

## Fote Announcement for Candidate for President of SOBA America

Fellow SOBANS,

After carefully considering the call to serve SOBA America once more from many of you, and thoughtful discussions with my lovely wife Laura, it is with profound honor and humility that I announce today, to you my fellow brothers, that I have made the decision to run for the highest office of our SOBA America Nation. **I am running for President of SOBA America.** First, I give thanks to God almighty for His abundant blessings that have enabled me to be here today. I also like to give special thanks to the next First Lady of SOBA America, the love of my life, my heartbeat, my wife Laura, for her tireless support throughout my involvement in SOBA America. She will make an awesome First Lady and will be a beacon of light for our SOBANESE across our SOBA America Nation.

Fellow SOBANS, it has been an honor to serve as your Vice-President during the past 4 years in the Itoe administration. During this time, we have made significant progress in our vision to transform SOBA America and take it to its rightful place as the premier Cameroonian alumni association in the diaspora. **As vice-president in the most dynamic administration in SOBA America history, my leadership, dedication and skill set were instrumental in our administration's success in several key aspects of SOBA America** such as

- the re-branding of SOBA America, making it the creme de la creme of alumni associations in the diaspora
- the restructuring of SOBA America, laying a solid foundation for continued success
- the growth of SOBA America, with the birth of three new chapters including my chapter - SOBA Carolinas which I proudly serve as its pioneer president
- the re-positioning of SOBA America as the de facto leader of SOBA globally

My dear SOBANS, it has been a privilege to serve as the co-chair of the Board of Directors of Sasse Alumni Association, alongside Chairman Ayah of Montreal. Under our leadership, Sasse Alumni Association has seen record fundraising for major projects with the Scholarship endowment fund being its flagship project. We have been able to make a difference in the lives of over fifty students in Sasse who received scholarships, and many more who received good counsel during our first ever SOBA America Day in Sasse in October 2016. Though the current crisis in Cameroon has prevented us from holding this event annually, we remain steadfast in our resolve to continue this initiative.

Fellow SOBANS, with this strong record of performance and delivery for SOBA America, service and dedication to SOBA America which includes two separate tenures as Vice President under the Fondungallah and Itoe administrations, I can understand why so many of you privately and publicly urged me to run for President. I am grateful for your confidence in me. While this played a major role in my decision to heed the call and run for the office of President, **my strongest motivation to run is my desire to complete my vision for SOBA America and move SOBA America to even greater heights.** My dear SOBANS, while the Itoe administration under which I have been privileged to serve as your Vice President has made tremendous stride and progress, SOBA America's best days are still ahead. My goals and vision for SOBA America, coupled with my leadership and experience are the reasons why I agree with many of you that I am the person to lead SOBA America to paradise. In the coming weeks and months, I will lay out details of my vision for SOBA America and my plan to achieve these ambitious goals.

As you mull over your choice for the next president of SOBA America on election day - Saturday May 25th, 2019 at the SOBA America National Convention in the DC Metro area, **I implore you to ask yourself one important question - Is SOBA America better off today than it was four years ago? If your answer to**

**that question is a resounding YES, then the choice should be clear - vote for Dr. Bertrand Fote, SOBAN #3895 of the 1986 Class (Lake Noyos class) and president of Carolinas chapter as your next President of SOBA America.** We have come too far along the way to go back. The Itoe administration's mission is not done. I need your support and your vote to give me the opportunity to shepherd SOBA America further along the way. I ask that you set aside mere friendship or loyalty as your criteria and put the interests of SOBA America first and foremost as you make your choice. I ask that you strongly consider my record, experience, and the vision that I will be presenting in the coming weeks and months as you make your decision.

My fellow SOBANS, I thank you for entrusting me with the honor of serving as your Vice President on two separate occasions. I have worked hard every day to reward your faith in me as your Vice President. I hope I have earned your trust once more to warrant your vote for the next President of SOBA America, come election day. I am looking forward to continuing my conversations with you, listening to your advice, answering your questions, and working with you during this campaign and throughout my presidency, should I be fortunate enough to earn your mandate.

**# You can't change horses in midstream**  
**# No turning back on progress**  
**#Forwards always, backwards never**  
**# Why not the best?**

Thank you and God bless you  
Bertrand Fote ('86)  
President - SOBA Carolinas  
Co-Chair of the board - Sasse Alumni Association  
Vice-President - SOBA America  
Candidate for President of SOBA America