

**EQUATORIAN SOUTH SUDANESE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICAN (ESSCA-USA)**



ESSCA-USA 2019-2021 STRATEGIC PLAN

February 1, 2020



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Vision:

A united and benevolent Equatorian community in the United States of America

Guiding Principles

- Honesty and open communication
- Transparency and accountability
- Team work
- Mutual respect, integrity, and excellence in serving the community

Objectives/Goals

I promise to work tirelessly towards achieving the following core objectives:

- to strengthen ESSCA-USA as a leading community organization geared towards serving its members;
- to cultivate a better relationship with various ESSCA-State offices and Equatorian community-based organizations in America;
- to enhance unity and cooperation among Equatorians in the United States;
- to improve the livelihood of ESSCA-USA members by initiating specific programs in particular for youth and women;
- to promote South Sudan's rich cultural heritages abroad; and
- to open effective channels of communication between home and abroad to address the worsening security and humanitarian crisis in South Sudan.

Rationale

- In the last several years, the general assembly have raised concern about the effectiveness of ESSCA-USA in handling its business, and its response to the needs of the community both in the United States and in the homeland. Certainly, the most important concern of the general assembly is that, despite its existence for nearly 20 years, ESSCA-USA failed to achieve any tangible results, such as having a physical office, or helping Equatorians in South Sudan or in refugee camps. Similarly, relations between ESSCA-USA, ESSCA-State offices, and ethnically-based community associations is at its lowest level in the last several years, due to

limited tangible engagement and coordination between ESSCA-state offices and the main office, as well as the general assembly. Surely, ESSCA-USA will not succeed and be effective in implementing its programs without the active participation of state offices and financial and programmatic contribution of the general assembly. In other words, the success of ESSCA-USA depends on forging close linkages with state offices and ethnic-based community associations across the United States.

- Therefore, and following consultations between members of the Executive and Board of Directors, it was resolved that ESSCA-USA aspires to achieve the following program items in the next two years:

Engaging ESSCA-State Offices and Community Associations in America

1. This is one of the recurrent themes emphasized by members of the general assembly, and is an on-going engagement that began in 2017. Through convening of bimonthly teleconference meetings between ESSCA main office and ESSCA-state and community leaders to address important matters pertaining to the association, and forge a collective way, forward.

Scholarship Program for Equatorian Students in America and in South Sudan

2. The ESSCA-USA Scholarship will benefit Equatorian students in the United States, South Sudan, and in refugee camps in the neighboring countries of South Sudan. The scholarship is awarded to graduating high school seniors and students already enrolled in college/university in the USA each year, as well as Equatorian students enrolled in schools in refugee camps, in Uganda in particular. In the United States, the scholarship is awarded to selected students from the three regions of Equatorian, who demonstrate the capacity and commitment to lead and serve the Equatorian community. The student must be highly performing but experiencing financial challenge.

ESSCA-USA Community and Event Center

3. In the history of ESSCA-USA we have had several times when we have all yearned to have a community center of our own like other communities. During the year 2019-2021 we hope to present to the people the opportunity to raise funds in order to purchase land to construct this community center. We would appeal to state leaders and other community leaders to rally the members to contribute to this noble cause to improve the economic viability of our organization. The state that contributes the most amount for the Equatoria Community and Event Center shall have the right to have the first Equatoria Center land bought and constructed in that state. However, other states do not lose out because based on the ranking of

contribution they shall be included chronologically that will be equally distributed.

ESSCA-USA Forum

4. There has been a continued outcry within the community of the lack of the leadership not responding to the advocacy call that is equally included in the bylaws. Therefore, the leadership would like to organize ESSCA-USA forum to create a platform where these issues are raised and discussed with respective policy authorities within the context of creating a peaceful, democratic and just South Sudan.

ESSCA-USA Beauty Pageant and Talent Show

5. The youth have been calling upon the leadership and the youth office to include youth activities. Therefore the leadership will organize for a youth activity that will bring along the youth for a beauty pageant and talent show to bring together our youth and promote ESSCA-USA to the larger Equatoria youth in USA.

Definitely, the above proposals will not be achieved without active participation of ESSCA-State office, community based associations, and the general assembly. Similarly, unwavering commitment and financial support of all of us is crucial for moving ESSCA-USA forward.

Sincerely,

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ESSCA-USA
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