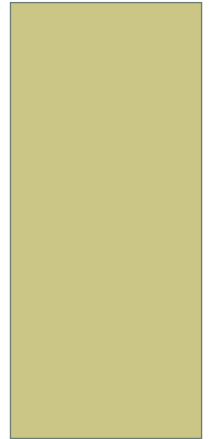


THE MKOKOTENI STALL

A PRESENTATION BY KENNETH MUNENE KOBIA



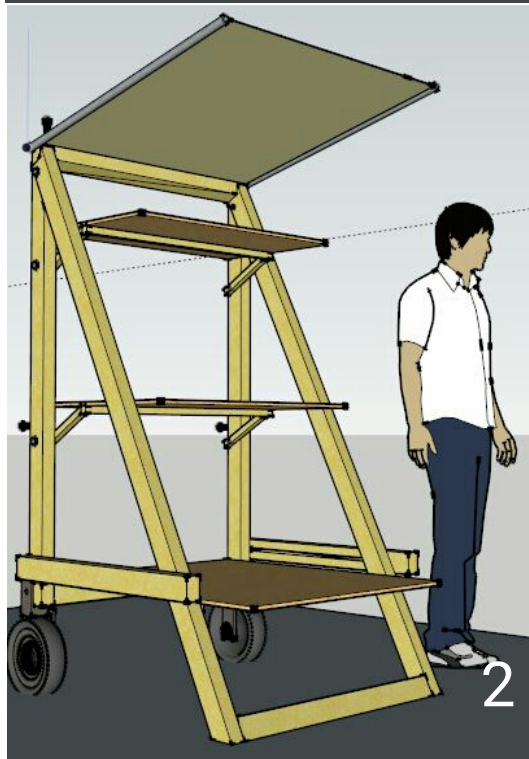
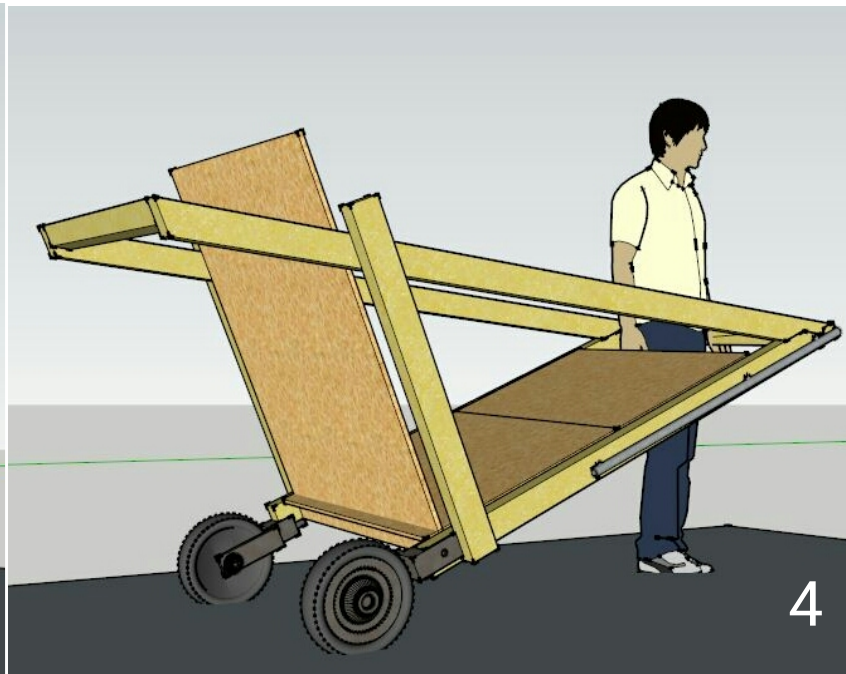
INTRODUCTION

- The Mkokoteni stall came as a result of a final year research project titled “The Redevelopment of Gikomba Market”. While undertaking fieldwork analysis, the author noted that the Mkokoteni was part of the problem in Gikomba.
- Firstly, the Mkokoteni was a major obstacle in the market, often blocking the market’s circulation arteries. This is part of the reason why the area is frequently plagued by never ending traffic jams.
- Secondly, The Mkokoteni is heavily underutilised. A keen observation of market activities revealed that these push carts are actually mostly used during the morning and evening hours. For the better part of the day, these tools remain parked as they wait for the rather rare afternoon customer.
- The mkokoteni is therefore seen as a nuisance not only when in use but also when parked on the roadside. This project was therefore an attempt to transform the push cart into a useful tool that benefits the community.



THE CONCEPT

- Inspired by the folding chair, this mkokoteni stall aims to transform the ordinary mkokoteni into a stall from which vendors can display and sell their wares. This is as a result of a keen observation of market activities which revealed that these push carts are actually mostly used during the morning and evening hours. For the better part of the day, these tools remain parked as they wait for the rather rare afternoon customer. By making it collapsible, the mkokoteni pusher can now earn a living from either renting out his "machine" to other vendors or from selling items himself. Also, hawkers may use this prototype as a platform to sell their wares as it eases their movement from one place to another Making it collapsible also makes it easier to store as the mikokoteni can be stacked against one another.



MODIFICATIONS

- The first prototype was mainly made out of timber and plywood. This wasn't a complete success as the mkokoteni stall proved to be very heavy and thus cumbersome to move around with. The stall was also not as durable as was envisioned and it broke down after a few months. We however learnt our lessons and it is this lessons that informed the second prototype.
- The main objective of fabricating a second prototype was to make the mkokoteni stall lighter, stronger and more efficient. This was achieved by making some minor adjustments to the original design. We also decided to fabricate it entirely out of mild steel, which was lighter and could withstand the heavy use that is common with mikokoteni.

