

UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

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VEN. DR. KABOGGOZA BUDDHARAKKHITA RECEIVES PHD FROM UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA, SRI LANKA

In a moment of immense pride and inspiration, Venerable Dr. Kaboggoza Buddharakkhita, Founder and Abbot of the Uganda Buddhist Centre, was awarded the Doctorate of Philosophy at the General Convocation of the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka.

The event, held on July 24, 2025, was attended by dignitaries, scholars, and members of the international Buddhist community. It marked a significant academic and spiritual milestone for Bhante Buddharakkhita, who has dedicated his life to spreading the teachings of the

Buddha across Africa and beyond.

This achievement carries deep personal meaning. In an emotionally moving reflection, Bhante shared that his pursuit of a PhD was greatly inspired by his late father, Mzee Malokweza, who once encouraged him to "study higher and one day become a PhD holder." With humility and grace, Bhante honored his father's wish, turning it into a source of inspiration for others walking the path of wisdom and service.

The award is not only a recognition of Bhante Buddharakkhita's academic excellence, but also a celebration of his unwavering commitment to education, spiritual leadership, and the growth of Buddhism in Africa.

His scholarly journey and practical teaching continue to shape lives, offering a unique blend of insight, compassion, and cultural relevance.

Messages of congratulations have poured in from Buddhist leaders and communities worldwide. In one message, Ven. Dr. Sanghapriya Mahathero, Secretary General of the Bangladesh Sangharaj Bhikkhu Mahasabha, praised Bhante's accomplishment, stating:

“It is very inspiring how committed you are to learning new things and spreading Buddhism.

This milestone benefits the community you serve in addition to honoring your dedication.”

As the Uganda Buddhist Centre prepares to celebrate its 20th anniversary later this year, this doctorate marks yet another chapter in Bhante Buddharakkhita's lifelong devotion to transforming lives through the Dhamma and education.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ven. Dr. Kaboggoza Buddharakkhita on this exceptional achievement. May his path continue to inspire countless seekers on their spiritual journey.





WARM WELCOME FOR BHANTE BUDDHARAKKHITA AFTER EARNING PHD IN SRI LANKA

The Uganda Buddhist Centre was filled with joy and pride as students, teachers, monastics, staff, and well-wishers gathered to welcome home Venerable Dr. Kaboggoza Buddharakkhita, following his successful attainment of a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka.

The celebration marked not only the return of a respected spiritual leader but also a symbolic moment of aspiration and encouragement for the entire community.

“Fourteen of us traveled to Sri Lanka to attend the convocation,” Bhante shared. “I was warmly welcomed back by the community from school children and teachers to the staff at the Uganda Buddhist Centre. Their joy at my achievement shows how meaningful this is not only to me, but to them as well.”

“It shows them that they too can aspire to higher education and succeed.”

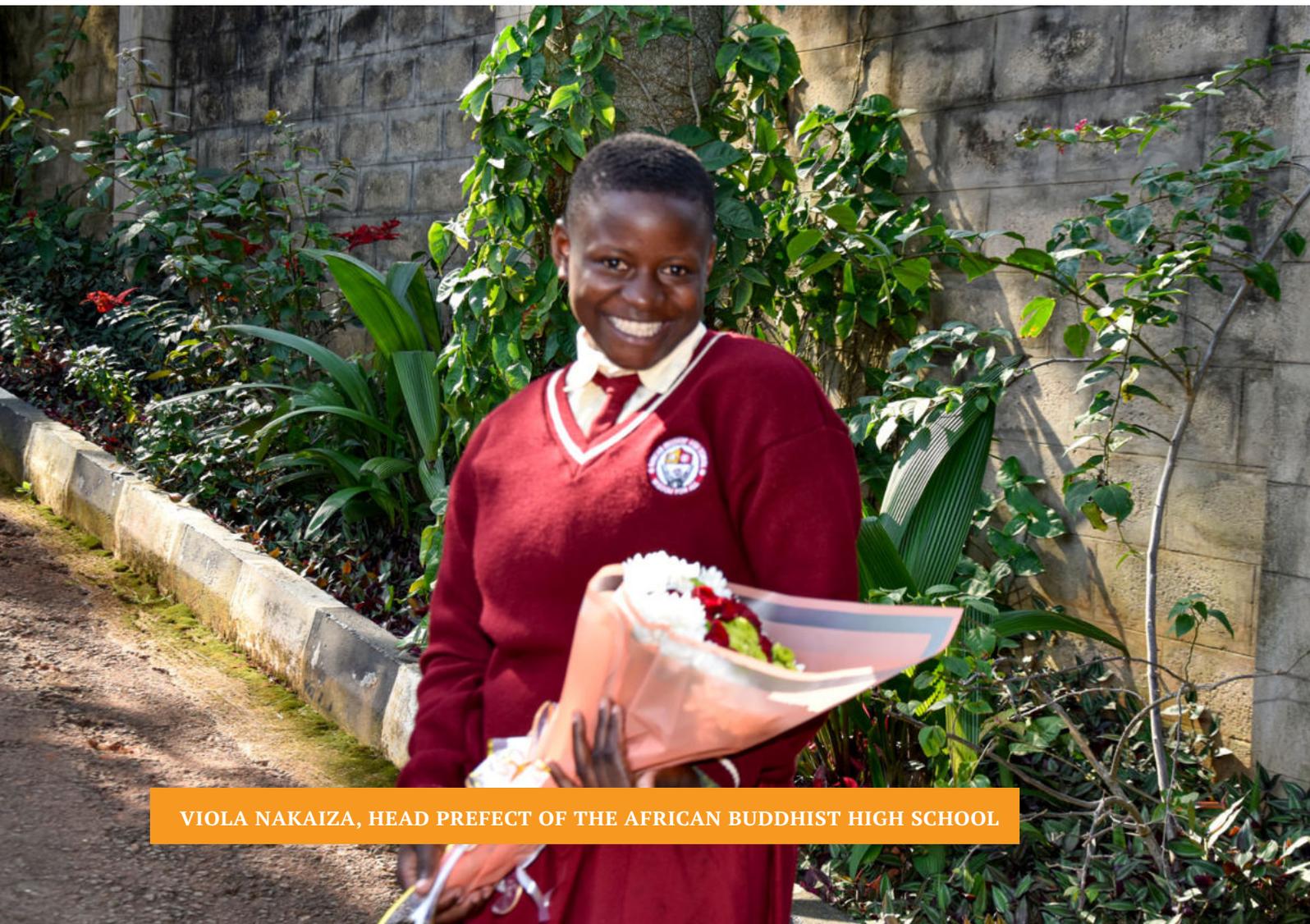
Bhante emphasized that his journey is more than personal achievement it’s a trailblazing path for future generations.



“My journey in Sri Lanka earning a bachelor’s, master’s, and PhD has created a trail for others to follow,” he said. “Students from our high school and beyond now have a pathway. I will guide them on how to apply and thrive there.”

He also reflected on Sri Lanka’s quality education system and the benefits it could bring to Ugandan learners. “Uganda doesn’t always need to rely on foreign professionals. We can study abroad, return, and build our own future here. That’s how real development happens.”

Bhante further noted that Sri Lankan engineers are already present in Uganda, building infrastructure such as dams. His hope is that more Ugandans will be empowered to study engineering and other fields abroad and come back to contribute meaningfully at home.



VIOLA NAKAIZA, HEAD PREFECT OF THE AFRICAN BUDDHIST HIGH SCHOOL

Among those who delivered congratulatory remarks was Viola Nakaiza, Head Prefect of the African Buddhist High School.

“Today, we are here to welcome back our Bhante and celebrate his success,” she said. “On behalf of the student body, I congratulate you. It has been a long journey, and we’re proud that you’ve reached this destination. You are because we are.”

She acknowledged not only Bhante’s academic achievement but also his dedication to community service: Uganda Buddhist Centre. These are all signs of his generosity, compassion, and love for humanity.

“Behind every successful person stands a strong foundation. For Bhante, that foundation includes his family, friends, and the entire Buddhist community who stood by him.”

The celebration was not just about a degree; it was about the power of inspiration, opportunity, and collective pride. It reflected what happens when education meets compassion and when spiritual leadership uplifts the dreams of an entire community.

The Uganda Buddhist Centre will continue to build on this momentum, encouraging more young Ugandans to pursue higher education and become change-makers in their communities.

“Thank you all for coming to welcome back our graduate Bhante and those who accompanied him,”.

“Sādhu, Sādhu, Sādhu.”



VOLUNTEERS, STUDENTS OF THE AFRICAN BUDDHIST HIGH SCHOOL, AND THE BUDDHIST PEACE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL WELCOMING BHANTE FROM SRI-LANKA



UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE WELCOMES 16 MEMBERS OF BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP FROM SINGAPORE

As part of its second 20th Anniversary celebrations on August 9, 2025, the Uganda Buddhist Centre (UBC) joyfully welcomed a delegation of 16 members from the Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore (BFS). Their presence was deeply moving, bringing together all four Buddhist assemblies' monks, nuns, laymen, and laywomen in a way reminiscent of the time of the Buddha. The delegation's visit was marked not only by their participation in the anniversary celebration but also by their generous support to the Centre's work in Uganda. Upon arrival, they donated a wide range of items to UBC's schools, including sports materials, books, uniforms, two computers, and other learning resources for the Buddhist Peace Primary School and the African Buddhist High School. These contributions were warmly received as they will directly enhance the

education and well-being of the students.

A key highlight of the visit was the inauguration of the Buddha House, dedicated to the Ugandan Sangha. This newly inaugurated building was a gift from the Dhamma Friends of the Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore, offered in commemoration of UBC's 20th anniversary. The inauguration stands as a lasting symbol of friendship, solidarity, and the shared vision of spreading the Dhamma across continents.

In addition, members of the delegation shared their diverse skills and wisdom with the community, ranging from Dhamma teachings and life skills to Tai Chi and healing arts, enriching both spiritual practice and daily life.

Speaking after their arrival, the group expressed their joy in connecting with the Ugandan Buddhist community: "We feel blessed to share this moment with our brothers and sisters in Uganda. It is a reminder that the Dhamma transcends borders and brings us together as one global family."



“Ven. Bhante Buddharakkhita, Founder and Abbot of UBC, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the visitors: “Your presence and generosity have strengthened the bonds of friendship between our communities. This is not only a celebration of our anniversary but also of the deep connections that make the Buddha’s teachings truly universal.”

The visit of the Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore marks the beginning of a deeper partnership and a shared journey of compassion, education, and peace. Uganda welcomes them again and again.



A WARM AND JOYFUL WELCOME TO OUR FRIENDS FROM THE BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP OF SINGAPORE AT UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE



UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE HOLDS ITS SECOND 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



PARTICIPANTS GATHER FOR A GROUP PHOTO AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

On August 9th, 2025, the Uganda Buddhist Centre (UBC) held the second celebration of its 20th Anniversary, a day filled with joy, reflection, and gratitude. The event brought together members of the UBC community, friends, and distinguished guests, including a delegation from the Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore, who joined in honouring this milestone.

The program featured a range of activities that reflected the Centre's mission of nurturing peace, compassion, and community service. Participants engaged in meditation, chanting, cultural performances, and reflections on UBC's two decades of growth. The presence of the Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore highlighted the spirit of international friendship and the

growing bonds between Asian and African Buddhist communities.

A highlight of the day was the screening of a special video documentary tracing the journey of the Uganda Buddhist Centre from its humble beginnings in 2005 to its vibrant presence in 2025. The film recounted the Centre's early challenges, achievements in education and community development, and its growing role as a beacon of Buddhist practice in Africa. For many, the documentary was a moving reminder of how far the Centre has come and the lives it has touched.

In his speech, Bro Lim Phang Hong, President of the Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore, praised UBC's example: "Your efforts here in Uganda have become an inspiration to Buddhists worldwide. We are honoured to walk alongside you in this noble journey of compassion and peace."



CAKE-CUTTING CEREMONY MARKING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

The Guest of Honor described the Centre as a symbol of resilience: “The Uganda Buddhist Centre has stood for twenty years as a beacon of hope. Its work in education, women empowerment, and interfaith harmony shows what is possible when compassion leads the way.”

The celebration was further enriched by congratulatory messages from local and international partners.

The Buddhist Summit extended warm greetings, stating: “We congratulate the Uganda Buddhist Centre on reaching this remarkable 20-year milestone. Your dedication to spreading the Dhamma in Africa and your unwavering commitment to peace, compassion, and community service are an inspiration to Buddhists across the

world.”

His Majesty King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru of Tooro Kingdom also sent a message of goodwill, recognizing UBC’s role in promoting peace, moral education, and cultural respect in Uganda.

A special message came from the Union Theological Seminary in the United States. The President, Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, praised Bhante Buddharakkhita’s vision and UBC’s achievements over the past two decades: “For twenty years, the Uganda Buddhist Centre has stood as a sanctuary of peace, learning, and humanitarian excellence. Your work in education, healthcare, women’s empowerment, and environmental stewardship has touched countless lives and inspired communities far beyond Uganda. We celebrate your visionary leadership and pray that this Anniversary marks the beginning of even greater contributions to our shared humanity.”

“Ven. Buddharakkhita, Founder and Abbot of UBC, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the visitors: “Your presence and generosity have strengthened the bonds of friendship between our communities. This is not only a celebration of our anniversary but also of the deep connections that make the Buddha’s teachings truly universal.” The visit of the Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore marks the beginning of a deeper partnership and a shared journey of compassion, education, and peace. Uganda welcomes them again and again.



GIFT EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP OF SINGAPORE AND UBC, SYMBOLIZING FRIENDSHIP AND SHARED VALUES





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY AT UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE: STUDENTS PERFORMING CULTURAL DANCES, DANA OFFERING TO MONASTICS BY OUR SINGAPOREAN FRIENDS, THE PINDA-PATA ALMS ROUND, AND TREE PLANTING TO MARK THIS SPECIAL OCCASION





GRATITUDE MESSAGE FROM THE ABBOT: VEN. BHANTE BUDDHARAKKHITA

I am eternally grateful to all our supporters around the world who have supported the Uganda Buddhist Center projects, like Compassion Care Center, to provide education, food and accommodation for the orphans. And the Buddhist Peace Schools, preschool, primary school, and African Buddhist High School to help us educate children from our community, who are underprivileged, and do not have access to holistic education. Through your support, women in our com-

munity have acquired skills that have enabled them to earn income, sustain their families and take their children to school.

We are grateful for all your continued support. And also, I would like to welcome more support so that we can continue to help people in Uganda.

Thank you very much. This is my blessing to you all. May you have long healthy life, May you be happy, May you be peaceful, May you have spiritual strength, May you be free from suffering and its causes.

Sadhu, sadhu, sadhu.

SUPPORTING UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

UBC activities are made possible by many supporters from around the world. Therefore, we are eternally grateful Buddhist Global Relief of USA, Huong Tu Lovingkindness Foundation USA, Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore, Tan Teo Charitable Foundation, and all our beloved donors from around the world.

UBC still needs your support:

To maintain resident teachers/monastics

To maintain the Temple

To build monks accommodation facilities

To construct and operation of Buddhist Secondary School

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