

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 - December 2021

Fellow SOBANS,

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



On behalf of the National Leadership Team, I wish you and your family a wonderful and blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2022. First Lady Laura also sends holiday wishes to you and your family.

As you celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and usher in the new year, I urge you to remain vigilant as we are still in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Keep your family safe!

Administration Updates

SOBA Tri-state delivers a remarkable mini-convention

SOBA Tri-State delivered a strong mini-convention,. For the first time in almost two years, SOBANS from all over SOBA America Nation gathered in person to fellowship and deliberate. It was good to get together once more, after the COVID-19 pandemic put a dent on our in-person meeting plans since last year.

The weekend was full of merrymaking as SOBANS, SOBANESE and patrons mingled, winded and dined on Friday and Saturday night. The Board meeting, open to SOBANS took place on Saturday. It was very well attended by SOBANS who stayed engaged and shared some great thoughts and ideas.

The three newly elected At-large board members - SOBAN Emeritus Aloysius Ibegha of SOBA Montreal, SOBAN Gordon Achu of SOBA Carolinas and SOBAN Donald Fuaalem of SOBA DMV - took the Oath of Office as they were sworn in to their two year terms on the Board.

Several topics were discussed. Here are some highlights.



Take home message from the mini-convention: Updates on key administration priorities

Lend-A-Hand Initiative enters next phase

A graphic for the SOBA America Lend-A-Hand Initiative. It features the SOBA America crest and the text 'SOBA America Lend-A-Hand Initiative "A Program for Sobans and Sobanese"'. Contact information includes 1-888-504-SOBA (7622) ext. 2 and sobaamericahelp@gmail.com. A 'HOW IT WORKS' section lists three steps: 1. Identify a Registered Soban for Referral and Submit Your Application Online; 2. Provide Supporting Documents to the Office of Philanthropy; 3. Receive Aid (Consultative or Financial). The graphic also includes the URL https://www.sobamerica.org/lend-a-hand-initiative.

The Lend-A-Hand Initiative has been a flagship program of the Fote Administration. The first phase of the program was focused on providing financial assistance to SOBANS and SOBANESE affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 25 SOBANS and SOBANESE have received financial assistance through the Lend-A-Hand Initiative which is 100% funded by donations from you - fellow SOBANS. SOBA recipients have ranged from the 1960 class to the 2008 class. We have received a lot of great testimony from recipients about how this has impacted them. THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the Lend-A-Hand Initiative. [Click here to make a donation to the Lend-A-Hand Initiative.](#)

CAO Edwin Atem announced the next phase of the Lend-A-Hand Initiative which includes providing professional help to SOBANS and SOBANESE who are unable to afford it. In order to get this up and running, we need to create a database of SOBAN professionals who are willing to donate their time and

skillset to assist fellow SOBANS and SOBANESE. We are working to set up a system where SOBANS who offer assistance can get some tax write-off for a portion of the value of their time. We need legal, accounting, engineering, and healthcare professionals, for this initial roll out.

If you are a professional willing to Lend-A-Hand by participating in this initiative, please simply reply to this email or send an e-mail to info@sobamerica.org with the following information - name, practice/company name, area of expertise, states/provinces in which you are licensed/qualified to provide professional assistance and approximate time commitment you are able to make. The General Accounting Office of SOBA America, led by CAO Edwin Atem, that runs this program will contact you to discuss further. SOBA America appreciates you.

SOBA America App nears beta phase in development

SOBAN Czar Philber McEtchu presented an overview of the SOBA America App that is currently in development. The vision for the SOBA America App is to provide a platform where (a) SOBANS, members of SOBA America can conduct SOBA America business both at national and chapter levels, (b) SOBANS worldwide can caucus, network and mingle, (c) the community at large can network and mingle.



It will have layered access depending on the individual user's situation - SOBAN, member of SOBA America or friend of SOBA . Our goal is to have a platform where everyone will want to be and visit regularly at their fingertips - SOBAN or not. In order to achieve this, we need content that will be appealing to the general public, such as reliable news feeds from reputable news outlets. We'd like to hear feedback on what kind of content (in addition to SOBA related content) you'd like to have access to in the App.





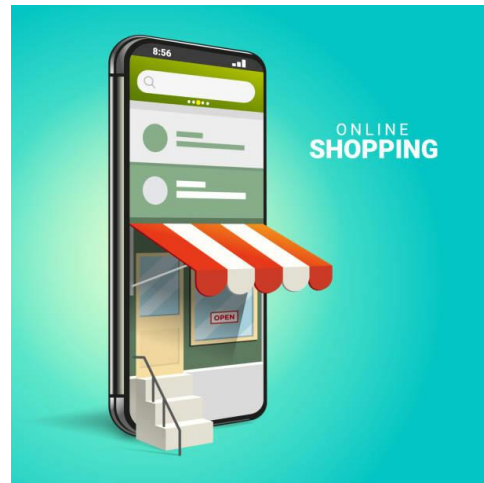
Big Brother Initiative - Mentorship Program gets a boost

Secretary Divine Tange gave a brief update on the work done so far by the task team in setting up the framework for our SOBA America Mentorship program. Board member SOBAN Gordon Achu gracefully agreed to take over leadership of the task team to continue work on this project. We look forward to formally launching the mentorship program soon. We will be reaching out to you with more information and to solicit help with mentors and mentees.

SOBA America E-Store nears reality

We are working hard to get our SOBA America E-Store up and running shortly. CFO Rudolf Inoni gave an update of the task team's work so far. The biggest hurdle now is getting a reliable fulfillment partner to handle fulfillment of orders from our website. We have explored several established fulfillment companies but their pricing has been prohibitive. We are now looking to partner with a small business that already has established E-commerce presence, as that will be a more cost effective option for SOBA America.

In the meantime we'd like to know your thoughts about what you'd like to see in our E-Store. [Please CLICK HERE TO TAKE A SHORT SURVEY ABOUT THE SOBA AMERICA E-STORE.](#) Your voice is crucial. Please respond by December 15th.



Time for Business - SOBA America Business and Investment Arm takes a step closer to launching.



President Paul Forbang of SOBA Dallas gave a brief update on the work that the SOBA America Business Initiative Task Team has done so far. They are tasked with building the framework for our Business and Investment Arm. That will include rules and regulations and other processes to guide investment decisions etc. Once that is done, we will be able to launch that arm. SOBANS will have an opportunity to take advantage of our huge platform and make investments.

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

Dallas 2022 - National Conventon preparations in full gear



May 27th to 29th, 2022

SOBA Dallas is working with the NLT to deliver a spectacular convention come May 2022. Convention Chairman Emeritus Itoe and SOBAN Masonjo gave a spirited update on the preparations. More details shall be forthcoming. This will be the first time that the administration's changes to our conventions will be implemented. Highlights include

- A cashless convention. No cash will be accepted. There will be multiple methods of electronic payments available.
- A community service activity: SOBA America will give back to the community by engaging in a community service activity.
- One stop shop. Events on Friday and Saturday will all be held at the convention hotel.

[Click Here to REGISTER with SOBA America for 2021/2022](#)

Celebrate Each Other Initiative

December 2021 Spotlight - SOBAN Daniel Mofor

In this month's Celebrate Each Other Initiative, SOBAN Daniel Mofor, SOBAN number 2352 of the 1973 class, for his service to his motherland by working to build a state of the art hospital in Douala, and his philanthropy by giving back to the Buea Regional

SOBAN Dan Mofor's motivation to give back is the fact that he feels a strong attachment to the Buea Hospital where he was born. As he puts it, his umbilical cord is buried somewhere in the premises of the hospital. He also wanted an opportunity to recognize his beloved mother Ma Pauline Mofor for raising 6 boys and a girl. After receiving a scholarship from the Bakweri Cooperative Union of Farmers (BCUF) when he was in Form 2, his father taught him the importance of giving back. That lesson resonated in his mind all these years as he has developed a desire to honor his father's wish by giving back to his community.

It was therefore an easy decision for SOBAN Daniel Mofor to donate badly needed medical equipment to the Buea Regional Hospital. With the help of the Ekole Foundation which, under the stewardship of Dr. Ekole, was responsible for the procurement, shipping, port clearance and safe delivery of the equipment, the project went smoothly. A plaque in honor of Ma Pauline Mofor will be affixed in the hospital to honor his dear mother.

SOBAN Mofor's good deeds and efforts to help improve healthcare in Cameroon started way before his donation to the Buea Regional hospital. When Dr. Samuel Wandja, a neurosurgeon based in Douala embarked on a mission to build a state-of-the art health center in Cameroon, he reached out to SOBAN Mofor and his wife, as well as a select group of investors. SOBAN Mofor jumped at the opportunity. Unfortunately, Dr. Wandja died of pancreatic cancer after his diagnosis in 2019. Before his death, he tasked SOBAN Mofor and his wife to make sure his dream came true. That wish transformed this project from simply an investment opportunity to a personal crusade to honor and execute a brother's legacy for SOBAN Mofor. He also saw this as an opportunity to give back to his motherland.

The mission of the Groupe Sante Africane (GSA) Pan African Hospital is to provide world class healthcare at an affordable price in Cameroon, and avoid unnecessary medical evacuations from Cameroon. For SOBAN Mofor, an additional goal is to create job opportunities for SOBAN healthcare professionals in Cameroon. As you can imagine, there were several challenges to this project. These ranged from difficulty recruiting experienced and qualified staff, obtaining appropriate equipment, and jumping through political and government roadblocks and bottlenecks without "stepping on toes." The team was able to eventually



partner with the government which provided some assistance to enable them procure state-of-the art equipment from India. The hospital is a multi building complex which provides tertiary care across several specialties. The government of Cameroon also now has designated this hospital as a major provider for the healthcare needs of civil servants know as CNPS.

Feedback so far has been amazing. The hospital is able to meet the needs of citizens, rich and poor alike. SOBAN Mofor plans to address the staffing challenges by reaching out to SOBAN healthcare professionals – doctors, pharmacists, nurses etc., in the US, Canada, Europe and Cameroon to help. So far, he has received tremendous support from SOBANS for which he is greatly appreciative. He is also happy with the fact that he has been able to help fellow SOBANS who have sought to ensure their parents and relatives get excellent care in Cameroon. They have been coming to the CNPS/GSA Pan African Hospital for their care, and have been very satisfied.

SOBAN Dan Mofor's advise to his fellow SOBANS is simple: Use your time, talent and treasure to be an extension of God. You will be surprised how much you can accomplish by stepping out of your comfort zone. As a structural engineer whose expertise lies in designing roads and bridges, he certainly stepped out of his comfort zone to embark on his healthcare project that is making a difference in countless lives in Cameroon.

Giving back to our community is a noble act that can sow a seed of hope and save a life. That is why we are celebrating SOBAN Daniel Mofor for his generosity. As SOBANS, we were taught these values in Sasse. Many SOBANS are doing great service to their communities by giving back in several ways. To all these fine gentlemen, please join me to say THANK YOU! As a brotherhood, let us be thankful for the blessings that we have and lend a hand to those who are less fortunate, when we can. That is why starting in Dallas 2022, SOBA America will engage in a community service activity at every convention. That is why I have challenged all chapter presidents to ensure that their chapters do at least one community service activity annually. Together, we can change the world in small ways that can make tremendous impact to countless lives. SOBAN Daniel Mofor, through the actions discussed above, is helping to make the world a better place. Let celebrate him for that.



Donation of medical equipment to the Buea Regional Hospital by SOBAN Dan Mofor and the Ekole Foundation's Fountain of Hope Mission.

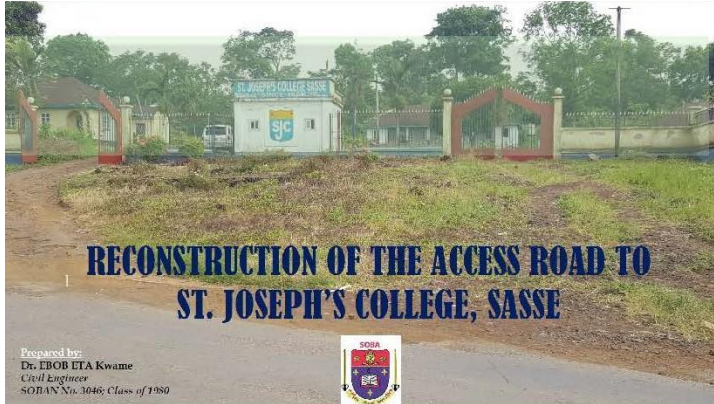


The campus of the CNPS/GSA Pan African Hospital in Bonanjo, Douala.

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](#)

SJC Sasse Road Project - Fundraising



SOBA America Secretary General Divine Tange and SOBANESE Lisa Ekole are spearheading SOBA America's fundraising efforts for the SJC Sasse Road Project. Sec. Tange gave a brief update on the fundraising so far during the mini-convention. There is still a significant gap between our fundraising goal and the funds raised so far. [Click here to make a donation to the SJC Sasse Road Project](#)

The road project will provide better access to our beloved alma mater. It is an important project and a flagship project of SOBA General President Ayuk Iyok's administration. [CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ABOUT THE ROAD PROJECT.](#)

Pa Ngando Honor Project Updates



Work continues on the PA Ngando Honor project. In last month's message, I gave a detailed update with pictures. The team on the ground is working hard on the project. I will provide more detailed updates when the next phase of the construction work gets underway.

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.](#)

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.

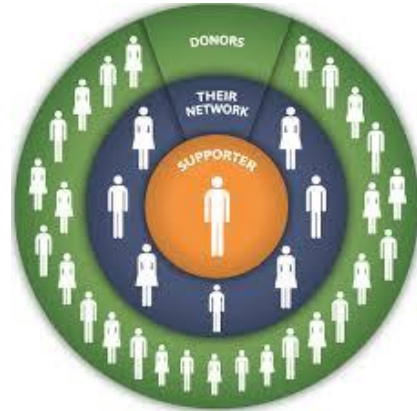
[Click Here to Make a Donation to the Pa Ngando Honor Project \(Please indicate your class\)](#)

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 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 December. 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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