



2024 **LEGISLATIVE** **INTERNSHIP** **PROGRAMME REPORT**



Funded by
the European Union



2024
LEGISLATIVE
INTERNSHIP
PROGRAMME
REPORT

Published by



Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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10th COHORT
LEGISLATIVE INTERSHIP PROGRAMME
Creating Impact Since 2013



Introduction

01

OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME



Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) Legislative Internship Programme commenced in March 2013 with an inaugural cohort of 27 interns. The programme was established to provide young Nigerian graduates under the age of 35 with firsthand exposure to the workings of the National Assembly, thereby strengthening youth engagement with the legislative process and fostering interest in public policy and governance.

Young people constitute a substantial proportion of Nigeria's population; however, they remain largely excluded from governance and policy conversations.

Bridging this gap requires deliberate efforts to equip young Nigerians with the knowledge, skills, and access needed to understand how democratic institutions operate. By integrating them into the legislative environment, the Programme helps demystify high-level policy formulation and decision-making processes.

Since its inception, approximately 338 young Nigerians have participated in the internship. The European Union (EU) has supported the programme since 2018. The 2024 edition of the Legislative Internship Programme (LIP) held from 7

October to 12 December 2024, featuring 39 interns selected from across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones.

Following an intensive orientation, interns were deployed to various committees of the National Assembly. There, they attended plenary sessions and committee meetings, observed the legislative process, and deepened their understanding of bills, oversight functions, and other core parliamentary 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/citizen's 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 select 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 years

Some Responsibilities of Interns

- Carrying out legislative and legal research
- Attending meetings, take notes, briefs and minutes as required
- Handling of correspondence and communications
- Attendance or observation of plenary sessions
- Assisting with organising committee hearings and meetings
- Participating in biweekly capacity/team building sessions
- Participation at the Model Legislative Assembly (a re-enactment of a National Assembly plenary session).

Selection Process

The LIP process typically begins with a public call for applications, and the 2024 edition followed the same procedure. In July 2024, advertisements were placed in three national dailies including *ThisDay*, *The Guardian*, and *Daily Trust*. The call was also amplified through PLAC's social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter. The Programme received approximately 4,000 applications from across the country, underscoring its growing appeal

and competitiveness. Following a rigorous selection process, 39 interns - 20 men and 19 women - were admitted into the 2024 cohort.



Photo Gallery of Interns



**SOKOMBAA CALEB
EGBEJA**
Kogi



OBINNA ELOAGU
Abia



**AMINU HARSANU
GUYABA**
Bauchi



EDU-UWEM ETIM
Akwa Ibom



**YUAHANEZU
JAFAR-JUBRIL**
FCT



**FAWAZ MAYOWA
ALLI**
Oyo



**AISHA AHMED
MAI-BORNU**
Adamawa



**DOOYUM CHRISHELLE
KYOKU**
Taraba



ZAINAB ABDULFATTAH
Gombe

Photo Gallery of Interns



**AJE EMMANUEL
OLUWASEGUN**
Ondo



**OLUWA ESTHER
MOSUNMOLA**
Lagos



**TITUS ISHAKU
BULUS**
Nasarawa



**ABDULKADIR ABUBAKAR
ABUBAKAR**
Kebbi



**ADABUTU OBEKPA
STEPHEN**
Benue



**ADAMU MUSA
USMAN**
Katsina



ADESANWO KEHINDE
Ekiti



**DIGNITY
AMENAGHAWON**
Edo



**EDIL LAWRENCE
MONDAN**
Cross River

Photo Gallery of Interns



FAREEDAH BELLO
Jigawa



GODSTIME EZEKIEL
Bayelsa



HADIZA NASIR
Zamfara



KOS'AN WILLIAM
Plateau



JOHN AWOJOBI
Kwara



MARYAM IBRAHIM
Kano



MICHAEL MBAH
Anambra



**MUSA KAZIR
ABUBAKAR**
Yobe



NABILA YUSUF
Niger

Photo Gallery of Interns



**NAFIU MUHAMMAD
LEMA**
Sokoto



**NGUHER COMFORT
IORKYASE**
Benue



SAMUEL C. CHUKWU
Imo



SYLVIA CHARIN DIDAM
Kaduna



SYLVIA OCHOMA
Rivers



**TUFAYL OLAMILEKAN
ADELAKUN**
Oyo



**UFUOMA PRETTY
OGHENETEKEVWE**
Delta



**ADETEJUMADEDOLA
ADENIJI**
Ogun



**CHINAZA PRECIOUS
UGWUANYI**
Enugu

Photo Gallery of Interns



DAVID ENEJI
Cross River

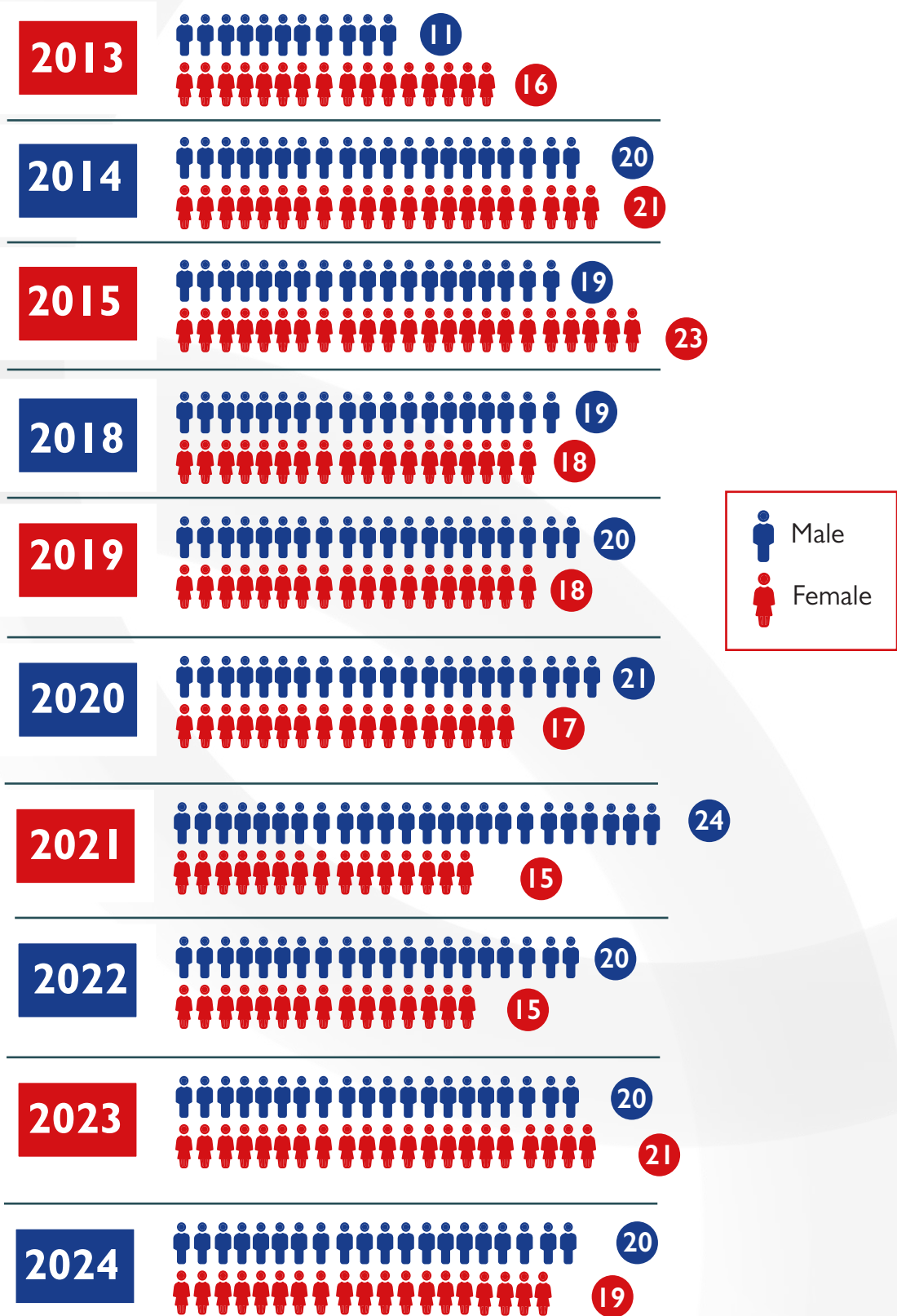


IDAMOKO THANKGOD
Ebonyi



MARTHA ISA
Borno

History of Gender Participation in the Legislative Internship



Internship Activities and Components

- Welcome Dinner
- Orientation Workshop
- Presentations on Day Two of the Orientation Sessions
- Presentations on Day Two of the Orientation Sessions
- Tour of the National Assembly
- Pre-Internship Evaluation Survey

02



WELCOME RECEPTION

The welcome dinner for the 2024 PLAC Legislative Internship Programme was held on Monday, 7 October 2024, at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, to formally receive the 10th Cohort of interns.

In his remarks, Mr. Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director of PLAC, welcomed the interns and commended the selection team for diligently identifying exceptional candidates from thousands of applications. He reiterated that the internship is designed to provide young Nigerians with practical exposure to the policy and legislative space, enabling them to understand governance processes through hands-on experience at the National Assembly. He encouraged the interns to be diligent, committed, and proactive in learning and building networks throughout the programme.

Also speaking, Mr. Gbenga Arulegba, a member of the PLAC Board of Directors, expressed delight at engaging with emerging leaders. He urged the interns to take the opportunity seriously, set clear personal and professional goals, and maintain an open and receptive mindset that fosters growth.

In her address, Ms. Nkiru Uzodi, Programme Manager at PLAC, advised the interns to value teamwork and cultivate unity beyond ethnic and regional lines. She encouraged them to remain open-minded, collaborative, and respectful of diverse perspectives, and concluded by wishing them a rewarding and impactful internship experience.



Orientation Workshop

The orientation workshop for the 2024 interns was held on Tuesday, 8 October, and Wednesday, 9 October 2024, followed by a guided tour of the National Assembly Complex on the third day. The workshop was designed to equip interns with foundational knowledge and key information required to maximise their learning experience during the programme. Over the two days, interns received a series of information-rich presentations delivered by subject-matter experts and resource persons.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director of PLAC, explained that the internship was established to deepen young citizens' understanding of Nigeria's policy environment, legislative processes, and

democratic governance. He underscored the value of democracy, noting that its absence often leads to human rights violations characteristic of authoritarian or military regimes. Mr. Nwankwo stated that exposing young people to the National Assembly is essential in inspiring their active participation in politics and civic life. He urged the interns to uphold the integrity of the programme, conduct themselves responsibly, and represent PLAC with dignity. He concluded by acknowledging the continued support of the European Union in sustaining the initiative.

Delivering goodwill remarks, Ms. Laolu Olawunmi, Programme Manager, Democracy and Rule of Law, Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria and



ECOWAS, congratulated the 10th cohort and commended PLAC for maintaining a proactive platform for youth engagement. She encouraged the interns to clarify their personal learning objectives and remain open-minded, inquisitive, and dedicated to contributing meaningfully within their assigned committees. She reiterated the crucial role of young people in strengthening Nigeria's democratic institutions and reaffirmed the European Union's commitment to supporting youth participation as a pillar of nation-building and sustainable development.

In his closing remarks, Prof. Nuhu Yaqub, Chairman of the PLAC Board of Directors, stressed the importance of taking democracy seriously. He noted that young people must engage governance and leadership with fresh, innovative ideas that advance democratic values and promote accountable institutions.



Presentations on Day One of the Orientation Sessions - Tuesday, 8th October 2024

The orientation commenced with a presentation titled “**Understanding the Structure of the Nigerian National Assembly and its Committee System**,” delivered by Professor Jerry Ugokwe (Professor of Governance and Legislative Studies, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, and former Member, House of Representatives, 1999–2007). His session provided interns with a foundational understanding of the National Assembly’s structure, the distinct roles of its two chambers, and the committee system through which legislative oversight and constitutional responsibilities are executed.

The second presentation, “**The Role and Importance of the Legislature in a Democracy**,” was delivered by Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara, former Speaker of the 8th House of Representatives. Hon. Dogara described the legislature as the most critical institution in a democratic system. In defining democracy, he underscored its value in guaranteeing citizens the freedom

to engage with their leaders and participate meaningfully in governance, thereby accessing the dividends of democracy.

The third presentation, “**From Bill to Act: An Introduction to the Law-making Process**,” was presented by Dr. Rahila Ahmadu (Retired Director, Nigerian Secretariat of Nigerian Legislatures – NSNL). Her paper outlined the stages involved in transforming a bill into law and provided interns with an in-depth understanding of the various types of bills and the procedural requirements they must undergo before enactment.

The final activity of the day was a **Team Building Exercise** facilitated by Mr. David Babale (Chief Executive Officer, Clarexa Consulting). The session focused on equipping interns with essential professional communication skills, underscoring the value of teamwork, and offering practical strategies for preventing and managing workplace conflict.



Presentations on Day Two of the Orientation Sessions - Wednesday, 9th October 2024

The second day commenced with Special Remarks delivered by Ms. Kate Henshaw, Member of the PLAC Board of Directors. She congratulated the 39 interns selected for the 10th Cohort of the PLAC Legislative Internship Programme, with particular commendation for the 19 successful female candidates. Ms. Henshaw urged the interns to remain focused, prioritize their purpose for joining the programme, and avoid distractions. She encouraged them to maximise the opportunity provided by PLAC and the European Union by committing themselves to learning, acquiring valuable experiences, and contributing meaningfully to their personal development, communities, and the broader society.

The first presentation of the day, titled **“Parliamentary Procedures and Rules: Understanding Motions, Debates and Resolutions,”** was delivered by Hon. Uzoma Nkem Abonta (Former Member, House of Representatives, 2007–2015; 2019–2023). His session introduced interns to the parliamentary procedures and rules essential for maintaining decorum and ethical standards within the legislature. He explained that motions, debates, and resolutions are core instruments of parliamentary practice that enable

lawmakers to deliberate on national issues, promote accountability, and ensure that citizens’ voices are reflected in legislative outcomes.

The second presentation, **“Ethical Conduct, Conflict Resolution and Dialogue: Skills for Effective Communication in NASS,”** was delivered by Dr. Aminu Umar (Legislative Expert and Director, National Open University of Nigeria). He emphasised the importance of ethical conduct in a parliamentary environment characterised by cultural, ethnic, religious, and ideological diversity. Dr. Umar cautioned interns against negative workplace behaviours such as poor teamwork, confrontational attitudes, dishonesty, and impoliteness, which can trigger conflict and hinder professional growth. He concluded by outlining key conflict-resolution strategies, including emotional awareness, respect for institutional rules, dedication to tasks, and cultivating team spirit.

The third presentation, **“Safety and Security in the National Assembly,”** was delivered by Mr. Manasseh Aliyuda (Sergeant-at-Arms, National Assembly). His session familiarised interns with the security architecture of the National Assembly, noting that the Sergeant-at-

Arms is the primary security authority responsible for ensuring the safety of legislators, staff, visitors, and interns. He further explained that this role is supported by other security agencies, including the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Department of State Services (DSS), Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Federal Fire Service (FFS), and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC).

The day concluded with an experience-sharing session titled “**Understanding the National Assembly Work Environment: A Practical Guide for Interns,**” featuring four alumni of the PLAC Legislative Internship Programme. The alumni provided insights into their experiences and offered practical guidance to help the current cohort navigate and maximise their time within the National Assembly.

Samuel Ajayi (2023 PLAC LIP Cohort, Ondo State)

Samuel congratulated the interns and encouraged them to maintain professionalism and respect established hierarchies within their assigned committees. He advised them to document and showcase their internship experiences as part of their personal and professional development.

Adewale Sadiq (2022 PLAC LIP Cohort, Ogun State)

Sadiq urged the interns to approach the programme with clear goals and a defined sense of purpose, remain focused, and avoid distractions. He emphasised that meaningful responsibilities are entrusted to interns who demonstrate commitment, resourcefulness, and the ability to add value to committee work.

Uchenna Aja-Akpuruaja (2023 PLAC LIP Cohort, Ebonyi State)

Uchenna encouraged interns to be respectful, tactful, and proactive in contributing to their committees. He stressed the importance of teamwork, unity, and maintaining an open and receptive approach to learning throughout the programme.

Amrah Aliyu (2022 PLAC LIP Cohort, Niger State)

Amrah took the interns on her internship journey and how she was able to use the network and Amrah shared her internship experience, illustrating how the knowledge and networks gained through the programme enabled her to establish and grow her non-governmental organisation, which now supports initiatives that improve the lives of the girl child in her community.

Tour of National Assembly

On Friday, 11 October 2024, the orientation programme concluded with a guided tour of the National Assembly Complex. The tour was designed to familiarise interns with the physical layout and operational environment of the legislature ahead of

their deployment. During the visit, interns participated in an interactive session with officials from the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms, who provided insights into security protocols and operational procedures within the National Assembly.



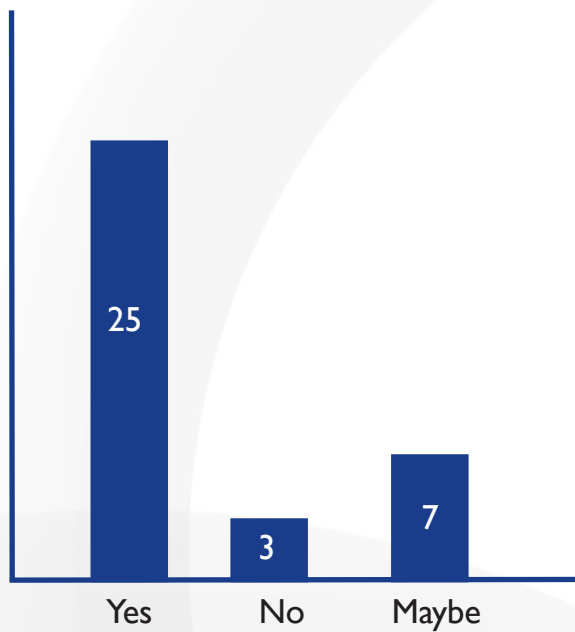
Pre – Internship Evaluation Survey

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?

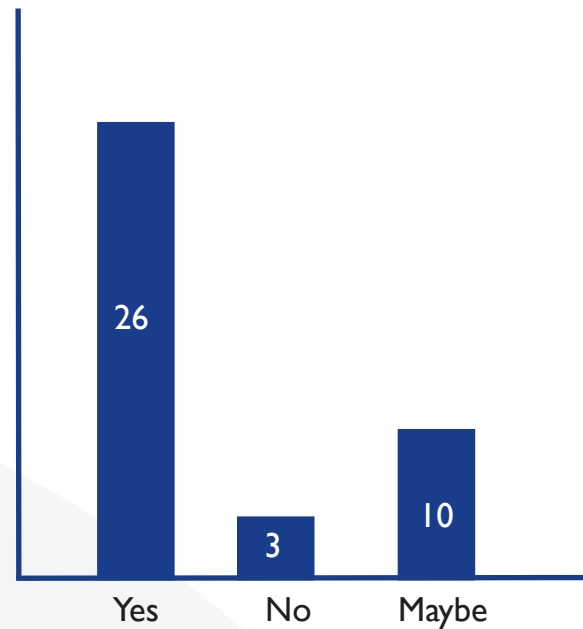
- a. To connect with like-minded Nigerian youths committed to impact and change.
- b. To gain valuable insight and skills in policy and legal advocacy to contribute meaningfully to the society.
- c. To leave this programme equipped with a restored hope in my country and skill to effect change.
- d. To learn about policy making and governance.
- e. To learn how to draft bills.
- f. To gain practical legislative and policy skills.
- g. To learn about the law-making process in Nigeria.
- h. To gain personal experience about the National Assembly.
- i. To gain hand-on experience of how legislative processes are done and how policies are implemented.
- j. To deepen understanding of the agricultural policies and their legislative impacts, and leverage learnings to advocate for impactful agricultural reforms.
- k. To learn how policies are formulated, the processes involved in passing bills,
- l. To gain an understanding of the legislative framework and how it can contribute to the law-making process for the digital economy and effect change in the nation.
- m. To gain practical experience on the development, implementation and evaluation of public policies.
- n. To connect with industry leaders and colleagues from all parts of Nigeria.
- o. To understand the workings of the National Assembly committees and plenary.
- p. To develop and build research skill.
- q. To engage with my law makers for community development.
- r. To learn how to draft legislative documents.
- s. To development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Are you interested in running for political office or an elective position?



POST – INTERNSHIP EVALUATION SURVEY

Are you interested in running for political office or an elective position?



Bi-Weekly Training Sessions

03

Bi-weekly training sessions are a core component of the Legislative Internship Programme. Designed to reinforce interns' learning experiences at the National Assembly, these sessions provide structured opportunities to acquire both technical and soft skills that enhance their legislative engagement, personal growth, and future career pathways. The sessions also enable PLAC to interact with interns, address emerging concerns, and assess the overall progress of the programme. A total of four bi-weekly meetings were held during the 2024 Legislative Internship Programme.

3.1 First Bi-Weekly Meeting

The first bi-weekly meeting for the LIP held on Friday, 25th October 2024 at the PLAC office.

The meeting commenced with a brief remark by Mr. Nwankwo, Executive Director, PLAC, who introduced the following resource persons to deliver presentations at the meeting; Benjamin Ekeyi, Parliamentary Strengthening, Governance and Legislative Policy Expert; Dr. Rahila Ahmadu, Former Director, National Secretariat of Nigerian Legislatures; Omolara Akinyeye, Deputy Executive Director, PLAC.

The presentation by Benjamin Ekeyi on **“Budgeting and Finance in Parliament: The Role of the National Assembly in fiscal oversight”** was

aimed at delivering an in-depth overview of the role of the legislature in budgeting and public financial management, outlining the different types of budgets and emphasizing their importance for strategic planning for development.

The second presentation by Dr. Rahila Ahmadu, was titled **“Understanding the Bills and Law-Making Process (Constitution Review and Money Bills)”**. Dr. Ahmadu outlined the general objectives and principles guiding legislative bills and offered a detailed walkthrough of legislative practices, with particular focus on constitution review and money bills. She emphasized the significance of appropriation and money bills, noting their central role in national economic planning and development.

Finally, during a safeguarding session for the interns, Ms. Omolara Akinyeye reiterated that the internship is intended to support learning and skills development within a safe, respectful, and professional environment, free from all forms of misconduct. She urged interns to promptly report any concerns or incidents of abuse, exploitation, or harassment encountered during their deployment to the National Assembly, using the appropriate reporting channels and in line with PLAC's safeguarding standards.



3.2 Second Bi-Weekly Meeting

The second bi-weekly meeting for the LIP held on Friday, 8th November 2024 at the PLAC office.

Resource persons included Dr. Shuaibu Danwaka, Phd, Director, Legal, National Institute of Legislative and Democratic Studies; Ms. Agianpe Onyema, Lead consultant, SolutionsForDev.

The first Presentation by Dr. Shuaibu Danwaka titled “Understanding National Assembly Legislative Oversight Functions” was aimed at examining how the Legislature reviews and supervises government actions to ensure compliance with laws and policies. It also touched on the importance of legislative oversight in promoting transparency, efficiency, accountability, and due process in governance, while

underscoring the tools, procedures, and challenges that shape effective legislative oversight in Nigeria.

The second presentation, delivered by Ms. Agianpe Onyema and titled “Model Legislative Assembly Elections – Contesting Elections with Good Sportsmanship: Building a Culture of Integrity and Respect in Electoral Processes,” was tailored to prepare interns for the Model Legislative Assembly (MLA) leadership elections that followed shortly thereafter. Her session equipped interns with the values and practical skills required to participate responsibly in the electoral process, emphasising integrity, respectful campaigning, adherence to rules, and constructive engagement during disagreements. The presentation underscored that good sportsmanship,

before, during, and after elections, is essential for fostering credible, peaceful, and inclusive leadership processes within the MLA, and for strengthening democratic practice more broadly.

Following the presentation, interns proceeded to elect members of their cohort to serve as principal officers for the Model Legislative Assembly (MLA), which was convened at the end of the internship. The following interns emerged as principal officers:



**SOKOMBAA CALEB
EGBEJA**
Speaker (Kogi)



OBINNA ELOAGU
Abia
Deputy Speaker (Abia)



**AMINU HARSANU
GUYABA**
Majority Leader (Bauchi)



**DOOYUM CHRISHELLE
KYOKU**
Deputy Majority Leader (Taraba)



ZAINAB ABDULFATTAH
Minority Leader (Gombe)



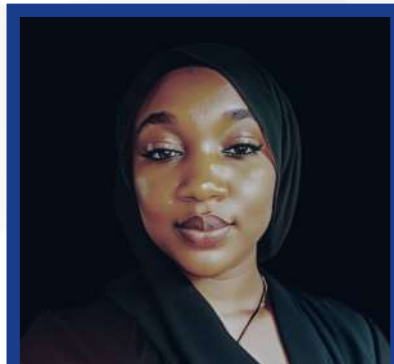
**OLUWA ESTHER
MOSUNMOLA**
Deputy Minority Leader (Lagos)



**FAWAZ MAYOWA
ALLI**
Chief Whip (Oyo)



EDU-UWEM ETIM
Deputy Chief Whip (Akwa Ibom)



**YUAHANEZU
JAFAR-JUBRIL**
Minority Whip (FCT)



**TITUS ISHAKU
BULUS**
Deputy Minority Whip (Nasarawa)



MARTHA ISA
Clerk (Borno)



**AJE EMMANUEL
OLUWASEGUN**
Sergeant-at-arms (Ondo)



3.3 Third Bi-Weekly Meeting

The third bi-weekly meeting of the LIP was held on Friday, 22 November 2024, at the PLAC office.

Resource persons for the session were **Mr. Achike Chude**, National Secretary, Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), and **Barrister Nguyilan Wakombo**, Legislative Drafter, Legal Affairs Directorate, National Assembly.

Mr. Achike delivered a presentation titled **“Writing and Storytelling in the Media.”** His session underscored the importance of compelling storytelling as a tool for establishing credibility, enhancing visibility, and fostering meaningful connection with audiences. He explored how facts and narratives can be combined to communicate impactful messages across oral, written, visual, and digital platforms, and highlighted the increasing influence of

social media in shaping public narratives and amplifying stories.

The final session, facilitated by Barrister Wakombo, provided an overview of legislative bill drafting, followed by a practical exercise. Her presentation explained the structured process involved in developing proposed laws, outlining the essential components of a bill and the guiding principles of effective drafting,

such as clarity, simplicity, enforceability, and consistency with constitutional provisions.

The practical session was designed to equip interns with the foundational skills required to produce professional, well-structured, and impactful draft bills in preparation for the Model Legislative Assembly.



3.4 Fourth Bi-Weekly Meeting

The fourth bi-weekly meeting of the LIP was held on Friday, 29 November 2024, at the PLAC office.

Resource persons for the session included **Dr. Kayode Fayemi**, Former Executive Governor of Ekiti State (2010–2014; 2018–2022) and Visiting Professor at the African Leadership Centre; **Mr. Benjamin Ekeyi**, Legislative Expert; **Mr. Temidayo Musa**, Head of Operations, Civic Hive; and **Barr. Reuben Imarha**, Legislative Drafting Consultant.

Dr. Fayemi delivered the first presentation titled “**How Youths Can Have Effective and Meaningful Engagement with Government.**” His session focused on equipping interns with the knowledge, character, and competence required for impactful participation in governance. He highlighted various pathways for civic engagement, including political participation, advocacy, community action, public service, and constructive dialogue with government actors.

The second presentation, delivered by Mr. Temidayo Musa and titled “**Using Digital Tools for Advocacy, Civic Engagement and Community Organising,**” demonstrated how technology can enhance citizens’ interaction with government processes. He explained how digital platforms can be leveraged to promote transparency, expand public participation, monitor government activities, and mobilise communities for collective action.

Following the presentations, **Mr. Benjamin Ekeyi** led the interns through rehearsal sessions for the Model Legislative Assembly (MLA). He provided professional guidance on legislative procedures, communication tactics, and decorum to help interns prepare effectively for the simulation exercise.

In the final session, **Barr. Reuben Imarha** facilitated a hands-on workshop on bill drafting, offering practical training on the structure, language, and technical requirements of drafting bills and motions.





**Interns Visit
to the
European
Union
Delegation
Office in Abuja**

04

On 6 December 2024, the interns paid a courtesy visit to the Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria and ECOWAS, where they were warmly received by Mr. Zissimos Vergos, Deputy Head of Delegation, and Ms. Laolu Olawunmi, Programme Manager, Democracy and Rule of Law. The meeting provided an opportunity for the EU Delegation's leadership to engage directly with the interns, learn about their experiences, and gain firsthand feedback on the internship programme.

In his remarks, Mr. Vergos encouraged the interns to contribute actively to strengthening democratic participation and good governance within their communities. He reaffirmed the European Union's commitment to supporting Nigeria's democratic institutions and advancing the socio-political inclusion of young people.



Podcast and Radio Programmes

05

To deepen public awareness of the internship programme and stimulate conversations on key socio-political issues, the interns produced a series of themed podcast episodes and participated in live radio engagements. These platforms enabled them to share insights, analyse current developments, and engage a broader audience beyond the National Assembly.

Legislative Internship Podcast

A total of four podcast episodes were produced during the programme, covering the following topics:

- A Conversation on Women's Political Inclusion
- Impact of the Current Economic Crisis in Nigeria on Youth
- Demanding Accountability from Elected Representatives in Nigeria: The Youth Perspective
- Proliferation and duplication of Government Agencies in Nigeria

Live Radio Appearances

- The first live radio appearance took place on 10 December 2024 on *Cool FM 96.6*, during the *Good Morning Nigeria* show hosted by Daniel the Big One. The discussion commemorated the 76th International Human Rights Day, themed “*Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now.*” Interns shared perspectives on human rights, democratic participation, and the role of young people in safeguarding civic freedoms.
- The second live appearance was held on 16 December 2024, also on *Cool FM 96.6* and hosted by **Daniel the Big One**. The session focused on “*The PLAC Legislative Internship Experience,*” where interns reflected on the lessons learned over the course of the programme and discussed how the internship has equipped them with practical skills and a deeper understanding of legislative processes.



Model Legislative Assembly (MLA)

06

The Model Legislative Assembly (MLA) is the flagship concluding activity of the Legislative Internship Programme. It simulates proceedings of the National Assembly and provides a platform for interns to apply the skills and knowledge acquired during their internship. Through this simulation, interns debate real-life social, political, legal, and economic issues affecting the country, mirroring the legislative process.

The MLA also serves as an assessment mechanism to evaluate interns' understanding of plenary procedures, bill drafting, legislative roles, and parliamentary etiquette.

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 2024 MLA session was held on Thursday, 12 December 2024, at the Abuja Continental Hotel.

The welcome remarks were delivered by **Mr. Clement Nwankwo**, Executive Director of PLAC, who commended the National Assembly for its consistent support in ensuring the success of the internship programme.

In her goodwill message, **Ms. Laolu Olawunmi**, Programme Manager, Democracy and Rule of Law, Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria and ECOWAS, expressed the EU's appreciation to PLAC for its longstanding partnership and reiterated the EU's continued commitment to youth inclusion and democratic development in Nigeria.

Special remarks were delivered by **Mr. Godwin Ekpenyong**, representing the Clerk of the National Assembly, **Sani Magaji Tambawal**. He acknowledged PLAC's collaboration with the National Assembly and reaffirmed the institution's ongoing support for the programme.

Brief remarks were also made by **Honourable Adebayo Balogun**, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Electoral Matters. A panel session followed, featuring **Mr. Patrick Giwa** (Former Clerk, House of Representatives), **Mr. Benjamin Ekeyi**, **Dr. Rahila Ahmadu**, and **Mr. Godwin Ekpenyong**.

During the MLA proceedings, interns presented sample bills and motions they had drafted on issues affecting Nigeria's six geopolitical zones and led debates on them, demonstrating both their legislative understanding and analytical capacity.

The bills presented at the session include the following:

- *A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Formulation, Implementation and Evaluation of an Infrastructure Development Plan; The Development of Rural Market Infrastructure, Connecting Rural Farmers to Urban Centers Through Improved Transport Systems; and for related matters, 2024;*
- *A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Institute of Science and Technology, Kirfi, Bauchi State to Enhance Science and Innovation in the North-Eastern Region of Nigeria, and for related matters, 2024;*
- *A Bill for an Act to Prohibit Banditry and Related Offences in Nigeria; to Enhance Security, Provide Justice for Victims, and Promote Socio-economic Development; and for other related matters, 2024;*
- *A Bill for an Act to Establish the Youth Entrepreneurship Fund to Enhance Youth Employment Opportunities in Nigeria, Provide for Funding and Coordination of Existing Youth Entrepreneurship Programs, and Support Skill Development and Entrepreneurship among Youths and for related matters, 2024;*
- *A Bill for an Act to Establish National Security Surveillance Systems to Provide for the Installation of Security Cameras on Public Roads, Homes, Schools,*

Businesses, and Public Places to Enhance Public Safety and Internal Security, Facilitate Crime Prevention, Investigation, Prosecution, and Coordinated Security Response, and for related matters, 2024;

- *A Bill for an Act to Promote Sustainable Finance, Establish a Framework for Classifying Economic Activities that Contribute to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, and for related matters, 2024;*

Motions presented include the following:

- *Need to Investigate the Discrimination of a Nigerian Female Passenger with Disability by Emirates Airline.*
- *Need to Address the Imprisonment and Ill-Treatment of Nigerian Women in Dingy Prisons and the Central Women Prisons in Bamako, Mali by Malian Authorities.*
- *Urgent Need to Address the Recent Attacks by Herdsmen on the Ayilamo Community of Logo Local Government Area of Benue State.*
- *Need to Address the Recurring Collapse of the National Grid with Special Focus on Northern Nigeria.*
- *Need to Address the Escalating Inflation Crisis and its Impact on Nigeria's Economy and Citizens*

- *Urgent Need to Mandate the Compulsory Re-enrollment of Out-of-School Children in Basic and Secondary Education in Nigeria in Response to the Alarming Increase of Street- Hawking, Begging, and Public Disturbances During School Hours*
- *Need for a Comprehensive Framework to Revitalize Nigeria's Dairy Industry*



**Alumni
Network
Convening**

07

The third Legislative Internship Alumni Network convening was held on Thursday, 12 December 2024, at the Abuja Continental Hotel, immediately following the Model Legislative Assembly of the 2024 cohort. The convening served as a platform to track the progress of alumni, reinforce connections across cohorts, and strengthen the growing network of Legislative Internship

Programme graduates within and outside Nigeria.

The session featured an experience-sharing segment during which alumni reflected on how the programme had shaped their professional journeys. They highlighted the internship's role in advancing their careers, expanding their networks, and empowering them to drive positive change within their communities.



Debriefing Session

08

The Legislative Internship debriefing session was held on Friday, 13 December 2024, at the PLAC office. The session provided an opportunity for interns to share their experiences, offer feedback, and suggest improvements to strengthen future editions of the programme.

Opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director of PLAC, who commended the interns for their dedication and contributions to the success of the 2024 Legislative Internship

Programme. He encouraged them to build on the knowledge and skills acquired during the internship and to apply these experiences meaningfully as they take on future leadership roles.

Concluding remarks were jointly delivered by Prof. Nuhu Yaqub, Chairman of the PLAC Board of Directors, and Mr. Gbenga Arulegba, Member of the Board. They urged the 10th cohort to remain engaged and contribute actively to strengthening a vibrant and impactful alumni network.



APPENDICES

09

APPENDIX 1

Deployment List of PLAC 2024 Legislative Interns

SENATE

S/N	NAME	COMMITTEE
1	Aisha Ahmed Mai-Borno	Senate Committee on Anti- corruption and Financial Crimes
2	Michael Chibuzo Mbah	Senate Committee on Finance
3	Chinaza Precious Ugwuanyi	Senate Committee on Health
4	Godstime Ezekiel	Senate Committee on National Security and intelligence
5	Pretty O. Ufuoma	Senate Committee on Aviation
6	Dignity Amenaghwon	Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs
7	Adesanwo Kehinde Oluwaseun	Senate Committee on Electoral Matters
8	Zainab Abdulfattah	Senate Committee on Public Accounts
9	Samuel C. Chukwu	Senate Committee on Constitution Review
10	Adamu Musa	Senate Committee on science and Technology
11	Sokombaa Egbeja	Senate Committee on Rules and Business
12	John Awojobi	Senate Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions

DEPLOYMENT LIST

S/N	NAME	COMMITTEE
13	Esther Mosunmola Oluwa	Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change
14	Titus Ishaku Bulus	Senate Committee on Communications
15	Fawaz Mayowa Alli	Senate Committee on Appropriations
16	Sylvia Ochoma	Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters
17	Dooyum Chrishelle Kyoku	Senate Committee on National Planning and Economic Affairs
18	Hadiza Nasir	Senate Committee on Trade and Investment

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/N	NAME	COMMITTEE
1	Obinna Chidirim Eloagu	House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream)
2	Edu Uwem Etim	House Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development
3	Aminu Harsanu Guyaba	House Committee on Media and Public Affairs
4	Nguher Comfort Iorkyase	House Committee on Rules and Business
5	Martha Isa	House Committee on Public Petitions

S/N	NAME	COMMITTEE
6	Lawrence Mondan Edil	House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Midstream)
7	Idamoko ThankGod	House Committee on Federal Character
8	Yuahenezu Jafar - Jubril	House Committee on Federal capital Territory
9	Fareedah Bello	House Committee on Electoral Matters
10	Sylvia Charin Didam	House Committee on Constitution Review
11	Abdulkadir Abubakar	House Committee on Army
12	Nabila Yusuf	House Committee on Foreign Affairs
13	Adetejumadedola Adeniji	House Committee on Inter Parliamentary Relations
14	Aje Emmanuel Oluwasegun	House committee on Human Rights
15	Stephen Obekpa Adabutu	House Committee on National Security and Intelligence
16	Tufayl Adelakun	House Committee on Defence
17	Kos'an Williams	House Committee of Justice
18	Nafiu Muhammadu Lema	House Committee on Basic Education
19	Abubakar Musa Kazir	House Committee on Science and Technology
20	Maryam Ibrahim	House Committee on Appropriations
21	David Eneji	House Committee on Disabilities

APPENDIX 2

Agenda – Welcome Reception

POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

ORIENTATION WORKSHOP FOR PLAC LEGISLATIVE INTERNS

DATE: Tuesday, 8th October 2024 – Friday, 11th October 2024

TIME: 9:00am daily

VENUE: The Pearl Hotel, Jabi Lake. No. 29 Alex Ekwueme Way, Jabi, Abuja

AGENDA

Day One	Tuesday, 8 th October 2024
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Arrival and Registration of Participants
	OPENING SESSION
	Introductions & Welcome Remarks - Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director, PLAC - Prof. Nuhu Yaqub, Chairman, PLAC Board of Directors
10:00 am – 10:30am	Goodwill Remarks Mr. Gautier Mignot <i>Ambassador, European Union Delegation to Nigeria and the ECOWAS</i>
	Special Remarks Mr. Sani Tambawal Magaji <i>Clerk to the National Assembly (CNA)</i>
10:30am – 11:30am	Session I: The Role and Importance of the Legislature in a Democracy Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara <i>Speaker, 8th House of Representatives</i>

Day One	Tuesday, 8 th October 2024
11:30am – 12:00noon	Tea/Coffee Break
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Session 2: Understanding the Structure of the Nigerian National Assembly and its Committee System Prof. Jerry Ugokwe <i>Professor of Governance and Legislative Studies, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka; Former Member, House of Representatives (1999 – 2007)</i>
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Session 3: From Bill to Act: An Introduction to the Law-Making Process Dr. (Mrs.) Rahila Ahmadu <i>Retd. Director, Nigerian Secretariat of Nigerian Legislatures (NSNL)</i>
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Lunch Break
3:00pm – 4:30pm	Session 4: Team Building Exercise Mr. David Babale <i>Chief Executive Officer, Clarexa Consulting</i>
4:30pm – 5:00pm	Closing and Wrap Up for Day 1
Day Two	Wednesday, 9 th October 2024
9:00 am – 9:30am	Registration
9:30am – 10:30am	Ice Breaker Exercise (PLAC)
10:30 am – 11:45am	<i>Sessions Moderated by Prof. Nuhu Yaqub, Chairman, PLAC Board of Directors</i> Session 1: Parliamentary Procedures and Rules: Understanding Motions, Debates & Resolutions Hon. Uzoma Nkem Abonta <i>Former Member of the House of Representatives (2007– 2015; 2019 - 2023)</i>

Day One	Tuesday, 8 th October 2024
11:45 am – 12:15pm	Tea Break
12:15pm – 1:00pm	Session 2: Ethical Conduct, Conflict Resolution and Dialogue: Skills for Effective Communication in NASS Dr.Aminu Umar <i>Legislative Expert and Director at the National Open University of Nigeria</i>
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Session 3: Safety and Security in the National Assembly Mr. Manasseh Aliyuda <i>Sergeant-at-Arms, National Assembly</i>
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Lunch Break
3:00pm – 4:30pm	Session 4: Understanding the National Assembly Work Environment: A Practical Guide for Interns <i>Experience Sharing by Former Interns</i>
4:30 pm – 5:00pm	Wrap Up and Closing
Day 3	Thursday, 10 th October 2024
12:00 noon	Hotel Check Out and Departure/ Deployment Logistics
Day 4	Friday, 11 th October 2024
9:00am – 11:00am	Tour of the National Assembly

APPENDIX 3

First Bi-weekly Meeting

POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
PLAC Legislative Internship Programme 2024
First Bi Weekly Meeting

DATE: Friday 25th October 2024

TIME: 9:00am -1:10PM

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

AGENDA

TIME	Topic	Facilitator/ Presenter
9:00am-9:30am	Arrival, registration and submission of timesheets	Kor Dzawua <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
9:30pm-10:00am	Tea / Coffee	All Interns
10:00am -10:15am	Welcome Remarks	Clement Nwankwo <i>Executive Director</i>
10:15am- 11:15am	Budgeting and Finance in Parliament: The Role of NASS in Fiscal Oversight	Mr. Benjamin Ekeyi <i>Public Financial Management (PFM) Expert, House Committee on Defence</i>
11:15am-12:15pm	Understanding the Bills and Lawmaking Process (Constitution Review & Money Bills)	Dr. Rahila Ahmadu <i>Former Director, NSNL</i>
12:15 pm – 1:00pm	Safeguarding Presentation	Omolara Akinyeye <i>Former Deputy Executive Director</i>
	Post Workshop Survey/ M&E	PLAC M&E Officer
1:00pm-1:10pm	Closing and Wrap Up	All

APPENDIX 4

Second Bi-weekly Meeting

POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
PLAC Legislative Internship Programme 2024

DATE: Friday, 8th November 2024

TIME: 9:00am – 1:30pm

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

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC	FACILITATOR/ PRESENTER
9:00am – 9:30am	Arrival, registration and submission of timesheets	Kor Dzawua <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
9:30 am – 10:00am	Tea/Coffee	All
10:00am – 10:15am	Welcome Remarks	Clement Nwankwo <i>Executive Director</i>
10:15am – 11:30am	Understanding NASS Legislative Oversight Function, Tools & Mechanisms	Dr. Shuaibu Danwanka <i>Director, Legal Services National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) Abuja.</i>
11:30am – 1:00pm	Election of Principal Officers for Model Legislative Assembly (MLA)	Agianpe Onyema <i>Lead Consultant, Solutions4Dev Ltd</i>
1:00pm	Closing and Lunch	All

APPENDIX 5

Third Bi-weekly Meeting

POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
PLAC Legislative Internship Programme 2024

DATE: Friday, 22nd November 2024

TIME: 9:00am – 1:30pm

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

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR/ PRESENTER
9:00am – 9:30am	Arrival, registration and submission of timesheets	Kor Dzawua <i>Programme Officer, PLAC</i>
9:30 am – 10:00am	Tea/Coffee	
10:00am – 10:05am	Welcome Remarks	Clement Nwankwo Executive Director
10:05am – 11:15am	Writing and Storytelling in the Media	Mr. Achike Chude National Secretary, Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ)
11:15am – 12:15pm	Practical Bills Drafting Session	Barr. Nguliyen Wakombo Legislative Services Department National Assembly
1:30pm	Closing and Lunch	All

APPENDIX 6

Fourth Bi-weekly Meeting

POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
PLAC Legislative Internship Programme 2024

DATE: Friday, 29th November 2024

TIME: 9:00am – 4:00pm

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

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR/ PRESENTER
9:00am – 9:30am	Arrival, registration and submission of timesheets	Kor Dzawua Programme Officer, PLAC
9:30 am – 10:00am	Tea/Coffee	
10:00am – 10:05am	Welcome Remarks	Clement Nwankwo Executive Director
10:05am – 11:15am	How Youths Can Have Effective and Meaningful Engagement with Government	Dr. Kayode Fayemi Former Executive Governor of Ekiti State (2010 – 2014; 2018 – 2022). Visiting Professor, African Leadership Centre
11:15am – 12:15pm	Using digital tools for advocacy, civic engagement and community organizing	Temidayo Musa Head of Operations, Civic Hive

TIME	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR/ PRESENTER
12:15pm – 1:30pm	MLA/Plenary Session Rehearsal	Mr. Benjamin Ekeyi Legislative Strengthening Expert National Assembly
1:30pm – 2:30 pm	Lunch Break	All
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Bills Drafting Session/Exercise	Barr. Reuben Imarha Legacy Leadership & Development Outreach (LLDO)
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Rehearsal Wrap Up and Closing	PLAC

APPENDIX 7

Agenda – Model Legislative Assembly & Alumni Convening

**PLAC 2024 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME
MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (MLA) & ALUMNI CONVENING
Supported by the European Union (EU)**

Date: Monday, 12th December 2024

Venue: Abuja Continental Hotel, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja

Time: 10am – 1:00pm

AGENDA

PART I: MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:30am – 10:00am	Registration of Participants Guests, Resource Persons and Interns are seated
10:00am – 11:00am	SESSION ONE: WELCOME AND OPENING CEREMONY Introduction of guests, resource persons and participants Welcome Remarks Clement Nwankwo <i>Executive Director, PLAC</i> Goodwill Remarks European Union (EU) Delegation to Nigeria and the ECOWAS The Clerk of the National Assembly Invited Senators & Honourable Members/ Special Guests

TIME	ACTIVITY
11:00am - 12:00noon	SESSION TWO: MOCK LEGISLATIVE SESSION Plenary Session by Interns of the PLAC 2024 Model Legislative Assembly Led by: Sokombaa Egbeja (Kogi) <i>Speaker, 2024 Model Legislative Assembly (MLA)</i> Obinna Eloagu (Abia) <i>Deputy Speaker, 2024 Model Legislative Assembly (MLA)</i>
12:00noon - 12:30pm	SESSION THREE: OBSERVATIONS AND FEEDBACK FROM INVITED LEGISLATORS 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
5:00pm – 7:00pm	Meeting of PLAC Legislative Internship Alumni

APPENDIX 8

Agenda – Debriefing Session

**POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC)
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
PLAC Legislative Internship Programme 2024**

DATE: Friday, 13th December 2024

TIME: 11:30am – 1:30pm

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

AGENDA

TIME	Topic
11:30am – 11:45 am	Registration; Interns are seated
11:45am – 1:00pm	PLAC Legislative Internship Programme: Feedback and Lessons Learnt Discussion with the PLAC Board and team Facilitated by: Mr. Clement Nwankwo Prof. Nuhu Yaqub (PLAC Board Chair) Mr. Gbenga Aruleba
1:00pm – 1:30pm	Submission of outstanding final week timesheets, final reports, evaluation forms & wrap up
1:30pm	Lunch & Departure

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 process.

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.



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