

## **TOS Uganda launched on Easter Sunday, 16th April, 2017**

Easter Sunday marked an historical day in the Theosophical history of Uganda.

With Bro. Dubal as chair of the session, Deepa Kapur, TOS Tanzania Director, conducted the TOS session, wherein she took the audience through the history, structure, worldwide presence and activities of the Theosophical Order of Service.

And then came the historic moment!



*Delegates at the Uganda Convention, Easter 2017 (Aruna Mendon sitting next to Deepa Kapur at the bottom right).*

Ms Deepa invited all the East and Central African countries' delegates onto the stage... deliberately keeping one chair empty. And then... she said: "we can no longer have an empty chair in the middle of the stage."

She invited Aruna Mendon onto the stage and all delegates cheered "Uganda! Uganda! Uganda!" There was an atmosphere much like what we might expect when a new country forms its charter and makes its declaration of independence.

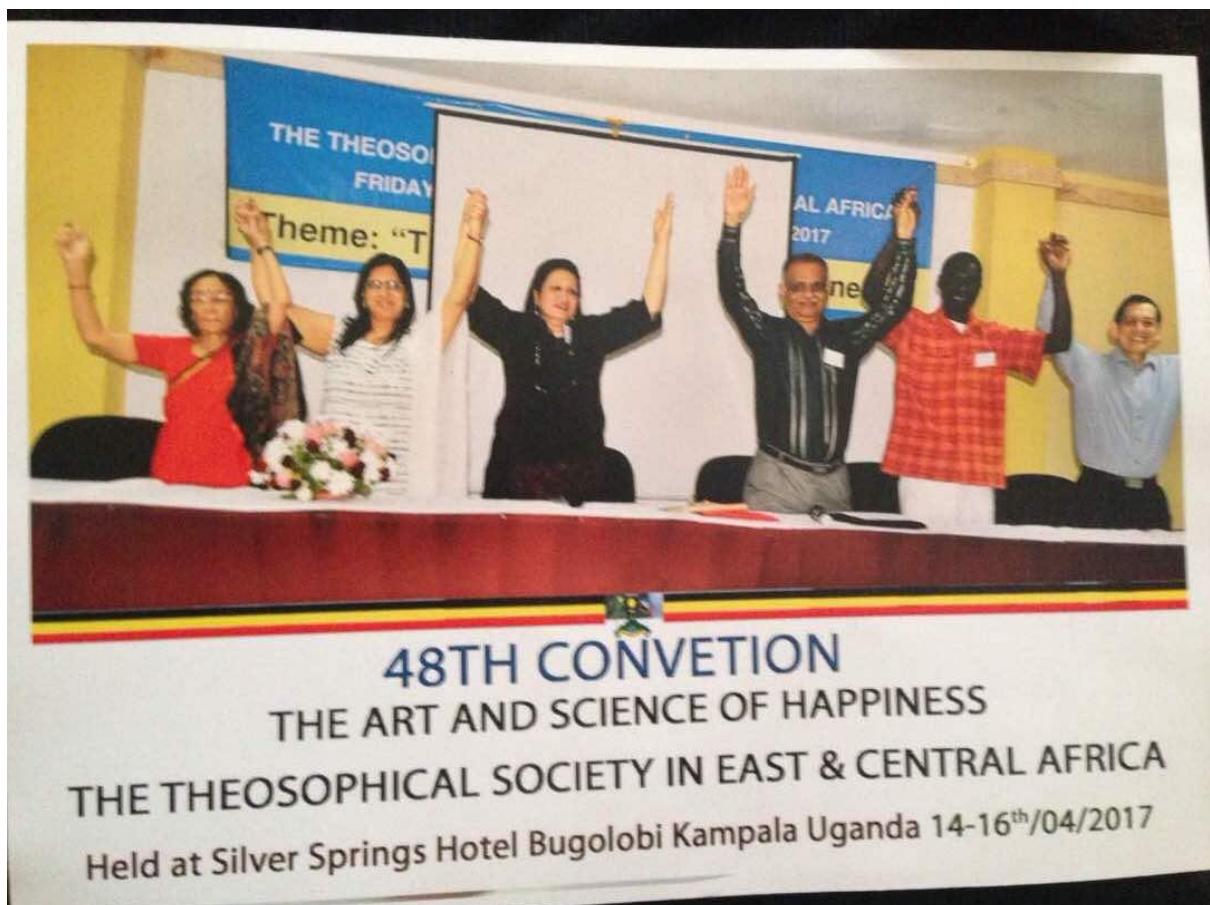
Bro. Vicente was on stage and heartily congratulated Aruna and Uganda.

Our General Secretary for East and Central Africa, Bro. Narendra Shah, gave a congratulatory speech and shook hands with Aruna.

The Chairman of Nile Lodge, Bro. V. M. Shah, gave an emotional speech saying they have been doing charity work for decades and it is wonderful that Uganda will be represented at the TOS.

Aruna, too, felt emotions welling up within. She gave a heartfelt thank-you speech and said that she looks forward to everyone's support and will do her best in her role as TOS representative.

On stage we had the chair of the session, Bro. Dubal – from Tanzania, Kenya represented by the dynamic Usha Shah, Aruna Mendon – from Uganda, Deepa Kapur – from Tanzania, Osmond – representing Ebrony Peteli of Zambia and Vicente Hao Chin – delegate from the Philippines.



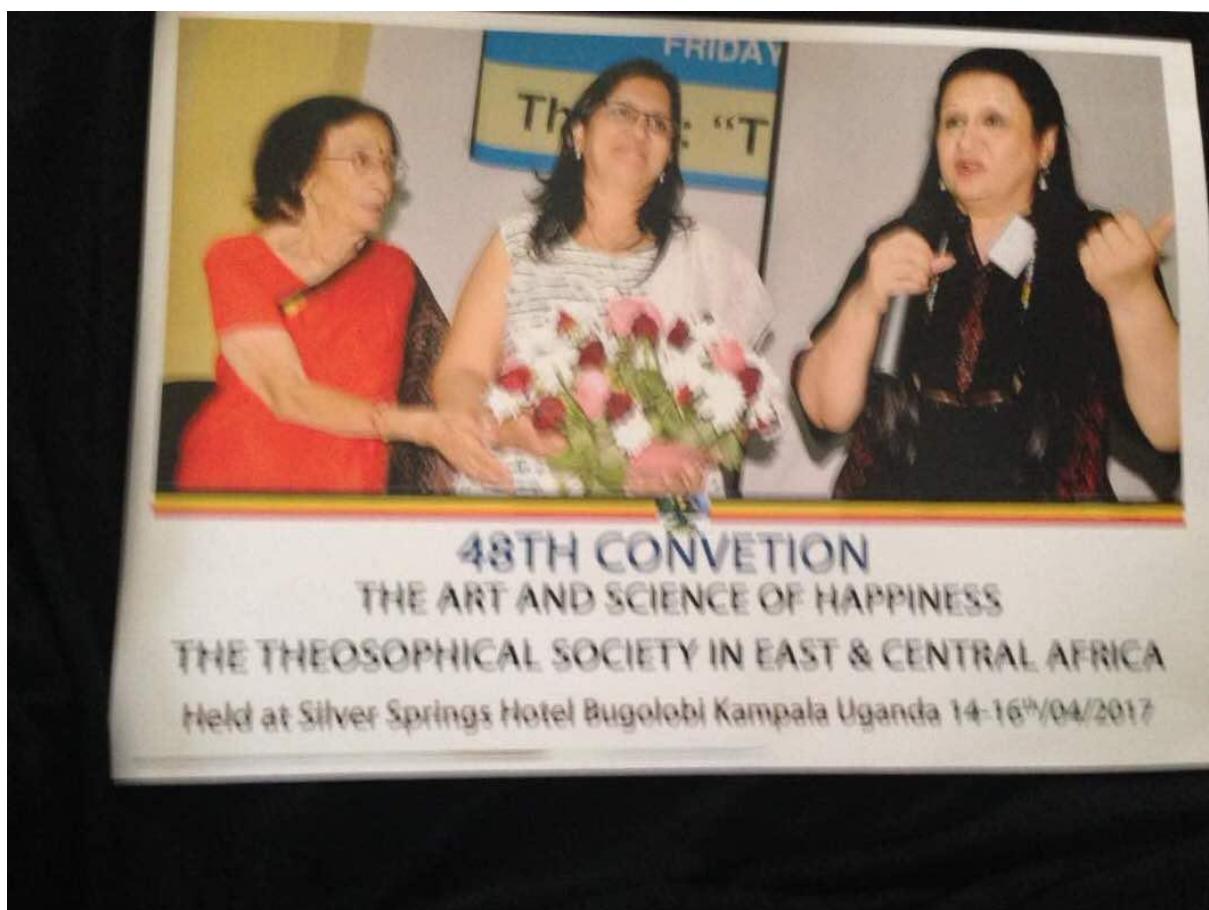
*Historic TOS Uganda Launch. We raised hands and cheered for Uganda. From left to right: Ushaben (Kenya TOS), Aruna (Uganda TOS), Deepa (Tanzania TOS), Dubal Bhai (Assistant General Secretary, Tanzania), Osmond (representing Ebrony Peteli – Zambia TOS), Vicente Hao Chin (Philippines TOS)*

Ms Deepa took the opportunity to speak about the TOS work carried on in Tanzania, Ms Usha spoke on activities in Kenya, Bro. Osmond highlighted Zambia's landmark project and Bro. V.M. Shah narrated the sentimental history of charity work done from many years under the leadership of former pillars of Uganda TS/TOS.

The talks were followed by two films (the first one made by Runjiv Kapur and the second one created by Dr Yash Dubal), projecting the humanitarian face of the TOS through its endeavours around East and Central Africa. Ms Deepa also conveyed greetings from Nancy Secretst, the TOS International Secretary.

The atmosphere was charged and there was a sense of jubilation! Everyone was struck with a feeling that something special was happening here!

To add in closing, Aruna is a very beautiful soul who exhibits great people skills, compassion and a true inclination towards humanitarian work.



*The three women... TRINITY of USHABEN, ARUNA, DEEPA, congratulating ARUNA with flowers!*