



Disabled Tinovimba Nyengere is seen in the carrier of the bike sponsored by Nestle Ice Cream and Swift Bicycles, while his mother, Thandiwe Beta, rides.

# Tino's ride

Maile Matsimela

**D**isabled and wheelchair bound Tinovimba Nyengere's novel transport to school is one of the exciting developments in his life.

Nestle Ice Cream and Swift Bicycles sponsored a modified cycle which his mother now uses to take him to catch the school bus and to pick him up.

Tino (7), as he is affectionately known, stays at the Gateway Guesthouse in Sandham Road, in Norton Home Estates, where his mum is employed, and attends Muriel Brand School in Brakpan.

Every morning, previously, his mother had to carry him on her back and walk a distance to catch a taxi to the corner of Oak and O'Reilly Merry streets, where he is picked by the school bus.

But all that is history since the arrival of the cycle.

The City Times came to know about Tino in July, 2009, when then president of the Benoni Van Ryn Rotary Anns, Stevie Ancient, made it possible for him to go to school.

Tino lost the full use of his legs as a result of spinal injuries after he and his father, Tinovimba senior, were involved in an car accident in November 2007.

His father, who was employed

at the guesthouse, died in the accident.

Ancient helped Tino when Radio 702 ran its 19th birthday wishes in 2009.

She wished for Tino to go to school and the Altech cellphone company offered to adopt and take care of Tino's entire education needs until he finishes school.

They immediately enrolled him at Window to Learning, in Rynfield, a specialist pre-school and after care dealing in speech and occupational therapy and physiotherapy. Altech still looks after him.

Regarding the cycle, his pleased mother said it's been very helpful.

"I didn't even know how to ride a bicycle but I'm now used to it and it makes everything easy, as I longer have to carry him on my back and walk long distance to catch a taxi," she said.

It also saves on taxi fares.

Tino is also doing well in school.

Diane Sparkes, whose husband owns the guest house, said Tino is winning lots of prizes at school.

"He is good in reading and he also likes sums," said Sparkes.

She added that the Rotary Club still looks after Tino and that Altech staff visit him as well.