



European Union

**From Reporting to Reforming**

## **A Journalist's Transition to Legislative Impact**

**LEGISLATIVE  
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Nafiu Muhammad Lema, a seasoned journalist from Sokoto State, is on a new path of discovery. As someone deeply rooted in the world of media and politics, Nafiu has spent over a decade working as a media aide to high-profile politicians in his home state. Now, however, he's taking a leap beyond journalism by stepping into the world of legislative advocacy through the prestigious PLAC legislative internship.

For Nafiu, this internship is more than just an opportunity to expand his knowledge—it's a chance to transition from his role as a media professional to someone who actively understands and participates in the legislative process. "What motivated me to apply for this programme is my career as a journalist," he explained. "In Sokoto State, I've worked as a digital media aide for a gubernatorial candidate. But

through this application, I realised there's so much more to learn, especially in areas like policy-making and legislation."

Sokoto State, where Nafiu hails from, has faced significant challenges, particularly related to insecurity. It is this reality that has made Nafiu keenly aware of the importance of effective legislative action. "Being from Sokoto State, a place that has been dealing with security challenges, I'm very interested in learning what our legislators are doing to address these issues," Nafiu shared. He sees the internship as a chance to gain insight into how lawmakers tackle such critical problems and how legislation can be used as a tool for change.

Nafiu's motivation didn't come out of nowhere. About two or three years ago, he came across a friend, Abubakar

Longman, on Facebook who had successfully applied for the PLAC legislative internship. Watching Abubaka's journey inspired Nafiu to apply as well, though it took him a couple of years to take the plunge. Additionally, there's a House of Representatives member from Sokoto State whose passionate debates and dedication to his constituents left a lasting impression on Nafiu. "Whenever I watch him debate on the floor and bring up issues affecting his people, I get inspired," he said.

This experience is also a professional pivot for Nafiu. While his background is primarily in journalism, he has long worked closely with politicians. "I've worked with politicians for more than 10 years," Nafiu explained. "I started as a media assistant for a serving commissioner of finance, who later became the secretary to the state government and a gubernatorial candidate. I've also worked for a senator as a media aide." However, this internship is giving him the opportunity to see politics from a different angle—one that could shape his future ambitions. "I want to see how this programme can transform me," he added. "Maybe in the future, if I want to become a legislator, this experience will help me get there."

Nafiu's long-term goals include gaining skills that will be essential if he chooses to pursue a political career. He recognises that understanding policy-making and the promises that politicians make to their constituents is key. "I want to learn how to make pledges to my people that are realistic and achievable," he said. For him, this knowledge is vital to building a successful career in politics, one grounded in genuine service and realistic

promises.

While Nafiu's career goals are clear, the PLAC legislative internship offers more than just professional development. He recognises that the programme is also a platform for personal growth, particularly in areas like networking, leadership, and confidence building. "This internship will help me a lot in terms of networking," he said. "I'll be able to connect with people from different parts of Nigeria, build relationships, and improve my leadership skills." Nafiu sees this experience as an opportunity to strengthen his public speaking skills and grow his confidence, both of which are essential for success in any field, especially politics.

In reflecting on his journey so far, Nafiu is filled with gratitude for the opportunity the PLAC legislative internship has provided. "I'm really glad this internship offers these avenues for growth," he shared. For someone who has spent years working behind the scenes in media and politics, this internship represents a step into a more hands-on role in shaping the policies and laws that impact Nigeria's future.

With his dedication to learning and his commitment to making a difference, Nafiu Muhammad Lema is well on his way to becoming not just a journalist but a future leader who understands the intricacies of legislation and how to use it to address real-world issues. Whether he remains in journalism or takes the next step into politics, Nafiu's passion for helping his community through the power of policy and advocacy is clear—and his journey is just beginning.





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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.