

## 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 - September 2021

Fellow SOBANS,

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

### 2021 GCE Results - SJC Sasse underperforms

The 2021 GCE Ordinary and Advanced Level results were recently published. Our Alma Mater - SJC Sasse - did not do well. The O'Level results were better than the A'Level results,

In the O'Level, 53 students sat and 45 passed - 84.91%. The 1st student had 9A's, 1B, 1C. The 2nd student had 8A's, 2B's and 1 C. Third student 6A's, 4B's 1C.

In the A'Level, 50 students sat and 28 students passed - 56%. The 1st student had 2B's and 2C's. The 2nd student had 1A, 2C's and 1D. The 3rd student had 2C's and 2E's.



As you can see, this is not the kind of result that we expect from SJC Sasse. Consequently, the reaction from SOBANS was one of disappointment. I reached out to the new Principal - Fr. Isaac Anuchem, and the proprietor - His Lordship Bishop Michael Bibi to share the feedback from SOBANS and have a discussion about possible solutions to remedy this situation and return Sasse back to academic excellence.

Both Fr. Anuchem and Bishop Bibi expressed their disappointment at the results. They were very receptive to the suggestions from SOABNS that I shared with them. Bishop Bibi chaired a meeting with the Principal, teachers, the Catholic education secretary, president of the PTA and SOBA Genera President to start the process of doing a root cause analysis and seek solutions.

Some of the issues identified at the meeting and in my conversations with Bishop Bibi include:

1.The displacement of students as a result of the current Anglohone crisis. After the attacks on campus during which students and staff were physically assaulted, the campus was abandoned for about three years. Students were displaced several times and just returned back to campus this past school year. That instability negatively impacted the school in several ways

- A lot of good teachers left as a result of that, as they had no secure employment. Many went to Yaounde and Douala where they found better jobs.
- Enrollment suffered tremendously when students returned on campus as a result of safety concerns some parents still head, despite all the steps taken by Bishop Bibi to renovate the campus and increase security. This led the school to relax on some of its admission criteria as they were trying to get students. Consequently, many students were admitted without proper vetting, including in Forms 5 and Upper sixth.

2.Poor administration and mismanagement: There was an assessment that the previous Principal did not do a good job at managing the school. This led to gross indiscipline by the upper sixth students including poor attendance at classes, illicit drug use, breaking or bounds etc. All these made for a poor learning environment.

3.Lack of adequate resources: The labs were inadequately equipped and students lacked basic textbooks and other resources needed for their education.

Based on this assessment, the following resolutions were taken at the meeting

- A.No admission of new students into Forms 4,5 and Upper Sixth
- B. Motivation of teachers
- C. Rigorous selection process for students into Form 1 and Lower Sixth
- D. Introduction of Dormitory Superintendent in all dormitories
- E. Intensify security on campus to prevent students from breaking bounds
- F. Strict checking of students during examinations to avoid cheating
- G. Regular checking of students during classes and study periods
- H. Dormitories to be closed during study periods and keys kept by the Superintendent
- I. Students in examination classes will be strictly followed up
- J. The Bishop should be informed regularly on the state of the school so that he can intervene promptly
- K. The laboratories and library will be equipped. The heads of the different labs to forward their requisition for approval prior to school resumption.
- L. No student from the previous Upper Sixth class will be given a chance to repeat in SJC Sasse
- M. Hygiene and sanitation should be a priority. All students will ensure the cleanliness of the dormitories.
- N. Students in Form 5 and Upper Sixth will not be actively involved with sports.

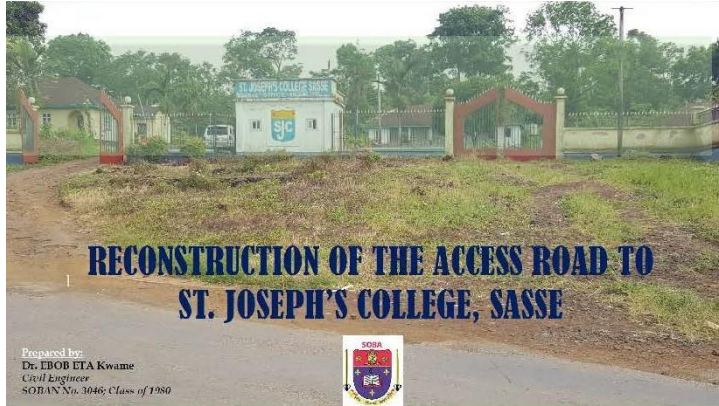
During my conversation with Bishop Bibi, I asked him to also work on a strategy for recruiting and retention of good teachers. He assured me that they were taking steps in that front and he has put the Catholic Education Secretary in charge of reviewing their recruitment process.

Bishop Bibi and Father Anuchem have been very open and frank in their communication with me on this matter, as always, and are committed to doing what it takes to turn things around. Please share any thoughts and ideas you have with me so I can continue to be your voice as we work through this matter. In the end, we all have a common goal which is to restore SJC Sasse back to academic excellence.

## SOBA formally launches fundraising for the Sasse Road Project

SOBA President General - President Ayuk Pride Iyok - formally launched the fundraising portion of the SJC Sasse Road project at an event in Limbe Cameroon on Saturday August 28th, 2021. The event was widely attended by SOBANS and friends of SOBA, and was live streamed on Zoom.

During the fundraiser, President Iyok stressed the importance of proper access to SJC Sasse. He noted that the current state of the road is terrible. Details of the project were shared. [PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR A PRESENTATION OF THE ROAD PROJECT.](#)



CAO Edwin Atem represented SOBA America in person at the fundraiser in Limbe, while Sec. General Divine Tange and Vice-President Felix Ngassa also represented SOBA America via Zoom. Sec. Tange re-affirmed SOBA America's support of this project. Together with SOBANESE Dr. Lisa Ekole, they will spearhead fundraising efforts from SOBA America. You can donate to the SJC Sasse Road project by going to our website and making your donation.

[Click here to DONATE to the SJC Sasse Road Project](#)

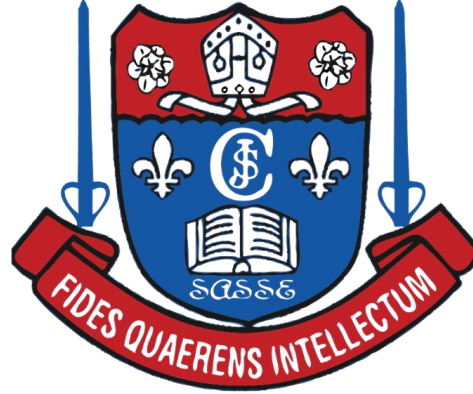
## Administration Updates

**Mini-Convention coming soon - November 19th to 21st, 2021 in Detroit, MI**

The 2021 SOBA America Mini-convention shall be hosted by SOBA Tri-state in Detroit, MI from November 19th to 21st, 2021. I hope you can make it there. More information shall be forthcoming soon so stay tuned.

The SOBA America mini-convention is officially a Board meeting mandated by our by-laws. It is open to all SOBANS as part of our spirit of inclusion and brotherhood, so they can see their leaders at work and be part of the process. It is also an opportunity for the host chapter to re-introduce itself to the local community and raise some money for the chapter.

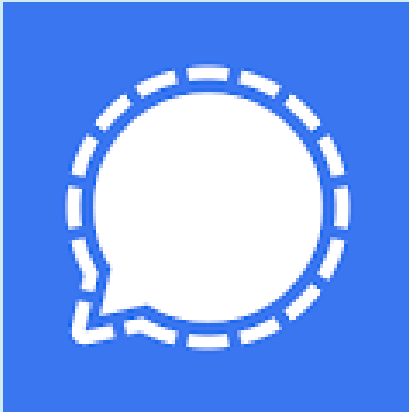
After having been kept away from each other for almost 2 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it will be a great thing to fellowship with each other in a safe way once again. Please get your COVID-19 vaccine if you have not yet done so! I look forward to seeing you in Detroit come November 19th.



## SOBA AMERICA

### 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](#)

## Elections for three At-Large Board Members



Following the change in our by-laws voted by the general assembly during the 2021 SOBA America National Convention, we will be holding special elections to fill the three at-large Board of Directors positions for a two year term. Here is the procedure and timeline

**1.Candidacy:** Four candidates have filed for the three positions. Secretary Tange will be announcing the list officially. The candidates are

- SOBAN Andu Agbor or SOBA Carolinas
- SOBAN Donald Fualem of SOBA DMV
- SOBAN Gordon Achu of SOBA Carolinas
- SOBAN Aloysius Ibeagha of SOBA Montreal

**2.Validation:** As part of the validation process, all candidates have submitted affidavits committing to step down from any elective local chapter positions they may hold if elected to the Board, in accordance with our bylaws.. Candidates shall have until September 20th, 2021 to make their case to SOBA America Nation.

**3.Elections:** Elections shall be held online at our SOBA America website membership portal from September 20th to September 26th.

The top three vote getters shall be elected to serve a two-year term in the Board of Directors as per our bylaws.

The new Board members shall be seated during the mini-convention in Detroit, MI on November 20th, 2021.

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

## Celebrate Each Other Initiative

### September 2021 Spotlight - SOBA Carolinas

Giving back to the community through public service



In this month's Celebrate Each Other Initiative, we celebrate SOBA Carolinas for their community service their annual volunteering activity at the Charlotte Food Bank.

Under President Ndiva Mongoh's leadership, SOBA Carolinas has heeded the call to serve. When our administration challenged all chapters to give back to our communities through community service at least once a year, SOBA Carolinas stood up and took the lead. In 2019, the chapter launched its annual SOBA Carolinas Day. This was a day dedicated to giving back to the community through volunteering in the morning and providing scholarships to local kids at an awards gala in the evening. Unfortunately, the current COVID-19 pandemic prevented the chapter from doing this in 2020.



This year, SOBA Carolinas was not going to let another year go by without giving back to the community. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to create hardship to our communities across the US, SOBA Carolinas felt it is eve more important now to give back. SOBA Carolinas outgoing COO - Dr. Tom Ashu - was charged with organizing the chapter's volunteer activity for this year. On Saturday August 14th, he led the chapter in volunteering at the Charlotte Food Bank.

Several members of SOBA Carolinas and some of their children helped sort of hundreds of supplies - from food supplies to other basic household needs and even children's games - at the Charlotte Food bank. These were donations made by several individuals and organizations to help feed the hungry and provide assistance to the most underprivileged in the community. These supplies need to be sorted out and properly packaged before they can be distributed to the recipients. SOBA Carolinas members spent hours at the facility sorting through these and prepping them. Their action will help feed hundreds of families in the Carolinas.

I want to thank SOBA Carolinas for this act of goodwill. I also want to re-iterate my challenge to all chapters to follow suite and do at least one community service activity annually. We will, as SOBA America, do a community service activity in the city of our conventi0ons during convention weekend. Giving back to our community is a noble act and a good thing. We live in these communities and our children are raised here. It is also helpful to show that we are a part of our community, so we can take advantage of the huge funding opportunities available in the non-profit industry, to do big projects in SJC Sasse. Giving back through community service is a way to establish that track record and increase likelihood of funding.



*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



Work on the Pa Ngando Honor project is ongoing. At the request of the technical project management team, the first disbursement of over 5 million FCFA was made on August 26th to start the work on the ground.

### Fundraising:

Funds continue to pour 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 August 1st, 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 \(Please indicate your class\)](#)

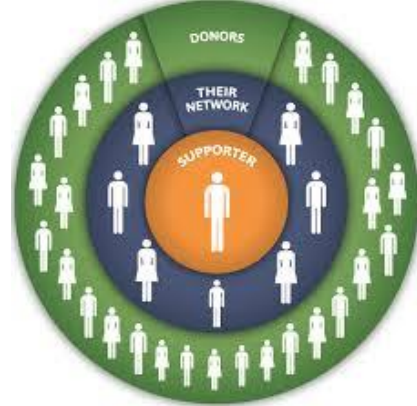
**SMILE – Amazon Smile Partnership for fundraising**



## 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](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-0602143)

[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 September. 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](#)

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

STAY CONNECTED

Sasse Alumni Association | 501 White Tail Ter, Waxhaw, NC 28173

[Unsubscribe bfote@yahoo.com](mailto:bfote@yahoo.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [info@sobamerica.org](mailto:info@sobamerica.org) powered by