



*What does it take to build the next generation
of democratic leaders?*

Building Nigeria's *Next Generation* of Democratic Leaders



2026 COHORT · ORIENTATION, ABUJA

For more than a decade, the **PLAC Legislative Internship Programme** has given young Nigerians a front-row seat to the work of the National Assembly — turning classroom learning into first-hand democratic experience.

A front-row seat to the National Assembly

For the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), the answer begins with giving young Nigerians an opportunity few ever receive: direct exposure to how the country's legislature actually works. For more than a decade, the EU-funded PLAC Legislative Internship Programme has equipped young people from across Nigeria with first-hand experience of the National Assembly.

Supported by the European Union under the **EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN)** programme, the internship bridges the gap between academic learning and the realities of democratic governance — giving participants practical exposure to how laws are made, debated, scrutinised and implemented.

At the heart of the programme is a simple belief: young people who understand democratic institutions are better equipped to strengthen them.

"The purpose of the Legislative Internship Programme is to give young people a platform to learn about the Nigerian National Assembly. It gives them an opportunity to participate and learn first-hand the workings of the institution."

NKURU UZODI — Programme Manager, PLAC

Beyond providing access, the programme is designed to create lasting impact. **"Our expectation is that they will use the knowledge they have gathered from this internship to educate and enlighten other young Nigerians and give back to their communities,"** Uzodi explains.

WHAT INTERNS GAIN

Direct exposure to lawmaking, debate, scrutiny and implementation inside Nigeria's National Assembly — paired with an expectation to carry that knowledge back to their communities.



2026 COHORT Interns and PLAC staff at the Legislative Internship Programme orientation

Abuja, Nigeria

VOICES FROM THE 2026 COHORT

That ambition is already evident in the reflections of the 2026 cohort. Across the group, a common thread emerges: the interns are not simply interested in observing the legislature. They want to understand how democratic institutions serve citizens, how accountability is upheld, and how effective legislation can deliver meaningful change.

10+

YEARS RUNNING

2026

CURRENT COHORT

1

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, FIRST-HAND

On the record: what the 2026 interns hope to gain

ENTRY 01

"I hope to come out with an increased knowledge of how legislation works and use that knowledge to provide a better Nigeria for all of us."

JERRY ANYETE

ENTRY 02

"The few days we have spent at the orientation have been awesome. I've learned even beyond my expectations, and I know the next ten weeks will be excellent."

JAMES OLUSA

ENTRY 03

"I'm super excited and feel extremely privileged to be part of this programme. I want to see how the National Assembly is the very heart of the legislative process in Nigeria."

JEMIMAH PAM

ENTRY 04

"I want to learn about legislative processes in Nigeria and how laws are made."

JAFARU ADAMU

ENTRY 05

"I hope to learn more about policy advocacy, legislative oversight and the practical implementation of our laws."

JOY AFORODI

"My expectations are around understanding these processes and taking steps that will advance our democracy."

2026 INTERN — on the shared aspiration of the cohort

Cultivating informed citizens, future policymakers and democratic leaders

These reflections illustrate the programme's broader impact. It is nurturing young Nigerians who are curious about governance, committed to public service, and prepared to contribute to democratic development long after the internship ends. The cohort also recognises the importance of sustained investment in young people.

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A very big thank you to the European Union for funding this amazing and insightful programme. We wouldn't be here without your support.

2026 COHORT, PLAC LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

As the 2026 internship unfolds, the programme continues to demonstrate the value of investing in youth leadership. By opening the doors of the National Assembly to the next generation, the European Union and PLAC are not simply creating interns — they are helping to cultivate informed citizens, future policymakers and democratic leaders who will shape Nigeria's future for years to come.



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