

## **FABIO Press Statement CAR FREE DAY JINJA 2021**

**My City, My Responsibility!**

September 22nd, 2021

- **On 25th September we celebrate the Car Free Day on Gabula Road, which will be closed to motorized transport**
- **The aim of the celebration is to raise awareness for a car-free city while exploring the city on foot or by bike**
- **During the week, we organise various environmental activities such as tree planting and waste collection**

Car Free Days (CFD) are celebrated every year on 22nd of September in urban areas worldwide. This initiative aims to raise awareness and encourage people to reduce the use of vehicles and use Non-Motorised transport such as walking and cycling.

The First African Bicycle Information Organisation (FABIO) and Jinja City join this year's CFD celebrations and are planning a series of activities to promote Non-Motorised transport for three days between 22nd and 25th September 2021, culminating in a car-free event along Gabula Road in Jinja City on Saturday 25th September. During the CFD, the road will be closed to vehicular traffic. The urban space will be used for activities such as sports, cycling, skating, painting and other activities. Through the activities, FABIO aims to promote road safety for pedestrians and cyclists, healthy lifestyles and reduce traffic congestion, as well as raise awareness on the need to protect the environment and reduce emissions.

It is imperative to note that the planning culture for cities in Uganda has long prioritised motorised transport. All cities, including the capital Kampala, are heavily motorised, making them unliveable and unsafe for non-motorised road users.

FABIO intends to organise a car-free day in the newly established city district of Jinja. This is an opportunity to make walking and cycling more mainstream in transport, planning, design and infrastructure provision. This includes the opportunity to create safe infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists and to pool resources for walking and cycling. In the long term, FABIO hopes that city authorities will recognise the need to develop and implement universal design standards that enable access for all, supported by a desire for better regulation and enforcement to increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Car Free Day activities support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Feel free to join us!

### **Contact**

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First African Bicycle Information Organisation (FABIO) is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that seeks to promote the use of sustainable transport solutions with major emphasis on active transport and mass public transport. It uses the bicycle as a tool for improving the livelihoods of the vulnerable communities through enhancing the community access to basic services.