



Dear reader,

In this second issue of the FABIO-news, I would like to commend all people and organisations that have expressed interest by contributing to the community. We in FABIO have regarded this as a very big success more so with your contributions to the Pan African Bicycle Conference (PABIC) due to take place in November 2001.

A special focus for this issue has been a bicycle to women and agriculture, networking is a key area that FABIO need not emphasise, if civil society organisations are to cause any impact.

FABIO is aiming at establishing one stop centre for rural development, information, (mobility) this calls for logistical and material support for capacity enhancement. During this aera of globalisation in the world making strategic alliancies for a common cause is a very necessary tool, if sustainable development is to be realised despite the unequal social economic levels.

I would like to encourage you to join and contribute to this in form of articles as we hope to expand the size of the newsletter.

Many Greetings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick Kayemba".

Patrick Kayemba
FABIO MANAGER

Bicycle wedding excites Jinja

BBC-report about the marriage of FABIO Coordinator

Jinja Town has [...] on January 27 witnessed a very colourful and unique wedding by a couple who transported themselves on a bicycle purposely designed for the event.

This has been the first time any wedding couples have used a bicycle in Jinja Town known for men who usually show their economic strength by hiring Mercedes Benzes and fleets of Japanese cars for these type of events. [...].

The event started from Bukaya, a village across the Nile from Jinja Town where some 50 pedal cyclists known as Boda-Boda led the way. The special bicycle being used by the two lovebirds was an ordinary one, but with space created on its carrier for two people.

The organisers of the wedding told me they opted for the bicycle, because it's the cheapest and environment friendly non-motorised mode of transport for Uganda's urban centres.

The coloured balloons that decorated the unque bicycle kept bursting under the intense afternoon heat that engulfed Jinja (today). The heat created an extra job for the best man and the matron who kept wiping the sweat on the faces of the bride and the groom. [...].

After the couple tied the knot at the St. Andrews Anglican Church, they proceeded to the St. Fatuma Catholic Church grounds for their wedding reception. This time the peddle cyclists were stepped aside to give room to the Kampala Brass Band to lead the couple and their guests to the reception venue.

Nearly everybody in Jinja [...]has talked



Wedding of Richard and Rose

in favour of the bicycle as the best alternative means of transport for people wishing to wed.

A man who claimed to have spent more than ten million in his wedding last year told me if somebody had sold him the idea of using a bicycle he would have spent only one million shillings.

The owners of the local firm that improved on today's wedding bicycle told me they have already been overwhelmed by the number of applications for a similar design of the bicycle.

By Abraham Odeke in Jinja - Uganda

The full article is available under:
www.bbc-world.co.uk/focusafrica

PABIC preperation proceeding successfully

Preperation workshop for the Pan African Bicycle Conference (PABIC) in May 2001

In the course of the PABIC, a preperation workshop will be held in Jinja on the 17/18 of May. We are already holding smaller meetings with several Ugandan participants and supporters, including the Ministry of Transport, Uganda Mountain Bike Assoc., Members of Parliament and local authorities.

The workshop will also be an ideal opportunity for every interested organisation or individual to give input with ideas as well as experience from related events. If you have suggestions or other interesting related topics, please take part at the discussion and send them to us.

In case you have not received briefs



Beasts of burden for women

concerning PABIC yet, please contact us, so that we can send them to you.

Some of the comments we received due to the topic list suggest some improvement so we certainly will have another look at it.

Even though we are facing some smaller organisational problems to set up the conference, we are proceeding successfully so far.

In this context we would like to apologize for any delayed answer. If you are not informed about this event yet, or would like to offer some help or experience, please contact us!

PABIC-Team of FABIO
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Women, Bicycle & Agriculture

An instrument for bicycle supply to rural communities

Small-scale farming is the most dominant form of agriculture in Uganda with women being the biggest providers of labour. Women have been reduced to a means of transport providing head transportation of agriculture produce and household items. Transportation in rural areas is characterised by the movement of small loads over relatively short distances often trekking between home and field and over long distances between villages and markets.

Usually the most conducive and effective means of transport in these areas is the bicycle, which is significantly cheaper and easier to manage than conventional means like motor vehicles and meets the basic mobility needs of the population including low-income groups.

Acquisition of a bicycle is limited by elements such as affordability, social status, personal comfort, safety on

Hence shifting the weight of the transport burden to women.

Helping improve women's transport problems has a great implication in attaining food self-sufficiency in most African countries at household levels. The bicycle has helped increase returns on agriculture production to farm families. FABIO / BSPW with support from BMZ (Germany) are addressing the plight of women through the introduction of a BICYCLE CREDIT SCHEME where the recipient has to repay the bicycle over a period of one year, with no interest charged while at the same time enjoying the services of the bicycle. It is therefore important to give greater attention to women's contribution in agriculture, and the role of the bicycle.

Pauline Kisambira
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News in short

- Richard marries Rose was BBC News 27th January 2001
- Prof. John Howe & group visited FABIO 12th Feb 2001 and carried out a research on Livelihoods Mobility & access needs Macro & Corridor transport
- Journalists of Brigitte (German Women magazine confirmed their visit to FABIO September 2001.
- BMZ supported the Bicycle Credit scheme yield positive results 31st March 2001 report
- Commonwealth Foundation fellowship programme delegates visit FABIO 23rd March 2001
- FABIO invited to Velo-City Scotland
- Pre-PABIC workshop for the 17th-18th May 2001
- A new national law is being formulated, which is putting more restrictions on NGO operations in Uganda