

MANIFESTO PRESENTED BY MARY-MAGDALENE TEPUABIL TEE, ASPIRANT FOR THE POSITION OF THE MSA GENERAL SECRETARY, UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, IN THE NEW LAB ON THE 18TH OF JUNE 2022.

“I had a dream. And in that dream I had a vision, and in that vision....” A catch statement that I used about three (3) years and won an election. It might just work again. At least I can see that I have got your attention. Andy Biersack once said “The pen and the written word hold a great deal of power”.

The Chair, Honourable Members of the Electoral Commission, Noble Executives, Distinguished Guests, Co Aspirants, Colleague Students, Ladies and Gentlemen, a good day to you all. Before I begin I would like to use this opportunity to say congratulations to the current executives on a good job done so far. I believe you would all agree with me that they have done a great deal to raise the standard of the UDS MSA, kudos to them. My name is Mary-Magdalene Tepuabil Tee, a second-year medical student of this noble institution and I deem it a great privilege to stand before you all to deliver my manifesto for the position of the MSA General Secretary. UDS MSA is undoubtedly one of the greatly growing MSAs in Ghana, and it would be a privilege to serve wholeheartedly in this prestigious association. I would therefore like to go ahead and iterate a few things that I would like to accomplish once granted the office.

When you think of a secretary you automatically visualize someone who is articulate. A person with a great writing proficiency. One with good listening skills and good record keeping as well. I have been writing for as long as I can remember. I could name a few works: that mother’s day song I wrote for my mother and that novel about Hailee the chosen one. So yes I do believe that I have the requisite skills to make a good enough secretary. Let us zoom out of the role of a conventional secretary and major on what a person would have to offer besides just functioning in their chosen portfolio. For me it is less about the role you play and more about the whole space given to be at the forefront of decision making for an association as great as the UDS MSA. We as a people need to move from the idea of just picking people because they are seemingly perfect for just that role and move on to picking people who have a lot more than just that to offer. I believe that I have a lot to offer the UDS MSA not just my ability to write and listen but the ability to think and reason. Having been in the frontline of decision making at every level I believe that I have developed a tough skin when it comes to dealing with people and with handling leadership as a whole.

With this in perspective I would like to present policies that I believe are brilliant as well as implementable and will as such be of great benefit to the entire association.

An online Secretariat. We have all heard the statement “The internet never forgets” but it is interesting how that this statement is usually made only when one finds oneself in a bad situation such as mistakenly posting embarrassing photos of oneself or tweeting about questionable topics that one soon regrets. What if we could utilize this feature of the internet for the better? The UDS MSA as an association has a lot of files, documents that it uses in its day-to-day running. But what if for some reason the MSA today would want to access a document from let us say the year 2016? Could we be exactly sure of where it is located? Can we even accurately determine its state? In order to improve record keeping in the MSA when voted in power I would spear head the creation of an online MSA Secretariat partnering with the other executives. This is a place where all files and documents deemed valuable to the MSA would be uploaded and stored so that if these files are needed at any time they can just be downloaded and then used. This would annihilate the drudgery of having to go through piles of paper when looking for various files or at worst not being able to access certain documents of value because they have been misplaced or mishandled. This would also ensure the easy transfer of documents from one administration to another administration.

To help get more sponsorship for the association. It is an undeniable fact that the fuel for the smooth running of any organization is the availability of lucre to run its activities. One can only but plan but without the required

resources none of these plans will see the light of day. Enshrined in the constitution as one of the functional roles of the secretary is the privilege of being a signatory to the account of the association. I believe that presentation is very important in how an offer will be perceived and consequently received. With this in view I would in my capacity as a secretary draft highly persuasive letters to solicit funds from donor groups. And yes I am well aware of the donor fatigue among most companies in Tamale but I believe that if we can organize our programs to attract even non-medical students as well the lovely citizens of Tamale, the sponsorship companies cannot but sponsor us.

What is an association without its alumni? The UDS Medical School has a track record of producing some of the finest breed of doctors who are making the school proud all over the world. The UDS MSA as an association can make it a point to strengthen our bonds with various alumni. We can actively involve them in our programs; having frequent interactions with them, get their inputs and ideas on certain issues that we know for sure they can help with it. With this in place I believe that these alumni would gain an interest in the activities of the association and birth in them a certain desire to want to support the association in its functioning. This would be in line with the soliciting funds idea, which better people to desire to support us than our very own.

Publication of Reports on work done. Also when given the platform my office will prioritize the publication of reports on the performance and activities of the association at the end of every trimester. This will plainly spell out all our achievements as an association for the trimester and the strides that we seek to make in the next. Our ability as executives to inform the members of the association about our service will boost their trust in us as well as to encourage them to participate in our events. These reports will bring out the work done in the entire association with the works done by the standing committees clearly spelt out. This will make our administration transparent and accountable to the good people of the UDS MSA.

Improving the Participation of members of the MSA in MSA events. Throughout the year we usually have the MSA coming up with programs of benefit to the members of the UDS MSA. It is really heartbreaking to see the level of nonchalance that the members of the association show towards MSA programs generally. Proverbs 22:6 says "Train up the child in the way he should go: and when he is old he shall not depart from it." This verse is not only true but truth. If you want to see something in a person in adulthood; from the early stage you introduce it to the person and keep exposing them to it. I remember last year how during the fresher's orientation we were hastily introduced to the MSA and its various committees as well, they asked who would like to be a part of these committees of the association. The names and numbers of interested persons were taken; then these people were dumped in WhatsApp groups and left to their own devices. I believe that the lack of interest in the MSA started from the very beginning. We can truly develop an interest of the members in the MSA if we start from the very beginning. Each committee should be clearly explained to the freshmen; from the Standing Committees to all other committees. When individuals show an interest in a committee this committee would then be mandated to do effective follow-ups and actively get the freshmen involved in their activities. I believe that in doing this the interest of the individuals in the association would be nurtured and grown. These people can then in turn also get their friends to want to actively participate in these activities as well.

Honourable Chair, Competent Members of the Electoral Commission, Noble Executives, Distinguished Guests, Co Aspirants, Colleague Students, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am extremely grateful for your audience. I would like us to take a step back and review exactly why we are here. In this moment right now it is not about just me but rather about the betterment of this association. I urge you to vote for the greater interest of the MSA. I urge you to choose me to serve you. Vote for Tee. Vote for the Write TeeM. Long live UDS, Long live the MSA.