

Dar es Salaam cyclists form organisation

By **Iman Mani**

Bicycle and tricycle users in Dar es Salaam have registered an organisation called Umma wa Wapanda Baisikeli (UWABA) to represent all cyclists in the country.

UWABA chairperson Mejah Mbuyu said they intend to participate with relevant authorities in the planning of roads by ensuring that there are safe cycle lanes for cyclists.

"There are no bicycle lanes in our streets; therefore, we have to share the same space on the roads with motor vehicle users. This is very dangerous," Mbuyu told the Sunday Citizen on Friday.

He admitted that many cyclists are ignorant of Tanzania's highway code. The organisation would also help promote cycling as a sustainable means of transport in Dar es Salaam.

Mbuyu said the idea to form the organisation started in 2003 as a result of his own experience and that of his secretary, Elane Baker.

He said they often faced difficulty getting to work on time in the mornings because of constant traffic jams and a lack of respect to cyclists from other road users.

Their first group meeting took place on January 28 at the Palm Beach Hotel in Dar es Salaam. To



Mejah Mbuyu, Chairman of Umma wa Wapanda Baisikeli (UWABA), rides on a Dar es Salaam city centre street on Friday.

date UWABA has 43 members.

The members are mainly people selling fruits and ice cream using bicycles and tricycles, including physically disabled people.