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## The Summary of Eritrean Kunama Relief Association (EKRA)'s Accomplishments

The Eritrean Kunama Relief Association (EKRA) has accomplished many duties in different sectors of life within Kunama community in Shimelba refugee camp. Here are some details:-

### 1. Learning Process

- 1.1. Starting from 2007 EKRA has encouraged Kunama students in Shimelba from kindergarten up to tenth grade to participate in their school without interruption and have good results in their education. Accordingly EKRA has motivated those who quit their school for the reason that they are handicaps or the female students with their offspring. In this respect EKRA has prepared three times (in the years 2007, 2008, 2009) a motivation program and awarded prizes to the outstanding students from each class, the handicap students, the female students with their offspring, devoted teachers, parents who follow their children, and community leaders.
- 1.2. On the other hand, EKRA has gathered the Kunama community by their zone and teaches the values of education and encourages the parents that they had not only send their children to school, but they should have also follow whether the children are going to school continuously or not.
- 1.3. In this learning process EKRA has made interval visits to the schools and tried to correct what is wrong in the compound by suggesting to the concerned bodies.
- 1.4. In addition to the above mentioned, EKRA has worked in collaboration with Parents and Teachers Association (PTA); Community leaders; Administration for Refugees and Returnees

Affairs (ARRA); International Rescue Committee (IRC); and other interested men and women in up grading the learning process and making better school environment.

## **2. Health**

Eritrean Kunama Relief Association (EKRA) has participated in different gatherings of the community and teaches in how to keep their health and explains the misunderstandings and problems occurred in the health center. In this respect EKRA gave advices and suggestions to the health workers and made discussions about health with ARRA and other concerned bodies.

## **3. Helping the Needy**

3.1. Eritrean Kunama Relief Association has organized its members and the youth to help those who have no capacity to work for themselves according to their needs. They built mud brick houses, fences, digging hole for latrine, and other duties requested by the needy.

3.2. EKRA has developed a list of people who have no supporter and are helpless. The intention is to get them help from any humanitarian organization. This group includes:-

- a) Elders who have no immediate relatives (the relatives went to third country-USA or other countries)
- b) Handicaps
- c) Blinds
- d) And those who have other physical problems.

## **4. Other Social Affairs**

4.1. EKRA gave advices and encourages to those community members who go to the third country. Here it advices not to forget their kunama language and culture.

4.2. EKRA is writing a book about the culture of kunama by interviewing the elder men and women from different kunama dialects. This book is about its completion.

- 4.3. EKRA has organized a folk dance (Bahli) group called EKRA-Band. EKRA-Band plays traditional Kunama dance (Kunama Kubula) and dramas in many public festive.

## 5. Human Right Activities

- 5.1. Eritrean Kunama Relief Association (EKRA) has developed a human right report concerning about the Kunama people who were killed, detained, and disappeared by the PFDJ regime starting from 2001 up to 2008. In this report, EKRA has revealed to the whole world the list of innocent Kunamas who were killed, detained and disappeared by the PFDJ regime.
- 5.2. Ekra has organized a successful peaceful demonstration in Shimelba against the 28 innocent Kunama men who were poisoned and killed mercilessly by this barbaric regime of Essayas Afewerki's Generals.
- 5.3. EKRA has participated with other sister associations in Shimelba in organizing and implementing peaceful demonstrations against "Libiyan government who repatriates the Eritrean refugees to Asmara" and against "Eritrean ambassador Girmay Asmerom's speech in Geneva" and others.
- 5.4. Every year EKRA participates with its band in celebrating June 24<sup>th</sup>, the Eritrean liberation Day.
- 5.5. EKRA has participated in Eritrean Democratic Alliance's congress held in the year 2007 and the Unity congress held in 2008 in Addis Ababa.

Eritrean Kunama Relief Association (EKRA) has been introduced itself with different governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Accordingly it has been given every good moral support. Organizations like ARRA, IRC and ZOA and individuals like Girmay Kidane (Woddi Filippo) and Doctor Alganesh Fisseha have encouraged and gave material and money support. EKRA thanks to all participants who give moral and money support. Above all, thanks to the Kunama community in Shimelba and those who live in abroad who contribute their effort and money for the accomplishments done so far.

