

MANIFESTO FOR DEBORAH IPIIN YAYEMAIN  
HEALTH OFFICER ASPIRANT  
Friday 4th June, 2021.

I have many voices. My name is Deborah Ipiin Yayemain. My middle name means gift, and my voice is my gift. I use my voice to support truth, to create awareness and to establish excellence. My passion for public health awareness has guided my engagements throughout my time in the University for Development Studies. My drive for excellence has been my motivation behind every MSA related activity I have been involved in.

And yet, alone I can do so little; it is only together that we can do so much. To kickstart my tenure in office, with the backing of the General Assembly, I will facilitate the selection of capable association members to the health committee while ensuring adequate representation of all nine classes on the committee. The health committee is vital in the planning and organization of the year's health related activities, including the health week celebrations, public health campaigns, health screenings and mini clinics. Together with course representatives from every class, potential health committee members will be selected to ensure that each class is fairly represented.

The need for a UDS-MSA health and first aid team was highlighted during the last MSA Sports Festival held on the 21st and 22nd of May, 2021. Selection and training for qualified first aid attendants from every class will begin as soon as the new executive board is sworn into office. Professional graduates of allied health courses currently enrolled in the medical school will play active roles on this team, bringing to bear the clinical experience they already possess. The health and first aid team will be present at all MSA functions, especially sporting activities and keep fit exercises, to ensure that any injuries sustained are properly managed and where necessary referred to the Tamale Teaching Hospital for further care.

In line with my agenda to encourage active participation in the activities and projects of MSA-SCOPH and other standing committees, I will capitalize on the current skillsets and projects that exist within UDSMSA; including but not limited to the professional graduates of allied health courses (eg nurses, physician assistants, mental health professionals, nutritionists and midwives) who are now members of UDS-MSA. Class projects such as the Class of 2024 Uniphy Health awareness campaigns provide a new perspective on old ideas that the MSA can support and also adopt. The last class stroke awareness campaign was a collaborative effort between the 2024 and 2026 classes, proof that along with innovation, there is room for partnership and alliance.

The annual health week celebrations provide a distinctive opportunity every year

for members of the association to learn and also create awareness on a specific health issue for the consumption of the general public. It also provides an avenue for students to brush up on their public speaking skills, interact with leaders and members of different communities as well as participate in different recreational yet highly educative programs, such as the quizzes and debates that have now become a staple. Securing funding from external donor organizations, including banks, telecommunication agencies and nonprofit organizations has sometimes posed a challenge for the MSA, the health committee and the fundraising committee. To inspire potential donors, appealing packages will be included in our fundraising pitch. Pledging guaranteed brand advertisements on the UDS MSA web page and the Youtube channel, corporate branded health week t-shirts and annual health screenings for staff members are all means through which my team and I will secure funding for the health week activities.

The Latin phrase 'Mens sana in corpore sano'-a healthy mind in a healthy body hints at the connection between the mind and the body. Mental healthcare among members of the Medical Students' Association needs to receive more awareness than it does presently. The UDS-MSA Peer Mentorship Program seeks to address this need. This flagship program will be instituted through a collaborative effort between UDS, UDS-SMHS, the counselling department and licensed psychiatrists, SCORP and members of UDS-MSA, to enable medical students learn about and access the appropriate mental health services available to them. Together with the health committee, I will organise webinars and seminars where licensed psychiatrists and psychologists can provide medical advice for medical students. As a member of the MSA Youtube team, the UDS-MSA Youtube Channel provides a forum for these sessions to not only be broadcast, but also remain archived for future viewership.

I would be remiss if I did not touch on my plan to supplement the good work of the Standing Committee on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights including HIV/AIDS (SCORA) through the organization of a reproductive health screening exercise for medical students. I will make the most of the relationship that UDS MSA has established with reputable organisations such as the Marie Stopes Tamale office, Verifie Accra and the Ghana AIDS Commission. January, April, October and December are Cervical cancer awareness month, STD Awareness month, Breast Cancer awareness month and HIV/AIDS Awareness months respectively. After watching my mother battle and survive breast cancer, I understand the importance of screening exercises such as these, which promote prevention where possible, and early detection and management of these conditions.

In the execution of my duties, throughout my tenure in office, I will remain your best bet; your best assurance for the good of UDS-MSA. I will always be driven by my passion and excellence, at every turn, so that the vote of confidence you place

in me never wavers and is always upheld. I am Deborah Ipiin Yayemain, your best bet for UDS MSA. Good evening.

Last modified: 18:00