

2015

LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME REPORT



PLAC
POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE


UKaid
from the British people

2015

LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME REPORT



2015
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Photo: Interns' "Expectation Sheets" -
(handwritten individual expectations from the internship programme)





CLASS OF 2015



THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

1. The Internship Programme: Introduction

PLAC's Legislative Internship Programme is a major activity under its DFID sponsored "Strengthening the Nigerian National Assembly Project." The grant for this project was made to run for three years; from 2012 to 2015 under DFID's Deepening Democracy in Nigeria (DDiN1) project. After three years of running the internship programme, its expected outcome of Increased Participation in Legislative Processes has been largely achieved.

In designing the programme log frame and setting benchmarks for monitoring, it was particularly important to PLAC that the space was and remained open for civil society to participate in the legislature and that the National Assembly is open and willing to interact and engage with civil society organisations. In fact, the buy-in of the National Assembly was a major assumption and risk factor. Fortunately, for the three consecutive years that the programme has run, it has received incredible support from the National Assembly management including the office of the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, the Senate and House Clerks, Personnel and Management Divisions, Department Heads, and Host Committee Clerks. So far, this has been PLAC's biggest "Lessons Learned".

Apart from consultations and buy-in, the programme required a high level of professionalism in its execution. Transparency in the selection process, recognition of gender and federal character of Nigeria, and other programme benefits also contributed to making the internship appealing to applicants and therefore, successful. The 2015 legislative internship programme is the final phase of the internship programme under DFID's DDiN1 programme and this report details activities that occurred under the 2015 programme. It also

captures the successes, challenges, lessons learned and reflections of the interns on the internship.

2. Specific Objectives of the Programme

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

3. How the Internship Fits into PLAC's Overall Goal

PLAC's mission is to promote citizens' access and participation in governance.

- Legislative Internship »**Output:** Awareness and opportunity for public participation and involvement in legislative activities created »**Short term Outcome:** Increased Participation in Legislative Processes »**Long term Outcome:** Citizens' Access and Participation in Governance



THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

4. The Relevance of a Legislative Internship Programme

The legislative arm of Government was described by Professor Ben Nwabueze as the distinctive mark of a country's sovereignty, the index of its status as a State and a source of much of the power exercised by the Executive in the administration of Government. It plays a critical role in the sustenance of democracy by lawmaking, representation, legislative oversight and its interactive dynamics with the Executive arm, which is responsible for the enforcement of its laws.

Ironically, despite Nigeria's return to civilian rule sixteen years ago most citizens remain unaware of the importance of this arm of Government. The apathy is expressed as many fail to participate in important legislative processes such as initiating bills, legislative dialogue and the monitoring and reporting of the implementation of government programmes. Furthermore, many young Nigerians are disengaged from civic life due to lack of opportunities to participate in civic politics or governance.

Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) proposed the annual legislative to allow citizens to be involved in the work of the legislature, to create greater public understanding and appreciation of the Nigerian legislature and ultimately enable it achieve its goal of promoting citizens' access and good governance.

5. Internship Programme Targets

PLAC's Legislative internship is targeted at young Nigerians in the early stage of their career development. The Internship Programme is aimed at young Nigerian graduates of any discipline between the ages of 21 and 35. Interns largely participate in the programme by providing administrative support to various legislative committees and departments in the National Assembly.

6. Eligibility Criteria

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

7. Previous Legislative Internships

The pilot phase of the programme took place in 2013 with 27 interns who were deployed to the National Assembly for a period of six weeks. Following recommendations, the duration of the programme was extended to 8 weeks and 41 interns deployed to the National Assembly in 2014. The repeated success of the programme enabled PLAC carry out its third consecutive internship programme in February 2015. In 2015, 42 interns were deployed to the National Assembly.



THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

8. Duties and Tasks Carried out by Interns

- Legislative and Legal Research assignments
- Writing meeting minutes
- Writing reports
- Assisting to organize Committee Hearings
- Mail dispatch
- Handling correspondence
- Filing and data management
- Attending plenary sessions

9. Benefits of the Internship

Internship Programs offer a lot to its participants such as:

- Opportunity to apply classroom and academic skills
- Opportunity to examine career options
- Increased work skills and professionalism
- Increased confidence
- Creation of a network of contacts

For PLAC's legislative Internship, added benefits include:

- Increased political consciousness and social awareness
- Exposure to legislative business and direct access to the legislature
- Information on career opportunities around National Assembly and PLAC networks
- Knowledge about development work and civil society advocacy
- Pecuniary benefits i.e. opportunity to earn money

Some other benefits include provision of short-term admin support to the National Assembly, creation of awareness and projection of an objective view

of their work, strengthened relationships between citizens and the National Assembly and contribution to PLAC's overall goal of improving citizens access.

10. Successes & Programme Outcomes

The legislative internship programme can be described as successful when examined against the programme's objectives. For instance, past interns have often attributed their better understanding of the administrative and political structure of the National Assembly to the internship. In addition, many interns claim to have acquired employable skills such as communication and administrative skills as a result of the internship. Interns also acknowledged significantly increasing their networks and forming life-long friendships during the course of the programme. On the other hand, the Committee Clerks that have hosted the interns have commended the programme and encouraged its sustenance.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

- Improved knowledge of the administrative and political structure of the Nigerian Legislature.
- Enhancing access to the legislature.
- Administrative assistance to the National Assembly
- Increased citizens participation in the activities of the Legislature.
- Enhanced personal and intellectual development for Interns.
- An unplanned outcome from this programme is the Creation of "Eyes on the Mandate" blog by a group of 2015 interns, which is aimed at providing a forum for youths to discuss legislative and governance issues. PLAC is in talks with the interns to host the blog on its website.



THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

11. Lessons Learned

- PLAC must continue to strive to nurture its relationship and synergy with the National Assembly if the programme is to be sustained.
- That National Assembly's management support is key to running a successful, impactful and credible internship programme. In particular, notes were taken of the indispensability of the offices of the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and the office of the Director, Management of the National Assembly in the successful implementation of the internship programme.
- The orientation program was instrumental to interns' foundational knowledge of the National Assembly.
- The internship provided a platform for increasing citizen-engagement with the legislature by offering an opportunity for interns to participate and appreciate the legislative process.
- The internship also provided some interns with the opportunity of acquiring specialist knowledge on certain matters. One of the interns, Aladeokin Oluwabunmi Dayo for instance highlighted acquiring the ability of designing and using web applications that could be used to map capital projects all over the country from his internship in NABRO(Natioal Assembly Budget & Research Office).
- The screening of more than 1,000 applications highlighted the level of interest and competitive nature of the programme. It also indicated the importance of setting transparent eligibility criteria to attract the best interns.
- The fairly balanced geographical and gender representation contributed to the interns' rich experience.
- The possibility of extending the internship beyond eight weeks.
- The possibility of having the internship program scheduled after the convening of a new Assembly and after Presidential and National Assembly elections hold.



2015 INTERNSHIP ACTIVITIES

The 2015 internship programme ran for 8 weeks beginning with an orientation programme that began on February 2nd, 2015. On March 13, 2015 a mid term review session was organized to garner feedback on the realities of interns' experiences in the National Assembly since their deployment. The programme ended after a debriefing session on April 1, 2015 that provided PLAC with the opportunity to critically appraise interns experiences vis a vis the programme objectives.

Timeline



1

ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements for the internship programme were published in two widely read National Newspapers, “The Guardian” and “This Day”. The response to the advert was immense. Within a three-week deadline, PLAC received more than 1,000 applications from across the country.

SCREENING AND SELECTION

Admission into PLACs Legislative Internship Programme is selective, highly competitive and gender sensitive. In line with the Nigerian Federal Character principle, interns short listed generally reflect Nigeria’s six geo-political zones. Candidates were expected to submit their curriculum vitae and a 300-word statement of purpose indicating the importance of their participation in the internship. The statement of purpose was helpful in offering a glimpse into each candidate’s personal goals, level of social consciousness, writing competency and command of the English language.

In addition, individual attributes observed during the interview process such as the ability to communicate, basic knowledge of current political happenings, comportment and professional appearance were also given consideration by the selection panel in reaching its decision.

2

3

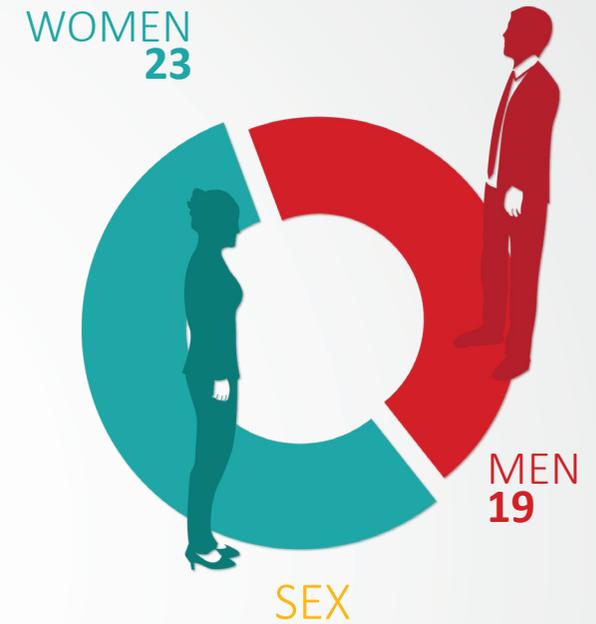
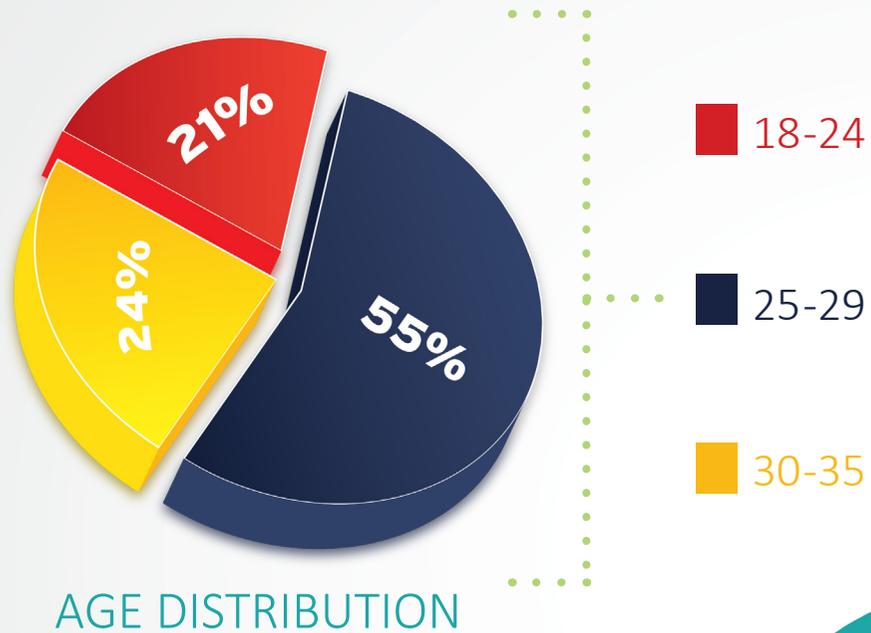
DEPLOYMENT

After a thorough review of the applications, 116 prospective interns were short listed for interviews. In the end, 42 candidates consisting of 23 women and 19 men from diverse qualifications, skills and ethnic backgrounds were selected and notified of their success.

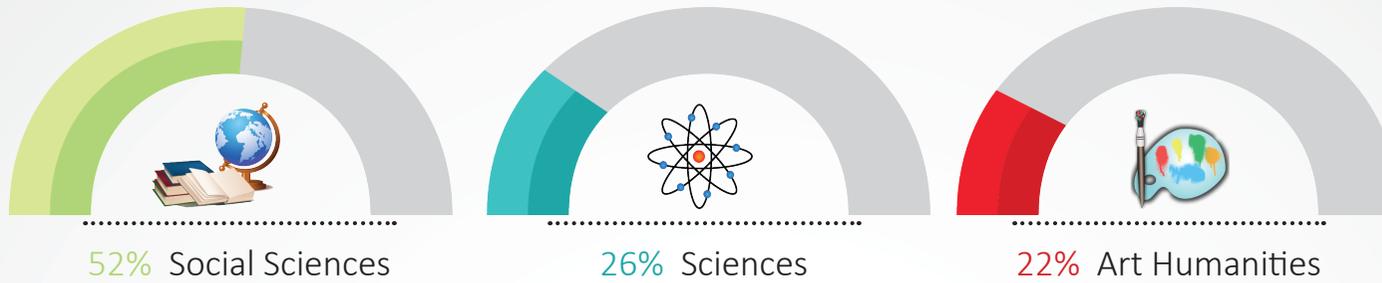
A total of 14 interns were deployed to the Senate, 13 to the House of Representatives, 1 to the National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislatures (NSNL), 3 to NABRO, 2 to the Bills Office, 3 to the Clerk of Committees Office and five persons deployed to various departments of the National Assembly. Interns resumed work at the National Assembly on February 9, 2015.



PROFILE OF 2015 INTERNS



PROFILE OF 2015 INTERNS



Academic Background



Geographical Zone



LEGISLATIVE INTERNS ARE EXPECTED TO ENHANCE THEIR VALUE BY DELIVERING BEYOND THEIR JOB DESCRIPTION, ADHERING TO PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE AND ACQUIRING GOOD RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Alhaji A. Adamu - DIRECTOR, MANAGEMENT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE

I AM FASCINATED WITH THE IDEA OF INTERNS AROUND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mr Ben Efeturi - DCNA, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

INTERNS MUST FIND A ROLE MODEL THAT KEEPS THEM FOCUSED ON THEIR DREAMS

Dorothy Njamanze, - FOUNDER, DOROTHY NJAMANZE FOUNDATION

IT'S IS HOPED THAT THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME WILL SERVE AS A STEPPING STONE FOR INTERNS DESIROUS OF BECOMING PARLIAMENTARIANS AND ADVISERS IN FUTURE

Barr. Solomon Ntuen - DEPUTY DIRECTOR MANAGEMENT, SENATE

INTERNS MUST ENSURE THAT THE TENETS OF NIGERIA'S DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS CONTINUE TO THRIVE

Clara Barnett - DFID

THE VIABILITY OF ANY DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IS REFLECTED IN THE QUALITY AND LEVEL OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Cynthia Mbamalu - YIAGA

THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME HAS PROVIDED AN ADDITIONAL RESOURCE BASE FOR COMMITTEES IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
- A HOST CLERK FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE INTERNSHIP IS A COMMENDABLE APPROACH OF DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES, PRACTICE & PROCEDURES

Dr Innocent Mebiri - CLERK, SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS





Training and Orientation Workshop

The orientation began on the morning of Monday, 2nd, February 2015 at Ibeta Hotels, Abuja. After introductions, PLAC Executive Director, Clement Nwankwo, commended the 42 interns for making the final selection list out of over a thousand applicants. He also explained the structure and expected outcomes of the programme before introducing Senator Khairat Abdulrazaq-Gwadabe (Chairperson, Senator's Forum and Chair, PLAC Board of Directors) who facilitated the workshop.



PLAC was also honoured to have Mr. Ben Efeturi, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly give special remarks during the orientation programme. The DCNA challenged interns to familiarize themselves with Parliamentary papers and develop their capacity for legislative research. He concluded by expressing confidence in the programme's ability to deepen their understanding of the National Assembly before declaring the programme open on behalf of the Clerk of the National Assembly.

The orientation programme began with a two-day intensive training programme and ended with guided tour of the National Assembly on the third day. The training began on Monday, 2nd February 2015 and continued on Tuesday, 3rd February 2015 where several Resource Persons spoke on a number of legislative issues underscoring the role of youths in civic and political processes.



First Day Presentations

The presentations at the orientation programme were largely centered on enhancing intern's performances during the period of the internship and beyond. Some of the resource persons that participated at the orientation programme included Dr. Rahila Ahmadu (Former Director of the National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislatures, NSNL), Dr. Ishaya Habu (Director, Personnel Management, National Assembly), Dr. Innocent Mebiri (Clerk, Senate Appropriations Committee and Adhoc Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution), Cynthia Mbamalu, (Research & Programmes Manager, Youth Initiative for Advocacy Growth and Advancement, YIAGA), Barr. M.D. Hassan (Legislative Services Department, National Assembly), Dr. S.A Danwanka, (National Institute for Legislative Studies), Alhaji Abdulkadir Adamu, (Deputy Director Management, House of Representatives), Mrs. Omotayo Brimmo (National Assembly Budget and Research Office) and Dr. Mairo Mandara, (Country Director, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and member of the PLAC Board).





Speaking as a special guest, **Dr. Ishaya Habu** explained the importance of the National Assembly and the difference between elected representatives and bureaucratic staff that provide advisory and technical service to the legislature. He also emphasized the importance of record keeping proceedings and research. Interns were also advised to adhere to the dress code of the National Assembly and be courteous, honest, sincere and accountable at all times.



Dr. Mairo Mandara also used the platform to emphasize the need for a value system among young people. Interns were counseled to thirst for knowledge and develop a strong work ethic to enable them overcome obstacles and play a role in political advocacy.

Delivering the first presentation titled “**The Structure and Functions of Nigeria’s National Assembly**”, Dr. Rahila Ahmadu explained the powers and responsibility of the National Assembly. She also expounded that the National Assembly is organized to

ensure that the political set up comprising of the two houses of the National Assembly and their presiding officers co-exist with an administrative set up headed by a Clerk to the National Assembly who is its Chief Administrative and Accounting Officer. Dr. Ahmadu explained that legislators’ constituency offices provided a platform for legislators to interact and educate constituents on government programmes and policies.

Complementing Dr. Ahamdu’s presentation, **Dr. Innocent Mebiri** elucidated on the procedure for legislative plenary, passage of Bills into law, the political set up and organized civil service bureaucracy in the National Assembly in his presentation on “**Understanding the National Assembly Work Environment: A Practical Guide for Interns**”, Dr. Mebiri also clarified the process of passing the Appropriation Bill to an intern as he illuminated that the budgetary process often starts with the Executive by virtue of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007. He added however, that the power granted to the Executive under the aforementioned Act was subject to modifications by the National Assembly.





Senator Abdulrazaq-Gwadabe explained “**What Legislators and Legislative Committees Do**” using a role-play session. She stressed the importance of political participation and engaging the political process. She also emphasized the power of citizens to influence decisions that could bring change to Nigeria’s political landscape. Recalling that the Arab Spring emanated from young students, interns were reminded that political participation could take various forms including starting a civil society organization.



The first day of the orientation programme concluded with Cynthia Mbamalu’s presentation on “**Nigerian Youth and the Importance of Civic and Political Participation**”. She distinguished between civic and political participation, relating the former to the claim of citizenship while explaining that the latter was more specific to political advocacy like political rallies and campaigns. Furthermore, she explained that a legal framework for youth participation existed in various international documents and constitutional provisions enshrined under Nigerian law while lamenting the absence of a positive and vibrant youth participation in Nigeria’s political process. Popular participation in government was identified as a means of enhancing youth participation in civic and political culture.

Second Day Presentations



The second day of the orientation programme began with Barr. M.D Hassan giving a “**Synopsis of the Law Making Process**”. He further enumerated on the ways a Bill could be initiated through the National or State Assembly leadership. For instance, through a member of the National Assembly, the President/Governor, the Judiciary, Chief Justice of Nigeria or Chief Judge of a State and by treaty obligations. To become laws however, the Bill must pass through recognized

stages of the legislative Assembly and receive Presidential assent. Barr. Hassan concluded by noting that lawmaking remained an exclusive preserve of the legislature. Therefore, strictly complying with laid down legislative processes was imperative as the non-observance of guiding constitutional provisions or rules of a House when initiating and passing bills could easily invalidate the entire law making process.



Dr. S. A. Danwanka giving his presentation on “**Developing Effective Research and Report Writing Skills**” stated that legislative research must be targeted in a manner that improves the knowledge base of a legislator towards the successful actualization of his mandate. His presentation also highlighted that interns must strive to seek knowledge, acquire good listening skills and uphold the cultural values of their boss.

He advised Interns to consider the purpose of a report, its objective and target audience as a guide when writing reports. In addition, a research report should be accurate, objective, brief, clear, effective, complete and adhere to the template expected. He noted that a research report is often enhanced after several drafts are written and it is proof read. While graphic aids can be used, its use was encouraged in instances where they actually enhance the quality of a report.



Experience Sharing by Former Interns

Cornelius Ayuba urged interns to make the most of their experience and opportunity in the National Assembly recalling that his strong work ethic and creativity during his internship were factors responsible for the National Assembly Budget and Research Office, NABRO retaining him. Hannatu Tsafe also emphasized the importance of taking the initiative and striking a cordial relationship with the persons they would work with. She was also grateful for the special friendship that the internship programme had afforded her, recounting that she had met her fiancée on her way to the National Assembly. Boyo Oghoritsewarami and Donnie Hans also elaborated on the art of developing and building relationships with people as the legislative internship had provided them with the opportunity of networking with highly placed individuals. Donnie Hans presently works with construction giant, Gilmore Construction.



Cornelius Ayuba
(2013 Intern)



Ibrahim Hannatu Tsafe
(2014 Intern)



Boyo Oghoritsewarami
(2014 Intern)



Donnie Omowunmi Hans
(2014 Intern)





After past interns shared their experiences, **Alhaji Abdulkadir Adamu** gave a presentation on “**Learning to Manage Expectations: Tips for Interns**” where he noted that the successful management of expectations was a necessity for career success. He recommended that interns enhance their value by delivering beyond their job description, adhere to professional etiquette, and acquire good research and communication skills among others.

Mrs. Omotayo Brimmo giving her presentation on **National Budget: How the Appropriation Process Works** underscored the importance of budgets as the financial statements of expected income and expenditure over a period of time. She also illuminated on the objectives of a budget and components of a national budget. Following this, she advocated for an improvement of the budgetary process in Nigeria such as a clearer delineation of the executive and the legislative arm in the budget preparation process and a shorter time frame for budget defense by Ministries, Departments and Agencies.



Mr. Segun Alabi gave a presentation on “Security Consciousness and Awareness at the National Assembly,” the importance of security education and personal preventative measures. He noted the importance of keeping abreast with current security measures.



The presentations ended with Dr. Umar Aminu’s presentation on “Team Building and Communications Skills Exercise”, which centered on relationships and communication. Dr. Umar highlighted the importance of non-verbal communication as he noted that this was often apporportioned a greater weight in comparison to oral communication.



The orientation programme ended on Thursday, February 4, 2014 after Mr. Alabi guided interns around the National Assembly complex. During the tour, interns were taught the role of principal officers in chambers, the symbolism of the mace and the significance of the various flags in the Senate.



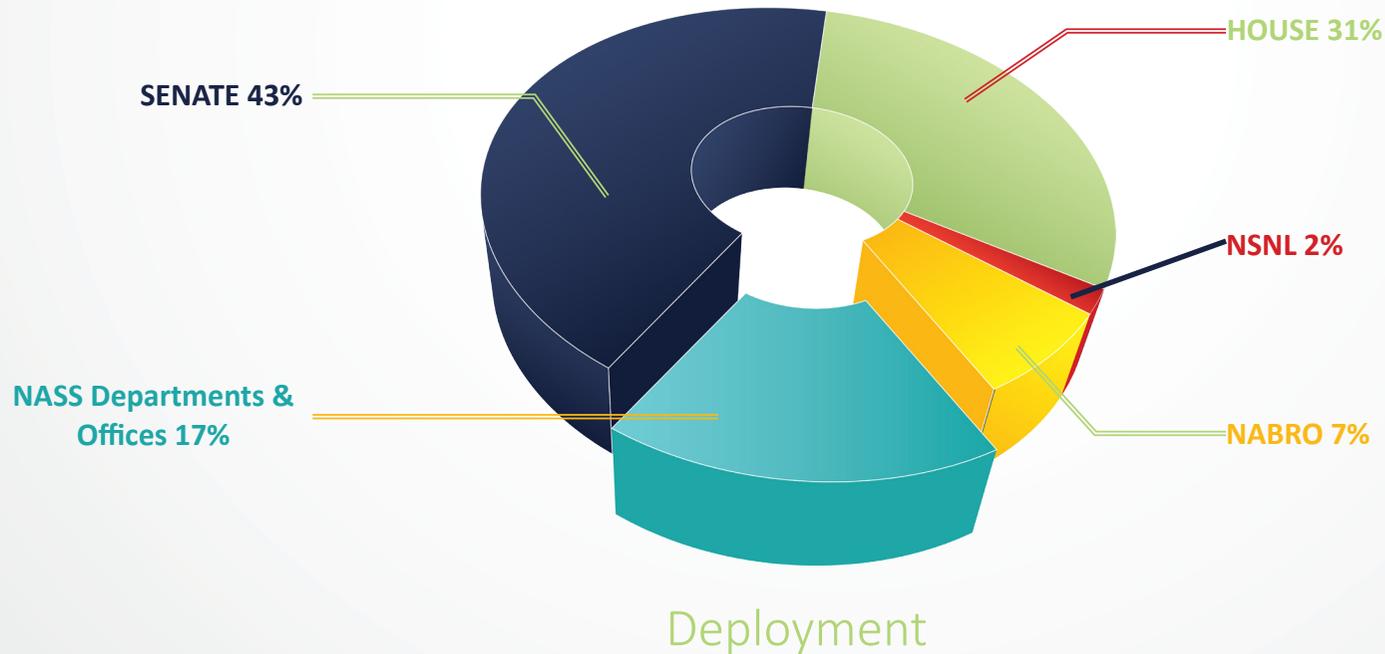
Senate : The interns were deployed to Committees on Niger Delta, Rules & Business, Judiciary, National Security & Intelligence, Committee on Employment, Labour & Productivity, Appropriation, Petroleum Resources (Downstream), and Constitution Review. Interns were also posted to the Senate Chambers, Senate, COCs Office and Senate Bills office.

House : Interns were posted to Committees on Foreign Affairs, Petroleum (Upstream), Health, Justice, Communication, Finance, Environment, Human Rights & Judiciary, Public Petitions, Legislative Budget & Research, Public Petitions, and Science & Technology.

NSNL : This stands for the National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislatures. The Secretariat is a division placed directly under the office of the Clerk of the National Assembly. Some of its functions include maintaining harmonious relations between the National Assembly and other country's parliaments and overseeing relations between National Assembly and the State Houses of Assembly.

NABRO : This stands for the National Assembly Budget and Research Office. NABRO was set up to improve the legislative process through analysis of the executive's budget proposals and provision of non-partisan, research-driven and timely information to the National Assembly.

Interns were also assigned to other **Departments and Offices** of the National Assembly such as Personnel Management, Legal Services, Legal Drafting Services, Information & Publication, Research & Statistics, and Planning & Legislative Budget.



“Youth in Parliament” Radio Show



During the period of internship, PLAC provided the opportunity for interns to discuss their experiences from the internship program and the importance of the legislative internship program through an Internet based radio station (Amplified Radio). This would be the first time a radio programme is introduced to the internship.

Interns’ participation in a radio show was introduced into this year’s internship as an innovation. The radio show called “Youth & the Parliament” was a platform for interns to speak on various topics affecting young Nigerians. The programme was aired live on Amplified Radio, an online talk and music radio station designed to provide a friendly and interactive platform for education, advocacy, inspiration and capacity development using Internet and mobile technology. About 15 Interns from the Programme appeared on amplified radio to discuss their experiences from the Internship Program. Interns discussed the following topics:

- a. Perception versus Reality: My Journey in the National Assembly So Far
- b. Strategies and Recommendations for Enhancing Youth Political Participation and Civic Engagement
- c. Youth expectations from Leaders in the 2015 elections
- d. Role of Youths in Promoting Non Violence during Elections
- e. Lessons learned from the Internship and Future Plans

The radio show appearance was cited by participating interns as one of their best experiences. They thought it gave them a platform to lend their voice on youth causes especially as 2015 general elections was nearby. Some of interns noted that their level of confidence, speaking skills and awareness was greatly improved.

Mid Term Review Session

A mid-term review meeting for interns took place at Ibeto Hotels, Abuja on 13th March 2015. The mid-term review aimed to give interns a platform to relate experiences gained midway into the internship. It also provided an opportunity for interns to re-enact a mock plenary session of the two chambers of the National Assembly and assess interns critical knowledge on research and legislative issues.

While recounting their experiences in the National Assembly so far, some interns expressed dissatisfaction over the problems they encountered during the initial stage of deployment. However, many were pleased to be part of the internship program and expressed satisfaction with what they were able to learn. Most interns also highlighted that their Clerks had been invaluable to their learning experience. The plenary session of both Houses of the National Assembly and debates during the second reading of Bills was also highlighted as an enlightening experience.





Odumu Ebegonye represented DFID at the Mid Term Review workshop. He mentioned that DFID would continue to lend its support for as long as the programme remained relevant and valuable.

A mock plenary session of the Senate and the House of Representatives moderated by **Hon. N. C. Ughanze**, a former Member of the House of Representatives followed after interns narrated their experiences. Here, the learning outcome was aimed at improving team-building skills among interns as the activity engaged them in debating, negotiating and participating in problem solving and decision-making. After the presentations, the moderator drew the attention of the interns to the salient observations he noted during their re-enactment of the plenary session.

The programme concluded with **Nkiru Uzodi**, Senior Programme Officer, PLAC congratulating interns for their performance at the role-play. **Omolara Akinyeye**, Programme Manager, delivering closing remarks stated that she hoped that interns would use the programme as a stepping-stone to achieving greater dreams.

Expected Learning Outcomes from the Mock Sessions

- » Improvement of interns speaking, creative, reasoning and advocacy skills as they work to develop solutions around their group task.
- » Improved understanding and appreciation of the relationship between the legislature and citizens as they engage in the democratic process.
- » Improved team building and conflict resolution skills as interns learn to debate, negotiate and use group action in problem solving and decision-making in the National Assembly.
- » Improved application of research skills to legislative issues.
- » Development of useful leadership skills

Debriefing Workshop

A debriefing workshop for interns held on Friday, 1st April 2015 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel. It was chaired and facilitated by Senator Khairat Abdulrazaq Gwadabe. Also in attendance were Clara Barnett of DFID, Barrister Solomon Ntuen, Deputy Director Management, NASS, Dorothy Njemanze, Nollywood Actress and Founder of Dorothy Njemanze Foundation; and Mr. Benson Olugbuo, Programme Manager, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD).





The debriefing session was coming just one day after the announcement of results of the 2015 General Elections. In his opening remarks, PLAC's Executive Director, Clement Nwankwo noted that the holding of the Nigerian General Elections during the period of internship had added an interesting dynamic to interns understanding of the legislative process. He hoped that the unique opportunity had been utilized by interns to realize the objectives of the legislative internship programme.

Delivering the goodwill message, Clara Barnett stressed the importance of maintaining strong democratic institutions in Nigeria's new Chapter of democracy. She also urged interns to ensure democracy thrived as they were Nigeria's next generation of leaders.



Barr. Solomon Ntuen, Deputy Director Management in the Senate, participated to share his perspective on the Programme. He expressed hopes that interns' exposure to parliamentary activities such as the presentation of bills, motions, debates at plenary and research skills would serve as a stepping-stone for interns desirous of becoming Parliamentarians or advisers in future.

Dorothy Njemanze in a presentation on “**Planning Towards Career Success: Tips for Finding and Keeping a Good Mentor**” advised interns to find a role model that would keep them focused in achieving their dreams. She also encouraged interns to learn from the most difficult circumstances as it could be used in impacting lives positively. On the subject of picking a mentor, she emphasized the importance of selecting one with similar values. Interns were also encouraged to “think outside the box” to prevent being included in the rising statistics of unemployed youths.



Mr. Benson Olugbuo, (a one-time legislative intern himself, but under a different organisation) spoke to the interns on how they could make the most out of their internship experience. He enlightened interns on the importance of social media sites, networking and having strong references when job hunting. In his submission, pursuing additional qualifications was likely to increase an intern's chances of becoming employed in the competitive job market. He also suggested learning additional languages, pursuing one's interests and managing one's expectations as a means of distinguishing oneself.

Interns were also given the opportunity to share their experiences during the eight-week period. Speaking on behalf of the interns posted to the Senate, **Omojola Babajide**, deployed to the Senate Clerk of Committees gave a synopsis on how the interns had evolved from barely understanding the legislative process at the inception of the internship to appreciating the legislative arm of Government. He highlighted that youths and all Nigerians have a pivotal role to play if the legislative arm is to be sustained.



Olusola Babajide Omojola noted that their experiences had been enriched through plenary sessions and a public hearing held by the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights, Legal Matters and Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes on Violence against the Person (Prohibition) Bill. In addition to his general perspective, other interns also expressed satisfaction from their experiences.

Georgina Halliday, assigned to the Senate Committee on Appropriations for instance articulated that the internship programme had increased her understanding of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF.



Nengi Samuel Horsfall and Eze Emmanuel (Senate Chamber) also stressed the educative importance of the internship program. For example, Ms. Horsfall disclosed that the presentations made during the orientation programme were an indispensable tool as they served as a valuable source for cross-referencing. Eze Emmanuel also thanked Amplified Radio for engaging interns on a plethora of legislative and political issues during the internship.

Nta I. Nta (House Legislative Budget and Research) termed his experience "invaluable" saying that if given the opportunity, he will undertake the internship even without getting paid.





Aladeokin Oluwabunmi Dayo (National Assembly Budget and Research Office, NABRO) was also grateful for his exposure to the budget office as he recalled that he had been completely unaware of its existence prior to the internship programme. While Gloria Yisa Mana (National Secretariat for Nigeria's Legislatures, NSNL) noted the importance of taking initiative, Gwafan Peter Danladi (Department of Personnel Management), listed critical thinking and networking as a benefit of the programme.

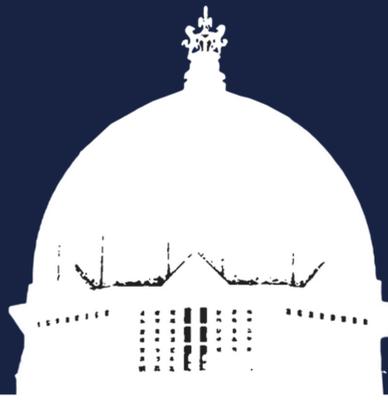
The programme ended with a lot of interns expressing overwhelming support for the internship programme as it provided a platform for learning, networking and valuable friendships. Some interns also extolled their timely weekly stipends and PLAC's organizational and professional prowess when commending PLAC and DFID for its support.



Blessing Akpoguma, House Committee on Environment thanked PLAC for the opportunity of serving as an intern as it had become a stepping-stone in gaining another internship.

Recommendations from Debriefing Session

- * Increasing the duration of the internship programme from the present eight weeks
- * Improving the deployment process
- * Including more activities during the course of the internship
- * Supporting National Assembly Committees with updated office equipment
- * Some interns suggested other means of paying their stipends. For example through a direct transfer to their bank account rather than coming to the PLAC office weekly.



INTERNS SPEAK ON THEIR EXPERIENCE



Naomi Demide
Senate Committee on Niger Delta

The internship has made me believe that I can attain whatever I set my heart to achieve.

Professionally, it has added to my knowledge of the workplace, managing colleagues, administration and the legislature.



Sylvia Agamah
Senate Committee on Rules and Business

Personally, it was an opportunity of a lifetime.

Professionally, I have acquired new skills. I know the process of order paper development and the stages of passing Bills.

I felt like I was contributing to the progress of Nigeria.



INTERNS SPEAK ON THEIR EXPERIENCE



Abdulhaleem Amin

Senate Committee on Judiciary

I have enjoyed meeting more people and making new relationships.

I have been exposed to the internal workings of the Legislature and practical work on legislative drafting and vetting.



Anthony Ojomaje Negedu,

Directorate of Planning and Legislative Budget

The internship has helped me in the area of building relationships with people, as most of my fellow interns and staff at the National Assembly are now my good friends.

There were so many memorable events that I liked during the internship such as the practical mock session and the orientation programme .



Tayiwa Koji

Senate Bills Office

I have been able to understand the legislative process in Nigeria

Personally, I met and made new friends from different cultural backgrounds. Professionally, I built my intellect as a lawyer and I networked.

I liked that I was part of the public hearing and I witnessed sittings at both the House of Representatives and the Senate.



Waheedah Yunusa Mohammed

Directorate of Legal Services

I have learnt legislative drafting. This has added to my knowledge of legal drafting generally.

Personally, I have been able to meet, interact with different people and make new friends.

Professionally, my communication and advocacy skill has increased and I have acquired more legislative skills too.



INTERNS SPEAK ON THEIR EXPERIENCE



Khadijat Bobbo

Bills Office

I have been able to learn the legislative language.

Professionally, I feel more mature in comparison to when I started the programme. I have been able to accept other people's views without judging them.

The mock session was another highlight and definitely the radio show.



Hadiza Baba-Shehu

House Committee on Rules and Business

Personally, I was able to learn from different people and interact with people from different professional backgrounds, which enlightened me to an extent in their field.

Professionally, to an extent, I really appreciate this programme as I was able to see and understand how laws are made on a practical level.



Aisha Hassan Lai

Senate Clerk of Committees

Personally, I got new skills and met new people. Professionally, I learnt a lot about the legislative process as it exposed me to so many things I was ignorant of.

It's a part of my life that I won't forget in a hurry.



Nana Yunusa Yusuf

House Committee on Foreign Affairs

The internship has changed my mind about the National Assembly. I have utmost respect for any elected representative.



INTERNS SPEAK ON THEIR EXPERIENCE



Gloria Yisa Mana

National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislatures

I had the opportunity of meeting prominent leaders of the country, sitting and discussing about the Government as a whole.

I will use my experience to educate those in my sphere of “contact” on the role of the National Assembly to our democracy.



Jerry Benard Mataimaki

House Committee on Petroleum (Upstream)

Personally, this internship helped me, in terms of having a better understanding of the mode of operation of the legislative arm of Government. Professionally, as a lawyer, this program has helped me improve in writing reports and even drafting.

The plenary session was also very educative to me.



Sani Aminu Abba

Senate Committee on National Security and Intelligence

Personally, this internship has given me the opportunity to meet with several people I’ve never met before.

Professionally, the internship has added to my experience as it has developed new skills and my understanding of the legislature.



Gwafan Peter Danladi

Personnel Management Department

I have been enlightened about the law making process and also about interpersonal relationships.

Professionally, i have acquired more skills on being competent in the administrative department.



INTERNS SPEAK ON THEIR EXPERIENCE



Nuhu Adze

Directorate of Planning and
Legislative Budget

I liked the internship orientation programme and the way information was communicated to us as it was always up to date.

Also, the stipend was always timely.



Allen Shamaki

Information and Publication
Department

I enjoyed my relationship with other interns, my exposure to the National Assembly and my experience during the orientation workshop.

I was able to write an article for the print media that was published.



Lilian Ezendu

House Committee on Health

It is a good means of professional development.

Professionally it has brought a relevant experience to my resume and provided me with professional references and networking contacts.



Eugenia Anuforo

House Committee on Justice

It afforded me the opportunity to gain requisite skills for the development of my career and meet my legislators. It also increased my interest in the legislature.

My expectation has been met greatly.



INTERNS SPEAK ON THEIR EXPERIENCE



Chinenye J. Obidinma

House Committee on
Communication

I am no longer as ignorant as I used to be on certain salient matters that I chose to ignore due to the fact that I was not informed then.

Professionally, I can say that I know what I am capable of doing in a professional environment. I also know how to handle situations better.

I have encouraged my younger sister, my friends and the corp members I met during the internship to undertake this programme and they have all declared their interest.



Adaeze Ajegwu

Senate Committee on Judiciary,
Human Rights and Legal Matters

The internship exposed me to the law making process. Professionally, I was able to engage myself in report writing.



Ifeoma Nzewigbo

NABRO

Personally, the internship has increased my knowledge of the legislative process, changed my perception about legislators and increased my knowledge about the budget process.

Professionally, it has helped me reorganize my network to that of a strong and vibrant individual interested in a better legislature.



Gloria Oluchi Anamemena

Senate Committee on
Employment, Labour and
Productivity

I have been able to understand what goes on in the chamber during plenary.

INTERNS SPEAK ON THEIR EXPERIENCE



Ugochinyere Ogbonna

Senate Committee on Appropriations

I would encourage others to take this internship because it would give them the opportunity to be exposed and learn more.



Eze Emmanuel
Senate Chambers

The internship has been of immense legislative importance in two ways namely: being able to meet new people and interact with them.

Discharging my responsibilities in the National Assembly gave me a sense of fulfillment on creating a positive change in the country. Professionally, the knowledge acquired and experience working in the National Assembly.



Frank A. Abah

NABRO

Personally, the intership gave me the opportunity to gain more exposure in the legislative process. Professionally, I would say that having worked with the National Assembly Budget and Research Office during this internship, I have been able to deepen my understanding of the budget processes, which is very important to me as an economist.



Madu Chinedu Kingsley
House Committee on Finance

I used to strike at my chest and say “I hate politics” but now I can proudly say that I think differently. My expectation was to understand the delay in the passing of the national budget, which I now understand very well.

My expectation was to find out the reason behind the quarrel and disagreement among legislators but now I understand that they are trying to protect the interest of the electorate.



INTERNS SPEAK ON THEIR EXPERIENCE



Akpoguma Blessing

House Committee on Environment

Personally, it has increased my networking with people and my perceived knowledge of the legislative arm of government.

Professionally, it made me learn new policies and projects in my line of study and helped me meet with an environment consultant that offered

me a work opportunity. I liked the opportunity of having access to the National Assembly, attending plenary sessions and having the opportunity to meet with great legislators I always admired. Lastly, the stipend from PLAC was very motivating.



Nengi Samuel-Horsfall

Senate Committee on Appropriations

I have learnt how to communicate better. I have also learnt the importance of working with a team effectively.

I think that I have made strong friendships that will last a lifetime.

I would encourage others to take the same internships because it is actually life changing.



Onehizena Adebisi

House Committee on Human Rights and Judiciary

The desire to learn and be exposed first hand to the Nigerian legislature encouraged me to undertake the internship.

Personally, the internship afforded me the opportunity to meet with my fellow interns who are great people indeed. It also benefitted me financially.

Professionally, I was exposed to the principles of law. Specifically, that of checks and balances.



Georgina Halliday

Senate Committee on Appropriations

Personally, this internship has benefitted me as it has added immensely to my knowledge of the legislature. Professionally, it has encouraged me to be involved in the legislation of this country and be a participant to related issues.

I liked the fact that communication between PLAC and interns was very efficient. There was also a large concern for the welfare of interns by PLAC.

INTERNS SPEAK ON THEIR EXPERIENCE



Patrick Ekah

Research and Statistics
Department

Personally, the internship has really enlightened me on the process and procedures of the legislature and I am gainfully equipped with the needed knowledge required to challenge certain practice and procedures.



Osegie Enaboifo

Senate Committee on
Constitution Review

I have been exposed to new opportunities, new climes and experiences with networking, creating new relationships and acquiring legislative skills.

Personally, I have been able to meet, interact with different people and make new friends. Professionally, my communication and advocacy skills have increased and I have acquired more legislative skills too.



Franklyn Onyema Okukponor

Senate Department of
Committees

I am now knowledgeable about the workings of the legislators and legislature.

It has spurred my interest in politics and political participation.

My internship experience was beyond my expectation apart from my inability to access my representatives.



Nkanga Ubong Dennis

House Committee on Public
Petitions

It was a great bonding experience as I have cultivated a lot of productive relationships.

I wanted to learn more about the legislature in preparation of my ambition of being a leader of the nation.



INTERNS SPEAK ON THEIR EXPERIENCE



Nta I. Nta

House Committee on Legislative Research and Budget

It afforded me the opportunity to mix up with people from different parts of Nigeria and explore the National Assembly.

It was an excellent learning experience.



Abodunrin Oluwafikewa Omowumi

Senate Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream)

Personally, I was able to get hold of the Petroleum Industry Bill that I had wanted for some time. Professionally, I now have a full knowledge of law making and the functions and powers of the legislative arm of government.



Folorunsho Folasade

Senate, Scrutiny

Personally, I have been able to mix with people from different parts of the country and I have gained new friends.

Professionally, it has widened my horizon in the sphere of administrative duties.

The internship will serve as a reference point for future career decisions.



Fagbenle Oyindamola

House Committee on Public Petitions

There were adequate opportunities to build relationships with other interns. I have been able to build a strong friendship with some.

I was given the opportunity to express myself and make suggestions.

It exposed me to the reality of the National Assembly

I liked the fact that PLAC was very detailed about the internship.



INTERNS SPEAK ON THEIR EXPERIENCE



Omojola Babajide Olusola

Senate Clerk of Committees

There were adequate opportunities to build relationships with other interns. I have been able to build a strong friendship with some.

I was given the opportunity to express myself and make suggestions.

It exposed me to the reality of the National Assembly

I liked the fact that PLAC was very detailed about the internship.



Aladeokin Oluwabunmi Dayo

NABRO

I have increased my team building skills working with other interns in the mock plenary and group assignments.

I have been able to understand the ethics of a work environment.

Professionally, the internship has opened my mind to more employable skills that I am looking for and also put me in line to acquire them.



Gbadosi Abdulquddus

Legal Drafting Services Department

I had the opportunity to improve on my writing and interpersonal skills and learnt how to work under pressure with little or no information.

The internship has helped me discover several untapped areas of the legal profession which as a young lawyer, I am willing to explore.



Adewunmi Adebayo

House Committee on Science and Technology

Personally, the internship programme has increased my knowledge about the Nigerian Legislative arm of Government. Professionally, It has developed my analytical skills.

The internship programme has exceeded my expectations in all facets.



APPENDIX 1: ARTICLES BY INTERNS



THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME: LIVING OUT MY DREAM

By Frank A. Abah

As a graduate of Economics from the University of Nigeria Nsukka, I have always hoped and looked forward to an opportunity to ventilate my ideas and also be a contributor to the building of a sound institutional structure that will provide the needed panacea to the glaring needs of our political economy. Perhaps, the more pressing need was how I could first deepen my understanding of the dynamics of the Nigerian political economy and the legislative processes, especially, from a practical approach. The 2015 legislative internship programme, under the very auspices of Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), bridged this gap: it was indeed, preparation meeting opportunity.

To say that a large bulk of the Nigerian Youths have not truly enjoyed the leverage of a participatory democracy is as true as saying that the Great Wall of China is long. Of course, this scenario does not reflect a promising future for the Nigerian Youth as future leaders. The older generation often worsens the already bad situation by dampening the courage and ambition of the Nigerian youth through a deep-seated belief that the youths cannot handle any leadership role. They perpetuate this fallacy by insisting that the Nigeria graduates are not employable. I am a young Nigerian graduate and I pick a big hole in that argument or line of thought.

ARTICLES BY INTERNS

However, this tide is already changing; a new door of opportunity has been flung open. It is a possibility initiated and embarked upon by PLAC through capacity building that is geared towards strengthening democratic governance and citizens' participation in Nigeria. Also, through a broad-based technical assistance and training, PLAC works to promote citizens' engagement with government institutions and to advocate legal and policy reforms and promote transparency and accountability in policy and decision-making processes. Among other things, PLAC's basic commitment is to increase legislative advocacy, promote transparency and good governance, support and promote electoral reforms, enhance citizen's access to public policies and advance anti-corruption campaign.

My engagement with the National Assembly under the aegis of PLAC was an experience that will always stand as a monument of gold to me. It has indeed helped my colleagues and I gain a first-hand experience on the legislative processes and also, perhaps, shed some scepticisms.

It kick-started with intensive training sessions which lasted roughly a week at the Ibeto Hotel where we sat under the tutelage of a number of distinguished members of the parliament, bureaucratic staff of the parliament and a civil society group. The sessions were not only engaging but also interactive and enriching. It was designed to prepare the Interns for the task ahead for the next seven weeks. Needless to say that our welfare was also properly taken care of.

At the end of the training session we had the privilege of being conducted around the National Assembly Complex to help us acquaint ourselves with the environment. We were also guided into the red chamber and other important places in the complex that would eventually come in handy at the course of our internship programme. This experience was very significant to me because it was my first time of entering this hallowed edifice. In fact, I was practically

beside myself with excitement and awe, just to say the least.

The following week our internal postings took place - I was fronted with the fact that I have been deployed to the National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO), which by some freak of fate, dovetailed with my hopes. Two other interns were also posted alongside me to the budget office, sooner than later we became a team. A couple of days from our arrival we got busy with an assignment which bordered on tracking and extracting budgetary allocations on Newspapers, Magazines, computer consumables etc. of all the ministries and departments in the budget from 2012 to 2014.

It was a few days later that I got to know that NABRO was basically divided into three departments viz: the Research department, the budget department, and the Economic analysis department. Again I was posted to the budget department. I saw myself really overwhelmed with joy because I have always had a great interest in the budget reports, analyses, and everything that has to do with budget; and here, I have been offered the golden opportunity to be part of these processes. Honestly, I was practically in my seventh heaven!

However, I had my fears too, and topmost among them was the fear that the head of my posted department and other senior officers might not see any relevance in involving an intern like me in the deep budget processes starting from the MTEF/FSP analysis, fixing of the oil benchmark price and the rest.

Secondly, I was quite apprehensive about my technical incapacity in the proper use of excel, since most of the work – as I got to know – are basically done the Microsoft excel. But on both counts my fears never substantiated. First of all I had the opportunity to work with the best team anyone could possibly ask for; everybody's ideas and opinions counted, including mine. On my Excel challenges, I soon got over it through devotion and practice.



ARTICLES BY INTERNS

When my immediate boss in the office called me to inform me that I would be integrated into the team working on the 2015 budget proposal, I thought I never heard him well but obviously I did. In fact it was a privilege I would always be grateful for, because I never thought I would be deemed fit for such enviable task.

Since NABRO was not located in the National Assembly complex, we the interns posted to this office had to work out a schedule to enable us attend plenary sessions so as not to lag behind with what was happening in the complex itself. The arrangement worked out and the experience paid off, especially during our mock plenary session, which was organized by PLAC and where we had to mirror what is going on in both chambers of the National Assembly and act them out. Of course I acted as one of the honorable members of the federal constituency of my State. It was really scintillating and engaging.

We were also asked to write a mid-term report on our experiences so far. It was an appraisal of the journey so far in the National Assembly as Interns, bordering on our newly acquired knowledge, skills, challenges or surprises etc. Of course I won't forget to mention the radio show. Factored into the internship programme was a radio show organized by PLAC which usually took place at Amplified Radio.net. We were partitioned into five groups and assigned to

different topics which were germane to our internship engagements. And most importantly, it was designed for the interns to use it as a medium to share their experiences with the general public on Legislative processes and also voice their opinion on electoral matters, since the general elections was in view. My group talked on Youth Expectations from Leaders in the 2015 Election, and I guess we did justice to the topic.

For certain, the 2015 legislative internship programme may be over but the memory and impact lives on. It was indeed an amalgam of intellectually enriching activities and engagements, structured to turn out a group of interns well versed with the Nigerian Legislative architecture and processes, poised to take the bull by the horns.

Suffice it to say that, I am particularly thankful to PLAC, the British DFID, the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and of course, every other stakeholder who contributed immensely to make this year's internship programme a huge success, gracias!

REFLECTING ON THE 2015 GENERAL ELECTIONS

By Anthony Ojomaje Negedu
anthonegg@gmail.com



The 2015 General Elections in Nigeria attracted global attention both for the right and wrong reasons, with many predicting doom and ultimately, the disintegration of the over 100 year old entity called Nigeria. However actions of the major players will inadvertently change the course of the election, especially the Presidential election outcome.

While the now famous concessional phone call by the presidential candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), President Goodluck Jonathan, to his opponent, General Muhammadu Buhari of the All Progressive Congress (APC) is believed to have doused the politically tense atmosphere in the country, General Buhari's persistence and perseverance in the face of multiple political defeats remains a lesson for students of history, as many typify him as the Nigerian version of Abraham Lincoln.

Before the 2015 elections, there were projections of a possible disintegration of the entity, Nigeria, with the United States' alleged CIA intelligence report taking the lead in these postulations. The frequent cases of ethno-religious violence that had severally threatened the unity of the country gave credence to these projections.

The 1987 religious crises in Zaria, the 2000 Sharia Crises in Kaduna which spilled over to other parts of the north, the 2011 post-election violence, and most recently the Boko Haram insurgency in the North, further gave credence to the prediction that the highly volatile and polarized nation of Nigeria was on the verge of disintegration. So, it was not out of the ordinary when religious and traditional leaders joined in affirming the break up of the country along the lines of a Muslim dominated North, and Christian dominated South.

Events leading to the presidential election were also not removed from the projected split, with politicians playing the ethnic and religious card, mudslinging, name calling, and all sort of propaganda to discredit their opponents. Tensions were high and the stakes upped, when several unfolding events tended to support the "Dooms Day" prophesy.

Prior to the initial date of the Presidential election, there were strong rumors suggesting the ruling party had plans in place to cling unto power by all means through removal of the INEC (Independence National Electoral Commission) boss Prof. Atahiru Jega and installation of a party loyalist to take charge of the election. The public comments by some PDP stalwarts rejecting the use of the Card Reader and the Permanent Voter Card (PVC), as well as criticizing



ARTICLES BY INTERNS

the INEC boss and calling for his removal further helped in buttressing this argument. There was also the case of some Niger-Delta ex-militants' publicly threatening 'fire and brimstone' if their preferred candidate is not returned president. These and many more events caused fear and panic among Nigerians. The tensed political atmosphere before the elections saw the movement of Nigerians like never witnessed before, from the North to the South and vice-versa. A situation Nigerians humorously dubbed the 'Exodus'. The fear of reprisal from opposing parties and tribes lead to these movements as nobody could tell where the tides were tilting to.

Elections were postponed from the initial February 14th date by a further 6 weeks. This, the government said was necessary in other to allow the Military ample time for a major sweep against the Boko Haram in the Northeast. Again the political parties went for the kill with this, using it as campaign tool (especially the opposition APC), which expressed fear that the extension was meant to perfect the PDP's rigging formula in the North where the APC had a stronghold. In the end, the extension became a blessing as it doused the atmosphere initially experienced.

Eventually the elections came and Nigerians voted. From the preliminary result that trickled in, it was certain General Muhammadu Buhari was making headway. When the official result was being declared by INEC at the International Conference Centre (ICC) Abuja, the country was thrown back into another atmosphere of tension. People remained indoors, shops closed, offices locked, streets deserted except for pockets of security personnel available. This was the situation in most parts of the country including the Federal Capital, Abuja.

As Nigerians nervously watched as the results trickled in from the States, the fear of the manifestation of the various postulation of a possible breakup was heightened with the brazen display of audaciousness by one individual at the collation center. Thankfully, the situation was managed by the INEC boss. In the opinion of many, his reaction was an indication of the high calibre of Nigerians still existing despite the numerous challenges confronting the nation and the disenchantment of many. To this crop of Nigerians, it is about Nigeria first before any other consideration.

On the whole, the 2015 general elections in Nigeria was not a victory or failure of any individual or political party, rather a validation of the Nigerian spirit.

EDUCATION AS A TOOL FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

By Danladi Gwafan



A Namibian proverb says, “Learning expands great souls.” Every individual has the capacity to be great if only given the right information and the right environment. Leaders are not born, they are made! And what makes them is the knowledge they are exposed to. Every government in the world rests on some basic foundation and education is one of them. The more educated a country is, the more established the governances of the country is.

Education is a vehicle that transports the desires of the citizens to the appropriate destination. In Nigeria, most people hardly know the right channels, medium and methods of expressing their needs and aspirations because of ignorance or inadequate information about politics and political participation. As a result, citizens are disenfranchised and a steady decline in civic and political participation is not far-fetched. On the contrary, educated citizens will play an effective role as “watch dogs” in the activities of the government. Which promotes good governance and citizen participation.

Women who are educated have better chances of getting involved in politics. It is on record that women who have realised their potential as a result of self-discovery under the influence of education have made exploits in Nigeria. These women include women such as the late Prof. Dora Akunyili, Mrs. Farida

Waziri, Mrs. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala etc. the list is long and their achievements great. In addition, when a woman is educated, her political consciousness increases and this brings about competition and development in the government.

“Peace is costly, but worth the expense” is a Ugandan saying. Educated people get to understand that violence is a setback in any society. As such, when more people get educated, the chance of experiencing electoral violence in Nigeria or any African country begins to decline. Most violence is a product of selfish reasons rather than fighting a just cause. If many youths are educated and enlightened, they will hardly fall victims as “political weapons” to self-centered politicians.

Furthermore, a good parameter for measuring good governance is the level of political participation. The higher the level of political participation, the higher the level of good governance and vice versa. Many do not know what it takes to participate in politics as such they lose interest in their government. But with adequate education, a citizen is armed with the strength to actively participate in the government of the day.



ARTICLES BY INTERNS

In conclusion, as a way to encourage education as a tool for good governance, government should establish more public libraries to encourage the dying reading culture in the society. It has been said, “He who knows how to read but does not read is not different from he who cannot read.” The government should

collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) in sensitizing the public about the importance of education. In addition, girl-child education should be promoted in Nigeria. Education is pivotal to good governance, as such every country including Nigeria should arm herself with it.

PLAC LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME: A MEDIUM FOR LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION FOR THE NIGERIAN YOUTH

By Patrick Ekah



Digging deep into the 2015 Legislative Internship Programme organized by the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), it makes good sense, to take stock of the successes and challenges and also to acknowledge and appreciate the true purpose of the programme.

As an active participant of the just concluded 2015 legislative internship programme, it is momentous to bring to light the importance and benefits of the internship.

My purpose here is merely to illustrate two important truths: first, that you cannot fully understand the workings of the legislature unless you have first grasped the standpoint from which it is approached, and secondly; that, that standpoint gives you a better view and the needed knowledge to advocate for, or challenge legislative procedures and policies.

The Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre, avails the Nigerian Youth today the much needed opportunity to grasp the standpoint/firsthand experience of the working of the legislature through the legislative internship programme, which is aimed at increasing legislative advocacy and enhancing citizen's access to public policies.

As interns, our experiences have vertical and horizontal dimensions. But whatever dimension from which it is viewed, there is that challenge for one to embrace the civilization of justice and the practice of equality. Personally, I have been encouraged by the internship programme to promote justice, defend the rights of the human person and most importantly, to raise my voice against exploitation and violence.

Moreover, in a changing world, the need for the Nigerian Youth to participate actively in legislative advocacy is one of great importance. Today, majority of us as youths point accusing fingers at our leaders on the issue of bad governance and are often afraid to raise our voices against such poor governance.

We ought to be aware of the fact that nothing great can be achieved without enthusiasm. Our great country Nigeria can only be a better place if we are ready to pay the price. We need to challenge the injustices and high level of corruption in our country today.

In the conflicts that must arise between the values of justice, honesty and truth, and the culture of bribery and corruption, we as youths cannot and should not be ambivalent.



ARTICLES BY INTERNS

In the conflicts that must arise between the virtues of transparency and accountability and the regime of fraudulent deals and settlements, we as youths cannot and should not equivocate. We must make a choice.

According to Martin Luther King Jr., “the whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nations until the bright day of justice emerges.” Our country today is one where justice has been dethroned and injustice enthroned. As youths, we are challenged to strive for a society where justice prevails. Justice without compromise!

Nevertheless, PLAC legislative internship programme avails the Nigerian youth, the opportunity to interact with great experts who are fountains of wisdom and embodiments of knowledge. From the orientation, to the mid-term review, down to the debriefing workshop, all resource persons tended to build and encourage interns on personal and career development, as well as on legislative advocacy.

No doubt, there are lots of internships in the country today, but there is just one internship programme that builds the Nigerian youth to embark on legislative advocacy and political participation. That internship programme is none other than the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) Legislative Internship Programme. Conclusively, I call on all youths to seek participation in the annual PLAC legislative Internship Programme to foster legislative advocacy and political participation.

PLAC LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP: AN EYE OPENER

By Jerry Benard Mataimaki



The journey to begin this Legislative Internship Program frankly speaking came to me as a surprise. Still coming out of the festive period and trying to settle down to see what the New Year has to offer; then the call that was to change and give my career a new dimension came in. I was invited for an interview at Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) office furtherance to my application submitted sometime in December 2014.

I was excited and nervous at the same time. Excited in the sense that the interview was a step in taking a new journey and also nervous because of the uncertainties to expect in the course of the interview session. I kept myself together on the interview day and fortunately for me I was amongst the lucky 42 candidates picked for the internship program out of the over 1000 applicants who applied as we were told. Hopes were high and of course, I was determined to make the best use of the program.

The first three days of the internship (which was the orientation session) is the main reason why I chose to name this article “An Eye Opener”. A number of experienced resources persons including serving and ex-Legislators were present to give us better understanding and exposure as to the activities and happenings in the Legislative arm of government.

A lot of us see the National Assembly as a place where people go to and make a lot of cash for 4years, 8years or more as the case maybe. But in actual sense the National Assembly is a place where a lot of activities go on which sometimes we Nigerians may not get to see on National Television. Thanks to Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), I got the opportunity to see first hand, numerous activities that I had no idea were carried out by the National Assembly prior to this program. For example, on this particular day a Committee in the House of Representatives embarked on an unscheduled inspection tour to a Federal Ministry to see for themselves what level of progress is been made and also to ascertain the level of developmental projects embarked upon by the Ministry.

I was surprised that the National Assembly perform activities of this nature but then on the other hand I was also pleased to know that in as much as the National Assembly have their flaws they still do a lot outside the four walls of the National Assembly complex.

Furthermore, public hearings were organized in the course of my internship program and I must confess I found it very interesting and educative. In addition to these activities, legislators presided over budget defense of various federal ministries, where the budget of these government agencies were reviewed and



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questions were raised as to the expenditure made in the course of carrying out their activities.

These are just a few of the numerous activities carried out by the National Assembly which so many of us didn't know about prior to this Legislative Internship Program.

It should be therefore noted that there is more to what we see on National Television where legislators sit and deliberate on national issues. A lot go on in the inside which sometimes doesn't get to the public due to one reason or the other.

By way of conclusion I will like to say that this Internship Program has given me a lot, most importantly I now realize the need to participate fully in the democratic process of my country and to also make it a point of duty to see that democracy is fought for in all levels of governance and also play my own part no matter how little to see that our country becomes a better place for not only us, but also for generations in waiting.

I must say that every second spent in the 8 weeks under review was been worth the while and it is hoped that future Legislative Interns make the best use of this program.

MY EXPERIENCE AS A YOUTH IN THE NIGERIAN PARLIAMENT

By Madu Chinedu Kingsley



A famous Chinese quote says “If a country wants progress for one (1) year, she should grow grains, if she wants progress for Ten (10) years, she should grow trees, If she wants progress for one hundred (100) years, she should grow People.” Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) in support of Department For International Development (DFID), for three years (2013-2015) have been growing Nigerian Youths in the Legislative arm of the Government into present/future Political Gladiators, fuelled by their desire to increase citizens’ access to governance and to have a well trained and highly informed crop of educated citizens needed to drive the political, economical as well as industrial development of the country forward.

The 2015 PLAC Internship Program was interesting, mind boggling, full of suspense and intrigue in my opinion, because it took place within the near end of preparations for the 2015 General Elections in Nigeria. The atmosphere all over the Country at the time was tension-soaked. It was as if the Nation was preparing for a mini-war, going by the uncertainties that surrounded the general elections, ranging from the doom spelled by U.S.A when they predicted that Nigeria would break-up in 2015, to the Nation’s security services battling Boko Haram in the Northeastern part of the country.

At the same time the legislators were working tirelessly to pass the 2015 Appropriation Bill. Unfortunately, the continuous fall of Oil price in the international market made it difficult for legislators to arrive at an appropriate Oil Price benchmark. The legislators also had a great deal of legislative businesses that demanded immediate and prompt consideration such as the Constitution Alteration Bill, Petroleum Industry Bill, Violence against Persons Prohibition Bill, Alternate Dispute Resolution Bill, Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill and Proceeds of Crime Bill among others, but the upper and lower chambers spent most of their time acting out defection drama.

As a young graduate that majored in Business Administration and Management, I was keen to understanding the workings of the National Assembly, and just two weeks within the walls of the Assembly, I blended very well with the system. I was deployed to House Committee of Finance. Work at the committee level was tasking and educating at the same time including the typesetting work, the drafting of letters, conducting of research, dispatch of correspondence, filling of documents and helping to organize Committee meetings among others are the duties I was charged to do by the Committee Clerk.



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Seeing top Government Officials from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies coming to defend their budget made me understand the seriousness of legislative business. I observed this seriousness during a Senate screening of ministerial nominees on 4th March 2015. On the said day, a nominee for Education Minister, Prof. Nicholas Akise, who was under oath during the scrutiny, was questioned on how he will lead a fight against cultism in our tertiary institutions. He was also asked to explain how he would resolve the many problems facing Education in Nigeria, especially that of increasing carrying capacity of our Universities/Polytechnics.

I wish to commend PLAC and DFID, for this wonderful program, which is a democratization tool employed by them to help open up the legislative arm of the Nigeria Government and also, an avenue for greater political participation by Nigerian Youths. I am satisfied with the high level of professionalism exhibited by PLAC and its staff. I am grateful for the exposure and mental upgrading in terms of socialization, improvement in my speaking and research skills following the “Youth in Parliament” Radio show I participated in. Most importantly, I am grateful for the awakening of my consciousness towards political life.

Some say that, “the worst illiterate is a political illiterate.” I discovered that in spite of my graduate degree, I could still be the worst illiterate. Someone who knows nothing and does nothing in the political life; who does not know that the price of food items, rent and medical costs are all dependent on political decisions. Someone who prides him/herself in ignorance and sticks out their chest to proudly say that they hate politics or do not wish to be involved with governance. Someone who does not know that out of ignorance and lack of awareness comes the prostitute, the abandoned child and corrupt officials.

Finally, I am grateful I was able to correct my misconceptions about the crucial role of the legislative arm in governance. All thanks to PLAC for granting me and other interns the opportunity to contribute to the process of deepening our democracy by engaging us in this platform that gave us access to National Assembly as a government Institution and also for taking care us financially. I will cherish this experience forever.

TIME AND CHOICES

By Georgina Halliday



Time and choices are two extremely essential tools to the human race, without both I can't begin to imagine our aimless existence.

Every day is a victory that we have seen another day and our maker deserves all the glory; we have expectations for each day, we even map out plans for the future yet to come.

Every second that ticks comes with its own challenges and task, a task to be better, the challenge to achieve and supersede our well mapped out goals, to get closer to that big dream and get closer to greatness.

Every minute of each day counts, it is irreversible, it is precious, it is the time we make choices, good or bad, the time that will never occur again although similar opportunities may arise in a different time.

Executed or not, choices that change us and makes us better or worse are all revealed in time. Like a famous Nigerian veteran singer sang "Time na money o, use your time well."

Time as we know waits for no one, like it is said there is a time for everything. Time keeps ticking all day long, all year round regardless of human situations or predicaments, happiness or sadness.

There are sad moments in time, but time heals. Some are broken but still, time

fixes and mends. Some leave us but because of time, we say we will see them again.

The choices men make are in the course of time, there are some set of people who don't believe in anything not even the "word." Some never mature and have neither wisdom nor strength to make choices and go about life.

We have to make choices regardless of its outcome. Having the right knowledge helps us to make right choices and vice versa. Our choices can lead to grievous consequences and this is why caution in choosing is important. We have to be in the right frame of mind to make good decisions.

We must take into account that an individual that cannot make right choices for him/herself is incapable of making choices for another person. We should ask ourselves at any given time what our driving force is and how well we are using our time.

It is not wrong or uncommon to fall into error and make wrong choices, however, staying in the mistake is what is wrong.

To be a leader in the smallest circle or a nation, one has to make right choices and decisions and the outcome of such choices reflects on the nation's growth. I pray Nigerians have leaders that make right choices at every point in time.





DUAL CITIZENSHIP: THE EXTENT OF ITS BEING A DISQUALIFICATION TO CONTEST ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA

By Abdulhaleem Amin, Esq.

There have been various discussions and arguments in the public forums as to whether holding dual citizenship as a Nigerian disqualifies one from contesting for elections. The Nigerian constitution stipulates Nigerian citizenship as one of the requirements for contesting for elections in Nigeria. The Constitution also prohibits dual citizenship in certain instances and some have argued that this prohibition, even though not expressly stated, applies to aspirants to elective seats. This article seeks to clarify the various misconceptions in the public domain on the dual citizenship question and contest for elections.

Citizenship, simply put, has to do with being a national of a particular nation/state/country with attendant rights/privileges as well as corresponding duties/responsibilities. One of the incidents of citizenship is the citizen's right to contest election(s) (i.e. right to be voted for). In Nigeria, a person can be a citizen either by birth, registration or naturalization.

The consideration of citizenship is at the centre of qualifications to contest elections in Nigeria in that the very first criterion for eligibility is being a Nigerian citizen. It is important to note that while Nigerian citizens by birth are eligible to contest election to any of the offices created by the constitution,

other Nigerian citizens (i.e. by registration and or naturalization) can only contest for legislative seats at the federal and state levels.

By the combined reading of **sections 25 - 29** together with **sections 137 (1) (a), 182 (1) (a) and 66 (1) (a), 107 (1) (a)**, it is clear that a Nigerian citizen by birth cannot be disqualified to contest any election simply because he has acquired the citizenship of another country. However, a Nigerian by registration or naturalization who acquires the citizenship of another country of which he is not a citizen by birth loses his being a Nigerian and as such is not qualified to run for election into available offices in the Nigerian political structure.

The wordings of **sections 66 (1) (a), 107 (1) (a), 137 (1) (a) and 182 (1) (a)** are virtually the same and all to the effect that a person shall not be qualified to run for any of the offices "...if: (a) subject to the provisions of section 28 of this constitution, he has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a country other than Nigeria or, except in such cases as may be prescribed by the National Assembly, he has made a declaration of allegiance to such other country..."

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It is submitted that since it is only citizens by birth that can contest for the positions of the President and a Governor both of whom the provisions of section 28 on dual citizenship do not apply, the reproduction of the above quotation under **sections 137 (1) (a) and 182 (1) (a)** (both of which sections deal with the offices of the President and a Governor) is superfluous and amounts to legislative drafting inelegance. The only way a Nigerian citizen by birth can lose or forfeit his Nigerian citizenship is by effectively renouncing his Nigerian citizenship vide a declaration made in the prescribed manner.

It is however doubtful if there is any Nigerian (especially by birth) that has validly and effectively renounced his citizenship in the prescribed manner in accordance with the law.

From interactions with some Nigerians who have acquired citizenship of other countries (especially Europe and America), it appears to this writer that many people often get confused on what constitutes dual citizenship in the context of disqualification to contest elections in Nigeria. It may then be instructive to set forth the constitutional meaning or import of dual citizenship. Section 28 (1) CFRN provides: “Subject to the other provisions of this section, a person shall forfeit his Nigerian citizenship, if not being a citizen of Nigeria by birth, he acquires or retains the citizenship or nationality of a country, other than Nigeria, of which he is not a citizen by birth” (underline mine for emphasis).

It is thus clear that: [1] a Nigerian citizen by birth cannot lose his Nigerian citizenship by reason of him acquiring the citizenship of another country

in addition to his Nigerian citizenship. This sort of acquisition does not constitute dual citizenship as envisaged in the constitution; [2] for a Nigerian by registration or naturalization to lose or forfeit his Nigerian citizenship by reason of acquisition or retention of another country’s citizenship other than that of Nigeria, he must not be a citizen of that other country by birth. In other words, if a Ghanaian national/citizen by birth becomes a Nigerian citizen by registration or naturalization, he cannot also validly add or become a citizen of the Great Britain without renouncing his Nigerian citizenship.

This is because his Nigerian citizenship lapses upon his becoming a Briton in the circumstance. Also, if a Ghanaian by birth doubles as a British citizen (not by birth), he cannot validly become a Nigerian citizen without him renouncing his British citizenship “within a period of not more than twelve month” of his being registered or naturalized as a Nigerian citizen.

It is thus crystal clear and there is no gainsaying that dual citizenship as a basis for disqualification to contest election does not in any way affect Nigerian citizens by birth. It only affects Nigerians of other categories (i.e. by registration and or naturalization) in the context discussed above. It is hoped that this piece assists in demystifying the seeming confusion (or fear) that many Nigerian citizens by birth who have acquired citizenship of other country(ies) usually have regarding their fate to contest elections in Nigeria; and also be a sort of awareness to all.

Abdulhaleem AMIN Esq.



APPENDIX 2: DEPLOYMENT LIST

S.No	Name/Sex	State	University/Discipline	Committee /Office Assigned
1	Naomi Demide (F)	Kogi	University of Jos/ B.A English Literature	Senate, Niger Delta
2	Sylvia Agamah (F)	Kogi	University of Jos / B.A, Mass Communication	Senate, Rules and Business
3	Abdulhaleem Amin (M)	Kwara	University of Illorin/ Bachelor of Laws (LL.B)	Senate, Judiciary
4	Anthony Ojomaje Negedu (M)	Kogi	Ahmadu Bello University/ B.Sc Geography	Directorate of Planning and Legislative Budget
5	Waheeda Yunusa Mohammed (F)	Gombe	University of Maiduguri/ Bachelor of Laws (LL.B), Law	Legal Services Department
6	Tayiwa Koji (F)	Adamawa	University of Buckingham, UK/ Bachelor of Laws (LL.B), Law	Senate, Bills Office
7	Khadijat Bobbo (F)	Borno	University of Maiduguri/ B.Sc., Human Anatomy	Senate, Bills Office
8	Hadiza Baba Shehu (F)	Borno	University of Kent/ Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) Law	House, Rules and Business
9	Aisha Hassan Lai (F)	Borno	University of Gloucestershire, UK / M.B.A; Ahmadu Bello University/B.Sc. Business Administration	Senate, Department of Committees
10	Nana Yunusa Yusuf (F)	Kaduna	Ahmadu Bello University/B.Sc, International Studies	House, Foreign Affairs



S.No	Name/Sex	State	University/Discipline	Committee /Office Assigned
11	Gloria Yisa Mana (F)	Niger	Nasarawa State University, Keffi / B.A Mass Communication	National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislatures (NSNL)
12	Jerry Bernard Maitamaki (M)	Kaduna	Ahmadu Bello University/ Bachelor of Laws (LL.B), Law	House, Petroleum Resources (Upstream)
13	Sani Aminu Abba (M)	Kano	Bayero University/ (B.Sc.), Political Science	Senate, National Security and Intelligence
14	Gwafan Peter Danladi (M)	Kaduna	Ahmadu Bello University/ B.A Public Admin	Directorate of Personnel Management
15	Nuhu Adze (M)	Kaduna	Higher National Diploma/ Business Administration	Directorate of Planning and Legislative Budget
16	Allen Shamaki (M)	Kaduna	Bayero University/B.A, Mass Communication	Information and Publication Department
17	Lilian Ezendu (F)	Anambra	University of Port Harcourt/ B.Sc. Microbiology	House, Health
18	Eugenia Anuforo (F)	Imo	Madonna University / Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) Law	House, Justice
19	Chinenye J. Obidinma (F)	Imo	University of Nigeria / B.A, English and Literary Studies	House, Communication
20	Adaeze Ajegwu (F)	Anambra	University of Abuja/ B.A, English Language	Senate, Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters
21	Ifeoma Nzewigbo (F)	Enugu	University of Abuja/B.Sc. Economics	National Assembly Budget & Research Office (NABRO)
22	Gloria Oluchi Anamemena (F)	Imo	University of Ibadan/ B.Sc., Guidance Counselling and Political Science	Senate, Employment, Labour and Productivity



S.No	Name/Sex	State	University/Discipline	Committee /Office Assigned
23	Ugochinyere Ogbonna (F)	Imo	Abia State University/B.Sc. Economics	Senate, Appropriations
24	Eze Emmanuel (M)	Enugu	University of Abuja/ B.Sc., Environmental Education; DeMontfort University/ M.A, Climate Change and Sustainable development	Senate, Chambers
25	Frank Abah (M)	Ebonyi	University Of Nigeria/ B.Sc. Economics a	National Assembly Budget & Research Office (NABRO)
26	Madu Chinedu Kingsley (M)	Imo	Institute of Management and Technology Enugu State/ HND, Business Administration and Management	House, Finance
27	Akpoguma Blessing (F)	Delta	University of Benin/ B.Sc., Animal and Environmental Biology	House, Environment
28	Onehizena Adebisi (F)	Edo	University of Benin, /Bachelor of Laws (LL.B), Law	House, Human Rights and Judiciary
29	Nengi Samuel Horsfall (F)	Rivers	University Of Sheffield, UK/ Bachelor of Laws (LL.B, Law)	Senate, Chamber
30	Georgina Halliday (F)	Rivers	University of Calabar/ B.Sc. Economics	Senate, Appropriations
31	Patrick Ekah (M)	Akwa Ibom	University of Abuja/ B.Sc., History	Research and Statistics Department
32	Osegie Enaboifo (M)	Edo	Obafemi Awolowo University/ Bachelor of Laws (LL.B), Law	Senate, Constitution Review
33	Franklyn Onyema Okukponor (M)	Delta	University of Benin/ B.Sc., Sociology and Anthropology	Senate, Department of Committees

S.No	Name/Sex	State	University/Discipline	Committee /Office Assigned
34	Nkanga Ubong Dennis (M)	Akwa Ibom	Babcock University, / B.Sc. Computer Science	House, Public Petitions
35	Nta I. Nta (M)	Cross River	University of Calabar/ Bachelor of Laws (LL.B), Law	House, Legislative Budget and Research
36	Abodunrin Oluwafikewa Omowumi (F)	Osun	Obafemi Awolowo University/ Bachelor of Laws (LL.B), Law	Senate, Petroleum Resources (Downstream)
37	Folorunsho Folasade (F)	Ogun	Babcock University/B.Sc., International Law and Diplomacy	Senate, Scrutiny Office
38	Fagbenle Oyindamola (F)	Osun	Georgetown University Law Center /M.A International Studies; Olabisi Onabanjo University/ Bachelor of Laws (LL.B), Law	House, Public Petitions
39	Omojola Olusola Babajide (M)	Ondo	University of Maiduguri/ B.Sc., Geology	Senate Department of Committees
40	Aladeokin Oluwabunmi Dayo (M)	Ekiti	Ladoke Akintola University of Technology/ B.Tech, Computer Science	National Assembly Budget & Re- search Office (NABRO)
41	Gbadamosi Abdulqudus (M)	Oyo	University of Ilorin/ Bachelor of Laws (LL.B), Law	Department of Litigation and Counselling
42	Adewunmi Adebayo (M)	Osun	Ladoke Akintola University of Technology/ B. Tech, Pure and Applied Physics	House, Science and Technology



APPENDIX 3: TRAINING & ORIENTATION SESSION AGENDA

DAY ONE: MONDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2015

DAY ONE: MONDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2015	
9:00am – 9:30 am	Registration, Guests, Resource Persons and Participants are Seated
10:00am – 10:30am	<p><u>WELCOME AND OPENING CEREMONY</u></p> <p>Introduction of Guests & Resource Persons</p> <p>Welcome Remarks:</p> <p>Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC</p> <p>Catherine Weiss Governance Adviser, DFID</p> <p>Declaration of Orientation Open/Opening Keynote:</p> <p>Mr. Ben Efeturi Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly (DCNA)/Clerk of Senate</p>
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Full Introduction of Participating Interns
11:00 am – 11:45 am	<p>Remarks by:</p> <p>Dr. Ishaya Habu Director, Personnel Management, National Assembly</p> <p>Youths & the Dilemma of Nigeria’s Economic, Political and Leadership Challenges</p> <p>Dr. Mairo Mandara Country Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Abuja& Member of PLAC Board of Directors</p>

11:45am – 12:00 noon	Tea/Coffee Break
12:noon – 1:00pm	The Structure and Functions of Nigeria’s National Assembly Dr. Rahila Ahmadu Former Director, National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislatures (NSNL), National Assembly
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Understanding the National Assembly Work Environment: A Practical Guide For Interns Dr. Innocent Mebiri Clerk, Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the Constitution, Senate Committee on Appropriations & Ad-hoc Committee on Legislative Budget & Research
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Lunch Break
3:00pm – 4.00 pm	Nigerian Youth and the Importance of Civic and Political Participation Cynthia Mbamalu Youth Initiative for Advocacy Growth and Advancement (YIAGA)
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	What Legislators and Legislative Committees do Senator Khairat Abdulrazaq-Gwadabe Chairperson, Senators Forum and Chair, PLAC Board of Directors
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Wrap-up and Closing
DAY TWO: TUESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2015	
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Registration, Interns are Seated
9:00am – 10:00am	From Bill to Act: A Synopsis of the Law Making Process M.D.Hassan Legal Services Department, National Assembly



10:00 am – 11:00 am	Effective Research and Report Writing Skills Dr. Shuaibu Danwanka National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS)
11:00am – 11:15 am	Tea Break
11:15am – 12:00pm	Learning to Manage Expectations: Tips for Interns Alh. Abdulkadir Adamu Director, Management, House of Representatives
12:00noon – 1:45pm	Experience Sharing by Past Interns <i>Questions & Discussions</i>
1:45pm – 2:15pm	Lunch break
2:15pm – 3:00pm	Preparing the National Budget: How the Appropriation Process Works Mrs. Omotayo Brimmo National Assembly Budget & Research Office (NABRO)
3:00pm – 3:45pm	Security Consciousness and Awareness at the National Assembly Mr. S. Alabi Serjeant-at-Arms, National Assembly
3.45pm – 4:45pm	Team Building & Communication Skills Exercise for Interns Dr. Aminu Umar National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS)
4:45pm – 5:00pm	Wrap-up and Closing
6.00pm – 7.00pm	Welcome Dinner
DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2015	
8:00 am – 10:00 am	Tour of the National Assembly
10:00 am – 11.00 am	Wrap up and Departure

APPENDIX 4: MID TERM REVIEW SESSION AGENDA

FRIDAY, 13 MARCH 2015

Opening Session	
8:30am – 9:00am	Arrival and Registration of Interns
9:00am – 9:15am	Welcome Remarks/ Mid term review meeting objectives Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC
Session 1	
9:15 am – 10:00 am	Interns brief accounts of their experiences so far
Session 2	
<u>Mock Plenary Session:</u>	
<i>Moderated by Hon. N. C. Ughanze, Principal Partner, Nnaemeka Ughanze & Co. and former Member of the Federal House of Representatives</i>	
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Group 1: Presentation of Mock Plenary Session (Senate)
11:00am – 12:00pm	Group 2: Presentation of Mock Plenary Session (House of Reps)
Session 3	
12:00pm – 12:30pm	Feedback from PLAC and round up
12:30pm	Lunch and Departure



APPENDIX 5: MID TERM REVIEW MOCK SESSION GUIDE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MID-TERM REVIEW MOCK SESSION

OVERVIEW

The main objective of the Mid Term Review is for interns to provide feedback on the internship – particularly to update PLAC on their work and accomplishments midway into the internship.

The midterm review session for the 2015 internship will involve interns giving individual accounts of their experiences under the programme. It would also involve role-play sessions where interns would be asked to re-enact legislative proceedings. The aim is to create an opportunity for interns to explore the different roles and functions of the Nigerian Legislature and to demonstrate their understanding of these roles.

ACTIVITY: MOCK PLENARY SESSION

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

Instructions/Guide for Recreating Plenary

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

- a. **Prayers**
- b. **Approval of previous day’s Votes and Proceedings**
- c. **Presentation of Petitions**
 - i. Petition from a Civil Servant, Mr. Mayowa Okon, who was dismissed from the Nigerian Railway Corporation. He is alleging wrongful termination of appointment.
 - ii. A Petition from a citizen, Mrs Amaka Ahmed, against the University of Nigeria, Nsukka on the wrongful rustication of her son, Master Paul Ahmed.

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

- d. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (House, Standing Order VIII, Rule 46 / Senate, Order 42 Rule 1)**
 - i. 5 motor accidents occurred along the Lokoja Highway in Kogi State over the weekend leading to the deaths of 60 persons and scores of persons injured. This is the 4th accident happening along that highway in a space of two weeks. The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has put the toll of

persons who have died from the accident within the space of that period at 286 and has said that one of the many reasons for the accident is the bad condition of the road. A Member/Senator representing one of the victims constituency wishes to bring this to the notice of the plenary.

- ii. Persons from Oshimili South Local Government constituency in Delta State /Delta North Senatorial District are alleging that INEC has not distributed their Permanent Voters Cards and are worried that they may not have the opportunity to vote in the forthcoming 2015 General Elections if the situation is not rectified and have brought this to the attention of their representatives in the House/Senate

(Note: Two scenarios have been created here. How are these matters presented to the plenary? Note particularly, the use of motions and resolutions. Also note that this is not a listed motion)

e. Presentation of Bills

- i. There is a bill for an Act to Provide for the Prohibition, Prevention, Detection, Response and Prosecution of Cybercrimes and For Other Related Matters (HB 669/SB 438) The Bill is supposed to be introduced to the plenary for the first time.

(Note: There is a procedure for introducing Bills to the plenary? How is this done?)

f. Bills

- i. There is a bill before the House to amend the Electoral Act, 2010 to specifically provide that INEC should create additional polling units to enable Internally Displaced Persons vote in Nigeria's forthcoming General Elections. (HB 718/SB 455) This Bill is sponsored by Hon. Okoye Abdulrahman/Sen. Nonso Ayodele and is supposed to be read a second time.
- ii. There is a bill to prevent the strewing of litter in all public places in Nigeria and make it a crime– “The Regulation of Litter in Public Places Bill” 2015 (HB. 632/ SB 567). It is sponsored by Hon. Hauwa Eze/ Sen. Biola White. The bill is supposed to be read a third time.

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

g. Presentation of Report

- i. The House Committee on Commerce/ Senate Committee on Banking, Finance and Other Financial Institutions) is presenting its report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Loan and Risk Management of Nigeria, to provide for the Control of its membership and to Promote the Practice of Loan and Risk Management in Nigeria; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB593) (Referred 22/10/14) and(SB 220)(Referred 17/11/2014) This Committee is chaired by Hon. Musa Okenyi/ Sen. Ifeoma Ademola(Note: Demonstrate the procedure and use of motions in presentation of committee reports.)

h. Motion

Hon. Akin Mukaila is worried that many Nigerians eligible to vote may be disenfranchised because they have not collected their permanent voters card and insists that voters should be able to use either their temporary voters card or a permanent voters card. Draft and table a motion that reflects the subject of his complaint and present it before plenary.

Sen. Grace Lawalis concerned about the dichotomy and discrimination between university graduates and holders of the Higher National Diploma (HND) in the same profession. She argues that there is a wage disparity and gross discrimination of polytechnic graduates in the public and private sectors, which she believes, would threaten the nation's drive towards a technological and scientific based society. She wishes to present a motion before the Senate to urge the federal government to direct its ministries, agencies and parastatals to stop the discrimination. Draft and table a motion that reflects the subject of her complaint and present it before plenary.



(Note: Observe and re-enact the procedure for bringing a motion listed on the order paper in a plenary session. Also note that this type of motion is different from that in parag. (d) above)

i. Adjournment

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

NOTE: Interns are to investigate and simulate the roles of principal officers and members of the House in question and identify the distinct responsibilities of each role. Each group would be given 30-45 minutes to re-enact their proceedings. The roles for simulation should include some/most of the following:

Senate	House of Representatives
a. The Senate President	The Speaker of the House
b. The Deputy Senate President	The Deputy Speaker
c. The Majority Leader	The House Leader
d. Deputy Majority Leader	Deputy House Leader
e. Minority Leader	The Minority Leader
f. Deputy Minority Leader	Deputy Minority Leader
g. Chief Whip	Majority Chief Whip
h. Deputy Chief Whip	Deputy Chief Whip
i. Minority Whip	Minority Whip
j. Deputy Minority Whip	Deputy Minority Whip
k. Sergeant-at-arms	Sergeant-at-arms
l. Senators	Honourable Members of the House
m. Any other role or office deemed necessary	Any other role or office deemed necessary

APPENDIX 6: DEBRIEFING SESSION AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, 1 ST APRIL 2015	
8:30am – 9:30am	Photo Session for Interns
9:30 am – 9:45 am	Participants and invited guests are seated
9:45am – 10:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Invited Guests • Introduction of Interns
10:00 am – 10:30 am	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <p>Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC</p> <p>Goodwill Remarks</p> <p>Catherine Weiss Governance Adviser, DFID Nigeria</p> <p>Chairman’s Remarks</p> <p>Senator Khairat Abdulrazaq-Gwadabe Chair, PLAC Board of Directors</p>
10:30am – 10:45am	<p>Opening Speech:</p> <p>Mr. Ben Efeturi, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly</p>



WEDNESDAY, 1ST APRIL 2015

10:45am – 11:00am	Tea / Coffee Break
11:00am – 12:00noon	<p><u>Perspectives from the National Assembly</u></p> <p>Barr. Solomon Ntuen <i>Deputy Director Management, Senate</i></p> <p>Alh. Abdulkadir Adamu <i>Director Management, House of Representatives</i></p>
12:noon – 12:45pm	<p>Sharing the Internship Experience: Reports from Interns</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Senate Interns 2. House of Representatives Interns 3. National Assembly Budget Research Office, NABRO Interns 4. National Secretariat of Nigerian Legislatures, NSNL Intern
12:45pm – 1:15 pm	<p>Planning towards Career Success: Tips for Finding and Keeping a good Mentor</p> <p>By: Dorothy Njemanze, Nollywood Actress and Founder of Dorothy Njemanze Foundation</p>
1:15pm – 1:45pm	<p>Strategies and Tips for Making the Most Out of Your Internship Experience</p> <p>Benson Olugbuo <i>Programme Manager, Centre for Democracy and Development CDD</i></p>
1:45pm – 2:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concluding Remarks/Feedback from PLAC • Distribution of Certificates of Participation & Group Photos
2:30pm	Lunch and Departure

APPENDIX 7: INTERNS AND SUPERVISORS EVALUATION FORMS

2015 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 mem- oranda)		
4.	Feedback from Clerk/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 encouraged 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 what you liked the most about the internship programme
 - vii. Please list what 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!

SUPERVISOR'S EVALUATION

Name of Supervisor: _____

Intern Evaluated: _____

Committee/Office/Department: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

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

S. No	Rating Factor	Score	Comments
1.	Writing Skills		
2.	Oral/Verbal Communication Skills		
3.	Interpersonal skills: team work and relationship with other staff		
5.	Willingness to learn and undertake new tasks		
6.	Understanding of the legislative process		
8.	Quality of work completed		
9.	Intern's overall performance		

B. Kindly provide answers to the following:

- i. How useful do you think the intern was to your Committee/Office
- ii. Please list the intern's most effective characteristics or contributions
- iii. In what areas do you feel the intern needs improvement
- iv. Would you recommend this intern for a job position/ employment? Kindly provide a reason(s) for your answer
- v. Please list other comments, observations or recommendations you may have on the internship programme

Thank you for completing this evaluation form!



Appendix 8 - OTHER PHOTOS OF INTERNS



Interns Volunteer with the technical team of the “Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room” hosted by PLAC during the 2015 General Election



Interns celebrate one of their own, Sylvia Agamah, at her Wedding, which occurred during the internship period





PLAC INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME TEAM



Omolara Akinyeye, *Programme Manager*



Nkiru Uzodi, *Senior Programme Officer*



Agape Chiboka, *Accounts/Admin Manager*



Brenda Nwosa, *Programme Assistant*



Olumide Adebayo, *IT Officer*

About PLAC

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

