

General Conclusion

The Equatorian South Sudanese Community Association (ESSCA-USA) is the first organization established by Equatorian men and women to represent and cater for the socio-cultural and economic needs and aspiration of the Equatorians in the United States of America. The initial objectives of the association as envisioned by its founders is to unite the Equatorians to help each other on things relating to different aspects of their life including financial challenges, social interactions, and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Equatorians among other things. Indeed, Article II, section 1 of the Articles of Incorporations¹²⁴ stipulates that the corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, and scientific purposes, including for such purposes as generating funds necessary to foster the acclimation of the immigrants and refugee community to the US and to the promotion of language, health care and housing needs, literacy and reading programs. However, over the years, the role of ESSCA-USA expanded to respond to changing circumstances in the United States and in South Sudan. For instance, advocacy on political and economic issues became central to the association during the 21-year civil war, the referendum vote in 2011, the 2013 civil war and its aftermath.

The general assembly of ESSCA-USA generally has competing expectations on what ESSCA-USA should do between catering to the needs of the Equatorian in the United States and taking on the politics, and development needs of the people or Equatorians in South Sudan. These competing expectations often have been used to put pressure on the leadership of ESSCA-USA or to judge it harshly without recognizing the issue of resources limitation and the need for the leaders to prioritize as they deem fit. Although a lot of focus in recent years has been on political, security, and economic challenges in South Sudan, as well as disunity

¹²⁴ Articles of Incorporation of ESCA-USA, 2005, page 1, pp. 1-4.



and political fragmentation among Equatorians, going forward there is need to strike a balance between the needs in South Sudan and the socio-cultural, economic, educational and health challenges facing the Equatorian community in the United States.

The history of ESSCA-USA reveals that many good ideas proposed by previous leaders have remain unimplemented. Often there has been lack of follow up to provide continuity. Among the good proposals is the preservation of the history of ESSCA-USA, development of database to aid with Diaspora skills transfer, renovation of Juba public library, and establishment of Diaspora Secretariat and Coordination center in Juba, etc. The breakthrough in writing the history of ESSCA-USA under the leadership of Dr. Jane Kani Edward sets a stage that enables the association to be informed by both its past and present and it is hoped that ESSCA-USA will find the publication a useful hand tool to chart its path into the future.