

Board Member Candidate's e-flyer

First Name: **Lum Sonita**

Last Name : **Awah**



Why do you want to become an ASAF Board member?

I am motivated to join the ASAF (African Students and Alumni Forum) Board because I am passionate about empowering African students and fostering a sense of community. Having benefited from FRAME academic mobility and other leadership opportunities, I want to give back and support others in their growth. My background and passion for community engagement, paired with my organizational and leadership skills, position me to help shape ASAF's strategic direction and create impactful initiatives. I see this role as a chance to promote collaboration, amplify student voices, and advance education and professional development for African students. By connecting students with institutions and communities, I aim to ensure they thrive academically, socially, and professionally.

What is your vision for ASAF?

My vision for ASAF is to establish a dynamic, inclusive, and empowering platform that unites African students worldwide, promoting academic excellence, leadership development, and social impact. I see ASAF as a vibrant space where students can connect, share ideas, and collaborate on initiatives tackling Africa's critical issues, from

education and economic empowerment to sustainability, innovation, and social justice. Therefore, my vision is to promote leadership and professional growth by providing students with essential leadership and career development opportunities through mentorship programs and partnerships across various sectors, empowering the next generation of African leaders. Secondly, support Academic and Personal Excellence by organising academic workshops and skill-building initiatives to help students excel academically and develop vital life and professional skills. Through these, I believe ASAF would transform into an organization that supports students in their educational journey and empowers them to be changemakers in their communities and beyond.

What skills do you bring to the position and what contributions do you want to make?

I bring a wealth of leadership, strategic planning, and project management experience to the ASAF Board, shaped by my role in founding and leading community-based initiatives and overseeing intricate research projects. My experience in fostering collaboration across diverse cultural and geographic landscapes, combined with my communication and advocacy skills, equips me to effectively enhance ASAF's networking and outreach efforts. I excel in driving engagement, cultivating partnerships, and impactful initiatives.

As a member of the ASAF Board, I will dedicate time and effort to establishing structured mentorship programs that connect African students with industry professionals, expanding pan-African networking opportunities. I will champion initiatives to address critical issues such as access to opportunities, information and jobs. Additionally, I will advocate for scholarships and academic support systems designed to help African students thrive academically and develop holistically. I will also encourage youths to engage in projects that can create more employment. My

overarching commitment is to empower African students to become leaders and catalysts for change in their communities and beyond.

Why should you be elected as an ASAF Board member?

I am a strong candidate for election to the ASAF Board due to my vision, which closely aligns with ASAF's mission of promoting pan-African integration, enhancing educational quality, and supporting student mobility. My deep commitment to empowering African students and alumni drives my passion for capacity-building initiatives, leadership development, and innovative projects. With a background in strategic leadership, I possess the skills necessary to advance ASAF's objectives of improving learning mobility, employability, and entrepreneurship among young Africans. As a Board member, I would focus on expanding partnerships with key stakeholders and ensuring ASAF remains a leader in international mobility, harmonizing higher education, and influencing policy development. I am particularly enthusiastic about creating pathways for African students to gain global exposure and acquire the skills essential for competing in an ever-evolving world. By building on ASAF's vision of quality education and global integration, I aspire to help shape a future where African students are empowered to lead and contribute to the continent's sustainable development.