MY MANIFESTO

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE

MOKATI TLALE

Theme: Students First. Accountability Always.

1. MY VISION AND COMMITMENT

I am not contesting for this position to occupy an office, enjoy political recognition or become part of a leadership structure that serves interests other than those of students.

I am contesting because I believe the University of Fort Hare deserves leadership that listens, acts, challenges, questions and delivers.

My vision is to transform sports into more than just a recreational activity. I want sports to become a platform for student development, financial opportunities, entrepreneurship, inclusion, unity and social transformation.

Although I am contesting for Sports, I recognise that student challenges do not end at the sporting field. The struggles of accommodation, financial exclusion, safety, student debt and poor student representation affect all of us.

I will not limit my leadership to sports when students are struggling beyond the sporting field.

2. STUDENT FINANCIAL EXCLUSION AND FEE INCREMENTS

There are growing concerns about the possibility of a 5.2% increase in tuition fees and residence fees.

Students are already struggling financially, and any additional financial burden must be approached with caution.

Furthermore, despite the fee increments implemented for the 2026 academic year, concerns about the condition of student residences remain.

My commitment:

- Challenge unjustified fee increases and demand meaningful consultation with students before decisions are finalised.
- Demand accountability for the fees students pay.
- Advocate for improved residence conditions and maintenance.
- Fight against financial exclusion and unnecessary barriers to academic progression.
- Advocate for debt-relief interventions, realistic payment arrangements and financial assistance for students who are unable to graduate because of outstanding debt.

Students cannot continue paying more while receiving the same or even declining standards of service.

3. SAFETY AND SECURITY ON CAMPUS

Student safety should never be negotiable.

The shortage of security personnel around campus raises serious concerns about the safety of students, particularly those who move around campus during the evening and early morning.

My commitment:

- Advocate for increased security personnel around campus.
- Push for improved security patrols, particularly in vulnerable areas.
- Demand functional security infrastructure and adequate lighting.
- Advocate for better emergency response systems.
- Ensure that student safety concerns are taken seriously by management.

4. SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFORMATION

I envision a university where every sporting code receives equal recognition, support and opportunities.

Sports should not be reserved for a selected few. Every student must have an opportunity to participate, develop their talent and represent the institution.

My sporting development programme will focus on:

A. Residence Leagues

- Establish competitive residence leagues across sporting codes.
- Introduce structured leagues with proper fixtures, referees, officials and awards.
- Develop an annual Residence World Cup where the best residence teams compete for university recognition.

B. Faculty Tournaments

- Introduce interfaculty tournaments to promote participation, unity and healthy competition.
- Encourage faculties to compete across different sporting codes.

C. First-Year Annual Tournament

- Establish an annual first-year tournament to welcome new students into university sports.
- Use the tournament as a talent identification and development platform.
- Create opportunities for talented first-years to progress into university teams.

D. Equal Treatment of All Sporting Codes

- Ensure that all sporting codes receive fair recognition, support and opportunities.
- Promote transparency in the allocation and utilisation of sports budgets.
- Introduce regular consultations with sporting codes to understand their needs and challenges.
- Ensure that smaller and less popular sporting codes are not neglected.

E. Athlete Support and Financial Opportunities

- Advocate for participation stipends, transport allowances, meal support and other appropriate financial incentives for students participating in university sporting activities.
- Create opportunities for students to earn through sporting events and university activities.
- Improve athlete welfare and access to sporting equipment and facilities.

5. SPORTS AS A TOOL TO FIGHT FINANCIAL EXCLUSION

Why should sports budgets only benefit sporting activities when some students are struggling to afford their education?

I propose a **10% Sports Solidarity Contribution** from the annual budget allocated to each sporting code, subject to consultation, financial feasibility and the necessary university approvals.

The pooled contribution would support a student assistance initiative aimed at helping financially excluded and unfunded students.

The initiative would:

- Assist students facing financial exclusion.
- Advocate for support towards outstanding student debt.
- Help deserving students who are unable to graduate because of financial barriers.
- Promote solidarity between sporting codes and the wider student community.

This proposal must be implemented transparently, without compromising the minimum operational requirements of any sporting code.

Our sporting achievements should also translate into opportunities to change students' lives.

6. STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

University should prepare students not only for employment but also for entrepreneurship and economic independence.

I will advocate for:

- Student entrepreneurship opportunities through sporting events.
- Student-owned businesses to provide catering, merchandise, photography, event management and other services.
- Transparent opportunities for students to supply services during university sporting activities.
- Partnerships with businesses and sponsors to create opportunities for student entrepreneurs.

- Skills development through event organisation, sports administration, officiating and marketing.

Let us build a sporting environment that creates opportunities rather than simply consuming resources.

7. INTELLIMALI AND STUDENT FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

Students should not be subjected to financial systems that create unnecessary suffering.

I will advocate for a thorough review of IntelliMali and its impact on students.

Where the system is found to be failing students, I will demand appropriate reform, improved accountability and, where necessary, its replacement with a system that prioritises student welfare.

Technology must make students' lives easier, not become another obstacle to their survival.

8. TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student leadership must represent students, not personal interests or management interests.

I am concerned about decisions and agreements made in the name of students without sufficient transparency, consultation or visible benefits to the student community.

How do we justify decisions that leave students suffering?

How do we accept food parcels being ordered in quantities that cannot accommodate the students who need them, only for those parcels to be returned while students remain hungry?

Student welfare must never become a political bargaining tool.

My commitment:

- Demand transparency in SRC decisions, agreements and engagements with management.
- Advocate for proper consultation before decisions affecting students are made.
- Demand public accountability for resources intended for student welfare.
- Challenge decisions that compromise the interests of students.
- Provide regular feedback to students on engagements, progress and challenges.

I will never claim to have achieved something without providing evidence of what has been done.

9. SPORTS MUST ALSO SERVE THE ACADEMIC FUTURE OF STUDENTS

A student should not lose the opportunity to graduate because of financial difficulties.

Although the Sports portfolio does not independently control university debt or financial aid, I will use the platform available to me to advocate for:

- A structured student debt-relief programme.
- Partnerships with sponsors and businesses to support financially excluded students.
- Sports-related fundraising initiatives.
- Bursary and scholarship opportunities linked to sporting talent and academic performance.

- Engagements with management and relevant university structures to help students with outstanding debt access their qualifications.

My ambition is to see students graduate, not merely participate in university sporting activities.

10. MY LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT

I am standing as an Independent Candidate because I want to remain accountable to students rather than political interests.

I believe that leadership is not measured by the number of political meetings attended, positions occupied or promises made. It is measured by the lives improved and the challenges addressed.

I will advocate for students even when doing so is uncomfortable.

I will ask questions when answers are needed, demand accountability when resources are mismanaged and challenge decisions when students are disadvantaged.

I cannot promise to solve every challenge overnight, but I can promise to be present, vocal, accountable and committed to pursuing solutions.

MY FINAL MESSAGE TO THE STUDENT COMMUNITY

DO NOT VOTE FOR POLITICIANS. VOTE FOR LEADERS WHO CAN GOVERN.

Do not vote for individuals who are more interested in political recognition, positions and personal interests than the welfare of students.

Vote for leadership that understands your struggles, listens to your concerns and is prepared to challenge decisions that do not benefit you.

Vote for people who will represent students, not management.

Vote for someone who understands that this university belongs to its students too.

I am not asking for your vote so that I can become somebody. I am asking for your vote so that together, we can make a difference.

MOKATI TLALE

Independent Candidate | Portfolio of Sports

STUDENTS FIRST. SPORTS FOR ALL. ACCOUNTABILITY ALWAYS.