SRC ELECTIONS 2026/27

#YBMMFor3rdTerm

ELECTIONS MANIFESTO

OUR RENEWED COMMITMENTS TO THE STUDENTS OF FORT HARE

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(LET THE BEAUTIFUL WORK CONTINUE. YBMM COME BACK!)

PUTTING STUDENTS' INTERESTS AND SERVICE DELIVERY FIRST

1. INTRODUCTION

Having noted that the Young Brightest Motivated Minds (YBMM) deployees to the 2025/26 SRC achieved many of our previous commitments, we acknowledge that some initiatives were not executed because of various systemic barriers. We therefore recommit to making outstanding matters a priority and to working consistently for the interests of all University of Fort Hare students.

2. ACADEMIC SUPPORT & RESOURCES

- Advocate for 24-hour access to major study areas, including libraries, the Great Hall and computer laboratories.
- Push for proper training and support for tutors, mentors and peer educators, and advocate for increasedremuneration for tutors.
- Advocate for unused dining halls and venues to be converted into additional study areas, especially duringexamination periods.
- Consult students living with disabilities when designing and renovating study spaces to ensure accessibility.

- Advocate for a campus bookshop that provides affordable academic materials.
- Lobby for flexible data packages by removing the day/night distinction and advocating for 20GB anytime data.
- Advocate for early laptop procurement so that students receive devices before the next academic year begins.
- Advocate for free printing services for students, subject to a fair and workable allocation system.
- Engage ICT to ensure that students are shown the correct modules they are required to register for, and are notpresented with unnecessary modules.
- Push for a properly functioning online module-addition and cancellation system to reduce long queues and delays.
- Advocate for the improvement of teaching and learning through the appointment and retention of qualified,committed and supportive lecturers.
- Advocate for a permanent driver's licence training course that is accessible to all students. (The exact meaning ofthis item should be confirmed before publication.)

3. FINANCIAL AID, FUNDING & STUDENT MONEY

- Advocate for Council to adopt a Student Debt Concession Policy so that registration concessions are handled as agovernance matter and not left to the sole discretion of the MEC.
- Push for concessions to be discussed and approved early, before the start of the academic and financial year.
- Where concessions cannot be secured in time, advocate for interim food and accommodation support for affectedstudents.
- Advocate for the abolition of the university application fee.
- Advocate for registration fees owed by unfunded students to be treated as student debt, with fair arrangementsthat allow students to register and continue their studies.
- Reduce financial exclusion through fundraising and partnerships with external stakeholders.
- Advocate for debt clearance and settlement support, particularly for students living with disabilities.
- Continue to monitor the timely monthly disbursement of student allowances.
- Continue and strengthen the “Happy Ten Weeks” Initiative, encouraging funded students to support unfundedpeers through structured assistance and donations.
- Ensure that students undertaking practical work, including agriculture, social work, education and nursing, receiveadequate resources and financial support. This includes advocating for travel support for social work students and support throughout the full 12 months where placements run for 12 months.
- Establish an SRC Trust Fund to assist students during registration.
- Advocate for increased budgets for recognised societies, clubs and substructures.
- Demand transparent accounting and proper safeguarding of student funds. Where money collected from studentshas not been used for its stated purpose, advocate for it to be accounted for and returned to the affected students.
- Advocate for the return of levies to students who have not used the services or benefits for which those levieswere collected, subject to transparent financial reconciliation.
- Advocate for faculty budgets to adequately accommodate students' academic and practical needs.

4. RESIDENCES, STUDENT LIVING & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Expand the “One Meal a Day” Initiative into “Two Meals a Day” by adding breakfast for unfunded students.

- Push for the university to move away from leasing residences, particularly on the East London campus, and to invest in purchasing and developing its own residences.
- Advocate for the construction of new residences and the improvement and maintenance of existing institutional residences, particularly on the Alice campus.
- Ensure that all residences have First Aid Kits available at their entrances.
- Push for residence accreditation and regular inspections to ensure that residences meet required standards.
- Advocate for transparent breakdowns of residence fee structures and for residence fees to be reduced in line with the actual standards and conditions of the residences.
- Establish additional laundry areas for overcrowded residences.
- Push for disability-friendly buildings, lecture halls and outdoor spaces.
- Advocate for the demolition and modernization of unsafe residences and the fencing of exposed or dug-up areas.
- Advocate for residential cafeterias and a fully functional Student Centre with accessible amenities and suitable retail stores.
- Ensure that every student has access to the DHET Norms and Standards for residences in printed and digital formats, so that non-compliance can be reported.
- Advocate for consequence management were poor maintenance leads to unsafe or deteriorating infrastructure.
- Advocate for a clear policy that prevents the removal or eviction of students from residences during themed semester break and protects students from being left without accommodation during this period.
- Advocate permanent, secure storerooms for student structures and societies to safely keep their equipment and resources.
- Advocate for the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive Student Wellness and Living Policy.
- Advocate for a properly equipped and functional Student Centre, including appropriate retail outlets and student-friendly services.

5. STUDENT WELLNESS, MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTHCARE

- Advocate for the removal of the clinic-booking requirement where it creates barriers to accessing healthcare, and push for an accessible walk-in system alongside appropriate appointment services.
- Advocate for extended clinic operating hours to accommodate all students, gradually moving towards 24-hour operations where feasible.
- Push for online Student Counselling Unit (SCU) support for students who need remote assistance.
- Ensure monthly access to sanitary towels and basic cosmetics for unfunded students.
- Advocate for increased staffing, training and resources for clinic and SCU personnel, and improved student wellness services.
- Push for regular review of policies relating to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and student well-being, ensuring that the GBV Policy is inclusive and responsive to all students.
- Introduce emergency response and safety training programmed for students, with certification through accredited providers and the development of internal institutional capacity.
- Advocate for three ambulances on standby on the Alice campus, up from one, and ongoing ambulance-service support for students in East London.
- Push for qualified healthcare professionals with appropriate emergency training.

- Intensify mental health awareness programmed and create campus transformation walls for reflection and expression.

6. SAFETY & SECURITY

- Ensure that security personnel are present at all residences and advocate for fit, trained and professional security guards.
- Push for CCTV installation in key areas, including inside residence buildings where appropriate, lawful and consistent with students' privacy rights.
- Establish a Student Safety Forum to strengthen communication between students, security and management.
- Establish a Student Safety Legal Team to track and follow up on student safety-related cases, promote justice for affected students and advocate for accountability.
- Advocate for reliable entry-verification systems at campus and residence access points. Explore secure biometric options, including fingerprint verification, while protecting students' personal information and providing alternatives where necessary.
- Establish an accessible campus safety contact system, with working telephone contact numbers for departments responsible for campus safety and wellness, as well as an official WhatsApp contact as an additional reporting channel.
- Advocate for the development of a campus safety application through which students can access emergency contacts and report safety concerns.

7. SPORT, ARTS & CULTURE

- Advocate for increased sports funding through internal budget allocations, sponsorships and external partnerships.
- Push for the establishment of a campus gym managed under the Sports Department.
- Host an annual Arts Exhibition Day to showcase student talent.
- Advocate for safe and well-maintained sports fields and gyms.
- Push for sport branding, equipment and attire for all registered sports teams.
- Advocate for the creation of a volleyball sand court on the Alice campus.
- Push for a modern facility that accommodates all sporting codes on the East London campus.
- Advocate for stronger support, fair representation and improved management of all sporting codes, including better access to facilities, equipment, coaching and competition opportunities.

8. GOVERNANCE, SOCIETIES & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Advocate for the immediate constitution and functioning of the Institutional Student Parliament (ISP) and Campus Student Parliaments (CSPs), free from undue interference.
- Ensure that the ISP Secretariat hosts a Governance Summit to review and revive the Student Governance Constitution (SGC).
- Push for continuous leadership and GBV-sensitivity training for all student structures.
- Ensure the timely launch of SRC substructures and other critical student governance structures.
- Partner with the Law Faculty to begin the process of establishing the Institutional Student Court (ISC) and Campus Student Courts (CSCs) to deal with student governance disputes, including disputes about disciplinary actions.

- Advocate for the improvement of Student Affairs, including a properly functioning Societies Forum that communicates regularly with student societies.
- Push for the establishment and adoption of a clear Societies Forum structure and societies policy.
- Advocate for society transport needs to be protected in budget allocations and not deducted or diverted without proper consultation.
- Advocate for increased and transparent budgets for recognized societies, clubs and substructures, with accountability for how funds are allocated and spent.

9. CAMPUS LIFE, ENTERTAINMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Introduce quarterly Market Days to showcase and recognize student-owned businesses.
- Advocate for recreational areas such as campus parks and outdoor gyms.
- Expand the Student Food Garden Initiative to different campus zones.
- Ensure the Student Centre becomes a fully functional and resourced hub of student life, with proper retail stores and student services.
- Revive and expand the Student Podcast Platform for news, discussions and student expression.
- Advocate for safe, regulated social and recreational spaces on campus.
- Advocate for the finalization of the Campus Student Centre for the East London campus, including on-campus entertainment areas.
- Introduce regular Sunday poolside chill sessions as safe, inclusive and properly managed student recreational activities.

10. FLEET, TRANSPORT & EXTERNAL SERVICES

- Propose the auction of old campus vehicles to help fund the purchase of new ones.
- Advocate for designated inter-departmental transport for academic and event use.
- Push for the appointment of additional campus drivers to improve efficiency.
- Advocate for an increased Transport Department budget to support the procurement and maintenance of vehicles.
- Advocate for permanent drivers, professional conduct and better treatment of students by department staff and drivers.
- Ensure competent staffing of the department and a clear asset register recording fleet capacity and accumulated depreciation.
- Ensure adequate transport for students attending institutional events, including sporting activities, Indabas and other initiative.
- Advocate university buses to be used for their intended purposes and to operate reliably and on time during official working hours.
- Advocate for stronger institutional partnerships with the Department of Home Affairs to improve access to relevant services for students.
- Push for the Department of Home Affairs and Capitec Bank to provide scheduled on-campus service days or service points, subject to institutional agreements.

11. CONCLUSION

YBMM remains steadfast in its vision to build a University of Fort Hare where every student feels represented, supported and empowered. We recognize that meaningful change takes consistent work,

accountability and cooperation. We therefore recommend pursuing the commitments in this manifesto, engaging students and university management, and reporting transparently on progress.

We are Young, Bright and Motivated Minds, and we commit to putting students' interests and service delivery first.