

SOBA 85 'Transition' Class Annual Report 2017 - 2018



SOBA 1985 TRANSITION CLASS

President

Permit me to address you on this last day of the year 2018. It is such a great pleasure to have had the opportunity to serve you in this past year. First of all, let me take this opportunity to thank you all for your participation in shaping the SOBA 85 Transition class. We are entering into the 3rd year of our communication through this wonderful WhatsApp group initiated by Eko Ngwashi following the death of our mate, Divine Ikenwilo. Just in case any newcomer missed it, it is the reason why we still have the picture of "Big Joe" as our profile picture. Permit me to also state that our quest for having a continued consolidated friendship after Sasse, did not start then. The evolution of technology is what made this new dynamism possible. We had started this well back in 2008 (Then with a yahoo group) and the communication was per email. So, you see, it is not as if we have not sought ways of getting in touch, it is the new means of communication per WhatsApp which made this possible. I would like to thank Jasper for having led this class in that period and all who were involved back then in drafting a constitution and registering the class as an association in Cameroon, for paving the way to this renewed unity. With this renewed unity and the very fast communication in brings, coupled with the fact that we are globally distributed across 4 continents, come also communication challenges. At some points based on our regional cultures, we have had to act regionally instead of globally. Even within our regions, we have seen mates get hurt and leave the group. We have also had moments of great joy. We have laughed, doubted the reasoning of others, argued on fayship basis, cursed, and threatened each other. At times the arguments were extremely passionate and unhealthy. One thing however, that we all find is that we continue to stick together. We have learned how others tick. We shall continue to have some issues, but as time goes on you have shown grandeur in promoting what unites than divides us. For that I thank you all. My wish is that we continue to build on empathy (to be able to put ourselves in the shoes of the other persons whenever we disagree or have arguments). I encourage all to throw away stereotypes - any feeling of superiority or inferiority by virtue of position, status or region. Open up more. Let's be there for each other. We have not only discussed, we have had moments of joy and sadness and in all of that, you have shown the great solidarity of the class. We have dared even in dangerous security situations to make long journeys to condole with each other or join in their joy. When we could not make it, we showed solidarity financially and in our words. I think we all know that we can count on each other. We have had beautiful moments of birth, graduation, employment promotion and marriage and we have all shared in the joy, with some making the trip to be there too. We have shown that the success of a brother is our success too. Members visited each other spontaneously in their cities, across continents. We are building a great union, we are moving away from being mates to a real family of its own. Let us jealously protect this union. We have had difficult moments too – moments when some of our mates found it too difficult to stay in the union and had to leave. On the one hand we should not be so hard in our discussions as to permit such. On the other hand, instead of leaving, I ask you to put your brother to order or get the class to act in defence instead of abandoning the group. Gents, let us not forget that some of us are struggling to survive, while some have plenty. Those in trouble should not be ashamed to tell their brothers about their troubles and worries. We should also treat the troubles of our brothers as humanly as possible knowing that "no condition is permanent". No one knows what the future holds or how tomorrow looks like. Dig deep into your pockets to stand by your brother.

Let us remember to be more of assistance to the living than to the dead. Gents, we sure made some mistakes too. Believe me, they were not done intentionally. We hope to have learnt from these mistakes and I promise we shall take measures to correct those issues we found as mistakes. Today we are debating the production of our T-shirts. The process might look slow but it is important as it seeks to accommodate debate so in the end we have the best and all stand for it if. It is my hope that we shall get this settled in the very first weeks of the next year. The state of our finances is quite good. We are however not using its potential fully. We have had so many drives of sorrow and joy and many of you have shown your great solidarity. A detailed report of all that was done shall be presented to you in the coming days when all stakeholders provide their reports. I would like you to wait for the reports to have a detailed view of the actions we carried out this year. Going ahead, I shall ask the Executive board to drop the insistence of the central account and let regions be financially independent while the central account only serves issues of global concern. I am sure this would pave the way for us to look at more important issues like the handling of the constitution and more engagement in bringing up project ideas. I shall also seek to push the class solidarity fund project (If it passes through the projects committee), so that as from next year we have a mechanism of lifting up members who are down. Gents, I think we should look at the past year(s) as a learning period. As a united class, we have a lot of potential, to not only improve our personal wellbeing and that of the people around us, but also humanity at large. Let us combine the potentials we have as from next year and seek endeavours that would bring positive change to the world. I shall personally be more active in this area in the coming year. Gents, the actions we carried out this year could not be possible without the enormous sacrifices made by the Executive board and the regional leaders. For that I want to thank the Secretary General (Chris Eyong), the Public Relations Officer (Agbor Renzo), the Treasurer (Che Ivo) , the Financial Secretary (Mbome Fritz), the African regional leader and former president (Bikoko Oscar), the Asian regional leader (Elias Onyoh), the European regional leader (Eko Ngwashi) and the USA regional leader (Teboh Jasper). Above all, I want to thank all of you, mates for the great year and for the continuous support. I still believe very much that our better days are ahead and that we shall serve as model for other class groups. The state of our union is strong

Secretary General

Overview

Each year presents more opportunities than is humanly possible, yet the richness of each exchange and learning from members on and offline makes us ever more conscious of the potential value of SOBA 85 'Transition' Class. While acknowledging that we do not do everything well all the time, there is no question that this Association is 'on the move' and ever more committed to thoughtful actions that continue to promote our alma mater. However, the broad outline of my work as Secretary General is the context of this report which focuses primarily on key issues such as the election of a new executive, finance management, revising the by-laws, website update, fund drives and solidarity efforts to support members in urgent need.

Elections to Executive Positions

Good governance is a dynamic process so from time to time this Class finds it useful to consider its organisational structure. In Nov. 2017 and in accordance with its policies, this class held an election to select a new executive. The election process was coordinated by a nominating committee lead by Kamga Pierre. In preparations for the election, the NC took into consideration all formal requirements acceptable by members. Members agreed that the general executive should be elected by all voting members while regional leaders be appointed/elected by members in their respective regions. Please refer to the table below for those in position of responsibility:

Position	Name
President	Nkamanyi Clement
Secretary General	Eyong Christian
Financial Secretary	Mbome Fritz
Treasurer	Che Ivo
Public Relations Officer	Agbor Renzo
Regional Leader Asia	Onyoh Elias
Regional Leader Cameroon/Africa	Bikoko Oscar
Regional Leader Europe	Eko Jerry
Regional Leader United States/Canada	Teboh Jasper

Finance Management

Executive officers started discussions to reconcile different views on whether the class should continue with a central account or implement regional autonomy over finances. After giving considerable thought to the issue, members in the US region took a decision to have complete control over their finances and still hold onto the opinion that the Class should establish a system of regional autonomy. Majority of the members in other regions welcomed this as an imposition citing that the act in itself is against our fundamental principles and as members of the same class. The issue has stimulated debates over several months and as of this writing, it has not been resolved.

Revising the By-laws

The Secretary General led a small team of members to review and recommend changes to the by-laws. The work was completed within a set time frame and a draft submitted to the Executive for further review and endorsement. The Executive then published the draft to the Class WhatsApp forum inviting members to approve or vote for its endorsement. No conclusion on adopting the revised bylaws has been recorded.

Website Update

Our President, Nkamanyi Clement (and website administrator) updated the Class website including profiles/photos of new members. He also created an online system to facilitate submissions of project proposals, ideas and possible edits required in the bylaws. The objective of this innovative online submission system is to facilitate the work of this Class.

Fund Drives

From Jan. to Dec. 2018, the class has had a total of 10 official and 2 unofficial (voluntary) fund drives. These drives were varied in nature ranging from births, deaths and marriage. Please refer below for complete details of official Fund Drives:

Fund Drive	Date	Status	Recipient
Birth	Feb. 2018	Official	Mbome Fritz
Birth	March 2018	Official	Bayen Tanyi
Death (Condolence)	April 2018	Official	Fonjong Roland
Death of father (Condolence)	April 2018	Official	Ngoe Lawrence
Death of Mother (Condolence)	April 2018	Official	Aminkeng William
Death of Mother (Condolence)	April 2018	Official	Ekosso Francis
Death of Brother (Condolence)	April 2018	Official	Mbakop Marcel
Death of Father (Condolence)	Sept. 2018	Official	Bikoko Oscar
Marriage ('White Wedding')	Oct. 2018	Official	Agbor Renzo
Death of Mother (Condolence)	Nov. 2018	Official	Ndongo Samuel

Solidarity Efforts

Nju Kingsley: In Feb. 2018, it was announced that one of our classmates Nju Kingsley Ayamba suffered from a stroke and is in need of financial assistance to cover medical costs and to undergo further treatment. Although a project proposal was submitted and did not get official approval, efforts were still made to raise funds. Steps were also taken to better understand Ayamba's medical situation so that an adequate budget could be raised for his treatment. After reviewing Ayamba's medical records Etame Arnold (in his expert opinion) recommended further treatment at a medical center in Yaounde. In the follow up stages, while the executive was proposing the use of money from the Class bank account, a few members took the initiative of making individual financial contributions. Unfortunately, the plan did not go through because Ayamba chose not to accept the offer of visiting Yaounde for treatment. The main reason as the Class was made to understand is that Ayamba did not want to compromise leaving his family (kids) back in Mamfe while on treatment in Yaounde. Although several members acknowledged and understood that Ayamba's no-show in Yaounde was an end to the issue, no final conclusion has been officially recorded.

Njila Valentine: On June 28, 2018, the Class received information that Njila Valentine was at the risk of losing his house if he fails to complete payment on a bank loan. The announcement attracted strong interest, concern and sympathy from members. But due to lack of adequate information and visible evidence (supporting documents) the Class did not officially endorse the Fund Drive.

Nevertheless, a few members generously contributed to a voluntary drive. At the same time, the President (Clement), S.G(Eyong Christian) and Regional Leader Cameroon/Africa(Bikoko Oscar) got together with Njila in a separate WhatsApp group to assist Njila prepare and present (bank) documents and verifiable facts that will give credibility to his request for support from the Class.

For several weeks, the group worked with Njila to review documents and photos. Unfortunately, none of what was received provided strong proof to support the story. Further efforts were made through requests, guidance and advice so that Njila can provide what is needed but to no avail. Frustrated that all attempts to obtain what can help provide evidence to the story Njila gave the Class failed, the President decided closed the matter on Jan. 8, 2019. This decision was supported by Bouts and Eyong while notifying Njila of how disappointed the Class will be with the outcome of his case.

Please see below for details on the voluntary contributions

Name	Amount Received in frs CFA	Notes
Ako Abanda (Paddiway)	100,000	Transferred directly to Njila
Kamga Pierre (Pikata)	50,000	Transferred through Bouts
Clement Nkamanyi	100,000	Transferred directly to Njila
Aminkeng William	50,000	Transferred directly to Njila
Mbome Fritz	50,000	Transferred directly to Njila
Abunaw Takang	100,000	Transferred through Bouts
Eyong Christian	100,000	Transferred directly to Njila
TOTAL	550,000	Amount Confirmed by Njila

Concluding remarks

My role as S.G is to serve members of this Class and in doing so contribute to promote our alma mater - I do both with humbleness and gratitude for the opportunity to help lead, shape and facilitate activities as they relate to our expectations for growth. Guidance and advice from some members have inspired and enabled me to continue in this role with zest and enthusiasm. Finally, heartfelt appreciation and thanks to the executive team, regional leaders and all members of the SOBA 85 'Transition' Class who have continued to give their unstinting support to the Association by providing leadership and resources.

Happy New Year!!!!

Financial Secretary (Mbome Fritz)
Financial Statement – 1/9/2019
Member Registration
AFRICA REGION – Currency Franc CFA

	Name	Registration/Sinking Fund
1.	Ndongo Samuel	12,000
2.	Eyong Kenneth	12,000
3.	Tarkang John	12,000
4.	McEtta Emmanuel	12,000
5.	Ekwogge Paul	12,000
6.	Bikoko Oscar	12,000
7.	Edjua Peter	12,000
8.	Epie Emmanuel	12,000
9.	Ako Abanda	12,000
10.	Lysinge Peter	12,000
11.	Lysinge Paul	12,000
12.	Ako Ogem	12,000
13.	Ambe Denis	12,000
14.	Fotabong Ivo	12,000
15.	Fangda Michael	12,000
16.	Epoh Charles	12,000
17.	Ekosso Francis	12,000
18.	Akam Boris	12,000
19.	Happi Njenku	12,000
20.	Wose Oscar	12,000
21.	Essong Ekesseng	12,000
TOTAL		252,000

USA/CANADA REGION – Currency USA \$

	Name	Registration/Sinking Fund
1.	Enow Solomon	35.00
2.	Bayen Lionel	35.00
3.	Nojang Emmanuel	35.00
4.	Ndum Edwin	35.00
5.	Etame Arnold	35.00
6.	Teboh Jasper	35.00
7.	Nchanko Elmang	35.00
8.	Ndum Evaristus	35.00
9.	Mbome Fritz	35.00
10.	Agbor Renzo	35.00
11.	Tebong Foretia	35.00
12.	Abunaw Takang	35.00
13.	Sume Ntoko	35.00
14.	Mendi Jude	35.00
15.	Biaka Kenneth	35.00
16.	Njonjo Eric	35.00
17.	Mbu Edmund	35.00
18.	Dohnji Harry	35.00
19.	Tanyi Elvis	35.00
20.	Fonjong Roland	35.00
21.	Wanguma Victor	35.00
22.	Njie kenneth	70.00*
23.	Aminkeng William	70.00*
24.	Mebi Charles	70.00*

25.	Kamga Pierre	70.00*
TOTAL		1,015.00

**paid registration for two years: 2018 and 2019*

ASIA – USA \$ **below contributions sent to the USA treasurer

	Name	Registration/Sinking Fund
1.	Onyoh Elias	40.00
2.	Eyong Christian	40.00
TOTAL		80.00

EUROPE – Currency Euros

	Name	Registration/Sinking Fund
1.	Epoh Charles	30.00
2.	Nkamanyi Clement	30.00
3.	Enow-Ebot Godwill	30.00
4.	Gobina Isaac	30.00
5.	Che Ivo Nji	30.00
6.	Eko Jerry	30.00
7.	Ngoe Lawrence	30.00
8.	Ojong Samuel Etta	30.00
9.	Etone John	30.00
10.	Mainsah Henry	
11.	Ngassa Marcellus Mbakop	30.00
13..	Enow Humphrey	
TOTAL		300.00

Comments

1. Registration and sinking fund money in the class accounts domiciled in Germany and USA.

2. *Amount transferred from Cameroon.*

500,000 frs from old account at Union bank

250,000 frs from 2018 Africa registration

Total = 750,000 frs (951 euro)

Europe Registration- 300 euro

Total in account = 951 + 300 = 1,251

Deduction sent to Ayamba - 161.75 euro

Current balance = 1,089.26

3. *Account in the USA: \$1,095.00 (USA/Canada/Asia Registration and sinking fund)*

4. *Class had pass through accounts for births, condolences and marriage in 2018. These accounts were opened for durations determined by the Executive, funds collected by the Regional Coordinators and disbursed to the designated recipients. Upon disbursement, the fund drives are officially closed and accounts have zero balance. All records on contributors and disbursements are kept by the Secretary General in the Class Records.*

Report from the Public Relations Officer (Agbor Renzo)

The purpose of this report is to review the work of the PRO while citing successful efforts in 2018. My main focus was to Plan, develop and implement PR strategies that will increase outreach, membership pool, as well as strengthen our connectivity. In doing so, i have not only contributed to an increment in membership but also reignited enthusiasm within the group and among members. From the records, we have four classmates who joined our group:

1. Mainsah Henry - Norway
2. Enow Humphrey-UK
3. Fotabe Sabbath- Russia
4. Derrick Etuka - Russia
5. Noangang Stanley

Also, we have registered several activities that provided us with the opportunity to demonstrate our sympathy and support to each other whether in times of joy or sorrow. As the PRO, it has been my duty to foster this spirit of solidarity by reminding members that it is one one of our best practices that must never be taken for granted. This camaraderie is growing and seen on many different levels. Members in this class did not fail to sympathize or condole with those who were bereaved. These are testimonies of a good practice which is most appreciated by people like Prof. Col. Ekosso Francis, Mr Ngoe Lawrence and Mr Akale Samuel who received tremendous support from the group when they lost their mothers.

Furthermore, the class has never missed an opportunity to celebrate joyful moments which as shown in our records includes births and marriages. Evidently, these events have always created opportunities for important reunions. We have the following in our record:

1. Edjua Peter- Childbirth
2. Mbakop Marcellus- Childbirth
3. Bayen Lionel- Childbirth
4. Renzo Agbor - Marriage

Despite great strives and successes, our group faced a few challenges. Case in point was when some members exited the group as a result of personal dissatisfactions with an issue. However, our president tactfully attended to these matters through his #BringBackOurBoys campaign. Mr Nkamanyi's initiative successfully convinced these members to rejoin the group:

1. Sume Ntoko-USA
2. Ntamark Henry- Switzerland
3. Mainsah Henry- UK/Norway

This report would also like to reiterate that the PRO uses all forms of communication and media to build, manage and maintain the reputation of this Class. Activities that help us to reconnect, engage and add relevance to our bond must be identified and promoted. In this report, let me provide some perspective of how my wedding in Atlanta on December 29th 2018 is seen as a successful SOBA 85 'Transition' Class event. First, it was heavily supported financially, had great attendance and representation by members in the United States and beyond. The sacrifices were huge in terms of travel costs from Europe and other States in the US. Despite the busy season, some members made the trip with their families. Someone like Elumba Raymond who just got his night job in Dallas used his first paycheck to cover his travel costs to be at the wedding. Ako Ogem made plans to attend but his entry visa to the US was not issued in time to make the trip to Atlanta. Additionally, several members called in from Cameroon and Europe to send their best wishes. Mates like Arnold Etame did not hesitate to assist Eko Ngwashi with a sum of \$500, as well as help from other US members, when he ran into some difficulties flying into Atlanta with his wife. This is testimony that we had quite a show of unity and brotherhood at the close of 2018.

Closing Remarks

As the PRO, I can declare with confidence that our union is strong. Members who attended my wedding shared their feelings of pride and joy to be part of the Transition Class. For instance, Fomboh Raymond announced to the group he is back with his mates and will never retreat. This is an example of a successful outcome of membership renewal and retainment.

In 2019, I intend to pursue and promote other activities such as an 85 class retreat that will bring people closer to what the Class is all about. Also, I will continue creating a sense of purpose within the group amongst current and new members.

Report from Asia (Onyoh Elias)

Happy New Year to everyone again!! This Class is represented in Asia by the following full registered members;

1. Onyoh Elias (Regional Leader)
2. Eyong Christian

Summary Remarks

At the heart of this report are general remarks based on our review of the work and performance of the 'Transition' Class. First off, we have succeeded in many if not all of the work that was set in 2017 – 2018. Of particular note is the consistency in launching Fund Drives to support classmates, whether in times of sorrow or joy. So far, this region has been dedicated in its involvement with all Fund Drives. It is important to point out that we in this region try to be dependable, reliable and will continue to promote the objectives of this Class. The region acknowledges that the Class has faced a series of challenges while trying to pursue certain goals such as reconciling different views on finance management and adopting the revised By-laws. We in the region have held teleconferences (including texting) to deliberate and share our thoughts on what could be forward-looking solutions. However, it is understandable that there are issues yet to be resolved and finalized. We acknowledge with gratitude the work of the Executive which is sometimes faced with a workload and challenging issues that need a very quick turnaround. We recognize the skills with which the Class Executive makes compromises to arrive at quick solutions. At the same time, we understand that no great thing is created suddenly. As this Association grows, it will take our commitment, time, thoughtfulness, good ideas that can be executed with strong principles and ethics. We look forward to significant progress this year and pledged to continue our support to the development and growth of the group. We wish everyone a peaceful and successful 2019.

Plans for 2019 in the region is under consideration.

Report from Cameroon/Africa (Bikoko Oscar)

2018 Registered Members;

Name		Name		Name	
1.	Ndongo Samuel	8.	Epie Emmanuel (Fr.)	15.	Michael Fangda
2.	Eyong Kenneth	9.	Ako Abanda	16.	Epoh Charles
3.	Takang John	10.	Lysinge Paul	17.	Njenku Happi
4.	McEtta Bawume	11.	Lysinge Peter	18.	Wose Oscar
5.	Ekwogge Paul	12.	Ako Ogem	19.	Ekosso Francis
6.	Edjua Peter	13.	Ambe Denis Che	20.	Akam Boris
7.	Bikoko Oscar	14.	Fotabong Ivo	21.	Essong Ekesseng

Financial Balance Sheet

Item	Number of Members	Total Amount in Franc CFA
Registration/Sinking Fund	21	250,000
Fund Drives		1,803,000*

*All monies from the Fund Drives were sent to recipients as expected.

Support Projects

1. Ayamba Kingsley: Contributions were made to help Mr Ayamba when the group learned of his health situation. 100,000frs was disbursed from our class treasury to support him. However further individual efforts were killed because the wife was not cooperative enough and preferred native treatment.
2. Njila Valentine: Individual contributions were equally made to help Mr Njila regarding the issue of the bank seizing his properties
3. Etta Hilary: He was located in Mamfe and Mc Etta visited him with the group promising to offer assistance

Meetings in the past Year

The following calendar was established for our quarterly hosting although it was not entirely respected due to the Anglophone crisis.

- Saturday 3rd February 2018 Yaounde
- April 28th 2018 South West as host
- August 25th 2018 Douala as host
- November 24th 2018 South West as host

NB. Our November end of Year was hosted in Yaounde and thanks to Colonel (Prof) Ekosso and Eyong Christian for sponsorship

Future directives

To be debated ...

Report from Europe (Eko Jerry)

With the election of the new office, the president created the European whatsapp group on the 12.12.2017. Before communication had been done in the class forum and also spontaneous through Skype. The group original contained members of the now Asian group (Chris Eyong and Elias Onyo) and some members who were both in Europe/middle east and Cameroon (Akale Samuel and Ako Abanda).

Leadership changes

The leadership of the region changed from Akabateh William to the president (Clement Nkamanyi) as interim and later to Eko Jerry. Reason: After an initial active participation, the

leader went absent for a while and was not reachable. Later, members who were not registered were taken off the forum on February 1, which included the leader. The class president (a regional member) acted in interim on recommendation of the class while looking for a replacement. On February 26, Jerry Eko accepted to take over as regional head.

Regional class meeting

As in the previous year, members wanted to meet somewhere in the region. On March 18, we started brainstorming on possible countries where we could meet. We settled on Holland, Croatia, Italy, Germany, Spain, Denmark, Iceland and Antalya on the short list. A poll was started on March 18 to select the hosting country and date. The poll was completed on 20.04.2018 with Spain winning ahead of Holland with a tie of possible dates being 16-22 July or 13-19 August. Poll participation was low. There was no follow up of the issue again and as such there was no class meeting.

Meetups

Members of our regions made visits to other regions

The class president (Clement) visited Cameroon in April and met with Transitioners in Kumba. He also visited the USA in November and met Transitioners in Maryland including the regional president of the USA, Teboh Jasper.

Ebot Enow and the regional leader, Eko Jerry travelled to the USA to attend the wedding of the PRO, Agbor Renzo. The members in Switzerland (Ntamark, Gobina and Clement) had regular spontaneous meetups.

Misc activities

On Dec 31, members were informed that the European whatsapp group would not welcome non-registered members and all were asked to at least pay their registration by the end of the year.

On Feb 1, all non-paid were removed from the whatsapp group while registered ones continued to work in the background to win them back. All removed members were contacted after. Most of them came back while some did not see the need.

In general, European participation in class issues was very strong, although they did so mostly in the class forum.

Members also actively participated in drives. More than 50% of members always participated in drives.

New members

- 1) Mainsah Henry (28. Feb)
- 2) Enow Humphrey and (28. March)
- 3) Samuel Njouagam (24. Sept)

Member Exits

Ojukwu Kenneth and Terence Eben who were removed from the group at the start of February are yet to return.

Group members

Members in the Current European Whatsapp Group

	Name	Registration/Sinking Fund in EURO
1.	Eko Jerry	30.00
2.	Nkamanyi Clement	30.00
3.	Akabateh William*	
4.	Epoh Charles	30.00
5.	Che Ivo	30.00
6.	Enow Humphrey*	
7.	Etone John	30.00
8.	Enow-Ebot Godwill	30.00
9.	Gobina Isaac	30.00
10.	Ngassa Mbakop	30.00
11.	Mainsah Henry*	
12.	Ngoe Lawrence	30.00
13.	Njabeleke Wensceslus*	
14.	Ojong Samuel	30.00
15.	Njuagang Stanley*	
TOTAL		300.00

*Not registered

Financial Balance Sheet (Summary)

Item	Number of Members	Total Amount in EURO
Registration/Sinking Fund	10	€300.00
Fund Drives		€2,317.00

Report from United States/Canada (Teboh Jasper)

Membership, 2018 2018 began with a strong membership drive that saw the highest number of registered members in the US/Canada region. By December 31st , 2017, 19 members had registered for the year, 2018, four of whom paid advance registration for the year, 2019. As of December 31st 2018, there were a least 20 registered member, and by the end of the year, 25 members had registered. Currently, there are 30 or 31 of our classmates residing in USA, and one in Canada. Membership drive efforts: Every classmate whose contact is on record, was contacted and encouraged to join the group, and encouraged to register.

Activities/projects in 2018

1. Created of a *njangi* group. In order to strengthen the US group of registered members, a *njangi* group of 12 members successfully took off on January 1st and ran till December 31st
2. Organized 1st class meeting in April, in Boston, Massachusetts.
3. Represented the 85 class at the May, 2018 USA SOBA Convention in Boston, where a pledge of financial support was made to support SOBA USA projects.
4. Successful visit by two US members to our fellow 85 class member and his family in Spain, following his ill health that kept him away from the WhatsApp chat forum for a long time.
5. Raised funds in support of several members who had babies, lost loved ones, or got married. All members who received financial support were also visited by members of the group. Funds have been raised to support some non-registered members as well.
6. Several class members who visited the US expressed gratitude for the reception they got from US members. Among other important guests like the recent visit by the Europe regional coordinator, Mr. Eko Ngwashi, and Mr. Enow Ebot, who attended Mr. Agbor Renzo's wedding in December, the class president, treasurer, and general secretary were delighted by their reception in Maryland.

Plans for 2019

1. Organize the first conference call before the end of January, 2019
2. Continue to push for additional members to pay their registration and become active members
3. Improve fund drives and encourage more members to support or classmates in crisis
4. Plan for a general meeting sometime in 2019
5. Identify opportunities, and create links for professional networking within and beyond the US