

MANIFESTO PRESENTED BY MR MUSTAPHA ZAKARIA, UDS-MSA
PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANT ON 18th JUNE 2022

Mr Chairman, members of the electoral commission, executive board members present, prestigious members of the general assembly, invited guests, colleagues Aspirants, fellow students, ladies and gentlemen and all other protocols duly observed. I warmly greet you all. It's been an honour to again take stage before such honourable audience to fulfil one of our most important democratic dispensations. Barely three years ago, I was on this very stage to outline my plan of action to the good people of this association in my quest to serve as treasurer. God being so good and with the support of the people of MSA, a lot was achieved in terms of our fiscal deficits in the time when we suffered huge revenue shortfall from the directive of the dean of students to cup associations dues at 70cedis and the inheritance of a huge debt over hanged from the previous administration. But of course, not every problem could be fix before our tenure of office ended and I believe strongly that governance is a continuum and not an event. On this note, I will like to seize this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts and commitments of successive administrations towards making this association a better one. I have been privileged to serve in all the administrations in my five years here as a medical student spanning from Fundraising committee, Health committee, SCOPH, General Assembly and even beyond this association to the higher offices of UDS-SRC; most notably, Chairman of the Judicial Board.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I'm here again as MSA Presidential aspirant to go into yet another social contract with the good people of this association. I believe that I'm in a better position than never before to serve you as your next President. My plan of action is centred on four key areas; Student welfare, Student empowerment, Fundraising and enhancing our relations with our international and local partners. Mr Chairman, permit me to take you through in the order mentioned.

1. With the issue of welfare, first and foremost, I intend to run on the back of 'fix the clinical' school lecture halls. For the clinical year students and even some of us in preclinical can attest to the sorry sorry state of the lecture halls. Air conditioners are broken down for a while now, fans are down and even sockets to plug electronic gadgets for teaching learning are inadequate. The resultant effect is one that compromises and impedes peace of mind for effective teaching and learning. The plan is once

elected, these gadgets will all be fixed to restore a more enabling environment for effective teaching and learning.

Again, on welfare, I have taken cognisance of the fact that, due to the nature and time of admission of our senior colleagues in the parallel classes, they face huge troubles in securing hostels because by then, most hostels are already been taken by continuing students. The plan to ameliorate and salvage the situation is to make use of the special accommodation committee within MSA that will liaise with the SRC's accommodation committee to provide assistance by initiating great search for hostels.

Again, for our clinical year ones, a special digital accommodation platform will be launched for final year students that intend to have their house job outside of tamale or who may be relocating to a different hostel to share the details of the hostel in the form of the rent amount of the hostel, brief description of the hostel with pictures and location of the hostel. This in my opinion will ease the burden associated with the search for hostels in the clinical school as some of us fall victims to scams by agents. But I must admit that this wouldn't be enough to bring an end to the hostel saga but at least, there will be a huge progress and for me, that's the most important thing; PROGRESS.

2. Mr chairman, moving on to student empowerment, as a social democrat an integral part of my agenda for transformation is my unwavering believe that, the greatest wealth of this association is its people. I intend to actualise this by providing opportunity for interested members to undergo training in graphic design and photography. This policy is informed by the fact that, there is a growing boom in the two components within the students' parlance and again, our association spends huge sums of money in those components year after year. So aside the fact that this will spark-up and ignite entrepreneurial drive among members, this equally will serve to lessen the burden on MSA financially. The idea is that, once these members have successfully gone through the training and are passed out, they are very people that will be responsible for our graphic design needs as there will be an end to contracting designers at huge costs to the association.

3. Mr Chairman, Fundraising. Our Association is one that is hugely dues-driven, is one that operates on the principle of sole consumption. It is unfortunate to announce to you that, MSA has no business or venture to its name. But I see this as a great challenge to change the status quo. In line with the policy to train members on photography, we will initiate processes towards the acquisition of a decent camera for the association. A special committee will be carved out of editorial board to be responsible for the photography. Aside us relying on this camera for our internal activities where we wouldn't be contracting photographers at a cost, an entire photography and flier production business will be set-up in the name of the association where revenues will be generated internally to augment our income.

Still in line with fundraising, a proactive fundraising committee will be inaugurated with special attention to lobbying skills of members, extent of network and commitment of members.

4. Furthermore, Mr Chairman, we will work towards enhancing our relations with our local (FGMSA) and international partners (IFMSA) through our standing committee to organise local exchange programs and webinars. This is very crucial because, it will put us in a better position to augment our representations in the leadership of FGMSA and IFMSA which ultimately will help uplift the image and name of UDS-MEDICAL SCHOOL.
5. Lastly Mr Chairman, our traditional programs will take a different and a better outlook, we will advocate for the free week that previously came with the health week to ensure active participation, revamping of district Outreaches and all the issues surrounding T-shirts will be addressed. The MSA sports will see additional games in the form of handball games for our ladies and we will equally find a way of making our annual dinner a profit-making event without compromising affordability.

Mr Chairman, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, this is the plan, this is the way to go. Endorse my candidature and let's work together and closely to make a lot more possible in UDS-MSA.

Thank you!

God bless you!

God bless UDS-MSA!