

The late Prof. Grace Mbato Mbagaya 30th July 1957 and died on 29th May 2016



BIRTH

The late Prof. Grace Mbato Mbagaya was born on 30 July, 1957. She was the third born of the late Mzee Hannington Mbato and the late Mama Timina Mbato at Chanderema village, Mambai Sub-location, Wodanga Location, Sabatia Sub-county- Vihiga. She was of the Didi / Kayere sub-clan. She was sister of the late Aggrey Mbato, James Mbato, Jack Mbato, Margaret Olweny, Esther Imbisi, Rose Wafula, Peter Mbato, Ben Mbato, Mary Osore, Hellen Oravo, Emmy Onzere and Edgar Mbato. Sister in law to Jack Olweny, Dr Joel Imbisi, Benard Ayuko, Morris Onzere, Dan Osore and the late Wafula among others.

EDUCATION

Prof. Grace Mbagaya attended the following primary schools; Mambai, Bugina and Lugulu Girls Boarding School and sat for her C.P.E exam in 1970. She was then admitted at Moi Girls High School — Eldoret in form one in 1971. She sat for her E.A.C.L exam in 1974 and qualified highly and proceeded for her “A” levels at the same school and passed.

Grace was later admitted to the University of Nairobi in 1979 to 1981. She pursued a Bachelor of Education Degree, in Home Economics and graduated with First Class Honours. Grace enrolled for her Masters of Science in Agriculture (Applied Human Nutrition) in 1987 and graduated in November 1989. She did her Doctor of Philosophy on 'The Impact of Dairy Production on the Nutritional Status of Pre-School Children in Mumias Division, Kakamega County' in year 2000 and qualified at Mol University, Eldoret. She moved up the ranks quite fast in her career. She attained full Professorship in 3 years.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

In her academic life, Prof. undertook research works in various fields and made more than 25 publications.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- Grace taught at Friends School-Kigama as an untrained teacher 1977 to 1978.
- 1980-1984 Provincial Home Economics and Rural Youth Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Kakamega.
- 1984-1986 Women and Girls Training Officer, Ministry of Culture and Social Services -Centre for Research and Training Karen. Nairobi.
- 1987-1988 - Senior Social Development Officer, Nairobi Province- Ministry of Culture and social services
- 1989-1990- Principal Kenyatta Educational Institute Njoro - Ministry of Culture and Social Services.
- 1989-1990 Part-time teaching Egerton University
- 1990 Dec -2004 April; Lecturer, Department of Home Science and Technology, Moi University.
- 2001-2004 Part-time teaching Maseno University
- May 2004 - Jan 2009; Senior Lecturer, Department of Family and consumer Sciences.
- February 2009-2014; Associate Professor, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.
- Full Professor in 2014.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES & SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

- 2015- Prof. Grace Mbagaya was honored and awarded a medal for her distinguished scholar by the County Government of Vihiga.
- Prof. Grace was a member of Board of Governors in various schools including St.
- Clare's Maragoli Girls, St. Marks Chavogere and Busali Union secondary schools at various times.
- 2003-2007 Chairperson Department of Home Science & Technology Staff Welfare

As part of her professional life, she did academic supervision, Masters and Doctorates, internal and external examinations. She was a reviewer to publications and journals. She was very thorough in these works. Grace played a liaison role in engaging many other partners in Research and Fellowships.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Prof. Grace Mbagaya was a member of various professional associations.

Key among them were:

- Inter-university Nutrition Task Force 2009-date
- Kenya Nutritionists & Dieticians Institute
- Nutrition Association of Kenya (NAK).
- Home Economics Association of Africa (HEAA)
- Association for African Women in Research and Development (AAWORD), among others.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Grace started her career in public service in 1981 to date. She was the Dean of School of Business Studies, University of Eldoret at the time of her death.

MARRIAGE

Grace Mbato got married to Mr Gideon Mbagaya through a wedding at Chimbiru Friends Church on 5 August 1995. In their marriage, they were blessed by a son, Wayne Mbagaya. She also became a mother to James Mbagaya, Abigail Mbagaya Mukolwe (NLC), Pamela Kimwele, Dr. Catherine Mbagaya (Maseno University), Melville Mbagaya (EABL), Patrick Mbagaya (KCB), and Dr Wycliffe Mbagaya (UK).

She was the mother in law to Fenike Mutiva, Dr. Festo Mukolwe Fadamula, Prof. Charles Kimwele, Abba Oloo, Hamelyne Matano Mbagaya, Adelaide Omeddo Mbagaya and Caroline Macharia Mbagaya.

She was grandmother to Paul, Sylvia Mmaitisi, Sharon Muka, Louis Mukolwe, Nicole Kimwele, Stacy Nyandiko, Warren, Brittney, Alexia, Adrianna, Serah and Katherine Mbagayas'.

Condolence messages for the late Prof. Grace Mbagaya

Prof. Grace Mbato Mbagaya and I were year mates in the Home Economics undergraduate class of 1977 to 1980 at Kenyatta University. While Grace went to the University of Nairobi for her Masters in Applied Human Nutrition, I continued my studies in Kenyatta University for an MSc in Education (Curriculum). Grace then worked with the Ministry of Agriculture in Kakamega, then Njoro, during which time we maintained contact. I encouraged her to join Moi University where I was, which she did in 1990. Since then, we have worked together as researchers in Education and Home Economics. In 2013 when the University of Eldoret began and I became a DVC, I was involved in her promotion to Professor, as I had earlier in her previous promotions from tutorial fellow. I will miss Grace because she was a very humble, humane and pleasant person, who has been a friend for many years.

Prof Ruth Otunga

Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics and Student Affairs

University of Eldoret, Kenya

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Prof. Grace Mbagaya was a reknown scholar with a wealth of knowledge and experience in her area of expertise that focused on nutrition, primary health education and food security. Because of her training as a teacher, she strived to uphold professional ethics in her teaching and research, and valued and cherished quality work which was manifested

in her publications in various international journals and student supervision. Since meeting her at the University of Nairobi in the early 1980s until her demise she upheld unmatched professionalism and Christian faith. This was evident throughout her adult life in spite of the health challenges she had for almost two decades. She was strong willed, principled and remained steadfast in her academic journey. Grace was focused, loving, dedicated to her work, and lived a simple but well planned life. She was one of the three female full Professors at the University of Eldoret, an academic position she held with dignity. Grace exemplified true motherhood and love through her warm heart, kindness, and readiness to assist others even when it meant denying herself the comfort of life. She was a person of few words, welcoming, a peace maker, mentor, an advisor and a source of inspiration and support for many. She never liked seeing her siblings, students or friends suffer for lack of basic necessities. She believed in the power of prayer and always prayed during happy moments and in pain. More often Grace overlooked her sickness and personal needs and had time to pray and intercede for others including family members and friends. Though her loss is irreplaceable, it is my prayer that the Lord will rest her soul in eternal peace.

Prof Hellen Ipara
Head Department of Wildlife management
University of Eldoret, Kenya
Email: hellenipara@yahoo.com

Life moves on, but memories don't. You may have left, but you are unforgettable. Many a times, you gave me the courage and strength to keep working hard. You were one of a kind. If we were in a vehicle traveling together and it broke down, you would still take a *boda boda* with me. You taught me how to write worthy papers for publication. Making sure that my responsibility as Chair of the departmental postgraduate committee was carried out diligently. I will always treasure your mentorship. Rest in peace Prof. Mbagaya.

Dr. Florence Wakhu Wamunga
University of Eldoret, Kenya
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You will always be my angel for you see our greatness before we even know of it. Your encouraging words have enabled us to succeed. We pray for you and your family.

Dr. Beatrice Imo
University of Eldoret, Kenya
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Prof. Grace Mbagaya was a full Professor in the Department of Family & Consumer Sciences at University of Eldoret. Having been a founder member (1990) she played an

active role in the growth of the department. Besides teaching, she was actively involved in research activities, supervision of both Masters and PhD students and theses examination. Prof. Mbagaya will be remembered for initiating and developing the Master of Science in Community Nutrition and the PhD in Community Nutrition curricula. She will be remembered for her immense contribution to the nutrition fraternity in the country. May our Lord rest her soul in Eternal Peace.

Dr. Gertrude Were
University of Eldoret, Kenya
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I met Prof. Grace Mbato Mbagaya in the year 2000 when I joined Moi University, Department of Home Science and Technology. She mentored me as a Tutorial Fellow and later as a lecturer. She was kind, approachable, willing to assist whenever I needed help. She invited me for her PhD graduation dinner where I met her husband, son and other relatives. I am privileged to have met and worked with Prof. Grace. She has left a mark in my life that I will always cherish.

Prof. Mbagaya, may you rest in peace until we meet again in God's Kingdom. Amen

Dr Dorcas Serem
University of Eldoret
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That Sunday night when I received the message that Grace was no more, my first reaction was that it couldn't be true. As hours and days passed by I kept wishing for a miracle to happen and reverse the whole process so that I could have a second chance with Grace. Since her demise we have had our first departmental meeting where I missed her commitment, contributions and words of wisdom that were always encouraging and uniting. She was always punctual in time and to her words. Having known Grace as my lecturer in under and post graduate studies and a colleague at the time her demise, she was full of passion, kindness and patience. Having interacted closely with her as my supervisor, she guided and mentored me in thesis writing and research paper for publications. She was the first to introduce me to writing research papers for publications. The two research papers she co-authored with me and published will in my life be a significant mark of the contribution she made towards my academic and professional achievement. I will forever remain indebted.

Susan Maina

University of Eldoret, Kenya

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I received the news of the passing on of Prof. Grace Mbagaya with great sadness. I met Grace more than 20 years ago when I reported to Moi University, and she inducted me into the University system. We developed a quiet but steadfast friendship because of her humble, warm and positive nature which endeared me to her. Grace was a tireless worker, very thorough in what she did and had a close working relation with all her colleagues who all held her in high esteem. We have conducted research, supervised students and published together and I will miss her. We in the department of Consumer Science recognize her outstanding contribution in developing the postgraduate Nutrition Curricula. Grace has left us too soon, but I know she is safe in the arms of God Almighty. My most sincere condolences go to her family.

Dr. Charlotte Atsango Serrem

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