



2025/26 ELECTIONS MANIFESTO

*EVERY DECISION **MUST BE MADE** WITH
STUDENTS, NOT FOR STUDENTS.*

Commitment by
SIYANDA HADEBE
INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE

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For many years, students at the University of the Western Cape have participated in elections with the hope that change will come. Yet, time and time again, that change has not arrived. What we have witnessed instead are repeated cycles of broken promises, constant political noise, and a culture of prioritising parties over people. Many students have stopped voting, not because they are uninterested, but because they are tired of hearing the same promises that are never fulfilled.

This manifesto is not just another set of words. It is a commitment to build a new culture of governance at UWC. For the first time in UWC history, a first-year student stands as an independent candidate for the SRC. This is not about ticking a box or making history. It is about redefining leadership, rejecting the cycle of empty promises, and creating a culture that is transparent, accountable, and student-centred.

*My campaign is built on one core belief: **every decision must be made with students, not for students.***

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GOVERNANCE OVER POLITICS

We must understand the fundamental difference between politics and governance.

- Politics is about parties, colours, loyalty to structures, and the protection of certain groups at the expense of others.*
- Governance is about systems, accountability, fairness, and service to people.*

When politics dominates, students lose. When governance dominates, students are served.

This manifesto is not about party loyalty. It is about a shift towards governance that prioritises students as individuals, not as voters in a political game. The SRC must never again become a platform for factions, but a functional system that exists to improve the lived experiences of students at UWC.

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BREAKING THE CYCLE OF EMPTY PROMISES

Every year we face the same issues:

- *Accommodation shortages.*
- *Food insecurity.*
- *Lack of consultation and transparency.*
- *Exclusion of diverse voices.*

None of these are accidents. They are symptoms of broken systems and failed accountability. Year after year, students are placed on waiting lists, promised change, and then forgotten. The result is frustration, despair, and disengagement.

This manifesto is a call to action. It is time to break the cycle of promises without delivery. It is time to demand governance that produces real, measurable outcomes.

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MY CORE COMMITMENTS

1. Transparency and Accountability

Every cent of SRC funds must be accounted for. Students deserve to know how their money is used. To achieve this:

- Monthly Student Seatings will be introduced where students can directly engage with SRC members, raise concerns, and receive updates before decisions are implemented.*
- SRC financial reports must be made publicly available, simple, and accessible to every student.*
- No decision that impacts students should ever be taken behind closed doors.*

2. Accommodation Crisis: A System Overhaul

Accommodation is not a minor inconvenience; it is a crisis that has been normalised. Every year, students are left stranded far into the academic year. That is unacceptable.

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MY CORE COMMITMENTS

Accommodation Crisis (CONTINUED)

- No student should remain on a waiting list **past mid-January 2026**.
- Students must receive clear, early communication on acceptance or rejection so they can prepare alternatives.
- The Accommodation Council must be held accountable with strict timelines, transparent reporting, and direct communication to students.
- Emergency housing solutions must be created for students at risk of homelessness.

3. Food Insecurity and Basic Needs

Food insecurity is one of the most pressing challenges on campus. It is unacceptable that some students attend events mainly because they know refreshments will be served. This shows how deep the crisis runs.

- Food parcel programmes must be expanded and normalised, not treated as charity but as a student right.

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MY CORE COMMITMENTS

Food Insecurity and Basic Needs (CONTINUED)

- *Consistent fundraising initiatives should be prioritised for basic needs before funding bashes and non-essential events.*
- *Partnerships with local food banks, retailers, and NGOs must be strengthened to secure continuous support.*
- *Campus dignity centres must be developed, ensuring that students can access basic needs without shame.*

4. Governance by Consultation

Students must shape the decisions that affect them. Governance must be by consultation, not decree.

- *Before events, policies, or funding allocations are finalised, students should be part of the process.*
- *Student-led forums must be held before each major SRC decision.*
- *Surveys, consultations, and voting platforms must be integrated into decision-making to ensure the student body is truly represented.*

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MY CORE COMMITMENTS

5. Diversity and Inclusion

UWC prides itself on diversity, yet leadership does not reflect this fully. Representation is often skewed, with certain groups consistently excluded.

- The SRC must be multi-racial, multi-cultural, and multi-voiced, representing every community, belief, and identity on campus.*
- All structures of student governance must actively include voices that have historically been ignored.*
- Respect and equal recognition must become the foundation of decision-making, ensuring that UWC's diversity becomes its strength rather than a weakness.*

6. Redefining Leadership Culture

The SRC must no longer be reduced to free t-shirts, political chants, or colourful campaigns. Leadership must be redefined.

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MY CORE COMMITMENTS

Redefining Leadership Culture (CONTINUED)

- *Leadership is honesty, not popularity.*
- *Leadership is accountability, not privilege.*
- *Leadership is service, not politics.*

We must end the culture of blind loyalty to political parties and replace it with a culture of governance that works for students.

MY CALL TO YOU

To every student who has stopped voting because they feel it makes no difference. To every student who has felt ignored, overlooked, or betrayed. To every student who has lost hope. This is your chance.

This campaign is not asking you to vote for a party or a colour. It is asking you to vote for governance, accountability, and a system that finally places you first.

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MY CALL TO YOU (CONTINUED)

This manifesto is not about me alone. It is about us. It is about creating a UWC where decisions are made with students, not for students. It is about building a system where transparency is the rule, not the exception. It is about creating a campus that reflects dignity, fairness, and service.

*On the **29th and 30th of September**, you will have the chance to decide. Do we continue with the same cycle of empty promises? Or do we break the cycle and build something new?*

This manifesto is not about empty words. It is about commitments that can be measured, systems that can be built, and governance that can be trusted.

Let us end the culture of politics over governance. Let us build a student body that reflects every student's needs, concerns, and aspirations. Let us build a UWC that serves its people, not its politics.

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YOUR **VOTE** MATTERS

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**VOTE ON THE
29th & 30th
of SEPTEMBER**

YOUR VOICE. WITHOUT POLITICS.

For more information or **TO VOTE** scan this QR code
VOTE SIYANDA HADEBE FOR SRC 2025/2026

