

**MANIFESTO PRESENTED BY ABENA OTEMA ASIAMA-KUMI, ASPIRANT FOR  
THE POSITION OF MSA PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES,  
IN ICT AUDITORIUM ON 4TH JUNE, 2021**

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Members of the Electoral Commission, Noble Executives, Distinguished Guests, Colleague Students, ladies and gentlemen , good evening to you all.

It would be a great error if I do not first salute the ever able executives and commend them for setting a standard on which generations can build. I say 'Ayekoo' to them all.

My name is Abena Otema Asiama-Kumi, a student of the PBL 5 class. It is with no doubt that I am an active member of this honourable association. I have been involved in programs organized by the association- from health walks to sporting activities to various health week evaluation dinners, and I am a very active member of SCORA. My passion for MSA was ignited when I first stepped into the school. I met the first female president, Dr. Yvonne Martha Lutterodt who never ceases to inspire me. This zeal made me do a lot in the association. I was an usher at the 2016 MSA dinner, I was the MC at the 2017 White Coat Ceremony, and that very year, I vied for the position of MSA Secretary which I won. My excellent work sealed my position as part of the record bearing executive body.

UDS MSA is undergoing an evolution to become the most vibrant and most talked about association on campus and beyond, and it will be a great privilege to serve with all my heart, the populace of MSA in the capacity of president in this prestigious university. MSA is dear to my heart and I am here to make use of this opportunity to present my vision, and policies which tow the road of all-inclusiveness, accountability, excellence and genuine service.

As part of my preparation to become the next president of this association, I visited the ancient people who have been in the shoes I want to occupy because I believe that for everywhere we would want to get to, people have been there before, and counsel will only make you wiser. All these efforts have left me with so much knowledge, and as such, I would like to tell you a tale of all that I would like to accomplish once I am voted into power as the MSA President.

For simplicity's sake, I have categorized my policies into 3 main groups- academic policies, extra-curricular policies and welfare policies.

Diamond is known to be the hardest mineral on earth. It is very precious and has the ability to withstand hard conditions, this is why I liken my academic policies to diamond.

Moving from class to class, we mostly need to go to our seniors for resource materials and sometimes chasing after seniors can be very burdensome. Think about a system in which all resources- books, past questions and other learning materials are digitalised, and all the students in this medical school have access to a digitalised resource bank.

I was at a session last week and we were learning how to perform a musculoskeletal exam. With the volume of information provided, I saw how important my next policy is-making audios and videos of relevant topics and examinations. Someone may argue that you can get them online, but as we know, every lecturer has what he or she likes, and getting these videos and audios would provide an easy and detail oriented revision for students.

Even more, most people don't know what goes on in the various specialty fields, nor the exams to write to study abroad and this leads them to making wrong choices regarding their career. This is why as part of my academic policies, I would organise career symposia which will address all these concerns.

It is said that the mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled. This is why when voted into power, I would also set up a mentorship system between clinical and pre-clinical years to help pre-clinical year students to be nurtured and to foster socialization.

Carrying certain books to the hospital can be a headache. Acquiring some books for the library will go a long way to help students feel more comfortable.

With all my academic policies stated, it is apparent that they are solid and feasible and will stand the test of time and strength, that's why I saw, diamond.

Now to my extracurricular activities.

All work and no play was a nursery rhyme we used to sing. Extracurricular activities are an essential part of education. A balance of both is monumental in making one an all-rounder. Medical students have been known to be book worms, but I must say I'm particularly excited that UDS MSA is one of the MSAs that have the most diverse and vibrant future doctors who are in different fields too. Just as the precious stone ruby has many scintillating sides, so are my extra-curricular policies. Given the nod, I will organise a Kenkey for Funds Project which will seek to bring everyone on board where the funds from the event will be used for a charity project.

Also, according to the constitution, MSA is focused on promoting general good health, and for this, I seek to secure airtime at radio stations, which I have begun conversation to that regard to allow the good people of MSA to educate the public and also to train more students to talk on radio.

Furthermore, concerning the President's Aponkye Cup which was organised in 2018, when given the nod, I would like to modify it a bit. I will organise a FIFA tournament where we would crown the GOAT of the medical school.

Also, most people haven't seen the wonders of the north. There are a lot of lovely places we can go to, that's why I would push for more excursions.

The Amaraba bash is a great time for socialization and I would like to reintroduce it.

We do not stop playing because we grow rusty, but we grow rusty because we stop playing.

Now to my welfare policies.

Gold is the purest metal on earth. A pure heart is typified with gold. My welfare policies are born out of the purest of hearts, that's why I say my welfare policies are of gold.

I understand the challenge of looking for hostels around TTH, especially for the PBL 3s who will go to their clinical years. With the introduction of an accommodation committee, we can help reduce the stress of looking for a hostel and reduce the exorbitant prices of hostel agents.

Also, having members of UDS MSA at the national level and even in other high bodies on campus, goes a long way to benefit the medical school. I look forward to having people who have had experiences in various leadership positions training medical students who desire to take the cap of higher leadership. This would not only pitch UDS MSA high locally, but also, make UDS popular for being a bureau for training fine leader doctors.

Our course reps do a sacrificial work, and in my power as president, they'd receive tokens to encourage them to do more for their classes.

Moreover, who is a servant when he is not easily accessible? I would make myself accessible to all students to address their concerns through open forums and personal interactions, as I believe that to make MSA work, we would need prudent suggestions from the minds of the great people of MSA.

I seek to be accountable, I seek to be transparent in all my dealings, and above all I seek to serve you with excellence.

As President, together we are going to make UDS-MSA an association we can beat our chests about. You are the sole reason why this association was established, and I know how precious you are, that's why I need you to give me the opportunity to serve you like the king and queen you are.

A vote for me is a vote for you.

Mr. Chairman, invited guests, honourable people of this association, thank you for your audience. Long live UDS, long live MSA! #possibletogether

