

## **Soba-America 2008 Convention**

**Atlanta, Georgia.**

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Friday Night Dinner** at Crown Plaza- Presentations by Dr. Egbe, Dr. Enongene and Mr. Tate Esq. with special guests appearances Bishop Immanuel Bushu, Father George Nkeze, Mr. Ndiforchu and Pa Ferdinand Ngando . Entertainment included catered dinner and music.

### **Saturday- Meeting at Crown Plaza**

#### **Attendees:**

Mr. Evaristus Nanje  
Mr. Jackson Ndille  
Mr. Divine Tange  
Mr. Eric Takang  
Mr. Callistus Enow  
Mr. Aldrin Ngwa  
Mr. Piikwa Nnoko  
Mr. Beltus Ntopi  
Mr. Michael Fondungallah  
Dr. Bertrand Fote  
Mr. Amadeus Dzekedze  
Mr. M.M. Matute  
Mr. Etien Ojong  
Mr. Kenneth Vega  
Mr. William Mpafe  
Mr Paul Eben  
Mr. Charles Eno  
Mr. Emile Epanty  
Mr. Larry Ekaney  
Mr. Christian Tufon  
Dr. Nicholas Enow  
Mr. Quintus Enow  
Mr. Dan Mofor  
Mr. Ernest Gwellem  
Mr. Edmond Nkeng  
Mr. Emmanuel Kunju  
Mr. Ernest Tate  
Dr. Henry Njie  
Mr. Derek Chindia  
Mr. Akoh H. Asana

Mr. Namaya Eyoh  
Mr. Paul Enow  
Mr. Henry Simo  
Mr. Louis Wacka  
Mr. George Takang  
Dr. Alphonse Ekole  
Major Agbor Fidelis (US Army)  
Dr. Enongene Evaristus  
Bishop Immanuel Bushu  
Father George Nkeze  
Mr. Ferdinand Ngando  
Mr. Edmond Nkeng  
Mr. Ayuk Etta  
Mr. Martin Abada  
Mr. Kong Norbert  
Celestain Fonge

1. **Prayer session** led by Bishop Immanuel Bushu
2. **Welcome address** by the Atlanta Chapter president, Mr. Piikwa Nnoko who thanked all members for attending the convention.
3. **Special address by the Bishop of the Diocese of Buea His Lordship Bishop Immanuel Bushu-** Bishop Bushu thanked members for attending the convention and their continued support of their alma matter – Sasse. Bishop Bushu elaborated on the rich history of Sasse and challenges on the ground in today’s environment in Sasse. The Bishop spoke of changes in the current social and spiritual life style in Sasse. Bishop emphasized his goals and objectives to bring back the old solidarity spirit into the current environment- **a community based concept**. His Lordship also stated that, “despite all the challenges, Sasse continue to survive and thrive”. Bishop Bushu enumerated some of the immediate needs of Sasse college such as: an upgrade of dormitories to accommodate current student body of approximately 900 students- His Lordship mentioned that all efforts will be made to address the dormitory issue; upgrade and improvement of the current Sick Bay; upgrade of the road from Buea to the Reverend Father’s residence in Sasse; **Sasse college gate improvement- being addressed by class of 1972**; maintenance of the current college environment- buildings and infrastructure have not been upgraded and needs immediate attention; other items included lab upgrade. Bishop Bushu also creation of the Sasse college advisor board to track, maintain accountability and coordinate all activities related to Sasse. Bishop Bushu mentioned that Sasse still remains a pace setter in Cameroon and should continue to set the pace. Bishop Bushu encouraged sobans to do more to help enable Sasse to live up to it’s potential. Bishop Bushu summarized and outlined the following: his goal and objective to establishing a partnership between the current Sasse administration and the Sasse advisory board; putting structures in place to enhance accountability; the diocese’s role in supporting the IT project (Stratecom New Jersey’s role). His Lordship Bishop Bushu also thanked

all delegates for their love, advice, constructive criticism of the situation in Sasse and support for Sasse. In concluding his Lordship Bishop Bushu mentioned that the current changes in Sasse lately has been due to the work load and that future plan is to have multiple priests administer and manage Sasse college at any given time. Any replacement of priest such as the current instability at Sasse is a team effort by a council and approved by the Bishop.

4. **Father Nkeze's address:** Father Nkeze thanked delegates in attendance and spoke of the challenges faced by the educational establishments in the Buea Diocese. Father Nkeze spoke of the lack of accountability being a major contributor to the current situation. Father Nkeze spoke of processes and structures now being in place to build team effort, improve the livelihood of teachers and staffs – all part of his new vision.
5. **Question and answer session from the audience- Questions-** Mr. Ayuk Etta's question- why the continuous increase of the Sasse college tuition while the infrastructure is not being maintained and can a priest make a good administrator – **Answer-**Father Nkeze responded that they have increased the administration team to three- principal, vice and chaplain- all priests. Processes and structures are being created to maintain infrastructure and resolve mismanagement issues. **Question-** Dr. Enongene- Does Sasse still maintain a code of ethics? **Answer-** Father Nkeze responded that any dismissal should follow procedures and standards in place. **Question-** Mr. Larry Ekane-Why has the computer lab naming (Dr. Ebie) issue not been resolved? **Answer-** Father Nkeze mentioned that the naming rights issue will be resolved. Bishop Bushu also reiterated that the intention of the gift giver must be respected.
6. **Houston 2007 Meetings-** Read by Celestain Fonge. Adopted by Mr. Dan Mofor, Mr. Ayuk Etta and Dr. Nick Enow.
7. **Matters arising from minutes-** Dr. Fote expressed the lack of follow-through on action items from previous national conventions. He proposed that a process be put in place to address action items.
8. **Chapter reports- New England Chapter-** Report provided by Mr. Martin Abada who read prepared statement from his national president. Membership grew from 15 to 18 and names were read. Check of \$1800.00 presented to national treasurer for annual dues. **Houston Chapter** report by Mr. Ayuk Etta who questioned why the SobaAmerica forum is being used inappropriately. Houston also contributed \$1150.00 for IT Project contribution. **Washington DC Chapter-** Mr. William Mpafe provided report and mentioned the challenges faced by his chapter; new executives elected and plans are in place to make the chapter better and get prepared for the hosting of the 2010 convention, \$2000.00 contributed to the IT project. **Minnesota Chapter-** Report presented by Mr. Amadeus Dzekedze- who mentioned that MN has their IT contribution of \$2000.00; national dues from some of their members and hope to increase membership, questions from members on the benefits of being a member of Soba America national chapter. **Atlanta Chapter-** Welcome from Mr. Nnoko- 30 member chapter, spoke of their \$2000.00 contribution to the IT project a couple of years back, financially stable chapter and hope to do better going forward. Georgia would like the NEC to provide chapters with advance notice of upcoming projects. **Dallas Atlanta Chapter-** Report presented by Dr. Njie who spoke of the successful hosting of the last mini-convention. Membership is 30 with 5 active members. Check of \$1500.00 presented to national treasurer and donated \$500.00 to the IT

project. **Las Vegas Chapter-** Mr.Ojong Etien spoke of plans to partner with Arizona to create a chapter.

9. **President's Visit to Cameroon and Sasse Advisory Board-** Mr. Kong spoke of his visit to Cameroon and recap of the meetings he attended. Mr. Norbert Kong stated "the newly created Sasse college advisory board is responsible for coordinating, implementing and selecting all Sasse college related projects. Mr. Kong mentioned that it was agreed during the inaugural meeting of this new board, that the main priority at this time is to focus resources to build a new dormitory that can accommodate the current student population. Advisory board members are: Dr Omar Yembe as Chairman; Dr Edmund Agbor as vice chairman; Commandant Ivo Njotsa as secretary general; Principal of Sasse College as treasurer; Vice Principal of Sasse College as financial secretary; President General of Soba Dr. Balimba Ashu; President of Soba America Mr. Norbert Kong; Mr. Ferdinand Tansinda ; a student and staff representative
10. **Open discussions-** There were suggestions for members to think outside the box on strategies that can be used to raise funds to finance the building of the new dormitories. Suggestions to create and submit a yearly budget. Questions on how and why the student population climbed to 900?
11. **Financial Report-** Provided by Dr. Njie on behalf of the Financial Secretary- Dr. Njie provided a rundown of pre and post Houston convention accounts receivable and expenses incurred.
12. **Website-** Celestain Fonge provided a status update and suggested that the website development and maintenance be moved closer to a Minnesota based webmaster.
13. **Sponsorship of Bishop Bushu and Father Nkeze's Trip-** Five hundred dollars (\$500.00) was refunded to Mr. Mike Fondungallah for Bishop Bushu and Father Nkeze's lodging /flights. Funds were donated by Dr. Evaristus Enongene, Dr. Henry Njie, MR. Kenneth Vega, Mr. William Mpafe, Mr. Aldrin Ngwa, Celestain Fonge, Mr. Emmanuel Kunju, Mr. Kong Norbert, Mr. Emile Epanty, Mr. Wacka Louis, Mr. Dan Mofor, Dr. Bertrand Fote, Mr. Ernest Tate, Mr. Amadeus Dzekedze.
14. **Endowment Fund-** Dr. Fote mentioned that all grant writing is on-hold pending the development of the website.
15. **Sick Bay-** Dr. Fote provided status update and there were suggestions the sick bay project should be put on hold pending future directives from the new Sasse advisory board.
16. **By-Laws-** Committee members should meet to review the By-laws and forward to Mr. Tate for review before final approval.
17. **Lunch reception** at Caribbean Restaurant
18. **Gala at the Crown Plaza-** Dancing and social night.
19. **Post-Convention Financial Report-** Detailed financial report will be released by national treasurer and financial secretary within thirty days.

**Sunday – Barbecue and Soccer** at Taylor Farm

**Monday-** Departure from Atlanta

**Next Convention-** Boston