

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

President Fote's message - March 2021

Fellow SOBANS,

Greetings. I hope you had a great month of February, 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 has been happening at SOBA America this past month, and upcoming March plans.

Administration Updates

2021 SOBA America National Convention going virtual on May 29th, 2021

Given the current pandemic, we will have a virtual national convention this year. The Board of Directors/NEC, with input from SOBANS across SOBA America Nation, voted unanimously to make this change. The health of SOBANS and their families, as well as travel restrictions to and from Canada were key considerations as the COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues to fall behind anticipated schedule in the US and Canada. It will be held on Saturday May 29th, 2021 from 11:00 ET.



Our administration is working hard to ensure that SOBANS are treated to an amazing event by taking advantage of technology to create the kind of innovation that only a virtual setting can truly make possible. We are committed to ensuring that all key elements of our convention are included in this virtual convention. Here is a high-level tentative agenda for the 2021 virtual SOBA America National Convention.

Time (Eastern Time)	Activity
11:00 - 11:30	Soft Opening and Mass
11:30 – 12:00	Grand Opening and Roll Call
12:00 – 12:30	Debate on By-laws. Voting opens at 1pm until 6pm (including elections)
12:30 – 13:00	Entertainment and Lunch break (including special documentary)
13:00 – 15:00	Intellectual Enrichment Session (Details of presentations later)
15:00 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 18:30	General Assembly business meeting (Full agenda later)
18:30 – 19:00	Entertainment and break
19:00- 21:00	Virtual SOBA America Gala <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Featuring Awards ceremony, music, and entertainment

Convention Levy: Mindful of the economic impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors/NEC voted to reduce the convention levy to \$50 for the 2021 National Convention. This is necessary to cover the costs of organizing and producing the virtual convention befitting of our association as well other convention related costs. These include

- a. Working with a professional event management company to work on technical, innovative and implementation aspects of the virtual convention.
- b. Purchasing and mailing of convention gifts to delegates
- c. Producing and mailing the 2021 Convention magazine and other convention related material to delegates
- d. Procuring awards to recognize service and excellence as per our tradition
- e. Securing other professional services related to the convention such as our virtual gala.

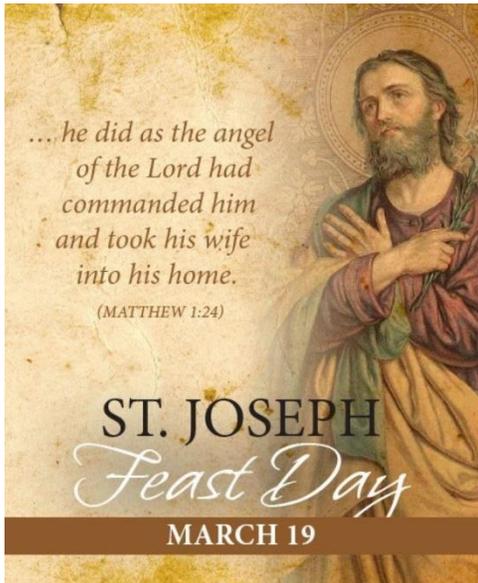
Payment of Convention Levy: Given the fact that we need demographic information to mail our and e-mail important convention related material and access to certain platforms, it is important that all delegates register for the convention by paying their convention levy ONLINE. You need to pay your levy before May 10th to receive your material on time. Do not procrastinate. Go to our website and pay your [Convention Levy](#) now. Please note that only duly registered delegates will be have access to key convention features and platforms, including the ability to vote on motions or elections, as is customary during our SOBA America conventions.

[Click Here to pay your convention levy and register for the 2021 National Convention](#)

2022 and 2023 National Convention Hosts

Given the fact that our 2021 convention shall be a virtual convention, our administration, upon the requests of SOBA Dallas and SOBA Carolinas, asked the board of directors to move the 2022 National convention to SOBA Dallas and 2023 National convention to SOBA Carolinas. This was unanimously approved. We will vote on the hosts of the 2024 and 2025 convention hosts between SOBA Tri-State and SOBA Arizona during the 2021 Virtual convention.

**St. Joseph's Feast day Virtual Mass - Saturday
March 20th, 2021 at 12:30PM ET**



SOBA America will be celebrating our patron saint - St. Joseph's Feast Day with a virtual mass on Saturday March 20th @ 12:30 PM ET.

We hope you will join SOBANS and SOBANESE across SOBA America Nation, as well as our community at large to celebrate mass. Let celebrate the patron saint of our Alma Mater - St. Joseph.

More details about the mass shall be forthcoming. The Zoom ID is 209-324-0036.

You can join by [clicking here on March 20th.](#)

May St. Joseph guide us all.

[SUBSCRIBE to SOBA America TV Network by clicking here, then click on SUBSCRIBE](#)

Pa Ferdinand Ngando Honor Project - Frequently Asked Questions

As we embark on the Pa Ferdinand Ngando Honor project, I'd like to address some questions that have been asked by SOBANS. Hopefully, this will help clarify any questions you may have. I also hosted a town hall meeting on February 13th during which many more questions were asked and answered. [You can watch a recording of the town hall Zoom meeting by clicking here.](#) The passcode is 4!WKiELQ

Here are some FAQs

1. Why the Assembly Hall and not a scholarship fund, statue, or other project? When the idea



of honoring Pa Ferdinand Ngando for his work and his influence on the lives of thousands of SOBANS came up, we felt it was important to do something that would be meaningful to him. We reached out to Pa Ngando and discussed this idea. Pa Ngando made it clear, in several conversations, that this is what he wanted. He wanted a project with a physical presence in his honor that will also serve the students of SJC Sasse. He loves the Assembly Hall project. He would also like to see the science and computer labs furnished. We discussed several potential projects, and this is what he wants.

2. What do you wish to accomplish with this project? We want to show that the students whose lives Pa touched either directly or indirectly, who were inspired by Pa Ngando in one way or the other have come together to say THANK YOU for the role he played in their lives. Pa has said he'd be honored if we complete this project before the Lord calls him home. Here is the scope of the project

- A thorough facelift of the Assembly hall's physical look. This includes work on flooring, walls, windows etc. It needs to be beautiful.
- Installation of audiovisual capabilities to enable video conferencing etc.
- Installation of theatrical capabilities to enable theatrical/drama performances. This includes updated stage remodeling and equipment (stage lights, curtains etc.)
- Adequate furnishing for self-sufficient multipurpose needs including use for socials by students. This includes dedicate seating capability (Chairs, tables) and other equipment (TV, microphone etc.)
- Dedication and recognition - beautiful christening (Pa Ferdinand Ngando Assembly Hall), commemorative brief biography of Pa Ngando and Donor wall with names of EVERY donor to the project listed by class and by additional categories (for non-SOBAN donors or corporate sponsors). These will be etched into or mounted onto the building in strategic locations to ensure maximum visibility. Your kids and grandkids and great grandkids will learn about Pa Ngando and see that you participated in this project when they visit SJC Sasse for decades to come. Be a part of history for a great cause and in honor of a great man - put your name on the wall by donating.
- Dedication/ ribbon-cutting ceremony at the conclusion of the project

If we can raise enough funds, we will also complete the secondary projects that Pa Ngando wants - equip the science and computer labs so the students can have what they need for their education.

3. Is participation limited to SOBANS of the 1972 to 1991 classes? No. Every SOBAN regardless of class or friend of SOBA who feels inspired or have been touched by Pa Ngando in some way is welcome and encouraged to participate. The classes of 1972 to 1991 have a "front row seat" on this project because they were directly touched by Pa Ngando as they were students in SJC Sasse at some point during Pa Ngando's tenure as principal of SJC Sasse. That is why we focused on them.

4. Is \$2,000 the maximum each class can contribute to this project? No. We set that target based on early estimates of about \$40,000 budget. There is no limit to how much classes or individuals can contribute.

5. I never met Pa Ngando in Sasse, why should I contribute? Pa Ngando's influence and effect transcends the classes he oversaw as principal. He represents an important part of the history of SJC Sasse and all SOBANS, regardless of their class, share a part of SJC Sasse's history and legacy. Honoring Pa Ngando who had a lasting impact and played a pivotal role in SJC Sasse is a great thing for our Alma mater. Consequently, it is a unique opportunity for SOBANS to be a part of this historic moment in the history of SJC Sasse.

6. Why should SOBANS in Europe, Asia and Africa contribute to this project done by SOBA America? Pa Ngando's impact goes far beyond SOBANS residing in the USA and Canada. SOBANS across the globe were touched by Pa Ngando. It would be unfair to deprive SOBANS outside SOBA America Nation of the opportunity to say THANK YOU to Pa Ngando and be part of this historic moment. SOBANS should look at this as an opportunity to honor Pa Ngando for the role he has played in our lives. This is about Pa Ngando and Pa Ngando only. Every SOBAN should ask themselves the following questions - *"Did Pa Ngando play a significant role in my life or in the school that helped make me who I am today? Is honoring Pa Ngando a good thing? Do I want history to see that I was part of such a noble and great thing for my Alma mater? Do I want my children to one day know that their dad was part of this historic and proud moment in SJC Sasse's legacy when they look at that donor wall?"* If they answer "Yes"

to these questions, they should consider contributing. This is about Pa Ngando and not about SOBA America. SOBA America is simply doing the hard work on behalf of SOBANS worldwide.

7. How can I contribute to this project? You can contribute to this project in one of several ways:

- You can contribute through your class leadership. We have reached out to US/Canada based class leaders so they can help coordinate fundraising efforts within their classmates across the globe. We ask that they keep a list of those who donate and submit along with funds so the donors can be appropriately recognized. Those funds should be sent to the Treasury of SOBA America. They can call 1 (888) 504 SOBA (7622) Ext. 2 with any questions on how to send the funds.

- You can contribute directly through our website www.sobamerica.org or by [clicking on the tab below](#). Please include your class in the donation form and indicate your donation is for the Pa Ferdinand Ngando Honor Project.

- You can contribute via PayPal to treasurer@sobamerica.org

- You can contribute via cash app to \$sobaamericafinance

If you contribute by PayPal or cash app, please indicate your class. You can call 1 (888) 504 SOBA (7622) Ext 2 with any questions or call me directly. You can also e-mail info@sobamerica.org with any questions.

8. What are the tax implications for SOBANS in the USA - Can their donations be tax-deductible? Yes. Donations by SOBANS in the USA can be tax-deductible. Since many SOBANS will donate through their classes, we may not have the demographic information needed to send information for your tax deduction. If you want a letter for your tax deduction, please call us at 1 (888) 504 SOBA (76220 Ext 2, email us at info@sobamerica.org, or indicate with your class leadership when you make your donation so they can pass that information to the team and we will send your donation receipt letter for your tax deduction.

Unfortunately, US tax laws do not permit tax-deduction for foreign contributions (contributions from SOBANS outside the US).

9. If I donate, how will my contribution be recognized? Every donor to this project will be recognized. We will have a donor wall in the Assembly Hall that will include the names of every person who donated to this project. It will be visible, and generations will be able to see. We also plan to have a commemorative book/program for the dedication/ribbon-cutting ceremony that will have names of all donors to this project. We are also thinking of other ways to recognize donors.

10. Does the Proprietor of SJC Sasse approve of this project? Yes. I have had several discussions with the proprietor of SJC Sasse - His Lordship Bishop Michael Bibi - on this project. He has given his full blessing to this project, including naming the assembly hall the Pa Ferdinand Ngando Assembly Hall. The Principal of SJC Sasse - Reverend Father Armstrong Ndi as well as the President General of SOBA - President Ayuk Iyok, have also given their blessings to this project.

11. Were the key stakeholders such as class presidents and other SOBANS consulted before rolling out this project? I had discussions with the US/Canada based leaders of most of the classes from 1972 to 1991 prior to launching this project. I tried to reach each of them but was not able to get every single one of them on the phone. They all expressed support for the project when we spoke, and I urged them to reach out to their classmates across the globe, so we leave no SOBAN behind in this endeavor. We also had several discussions with SOBANS about this project's concept even when we were not yet certain about the specific project. We had a long discussion about this project during the virtual mini-convention on November 14th, 2020. It was well attended, and several great points were raised during the engaging discussion.

We are also continuing to have conversations with SOBANS. I have reached out to all the regional SOBA chapter presidents as well as President General Iyok. The regional chapter presidents across Europe and Africa have also given their support for this project. President General Iyok and his team have strongly endorsed this project. **The goal is to come together as SOBANS from all over our SOBA family - SOBA America, SOBA Cameroon, SOBA UK, SOBA Ireland, SOBA Nigeria, SOBA Germany Foundation, SOBA South Africa and SOBANS in regions that do not have a regional chapter with one goal - to honor Pa Ferdinand Ngando. This is about him and him only.**

12. Why is there such a short timeline for the project? Why the urgency? Our goal, and pa Ngando's wish is that this project be completed and dedicated while Pa Ngando is alive. We want him to live to see the honor that his former students and many others, who have been affected by him in some fashion, have put together for him. Pa Ngando is going on 97 years old. Every moment we have with him is precious. That is why we set a fundraising target for March 31st, 2021, and a project completion target for August 31st, 2021.

13. How can SOBANS be assured that this project will be run effectively? Transparency and accountability are extremely important to our administration. We have put together a project management team comprised of SOBANS whose integrity, expertise and dedication are unquestionable. They have delivered time and time again for SOBA and are committed to ensuring the smooth and transparent running of this project. Here is the team

- Project Manager - Emeritus Dr. Aloysius Ibeagha ('81)
- Technical Project Managers - Dr. Ebob Etta ('80) and President Alain Taku ('88)
- Fundraising Coordinator - Secretary Divine Tange ('84)
- Treasurer - SOBA America CFO - Rudolf Inoni ('88)
- Bookkeeper - SOBA America CAO - Edwin Atem ('94)
- Spokesperson/Secretary - President Edwin Masango ('89)
- Auditors - SOBAN Pierre Kamga ('84) and SOBAN Elvis Mukete ('86)
- Adviser - SOBA America VP - Professor Felix Ngassa ('83)

The auditors have been empowered to do their work independently. The team has already met once and will meet regularly. We will provide constant updates on the progress of the project.

14. The current capacity of the assembly hall cannot accommodate the entire student population in one seating when the school is at peak numbers like just before the Anglophone crisis. Would it not be a better investment to build a larger capacity assembly hall? We understand the capacity concerns once the student population exceeds 600 students. However, it is important that we keep our focus and remember the goal here. It is therefore important to do a project that can be completed in a reasonable amount of time while Pa Ngando is still alive. Trying to build a brand-new assembly hall would require a much larger undertaking that could last significantly longer and would require significantly more funding. If the school authorities feel the need to build a bigger hall, we will certainly support that decision.

The school has applied creative ways to utilize the assembly hall when it had up to 900 students, with students using it according to dorms at different times. That could still be done. In addition, there are several potential uses for the assembly hall which make it still a valuable part of SJC Sasse. Important events such as SOBA General Meetings, wedding ceremonies of staff members and others have taken place in the assembly hall. We trust that the school will continue to find value in a state-of-the-art, multifunctional assembly hall, like they have indicated and have done in the past.



Current state of the Assembly Hall in SJC
Sasse

Current state of the Assembly Hall in SJC
Sasse

**[Click here to watch the Town Hall meeting about the Pa Ngando Project -
Passcode: 4!WKiELQ](#)**

**[Click here to make a donation to the Pa Ngando Honor Project and
add your name to the donor wall by honoring Pa Ngando.](#)**

SJC Proprietor Bishop Michael Bibi installed as Bishop of Buea

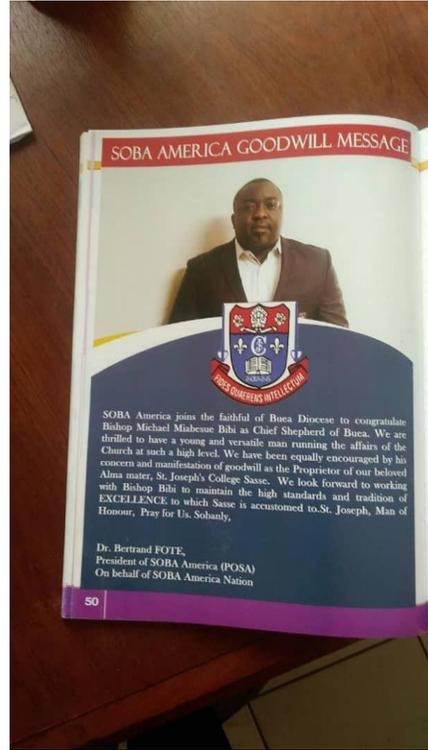


His Lordship Bishop Michael Bibi was installed as resident Bishop of the Diocese of Buea on Thursday February 25th, 2021. In a colorful ceremony, Bishop Bibi accepted the mantle to lead the faithful of the Diocese.

Over 20 bishops and many priests and other religious leaders were on hand to witness the solemn event. It was well attended with thousands of Christians from across the Diocese and country taking part in the celebration.

I reached out to Bishop Bibi to express our message of congratulations on behalf of SOBA America. I thanked him for his stewardship of the faithful and wished him continued blessings from God as he leads the Diocese. Bishop Bibi expressed his gratitude for the goodwill messages from SOBA America and SOBANS

from all over the world. Prior to his appointment as resident Bishop of Buea, His Lordship Bishop Bibi served as the apostolic administrator of the Diocese. As proprietor of St. Joseph's College, Sasse, Bibi has been a strong partner of SOBA America. We appreciate his support and partnership.



[Click here to pay your convention levy for the 2021 SOBA America National Convention](#)

Celebrate Each Other Initiative

March 2021 Spotlight - Pa Ferdinand Ngando

A living legend, an educator, and an icon whose impact transcends generations of SOBANS

In this month's Celebrate Each Other Initiative, we celebrate a man whose stamp can be felt from the walls of the main block in SJC Sasse through all continents in the many SOBANS whose lives he has touched in many ways - Pa Ferdinand Ngando. As we embark on a project to honor and immortalize him on the campus of SJC Sasse, let us take a moment and share a little bit about who Pa Ngando is.

Pa Ferdinand Esambe Ngando was born over 96 years ago as one of three children to a devout catholic monogamous home. Unfortunately, his sisters died at an early age. He attended Catholic Primary school in Baseng before going to Njinikom Teacher's Training School. He later attended Government Teachers Training College (GTTC) Kumba before eventually going to Ghana on a scholarship to Legon University where he obtained a degree in Education in 1953. After working for a few years, it was time to further his education. He always wanted to keep his mind sharp. He obtained a scholarship to study at Reading University in England where he obtained his bachelor's degree in Education. A few years later, once again after teaching upon his return home, he headed to Calgary University in Alberta, Canada where he obtained his master's degree in Education.

Pa Ngando married the love of his life Monica Ngando aka Ma Ngando on January 3rd, 1955. They are blessed with seven biological children (two girls and five boys), ten adopted children, twenty grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.



Pa's long and illustrious career as an educator started very early. In fact, he taught briefly at the completion of each step of his education. He taught in his primary school in Baseng for 2 years after graduating, taught in Fontem after his studies in Njinikom, and taught in Regina Patriarch school in Small Soppo after graduating from GTTC. His career took off upon returning to Cameroon from Ghana. He taught in several schools where his skills as an educator and leader saw him propel up the academic ladder. He served in leadership roles as principal of St. Paul's Teacher Training College in Bojongo, Teachers Training college in Tatum, St. John's Teacher Training College in Mamfe, and St. Augustine's College in Nso before taking the helm in our alma mater - St. Joseph's College, Sasse.

Pa Ferdinand Ngando served as principal of St. Joseph's college, Sasse from September 1977 to August 1992. He is the only lay person to have served as principal and is the longest ever serving principal of

SJC Sasse. Some deep-rooted traditions in Sasse were born and nurtured during Pa's time. Perhaps one of the most famous traditions was the 'gyeep gyeep' chant that the students made with every step that Pa Ngando took as he walked majestically down the steps in the main hall of the academic (main) block. The silence that followed when he would stop depicted an air of reverence for the principal. Those addresses to the student body usually meant something serious was about to happen, especially if it was a late morning or early afternoon address that interrupted classes.

Pa Ngando's tenure as principal had some highs and lows as SOBANS would tell you. He oversaw Sasse's prominence as a sports powerhouse in the South West region. The Sasse - Lycée football (soccer) rivalry, Sasse - Birocol basketball rivalry, and the Sasse-Lycée volleyball rivalry raised the stakes and cemented SJC Sasse's elite status. The brutality during the handing over ceremonies in the third term (trimester), that usually went largely unchecked, was perhaps the darkest point of Pa's tenure in Sasse College. True, he is not perfect and was not a perfect principal, but we can all agree that his leadership helped groom some of the finest leaders in all works of life that Cameroon has produced. He helped mold the ideals that many of us learned in Sasse and that help define who we are today.

Throughout my conversations with SOBANS over the past few weeks as we continue to highlight the Pa Ngando Honor Project, I have heard many stories about the kindness of Pa Ngando. Many SOBANS have shared personal stories about the wonderful things that Pa Ngando did for them and their families. He is truly an icon who has been an influential figure in the lives of many SOBANS, some of whom never even met him but felt the ripple effect of his influence through others.

It is befitting, therefore, that SOBANS come together from all corners of the globe, and across all generations, to honor Pa Ngando. St. Joseph's College Sasse's legacy is forever deeply intertwined with Pa Ngando's legacy. Pa and Ma Ngando are enjoying their retirement in California.

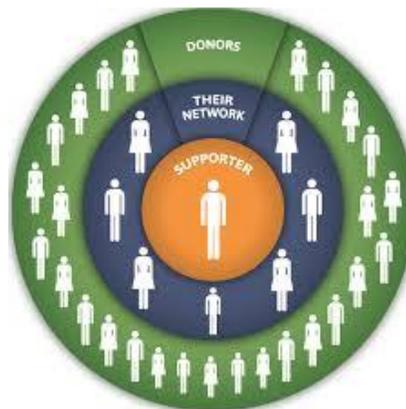
Do you have a story to share? Let us Celebrate you. Email us at info@sobamerica.org

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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.

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Thank you for reading

On behalf of the NLT, I wish you and your families a blessed month of March. Together, we will continue the transformation of SOBA America. Teamwork 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

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