

2014

LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP REPORT



PLAC
POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE



2014 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME REPORT

2014
Abuja, Nigeria

PUBLISHED BY:



Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)
Off Edwin Clark Way via Gilmor Junction,
Guzape District, Abuja
Nigeria

With support from:



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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

PLAC's Legislative Internship Programme is supported by the British Department for International Development (DFID) to whom we are grateful. PLAC is also grateful to the National Assembly Leadership and Management for their continued collaboration and support of the internship programme.

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1

BACKGROUND



PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

1. To provide an opportunity for young Nigerians to gain first hand knowledge of the workings of the legislature
2. To create greater public understanding and appreciation of the Nigerian legislature
3. To provide administrative assistance to legislators and legislative committees
4. To increase citizens participation and involvement in governance
5. To encourage young Nigerians to acquire skills and knowledge they can apply in their chosen careers and future experiences

The legislature is a defining institution in any democracy. It is responsible for the performance of several critical functions such as lawmaking, representation, and legislative oversight. Yet ironically, most citizens remain unaware of its significance and role and fail to participate in important legislative processes such as initiating bills, legislative dialogue and the monitoring and reporting of the implementation of government programmes. Furthermore, many young Nigerians are often disengaged from civic life mostly due to lack of opportunities to participate in the governance process.

To ameliorate the situation, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) began an annual legislative internship programme in 2013 to offer young Nigerians at the early stage of their career development, the opportunity to be involved with the work of the legislature so as to create greater public understanding and appreciation of the Nigerian legislature. The Internship Programme is aimed at young Nigerian graduates between the ages of 21 and 35. Interns participate through working in National Assembly's legislative committees and departments

PLAC's internship programme began in 2013 with about 27 interns; it ran for about six weeks and ended on a very high note for participating interns. Following the success of the programme, PLAC continued the internship in the following year with an almost doubled number of interns. In February 2014, PLAC deployed

BACKGROUND

41 interns to the National Assembly.

So far, the internship programme has been successful as many interns have utilized the opportunity to better understand the administrative and political structure of the National Assembly. Interns are also able to increase their networks and form many life-long friendships during the period of the internship.

INTERNS' RESPONSIBILITIES

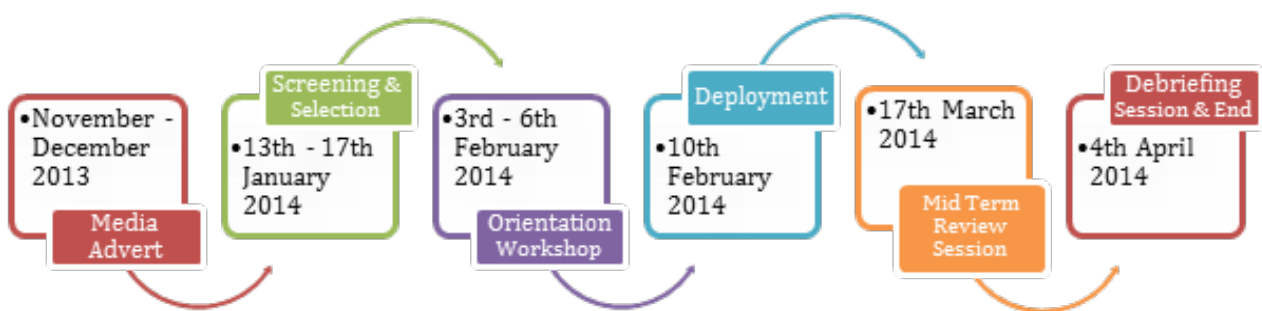
- Providing research assistance to legislators and legislative committees.
- Carrying out administrative tasks.
- Other responsibilities that may be assigned due to the peculiar functions of the Committee.

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KEY ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The internship programme occurs annually, usually in the beginning of every year. Following recommendations from the previous internship to extend the duration of the programme, the internship duration was increased from six weeks to eight weeks.

PROGRAMME STAGES



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- First degree in any discipline from a recognized tertiary education institution
- Completion of NYSC (National Youth Service Corps) Programme
- Good computer skills
- Good verbal and writing skills

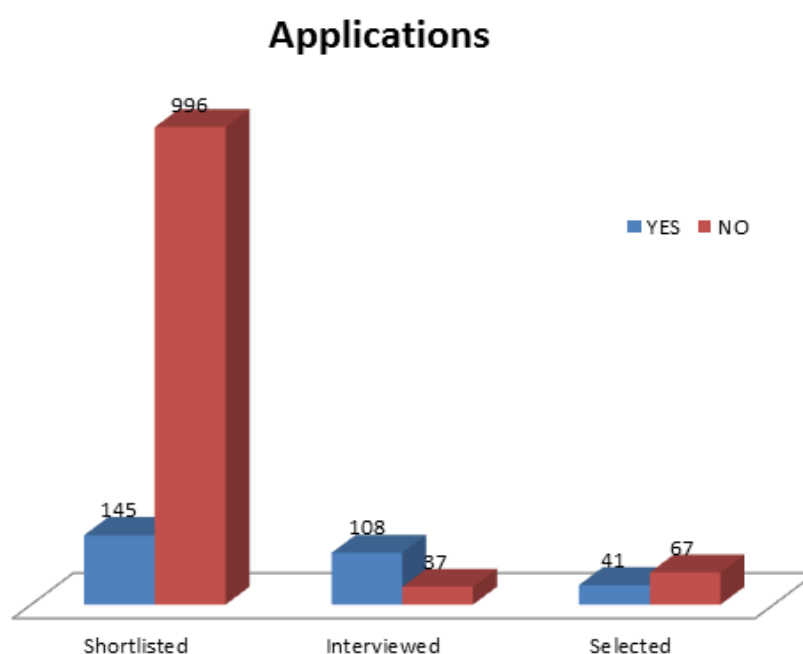
SELECTION

Admission into PLAC's Legislative Internship Programme is highly competitive. Selection is based on the submission of an application, which includes a 300-word statement of purpose containing the importance for the applicant in participating in the internship. Other individual attributes such as the personal goals of the candidate, career development plan, and availability are usually given serious consideration by the selection panel. The panel further considers a candidate's level of social consciousness and awareness to reach a decision. The panel mostly relies on the written statement of purpose to gain a sense of a candidate's writing ability and command of the English language. Applications received after the deadline are only considered on a space-available basis. In line with Nigeria's Federal Character principle, PLAC ensures that interns are chosen from each of the country's six geo-political zones. PLAC also enforces good gender representation in the group.

DEPLOYMENT

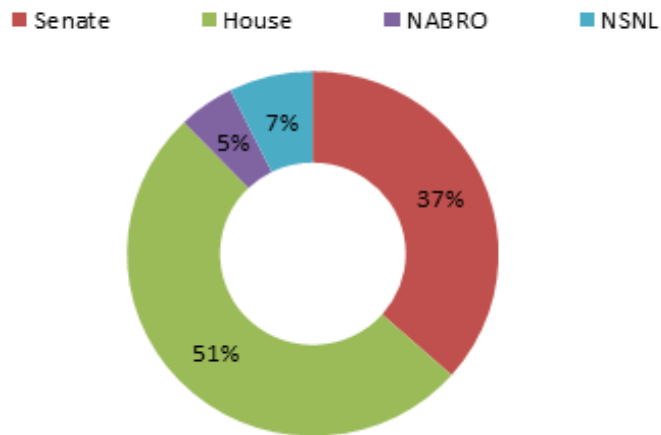
On thorough review of the applications, 108 prospective interns were short listed for interviews during the 2014 internship programme. In the end, 41 candidates consisting of 21 women and 20 men from diverse qualifications, skills and ethnic backgrounds were selected and notified of their success. The National Assembly management was very instrumental in deploying interns to the various committees in the National Assembly.

The diagram below shows a breakdown of the applications received and the deployment of the selected interns.



A total number of 1,141 applications were received. Out of this number, 145 were shortlisted and 108 interviewed out of which only 41 made the final cut.

Committee/Office Assignments



NABRO: National Assembly Budget & Research Office

NSNL: National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislatures

PROFILE OF PLAC 2014 LEGISLATIVE INTERNS

Sex

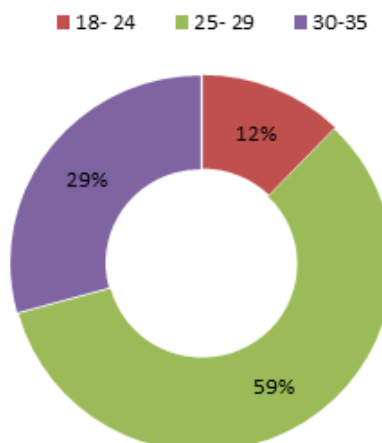


21 WOMEN

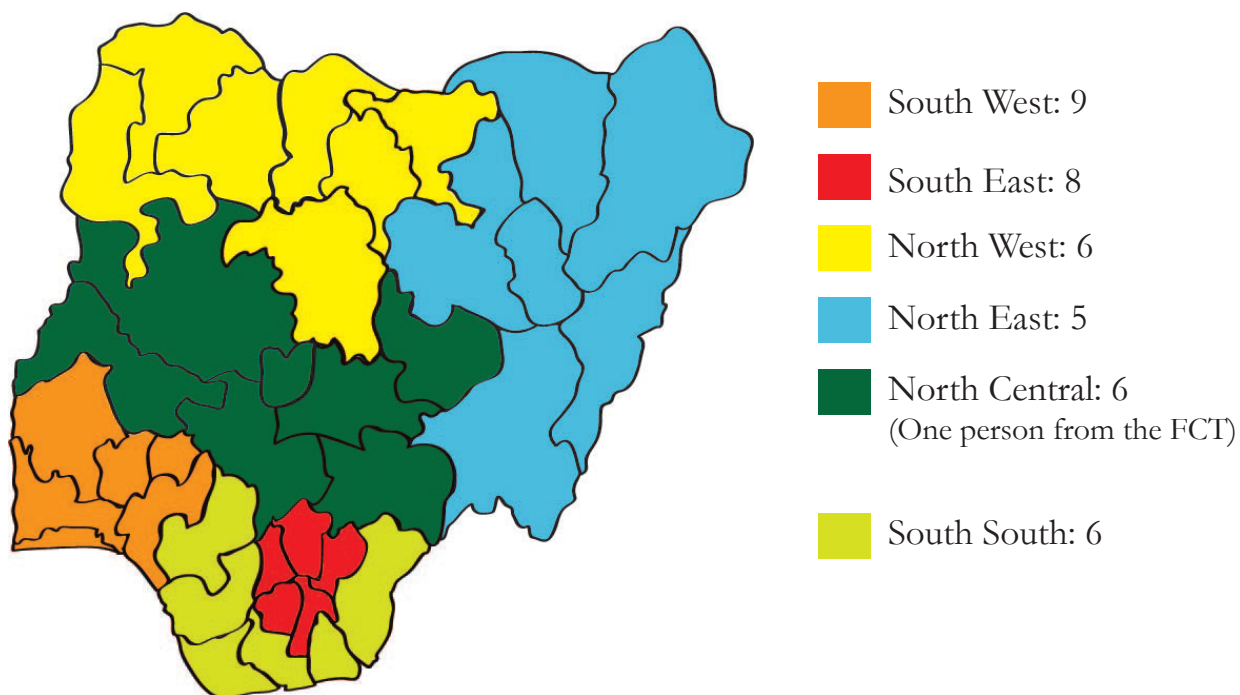
20 MEN



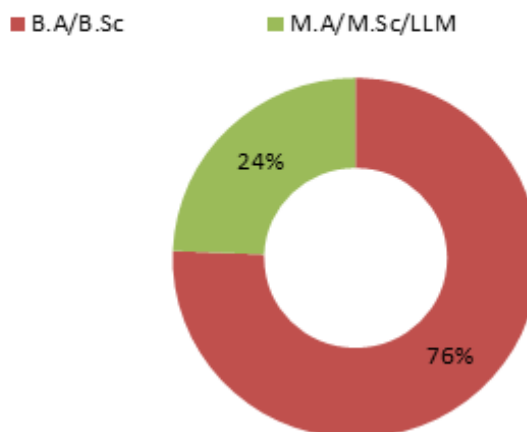
Age Distribution



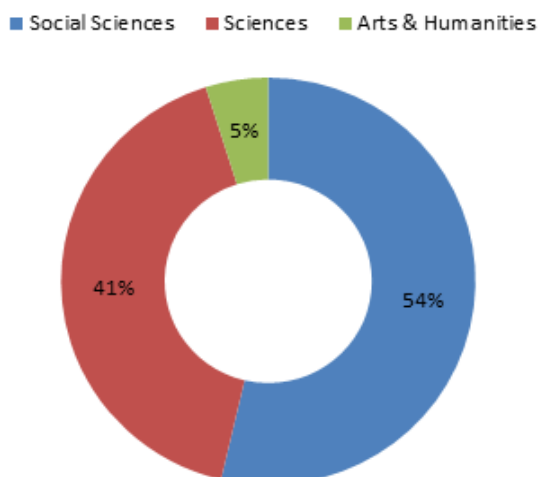
Geographical zone representation



Qualification



Academic Background





L-R: Clement Nwankwo, Kate Henshaw, Sen. Khairat Abdulrazaq-Gwadabe, Alh. Abdulkadir Adamu, Odumu Ebegonye

TRAINING AND ORIENTATION WORKSHOP

The orientation began with a welcome dinner for interns on the evening of Monday, 3rd February 2014 at Ibeto Hotels, Abuja, which provided interns with the opportunity to get to know themselves and share their expectations. After introductions, PLAC Executive Director, Clement Nwankwo stressed the competitiveness of the programme and urged interns to make the most of the rare opportunity. The structure and expected outcomes of the programme were also explained in more detail.

The orientation continued on Tuesday, 4th February 2014 with a training workshop where several resource persons were invited to speak to interns on issues such as the functions of legislators, committees, the appropriation process and the law making process. The resource persons also encouraged interns to make optimal use of the legislative internship. Most of the presentations centered on enhancing their performance and effectiveness during the period of the internship and beyond. The workshop was very successful and well attended.

Some of the resource persons that participated at the orientation included Hon. Abike Dabiri- Erewa (Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Diaspora); Olumuyiwa Adejokun (Former Deputy Clerk, National Assembly, DCNA); Senator Khairat Abdulrazaq-Gwadabe (Chairperson, Senators Forum and Chair of the PLAC Board); Kate Henshaw (Nollywood Actress and Member, PLAC Board of Directors); Dr. Rahila Ahmadu (former Director of the National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislatures, NSNL); Alhaji Abdulkadir Adamu, (Deputy Director Management, House of Representatives) Caroline Asan, (Clerk, House Committee on Housing and Habitat); and Dr. Kanayo Ogujiuba, (National Institute for Legislative Studies).

The event was chaired by Senator Abdulrazaq-Gwadabe who facilitated a role play session to demonstrate the role of legislators and their committees. Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa's presentation on *Youths and the Dilemma of Nigeria's Economic, Political and Leadership Crises* emphasized the importance of hardwork; underscored the need for activism among youths in exercising their civic rights; and noted the importance of acquainting oneself with Parliamentarians and chairperson of one's local government. While noting that being of a particular

gender was not a pre-determinant for success, she acknowledged the special challenges Nigeria's cultural setting pose for women seeking to strike the balance between family and work.

Dr. Rahila Ahmadu gave a presentation on “*the Mechanism and Functions of Nigeria's National Assembly System*” where she enlightened interns on the complexity of the institution and its role of oversight. Alhaji Abdulkadir Adamu briefed interns on the National Assembly's work environment including its sitting time and administrative set up. Mr. Ogujiuba Kanayo then gave an in-depth presentation on the appropriation process, which included the key stages of Nigeria's annual budget cycle and explained that the weaknesses of the Nigerian budgeting system was inherent in its dual budget system which was not unified. He recommended broadening access to high quality information, allowing more time for legislative scrutiny and pioneering a complementary perspective on the budget as techniques of improving the appropriation process.

Kate Henshaw identified ways youths could utilize their opportunity to bring about meaningful engagement. She encouraged interns to network and gain access to information, skills and personal and professional support and highlighted the advantages of networking in an effective way, such as in the use of business cards to establish contacts. Her presentation was further complemented by Dr. Aminu Umar of the National Institute of Legislative Studies who spoke to interns on how to achieve personal mastery and effective time management. He noted that an understanding of people's behavioral styles was key to developing any form of relationship with them and essential to having a successful internship as interns would have to deal with a diverse group of people. Other resource persons included Dr. D. T Adem, the Director of the Legal Services Department who gave a synopsis of the law making process and the various types of bills. Segun Alabi from the office of the Sergeant-at-Arms spoke on security consciousness and awareness in the National Assembly.

The orientation was highly interactive and engaging and concluded with interns being urged to be disciplined and to maintain a high sense of decorum in the performance of their duties. They were also advised to adhere to security regulations within the National Assembly, be time conscious; keep themselves flexible throughout the internship period; key into the vision and mission of their employers; strive to understand or know what the employer wants and ask questions and seek clarification on issues. Further, they were encouraged to take advantage of the programme and enjoy the privilege of networking, contacts, building relationships and accumulating new skills and knowledge. The session ended on Thursday, February 6, 2014 after a guided tour of the National Assembly Complex by the National Assembly excursions unit.

MID TERM REVIEW SESSION

PLAC organized a mid-term review meeting for the interns on Monday, March 17, 2014 at Protea Hotel, Abuja. The meeting was to get interns to share experiences gained mid way into the internship and to also evaluate their progress. Discussions at this meeting covered the activities of interns from the date of the commencement of the internship up until the date of the mid-term review meeting. As a means of assessment, interns were also required to recreate a mock plenary session and public hearing of the National Assembly. While the role play of the plenary session involved simulating the roles of principal officers and legislators

in chambers, the public hearing required interns to develop arguments for and against a bill. The meeting was constructive as interns used the occasion to share their experiences, challenges and final expectations. Although some interns wished their committees were more pro-active, a larger majority expressed satisfaction with the experiences they had gained at the time

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES FROM THE MID TERM REVIEW SESSION

- Improvement of interns speaking, critical, creative thinking and advocacy skills as they work to develop concepts, opinions, ideas and solutions around their group tasks.
- Improved understanding and appreciation of the relationship between the legislature and citizens as they engage in the democratic process.
- Improved collaboration and team building skills; conflict resolution and cooperation.
- Application of research skills on legislative issues.
- Development of useful leadership skills.

DEBRIEFING SESSION

A debriefing workshop for interns took place on Friday, 4th April 2014 at Ibeto Hotel, Gudu, Abuja. It was chaired and facilitated by Clement Nwankwo. Also in attendance were DFID represented by Odumu Ebegonye; Dr Mairo Mandara, Country Director, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Member, PLAC Board of Directors; Professor Okechukwu Ibeanu, Chief Technical Adviser to the INEC Chairman; Barrister Solomon Ntuen, Deputy Director Management of Senate; Alhaji Abdulkadir Adamu, Director Management, House of Representatives; and, Barrister Chinedu Akubueze, Clerk of the House Committee on Rules and Business.

Underscoring the National Assembly's perspective on the internship programme, Barrister Ntuen spoke on the practical experiences of the interns in being involved and exposed to parliamentary activities such as the presentation of bills, motions, debates at plenary and research skills. Alhaji Abdulkadir Adamu expressed hope that the interns would take the valuable lessons gained to make a positive change despite the challenges of a Nigerian environment. Barrister Akubueze commended PLAC on the initiative but hoped that the programme would be sustained and increased from its present eight week period to enable interns have a better grasp of the legislative process.

At the session, interns took turns to give an account of their experiences, lessons learnt and make recommendations on how to improve the programme. On recounting the lessons learnt, most interns stressed that the exercise availed them of the opportunity of taking part in the legislative process, attending public hearings and witnessing how bills and motions were presented and debated in the House. They expressed a

KEY ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROGRAM

significant improvement in their appreciation of legislative issues and promised to enrich their communities and youths with the knowledge acquired. Interns were also appreciative that the internship had helped them build their resume and acquire new skills. A few others stated that the internship had dawned a realization of an interest in politics in them and they were hopeful they would one day return to participate in governance as elected representatives.

Speaking on the challenges, some interns expressed dissatisfaction at their inability to be actively involved in actual legislative work such as bills and motion drafting. Others noted that their Committees were only busy during the defense stage of the Budget Process. Other challenges mentioned included a lack of understanding on the part of the supervisors on the actual status and nature of a legislative intern and legislative internship respectively.

On the whole, it was mutually agreed among the interns and some supervisors that the programme was participatory, enlightening, and extremely valuable. Many interns expressed gratitude for the financial support offered during the period of the internship; without which they would have been unable to participate. It was also generally recommended that a longer duration for the internship would enable interns have a better grasp of issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY PARTICIPANTS AT THE DEBRIEFING SESSION

- Increasing the duration of the internship programme from the present eight weeks
- The possibility of rotating interns between committees to broaden their knowledge on the functions of various committees
- PLAC should engage more with the committee clerks/supervisors prior to deployment to clarify the roles and status of interns
- The possibility of each intern embarking on a specific individual project during the internship.

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LESSONS LEARNED

LESSONS LEARNED

Interns and their supervisors were asked to evaluate the programme. Based on the reports submitted, evaluations received and experiences shared at the debriefing workshop, the following lessons emerged:

- PLAC must continue to strive to nurture its relationship and synergy with the National Assembly if the programme is to be sustained.
- The support of the National Assembly's management is key to running a successful, impactful and credible internship programme. In particular, notes were taken of the indispensability of the offices of the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and the Civil Society Liaison Offices in the successful implementation of the internship programme.,
- The internship provided a platform for increasing citizen-engagement with the legislature by offering an opportunity for interns to participate and appreciate the legislative process.
- The screening of more than 1,000 applications highlighted the level of interest and competitive nature of the programme as well as the importance of setting transparent eligibility criteria to attract the best interns
- The fairly balanced gender and geographical representation contributed to the interns rich experience.
- While PLAC recognizes that the bureaucracy and the hierarchal structure of the National Assembly may pose challenges in defining the purpose of the internships to host-Committees to enable them guide interns appropriately, PLAC must continue to use all communication channels open to it for the allocation of challenging and meaningful tasks to interns in order to enhance their experience.
- The possibility of extending the internship beyond eight weeks.
- The fairness in the internship selection process was commended as every intern who spoke pointed out that they did not expect such level of transparency and fairness in the process of slection of interns.
- Selecting interns with the right qualifications and skills could help enrich the Committees by providing well-trained, skilled and educated staff who could be well placed to continue working with the Committees or departments of the National Assembly at the end of the internship. Some interns were allowed to continue to work in their Committees before they were able to find other employment.

OUTCOMES

- Improved knowledge of the administrative and political structure of the Nigerian Legislature
- Increased citizens participation in the activities of the Legislature.
- Creation of access to the legislature for young Nigerians.

UNPLANNED OUTCOMES

- Enhanced personal development, networks and linkages for interns.
- Work opportunity: For some interns, the internship placement provided an employment opportunity for them; a few were asked to stay back by their Committees while others were invited to help out with tasks.

4

INTERNS EXPERIENCE



“I have learnt the importance of teamwork as well as communication and networking with other employees. „

Iember Amah,

Senate Committee on Solid Minerals



“My knowledge of the legislature has been enhanced through the series of lectures and research I had. Professionally, I see myself being more streamlined in the administrative set up of the National Assembly rather than the political set up. „

Blessing Atureta,

House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations



“It was a unique experience to be at the National Assembly and to study and observe an interesting arm of Government. It would have been impossible

for me to participate in the internship without the support of PLAC and their provision. An internship in a field different from mine was a good way for me to see whether I could work outside my profession.

„

Ajide Olumaseyi,

Senate Committee on Investment



“Before my programme at the National Assembly, I thought that anybody that works in the National Assembly works directly with a Honourable

Member or Senator but now I know that some people work in the Committee offices and some in the members’ offices. „

Tonia Ochefu,

Senate Committee on Women and Youth Development



“I have personally grown in these past weeks in legislative knowledge than I did in the entire 2013 and that makes me appreciate the power of a properly structured education. „

Wale Rilwan Ajibade,

House Committee on Science and Technology



“I had gradually integrated myself into the Committees’ secretariat daily task and steadily made a progression from mere “sit and look messenger” to an “all important situation analyst”. I could actually write a whole book on what PLAC has done to make me feel special ... I will ever remain grateful to your organization for believing in me and making me believe also in myself and for making me have hope in a positive and better Nigeria ahead. God bless PLAC. „

Andrew Ibrahim,

House Committee on Federal Capital Territory



“ I must give credit to PLAC for the professional way this internship program has been carried out. The internship stimulated my personal growth because I was able to learn a lot of things that I didn't know before,,

Joseph Atokaa,

National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislatures (NSNL)



“ It was a good experience because working at the National Assembly exposed me to different kinds of people and situations. The internship made me realize that Nigerian citizens do not realize the potential power that they have as people. They see the legislators as piggy banks to just collect money from, instead of using their legislators to initiate change ,,

Amanda Mustapha Laraba,

House Committee Diaspora Affairs



“ It was a unique experience to be in National Assembly and study and observe an interesting arm of the government. It would have been impossible for me to participate in the internship without the support of PLAC and their provision. An internship in a different field was also a good way for me to see whether I could work outside my profession ,,

Yobanna Kurutsi,

National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO)



“ The work I've done in the budget department under the Deputy Director will go a long way in building my career pathway. It was very helpful and I've gained tremendous knowledge from it. ,,

Sameer Ahmed Soye,

National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO)



“ This internship was definitely an introduction to the actual work environment for me. The experience was highly inspirational and I would not trade it for more “practical” work experience if I could ,,

Mohammed Abdulhamid Hassan,

Senate Committee on Finance



“ I believe my experience at the National Assembly has been eye opening. I have had the privilege of observing two plenary sessions from the senate gallery. Between both sessions, I have seen bills pass first and second readings, the Senate engage in debates and matters of high public importance raised ,,

David Dogo,

House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions



“ Everyday presented an opportunity for me to learn by attending proceedings, public hearings and committee meetings. I would say that I still enjoyed the time spent in the National Assembly especially with my supervisor. Personally, I am not politically inclined but the internship has refined my thoughts. I see myself going back as an Honorable Member someday ,,

Ibrahim Hannatu Tsafe,

House Committee on Judiciary



“The internship provided me with an opportunity of working with colleagues that have substantial experience within the organization. The internship has given me insight and motivation to pursue a career in a research organization ,,

Hajara Mohammed,

National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO)



“ I am pleased to admit that I have learnt so much from the internship, but most notably within my Committee, I have learnt to draft a decent legislative motion. The experience has definitely surpassed my expectations and it comes to an end, I wish it could be stalled as it gave me something to look forward to „

Rahama Baloni,

House Committee on Rules and Business



“ I had an enjoyable, positive and educational internship at the National Assembly. I was shown incredible hospitality. I learned the importance of dealing with unique and predictable situations. „

Omolola Zakari,

House Committee on Finance



“ I was entirely enthralled when the opportunity of having the experience presented itself to me. Through the experience, I have gained new appreciation and perspective on representative democracy and public service. „

Abachi Ungbo,

Senate Committee on Agriculture



“ It was really an experience to see how other people work and perform tasks. It also helped me to look at things from a different perspective. I want to learn to make a more confident impression and express my ideas and opinion. „

Ishaku Illiya,

Senate Committee on Science and Technology



“ Personally, I can attest to the fact that lawmakers actually deliberate and tackle issues affecting the citizens of Nigeria to the best of their ability. I couldn't have asked for a better set of interns; we always had meeting for recreation and other activities that have made us bond better. „

Abbiye Suku Abbiba,

Senate Committee on Rules and Business



“ My experience at the National Assembly has been a time of enlightenment as I have been exposed to the inner workings of the Legislature. I was able to see first hand how bills were introduced for the first, second and third reading. I witnessed debate sessions and presentation of reports among others „

Orukome Benedict,

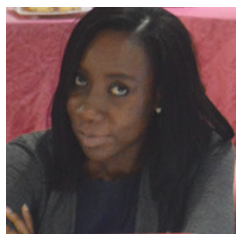
House Committee Electoral Matters



“ This knowledge gained will surely help me professionally as it will prepare me for the future. „

Ogodogu Abundance,

Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs



“ What I have learnt here can never be lost. It has taught and showed me first hand how things work at the National Assembly. I recognized that the programme itself was to my benefit and it would be wise to experience it wholeheartedly. „

Okenyi Ifeoma Phillipa,

Office of the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Speaker



*Emma Agiounim,
Senate Committee on Education*

“ I got more understanding of National Assembly activities by visiting the library, reading books and asking questions as circumstances allowed. „



“I made it a point of focus to observe sitting at the lower house and upper house respectively. „

*Boyo Oghoritsevarami ,
Senate Committee on Petroleum*



*Chidinma Igwegbe,
Senate Committee on Health*

“My internship at the National Assembly has been very impactful and full of interesting activities. I remain grateful to PLAC for the great opportunity of this life changing experience. „



*Sophia Kanene Obiagwu ,
House Committee on Climate Change*

“ I would not give up this internship position for anything, which is all thanks to PLAC. I can honestly say that I am ending this internship programme with a lot more knowledge and skills than I started with. „



*Ijeoma Dan-Nzèlu,
Senate Committee on Judiciary*

“ In addition to witnessing the everyday business of the Legislature, I also met with politicians, officials and other stakeholders, whom I would not have otherwise been able to. „



“ The internship has been worthwhile, as the core objectives of the internship, which includes strengthening democratic governance and citizen participation in so many ways I never knew hitherto, existed. The entire exercise gave me real access to the government and governance, an opportunity I am sure will have a multiplier effect even after the internship. „

*Ozokolie Samson Nonso,
House Committee on Drugs and Narcotics*



“ The internship has been an invaluable and worthwhile experience for me. It has exposed me to the practical aspect of administration, afforded me first hand knowledge of how the legislature works as well as given me the opportunity to attend plenary session, public hearing and budget defence. The internship has really changed my orientation about the legislators. I see it now as the first institution of our democracy and the most important „

*Chijioko Ukanwa,
Senate Committee on Establishment and Public Service*



“ I gained useful insight and experience in legislative matters. I was also inspired to pursue my career inspiration in enhancing access to justice. I enjoyed meeting people and PLAC and the National Assembly provided me the platform to make friends, network and interact with people from diverse backgrounds „

*Chukwunonso Igboeli,
House Committee on Public Petitions*



“ During the course of the internship, I have learnt to speak effectively in public and interact with people older than me with boldness. I also learnt how to deal with people without prejudice „

*Kenneth Alatta,
House Committee on Health*



“ I learnt about memo writing and I was taught a lot of things that the National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislatures was associated with. I have been able to make life long friendships with people from diverse areas „

*Isaac Nwosu,
National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislatures (NSNL)*



“I never knew the extent of powers vested in the Legislature until I attended and watched the activities of the Legislators in the National Assembly. I have learnt to interact with people of various professions and experiences and understand how every profession gathered in the course of one's work may be harnessed for the growth and progress of the country. „

*Kajewole Ruth,
House Committee on Foreign Affairs*



“ My view of the legislature now is that a lot goes behind the scenes than what the public is aware of. I look forward to being able to enlighten others about the workings

of the legislature and encouraging people around to be agents of change. „

*Yemisi Oladipo,
House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream)*



“ The fact that the internship experience was a remarkable one cannot be exaggerated. The internship initiative is impressive as I have garnered several useful information to help in the propagation of the workings of the legislature and encouraging people around to be agents of change. „

*Janet Fasusi,
House Committee on Water Resources*



“ One important lesson I will take from this experience will be to learn to maximize opportunities when they present themselves and that networking interactions gets you those opportunities. „

*Donnie Omowunmi Hans,
House Committee on Housing and Habitat*



“ I have enjoyed working with the Committee members immensely and I am hopeful that this is only the beginning of a fruitful relationship. The environment at the National Assembly is quite relaxed, yet it taught me how to behave in a workplace „

*Folajin Titolayo,
Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs*



“ I have learnt about the legislative process and procedures and how Committees synergise with the various legislative offices under the Committee to achieve set goals and objectives. Overall, it has been a worthwhile experience for me „

*Ibitoye Oluola,
House Committee on Agriculture*

INTERNS EXPERIENCE



“ I have so far enjoyed myself, sharpened my skills and research and gathered experience in working with a bureaucracy ,”

*Sodiq Oyediji Alabi,
Senate Committee on Environment and Ecology*



“ It has been a very educative and enlightening experience at the National Assembly ,”

*Wickliffe Ayodeji Bankole,
House of Representatives Committee on Interior*



“ The exercise has really broadened my view and infused my exposure with the reality of the rule of law ,”

*St. Matthew Daniel Tony,
House Committee on Environment and Ecology*

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APPENDICES

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APPENDIX 1 : ARTICLES BY INTERNS

THE CLARION CALL

Wale Rilwan Ajibade,*2014 PLAC Legislative Intern, now Digital Media Strategist, Communications Officer, ICEED (International Center for Energy, Environment and Development)*

My name is Wale Ajibade and I'm a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Through PLAC I came and though my name isn't David, I was determined to make my mark and overcome any Goliath that stood my way. In the house "green" with envy and the One with red eyes I walked in faith... Tying myself to the commitment of the committees and observing the plenary from the gallery.

I see me in there and can't help but wonder, will it be business as usual or business beyond usual? Will I only dress to impress or address the oppressed while we collectively leave a lasting positive impression? Lots of underlying questions unanswered, while I daydream on the change this agent would bring. I observe in anger. I see sheep in wolves clothing, or perhaps the reverse is the case. Maybe both!

The anger is borne from the fact that with all the "dogo turanchi" there are still No Jobs, No light, Bad Roads, Insecurity and Poor Healthcare facilities to mention a few. The only thing I seem to enjoy from my country is my nationality; I am a Nigerian. And that seems to work against me in the international community as my green passport sells me short though I stand tall.

I am a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria but will I ever have a smooth sail with my citizenship? I am also an engineer but unfortunately cranes, tractors and excavators don't build a nation. Sound minds and Visionary leaders do.

Alas! I am jolted back to reality, Where are the youths? Oh, I totally forgot. I'm from a generation of merry makers who'll rather watch the never-ending series and reality shows on Cable Television rather than plug into the affairs of their Nation. I am from a generation of very few readers and of the few are readers that will rather read gossip blogs than visit news sites, readers that choose the 50 Shades of Grey over the 48 Laws of Power. I see a bleak future of merry making youths constantly carried away by the euphoria of hit songs like "Skelewu", "Caro" and "Aye." Now, this gets me really mad!

What is wrong with us, I ask? Why aren't people mad about the situation of the nation? Why do we let these people play with our minds and make us conceive silly ideas and nurture premature dreams?

No wonder an artiste once sang "Do dreams ever come true in this part of the world"? An American writer, Alvin Toffler once said: "the illiterates of

the 21st century won't be those who cannot read and write but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn". So, it is time to unlearn what we have learnt so far and relearn.

Enough of going to school and not getting a job. In some cases, you will have to die literally before you get one! So again, there will be no vision 2020 if we cannot see what is right under our nose at the wake of 2015. I am a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and I implore you to ask questions, demand, probe and act. Enough of this "siddon look mode."

I read of a certain Pastor named Martin Niemoller, who said: "First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out... Because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out... Because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out.... Because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me... And there was no one left to speak for me!"

This will be our fate if we ignore the signs that are all around us. If we fail to speak up for the countless people that lost their lives to Boko Haram, those who died writing a test for a job, those innocent secondary school students slaughtered in Yobe, victims of child marriage and the missing Chibok girls! No blasphemy intended but even God will not help us! This is because heaven helps only those who help themselves.

No matter how many places of worship we erect in Nigeria or how many people go on pilgrimage, nothing will change if we fail to act! Freedom isn't free; the illusion of freedom makes us live in bondage. I don't have to be related to Marley to know I should emancipate myself from mental slavery.

I am not an activist; a lot of them just enjoy the activity of activism forgetting its essence. They get busy chasing the shadows of "celebrity status" rather than engage in sincere selfless service to positively change the nation, which indeed is the real essence.

I am not perfect; I have never claimed to be. My life hasn't played out the way I planned it. My background isn't posh nor my spoken English polished. But the thought of my country kills my joy whenever it comes to mind and sometimes moves me close to tears. Where did we go wrong?

In spite of it all, I believe that beneath my inadequacies and shortcomings lies a formidable power, which if properly channelled through teamwork can be liberated from this mess we are to where we intend to be. It hurts to know that we focus on our differences rather than our similarities. We must prevent people from tearing us apart. No ethnic segregation, no religious bias, no party division or geographical divide because Nigeria doesn't belong to a group of people. It belongs to us, Nigerians.

I am a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and I hope I have not called in vain and my battery lasts through the night so you can pick my call when you awake from your slumber. Finally, I wish, hope and pray that INTERNS would go MAD! Make A Difference I mean. And help build this Nation before it ends up with the same fate as humpty dumpty. This internship is but a sprint; get ready for the marathon.

Whether it's a wakeup call or a clarion call, are you at least going to answer my call? I am a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and I am ever willing and ready to fight for this noble cause!

THE DIGITAL ERA

Wale Rilwan Ajibade,

2014 PLAC Legislative Intern, now Digital Media Strategist, Communications Officer, ICEED

“Thirty years from now there will be a huge amount of oil – and no buyers. Oil will be left in the ground. The Stone Age came to an end, not because we had a lack of stones, and the oil age will come to an end not because we have a lack of oil.” - Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, former Saudi Oil Minister (2000)

With the current trend of oil especially with falling oil and low patronage of Nigeria’s poor oil in the foreign market, the statement above seem to be coming to pass. Welcome to the new era, the digital era! The digital era is the best thing that has happened to man. And I am glad I belong to this generation. Look around you what do you see? Digital Clocks, Digital Satellite TV, Digital Cash Payment, Digital Cash Transfer, Digital Billboards to mention a few.

It is interesting how hard people struggle to get admitted to higher institutions when they can simply register for a university online and study at their pace. Most of these schools are standard and their certificates of international repute. You can’t afford the fees? Then register for free online courses with verifiable certificate of accomplishment. Sites like www.udemy.com offer professional skill acquisition at a ridiculously low price.

But if you are like a lot of Nigerians that like freebies, then check sites like www.cousera.com, www.edx.org, www.alison.com. These sites offer top-notch courses from renowned universities across the globe for free! Yes free! Still waiting for your institution to

call off the strike? It could be a really long wait!

Oh so you think Nigeria is very bad just because you can’t get a job? No Sir, you’re the one that is not being fair to yourself. There are several online jobs that can be done part-time or fulltime based on how much time you can dedicate. You can check sites like www.elance.com, www.odesk.com, www.guru.com and www.freelancer.com. Did I hear you say you do not have any skills to offer? Haba! Just learn a skill on one of the sites mentioned earlier for free then you could get paid for your newly acquired skill!

The days of meeting Mr. or Ms. Right in a banking hall is fast disappearing because all you would have done in the bank can now be done via your mobile device, even while watching your favorite TV show. Now people have e-relationships; you meet online, shop online and have gifts delivered for your significant other at their doorstep! Do you have need to attend a special anointing service? just go digital! Online streaming of church services is gradually becoming an acceptable trend too.

No more excuses of not being able to go to church when you can have the church come to you! There is also a donate button present on such sites where you can grab your ATM card and drop your offering or pay your tithe electronically. Starting a church soon? Consider having an online branch!

Any profession or business that is not thinking of incorporating digital strategies into their work will soon become a thing of the past. Recently, Amazon. com, Inc, the famous American e-commerce company recently launched “Amazon Prime Air” - a futuristic delivery drone service that would deliver goods to customers’ doorstep without any human support or interference. DHL also launched a similar delivery drone, “DHL Parcelcopter” which is already functional in some parts of Germany.

There are also several software in circulation that are already replacing humans in the corporate world; they perform tasks more accurately than humans and you don't have to pay a salary!

For many though, this means that in years to come, there will be not many jobs left for humans! However, you can still choose to see things differently and position yourself strategically for the digital takeover. One can chose to be visible in the online sphere and learn to apply digital strategies to whichever field they are in. That is the only way to stay relevant in this digital world.

Think digital, think electronic; e-relationship, e-news, e- books, e- marketing, e-governance, e- campaign, e-business and e -class! Ok maybe not! But you have to open your eyes to see-e! Make the switch now. Go digital!

LEGISLATIVE VIOLENCE: DOOM OR GOOD POLITICS

Boyo Oghoritsewarami,

2014 PLAC Legislative Intern



Democracy is widely accepted as a government of the people, by the people and for the people. This definition infers that it is a representative government founded on popular consent. Democracy takes its roots from ancient Greeks who practiced direct democracy, and where citizens formed the legislature.

In modern times, the legislature, also known as Parliament is often recognized as the arm of government saddled with the responsibility of enacting, amending and repealing public policies and laws. It is an assembly of a myriad of faces from different constituencies, representing cultural, political, ethnic and various interest groups with a common goal of fostering development through maximum utility of state resources, laws, oversight and intervention in matters not clearly defined in the constitution.

Ideally, a parliament is a place where spirited debates are fostered and information openly shared. Atifete Jahjaga, the first female President of the Republic of Kosovo, once said: “democracy must be built through open societies that share information. When there is information, there is enlightenment. Where there is debate there is solution. Parliament is a typical example of an institution that promotes open society.”

As lawmakers exercise their responsibility however, there is bound to be conflict. Often times, lawmakers end up battling for superiority on whose decision should be adopted thereby causing debates to degenerate to chaos, rancour and fights between opposing sides. Parliamentary discord is not new. It has been a part of the legislative process for centuries. Some say it is a sign of progress if legislators engage in heated debate. Unfortunately, lawmakers often degenerate to the use of violence to express dominance. Such violence manifests in different forms including assaulting members of the opposition, fighting, the use of blades, use of mace (“macing”) and pepper spray. Lawmakers have also been attacked by the public and have had law enforcement agencies inflict damage on them.

In 2014, a United Nations Human Rights report indicated that violence including that in Parliamentary circles had risen around the world. There was violence in the Ukrainian parliament for example, when legislators were divided on whether they should divide the country and got into a heated debate over the state of government buildings that had been seized in several Ukrainian cities by pro-Russian activists. Nigeria has also had its fair share of parliamentary violence. In Rivers State, the

State House of Assembly was turned into a boxing arena as certain lawmakers fought one another with dangerous objects in the legislative chambers.

Unfortunately, in a diverse and multi-cultural democratic country like Nigeria, the probability of conflict occurring in the process of deliberation is quite high. Nevertheless, it is expected that lawmakers remember that the bedrock of a gainful debate lies in engaging in such debate without resorting to violence. Michael de Montaigne once said: “He who establishes his argument by noise and command shows that his reasoning is weak.”

We expect our lawmakers who we have elected to represent us to celebrate our diversity and differences. We expected our representatives to take actions that would heal and not fracture our communities. Intolerance is a form of violence and an obstacle to

the growth of true democratic spirit. We expect our representatives to express forbearance particularly on matters of importance where two or more sides are far away from arriving at a consensus. Rather than violently engaging their opposition, lawmakers must exercise restraint by mastering the art of communication and professionalism. In the words of Nelson Mandela, “a good leader can engage in a debate frankly and thoroughly knowing that at the end, he and the other side must be closer, and thus emerge stronger.”

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PLAC'S LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP: A WORTHY INITIATIVE FOR STRENGTHENING CITIZENS PARTICIPATION IN NIGERIA

Kajewole Ruth,

2014 PLAC Legislative Intern



In line with the popular definition of democracy as “the government of the people, by the people and for the people”, is a concept that allows for the effective participation of citizens in the issues of governance in their country. In this concept PLAC has made efforts in promoting in Nigeria by bringing together young and creative minds closer to a very vital arm of government known as the Legislature. This article discusses my experience at PLAC /my duty post, my notion of what PLAC’s objectives are and how I was enlightened during my eight weeks internship.

We began with an orientation programme that gave me a slight idea of what the National Assembly (NASS) would look like, its activities, my duties and that of other officers in the NASS. Being posted to the House of Representatives’ Committee of Foreign Affairs, the Clerk kept me ever busy knowing I had a short time to fully understand the nature and functions of the Legislative arm of government. Not only did I attend plenary sessions, I also regularly briefed the Clerk on any development that occurred in either chamber of the National Assembly (House of Representatives or the Senate) and wrote reports. I participated in organizing Committee rooms for meetings and conferences, some of which would

have in attendance the Committee Chairman, Hon. Nnenna Elendu Ukeje and members of her Committee, the Minister and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Chairman and other officials of the Pilgrims’ Board among others. I remember that one of such notable meetings was that of the Budget defense, where I had to present a report by all means. I also drafted memoranda and letters including one on behalf of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PLAC aims at strengthening democracy by ensuring the participation of citizens in governance in Nigeria. It strives to ensure that transparency and accountability are upheld in the making of policies. As an organization, PLAC achieved this from the onset of its selection of interns as interns discovered at the orientation that we came from about all the geo-political zones of Nigeria. This allowed for exchange of knowledge and experiences, as interns were able to learn from one another on issues relating to academics, culture, and governance of other states. The selection process for me was one that depicted a high level of transparency which is required if democracy is to be strengthened in a country.

The aspect of accountability was one that PLAC also held in high esteem, and which I opine as necessary if democracy is equally to be sustained.

Eventually, I learnt from PLAC that just as interns were representatives of PLAC and accountable to the organization we represented, the Legislatures are also representatives of the citizens and must

be accountable to those who have voted them into power. There was to a large extent the opportunity to participate in the affairs of governance in Nigeria and as an intern, I considered it a rare privilege and discovered an increased interest in being a part of issues of development, governance and democracy in Nigeria.

BENEATH THE RED AND GREEN CHAMBERS

Benedict Orukome,

2014 PLAC Legislative Intern



What lies beneath this magnificent edifice?
What transpires within this beautiful masterpiece?
I see a mace or is it a cross?
Oh! I also see a gavel or is it a hammer?

Nigeria's National Assembly
A congregation of great minds
From all walks of life
The articulate to the logical
The intelligent and coherent
The articulate to the logical
To the bench warmers and observers
With varying schools of thought
Representatives from all parts of the country
Embracing our unity in diversity

Nigeria's second arm of government
Oh! The desire to get there at all costs
The rigors and rancor
The effort and hassles
The time taken to convince the electorate
With a promise to make a change
The stress at the polls
The deceit, gimmicks and the intrigues
All in a bid to win the confidence of the masses
Like a thirsty deer

The pant for power
Or so I thought

But alas, it is serious business
From the presentation to the final passage
The process is serious business
First reading, then Second reading
The Committee Stage
Serious business indeed!
Oh! the debate, the scrutiny
The public hearing, the lobbying...
And perhaps the passage
...and what happens if the bill is thrown out?
Is it worth it in the long run?
All in a bid to present to the masses
Laws that truly represent
The yearnings and aspirations of the people
Now I know better!

I SAW SOMETHING!

Emmanuel Julius Agiounim,
2014 PLAC Legislative Intern



The session was on, when I came in. I met the part where he placed the half-filled bottle of water in the middle of the class. Then he called on a person after another to say what they see in the bottle; one said ‘I see a half-filled bottle of water’, another said ‘I see a half-empty bottle’. Give or take the students all saw something; including I who just walked in...

-Culled from a story book

When I started PLAC’s legislative internship programme, I saw myself as a half-filled bottle of water, and I had high hopes of filling myself- this bottle- with more knowledge and experience.

About all of us - the interns - that participated in the internship programme at the National Assembly, came, saw and indeed conquered. We had our anticipations, desires, and interests. We wanted to see something and we all saw something. My assessment of what I saw in my eight weeks of internship at the National Assembly is formed by my perceptions, disposition, orientation and personal experiences at the time.

When I was in senior secondary school one (S.S.S.1), my Government teacher always recited Abraham Lincoln’s popular quote: ‘democracy is government

of the people, by the people and for the people’. His class was interesting and participatory, and even as young as we were; he encouraged us to make contributions on political matters. With this background, I proceeded to the University to study Political Science. My academic background, interest in community development activities, and general interest in the legislative activities of the country prompted me to take up the internship opportunity.

PLAC’s internship programme gave me the platform to see Lincoln’s quote in action. I saw the complexity and process involved in passing a bill into Law in the country. The internship enabled me to apply my classroom knowledge, examine my career choices, and create a network of contacts. I learned that legislative internships are mutually beneficial because they provide interns with valuable, first-hand experience in the legislative process and on the other hand, provide legislatures with bright, enthusiastic people who are excited to learn and contribute to law and public making. PLAC has done so well, for putting together such Programme to bringing the citizen closer to the lawmakers in the country.

I am looking forward to establishing a Legislative Internship Alumni Association (LIAA) where all former legislative interns will come together for the

purpose of pooling our knowledge, experience and resources to encourage such programmes in Nigeria. Indeed I saw something and I learnt a lot from what

I saw. As for other interns, I would ask them, what did you see?

APPENDIX 2 : DEPLOYMENT LIST

S.No	Name/ Sex	State	University/ Discipline	Committee/ Office Assigned
1	Iember Amah (F)	Benue	University of Maiduguri/ B.Sc Geology	Senate Committee on Solid Minerals
2	Blessing Atureta (F)	Kogi	Ahmadu Bello University/ B.Sc Business Administration, M.A Business Administration	House Committee on Appropriations
3	Ajide Oluwaseyi (F)	Kwara	Osun State University/ B.A Industrial Relations and Personnel Management	Senate Committee on Industry (Investment)
4	Tonia Ochefu (F)	Benue	Nasarawa State University/ B.Sc Political Science	Senate Committee on Women Affairs and Youth Development
5	Wale Rilwan Ajibade (M)	Kwara	Ladoke University of Technology/ B. Tech Mechanical Engineering	House Committee on Science and Technology
6	Andrew Ibrahim (M)	FCT	Nasarawa State University/ B.Sc Political Science	House Committee on FCT
7	Joseph Atokaa (M)	Benue	Nasarawa State University/ B.SC Psychology	National Secretariat for Nigeria's Legislatures (NSNL)
8	Amanda Mustapha Laraba (F)	Adamawa	American University of Nigeria, Geneva School of Diplomacy and Internal Relations/ B.A International and Comparative Politics, M.A International Relations	House Committee on Diaspora Affairs
9	Yohanna Kurutsi (M)	Taraba	University of Maiduguri / B.A. (Hons) Agricultural Economics	National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO)
10	Sameer Ahmed Soye	Gombe	Gombe State University/ B. Sc. Accounting	National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO)

S.No	Name/ Sex	State	University/ Discipline	Committee/ Office Assigned
11	Mohammed Abdulhamid Hassan (M)	Gombe	University of Hertfordshire, University of Glamorgan/ B.A Business Administration, MSc International Business and Enterprise	Senate Committee on Finance
12	David Dogo (M)	Gombe	Ahmadu Bello University - ABU Zaria, University of Liverpool/ B.Sc(Hons) Computer Science, M.Sc Internet Systems	House Committee on Public Petitions
13	Ibrahim Hannatu Tsafe (F)	Zamfara	ABU Zaria/ LL.B Law	House Committee on Judiciary
14	Hajara Mohammed (F)	Zamfara	Usmanu Danfodiyo University/ B.Sc Economics	National Assembly Budget & Research Office (NABRO)
15	Rahama Baloni (F)	Kaduna	Birmingham University, Nigerian Law School /LL.B (Hons), B.L	House Committee on Rules & Business
16	Omolola Zakari (F)	Kaduna	Univeristy of Abuja/ B.Sc. Business Admin	House Committee on Finance
17	Abachi Ungbo (M)	Kaduna	Federal University of Technology Minna, Ahmadu Bello University/B.Agric (Tech), M.Sc Agricultural extension and Rural Sociology	Senate Committee on Agriculture
18	Ishaku Iliya (M)	Kebbi	Federal University of Technology Minna/ B. Engineering	Senate Committee on Science & Tech
19	Abbiye Suku Abbiba (F)	Rivers	Rivers State University of Science and Technology/ LL.B (Hons), LL.M (Hons) Oil and Gas	Senate Committee on Rules & Business
20	Orukome Benedict (F)	Delta	Obafemi Awolowo University/LL.B (Hons)	House Committee on Electoral Matters
21	Ogodogu Abundance (F)	Delta	Novena University/B.Sc International Relations and Strategic Studies	Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs

S.No	Name/ Sex	State	University/ Discipline	Committee/ Office Assigned
22	Okenyi Ifeoma Philippa (F)	Delta	London South Bank University/ LL.B (Hons), LPC, B.L	Office of the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Speaker
23	Emma Agiounim (M)	Cross River	University of Ibadan/ B.Ed.Political Science/Social Studies	Senate Committee on Education
24	Boyo Oghoritsewarami (M)	Delta	University of Benin/B.Sc Engineering	Senate Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream)
25	Chidinma Igwegbe (F)	Imo	Madonna University/B.Sc Biochemistry	Senate Committee on Health
26	Sophia Kanene Obiagwu (F)	Anambra	University of Port-Harcourt/ B.Sc Geology	House Committee on Climate Change
27	Ijeomah Dan-Nzelu (F)	Anambra	University of Buckingham, University of Dundee, Nigerian Law School/ LL.B (Hons.), LL.M (Hons), B.L	Senate Committee on Judiciary
28	Ozokolie Samson Nonso (M)	Enugu	University Of Nigeria/B.Sc Engineering	House Committee on Drugs & Narcotics
29	Chijioke Ukanwa (M)	Abia	University of Nigeria/ B.Sc Public Administration, M.A Public Administration	Senate Committee on Establishment & Public Service
30	Chukwunonso Igboeli (M)	Anambra	University of Nigeria/LL.B (Hons.) Law	House Committee on Public Petitions
31	Kenneth Alatta (M)	Abia	Ibrahim Badamosi Bangida University Niger State/ B.Sc. Biology	House Committee on Health
32	Isaac Nwosu (M)	Anambra	Nasarawa State University, Keffi/ B.Sc Public Administration	National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislatures (NSNL)
33	Kajewole Ruth (F)	Osun	Obafemi Awolowo University, B.A History/ University of Ghana, M.A International Affairs	House Committee on Foreign Affairs

S.No	Name/ Sex	State	University/ Discipline	Committee/ Office Assigned
34	Yemisi Oladipo (F)	Osun	LL.B, University of Cape Town; LL.M in Shipping Law, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University	House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream)
35	Janet Fasusi (F)	Ekiti	Ladoke Akintola University/ B.Tech (Hons)	House Committee on Water Resources
36	Donnie Omowunmi Hans (F)	Osun	Federal University of Technology, Minna/B.Tech (Hons)	House Committee on Housing & Habitat
37	Folajin Titilayo (F)	Osun	Obafemi Awolowo University /B.A. English	Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs
38	Ibitoye Olusola (M)	Ekiti	Ekiti State University/B. Agric	House Committee on Agric
39	Sodiq Oyediji Alabi (M)	Osun	University of Ilorin/B.Sc Plant Biology	Senate Committee on Environment & Ecology
40	Wickliffe Ayodeji (M)	Lagos	University of Ilorin/B.Sc Political Science	House Committee on Interior
41	Tony St. Mathew Daniel (M)	Lagos	University of Port Harcourt/B.Sc Geo-Physics	House Committee on Environment

APPENDIX 3 : AGENDA FOR ORIENTATION SESSION

DAY ONE: MONDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2014	
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Arrival and Registration of Participants
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	<p><u>ORIENTATION SESSION I</u></p> <p>Quick Introductions</p> <p>Mapping the Expectations of Legislative Interns Nkiru Uzodi Senior Programme Officer, PLAC</p> <p>PLAC Legislative Internship Programme: Overview of its Structure and Expected Outcomes Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC</p>
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Welcome Dinner
DAY TWO: TUESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 201	
8:00am – 9:00 am	Registration, Guests, Resource Persons and Participants are Seated
9:00am – 9:30am	<p><u>WELCOME AND OPENING CEREMONY</u></p> <p>Introduction of Guests & Resource Persons</p> <p>Welcome Speech Senator Khairat Abdulrazaq-Gwadabe Chairperson, Senator's Forum and Chair, PLAC Board of Directors</p>
9:30 am – 10:30 am	<p>Career Dreams, Challenges, Successes and Lessons Learnt Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa Member, Federal House of Representatives & Chairman, House Committee on Diaspora Affairs</p>
10:30 am – 11:15am	Full Introduction of Participating Interns
11:15 am – 11:45am	<p>Remarks Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC</p> <p>Catherine Weiss Governance Adviser, DFID</p> <p>Special Remarks By: Mr. Olumuyiwa Adejokun Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly (DCNA)</p>

11:45 am – 12:00noon	Tea/Coffee Break
12:00noon – 2:00pm	The Mechanism and Functions of Nigeria’s National Assembly Dr. Rahila Ahmadu Former Director, National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislatures (NSNL), National Assembly Understanding The National Assembly Work Environment: A Practical Guide For Interns Alh. Abdulkadir Adamu Deputy Director Management, House of Representatives
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Lunch Break
3:00pm – 4:00 pm	<u>ORIENTATION SESSION III</u> Success Tips for Youths: Identifying and Utilizing Opportunities for Bringing about Meaningful Engagement and Professional Growth Ms. Kate Henshaw Nollywood Actress and Member, PLAC Board of Directors
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Developing Effective Research and Report Writing Skills Dr. Shuaibu Danwanka National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS)
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Wrap-up and Closing
DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2014	
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Registration, Participants are Seated
9:00am – 10:00am	<u>TRAINING SESSION IV</u> From Bill to Act: A Synopsis of the Law Making Process D.T. Adem Director, Legal Services Department, National Assembly
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Preparing the National Budget: How the Appropriation Process Works Dr. Kanayo Ogujiuba National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS)
11:00am – 11:15am	Tea Break
11:15am – 12:30pm	Personal Mastery, Time Management and Effectiveness in a Legislative Setting Dr. Aminu Umar National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS)
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Experience Sharing by Past Interns
1:30pm – 2:30pm	Lunch
2:30pm – 3:30pm	<u>TRAINING SESSION V</u> Security Consciousness and Awareness at the National Assembly Mr. S. Alabi Serjeant-at-Arms, National Assembly
3.30pm – 4:00pm	Learning to Manage Expectations: Tips for Interns Mrs. Carol Asan Clerk, House of Representatives Committee on Housing & Habitat

4:00pm – 5:00pm	What Legislators and Legislative Committees do Senator Khairat Abdulrazaq-Gwadabe Chairperson, Senators Forum and Chair, PLAC Board of Directors
5:00pm – 5:30pm	Wrap-up and Closing
DAY FOUR: THURSDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2014	
8:00 am – 10:00 am	Tour of the National Assembly
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Wrap up and Departure

APPENDIX 4: AGENDA FOR DEBRIEFING SESSION

8:30am – 9:30am	Photo Session for Interns
9:30 am – 9:45 am	Participants and invited guests are seated
9:45am – 10:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Invited Guests • Introduction of Interns
10:00 am – 10:30 am	<p>Welcome Remarks Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC</p> <p>Goodwill Remarks Catherine Weiss Governance Adviser, DFID</p> <p>Chairman's Opening Remarks Senator Khairat Abdulrazaq-Gwadabe Chair, PLAC Board of Directors</p>
10:30am – 11:00am	Legislative Internship Programme: Promoting Citizen's Participation Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director, PLAC
11:00am – 11:15am	Tea/ Coffee Break
11:15am – 12:45pm	<p>Achieving Career Success: Cultivating Professional Skills and Ethics By: Prof. Okechukwu Ibeanu, <i>Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) to the INEC Chairman</i></p> <p>Dr. Mairo Mandara, <i>Country Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Member, PLAC Board of Directors</i></p>

12:45pm – 1:45pm	<p><u>Perspectives from the National Assembly</u></p> <p>Hon. C.I.D Maduabum <i>Chief of Staff to the Deputy Speaker</i></p> <p>Barr. Solomon Ntuen <i>Deputy Director Management, Senate</i></p> <p>Alh. Abdulkadir Adamu <i>Director, Management, House of Representatives</i></p> <p>Barr. Chinedu Akubueze <i>Clerk, House Committee on Rules & Business</i></p>
1:45pm – 2:45pm	Lunch
2:45pm – 3:45pm	<p>Sharing the Internship Experience: Reports from Interns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. National Assembly Budget Research Office, NABRO ii. Office of the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Speaker iii. National Secretariat of Nigerian Legislatures, NSNL iv. Senate v. House of Representatives
3:45pm – 4:00pm	Concluding Remarks/Feedback from PLAC
4:00pm – 4:30pm	Distribution of Certificates of Participation & Group Photos
4:30pm	Closing and Departure

APPENDIX 5: INTERNS AND SUPERVISORS EVALUATION FORMS

EVALUATIONS (INTERNS AND SUPERVISORS)

INTERN'S EVALUATION

Name of Intern: _____

Committee/Office Assigned: _____

Name of Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

A. Please rate your experiences using a scale of **1 to 5** (**5=Excellent, 4=Very Good, 3=Good, 2=Fair, 1=Poor**), using N/A for not applicable if you did not participate in the activity listed or have no opinion.

S. No	Rating Factor	Score	Comments
1.	Access to Chairman/members of committee assigned to		
2.	Opportunity to Participate in legislative activities (Legislative drafting, participation in hearings or debates)		
3.	Opportunity to carry out administrative tasks (conducting research, preparing memoranda)		
4.	Feedback from Staff/Supervisor		
5.	Exposure to key stakeholders and officials		
6.	Relationship with committee or other staff		
7.	Usefulness of training provided during the orientation workshop		
8.	Increased awareness and appreciation of the Legislature		
9.	Increased interest in full time employment in the legislature or public service		
10.	Support and assistance from PLAC		

B. Kindly Provide answers to the following:

- i. What motivated you to undertake the internship?
- ii. What kind of tasks were you required to perform?
- iii. What new skills, if any did you acquire?
- iv. How would you say the internship benefited you:
 - (a) personally
 - (b) professionally
- v. How has your internship compared with your expectations?
- vi. Please list the three things you liked the most about the internship programme
- vii. Please list three things you liked the least about the internship programme
- viii. Would you encourage others to undertake the same internship, and if so why?
- ix. In what ways do you feel PLAC could improve on the Internship?
- x. Please list other comments or observations you wish to make

Thank you!

SUPERVISOR'S INTERN EVALUATION

Name of Supervisor: _____

Intern Evaluated: _____

Committee/Office/Department: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

C. Please rate your intern's skills on a **scale of 1 to 5 (5=Excellent, 4=Very Good, 3=Good, 2=Fair, 1=Poor)**, using N/A for not applicable if you did not have an opportunity to observe the intern's performance in this area or have no opinion.

S.No	Rating Factor	Score	Comments
1.	Writing Skills		
2.	Oral/Verbal Communication Skills		
3.	Good interpersonal skills: team work and relationship with other staff		
4.	Taking initiative and working well with minimal supervision		
5.	Understanding of Legislative Process		
6.	Prioritizing and Organizing Tasks		
7.	Demonstration of adequate knowledge and skill levels when completing tasks		
8.	Quality of work completed		
9.	Intern's overall performance		

D. Kindly provide answers to the following:

- i. Would you recommend this intern for a long-term position in the National Assembly or for any other position, if yes why?
- ii. Please list the intern's three most effective characteristics or contributions
- iii. Please list three areas where you feel the intern needs improvement
- iv. Please list other comments, observations or recommendations you may have

Thank you for completing this evaluation form.

APPENDIX 6: MID TERM REVIEW WORKSHOP ROLE PLAY GUIDE

2014 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

MID-TERM REVIEW MOCK SESSIONS INSTRUCTIONS

ACTIVITIES:

1. Group One: Mock Plenary Session

Interns are expected to re-enact a typical plenary session of the House of Representatives. The idea is to assess interns understanding of the daily routine of legislators. Interns are expected to consult Notice and Order Papers or Votes and Proceeding of both chambers of the National Assembly for guidance in re-enacting plenary proceedings beginning from when the presiding officer walks into chambers to adjournment for the day. It is expected that by now, interns would have observed a plenary session of the House of Representatives or Senate which would guide them in their re-enactment.

INSTRUCTIONS/GUIDE

Below is a guide for re-enacting a plenary session. The activities on the agenda have been pulled from a typical “Order Paper” which usually lists the business of the day for either the House of Representatives or the Senate. Firstly, develop your own agenda or “Order Paper” listing your activities or business of the day (sample Order Papers are available on PLAC’s website), You are expected to create your proceedings beginning from “Prayers” to “Adjournment”. Your “Order Paper” should contain the following in addition to any other business deemed necessary:

a. Prayers

b. Approval of previous day’s Votes and Proceedings

c. Presentation of Petitions

- i. Petition from a Civil Servant, Mr. Okoro Adamu, who was unfairly dismissed from the Customs Service and without benefits.
- ii. A Petition from a Citizen, Mrs. Bimbo Etim, against Ministry of Foreign Affairs for breach of contract to supply vehicles to the Ministry.

(Note: Two scenarios have been created above. Interns are expected to demonstrate the procedure for introducing petitions, how they are usually dealt with or who they are referred to.)

d. Matters of Urgent Public Importance

- i. A hurricane occurred in Makurdi, Benue State over the weekend, which destroyed 2,000 homes and displaced 5,000 persons who are now homeless and left without access to food or clean water. The hurricane also shut down the electricity supply to the whole of the State capital. A member representing one of the affected constituencies wishes to bring this to the notice of the plenary.

- ii. Petrol Stations in Enugu are selling fuel at N200 per litre, which is above the approved pump price. Enugu residents are feeling the pinch and the citizens have brought this to the attention of their representatives in the House.

(Note: Two scenarios have been created here. How are these matters presented to the plenary? Note particularly, the use of motions and resolutions.)

e. Presentation of Bills

- i. There is a bill to amend the Electoral Act 2010. The Bill is supposed to be introduced to the plenary for the first time.

(Note: There is a procedure for introducing Bills to the plenary? What is it?)

f. Bills

- i. There is a bill before the House to amend the 1999 Constitution to reduce the age qualification for contesting election to the office of the President from 40 to 35 years, elections to the Senate from 35 to 30 years, and election to the House of Representatives from 30 to 25 years. The bill further seeks to provide that any person who is appointed as the Minister of Youth is between the ages of 18 and 35 years. This Bill is sponsored by Hon. XYZ and is supposed to be read a second time.
- ii. There is a bill to make legislative internships compulsory in all tertiary institutions in Nigeria – “the Legislative Internship Bill” 2014 (HB.123), which is being sponsored by Hon. ABC. The bill is supposed to be read a third time.

(Note: The procedures for the first, second and third reading of bills are different. Note particularly, that bills are usually debated at second reading, therefore it is expected that the mock session captures this)

g. Presentation of Report

- i. The House Committee on Judiciary is presenting its report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Criminal Justice (Release from Custody) (Special Provisions) Act, Cap. C40, LFN 2004 to include the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court in the list of Persons Authorised to Exercise the Powers to Order the Release of Persons detained in Prisons in the Circumstances Specified in the Act (HB. 527) (Referred: 9/7/2013). This Committee is chaired by Hon. MNO

(Note: Demonstrate the procedure and use of motions in presentation of committee reports.)

h. Adjournment

(Note: Observe and re-enact the procedure for adjourning a plenary session.)

NOTE: Interns are to investigate and simulate the roles of principal officers and members of the House in question and identify the distinct responsibilities of each role. These include:

- a. The Speaker of the House
- b. The Deputy Speaker
- c. The Majority Leader
- d. The Minority Leader
- e. Chief whip
- f. Minority whip

- g. Sergeant-at-arms
- h. Honourable Members of the House
- i. Any other role or office deemed necessary

2. Group Two: Mock Public Hearing

This involves dramatization of a Public Hearing on a Bill. Interns will be assigned to represent various interests and stakeholders in the hearing and provide the viewpoints of these groups on the bill in question. It would also involve participation in a debate where they must verbally present persuasive ideas, listen to other viewpoints, and improvise relevant responses.

SCENARIO

There is a bill proposed to amend the Constitution to entitle every person who has lived in a place or locality for a period of not less than 10 years to be entitled to all the rights of citizenship which everybody else in that locality is entitled to including the right to own and inherit land and contest for elections. The Senate Ad-hoc Committee on Constitution Review is organizing the hearing on this Bill.

INSTRUCTIONS/ GUIDE

- a. Interns are to investigate, identify and simulate the roles of Committee members organizing the public hearing in question, including:
 - a. Chairman of the Committee
 - b. Deputy Chairman
 - c. Other members of the Committee
 - d. Committee members should prepare a draft bill of no more than 5 sections on the above issue.
 - e. The representatives of the following Stakeholder groups are to develop a brief memo with arguments for or against the bill to be presented at the hearing:
 - i. Indigenes of communities or ethnic groups in the area
 - ii. Political Parties
 - iii. The independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)
 - iv. Women Societies
 - v. The Nigerian Bar Association
 - vi. Civil Society Organisations
 - vii. The Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC)
 - viii. Nigerian Youth Council

APPENDIX 7: ORDER PAPER DEVELOPED BY INTERNS FOR MOCK PLENARY SESSION

FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND PLAC SESSION
NO. 2014

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Monday, 17th March 2014

1. Prayers
2. Approval of Votes and Proceedings
3. Oaths
4. Message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (if any)
5. Message from the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (if any)
6. Other Announcements (if any)
7. Petitions
8. Matters of Urgent Public Importance

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. Electoral Act Amendment Bill 2010 (HB.300) - First Reading
Hon. Kenneth Alatta

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

1. Report of the Committee on Judiciary:
Amendment of the Criminal Justice (Release from Custody) (Special Provisions) Act 2004 (SB. 527)
Hon. Hannatu Tsafe Gusau Tsefe Constituency

FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND PLAC SESSION
NO. 2014

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

1. **A bill for an Act to make Legislative Internships Compulsory in all tertiary institutions in Nigeria – “the Legislative Internship Bill” 2014 (HB. 123) - Third Reading**
Hon. Oluwaseyi Ajide

2. **A bill for an Act to amend the 1999 Constitution to reduce the age qualification for contesting election to the office of the President from 40 to 35 years, election to the Senate from 35 to 30 years, and election to the House of Representatives from 30 to 25 years, and other matters connected therewith 2014 (HB. 100) - Second Reading**
Hon. Ishaku Iliya

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee	Date	Time	Venue
Environment and Natural Disaster	Monday, 17th March, 2014	2.00pm	Committee Room 107 House of Representatives New Building
Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions	Monday, 17th March, 2014	2.00pm	Committee Room 211 House of Representatives New Building
Joint Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream and Down Stream) and Gas	Monday, 17th March, 2014	1.00pm	Committee Room 022 House of Representatives New Building

GROUP 1 MEMBERS

S/No	Group 1: Plenary Session
1	Abundance Ododogu
2	Abbiye Suku Abiba
3	Ruth Kajewole
4	Boyo Oghoritsewarami
5	Chidinma Igwegbe
6	Isaac Nwosu
7	Wale Ajibade
8	Blessing Atureta
9	Amanda Mustapha Laraba
10	Hannatu Tsafe
11	Benedict Orukome
12	Kenneth Alatta
13	Janet Fasusi
14	Ibitoye Olusola
15	Ayodeji Bankole Wickliffe
16	Omolola Zakari
17	Yohanna Kurutsi
18	Iember Amah
19	Oluwaseyi Ajide
20	Ishaku Iliya
21	Joseph Atokaa

APPENDIX 8: AGENDA & BILL DEVELOPMENT BY INTERNS FOR MOCK PUBLIC HEARING

SENATE AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW MOCK PUBLIC HEARING ON INDIGENIZATION BILL OF 2014, MONDAY, 17TH MARCH 2014 AT PROTEA HOTEL, APO ABUJA

OPENING CEREMONY

Arrival Of Stakeholders

Arrival Of Committee Members

Arrival of Senate President

National Anthem

Prayers

Introduction/ Welcome Address by the Chairman, Senate ad-hoc Committee on Constitutional Review, Senator Dogo David

Keynote Address and Declaration of Public Hearing by Senate President, His Excellency, Senator Boyo Warami

PRESENTATION BY STAKEHOLDERS

1. Ethnic Communities
 - i. Representative for Northern Ethnic Communities
 - ii. Representative for South Eastern Ethnic Communities
 - iii. Representative for South Western Ethnic Communities
2. Political Parties Representatives
3. Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)
4. Women Societies
5. Non- Governmental Organizations
6. Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC)
7. Nigerian Youth Council
8. Religious Institutions
 - i. Muslim Union
 - ii. Christian Association of Nigeria
9. Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)

Closing Remarks

SB. 154

**A BILL
FOR**

**AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR THE RIGHT OF A PERSON TO BE AN INDIGENE
OF A LOCALITY IN NIGERIA AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH**

Sponsor: Senator David Dogo

BE IT ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Enactment by authority of same as follows PART 1 - PRELIMINARY	Commencement
1 (i). This Act may be cited as the Indigenization Act	Short title
(ii). In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires: “Constitution” means the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999; “Locality” includes a Local Government Area; “Local Government Area” means the Local Government Area and Area Councils shown in Parts I & II of the first schedule to the Constitution; “Migrant” means person, clan or community that move from one locality to another as settler; “Parent” includes ancestors; “Public servant” includes civil servants; “State” means the thirty-six States and Federal Capital Territory specified in Section 3(1) of the Constitution.	Interpretation

PART II - DETERMINATION OF INDIGENIZATION

2. Subject to any reasonable restriction, which may be imposed by the Constitution or this Act, a citizen of Nigeria shall have the right to move and settle anywhere in Nigeria.

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any Law of a State or Local Government by-laws to the contrary, the person or persons to whom Sub-section 3 of this Section apply shall be indigenes of the appropriate locality in Nigeria.

(2) For the purposes of the provisions of this Act, appropriate locality refers to the locality contemplated by and applicable in relation to person within the purview of this Act.

(3) A person is an indigene of a locality in Nigeria, if:

(a) he or any of his parents belong to a tribe or clan indigenous to the locality in which they permanently reside; or

(b) he or any of his parents (how high so ever) is a migrant from another locality in Nigeria and has permanently settled in the new locality on or before the 15th day of October, 1960 and continue to settle there for a period not less than 10 years; or

(c) he or any of his parents is among the first settlers in the locality and he permanently resides in it; or

(d) he is a person born in that locality and he subsequently continue to reside in it permanently; or

(e) he or she is a spouse of a person who is an indigene by virtue of any of the circumstances mentioned in this Sub-section.

(4) The right created under this Section is not extinguished by reason only that the person or persons mentioned in Sub-section 3(b) - (e) of this Section do not assimilate to the customary practices of the locality.

(i) Persons other than those mentioned in Section 4 of this Act, who desire to become indigenes of any locality in Nigeria may apply in writing to the authorities of the appropriate locality.

(ii) For the purposes of Sub-section 1 of this Section, a Local government Council may make recommendations to the House of Assembly of a State that a particular person or persons be granted an honorary indigene status.

(5) Upon receipt of any recommendation from a Local Government Council in accordance with Sub-section 2 of this Section, the House of Assembly may by a simple resolution confer an honorary indigene status on a person so recommended.

Provided that if the recipient of such honor commits any act as in the opinion of the House of Assembly amounts to a breach of that conferment, the said House of Assembly, may by a simple resolution revoke the grant.

PART III - CERTAIN RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF AN INDIGENE

Right to acquire property

3. (i) Every indigene of a locality in Nigeria shall have the right to acquire, own, possess and maintain property situated in the locality in which he is such indigene or elsewhere, including the power to develop, transfer, alienate or otherwise dispose of such property.

(ii) Subject to any reasonable restriction, which may be imposed by the Law of a State, no indigene of a locality shall be deprived of the right to dwell in a place of his own choice in the State in which he resides.

Duties of State Government

4. -(1) The Government of every State shall strive to ensure that:

- (a) all people residing in the State enjoy equal economic, political and cultural rights;
- (b) the property, life, well-being, religion and culture of all people residing in that State are secured, respected, honored and protected;
- (c) no person suffers any form of discrimination, deprivation, disentitlement, or stigmatization on grounds only that such person does not belong to any of the predominant ethnic groups in the State in which he resides.

(2) No person living in any locality in Nigeria shall be denied the right to observe and practice such cultural activities and customary practices recognized by his customs either individually or in communion with others:

Provided that a law of a State shall not be invalidated by reason that it imposes restrictions on the conduct of such cultural activities for the purposes of protecting public morality, public policy, public safety and the rights of other citizens.

PART IV - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**Obligations of an Indigene**

5. -(1) For the purposes of the provisions of this Act, the following acts of commission and omission are offences under the Act-

- (a) Use of ethnically charged expressions and slogans.
- (b) Statements that tend to induce clamor for secession, bifurcation, ethnic cleansing or genocide;
- (c) Ethnically motivated violence and disturbances
- (d) Discrimination or provocation on ground of caste, tribal or ethnic affiliation
- (e) Intra and inter-communal violence.
- (f) Any publication, declaration or graffiti, preaching, agitating or inciting any of the acts in paragraphs a - e of this Section.
- (g) Any attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the acts in paragraphs a-f of this Section
- (h) Failure to report any of the acts in paragraphs a - g of this Section to the appropriate authorities after full knowledge of its commission or an attempt or conspiracy to commit it.

(2) Under this Section, appropriate authorities means:

- (a) the Police;
- (b) a traditional ruler in the locality; or
- (c) any other State or Local Government agency as may be designated by a Law of State.

(3) (a) Any person, or group charged with any of the offences under this Act shall on conviction be liable to a fine of One Hundred Thousand Naira or a term of imprisonment of fifteen years or both.

(b) If any of the offences mentioned in Section 5 is committed by a public servant, he shall, in addition to any punishment that may be imposed under Section 12, be dismissed from the service forthwith.

(4) (a) The government of a State in which any inter-ethnic violence has occasioned the responsibility, death, displacement, disablement and injury of persons, groups or community, shall or government in addition to any other punitive measure that shall be applied under Section 12 of this Law, be liable to compensation and resettlement of the persons, groups or community.

(b) For the purposes of the provisions of Sub-Section 1 of this Section, the funds of the State in question, shall be applied in the payment of compensation to the victims of the violence or their families and the reconstruction of their village, houses or other dwelling places.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this Act is to make provisions for the right of a Nigerian citizen irrespective of his religion, tribe, political belief etcetera to become indigene of any locality in Nigeria, in the circumstances mentioned in the provisions of the Act.

GROUP 2 MEMBERS

S.No	Group 2: Public Hearing
1	Abdulhamid Hassan
2	Rahama Baloni
3	Sodiq Alabi
4	Yemisi Oladipo
5	Nonso Ozokolie
6	Chukwunonso Igboeli
7	Ijeomah Dan-Nzelu
8	Andrew Ibrahim
9	David Dogo
10	Ifeoma Okenyi
11	Donnie Omowunmi Hans
12	Tony St. Mathew Daniel
13	Sophia Kanene Obiagwu
14	Sameer Ahmed Soye
15	Hajara Mohammed
16	Titilayo Folajin
17	Abachi Ungbo
18	Tonia Ochefu
19	Emmanuel Agiounim
20	Chijioke Ukanwa

APPENDIX 9: PICTURE GALLERY

WELCOME DINNER





ORIENTATION WORKSHOP



ORIENTATION WORKSHOP



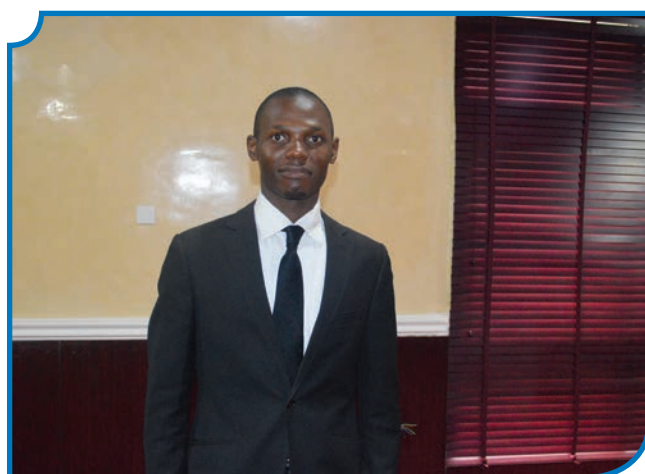
TOUR OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



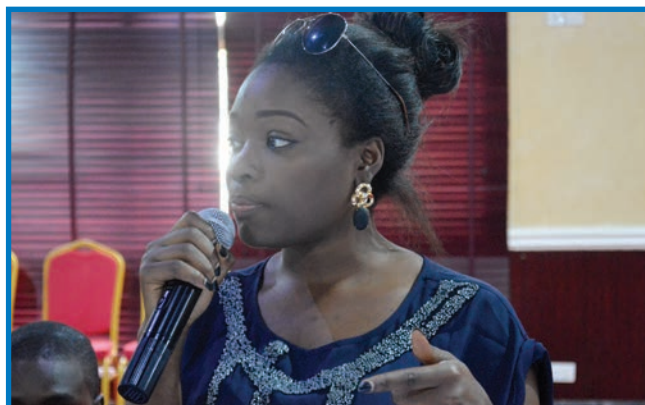
MID TERM REVIEW MOCK SESSION



DEBRIEFING SESSION



DEBRIEFING SESSION



DEBRIEFING SESSION



About PLAC

Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) is a non-governmental organization committed to strengthening democratic governance and citizens' participation in Nigeria. PLAC works to enhance citizens' engagement with state institutions, and to promote transparency and accountability in policy and decision-making processes. Since its establishment, PLAC has grown into a leading institution with capacity to deliver cutting-edge research, policy analysis and advocacy. PLAC receives funding from philanthropic sources.

