

MANIFESTO PRESENTED BY MR. OWEN LOAYAR ALI, A **UDSMSA PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANT, ON THE 4TH OF JUNE 2021.**

Mr. Chairman, members of the MSA electoral commission, members of the executive board, honorable members of the General Assembly, fellow students, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. I warmly greet you all. Before I begin with my policies, I would like to state that I am very happy and honored to be given this opportunity to present my manifesto to the student populace. I would also like to seize this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work, dedication and commitment of all past MSA administrations and the incumbent for their immense contribution to the association.

The great Martin Luther King once said “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is; What are you doing for others? I could not agree more with this statement. My journey in UDSMSA of about 4 years has been a discovery process for me, granting me the opportunity to serve in different roles and to develop many relevant skills. I am truly honored to utilize this time of my life to serve the association that has empowered me and contributed immensely to the person that I am today. It is with utmost excitement that I present this manifesto as an aspirant for the portfolio of President of our prestigious association.

To begin with, it is no secret that the biggest hurdle of the association is funding. Over the years the association has relied almost solely on money generated through the payment of dues, which has proven to be largely inadequate. When elected as President I would strive to secure alternate sources of funding through

- ❖ cooperate sponsorships; having served in leadership positions over the years, I have been able to establish personal and working relationships with some very influential cooperate brands in our society. These brands include Uniliver Ghana, Tullow Oil Ghana, Boomplay amongst others. Back in the day as an SRC executive in Presec Legon I was able to secure sponsorships both in cash & kind from these cooperate bodies & I believe as a result of my symbiotic relationship with these cooperate institutions I would be able to secure some sponsorship for the association.
- ❖ Furthermore, I believe investing a percentage of the dues we receive in the first quarter of the academic calendar into a risk-free investment plan. The profits accrued from this investment plan can be used to finance the activities of the Standing Committees, this would in turn motivate standing committees to come up with activities to be implemented in their communities. I believe this would improve participation in Standing Committee activities
- ❖ Also the establishment of a small scale businesses which would rack in some money for the association; having engaged a lot business owners on campus I think it is a plausible area to venture into. To ensure the association does not lose any money we can start

with businesses which we would not require huge capital investment; such as operating a printing press with the association's printer.

Secondly, as President I will ensure that there is an establishment of an academic database which would reduce the struggle and frustration students go through to access relevant academic materials for their blocks. The academic committee of the UDSMSA would be tasked with organizing past questions, concise notes and other relevant materials in ways that can effectively be shared with the student body. These organized materials will be made available on platforms such as dropbox, iCloud, google drive etc. I would also task the committee to follow up on block results and give special tutelage and relevant materials to students who trail in order to adequately equip them for their resit.

Thirdly Mr. Chairperson, as President I will partner with all class representatives and committee heads in tackling any challenge that will otherwise affect the academic interests and welfare of students. I will consistently and relentlessly represent the views and interests of all students especially as it concerns their education and welfare before the school administration. I promise to promptly respond to complaints or challenges faced by students in their academic pursuit. According to Harvey Firestone 'the growth and development of people is the highest calling of leadership'. Your growth and development as a student is dependent on your Education and Welfare. I am determined to ensure your growth and development as a student by ensuring that issues relating to your academic interests and welfare are dealt with timeously, efficiently and effectively.

Also, Mr. Chairman, as President I would set up an ad-hoc committee in charge of accommodation most importantly for the clinical year students to help ease the burden on students that have to roam round themselves to look for accommodation. The committee would be tasked to find hostels in the environs of the hospital at very affordable prices. For the pre-clinical students we would collaborate with the SRC's Accommodation committee to provide us with a comprehensive list of hostels for students to choose from, with close contact with these landlords to provide value for money for our students.

As President I will also implement all pending projects embarked on by the outgoing and past administration that are beneficial to all students. Some of these include the acquisition of an office for the association to help with clerical functions such as information collection, recording, analyzing, distribution of information and executive functions such as planning, policies formulation, organization, decision making etc. and acquire at least 3 projectors to help with our academic activities.

I believe immensely in the potential of the UDSMSA, unfortunately our association is currently undergoing many bottlenecks that have set us back both on local and national fronts. Looking at where we stand as a association, we have a lot to achieve and cannot afford to delay. As the adage goes, sticks in a bundle are unbreakable.

I am prepared to take on the mantle, leading the association into a new era of unity, where all members will carry one voice regardless of year group. It is time for UDSMSA to **REVOLUTIONIZE, RESTRUCTURE AND REBRAND** with unmatched energy and passion to spread our influence within Ghana, Africa and the world as a whole.

I would love to use this opportunity to appeal for your votes, come 11th June 2021. The responsibility lies on us to make the right choice. I am confident that I will bring to the table innovative ways to tackle our issues with valuable input from the leadership team and members. I am encouraged by the words of Barack Obama which says “Our destiny is not written for us, but by us” Together we will rise, stronger than ever before.

Your interests will always matter! I cannot wait to serve you!

Vote **OWEN LOAYAR ALI** as your next **MSA President**.

Thank you for your time.

Long live UDSMSA!

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!