

BICYCLE CARAVAN AT ASHAIMAN ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2008

Integration of the bicycle improves traffic safety and produces a better balance of the rights of all road users. In Ghana, within a five-year period from 2002-2006, the number of people killed on Ghana's roads averaged around 1,840 annually. It is estimated that road traffic crashes costs Ghana 1.6 % of her GDP. The share of bicycle and pedestrians fatalities of about 5% and 42% respectively within the five-year period should be a cause for concern as well as the fatalities of other modes of transport.

Children and young people travel on the roads as pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, novice drivers and passengers. They constitute a major group of death, injury and disability on the roads. It is against this background that the Bicycle Caravan was organized by the Centre for Cycling Expertise (CCE) in collaboration with the Ashaiman Municipal Assembly to raise road safety awareness for cyclists in the Municipality.

The bicycle caravan was participated by cyclists of all ages. Present at the caravan campaign were cyclists from Starcord Riding Club, Officers from the Motor Traffic and Transport Unit (MTTU) of Tema and Ashaiman, Representative of the Regional Co-ordinator of the Greater Accra Road Safety Commission.

Chief Inspector Gabriel Vitornu from the MTTU advised the cyclists in Ashaiman to ride carefully when on the road. Again, he told them to observe road traffic regulations.

Mr. Reuben Adjei Adjetey who represented the Greater Accra Regional Co-ordinator of Road Safety Commission, reiterated the need for cyclists to observe road traffic regulations. He again, told the cyclists that their bikes must have reflectors and they must also put on reflector jackets at night to make them visible to other road users to avoid road crash.

Mr. Magnus Quarshie, the Director of CCE in his speech, detailed the importance of cycling to the individual and the environment. Mr. Qurshie informed the cyclists and people present that a Team of experts had visited the Municipalty in June this year and are in consultation with the Assembly to help design and develop bicycle inclusive planning for the city. This he said would be aimed at making provision for cyclists on our road network. Again, he advised the cyclists to continue cycling in order to stay healthy and fit. Mr. Quarshie, a keen rider took part in the caravan.

In all 160 cyclists participated in the caravan campaign. The cyclists rode for a distance of about 15km through the principal street of Ashaiman through Tema and ended at the Ashaiman Mandela park grounds where the event started.

The objectives of the Bicycle caravan were:

- To stimulate people to ride
- To create awareness for motorists to be courteous towards cyclists
- To educate people on health benefits associated with cycling

BELOW ARE SOME SCENES FROM THE BICYCLE CARAVAN



The joy of a cyclist who won a bicycle after the raffle draw



The cyclists in a spectacular move



The youngest chap came with his bicycle to register and won a bike helmet



The first winner of the bicycle receiving his reward from Chief Inspector Patrick Vitorn

The Centre presented two California bikes and five bike helmets for a raffle draw. Two of the cyclists who participated in the ride won the bikes and five others won bike helmets. The caravan campaign was encouraging and ended at about 10:30am.