Minutes of meeting of Umma wa Wapanda Baisikeli Dar es Salaam 4th March 2007

Attendance

Elaine Baker Juma Ali Salehe Jongo Selemani Alonasi Shukuru Hassan

Absent with apologies: Mejah Mbuya

Elaine reported that she, Mejah and Sosthenes had attended the World Social Forum in Nairobi in January, out of personal interest, as members of UWABA and as members of other groups. It was an excellent experience allowing them to learn about a lot of world social issues. She reported that campaign and grassroots representation groups in Nairobi are very active, with groups representing street vendors, boda-boda cycle operators etc.

Elaine reported that UWABA have recently sent a letter to Mlimani City, the new shopping centre near Mwenge, complaining about the fact that they not only do not provide cycle parking but do not even allow bicycles into the car park. This is despite the fact that shops within the centre sell bicycles and bicycle accessories. Mejah delivered a letter of complaint to the management and asked to see the manager, but he was not available at that time.

Elaine reported that UWABA have recently sent a letter to the Minister of Infrastructure Mr Andrew Chenge to ask for a meeting. The personal secretary to the Minister phoned Mejah in response to say that the Minister had read the letter with interest and that a reply would be sent. Mejah will go and check the post box shortly. It is hoped that UWABA will meet the Minister as we may be more closely involved in discussions with TANROADS if the Minister gives his support to our involvement.

TANROADS Dar es Salaam have not replied to our letter asking for access to the plans for Sam Nujoma road despite having promised us access to them at the meeting in May. Elaine said she would phone them next week to follow-up.

The meeting went through the TANROADS presentation and modified it to suit a presentation to the Minister. It was agreed to send a letter to the traffic police to ask for recent statistics on road accidents affecting cyclists. The group drafted a letter and Juma said he would deliver it next week.