# EX-CID BOSS' CHILDREN SUE STEPMOTHER OVER PROPERTY

By Barbra Kabahumuza

Ten children of former criminal investigations department (CID) boss Chris Bakiza have dragged their stepmother to court, accusing her of managing their father's estate without authority.

Bakiza died on November 4, 2023 at the Uganda Cancer Institute in Mulago, Kampala and was buried at his ancestral home in Butanda sub-county, Kabale district.

During the wake, one person identified as the Rev. Jasper Tumuhimbize told mourners that he had Bakiza's Will.

## THREE WILLS

After the burial, the Rev Tumuhimbize read the will, but the deceased's sister, Alice Bongyeirwe, produced another one. The two wills were reportedly made by Bakiza on February 1, 2021 and July 9, 2023. A few weeks later, a third will surfaced at Bakiza and Company Advocates in Kampala, sparking disagreement.

According to court documents, Mbabazi and the deceased's legal associate, Patrick Rutembana, informed the family that there was a third will at Bakiza and Company Advocates, the law firm where Bakiza worked.

They add that days after the burial, all beneficiaries were called to the law firm, where the codicil (supplementary) and third will, was read.

"At the meeting to read the purported codicil, Mbabazi openly boasted of having contributed to the writing of the wills," court documents read.

## THE CASE

In a suit filed at the Family Division of the High Court, the children accuse their stepmother, Robina Mbabazi, of intermeddling with their father's estate. "We want orders for fair and reasonable distribution of the deceased's estate among all his children, removing the defendants as executors and replacing them with new executors appointed by court," the children stated.



**Robina Mbabazi (widow) accused of intermeddling with late Bakiza's Estate**

Also, sued alongside Mbabazi is the deceased's sister, Bongyeirwe and Ben Twikirize, her (Mbabazi's) associate.

Court documents indicate that the defendants are named as executors.

## DECEASED'S CHILDREN

The older children want the court to declare the wills being relied on by their stepmother as not reflecting their father's true intentions.

The children are Franklin Quincy Twesiime, Flower Rynah Akiza Bakiza, Ruth Mwiiza Bakiza, John Nuwagaba, Jarret Matsiko Nshuti Bakiza and Norman Marcus Tayebwa Bakiza.

Others are Brenda Namara Bakiza, Eve Musiimenta Bakiza, Bella Asiimwe Bakiza and Phiona Kamusiime Bakiza. EPEX Limited, a private company, is also listed as a plaintiff.

When the executioners, Mbabazi, Bongyeirwe and Twikirize lodged an application for grant of probate to the wills, the children opposed them, saying the wills of February 1, 2021 and July 9, 2023 were not authored by their father.

## NON LISTED PROPERTIES

"Several properties owned by the deceased are not included in the purported Will and codicil and companies in which the deceased owned majority shareholding, including Epex Limited and QUE-Hearts Limited are omitted," the children state.

The children also want a declaration that the debts of Bakiza and Company Advocates are not charged on the estate.

The court documents also indicate that, Bakiza was married to Mbabazi with whom he had two children, who were both school-going minors at the time of his death.

The older children said when Bakiza was ill, Mbabazi and Bongyeirwe blocked them from accessing their father.

## CAVEATS PLACED

Two children, Nuwagaba and Twesiime, however, placed caveats on the execution of the wills, accusing their step-mother of transferring all the deceased's vehicles to her personal names and withdrawing over sh70m from the deceased's private bank account in Stanbic Bank, Metro branch.

They further state that Bongyeirwe and Twikirize connived with their step-mother and deliberately left the said bank account unblocked to enable Mbabazi continue withdrawing money from the deceased's account.

## EARLIER POLICE CASE

**The children had earlier dragged Mbabazi to the Police. Last year, Mbabazi appeared before the Buganda Road Chief Magistrate's Court on charges of intermeddling with the property of the deceased.**

**However, she asked court to grant her an opportunity to settle through mediation.**

**Subsequently, then Chief Magistrate Ronald Kayizzi appointed former Supreme Court judge Paul Mugamba to act as a mediator. However, the mediation stalled.**