has arrived in the UWABA bank account. We agreed to make a thank you sheet of paper which members could sign and write messages on to send to them.

During the week Elaine and Juma withdrew money from the account to refund expenses for the cycle caravan and the T-shirts to Elaine and Mejah.

The Dutch embassy has given us a cheque for Tsh 265,000. It appears there is a misunderstanding as we understood we were to get Tsh 50,000. Elaine will follow up on this this week.

Some money will be saved for future office rent and expenses and future events, but we agreed we would use approximately Tsh 200,000 for mitumba helmets and T-shirts as gifts for the most regular members.

Office

One new notice board is up and the other new notice boards are still being made – Ally Saidi Mohammed will finish this week.

Elaine has not yet done the formatting work on the Kiswahili minutes or printed them out.

National Institute for Transportation (NIT)

Mr Wemba has not replied to our letter requesting a road safety seminar yet. Elaine tried to phone him but his phone was not reachable. She will follow up again this week.

City Council and TANROADS

Ally Saidi Mohammed said he would bring the photocopies of the road plan for Morogoro road to the meeting next week. We have not yet received a reply to our letter to the city council on the transport master plan. We have also not received a reply from TANROADS.

Other business

Wamba memorial fund has still not told us the result of the road safety project proposal evaluation.