



Press release

Dar es Salaam Cycle Caravan 2010

a Europe Week event



“Mobility for All”

UWABA Cycling Community are organising the 2010 Dar es Salaam Cycle Caravan as part of Europe Week which takes place Sunday morning 9th May 2010 starting at 8am at Mnazi Mmoja. This will be the fifth Dar es Salaam cycle caravan which has taken place 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 starts at Mnazi Mmoja, goes along Bibi Titi Mohammed Road, Kawawa Road, Kariakoo and back to Mnazi Mmoja.

We would like to thank our sponsor for this year’s cycle caravan, the European Union in Tanzania, and we are happy to link this year’s event to the Europe Week celebrations. Several European Union member countries including Netherlands and Denmark have cycle-friendly towns and cities and promote cycling as a environmentally-friendly, healthy, accessible means of urban transport for all which also reduces traffic congestion.

Prizes of five bicycles, three arm-cycles for disabled people, 20 helmets and 200 reflective jackets will be distributed to participants.

The theme of this year’s Cycle Caravan is “Mobility for All”. Cycling is a form of transport which enables fast, door-to-door, low-cost urban mobility which is accessible to a wide range of city residents including rich and poor, able bodied and disabled, adults and children. All cyclists including both able bodied and disabled cyclists deserve and need safe and pleasant road conditions which prioritize the safety of non-motorized transport users. 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 calls on all political parties to include these important issues in their party manifestos for 2010.

Background

Umama 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 (0715568512).