Dr. Peter Eriki (1947–2025)

The Africa Health Journal mourns the passing of Dr. Peter Eriki, a distinguished public health leader, physician, and mentor, who died on 23 August 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya after a long illness. Dr. Eriki was born on 12 December 1947 in Amuria, Eastern Uganda.

He pursued his medical education at Makerere University, where he also obtained his Master of Medicine in Internal Medicine before proceeding to the UK to specialize in Pulmonary medicine. He then embarked on a career marked by excellence, service, and dedication to improving health systems across Africa.

He played a pioneering role in the establishment of the Uganda National Tuberculosis Programme, which later merged with the National Leprosy Programme to form the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Programme (NTLP) in the Ministry of Health. As the first Ugandan Programme Manager of the NTLP, Dr.Eriki laid a strong foundation for the country's fight against TB and leprosy, setting standards that continue to guide public health practice in Uganda today. During this period he made a major contribution to global health by being the first person to point out through publications and presentations, the link between HIV/AIDs and tuberculosis among his patients.

This work and Dr. Eriki's commitment to public health led him to serve in the World Health Organization (WHO), where he worked in the tuberculosis program and later as WHO Country Representative in several African countries for over 15 years. His leadership and diplomacy strengthened national health systems and inspired collaboration across borders. In recognition of his service, he was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship by Rotary International and the government of Nigeria made an exceptional request-to WHO for him to remain in service for an extra year after he attained mandatory retirement age.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Eriki also served in Uganda's Ministry of Health as a Medical Officer and as Director of the TB Control Programme, and later as President of the Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health (UNACOH). He also contributed to the establishment of the Uganda Anti-tobacco Association that spearheaded the passing of smoking control legislation in Uganda.

Following his retirement from WHO, Dr. Eriki joined the African Centre for Global Health and Social Transformation (ACHEST), where he served for over a decade as Director of Health Systems. At ACHEST, he brought with him a wealth of experience, wisdom, and a lifelong passion for strengthening health in Africa. To colleagues and friends, Dr. Eriki was more than a professional—he was a mentor, a brother, and a friend. His humility, warmth, and sense of humour endeared him to all, and he nurtured a culture of respect, openness, and camaraderie wherever he worked.



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Beyond his professional accomplishments, Dr. Eriki will be fondly remembered for his zest for life. A lover of **music—especially Congolese tunes—**he was often the life of the party, dancing with a joy and energy that reflected his generous spirit and love for people.

Dr. Peter Eriki's legacy lives on through the countless lives he touched, the systems he helped build, and the values he embodied—dedication, compassion, and service to humanity. His memory will forever remain in the hearts of his family, colleagues, and the entire African public health community. He is survived by his wife Molly Eriki, children and grandchildren children

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Francis Omaswa; Founding Executive Director, African Centre for Global health and Social Transformation (ACHEST) and Dr. David Okello Executive Director ACHEST