

## Press Release

### Lagos turns to non-motorised transport to curb congestion

As part of its mandate to give Lagos a world class transportation system, the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) is promoting Non-Motorised Transport system (NMT) for the state.

LAMATA, according to its Acting Managing Director, Mr. Iyiola Adegboye is promoting Non-Motorised Transport to check traffic congestion, environmental pollution, promote good healthy living through exercise as well as contribute to curbing climate change.

Speaking at a workshop jointly organised by LAMATA and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Lagos, Adegboye said the damage done to the environment by motorised transportation in form of emission and pollution must be checked to save our future and preserve the environment.

He noted that our forebears relied on walking for business, social interaction and the like, stating however that the advent of motor vehicles had relegated walking and to a large extent cycling to the background in spite of the health benefits of the non-motorised activities, which are means of transportation.

Mr. Adegboye stated that NMT promotes reduction in road crashes, economic savings, energy conservation, roadway cost saving, reduced risk of mortality, improvement in value of time, reduces congestion, mitigates climate change among others.

He said there was the need to systematically tap into these huge benefits and direct attention towards promoting the modes, providing the infrastructure and promoting their use.

The LAMATA acting Managing Director said with the workshop, the Authority would begin to articulate clear provision for the rights as well as responsibilities of pedestrians and cyclists in our traffic laws; formulate a strategy for non-motorized transport as a facilitating framework; formulate local plans for non-motorized transportation as part of our planning procedures; provide separate infrastructure where appropriate; incorporate standards of provision for bicyclists and pedestrians in new road infrastructure design and incorporate responsibilities to provide for non-motorized transport in road fund statutes and procedures.

Facilitator of the workshop, UNEP Share the Road Global Programme Lead, Mrs. Carly Koinange, said there is the need for a paradigm shift from car-oriented to a people-oriented means of transportation, which she said was the most efficient and environmentally sustainable means of making short trips.

According to her, UNEP had realised that increasing the modal share of bicycling and walking can reduce a country's dependence on imported oil as well as reduce premature deaths from traffic accidents each year.

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