

**THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE WOMAN MP - LIRA CITY**



**IMAT. DR. JANE RUTH
ACENG OCERO**

1ST EDITION MAY 2022

HON. DR. JANE RUTH ACENG OCERO @1 YEAR AS WOMAN MP LIRA CITY: 17th MAY, 2021 UP TODATE.

Background:

Born on 11th May 1968 in Oyam District, Hon. Dr. Aceng Jane Ruth Ocero, attained her O' and A' level from Nabisunsa Girls School and later joined Makerere University where she obtained her MBChB, M.MED. Paediatrics and a Master in Public Health. She also holds a Diploma in Health Systems Management from the Galilee International Management Institute, Israel. She is a mother and married to Dr. Andrew Ocero.

She started working in Lira as the Medical Superintendent of Lira Regional Referral Hospital from 1998 up to 2003. As a consultant Paediatrician and Senior Consultant Paediatrician, also doubling as Ag. Director of Lira RRH, from 2007- 2011, she spearheaded a number of structural changes in the hospital until July 2011 when she was appointed a Director General Health Services at the Ministry of Health, a position she held for 5 years until 2016 when she was appointed Minister for Health for another 5 years.

She joined politics in 2021, in a hotly contested race for the Woman Member of Parliament- Lira City on the NRM Ticket, with two others. She emerged as a winner with 63.7% victory and became the first Woman MP for Lira City. She was again re-appointed Minister for Health, a position she holds up to date. We are now counting close to one (01) year since she was sworn in on 17th May 2021.

Achievements in One (01) Year of Office as the Woman MP- Lira City:

Putting aside all the contributions, Hon. Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng Ocerro has made in the past towards the development of Lira and Lango Sub-Region, the under listed are some of her contributions in the first 365 days of office as a Woman MP for Lira City;

- i. Attracted Investors to invest in Lira City. E.g. Universal Granite and Marble factory for tiles in Lira City. The factory is located in Anyalo Cell, Barapwo Ward- Lira City West Division. This is aimed at creation of more jobs for the youths and generate revenues for the City Authority.
- ii. In partnership with MMP Ruja Foundation C/O Agro industries Limited, Hon. Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng Ocerro drilled 11 boreholes in areas with severe water shortage in Lira City.
- iii. In partnership with friends from Later Days Saints Church, a Non-Government Organization, She supported 50 Persons Living with Disabilities (PLWDs) with wheel chairs and tricycles (Costed at about USD 98,000).
- iv. She has been at the center stage of advocating for the re-construction of Lira-Kamdini Road. She took an active role in all activities as organized by the Lango Parliamentary Group until when the road construction works was commissioned.

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- v. At the peak of the COVID-19 Pandemic, she ensured that the people of Lira City remained safe. She provided the much-needed Personal Protective Materials to the Health Workers and Community Health Extension Workers. The items included; reusable face shield, medical facemask, hand sanitizer, examination gloves, temperature guns, reusable cloth aprons, multipurpose liquid soap etc. She extended such support to the districts of Lira, Oyam and Apac. This was a collaboration with NGOs like Living Goods, MOVIT Products and Last Mile Health among Others.
 - vi. Supported a total of 100 pupils from Government aided schools in Lira City who performed well in PLE in the year 2020 with school requirements/packages such as mattresses, suit cases and bars of soap. 100 parents and 44 head teachers were also appreciated with kitenge, African Fabric for a dress or a shirt.
 - vii. In Partnership with the Pakistan Association of Lira City with support of overseas Pakistans Global Foundation Africa, she organized a free eye surgery camp in Lira City for 3 days for complete eyes checkup and cataract surgery where a number of patients were offered specialized care free of charge.
 - viii. As a Minister for Health, she mobilized the whole Top Management of Ministry of Health to come to Lira City to assess the State of Health Service Delivery in the City and the teams made a number of recommendations for improvement. They also launched mass vaccination against COVID-19 at Lira Mayor's Garden.

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- ix. She has ensured that Ober Health Center III is upgraded to a Health Center IV and construction of the theatre is ongoing. Construction of the Surgical Theatre at Ongica Health Center III in East Division, Ngetta Sub-County is also on course.
 - x. She mobilized 40 oxygen cylinders for Lira Regional Referral Hospital when the country had insufficient supply of medical oxygen to support the COVID critical care patients. This was a donation made by Absa Bank Uganda in partnership with JMS under their subsidiary oxylife 2020 (U) Ltd.
 - xi. Supported Lira Garments Designers' Cooperative society Limited with payment for their rent for half of a year (six months). This was to save them from interruptions and ensure normal progress in their works including training of the communities. This society has over 300 members in Lira City.
 - xii. Donated Covid-19 relief items (500 bags of beans and 500 bags of maize flour) to the most vulnerable groups of people in Lira City like; street children, street vendors, wheel barrow pushers, blockers etc during the lock down.
 - xiii. Conducted a community needs assessment in Lira City to identify the local problems, challenges, development priorities and needs for the strategic planning and interventions by the office of Woman MP Lira City 2021 - 2026.

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- xiv. Mobilized two garbage trucks for the City and Lira RRH to boost garbage management. Also mobilized a number of vehicles for the two entities, which has improved on their fleet for better service delivery.
 - xv. Commissioned a new state of the art Out Patient Department (OPD), casualty wing, Maternity, Dental, Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) wing at LRRH, constructed with support from the Government of Japan (JICA).
 - xvi. Supported a local group of thump piano dancers commonly known as “Ongura Youth Group” a 50 members’ group with uniforms and other materials.
 - xvii. Mobilized and encouraged the communities to handover land for the development of industrial park for Lango Sub Region at Aler farm. The land that is over 700 acres was handed over to government to facilitate industrialization in the region, create jobs, improve on the household incomes and contribute to developing the area.
 - xviii. Supported football clubs (Jerusalem Soccer Academy and Lira Sports club) with sets of uniforms and balls. Balls and netballs were distributed at ward level for youths.
 - xix. Distributed hybrid maize seeds to 1,350 Peri Urban household farmers in Lira City to boost subsistence farming in Lira City. (750 households in 2021 and 600 Households in 2022).

xx. She distributed 1,000 gomesis to women in Lira City at colorful women's day celebrations held at Lira Town College. This event was graced by a number of Hon. Ministers, Members of Parliament, Development Partners and the Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament officiated as the Chief Guest. In addition, she distributed mosquito nets to all pregnant women and mothers at the same function.

At the National Level

- xxi. She has focused on building strong health systems in Uganda to address the burden of preventable, communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- xxii. She has been responsible for building strong partnerships with Development Partners, Civil Society and the Private Sector to plan for, implement and monitor health service delivery.
- xxiii. As an experienced and seasoned leader, She has spearheaded the sector's response to Public Health Emergencies such as Ebola, Marburg and COVID-19 among other diseases.
- xxiv. In order to strengthen a decentralized response, she has supported the districts to build capacity to respond to public health emergencies. One such example is the establishment of three (03) Regional Operation Centers in Mbale in the Eastern Region of Uganda, Mukono and West Nile.

xxv. Dr. Aceng is a firm believer in investing in communities to respond to public health emergencies. She has mobilized communities to respond and embrace a sense of ownership whenever the country detects a disease outbreak. This has led to increased vigilance, awareness and embracing public health solutions by the population.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mr. Ssewamala George William 31yrs, was born in Nakaseke District. He is a graduate student of Master of Business Administration at Makerere University. He also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce- Accounting Option from Makerere University.

He has worked with several organizations including; NIRA, Electoral Commission, Allied Health Professionals' Council (AHPC) and Ministry of Health. He has served at the Ministry of Health for the last eight (08) years under the Finance and Administration Department, the Office of the Director General and currently serving as the Minister's Liaison Officer in the Office of the Minister for Health.



ABOUT THE CO-AUTHOR

Mr. Otucu Bonny (33 years) is pursuing a Master's Degree in Monitoring and Evaluation from UTAMU. He holds a Bachelor Degree of Science in Information systems from Makerere University, and a post graduate diploma in project planning and management from Gulu University.

Bonny has over eight (8) years of professional experience in various aspects of Baseline, Monitoring and Evaluation in WASH and development-related projects and programs in Northern Uganda. He has worked with many national and international NGOs and has done consultancy work with organizations / institutions such as Makerere University, Federation of Uganda Employers, Uganda Insurance Association etc.

Bonny is currently in charge of Programs at the Political Office of the Woman MP- Lira City.