

# Vietnam's Tram Hoang Luu crowned Mrs Universe 2017

Vietnam's Tram Hoang Luu was crowned the 40th Mrs Universe during a pageant held for the first time in Africa at Durban's Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (ICC) on 2 September 2017.

The ecstatic 43-year-old Mrs Vietnam burst into tears as last year's winner, Olga Tornor from Austria handed over the crown.



Mrs Vietnam, Tram Hoang Luu, is crowned Mrs Universe 2017. From left: Mrs India, Shaveta Athwal (5th place), Mrs France, Anastasia Gorshkova (4th place), Mrs Gabon, Gwen Madiba Moubouyi (First Runner-Up) and Mrs Pakistan, Taiba Noorulian Sheheryar (Second Runner-up).

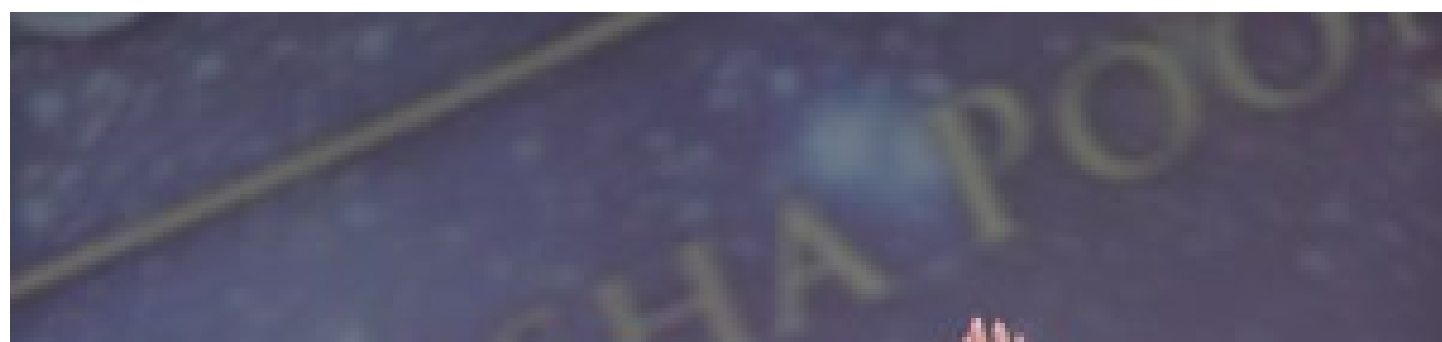
"I am so amazed. I did not expect to win when I came here this evening because all the contestants are such incredible women," says the new Mrs Universe, Luu. This evening is just fantastic – I'm enjoying every moment!" said Luu, thanking South Africa particularly Durban for its warm hospitality.

Mrs Gabon, Gwen Madiba Moubouyi was named first runner-up and Mrs Pakistan, Taiba Noorulian Sheheryar, second runner-up. Mrs France, Anastasia Gorshkova and Mrs India, Shaveta Athwal, rounded off the top five. South Africa was represented by Durban wife and mum, Trisha Poona, who was placed in the top 25. Poona was the audience's favourite, receiving huge applause and encouragement whenever she appeared on stage.





Mrs Sweden, Ase Engholm





“Let tonight be the night that Durban remembers as being the night that brought the world to our doorstep. Let tonight be the night that Africa celebrates its women and women empowerment,” says Tracey-Anne Aggett, the woman who was responsible for bringing Mrs Universe to Africa for the first time.

As Mrs Universe hosting director: Africa, Aggett had campaigned tirelessly to bring the activist-themed event to South Africa and to use it as a platform to draw attention to the global scourge of violence against women and children. “We are extremely humbled by the support we’ve received to stage this event on African soil for the first time. Each of the contestants here tonight is a winner – for overcoming incredible odds to succeed and for making meaningful contributions to their respective communities to bring about positive change.”

## **Encouraging success and support**

Ethekwini deputy mayor, Fawzia Peer, echoed those sentiments when she officially welcomed guests to the pageant.

“As women, we must continue to hold each other’s hands and celebrate our successes,” she said, adding “We need to see more women rising to positions of power in business, politics and academia,” said Peer.



The Mrs Universe World finals attracted the who’s who of KwaZulu-Natal’s social scene, in which guests were entertained by the C-Live dancers, the Champions Pantsula Dancers, performers from the Kumari Shiksha Dance Institute, Indlondlo Zulu Traditional Dancers and Dangerous Curves dancers. Vocalists, Samantha Landers, Bongekile Mabaso and Nokulunga Ntuli had feet tapping and heads bobbing. The show was produced and choreographed by one of KwaZulu Natal’s most celebrated entertainers, Clive Gumede aka The Durban Divo.

## **CSI and women empowerment initiatives**

Since jetting into Durban on 25 August 2017, the 86 finalists have had a jam-packed, whirlwind schedule of work and play that put the international spotlight firmly on South Africa. In addition to visiting a few tourist spots in the greater Durban area and sampling the city's array of culinary offerings, contestants dedicated their time to numerous CSI and women empowerment initiatives.

This included visiting schools to speak to young girls about the importance of education and to inspire pupils with personal stories of overcoming incredible challenges, to spending a morning with orphaned and vulnerable children at [Liv Village](#) in Verulam, and taking to the streets of Durban for the #OneVoice march against gender-based violence and child abuse.

Unlike other similar events, Mrs Universe is a women empowerment initiative that acknowledges married women between the ages of 25 and 45 who are doing phenomenal work to uplift and enhance their local communities through CSI initiatives, business development and global trade opportunities.

[View gallery](#)

[www.mrsuniverse2017.co.za](http://www.mrsuniverse2017.co.za)

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