



European Union

A Journey of Leadership

Abdulkadir's Path to Political Growth



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Abdulkadir Abubakar Abubakar, a young man from Kebbi State, has always been drawn to leadership. From a young age, his passion for politics was ignited during his secondary school years, when he first ran for and won the position of discipline prefect. Reflecting on that moment, Abdulkadir shared, "I ran for the position of discipline prefect after a lot of solicitations and efforts, and I was able to emerge victorious. That experience gave me a glimpse of how politics works." This experience gave him his first taste of the political world, which would later shape much of his life and ambitions.

Although Abdulkadir initially sought to study electrical engineering at university, fate led him to the field of physics. But even as his academic path took a different turn, his passion for leadership never wavered. By his third year in university, Abdulkadir was

deeply involved in student politics. He applied to be the departmental president but was instead offered the role of election chairman. "During my third year, I contested to be the departmental president but was instead offered the role of election chairman," he explained.

His postgraduate journey brought further opportunities. He successfully contested for the position of faculty representative but narrowly lost the race for secretary-general of the postgraduate students' association. Despite these ups and downs, Abdulkadir's political resolve grew stronger. He learned the value of persistence, strategic campaigning, and the importance of building connections—key elements for any successful political career.

However, despite his active

involvement in student politics, Abdulkadir recognised a significant gap in his understanding of governance: “Despite all my political involvement, I’ve never had the chance to learn about how policies and legislative processes work—how bills are passed and implemented.” This realisation is what drove him to apply for a legislative internship. He saw it as an opportunity to immerse himself in the world of governance and lawmaking, gaining first-hand experience in areas crucial to his aspirations of becoming a senator or a member of the House of Representatives.

“That’s why I see this internship as an opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the legislative world, which will be useful when I aspire to higher offices,” Abdulkadir said, confident that the internship would serve as a stepping stone towards his larger political goals.

One of the aspects that most excited Abdulkadir about the internship was the chance to understand how policies are created and how bills are passed. As an advocate for nuclear energy, Abdulkadir is passionate about exploring alternative energy solutions for Nigeria. “I believe Nigeria needs to explore alternative power solutions like nuclear energy. Hydropower can be supplemented with nuclear power, and some African countries have already adopted it successfully,” he explained. Through the internship, Abdulkadir hopes to learn the skills needed to create and advocate for policies that could make nuclear energy a viable option for Nigeria’s future.

But Abdulkadir’s journey into politics was not solely driven by personal ambition—it was deeply influenced by his elder brother. “My elder brother has been a big influence on me,” Abdulkadir said, fondly recalling the moment that sparked his interest in leadership. “When I first wanted to run for the prefect position, I was nervous and went to him for advice. He not only encouraged me but also helped me write my first speech.” That guidance, at a critical time in his youth, inspired him to pursue politics even beyond secondary school. Although his first attempt to run for a councillorship position in his ward didn’t succeed, it was the support of his brother that kept him motivated

and focused on his political dreams.

As Abdulkadir looks ahead to the internship, he is excited about the growth it promises. “This internship will provide me with real-world insights into leadership,” he said. Abdulkadir believes that while some aspects of leadership can be learnt in academic settings, others—such as quickly building rapport and trust with people, require hands-on experience. “In politics, it’s crucial to establish relationships quickly and effectively, and this experience will help me sharpen that skill,” he added.

Abdulkadir hopes to enhance three key skills during the internship: leadership, team management, and effective communication. These are the pillars of his political philosophy, and he believes the internship will refine his approach in these areas, allowing him to apply them in more complex, real-world scenarios. “While I have already started learning and practising these abilities, the experience will refine them and help me apply them in more complex, real-world situations,” he said, eager to learn and grow.

Ultimately, Abdulkadir believes the most valuable takeaway from the internship will be his increased understanding of the legislative process. “The most important knowledge I’ll gain is how the legislative system functions—how bills are passed, policies are set, and laws are implemented,” he said. This knowledge, combined with the ability to connect with people—whether they are colleagues, politicians, or the general public—will be essential in achieving his political goals. “Building those connections is key in politics, and I think this internship will help me develop that ability even further,” Abdulkadir emphasised.

As Abdulkadir embarks on this new chapter of his leadership journey, he remains focused on his long-term vision: serving his community and country by championing policies that will benefit the people. With his dedication, his passion for leadership, and the unwavering support of his family, Abdulkadir Abubakar Abubakar is ready to take on the challenges ahead, and eager to make a meaningful impact in the political landscape of Nigeria. “I’m excited for the opportunity and the growth that will come from it,” he concluded.





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About the EU-SDGN Programme

The European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) is the EU's flagship democracy support programme in Nigeria. The programme is designed to complement the efforts of the Nigerian government to improve and strengthen democracy.