MANIFESTO FOR THE POSITION OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH MINISTER

School of Information Technology and Communications

University of The Gambia

By: **Ebrima Mbye**

Dear President, Esteemed Staff, and Fellow Stakeholders,

I am Ebrima Mbye, a third-year Computer Science major, and I am running for the position of Education and Research Minister at the School of ICT. Coming from a background where my parents struggled to provide basic necessities, I can confidently say that education has been the single most transformative factor in my life. It has shaped who I am today, and I am committed to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to experience its life-changing potential.

As Nelson Mandela once said, *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* I believe this wholeheartedly, and it drives my passion to enhance the educational experience of my fellow students.

Identified Challenges & Proposed Solutions:

1. **Missing Grades**

   One of the most pressing issues students face is missing grades. I will work closely with the Faculty Officer and other stakeholders to identify the root cause of this recurring problem and ensure immediate action is taken to

prevent future occurrences. This issue affects far too many students—including myself—and it must be resolved promptly.

2. Support for Students with Disabilities

Many students with disabilities struggle to keep up in class due to a lack of consideration for their needs. I will advocate for visual aids and work with lecturers to make sure these students are acknowledged and supported, ensuring a more inclusive learning environment for everyone.

3. Class Cancellations Without Notice

Students often arrive at school only to find that their class has been canceled, sometimes after waking up at 4 a.m. and enduring long, uncomfortable journeys. I will introduce a policy requiring lecturers to inform students via their official UTG emails if they will be absent, ensuring important information is not buried in WhatsApp group chats.

4. Timetable Confusion

Many students waste valuable time trying to locate where their lectures are being held. I will ensure that an up-to-date timetable is printed and displayed at the entrance of the School of ICT, making it easier for students to find their classes without hassle.

5. Burden of Excessive Assignments

Some students have expressed concerns about the overwhelming number of assignments in certain courses. I will work with the President and lecturers to propose a limit on the number of assignments per course, allowing students to manage their time effectively across all subjects.

6. Tutorial Classes

Having already organized tutorial sessions in the areas of Linear Algebra and Programming, I am committed to expanding this initiative, especially for new intakes, to ensure they receive the support they need from the very start.

Vision and Goals:

In the short term, my focus will be on resolving the issue of missing grades, ensuring timetable accuracy, and addressing course collisions. My long-term vision is to leave the School of ICT in a better state than I found it—where students are not only academically competent but also capable of representing the school in competitions. I aim to establish sub-associations where students can actively work towards the betterment of our school.

A Call for Change:

I have had the honor of representing the School of ICT twice in the University's annual Qur'anic competition, securing second place both times. My victories, alongside my desire to represent our school in future competitions, reflect my deep commitment to uplifting the image of the School of ICT.

Electing me as your Education and Research Minister means choosing progress, inclusivity, and excellence. Together, we can create an environment where students are empowered to succeed.

By voting for me, you are voting for the greatness that our school can achieve. Not nominating me would mean missing out on the educational enhancements I am ready to deliver.

I believe in the power of education, and I believe in the potential of every student. Let's make that potential a reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ebrima Mbye

Candidate for Education and Research Minister

School of ICT, University of The Gambia