

Sasse Alumni Association Inc

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



President Fote's message - February 2021

Hello SOBAN SOBA America,

Greetings. I hope you had a great month of January, and I hope you and your family are staying safe from the COVID-19 pandemic. I just want to take a few minutes and bring you up to speed with what's been happening at SOBA America this past month, and upcoming February plans.

SOBA America bids farewell to fallen member - SOBAN Dr. Godfrey Fondinka



Funeral services were held on January 29th and 30th, 2021 in Fayetteville, NC for fallen SOBAN #2155 of the 1971 class, Dr. Godfrey Fondinka. He died on December 18th, 2020, of complications from COVID-19. He leaves behind his dear wife Dr. Florence, four kids - Tuma(22), Ghinna (20), Babila (15), and Kahmali (12), many family, friends, and patients to mourn him.

It was a very emotional weekend. SOBANS joined family and friends in a socially distant farewell for our fallen brother. On Friday after the viewing, I presented a SOBA America Memorial Shield in honor of Dr. Fondinka to his widow, Dr. Florence Fondinka. I also presented a check for \$10,000

from SOBA America to her. SOBAN priest Father Nouck of SOBA Carolinas gave a heartwarming sermon during the funeral mass on Saturday. SOBANS gave our fallen brother a hero's Farewell with a guard of honor as his casket, draped with a SOBA America memorial, was slowly wheeled out of the church to the hearse. In a solemn ceremony, the flag was folded and the President of SOBA America handed the flag to our fallen SOBAN's widow. Another guard of honor was done as the hearse and convoy carrying the family slowly left the church premises. SOBANS, dressed in their official SOBA America outfit, lined both sides of the road, hands to their chest and sang our fight song - With St. Joseph ever near to guide us - as the convoy slowly left.

Dr. Godfrey Fondinka will be buried in Cameroon. May his soul rest in peace.



SOBANA America President handing memorial flag that was used to drape the casket of SOBANA Dr. Godfrey Fondinka to his widow, Dr. Florence Fondinka.

Funeral service for fallen SOBANA Dr. Godfrey Fondinka



SOBANA give a guard of honor as hearse carrying fallen SOBANA Dr. Fondinka leaves church premises.

Our SOBANA family mourns SOBANA Gabriel Nji Defang

Our SOBA family is once more in mourning. SOBAN # 5127, COMMANDER GABRIEL NJI DEFANG, PhD, MA, M(ASCP) of the 1986 class died on January 15th in Maryland, U.S.A. just about 3 months shy of his 46th birthday. He died after a prolonged illness.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Mrs. ASAMA'U NADUVI BODYLAWSON DEFANG, their daughter Chelsea (14) , son Richmond(13), family and friends to mourn him.

SOBAN Nji Defang was a graduate of The Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, and the U.S. Naval War College who served in Bong county - LIBERIA, in Cairo - EGYPT and as Chief, Viral & Rickettsial Diseases Department at Naval Medical Research Center Newport, Rhode Island, (amongst other positions of great distinction), was recently promoted to the rank of Commander in the United States Navy.

He was a very quiet and humble guy. He was such a nice guy. He will be sorely missed. Funeral services will be held on Saturday February 6th, 2021 in Capitol Heights, Maryland.

DR. GABRIEL NJI DEFANG
1975 - 2021

FOR TO ME, TO LIVE IS CHRIST AND TO DIE IS GAIN.....
PHILIPPIANS 1:21

KEENEY & BASFORD P.A. FUNERAL HOME

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| <p>• WEDNESDAY, FEB. 03, 2021</p> <p>• MILITARY FAMILY ONLY</p> <p>• 2PM-4PM</p> <p>• 106 EAST CHURCH STREET FREDERICK, MD. 21701</p> | <p>• SATURDAY, FEB. 06, 2021</p> <p>• FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS</p> <p>• 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM</p> <p>• 106 EAST CHURCH STREET FREDERICK, MARYLAND 21701</p> |
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• FUNERAL MASS SATURDAY, FEB. 06, 2021

- Reception: 3:30pm
- Mass Time: 4:30pm

• THE HAMPTON CONFERENCE CENTER
207 W HAMPTON PL.
CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD 20743

Zoom dial-in: 855-880-1246 (toll free)
Zoom Webinar ID: 838 8642 7761
Passcode: 252021

• R.S.V.P. •

- Ebeneze Khumbah: 240-486-6375
- Edna Nkemngu: 240-478-1697
- Mikema Defang: 240-423-8791

Burial will take place at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors at a later date.

Administration Updates

SOBA America assists victims of SJC Sasse dormitory fire



On the morning of January 6th, 2021, just one day after schools resumed for the term, a fire broke out in St. Martin's dormitory. Thankfully, no student or staff was in the dormitory at the time, as they were in class around 9:30a.m. when it broke. About 70 students lost their property which was covered in flames. Initial investigation of the cause of the fire pointed to an accidental fire.

In swift response to the fire incident, SOBA General President Mr. Sammy Pride Iyok and I made a personal donation of 70 mattresses to the students affects. A few other SOBANS joined in the effort.

The gift was presented to the students and principal of SJC Sasse Fr. Armstrong Ndi on January 7th by SOBA General President Sammy Pride Iyok. Several

SOBANS were part of the ceremony. President lyok promised more assistance for the school with reconstruction efforts or the dorm that was destroyed.

SOBA America, in a gesture of goodwill, made a donation of 3.5 Million FCFA to the students affected. Each of the 70 students who lost property received a gift of 50,000 FCFA through their parents to assist with replacing essential items that they lost to the fire. The immediate needs of the students is a priority. I thank the board of SOBA America for unanimously approving that aid which was promptly sent to the Principal for distribution.

I have also had discussions with Proprietor Bishop Bibi and we agree that is important that rebuilding efforts are focused on infrastructure that is modern and meets safety standards while still preserving the overall architectural outlook of the school campus. I have also been in close collaboration with the Proprietor of SJC Sasse Bishop Bibi, school authorities and the president General of SOBA, President lyok as we continue discussions on rebuilding efforts.

Bishop Michael Bibi visited the school to take a first hand look at the damage done by the fire. He was touched by what he saw and offered words of comfort to the students of SJC Sasse. He has already started looking into rebuilding work for the dorm, as he commissioned the engineers to start a review process of the damage and rebuilding costs.

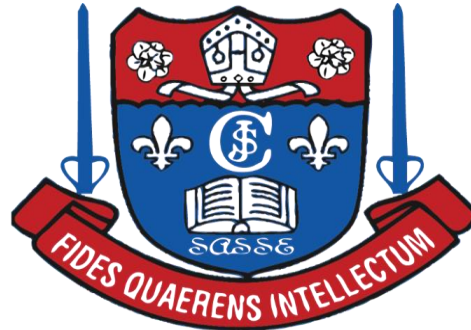
2021 SOBA America National Convention

As we continue to monitor the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, we will need to make a decision about our 2021 National convention. In our board meeting in January, I asked chapter presidents to confer with their members to get a feel on how SOBANS are thinking. We will have a special board/NEC meeting on February 6th dedicated to making a decision on our 2021 National Convention.

Our administration is committed to having a national convention that will encompass the key elements that our SOBA America National convention should have - an intellectual enrichment segment with invited speakers giving talks on topics of interest and importance to

SOBANS consistent with the convention theme, a general assembly during which we will conduct the business of SOBA America and a social gathering for SOBANS to mingle. Regardless of the format - virtual or in-person, we are committed to making the convention as close to the norm as possible.

In the end, the health of SOBANS and their families will be the principal factor in determining how to handle the 2021 SOBA America National convention.



SOBA AMERICA

SOBA America TV Network - We need you to help us succeed



SOBA America TV Network has been a great thing for our SOBA brand. Our broadcasts have consistently gotten over 3,000 views and our bandwidth extends worldwide. We have received a lot of feedback from folks in our Cameroonian community here, in Europe and in Cameroon. We'd like to take this to the next level and grow SOBA America TV Network. We want this to be as good as it possibly can. We know we have the talent and expertise within our SOBA America family to build on this foundation and have a solid product.

The goal of SOBA America TV Network is to (a) Provide a source of news and information for SOBANS and our greater Cameroonian community. We want to achieve this through programming that is engaging, educational and helpful, covering a wide range of topics of general interest, as well as SOBA related news. (b) Enhance our SOBA America brand through exposure, (3) provide a source of revenue for SOBA America through advertising and other royalties.

We need you to get involved and get engaged to help us. Here is how you can help make this dream exceed our wildest imaginations.

- **Subscribe to SOBA America TV Network:** If you are not yet subscribed to SOBA America TV Network channel on YouTube, please do so today by clicking below. Encourage your friends, family and social circles to subscribe to the SOBA America TV Network YouTube channel. This will enable you get updates on new programming /broadcasts. Also, if we reach a critical mass of subscribers and views of our broadcasts, YouTube will pay us royalties and SOBA America can have more revenue. You also don't want to miss out on great programming content.
- **Advertise on SOBA America TV Network:** If you own a business, take advantage of the platform that SOBA America TV Network offers to reach thousands of potential clients by advertising on SOBA America TV Network. We have very modest rates and registered members of SOBA America get a great discount. Encourage your friends and family who own businesses to advertise on SOBA America TV network. You can get more information by calling 1 (888) 504 SOBA (&622) Extension 3.
- **Promote SOBA America TV Network:** Share our broadcasts with your friends and family. We try to ensure that our programming has relevance to our community as a whole, and not just SOBANS. Spread the word.
- **Be part of SOBA America TV Network:** We need more SOBANS to get involved. If you are in the media industry, we could use your expertise. If you have experiences that you'd like to share, come join the team. If you want to be part of this rewarding experience, come join the team. Here are our major segments

(a) Message from the President: - Periodic updates from the President of SOBA America.

(b) News Roundup: - News highlights on current news stories including SOBA America news.

(c) Health Focus : - Focus on a health topic that impacts our community as a whole. We discuss each topic in detail and offer helpful resources to our viewers.

(d) Our Community, Our World: - General socioeconomic topics that affect Cameroonians in the diaspora. Things that can appeal to SOBANS and NON-SOBANS alike.

(e) Yes You Can: - Self-help topics that could be helpful and even critical in certain situations. These are presented in a workshop or educational format with the goal of providing step by step guidance on the skill set or activity being covered.

(f) Celebrate Each Other Spotlight: Spotlight on a SOBAN doing something remarkable, a chapter or class with Best Practice initiatives.

(g) SJC Sasse Corner: - News and updates about SJC Sasse. Other SJC Sasse programming of interest such as Sasse College trivia - terms we used in Sasse, class names and their origins etc. understanding Sasse etc

(h) Career spotlight: In depth look at different careers including pathways and less common known information about pursuing those careers.

(i) The Arts and Culture: Short film, skits, poetry other arts and culture topic.

(j) Comic view: Comedy

(k) Feature Presentation: Special programming on a major topic. This is usually a documentary.

If you'd like to contribute in any of these areas, please contact us at 1 (888) 504 SOBA (7622) Extension 3.

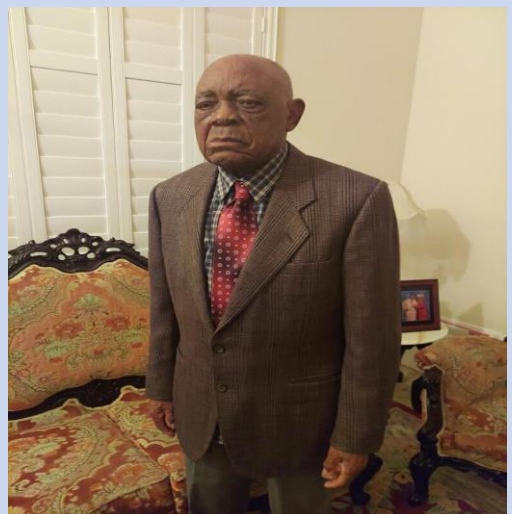
SUBSCRIBE to SOBA America TV Network by clicking here, then click on SUBSCRIBE

Honoring Pa Ferdinand Ngando - Longest ever serving principal of SJC Sasse

Pa Ferdinand Ngando holds the record as the only lay person to serve as principal of St. Joseph's College, Sasse. He is also the longest ever serving principal from 1977 to 1991. During his almost two decades at the helm of Sasse College, he touched hundreds of lives. He is now enjoying his retirement in California at the ripe age of 96.

In honor of his service and recognition of the role he played in molding hundreds of SOBANS, SOBA America will lead an effort to recognize him. I have spoken with Pa Ngando about our desire to honor him and he is simply delighted. Bishop Bibi and Principal Fr. Ndi have both endorsed our proposed project. Now, we need to deliver and in Pa Ngando's words, give him " the honor of my life before I leave this world."

The Project:



(a) Scope: The goal is to modernize the Assembly Hall so it can be a state of the art facility which is self-sufficient to accommodate students' social gathering, conferences, theatrical performances. This will be named the Pa Ferdinand Ngando Assembly Hall in a ribbon-cutting ceremony once the work is complete. Given Pa Ngando's passion for education, we'd also like to do work on the computer lab and furnish the science labs if we are able to raise enough funds to cover these projects. The priority is the Assembly Hall.

(b) Cost: We have obtained estimates on the project cost. The total cost is estimated at 15,000,000 FCFA. This is about \$30,000. Our goal will be to raise between 30K to 40K, to allow for inflation and other unforeseen costs.

(c) Fundraising: Since Pa Ngando touched many classes with SOBANS who are all over the world, we feel it will be more meaningful to involve as many SOBANS as possible who'd like to show appreciation for Pa Ngando. We are, therefore, not limiting participation to SOBANS in the US and Canada. The most effective and inclusive way, therefore, is to raise funds by class. If each class from 1972 to 1991, who were in Sasse College at some point during Pa Ngando's tenure as principal raises \$2,000, we will raise \$42,000. By tasking classes with this, class leaders can engage their members all across the world. This approach will (a) increase participation and outreach, (b) give more SOBANS a chance to say THANK YOU to Pa Ngando, (c) reduce the fundraising burden by cost sharing.

The plan therefore is to ask each class from 1972 to 1991 to raise at least \$2,000 by March 31st, 2021. Funds should be directed to the Treasury of SOBA America by the class leadership for project management. Class presidents who form the President's Advisory Council will get regular updates on the project so they can keep their members informed. Other SOBANS from other classes are welcome to contribute also through their classes.

(d) Project Timeline: The goal is to complete this project by August 31st, 2021 with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony in September or October, to coincide with the SOBA America Day in SJC Sasse.

(e) Project Management: In order to ensure appropriate oversight and accountability, SOBA America will manage the project directly and hire contractors to do the job. We will work with school authorities to ensure that the job is done to the specifications.

Register online with SOBA America today by clicking here

Celebrate Each Other Initiative

February 2021 Spotlight - 1988 Class (Golden Jubilee Class)

Showing leadership and engagement in SOBA America

In this month's Celebrate Each Other Initiative, we celebrate the 1988 class. The Golden Jubilee class stands out as having one of the largest numbers of members who have served in leadership roles in SOBA America

over the past decade. Their engagement in SOBA America as a class has not gone unnoticed as several of them continue to serve in leadership positions across our SOBA America Nation. That is why we are celebrating them this month.

The Golden Boys, as they call themselves, credit the recent transformation of SOBA America over the past six years as the force behind their strong engagement. When one of theirs, Emeritus Itoe, became President of SOBA America, he was able to show them the benefits of SOBA America and the vision. They felt empowered as part of real change and felt a need to be engaged. Class President Goghomu pushed and challenged them and they heeded the call. Several members of the Golden Jubilee class answered the call to duty and assumed leadership roles in their chapters and nationally. These include



- Alain Taku- SOBA America Treasurer(2011-2015), President of SOBA Western Region 2010 to date.
- Emeritus Frederick Itoe- SOBA Dallas SG 2009 to 2012, President SOBA Dallas 2012 to 2015, President of SOBA America Rebranding Committee 2012 to 2015, President SOBA America 2015 to 2019
- Ngwese Edie- President SOBA Oklahoma 2019 till date
- Tony Mbuagbor- President SOBA California 2020 till date...
- Rudolf Inoni- President SOBA DMV (2020 till date), Soba America Treasurer(2019 till date), Soba DMV Treasurer(2016-2020)
- Gabby Fai – President SOBA MN 2017 to 2019
- Dr. Ngale Mongoh- President SOBA Carolinas 2019 till date
- Sona Bokossa- President SOBA Arizona 2018 till date
- Collins Ngwashi- Publicity Secretary SOBA Dallas(2018 till date)
- Babila Ndangoh – VP SOBA DMV (2016 to 2020)
- Bendrix Tabu- SG SOBA Houston(2014 to 2016)

They have been able to maintain such strong consistency and engagement because of the bond and solidarity they share due to their brotherhood in Sasse. Their legendary solidarity has made them realize why it is important to belong to their local chapters and SOBA America. They have averaged over 28 registered SOBA America members every year since 2016. This is truly remarkable. It is something they are enormously proud of. They boast about the fact that they have they have become the class with the most current and past presidents across SOBA America chapters in the past 10 years. As President Goghomu puts it, *"we have been able through our Golden Boys help shape the destiny of SOBA America through our chapters and in the NEC."* SOBA America President Emeritus Frederick Itoe keeps it simple and succinct. *"Our fingerprints are everywhere in SOBA America."*

The 1988 class has some words of advice for other classes. Goldens Boys believe that the only way to bring effective change is to be engaged and be part of leadership. They do not believe in just criticizing from outside. Their advise to other classes is for all classes to get their members to join SOBA America and take positions in leadership so their voices can be heard.

Our administration is grateful to the Golden Jubilee class for their engagement and leadership. Theirs is an example that we hope all other classes will emulate as we continue to build and all-inclusive SOBA America.

There is room in our SOBA America family for all SOBANS of all classes residing in the US and Canada. The Golden Jubilee Class is living proof of this. That is why we are celebrating them this month.



Do you have a story to share? Let us Celebrate you. Email us at info@sobamerica.org

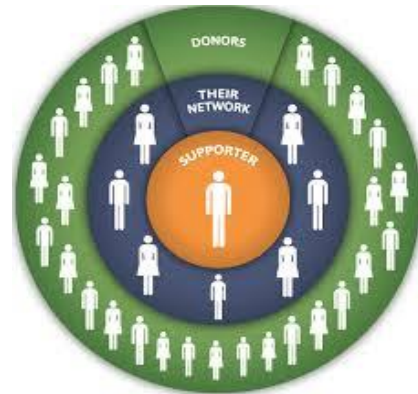
[Click here to RENEW your membership online today](#)

SMILE – Amazon Smile Partnership for fundraising

Help raise money for Sasse Alumni Association with Amazon Smile

As you know, Sasse Alumni Association has partnered with Amazon to raise money when you shop using Amazon. We need you to help us raise money. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price for your eligible Amazon Smile purchases if you select Sasse Alumni Association as your charity. Click on this link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-0602143>, sign onto your account and Sasse Alumni Association will be selected. Remember to go to www.smile.amazon.com when you shop instead of Amazon.com to get this fundraising.

Please share this information with your family and friends. Every cent counts. Help us sow a seed in the life of a young child in Sasse who may be helped by these donations.



CLICK HERE to make Sasse Alumni Association your charity with Amazon Smile

[Click here to RENEW your membership online today](#)

Thank you for reading

On behalf of the NLT, I wish you and your families a blessed month of February. Together, we will continue the transformation of SOBA America. Team work makes the dream work. Stay safe.

SOBANLY
Bertrand Fote (Sir 4te)
Your Servant-in-chief

[Visit our Website](#)

Sasse Alumni Association | 501 White Tail Terrace, Waxhaw, NC 28173 | (704) 277 4461 |
info@sobamerica.org | <https://www.sobamerica.org>

STAY CONNECTED

