

# 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 - May 2021

Fellow SOBANS

Greetings. I hope you had a great month of April, 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 May plans.

## Administration Updates

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

The convention is almost here. Our administration is working hard with the production teams to put together an exciting virtual convention for you. You do not want to miss this. If you have not yet registered for the convention, please do so today by going online to our website. Click the link below and take a few minutes to book your place and be part of history.

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
- 13:00 – 13:45 Intellectual Enrichment Session 1: Keynote - Tenacity and determination: How to stay connected and purposeful.
- 1350 - 1440 Intellectual Enrichment Session 2: Panel discussion - COVID-19 and its impact the health and wellness of SOBANS and their families
- 14:40 – 14:40 Break
- 14:50 – 18:00 General Assembly business meeting (Full agenda later)
- 18:00 – 19:00 Entertainment and break
- 19:00- 21:00 Virtual SOBA America Gala - RED TIE EVENT.
  - Dress to impress. Bring your SOBANESE and your booze!
  - Featuring DJ Skipper and MC Bendrix
  - Featuring Awards ceremony ( Service Awards, President's Club Pinning Ceremony, Spotlight Award)
  - Lots of surprises, entertainment and fun

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

## 2021 Virtual Convention - Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some questions that have come up from SOBANS in my conversations with SOBANS

**1. Why are we doing a virtual convention?** As you know, we are still very much in the middle of a global pandemic. The health and wellbeing of SOBANS and their families is our number one priority. Even though restrictions have eased up in Dallas, TX, there are still significant safety concerns. Not every SOBAN has been vaccinated. There are still travel restrictions to and from Canada, home to two of our chapters - Ontario and Montreal. All these, in addition to the fact that convention planning takes time and involves dealing with vendors means we needed to make the decision early. We feel it is the right thing to do. We are working hard to ensure that SOBANS have a remarkable experience at the convention.

**2. Why do SOBANS have to pay \$50 for a virtual convention?** This virtual convention is much more than a simple Zoom call. As you can see from the tentative schedule above, there are several elements of the convention that require some planning. We are working with industry professionals that we have contracted to help us take advantage of technology and innovation in order to create a remarkable experience for SOBANS. This comes at a cost. Given the economic effects of the pandemic, the administration felt a need to give SOBANS a break. We, therefore, asked and the board approved a reduction of convention vey to \$50 this year. This will help offset some of the costs of putting the convention together, with SOBA America footing the rest of the bill.

**3. Why is there a May 10th deadline to pay the convention levy?** In order to have an effective convention, it is important that SOBANS have all necessary convention material prior to the convention. We will be mailing these material, including the traditional convention gift to registered delegates. The deadline is necessary to ensure that the material gets to SOBANS in time for the convention.

**4. Is the convention levy the same as membership registration?** No. The convention levy is the registration fee for the convention. The membership registration fee is your annual registration fee that keeps your membership current.

**5. What happens if I don't pay the convention levy by May 10th?** The registration portal is setup to close registrations on May 10th. Only duly registered and credentialed delegates will have the access needed to participate in the convention.

**6. How will SOBA America ensure that only registered delegates participate in the convention?** Each registered delegate will be sent their login information to the convention platform. They will be able to access the convention on only one device. This is designed so that folks will not be able to share their log in information with others who may not be registered. In addition, each registered delegate shall receive a unique access information for the secured voting platform so they can cast their votes on all motions and the elections.

**7. Do I need to dress up for the virtual gala?** Yes. It is a RED TIE event. Dress to impress and bring your SOBANESE/significant other with you. Let us have a great time. DJ Skipper and MC Bendrix will grace us with their magic. Bring your booze!

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

## List of donors to the Pa Ngando Honor Project

### The Pa Ferdinand Ngando Honor Project

The project for the renovation of the assembly hall in honor of Pa Ngando and the dedication of the

## Pa Ferdinand Ngando Assembly Hall

Was generously funded by the following patrons – SOBANS, SOBA classes and friends of SOBA

*(Last updated – April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021)*

#### **SOBA 1972 Class ("The Majority Rule Class") \$900**

- Alfred Akoachere
- Emmanuel Ebwe
- Kenneth Efange
- Emmanuel Kunju
- Eric Nvenge
- T. Lambert Tamin
- Emmanuel Vekima

**SOBA 1978 Class (“The 78ers”) \$2,000**

- The 1978 Class wishes to be recognized as a class for their contribution.

**SOBA 1983 Class \$2,000**

- List of donors is forthcoming

**SOBA 1985 Class (“The Transition Class”) \$2,000**

- The 1985 Class wishes to be recognized as a class for their contribution.

**SOBA 1986 Class (“The Lake Nyos Class”) \$2,395**

- Collins Achangwa
- Gordon Achu
- Martin Adamu
- Renzo Agbor
- Damian Akara
- Cletus Amah
- Marinus Ambe
- Geoffrey Asafor
- Jude Atem
- Fidelis Awungjia
- Valentine Bate
- Dominic Bekwique
- Donald Betah
- Justus Betanga
- Charles Bwang
- Paul Djeudo
- Richard Ebai
- Paul Edjua
- Roland Ekwe
- Emmanuel Eloundou
- Raymond Elumba
- Paul Enow
- Solomon Enow
- Edmund Epanty
- Charles Epienongene
- Frederick Ayuk Etta
- Peter Ewongkem
- Lawrence Ezeudu
- Ignatius Fon
- Rothman Foncham
- Paul Fonkeng
- Ivo Fotabong
- Bertrand Fote
- Allen Gang
- Fidel Ikundi
- Derick Lange
- Peter Longonje
- Frederick Makolo
- Elvis Mukete
- Victor Naka
- Elvis Nana
- Walter Wilson Nana
- David Itoe Nanje
- James Nanje
- Lionel Ndasi
- Alexis Ejele Ndille
- Shogi Ndohe
- Ansell Ndum

- Francis Ngome
- Ernest Ngu
- Emmanuel Niba
- Divine Njonguo
- James Nkeze
- Harry Nkome
- Norbert Njume Nkwelle
- Nzumbe Ntoko
- Joy Oben
- Clifford Ojang
- Etienne Ojong Orock
- Divine Okon
- Eric Sede
- Albert Sekoh
- Martin Njume Sone
- Simo Tabe
- Rudolf Tanga
- George Manga Williams

**SOBA 1987 Class \***

- Arnold Ngatchu (We will update class list as the class donations come in)

**SOBA 1989 Class (“The Latin Class”) – North America. \$2,000**

- The 1989 Class in North America wishes to be recognized as a class for their contribution.

**Making a Donation to the Pa Ngando Honor Project**

You can add your name to the list above and be a part of history by donating to the in one of the following ways

- Through your class leadership: This is the preferred method if you are between the classes of 1972 to 1991
- Directly to SOBA America via PayPal to treasurer@sobamerica.org
- Directly to SOBA America via our website by [CLICKING HERE TO MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION](#)

**Please note that ANY SOBAN can contribute regardless of their class. We'd like every SOBAN to be a part of this project to honor a man whose legacy is intertwined with the legacy of SJC Sasse.**

**Celebrate Each Other Initiative**

**May 2021 Spotlight - The 1992 Class**

## Changing lives by giving back to our Alma Mater

In this month's Celebrate Each Other Initiative, we celebrate the 1992 Class for their philanthropy as they donated desks to SJC Sasse. The ability to give back to our alma mater is truly a privilege and a blessing, and we should celebrate it.

The 1992 Class got their inspiration for this amazing act of kindness after seeing pictures of our Alma Mater with the desks, as well as other structures, looking dilapidated and simply deplorable. Understanding how difficult it is for students to focus and study on desks that were broken, they felt a call to action. After discussing the project around June 2016 in the general class forum, they decided to turn their disgust into positive action.



On October 17th, 2016, they formed a subgroup to start work on the project. As the group slowly grew with more classmates signing up to donate and participate, they set their plan in motion with a three phase plan - Phase 1: Furnish benches for Forms 1 to 3, Phase 2: Furnish benches for Forms 4 and 5, and Phase 3: Furnish benches for Lower and Upper Sixth.

As with any large group of learned gentlemen, their initial challenge was deciding on a project. Once the bench project was selected and set in motion, their next challenge was fundraising. Perhaps their biggest initial challenge was finding the right vendor for the project who would deliver good quality work in a timely manner. The advent of the Anglophone Crisis brought forth another serious challenge that threatened to derail the project. They needed to work closely with school authorities to ensure the safe handling of the benches once they were delivered to SJC Sasse.

Despite these challenges, the 1992 class successfully completed phase one of their project. Forms one to three of SJC Sasse now have brand new beautiful and functional benches thanks to the benevolence of the fine SOBANS of the 1992 class. It was a global class project as they had contributions from their members across the globe. Phase 2 was put on hold after students in SJC Sasse were relocated out of campus due to the Anglophone crisis. Now that students are back and classes are back in session on the campus, the 1992 class has started working on the next phase of their project.

I want to personally thank the 1992 Class for this amazing gesture. In true brotherly fashion, the leadership of the class is willing to share their lessons learned with any class or chapter that wants to do a project in Sasse College so they are successful. They understand the value and effect of any gift to the students of SJC Sasse no matter how small we may think it is. Class leaders Ectchu Ebott, Terrence Ambe and Barrow Tabe capture the collective feelings of their class when they say "*Putting the needs of the students above personal egos is critical to achieve a common goal, the objective is to see the lives of the students in Sasse change based on the sacrifices of others who have been there. Always remember every penny contributed matters and due to the different financial obligations of people around the globe, there is no*

*minimum or maximum required to donate and most important the voice of a penny donor is equal to that of two penny or more donor.*

Such acts of goodwill by SOBANS go a long way towards making a difference in the lives of young boys in SJC Sasse. As SOBANS, we can change the world by touching lives of our junior brothers in SJC Sasse when we give back to help them get the top notch education that we received. That is the SOBAN way. That is why I ask our SOBA America Nation to join me in celebrating the 1992 Class.



*Do you have a story to share? Let us Celebrate you. Email us at [info@sobamerica.org](mailto:info@sobamerica.org)*

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

## 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 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](http://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](mailto:treasurer@sobamerica.org)
- You can contribute via cash app to [\\$sobaamericafinance](https://www.cash.app/$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](mailto: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](mailto: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 lyok, 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 lyok. The regional chapter presidents across Europe and Africa have also given their support for this project. President General lyok 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.

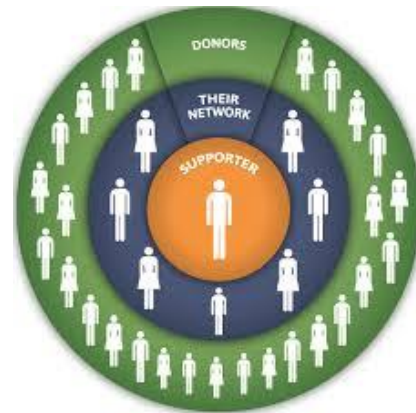
[Click here to make a donation to the Pa Ngando Honor Project and add your name to the donor wall by honoring Pa Ngando.](#)

## 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](http://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 May. 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  
POSA

[Visit our Website](#)

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