



European Union



## Changing perspectives

# A journey of discovery and purpose



*How would I know if politics is really a dirty game if I don't get involved? How do I know how policies are made or how the legislative process works if I don't see it with my own eyes?*

Chinaza Precious Uguanyi, a young woman from Enugu State, wasn't always interested in politics. In fact, when she first saw the opportunity to apply for the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) legislative internship, her instinct was to dismiss it. Like many others, she had long believed that "politics is a dirty game," and any effort to fight for a better Nigeria seemed futile to her.

"I wasn't motivated to apply at all," she admitted. "I thought fighting for a better nation was a waste of time."

Despite this, something drew her to the PLAC's website. She found herself reading through the organisation's reports and learning about their work. As she dove deeper, her perspective started to shift. She realised that she couldn't really know whether politics was hopeless unless she experienced

it for herself. "How would I know if politics is really a dirty game if I don't get involved? How do I know how policies are made or how the legislative process works if I don't see it with my own eyes?" she asked herself.

And so, after a change of heart, Chinaza took the leap and applied for the internship. This decision marked the beginning of a new chapter in her life—one she hadn't anticipated, but one that would soon ignite a passion for advocacy.

What really caught her attention about the PLAC legislative internship was the chance to work in the National Assembly. She realised this would give her the unique opportunity to see how policymaking happens in real time. "This is where decisions that affect the entire nation are made," she said with excitement. "I'll be there, seeing how

everything happens.” For Chinaza, this hands-on experience was the deciding factor that pushed her to commit fully to the programme.

Her initial disinterest in politics wasn't rooted in any personal experience but rather in a general disillusionment with the political system. Chinaza admitted that it was the information she found on PLAC's website that sparked her curiosity and motivated her to take the plunge. “It wasn't a person or event that inspired me,” she explained. “It was the internship itself—the more I learned about it, the more I felt it was something worth pursuing.”

Once the internship began, Chinaza's outlook on politics shifted rapidly. She had initially approached the programme with the intention of simply learning how the National Assembly functions. But after just a few days, something else began to stir inside her—a passion for advocacy.

“I've only been here a few days, but I already feel this burning desire to go into advocacy,” she said. “The information I'm gaining here will really help with my future career goals.”

Chinaza sees this internship as more than just a stepping stone into politics—it's a platform that will help her hone critical skills for her future. She knows that the experience will sharpen her leadership abilities and prepare her for her long-term advocacy goals. “I know that with the information I'll

gather here, and with the bright minds of my fellow interns, I'll be able to develop my leadership and teamwork skills,” she shared. “This experience will help make me a better advocate in the future.”

One of the key aspects of the internship that excites Chinaza is the opportunity to see how policies are made at the National Assembly. She understands that advocacy is about representing the people, and by observing how policies are formed, she will be better equipped to advocate for change. “You can't just learn everything from the internet,” she emphasised. “Seeing things firsthand and experiencing them in person will make me a better advocate.”

However, the benefits of the internship extend beyond just professional skills. Chinaza is also eager to grow on a personal level, particularly in areas like confidence, public speaking, and networking. The programme offers various experiences, including podcast sessions and meetings, that she believes will sharpen her communication skills and help her build connections both within and outside the National Assembly. “I know that within this 10-week internship, I'll have plenty of opportunities to develop my leadership skills, build my confidence, and expand my network,” she said.

Looking back, Chinaza can't help but marvel at how far she's come—from someone who wanted nothing to do with politics to a passionate advocate ready to make a difference. Her journey is a testament to the idea that sometimes, all it takes is a single opportunity to change the course of one's path. What began as a curiosity has blossomed into a burning desire to fight for the people and their rights.

“I'm excited about the journey ahead,” Chinaza concluded. “This internship has already started shaping my future, and I know it will make me a better leader and advocate for the people.”





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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.