

THE AFRICA SOCIETY

PROFILE

THE HON. FIONA LUCY EGUNYU ASEMO **Member of Parliament (Ngora County), Uganda**

Since July 1996, the Hon. Fiona Lucy Egunyu Asemo has been a Member of Parliament for the Ngora County in Uganda. She has extensive experience in human rights advocacy, rural mobilization, gender and development legislation, and the building of bilateral and multilateral relations. She is a founding member of Oya Rural Development Association, which works on issues such as peace and conflict resolution, gender and child welfare advocacy, micro-credit in rural areas, and development projects in the areas of education and social welfare.

The Hon. Fiona Egunyu Asemo has represented the Parliament of Uganda in a number of international fora. Most recently, in October 1999 she represented the Ugandan Parliament in the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Berlin, and on a delegation to the United States and Canada to discuss Gender, Human and Political Activities in November 1999. In recognition of her commitment to gender equity and human rights, she was granted Honorary Citizenship of Jefferson County, Kentucky, USA.

In Uganda, the Hon. Egunyu Asemo has served on a number of important constitutional and parliamentary committees. Between 1994 and 1995, she was a delegate to the Uganda Constituent Assembly that debated and promulgated the new Constitution of Uganda in 1995. She was an active member on a number of sub-committees, including on parliamentary rules and procedures, the legal and legislative drafting committee, and women's caucus that ensured constitutional protection for women, children and families.

These constitutional activities built on earlier work done between 1990 and 1992 when the Hon. Egunyu Asemo was a legal research assistant on the Child Law Review Committee, which looked into codifying various customary legal practices for what became the 1996 Children's Statute. As well, in 1992 she was a research assistant for the Uganda Constitutional Commission whose work focused on political, legal, social and cultural rights and issues of governance. The research conducted by the Child Law Review Committee and the Constitution Commission, among others, was compiled into the draft constitution.

In 1996 she was a member of the National Task Force for Elections, working with then Ugandan Presidential Candidate and now the President of Uganda, the Hon. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

Since 1996, the Hon. Egunyu Asemo has served, and continues to serve, on the Appointment Committee, which vets and approves Presidential appointments to constitutional offices and executive posts. Between 1996 and 1997 she served on the Presidential and Foreign Affairs Committee which ensures parliamentary input on foreign and budgetary policies.

The Hon. Egunyu Asemo is a partner in the law firm Egunyu, Mwesige & Co. She received her Bachelor of Law (Honours) degree from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda in 1987. The following year she received a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Development Centre in Kampala, Uganda. She is a member of the Uganda Law Society, the Women's Lawyers, Uganda Women's Parliamentarians (UWOPA) and of the Young Parliamentarians Association of Uganda.