



Name: Constance Panashe Banda Qualification: Social Work SRC Term: 2024

Constance Banda is a Zimbabwean-born student currently residing in Randburg, South Africa. She is a dedicated Social Work student with a fervent commitment to community service on both international and local fronts. Throughout her academic journey, Constance has actively channelled her passion for community service into various leadership roles. Notable positions include serving as the Community Engagement Officer and Chairperson for the International Students Association (ISA). Additionally, she played a crucial role as a member of the SRC International Students Council's Executive Committee for two consecutive years, holding the position of Secretary. These experiences have significantly deepened her commitment to promoting inclusivity within the university setting.

Her journey culminated in her current role as SRC International Students, where Constance aspires to inspire the integration of diverse cultures within the university. She envisions creating an environment that encourages the exploration and expression of diverse ideas and identities. Her ultimate dream is to foster a sense of belonging for the international community, contributing to the overall enhancement of the university's integrity.

I have discovered that funding is the biggest challenge faced by international students; if an international student has outstanding fees by June, they will be mercilessly deregistered. I believe if the university was lenient enough to extend the cutoff date to later in the year, we would have fewer international students dropping out of university unintentionally. To help counter this issue, I will be hosting a fundraiser in the hope of raising money to assist some of the students with their outstanding fees. The support of the students and staff at the university will be greatly appreciated.