

Sasse Alumni Association Inc

"An Alumna Association of the Ex-Students
of St. Joseph's College, Sasse-Cameroon"
A 501(c)3 Charitable Organization



SOBA AMERICA

June 19th, 2019

Fellow SOBANS,

On May 25th, 2019, you spoke with a loud and clear voice, giving me a strong mandate to serve you as your president. It is an honor to serve as the 9th President of SOBA America. Once again, I want to thank you for entrusting me with the privilege to lead this prestigious association. As I have said before, the bonds that unite us are much stronger than the differences that we may have. The elections are over and the time has come for us to work together as one SOBA America family for the common good of our association. As your president, I pledge to serve and lead every member of SOBA America, regardless of who you voted for.

I want to, once more, thank all of you who took part in this democratic process. You showed the world that truly, we are the crème de la crème. You showed why SOBA America remains at the helm of Cameroonian Alumni associations in the diaspora. I want to thank my opponents and supporters alike and my wonderful Fote/Ngassa campaign team. I also give thanks to our First Lady – Laura – who has been my source of strength and inspiration every single day. I give thanks to God almighty for His grace and blessing. I also want to thank President Itoe for his strong stewardship of SOBA America these past four years. Through his leadership, SOBA America has seen tremendous growth, innovation and maturity as an organization. I thank the outgoing leadership team for being truly great servants of SOBA America. While these have been arguably the best four years in SOBA America's history, I want you to know that it is just the beginning of a remarkable journey that the Fote administration will continue. Fellow SOBANS, our best days are still ahead. If you think the last 4 years were great, brace yourselves for more to come because you ain't seen nothing yet! I also want to congratulate and welcome the new National Leadership Team – Vice-President Felix Ngassa, Secretary General Divine Tange, Treasurer Rudolf Inoni, Financial Secretary Edwin Atem, Organizing Secretary Paul Forbang, and Publicity Secretary Njukang Asong. SOBA America is blessed to have such fine gentlemen willing and ready to serve. I look forward to working with you.

In order to continue this journey of transformation of SOBA America, it will take team work to achieve the dream that we all have for SOBA America. We have an ambitious and bold vision for SOBA America. We have strong challenges ahead of us. The Fote administration counts on you SOBANS to help navigate these challenges. I am therefore calling on each and every one of you to stay engaged, be part of the conversation, serve your association and work together so we can make SOBA America reach its true potential. Teamwork makes the dream work.

In the coming days, weeks and months, we will be unveiling portions of our strategic plan for SOBA America. We will address the issues and opportunities that you, fellow SOBANS, have identified so we can make our association better. We will be calling on you to be actively engaged in the development and implementation of these initiatives, and solutions to these opportunities by joining teams, task forces, committees, that address areas that best match your expertise and/or interests. Yes – every member of SOBA America shall have a voice and a role to play in the Fote Administration. Our strategic plan for the next two to four years shall be in three broad categories

- (1) General operational needs for SOBA America. These are some key elements needed to ensure we have a strong operational structure.
- (2) Platform initiatives. These are the initiatives from our platform on Inclusion, Innovation, Accountability, and Global leadership and respect for SOBA America that we ran on. Even though you gave us a strong mandate to implement these, we recognize that the other candidates had some great ideas for SOBA America. That is why we have incorporated elements from the Fomenky, Fonjungo and Akoh campaign platforms into our strategic plan for SOBA America. We have also incorporated ideas from you SOBANS that you shared during the campaign. I strongly believe that together as Team SOBA America, we have the answers.
- (3) Hot button issues and lessons learned from the campaign. These are issues that came up which need to be addressed.

My fellow SOBANS, as you know communication is a crucial component of success. We will utilize different avenues to communicate with you. That is why I am calling on every member of SOBA America to register on the portal and provide your demographic data which will be needed to effectively carry out our mandate. That is the first step. If you have not done so, please go to <http://www.sobamerica.org> and register to gain access to the portal today. I also want you to know that my door is open to you SOBANS. Please feel free to reach me anytime with any questions, concerns, suggestions, great ideas, recommendations, or just to chat. My cell phone number is (704) 277 4461. My email address is bfote@yahoo.com. I may not respond immediately due to my schedule, but I will make every effort to get back to you promptly. Text messages, WhatsApp, Telegram work great. I am not a big Facebook guy, so that may not work.

As you know, we lost a brother – SOBAN Christopher McNane- on May 20th. Grand Bokilo was a great man and an active member of SOBA America. Our by-laws mandate each registered member to contribute \$50 so we can present a \$10,000 envelop to his next of Kin. I urge you all to make this contribution via your chapter Presidents promptly. Funeral services will be in Nashville, TN on July 12th and 13th. Details have been communicated via Telegram. I call on every SOBAN who can make it to Nashville, TN to please do so. Remember to bring your official SOBA America gear – Jacket, white shirt and red tie. We will give Grand Bokilo a befitting SOBA America good-bye. Thank you Czar Philbert McEtchu for designing the shield and flag.

My dear SOBANS, I am excited about the future for SOBA America. Your new leadership team is ready to go to work for SOBA America. Are you ready to join us and make big and wonderful things happen for SOBA America? Let's get to work and do this!

God bless you

God bless SOBA America.

Bertrand Fote (sir 4te)

Your Servant-in-Chief (President – SOBA America)