

MADIBAZ SRC

MY MANDELA SRC 18 ACHIEVEMENTS *#Not Political Propaganda*

In his party directive in 1965 Amilcar Cabral made a historic statement to the Cape Verde/Guinea Bissau party leadership that they should "hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories". One of the key aspects of leadership is to account and remain passionate about the work done and this should be consolidated and defended and be frank about challenges encountered in the journey to truly represent the student electorate and the broader community interest. Our reflections from practical engagement and experience in tackling the student struggles taught us that we must use the occasion of accounting to students to reflect on the work done to advance their needs and aspirations, frankly admit setbacks and define the challenges that lie ahead.

It is in the same spirit that the SASCO led SRC present the below as a consolidated gains in the implementation of its manifesto for 2018 term of office. The term of office was centred on the following key pillars of transformation:

- Free education for the poor and broadening of access;
- Student nutrition program as the cornerstone of social responsibility to student success;
- Creating an environment conducive for teaching and learning;
- Remove boundaries that are reactionary towards access to students from disadvantaged backgrounds;
- To improve success opportunities for all our students; etc.

RIGHT TO LEARN CAMPAIGN – opening the doors of learning for all

The right to learn constitutes a strategic thrust of the existence of the congress movement, and unapologetically reaffirm the commitment towards broadening access to the disadvantaged to change their own circumstances distracted by the historic past. It is against this backdrop that the SASCO led SRC fought for the below interventions to expand the enrolment of poor students:-

- Engaged the university to facilitate the process of applications for those students who missed the NSFAS deadline and for new students who had now qualified for NSFAS as a result of the pronouncement of free education by our government for children from the poor and working class backgrounds;
- Further from moving the registration date several times the SASCO led SRC also ensured “*Free Registration*” for both 1st year and returning students;
- The SASCO led SRC further increased registration of students from 26589 to 28552 in 2018;
- The SASCO led SRC fought for an increase up to 7% for first years intake in 2018;
- Increased the post graduate intake from 4% in 2017 to 16% in 2018;
- SRC won the fight for the funding of the Advanced Diploma and B-tech by NSFAS and NMU Loan;
- The SRC further negotiated and won the free registration for accommodation and tuition of off-campus accommodated students as on-campus;
- During the right to learn the SASCO SRC continued to support walk-inn first year students from far rural areas with immediate accommodation and food as they continued to fight for their access, these are the untold life changing stories of our right to learn program; and
- We also scored victories in terms of registration access for honours students and the struggle continues for the rest of the postgraduate students.

The above only capture the essence that the broader struggle for access to education is not compromised as an overarching strategic intervention to transform our university and society.

STUDENT NUTRITION PROGRAM (FOOD-BANK) – fighting the indignity associated with poverty

The SRC has managed to negotiate a student food-bank with other entrepreneurial students together with the university clinic to cater food parcels for needy students. This project has distributed over 35000 food parcels to students. This represented a call for ensuring that no student will go to the class or sleep on an empty stomach. This effort has extended towards building a conscious university community that reaffirm the principles of “Ubuntu” and care for the students beyond the slogans and rhetoric. It will continue to leave a long lasting legacy as the SASCO led SRC believes that the university is a microcosm of our society.

BAILOUT FUND – We continued to *open the doors of learning*

It is with recognition of the background that both Zero EFC and missing-middle students benefited 25% of the SRC Operational Budget amounting to R600 000. This is the largest amount towards bailout fund in the history of the SRC. This is another intervention by the SASCO led SRC of ensuring access to those many students that needed debt relief assistance from historical debt. *#SIYAQHUBA-SIYAKHATHALA-Ngabafundi!*

MANAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS TO DEAL WITH NSFAS FAILURES – defending and advancing the cause for a free quality education

We are inspired by Che Guevara’s evr relevant teachings that “a true revolutionary is guided by great feelings of love. It is impossible to think of a genuine revolutionary lacking this quality. Perhaps it is one of the great dramas of the leader that he or she must combine a passionate spirit with a cold intelligence and make painful decisions without flinching. Our vanguard revolutionaries must idealize this love of the people, of the most sacred causes, and make it one and indivisible”.

This SRC raised R4.3 million from the University for students who were not receiving their allowances for semester 1. These interventions mark substantive achievements in providing for our students, as the SASCO led SRC believes that students are priority in its agenda. On several occasions the SASCO led SRC visited scholarship and bursary schemes and institutions on behalf of students to ensure that funding was released for student's tuition, meals, travel and book allowances.

We used every platform we found nationally to call for the restructuring of NSFAS. It is through these calls that led to the disbandment of NSFAS Board and the suspension of the CEO of NSFAS. We welcome the appointment of the NSFAS Administrator and SAUS is busy at work taking NSFAS to the townships and rural areas to encourage our people to submit their applications. **#SOCIAL CONSIIOUSNESS FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES**

FURTHER STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS ON MANAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Accommodation #1student1bed

- Around 3150 on campus beds + 800 on campus beds at George Campus
- An additional 2000 (1800 PE + 200 George) on campus beds to be built by 1 October 2018.
- 7200 off campus accredited beds
- 95% on NSFAS and bursaries
- Renaming of all University owned residences, including campuses and lecture halls.

Safety and Security

- New security strategy developed by DVC IS in partnership with SRC, Student Affairs, Labour, EFM and CIO: ICT,
- Green routes have been erected to ensure safety of our students,
- Panic buttons across Summerstrand area already installed, to be extended to Central, Pier 14, Korsten and Missionvale. (A separate process in place for George).

- Memeza campaign – GBV and etc.

The SASCO led SRC continues to engage management in ensuring a safe and secure leaving and learning environment for both on-campus and off-campus students

ENTREPRENEURSHIP (Enactus, HopOn)

SASCO led SRC believes of transforming the university into an entrepreneurial space that forester's transformation of the socio-economic state of the society. It is against that background that a task-team was formed in the university to champion issues of student enterprise. The introduction of HopOn also signifies the efforts of the SRC led by SASCO to transform and empower the students. There are many more developments in this area that can be mentioned.

ONE STUDENT ONE LAPTOP

- SRC has negotiated with management a project of "One Laptop-One Student".
- This SRC proposal has the support of Management and will be serving at university MANCO for approval on the (18 September 2018)
- The Costing for the "One Student, one Laptop" project is estimated at R155 650 000, this is the first of its kind SRC achievement. The implementation plan is set to begin in 2019.
- We want this project to be linked to the transformation of the library

We are the generation 2030/2063! We do not want hand-outs! We want hand ups!

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is here and now! It is our time!

ONE-STUDENT-ONE-DRIVERS LICENCE

- SRC has negotiated with management a driver's licence program for all our students, SRC has done research and held meetings with different institutions and stakeholders on how best this program could work and be beneficial to students at the most minimum or no cost involved.

- A presentation has been made to the Dean of students, management support the program of a driver's license for students.
- This project will also be tabled at MANCO for ratification and approval in the nearest future. #SIYAQHUBA!

CONSTITUTION

The SASCO led SRC recognised the need to decentralise the SRC structures in order to strengthen the student governance structures of the university. This has been demonstrated by the reconfiguration of SRC structures through the introduction of the two LSRC's (Missionvale and 2nd Ave) and elevate the George Student Council into a status of the LSRC. This reaffirm the commitment of the SASCO led SRC being relevant to further transform Nelson Mandela University into a reputable institution that represent the calibre of Tata Madiba. This Constitution is expected to deliver strategic intervention on concerns to students of Nelson Mandela University.

On Gender Transformation

The SASCO led SRC has advocated for the introduction of the 50/50 gender quota in the SRC constitution and heightened the activism fight against gender based violence through education and awareness programmes.

2018 INTERVARSITY

Given this objective and subjective reality, **“certainly our policy [and actions] could only endeavour to achieve what was possible under given circumstances” Rosa Luxemburg 1898**

- The program of intervarsity was to take place in the second week of August. It is common knowledge that the planning and steering committee for intervarsity normally seats between the month of May and July.
- Students should know that during this period, both WUSU and FORTHARE UNIVERSITIES were on full-blown strikes and all their campus were shutdown.

- The management of these universities could not commit to Intervarsity for obvious reasons of strikes and uncertainty. As we, all know that once a university is SHUT-DOWN the recovery plan takes months to prepare. We all learned this through FEES-MUST-FALL.
- Unfortunately, these shut-downs were also at crucial time of exams, as a result a decision was taken at a management level that the 2018 Intervarsity must be postponed.
- A postponement means that the Nelson Mandela University will remain the hosts of this event in 2019.
- SRC knows that there are those opportunistic organisations who pretend that they do not know the facts with the intention to deceive students and use this as a campaign because they don't have anything to offer for students.
- The SRC is planning an internal sports program that will end off with a Social after party for all our students. This will take place on Saturday 22 September 2018. Again, this event will only cost R20 as all our Student Events this year. This is the first time an SRC has had such high calibre events at R20 throughout the year.
- The student leadership of different universities also met to decide a way-forward on a replacement program for Intervarsity. A decision was taken that given the postponement that each institution should host its own Sport program. The Madibaz SRC has decided to host our Sport day on the 22 September 2018. Once again the SASCO led SRC will be bringing you high level national artists to campus. The event poster will be COMING SOON.

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

SRC has convinced the university to introduce a program on mental health for students who need psychological and emotional help with their academics. This program is currently an on-line system that is available 24hrs for all students.

ON SRC BUDGET

The 2018 SRC received an amount of R4,146,675.00 from Council

- An amount of R566,435.00 is reserved for SRC member's stipends, Faculty Council and Oppidani Council for the year. This amount is for 36 members over a period of 12months. Students can do the maths on how little your reps get in stipends.
- Expenses Brought forward from 2017 was about R70,000.00

FUNDING OF STRUCTURES AND STUDENTS WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Societies Funding	R572,000.00
George Campus Student Council Funding	R300,000.00
Students Bail-Out Funding	R598,159.47

The operational budget for SRC in 2018 for all its programs was an amount of R2,040,080.53

ON SOCIAL EVENTS

The FIRST YEAR'S PICNIC and CAMPUS CALL-OUT together cost over R500 000 towards their success, as the aim is to cater for as many first year students as possible.

CAMPUS LIFE FESTIVAL

The budget for the campus life festival is also about R500 000, students will remember that the original plan for this event was collapsed by heavy rains. Nonetheless, with negotiations with university management the SRC managed to move this event venue to the Indoor Sport Centre and extend the time to 6am to allow our students their social space and expression of student vibrancy in our university.

MR & MISS FRESHETTE

The budget for Freshette is always above R500 000 as was the case this year. Freshette is a two months planning process that involves transport and catering throughout night rehearsals for LOC and contestants before the main event.

Also the SASCO led SRC was the first SRC to introduce live LED-Screens to student events and host student Social for only R20. This is a promise we have kept during the SASCO campaign that all student events will not exceed R20. As we are students ourselves and understand the living and learning conditions of own students.

For the first time, SRC was able to extend the time for Social events to 5am and 6am to promote student vibrancy and social spaces. Further to that the SASCO led SRC brought to students a high level of National artists to our campus including the likes of:

- Destruction Boys
- Lady Zamar
- Anathi
- Busi
- Busiswa
- Mobi Dixon
- Frank Casino
- Milkshake
- Phindile Gwala

And a number of your favourite local artists.

PROJECTED BUDGETS FOR OTHER PROGRAMS OF THE SRC FOR 2018

SRC INVESTITURE	R30 000
RIGHT TO LEARN CAMPAIGN	R350 000
SRC FIRST YEARS PICNIC & CITY BUS TOUR	R250 000
CAMPUS CALL-OUT	R400 000
CAMPUS LIFE FESTIVAL	R500 000
MR & MISS FRESHETTE	R500 000
STUDENT PARLIAMENT	R100 000
OPERATION SIYANGENA	R100 000
INTERVARSITY	R500 000
TRAVELLING, CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	
STUDENTS REPRESENTATION	R200 000

All students can see that the Operational Budget of the SRC, which must cater for over R29000 students, cannot cover its programs. If you were to divide this budget to every

student, it would give you R150 per student for the whole year. It is not a practical budget for an SRC that wants to create a vibrant student life on our campuses. The SRC has started engaging university management on a new funding model for SRC Governance programs, Societies programs, Local SRC's, Funding for SRC Councils and Student Social events.

This SRC had already raised this principle matter at a Council level and is in the process of finalizing these negotiations through the office of the Dean for presentation to MANCO.

Students must be careful about political organizations, who want to discredit the SASCO led SRC because they don't have anything to offer from their own organizations. We ask our students to focus on the positive progress we have made together and continue to advise us when you see gaps as you rally behind your SRC towards achieving all our plans for this year and coming years.

MANDELA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The SASCO led SRC together with Student Governance hosted the first of its kind Youth Development convention to tackle issues faced by young people of our institution, the region and the country at large in an effort to create a space for young people to develop the agenda both for the current and future generation. This event was graced by great minds and analysts of our generation such as Prof Somadoda Fikeni, Mcebisi Jonase, Prince Mashele to mention a few. This convention is to become a first of its kind annual Youth Development program to heighten student activity and vibrancy.

With many more Mandela Centenary celebration on-campus, the SRC is planning a university sport program for the 22 September. This program intends to break the internal barriers in university sports with a view to create social cohesion and unite students of our university into re-imagining how to move forward through inclusive and equal opportunities in sport. This program will culminate into a social program for all students in celebration of uTataMadiba.

LEADERS FOR CHANGE

The leaders for change program is aimed at identifying, developing and enhancing the leadership qualities, attitudes and skills of individuals. This multi-campus program is intended to nurture and build strong student leaders across all levels.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKING GROUP

The SRC has further supported and led the establishment of a student entrepreneurship working group to promote and drive student entrepreneurship. This is to give opportunity to all our students to explore opportunities towards becoming employers as they engage in their different fields of study with the overarching aim to contribute to society in shaping the economy of the country towards growth that contributes to employment opportunities for young people.

DOCOLONIZATION OF CURRICULUM

The SASCO led SRC has been advocating at SENATE level for the decolonisation and Africanization of the curriculum. The introduction of the social consciousness and sustainable futures module is a start towards the broader agenda in decolonizing the curriculum. We are driving the fight against racism in faculties such as Health, Education, Business and Economic Sciences. Other faculties will be next in line. Students must continue to report incidents of racism, unfairness and favouritism in the classroom.

SRC continues to represent the interest of our students in the Recruitment and Selection processes of the university. We continue to fight for the appointment of black academics in the system to drive the transformation agenda towards ensuring that all our students are taught by progressive and transformative lecturers who understand their different backgrounds, their culture and appropriate methods of teaching who from poor government and rural schools.

The SASCO led SRC is further determined to transforming the VC scholarship program to be more representative of black excellence. We further advocate to balance the scale on how the university approaches the APS scores of students from

poor schools and those of Private and Model-C schools, we believe that there should be a social consciousness in Higher Education that does not undermine but appreciate the social imbalances caused by the our country's past and how this affects the academic life of our students. This is also in line with our fight for transforming the university finance practices to be more humane and serve our students with dignity. Though we note improvement in this regard, there is still more work to be done.

ON SHUTTLE-SERVICES

The SASCO led SRC has advocated successfully for improvement in the functioning of the shuttle system in order to respond to student increases. An even more efficient system has been agreed upon and will be implemented in January 2019. This will include new routes closer to the accredited accommodation and with linkages to the transport networks of the townships. **#SRC-IYAQHUBA-IYASEBENZA!**

ON INSOURCING OF WORKERS

Successful insourcing of workers in collaboration with progressive labour and thus restoring the dignity and humanity kwimpulazikalujaca. Omama notata bethu and giving them an opportunity for sustainable employment and job security to raise their children and enabling them a brighter future.

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST OUR WEAKNESSES

Cabral made this point as far back as 1966 when he stated that “one form of struggle which we consider to be fundamental [is] the struggle against our own weaknesses”. He argued that “every practice produces a theory and that if it is true that a revolution can fail even though it is based on perfectly conceived theories, nobody has yet made a successful revolution without a revolutionary theory”.

1. We are neither where we were before when we assumed office nor have we arrived at the **Promised Land**

2. We have made significant gains – we now have free education for the poor and the working class
3. We have not achieved the decolonisation of the curriculum
4. There is a big contradiction between the staffing profile and the student profile of the university
5. Access is still a problem in certain departments

These are the tasks that we must still fight. This requires unity amongst students and a revolutionary vanguard to lead them. **# Umanyano mfundi**

As the SRC we take Cabral's advice that we must "always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone's head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children",

CONCLUSION

We have pushed forward the frontiers of education and development. We are on course. Nothing can stop us now. We are proud to be Africans and are pure! We are conscious Africans for Africa. We are not rented nor are we brainwashed.

Siyaziqhenya ngobuntu bethu nokulwela amalungelo abafundi (we are proud of our humanity and for fighting for the rights of the students).

Amandla.

Bamanye Matiwane

President

2018 SRC