

Hello,

My name is Justine Ayebale Abunyanga. I am from Uganda. Often referred to as 'Pearl of Africa', Uganda is an English-speaking country.

MY MANIFESTO AS VICE PRESIDENT.

How I started.

I have been a web designer since 2009 when I started using Basic HTML.

My Journey.

I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology. What I learned doing the degree filled me with enthusiasm for the web. Website design became my focus. Coding the whole site with HTML was a hustle to take the project through to completion. It would take me a long time to deliver hand-coded sites and therefore they were expensive to do with little profit. I persevered since I needed to make a living being a young graduate.

Along the way, I volunteered with a team at Cotam Technologies (No longer in business). I worked closely with the web designers and my role was to market, document and support the uploading of content to the websites. I was then introduced to my first CMS, Joomla! I thought for a long time that Joomla was the only CMS. Life became much easier and my income increased thanks to using Joomla to make the sites. That was the start of my journey. Today, depending on clients' preferences, I use their desired CMS platform or suggest what would work best for them. With their choice, we then build their site at Webstar Uganda. An IT company that I co-direct.

Where Joomla has led me.

Using Joomla has been fun but I have faced the challenge of getting help along the way, as and when I needed it. Then I discovered the Joomla forum and the Joomla community. A gem that was hidden away.

I engaged with and supported fellow female users on how to make their lives easier with Joomla.

I attended a Joomla conference in Nairobi, Kenya, where a larger community gathered. It was educative and eye-opening. Through the material shared there, our understanding grew.

After that meeting, I formed the CMS for women platform. Intended to help new female graduates where we occasionally met, shared ideas about how to use Joomla and the challenges that can lead to.

Joomla day then came to Uganda. It was an exciting and successful event that brought together many web developers.

I became involved in organising Joomla user groups, as well as communicating the meetings to the wider online audience to help boost the meetups.

Unfortunately, I was not able to travel to Spain for the Joomla meetup as well as JandBeyond. Attending would have been fun. I enjoy the community engagements.

Thankfully the Joomla Team helped me to travel to JandBeyond in Krakow-Poland. Meeting a larger Joomla community makes a difference and the information taken back to Uganda is very helpful.

What I wish to do.

I would like to start by connecting Joomla teams and individuals in my community, East Africa and Africa, with the other parts of the worldwide community. With the Pandemic in mind, online will be the main way, collect reviews and suggestions from all on how we can best adapt to new Joomla developments and using the opportunities that arise from being part of the Joomla community.

I would also like to:

- To keep the community updated of the new developments in Joomla by reaching them through direct communication, sharing links/resources, and alerting them of these developments.
- To aid users who are new to using Joomla. Show them where to start, how to find help and how to keep going with Joomla to achieve the outcomes they need.
- To be a trusted contact (bridge) where challenging situations develop in regards to Joomla, which I then take back to the board.
- To foster an open inclusive and friendly attitude to help put the fun back into coding and working with Joomla. We are all in this together and we should all treat each other with the utmost respect and compassion.
- To support and be a representative for the president where it is needed whenever possible.

In Conclusion.

I have used both Joomla and WordPress with my clients.

Joomla I find is the most **secure**. There are fewer problems when updating and maintaining a website, you only have to schedule the maintenance needed to keep the sites secure. I find it more **reliable**. Joomla has my vote as a website builder and this will be my strong message when talking of Joomla to others. To build awareness of Joomla and what it can do for those using it.

I would also like to introduce Joomla to a younger audience, ignite the interest of children and show them the potential of such a tool to help them communicate their ideas and dreams. To build a new grassroots user base who can take on the challenge of developing and growing Joomla both as a community and as a CMS

My big question if elected is.

What is the best approach we as a community can guide and in a fun way stimulate that interest in children and young adults and so by introducing our favourite CMS, Joomla to a younger audience?