

Miss Uganda UK 2009, LCN Ambassador Maria Namiiro's Northern Ugandan Tour

An Overview

Miss Uganda UK 2009, Maria Namiiro was appointed LCN Ambassador after an epic win of Miss Uganda UK 2009 beauty contest on the 13th June 2009. Her LCN ambassadorial appointment has been hailed and approved by LCN Boards on both front (LCN UK and LCN Uganda). The appointment is generally Northern Uganda geographically oriented due to Miss Uganda UK Company's aspiration to combine their business activities with corporate social responsibilities, hence dedicating this year's event (Miss Uganda UK 2009) to the plight of the children of Northern Uganda through the work of LCN whom they endorsed to support as their official Charity working across Northern Ugandan region.

Since inception, LCN has had a history of standing support from its boards/volunteers on both fronts and many other supporters who plays vital roles in promoting LCN and advocating as well as fundraising on our behalf. Miss Uganda UK 2009, a high profile supporter among many other responsibilities aimed at and is in a position to focus local, national and international attention on the needs of vulnerable children we support. We believe Ambassador Maria will help us to reach a wider audience, enabling us to further highlight the work we undertake to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children and many others both in the UK and Uganda.

Maria has since her appointment within the sort period of time; she has demonstrated a commitment to LCN's work. She is dedicating time and energy in a number of ways: attending community events and others LCN official engagements and events; speaking to the media about the work of LCN particularly on what we do to support vulnerable children, youths and many other vulnerable people; lobbying and campaigning for the rights and welfare children and youths; raising money and mobilizing other resources on our behalf and visiting projects in the field and emergency situations.

Scope of Tour

Ambassador Maria will be touring Northern Uganda from 17th August – 4th September 2009 accompanied by LCN Chair and Director, Grace Adok ACMI from the UK. While in the north, Maria and Grace will be joined by LCN Uganda teams which comprise the management committees, co-ordinators and their pool of dedicated volunteers as well as representatives of partner's originations in the region. The tour will span across three districts of Gulu, Kitgum and Lira where LCN has been operating since 2005. The tour is focused on the introduction of Ambassador Maria to the community, to listen and see for herself the magnitude of problems facing the children and to discuss way forwards and grand opening of a new community/children's centre one of LCN's project in the region. There will be a number strands to the tour which will includes:

- ✚ Visitations to some of the rural children and youths with their families or carers/guidance e.g. in village, at orphanages, camps or care giver centers and many others
- ✚ Visitations to street children and youths in urban areas;
- ✚ Visitations to camps where it still exist and some of the villages which have recently reported death from starvation;

- ✚ Visitations to a number of community projects including insitutions of schools and health care facilities;
- ✚ Having a series of meetings with community leaders, partner's organizations, other NGOs and local Government officials;
- ✚ Distributions of handout of books, pens, clothings, foods and many other items she will take with her;
- ✚ Having a series of planning and way forward discussions/meetings with LCN teams on both fronts.

Ambassador Maria while in Northern Uganda, she will also officially open LCN's buiding project of St. Andrew's, Angwetangwet Community/children Centre in Lira district which has been going on for the last year or so with the unpresidented support of the local community themselves. The construction of the centre has not yet fully been completed but it was thought viable to perform the grand opening while both the ambassador and Chair and Director from the UK are in the region.

After which, Miss Uganda UK 2009, Ambassador Maria will return to Kampala where she and Miss Uganda UK/Uganda Host, Performance Production Limited in collaborations with LCN and others are planning and organising a fundraising dinner at the Royale Imperial Hotel, Kampala in aid of LCN Northern Uganda children's projects. Maria will then/also enter and contest the Miss Uganda Beauty Contest 2009 scheduled for the 26th September 2009 where whether she win or loose, it will not affect her position and duties as LCN special envoy.

**Press Released by
Grace Adok ACMI
LCN Chair & Director**