



# 2020

## LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME REPORT





**2020  
LEGISLATIVE  
INTERNSHIP  
PROGRAMME  
REPORT**

**Published by**



**Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)**

Plot 451 Gambo Jimeta Crescent off Nasir EL-Rufai  
Crescent, Guzape District, Abuja.

**With support from**



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## **Acknowledgment**

PLAC is grateful to the European Union for supporting the production of its 2020 Legislative Internship Programme Report.





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Group Photograph of 2020 Legislative Interns

## INTRODUCTION

Nigerian youths form a significant part of its demography with recent statistics putting its youthful population aged between 0 to 24 years at 63.1% alone. Despite this formidable percentage, many young persons continue to express dissatisfaction with their exclusion from governance structures and at the helm of affairs.

To reduce this gap and improve access of young persons to democratic institutions such as the Legislature, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) with support from the European Union (EU) has since 2018 continued to organize annual internship programmes for young Nigerian graduates aged between 21 to 35 years old at the National Assembly.

In 2020, PLAC's internship programme ran between 6th October 2020 to 17th December 2020 with 38 interns drawn from Nigeria's six geo-political zones.

As the first internship to hold during a COVID-19 era, care was taken to comply with COVID-19 protocols such as use of virtual interviews, face masks, hands sanitisers and social distancing throughout the programme. The adjustment brought in through a COVID-19 era also provided opportunity for innovation to be brought to the implementation of the project such as in the creation of plenary schedules for interns and additional dress rehearsals for the Model Legislative Assembly to ensure that the programme objectives were still met.

PLAC is grateful to the European Union and the National Assembly for its continuous support for the PLAC Internship Programme.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME**

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

While succeeding Legislative Internships held in 2014 and 2015, PLAC held its first Legislative Internship with European Union support in 2018 with over 1,038 applications from all the geo-political zones of the country and after interviewing 103 shortlisted candidates, 18 females and 19 males were selected bringing the total number to 37 selected interns.

In 2019, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) further consolidated on its increased engagement, inclusivity and citizen's participation with the selection of 38 candidates for the internship programme; 18 of whom were women and 20 men. The programme also saw the inclusion of an intern with a speech and hearing impairment in the programme for the first time.

PLAC further replicated its 2019 successes with its 2020 Legislative Internship Programme which had 38 candidates: 17 of whom were women and 21 men. Like the 2019 programme, there was also the inclusion of a person with a disability (speech and hearing impairment). PLAC continually strives to incorporate lessons learned from its programmes to improve the participation of marginalised groups such as youths in legislative and political processes. PLAC is grateful for the support and collaboration it has received from the National Assembly and the European Union in implementing successive internships over the years.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME (LIP)**

### **Advertisement Placement**

Advertisement of PLAC's 2020 Internship was first placed in three National Newspapers namely, This Day Newspaper, The Guardian Newspaper and Daily Trust Newspaper and PLAC's social media handles such as Facebook and Twitter in March 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ensuing lockdown and internal travel restrictions, PLAC postponed the commencement of its internship programme to October 2021. To ensure a fair process and the availability of interns

whose status may have changed since the first advertisement, a further advertisement was put out in August 2020. PLAC's shortlist for the interviews combined applicants shortlisted from the February and August applications. In addition, care was taken to adhere to COVID-19 protocols with the first round of interviews conducted virtually while further shortlisted candidates were invited to the PLAC office for a physical interview. A selection of 21 men and 17 women was made in the final shortlist for the 2020 Legislative Internship Programme.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

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

### **Objectives Of The Legislative Internship Programme**

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

### **Some Responsibilities Of Interns**

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



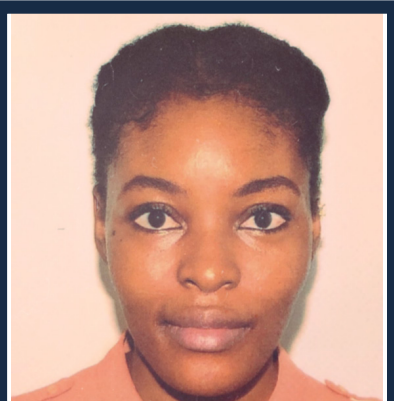
Interns are however prohibited from carrying out political tasks such as campaigns or partisan advocacy throughout the duration of the internship.



## PROFILE OF INTERNS AND DEPLOYMENT LIST



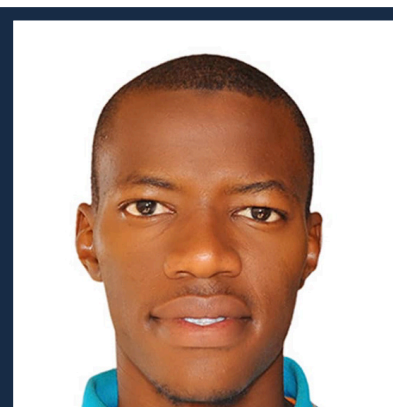
**Selzing Zingfa**  
Plateau



**Korinjoh Regina Mlumun**  
Benue



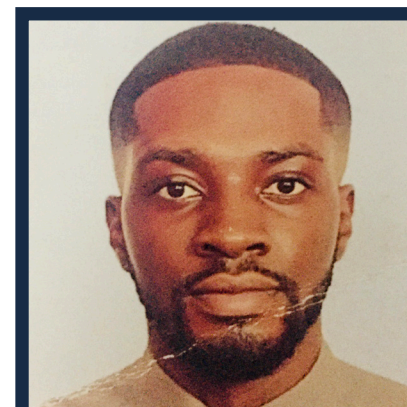
**Stephen Adavize Onimisi**  
Kogi



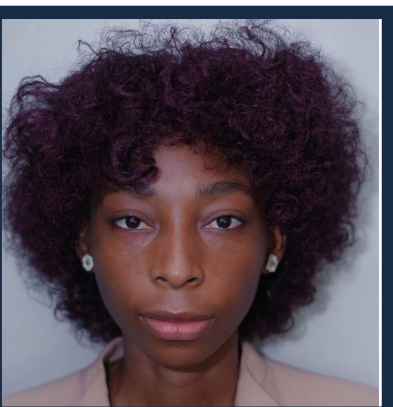
**Ismail Muhammad**  
**Mubashir**  
Gombe



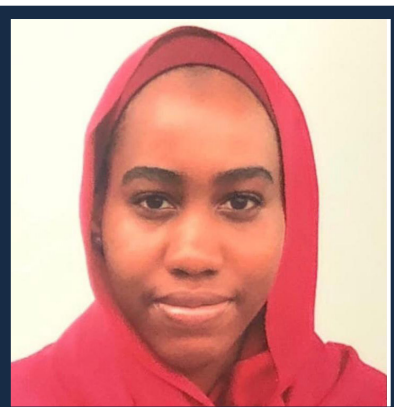
**Gloria Emmanuel**  
Taraba



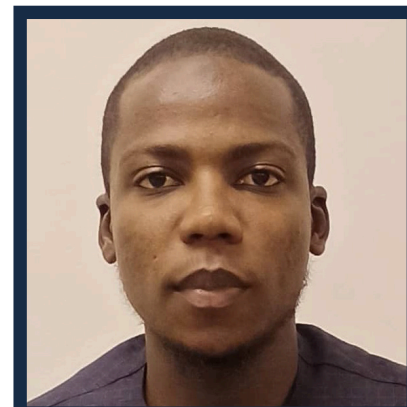
**Chigozie Obi**  
Anambra



**Ibebunjoh Chisom**  
**Obianuju**  
Abia

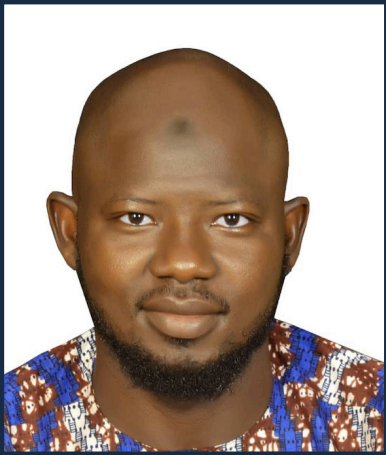


**Halima Gobir**  
Sokoto

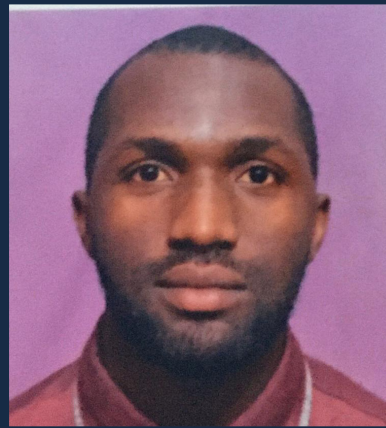


**Ibrahim Shehu**  
Adamawa

## PROFILE OF INTERNS



**Mohammed Bello  
Suleiman**  
Niger



**Najib Isah**  
Kano



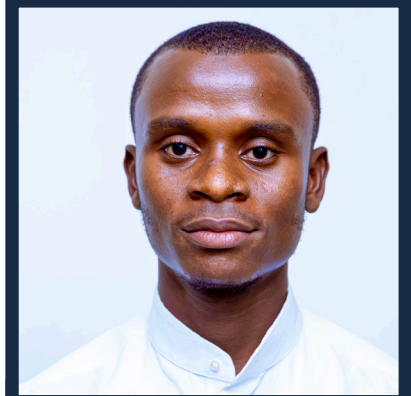
**Patience Samuel  
Inyang**  
Akwa Ibom



**Adah Miriam Uben**  
Cross River



**Adamu Nasiru**  
FCT



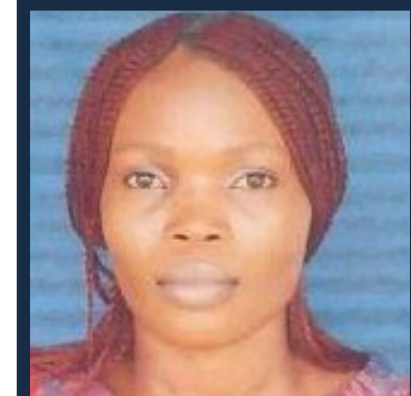
**Alyasa'u Atiku Abubakar**  
Kebbi



**Babarinde Abdulraheem  
Olaide**  
Ogun



**Badmus Iswat**  
Oyo



**Bareyei Ruth  
Izonabodiseere**  
Bayelsa



## PROFILE OF INTERNS



**Chimdindu Nwobodo**  
Enugu



**Daniel Stephen**  
Benue



**Haruna Ibrahim**  
Nassarawa



**Egwu N. Favour**  
Ebonyi



**Falowo Moyinoluwa**  
Olubunmi  
Ondo



**Fatima Muhammad**  
Bammami  
Yobe



**Iwuchukwu Uchenna**  
Ndidiamaka  
Imo



**Jemiyo Christianah**  
Oyindamola  
Osun

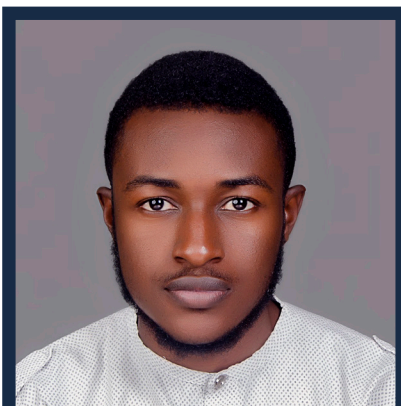


**Jeremiah Dauda Hassan**  
Borno

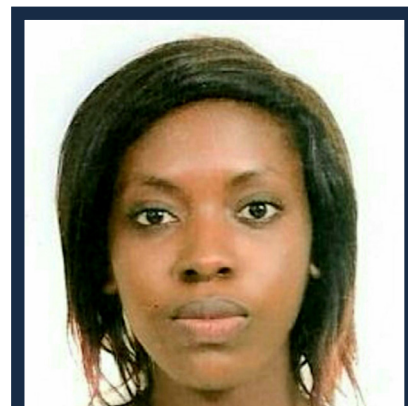
## PROFILE OF INTERNS



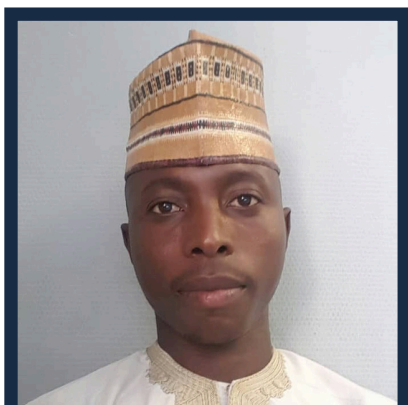
**Ngorfah Awajiikiroinyem  
Christopher**  
Rivers



**Midah Yohanna**  
Bauchi



**Oladoja, Simbiat  
Bolajoko**  
Kwara



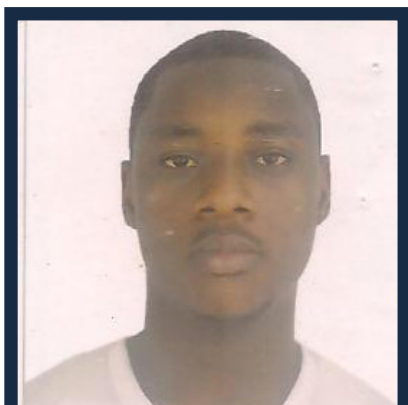
**Muhammad Bashir Musa**  
Zamfara



**Muhammad Muhammad**  
Jigawa



**Rafiu Adeniran Lawal**  
Lagos



**Saidu Bashir Aminu**  
Kaduna



**Osusu Preye Ufuoma  
Omotekoro**  
Bayelsa

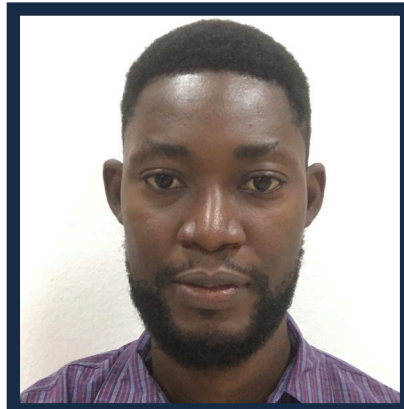


**Olaogun Michael  
Sunkanmi**  
Ekiti

## PROFILE OF INTERNS

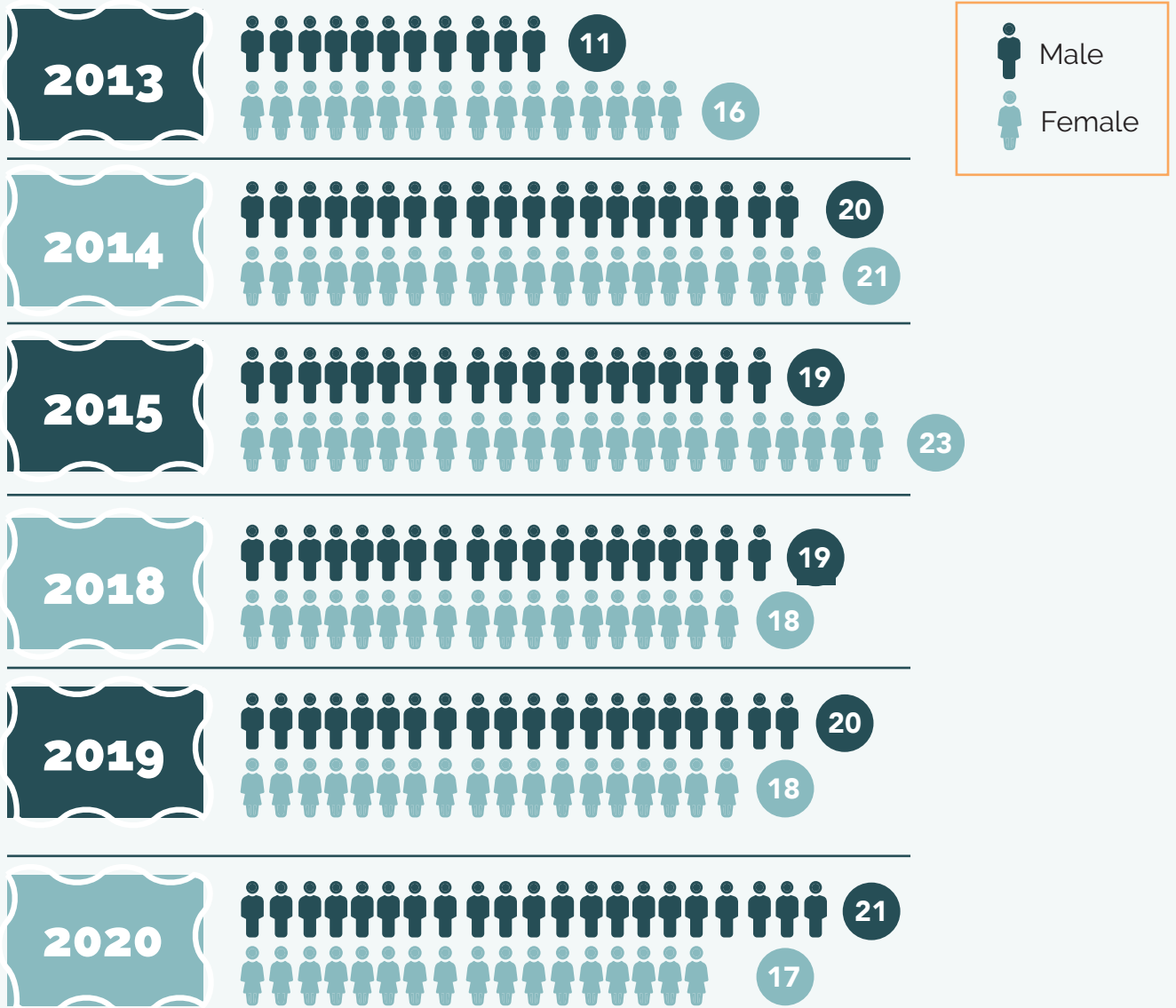


**Smart Osahenogae  
Egberanmwun**  
Edo



**Uche George Egbe**  
Delta

## HISTORY OF GENDER PARTICIPATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME





## TIMELINE FOR THE INTERNSHIP

1

### Advertisement placement

March and August 2020

2

### Shortlisting

September 2020

3

### Welcome Dinner, Orientation and Induction

October 2020

4

### 5 Bi-weekly Programmes

October -December 2020

5

### Radio Programmes

October to December 2020

## DEPLOYMENT LIST

S/No	NAME OF INTERN	COMMITTEE
1	Adah Miriam Uben	House Committee on Niger Delta Affairs
2	Adamu Nasiru	House Committee on Works
3	Alyasa'u Atiku Abubakar	House Committee on Inter Parliamentary Relations
4	Babarinde Abdulraheem Olaide	Senate Committee on Primary Healthcare and Communicable Diseases
5	Badmus Iswat Taiwo	House Committee on Hiv/Aids, Tuberculosis and Malarial Control
6	Bareyei Ruth Izonabodiseere	Senate Committee on Public Procurement
7	Chigozie Kenedy Obi	House Committee on Electoral Matters
8	Chimdindu Sandra Nwobodo	Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters
9	Daniel Stephen	House Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission
10	Egwu Ngozi Favour	House Committee on Human Rights
11	Falowo Moyinoluwa Olubunmi	Senate Committee on Science and Technology
12	Fatima Muhammad Bammami	Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs
13	Gloria Emmanuel	House Committee on Youth Development
14	Halima Gobir	Senate Committee on Information and National Orientation
15	Haruna Ibrahim	Senate Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND
16	Ibebunjoh Chisom Obianuju	House Committee on Diaspora and NGOs
17	Ibrahim Shehu	Senate Committee on Power
18	Ismail Muhammad Mubashir	Senate Committee on Culture & Tourism
19	Iwuchukwu Uchenna Ndidiamaka	House Committee on Justice

## DEPLOYMENT LIST

20	Jemiyo Christianah Oyindamola	National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO)
21	Jeremiah Dauda Hassan	Senate Committee on Appropriations
22	Korinjoh Regina Mlumun	House Committee on Science and Technology
23	Midah Yohanna	House Committee on ICT
24	Mohammed Bello Suleiman	Senate Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND
25	Muhammad Bashar Musa	House Committee on FCT Judiciary
26	Muhammad Muhammad	Senate Committee on Works
27	Najib Isah	House Committee on Ports and Harbor
28	Ngorfah Awajiokiroyem Christopher	Senate Public Accounts Committee
29	Oladoja Simbiat Bolajoko	House Committee on Agric production and Services
30	Olaogun Michael Sunkanmi	House Committee on Electoral Matters
31	Onimisi Stephen Adavize	House Committee on Appropriations
32	Osusu Preye Ufuoma Omotekoro	Senate Committee on Legislative Compliance
33	Patience Samuel Inyang	House Committee on Anti-Corruption
34	Rafu Adeniran Lawal	House Committee on Cooperation and Integration of Africa
35	Saidu Bashir Aminu	House Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness
36	Selzing Zingfa	Senate Committee on Rules and Business.
37	Smart Osahenogae Egberanmwun	National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO)
38	Uche George Egbe	House Committee on Judiciary





Professor Nuhu Yakub, Chairman, PLAC Board of Directors welcoming the 2020 Legislative interns

## WELCOME DINNER, ORIENTATION AND INDUCTION

The 2020 PLAC Legislative Interns were welcomed to the program at a dinner hosted by PLAC on Tuesday 6, October 2020. Speaking at the event, PLAC Board of Directors Chairman, Prof Nuhu Yakub urged the interns to take their assignment seriously.

Also giving remarks at the dinner, Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director, PLAC apologized for the delay in the commencement of the 2020 programme which was offset by the lockdown and travel restrictions that could have affected the objectives of the programme.



Speaking further, Nwankwo congratulated the interns for being on the final shortlist of the programme after passing through a "very transparent" process. Nwankwo also stated that interns were expected to observe all health and safety measures issued by the Joint Task Force on COVID-19 such as the wearing of masks, use of hand sanitisers and allow for temperature checks to be made throughout the duration of the programme. PLAC's Executive Director concluded the welcome remarks by commending interns' efforts for seeking to gain experience in governance. He wished them a satisfying learning experience.

Again speaking at the event, Professor Nuhu Yakub, Chairman, PLAC Board of Directors congratulated interns while highlighting the platform of the internship as one for acquiring knowledge, contributing to political democracy and society. He urged interns to use the opportunity to enhance their interest, change the narrative of democratic systems in Nigeria and achieve their self-development goals and aspirations.



Welcome dinner of interns

The welcome dinner closed with Brenda Nwosa, Programme Officer urging interns to have an open mind, respect the rules, improve their knowledge and familiarize themselves with the appropriate code of ethics governing the internship programme and their conduct at the National Assembly. Interns were also advised to prepare early for the orientation /induction exercise that preceded their tour of the National Assembly.

### **INDUCTION OF THE 2020 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME**

Following the welcome dinner, a more formal induction programme with lectures held on Wednesday, 7th October 2020 and Thursday, 8th October 2020. The induction provided insights into the operations of the National Assembly through lectures, experience sharing and political discussions on the importance of women and youth inclusion in an information driven age.

Giving the welcome remarks on day one of the induction, Clement Nwankwo stressed the meritorious basis of the internship which was intended at ensuring that the best young minds were supported in developing Nigeria's democracy and entrenching its tenets at the National Assembly through the European Union's (EU) support. He also called on the interns to be prepared to give their utmost in servitude to the country through the internship programme.

Also giving a virtual keynote presentation, Ambassador Ketil Karlsen, Head of the Delegation, European Union in Nigeria and ECOWAS gave his opening address by zoom, stressing the importance of marginalised groups and their participation in elections. He hoped that the support provided by the European Union would help contribute to Nigeria's gains of democracy by providing access to democratic institutions such as the National Assembly. He commended the gender balance in the selection of the interns which he noted to be quite representative and congratulated the interns on their selection.

### **PRESENTATIONS ON DAY ONE OF THE INDUCTION:**

Presentations at the induction was a mix of modules and topics relating to the National Assembly, workplace culture and individual aspirations. Resource persons on both days of the presentations included bureaucrats, politicians, academics and National Assembly staff. A PLAC 2019 intern, Ms. Khadijah EL-Usman also shared her experiences .

Speaking on "An Overview of the National Assembly's Structure and Functions" on Day One of the formal induction which took place on Wednesday, 7th October 2020, Dr. Rahila Ahmadu, a former National Assembly director, highlighted that the National Assembly consisted of political and administrative functionaries. Thus, while political functionaries consisted of legislators, administrative functionaries provided the services that enabled legislators perform their functions. She also mentioned that the basis of political functionaries arose from Section 50 of the 1999 Constitution which provides for Presiding Officers such as a Senate President and a Deputy President of the Senate and a Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives. Other parts of her presentation focused on legislative documents such as "Motions and Bills" as well as the various tools legislators use for oversight. In her words, the structure of the National Assembly goes beyond a physical building and encompasses the political and administrative set up as well as services and facilities that enable it to achieve its principal objective of enacting laws for the peace, order and good government of the Federation.

Also speaking at the event, Hon. Nnenna Ukeje, Former Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs presented on "Pursuing a Career in Politics: Dreams, Challenges and Experiences", which highlighted Nigeria's growing youthful population going by recent forecasts that put the number of young Nigerians aged between 24 and younger to half of the country's population by 2030. Following this, she stressed the need for more young people to be involved in the affairs of the country. She also used the platform to discuss politics having joined the bandwagon at 35 years in addition to other issues young women face as a result of their age and gender such as lack of funds, sexual harassment and political violence. She further discussed the importance of being modest, being relatable, understanding one's support base, learning the strengths, weaknesses of one's competitor(s) and the demographic he/she is ignoring.

Mr. Manasseh Aliyuda, Assistant Sergeant-at Arms of the National Assembly, also made a presentation on "**Ensuring Workplace Security and Safety at the National Assembly**" which highlighted the importance of prioritizing one's workplace security and safety in an environment such as the National Assembly, by following security guidelines, such as the use of its temporary identity cards when entering the premises and avoiding bringing visitors into its precinct without due authorization. Other workplace security tips highlighted in the presentation included being vigilant, reporting suspicious activity and not leaving valuables in the open or places that are easily accessible. In his words, the responsibility of ensuring security was everyone's.



Rounding up the presentations for the day, Dr. Aminu Umar, Senior Lecturer, National Open University of Nigeria gave a presentation on ***“Understanding your Workplace Environment and Culture: A Practical Guide”*** which gave a brief background on the Legislature and some of its key functions such as lawmaking, representation and oversight as enshrined under section 4 of the 1999 Constitution. Dr. Umar further gave examples of positive and negative culture in a legislative setting work environment. For instance, while on the one hand, hard work, thinking right, being diplomatic, humble, sensitive, being innovative and creative are viewed as positive culture that should be imbibed, being inflexible, doing the minimum required, being disrespectful and not acting as a team player are seen as part of the characteristics of negative work culture on the other hand. Dr. Umar closed the presentation asking interns to view the opportunity given by the internship as a period to be open to learning and cultivating good work ethics.

### **PRESENTATIONS ON DAY TWO OF THE INDUCTION:**

Commencing the presentations on Day Two of the induction programme, Dr. Shuaibu Danwanka, Professor, Nigerian Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies went through the stages of “The Law-Making Process from Bill to Act” which explained that Bills generally emanated from the Executive arm of Government or as a Private Member Bill which would mean that it had either been initiated by a legislator or sponsored for a particular individual or group. In addition to this, he gave explanations of the various stages of Bills. According to him, a Bill would have to go through first reading, second reading, Committal and reporting stage, third reading and passage, Presidential assent and Gazetting/Enrolment.

Explaining further, Dr. Danwanka stated that the first reading of a Bill is usually a formality while a convenient day is fixed by the appropriate Committee (Rules and Business) for the second reading where lead debates on the general principles of the Bill are heard. He mentioned that the Committee Stage is where the Bill is subjected to detailed analysis and amendments, prior to reporting to the Committee of the Whole for third reading. He stated that once a Bill was passed by the National Assembly, it would require the President's assent or signature to come into law. According to him, once a Bill has been signed into law, the President would send the signed law back to the Clerk of the National Assembly who would print out the law in triplicate. While the National Assembly retains a copy of the Law, and delivers a copy to the President, the third copy is sent to the Chief Justice of the Federation for enrolment as an Act of the Federation.

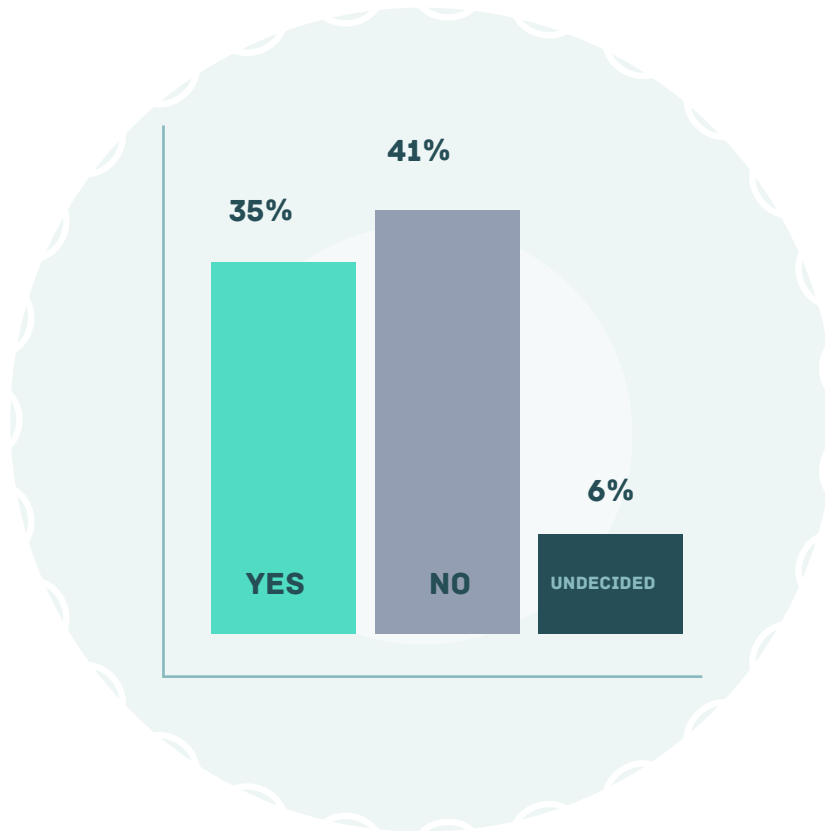
Also speaking on Day Two of the induction programme, Ambassador Jerry Ugokwe, Former Nigerian Ambassador to Austria and the United States of America gave a presentation on “What Legislators and Legislative Committees do” that focused on the lawmaking, oversight and representation roles of the Legislature. According to him, Committees are the engine-room of a Legislature that monitor on-going government operations and enable legislators develop specialized knowledge of matters under jurisdiction. He also described Committees duties as rendering service of a technical rather than a political nature as they suggest recommendations for adoption to the Legislature with no power to pass Bills.

Ola Omosebi, Managing Consultant, Creole Mosaic, also spoke at the event which highlighted various reasons for ***“Driving the Inclusion of Women and Youths in Governance in an Information Driven Age”*** and the need to identify and address the social, economic, political, and cultural barriers plaguing young Nigerians from participating fully in governance. Examining the various dimensions of exclusion, he stated that while economic exclusion mainly manifested through one's level of education and income level, social exclusion could take place through discrimination on the basis of gender, social network, age, ethnicity or disability. Lastly, he mentioned various ways young persons in recent past had used technology to drive positive social change and was of the view that used correctly, the digital age could enable young people to exercise their voices and participate in civic activities.

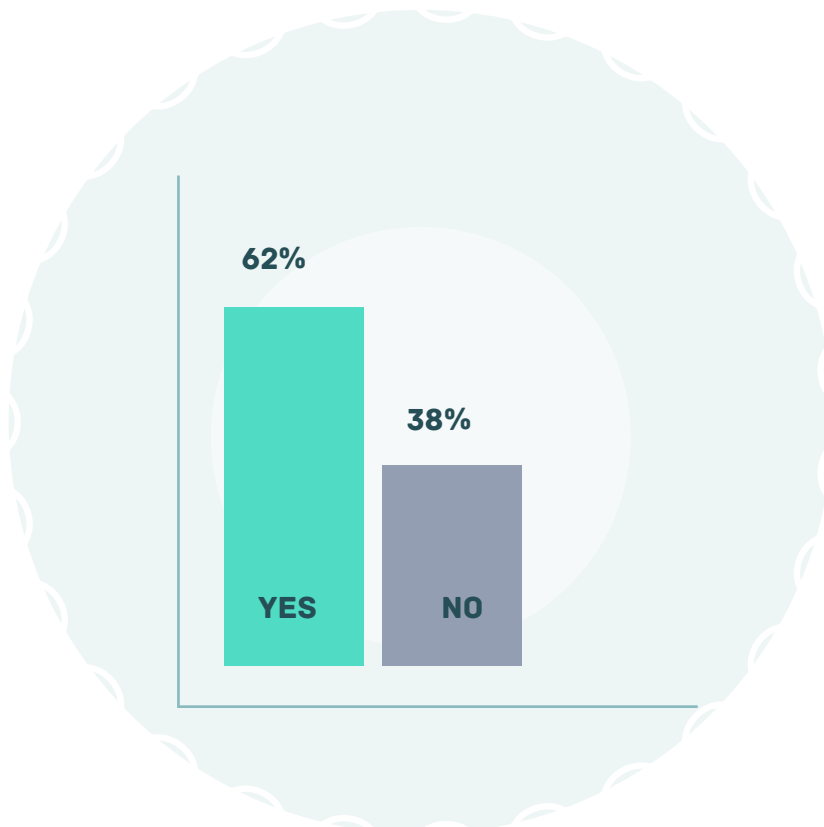
Day 2 of the Programme ended with Khadijah EL-Usman a 2019 PLAC Legislative Intern, sharing her experiences. Giving advice in a presentation titled ***‘Making the Most of the Legislative Internship Programme; Experience Sharing from a Past Intern’***, EL-Usman urged the 2020 interns to enter into the programme with an open mind ready to engage, be useful, learn, re-learn and unlearn. She also shared a video clip of herself and some 2019 interns urging present interns to learn the culture of the National Assembly by taking notes, asking questions, making the right connections, picking up subtle messages and imbibing the habit of mutual respect.

# PRE-EVALUATION SURVEY TO INTERNS

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR POLITICAL OFFICE? (FEMALE)



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR POLITICAL OFFICE? (MALE)







Resource persons and interns at a bi-weekly meeting

## BI-WEEKLY MEETINGS

Bi-weekly programmes run throughout the legislative internship programme to compliment interns learning within the duration of the programme. The meetings are designed to create an opportunity for interns to learn both technical and soft skills that enrich their engagement with the legislature, their personal development goals and provide foundation for their respective careers. To reflect this, Resource persons selected for the bi-weekly programmes are picked from diverse backgrounds with various professionals speaking with the interns during these meetings on various



topics such as Bill drafting, legislative bureaucracy, committee work, inclusive and participatory politics.

Other than the formal trainings, PLAC utilizes the bi-weekly meetings to continually assess the progress of interns as well as address any concerns that they may have as a result of their engagement with the various committees and offices they are deployed to.

5 bi-weekly programmes were held during the 2020 internship programme.



### **First Bi-weekly Meeting**

#### **Welcome Remarks by Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC**

Speaking at the first bi-weekly meeting which held on Friday, 23rd October 2020 Clement Nwankwo, PLAC Executive Director encouraged interns to use the internship programme to garner knowledge to make informed contribution to political and social discourse. The Executive Director also held a session where the interns were given opportunity to speak about their experiences while getting acclimatized with their committees after which three presentations were made by Resource persons.

Speaking on ***"Enhancing an Open Society through Diversity and Inclusion"***, Jake Epelle, Executive Director, Albino Foundation explained the meaning of a disability and how society perceives persons with disabilities. His definition of disability is as captured in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which defines persons with disability to include those who have "long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others". He also talked about an inclusive society as characterized by a flexible

structure, freedom of belief and wide dissemination of information. Interns were also taught the correct and accepted way of addressing persons with disabilities.

In conclusion, he stated that a society was more enriched by diversity where all individuals have rights, responsibilities and an active role to play.

Barrister Mohammed D. Hassan, Director, Legal Drafting, National Assembly also spoke on the "**Principles of Bill Drafting**" in the next presentation which was intended to introduce interns to the basics of Bill drafting and improve interns' knowledge on the rudiments of the legislative document. Fundamentally, interns were taught the differences between a Bill, Act and Law.

According to Hassan's explanations, a Bill is a proposal for a Law which is considered by the National Assembly and signed by the President to become an Act in the case of a Federal law. He also stated that individuals need not be lawyers to draft Bills as only requisite experience and expertise in legislative drafting is needed. He however stated that a Bill must be passed by the two chambers of the National Assembly, that is the House of Representatives and the Senate before it can be sent to the President for assent.

His presentation also highlighted the importance of adequate research and analysis which must be conducted to ascertain who the Law will affect, prevent duplication of laws and check what sort of behaviors the Bill wishes to prohibit, etc. He also gave a step-by-step guide on the ideal structure of drafting a Bill from commencement to the explanatory memorandum of the Bill.

Interns also got clarifications on questions they had concerning Bill drafting. For instance, if there was a difference between a provisor and an exception to a Bill. To this end, Hassan responded by explaining that while a provisor could be in itself an exception, qualification or condition, the difference between them boiled down to the context of the language used. Interns also got an explanation on the role of the Legislative Drafting department which reviews Bills that have been debated after second reading.

The final presentation of the day was taken by Dr. Innocent Mebiri, Clerk, Senate Committee on National Planning and Economic Affairs who presented a paper on "**Preparing an appropriation Bill – How a Budget is passed**". The objective of the presentation was to demonstrate the process of budget preparation and the passage

of the Appropriation Bill so interns were equipped with better understanding of how budgetary policies are translated to legislation. This was important as at the time of the training, the National Assembly had adjourned plenary to deliberate on the 2021 Budget. Having the training thus came at the right time seeing that some interns had become engaged by their respective committees to assist in budget defence activities.

The session ended with a Question-and-Answer session where interns asked questions concerning the budget. For instance, interns wanted to know if the President was required to present the budget in a joint sitting of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The answer to this was that although it was ideal, it was not an offence if the President presented and laid the budget to both chambers separately. Another question was if public procurement could be considered as implementation of the budget. In response, Mebiri said that while public procurement was an aspect of budget implementation to ensure that processes are carried out in the appropriate manner, it could not be considered in a strict sense as budget implementation.

The session ended with interns asked to research on whether Nigeria had a national plan on which the budget is premised.

### **Second Bi-weekly meeting**

The 2nd Bi-weekly meeting commenced on Friday, 6th November 2020 with the theme "Understanding the Legislature". The presentations of the facilitators centered on teaching interns' various aspects of the work of the Legislature which included Legislative documents such as Motions and Resolutions as well as the importance of effective legislative communications as a tool for active citizen's participation. Interns





were also given tips on how best to manage expectations during the course of their work at the National Assembly to maximize their experiences from the internship.

### **Welcome Remarks by Omolara Akinyeye - Programme Manager, PLAC**

Giving the welcome remarks, Omolara Akinyeye, PLAC Programme Manager encouraged interns to be attentive and be active participants during the programme. She also highlighted that the topics were curated to help interns have better understanding of the National Assembly and prepare for the Model Legislative Assembly (MLA) which would take place at the end of the internship programme. Having said this, she opened the floor to the three resource persons to make presentations.

Speaking on ***“Learning to Manage Expectations: Useful Tips for Interns working in the National Assembly”*** Chinedu Akubueze, the then Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives commenced his presentation by thanking PLAC for the internship programme and voiced the importance of such programmes to the youths.

Akubueze encouraged the interns to manage their expectations in a way that would not lead to frustration by managing people and circumstances well and having an open mind while working at the National Assembly. They were also told to be team players and to communicate effectively with their bosses and colleagues in the office by asking for help when struggling to meet deadlines or expectations.

Also speaking at the event, Gani Ojagbohunmi, Former Clerk, House of Representatives outlined the key features of ***“Drafting Motions and Resolutions”*** in his presentation. Defining a motion as a proposal made for the purpose of making a decision by the House, its important characteristics were highlighted as follows;

- Must be submitted to a Legislative House in writing and signed by the sponsor(s)
- Must contain background information on its subject matters as well as prayers (set of requests)
- Must be moved only by Members
- Should be seconded
- Proposed amendments to a Motion and all amendments must be voted on

He further highlighted that there were two types of motions; substantive or main

Motions and procedural or subsidiary Motions and the processes a motion must undergo in the House. For instance, he highlighted that **procedural motions** were usually short and dependent on main motions and did not require drafting or notice while **main motions** were more technical in nature requiring expertise to draft.

According to him, although a motion was an idea put on paper, it became a Resolution once approved in the floor of the House. The types of resolutions were discussed as;

**Simple Resolution** – a measure passed only by one House to express opinion on a policy or make a request to the second House or regulate its procedure.

**Concurrent Resolution** – a measure passed by both Houses of a bicameral legislature (such as the National Assembly) to express the opinion of a legislative body on general matters of policy, including internal matters; but not sent for presidential assent.

**Joint Resolution** – a legislative measure passed by both Houses of a bicameral legislature that has the force of law which may or may not require the signature or approval of the President, depending on the provisions of extant law.

Ojagbohunmi also clarified during the question-and-answer session with interns that while a Bill was conceptualized as a proposal that could be made into law, a motion was the opinion of a Member.

Giving the last presentation of the day, Hon. Benjamin Kalu, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Media and Public Affairs spoke on ***“Enhancing Citizen’s Political Participation through Effective Legislative Communications.”***

In his presentation, Hon. Kalu stated that political communication cannot be effective without incorporating the citizen element. He also mentioned the six characteristics of effective communications as credible, accessible, relevant, timely, understandable and having feedback. According to him, communicating effectively in times like these require that one does not solely depend on traditional platforms alone such as print media, TV and Radio but incorporate new media such as the internet, social media etc.

He also stated that legislative communication takes place through various documents such as Bills and Motions, Bill Tacking, Gazettes and Order Papers before highlighting the importance of effective legislative communications as including;

- Promotion of accountability
- Promotion of transparency
- Helping in managing expectations
- Combatting disinformation
- Strengthening democratic institutions
- Promoting confidence in democracy

Hon. Kalu concluded the presentation with a question-and-answer session where he explained how uncoordinated information dissemination by the Executive can be managed. To this, he suggested that the Executive have media meetings with all media stakeholders before sharing the information with the public, so the message is clear and uniform.

### **Third Bi-Weekly Meeting**

The 3rd Bi-weekly meeting was on ***“Mastering Legislative Activities”***. The meeting which held on Friday, 20th November 2020 also served as mid-term review meeting as the internship had run for about five weeks. Thus, it was important to receive feedback from interns' on their experiences through an experience sharing session.



Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions speaking to interns on “Utilizing the Public Petitions Committee as an Alternative Dispute Resolution Tool”.



James Awojobi, MD DataGuard speaking to interns on “Building Effective Teams”.

In addition, to sharing their experiences orally, interns completed a mid-term evaluation form and submitted narrative reports of their experience. The reports and evaluation forms detailed the interns expectations before the internship programme commenced, their feedback on if said expectations have been met or somewhat met and their experience working in committees and offices within the National Assembly so far and expectations of what they would like to have learned by the end of the programme.

Interns also had a session tagged ***“Simulation Exercise of a Plenary Session in the National Assembly”*** facilitated by Barr. Salisu Abdullahi Mohammed, Clerk, House of Representatives Committee on Rules and Business. Prior to the session, the interns had among themselves selected, 12 principal officers consisting of a Speaker of the Mock House of Representatives, Deputy Speaker, Majority Leader, Deputy Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Deputy Minority Leader, Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, Minority Whip, Deputy Minority Whip, Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms.

The session had interns and their elected principal officers presenting Bills, motions and petitions in their first practice session ahead of the Mock Legislative Assembly. They were however encouraged to do more by watching past live plenary sessions archived on the internet.

Also making presentations at the event, Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions thanked PLAC for organizing the internship programme which is youth oriented. He also commended the programme for promoting youths in political leadership given the political developments around the #ENDSARS protests in the country.

Hon. Alagbaoso then went on to give a presentation on ***“Utilizing the Public Petitions Committee as an Alternative Dispute Resolution Tool”*** which gave a brief history of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Nigeria and how the Public Petitions Committee differed from the traditional litigation method. According to him, Alternate Dispute Resolution can be defined as the use of other methods of resolving a dispute without resorting to litigation.

James Awojobi, Managing Director of DataGuard gave a presentation on ***“Building Effective Teams”*** which was very interactive, as the facilitator ensured all interns participated and gave input during the presentation. The objective of the session was to help the interns understand the importance of teamwork and how to build



an effective team. It is believed that having an effective team enriches interns experience and plays a big part in helping them have a successful mock plenary session at the Model Legislative Assembly (MLA) which comes at the end of the internship Programme.

The presentation highlighted the importance of teamwork in society as humans are wired like animals which move in groups or packs; hence the need to work together to achieve a common goal. It was also stated that teams usually have conflicts and that rather than be ignored, areas of conflicts should be talked through as it is usually through conflicts that one communicates their grievances and works towards building a strong team. He summarized by saying that an effective team must have clarity of purpose, good communication and shared leadership.

#### **Fourth Bi-weekly Meeting**

PLAC organized a 4th bi-weekly meeting on “**Preparing for Leadership Positions**” for interns on Friday, 4th December 2020 at the PLAC office in Guzape, Abuja.

Resource persons included Prince Clem Agba, Honourable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, Barrister Shuaibu Maina Head of Senate Chamber Service, Barr. Salisu Mohammed, Clerk House of Representatives Committee on Rules and Business and Fortune Agula Musa, Journalist, Nigeria Info FM Abuja.



Prince Clem Agba, Honourable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning speaking on “How Youths can Invest in a Nigerian Future”



Fortune Agula Musa, Journalist, Nigeria Info FM Abuja speaking on “Employing the Media in the Protection of Human Rights”

Giving welcome remarks at the event, Clement Nwankwo, PLAC's Executive Director, observed a significant difference in the state of the Nigerian economy during the pre and post COVID19 era before reiterating to the interns their responsibility of ensuring that they put in their best as future leaders of the country. He also encouraged interns to ensure their session with Resource persons was interactive before asking them to briefly introduce themselves to the Honourable Minister.

Speaking on ***"How Youths can Invest in a Nigerian Future"*** the Honourable Minister of State commenced his presentation by giving a brief introduction of his professional and political career having worked with Chevron Nigeria Limited before working as a Commissioner of Lands, Survey and Housing in Edo State and then taking up his current position.

Following this introduction, the Minister spoke on the current state of the Nigerian economy, the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and efforts by the administration to ameliorate its socio-economic effects on citizens. Interns understanding of common economic terms such as Gross Domestic Product were also analyzed at the session where he defined it as the total value of all goods and services produced in a nation, either quarterly or annually. He also stated that 95% of Nigerian foreign reserves is contributed by the oil sector which meant in essence that other sectors such as agriculture or manufacturing would have to improve for a better balance of trade for the Nigerian economy.

Other issues such as the reason why Nigeria entered into a recession post COVID19 as well as the various opportunities for youths to empower themselves through Federal Government's schemes such as the MSME survival fund that supports small and medium scale enterprises, the Mass Housing Strategy Project which is expected to create jobs with the construction of 300,000 homes and Rural Electrification project for grid solar system and mini grid at local levels were looked at.

The Honourable Minister concluded the presentation by encouraging interns to take advantage of the digital economy and be creative.

Also speaking at the event on ***"Employing the Media in the Protection of Human Rights"***, Fortune Agula Musa defined "human rights" as a right inherent to all human beings, irrespective of their race, gender, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status while media was defined as a tool of mass communication.

Human rights were also elucidated to include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education among others.

However, according to him, there were often tendencies by the privileged in society to suppress the rights of others which sometimes led to societal conflict. Thus, to fight against this, the media could be used to fight stereotypes, stigma, traditions, norms and man-made tendencies such as abuse, tyranny, suppression, oppression and maltreatment.

The presentation closed with words of encouragement on how best interns could strategically use social media to disseminate information and advocate for human rights. Advocacy tips listed included planning, utilising data and having commitment to effectively harness the opportunities the media brings to promote human rights.

The 4th bi-weekly concluded with a second simulation exercise of the plenary sessions in the National Assembly and a feedback on the legislative documents interns had prepared. Barr. Shuaibu Maina, Head of Senate Chamber Services and Barr. Salisu Mohammed, Clerk House of Representatives Committee on Rules and Business facilitated this session which was intended as a follow up practice session ahead of the Model Legislative Assembly. Prior to the session, interns had been asked to submit Bills and Motions for review and feedback.

### **Fifth Bi-weekly Programme**

The fifth Bi-weekly meeting for the Legislative Internship Programme held on Thursday, 10th December 2020 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja. At the meeting Omolara Akinyeye, PLAC Programme Manager stressed the importance of appropriate behaviour and communication skills in her presentation on ***“Developing a Professional Etiquette”***. Salisu Mohammed, Clerk, House of Representatives Committee on Rules and Business and Dr. Rahila Ahmadu, Former Director, National Secretariat of Nigerian Legislatures (NSNL) also facilitated the last dress rehearsal ahead of the Model Legislative Assembly scheduled for Friday, 11th December 2020.













## RADIO PROGRAMMES

There were 8 Radio programmes within the duration of the programme to increase the importance of youth participation in governance institutions such as the Legislature. Topics dealt with a wide range of issues cutting across youth and women representation, disability rights, the National Assembly and politics in general. While 6 of the programmes took place on the Radio Nigeria network, 2 Radio Programmes detailing interns lessons from the PLAC Internship Programme held on COOL FM and HOT FM respectively.







Panelists with interns at MLA

## MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (MLA)

Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) organized a Model Legislative Assembly (MLA) for the 2020 PLAC Legislative Internship Programme on Friday, 11th December 2020 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

Giving the welcome remarks, PLAC's Executive Director, Clement Nwankwo, expressed his enthusiasm at watching the interns play out their roles at the Model Legislative Assembly given their remarkable progress throughout the internship. He also voiced his gratitude to the Management of the National Assembly for ensuring



that the interns deployed to various Committees of the National Assembly had a smooth experience. He commended the presence of the European Union who were attending virtually and other physically invited guests, former legislative interns, lawmakers, representatives from civil society and other dignitaries at the well-attended event.

### **Opening Remarks by Head, European Union Delegation to Nigeria and the ECOWAS, Ambassador Ketil Karlsen**

Giving the opening remarks virtually by zoom, Ambassador Ketil Karlsen, the EU Ambassador stated that he was pleased to be part of the closing programme as he had opened the induction ceremony in October.

Speaking further, Ambassador Karlsen emphasized that the European Union took very seriously the need for youth involvement in governance and institutions of democracy such as the Legislature, hence its support.

He additionally urged interns to utilize the lessons learned from the internship to champion democracy and empower society.

### **Remarks by Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Hon. Benjamin Kalu**

Honourable Benjamin Kalu, Chairman, House Committee on Media and Public Affairs and one of the panelists of the Model Legislative Assembly also gave welcome remarks appreciating Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre's efforts towards participatory democracy through the training, induction of citizens and youths. He also thanked the European Union and PLAC for being a centre of integrity through the programme. Lastly, he congratulated interns for making it this far, considering the rigorous selection process of the programme while encouraging them to take on political roles in governance following the internship.

### **Remarks on behalf of Mr. Olatunde Ojo, Clerk of the National Assembly**

Giving welcome remarks on behalf of Olatunde Ojo, Clerk of the National Assembly, Austen Adesoro apologized for the Clerk's inability to attend due to prior engagements. The remarks nevertheless highlighted the need for citizens to be better informed on legislative processes and youth inclusion as a means of strengthening democratic governance. It concluded by urging interns to change the narrative of the Nigerian legislature through political participation.



Speaker of the Mock Legislative Assembly and Clerk of the Assembly in the middle

### Remarks by Former PLAC Legislative Interns

Also speaking at the event, Orukome Benedict, an ex-intern appreciated PLAC and the National Assembly for the privilege to participate in the 2014 Legislative Internship Programme. She stated among others some of the lessons learnt from the programme such as her being better informed in legislative matters which had translated to a heightened interest in politics and workings of the National Assembly as a result of the the programme.

Another ex-intern, Musa Olatunji who concluded the internship programme in 2019 stated that the internship platform was instrumental in helping him understand Bill drafting and the National Assembly better. He also urged interns to utilize the opportunity in moving forward to achieve their dreams and ambitions.

The opening session of the MLA ended with Ms. Gloria Emmanuel, a 2020 PLAC legislative intern presenting a poem titled ***"The Upheaval of Tides"*** which heralded the strength of women and support for gender equality.



## MLA Session

The Model Legislative Assembly (MLA) session commenced with the Speaker of the Assembly, Zingfa Selzing leading prayers and the National Pledge in addition to the Speaker, who plays the role of the presiding officer of the House of Representatives. The Assembly had 10 principal officers drawn from its majority and minority party and 2 bureaucracy staff from the National Assembly. The bureaucracy staff consisted of the Clerk of the National Assembly, its chief administrative officer and the Sergeant at arms, the chief security officer of the National Assembly.



The national pledge was said and the Votes and Proceedings of a prior sitting was adopted, the Speaker of the MLA recognised the European Union and other dignitaries before calling on Honorable members, Regina Korinjoh (Benue State) and Chigozie Obi (Anambra State) to lay their reports.

The North Central IDP Camps Vocational Centre (Est, etc) Bill, 2020 and Eradication, Prevention and Prohibition of Almajiri System (Est, etc) Bill, 2020 sponsored by Hon.

Mohammed Bashir Musa (Zamfara State) and Hon. Atiku Abubakar (Kebbi State) respectively were presented for first reading.

After this came the consideration of Bills for second reading where Hon. Favour Egwu (Ebonyi State) led the debate on the Bill titled "The Bill for an Act to Establish the South-East Development Commission Charged with the Responsibility of Receiving and Managing Funds Allocated by the Federal Government and Donors for Infrastructural Development and Maintenance, Socio-Economic Development and Environmental Challenges, and any Other Matters in the South-East States". According to Hon. Egwu, the establishment of the proposed Commission would promote and facilitate the physical and socio-economic development of South East States and ensure sound and efficient management of the resources in its geo-political zone.

However, despite the reasons adduced, many Honourable Members were against its establishment. For instance, the House Majority Leader, Hon. Stephen Adavize Onimisi (Kogi State) was of the view that the Bill was irrelevant and would increase the cost of governance. Other Honorable members such as Hon. Rafiu Adeniran Lawal (Lagos State) and Hon. Midah Yohanna (Bauchi State) also noted its flawed financial provision being that the Commission expected to be funded from half of the sums contained in the Federal Government Account. However, one Honourable member, Chimdindu Nwobodo (Enugu State) supported the Bill on the grounds that the Commission would play a great role in the development of the South – East region. However, due to the intensity of the debate and Honourable Members against the Bill, it was stepped down by the Speaker after agreement that further consideration of the Bill would be taken at a later date.

Following this, "A Bill to amend the Criminal Code Act, Cap. N77, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004" to legalize unwanted pregnancy as a result of sexual assault was read for consideration. The Bill was sponsored by Hon. (Dr.) Babarinde Olaide Abdulraheem (Ogun State),

A presentation of a Motion by Honorable Iswat Badmus Taiwo (Oyo State) on the Urgent Need to Address the recent Abuja-Kaduna Road kidnappings was also made at the MLA which was seconded by Honourable Smart Osahenogae Egberanmwun (Edo State). Resolutions from the motion that were adopted at the mock plenary included the need to holistically review the nation's security framework, urge the House of Representatives Committee on Defence to meet with heads of security

agencies in the region and invite regional traditional rulers, politicians, security experts to design a realistic and consensus-based strategy of tackling the menace.

The House then adjourned plenary after a motion was moved by its Majority Leader, Hon. Stephen Adavize Onimisi.

### **REACTIONS FROM PANELISTS**

Reacting to the intern's enactment of a plenary session, Hon. Benjamin Kalu expressed his amazement at the quality of the presentations and debates by the interns. He however corrected the way the interns laid the report by stating that reports are laid before the Mace and not beside it as practiced by the interns and done with both hands. He also commended PLAC and the interns stating that programme was creating a legacy by preparing the interns to be future leaders.

Also giving his assessment of the plenary session, Mr. Austen Adesoro, added that the first reading of Bills is placed under the "Business of the day" and not "Order of the day" as stated in the order paper of the interns. He also mentioned that the consideration of Bills takes precedence only after the consideration of Motions unlike what was practiced by interns. Lastly, he noted that executive communications from the President took priority in hierarchy on the order paper before commending interns for a job well done.

Dr. Rahila Ahmadu, Former Director, National Secretariat of Nigerian Legislatures also commended the plurality of the debates in the session and the parliamentary language used. She also observed that the audience were carried every step of the way which was commendable.

Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director, PLAC also commended interns for electing a female deputy speaker, which was a first in the internship before extending his analogy to his optimism that the National Assembly adopts proposals for reserved seats for women.

The MLA closed with the presentation of certificates given to interns by Clement Nwankwo and Hon. Benjamin Kalu.





Mr Chinedu Akubueze and some other panelists at the MLA



An intern, Iwuchukwu Uchenna receiving her certificate







Interns at a group photograph after the Debriefing session

## DEBRIEFING WORKSHOP & FINAL EVALUATION

### INTRODUCTION

Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) organized a debriefing session for interns on Monday, 14th December 2020 at PLAC office, Abuja. The purpose of the meeting was to assess interns' experiences after the internship of ten weeks and equip them with key life and career skills that better position them for life afterwards. The debriefing session was attended by interns, PLAC staff and three resource persons.

Giving the presentation on ***“How to write a Professional CV”***, Kachi Okezie of CTP International, stated that a Curriculum Vitae (CV) was a key marketing tool for both a jobseeker and the recruiter as it gives the former the opportunity to sell oneself to potential employers while providing the latter with the platform through which he/she could narrow his employee choices.

The interns were also lectured on the most important data that should be included in a professional CV and the length of a good cv. For example, it was advised that a two-page CV reflecting the most important information was more strategic as long as it was grammatically error free and focused. He also cautioned against the use of generic CVs.

Barr. Okezie further advised the interns to make use of LinkedIn, a professional networking site to find jobs. Other tips shared with the interns on writing a professional CV included that only factual and verifiable information relevant to the role being applied to should be included and that a CV should be regularly updated.

Also speaking at the Debriefing session, Ms. Adenike Adekunle, of ReStraL, made a presentation on ***“Planning towards Career Success: Effective tips for navigating through the labor market”*** which focused on verbal and non-verbal communication and how it affects one's personal brand. The presentation highlighted career skills needed in the 21st century such as, creativity, adaptability, leadership, critical thinking, communication, entrepreneurship, IT literacy, collaboration and social skills. She also urged the interns to develop leadership skills and take responsibility for their growth throughout the course of their career.

Hon. Abdul Oroh, a former member of the House of Representatives, gave a presentation at the event on ***“Life after Internship Exploring your Political Options”*** that encouraged intern to be politically involved by joining political parties, finding mentors and improving on their network and skills. In his view, this would position them more effectively for elective office.

## Sharing the Internship Experience: Quotes from the Interns

S/N	INTERN	COMMITTEE	FEEDBACK
1	<b>Babarinde Olaide Abdulraheem</b>	Senate Committee on Primary Health Care And Communicable Disease	"I learned the importance of the work of the committees and legislature".
2	<b>Chimdindu Sandra Nwobodo</b>	Senate Committee on Judiciary Human Rights and Legal Matters	"I learned how useful committees are as well as how public hearings are carried out".
3	<b>Ibrahim Shehu</b>	Senate Committee on Power	"I learned a lot about the Nigerian power sector and seven additional MDAs. Specifically, I learned the impact of building hydro-electric power stations at my Committee".
4	<b>Ismail Muhammad Mubashir</b>	Senate Committee on Culture And Tourism	"I learned the process of lawmaking, functions of the National Assembly and legislative documents. I also learned how to draft Bills and Motions".
5	<b>Bareyei Ruth Izonabodisere</b>	Senate Committee on Public Procurement	"My perception of the National Assembly changed positively even though I know that the system is not perfect".
6	<b>Fatima Muhammed Bammami</b>	Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs	"Before the internship, I did not know that the Senate and House of Representatives were both at the National Assembly and yet work separately. I enjoyed meeting other interns" .



7	<b>Halima Gobir</b>	Senate Committee on Information & National Orientation	"I learned about the budget process and helped my Committee draft mails. I enjoyed attending public hearings".
8	<b>Falowo Moyinoluwa Olubunmi</b>	Senate Committee on Science And Technology	"I wrote reports and also enjoyed the generosity of my Committee who were very accommodating".
9	<b>Zingfa Selzing</b>	Senate Committee on Rules And Business	"I learned how order paper and votes and proceedings were prepared. I also learned that Senate Committees in the National Assembly have their own budget defence before its Committee on Appropriations".
10	<b>Ibebunjoh Chisom Obianuju</b>	Senate Committee on Diaspora And Ngos	"I think current affairs and the Legislature should be taught in school."
11	<b>Gloria Emmanuel</b>	House Committee on Women And Youth Development	"Working in the National Assembly has been mind transforming. I now have a better understanding on law making. I also know there is an administrative leg of the National Assembly which I was not aware of before."
12	<b>Muhammad Bashir Musa</b>	House Committee on FCT Judiciary	"I learned skills in legislative drafting".
13	<b>Iwuchukwu Uchenna</b>	House Committee on Justice	"I was able to witness oversight functions of the Legislature and attended two public hearings on Bills".

14	<b>Badmus Iswat Taiwo</b>	House Committee on HIV, AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malarial Control	"I better understand the work of the National Assembly and that the House and Senate must harmonize the budget".
15	<b>Oladoja Simbiat Bolajoko</b>	House Committee on Agric Production and Services	"I learnt the procedures that involves budget defence. I also liked the selection process of the internship. It boosted my confidence".
16	<b>Rafu Adeniran Lawal</b>	House Committee on Co-Operation and Integration in Africa	"I came in as a civil society person to understand the legislative processes so will take my lessons learned back to community level".
17	<b>Patience Samuel Inyang</b>	House Committee on Anti Corruption and Financial Crimes	"My whole experience was very good and I enjoyed meeting people from different states".
18	<b>Najib Isah Bashir</b>	House Committee on Ports and Harbours	"My experience was very interesting and I now want to contest for election in 2023".
19	<b>Smart Osahenogae Egberanmwun</b>	NABRO	I learned about the work of the legislature and the work of Committees as a result of the internship.
20	<b>Christianah Jemiyo</b>	NABRO	I appreciate PLAC for the internship as I learned that the Legislature can achieve a lot if it has political will.

## **Lessons Learnt and Conclusion**

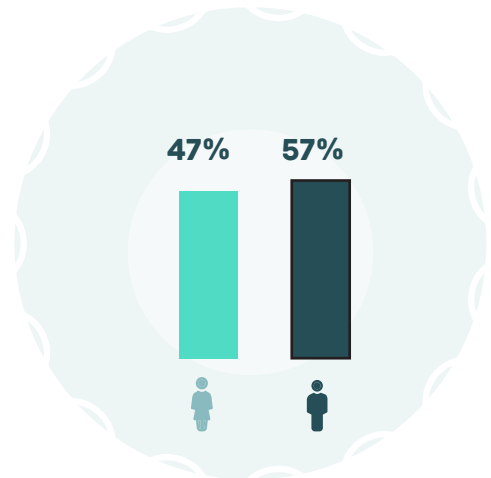
- That the internship programme implemented by PLAC with support from the European Union continues to bridge the gap in improving young persons knowledge of political and legislative processes of democratic institutions such as the National Assembly
- Despite 2020 being a Covid-19 year, PLAC was able to bring creativity and innovation into the programme to meet the programmes objectives and an overall satisfying internship experience
- That the biweekly and radio programmes were helpful in developing and strengthening interns oratory, research, writing skills and political awareness.
- That the National Assembly remains a critical partner in implementing the programme and providing interns with practical experiences of the Legislature
- That credibility and transparency of the internship selection process bear on the overall success of the programme and its general objectives.
- = That re-enacting practical experiences of plenary through the Model Legislative Assembly (MLA), was useful in contextualizing the overall goals of the internship.
- A comparison of the pre and post evaluation survey highlighted in this report indicates that the platform of the internship particularly increased the interest of women who intend to run for office.
- The inclusion of a person with disability first in 2019 and then again in the 2020 Legislative Internship Programme further strengthens the participation of marginalised groups and enhances the learning experiences of all interns.
- That the European Union support of the programme for the last 3 years has been impactful in achieving the programmes objectives of the internship and preparing interns for life afterwards.

## POST EVALUATION SURVEY

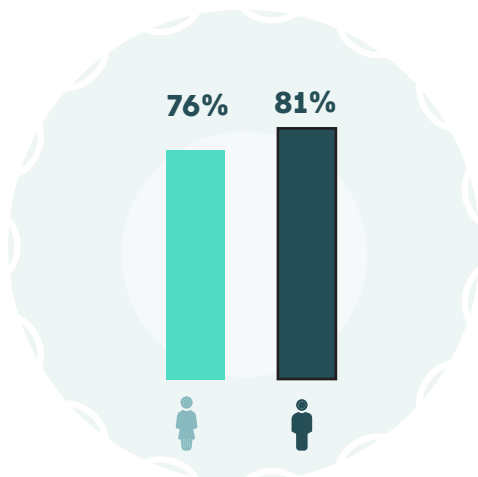
INTERNS WHO REPORTED HAVING THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHANGED AS A RESULT OF THE PLAC LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME



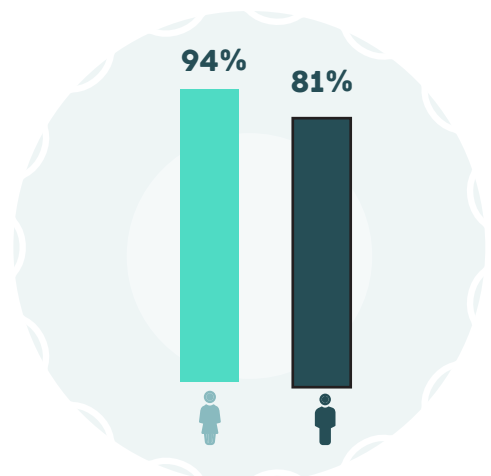
INTERNS WHO INDICATED INTEREST IN RUNNING FOR POLITICAL OFFICE AT THE END OF THE INTERNSHIP



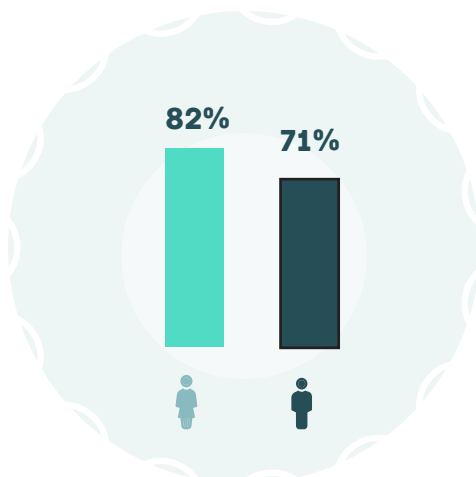
INTERNS WHO REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR COMMITTEES DURING THE COURSE OF THE INTERNSHIP



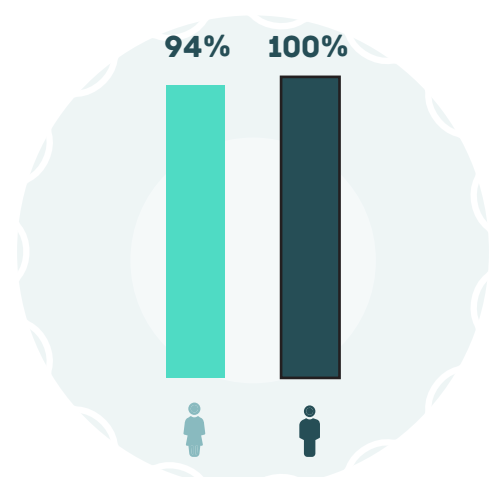
INTERNS WHO SCORED THEIR EXPERIENCES AT THE MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AS "EXCELLENT" IN TERMS OF THEIR ABILITY TO PRACTICE WHAT THEY HAD LEARNT DURING THE COURSE OF THE INTERNSHIP



INTERNS WHO REPORTED HAVING THEIR EXPECTATIONS OF THE INTERNSHIP AS "MET" DURING THE COURSE OF THE PROGRAMME IN THEIR FINAL EVALUATION FORM



INTERNS WHO REPORTED HAVING INCREASED KNOWLEDGE ON THE LEGISLATURE AND LEGISLATIVE PROCESS





## Interns Articles



By **Gloria Emmanuel**

### **The Upheaval of Tides In Time**

In a world where change exist in a geometrical ratio,  
It is expected that the people inhabiting the world go along with the tide.

Back in the days when stone and iron reign supreme,  
Some things were considered right and some wrong  
Not because they were right or wrong in their true essence, but because the people  
of that age decided to term them so  
And as such, altering their true meaning.

Now the world is evolving and change seems to be the trending word.  
You may call it the new normal  
Or decide to go with the cliché 'change is the only constant.'  
Glaring to the eyes is the fact that people of the stone and iron age are long gone  
But their thought pattern still live with a few in this information age.

They say, I am weak fragile and soft,  
but believe me I am strong  
Faced with life's challenges - ranging from the thought and utterances  
that declare me weak, secondary and clamour that my entirety should be relegated  
to the other room  
But i am still standing strong.

You see, the thing about this kind of thinking is that,  
It is gradually creeping into the minds of right-thinking people in the society because  
It is disguised and wrapped in a fine clothing called - religion which should be  
followed with utmost consecration and diligence  
Subjecting truth and falsehood to interpretations that advance personal greed  
Feeding the egos of some to think they are superior and others inferior  
Just because we are biologically different  
And difference is a word that should spark beauty, uniqueness and archiving more  
But this very difference has been misunderstood and used as a reason for our division  
in areas of politics, policies, administrations, leadership to mention but a few.

It is said that, there is beauty in diversity, but the diverse problems we face as people  
of different gender is one created by us and can only be solved by us  
When we are ready to change our mindsets and accept the truth that all humans  
were created equal.

Now, the next time you see me,  
Look beyond this covering called femininity  
And you will discover that deep within me is strength, Strong enough to build a nation  
Zeal, powerful enough to bring about positive change  
Love too strong to unite a nation  
Peace, sacrifice, compassion and many virtues to birth a new world  
Because this is who I am  
I stand for gender equality!



By **Favour Egwu**

**A CASE STUDY ON BABY FACTORY IN NIGERIA: AN EMERGENT FORM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, CHILD ABUSE AND MOLESTATION OF WOMEN.**

In recent years, Nigeria has become very notorious for “baby factories” and “baby harvesting.” The first cases of baby factories in Nigeria were reported by UNESCO in 2006. Based on media reports, “baby factories” thrive in the South-East of Nigeria, especially in local towns and villages of Anambra, Abia, Imo, Enugu and Ebonyi. Baby factories are institutions where pregnant women and young teenage girls are voluntarily or forcefully impregnated and kept illegally until their babies are born and then placed for sale on the illegal adoption market for monetary gain to third parties. These baby factories are usually disguised as hospitals, maternity homes, social welfare homes or orphanages.

Since 2006, the media has reported numerous cases of “baby factories” in Nigeria and revealed some core facts about it. According to these reports, women and girls are lured into such “factories” through deception and abuse of their vulnerability. They are approached by traffickers with false promises of jobs, money or safe abortions whereas they are afterwards locked up at facilities used as “baby factories,” by these traffickers who establish control over them and hold them until they give birth to babies that are subsequently sold to third parties.

The pregnant women and vulnerable females involved in this inhumane act are usually provided with maternal care during the period of the pregnancy, until after conception, when their babies are traded for a price to couples or other buyers

desiring children. They are also sometimes held at the facility for extended periods and repeatedly impregnated.

In April 2018, more than 160 children were rescued from a baby factory and 2 unregistered orphanages in Lagos Nigeria. In September 2019, the Nigerian Police freed 19 pregnant women and 4 children from baby factories in Lagos. According to a police report, the male babies were sold for \$ 1,400 (£1,100) while the females were sold for \$830.

Baby factories are thought to have arisen to meet two needs. First, the social stigma attached to desperate teenagers with unwanted pregnancies or pregnancies out of wedlock, who are convinced to give up their babies for a financial benefit. Second, the high demand for babies by infertile couples with a desire to complete their family and thereby fulfil a crucial social obligation. Thus, the high burden and stigmatization of infertility in Nigeria, and the unwillingness of infertile couples to associate publicly with adoption or surrogacy, contributes to the increased patronage of baby factories. Again, the root causes of "baby factories" may be associated with high unemployment rates particularly in rural areas where there are low levels of education and literacy, corruption, gender discrimination, social stigma, Poverty and lack of information and awareness on human trafficking. Thus, women and children are more susceptible to this phenomenon, as they lack the right understanding of what constitutes "baby factories" and as such become easier targets for deceptions by traffickers who lure them with mouthwatering offers of jobs or money in exchange for their babies.

Baby factories pose physical, psychological, and sexual violence to the victims. In order to tackle baby factories, a multifaceted approach which includes advocacy and programs to educate young girls on preventing unwanted pregnancies would have to be employed. There should be a reduction on the administrative and legal bottlenecks associated with adoption and surrogacy for infertile couples to diminish the importance of baby factories.

In addition, Government and NGOs must partner to put adequate measures in place to empower youths by creating functional employment and free skill acquisition opportunities as a way of alleviating poverty. Also, various state governments should intensify their efforts at creating jobs for teeming youths, especially vulnerable adolescent females who are easily lured into the illicit trade due to hardship.



Also, centres for counselling and human development should be set up and funded for the effective training and retraining of guidance counsellors who could assist in surmounting this illicit act through community counselling interventions. Lastly, legal sanctions should be imposed on persons caught in the sale of babies in Nigeria under any guise.



*By Adamu Nasiru*

### **ABUJA : WE NEED A MAYOR NOT A MINISTER.**

The quest for a centrally located Nigeria Federal Capital city and the decongestion of Lagos the formal capital city led to the setting-up of a panel in August, 1975 by the then military regime of late Murtala Mohammed. The panel led by eminent jurist, Justice Akinola Aguda recommended that the Nigeria Federal Capital city should be moved out of Lagos. The Nigeria Federal Capital Territory (F.C.T.) Abuja was born and sealed up by the F.C.T. Decree No.6 of 1976. Before Decree No.6 of 1976, Abuja was Home to many indigenous tribes comprising different ethnic groups. On 12th December, 1991 Abuja was declared the capital of Nigeria and all indigenes of the F.C.T were to be resettled in States bordering the F.C.T. Abuja with planning and implementation carried out by a series of different regimes, making the implementation of the initial plan difficult.

Abuja like the other 36 states of Nigeria has an Administrative Structure from (MFCT) Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory which was scrapped by the then President Olusegun Obasanjo Administration and replaced with the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) on 31st December, 2004. Several agencies funded by the FCTA include the Abuja Environmental Protection Board, (AEPB) concerned with waste collection and disposal and other environmental matters, the Abuja Geographical Information System, (AGIS) which provides a geo-spatial data infrastructure and a one stop for all land matters in the F.C.T.

However, although promises of resettlement were made to the original inhabitants of Abuja before acquiring their ancestral land, there have been no adequate compensation or resettlement of any kind. Indigenes also have a problem with representation as Federal Capital Territory indigenes do not have a representative in

the Federal Executive Council despite a Federal Court of Appeal judgement dated 15th January 2018 mandating the President to appoint an indigene of the F.C.T. as a Minister.

In conclusion, it is pertinent that the National Assembly and other relevant stakeholders improve representation of FCT indigenes by making relevant amendments to the Constitution in its ongoing review. Making amendments to the Constitution to create the office of an elected Mayor for the Federal Capital Territory with power to administer the area as if it were a state of the Federation will help address challenges and bring the activities of the Executive to check. An amendment is necessary as the Constitution is supreme and since its provisions have binding force on all authorities and persons throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



By **Halima Gobir**

### **EXPECTATIONS**

*'If there is one recipe for unhappiness it is that: expectations'*-Yasmin Mogahed

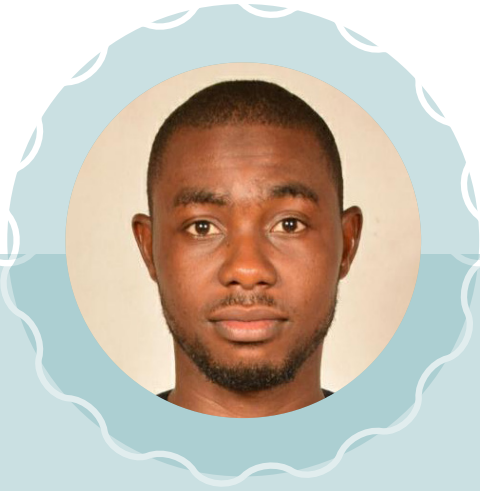
We as humans expect so much from one another. As a child, one is expected to rely on their parents and as an adult; parents rely on their children in old age, which is the basic cycle of life. We rely on our friends, on our spouses and this sort of expectation breeds a sense of entitlement which often leads to disappointment.

We often forget humans are not perfect and expect to get things as we have imagined or as we have hoped for. In general, when we expect something from someone and our expectations are not met, we are filled with disappointment. It is best for us to always expect the unexpected.

Humans tend to rely on others so much that disappointment leads to the end of relationships and friendships. Giving someone else that power through dependence will never end well. Learn to rely on yourself. Maximise any opportunity gotten regardless of how little it is. Know your worth and use it efficiently. Disappointments will always follow expectations given to another human. The burden of expectations on an individual poses a great hindrance on its own, feeling obligated to fulfil the wishes of others. Strive to make your own wishes a reality.

Never expect too much and always expect the unexpected.





By **Haruna Ibrahim**

### **OUR TOUR, THE MACE AND NIGERIA GREATNESS**

Finally, I was going to set foot in a place I had only imagined, the National Assembly. I made it to the list of the 38 selected that applied for the 2020 legislative internship position organized by the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre, an independent and non-profit capacity building organization that works to strengthen democratic governance and citizens access in Nigeria. As part of our orientation and induction, we were scheduled to tour the National Assembly before deployment at the National Assembly.

We arrived at quarter to twelve-noon. I got arrested and captivated by the hemispherical shape of the White House and giant sculpture view of the MACE; a symbol that connotes the highest of power and authority at plenary. We alighted one after the another, from the coaster bus that conveyed us. As I looked in admiration while we waited to make our way into the complex, I could dreamily see the small statues that represents our ethnic diversity wishing us merry in our sojourn in its premises. I smiled back, turning my attention to the landscape of both chambers of the National Assembly sitting side by side.

I then brought out my phone to take a picture and imagined a Nigerian future we yearn for that seems elusive. A Nigeria where people of all ethnic and religious groups can thrive in peace and succeed on the land God has given them. A Nigeria where our abundant natural resources including the crude oil that we are blessed with can be managed to bring out the best in our health care, transportation, education and agricultural services that will nurture the minds and bodies of her citizens.

I did not see the stand on which the mace rested choose which ethnic group stays under its shadow. I was also reminded of some of our great leaders, whom we grew to respect and admire. Those who made sure Nigeria stood tall in the comity of Nations. The visionary Awolowo. The great Nmandi Azikwe, Tafawa Balewa and many others that had walked this land even before the name Nigeria was thought of.

I thought of a Nigeria from a past time whose citizens benefited from a nation that was closer to the sweet light of a golden earth. Years descended; the glory of our past seems to become a faint memory with lessons from the past buried with them. The current issues plaguing us as a Nation seem to rob us of our wisdom. It appears we now believe that we can never again, for our good, solve the myriad of issues before us, and profit from what nature's endowment has willed us.

This land we all were destined to be from, even before it was named, has been marked for GREATNESS. It has sustained vast empires and mighty people that have left an indelible mark on the rocks of time. The illustrious hands that toiled this land, in times past, amaze the world. How do we make Nigeria, this country of ours, that we love so much, this land of our birth, truly great again?



By ***Jeremiah Dauda Hassan***

### **INSECURITY, A THREAT TO ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Terrorism and insecurity in Nigeria are retarding the economic and technological advancement of the nation. Many Nigerians live every day in tensions and suspicion. Many productive lives have been lost, available ones are displaced and live in constant fears and pain of the loss of loved ones. Foreign investors are scared away from Nigeria. The nation's educational institutions are not spared either as institutions of learning are equally points of targets and attacks of terrorists and other hoodlums. National security is a premise for national economic growth and development of nations. This is because peaceful nations attract foreign investors while domestic investors freely operate the economy with little or no tensions and apprehensions. According to Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013).

Nigeria is currently bedeviled by a plethora of civil unrests and insecurities including but not limited to the following;

- Armed robbery
- Kidnapping and Ritual killings
- High profile murder and political assassinations
- Herdsmen disturbances and clashes with farmers
- Violent agitations for resource control especially in Niger Delta of Nigeria

Many factors have been postulated as causing unrest in Nigeria. Some writers put their blames on the government while some others pass the bulk on parents. Other writers hold the youths as being responsible while others settle on the combination of these factors. Putting all these factors together will provide some of the following as responsible factors for the general state of insecurity in Nigeria. Namely: Unemployment, bad governance, lack of quality education or training, lack or inadequate basic infrastructures, corruption and corrupt practices of government

officials, perceived victimization, arrant poverty in the midst of affluence, ethnic superiority, religious superiority, domination and exploitation, materialism and the display of it with impunity, etcetera.

The insecurity in Nigeria has led to a loss of human capital, closure of businesses, increased level of poverty, poor education delivery among others.

Thus in almost all parts of the country, there exist some levels of insecurity. We have seen instances of ethnic conflicts in some part of the North, kidnapping in almost all parts of the country, but prominent in South-South and West, militancy and pipeline vandalism activities in the Niger Delta, terrorism and religious extremism by Boko Haram in North East, agitations for self-determination by IPOB (Indigenous People of Biafra) and MASSOB Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra) in the South East, herdsmen disturbances in the North and Central, ritual killings in the South West and East and other political and economic disturbances. I posit that these disturbances and insecurities in its various forms affect economic growth.

It is obvious that whenever and wherever there is insecurity the economics activity of the area is lagging behind. For example, in the North-East where Boko-Haram is operating, as it is predominantly an agrarian community, people have deserted their farms with those that decide to remain being slaughtered. Businesses including informal sector have also been affected, while unemployment levels have soared. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and camps have suddenly emerged with state internally generated revenue plummeting etc. In the Niger Delta where there are constant attacks on oil installations and pipeline vandalization, the country has been unable to meet its oil production quota, skyrocketing unemployment, nosediving oil exports, decreasing foreign exchange and exacerbating the cost of doing business.

The recent kidnappings and banditry in the country is also a worry with people not free to move freely because of the fear of the unknown. Goods and services cannot freely move on some Nigerian highways which have drastically affect economic activities in the nation.

Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) disclosed that Nigeria has lost more than N700 billion in economic value since the #EndSARS peaceful protests started. The effect of the EndSARS protest on businesses is huge, with some ripple effect on the economy. Especially, an economy picking up its ruins from the black-swan (Covid-19) that hit the market.



Assets replacement cost in Lagos put at N1trn, and it will definitely manifest in the GDP. According to industry executives and economists, **the result will manifest in a fall in real Gross Domestic Product, GDP. It will fall to around 6.91% year-on-year, deepening the projected economic contraction this year, disruptions in supply-chain, and faster rise in inflation. Investment bankers clearly stated that about N1trn was lost to firms. More so, job losses** and poverty are certainly going to be on the rise.

Federal Government in response to all these will have to allocate a huge amount of money to stemming insecurity instead of injecting same to the Nigerian economy with the level of insecurity in the country increasing by the day.

A plethora of studies has shown that insecurity resulting from terrorists' activities negatively affect the economic growth of many countries. For instance, Blomberg, Hess and Weerapana (2004) showed that terrorists' activities rate is higher in high income countries during periods of recession.

### **Recommendations:**

That the Nigerian government initiate policy that will generate employment for the army of the unemployed youths in the country.

That the government go after those financing the operations of the sect.

That the government open a dialogue channel in order to know the grievances of the sect

That security personnel are provided with modern tools and logistics to fight the war against insecurity

equipment. The government should endeavor to supply the army with sophisticated military equipment.

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By ***Korinjoh Regina Mlumun***

**The Nigerian Budgeting System: A Need to Move From the Envelop System to a Participatory and People-Based System.**

Budgeting is an integral aspect of any individual, private or public organization's finances. It serves as a planned guide on how to generate financial resources. Furthermore, it provides a guide for the effective allocation of the generated resources towards realizing a predetermined agenda within specified periods. In the case of Nigeria, the agenda is often targeted towards socio-economic advancement of Nigerian institutions and people. So you would assume that the Nigerian budgeting system is highly people centred. This however is not the case. Rather, the Nigerian Government operates an envelope system budgeting system. This ceiling system entails budgetary allocation being made by the Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning for each Ministry, Department and Agency (MDA). So basically the respective MDAs have little or no say in the amount of funding they require to implement their projects for each fiscal year.

To get a better understanding of our budgeting system, let's consider some key aspects of the proposed 2021 budget themed "Budget of Economic Recovery and Resilience." The total budget sums were set at ₦7.89 trillion and ₦13.08 trillion, respectively. This simply means that while the Government needs ₦13.08 trillion to actualize its agenda and goals for 2021, it has only ₦7.89 trillion. And as such there is a fiscal deficit of ₦5.02 trillion. The deficit is to be financed by largely borrowing about ₦4.28 trillion. And then ₦205.15 billion projected to be gotten from privatization proceeds and ₦709.69 billion from lowering on multilateral and bilateral loans gotten

for specific projects and programmes. In spite of the zero based budget repeatedly echoed by the present administration, the incremental budgeting system is still in use, mostly in the recurrent budget, resulting in largely wasteful spending.

From the foregoing it is evident that budgetary outcomes in Nigeria are constantly limited by challenges in the budget cycle. Some of these challenges may include non-alignment of budgets with development goals through planning, weak citizen participation, and lack of creating an effective budget calendar. These factors and more continue to hinder the effective implementation of the capital component of the budget, thus leading to abysmal development outcomes in Nigeria. Additionally a budget manual that can guide public and private sector stakeholders on the budget preparation process is non-existent. There are no established guidelines for public participation in the annual budget process. Also, lack of reliable, timely and comprehensive database on the socio-economic conditions of the country, leads to a budget preparation and review system that is difficult and costly.

Furthermore the Open Budget Index (OBI) of the International Budget Partnership (IBP) which is the world's only independent and comparative measure of budget transparency indicates that Nigeria's performance in participatory and transparent budgeting process is below par. Among its West African neighbouring countries, at 21% Nigeria scores lower than Ghana (54%), Benin (49%) and Liberia (38%) (International Budget Partnership, 2019).

Looking at countries that have higher rankings than Nigeria, most of these countries operate an inclusive or participatory budgeting system. This means they give room for citizens to participate in the budget process. Since the citizens are the ultimate owners of the state's financial resources, it is becomes important that they understand and support the budget processes and systems to ensure public accountability. Citizen participation in the budget process creates room for responsive budget allocation, enhances good governance, and improves the delivery of public services.

With an inclusive budgeting system Nigerian can maximize the positive outcomes associated with better budget transparency. Increased participation, and likewise the government's willingness to engage, would enable the citizens feel a sense of having a stake in their state or the country. It goes to show that budgeting needs no longer be an exclusive exercise reserved only for Ministries of Budget and National Planning and Finance. Rather it should be a budget process that allows the syncing

of national development plans and goals and citizens participation in a transparent and coherent manner. However, this is only feasible if governmental processes are structured and communicated in a way that enables citizens' engagement and participation coupled with useful feedback.

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By **Mohammed Bello Suleiman**

### **PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN OUR SOCIETY**

The rights of individuals with disabilities is grounded in a human rights framework based on fundamental human rights.

Persons with disabilities are entitled to exercise their civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights on an equal basis with others under all the international treaties. The full participation of persons with disabilities benefits society as their individual contributions enrich all spheres of life and this is an integral part of individual's and society's well-being and progress for a society for all - with or without disabilities.

In Nigeria, there are however many challenges facing persons with disabilities. For instance, there is no scholarship provided for persons with disabilities (especially students of tertiary institutions). Persons with disabilities also face lack of access to social justice, free healthcare, and many others.

From my observations of our society in Nigeria, it is important that persons without disabilities are involved in canvassing for inclusion since God created all of us as human beings. This is also true as a person without disability today may have a disability tomorrow. Some students go to tertiary institution and study a medicine or laboratory science course and later become deaf due to serious sick or accident. However, you have to accept and support him or her and encourage them to do well academically rather than expelling or suspending him or changing his or her course to another course.

Similarly, when someone works with the Federal or state government as a civil servant or in the academia and later gets serious problems with some of his or her organs of the body like their eye or breaks his leg to become blind or crippled you have to accept and support him or her. No condition is permanent.

For instance, I am a deaf male. I was born deaf and my parents accepted my condition as the will of God and their fate. They supported me a hundred percent and this has brought me to where I am today. I have a diploma, bachelors degree and a masters certificate, all thanks to God. If you have a child with disability, enroll him/her at school or encourage him/her to learn a vocational training so he/she can and run a business and gain income rather than becoming a street beggar and engage in social ills.

Let's say NO to

Discrimination

Barrier

Stigmatization and

Hatred<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This article has been abridged



*By Rafiu Adeniran Lawal*

## **FOSTERING YOUNG PEOPLE'S ENGAGEMENT IN PEACE PROCESSES IN NIGERIA**

### **Introduction**

On the 9th December 2015, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security popularly called UNSCR2250. This resolution is historic because it is the very first one that recognises and legitimises the crucial role of youth in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Prior to its adoption, young people were generally perceived from a deficit perspective either as victims or perpetrators of violence resulting in policy panic and deficient youth programming. The adoption of UNSCR2250 challenged the negative stereotypes and amplified a new positive narrative of youth as partners in peace processes. This policy framework which was sponsored by the Kingdom of Jordan with Angola, Chad, and Nigeria among the co-sponsors is a step towards ensuring that young people are given the due support and space to contribute in the peace and security architecture of their nations. Given Nigeria's security challenges and her huge youth demography, the question of addressing these challenges and transforming the youth bulge into peace dividend becomes imperative. Hence, young people's meaningful engagement, inclusion and participation in conflict prevention and peace processes should not be taken lightly.

Pillars of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250

UNSCR2250 has five (5) main components which all member states of the United Nations including Nigeria are encouraged to localize;

(i) Participation: It asks governments to increase the participation and representation of young people in decision making institutions at local, state and national levels.

(ii) Protection: It requests governments to ensure the protection of youth and civilians during conflict and in post conflict settings.

(iii) Prevention: It calls on governments to support youth by creating conducive atmosphere so as to allow them implement violent prevention and peacebuilding activities.

(iv) Partnership: It urges UN member states to establish and strengthen partnerships with relevant actors including by engaging and empowering them on issues of countering violent extremism, social cohesion and inclusion.

(v) Disengagement and reintegration: This resolution urges government to disengage youth from taking violent actions through the provision of job opportunities, education, capacity building and trainings, civic engagement programmes and do everything possible to support the ideas and aspirations of young people.

### **Roles of Youth towards the Implementation of UNSCR 2250 in Nigeria**

Youth across Nigeria must demand the domestication and implementation of UNSCR 2250 from their leaders at local, state and national levels. They must communicate and lobby their lawmakers on the importance and need to implement this resolution in Nigeria. All youth must join in spreading this word. Let people know about the existence of this resolution, what it says and why it is important to young people.

#### **Going Forward**

It is important for all leaders, community members, individuals and stakeholders to permanently move from the deficit-based perception of young people as perpetrators of violence and troublemakers to an asset-based perception of youth as critical and positive agents for peacebuilding and sustainable development. With the end of the #Endsars protest in Nigeria, we have witnessed an attempt by government officials and security agents to securitize and demonize youth as troublemakers and threats to democratic sustainability. This negative perception is grossly inaccurate as evidences abound of youth's active role in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, electoral participation, citizenship education, leadership development, and sustainable development in Nigeria.

One of the ways of also ensuring that young people totally desist from engaging in violence and violent extremist acts is by offering alternative peacebuilding spaces.



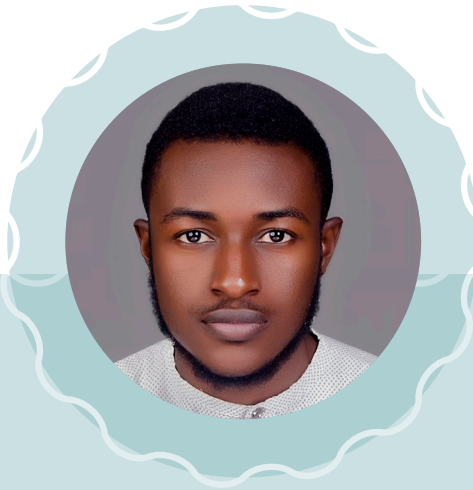
The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres captured it clearly by postulating that 'to achieve a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous world for all, young people must be involved and the conditions that enable them to unleash their potentials must be created'. More than ever before we all must create meaningful opportunities which allow young people to participate politically, economically, socially and support peacebuilding efforts. Young people remain a critical partner in building and consolidating peace and development. Therefore, for any peacebuilding architecture to be effective and sustainable, youth engagement and inclusion is key and non-negotiable<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> This article has been abridged



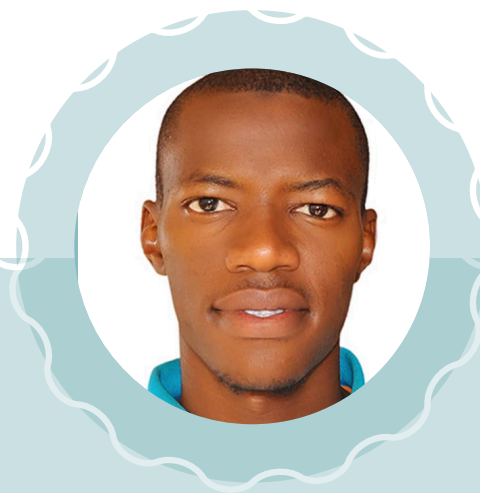
By **Midah Yohanna**

### **CREATION**

I am the creation of your generation's greed  
Malice, prejudice, that which is your only creed  
I am the blooming hated weed  
Right from your generation's seed  
Watered and catered for with disdain for another region  
One nation you say, but we fight at the mention of religion  
Am I not your generation's creation?

I am the creation of your foolery  
Gun in hand I go door to door causing havoc, laughing at your misfortune  
I know you wish you shouldn't have stolen from our fortune  
To the abysmal dungeon of hurt that I feel will I take you to with my mischief  
Am I not the creation of your generation's greed?

You better be alive  
To see the dove you metamorphosed into a serpent  
I am your generation's creation  
You will live to see the wreck you failed to save  
You drink from the cup of corruption  
And eat from the bowl of dividends of your destruction  
Am I not your creation that today you loathe me?



By *Ismail Muhammad Mubashir*

## **RISING INSECURITY IN NIGERIA: CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS**

### **INTRODUCTION/CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION**

In Nigeria and the wider world, the need for security is the basis of all contracts between government and its people, where by the citizens' surrender to the government who oversees their survival. From the above insight, it is important to have a brief synopsis on what security and insecurity are. Security however, exemplifies the mechanism put into place to diminish, decrease, avoid, prevent, reduce or resolve violent conflicts and threats that originate from other states, non-state individuals or structural sociopolitical and economic conditions. However, security is the key to peace and sustainable development of a nation.

While insecurity on the other side is the violation of peace and security; this could either be historical, religious, ethnicity/regional, civil, social, economic or political which contributes to persistent conflicts and leads to wanton destruction of lives and properties. The rising insecurity in Nigeria reflects on physical insecurity which is the most visible form of insecurity, and it feeds into many other forms of insecurity such as economic security and social security. However, this article will view insecurity in Nigeria within twofold; remote and proximate causes then suggest some possible remedies towards attaining peace in the country.

### **CAUSES OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA**

1. Non-Prosecution of Violence Perpetrators: The lack of arrest and prosecution of perpetrators and sponsors of violence has encouraged many more social deviants and their godfathers to throw caution to the wind to perpetrate evil in the land.

2. Elite Manipulation of Ethnicity and Religious Differences: Ethnic and religious conflicts arise from mutual suspicion and distrust among various ethnic groups and among the major religions in the country. The different ethnic groups across Nigeria often allege neglect, oppression, domination, exploitation, victimization, discrimination, marginalization, nepotism and bigotry. This often brings about ethnic clashes and religious conflicts in states like Plateau and Taraba.

3. Unemployment and Poverty: Unemployment and consequent poverty among Nigerians especially the youths is a major cause of insecurity and violent crimes in Nigeria. Youth's unemployment is contributing to rising insecurity in Nigeria. Without job creation, how does the government address poverty, and inequitable distribution of wealth among citizens? As a result, these citizens will form rebellion groups.

4. Porous Borders: The porous frontiers of the country where individual movements are largely untracked are contributing to the level of insecurity in Nigeria. As a result of the porous borders there is an unchecked inflow of Small Arms and Light Weapons into the country which has aided militancy and criminality in Nigeria. The porous nature of our borders has aided the uncontrollable influx of migrants, mainly young men, from neighboring countries such as Republic of Niger, Chad and Republic of Benin responsible for some of the criminal acts.

5. Weak Security System: This is a major factor responsible for the level of insecurity in Nigeria, and this can be attributed to a number of factors which include inadequate funding of the police and other security agencies, lack of modern equipment, poor welfare of security personnel, and inadequate personnel.

6. Political Corruption: corruption is the mother of all evils in Nigeria and has already become a part of life in Nigeria. However, corrupted Nigerian politicians have become a turn off for international investors. It has created massive unemployment in the country, which has in turn worsened the insecurity situation in Nigeria. Mismanagement of resources has brought about massive poverty and lack which is also a factor in the insecurity challenge facing the country.

### **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO NIGERIAS' INSECURITY**

The growth of insecurity in Nigeria is threatening lives and properties and is hindering business activities discouraging to both local and foreign investors. The following are suggested remedies towards achieving a sustainable peace in Nigeria.

Firstly, the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the provision of solution to all human challenges has proven success in many nations and Nigeria should not be an exception. The adoption of ICT-based technologies can assist security agencies to be more efficient and effective in their operations for national development. However, all transmission and presentation of information (voice, data, text, images) and other related services should be recorded for easy tracking.

Also, thorough scrutiny of Nigerian borders should be given a topmost priority as it will reduce the inflow of arms and ammunitions. Take for instance, since the closure of borders from the last quarter of 2019 to present, it has led to reduction of inflow of arms if compared to past years.

In a nutshell, for the Nigerian government to foster development that will create an economy with relevant social, economic and physical infrastructure for business operations and industrial growth, provide gainful employment, functional and useful education, and quality health care for the people. The governments should ensure that rising poverty indices are reversed to ensure that the citizens meet their basic needs<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> This article has been abridged





By **Onimisi, Stephen Adavize**

### **UNDERSTANDING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

Out of the many problems plaguing Nigeria at the moment, some topics seem to cause more outrage than other's. As a country we recently had a movement to end the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), which many say brought real hope to Nigerians for the first time. The outcome of that particular movement as we know it, is not so good contrary to popular expectations. While the issues of insecurity, unemployment, nepotism, corruption and even Nigeria's rising debt profile are important issues; I would be x-raying the menace of child abuse particularly child sexual abuse.

Statistically, only about one-third of child sexual abuse incidents are identified and even fewer are reported. Child sexual abuse is a widespread problem. One in nine girls and 1 in 53 boys under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult.<sup>1</sup>

Worse off are situations where no one believes that the victim was actually abused. We often see situations of this nature when the victim is of adult age.

There are increasing numbers of persons who are rising up to this challenge and their efforts cannot be overlooked. However, care must be taken to not assume that, there are enough hands working to solve the problem. The society as a whole must be responsible, if this will ever stop. It is true that there are sexual offender's all over the

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<sup>1</sup> David Finkelhor, Anne Shattuck, Heather A. Turner, & Sherry L. Hamby, The Lifetime Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault Assessed in Late Adolescence, 55 Journal of Adolescent Health 329, 329-333 (2014)

world but Nigeria is the only country where this category of person's almost always get away with the offences they have committed.

The aim of this narrative is not to re-hatch gory accounts of the abuses people have had to face because according to RAINN sexual violence is notoriously difficult to measure, and there is no single source of data that provides a complete picture of the crime. In the US for example, a Child Protective Services report in 2016 reported that out of the sexual abuse cases reported to CPS in 2013, 47,000 men and 5,000 women were the alleged perpetrators.

In Nigeria today, while several provisions of our laws penalize sexual abuse, we see how on a daily basis the law is not so effective on perpetrators. In 2015 UNICEF reported that one in four girls and one in ten boys in Nigeria had experienced sexual violence before the age of 18.<sup>2</sup>

In most cases, the abuser of a child is often by persons they know and could include any sexual act between an adult and a minor, or between two minors, when one exerts power over the other. This is often characterized by forcing, coercing or persuading a child to engage in any type of sexual act and may often include in some circumstances non-contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism, and communicating in a sexual manner by phone or Internet.<sup>3</sup>

It is particularly easy to assume that there are more cases of abuse on adults than children but this is erroneous as nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults (including assaults on adults) occur to children ages 17 and under.<sup>4</sup> Further surveys have revealed that males who have been sexually abused are more likely to violently victimize others.<sup>5</sup>

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2 [“Release of the findings of the Nigeria Violence Against Children Survey”](#), UNICEF Nigeria, 10 September 2015.

3 Townsend, C., & Rheingold, A.A., (2013). Estimating a child sexual abuse prevalence rate for practitioners: studies. Charleston, S.C., Darkness to Light. Retrieved from [www.D2L.org](http://www.D2L.org)

4 Snyder, H. N. (2000). Sexual assault of young children as reported to law enforcement: Victim, incident, and offender characteristics. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/saycrle.pdf>

5 Walrath, C., Ybarra, M., Holden, W., Liao, Q., Santiago, R., & Leaf, R. (2003). Children with reported histories of sexual abuse: Utilizing multiple perspectives to understand clinical and psychological profiles. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 27, 509- 524.

One of the first steps to child abuse prevention is knowing the facts, with facts one is better informed on ways to protect children from abuse and prevent abusers from perpetrating same. Also worthy of note is the fact that false report of child abuses are rare as it constitutes 4% of total reports and would often be hinged on custody claims over a child.

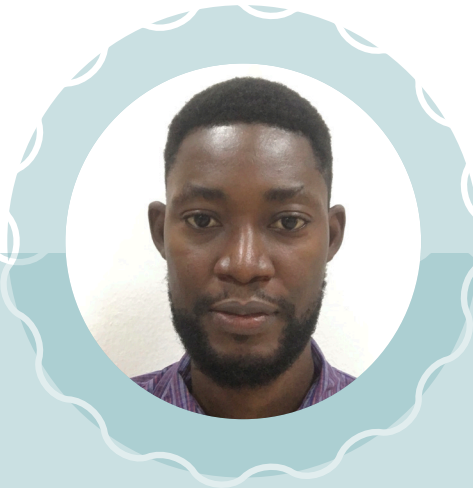
Child sexual abuse victims may exhibit a wide range of immediate reactions, both in magnitude and form. Resilient children may not suffer serious consequences, whereas other children with the same experience may be highly traumatized. Some victims do not display emotional problems or any other immediate symptom in response to the abuse.

Direct physical signs of child sexual abuse are not common. However, when physical signs are present, they may include bruising, bleeding, redness and bumps, or scabs around the mouth, genitals, or anus. Urinary tract infections, sexually transmitted diseases, and abnormal vaginal or penile discharge are also warning signs that shouldn't be neglected.<sup>6</sup>

Emotional and behavioral signals are common among sexually abused children. Some of these are "too perfect" behavior, withdrawal, fear, depression, unexplained anger and rebellion. Some common consequences of trauma include nightmares, bedwetting, falling grades, cruelty to animals, bullying, being bullied, fire setting, runaway, and self-harm of any kind. One of the most telling signs that sexual abuse is occurring is sexual behavior and language that is not age appropriate. The use of alcohol or drugs at an early age can be a sign of trauma such as child sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse should be keenly looked out for to stop a vicious circle as statistics has shown that most victims turn around to be abusers themselves.

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6 Prevent Child Abuse America (2003). Recognizing child abuse: What parents should know. Chicago, IL. Retrieved 5-31-2013 from [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org).



*By Uche George Egbe*

### **UTILIZING THE QUASI-JUDICIAL FUNCTION OF THE LEGISLATURE IN ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

A dispute refers to a continuing disagreement carried on between two or more parties. The occurrence of disputes in the course of human interactions is inevitable, hence the need for effective disputes resolution mechanisms to be put in place. When these disputes occur, the options available to any of the aggrieved parties include; litigation through the courts or alternative dispute resolution.

Litigation refers to the process of resolving disputes by filing or answering to a complaint through the public court system. Litigation, particularly in Nigeria, is however fraught with certain demerits which makes it a less desirable option. Nigerian courts for instance are notorious for their slow dispensation of justice. Other factors that generally makes litigation less desirable include; adverse public image, disruption of existing business relationships, cost, etc.

Alternative dispute resolution on the other hand refers to means of settling disputes by means other than litigation. Unlike courts alternative disputes resolution includes a non-adversarial method of resolving disputes by intercession and assistance of a neutral and impartial third party. The common forms of alternative dispute resolution are negotiations, mediation, conciliation and arbitration. Arbitration is adjudicatory in nature and decisions therefrom are binding on the parties. Other methods such as conciliation, mediation, negotiation, expert determination are however consensual and non-binding.

While the primary function of the legislature is law making, it also has quasi-judicial powers which it exercises through special committees. In Nigeria for instance, the House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions is tasked with the responsibility of addressing petitions from members of the public. Pursuant to Order 18 Rule 1 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Public Petitions is designated a special committee. The committee considers the subject matter of all petitions before it and makes recommendations to the House of Representatives on actions to be taken with regards to any such petition.

The jurisdiction of the Public Petitions Committee as contained in Order 18 Rule 5 of the House Standing Rules includes oversight of the Public Complaints Commission which is a government agency that investigates administrative injustices. The Committee also has power to consider the subject matter of any petition referred to it by the House of Representatives. The Committee however lacks the jurisdiction to investigate matters between two private citizens or any other matter pending before a law court. The committee also lacks the jurisdiction to investigate any matter or thing over which the National Assembly has no powers to make laws.

Alternative dispute resolution in Nigeria is viewed as being complementary to the court system. There have however been arguments that ADR, particularly arbitration, is becoming over institutionalized and consequently mirroring the challenges faced by the regular courts, such as its cost of operation. It is in the light of the above that this paper recommends the House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions as a more viable, cost efficient and fast alternative dispute resolution option. Like arbitration, the Committee is capable of reaching binding resolutions to petitions before it, and this has the upside of being achieved with less formality and financial cost that is beginning to plague arbitration.

### **References**

- Nwakazi, V.A, & Lamidi, L. (2018) 'Alternative Dispute Resolution in Nigeria: New Frontiers in Law' AOL.LAW available at <https://oal.law/alternative-dispute-resolution-in-nigeria/amp/> (assessed 13/12/2020)
- Increasing Awareness and Engagement of the House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions (PLAC)



# Gallery





# Gallery



# Appendix



POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)  
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

## ***Welcome Dinner for the 2020 PLAC Legislative Internship Programme***

**DATE:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**TIME:** 4:30PM -7:00PM

**VENUE:** CENTENARY HALL, IBETO HOTELS, GUDU

### **AGENDA**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Facilitator/ Presenter</b>
4:30pm-5:30pm	<b>Registration &amp; Collection of Internship Agreement</b>	Brenda Nwosa <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
5:30pm-6:00pm	<b>Introductory Remarks about PLAC</b>	Mr. Clement Nwankwo <i>Executive Director, PLAC</i>
6:00pm -7:00 pm	<b>Interns Introduction and Expectations</b>	Brenda Nwosa <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
7:00pm	<b>Dinner</b>	



POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)  
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)  
IS ORGANISING

FIRST BI-WEEKLY MEETING OF ITS  
2020 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

**THEME: "Understanding Legislative Practices and Procedures"**

**DATE:** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

**TIME:** 10am -2:00pm

**VENUE:** PLAC Office, Guzape Abuja

**AGENDA**

TIME	Topic	Facilitator / Presenter
9:30 am- 10:00am	Registration	<b>Onyinye Anyanwu</b> <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
10:00am -10:10am	Welcome Remarks	<b>Mr. Clement Nwankwo</b> <i>Executive Director, PLAC</i>
10:10am -10:40am	Enhancing an Open Society Through Diversity and Inclusion  Discussions	<b>Jake Epelle</b> <i>Executive Director, Albino Foundation</i>
10:40am - 11:00am	Tea Break	
11:00am -11:30am	Principles of Bill Drafting	<b>Barr. M.D. Hassan</b> <i>Director, Legal Drafting, National Assembly</i>

11:30am -12:00pm	Preparing an Appropriation Bill: How the Budget is Passed	<b>Innocent Mebiri</b> <i>Clerk, Senate Committee on National Planning and Economic Affairs</i>
12:00 noon--12:15pm	Wrap Up and Closing	<b>Brenda Nwosa</b> <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
12:30pm	Lunch	





POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)  
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)  
IS ORGANISING  
**SECOND BI-WEEKLY MEETING**  
2020 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

**Theme: "Understanding the Legislature"**

**DATE:** Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**TIME:** 10am - 2:00pm

**VENUE:** PLAC Office, Guzape Abuja

**AGENDA**

TIME	TOPIC	FACILITATOR / PRESENTER
9:30am -10:00am	Arrival and Registration	Onyinye Anyanwu <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
10:00am –10:15am	Welcome Remarks	<b>Clement Nwankwo</b> <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
10:15am -11:00am	Drafting Motions and Resolutions  Discussions	<b>Mr Gani Ojagbohunmi</b> <i>Former Clerk of the House of Representatives</i>
11:00am –11:15am	<b>Tea Break</b>	
11:15am -12:00pm	Enhancing Citizen's Political Participation through Effective Legislative Communications  Discussions	<b>Hon. Benjamin Kalu</b> <i>Chairman, House Committee on Media and Public Affairs</i>

12:00pm – 12:45pm	Learning to Manage Expectations: Useful Tips for Interns working in the National Assembly  Discussions	<b>Mr. Patrick Giwa</b> <i>Clerk, House of Representatives</i>
12:45pm-1:00pm	Wrap Up and Closing	Brenda Nwosa <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
1:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>	



POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)  
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)  
IS ORGANISING  
**MIDTERM REVIEW**  
**THIRD BI-WEEKLY MEETING**

2020 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

**Theme: "Mastering Legislative Activities"**

**DATE:** Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**TIME:** 10.00am - 1:00pm

**VENUE:** PLAC Office, Guzape Abuja

**AGENDA**

TIME	TOPIC	FACILITATOR / PRESENTER
9:30am -10:00am	Arrival and Registration	<b>Onyinye Anyanwu</b> <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
10:00am –10:15am	Welcome Remarks	<b>Clement Nwankwo</b> <i>Executive Director, PLAC</i>
10:15am -10:45am	Utilising the Public Petitions Committee as an Alternative Dispute Resolution Tool  Discussions	<b>Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso</b> <i>Chairman, House Committee on Public Petitions</i>
<b>10:45am –11:00am</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
11:00am -11:30am	Building Effective Teams  Discussions	<b>James Awojobi</b> <i>MD, DataGuard</i>

11:30pm – 12:30pm	Simulation Exercise; Plenary Session in the National Assembly  Discussions	<b>Barr. Salisu Abdullahi Mohammed</b>  <i>Clerk, House Committee on Rules and Business</i>
12:30pm-1:00pm	Experience Sharing from the Internship Experience So Far & Collection of Evaluation and Mid-Term Reports	<b>Brenda Nwosa</b> <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
1:00pm – 1.10pm	Wrap up and Closing	<b>Brenda Nwosa</b> <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
<b>1:10pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	



POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)

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IS ORGANISING

#### **FOURTH BI-WEEKLY MEETING**

2020 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

***Theme: "Preparing for Leadership Positions"***

**DATE:** Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**TIME:** 10.00am – 1:10pm

**VENUE:** PLAC Office, Guzape Abuja

#### **AGENDA**

TIME	TOPIC	FACILITATOR / PRESENTER
9:00am - 9:40am	Arrival and Registration	<b>Onyinye Anyanwu</b> <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
9:40am –10:00am	Welcome Remarks	<b>Clement Nwankwo</b> <i>Executive Director, PLAC</i>



<b>10:00am -11:00am</b>	How Youths Can Invest in a Nigerian Future  Discussions	<b>Prince Clem Agba</b> <i>Honourable Minister of State, Budget and National Planning</i>
<b>11:00am –11:15am</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
<b>11:15am -11:45am</b>	Simulation Exercise II: Plenary Sessions in the National Assembly and Feedback on Legislative Documents ( <b>Session one</b> )  Discussions	<b>Barr. Shuaibu Maina</b> <i>Head, Chamber Services, Senate</i>
<b>11:45am – 12:15pm</b>	Simulation Exercise II: Plenary Sessions in the National Assembly and Feedback on Legislative Documents ( <b>Session Two</b> )  Discussions	<b>Barr. Salisu Mohammed</b> <i>Clerk, House of Representatives Committee on Rules and Business</i>
<b>12:15pm – 1:00pm</b>	Employing the Media in the Protection of Human Rights  Discussions	<b>Fortune Agula Musa</b> <i>Broadcast Journalist, Nigeria Info FM Abuja</i>
<b>1:10pm -1:10 pm</b>	Wrap up and closing	<b>Brenda Nwosa</b> <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
<b>1:10pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	



POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)  
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)  
IS ORGANISING

### **5th BI-WEEKLY/DRESS REHEARSAL FOR MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (MLA)**

2020 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

**DATE:** Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**TIME:** 11:00am - 1:50pm

**VENUE:** Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja

### **AGENDA**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>FACILITATOR / PRESENTER</b>
10:00am -10:45am	Arrival and Registration	<b>Onyinye Anyanwu</b> <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
11:00am –11:15am	Welcome Remarks	<b>Clement Nwankwo</b> <i>Executive Director, PLAC</i>
11:15am -11:45am	Developing Professional Etiquette  Discussions	<b>Omolara Akinyeye</b> <i>Senior Programme Officer, PLAC</i>

11:45am – 1:45pm	Dress Rehearsal; Plenary Sessions in the National Assembly	<b>Barr. Salisu Mohammed</b> <i>Clerk, House of Representatives Committee on Rules and Business and Dr. Rahila Ahmadu</i> <i>Former Director, National Secretariat of Nigerian Legislatures (NSNL)</i>
1:45pm – 1.50pm	Wrap up and closing	<b>Brenda Nwosa</b> <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
<b>1:50pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	



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

2020 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Date: Friday, 20 November 2020

## MIDTERM EVALUATION

***Instructions: Kindly complete the questionnaire by ticking and filling the appropriate answer***

### **PART I: BIO-DATA**

FEMALE

MALE

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMITTEE/OFFICE DEPLOYED TO: \_\_\_\_\_

### **PART II: MIDTERM INTERNSHIP EVALUATION**

1a. Briefly describe your expectations of the Internship programme before your deployment and work with the National Assembly.

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\_\_\_\_\_

1b. Have your expectations been met so far?, kindly explain your answer further below.

YES                      NO                      SOMEWHAT

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How would you rate your committee’s engagement with you in terms of involving you with the committee’s work?

<b>V e r y</b> <b>poor</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

3a. Do you feel you have been able to make meaningful contributions to your committee so far?

YES                      NO

3b. Please explain your response.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you like most about your work in the National Assembly?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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5. So far, what is your least favorite experience about your work in the National Assembly?

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6a. Has your perception of the National Assembly changed since you started the PLAC Legislative Internship Programme?

YES            NO            SOMEWHAT

6b. Please explain further how your perception has changed or not.

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7. What would you suggest to your Committee to make work better or more efficient?

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8. Has your knowledge about the Legislature and Legislative process improved since you commenced the Internship?

YES            NO

9.What new thing(s) about the Legislature or the Legislative Process have you learnt as a result of the internship so far?

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10. Name three things you would like to achieve / learn about by the end of the Internship

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11. How would you rate your relationship with other interns so far?

<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

12. What do you suggest PLAC can do to make your Internship experience better?

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13. Would you like to run for an elective position in the future?

YES                  NO                  UNDECIDED

14. Kindly indicate below other comments that were not captured in this questionnaire.

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

**2020 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME**

**SUPERVISOR EVALUATION**

*Instructions: Kindly complete the questionnaire by ticking and filling the appropriate answer*

**INTRODUCTION**

Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) with support of the European Union (EU) is carrying out an evaluation of the 2020 Legislative Internship Programme to determine how well the internship programme fared and to receive recommendations on how the internship can be improved. This evaluation is designed to receive feedback on the work and relationship of the interns deployed to work in committees and offices in the National Assembly.

**PART I: BIO-DATA**

FEMALE ☐

MALE ☐

Name of Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Intern: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee or Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PART II: EVALUATION**

1. Briefly describe the tasks that were assigned to the intern during the course of the internship.

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2. Did the intern carry out these tasks in a professional and efficient manner?

YES ☐ NO ☐ SOMEWHAT ☐

3. How will you rate the intern's interest in the work of the committee/office?  
(Kindly tick the appropriate response below)

Very poor	Average	Good	Excellent

4. Kindly rate the intern by ticking the appropriate response in the table below

Description		Rating			
		Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
1	Punctuality				
2	Computer Skills				
3	Interpersonal Skills /Relationship with staff of the committee/office				
4	Willingness to learn				
5	Writing Skills				
6	Sense of Urgency / Attitude to Work				

5. How will you rate the intern's growth from the beginning of the internship program till now in terms of knowledge of the work of the committee/office?  
(Kindly tick the appropriate response below)

Very good	Average	There is room for improvement	Intern did not show any growth

6. Briefly state at **least one instance** in which the intern was helpful to the committee/office in carrying out its tasks

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7. Would you recommend this intern for work in another committee / office?  
YES ☐ NO ☐

8. Kindly give recommendations on how Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) can make the internship programme better enhance/compliment the work of the committee/office.

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THANK YOU!



## About PLAC

Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) is a non-governmental organization committed to strengthening democratic governance and citizens' participation in Nigeria. PLAC works to enhance citizens' engagement with state institutions, and to promote transparency and accountability in policy and decision-making processes.

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

