

Media Invitation



UN-HABITAT



*Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka
Executive Director*

wishes to invite Nairobi based journalists to attend a

Press Briefing on the Mt. Kilimanjaro Initiative

*11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m., Wednesday 22 February 2006
The Norfolk Hotel, Swimming Pool Area*

Speakers to include Tim Challen of the UN's Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) and Gidi Gidi, of Gidi Gidi Maji Maji, who will talk about their upcoming walk to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro as a way of highlighting the urgent need for safer cities in East Africa.

“This is the first effort of its kind on behalf of Safer Cities Programme and we are proud to work with Tim and UNFCU to continue to strengthen civic responsibility within communities, engage youth and prevent crime,” said Anna Tibaijuka, Under Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. “The climb represents a mission of hope and a true lesson in overcoming adversity.”

Nearly three years ago while working in Nairobi, Tim Challen, a UNFCU Member Service Representative from the Geneva Office sustained serious gunshot wounds to his left leg during an armed robbery in Nairobi. Since then, he has decided to channel his energies into bringing attention to some of the problems facing East Africa's cities and combating the underlying causes of crime through UN-HABITAT's Safer Cities Programme.

Specifically, from 25 February through 1 March 2006, Tim will be leading 35 climbers to the summit of Africa's highest peak. The goal is raise funds to support several new community-based crime prevention projects which are part of UN-HABITAT's local Safer Cities Programme. 10 young people from disadvantaged areas in Kenya and Tanzania will join Tim, staff members from UN-Habitat, UNEP, additional UN agencies, UNFCU, as well as Michael J. Connery Jr., president and CEO of the UNFCU, on the climb to the “Rooftop of Africa.” General Sarakikya, a retired Tanzanian general and diplomat who was the first to plant the Tanzanian flag on the mountain's summit following his country's independence, will escort the team up the Marangu Route. Gidi Gidi, one half of the Kenyan hip hop group, Gidi Gidi Maji Maji, will also join the climbers.

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka will flag off the team at Marangu Gate in Tanzania on 25 February 2006.

UN-Habitat, which helped select the young people for the challenge, will also oversee the distribution of funds for the various projects. Launched in 1996, UN-HABITAT's Safer Cities Programme is creating a culture of safe urban environments across Africa and is comprised of youth, community groups and local law enforcement officials as well as the private sector.

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