



European Union

Knowledge, Growth, Leadership

How PLAC's Legislative Internship is shaping a Young Leader



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Emmanuel Aje, a young and ambitious individual hailing from Ondo State, has always had a clear vision for his future. His desire to make a meaningful impact within his community and the nation has driven him to seek opportunities that will shape both his career and personal development. One such opportunity is the legislative internship offered by PLAC (Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre), which Emmanuel recently applied for with great enthusiasm.

When asked what motivated him to pursue this prestigious internship, Emmanuel's response was reflective of his hunger for knowledge and self-growth. "The first thing that motivated me to apply for PLAC was that I needed to be on another level as a young person. I feel that the more you learn, the more you know," he explained with conviction. For him, PLAC presented an

invaluable chance to gain deeper insights into the workings of the National Assembly, an experience he believed would lay a solid foundation for his aspirations of running for public office in the near future.

Emmanuel's passion for learning was accompanied by a deep commitment to inclusivity, a value that first caught his attention when exploring the internship programme. "The inclusivity caught my interest the most because I really believe in bringing people from diverse communities together, including those living with disabilities and people from unreserved areas. When we come together, we can always achieve more," he said, praising PLAC for fostering a culture of inclusiveness that resonated deeply with him.

Behind Emmanuel's motivation lies a network of friends and mentors who

have guided him along the way. Many of his close friends are alumni of the PLAC programme and have been instrumental in encouraging him to push his boundaries. "They've always motivated and mentored me, telling me I need to do more," he shared, crediting his friends for inspiring him to take this step forward.

As Emmanuel looks ahead to the internship, he is confident that it will play a pivotal role in shaping his professional skills and career choices. "I'm going to learn a lot from this legislative internship, from the workings of the National Assembly to team building and even running an organisation," he said. For someone like Emmanuel, who already leads an organisation, this experience will enhance his leadership skills and equip him with new tools to manage and lead effectively.

With aspirations of running for public office, Emmanuel hopes to acquire specific skills that will be critical to his future success. Legislative drafting, public speaking, community organising, and digital leadership are just a few areas in which he seeks to grow. His aim is clear: to become a more effective problem-solver and a leader who uses digital skills to tackle societal challenges head-on.

But beyond the professional skills, Emmanuel

recognises that this internship will also contribute significantly to his personal growth. A seasoned volunteer with a background in non-profit work, he believes that the opportunity to engage with elected officials and fellow interns will boost his confidence, expand his network, and further hone his leadership abilities.

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Being a serial volunteer has brought me this far. I feel that this opportunity to be part of the legislative internship is going to elevate me to another level, both personally and professionally,

he concluded.

For Emmanuel Aje, the PLAC legislative internship is more than just a stepping stone in his career—it is a platform that will help him evolve into the leader he aspires to be, ready to make a difference in his community and beyond.





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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.