

## A vision of prosperity for the class of 85 – A shared vision

Dear friends, it has been a couple of days now since the announcement of the result of the elections to positions of responsibility of the SOBA Transition 85 class. We would like to once more thank all who took part in the electoral process – the electorate and the electoral commission.

The election results gave us a constellation in which the position of the financial secretary and that of the regional coordinator of Africa were not voted. We needed to first deal with this situation. We have brainstormed in the Executive office about how to handle this situation considering our bylaws. In the executive office, I asked and I am glad Fritz Mbome, who has done a great job so far, can continue to bring his services and expertise in this area. Fritz Mbome shall therefore occupy the position of financial Secretary until further notice. Concerning the position of the regional coordinator of Africa, I am glad Father Epie has offered to continue his services in this capacity until a replacement or appropriate person is found by the region. With these positions, the executive office's work is now in full gear.



Following the events leading to the election, we thought it wise to first assess the current situation before making our address to you. I can assure you that, despite the tough task we have before us, we are very confident of the future.

I would like, on behalf of the Executive office, to thank the former president and his team for the pioneer job done. This association shall forever be grateful for the tireless sacrifice you made to put us at this stage where we can take the relay. A solid house is not built in a day and it is not built by one man. You have set the foundation upon which we can continue to build on.

This executive office, as promised during my campaign speech, and after synchronization with all its members shall lay focus on the following areas:

1. Transparency
2. Professionalism in our processes
3. People value
4. Strengthening the regions and supporting the base

### 1. Transparency

The basis for a successful group participation is trust. This trust is built when we know that people say what they mean and mean what they say and when they are confident about the information they get. We shall build this trust through transparency. We are not only going to be transparent, but intolerant to recalcitrant behavior. We shall publicly name and shame undesirable behavior.

## 2. Professionalism in our processes

At times, even great companies fail because of lack of understanding about who does what when and how. We believe that the success of our group shall be greatly enhanced when we clearly define the processes for whatever activity we carry out so that everyone in the association knows what is expected and can fully comprehend it when followed or criticize with all vehemence when there is divergence from the norm.

## 3. People value

The whole essence of us coming together is based on the fact that we are friends. Some part of our fate was glued together by the fact that we either came to Sasse together on that fateful day in September of 1985 or later joined those who started the class some years later. We endured a lot together, imagined what we could be, dreamt of the future. Some of our dreams have come through while some of us are still imagining how unfair this world could be. No matter what separate paths our lives have taken, when we see each other or hear mention of any one of us, that bond comes into consideration. The question however is, what do we make of this relationship? – To this team, we want to attach joy, hope and reliability. We need to be a model for others to follow. In this light, we shall pursue vehemently without fear of favour all avenues that promote the positives of our union and condemn with the sharpest tone, any actions or words geared towards the contrary. Gents, it might not be easy, but it shall be very possible, if you all share the same vision we have. We would want to concentrate more on the living than on the dead. Again, why people? We think we (the people) are the actors of this union. We are sensitive, we do not want ideas to be dictated to us, we want our input to be considered in the collective success of the class – without us, a shared future would be nearly impossible. Gents, I want us to consider this - No matter what, we are classmates. Looking back at the days in Sasse, some of us have been fortunate and others not. Some have had an easier path and others a very difficult one. Some have easily met and grabbed opportunities and others not. This makes it clear that some of us are well off now while some of us too are in a very bad state. In our union, the well-offs should never take advantage of the weak and vulnerable. They should instead use their positions and status to lift the unfortunate. Always take into consideration that as long as we are alive, our situations can always change – from good to bad or vice versa. Let it come upon us to create an ecosystem in which we can be able to count or rely on each other without any inferiority or superiority complex. Gents, if we come together and put our collective efforts into any endeavor, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

In pursuing this quest for our people, we are also going to take measures to expand our base. We are not only going to fetch, but hunt all mates who until now have not been contacted or seen the need to be with us. We are going to put in place measures that will attract mates to not only be forum mates but registered members of the class. These registered members will see the difference it makes to be a member so they can have reason to opt out of their passive states. Of course, we might not get all, but we must have tired.

Gents, for those in Cameroon, things must have happened in the past which could have shaken the very fabric of our unity. I call on you to use this new era as a chance to bury that negative past and muster some energy to be part of the future solution than cause of the problem. I shall make a trip to Cameroon in the very near future if I get an invitation from you. In that visit, it would be my pleasure to meet with all of you so that we can have a 1-1 chance on seeking ways of building this new future together. Trust me, what unites us can be far stronger than what divides us.

#### 4. Strengthening the regions and supporting the base

The experience of the past has shown us that the motivation of a region can be killed by the problems in another. We think it is important to promote and copy from progress and not to despise negativity. We shall propose measures to help lift those regions which might be lacking in some form or the other.

Gents, the above goals may seem as theory. It would make this speech too long if we had to start pointing to the reforms we are about to put in place. Trust me, as early as this week, you shall start seeing the actions we are putting in place to assure their implementation. The success of these actions shall depend on your active participation. We want to count on you.

We are going to be a model class. I still believe we have the potential to be that class that other look up to for inspiration. We shall not be looked upon in this status based on how much money we have in our accounts but on the quality of our relationship, the sense of solidarity we have, the professionalism of our actions and the family spirit in our union.

Gents, in this journey of creating the SOBA Transition 85 class, we have had setbacks and moments of despair. We have seen tensions build between members, we have heard unhealthy and unimaginable words exchanges between mates. Do take these moments as part of the constructive phase of something bigger, as a learning curve in the path of the experience needed in the prosperous future we are building. Consider our class now as a glass with some water in it – I prefer you look at it as half full than half empty, for this will determine the energy you put in as we build this union together.

Lastly gents, as long as we work, we shall make mistakes. Only one who does not work is free of mistakes. Where we go wrong, feel free to criticize and do not forget to point out how best it could be done and above all, do so with all the love and respect for your fellow SOBA Transition 85 mate.

Our better days are still to come

Long Live the SOBA 85 Transition class

Clement Nkamanyi

For the SOBA Transition 85 Class Executive Board