

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 - February 2022

Fellow SOBANS,

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

2022 National Convention Registration now open



Registration for the 2022 National Convention in Dallas, TX is now open. I hope you will be able to make it. I look forward to finally getting together as one family on convention weekend after a two-year hiatus due to this COVID-19 pandemic. Here is some important information.

(1) Payment of Convention Levy:

All SOBANS who intend to attend our 2022 National Convention must pay the convention levy online by May 20th, 2022. You can pay your convention levy by going to our website

www.sobamerica.org and clicking on the [Convention Levy](#) tab in the middle of the homepage.

Only duly registered delegates will have access to key convention features/platforms, including the ability to vote on motions as is customary during our SOBA America conventions.

(2) VIP tickets, hotel reservation, Boat ride and other convention weekend activities: We have created a one-stop shop for all your convention needs. Go to our website www.sobamerica.org and click on **2022 National Convention** tab on the top right corner of the home page. This will take you to the page where you can:

- Pay your convention levy: This will grant you access to all convention related activities.
- Purchase VIP Tables: If you'd like to enjoy a VIP experience during the convention, you can purchase a VIP table by May 12th, 2022. Limited VIP tables available.
- Book your hotel room: Get the \$99/night special rate if you book via this link by May 10th, 2022.
- Purchase tickets for the Friday Boat ride. Only 100 tickets available.
- Sign-up for child care. Up to 4 children per SOBAN
- Review convention weekend agenda/list of activities

(3) 2022 National Convention Theme: The theme for the 2022 National Convention is ***SOBA America: Reaching Higher Heights Together in the Post Pandemic Era.*** We are currently working on finalizing our speaker lineup. We are working to get some great speakers on several topics consistent with the theme during the Personal Enrichment Session of the convention. More details to follow.

(4) Bringing Motions for discussion during the Annual General Assembly: Consistent with our policies and procedures, SOBANS will have until March 15th, 2022 to submit motions for consideration during the general assembly. This should be submitted via your chapter president, in an email to the Secretary of SOBA America, Divine Tange. His e-mail address is divanto1@yahoo.com . As per our policies, no motion that has been addressed and voted upon by the general assembly within the past three (3) years shall be considered. Debates on motion shall occur on our Signal forums between March 20th and May 20th and will be moderated by the Secretary General.

(5) COVID-19 considerations: Given the current pandemic, SOBA America will take steps to reduce likelihood of the spread of COVID-19 during the convention. We ask that all SOBANS planning to attend the convention be vaccinated and be prepared to show proof of vaccination status. We will announce more details of our COVID-19 safety plan in due course.

I will be presenting our administration's comprehensive COVID-19 plan for the convention to the Board of Directors at our upcoming February meeting.

(6) **Cashless convention:** As part of our COVID-19 safety plan and our commitment to improving transparency, efficiency and accountability, we will have a cashless convention. **We will not accept cash from any SOBAN or patron.** Several electronic payment methods including secure credit/debit card payment stations, PayPal, Zelle, and CashApp options shall be available

Administration Updates

Presidential Virtual Town hall event - Sunday February 20th @5pm ET

As part of our administration's policy of transparency, accountability and communication, I will be hosting our next presidential town hall meeting via Zoom on Sunday February 20th, 2022 at 5 PM ET. It will be an opportunity for us to have a conversation about our association. All SOBANS are invited to this virtual town hall.



[CLICK HERE FOR THE ZOOM LINK](#)

I hope you can make it to the town hall. I look forward to seeing you. Let's talk about SOBA America and SOBANS. We will discuss several issues. I look forward to hearing your thoughts about how we can continue to make SOBA America better and make it work for you. I look forward to answering any questions you may have. The Zoom ID is 209-324-0036.

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

Celebrate Each Other Initiative

February 2022 Spotlight - Emeritus Norbert Kong

Making a difference back home by creating jobs and opportunities

In this month's Celebrate Each Other Initiative, we celebrate SOBAN Norbert Kong, SOBAN number 2733 of the 1977 class, SOBA New England and President Emeritus of SOBA America, for his role in creating jobs and making a difference to many back home, earning him recognition as winner of the first ever Cameroon Diaspora Award.

Emeritus Kong has always had passion in real estate. This passion, coupled with his desire to make a difference back in Cameroon, made the decision to create KONG ESTATE an easy one. KONG ESTATE is company that provides affordable luxury apartment homes in Douala and Limbe. It solves a housing problem and provides an opportunity for folks to enjoy western style luxury without breaking the bank. By creating KONG ESTATE HOMES, Emeritus Kong is one step closer to his dream of creating a real estate empire that will provide generational wealth for decades and, why not, centuries.

With fifteen permanent staff and countless contractors, technicians and other secondary employees that have been part of this project, KONG ESTATE is helping many, in a country that continues to see high levels of unemployment, by creating much needed jobs. This is truly an amazing feat that comes at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has caused more economic hardship than ever before. It is no surprise, therefore, that Emeritus Kong was recognized for his entrepreneurship and contribution to the local economy by receiving the first ever Cameroon Diaspora Award. The award ceremony took place in December in Douala.



Emeritus Kong, by winning this award, offered further validation of the fact that SOBANS are leaders in any aspect in our community. He certainly kept the SOBA flag flying high. Those values and strong sense of determination and purpose instilled in him behind those walls of St. Joseph's College, Sasse certainly came in handy throughout this project. As you can imagine, embarking on such a huge project in Cameroon, brings unique challenges much different from carrying out similar projects in the US. Even though he knew that the return on investment (ROI) would be greater here in the US, he heeded the call to make a difference and did not balk at the challenges. Financing with outrageous interest rates, lack of honesty of contractors who seek all ways to cut corners and deliver subpar work, are some of the challenges that he, like other SOBANS who have done business in Cameroon, faced.

Emeritus Kong believes that we need to be part of the solution and not part of the problem, if we are to see our motherland rise up to meet the expectations we have. As he puts it, That is why he persevered, despite all the obstacles he faced, to see that KONG ESTATE saw the light of day. Knowing that he has contributed to the development of his motherland that he loves so much brings him satisfaction that is priceless. Getting

recognized for his effort as the pioneer recipient of this award gives him great honor because he realizes that there are many others in the Diaspora making a difference in Cameroon in all domains.

Emeritus Kong hopes that SOBANS looking for affordable, luxury, furnished homes in Limbe or Douala will find a home with KONG ESTATE HOMES. His advice to SOBANS and DIASPORANS is simple- *"let's contribute by giving back what we have acquired abroad - wealth, knowledge, expertise, exposure -to make a real difference."* He believes it is time for those that can to contribute in helping to build that middle class in Cameroon. After all, as he puts it, *"if we don't, no one will do it for us."*

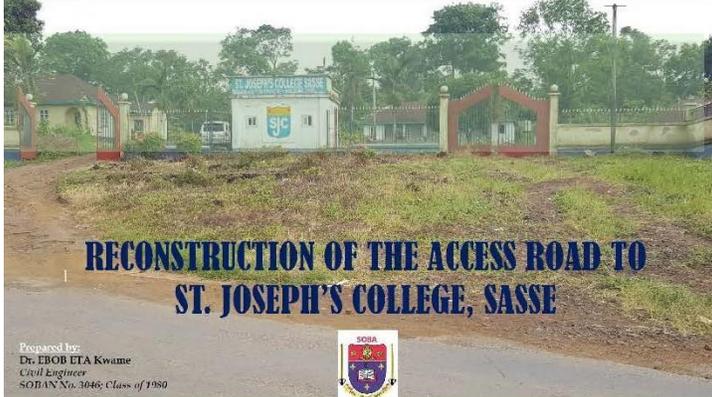
Such leadership and entrepreneurship embodies the true SOBAN spirit. It is THE SOBAN WAY. That is why we are celebrating Emeritus Kong in this month's Celebrate Each Other Initiative column.



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](#)

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 is underway on the Pa Ngando Honor Project. Unfortunately, due to reasons explained in my previous messages, we are behind schedule.

The team has been working tirelessly. [PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR A DETAILED UPDATED REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PA](#)

[FERDINAND NGANDO HONOR PROJECT.](#)

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 January 17, 2022.](#)

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.

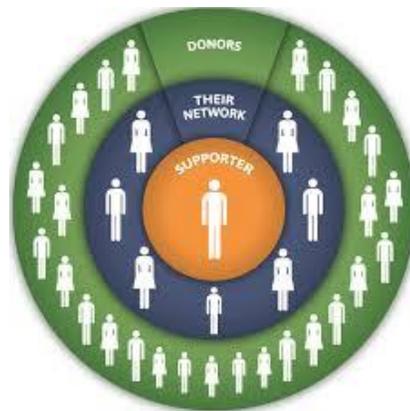
[Click Here to Make a Donation to the Pa Ngando Honor Project \(Please indicate your class\)](#)

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 February. 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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STAY CONNECTED

