

**MANIFESTO BY PHILIP DAARINTA BAALABOORE FOR THE POSITION
OF EXCHANGE OFFICER OF UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
MEDICAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Mr. Chairman, members of the Electoral Commission, executives of our association, fellow aspirants of the various portfolios, my cherished supporters, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to thank you all for making it to this gathering despite your busy schedule. I will also like to use this opportunity to commend the current executives and everybody who has sacrificed his/her time, energy, as well as other forms of resources at any point in time in service of our great association. The tenure of the current executive board is gradually coming to an end and there is a need for new set of hands to come on board. I therefore avail myself with great zeal to serve our great association to make a difference. I envision the UDS MSA being recognized nationwide for its interests and participation in professional and research exchange.

I am Philip Daarinta Baalaboore, a 6th year medical student of this institution and a passionate and active member of UDS-MSA. I have occupied leadership roles in different aspects of this association and at the national level. I deem it a great honour to stand before you all to present the policies I intend to implement should I be elected to office as the exchange officer of this noble association. I therefore humbly ask for your attention as I walk you through these plans for UDS-MSA exchange. Unfortunately, as was published by the current exchange officer and SCORE(Standing Committee on Research Exchange) chairman, due to the restrictions on non-essential travel brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, student exchange will not be happening this exchange season. Notwithstanding, I am here to share with you pragmatic and feasible policies which are going to make UDS-MSA student exchange better.

One of the things I intend to do when I am elected to office is to hold webinars that would seek to educate MSA members on the activities of SCORE (Standing Committee on Research Exchange) and SCOPE (Standing Committee on Professional Exchange). This is going to increase the awareness of the two standing committees mentioned, broaden the knowledge base of MSA members and highlight the academic and social benefits of going on exchange. After I interacted with a good number of medical students of different year groups this year, it became apparent that student exchange education is important.

Secondly, I intend to introduce SCORE representatives for the various classes by consulting with course reps and SCORE chairperson to increase participation at the class level. The aim of this initiative is to get a core group of dedicated members that will strengthen the standing committee. The reps will also help in disseminating information about the committee activities to their various classes and help champion committee projects and activities.

Also, when I am given the mandate, I will work to increase the student exchange slots made available to interested members. This will be done by liaising with the National Exchange Officer to host more international students thereby getting more professional exchange slots since the exchanges are bilateral contracts. I will also lobby with the doctors in our teaching hospital who have access to professional exchange slots to enable more students benefit. Another way I will increase exchange slots is to establish research projects in UDS in consultation with the SCORE chairperson. Unfortunately, many medical students do not have the opportunity to experience research while in medical school. Research is essential for the development of medicine and without it, the medical field could never have reached the stage it is at now with innovative methods of diagnosis and treatments. I will work with the professors and lecturers of our noble institution to get research topics to enable our university to host international research exchange students and in the end get research exchange slots for members. This will go a long way to

increase the annual slots allocated to UDS-MSA since it will add to the professional exchange slots.

Finally, when voted into power I will ensure that exchange slots are allocated to eligible members fairly. This will be done by making members interested in a particular country ballot and those who do not get slots lose their chance to ballot for another country, making it fair for all. I will humbly entreat you all to vote for me so that all these policies see the light of day. My name once again is Philip Daarinta Baalaboore, the right choice for MSA.

Thank you very much.

LONG LIVE MSA, LONG LIVE UDS & LONG LIVE GHANA

GOD BLESS US ALL