



NEWSLETTER

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Uganda Buddhist Centre (UBC) Extends Clean Water to Kiwuulwe Fishing Village



On Saturday November 28, 2020 Bhante Buddharakkhita together with the town Mayor, Mr. Ronald Kalema and other local leaders broke the ground for a water borehole at Kiwuulwe fishing village. Local leaders and the project engineers were available and identified the prospective point for the project. The point is at the heart of the community town.

The Mayor expressed that there has been a great need for clean water in the area. The recent surges on Lake Victoria have made it hard for the residents to fetch water from the lake. The borehole is expected to serve over 3,000 people daily. You can imagine the impact on the borehole.

The Water and Sanitation Project was started to improve living conditions and boost the health of people in communities. We believe that easy access to safe clean water for the residents of Kiwuulwe fishing village will significantly contribute to the improvement of their social and economic wellbeing. Women who have businesses in the area will be able to create viable livelihood by way of having access to safe and clean water as

opposed to water from the lake which is unsafe to use. Children will also spend more time on their studies. The event was also covered by Bukedde TV, a local television and Entebbe Post an online news post.

UBC was inspired to receive a letter from the Mayor requesting for a clean water source for Kiwuulwe fishing village in Kisubi.

We are eternally grateful Venerable Mahinda of Aloha Meditation Centre in Sydney, Australia for his generous donation of this borehole. Bear in mind, he has also donated a borehole in the past. However, there are many communities near the temple that are in critical need for safe drinking water.

(L-R) Mayor, Mr. Ronald Kalema, Andrew Mukomazi and Bhante Buddharakkhita taking a walk through Kiwuulwe village.



Mayor Appreciates the Bhante's Work



Mr. Kalema Ronald handing a certificate of appreciation to Bhante Buddharakkhita

On November 17, Bhante Buddharakkhita was hosted by Mr. Ronald Kalema at the Town Council headquarters. The Mayor appreciated the community services of Bhante in the areas of improving people's quality of life not only in Katabi town but also in the whole country.

The Mayor handed Bhante a certificate of appreciation in his office and offered him a tour of the town council initiatives.

They also toured Katabi Town Council, and landed at Kiwuulwe fishing village. Upon arrival, the entou-



Mr. Kalema Ronald and Bhante Buddharakkhita touring Kiwuulwe fishing village.

rage was welcomed by the village chairperson. The Mayor expressed a great need for safe drinking water in this village. People depend on the water from Lake Victoria which has been affected by the recent surge on the lake.

It should be noted that UBC's activities and Bhante's initiatives have focused on social and economic programs such as women and youth economic empowerment, provision of safe and clean water and education that have viably improved people's standards. Over 5,000 people have access to safe and clean water daily, and women and youth have been trained in entrepreneurial skills.

2020 Kathina Celebration



We are glad inform you that our *Kathina* celebration went very successfully. The event was conducted on November 15, according to the Sri Lankan tradition. Mr. Gihan De Silva and his family was the donor of the 2020 *Kathina* robe. He was joined by other Sri Lankans, Burmese, Thai, and Indian Buddhist communities in Uganda. Other celebrants were from DR Congo, Egypt and the local people. The local people are now gradually getting to know and appreciate the Buddhist culture. Thus, *Kathina* has been one of the key events that have significantly contributed to this awareness.

Kathina celebration is a very special occasion for all Buddhists around the world. It brings together Buddhists and

well-wishers to practice the teaching of generosity and share the blessings of such meritorious deeds. Moreover, celebration underpins the mutually supportive relationship between the monastic and lay devotees. Top put it in the African context, this is the teaching of "*Ubuntu*", which translates that I am because you are. You are because I am".

In fact, *Kathina* gives lay devotees an opportunity to offer their support and express their gratitude to the Sangha providing requisites (food, clothing, medicine and shelter) to the monastic during the *Vassa* period (three months rains retreat).

The celebration started at 06:30am with a procession that started from the driveway to the temple. It was colourful and it featured Buddha puja, almsgiving to the monastic, *Kathina* robe offering by Gihan de Silva and a Dhamma talk delivered by Bhante Buddharakkhita. Bhante talked about the historical origin of *Kathina*, its psychological and spiritual significance today. He encourage local Ugandans to participate in *Kathina* ceremony in order to understand the Buddhist culture of interdependence. Ms. Mudhitha, who works with the United Nations in Uganda will offer the *Kathina* robe in 2021.

Kathina in Pictures



Bodhi puja procession



Buddha puja in the temple



Alms giving to monastic



Bhante Buddharakkhita giving a Dhamma talk



Bhante offering Blessings



The Morning procession from the driveway to the temple.



Kathina robe offering by Gihan De Silva.

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 maintain resident teachers/monastics
- To maintain the Temple
- To run Buddhist activities
- To build monks accommodation facilities

How to donate:

1. Donate online:

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

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Please note that this payment gateway accepts 3D secure transactions only. This means that only cards that are Verified by Visa, and Master secure code will be accepted. If your donation doesn't go through, kindly contact your bank to ensure you are secured. Thank you!

2. wire transfer

Beneficiary's Bank Details:

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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