

# 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 - July 2021

Fellow SOBANS,

Greetings. I hope you had a great month of June, 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 July plans.

## Happy Independence Day



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SOBANS in Canada celebrate Canada Day on July 1st. Happy Independence Day. On behalf of the NLT, I wish all SOBANS in Canada and their families a great celebration. As the world continues to battle



SOBANS in the USA celebrate Independence Day on July 4th. Happy Independence Day. On behalf of the NLT, I wish all SOBANS in the USA and their families a great celebration. As the world continues to battle the COVID-19

the COVID-19 pandemic, please continue to exercise caution as you celebrate.

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[Click Here to RENEW your Membership Registration for 2021/2022](#)

## Dinner and NLT meeting with SJC Sasse Proprietor - Bishop Michael Bibi

On Wednesday June 28th, 2021, FLOSA and I hosted a dinner in honor of SJC Sasse Proprietor, Bishop Michael Bibi, at our residence in Waxhaw, NC. Members of SOBA Carolinas as well as some community members were present at the dinner.

After a delicious dinner which featured some fine Cameroonian delicacies, the National Leadership Team took some time to have a meeting with Bishop Bibi. Secretary General Divine Tange came from Woodbury, Minnesota and Chief Accounting Officer and Financial Secretary Edwin Atem came from Atlanta, Georgia to attend the meeting.



Prior to the Bishop's visit, I had asked SOBANS to share thoughts, topics and questions that they wanted the NLT to discuss with the proprietor in preparation for the meeting.

We had a very productive meeting during which Bishop Bibi once again reaffirmed his commitment to working with SOBANS to improve conditions in our Alma Mater and work towards our common goal of transforming SJC Sasse into the historic and iconic place it deserves as a premier institution of learning. We discussed some issues that have been of grave concern to SOBANS. Some of these include the current state of the physical structure of SJC Sasse, maintenance and upkeep of the campus, recent changes in the leadership over the past few years and an overall vision for the future of SJC Sasse. We shared recommendations from the SJC Vision task Team as well as from other SOBANS, and posed some tough questions to the Bishop.

Bishop Bibi acknowledged the concerns of SOBANS and shared his plan to ensure safety and security of the students, as well as continued maintenance of the school. He noted that after being abandoned for three years due to the Anglophone crisis, SOBANS should exercise some patience as the rebuilding will take some time. I thanked him for the extensive renovation work he did to get the campus ready for students to come back on campus after a three year absence, and the steps taken to ensure the safety of the students, which includes building of a fence around the main campus.

Several commitments and agreements were reached. Notably, the proprietor committed to allocating 25% of net annual revenue from the school back towards maintenance and upkeep. He also agreed to the

creation of a Heritage Board that will oversee maintenance efforts and projects of SJC Sasse. He asked me to work with President General Ayuk lyok on the modalities of this Board. I assured His Lordship that President General lyok and I had already been having conversations on this and other matters and that we were in sync and on the same page.

Overall, it was a very productive meeting. [Please click here for a detailed report that I shared with SOBANS following the meeting.](#)



Bishop Bibi enjoying dinner with SOBANS and some community members at the Fote Residence



Bishop Bibi posing with some SOBANS who were still at the Fote's at the conclusion of his meeting with the NLT.

**Join SOBA America TODAY by clicking here to register for 2021/2022 fiscal year**

## Administration Updates

**Presidential Town Hall on July 18th @ 4:00PM  
ET**

As part of our administration policy of communication and transparency, I will be hosting our next quarterly Town Hall Zoom call on Sunday July 18th, 2021 from 4:00 PM ET. I look forward to seeing you at the town hall.

Our presidential town hall Zoom calls provide a great forum for direct communication between SOBANS and their President. Let us have a conversation about our association and forge a path forward together. Like I always say, team work makes the dream work. I want to hear your thoughts, answer your questions and brainstorm with you.

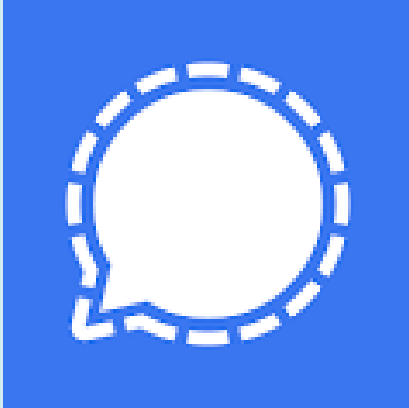
The Zoom ID is 209-324-0036. You can join the Zoom call on July 18th 2021 from 4PM ET by [CLICKING RIGHT HERE.](#)



[Click here to join Presidential Zoom Town Hall](#)

## **SOBA America migrates to Signal as its official social media communications platform**

[Download and join our Signal platforms today](#)



Effective May 30th 2021, our administration announced Signal as SOBA America's official social media communications platform and asked all members to download and switch to Signal. If you haven't done so yet, please do so promptly.

There is a lot of activity happening on Signal., Our SOBA America platforms are growing. I don't want you to miss out on anything. If you haven't downloaded Signal on your phone and joined our SOBA America Social and Business forums, please do so today. If you are already on our Signal platforms, please help us grow by encouraging your SOBAN friends who are part of our SOBA America family but haven't yet joined to do so. We don't want to leave anyone behind.

If you are reading this on your phone, you can [CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR SOBA AMERICA BUSINESS GROUP ON SIGNAL](#)

If you are reading this on your phone, you can [CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR SOBA AMERICA SOCIAL GROUP ON SIGNAL](#)

## Policies and Procedures Manual V2.0 coming soon

As you know, we had a significant overhaul of our by-laws during the last convention. The Vice-President's Office is working hard to update our by-laws with the new changes and update our Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM) to reflect the new changes from an operational standpoint. Vice-President Felix Ngassa is leading his team in this process and they should be finishing soon.

Our Policies and Procedures Manual is an important document that spells out our standard operating procedures in several areas. This ensures fairness and uniformity in how we interpret and operationalize our by-laws. Please make sure you are familiar with it when it is released. All members are expected to abide by the procedures and policies covered in the PPM as they reflect provisions of our by-laws.



## Membership Drive - Leave no SOBAN behind

## Join or Renew Your Membership



It is time for our membership drive. The new fiscal year is here and it is important that we get all SOBANS in the US and Canada into our SOBA America family.

If you have not yet registered, please do so today. Do not procrastinate and miss out on some of the benefits of membership. If you have renewed your membership for 2021/2022, THANK YOU. Take this opportunity to get a fellow SOBAN to come on board. There are many reasons to join SOBA America. [Here are some of the TOP 10 reasons to join SOBA America.](#)

Please note that the deadline to renew membership and avoid a 6 month probation period for most benefits has been moved up to August 31st, and our membership dues have been increased to \$150 by the general assembly.

There are several ways to join/renew your membership.

- (1) Through your chapter
- (2) Online @ our website [www.sobamerica.org](http://www.sobamerica.org)
- (3) Via cash app to \$sobaamericafinance. Include your name and chapter please.
- (4) Via PayPal to treasurer@sobamerica.org. Include your name and chapter please.

[Click Here to RENEW your Membership Registration for 2021/2022](#)

## Celebrate Each Other Initiative

### July 2021 Spotlight - SOBAN Jude Atem

### Celebrating love by saying " I Do" to his sweetheart Beryl

In this month's Celebrate Each Other Initiative, we celebrate love. During this time of great trials for humankind with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is fitting to celebrate the gift of love. Today, we celebrate SOBAN Jude Atem of the 1986 class on the occasion of his wedding to his lovely bride Beryl Achankeng.

Thiers is a story of a match made in Heaven indeed. He first laid eyes on the stunningly beautiful Beryl one fine Sunday after mass in Yaoundé. Even though many friends and relatives claim to have introduced them to each other, it was their second rendez-vous in Silver Spring, Maryland that sparked the flame which lit up a beautiful romance. Being the junior sister to Jude's fellow Laker Classmate of the 1986 class certainly helped.

Of the many attributes that Jude loves about his lovely wife, it is perhaps her attention to detail that he loves and cherishes most. She has a heart of gold with a warm personality that makes her simply an amazing person. It is no secret, therefore, that Jude continues to admire and learn a lot from his bride Beryl. One of the most important lessons he has learned from her is the fact that simple acts of listening and a gentle touch could be more important than pearls and gems in a relationship. He is truly blessed to have her in his life and he seeks to be the best husband that he can be.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they had to put the health and safety of their family and friends first. They therefore opted to do a small intimate wedding ceremony on May 8th, 2021 in Methuen, Massachusetts. It was a beautiful ceremony during which they sealed their love for each other with a kiss in holy matrimony.

On behalf of SOBA America, I wish SOBAN Jude Atem and SOBANESE Beryl a happy and blessed union. Let us celebrate their love and wish them well as they start this new phase of their lives together as husband and wife. May St. Joseph guide them along this journey and may God bless them abundantly.



## Celebrate Each Other Initiative

### July 2021 Spotlight - SOBAN Titus Fofung

Getting to the top of the academic ladder at a ripe age despite the odds

In this month's Celebrate Each Other initiative, we celebrate academic excellence achieved in unconventional style, with the true SOBAN spirit. We celebrate SOBAN Titus Fofung of the 1975 class for his graduation with a Ph. D. degree in cyber security.

Dr. Titus Dohnfon Fofung says that he looks back with gratitude to that early morning of September, 1975, when he arrived at the gates of St Joseph's college Sasse. He savored his Sasse years, graduated with his "O levels" in 1980, and proceeded to CCAST Bamibili from where he obtained his "A levels" in 1982. Dr. Fofung enrolled in the Department of "Mathematique et Informatique" at the University of Yaoundé, Cameroon in 1982. However, after only a year therein, he found that grappling with the French language and culture while studying mathematics and computer sciences was not for him. He was happily welcome to teach in Sacred Heart College, Mankon, Bamenda where he taught for one year.

Dr. Fofung came to the United States in 1984. He obtained a Bachelor's degree in computer sciences, mathematics and physics. After graduation, and while working, he developed an interest in medicine. He proceeded to obtain a Bachelor's degree in chemistry and even took the MCAT in preparation for medical school. However, for various reasons, his interest in this venture waned, and he reverted to his original love, computer sciences. He obtained a master's degree in software engineering in 2015. Dr. Fofung says when he decided to seek a doctorate degree in cyber security and information security at the age of 55, he was cautioned that the graduation rate was 50% and the average graduation time was 5 years. He recently obtained his Ph.D. within 3 years and at the age of 58.

Dr. Fofung is married to Relindis Fofung, and has three children Gurb Fofung 20, Babila Fofung 18, and Nahdia 15. He lives with his family in Atlanta Georgia. He credits his success in this venture and other aspects of his life to the perennial heritage of Sasse, and the values that were instilled in him during the Sasse years, as are succinctly captured by our motto "Fides Querents Intellectum." Let us congratulate and celebrate Dr. Fofung for this fine achievement. He is an inspiration to our fellow SOBANS and living testament to the fact that we should never give up on our dreams. That is the SOBAN way!



*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 Ngando Honor Project Updates





The Pa Ngando Honor Project Team is working hard. While fundraising continues, the technical aspects of the project are well underway,. The Technical Project Managers - Dr. Ebob Etta and President Alain Taku presented detailed estimates to the team. After deliberation, the team agreed to move forward.

The new principal of SJC Sasse, Father Isaac Anuchem was briefed on the project by POSA. Following that briefing and his

blessing, Dr. Ebob Etta paid a visit to SJC Sasse for a site visit. SOBA General President Ayuk lyok was also present in SJC Sasse for the visit. Dr. Ebob gave a detailed briefing on the planned activities for the project to the Principal of SJC Sasse and President General of SOBA. They agreed on key aspects that required formal approval , such as modification of the archives room behind the hall for use as a secure storage facility for chairs etc., as well as the reconstruction of a urinary next to the hall. The Principal expressed gratitude for the planned works to improve on the standards of the hall and toilet facilities. He will assign one staff member to facilitate the work on site.

Given the fact that the hall is being used for the GCE exams, the team and school authorities agreed that the construction/renovation work will commence only after July 12th when the GCE exams will be over. This will set a slight delay in the timeline for the project. The team will work as hard as possible to still safely complete the project as close to the originally planned date as possible. The rainy season will also need to be factored in in terms of planning for painting at the tail end of the project. The details of the timeline are being worked out with these factors taken into consideration.

### **Fundraising:**

Funds continue to poor in slowly. We are still a long way from achieving our goal to meet budget. **Please click here to see a list of donors as of June 13th, 2021.** Since then we have had an additional contribution from SOBAN Nyah Check of the 2001 class. I want to personally thank SOBAN Check for his generosity and solidarity as he was a student in SJC Sasse way after Pa Ngando had left. This gesture underscores the true SOBAN spirit. Pa's legacy is intertwined with SJC Sasse;s legacy so ALL SOBANS are encouraged to be part of this project regardless of their class.

### **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**

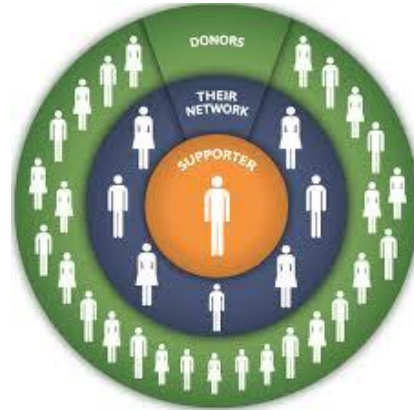
**Please note that ANY SOBAN can contribute regardless of their class. We'd like every SOBAN to be a part of this project to honor a man whose legacy is intertwined with the legacy of SJC Sasse.**

[Click Here to Make a Donation to the Pa Ngando Honor Project \(Please indicate your class\)](#)

## 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 July. 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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