Letter of Motivation

**Subject: Bursary Motivation Letter for Monocle Foundation Bursary**

Dear Monocle Foundation Bursary Committee,

My name is Makanaka Mangwanda, a first-year student at the University of Cape Town, where I am pursuing a Bachelor of Business Science in Information Systems. I am writing to apply for the Monocle Foundation Bursary, as it would significantly support me in covering my educational expenses and allow me to focus fully on my studies and career aspirations.

Originally from Zimbabwe, I moved to South Africa in 2019 and began high school at Bergvliet High School in 2020. Throughout high school, I consistently achieved academic excellence, maintaining an aggregate above 70% from Grades 10 to 12 and excelling in my elective subjects—Physics, Life Science, Geography, and Pure Mathematics. I received several academic awards, including Grade 11 and Grade 12 Half Colors and Matric Merit Awards. In addition to academics, I was actively involved in nine school societies, and I took on leadership roles in four of them—serving on the committees for Women-Up, Anti-Bullying Society, Interact, and Book Club. These achievements reflect my commitment to learning and my passion for fields like Information Systems and Computer Science

I am driven to build a career in technology, as I am passionate about programming and problem-solving. Although I am studying Information Systems, I chose to take Computer Science modules this year, to further challenge myself and deepen my knowledge of programming. My goal is to use my skills to give back to the community in Zimbabwe where I grew up. Having witnessed firsthand the struggles of my peers, who sometimes lacked necessities like shoes and having to walk long distances to school during the rainy season, without any umbrellas, I always knew if I got the opportunity, I would like to give back to my community. I am inspired to make a meaningful impact by contributing to educational access and resources in high-density areas. Receiving this bursary would help me focus on my studies and gain the knowledge and skills I need to make a positive difference.

Currently, my father is the sole provider for our family, covering not only my tuition fees but also the needs of my two siblings, who are in Grades 10 and 3. My mother recently graduated with a bachelor’s degree in music but has yet to find employment. In 2022, my parents purchased a house, and the increased mortgage payments have further strained our finances. Due to these challenges, I currently owe the university fees for an outstanding module, and I am unable to access my final results until this is settled. My parents even had to sell their car to be able to pay for my tuition. Receiving this bursary would relieve much of the financial burden on my family, allowing us to cover essentials like module fees, textbooks, transportation, and accommodation.

If awarded the bursary, I would be able to fully concentrate on my studies without the pressure of financial worries. I intend to use the bursary to cover my tuition fees, purchase required textbooks, and secure on-campus accommodation. This support would enable me to engage more deeply in both my coursework and extracurricular opportunities, which I am currently unable to participate in due to financial constraints.

Thank you very much for considering my application for the Monocle Foundation Bursary. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity, and I am committed to achieving academic excellence and making a positive contribution to the technology field. I hope to honor this bursary by using my education to help others and inspire change.

Sincerely,  
Makanaka Mangwanda