RfH Community Development Vehicle The Uhuru

Vehicle

Yamaha AG200. Agricultural 200cc motorcycle built for the Australian out back.

Fitted with off road tyres and special equipment it's a "go anywhere" vehicle. This is fitted to a purpose built sidecar chassis, which is designed to complement the Yamaha and manufactured in Africa using local materials and skills.

Equipment

20 litre water/petrol can. Hand winch, large battery, emergency lighting, cargo carrying area, lockable equipment storage locker, soft seat and removable stretcher system for ambulance duty complete with rain protection for patients, towing hitch.

Trailer option

To complement the above. Purpose built out of the same materials in Africa. simple box trailer to increase the carrying capacity of the vehicle. It has the optional tow bar to allow it to be towed by the sidecar, solo motorcycle, push bike or pushed by hand. The large wheels, together with its light but strong construction give it the ability to operate off road. It can carry up to eight jerry cans (160 litres of water/fuel).

Power pack

Self-aligning vee drive power rollers complete with water pump and auxiliary power takeoff. This has been designed to transfer the power from the back wheel of the bike to drive equipment including a water pump delivering up to 100 litres per minute. To give continuous operation the motorcycle is fitted with a cooling fan system and hand throttle. Giving easy and safe operation in the field, it extends the uses of the Uhuru.

General

This vehicle is a cost-effective lightweight and extremely sturdy sidecar powered by a small capacity motorcycle. It has been designed and built for use in harsh African conditions for health and similar outreach purposes and for referral of incapacitated patients to clinics and hospitals. It can be used for economic development in rural areas as its generator can be used to pump water, drive a lathe etc. It is also suitable for a range of developmental commercial activities (goods to market, taxis etc). The vehicle will be manufactured in African urban centres. This generates income. It also creates a skilled workforce — welders wheel-lacers etc. It keeps the cost to local customers at a realistic level. Materials can be sourced locally, with no need to import expensive materials. Prototypes have been tested in the field for more than two years and have proved impressively resistant to harsh conditions and hard, intensive use.

The construction is simple and strong. The framework is square section (1") steel. The skin is currently of aluminium, but it can be of steel or plywood.

Specification can be varied to suit circumstances and demand, be of steel or plywood.

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Users

Village development committees anxious to improve quality of life and to develop sustainable income-generating programmes.

Commercial organisations both large and small.