

**MANIFESTO DELIVERED BY STANISLAUS SUMDINGYA ATIAH, A UDSMSA EXCHANGE OFFICER ASPIRANT, ON THE 23<sup>rd</sup> OF June, 2023**

Without mutual knowledge there can be no mutual understanding; without understanding, there can be no trust and respect; without trust, there can be no peace, only the danger of conflict.

Electoral Commission Chairperson, fellow aspirants, fellow students, ladies and gentlemen, all protocols duly observed. Good evening. I am Stanislaus Sumdingya Atiah, a member of the PBL 4 class, an assiduous member of this noble association and an MSA Exchange Officer aspirant.

This herein manifesto is meant to present simple arguments, as well as share the reasons as to why you should endorse me as your next exchange officer. Through my many conversations with past Exchange Officers as well as the student body, my team and I have put up very pragmatic policies that will address the issues facing our exchange office and any concerns the students may have.

Before I outline the aforementioned policies, I would like to commend the fruitful efforts of the incumbent MSA Executive board and all past executive boards. It is only by their activities that the association has been brought this far. God willing, our electioneering process will soon be over and a new executive board will be inaugurated; arriving with renewed zeal and fresh ideas.

On the issue of policies and concerns, the major problems faced by the exchange office are the lack of slots for students to embark on exchange and troubled sponsorship for students going on exchange. To increase slots, I intend to offer to host more international students in the University and use this as a leverage to make a case for the allocation of more slots. I also intend to be in frequent contact with the International Relations Department of UDS to get slots when their annual slots are allocated to them. I also promise to work fervently in collaboration with the lecturers and medical professionals with well-established links to foreign institutions to assist in getting slots. This is something which has been a norm for some years now however I believe that under my abled leadership, we will have a significant number of students going on exchange each year.

To increase sponsorship, I plan on getting in contact with as many pharmaceutical companies and nonprofits as possible. The idea behind this is to plead the significance of exchange programs in acquiring knowledge and skills to give back to Ghanaian society. We will also take advantage of social media. After all, we are in a global village and the internet is a very effective tool. I imagine a scenario where most, if not all, MSA students *like* and *retweet* posts from our official social media pages showing appreciation to a company for sponsoring us. This amount of engagement would actually aid that brand's association with a good image. I believe most companies would be amicable to these ideas and opportunities.

I also intend on collaborating with the other Exchange Officers under FGMSA to introduce a local exchange program (the first of its kind). Here, we will set up exchange programs to domestic medical schools so that others may visit and experience our clinical studies. Let us not forget that in the long run, not all of us are going to be at Tamale Teaching Hospital after school. Aside from learning, our students would have the advantage of familiarizing themselves with facilities where they may potentially work and gaining exposure to how other health facilities run.

As per the UDSMSA constitution, if elected as Exchange Officer. I also double as the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Professional Exchange (SCOPE) and I intend to organize seminars/webinars and a symposium to educate students about exchange programs and the benefits it brings to the table. I also intend to collaborate with the Standing Committee on Research Exchange (SCORE) to bring their Research Exchange program to the UDSMSA. This is something our colleagues from UG and KNUST enjoy and I find it pertinent to involve ourselves. As the saying goes, "follow who know road". By involving ourselves, we are sure to tap into their experience. However, the success of this policy may lead to preclinical students embarking on exchange for the first time (as they are well equipped with knowledge from block 1.7 and

2.5)

Fellow students, in conclusion, these are my policy offerings that will lift the face of the exchange office. All signs indicate that there is work to be done and that this is not an ordinary position to be occupied. I am here for genuine service.

Let us take this leap together.

Vote Competence, Vote Candor, Vote Charisma

Vote Stanislaus Atiah

Thank you.