

2019

Legislative
Internship
Programme
Report

2019 Legislative Internship Report

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION



The Quest for Youth Inclusion

Creating opportunities for youths to engage in governance and participate is beneficial for a vivid and resilient democracy and should be supported¹. The quality of governance is improved when youths are active participants in politics and leadership.

As part of its work to achieving youth inclusion and participation in politics, the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) with support from the European Union (EU) organized a Legislative Internship Programme (LIP) between 15th October and 19th December, 2019 aimed at increasing youth engagement with the Legislature.

The programme had 38 young persons between the ages of 18 and 35 interested in legislative matters and politics drawn from every state of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) with an additional intern picked from Abia State; following the adoption of the alphabetical order of State listing in Nigeria.

During the space of the internship which spanned a period of 10-weeks (excluding the application and selection process), the young professionals were deployed to work in

1 Youth, Political Participation and Decision Making <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-political-participation.pdf>

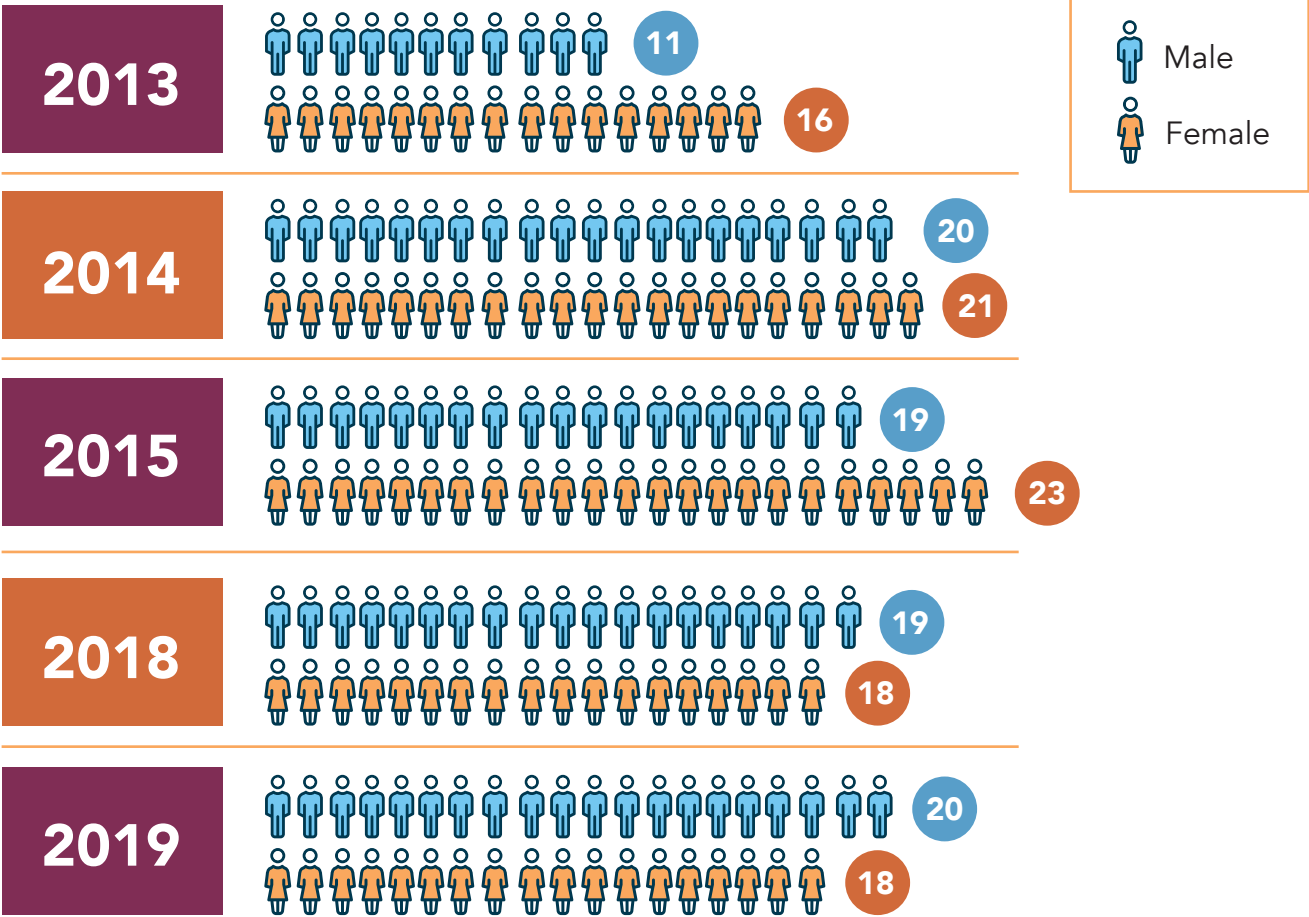
various Committees and Departments in the Nigerian National Assembly related to their area of discipline. PLAC also provided a platform for continuous interaction with the interns throughout the duration of the programme through capacity building activities intended to build their political consciousness. Interns for instance, participated in a variety of activities such as the induction programme, bi-weekly meetings, radio shows and other experience sharing platforms. Interns were also expected to garner on-field lessons by attending plenary sessions in the National Assembly in addition to acquiring administrative and technical skills from Committees they were deployed to.

The programme concluded on 19th December, 2019 after a well-attended event where interns re-enacted a mock plenary session of the House of Representatives in an engaging interactive session titled **“Model Legislative Assembly”** (MLA).

PLAC believes that the engagement of young persons and other marginalised groups in governance is critical to the strengthening and sustenance of Nigeria’s democracy.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF THE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

HISTORY OF GENDER PARTICIPATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME



The Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) Legislative Internship Programme began in 2013 with a view to creating a platform where young Nigerian professionals gain first-hand knowledge of the workings of the Nigerian Legislature to enable citizen's engagement with the National Assembly. At the debut program, 27 interns were chosen out of the 60 persons shortlisted. Of this number, 16 were females while there were 11 males.

The succeeding programme in 2014 witnessed more interest and in turn, double participation with 41 interns selected from the 108 people shortlisted to take part in the internship. 21 of the 41 interns were women while the remaining 20 were men.

In 2015, the programme held for a period of 8 weeks. 23 women and 19 men took part in the internship.

In 2018, the Legislative internship programme with support from the European Union held with even more interest and recorded responses to the advert. There were over 1,038 applications from all geo-political zones in the country and after interviewing 103 shortlisted candidates, 18 females and 19 males were selected bringing the total number to 37 selected interns. The duration of the internship was again increased to 10 weeks, following feedback and observations from previous internships.

In 2019, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre further consolidated on its increased engagement, inclusivity and citizen's participation with the National Assembly with the selection of 38 candidates; 18 of whom were women and 20, men. The programme also saw the inclusion of an intern with a speech and hearing impairment in the Programme for the very first time. PLAC continually strives to incorporate lessons learned from its programmes into its planning with the aim of achieving its overall objective of improving the participation of marginalised groups such as youths in legislative and political processes. The support and collaboration received from the National Assembly and the European Union has been tremendous and instrumental in facilitating the implementation of successful internship programmes over the years.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME (LIP)





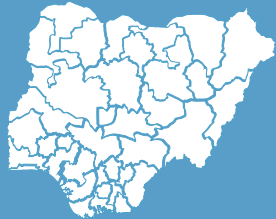
ADVERTISEMENT PLACEMENT

Advertisements were placed in three National newspapers namely: ThisDay Newspaper, The Guardian Newspaper and Daily Trust Newspaper on Wednesday 14th, Thursday 15th and Friday 16th August 2019 respectively. Internship advertisements were also posted on the PLAC website as well as on PLAC's social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- First degree in any discipline from a recognized tertiary institution
- Completion of NYSC (National Youth Service Corps) programme
- Good computer skills
- Good verbal and writing skills
- Applicants must be within 18-35 years
- Must be Nigerian

APPLICATIONS AND SHORTLISTING

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA		
		
First degree in any discipline from a recognized tertiary institution	Completion of NYSC (National Youth Service Corps) programme	Good computer skills
		
Good verbal and writing skills	Applicants must be within 18-35 years	Must be Nigerian

Applications opened on Wednesday August 14th, 2019 and closed on Thursday August 29th, 2019. During this period, a total of 8,444 applications were received while 468 candidates were shortlisted.

INTERVIEWS AND FINAL SELECTION

Interviews were conducted at the PLAC office over a 3-day period beginning from Thursday, September 19th to Monday, 23rd September 2019 by an interview panel consisting of PLAC and a representative of the Ministry of Budget and National Planning.

The interview days were scheduled according to geopolitical zones with 108 candidates from the North East and South East geopolitical zones attending the interviews on Thursday September 19th, 2019. A total of 138 candidates from the South West and North Central geopolitical zones attended the interviews on Friday September 20th, while 112 candidates from the South-South and North West geopolitical zones took part in the last sets of interviews; which held on Monday 23rd September, 2019.

The interview panel reviewed the score sheets of all the applicants and selected the best performing candidate from every State in its final list of selected interns. Supplementary interviews were however conducted for some States to ensure equal representation and participation at the internship. 38 interns were finally selected with every State in Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) having an intern representing their State. However, Abia State had two interns because it is alphabetically the first state on the list of States in Nigeria.

Care was taken to ensure gender balance in the selection process with an interpreter contracted to provide aid for one of the interns who had a hearing and speech impairment in furtherance of PLAC's commitment to inclusivity.

OBJECTIVES OF THE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

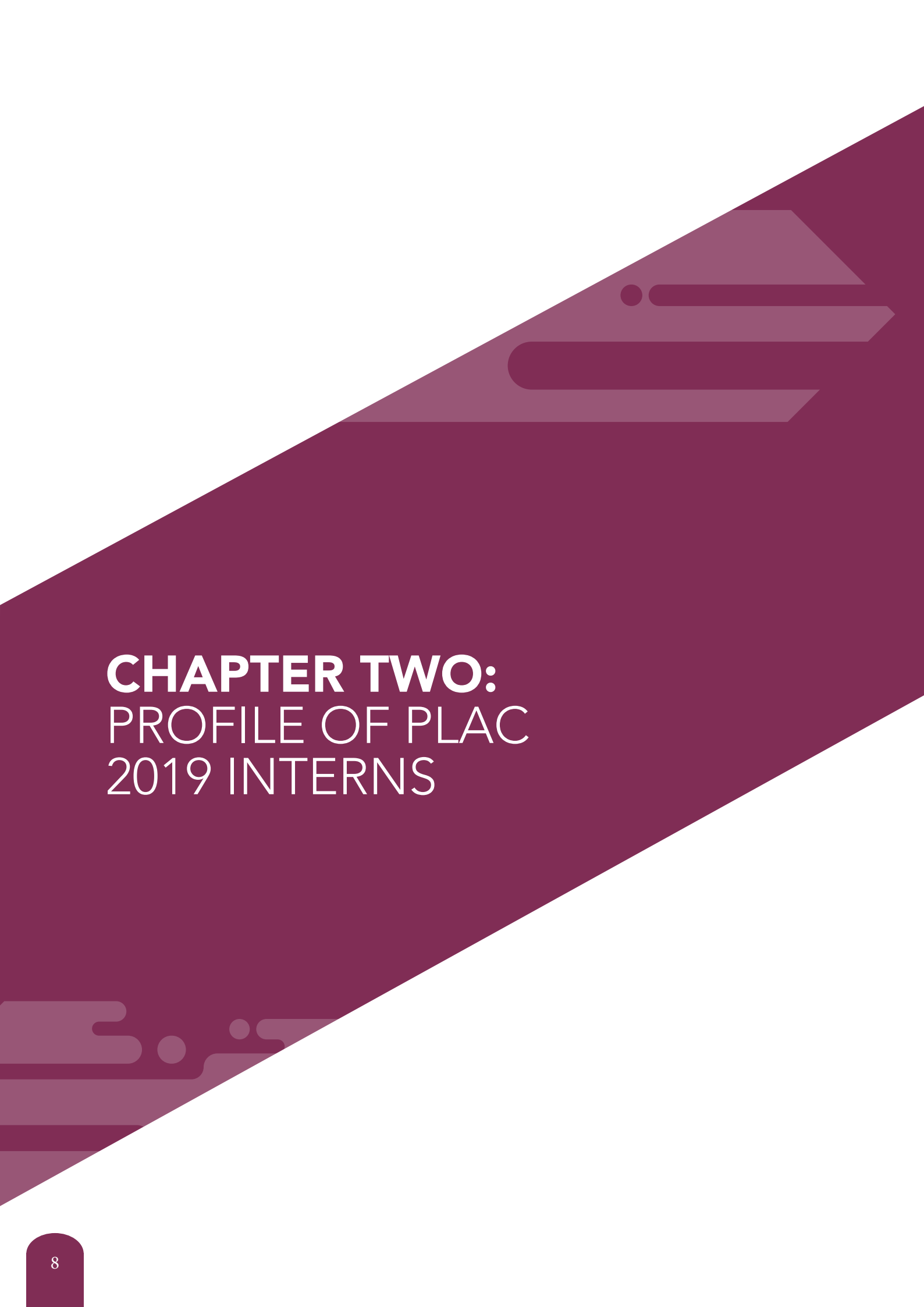
- To provide an opportunity for young Nigerians to gain practical and theoretical knowledge of the Nigerian Legislature.
- To create better understanding and appreciation for the Nigerian Legislature.
- To create an opportunity to increase citizen's participation and involvement in governance.
- To encourage young professionals to gain skills and experience profitable to their career growth.
- To provide administrative assistance to legislators and legislative Committees.

SOME RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INTERNS

- To carry out Legislative and Legal research assignments
- To attend meetings, take notes, briefs and minutes as required
- Mail dispatch
- Handing of correspondence and communications
- Attend plenary sessions
- Assist in organizing committee hearings and meetings
- Other activities that may be assigned due to the peculiar nature of the committees or departments they are deployed to

Interns are prohibited from carrying out political tasks such as campaign or partisan advocacy throughout the duration of the internship.





CHAPTER TWO: PROFILE OF PLAC 2019 INTERNS

2019 LEGISLATIVE INTERNS



Yusuf Abdullahi Ahmad

State: Kano | Age: 29
Department of Procurement, Estate and Works



Olorunnisola Omoniyi

State: Osun | Age: 25
House of Representatives Committee on Justice



Zayyan Bello Usman

State: Zamfara | Age: 24
Department of Procurement, Estate and Works



Lilian Chinonso Udonu

State: Imo | Age: 26
House of Representatives Committee on Agricultural Production and Services



Iveren Emmanuela Keghku

State: Benue | Age: 22
Department of Intelligence and Security



Fehintola Omotesho

State: Lagos | Age: 23
House of Representatives Committee on Constitutional Review



Esther Omolola Adeyemi

State: Ekiti | Age: 23
House of Representatives Committee on Human Rights



Muktar Abdulrahman

State: Yobe | Age: 28
Department of Procurement, Estate and Works



Umar Safana

State: Katsina/Age: 25
Senate Committee on Appropriations



Kaltimi Galadima Muhammad

State: Nasarawa / Age: 23
Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions



Hadiza Adam Sheikh Abdullahi

State: Borno | Age: 31
House of Representatives Committee on Government Affairs



Johnson Osaze Anthony

State: Edo | Age: 25
Senate Committee on Appropriations

2019 LEGISLATIVE INTERNS



Khadijah El-USman

State: *Bauchi* | Age: *24*
Senate Committee on Legislative
Compliance



Wafar Afartinda Elam

State: *Adamawa* | Age: *27*
Senate Committee on Federal Character
and Intergovernmental Affairs



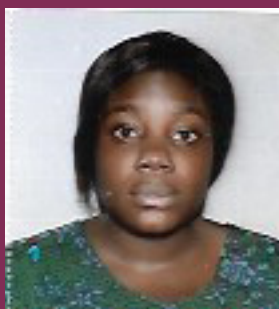
Ifeoma Akpotue

State: *Anambra* | Age: *25*
Senate Committee on Petroleum
Resources Upstream



Ja'e Aisha Ibrahim

State: *Kaduna* | Age: *31*
House of Representatives Committee on
Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)



Edidiong Udofia Enefiok

State: *Akwa Ibom* | Age: *25*
House of Representatives Committee on
Niger Delta Development Commission
(NDDC)



Joseph Bareyei

State: *Bayelsa* | Age: *27*
Senate Committee on Establishment and
Public Service



Joseph John

State: *Taraba* | Age: *28*
House of Representatives Committee on
Inland Waterways



Isaac Othouke Akpose

State: *Delta* | Age: *24*
House of Representatives Committee on
Steel



**Jonathan Omonogun
Iyanuoluwa**

State: *Kogi* | Age: *29*
House of Representatives Committee on
Healthcare Services



Winner Adebayo

State: *Kwara* | Age: *25*
House of Representatives Committee on
Diaspora



Allen Ibinabo

State: *Rivers* | Age: *25*
House of Representatives Committee on
Treaties and Agreements



Inyang Victor Martins

State: *Cross Rivers* | Age: *24*
House of Representatives Committee on
Tertiary Education Services

2019 LEGISLATIVE INTERNS



Ogbonnaya Mark Okoro
State: Ebonyi | Age: 26
House of Representatives Committee on
Financial Crime



Gondo Kator Aluta
State: Niger | Age: 30
Department of Information
Communication and Technology (ICT)



Onwuchekwa Samson Chijioke
State: Abia | Age: 24
Senate Committee on Tourism and Archeology



Musa Olatunji
State: Ogun | Age: 31
House of Representatives Committee on
Commerce



Micah Piwuna
State: Plateau | Age: 25
Senate Committee on Rules and Business



Ruqayya Abdullahi Goje
State: Jigawa | Age: 25
House of Representatives Committee on
Integrated Science and Technology



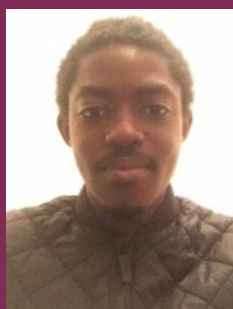
Ijeoma Jeniffer Ngwu-Hyacinth
State: Enugu | Age: 24
Department of Bills



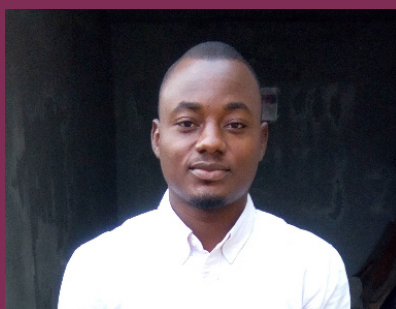
Mayowa Mogbojuri
State: Ondo : Age: 25
House of Representatives Committee on
FCT Area Council and Ancillary Matters



Sumayya Abdulkadir Marafa
State: Kebbi | Age: 26
Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human
Rights and Legal Matters



Mohammed Hafiz Sulaiman
State: Gombe | Age: 28
House of Representatives Committee on
Aids, Loans and Debt Management



Nuhu Dogara Tagyiangbe
State: FCT | Age: 25
Department of Information
Communication and Technology (ICT)



Teniola Akinpelumi Timothy
State: Oyo | Age: 29
Senate Committee on Tertiary Institutions
and TETFUND



Ezinma Ukairo

State: Abia | Age: 24
House of Representatives Committee on
Federal Judiciary



Masirana Alhassan

State: Sokoto | Age: 27
Department of Information
Communication and Technology (ICT)

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES TIMELINES

MEDIA ADVERTISEMENT

Advertisements for the internship were published in three widely read National Daily Newspapers, "Thisday", "The Guardian" and "Daily Trust" on 14th, 15th and 16th August 2019 respectively. The adverts were also shared on PLAC social and digital media platforms.

SCREENING AND SELECTION OF INTERNS

The selection process of the Legislative Internship programme was competitive but inclusive. A total of 8,444 applications were received while 468 candidates were shortlisted. 38 interns representing each state of the Federation and the FCT were selected to participate in the internship. To promote inclusivity, care was taken to ensure gender balance in the selection. A sign language interpreter was also contracted to provide aid for one of the interns who had a speech and hearing impairment.

DEPLOYMENT

A total of 38 interns were deployed to the Senate, House of Representatives and other departments. The interns resumed work on 21st October 2019.

ORIENTATION WORKSHOP

A welcome dinner held on Tuesday, 15th October, 2019 at Ibeto Hotel while a more formal introduction of interns took place on Wednesday, 16th October 2019 and Thursday, 17th October 2019.

BI-WEEKLY CAPACITY BUILDING FOR INTERNS

Two-bi weekly meetings aimed at building the capacity of interns on topical issues concerning the National Assembly held on Friday, 15th November 2019 and Friday, 29th November 2019 respectively

DEBRIEFING AND EXPERIENCE SHARING WORKSHOP

A debriefing meeting and dress rehearsal in preparation for the Model Legislative Assembly held on Monday, 16th December 2019.

MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (MLA)

The Model Legislative Assembly which is the final activity under the Legislative Internship programme held on Tuesday, 17th December 2019.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

SOCIAL SCIENCES



LAW



ART HUMANITIES



SCIENCES



QUALIFICATION

Masters



Bachelors



AGE DISTRIBUTION

21-24



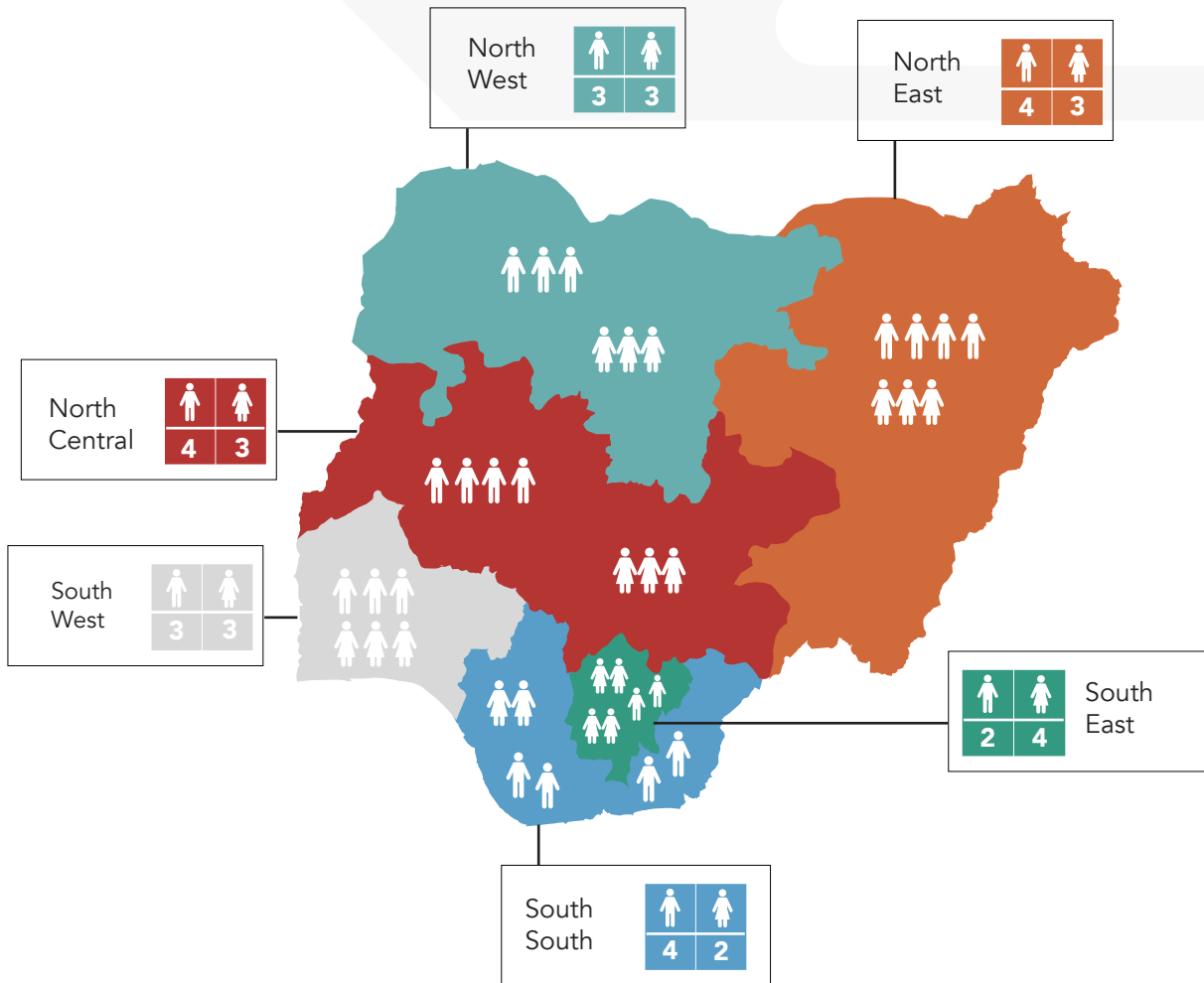
25-29



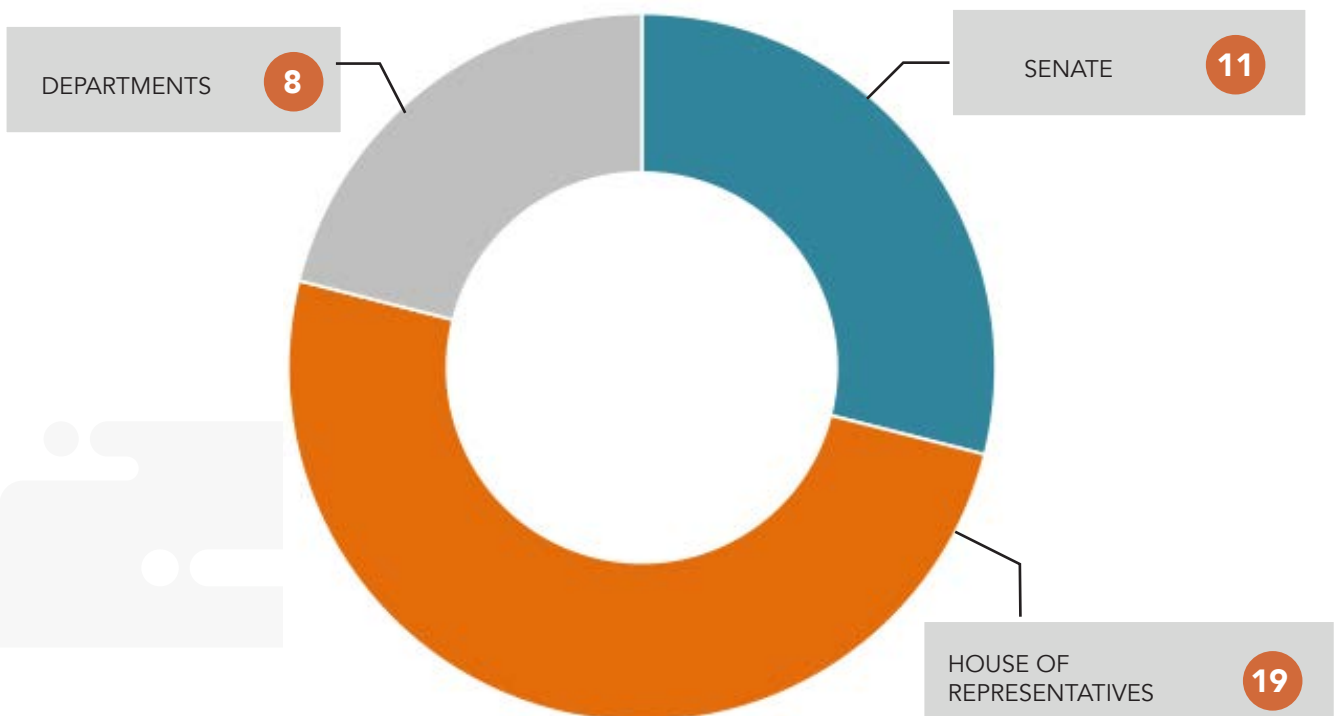
30-35



GEO-POLITICAL ZONES



DEPLOYMENT TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY





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CHAPTER THREE: ORIENTATION AND INDUCTION



Executive Director of PLAC, Clement Nwankwo Addressing Interns at the welcome dinner. Beside him to the right is PLAC Board Member, Philanthropist and Actress, Kate Henshaw

WELCOME DINNER

The 2019 Legislative Internship Programme kicked-off with a welcome dinner held on Tuesday, 15th October 2019 at Ibeto Hotels in Abuja where the interns were introduced to the PLAC team and briefed on the internship Programme. The dinner also served as a means for the interns to socialize and get acquainted with one another.

Giving the welcome remarks at the dinner, Clement Nwankwo, PLAC Executive Director, spoke on the importance of youth participation in governance and its significant demographic before urging interns to make the most of PLAC's open door policy for assistance or to communicate concerns at any time.

Also welcoming the interns PLAC Board Member, Actress and Philanthropist, Ms. Kate Henshaw, thanked PLAC's Executive Director for the opportunity given to the interns to participate in the Internship programme and relayed the high standard of behavior expected of them during the programme. She encouraged interns to build relationships while applying their best efforts throughout the duration of the internship.

2018 Legislative Internship Alumna, Amarachi Onyeabo also spoke at the event where she described the importance of sharing notes and work experiences from the different Committees they will be deployed to as a “great time to learn and understand the work of the Nigerian Legislature”. Another 2018 Legislative internship Alumni, Ifeoluwa Fawoye, stressed the importance of professionalism and good work ethics to the interns.

INDUCTION OF THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Following the welcome dinner, interns commenced a more formal induction programme with lectures given at a two-day training exercise on Wednesday, 16th October 2019 and Thursday, 17th October 2019 on various aspects of the Nigerian Legislature such as its general structure, functions, powers and responsibilities and how legislative practices and processes are carried out. The training sessions were facilitated by various professionals drawn from the National Assembly and civil society actors on legislative issues and soft skills that would enable them fit easily into the programme and afterwards in the involvement of governance.

Speaking at the session, Clement Nwankwo, PLAC Executive Director, commended the interns for being among the selected candidates representing their states in the programme out of the thousands of applications PLAC had received. He also lauded their interest in participating in the internship programme and hoped that the interns would find the experience productive.

Clement Boutiller, Head of Section, Democracy, Governance and Migration, European Union in Nigeria and ECOWAS who spoke on behalf of Ambassador Ketil Karlsen, Head of the Delegation also reiterated the European Union’s commitment to Nigeria’s democracy coming from its experiences from the world wars and its remarkable progress since then which had culminated in the award of a Nobel prize for peace in 2012. Clement Boutiller also observed that the National Assembly’s had a crucial role in ensuring that youths participate in governance before welcoming all present especially Teniola Akinpelumi Timothy, an intern with a speech and hearing impairment. Other comments emphasised the importance of collaboration as epitomised in the passage of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act and Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act by implementing partners. Sharing his personal experiences from the House of Commons, United Kingdom, Clement Boutiller described the Legislative Internship Programme “as a life changing experience” if interns are able to optimize the opportunity.

Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso Chairman, House Committee on Public Petitions also delivered a good will message describing the Legislature as the “fulcrum of democratic governance” and voiced the need to have more internships that support and introduce youth to political consciousness and good leadership skills. He stated that the Legislative Internship Programme was in line with the resolution of the 2010 122nd



PLAC Programme Manager , Omolara Akinyeye addressing the Interns



Cross-Section of interns at the welcome dinner



2018 Legislative Internship alumina, Amarachi Onyeabo sharing her experiences with the interns



L-R Interns ; Alhassan Masiranna, Fehintola Omotesho & Wafar Afartinda Elam



L-R Interns ; Micah Piwuna, Khadijah El-USman & Mayowa Mogbojuri



L-R Interns ; Johnson Osaze Anthony, Olorunnisola Oluwatosin, Nuhu Dogara Tagyiangbe & Allen Ibinabo



Clement Boutiller, Head of Section, Democracy, Governance and Migration, European Union in Nigeria and ECOWAS giving a welcome address to the interns



PLAC Board member, Journalist and TV programme host , Gbenga Aruleba

Inter-parliamentary Assembly in Bangkok which sought to encourage the participation of youths in democratic process globally. He also correlated early engagement and involvement to active citizenry and voters capable of confronting anti- democratic tendencies in government.

Mohammed Umar, Director (Human Resources & Admin), National Assembly gave a goodwill message on behalf of the Clerk to the National Assembly (CNA), Mohammed Ataba Sani-Omolori emphasizing PLAC's positive contributions towards the Constitution Review exercise, policy analysis and advocacy. In his analysis, misinformation of the Legislature had played a major role in the high turnover of Legislators during the electoral cycles. He also lauded PLAC for being instrumental in pushing the ideals of inclusivity before expressing National Assembly's willingness to imbibe inclusivity. Interns were also urged to participate in politics through other platforms like the National Youth Parliament.

Solomon Abai Ntuen a Director at the National Assembly also affirmed PLAC's support to the National Assembly on behalf of Nelson Ayewoh, Clerk of the Senate by appreciating the requisite work experience provided by the LIP which in turn increased the young professionals' skills to make them more prepared for the labour market. Solomon Ntuen further commended PLAC for creating an enviable model of a free, fair unbiased selection process.

The goodwill messages were concluded with Ekong Emoren who is the Personal Assistant to the Director, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Budget and National Planning. Ekong Emoren who represented Elizabeth Egharevba, Director, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Budget and National Planning advised interns to make the best out of the Programme before thanking the European Union for its development work in Nigeria.

PRESENTATIONS

The presentations during the induction were in two segments with the first day focused on aiding interns adjust into the National Assembly. Resource persons who facilitated the first day include: Kate Henshaw (Board Member, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre, Actress and Philanthropist), Senator Ita Enang (Senior Special Adviser to the President on Niger Delta Affairs), Ambassador Jerry Ugokwe (Two-term member of the House of Representatives and Former Ambassador to Austria, Slovakia and UN Offices in Vienna)

The session on day two was more focused on soft skills and legislative processes as well as how the National Assembly works with Esther Ijeaku (Senior Projects Manager BBC Media Action), Mannaseh Aliyuda, (Chief Security Officer, Sergeant at Arms, National Assembly), Gani Ojagbohunmi (Former Clerk, House of Representatives), Senator Shehu Sani (Senator of the 8th National Assembly), Prof. Okey Ibeanu (National Commissioner in charge of Logistics, Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC) making presentations at the event.

Each of the sessions was intended to be participatory; to create room for interaction between interns and facilitators. The induction and orientation exercise also provided an opportunity for interns to open up about expectations of the internship and provide room for PLAC staff to give directions on the goals of the EU programme and its implementation.

Speaking on the paper titled “Aspiring to Leadership and Life of Service”, Kate Henshaw reminded interns of the importance of their roles as representatives of their states and families while urging them to be time conscious and dependable.



Senator Ita Enang detailed the process of how a Bill is passed into Law in his presentation titled “Legislative Process: How a Bill becomes Law” which described the purpose of a Bill as intended to make a new law, repeal a part of it or re-enact a new law. He also explained the general Bill procedure from introduction to passage noting that a different process was applicable to Constitution alteration Bills whose passage required ratification by at least two third of the 36 State Houses of Assembly in addition to the general requirement of the President’s assent.



In the paper titled “How to be Effective Legislative Interns”, Ambassador Jerry Ugokwe briefed the interns on the importance of having a right attitude required for a good experience. The interns were also told of some of their responsibilities during their period of engagement in the National Assembly such as in the provision of administrative assistance, observation of plenary, Bill analysis as well as characteristics a good intern should possess.



Ambassador Jerry Ugokwe delivering a paper on “How to be Effective Legislative Interns”

Day Two commenced with a session by Esther Ijeaku who delivered a paper on communication titled “Essential Communication Skills in the Workplace” where interns were taught the importance of effective communication at workplaces and its usefulness in resolving grievances. Some of the speaking tips provided at the presentation included increasing one’s vocabulary, employing the use of humour and being prepared to listen.



Esther Ijeaku delivering a presentation on essential communication skills in the workplace

Mannaseh Aliyuda representing Brigadier Gen. Mohammed Sani Danwali (Rtd) Head, Sergeant at Arms, National Assembly brought a security perspective insight on the health, safety and security policies of the National Assembly in his presentation, "Safety and Security Policy in the National Assembly" where interns were briefed on the accepted dress code in the National Assembly and prohibited behaviors. Men and women for instance were advised to dress formally with further restrictions for women who cannot gain entry with sleeveless clothes or skirts below their knees. Interns were also informed that they would be given temporary ID cards for admittance into the National Assembly for the duration of the Programme.



Gani Ojabohunmi took on a practical session with samples of key legislative documents such as an order paper, notice paper, Hansard, Votes and Proceedings shared among interns before explaining the documents in more detail through an elaborate presentation titled "Legislative Documents".





Professor Okey Ibeanu speaking on Sustaining Democracy in Nigeria through Youth Participation

Prof. Okey Ibeanu's paper on "Sustaining Democracy in Nigeria through Youth Participation" encouraged the interns to use technology in channeling their advocacy and deepening democracy through using social media and other information technology platforms, resources and tools.



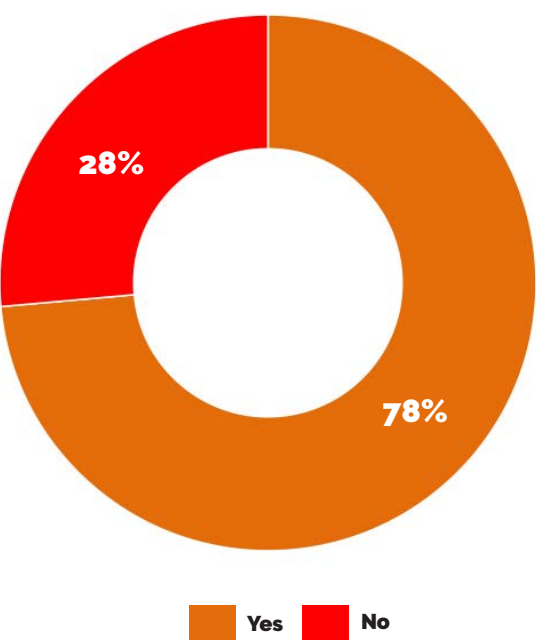
Senator Shehu Sani on the Role of CSOs in the Legislative Process.

8th Assembly Senator Shehu Sani also spoke on the "Role of CSOs in the Legislative Process" where he gave a brief history of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in Nigeria. The presentation recognized the work contributed by CSOs to Nigeria's democracy and its sustenance. It also examined the strength of CSOs in shaping government policies.

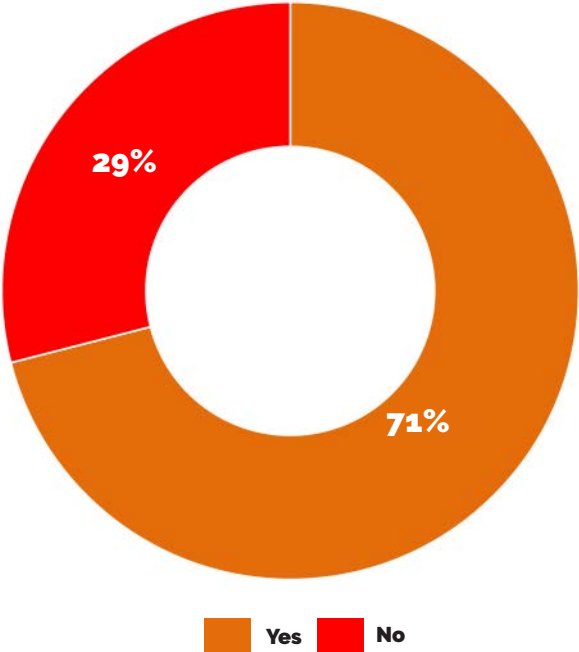
The exercise concluded with a tour to the National Assembly led by the Sergeant-At-Arms, Brigadier Gen. Danwali who showed interns some key features of both chambers during the excursion on Friday, 18th October 2019.

Pre - evaluation survey on interns' knowledge of the functions of the National Assembly

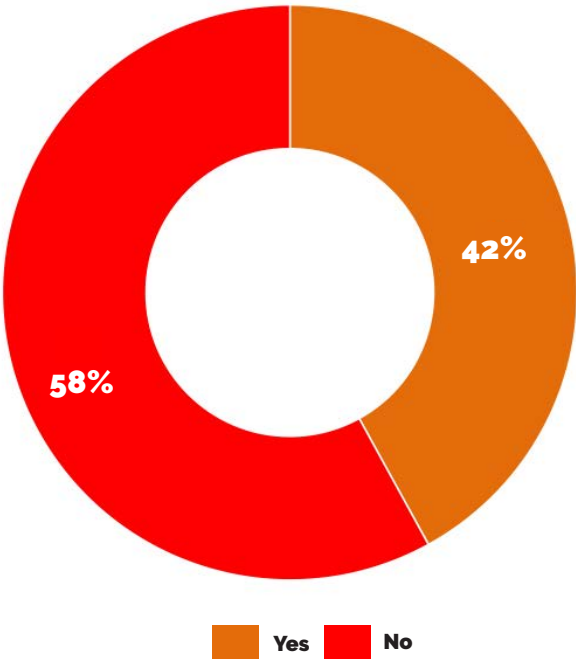
DO YOU KNOW THAT ONE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF NASS IS LAW-MAKING



DO YOU KNOW THAT ONE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF NASS IS OVERSIGHT?



DO YOU KNOW THAT THE 3RD FUNCTION OF NASS IS REPRESENTATION?





CHAPTER FOUR: FIRST BI-WEEKLY TRAINING FOR LEGISLATIVE INTERNS



Cross-Section of interns at the Legislative Internship Bi-weekly meeting

INTRODUCTION

The Legislative internship Bi-Weekly training for interns is organized for the purpose of providing support in helping interns discharge their tasks and responsibilities as well as provide a means of assessing the progress of interns from the commencement of the programme. The trainings are aimed at equipping interns to build their capacity on topical issues concerning the National Assembly to better understand the context which it operates and infuse the perspective in engagement with the Committees/ Departments they are deployed to. The first Bi-weekly meeting held on Friday, 15th November 2019 at the PLAC office in Abuja with members of the PLAC team including its Executive Director, Clement Nwankwo in attendance. Jake Epelle, Executive Director, The Albino Foundation (TAF); Honourable Nnenna Elendu-Ukeje, Member of the 8th House of Representatives and Mrs. Rabi Audu, former Head of the National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislators (NSNL) served as resource persons.

Giving the welcome remarks, Clement Nwankwo appreciated the conduct of the interns so far before communicating the regrets of Honorable Yusuf Lasun (Member,

House of Representatives 9th Assembly) who was unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. He further assured interns of PLAC team's availability at any time should the interns face any challenges during the Programme.

The session by Jake Epelle on "Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities Act: Nigeria's Path to Inclusivity" followed Clement Nwankwo's welcome remarks as he spoke about the significance of youth involvement in discussions surrounding inclusivity. He suggested that early involvement in the conversation on inclusivity would help establish a solid foundation for dealing with such issues when they get into public offices or positions as policy changers.

In addition to this, Jake Epelle and the interns discussed the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 with a focus on its implementation, achievements and challenges. Jake Epelle however mentioned the delay in the establishment of a Commission for persons living with disabilities as a major challenge as there was much to be done concerning inclusivity in Nigeria. The interns further buttressed this by noting the symbolism of the limited number of disability desks in the National Assembly; a representative arm of government.

Speaking next on "Mastering the Functions of a Legislator: Lawmaking, Representation and Oversight" Honourable Nnenna Elendu-Ukeje highlighted a Legislator's obligation to the rule of law and its relationship with the Executive in a session filled with real life scenarios. She also spoke on the importance of diplomacy while carrying out duties in view of Nigeria's diversity and the differences between the legislative powers of a Presidential executive order and Resolutions of the House of Representatives and Senate. Current issues in the National Assembly such as the 2020 Appropriation Bill were also discussed with Hon. Elendu-Ukeje explaining the rationale behind the statement of the House of Representatives having the power of the budget while the Senate has the power of confirmation of the budget as being down to their sheer numbers. While the House of Representatives has 360 Members, 109 lawmakers are in the Senate.

Dr. (Mrs). Rabi A. Audu, concluded the presentations on Day 2 with a "Brief on a Typical Legislative Plenary Session and Mock Simulation Exercise" whose objective was to teach interns how a plenary session in the National Assembly is observed using the House of Representatives Plenary session as an example. Salient points from the presentations included how a general legislative session is conducted in the Senate or House of Representatives and the duties of Presiding officers during plenary. Interns were also briefed on the minimum number of days required for both chambers to sit in a year which stands at 181 days a year under the Nigerian Constitution.



CHAPTER FIVE: SECOND BI- WEEKLY TRAINING FOR LEGISLATIVE INTERNS



Mufuliat Fijabi, Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF) delivering a paper on “Recognizing your Civic Responsibility as a Nigerian Youth: Engagement and Participation” at the bi-weekly legislative internship meeting

The meeting served as a follow up of the first Bi – weekly meeting. As at the time of the meeting on Friday, 29th November 2019, the interns had spent four weeks in the National Assembly and completed half of the 10-week programme.

Delivering notes and lessons at this meeting was Chidi Odinkalu Human Rights Activist and Senior Legal Officer, Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI), Mufuliat Fijabi; Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF) and Muhammad Sani Abdullahi, Director, Bills Department, National Assembly.

Opening the training session on an “Analysis of the Social Media Bill and its effect on Human Rights and Democracy”, Chidi Odinkalu x-rayed sections of the Social Media Bill, more formally titled “Protection from Internet Falsehood and Manipulation and other Related Matters Bill, 2019”, its implications with the Nigerian Constitution as well as its consequential import on the rights of citizens if eventually passed. Analogies were also made between the Bill and other laws governing free speech in other parts of the world before calling for its discountenance.


The next training was delivered by Mufuliat Fijabi on the topic “Recognizing your Civic Responsibility as a Nigerian Youth: Engagement and Participation” with interns being taught to engage the public and policy makers around three main pillars of fundamental rights. That is accountability, transparency & participation. Interns were also urged to build their capacity and utilise social media tools to advocate social issues.

The meeting concluded with a training on “Bill Drafting: Structure and Content” by Muhammad Sani Abdullahi giving interns a comprehensive lesson on how Bills are drafted and passed. They were also taught the legalities surrounding the lifespan of a Bill and importance in understanding the different departments and stakeholders involved when drafting provisions of a Bill.



Chidi Odinkalu , Human Rights Activist and Senior Legal Officer, Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) , analysing the Social Media Bill and its effect on Human Rights and Democracy in an interactive session with the interns.





CHAPTER SIX: RADIO PROGRAMME AND VISIT TO THE EU DELEGATION



Cross - Section of interns with radio presenter at the COOL FM studios in Abuja L - R ; Lilian Chinonso Udonu , Micah Piwuna, Khadijah El-Usman & Onwuchekwa Samson Chijioke



Visit to Hot FM studios , Abuja . L-R : Intern Isaac Akpose , Intern Winner Adebayo , PLAC Programme Officer Brenda Nwosa & Intern Jonathan Omonogun Iyanuoluwa

Selected interns were invited to participate in discussions and advocacy on the importance of participation of marginalised groups and youth inclusion in addition to their experiences so far from the Legislative Internship programmes through two radio shows. The first radio show took place at the Hot FM studio in Abuja on Monday, 9th December 2019 and the second at the COOL FM office in Abuja on Wednesday, 18th December 2019. Discussions at both radio shows bordered on the “Lessons, Learnt from the PLAC Internship Programme”, the Strategy for Enhancing Political Participation and Inclusivity” and “Citizens Expectations for Elected Officials”.

Interns also attended a panel discussion organized by the European Union Delegation to Nigeria (EU) and the British Council to mark International Human Rights Day and the finale of the United Nations 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. The Panel discussions on Tuesday, 10th December, 2019 included deliberations on “Law Enforcement, Citizen liberties and the Rule of law in Nigeria” and “Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Nigeria: Towards an Effective Response.” The event had in attendance notable personalities across civil society, the media, lawmakers and entertainers



CHAPTER SEVEN: DE-BRIEFING MEETING



Interns at the De-briefing and Dress Rehearsal for the Model Legislative Assembly . L- R ; Esther Omolola Adeyemi, Ezinne Ukairo & Winner Adeniyi

A De-briefing meeting and dress rehearsal in preparation for the Model Legislative Assembly held on Monday, 16th December 2019. This provided interns with the opportunity to share their experiences from the Programme so far and make recommendations on their knowledge. PLAC also utilized the platform to prepare interns for opportunities after the internship by exploring their post internship options in various presentations.

Speaking on “Packaging Your Skills for Effective Engagement” for instance, Kachi Okezie of CTP International spoke on the importance of identifying one’s skills, strengths and weaknesses, setting personal goals and planning an engagement strategy to achieve them. While the identification of one’s skills could be through competency assessments, psychometric tests and personal evaluation for instance, the identification of one’s strengths and weaknesses could be through a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis. He also advised that one’s goals pass through the SMART test by being specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time bound before discussing the various elements of an engagement strategy which would involve self-exploration, work research, experimental research, decision making, job search skills and career management.

Brenda Anugwom moderated the session on “Lessons Learnt and Post Internship Options” where interns spoke on their experiences so far. For instance, intern Johnson Anthony who was deployed to the Appropriations Committee stated that he had learnt the various stages on how a budget is passed and that his observations of plenary had given him insight into the work that goes into the passing of a Bill. Yusuf Ahmed who was deployed to the Department of Works and Housing also talked about learning legislative processes for Bills and motions in addition to the procedure for selecting the presiding officer from attending joint-committee sittings. Edidiong Udofia who was deployed to the House Committee on Niger-Delta Development assessed the practicalities of the implementation of law as being informative and a bedrock to her future doctorate thesis. Wafar Afartinda who was deployed to the Committee on Federal Character reported learning that funds for constituency projects are not given directly to legislators and that legislators are highly knowledgeable contrary to public perception. Musa Olatunji, also spoke on his experiences on how to draft legislative documents such as Bills, Votes and Proceedings and the Order Paper during his deployment at the House of Representatives Committee on Commerce while Umar Safana who was deployed to the Senate Committee on Appropriations stated that he learnt the Bill stages for an Appropriation Bill in addition to other important lessons such as the mandate of the Public Petitions Committee.

A lot of interns also reported the bi-weekly trainings as very helpful in giving an insight on the context of the National Assembly. Other comments praised the internship for its diversity, fair selection process and helping to improve their writing and social skills. Some interns also praised the platform provided through the radio programmes and the panel discussions at the European Commission when marking International Human Rights Day. Few complaints however were recorded on challenges in deployment.

Most interns expressed their interest in political aspirations after the programme. For example, Johnson Anthony promised to join a political party after the internship to achieve his aspirations of being appointed a Minister before running for office to be a governor and then a Senator. Wafar Afartanda also promised to be an advocate educating the public on the work of legislators while Edidiong Udofia stated her next steps as including working with the United Nations. However, not all interns decided to pursue a political career. Umar Safana for instance stated his interest in working for the public sector through service in any of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies. Lilian Chinonso Udonu also admitted her interest in Non-Governmental Organisations where she hoped to be a Programme Manager someday.

The programme ended with a dress-rehearsal by interns moderated by Chinedu Akabueze, Deputy Clerk of the House of Representatives and Rahila Ahmadu, former Director, National Secretariat of Nigerian Legislatures.





CHAPTER EIGHT: MLA AND INTERNS EXPERIENCES



Interns performing mock duties during the Model Legislative Assembly (MLA) . L - R ; Iyang Victor Martins , Johnson Osaze Anthony & Joseph John

MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Model Legislative Assembly (MLA) is the final activity under the Legislative Internship Programme where interns demonstrate skills related to consensus building, critical thinking and problem-solving skills in a re-created Mock legislative plenary session that deals with topical issues. The MLA also provides an opportunity to assess intern's knowledge of the plenary sessions observed during the 10 – week programme and illustrate their knowledge on legislative processes such as Bill drafting, the composition of Principal Officers in chambers and the duties of a legislator.

Expected outcomes from this exercise include that;

- Interns are able to debate, negotiate and present ideas in a concise manner
- Apply research skills of key players of the Legislature and their roles in the Legislative process to practicalise and personalize theories for interns
- Increase interns interest in political participation and awareness

Opening the event on 17th December 2019, Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director of Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) commended the interns for a successful programme as well as their ethical behaviour which was devoid of negativity from reports from the National Assembly. He also enjoined the interns to harness the skills and experiences they had received from the programme before wishing them well in their future endeavors.

Clement Boutillier, Head of Section, Democracy, Governance and Migration, Delegation of the European Union to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and ECOWAS also commended PLAC for its efforts towards the execution of the programme. He noted the presence of the interns at the event organised by the European Union (EU) to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence while reiterating the EU's commitment to sustaining democracy in Nigeria. In his words, important relationships have been formed between the EU and stakeholders in Nigeria. Clement Boutillier also acknowledged the gender balance among the interns and the European Union's commitment to improve the participation of women and youth in the electoral process and capacity to hold elective offices. Lastly, he noted PLAC's key role in implementing the Delegation's programmes such as the Legislative Internship Programme.

Manasseh Aliyudah, Sergeant-at-Arms, National Assembly also alluded to the success of the program after commending the interns for complying with the rules and procedures throughout their stay in the National Assembly. Gbenga Aruleba, PLAC Board Member encouraged interns to conduct themselves as prospective legislators. Mohammed Umar, Permanent Secretary at the National Assembly congratulated PLAC and the EU for the initiative and success of the programme on behalf of Sani Omolori, Clerk of the National Assembly. Mohammed Umar also credited the programme for increasing awareness of the Legislature which remained the least understood arm of government in Nigeria due to its intermittent suspensions during various military regimes in Nigeria. According to Mohammed Umar, the gap had given rise to the need to enlighten the populace; a demand that the PLAC legislative internship programme greatly addresses. He also congratulated the 2019 interns urging them to take advantage of all they had learnt, while taking up a lasting interest in the country's democratic affairs before the MLA was formally declared open.

RE-ENACTMENT OF MOCK ASSEMBLY

At the MLA, interns made presentations and drafted topical Bills on issues such as on the rehabilitation and resettlement of Displaced Persons in the North East, biodiversity and even a Commission to address Intra and Inter-Communal Conflicts among others. The Mock Assembly was presided over by an intern, Yusuf Abdullahi Mohammed who was elected among the interns as the Speaker of the Mock Legislative Assembly in addition to 9 other principal officers and two legislative staff representing the Clerk of the House of Representatives and Sergeant-at arms respectively.

During the session, a petition was raised on the “Unfair Dismissal of a Member’s Constituent” from his workplace while a motion was moved on the “Urgent Need to Deploy Security and Military Personnel to combat Boko Haram Insurgency in the Northeast region of Nigeria”. The Model Legislative Assembly eventually reached the resolutions to; Observe a minute silence in honour of all those killed by Boko Haram terrorists; Urge the Nigerian Army, Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies to deploy more officers to strategic places in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States, to secure the lives of people living in those areas and ; Intimate the Federal Government to deliberately take up measures to improve on budgetary provisions for attention to the security system in the country.



Interns Ibinabo Allen (front) and Yusuf Abdullahi Ahmed , performing his duties as the elected Speaker of the Model Legislative Assembly (MLA)

There were also presentations of the Schools Guidance and Counselling (Primary and Secondary) Bill, 2019 and the Biodiversity Conservation Training Institute Bill, 2019 at plenary while A Bill for an Act for the Establishment of a Trust Fund for the Execution of Development Projects in the South East of Nigeria; A Bill for an Act for North East Rehabilitation, Social and Environmental Sustainability and A Bill for an Act to Modernise Farming Practices in the North West of Nigeria; went through more detail as they were considered for second reading. Such length of consideration was not applicable to A Bill for an Act to Establish the North Central Conflict Resolution Commission to Address Intra and Inter Communal Conflicts within the North Central Geopolitical Zone

and for Related Matters which came up for third reading and passage. This followed the assumption that an in-depth consideration of the Bill would have happened at its second reading stage.

Commenting on the performance of the interns, Dr. Rahila Ahmadu, a panelist at the event expressed pleasure at the opportunity to work with the interns and her delight at their performance despite spending only 10 weeks at the National Assembly. She however, noted that a number of technicalities are involved in the process of lawmaking and encouraged interns to obtain copies of the Standing Rules of the House of Representatives and the Constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) to further broaden their knowledge of legislative processes.

Speaking at the event, Gbenga Aruleba, a fellow panelist also described their performance as demonstrating a general interest in the National Assembly. He however noted their deviation on some procedures that were customarily adhered to in the course of the plenary while expressing hope for a National Assembly that will work for the benefit of Nigerians.

Emmanuel Anyaegbunam, Executive Director, African Centre for Parliamentary & Constitutional Studies, who also acted as a panelist focused his observations on the peculiarity of language used at the National Assembly and its importance. Interns were commended for their astounding performance.

In addition to this, Mohammed Umar commended the interns for having an understanding of the procedures of the chambers during their mock session, in spite of their short stay at the National Assembly. Clément Boutillier also noted that the interns spoke eloquently while presenting their arguments and interventions on Bills and Motions and highlighted the performance of the interns as a learning point for young people.

The session ended with the presentation of certificates by Clement Nwankwo, Clément Boutillier and Afam Nwaeze from the Budget and National Planning Commission who lauded the importance of inclusivity and participation as imbibed by Teniola Akinpelumi, whose prolific contributions had added much value to the internship.

Micah Piwuna who spoke on behalf of the interns described PLAC's commitment to the programme as an indication of its interest in youth programmes and praised its intervention as providing insight into the legislative structure and policy making before describing their overall experience as "invaluable". Interns also presented a glass lectern to PLAC in a gesture of appreciation at the event.



Teniola Akinpelumi receiving a certificate of participation in the 2019 PLAC Legislative Internship Programme from Clement Boutiller, Head of Section, Democracy , Governance and Migration European Union in Nigeria and ECOWAS



Interns presenting a gift to PLAC . L - R ; Anthony Omonogun , Edidiong Udofia Enefiok & Micah Piwuna



Group Photo of the 2019 PLAC legislative Interns with Executive Director, PLAC - Clement Nwankwo, Head of Section, Democracy , Governance and Migration, European Union in Nigeria and ECOWAS - Clement Boutiller & Afam Nwaeze - Ministry of Budget and National Planning

INTERNS EXPERIENCES PROGRAMME OUTCOMES (BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAMME)



"I learnt about the budget process, how the budget is passed and the relevant stages it passes through before passage and legislative processes. Observing plenary sessions gave me insight of the work that goes into passing a Bill."

Johnson **Anthony**
Senate Committee on
Appropriations



"I had the opportunity to attend joint-committee sittings where I learnt the procedure for selecting the presiding member for each session. In addition, I learnt about motions, bills and legislative processes. I also had the opportunity to go on oversight visits to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government to supervise their books after budget defense."

Yusuf **Ahmad**
Department of Procurement, Estate and
Works



"This program has transformed my mindset on democracy, legislation and policy advocacy. I acquired technical skills like drafting of Bills, Votes and Proceedings, Order paper, Notice paper and extensive knowledge of the Constitution and Standing orders, necessary for legislation and governance."

Zayyan **Bello**
Department of Procurement,
Estate and Works



"I learnt the duties of the principal officers, stages of the Bill process, the existence of the Public Petitions Committee and their mandate."

Umar **Safana**
Senate Committee on
Appropriations



"This Internship has opened ways for me to mingle with people from diverse ethnicities, network and connect. I have learnt a lot of things I never thought I would learn now. This is a great organization. My expectations have been met."

Mark **Okoro**
House Committee on Financial
Crime



"I learnt about the budget process, how the budget is passed and the relevant stages it passes through before passage and Legislative processes. Observing plenary sessions gave me insight of the work that goes into passing a Bill."

Ifeoma **Akpotue**
Senate Committee on Petroleum
Resources (Upstream)



"PLAC should strive to maintain the high standard it has set in terms of making merit the benchmark for participation in the programme."

Joseph **John**

*House Committee on
Inland Waterways*



"It was particularly a unique experience for me to investigate the challenges the Nigerian Diaspora are facing and to contribute my suggestions towards my Committee's policy recommendations."

Winner **Adebayo**

*House of Representatives Committee on
Diaspora*



One of the highlights of this opportunity was the veritable platform it gave me to work with persons from different sociocultural backgrounds; making me appreciate the true meaning of "unity in diversity". This has astronomically broadened my horizon on what we can achieve as Nigerian citizens.

Ijeoma **Hyacinth**

Department of Bills



On my first day as part of the Committee, I set up a Twitter account for the Committee to fulfil the duty of informing the public of Senate resolutions and submitted the first thread of tweets to the Clerk of the Committee for vetting and verification.

Khadijah **El-USman**

Legislative Compliance, Senate



I was able to understand how the Legislative arm checks other arms of government.... I realized that there are a lot of productive members of the National Assembly as their proposed Bills and deliberations show they have real concerns for the people they represent.

I would like to appreciate PLAC for the opportunity given to me especially with their transparent selection process for the Internship Programme, which made me believe there is still hope for Nigeria.

Olorunnisola **Niyi**

House Committee on Justice



With the short time spent in the National Assembly, I have been able to answer a lot of questions being asked by people and I have also been an instrument in disseminating and sensitizing people on the truth about the National Assembly. Getting people to change their mindsets on certain things they have been told and made to believe is difficult and takes a conscious effort. I plan to change that narrative.

Iveren **Kegnku**

*Department of Intelligence and
Security*



Attending plenary session was an eye-opening experience. The session offered firsthand experience to various processes and proceedings of the National Assembly some of which include how motions are moved and deliberated upon, how bills are passed into law, how Committees operate and how hearings are conducted. I can proudly say that the much controversial "Social media bill" was read and debated in my presence.

Ruqqaya Goje

House Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives



I can now go out there with my head up high knowing that I am an agent of change fully equipped with legislative skills and can influence my peers to demand for transparency, accountability and good governance which they are actually entitled to from the persons occupying public offices.

Onwuchekwa Chijioke

Senate Committee on Tourism and Archeology



My experience during this internship cannot be bought with money nor can it be taken away from me. It was educating and enriching in its entirety, broadening my horizon and knowledge of not only the workings of the National assembly and legislators, but on leadership, life service, youth participation and sustaining democracy in Nigeria. I learnt essential communication skills, the roles of CSOs and their impact on the legislature, the issues of discrimination against persons with disabilities; while recognizing and gaining knowledge of my civic responsibility; as a youth in engagement and political participation and human rights.

Micah Piwuna

Senate Committee on Rules and Business



Initially, I was skeptical about my ability and capability to serve/work under the Committee as I wasn't a lawyer...however I was able to get adjusted to the work of the Committee due to my commitment and determination...and to judiciously utilise the opportunity given to me.

Abdulkadir Marafa

Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters



CONCLUSION



- Majority of the interns admitted to having better understanding of legislative processes through their hands-on experience and greater understanding of the structure and functions of the National Assembly.
- There was an increased interest recorded in political participation after the internship. More Interns indicated an interest in running for office than when the programme began.
- The interns strengthened their research, legislative writing, oratory and writing skills.
- The interns were able to appreciate the work of the Legislature in relation to its power of oversight, representation and law-making.
- The internship provided a platform to forge long-lasting friendships and relationships.

LESSONS LEARNED

- The Internship still provides a viable platform for young Nigerian professionals who are interested in gaining in-depth knowledge of the Nigerian legislature to learn about, participate and appreciate the legislative process.
- The inclusive geographical, gender and disability representation contributed to a robust experience for the interns.
- The total number of applications to the internship programme rose from 1048 in 2018 to 8,444 in 2019 showing an increased interest in the programme and the importance of a transparent and credible selection process.
- The internship ran at the last quarter of the year rather than the initially scheduled period for the first quarter of 2019 after senior management staff in the National Assembly advised its deferral in view of the activities surrounding the Presidential and National Assembly Elections which could prevent them from acquiring the full benefits of the programme. The success thereof of the 2019 LIP held at the latter part of the year thus highlights that PLAC's continued engagement with National Assembly leadership remains critical in the implementation of an effective programme. PLAC must thus strive to maintain its good working relationship with the National Assembly in the execution of its programmes.
- Continued feedback and awareness of PLAC's internship programmes need to be created among lower-level/mid-level staff in the National Assembly who one way or the other inadvertently contribute to the experiences of the interns in the National Assembly.
- A comparison of the evaluation taken at the start of the internship and at the end of the programme indicates a positive shift in the number of previously "undecided" interns who now indicate willingness to run for political office. That alone, speaks to the success of the internship in improving the political participation of marginalised groups such as youths.
- For the first time, Teniola Akinpelumi, an intern with a disability actively participated in the internship programme creating a space for persons with disabilities and giving insight to how PLAC and the National Assembly can work towards achieving inclusivity for marginalised groups.

INTERNS ARTICLES

Article by Fehintola Omotesho

THE NATURE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

Human trafficking occurs in different forms across various countries around the world. However, sex trafficking is the leading form of trafficking in Nigeria followed by labour trafficking. Although men and women become victims of this atrocious crime, young women and girls hold a greater fraction of the overall number of persons trafficked due to conflict, poverty, illiteracy, pressure from family members and a weak legal system affected by corruption.



Nigeria has obtained a poor reputation for being one of the foremost African countries in human trafficking occurring both nationally and transnationally. This is due to the lack of sufficient legislation, political will and well-informed enforcement officers to implement existing legislation in order to combat this crime. Women and girls are mostly trafficked for the main purposes of sexual exploitation and involuntary domestic labour while men and boys are recruited for street begging, forced labour, mining or farming.

Nigerian migration to Europe has brought about significant attention from both the media and governments. This is not only as a result of some elements of this migration flow being related to human trafficking and other criminal activities but as a result of Nigerians becoming well known among Sub-Saharan African asylum seekers in Europe. Years of military regimes and political upheaval in Nigeria have resulted to the institutionalized violation of human rights and severe political, social and economic dilemmas. Consequently, this has adversely affected the improvement of community participation of mostly women and children notwithstanding the international institutions that have been established to advance their causes. Adding to that, is the oil boom in the 1970's which paved way for migration and created opportunities for exploitation, international trafficking, forced labour and prostitution.

There are hundreds of thousands of Nigerians living in Europe today with Italy having the highest percentage of trafficked persons from Nigeria. Nigeria is a country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking where according to the U.S Department of State, majority of Nigerian trafficking victims in Europe come from Edo State, via

Libya. In Nigeria, international trafficking is mainly (but not solely) concentrated around Edo State. Other destinations for trafficked Nigerians include the neighboring West African countries (Mali, Benin, and Guinea), European countries (Belgium, Spain and the United Kingdom), North Africa (Libya, Algeria and Morocco) and Middle Eastern countries (Saudi Arabia). Although trafficking young girls and women across borders for the purpose of sex work is rampant in Nigeria, one cannot ignore trafficking for the purpose of forced labour occurring internally within various states such as Abuja, Lagos and Kano.

Nigeria is signatory to the Palermo protocol (Protocol to Protect, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children) and there have been attempts to criminalize both the crime of trafficking and attempts to commit the crime. In its response to combat human trafficking and its effect on both the state and individuals, for instance, Nigeria enacted the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act (2003) which later went through an amendment in 2005 and 2015. This Act brought about the formation of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) which in the fight to eradicate this menace has been entrusted with the obligation to enforce and implement the provisions of the Act and has attempted to do so through the functions and powers vested in it.

Nevertheless, trafficking in person is still a highly organised crime committed through connections and linkages to several top officials and counterparts both in the international scene and within the borders of a Nigeria. Despite the measures put in place, human trafficking is still very rampant, with women and girls still at a high risk of being trafficked on a daily basis. This crime is not confined to a particular area or city and could occur anywhere. For traffickers, it is a low risk crime with extremely high profits while violating the basic human rights of victims.

Article by Teniola Akinpelumi

SMILE - IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

A Smile when genuine melts away the ice of suspicion. It removes layers of prejudice accumulated through the years. It softens hearts frozen by disbelief and mistrust. It brings relief and joy to many. It says, "I understand. Don't worry." It makes the appeal, "I hope we can be friends." And what is this powerful tool? It is a smile. It can be YOUR smile.



What is a smile? A smile is generally defined in dictionaries as 'a facial expression in which the corners of the mouth curve slightly upward, expressing amusement, approval, or joy.' Herein lies the secret of the warm smile. A smile is a nonverbal way of expressing one's feelings or communicating one's emotions to others. Of course, a smile might also express scorn or disdain, but that is another subject.

Does smiling really make a difference? Well, do you remember when someone's smile brought you a sense of relief or made you feel relaxed? Or when the absence of a smile made you feel nervous or even rejected? Yes, a smile does make a difference. It affects both the one who is smiling and the one smiled at. The Bible character Job said of his adversaries: "I would smile at them—they would not believe it—and the light of my face they would not cast down." (Job 29:24) "The light" of Job's face may have denoted his brightness or cheerfulness.

The positive effect of a smile remains true to this day. A warm smile may help relieve built-up tensions. It may prove to be like a safety valve on a pressure cooker. When we feel tense or frustrated, a smile can help us to alleviate that tension and cope with our frustration. For instance, Olalekan - a deaf friend of mine - often observed others looking at her. She assumed that they were critical of her, as they quickly averted their eyes when they saw that she noticed them. Olalekan felt lonely and unhappy. I recall suggesting that she smiles at people when she caught their eye. Olalekan tried it for two weeks and was amazed that everyone smiled back at her! Tensions were gone. "Life has become really enjoyable," she says. Yes, a smile makes us feel more at ease with others and helps us become more friendly. A smile is really beautiful itself. Take the initiative to greet others with a smile.

Article by Adeyemi Omolola

EDUCATION: AN INSTRUMENT OF DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”, says Nelson Mandela. As a little child, I had always been fascinated about education, its dynamism, richness and how impeccably it is passed down from generation to generation. Education as it is, is known to me as an effort of the older generation to transfer their life wisdom to their offspring.



Education is regarded as the bedrock of development for every society, but the educational system of Nigeria is plagued with a series of difficulties - poor funding, congestion in schools, poor administration, lack of guidance and counselling, poor educational infrastructures, lack of teaching aids (computers, laboratories e.t.c) and poor quality of teaching staff.

According to the “Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Citation Act”, 2004, education has been made compulsory for all children aged from three to over fourteen years to have access to Universal Basic Education from any authorized Government owned Primary and Junior Secondary School in Nigeria.

However, statistics from the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) which monitors implementation of the Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Citation Act states (in 2019) that the population of out of school children in Nigeria has risen from 10.5 million to 13.2 million. The Commission also showed that the most endemic states affected by the out-of-school children were in Kano, Akwa Ibom, Katsina, Kaduna, Taraba, Sokoto, Yobe, Zamfara, Oyo, Benue, Jigawa and Ebonyi States which makes up 33% of the total number of states in Nigeria.

The United Nations in 2015 adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which target 17 major fields for promoting rapid development in a country. Quality Education as one of the major targets is listed as the fourth goal that countries must aspire to attain by 2030. Nigeria, I believe can be on the verge of a breakthrough with consistency and proper implementation of the UBEC Act.

I am a strong advocate for promoting good and quality education for younger generations because they stand to be passed the baton of leadership in coming years. Education is also a prerequisite to the prosperity and modernization of any country.

**** This article has been abridged.*

Article by Isaac Akpose

THE BEST ENEMY OIL CAN BUY: A MEDITATION ON THE CONDITION OF UNDERDEVELOPED NIGERIA

It has been said that those who are ignorant of history are doomed to repeat its mistakes. It may come as a surprise to learn that crude oil that should be a source of wealth has been shown to be one of the causes of underdevelopment and poverty in Nigeria. Many pundits see a direct link between crude oil and the corruption in Nigeria which in turn has created an unpleasant effect on the country's development.



The 1980s and 1990s were characterized as a time of agrarian doldrums and catastrophe in Nigeria. Stagnant or retrogressive output, inflation, the virtual disappearance of agricultural exports and the rapid increase in food imports, and massive external debts are considered a few of the many problems related to the Nigerian government's growth strategy.

According to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Nigeria has a maximum crude oil production capacity of 2.5 million barrels per day and has generally ranked as Africa's largest producer and sixth oil producer in the world. Nigeria's petroleum industry is the largest in Africa with proven oil and gas reserves of 37 billion barrels and 192 trillion cubic feet respectively. Therefore, one would be forgiven for thinking Nigerians swim in petrol but no, that is simply not the case. Unfortunately, Nigeria which is the world's 6th largest oil producer is also the world's largest petrol importer. This irony is bewildering and pathetic.

Years after independence Nigerians have begun to ask themselves the hard and pertinent questions: How come we have so much oil and we still import Premium Motor Spirit (petrol)? Why is it taking the Nigerian Government forever to build a working refinery with large production capacity here in Nigeria? Why are the refineries we currently have dilapidated and forgotten as though they are not essential? Is crude oil a cure or a curse to the Nation's economy? What should be done in order to change the tragic narratives of oil exploitation, exploration and under-development in Nigeria?

Debates about why Nigeria has failed to develop as it should with abundant human and material resources at its disposal have been raging for decades. Some have noted that the problem is due to the absence of effective leadership. Yet others have observed that Nigeria is stuck in its present socio-political and economic predicament because the leaders have been unable to change their mental models to build critical institutions and infrastructure capable of transforming the society into a developed economy.

Focusing on oil is not a bad idea, but the evil is not improving the oil sector so that the average Nigerian can benefit from it. Developing the oil sector by building refineries that work will not only make Nigeria a big exporter of petroleum products but will bring about rapid industrialization, job opportunities and an increase in the value of our currency. This development is well connected to improving the economy of the country.

I foresee the Nigerian solution will come in stages. First, we have to nurture and strengthen our democratic institutions and strive for the freest and fairest elections possible. That will place the true candidates of the people in office. It is important to note here that a right leadership mindset is as important to national development as a flawless electoral system. Under the rubric of a democracy, a free press can thrive and a strong justice system can flourish. The checks and balances we have spoken about and the steps needed to curb corruption will then naturally find a footing. A new patriotic consciousness has to be developed based on the awareness of the responsibility of leaders to the led. It is from this kind of environment and synergy that a leader, humbled by the trust reposed on him by the people, will emerge, willing to use the power bestowed on him for the good of the people.

The best enemy oil has bought is corruption and in a bid to curb it for our country's development we must imbibe the above stated lessons.

*** This article has been abridged*

Article by Joseph John

THE NEED TO REPOSITION THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM FOR EFFECTIVE GRASSROOTS GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA

Nigeria's experiment with federalism actually began in 1954 with the introduction of the Lyttleton Constitution. Although some few years earlier, the then Governor General of Nigeria, Bernard Bourdillon, had in 1939 successfully laid the foundation for federalism by creating three Provinces

in the country. Subsequent development occurred in 1946, when the three Provinces were replaced with Regions under Sir Arthur Richard.



Over the years, Nigeria's federalism has continued to evolve, taking different forms under different regimes. In 1976, the Local Government system was introduced and designated the third-tier government in Nigeria. This was a direct result of the Gen. Murtala Mohammed regime's Local Government Reform. Prior to this period, the Native Authority system, which was inherited from the colonial era, under the traditional rulers, was the grassroots government in Nigeria.

Indeed, the Local Government Reform of 1976 was a bold step in establishing the position of the Local Government system as a third-tier government in Nigeria. In the guidelines of the Reform, it was clearly stated that the Local Government is; "The government at the local level through representative councils, established by law to exercise specific powers within a defined area. These powers should give the council substantial control over local affairs, as well as the staff and the institutional and financial services, to determine and implement projects so as to compliment the activities of the state and federal government in their areas, and to ensure, through devolution of functions to their councils, the active participation of the people and their traditional institutions, that local initiative and local needs can be maximized".

Today, there are about 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the country. These LGAs cover virtually all the rural communities in Nigeria and are in essence the government closest to the people. Due to the uniqueness and closeness of the Local Government system to the people at the grassroots, it therefore becomes important that the system be repositioned, reorganized and strengthened, to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in grassroots governance.

A rejuvenation of the system will in no small measure engender widespread socio-economic and political development, not forgetting the fact that it has the tendency to curb the growing wave of insecurity that is becoming prevalent across the country, especially at the local level. This may be due to the inherent and glaring weakness of the Local Government system in Nigeria; which invariably makes it look like an extension of the State Governments, rather than the independent and coordinate tier of government it was intended to be. It is a fact that today in Nigeria, it is the State Governors that decide who becomes the chairperson of an LGA, rather than the people at the grassroots.

It is as a result of the enormous benefits the country stands to gain with the repositioning of the Local Government system that I argue for its consideration and implementation by the relevant arms of government, especially the legislature and the executive. In order to achieve this, the following structural adjustments have become necessary:

- a) Granting of financial autonomy; this has remained a very contentious issue in the polity, even as many State Governors have continued to kick against such a lofty idea. For the Local Government Areas to effectively carry out their mandate, there is the need to have direct and absolute control over the revenue that is accrued to them from the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC). The current Joint Account operated by the States and their various Local Government Areas leaves the funding of the latter at the mercy of the former and has starved the Local Government Councils of the much needed financial support, required to identify and implement projects that have direct bearing on the quality of life of the people at the grassroots, as envisaged by the proponents of the 1976 Local Government Reform.
- b) Elongation of tenure; the elongation of the tenure of elected Local Government Council Chairpersons and Councillors has become necessary, if any meaningful and sustainable socio-political and economic development must be achieved in the grassroots. In most States of the Federation, the tenure of Local Government Chairpersons and Councillors ranges from 2-3 years, and in some cases, elected Council Representatives are not even allowed to serve out their tenure, because of the overbearing influence of State Governors; who remove them at will and in turn appoint other "minions" into the Local Government Councils, as caretaker officials or whatever nomenclature such Governors choose to call them.

Furthermore, it has even become a norm today for a ruling party to produce all "elected" Council Chairpersons and Councillors in sham elections, organized by the thirty-six (36) State Independent Electoral Commissions under the watchful eyes and influence of State Governors. As a result, most Council Chairpersons see themselves as agents and aides of the Governors who they owe their allegiance to rather than people at the grassroots. One way to achieve this might be through a constitutional amendment requiring a four (4) year term as stipulated for elected representatives at the

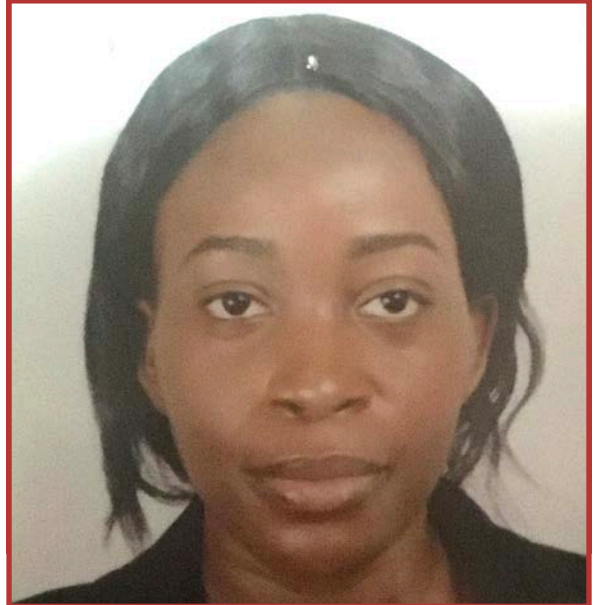
state and federal levels, as this could enthrone responsible, accountable and people-friendly leadership at the grassroot level. Then in an event where an elected Council Chairperson proves irresponsible and negligent, such should only be impeached by the Legislative Council in the Local Government Area concerned. This arrangement must also be extended to the Special Development Areas, which Governors across the Federation continue to create.

In conclusion, the National Assembly and other relevant stakeholders must ensure an amendment to the relevant section(s) of the Constitution to make the proposals mentioned above legal and binding as soon as possible. This will help address the fundamental issues hindering the Local Government Councils in Nigeria from effectively carrying out their mandate. Other issues that include wastage and negligence, corruption, inefficiency, over-staffing, and other related issues can easily be solved once the fundamental constitutional challenges are addressed.

Article by Mayowa Mogbojuri

THE UNLAWFULNESS OF POLICE OFFICERS TO PARADE ALLEGED CRIMINALS BEFORE ARRAIGNMENT IN COURT IN NIGERIA

Only an identification parade should the law allow for a suspect to be paraded. An identification parade is the process where a group of persons including one suspected of having committed a crime assembled for the purpose of discovering whether a witness can identify the suspect.



Police officers tend to parade suspects before their arraignment in Court which is in contrast with Section 36(5) of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which states that "Every person who is charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed to be innocent until he is proved guilty; Provided that nothing in this section shall invalidate any law by reason only that the law imposes upon any such person the burden of proving particular facts".

Section 34(1) of the constitution also provides that "Every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person and accordingly no person shall be subjected torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment". In addition, Article 7(b) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights provides that "Every individual shall have right to have his case heard. This comprises of the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty before a competent Court or tribunal."

The implication of the above provisions is that no matter the seriousness or weight of the offence of the accused, he/she is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The manner in which a suspect is paraded is also faulted as it leaves no one in doubt of their guilt as they are paraded in a degrading manner half naked as their clothes are often seized. This is damaging to the reputation and personality of the individual and if in the long run they are presumed guilty this affects their constitutional presumption of innocence.

During arrest, investigation and arraignment, the suspect should be treated with respect as they are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The fact that someone is arrested does not mean he is guilty, it is left for the court to pronounce if the suspect is innocent or guilty based on available evidence.

*** This article has been abridged*

Article by Olorunnisola Niyi

GENDER AND SEXUAL BASED VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA; WHEN DO WE START A CONVERSATION ABOUT PAYING ATTENTION TO MALE VICTIMS IN NIGERIA

There was the story of a 28 years old man name Kenechi who narrated his ordeal of sexual assault in the hands of his mother's friend when he was 8 years old. The woman presented herself as a motherly and respectable individual. The woman gained unsupervised access to him and during



these times she had forced Kenechi to perform oral sex on her to the point he developed mouth infection. After being diagnosed with an STD and he opened up to his mother and his mother confronted the woman. Unfortunately for them, the members of the church, community, and neighbours descended on him and his mother for attempting to defame an upstanding member of the society. The event shook Kenechi and it took him years to come to terms with and live with what had become a psychological scar.

This is one of the stories that show the fact that there is a need to also seek strong support for young men affected by sexual violence. This is because men and boys who have been sexually assaulted can have the same traumatic experience and reactions as female survivors of sexual assault. They also face some additional challenges because of social attitudes and stereotypes about masculinity and men. This article seeks to call our attention to the need for support for young men affected by sexual violence.

According to the World Report on Violence and Health (Jewkes, Sen and Gracia-Moreno 2002:149), sexual violence can be defined as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, acts to traffic or acts otherwise directed against a persons sexuality using coercion, by any person in any setting. Sexual violence ranges from rape within marriage, rape by strangers, sexual abuse of children to forced prostitution and trafficking of people.

Childhood sexual abuse has been consistently identified as something that relates to short and long-term mental health difficulties, particularly internalizing disorders (Browne & Finkelhor, 1986, Estroff, Denner & O'leary). Childhood sexual abuse survivors are significantly more likely to be diagnosed with major depression, generalised anxiety and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. According to the findings by Ferguson, Mcleod, Horwood (2013), it is evident that approximately 95% of those exposed to Childhood Sexual Abuse are diagnosed with a mental health disorder before the age of 30.

Studies conducted showed 5-10% of men report a history of childhood sexual abuse. It is believed that the official statistics largely underrepresents the number of rape victims. Unattended or unsolved childhood sexual abuse leads children to grow up to become abusers. According to Hershkowitz, childhood sexual abuse is among the most frequently cited antecedents to the development of sexual behavioural problems. Craissati, Mclurg, and Browne (2002) found that 46% of all the adult males convicted of sexual crimes in England and Wales were survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Also, the prevalence of childhood sexual abuse is high in adolescents with estimates indicating that as many as 40% to 52% of males convicted with sexual offences report a history of sexual victimization (Hunter & Figueredo, 2000; Worling 1995). Also, Seto, and Lalumiere (2010) found that male adolescents convicted of sexual offences were nearly 6 times more likely than non-offending adolescents to have experienced childhood sexual abuse.

Perpetrators can be any gender identity, sexual orientation or age, and they can have any relationship to the victim like all perpetrators. They might use physical force or manipulative tactics. Sometimes perpetrators, especially adults who sexually abuse boys will use the physiological responses to maintain the secrecy by using phrases like “you know you liked it”, “what will daddy say if daddy finds out”, “this should stay between us”.

It is pertinent to also note that the laws in many countries rarely address sexual assault of boys, and it is rarely talked about and this includes Nigeria. There was a paper by The Economist Intelligence Unit, which examined child rape law of 40 countries. It was discovered that half of the jurisdictions lacked legal protection for boys. In many cases, laws were specific to girls and did not recognise boys as victims. It has been indicated that males who were sexually abused had poorer legal outcomes than females. It was also found that cases involving male victims were less likely to be filled with the district attorney than cases involving female victims and had fewer criminal records.

Definitions of rape under Nigerian Law are mainly applicable to women and girls. These laws are generally inadequate to tackle male sexual abuse in Nigeria. For instance, S.357 of the Criminal Code Act, CAP 77, LFN 2004 (which applies exclusively to states in southern Nigeria) defines rape as unlawful knowledge of a woman or girl without consent or consent obtained by threat, force, fraudulent misrepresentation, or in case of married woman by impersonating her husband. Also, section 282 of the Penal Code Act CAP 89 defines rape as “when a man has sexual intercourse with a woman against her will, or with her consent obtained through fear of death or some hurt...”

However, The Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 seems to have expanded the meaning and scope of rape as both males and females are protected against rape. However, the practicability of this Act is limited to only the Federal Capital Territory. 13 States have enacted similar legislation, nonetheless and there is a need to push for the domestication and implementation of this law by citizens in their respective

states. Boys should be given the opportunity to allow them feel more comfortable in reporting abuse or exploitation. A report found that the UK had improved reporting among men with cases in England and Wales climbing from 3,819 in 2006-07 to 12,130 in 2016-17.

There are certain ways male victims can be supported which are: by giving them undivided attention to show that they matter especially if they fear not being believed because of stereotypes about masculinity. One can also express concern by telling them you care about them, providing appropriate resources and not asking for details of the assault.

In conclusion, it would be suggested that there should be intense public enlightenment and education through the media to help reduce the myths of stereotypes about masculinity as with good public enlightenment, the public will have a better approach to tackle sexual violence against boys and men.

***This article has been abridged*

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Article By: Udonu Chinonso Lilian

YELLOW SILENCE

Rape is non-consensual forceful sexual intercourse. Like in many developing nations, rape is prevalent in Nigeria. Many survivors including; women, children and sometimes men suffer from sexual abuse and rape, while the perpetrators often get off; scot free.

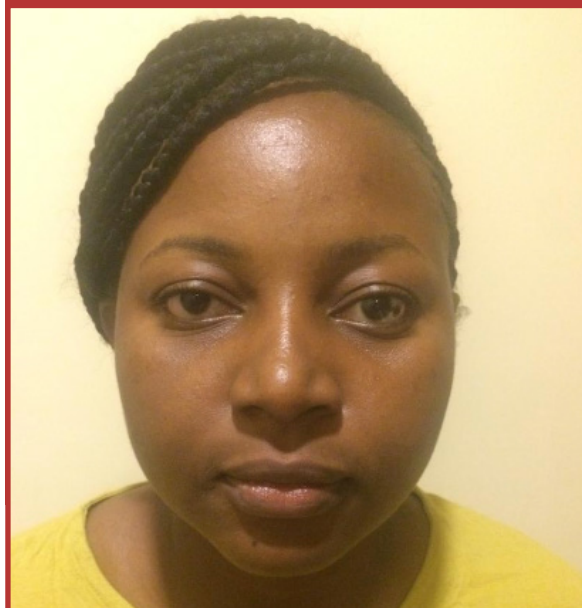
Despite the fact that Nigeria is measured to have one of the highest rates of rape cases in the world, there are no exact data to back this up. In general, it is hard to say how prevalent rape is in any country, as not all rape survivors go to the police or even tell anyone that they have been sexually assaulted.

It is no surprise that survivors are scared to tell anyone what happened or even go to the police. The country has little to offer survivors of assault in terms of support. So many people have to fight with the deed on their own. To make matters severe, Nigerian laws do not make things easy.

The law does not recognize male rape survivors nor does it recognize anal sex as part of rape. Also, a survivor of rape needs to prove that penetration occurred. That is to say that confirmation (or substantiation) of the crime needs to be proven. The confinements with establishing consent make proving many of the few valid rape cases arduous in Nigeria. The situation with documentation of rape cases is even more byzantine because the majority of Nigerian hospitals do not have rape kits. This means that they are handicapped aiding survivors of assault in the prosecution process.

It is common for survivors to internalize the pain, shame and mortification and for survivors to take the blame of the act for fear of what people might say. The shame encumbers recovery. Many survivors have normalized the thought that their bodies do not belong to them. That violation of their bodies do not feel like assault. Survivors often put a lot of effort into apologizing on their violators' behalf. The assaults are frequently reduced to cases of miscommunication or bad sex. The blame is deflected because of the many costs to calling it rape; which may range from: slander, feeling blamed to loss of opportunities, relationships or outright ostracism.

It is important for survivors to hear: "it wasn't your fault, pain and shame can cause a misdirected blame but it wasn't your fault". For survivors of assault, you do not have to live through the painful experience alone, it might seem unattainable but it is best to



gather guts, put away fear and uncertainty and go to the police to report the atrocious crime as soon as you can. If you cannot go through it alone, talk to people close to you, so they can provide you with moral support or seek professional help.

I hope that someday, Nigeria will become a country where there are proper laws punishing rapists, have rape kits in all hospitals and no blaming and silencing of survivors. Until then, we hope you stay strong and always speak up because silence is not always golden, sometimes it's yellow.

Article by: Masirana Alhassan

THE IMPACT OF INTERNET USE FOR STUDENTS

The growth of the internet in the world provides many opportunities to many people around the world in many different ways. When students are considered, the internet has some functions and these can be listed as

(i) the storehouse of information,
(ii) communication without boundaries,
(iii) online interactive learning, (iv) electronic/online research, (v) innovation in the new world, (vi) improving interest in learning, (vii) global education, and (viii) information catalogues.

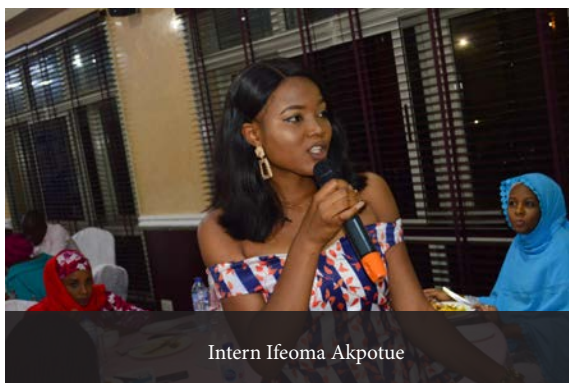
Today, almost all schools and colleges have moved to laptop and projectors, thus abandoning the use of chalkboards. Student are taught through online videos. They subscribe to online research portals which, needless to say, have to be accessed via the internet.

When educational aspects of the internet use is considered, it is obvious that students who look for information can access it easily and with low costs. It is evident that the Internet is a source of enormous information as anything can quickly and easily be reached. Internet also provides students asynchronous education where they can reach any kind of information anytime and anywhere.



GALLERY

ORIENTATION AND INDUCTION - WELCOME DINNER



INDUCTION AND ORIENTATION - DAY ONE & DAY TWO



Interns getting acquainted with one another ; Fehintola Omotesho (left), & Wafar Afartinda Elam (extreme right)



Day One of Induction and Orientation of the 2019 Legislative Internship Programme



Intern Ifeoma Akpotue and with Okey Ibeanu



Kate Henshaw speaking with the Interns



Group Photo of the interns with Staff from the National Assembly, Honorable Member Jerry Alagbaoso, Laolu Olawunmi representing the EU delegation , Clement Boutillier Representing the EU delegation and PLAC staff.



L-R Interns Ja'e Aisha Ibrahim & Hadiza Abdullahi



Intern Zayyan Bello Usman



L-R Interpreter Courage Ogierakhi and Intern - Teniola Akinpelumi

MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (MLA)



Intern , Teniola Akinpelumi Speaking



Cross- Section of interns during the Model Legislative Assembly



Intern Ezinma Ukairo



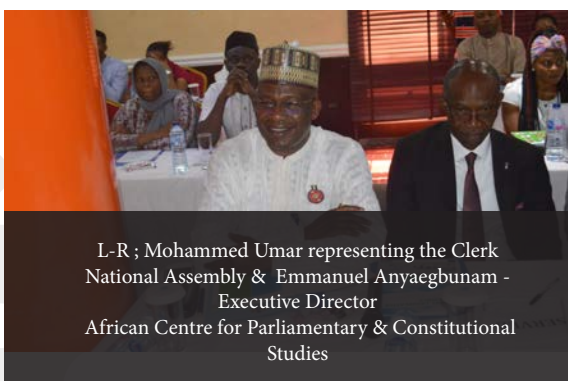
Intern Winner Adebayo being interviewed on her experiences from the MLA and PLAC's Legislative Internship Programme



Intern , Iveren Emmanuela Keggku being interviewed on her experiences from the MLA and PLAC's Legislative Internship Programme



Interns rise at the end of the Mock legislative Assembly session.



L-R ; Mohammed Umar representing the Clerk National Assembly & Emmanuel Anyaegbunam - Executive Director African Centre for Parliamentary & Constitutional Studies



Elected speaker of the Model Legislative Assembly (MLA) , intern Yusuf Abdullahi Ahmed

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION AT PLAC'S 2019 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME



Intern Umar Safana receiving a certificate of Participation of the 2019 PLAC Legislative Internship Programme.



Certificate of Participation



Intern, Chijioke Onwuchekwa receiving his certificate



Intern, Musa Olatunji receiving a certificate of participation in the 2019 PLAC Legislative Internship Programme



Intern Joseph Bareyei receiving a certificate of participation from Afam Nwaeze of the Ministry of Budget and National Planning



Intern , Johnson Anthony Osaze receiving his certificate



Intern Ifeoma Akpotue receiving a certificate of participation from Clement Boutiller, Head of Section, Democracy, Governance and Migration European Union in Nigeria and ECOWAS



Intern Olorunnisola Oluwatosin receiving his certificate of participation in the 2019 PLAC Legislative Internship Programme

INTERNS VISIT TO THE EU DELEGATION



Cross-section invitees at the finale of the United Nations 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence organised by the European Union



Cross section of panelists including celebrity entertainers at the finale of the United Nations 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence organised by the European Union



Interns L-R ; Alhassan Masirana , Kaltimi Galadima Muhammad, Khadijah El-Usman & Micah Piwuna



L-R : Head EU Delegation to Nigeria Ambassador Ketil Karlsen & Intern Gondo Kator Aluta



PLAC 2019 Legislative Interns with Ambassador Ketil Karlsen



Intern, Sumayya Abdulkadir Marafa



L-R ; Intern Gondo Kator Aluta with Nollywood Actress Omoni Oboli



L-R ; Intern Micah Piwuna with Nollywood Actress Omoni Oboli

ANNEXES



POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE 2019 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME INTERNSHIP 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.	Increased awareness and appreciation of the Legislature		
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.	Access to Chairman/members of committee assigned to		

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 kinds 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 least three things you liked the least about the internship programme

viii. Did you have the opportunity to cultivate relationship(s) with other interns?

ix. Would you encourage others to undertake the same internship, and if so why?

x. In what way(s) do you feel PLAC could improve on the Internship?

xi. In what way(s) do you feel your committee/office could enhance its efficiency?

xii. Please list other comments or observations you wish to make

Thank you!

POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)
 WITH THE SUPPORT OF
 EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
 is organizing
 ORIENTATION/INDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR LEGISLATIVE INTERNS
 October 16 – 18, 2019

Agenda

Day One	Wednesday October 16, 2019
9:00 am – 10:00am	Registration of Participants Guests, Resource Persons and Participants are seated
10:00 am – 11:00am	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION ONE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WELCOME AND OPENING CEREMONY – Centenary Hall</p> <p>Introduction of guests, resource persons and participants</p> <p>Welcome Remarks Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC</p> <p>Opening Address Ambassador Ketil Karlsen Head of the Delegation, European Union in Nigeria and ECOWAS</p> <p>Goodwill Messages Senator Patrick Akinyelure Chairman, Senate Committee on Ethics Privileges and Public Petitions</p> <p>Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions</p> <p>Mr. Nelson Ayewoh Clerk of the Senate</p> <p>Mrs. Elizabeth Egharevba Director, International Cooperation Department Ministry of Budget and Planning</p> <p>Keynote Address Alh. Mohammed Ataba Sani-Omolori Clerk to the National Assembly (CNA)</p>
11:00am – 11:30am	Tea Break
11:30am -12noon	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION TWO</p> <p>Aspiring to Leadership and Life of Service Kate Henshaw Nollywood Actress, Philanthropist</p>
12noon – 12:30pm	<p>An Overview of the National Assembly: Structure, Powers and Mandate Mr. Patrick Giwa Clerk of the House of Representatives</p>

12:30pm – 1:30pm	Legislative Process: How a Bill becomes Law Senator Ita Enang
1:30pm – 2:30pm	How to be Effective as a Legislative Intern: - Dos and Don'ts Amb. Jerry Ugokwe Former member, House of Representatives
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Lunch
3:30pm – 5:00pm	Sustaining Democracy in Nigeria through Youth Participation Prof. Okey Ibeanu National Commissioner, Operations INEC
Day Three	Thursday, October 17, 2019
9:00 am – 10:30am	Essential Communication Skills in the Workplace Esther Ijeaku BBC Media Action
10:30 – 11:30am	Tea Break
11:30am – 12:30pm	Safety and Security Policy in the National Assembly Brigadier Gen. Mohammed Sani Danwali (Rtd.) Sergeant-at-Arms, National Assembly
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Legislative Documents: Order Paper, Votes & Proceedings, Hansard and Notice Paper Gani Ojagbohunmi Former Clerk of the House of Representatives
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Lunch
3:00pm – 5:00pm 5:00pm	Role of CSOs in the Legislative Process Senator Shehu Sani Senator of the 8 th Assembly Wrap – up session
	Friday October 18, 2019
10:00 am	A Tour to the National Assembly
4:00 pm	Final Evaluation
	Saturday October 19, 2019
10:00 am	Check-out



POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)
 WITH THE SUPPORT OF
 EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
 is organizing
 FIRST BI-WEEKLY TRAINING FOR LEGISLATIVE INTERNS
Date: - Friday, Nov 15, 2019
Venue: - PLAC Office, Abuja

Agenda

Time	
9:30 am – 9:45am	Arrival and Registration of Participants
9:45 – 10:00am	Welcome Remarks Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC
10:00 – 10:40am	Experience Sharing: Brief on the work of a Deputy Speaker Hon. Yusuf Sulaimon Lasun Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives
10:40 – 11:20am	Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities Act: Nigeria's Path to Inclusivity Mr. Jake Epelle Executive Director, The Albino Foundation (TAF)
11:20 – 11:40am	Tea Break
11:40am – 12:20pm	Mastering the Functions of a Legislator: Lawmaking, Representation and Oversight Honourable Nnenna Elendu-Ukeje Member of the 8th House of Representatives
12:20pm	Simulation Exercise: Legislative Plenary Session by Mrs. Rabi A. Audu. Ph.D
12:20pm – 1:00pm	Brief on a typical legislative plenary session
1:00 – 1:30pm	Mock Session Practice by the interns
1:30 – 2:00pm	Lunch and closing



POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)
 WITH THE SUPPORT OF
 EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
 is organizing
 SECOND BI-WEEKLY TRAINING FOR LEGISLATIVE INTERNS
Date: - Friday Nov 29, 2019
Venue: - PLAC Office, Abuja

Agenda

Time	
9:30 am – 9:45am	Arrival and Registration of Participants
9:45 – 10:00am	Welcome Remarks Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC
10:00 – 10:40am	Analysis of the Social Media Bill: Its Effect on Human Rights and Democracy Prof. Chidi Odinkalu Human Rights Activist & Senior Manager, OSJI
10:40 – 11:20am	Recognizing Your Civic Responsibility as a Nigerian Youth: Engagement and Participation Hajia Mufiliat Fijabi Executive Director, Nigerian Women Trust Fund
11:20 – 11:40am	Tea Break
11:40 – 12:15pm	Bill Drafting: Structure and Content (Practice Session) Alh. Muhammad Sani Abdullahi Director, Bills Department, National Assembly
12:15pm	Lunch and closing



**POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE
WITH THE SUPPORT OF EUROPEAN UNION (EU)**

**DEBRIEFING WORKSHOP
FOR LEGISLATIVE INTERNS**

DATE: MONDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2019
VENUE: IBETO HOTEL, ABUJA
TIME: 10:00AM – 3:00PM

AGENDA

10:00am – 10:30am	Registration
10:30 am – 11:00am	Welcome Remarks Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC
11:00am – 12:00noon	Packaging your skills for Effective Networking and Engagement Kachi Okezie, Ctp International Discussions
12:00pm – 12:15pm	Tea/ Coffee Break
12:15pm – 12:45pm	Sharing the Internship Experience: Reports from Interns & Feedback i. Senate ii. House of Representatives iii. Departments Discussions

12:45pm – 1:15pm	Lessons Learnt and Post-Internship Options Moderated by: Ms. Brenda Anugwom Discussions
1:15pm – 2:30pm	Dress Rehearsal of Model Legislative Assembly Moderated by: Mr Patrick Giwa, Clerk, House of Representatives Dr. Rahila Ahmadu, Former Director, National Secretariat of Nigerian Legislatures Discussions
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Evaluation
3:00pm	Lunch



**POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE
WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)**

MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DATE: TUESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER 2019

VENUE: IBETO HOTEL, ABUJA

TIME: 9:00AM – 4:00PM

AGENDA

10:30am – 11:00am	Registration
11:00 am – 12:00pm	OPENING CEREMONY Introduction of guests, resource persons and participants Welcome Remarks Clement Nwankwo <i>Executive Director, PLAC</i> Goodwill Remarks: Clément Boutillier <i>Head of Section</i> <i>Democracy, Governance and Migration</i> <i>Delegation of the European Union to the</i> <i>Federal Republic of Nigeria & ECOWAS</i> Opening Remarks: Alhaji Sani Omolori <i>Clerk of the National Assembly</i>
12:00pm – 12:30pm	MOCK LEGISLATIVE SESSION Plenary Session led by the leader of the group Mr. Speaker of the Model Legislative Assembly (MLA) Deliberation of Bills by the Interns & Issues of National Importance Resolutions and Closing of Plenary Session
1:30pm – 2:00pm	REACTIONS FROM PANELISTS Mr Gbenga Aruleba Journalist/ Anchor, Focus Nigeria on AIT Mrs Rabi Audu National Secretariat of Nigerian Legislatures Mr. Chinedu Akabueze Deputy Clerk, House of Representatives Mr Emmanuel Anyaegbunam Senior Legislative Aide, National Assembly Presentation of Certificates Clement Nwankwo

2:00pm – 2:30pm	Presentation of Certificates & Photo Session
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Wrap Up & Lunch

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.

The main focus of PLAC's intervention in the democratic governance process is on building the capacity of the legislature and reforming the electoral process. Since its establishment, PLAC has grown into a leading institution with capacity to deliver cutting-edge research, policy analysis and advocacy. PLAC receives funding support from donors and other philanthropic sources.