

**Minutes of meeting of Umma wa Wapanda Baisikeli Dar es Salaam
18th August 2007**

Attendance

Ally Saidi Mohamedi
Elaine Baker
Filbert Mbecha
Izdoly Aludo Kihalule
Juma Ali Salehe Jongo
Jumanne Idd Selemani
Kassim Bakari
Mohamed S. Mwenguo
Mohamed Salum Athman
Mussa Athmani
Mussa Omari
Patrick Masinga
Saidi Hemed Mbaruku
Sosthenes C Amlima
Sudi Saidi Ramadhan

Guests

Godfrey Jax – CHABADA
Selemani Majembele – AALOCOM

Cycle caravan

The cycle caravan meeting which was set for 9am preceded the main meeting. The representatives of CHABADA and AALOCOM were welcomed.

Juma reported that he delivered letters requesting sponsorship to the Embassy of China, Game shop in Mlimani City and Ultimate Security. Juma, Paulo and Elaine had also followed up with the Embassy of Netherlands in person on Monday. Elaine reported she had followed up by phone with Bakhresa and Knight Support but it was proving very difficult to get meetings with decision makers and there was no financial commitment from any sponsor as yet.

Elaine said that Mr Mlamba of AALOCOM had told her by phone that they had looked for sponsorship from Barrick Gold, Coca Cola and Bakhresa. Selemani Majembele from AALOCOM was asked to confirm this but he said he was not aware. Concern was expressed that AALOCOM should attend cycle caravan meetings so that we can coordinate our requests for sponsorship. Elaine said she had serious objections to approaching Barrick Gold on the grounds that they were alleged to have deliberately killed miners and farmers in Mara region who opposed their mine and they had a terrible record of human rights abuse and environmental degradation around the world. Jax from CHABADA said that no company has a totally clean record and we should get them to sponsor us anyway and then raise our concerns with them. Elaine replied that taking money from a company would seriously compromise our ability to be critical of them and that the allegations against Barrick Gold were much more serious than what other companies we have approached could be accused of. She also said that Mejah, while not present, agreed with her on this. Jax agreed that as UWABA is now taking most of the lead and initiative on getting funding for the cycle caravan, it was up to them.

Juma also reminded us that the MP for Ilala is now back in Dar es Salaam. He called into his office on Friday and arranged a meeting for the following Monday at 9am. It was proposed that we attend this meeting and then go on to follow up sponsorship from organizations based in town – Bakhresa, Mohammed Enterprises and Ultimate Security. Jax and Majembele were asked to accompany us to represent their organizations. They both said they would have time to meet the MP for Ilala but not to do the other follow up.

Elaine asked Majembele for AALOCOM's assistance in booking the Mnazi Mmoja venue and he agreed to make a booking with Ilala Municipal Council or the Dar es Salaam City council but as October is still two months away it would have to be followed up again later.

Jax suggested we could do a number of different routes at the same time. Elaine pointed out that we wrote our proposal together in March and we should stick to that. Sosthenes suggested and it was agreed that if we got more money than is in our budget we could look at changing the plan but otherwise we should stick to it.

There is a need for a chairperson for the caravan committee. Jax said that as CHABADA and AALOCOM each had one representative only at this meeting, choosing one should be postponed to another meeting.

Jax said that we should meet every two weeks but that 9am on a Saturday morning was too early. It was agreed that Majembele would discuss with Mr Mlamba and tell Elaine a suitable date and time, and Elaine would let the others know.

Elaine said that Bradley of ITDP had replied to her email and apologized for not being able to support the caravan as promised in April. Jax said he would also like to write a formal letter to ITDP complaining of the way we were treated and UWABA members said they would support him in doing this.

Office

The previous Monday Juma and Elaine withdrew money Tsh 60,000 from the bank account and together with contributions left over from two weeks ago of Tsh 10,000 to give Ally Saidi Mohammed money to buy materials to make the furniture for the office. Our office/information centre now has three large notice boards made by Ally Saidi Mohammed. He is still making the magazine racks.

Guta

On Monday Juma and Elaine also withdrew Tsh 280,000 to purchase the guta which Mhe Ngaja had offered us at a discount price. On Tuesday Jumanne and Juma went to Keko and bought the guta. Jumanne said that he had requested stronger rims and tyres for the back wheels in order to make the guta have less problems later but the price would have been Tsh 70,000 more so he accepted the ones offered. However he said the guta should be given an overhaul full service, including getting better tyres and tubes which would cost Tsh 17,000. There is Tsh 25,000 of the IBike donation left in the account so it was agreed to give this to Jumanne to buy any spares needed and do a complete overhaul service.

There was a discussion about what the system would be for managing the guta. It was agreed that Jumanne would manage the guta on an everyday basis. The guta driver would be Said Hemed Mbaruku who would look for business and drive the guta every day. As this would be a full time job, Said Hemed Mbaruku would pay Jumanne Tsh 1,500 per day (the normal rent for a guta) and keep the rest. Jumanne will put Tsh 500 per day in a fund he will manage himself for keeping the guta in full service, buying ongoing spares etc. He will contribute his time in servicing and managing the guta for free. Jumanne will give Juma Tsh 1,000 per day (Tsh 7,000 per week, every Saturday) to deposit in the UWABA bank account. This money can then be saved up for paying rent for the office and other UWABA expenses. Sosthenes said we should trust Jumanne as he is an expert in gutas and he is the only one with the ability to manage and service a guta. Juma had some concerns about how it would be managed but later he said he was satisfied. Juma had suggested another guta driver but it was agreed that as Jumanne bears the responsibility for managing the guta, he should choose the driver (Said Hemed Mbaruku) who he knows and trusts. Mohammed Mwenguo said that this system should be written down and Elaine said she would describe it in the minutes of the meeting.

Cycle safety project / Wamba memorial fund

On Monday Elaine and Paulo spent the afternoon with HUWATA in their office in Ilala writing the full proposal for the Wamba memorial fund application for the cycle safety project. The proposal is in English so she summarized each part in Swahili and handed it around.

Sosthenes said that we could look for venues for training to be given to us for free instead of paying for them. He also said we should cooperate closely with VETA (Vocational Education and Training Authority and NIT (National Institute of Transportation) who train drivers. For the part of the project where we sensitize driver instructors we could concentrate on their instructors and possibly use their venues for free.

To finalise the application we need a letter of introduction from the local government. We drafted a letter to the local government of Jitegemee street with the help of Mohamed Mwenguo who said he would follow it up on Monday. HUWATA are also following up getting a letter of introduction which they said they will have on Monday.

National Institute of Transport

Elaine had phoned Mr Wemba of NIT and asked him to attend our meeting but he had agreed but he had not turned up. She phoned him during the meeting and he agreed to come next Saturday.

Post Box

On Monday Juma and Elaine had withdrawn Tsh 35,000 from the bank for the post box and together with the contribution of Tsh 2,000 opened a post box especially for UWABA. It is PO box 90361, Dar es Salaam.

Juma had also got the key of Mejah's box from Mejah's brother and made a copy of it. He will test the copy and return the original key on Monday.

TANROADS

On Monday morning Juma, Paulo and Elaine had gone to TANROADS to meet Mr Nitti as arranged. We were told to come back later as Mr Nitti was just going into a meeting. When we came back later we were told he would not be able to meet us at all. The secretary to the executive director was apologetic and explained that TANROADS was having a crisis that day and that if we followed up next week we could arrange a meeting.

ID cards

At the moment only the website is on the ID card as a contact detail so Sosthenes suggested that we put phone numbers, post box and office location. Elaine said that post box and office location were a good idea but we did not have an office phone and committee members may not like their personal numbers going on everyone's ID card. It was agreed to put the post box and office location on all new ID cards issued.

Sosthenes also suggested that the ID card contain pictures of guta and bike for disabled people as well as standard bikes to reflect UWABA properly. As the logo on the back contains an ordinary bike, it was agreed that the front of the ID card should have two small icon pictures of a guta and a hand-bike for disabled people. Sosthenes offered to draw these icons.