

Press release

Cyclists of Dar es Salaam get organized



A group of people who cycle the roads of Dar es Salaam as their day-to-day transport have recently formed a new organisation Umma wa Wapanda Baisikeli Dar es Salaam (UWABA).

Asked about the reasons for forming this organisation, chairperson Mejah Mbuya said “Here in Dar es Salaam cyclists face many of the same problems and issues. For example, in our member survey, when asked why other people do not cycle, 78% cited safety as a reason. UWABA allows us to work together to solve cycling problems and to have a voice.”

The aims of UWABA are to participate in road planning with the relevant Government and city authorities to ensure that roads include safe cycle lanes, to improve the environment and safety for cyclists, to assist cyclists to know and exercise their rights and responsibilities and to promote cycling as a sustainable means of transport for Dar es Salaam.

Cycling is recognized around the world as an important sustainable mode of transport for cities. It reduces congestion, does not emit fumes and allows people to exercise, thereby bringing benefits to all city dwellers, to the environment and to cyclists themselves.

Chairperson Mejah Mbuya adds “Some people perceive cycling as a ‘poor man’s transport’. However, cycling is something that men and women cyclists should be proud of and respected for as it is a contribution to creating a sustainable city.”

He further added: “In just a few weeks we have already gathered 40 Dar es Salaam cyclists as members and we hope that it will quickly grow to hundreds. Membership is free and open to anyone who cycles regularly in Dar es Salaam, whether on a standard bike, a three wheeled mizigo-bike or a bicycle-wheelchair”.

For further details, see www.geocities.com/UwabaDar or phone 0741 652642 / 0744 568512.

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Wapanda baisikeli Dar es Salaam washirikiana



Watu ambao wanapanda baisikeli kama usafari wao wa kila siku Dar es Salaam wameunda shirika jipya linalojulikana kama Umma wa Wapanda Baisikeli Dar es Salaam (UWABA).

Akizumgunza sababu za kuanzisha shirika hili, mwenyekiti Mejah Mbuya alisema “Hapa Dar es Salaam wapanda baisikeli wengi tuna matatizo na shida sawa. Mfano katika suvei yetu ya wanachama tuliuliza kwa nini watu wengine hawapandi baisikeli na 78% walijibu kwa sababu ya usalama. UWABA inatuwezesha kurekebisha matatizo yetu na kuwa na sauti.”

Kati ya malengo ni kushirikiana na serikali kuhakikisha kwamba barabara zina sehemu usalama kwa wapanda baisikeli, kuboresha mazingira na usalama kwa wapanda baisikeli, kusaidia wapanda baisikeli kujua na kupata haki zao, kuhamasisha watu kupanda baisikeli Dar es Salaam na kurahisisha usafiri mbadala wa magari kwani idadi ya magari hayawiani na barabara zetu za jiji.

Duniani nzima watu, watalaam na waserikali wanajua baisikeli ni muhimu kama usafiri wa majiji. Inapunguza foleni, haitoi moshi na inawezesha watu kufanya mazoezi, kwa hiyo ina faida kwa watu wote wa jiji, kwa mazingira na kwa wapanda baisikeli wenyewe.

Mwenyekiti Mejah Mbuya alisema “Wengine wanaona kupanda baisikeli ni kwa watu wamasikini. Lakini watu wanaopanda baisikeli lazima waheshimiwa kwa sababu ni mchango katika kujenga jiji safi na salama.”

Pia alisema: “Katika ya wiki chache tu tumesanya wanachama wapanda baisikeli 40 na tunatumaini itakua kwa haraka mpaka maelfu. Kujiunga ni bure kwa mtu yeyote ambaye anapanda baisikeli kawaida Dar es Salaam, kama anatumia baisikeli ya kawaida, baisikeli ya mizigo au baisikeli ya walemavu”.

Kupata taarifa zaidi, nenda www.geocities.com/UwabaDar au piga simu 0741 652642 / 0744 568512.