

A TRIBUTE TO AUNTIE JANE

FOREWORD

Birungyi Cephass Kagyenda



It has been 21 years since Birungyi, Barata & Associates (BBA) opened its doors to provide tax and legal services to the public. Time indeed flies.

Last year, we celebrated our 20th anniversary in grand style at Four Points Hotel, marking two decades of excellence and growth. This year, however, we take a quieter, more reflective approach as we bid farewell to one of our most cherished team member, Jane Mbatudde, the longest-serving member of staff.

Jane has been the face of BBA for nearly the entirety of its existence. Over the last three years, her life took a challenging turn with a debilitating battle against diabetes. Despite the odds, she has faced this illness with remarkable courage, returning to the office time and again, triumphing over hospital stays and health challenges.

This month, Auntie Jane, as she is fondly known, will transition into

retirement, embarking on a new chapter in life. Retirement for her is not an end but the beginning of fresh opportunities and experiences.

From the very start, Auntie Jane embodied the heart and soul of BBA. To our clients, she was more than just a familiar face; she was a symbol of warmth, humanity, and genuine care, always leaving a personal touch. To her colleagues, Auntie Jane—our “Mukwano Gwabangi” (a dear friend)—was a source of encouragement and light, brightening even the darkest of days with her kind words and unwavering support.

She will be deeply missed, but her legacy of kindness, resilience, and dedication will forever remain a part of BBA. Farewell, Auntie Jane, and thank you for everything.

Farewell, Auntie Jane, and thank you for everything.

BBA's TRIBUTE TO AUNTIE JANE

Written by Tracy Ainebyona Masiko

This year, Birungyi, Barata & Associates (BBA) has someone retiring, and we are honored to have worked with her. She was one of the first employees 20 years ago when BBA started. Jane Mbatudde, we honor you.

Celebrating Jane Mbatudde's Remarkable Journey

This December 2024, we are bidding a heartfelt farewell to Jane Mbatudde, fondly known to us all as Auntie Jane, as she embarks on her well-deserved retirement.

For nearly two decades, Auntie Jane has been the heart and soul of Birungyi, Barata & Associates, leaving an indelible mark on the firm and everyone working alongside her.

In June 2005, Auntie Jane made the courageous decision to leave the Uganda Revenue Authority and join the fledgling firm. At the time, BBA consisted of just two lawyers (the now Managing and Senior partners) and a clerk.

As the receptionist and typist, Auntie Jane was instrumental in building the foundation of the firm, contributing to its evolution from a modest office to the vibrant institution we know today at Plot 14, Archer Road.

From the very beginning, Auntie Jane was more than her job description. To clients, she became a familiar face and a warm voice, often greeting them by name and putting them at ease. To her colleagues, she was a motherly figure—a “Senga” in every sense—ready with advice, encouragement, and a joke to brighten even the toughest of days. Never one to shy away from offering life lessons, she reminded us all of the importance of family, often urging younger colleagues to consider marriage and raising families of their own.

Her remarkable strength and resilience have been an inspiration. Even through personal challenges, Auntie Jane's dedication to the firm and its clients never wavered. She returned each day with her characteristic warmth and energy, ready to give her all to the people and the institution

she held dear.

Known for her exceptional multitasking and humor, Auntie Jane became the quiet anchor of the firm—a constant presence who made every interaction meaningful.

Whether diffusing a tense moment with a light-hearted comment or remembering to ask after a colleague's family member, she has always led with kindness, skill, and heart.

As we celebrate Auntie Jane's incredible legacy, we cannot overstate her role in shaping the culture and ethos of BBA. She has been a pillar of strength, professionalism, and compassion, and her absence will certainly be felt.

As she steps into this new chapter, we wish Auntie Jane a retirement filled with peace, joy, and time for the people and passions she treasures most. Her impact on the firm and its people will endure, a testament to a career and a life well lived.

Thank you, Auntie Jane, for the laughter, wisdom, and love you have shared.

You will always be a cherished part of the Birungyi, Barata & Associates family.



Tribute to Aunt Jane Mbatudde

By Patrick Kabagambe

I vividly recall 3rd November 2008, the first day I reported at Birungyi, Barata & Associates(BBA), 3rd Floor Crusader House at 8.00 am. I was warmly welcomed by Madam Jane Mbatudde.

After having the brief introductory meeting with the Partners, I was “handed” over to Madam Jane, who took me around the office and the rest was history.

In a very short while, Aunt Jane as we fondly call her, had stamped her authority. She knew when and where to pull the plugs and you clearly saw, that save for the two partners, the power lay with her.

Being the person who normally handled our payouts, you needed to keep her in good books; and I was lucky as my office was next to her; I was usually paid first.

Madam Jane was the heart and soul of the office. As the first person you met at the front office, she determined or even decided who crossed into the corridor.

The lawyers can attest that the reception of a law firm at times turns into a mini war zone with dissatisfied clients. Madam Jane learned and mastered managing such situations professionally and for that, we owe her a lot.

Jane Mbatudde has been with most of the staff at BBA, me inclusive, and has seen us evolve from young men and women to adults. The years she has spent at BBA are a testament to true endurance.

Even when sickness struck her, she later beat herself and returned to work under very hard conditions. Her zeal, courage, and willingness to fight shows her character as a fighter and I have no doubt that going forward, she will fight anything that pulls her down.

As she closes this chapter of her life, I can only wish her a long life.

Staff Comments on Auntie Jane

Cromwell

“For many of us, Auntie Jane was the first person to welcome us to Birungyi Barata. She called us in for our interviews, marking the start of our journeys here. Her warmth and professionalism set the tone for everything that followed.”

Kenneth

“Auntie Jane is one of the coolest people I’ve had the privilege of interacting with. She always brightened the day with her sense of humor and her famous line: ‘Olinze kunyenya nga avocado.’ There was never a dull moment with her around.”

The Mother, Auntie, Senga Jane Mbatudde

By Belinda Lutaya Nakiganda

I knew Auntie Jane when she was still working at the Uganda Revenue Authority with my mum. She always greeted me with a smile, teased me a bit, and then allowed me to go see my mom.

So it was comforting when I joined BBA that she was the first person I saw, giving me a big hug. I knew then that I would fit in well at BBA.

Auntie Jane, you shall be missed at BBA. Your warmth to everyone when at the reception, your guidance, love, stories, and laughter are and always will be appreciated.

You have shown us that no matter the circumstances, we can pull through and rise up above and that nothing can limit you if you’re determined.

Your strength, hard work, and positive outlook on life is so refreshing and inspiring.

Thank you for your motherly love and care. We love you and wish you the best in the next chapter of your life.

Damalie

“Auntie Jane has a way of making everyone feel at home. She always ensures that people are comfortable and valued, and any anger directed at her truly upsets her because she is so empathetic and kind-hearted.”

Jonathan

“Auntie Jane’s motherly and nurturing nature makes her such a special part of our team. She has a unique ability to make everyone feel cared for and supported, just like family.”

Jackie

“Auntie Jane is the most efficient typist I’ve ever encountered. Her dedication to her work and the way she connects with clients is extraordinary. She truly loves her job, and it shows in everything she does.”

Linda

“Auntie Jane’s kindness and thoughtfulness is unmatched. She always asks about my family and especially about ‘her mother’—my baby—because, in her clan, my child would traditionally be her mother. Her deep connection to people and culture makes her so special.”

These tributes highlight the extraordinary impact Auntie Jane has on everyone at Birungyi Barata. She will be deeply missed as she steps into this new chapter of her life.

