Minutes of meeting of Umma wa Wapanda Baisikeli Dar es Salaam 26 April 2008

Attendance

Ally Athuman Jumbe
Ally Saidi Mohamedi
Aseli Wilison
Elaine Baker
Filbert Mbecha
Juma Ali Salehe Jongo
Jumanne Idd Selemani
Markus Weise
Musa Athumani Lahi
Mussa Alex
Rahma Ali
Sudi Saidi Ramadhan

Official opening of office

Last week we had the official opening of our office. Guests who attended were:

- Leonard Lupilya councillor for Mchikichini at Ilala Municipal Council.
- Kassim Lema representative of Mabibo ward
- Mihayo Ilembompria street chairman
- Walukani Luhamba officer of Eastern office of SUMATRA
- Madaba B.S. from SUMATRA
- Benedict Kaguo from Majira newspaper
- Peter S Makelemo from ATD fourth world
- Salehe M Seif from ATD fourth world
- Saidi Kengelle from CHABADA

Azzan Zungu MP was unable to attend due to being at a parliament session but sent his best wishes. All the guests expressed support for UWABA's aims and activities. The helmets, t-shirts and reflective jackets were presented to members according to number of meetings attended and presence at the opening ceremony itself and some t-shirts and one helmet were also given to the guests. There are three helmets and two reflective jackets remaining.

Ally Saidi Mwishehe, Ally Athman and Juma organised delivery of the tent, Dominata was the MC and Sosthenes, Mejah and Elaine made speeches. Each guest also introduced themselves and said a few words.

Office

Sudi Saidi suggested that we paint pictures of the three types of cycle (guta, disabled cycle and ordinary cycle) on one of the doors of the office. Other members suggested we have a desk and chairs in the office.

Finances

We paid an additional Tsh 10,000 for the music system (on top of previous deposit of Tsh 20,000), Tsh 30,000 for the tent, Tsh 19,500 for sodas and Tsh 5,000 for electricity. We received a donation of Tsh 10,000 from Mr Kassim Lema. Elaine received a refund of Tsh 25,000 for the files and part of the deposit she had paid and Mejah received a refund of Tsh 10,000 for the materials used to make signboards which he put up showing the way to the office. Juma returned Tsh 50,000 to our bank account which was left over from the withdrawal of Tsh 150,000. Juma remains with Tsh 14,000 of UWABA money. Jumanne lent us lino for the floor of the office and the UWABA members agreed to buy it from him so we can keep it so Juma will give Jumanne Tsh 10,000 during the week.

Introduction of Markus

Markus Weise arrived on Tuesday and will spend two months helping with UWABA activities. He introduced himself and said he was on a scheme called the Watson Fellowship scheme. He has previously been in Namibia, Bangladesh and Vietnam as part of this scheme and showed us some photos of cycles there. The other members asked him questions about his experiences and exchanged ideas.

Road safety project - Wamba Memorial Fund

Dr Osili from Wamba Memorial Fund said that they have transferred \$3,000 to the UWABA account last Monday, but when Juma checked the bank on Friday the money has not yet arrived. He will check again next week using the reference number. She also said that Elaine Wamba may be in Tanzania later this year so we can have a presentation ceremony.

It was agreed that we should cooperate with the National Institute of Transportation in the road safety project as they have cooperated with us before in giving us a seminar, have expertise in the rules of the road, have some open space and also may have equipment such as cones for practical training. It was agreed that Elaine would draft a letter requesting a meeting with them on this and Juma and Markus would deliver the letter and talk to them during the week.

At the opening ceremony Mr Lupilya said he knows a school in Msongola in Ilala Municipality where many school students cycle to school. It was agreed we ask for contact details of this school to ask if they would like to take part in our project. Ally Athman said that the deputy Minister for Infrastructure Mr Makongoro Mahanga is also the MP for the Ukongo constituency which contains Msongola so we could involve him also.

It was also agreed that Juma and Markus would visit HUWATA during the week to brief them that the project is beginning

Traffic police

We have not yet received a reply to our letter requesting a meeting with the traffic police. Juma and Markus will visit the traffic police this week to follow up.

New member

Mussa Alex is 10 years old, in standard 3, and cycles from Mabibo to school in Sinza every day. Members congratulated him on cycling to school and we agreed to assist him to get a helmet.

Morogoro Road and TANROADS

We have not yet received a reply on our letter to TANROADS on the issue of the uncovered drains in Jangwani on Morogoro Road. Juma and Markus will follow up this week.