



Uganda Buddhist Centre Newsletter



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Construction of Monks' Accommodation



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Preparations are underway to construct a five-storey building to house 60 resident monks at the Uganda Buddhist Centre. The structure is 50m long and 15m wide. Each floor of the building will carry 12 rooms with each self-contained so that monks don't queue for a shower or toilet in the current shared bath-rooms—they will now have their own facilities. The new accommodation will be homely with emphasis on simplicity, comfort and privacy.

Structural and architectural designs of the proposed building have been finalised awaiting submission for approval by the Katabi Town Council urban planners.

Steven Wyard's (the Architect) impressions of rooms on the proposed building include comfortable furnishings, a grass-thatched terrace at the rooftop to contain the heat to the building.

Anyone who has visited the Centre, will see that the accommodation for monks is badly needed. The four novice monks at the temple currently, are sharing a room and have to line up for the bathroom which is also shared by the guests. This much-awaited building on a beautiful hilly location overlooking Lake Victoria will solve some of these challenges.



The first phase of the project will be to construct two-storeys and the rest of the storeys will be added on later as funding becomes available. We have already done the site clearing and created an access road through the eucalyptus and pine trees. This new building is planned to sit on the newly acquired 2 acres of land behind the temple.

The first phase of the project is estimated to cost USD 463,500.

The Uganda Buddhist Centre is appealing for help to raise funds for construction of the monks' accommodation. It is envisaged that once the construction is complete, people from all over the globe wishing to ordain as monks, will come to ordain and practice Buddhism.

Local People Practice Alms-Giving

The almsgiving or Pindapata (in Pali language) ceremony is a very deep and meaningful practice for Buddhists. This ceremony has been practiced for the last 26 centuries.

Pindapata is a sacred practice for both laities and monastics who depend on these offerings for their sustenance. Monks collect alms from devout Buddhist followers along the streets or homes in silence and barefooted.

In Uganda, where Buddhism is still fresh and new, it is rare to witness such practices. In October during the kathina ceremony, monks at the temple led by Bhante Buddharakkhita demonstrated to the local people how this ceremony is performed.

On December 25, 2019, we witnessed Pindapata ceremony, where Venerable Sangharakkhita and four other monks matched out to the village for alms. Three families offered food to the monks on time. The morning rains seemed to interrupt the ceremony, but it didn't succeed. We are so grateful to these families. This is one of the signs that Buddhism and its practices are gradually penetrating the Ugandan culture and that both cultures will co-exist and co-depend.

A monk is someone who has renounced the worldly pleasures. Such people especially in the Buddhist tradition do not do any formal work for the purpose of earning money—monks depend on the charity of the devotees for their sustenance.

The practice of Pindapata or almsgiving signifies the mutual relationship or benefit between the lay followers and monastics (monks and nuns). While monks depend on devotees for alms or material support, devotees on the other hand get spiritual guidance from monks—thus none of these can sustain independently.



Land for More Dhamma Activities



The Uganda Buddhist Centre is in process of finalising the purchase of one acre of land along the newly constructed Entebbe-Kampala Express Highway. There is a balance of USD 2,800 remaining for us to be able to finalise the purchase.

Luckily, Mr. Htin Win a Burmese devout based in the US visited the Uganda Buddhist Centre early December 2019 to see and support Bhante Buddharakkhita and his Dhamma activities in Uganda, Africa. It was during this period that this land was identified and a deposit was paid to the owner. Mr. Win offered to be the initial donor of this land. This land is

planned for the construction of a stupa, Buddha statue to showcase Buddhism in Uganda with possibilities of future expansion with a hospital.

Mr. Win also donated other gifts to the Uganda Buddhist Centre, and food towards our Hunger Relief program and school bags.

As UBC, we express our eternal gratitude to Mr. Win for his generous support and visit.



Bhante Buddharakkhita and Mr. Htin Win at the new land



Mr. Htin Win with the Venerable monks and other members of UBC.

Gratitude to All Our Supporters

UBC activities are made possible by many supporters from around the world. Therefore, we are eternally grateful for your kind and generous donations.

UBC still needs your support:

- To cater for medical expenses for monastics
- To support and maintain Buddhist activities
- To run the Peace School for 2020—2021
- To upkeep a two-year old orphan (\$ 100 per month)
- To contribute to building fund
- To purchase land adjacent to the Temple

How to donate:

1. Online donation:

Please follow the link below to make a secure online donation:

<https://xpresspay.ug/payments/ugandabuddhistcentre/index.html>

2. wire transfer

Bank Name : Orient Bank Limited

Bank Account Number: 41261302010523

Bank Account Name: Uganda Buddhist Centre

Swift Address: ORINUGKA

Bank Address: Orient Plaza, 6/6A, Kampala Road.

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