

Press release

Dar es Salaam Cycle Caravan 2009



Umma wa Wapanda Baisikeli Dar es Salaam (UWABA) together with Chama Cha Baisikeli Dar es Salaam (CHABADA) are organising the 2009 Dar es Salaam Cycle Caravan which will take place Saturday morning 24th October 2009 starting at 8am at Uwanja wa Mashujaa, Mnazi Mmoja. This will be the fourth Dar es Salaam cycle caravan which has taken place in October every year since 2006.

A cycle caravan is an event whereby large numbers of cyclists gather together to cycle around prominent areas of the city together. It is not race or sport and speed is not encouraged. All cyclists in Dar es Salaam are welcome – young and old, men and women, able-bodied and disabled people and all types of cycles can take part including ordinary bicycles, three wheeled cycles (guta) and hand-cycles for people with disabilities. The caravan will start at Uwanja wa Mashujaa Mnazi Mmoja, go along Bibi Titi Mohammed Road, Kawawa Road, Kariakoo and back to Uwanja wa Mashujaa.

We would like to thank our main sponsor for this year's cycle caravan, the British High Commission. Prizes of five bicycles, an arm-cycle for disabled people, 20 helmets and 140 reflective jackets will be distributed to participants.

The theme of this year's Cycle Caravan is Climate Change. Climate change is happening worldwide and is caused by emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels (oil, coal, gas) in industries, vehicles and airplanes and electricity generation. The world's leaders are meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009 to discuss how to solve this problem. Cycling as a means of urban transport do not emit any carbon dioxide and so promoting cycling is part of the solution to climate change.

In order to promote cycling, cyclists need safe and pleasant road conditions. Therefore UWABA is calling for large roads to have proper cycle lanes (as on Nyerere Road), cars should be prevented from using service roads for parking, skipping queues and speeding, laws against speeding and dangerous driving should be fully enforced and smaller roads should have speed bumps (ramps) to prevent vehicles speeding. UWABA also runs a project to educate cyclists on safe cycling in schools and the community.

It is notable that none of the political parties included either road safety generally or encouragement of cycling in their party manifestos of 2005. UWABA calls on political parties to include these important issues in their party manifestos for 2010.

Background to organisations

Umma wa Wapanda Baisikeli Dar es Salaam (UWABA)

UWABA is an NGO formed in January 2006 by a group of Dar es Salaam cyclists. It currently has more than 200 members, all of whom regularly use cycling as a mode of transport in Dar es Salaam. Its objectives include encouraging cycling as a sustainable means of transport in Dar es Salaam, lobbying the Government to improve conditions, safety and infrastructure for Dar es Salaam cyclists, and educating cyclists on safe cycling. UWABA meets every Saturday morning at 10am at their office in Manzese Sisi kwa Sisi. Further information about UWABA can be found at www.uwaba.or.tz or by phone to chairman Mejah Mbuya (0713652642) or secretary Elaine Baker-Guni (0754568512 / 0715568512).

Chama cha Baisikeli Dar es Salaam (CHABADA)

CHABADA is the Dar es Salaam cycling organisation which deals with competitive and sport cycling, as well as bicycle use. It was set up in 1975 and has approximately 70 regular cyclists. It is affiliated with the national competitive cycling organisation CHABATA. Activities include organising and supervising cycling competitions in Dar es Salaam, encouraging better use of bicycles and organising regular cycle training sessions. CHABADA meets every Sunday morning to do cycle practise. For further information please contact the secretary general Saidi Kengelle (0754314341) or technical supervisor Godfrey Jax (0717009751).