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▲ NAIROBI · LONG RAINS ADVISORY · JULY 2026

DON'T LET THE RAINS GROUND YOUR **BODA BODA**

Petrol is still Ksh 214.03 a litre and the skies over Nairobi aren't cooperating. Here's the tyre, brake, battery and rain-gear playbook riders are using to keep earning through the 2026 rainy season — genuine parts, honest prices, same-day pickup on Kijabe Street.

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Every July, the same thing happens on Kenyan roads: the rains arrive, the tarmac turns slick, and the riders who skipped a tyre or brake check start showing up at garages with bent rims, worn pads and, too often, worse. **The Cycle Importers Ltd** has been kitting out Nairobi's riders since 1948 — long enough to know that rainy-season breakdowns are almost always preventable. This guide walks you through exactly what to check, what to replace, and how to keep your boda boda (or your delivery bike, or your weekend superbike) safe and profitable until the sun comes back.

Ksh 214.03

PETROL PER LITRE,
NAIROBI, JULY–AUG

2.5M+

REGISTERED
MOTORCYCLES IN

1948

THE YEAR CYCLE
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WHY THE RAINS ARE SO HARD ON YOUR BIKE

Rain doesn't just make riding uncomfortable — it changes how every part of your motorcycle behaves. Wet tarmac cuts tyre grip dramatically, especially once tread depth drops below 2mm. Water sneaks into brake cables and drum housings, causing spongy or delayed braking. Battery terminals corrode faster in humid conditions, which is why so many bikes suddenly "refuse to start" in July and August. And standing water on Nairobi's back roads hides potholes that snap worn tubes and bend rims in an instant.

None of this is bad luck. It's physics, and it's predictable — which means it's fixable, if you get ahead of it.

Rider tip: If your bike has skidded even once this month, or your brake lever feels softer than usual, don't wait for a bigger problem. A ten-minute check now is cheaper than a wrecked rim on Waiyaki Way at 6am.



TYRES & TUBES: YOUR ONLY CONTACT WITH THE ROAD

In the rain, your tyres are doing all the work your reflexes can't. A tyre with worn-down tread grooves can't channel water away fast enough, and the

bike starts to "float" — that's when you feel the back end step out on a bend. This is the single biggest cause of rainy-season boda boda accidents, and it's also the cheapest one to prevent.

What to check today

- ✓ **Tread depth** — press a coin into the groove; if the tread doesn't cover the coin's rim, it's time to replace.
- ✓ **Sidewall cracks or bulges** — a weak sidewall can blow out on a flooded pothole.
- ✓ **Tube patches** — more than two patches on one tube means it's time for a fresh one, not another patch.
- ✓ **Tyre pressure** — slightly under-inflated tyres actually grip better in light rain, but too low invites rim damage on potholes. Ask our team for the right PSI for your model.

Cycle Importers stocks genuine tyres and tubes for the boda boda models riding Nairobi's streets today — Boxer, TVS, Bajaj and more — plus heavy-duty tubes built for pothole season, not just showroom conditions.

NEED TYRES BEFORE THE NEXT DOWNPOUR?

Tell us your bike model on WhatsApp and we'll confirm stock and price in minutes.

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BRAKES: THE PART YOU NOTICE TOO LATE

Wet brake pads and worn cables are behind a huge share of the "he came out of nowhere" accidents riders talk about after every long rains season. Water reduces friction between pad and drum or disc, so your stopping distance can double in heavy rain — and a rider who's used to dry-weather braking distances gets caught out.

If your brake lever feels like it's pulling further than usual, or you hear a metallic grinding when you brake, that's your bike telling you the pads are close to worn out. Brake cables also stretch and fray over time, especially with daily boda boda use — a frayed cable can snap at the worst possible moment.



BRAKE PADS



BRAKE CABLES



BRAKE LEVERS



BATTERIES



BATTERIES: WHY YOUR BIKE WON'T START ON A COLD, WET MORNING

Nairobi's rainy-season mornings are colder, and cold weather slows the chemical reaction inside a motorcycle battery — meaning less cranking power exactly when you need it most. Add in corrosion at the terminals from damp air, and you get the classic rainy-season symptom: a bike that started fine in June and now clicks and dies every morning in July.

A battery on its last legs isn't just inconvenient — for a boda boda rider, every minute spent kick-starting a dead bike is a fare you didn't get. Cycle Importers stocks genuine motorcycle batteries built for East African conditions, and our team can test your current battery for free before you buy a new one.

Quick check: Clean, dry terminals; no white or green crust; battery holds charge overnight without draining. If yours fails any of these, bring it in for a free load test.



FUEL AT KSH 214, ELECTRIC ON THE RISE — WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

EPRA held Nairobi pump prices steady at Ksh 214.03 per litre for the July–August 2026 cycle, but "steady" still means high, and it's why more riders are asking about electric boda bodas this month. Several brands have expanded battery-swap and charging networks across Kenya in 2026, and riders who've switched report spending a fraction of what they used to on fuel.

Here's the part that doesn't change whether you're on petrol or electric: **tyres wear out, brakes wear out, and batteries wear out.** An electric boda boda still needs genuine tyres for wet-road grip and reliable brake components for safe stopping. Whatever you're riding this year, Cycle

Importers keeps you moving — we stock parts and accessories that work across both petrol and electric commuter motorcycles, plus the apparel to keep you dry either way.



GEAR UP: RIDING APPAREL THAT ACTUALLY WORKS IN THE RAIN

A soaked rider is a distracted rider — cold hands miss the brake lever's exact pressure point, and fogged-up vision misses potholes. Good rain gear isn't a luxury for Nairobi riders; it's part of your safety kit, right alongside your helmet.

- ✓ **Waterproof riding jacket** — keeps core body temperature up, which keeps reaction times sharp.
- ✓ **Grip gloves** — wet, cold fingers slip on levers; textured gloves restore control.
- ✓ **Anti-fog visor or clear goggles** — visibility is half of avoiding an accident.
- ✓ **Reflective elements** — rain plus early darkness in July means you need to be seen, not just see.



YOUR 5-MINUTE RAINY-SEASON CHECKLIST

1. **Tread & tyre pressure** — check both tyres for depth and correct PSI.
2. **Brake feel** — squeeze the lever; it shouldn't travel more than halfway before biting.
3. **Battery terminals** — clean, dry, no corrosion; bike starts on first try.
4. **Chain & lights** — lubricated chain and working headlamp/tail light for low-visibility mornings.
5. **Rain gear on hand** — jacket, gloves and a clear visor within reach, always.

Ticking all five takes less time than one boda boda trip — and it's the difference between an ordinary rainy Tuesday and a bike sitting in a garage for a week.



WHY RIDERS TRUST CYCLE IMPORTERS

The Cycle Importers Ltd has operated on Kijabe Street, Nairobi since 1948 — through generations of riders, generations of bike models, and every rainy season in between. Today the business is run by a brother-and-sister team who've kept the same standard the shop was built on: genuine parts, straight prices, and staff who actually know motorcycles. We stock tyres and tubes, batteries, brake components, biker apparel and general spares for the bikes Kenyans actually ride — from daily boda boda workhorses to weekend superbikes.

GENUINE TYRES & TUBES

MOTORCYCLE BATTERIES

BRAKE PARTS

BIKER APPAREL

SPARES & ACCESSORIES

SINCE 1948

"A worn tyre or a soft brake lever never announces itself until the worst possible moment. Check it before the rain does." — The Cycle Importers

Do you stock parts for electric boda bodas too?

Yes — tyres, brake components and accessories that fit most commuter motorcycle frames, petrol or electric. Send us your bike model on WhatsApp and we'll confirm compatibility.

Can I order by phone and collect same day?

Yes. Call or WhatsApp us your bike model and location, and we'll confirm stock and have it ready for pickup at Kijabe Street, or discuss delivery.

Do you offer a free battery or brake check?

Yes — bring your bike in and our team will test your battery and inspect your brakes at no charge before you commit to a purchase.

BEAT THE RAINS — ORDER TODAY

Genuine tyres, batteries, brake parts and rain gear, ready at Kijabe Street No. 25, Nairobi. Tell us your bike model and we'll confirm stock in minutes.

 **CALL 0720 283 468**



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The Cycle Importers Ltd

Kijabe Street, No. 25, Nairobi · Serving Kenyan riders since 1948.

Order Now

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Fuel price data: Energy & Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA), July 2026 pricing cycle. This article is for general riding and maintenance guidance and is not a substitute for a professional inspection.