

100 YEARS OF SSDM TEMPLE



From Generation to Generation

A CENTURY OF DEVOTION

By Richard Ategeka

Established in 1925, Shree Sanatan Dharma Mandal (SSDM) proudly marks a century of unwavering spiritual, cultural, and social service to the community. For generations, it has stood as a pillar of faith and unity, preserving traditions while extending compassion far beyond the Hindu community. A defining moment came in 1961 when the Mandal completed its magnificent temple in Kampala. Designed and built by the renowned Sompura brothers of Gujarat, India, the temple is a faithful replica of the sacred Somnath Mahadev Mandir of Veraval. At the time, it was the only structure of its kind outside India – a beacon of devotion for Hindus across East Africa. Today, this remarkable landmark is recognised as a Heritage Site of Kampala by the Government of Uganda, symbolising both cultural pride and architectural grandeur.

guided bereaved families through rituals with compassion. Hindu festivals have been celebrated with grandeur, while the Bal Sanskar Shala has instilled moral values and cultural teachings in children. An active Mahila Mandal and vibrant youth programmes have strengthened community bonds, and in earlier years, a community library and clinic extended its reach even further. Every Saturday, the temple resonates with the recitation of Hanuman Chalisa, followed by prasada served to over 400 devotees. The temple has been graced by some of the most revered saints and spiritual leaders, including Pujya Rameshbhai Oza, Morari Bapu, Jignesh Dada, Mother Teresa, Pramukh Swami Maharaj, Yogi Swami, Mahant Swami, Sat Shri, Giri Bapu, and Dr. Ratidada, each adding to its rich spiritual legacy.

As SSDM celebrates its centenary, it reflects not only on its heritage but also on its enduring role as a bridge between generations, cultures, and communities.

From education and healthcare to spiritual nourishment and cultural preservation, its mission remains rooted in the timeless values of devotion, service, and unity – a commitment that will continue to serve both the Hindu community and the wider Ugandan society for generations to come.



The Shree Sanatan Dharma Mandal (SSDM) temple in Nakasero



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