



2023



LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME REPORT



Funded by
the European Union



2023 Legislative Internship Programme Report

Published by:



Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)

📍 Plot 451 Gambo Jimeta Crescent, Guzape District, Abuja, Nigeria.

🌐 www.placng.org

✉ info@placng.org

☎ 0809 189 9999

📘 www.facebook.com/placng

🐦 @placng

📷 @placng

©2024 PLAC

All rights reserved. Licensed to the European Union under conditions

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



**Funded by
the European Union**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PLAC's Legislative Internship Programme is supported by the European Union (EU) to whom we are grateful. PLAC is also grateful to the National Assembly Management for supporting the internship programme.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Overview Of The Legislative Internship Programme -----	1
2. Internship Activities And Components -----	7
3. Bi-Weekly Training Sessions -----	16
4. Interns Visit To The Eu Delegation Office -----	22
5. Podcast And Radio Programme -----	24
6. Model Legislative Assembly -----	27
7. Alumni Network Convening -----	31
8. Debriefing Session -----	33
9. Outcomes And Lessons Learnt -----	35

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Deployment List -----	36
Appendix 2: Agenda – Welcome Reception For Interns -----	38
Appendix 3: Agenda - Orientation Workshop For Legislative Interns -----	39
Appendix 4: Agenda - First Bi-Weekly Meeting -----	41
Appendix 5: Agenda - Second Bi-Weekly Meeting -----	42
Appendix 6: Agenda - Third Bi-Weekly Meeting -----	43
Appendix 7: Agenda - Fourth Bi-Weekly Meeting -----	44
Appendix 8: Agenda - 2023 Model Legislative Assembly & Alumni Convening -----	45
Appendix 9: Agenda - Debriefing Session -----	47

OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) legislative Internship Programme began in 2013. The objective of the internship programme is to create a platform for young Nigerian graduates between eighteen to thirty-five years old to gain firsthand knowledge of the workings of the Nigerian Legislature and enhance youth engagement with the National Assembly.

Youths form a significant part of Nigeria's demography with statistics putting young peoples as a significant percentage of the population. Despite this young people are not usually integrated in governance and policy issues. To address the lack of access and knowledge gap, it is important that young persons are deliberately given access to democratic institutions, such as the legislature to help them understand high level policy and decision making.

The European Union EU has supported the annual internship programme since 2018 with about 227 interns passing through the internship. The 2023 edition of the Legislative Internship programme (LIP) ran between 3rd October 2023 and 13th December 2023 with Forty-one (41) interns drawn from Nigeria's six geo-political zones.

Interns were deployed to various committees of the National Assembly after an orientation ceremony. At the National Assembly, they were given the opportunity to attend plenary sessions and committee meetings, learn about Bills, and other legislative activities.

Objectives of the Legislative Internship Programme

- To provide an opportunity for young Nigerians to gain theoretical and practical knowledge of the Nigerian Legislature
- To create better understanding and appreciation of the Nigerian Legislature
- To create an opportunity to increase youth/citizens participation and involvement in governance.
- To Encourage young professionals to gain skills and experience that would be helpful to career growth
- To provide support to legislative committees

Eligibility Criteria

- First degree or equivalent in any discipline from a recognized tertiary institution
- Completion of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programme
- Good computer Skills
- Good verbal and writing Skills
- Aged between 18 and 35

Some Responsibilities of Interns

- Carrying out legislative and legal research
- Handling of correspondence and communications
- Attendance or observation of plenary sessions
- Assisting with organizing committee hearings and meetings
- Participating in bi-weekly capacity/team building sessions
- Participation at the Model Legislative Assembly (a re-enactment of a National Assembly plenary session).

Selection Process

The LIP usually begins with an advertisement and the 2023 edition was no different. Adverts were placed in three National Newspapers in July 2023 which included ThisDay Newspaper, The Guardian Newspaper, Daily trust Newspaper. The advert was also circulated on PLAC's social media handles such as Facebook and Twitter. About 3,000 applications were received from applicants across the country. The internship is quite competitive with limited slots and at the end, 41 interns (20 women and 21 men) made it to the 2023 cohort.

PHOTO GALLERY OF INTERNS



**Abdulwahab Muhammed
Yusuf**
Kogi State



Agagbe Kelvin
Benue State



Aisha Ibrahim Zakari
Kano State



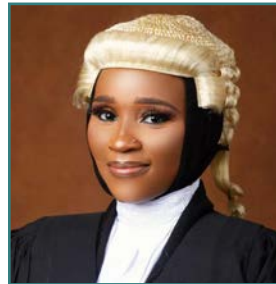
Ajayi Samuel Oluwafemi
Ondo State



**Alexandra Nene
Atabong**
Bayelsa State



Amara Jane Onyekwuo
Imo State



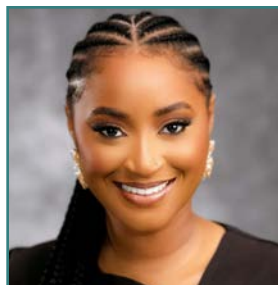
**Amina Mu'azu
Mohammed**
Kebbi State



Amir Muhammad
Jigawa State



**Aniekwe Chidimma
Sophia**
Enugu State



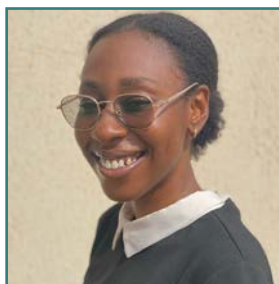
**Anne-Marie Amadi-
Emina**
Delta State



Bukola Eunice Idowu, Esq.
Ekiti State



Eunice Maravi Bwala
Borno State



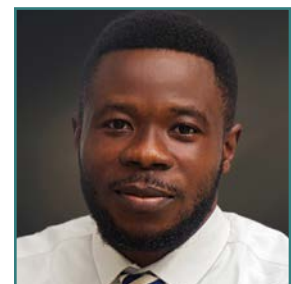
Fatima Mohammed
Kogi State



Fauziya Abu Meepatan
Plateau State



Godwin Ogbiji
Cross River State



Joseph Eshiet Udoh
Akwa Ibom State

PHOTO GALLERY OF INTERNS



Josephine Emeghoghena
Edo State



Katherine Kashim Kpanja
Nasarawa State



Mohammed Kabiru Suleiman
Niger State



Muhammad Kabir
Katsina State



Mustapha Tukur
Kaduna State



Nazeerah Yussuf Jummai
FCT



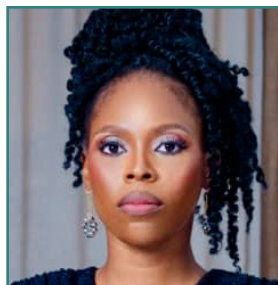
Okwutepa Aminu Oseni
Kogi State



Oredola Massoud
Kwara State



Peace Oghenefejiro Afabor
Delta State



Racheal Dan Epelle
Rivers State



Salihu Bello Yero
Gombe State



Sanni Aminat Olajumoke
Lagos State



Saudatu Ukasha Galadima
Sokoto State



Shekinah Aziagba
Anambra State



Sumaiya Dauda Lamorde
Adamawa State



Sunday Christopher Olubiye
Ogun State

PHOTO GALLERY OF INTERNS



**Theola Ehinomhen
Amiokhaibhor**
Edo State



Tomilola Omorilewa
Oyo State



Uchenna Aja Akpuru-Aja
Ebonyi State



Umar Salman
Osun State



Usman Yahaya Ahmad
Taraba State



Victor Chimezie
Imo State



Yahaya Yusuf Muhammad
Yobe State

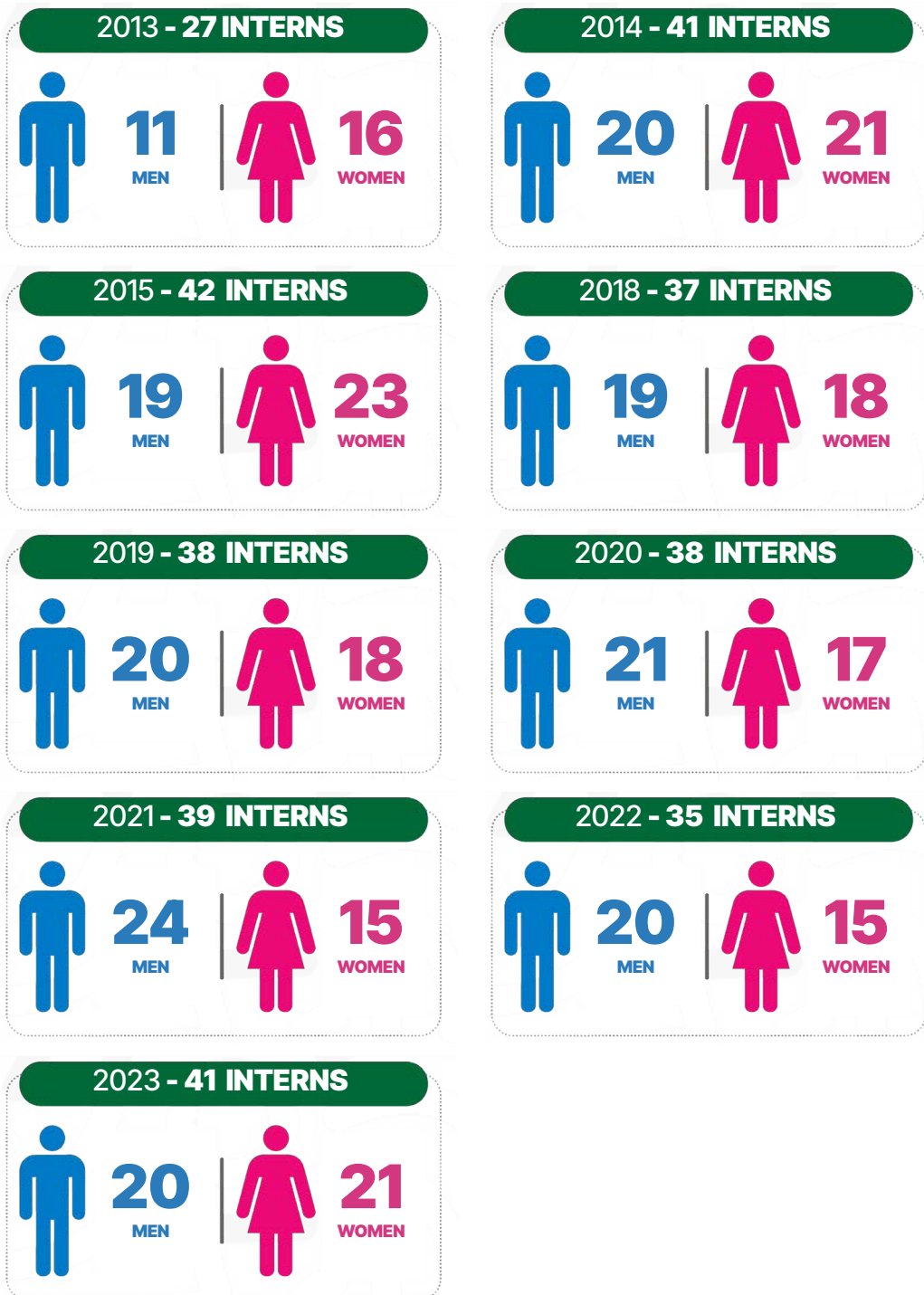


Yasir_Y_Kassim
Kano State



Zigwai Tagwai
Kaduna State

PLAC LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME FROM 2013 - 2023



02

INTERNSHIP ACTIVITIES AND COMPONENTS

- Welcome Dinner
- Orientation Workshop
- Deployment of Interns to select National Assembly Committees and Offices
- Bi-weekly skills training
- Alumni Convening
- Model Legislative Assembly
- Debriefing session



2.1 Welcome Reception

The welcome reception for the 2023 PLAC Legislative Interns was organised at the PLAC office on Tuesday, 3rd October 2023 to welcome the interns to the internship programme and promote team bonding among the cohort and members of the PLAC Staff.

Mr. Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director, PLAC, in his remark, recounted a brief history of how he started out as a Human Right Activist and the importance of being passionate about charting courses that lead to good governance and change in the society. He concluded by encouraging the interns to be of excellent conduct at the National Assembly.

Omolara Akinyeye, Deputy Executive Director, PLAC, guided the interns to make introductions and write out their expectations from the Internship Programme. Interns' expectations included; networking, becoming more informed about the legislative process, gaining exposure about the National Assembly, building career paths and forming long lasting professional relationships.



2.2 Orientation Workshop

The orientation session/workshop for the 2023 Legislative Interns held on Wednesday, 4th October to Friday, 6th October 2023. The Orientation session included two-day presentations and a third day devoted to a tour of the Nigerian National Assembly complex.

The workshop aimed to prepare and provide guidance to the Interns ahead of their journey at the National Assembly by acquainting them with basic and necessary information to ensure they make the most of their learning experience at the internship. Over the course of these two days, a series of information packed lectures were delivered to interns by various Resource persons.

Opening remarks at the orientation were made by PLAC Executive Director, Mr. Clement Nwankwo whose speech focused on the importance of the National Assembly in a democratic setting like Nigeria. He laid emphasis on the importance of sensitizing Nigerian youths on the roles of the National Assembly in a democracy which is the foundation of the PLAC Legislative Internship.

Delivering the EU's goodwill remarks, Ms. Laolu Olawumi, Programme Manager, Democracy and Rule of Law, Delegation of the European Union to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and ECOWAS stressed on the EU's interest in the work, expertise and contribution of young people. She encouraged the Interns to utilize the opportunity given and to also be attentive during the course of the internship programme, especially during their engagements with assigned Committees at the National Assembly.



2.2.1 Presentations on Day One of the Orientation Session - Wednesday, 4th October 2023

The first day of the orientation commenced with an introductory presentation titled “An Overview of the Structure and Functions of the National Assembly.” This was delivered by Dr. Rahila Amadu (Former Director, National Secretariat of the Nigerian Legislatures) who explained the political, administrative and leadership structures of the National Assembly, as well as their law-making, representative, quasi-judicial and oversight functions.

The second paper presentation titled “The Practice and Politics of Law-making” was presented by Hon. Rima Shawulu (Member representing Takun/Donga/Ussa Federal Constituency, Taraba State (2015 to 2023) who gave an elaborate paper on the historical development of lawmaking in Nigeria.

The third paper titled “From Passion to Action: The Role of Young People as Change-makers” was presented by Mrs. Agianpe Onyema (Former Coordinator, Nigerian Civil Society Situation Room). She shared her thoughts on the role of young people as change-makers who make positive impact and bring about transformation in the society.

The final activity for the day was a team bonding exercise facilitated by Stella Onwochie (Chief Operating Officer at CERCA Africa). The exercise was aimed at fostering team spirit among interns and offering guidance on how to work in a corporate environment.



2.2.2 Presentations on Day Two of the Orientation Session - Thursday, 5th October 2023

The second day of the orientation session began with an icebreaker facilitated by Nkiru Uzodi (Programme Manager, PLAC) to further strengthen team building among the interns.

This was followed by a presentation titled “Understanding the National Assembly Work Environment: A Practical Guide for Current Interns by Past Interns”.

In this session, three Alumni members of the PLAC LIP were invited to share their personal experiences and enlighten the current interns in understanding the working environment in the National Assembly. The essence of this was to create a guide for the current interns in their journey through the Internship.

Abiye Briggs, (2022 PLAC LIP Cohort, Rivers State) stressed on the importance of setting goals during the course of the internship which would facilitate the learning process.

Eniola Bisiriyu, (2022 PLAC LIP Cohort, Lagos State) commenced by giving a brief composition of the bureaucratic structure of the National Assembly. She also encouraged the interns to imbibe proper work etiquette and professionalism during the internship.

Mark Okhakhume, (2022 PLAC LIP Cohort, Edo State) encouraged interns to be open to tasks assigned to them by their respective Committees to ensure a fruitful learning experience.

The second paper presentation titled “Ensuring Safety and Security at the National Assembly” was presented by Mr. Manasseh Aliyuda (Sergeant-at-Arms, National Assembly).

The third presentation by Mrs. Adaora Onyechere Sydney-Jack (Broadcast Journalist and Executive Director, Gender Strategy Advancement International) focused on the topic “Essential Communication Skills and Professional Etiquette” in her presentation, she noted that effective communication is integral to a productive working environment, therefore interns need to learn the basics of workplace etiquette.

The final presentation by Mrs. Ilobah Isabella (Deputy Clerk of the Senate) focused on the important topic “Understanding the National Assembly Plenary Sessions and Committee Hearings.” This was aimed at teaching the interns what to expect at plenary session and committee hearings.



2.3 Tour of the National Assembly

On Friday, 6 October, the Orientation Programme came to an end with a Tour of the National Assembly. The aim was to familiarise them with the NASS Complex ahead of their deployment. A further interactive session took place between the Interns and Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms who handles security at the NASS Complex.



PRE-INTERNSHIP EVALUATION SURVEY

At the beginning of the Legislative Internship Programme, the interns were asked to share their learning expectations. Below is a summary of their responses

What are your learning Expectations?

○ Gain practical knowledge of the legislative process

○ Build practical skills in legislative drafting

○ Networking with other interns

○ A proper understanding of citizen's responsibilities towards legislation

○ Learn the processes that are involved in policy making and law making

○ Career development

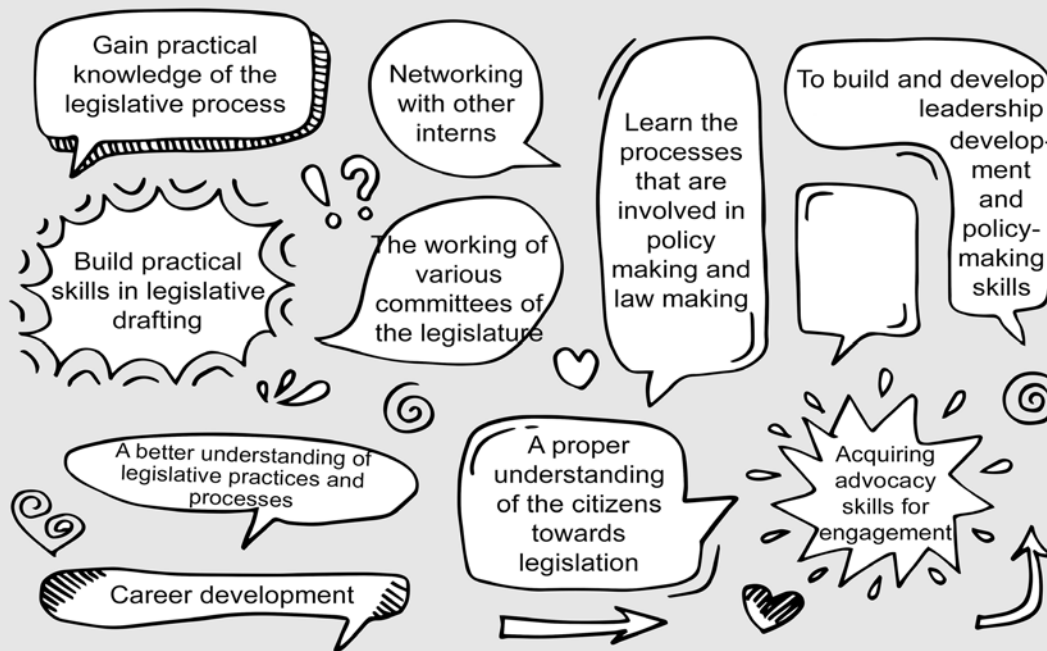
○ A better understanding of legislative practices and processes

○ The working of various committees of the legislature

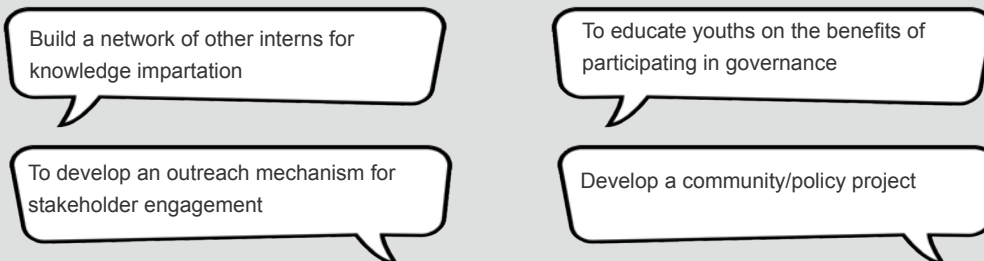
○ Acquiring advocacy skills for engagement

○ To build and develop leadership and policymaking skills

What are your learning Expectations?



How do you intend to use experience gained from the internship? (selected)



Post-Internship Evaluation Survey

Following the completion of the Legislative Internship Programme, a post-internship evaluation was conducted for the interns to assess their interest in running for an elective position in Nigeria.

Are You interested in Running for Political office or an elective position?

WOMEN

YES: 9

NO: 12

MEN

YES: 15

NO: 5

Are you interested in running for an elective position?

Yes: 24

NO: 6

Maybe: 11

03

BI-WEEKLY TRAINING SESSIONS

Bi-weekly meetings are an integral and important part of the Legislative Internship Programme. They are aimed at complementing the experience and learning of interns during the programme. They create an opportunity for the interns to learn both technical and soft skills that enrich their engagement with the legislature, their personal development and a foundation for their respective careers. The bi-weekly meetings also create an avenue for PLAC to interact with the interns, address concerns that might have arisen during their engagement with the National Assembly and evaluate the progress of the programme.

Four bi-weekly meetings were held during the 2023 Legislative Internship Programme, including an interactive session/visit to the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS.



3.1 First Bi-Weekly Meeting

The first bi-weekly meeting held on Friday, 20 October 2023 at the PLAC office.

Resource persons at the first meeting included Nkiru Uzodi, Programme Manager, PLAC; Mrs. Oluwaseyi Tetteh, State Focal Person (FCT) at EU-Agents for Citizen-Driven Transformation (ACT) Programme, British Council; and Reuben Imarha, Esq., Chief Law Research Officer at Nigerian Law Reform Commission and Legal Advisor at Legacy Leadership & Development Outreach (LLDO).

The presentation by Nkiru Uzodi was on “Best Practices in Legislative Engagement” which was aimed at sharing useful knowledge and experience from operating in the legislative space, increasing interns understanding of engagement with legislators and providing insight on how to carry out legislative advocacy and engagement.

Addressing the topic “NGOs as Drivers of Social Change” Mrs. Oluwaseyi Tetteh highlighted the roles of NGOs as watchdogs of the society who engage in sensitization, service delivery, advocacy on various issues, civic engagement and collaboration. Going further, she noted the types of donor agencies and the role of donors in supporting NGOs to create impact in their communities. In conclusion, she shared impact stories of NGOs in various states and communities, achieved through the support of donor agencies.

The last presentation on “How to Analyse Bills and Legislation” by Reuben Imarha (Esq.) discussed bills generally. It introduced interns to the various types of bills and how to carry out bill scrutiny.



3.2 Second Bi-Weekly Session



The second bi-weekly meeting held on Friday, 3rd November 2023 at the PLAC office.

Resource persons included Mr. Benjamin Ekeyi, Legislative Strengthening/Legislative Policy Expert; Dr. Kelechi Akubueze (representing Mr. Anthony Ojukwu, Executive Secretary, National Human Rights Commission); Reuben Imarha, Esq., Chief Law Research Officer at Nigerian Law Reform Commission and Legal Advisor at Legacy Leadership & Development Outreach (LLDO).

Mr. Benjamin Ekeyi (Legislative and Parliamentary Policy Expert) who spoke on the topic “How the National Budget is passed,” explained the importance of the budget to the governance process and the crucial role the National Assembly plays in passing the Appropriation bill. He concluded his presentation by guiding the interns through a mock budget defence debate session.

The presentation by Dr. Kelechi Akubueze on the topic “Enforcing Fundamental Human Rights in Nigeria: A Crucial Role of the Legislature” highlighted the role of the legislature in enforcing human rights and made recommendations for the strengthening of human rights institutions.

Finally, there was a Practical Session on “Reading and Analysing Bills: Overview of select youth-centric bills before NASS.” The facilitator, Reuben Imarha, concluded the session by guiding the interns through the understanding and analysis of some youth-centered Bills brought before the 10th National Assembly and put them through practical exercises on bills drafting.

At this meeting, interns elected members of their cohort to lead the Model Legislative Assembly (MLA) session scheduled to take place at the end of the internship. The following interns emerged as principal officers in the elections:



SPEAKER
Yasir_Y_Kassim
Kano State



Deputy Speaker
Aminat Sanni
Lagos State



Majority Leader
Anne Marie
Amadi Emina
Delta State



**Deputy Majority
Leader**
Shekinah Aziagba
Anambra State



Minority Leader
Eunice Bwala
Borno State



**Deputy Minority
Leader**
Salihu Yero
Gombe State



Chief Whip
Mustapha Tukur
Kaduna State



**Deputy Chief
Whip**
Bukola Eunice
Idowu
Ekiti State



Minority Whip
Sunday Olubiyi
Ogun State



**Deputy Minority
Whip**
Saudatu Ukasha
Sokoto State



Clerk
Peace Afabor
Delta State



Sergeant-At-Arms
Sumaiya Lamore
Adamawa State



3.3 Third Bi-Weekly Session

The third bi-weekly meeting held on Friday, 24th November 2023 at the PLAC office.

Resource persons included Dr. Innocent Mebiri, Clerk, Senate Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution (6th to 9th Assembly); Barr. Chinedu Akubueze, Clerk, Senate National Assembly represented by Mr. Sani Abdullahi (Clerk, Senate Committee on Defence); Omolara Akinyeye, Deputy Executive Director, PLAC.

The welcome remarks were made by Nkiru Uzodi, on behalf of Mr. Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director, PLAC. She reiterated the purpose of the bi-weekly meetings in her remarks.

Dr. Innocent Mebiri, who took the interns on the topic “Understanding the Constitutional Review Process,” explained the Constitution amendment process, its challenges and lessons learned from previous amendment exercises.

The second presentation by Mr. Sani Abdullahi was on the topic “Legislative Practice and Procedure in the National Assembly: Motions, Resolutions and Plenary”. The facilitator took the interns through the theoretical aspect of plenary, to help them better understand the management of plenary and the order which chamber proceedings must follow.

The final presentation for the day was a refresher on the Internship Code of Conduct and Safeguarding by Omolara Akinyeye, Deputy Executive Director, PLAC.

The interns commenced their practical training on drafting of bills and motions, as well as rehearsals on re-enactment of House Plenary sessions in preparation for the Model Legislative Assembly.



3.4 Fourth Bi-Weekly Session

The fourth bi-weekly meeting for the LIP was held on Friday, 1st December 2023 at the PLAC office.

Resource persons included Mrs. Ene Obi, Former Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room; Mr. Gani Ojagbohunmi, Former Clerk, House of Representatives.

In line with the theme for the 16 Days of Activism: Unite! Invest to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls, Mrs. Ene Obi spoke on the topic “Efforts of Civil Society in Preventing Gender Based Violence and Promoting Women’s Right”.

The final activity of the day was the Model Legislative Assembly Rehearsal session facilitated by Mr. Gani Ojagbohunmi speaking on the topic “Model Legislative Assembly Rehearsal: Re-enactment of a House of Representatives Plenary Sitting.”



04

INTERNS VISIT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION OFFICE IN ABUJA

The Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and the ECOWAS Samuela Isopi, the Deputy Head of Delegation, Zissimos Vergos and Laolu Olawumi, the Programme Manager, Rule of Law, Migration and Gender welcomed the interns to the EU Delegation Office on 4th December 2023. It offered an opportunity for the leadership of the EU delegation to have one-on-one interactions with interns and get direct feedback on their experience of the internship. The Ambassador also used it as an opportunity to restate the EU's commitment to promoting democracy and the socio-political inclusion of young people in Nigeria. The visit was planned to occur during the 16 days of action against Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and interns turned out in their themed T-shirts to express their solidarity with the campaign.





05

PODCAST AND RADIO PROGRAMMES

To promote awareness of the internship programme and topical issues, interns participated in themed podcasts and live radio shows.



Legislative Internship Podcast

Six episodes of a podcast with interns were produced during the program with the following topics:

- 🎧 Youth Political power and Engagement beyond elections
- 🎧 Looking at youth-centered bills introduced in the 9th National Assembly
- 🎧 Youth and open Parliament: Suggestions for the Legislature in engaging Young People
- 🎧 What does the budget mean for young People?
- 🎧 Gender Based Violence in Nigeria and Legislative Interventions
- 🎧 The 2023 General Elections and the Judiciary



Live Radio Appearance

i. The first live radio show for the programme took place on 6th December 2023 at 95.1 Naija Info Morning show with Femi D as the Host. The six participating interns include; Nazeerah Yussuf Jumai, Aminat Sanni, Peace Afavor, Yahaya Yusuf Muhammad, Amara Jane Onyekwu, and Amina Muazu Mohammed. **The live radio show featured conversation on Gender Based Violence and legislative interventions.** It was part of the programme's contribution to discussions during the global 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence.



ii. The second live radio show also took place at Naija info Morning show with Femi D as the Host on 13th December 2023 and the topic was “PLAC Legislative Internship experience and youth participation.” Interns that participated in the Live radio programme Include Tomilola Omorilewa, Yasir Kassim, Shekinah Aziagba, Fauziya Abu Meepetan, Godwin Ogbiji and Ajayi Samuel Oluwafemi. **The interns discussed the general impressions and experience of the internship which includes youth participation in governance and stronger awareness of democratic institutions.**



06

MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



The Model Legislative Assembly (MLA) is a major concluding activity under the Legislative Internship Programme. It is a simulation of legislative proceedings of NASS and is aimed at demonstrating the skills and learning of the interns during their stay in NASS. It serves as a platform to discuss real-life policy, legal, social, political and economic issues affecting the country.

It also provides an opportunity to assess interns' knowledge of plenary sessions observed during the programme and illustrate their knowledge on legislative processes and procedures such as Bill drafting, role of principal officers in chambers and duties of legislators.

Some of the expected outcomes which formed the assessment of the performance of interns include:

- Demonstration of understanding of Legislative practice and procedure
- Informed discussion of current socio-political issues
- Constructive and Collaborative problem solving

The Model legislative Assembly session held on 11th December 2023 at Abuja Continental Hotel and was anchored by Abubakar Ahmed, a former intern and Head of current affairs and English programs, Liberty TV and Radio, Kaduna.

The opening remark was made by Mr. Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director, PLAC. Ms. Laolu Olawunmi, Programme Manager, Democracy and Rule of Law, Delegation of the European Union to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and ECOWAS, in her goodwill remark laid emphasis on the priority placed on youth engagement by the European Union with the aim of achieving Sustainable Development Goals and political stability.

Panelists at the session include; Dr. Rahila Ahmadu, Former Director, National Secretariat of Nigerian Legislatures; Benjamin Ekeyi, Legislative and Parliamentary Policy Expert; Alhaji Muhammed Sani Abdullahi, Director of Legislation, Senate, National Assembly; Dr. Nurudeen Mohammed, Former Minister of foreign Affairs and supervising Minister, Ministry of Information; and Hajiya Aisha Ahmed EI-Rufai, former First lady of Kaduna State.

The MLA session was graced by Legislators like; Hon. Clement Jimbo, Member representing Abak/Etim/Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency of Akwa Ibom State; Hon. Olamijunwoala Alao-Akala, Member representing Ogbomosho North Federal Constituency, Oyo State and Chairman House Committee on Youth in Parliament; Hon. Akintunde Rotimi, Member Representing Ekiti North 1 Federal Constituency, Ekiti State and Chairman House Committee on Media and Public Affairs.

Interns presented sample bills and motions they had drafted on issues affecting Nigeria's six geopolitical zones and led debates on them.

Some of the bills and motions discussed at the session include the following:

- A Bill for an Act to amend the Compulsory Free Universal Basic Education Act, 2004 to extend coverage to Senior Secondary School Education, increase Federal Government block grant Amount, Reduce Contribution by States, increase fines and for other related Matters;
- A Bill for an Act to Prohibit and Criminalize Spectating and Participating in Lynching to Protect Human Rights and ensure fair and just Legal Processes and for Related Matters;
- A Bill for an Act to amend the Electoral Act to mandate the Compulsory Transmission of polling unit results, provide stiffer sanctions for Dereliction of Duty, strengthen the powers of Independent National Electoral Commission to Regulate and Discipline its Staff, and for related Matters;
- An Act to provide for the Digitisation of Government Institutions and the Civil Service for the Modernization, efficiency, transparency, Data Security and Enhanced service delivery of Government Operations in the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- A Bill for an Act to Amend the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities Prohibition) Act to enhance the protection of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, promote Political Inclusivity and Equal Opportunities and for Related Matters 2023;
- A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Institute for Nigerian Languages Act CAP. N50 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 to revise the functions of the Institute to provide for the Documentation and Digitisation of Nigerian Indigenous Languages and to create Zonal Centres and for Related Matters;
- A Bill for an Act to Amend the Labour Act, CAP L1, LFN 2004 to Extend the Nursing Period, Increase Maternity Leave Wages, Provide for Paternity Wages and Mandate Institutions to Designate Daycare Spaces and for Related Matters;
- Urgent Need to Investigate the unfortunate Accidental Bombing of Tudun Biri in Igabi Local Government of Kaduna State on Sunday, 3rd December 2023;
- Need to Curb the Activities of Miscreants on Public transportation system known as “one chance” in the Federal Capital Territory;
- Need for immediate Intervention to tackle malnutrition in Children under five years of Age in Gombe;
- Need to enforce Traffic Regulation and address the misuse of Sirens in Nigeria;
- Urgent need to ensure Federal Character in Political Appointments and Recruitments across Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA's);

- Need for the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to include Humanities, Management and Social Science Courses in its Scholarship Scheme;
- Urgent need to investigate the Incessant Arrest and Detention of Youths and Students by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and other Law Enforcement Agencies.

Full details of the bills, motions and resolutions drafted by interns are available in a published document available online via the link: <https://placng.org/i/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Model-Legislative-Assembly-2023.pdf>



07

ALUMNI NETWORK CONVENING

The second Legislative Internship Alumni network convening took place on 11th December 2023 at Abuja Continental Hotel.

The convening took place after the Model Legislative Assembly of the 2023 cohort of the Legislative Internship Programme. The convening aimed at tracking the long-term impact of the programme, follow up on interns' progress and foster a global network of interns. Participants attended the event both physically and virtually. The Alumni network convening had discussions on how best to make the Alumni comprehensive and formidable.





08

DEBRIEFING SESSION

The legislative internship debriefing session which is reflection session aimed at discussing and assessing the interns' experience during the 10-week internship programme, held on Tuesday, 12th December 2023 at the PLAC office.

Opening remarks were made by Mr. Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director, PLAC. He expressed enthusiasm as he commended the interns for their effort in ensuring the success of the 2023 Legislative Internship Programme.

A presentation was made by Mrs. Esther Ijeaku, Founder and Executive Director, Skill Hub Consulting and Former Senior Project Manager, BBC Media Action, Abuja, who spoke on the topic "Defining and Working Towards your Vision of a Successful Career." During the presentation, she guided the interns through a journey of self discovery to enable them reflect on the experiences gained from the internship and leverage on existing opportunities and relationships formed in order to create their desired future.





Feedback from some Interns



Fatima Mohammed (Kogi) admitted to learning in-depth the process of bill to law and she highlighted the Biweekly meeting and the MLA as the most insightful activities of the legislative internship programme.



Alexandra Atabong (Bayelsa) was actively engaged in the affairs of the Committee. She noted that joining the members of the Committee for oversight was the highlight of her internship experience.



Aniekwe Chidinma Sophia (Enugu) gained improved knowledge and understanding of the legislature and how its affairs are conducted through Committees.



Oredola Abdulrahman Massoud (Kwara) had a lot of learning opportunities from his interactions with the staff of the Committee.



Salihu Yero Bello (Gombe) had an enriching internship experience, as he was able to join the staff of the Committee when they embarked on oversight visits. The internship also gave him access to engage with the Senator representing his Federal Constituency.

09

OUTCOMES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Key lessons learned

- The internship programme remains a huge platform for getting young people to engage the legislature and governance issues.
- The National Assembly bureaucracy has been a consistent and committed partner in facilitating the success of the programme and in many ways, have demonstrated ownership over its objectives and continued success.
- The credibility and transparency of the internship selection process remains a big factor in getting good quality candidates and passionate individuals. This has contributed to the overall success of the programme, the continued public interest and NASS continued support.
- The European Union's support of the programme and its demonstrated commitment to youth inclusion has been impactful in many ways. Currently, this is the biggest and most successful legislative internship programme in Nigeria with a proven track record of providing invaluable knowledge and experience to young people and setting them on a promising career path



APPENDIX 1: DEPLOYMENT LIST SENATE

S/N	NAME	NAME OF COMMITTEE/ DEPARTMENT
1	Sumaiya Dauda Lamorde	Communications
2	Aziagba Shekinah Oluchukwu	Federal Character and Governmental Affairs
3	Agagbe Kelvin Terlumun	Agriculture Production Services and Rural Development
4	Ogbiji Godwin Etiongbie	Tertiary Institutions and TETFund
5	Uchenna Aja Akpuru-Aja	INEC
6	Idowu Bukola Eunice	Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters
7	Salihu Yero Bello	Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes
8	Muhammad Amir	Education (Basic and Secondary)
9	Kassim Yasir Yahuza	Foreign Affairs
10	Amina Mohammad	Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions
11	Ordeola Abdulrahman Massoud	Police Affairs
12	Sanni Aminat Olajumoke	Rules and Business
13	Mohammed Kabiru Suleiman	Science and Technology
14	Ajayi Oluwafemi Samuel	Primary Healthcare, Development and Disease Control
15	Tomilola Omorilewa	Defence
16	Racheal Dan Epelle	National Planning and Economic Affairs
17	Usman Yahaya Ahmad	Public Accounts
18	Theola Ehinomhen Amiokhaibhor	Appropriations
19	Aisha Ibrahim Zakari	Information and National Orientation
20	Emoghoghena Josephine	Diaspora and NGOs

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/N	NAME	NAME OF COMMITTEE/ DEPARTMENT
1	Chimezie Victor Okechukwu	Healthcare Services
2	Udoh Joesph	Defence
3	Atabong Alexandra Nene	Judiciary
4	Bwala Eunice Maravi	Justice
5	Ann-marie Amadi-Emina	Appropriations
6	Aniekwe Chidinma Sophia	Urban Development and Regional Planning
7	Onyekwuo Amara Jane	Solid Minerals
8	Tagwai Zigwai	CSOs and Development Matters
9	Kabir Muhammad	Public Accounts
10	Fatima Mohammed	Communications
11	Kpanja Katherine Kasshim	Electoral Matters
12	Olubiyi Christopher Sunday	National Planning and Economic Development
13	Salman Umar Adeyemi	Basic Education Services
14	Fauziya Abu Meepetan	Petroleum Resources (Downstream)
15	Saudatu Ukasha Galadima	Human Rights
16	Yusuf Yahaya Muhammad	Police Affairs
17	Yussuf Nazeerah Jummai	Women Affairs
18	Muhammad Abdulwahab Yusuf	Rules and Business
19	Okwutepa Aminu Oseni	Customs and Excise Duty
20	Peace Fejiro Afor	Legislative Library, Research and Documentation
21	Mustapha Tukur	Science And Technology

APPENDIX 2: AGENDA - WELCOME RECEPTION



Funded by
the European Union

Policy And Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) With Support From
The European Union (EU)

WELCOME RECEPTION FOR THE 2023 PLAC LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME



Date: **Tuesday, 3rd October 2023** | Time: **2:00PM - 6:00PM**

Venue: **PLAC Office Guzape, Abuja**

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC
2:00PM - 3:00PM	Interns Check into Hotel
3:30PM - 4:00PM	Arrival and Registration <i>All Interns should be seated at the Venue of the Dinner by 3:45PM</i>
4:00PM - 4:30PM	Welcome Remarks Clement Nwankwo <i>Executive Director, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)</i> Prof. Nuhu Yaqub <i>Board Chairman, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre</i>
4:30PM - 5:15PM	Interns Introduction and Expectations Nkiru Uzodi <i>Programme Manager, PLAC</i>
5:15PM – 5:30PM	PLAC's expectations of the interns / Closing Remarks Omolara Akinyeye <i>Deputy Executive Director DED, PLAC</i>
5:30PM - 6:00PM	Dinner

APPENDIX 3: AGENDA - ORIENTATION WORKSHOP FOR LEGISLATIVE INTERNS



Funded by
the European Union

Policy And Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) With Support From
The European Union (EU)

ORIENTATION/INDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR LEGISLATIVE INTERNS



Date: Tuesday, 3rd October - Friday, 6th October 2023

Time: 9:00AM – 5:00PM | Venue: The Pearl, Jabi Lake, Abuja

AGENDA

Day One	Welcome Dinner, Tuesday, 3 rd October, 2023
Day Two	Wednesday, 4 th October, 2023
9:00AM – 9:45AM	Arrival and Registration of Participants, Guests, Resource Persons, Signing of contract of interns
10:00AM - 11:00AM	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION ONE</p> <p>WELCOME AND OPENING CEREMONY – Conference Hall</p> <p>Welcome Remarks <i>Clement Nwankwo</i> <i>Executive Director, PLAC</i></p> <p>Opening Address <i>Ambassador Samuela Isopi</i> <i>Head of the Delegation, European Union in Nigeria and ECOWAS</i></p> <p>Keynote Address <i>Mr. Sani Tambuwal Magaji</i> <i>Clerk to the National Assembly (CNA)</i></p>
11:00AM – 12NOON	<p>An Overview of the National Assembly: Structure and Functions <i>Dr. Rahila Ahmadu,</i> <i>Former Director,</i> <i>National Secretariat of Nigerian Legislatures</i></p>
12PM – 12:30PM	Tea Break
12:30PM -1:30PM	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION TWO</p> <p>The Law-making Process: From Bill to Act Hon. Rima Shawulu / Hon. Samson Osagie</p>
1:30PM – 2:30PM	<p>The Effect of Citizens Participation on Elections and Governance Agianpe Ashang</p>
2:30PM - 3:30PM	Lunch
3:30PM – 4:30PM	<p>Team Building Exercise <i>Stella Onwochei</i> <i>SOBCA</i></p>
4:30PM – 5:00PM	Closing and wrap Up

Day Three		Thursday, 5th October 2023	
9:00AM – 9:30AM	Registration of Participants		
9:30AM – 10:30AM	Understanding NASS Committees and Legislative Plenary Sessions Mr. Gani/ Mrs Iloba Isabella		
10:30AM – 11:30AM	Safety and Security in the National Assembly Mr. Manasseh Aliyuda <i>Sergeant-at-Arms, National Assembly</i>		
11:30AM – 12NOON	Tea Break		
12:00NOON - 1:00PM	Essential Communication Skills and Professional Etiquette Ms. Esther Ijeaku <i>Principal Consultant, SkillHub Consulting</i>		
1:00PM – 2:00PM	Understanding the National Assembly Work Environment: A practical guide for current interns by past interns Abiye Briggs Eniola Bisiriyu Shedrack Nwokocha		
2:00PM - 3:00PM	Lunch		
3:00PM - 4:00PM	Teambuilding / Icebreaker		
4:00PM – 5:00PM	Housekeeping and Wrap up		
Day 4		Friday, 6th October 2023	
9:00AM - 11:00AM	Tour of the National Assembly		
11:00AM - 12NOON	Interns check out of the Hotel		

APPENDIX 4: AGENDA – FIRST BI-WEEKLY MEETING



Funded by
the European Union

Policy And Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) With Support From
The European Union (EU)

PLAC LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2023: FIRST BI-WEEKLY MEETING



Date: Friday, 20th October 2023 | Time: 9:30AM - 2:00PM

Venue: PLAC Office, Plot 451 Gombo Jimeta Crescent, Guzape, Abuja

AGENDA

Time	Topic	Facilitator/ Presenter
9:30AM-10:00AM	Arrival, registration and submission of timesheets	Kor Dzawua Programme Officer, PLAC
10:00AM - 10:15AM	Welcome Remarks	Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC
10:15AM - 11:30AM	Overview of the National Assembly's Legislative Oversight Function	Prof. Jake Dan-Azumi Chief of Staff to the Speaker, Federal House of Representatives
11:30AM – 12:00 NOON	Tea/Coffee Break	
12 NOON – 1:00 PM	NGOs as Drivers of Social Change	Mrs. Oluwaseyi Tetteh State Focal Person (FCT) at EU-Agents for Citizen-Driven Transformation (ACT) Programme, British Council
1:00PM – 2:00PM	How to Analyse Bills and Legislation	Reuben Imarha, Esq. Chief Law Research Officer at Nigerian Law Reform Commission, Abuja; Legal Advisor at Legacy Leadership & Development Outreach (LLDO)
2:00PM	Wrap up and Closing	Nkiru Uzodi, Programme Manager, PLAC

APPENDIX 5: AGENDA – SECOND BI-WEEKLY MEETING



Funded by
the European Union

Policy And Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) With Support From
The European Union (EU)

**PLAC LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2023:
SECOND BI-WEEKLY MEETING**



Date: Friday, 3rd November 2023 | Time: 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Venue: PLAC Office, Plot 451 Gambo Jimeta Crescent, Guzape, Abuja

AGENDA

Time	Topic	Facilitator/ Presenter
9:15 am – 9:50am	Arrival, registration and submission of timesheets	Kor Dzawua Programme Officer, PLAC
9:50am – 10:00am	Welcome Remarks	Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC
10:00am - 11:15am	How the National Budget is Passed	Mr. Benjamin Ekeyi Legislative Strengthening/ Legislative Policy Expert
11:15am – 11:45am	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:45am – 12:45 pm	Reading and Analysing Bills (Pt. II) <i>Overview of select youth-centric bills before NASS</i>	Reuben Imarha, Esq. Chief Law Research Officer at Nigerian Law Reform Commission, Abuja; Legal Advisor at Legacy Leadership & Development Outreach (LLDO)
12:45 pm – 2:00pm	2023 Interns' Model Legislative Assembly (MLA) Principal Officers Election	Kor Dzawua Programme Officer, PLAC
2:00pm	Wrap up and Closing	Nkiru Uzodi, Programme Manager, PLAC

APPENDIX 6: AGENDA – THIRD BI-WEEKLY MEETING



Funded by
the European Union

Policy And Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) With Support From
The European Union (EU)

PLAC LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2023: THIRD BI-WEEKLY MEETING



Date: Friday, 24th November 2023 | Time: 9:00AM - 4:00PM
Venue: PLAC Office, Plot 451 Gambo Jimeta Crescent, Guzape, Abuja
AGENDA

Time	Topic	Facilitator/ Presenter
9:30 am – 9:50am	Arrival, registration and submission of timesheets	Kor Dzawua Programme Officer, PLAC
9:50am – 10:00am	Welcome Remarks	Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC
10:00am - 11:15am	Understanding the Constitution Review Process	Dr. Innocent Mebiri Clerk, Senate Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution (6 th to 9 th Assembly)
11:15am – 11:45am	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:45am – 1:00 pm	Legislative Practice and Procedure in the National Assembly: Motions, Resolutions, Plenary	Barr. Chinedu Akubueze Clerk, Senate National Assembly <i>Represented by Mr. Sani Abdullahi (Clerk, Senate Committee on Defence)</i>
1:00 pm – 2:00pm	MLA Rehearsal	Interns
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Lunch Break	
3:00pm – 3:45pm	Internship Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Refresher	Omolara Akinyeye Deputy Executive Director, PLAC
3:45pm – 4:00pm	Wrap up and closing	Kor Dzawua Programme Officer, PLAC

APPENDIX 7: AGENDA - FOURTH BI-WEEKLY MEETING



Funded by
the European Union

Policy And Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) With Support From
The European Union (EU)

PLAC LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2023: FOURTH BI-WEEKLY MEETING



Date: Friday, 1st December 2023 | Time: 9:30AM - 2:00PM

Venue: PLAC Office, Plot 451 Gambo Jimeta Crescent, Guzape, Abuja

AGENDA

Time	Topic	Facilitator/ Presenter
9:30 am – 9:50am	Arrival, registration and submission of timesheets	Kor Dzawua Programme Officer, PLAC
9:50am – 10:00am	Welcome Remarks	Clement Nwankwo Executive Director, PLAC
10:00am - 11:30am	Effort of Civil Society in Preventing Gender Based Violence and Promoting Women's Rights	Mrs. Ene Obi Former Convener, Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room
11:30am – 12: noon	Tea/Coffee Break	
12:00 – 2:00 pm	MLA Rehearsal: Re-enactment of a House of Representatives Plenary Sitting	Mr. Gani Ojagbohunmi Former Clerk, House of Representatives
2:00pm	Wrap Up and Closing	Nkiru Uzodi Programme Manager, PLAC

APPENDIX 8: AGENDA – MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY & ALUMNI CONVENING



Funded by
the European Union

PLAC 2023 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (MLA) & ALUMNI CONVENING

Supported by **The European Union (EU)**



Date: **Monday, 11th December 2023** | Time: **10:00AM - 1:00PM**

Venue: **Abuja Continental Hotel, 1 Ladi Kwali Street Wuzze Zone 4, Abuja**

AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:30am – 10:00am	Registration of Participants Guests, Resource Persons and Interns are seated
10:00am – 10:30am	SESSION ONE: WELCOME AND OPENING CEREMONY introduction of guests, resource persons and participants Welcome Remarks Clement Nwankwo <i>Executive Director, PLAC</i> Goodwill Remarks <i>European Union (EU)</i> Opening Remarks/Keynote Rt. Hon. Benjamin Kalu <i>Deputy Speaker</i> <i>House of Representatives</i>
10:30am – 11:00am	Tea Break
11:00am – 12:00noon	SESSION TWO: MOCK LEGISLATIVE SESSION Plenary Session by Interns of the PLAC 2023 Model Legislative Assembly <i>Led by:</i> Yasir Yahuza Kassim (Kano) <i>Speaker, 2023 Model Legislative Assembly (MLA)</i> Aminat Olajumoke Sanni (Lagos) <i>Deputy Speaker, 2023 Model Legislative Assembly (MLA)</i>

12:00noon – 12:30pm	SESSION THREE: OBSERVATIONS AND FEEDBACK FROM INVITED HONOURABLE MEMBERS AND PANELISTS	
12:30pm – 1:00pm	SESSION FOUR: PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES AND PHOTO SESSION Clement Nwankwo <i>Executive Director, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)</i>	
1:00pm	Closing Remarks & Lunch	

PART 2: ALUMNI MEETING

TIME	ACTIVITY	
2:00pm – 4:00pm	Meeting of PLAC Legislative Internship Alumni led by PLAC Legislative Internship 2022 Cohort	

APPENDIX 9: AGENDA – LIP 2023 Debrief Agenda



Funded by
the European Union

PLAC LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2023 DEBRIEFING SESSION

Supported by **The European Union (EU)**



Date: **Tuesday, 12th December 2023** | Time: **12 Noon - 2:30PM**

Venue: **PLAC Office, Guzape, Abuja**

AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITY
11:45am – 12:00pm	Registration; Interns are seated
12:00pm – 1:00pm	SESSION ONE: Evaluating the Internship Programme PLAC Legislative Internship Programme: Feedback and Lessons Learnt Discussion with PLAC project team
1:00pm – 2:00pm	SESSION TWO: Career Planning Presentation “Defining and Working Towards Your Vision of a Successful Career” By: Mrs. Esther Ijeaku <i>Founder and Executive Director Skill Hub Consulting Former Senior Project Manager, BBC Media Action, Abuja</i>
2:00pm – 2:30pm	Submission of outstanding final week timesheets, final reports, evaluation forms & wrap up
2:30pm	Lunch & Departure



European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Programme

www.eusdgn.org

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

