

SOUTH SUDAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

Statement by Member for Yokine

MR R.C. KUCERA (Yokine) [12.50 pm]: I rise to inform the house today of an inspiring display of democracy at an event in the northern suburbs of Perth that I attended recently. At the Herb Graham Recreation Centre, Mirrabooka, more than 600 people from the south Sudan area attended the annual general meeting and general elections of the South Sudan Community Association of Western Australia. Elections for several positions were held, including that of president to replace Mr Chaplin Kara Yoko, who has worked very hard to bring together his fledgling community and to address some of the issues that new arrivals from his homeland face when they arrive in Western Australia. I congratulate both candidates for presidency for their commitment to their people and to democracy. Both Mr Kir Riek Majiok and Mr Maker Mading Mabeny, also known as Moses, are respected in their community and do much to assist in the settlement and integration of new refugees in and around Mirrabooka. Mr Mabeny was the eventual winner. I am confident that he will continue his good work as president. It was great to see women and men of all ages voting together in an election that was very capably run by Senator Ruth Webber, and a champion for the African community, Mr Peter Tinley, AM, who I know will continue his role when he is elected to the federal seat of Stirling. Given the recent disgraceful comments from the federal immigration minister, Kevin Andrews, I encourage him to visit this group before he makes such sweeping and hurtful generalisations about the African community. These people are already fine, upstanding Australian citizens, and they are an example to us all.