



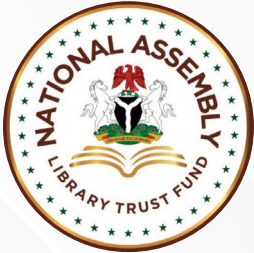
LEGISLATIVE MENTORSHIP INITIATIVE (LMI)

# FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME REPORT 2023

...building the next generation of Nigeria's public sector leaders



# OUR PARTNERS



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It was indeed a joy to have successfully hosted the second cohort of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI), which was born out of my deep-seated belief in the potential of our young people and my firsthand experience of serving as a legislator for six consecutive terms.

In my almost three decades of national service, I have seen the challenges and triumphs that come with public service, and the importance of preparing the next generation to take on these roles with competence and dedication weighed heavily on my mind. The idea of LMI thus crystallised from a desire to see our youth thrive, not just in their individual pursuits but as exceptional leaders who can drive our nation's progress. The initiative was conceived to bridge the gap between ambition and opportunity, providing our young people with the mentorship, knowledge, and skills necessary to excel in legislative roles and public service in general.

The completion of the first two cohorts in 2022 and 2023 filled me with immense pride and excitement. As at today, we have graduated 120 fellows in total, and I could not be happier nor more proud of them all. At the past two graduation ceremonies, I remember standing before our young graduates, their eyes shining with promise and pregnant with potential. Each handshake and certificate handed over, carried the weight of responsibility and the promise of transformation. Today, witnessing the LMI Fellows excel across different sectors means my vision of seeing young people leading and serving in the highest offices is gradually becoming a reality. Their achievements reaffirm my belief that our youth can overcome any obstacle and make significant contributions to our nation's governance with the right guidance and support.

Life is a series of transitions, and mine has been no exception. As I transitioned from my role as Speaker of the 9<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives to the Chief of Staff to the President H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, simultaneously, LMI also underwent its metamorphosis – the transition to the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) as it's institutional home. I am

indeed grateful for the support of Prof. Abubakar O. Suleiman, the Director General of NILDS, in rising to the occasion. His wisdom and commitment ensured a seamless handover and continued success of LMI. While change can be daunting, it also presents new opportunities for growth and impact. I am confident that under the aegis of NILDS, LMI will continue to flourish, providing even greater support and resources to our fellows.

The journey has not been without its challenges. Hosting the second cohort in 2023 tested our resolve. Mobilising resources – financial and logistical – was particularly tough. I remember vividly telling the inaugural Director and now Chairman of the Planning and Advisory Committee, 'Dapo Oyewole, let us continue, despite the obstacles. His, and the leadership of his successor, our female Director, Chimdi Neliaku Esq., coupled with the diligence and resilience of their team not only rose to the challenge but exceeded expectations. They juggled budgets, rallied sponsors and worked late into the night to meet and surpass the goals we set, delivering a programme that continued to inspire and empower our young leaders. I am thankful to the entire team for delivering exceptionally well on the mandate I gave them, despite the challenges.

I reiterate my gratitude to Professor Abubakar Suleiman and his dedicated team at the National Institute of Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS). Their support and commitment have been instrumental in ensuring the continued success and growth of LMI. My sincere gratitude also goes to all my colleagues in the National Assembly – both in the Senate and the House of Representatives. Their steadfast support extended beyond party lines and has been invaluable in advancing the goals of LMI.

I appreciate the faculty of trainers and speakers who have generously shared their knowledge and expertise with our fellows. Their words weren't mere lectures; they were sparks that ignited curiosity in our fellows and answered burning questions. My sincere gratitude goes to the Chairman of the Selection Committee Hon. Henry Nwawuba, members of the selection committee, and our implementing partner, the Leadership Advancement Foundation (LEAF). Their experience, expertise and dedication have been instrumental in maintaining the high standards and integrity of LMI.

Finally, I am grateful to the Deputy Speaker of the 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, Hon. Benjamin Kalu, and the Minister of Youth Development, H.E. Dr. Jamila Bio Ibrahim, along with other dignitaries, for gracing our graduation ceremony with their presence. Their participation and willingness to take the lead in presenting certificates to our fellows added a special touch to the ceremony, leaving a lasting impression, for that and more, I am deeply thankful.

As our LMI fellows go forth to lead and serve the nation, I urge everyone to support them and the ongoing efforts of LMI. These young leaders are the torchbearers of our future, and their success is intrinsically linked to the progress of our nation. I am confident that they will continue to break barriers, setting new standards of excellence in public service. Let us all rally behind them, providing the encouragement and support they need to make a lasting impact. Together, we can ensure that LMI remains a beacon of hope and opportunity, fostering a new generation of leaders who will shape the future of Nigeria with integrity, innovation and commitment to service.

In Unity and Progress,

*Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR*

Founder, LMI

## DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NILDS' NOTE



I am very pleased to be part of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative Programme (LMI) under the aegis of the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS). The LMI is a visionary programme conceived by **Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila CFR**, the former Speaker of the House of Representatives and current Chief of Staff to **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR**. The programme stands as a testament to our commitment to nurturing a vibrant and well-equipped new generation of legislative leaders, capable of navigating the complexities of democratic governance through the delivery of effective representation to the Nigerian people.

The inception of LMI marks a crucial moment in our legislative history—a moment that reflects our dedication to not only fulfilling our statutory functions of legislation, representation and oversight but also to fortifying the pillars of democracy through the cultivation of informed and adept future parliamentarians. This innovative "catch them young" approach has already borne fruit, as evidenced by the remarkable achievements of our LMI Fellows who have been meticulously guided and equipped with the tools, knowledge and resources over the past two years.

It gladdens my heart that the LMI programme has been entrusted to the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS). As a premier institution renowned for its legislative research and capacity-building prowess, NILDS is uniquely positioned to amplify the foundational successes of LMI. To that end, the Institute will do all possible to ensure the sustainability of this very important mentorship programme by expanding its reach, with a view to empowering future generations of legislators and leaders who will positively shape governance in our dear country.

As NILDS takes on this mantle, we are emboldened by our expertise and institutional capabilities to elevate LMI to unprecedented heights. We foresee LMI attracting a diverse array of young leaders from every corner of our nation, and even beyond. This annual event signifies a strategic

investment in our youth –an investment that promises rich dividends through the invaluable contributions of our cohorts.

Looking ahead, we envision LMI expanding beyond mentorship to encompass research initiatives, networking platforms, and robust alumni engagement. This holistic approach will cultivate a dynamic community of legislative trailblazers and public sector leaders, fostering an environment ripe for collaboration, knowledge exchange and collective ambition.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude to the founder of this initiative, **Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabamila CFR** and his team for conceiving and nurturing such a programme to mentor future leaders. He has proven himself a visionary and true defender of democracy. His foresight in establishing LMI has laid a solid foundation for our collective endeavour—to empower the next generation of legislative leaders who hold within them the promise of a brighter future where Nigeria's full democratic promise is realised.

*Prof. Abubakar O. Sulaiman*

Director-General & Alternate Chairman of NILDS Governing Council

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTE: "LET US CONTINUE"



Leadership is fundamentally about managing change and transition. This is as certain as change and transition are the most consistent things in the life cycle of any society or institution and it is these twin elements of change and transition, that the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) has grappled with in the past year, since graduating its first cohort of 74 fellows in 2022.

When we first gathered to host the inaugural cohort of LMI in October 2022, our Founder Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, CON, was serving the country as Speaker of the 9<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives. However, by the time we commenced the second cohort in 2023, government had changed and his station of service to our nation had also changed, as he transitioned from serving in the legislature to the executive arm of government, now playing a critical role as the Chief of Staff to the President. I also transitioned from serving as his Special Adviser on International and Interparliamentary Affairs, to a new role as Senior Special Assistant to the President on International Cooperation and from being the inaugural Director of the LMI to becoming the Chairman of the Implementation and Advisory Committee. Our Programme Coordinator in 2022, Ms. Solape Sonuga moved on to serve in civil society as Policy & Strategic Partnerships Manager at ElectHER – a leading women’s NGO – after serving as the youngest Legislative Aide to the Speaker. Our erstwhile Programme Manager Barr. Chimdi Neliaku was elected the Curator of the Abuja Global Shapers and as a testament to her leadership qualities and diligent service at LMI, was unanimously appointed as the first female Director of the LMI. As if these changes were not seismic enough, a fundamental institutional change also took place, being the transiting of the LMI’s institutional home from the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Nigerian Institute for Democratic and Legislative Studies (NILDS) under the able leadership of its Director-General Prof. Abubakar Sulaiman, in order to institutionalise the programme and ensure its continuity.

Often, change can be a harbinger of uncertainty and these multiple changes above could have obscured our focus, weakened our operational capacity and derailed our ability to host this second cohort, especially with challenges with raising funds in time to host the Fellowship successfully in 2023. However, this is where dogged and dynamic leadership comes in. Late last year, when it already seemed impossible to host LMI in 2023, our Founder called me to discuss the challenges. Towering as they sounded, he reflected on them, undaunted and undefeated, he said to me with firm resolve, **“Let Us Continue”**. And continue we did.

With these simple yet powerful words “Let Us Continue”, we found strength and our resolve to uphold the dreams of countless young Nigerians eagerly awaiting their chance to be part of LMI was equally re-ignited. We dusted up the LMI operational machinery, put together an extraordinary team, raised



resources – mostly from a personal donation from the Founder – and in barely a few weeks, the LMI 2023 was launched. An extraordinary sense of duty, determination and diligence was unleashed, as the team came together to forge a way forward through the fog of uncertainty, change and transition, into the huge success the hosting of the 2023 Fellowship became. It was a test of our commitment, a testament to our tenacity and evidence of the role of inspiring leadership in transforming challenges into possibilities. If anything at all, the challenges we faced with LMI 2023 and the success we celebrated at the end, reaffirmed the notion that ‘leadership’ is indeed, fundamentally about managing change and transition.

We are truly grateful to our founder and leader Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila for his commitment to youth leadership development and for his inspirational and transformational leadership that made LMI 2023 possible. Our thanks and gratitude also go to his amiable wife, Mrs. Salamatu Gbajabiamila for her support and encouragement throughout the programme. We are also grateful to the Director-General of the Nigerian Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) Prof. Abubakar Sulaiman and his exceptional team, and of course each and every one across the Institute who went over and beyond to support and ensure that this initiative was a grand success. We also thank the Chairman of the Leadership Advancement Foundation (LEAF) – our implementation partners – Dr. Ike Neliaku and his extraordinary team for all the grinding work done behind the scenes, especially with curriculum development, operations, branding and also securing erudite speakers, amongst many others ways they helped to make LMI 2023 a success. We appreciate the Chairman of the Selection Committee Hon. Henry Nwawuba and the members of the selection committee, for their time and dedication in selecting the best of the best Fellows-in-Training (FITS) from over 5000 applications. The substance of the programme would not have been as impressive without the wisdom, experience, expertise, and leadership demonstrated by all the speakers, trainers, and facilitators who demonstrated nothing less than a commitment to ensuring that our young fellows got the very best training possible to become the very best leaders possible, to them and all our supporting partners and staff, we are truly grateful.

Having the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Benjamin Kalu and the Honourable Minister of Youth Development Dr. Jamila Bio, grace the occasion of the Graduation Ceremony, give inspiring speeches and handover certificates to the graduating Fellows, was a crowning moment for the 2023 Fellowship and a great honour for the graduating fellows. For their time, effort and magnanimity of spirit on the day, our gratitude is boundless. I am equally thankful for the extraordinary, hands-on, capable and compassionate leadership of the Director of the 2023 Cohort, Barr. Chimdi Neliaku. Her conduct as Director of the 2023 cohort was not just sterling, but set a high bar for her successors. When appointed, I charged her to out-do her predecessor, and I daresay, she did so unequivocally and admirably. I congratulate her and the Management and Operations team that she led, on this extraordinary feat, and I thank her for not just validating our vote of confidence in appointing her as first female and youngest LMI Director thus far, but also in embodying the kind of leadership we seek to build in today’s youth in Nigeria and across Africa.

Finally, we are thankful to the 2023 cohort of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative for how they validated the vote of confidence that we had in them by being exceptional in every sense, in their conduct, in their character, and in their commitment, not only to learning, but actually to applying that which they have learned, during the course of the programme and immediately after their training.

Personally, serving as the Chairman of the Implementation and Advisory Committee has been an incredible honour –an honour that I carry with pride as we stride into a future filled with promise and potential of the best public sector leaders possibly emerging from the LMI. I can only conclude with the words of our founder and leader that, no matter the challenges that may come our way in our LMI journey: **“Let us Continue”**.

*Dapo Oyewole*

**Chairman, Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI),  
Monitoring & Implementation Committee**

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE: REFLECTING ON THE TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY OF THE LEGISLATIVE MENTORSHIP INITIATIVE (LMI)



As I reflect on the impactful journey of the 2023 LMI Fellowship, I am overwhelmed with a profound sense of gratitude, purpose and fulfilment, having witnessed the impact, progress and transformation experienced by our incredible fellows.

As the Director of this brilliant initiative of the Speaker of the 9<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives (currently Chief of Staff to the President of Nigeria), Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR, it has been a distinct honour and privilege to participate in the critical assignment of shaping the future of leadership in Nigeria, Africa and the world by extension.

Throughout this journey, we have had the distinct pleasure of igniting the fire of intentional, responsible and transformative leadership within our fellows. This we did through rigorous, inspiring and impactful training sessions, learning visits and mentorship exchanges, carefully designed to prepare them for effective public sector leadership. It has been absolutely fulfilling witnessing the fellows' growth as they gain a deep understanding of the intricacies of governance and the profound power they wield to enact meaningful change.

Post-fellowship, one of the most rewarding aspects of this journey has been watching our fellows seize new opportunities and ascend to strategic appointive and elective positions within government at various levels. Their boldness in taking gainful risks towards national development, coupled with their unwavering commitment to stepping down their newly acquired knowledge in their communities, is a testament to the remarkable power of intentional mentorship.

None of this would have been possible without the vision, follow-through and support of our Founder, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR who ideated this incredible initiative and gave it all the support required to grow, thrive and blossom to what it is today where we have graduated 118 Fellows. I remain deeply thankful to our Founder and his amiable wife, Mrs. Salamatu Gbajabiamila, for the opportunity to have served as the Programme Manager in LMI 2022 and

now as Director of the Initiative. The Founder's trust and confidence in me and the youthful Operations Team reinforces his unwavering dedication to inclusion and the recognition of young people, especially women, as critical catalysts for development.

I am also very thankful to our indefatigable Director General of the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS), Prof. Abubakar O. Sulaiman, who also trusted me with this responsibility and gave me and my team all the support we needed to succeed.

I specially thank and appreciate the Chairman of the LMI Planning & Advisory Committee, Mr. 'Dapo Oyewole, for his invaluable mentorship and leadership, which pushed the entire team to continually strive for excellence. It has been a pleasure and honour to succeed him as Director, having enjoyed his extraordinary tutelage and unwavering support.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to the dynamic and passionate Operations Team, predominantly made of exceptional young professionals. Together, we planned, navigated unforeseen challenges, celebrated triumphs, and above all, remained steadfast in our commitment to empowering the next generation of public sector leaders and this experience I must say has left an indelible mark on my heart. The success of LMI 2023, driven by a youthful Operations team reinforces the fundamental belief we hold as an institution that young people can lead and lead effectively.

As I conclude, I very sincerely thank everyone who has been a part of this incredible journey – our dear Founder and his amiable wife, Rt. Hon. Femi and Mrs. Salamatu Gbajabiamila, Prof. Abubakar O. Sulaiman (DG, NILDS), Mr. 'Dapo Oyewole (Chairman, LMI Planning & Advisory Committee & SSA to the President on International Cooperation), Hon. Henry Nwawuba (Chairman, LMI Selection Panel & ES, National Assembly Library Trust Fund), Ms. Solape Sonuga (Secretary, LMI Selection Panel & inaugural LMI Coordinator), Mr. Chijioke Obioma (LMI Coordinator), Planning and Advisory Committee, Organising Committee, Operations Team, our esteemed partners, inspiring mentors and resource persons and fellowship alumni. Together, we have ignited a spark that will continue to illuminate the path for generations of leaders to come.

Finally, I thank most sincerely our audacious fellows. Your passion, dedication, and unwavering belief in the power of youth leadership have made this journey all worth it. You inspire us to keep going, as you continually justify every investment our Founder and management has made in this initiative. We are incredibly proud of you.

Looking forward to the next chapter of the LMI journey, I have no doubt that the next phase of the LMI is filled with boundless possibilities and endless opportunities for positive impact in our nation and continent.

So to everyone reading this, **"watch out for #GbajaFellows!"**

Yours in nation-building,

*Chimdi Neliaku, Esq.*

Director, Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI)

# BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE MENTORSHIP INITIATIVE

The Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) is a youth leadership development programme founded by the Speaker of the 9th House of Representatives (currently Chief of Staff to the President of Nigeria), Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila CFR. In May 2023, the LMI was domiciled in the National Institute of Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) as its institutional home, under the leadership of the Director General Prof. Abubakar Sulaiman.

This programme aims to train the next generation of public sector leaders, especially legislators to embody the values of good character, commitment and competence to build their capacity for excellence in public service.



**RT. HON. FEMI  
GBAJABIAMILA, CFR**

FOUNDER, LEGISLATIVE MENTORSHIP INITIATIVE (LMI)

Chief of Staff to the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria & Speaker, 9<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives



**PROF. ABUBAKAR  
SULAIMAN**

DIRECTOR GENERAL, NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE AND DEMOCRATIC STUDIES (NILDS)

## OUR VISION

Our Vision is to attract and train dedicated young professionals to serve and excel in the public service, particularly the legislature.

## OUR GOAL

Our goal is to develop the next generation of legislators and ethical public sector leaders who are well-equipped with responsive leadership skills, knowledge and expertise to enhance public service delivery and foster national cohesion.

## OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

Our strategic goals include to:

Provide a unique opportunity for youth leadership talent to be discovered, nurtured and enhanced.

Identify, train, and equip a new generation of public sector leaders.

Provide rigorous hands-on learning opportunities in the broad areas of public sector leadership.

# OUR EXPECTATIONS

At the end of the training, our Fellows are expected to demonstrate the following:

The value of selfless and responsive service and understanding of public service as a duty and responsibility to be fulfilled with utmost honesty, diligence and patriotism.

An understanding of Nigerian history in the context of our national vision, the trajectory of Nigeria's constitution, Nigeria's rich parliamentary history and applying lessons learned towards strengthening the legislative process and the emergence of a New Nigeria.

An understanding of the role of parliament in nation building and the legislature as the anchor of democracy.

An understanding of the culture of service, impact and sustained engagement for national development, empowered by a hands-on understanding of the rudiments of legislative processes for greater and sustainable impact.

An understanding of the importance of a value-based, no-excuse leadership mentality with the competence for disciplined execution of programmes and projects.

Social skills such as emotional intelligence needed to assist the multi-religious, multi-cultural, and multi-ethnic population of Nigeria to live together in justice, peace and prosperity.

The importance of passing the baton by helping our youths "the truth to know" through mentorship, team building and networking

# THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) Fellowship Programme was a 3-week residential training programme that took place in Abuja from Monday, December, 4<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2023.

The Fellowship Programme is a first-of-its-kind initiative designed to help young people who are interested in serving in the public sector, especially the legislature, to gain an in-depth understanding of practical leadership models and navigate the public sector for impact.

The LMI Fellowship Programme was specifically designed and targeted at equipping and empowering dynamic young leaders interested in public sector leadership, especially in the legislature by providing them with necessary hands-on training and engagement in all aspects of governance and public service through collaborative and inclusive leadership.

As is customary with the LMI, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort was an inclusive programme of insightful trainings, meaning interactions, and strategic engagements for all. 45 participants from the 36 states of Nigeria, including the FCT between ages 21 and 35, with persons with disabilities also represented.

## DURATION

MON 4<sup>TH</sup> DEC TO  
FRI, 22<sup>ND</sup> DEC 2023

## December

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



45  
participants



36 states of  
Nigeria + FCT



Between the Ages  
of 21 - 35





Gender  
Balanced



Proper  
Representation

# THE SELECTION PROCESS


## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Are you interested in **Public Sector Leadership, Governance, Policy Drafting, Public Administration, International Relations & Diplomacy?**  
Then apply to be a part of the **2<sup>nd</sup> cohort** of the **Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI)**.

**Apply here: [www.lmi.ng](http://www.lmi.ng)**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
**Monday, November 13, 2023**

*Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR*  
Founder, Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) &  
Former Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Federal Republic of Nigeria



[info@lmi.ng](mailto:info@lmi.ng)   [@officiallmi\\_ng](https://www.instagram.com/officiallmi_ng)   [www.lmi.ng](http://www.lmi.ng)

In November 2023, the call for applications for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) Fellowship was initiated, with a deadline set for Monday, November 13, 2023. Interested individuals applied through the LMI website, submitting personal information, a personal statement, and a one-minute video.

A total of **5000** applications were received. 50 application readers were then appointed to meticulously review all applications and identify the top 3 candidates. Following this initial screening, the LMI Selection Panel further assessed and selected the final 45 applicants who will be participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of LMI Fellowship, 2023. The selection process was rigorous, ensuring that only the most qualified individuals were chosen.

The **2023 Fellows** consisted of **45 individuals, made up of 27 females, 18 males, and 3 Persons With Disabilities (PWDs)**. Whereas the 1st Cohort had 60% male and 40% female enrollment, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort saw a reversal of participation recording 60% female and 40% male enrollment. The diverse representation of Fellows exhibits the commitment of the LMI Fellowship to ensuring inclusion, fairness and equality in the selection process, and in the conduct of affairs of the programme.

THE SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THIS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME ARE:



Minimum educational qualification of Degree/HND



Citizen of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



Strong and demonstrable leadership skills with credible track record of service to community and society



English fluency (oral and written) & development of creativity and innovation for practical, inclusive and sustainable solutions



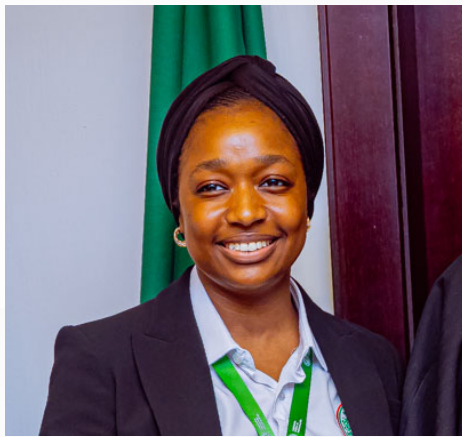
Patriotic, visionary and passionate about Nigeria's stability, growth and development with Interest and vision for participating in the Nigerian legislature



Willingness to commit to the values and full programme of the LMI



Between Ages 21 – 35



The Fellowship Selection Panel comprises the following individuals:



**HON. HENRY NWAUBA**

CHAIRMAN, SELECTION COMMITTEE



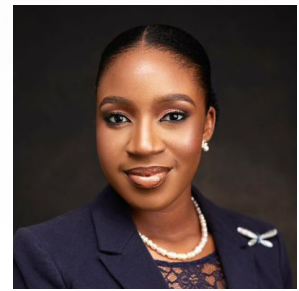
**"DAPO OYEWOLE**

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, SELECTION COMMITTEE



**SOLAPE SONUGA**

SECRETARY, SELECTION COMMITTEE



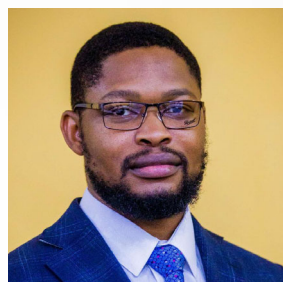
**CHIMDI NELIAKU, ESQ.**

DIRECTOR, LEGISLATIVE MENTORSHIP INITIATIVE (LMI)



**CHIWOKE OBIOMA**

MEMBER, SELECTION COMMITTEE



**OLISE ABU**

SPEAKER, INAUGURAL COHORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE MENTORSHIP INITIATIVE (LMI)



# THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

The LMI programme is designed to equip and empower dynamic young leaders interested in legislative and public sector leadership by providing them with necessary hands-on training and engagement in governance, participation in political decision-making processes, as well as public service through collaborative leadership.

Over the course of the 3 weeks, the Fellows had 52 engaging sessions including lectures by local and international experts in the public sector, **excursions to various MDAs**, mock Parliamentary Sittings, group discussions, documentary screenings, social and team-building activities and many more.

Throughout this period, the fellows experienced meaningful personal growth and transformation, built meaningful relationships, developed public trust, consolidated their visions, and embodied and demonstrated inclusive leadership in various ways.

## THE LMI 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION FEATURED



Training Sessions



Distinguished Speakers Series



Mentorship Exchange Programmes



Interactive Masterclasses



LMI Fellows Showcase and Presentation



Excursions



Parliamentary Simulations



Community Service



Fireside Chat



The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of LMI Fellowship commenced with a distinguished Opening Ceremony, setting the tone for an enriching and impactful Fellowship journey. The ceremony which held on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) Permanent Site, brought together the Founder, Fellows-in-Training, esteemed partners, and other guests in a spirit of collaboration and dedication to legislative excellence.

The visionary behind LMI Fellowship, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR, Speaker of the 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly and Current Chief of Staff to the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, delivered an inspiring address, highlighting the significance of mentorship in nurturing the next generation of public sector leaders. He emphasized the importance of knowledge transfer, deliberate empowerment, and community engagement. He underscored the mission to foster innovation and effective governance through mentorship opportunities. His words resonated deeply with the audience, instilling a sense of purpose and commitment to the fellowship's objectives.

Distinguished partners of the 2<sup>nd</sup> LMI edition graced the occasion with their insightful remarks. Each partner expressed unwavering support for the Fellowship and reaffirmed their commitment to advancing legislative mentorship in fostering leadership development and legislative innovation.



## 1

### LMI ORIENTATION SESSION

Facilitator: Chimdi Neliaku Esq., Director LMI

During the orientation session led by the LMI Director for the Fellows in Training (FITs), participants were introduced to the program's objectives and team members. The director outlined rules and regulations, emphasizing professional conduct and expectations. The session also covered an orientation of the academic journey the Fellows were about to undertake. It included the specific skills and knowledge the FITs were expected to acquire, fostering a positive and inclusive environment for their training journey.



## 2

### HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA: THE JOURNEY FROM COUNTRY TO NATIONHOOD

Facilitator: Prof. Patrick Ukase, Secretary, Historical Society of Nigeria/ Head of Department, History and International Studies, Kogi State University

During the session on the Historical Development of Nigeria: The Journey from Country to Nationhood, Fellows in Training (FITs) delved into a comprehensive exploration of Nigeria's evolution from a diverse collection of ethnic groups to a unified nation. The session began by illuminating the pre-colonial era, highlighting the rich tapestry of cultures and kingdoms that existed in the region. As the discussion progressed, FITs learned about the imprint of colonialism, with Nigeria becoming a British protectorate and the subsequent amalgamation in 1914, setting the stage for a more cohesive political entity. The pivotal moment of independence in 1960 marked a critical juncture, ushering Nigeria into nationhood. FITs delved into the challenges faced during the First Republic, including political instability and the Nigerian Civil War, gaining insights into the complexities of the post-civil war era. The session navigated through subsequent periods of military rule and civilian governance, culminating in Nigeria's return to civilian rule in 1999. Throughout the exploration, FITs gained an understanding of Nigeria's historical trajectory, encompassing triumphs and challenges, and the intricate interplay of diverse ethnicities that contribute to the nation's multifaceted identity. This comprehensive historical overview equipped FITs with a contextual foundation to appreciate the socio-political landscape of contemporary Nigeria.



### 3 DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Facilitator: Dr. Olanrewaju Adekanye, Director, International Cooperation, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning

In the session on Development Cooperation and National Development, Fellows in Training (FITs) gained profound insights into the symbiotic relationship between development cooperation and the overarching goal of national development. The session emphasised the imperative for nations to engage in collaborative efforts, recognizing that shared resources, expertise and support from the international community are pivotal in addressing various challenges. FITs delved into the dynamics of development cooperation, understanding how partnerships, aid, and shared knowledge contribute to fostering sustainable growth and progress within a country. The session likely underscored the significance of strategic alliances and cooperation in tackling global issues such as poverty, healthcare, and environmental sustainability. By exploring case studies and real-world examples, FITs grasped the transformative potential of effective development cooperation in fostering inclusive and resilient national development.



### 4 THE TRAJECTORY OF NIGERIA'S CONSTITUTION Facilitator: Dr. Sam Amadi, Director, Abuja School of Social and Political Thought

In the engaging session on "The Trajectory of Nigeria's Constitution," FITs had a unique opportunity to delve into the historical journey of Nigeria's constitution. The session involved an exploration of key milestones, amendments, and the evolving nature of the country's foundational document. Dr. Amadi, with his expertise, provided valuable perspectives on the socio-political context shaping constitutional development in Nigeria. The session took an intriguing turn as FITs had the chance to reflect on and share insights about the leaders they chose to emulate. This interactive component fostered a rich exchange of ideas as FITs discussed the specific qualities and attributes that drew them to their chosen role models. The diverse perspectives shared in this discussion illuminated the varied leadership qualities admired by FITs, offering an understanding of the leadership landscape in the context of Nigeria's constitutional trajectory. The session not only provided a historical context for constitutional development but also allowed FITs to connect the past with contemporary leadership aspirations.



## 5

### THE IDEOLOGY OF NATION BUILDING: A CASE STUDY OF DEVELOPMENT MODELS

Facilitator: Prof. Vincent Anigbogu, Director General, Institute for National Transformation

*“You build a nation by values of integrity, hard work, humility, and respect for others. These values create an environment for innovation for the growth and development of a nation.”*

*- Prof. Vincent Anigbogu, Director General, Institute for National Transformation*

During the sessions, FITs derived valuable lessons, particularly emphasising the significance of values found in the Nigerian National Anthem, such as the promotion of law and unity, steering clear of actions that could lead to national division. Their learning journey included insights from the successes of nations like Singapore and Rwanda. Prof. Vincent Anigbogu underscored the importance of cultivating and upholding personal values, highlighting their pivotal role in the growth and development of Nigeria. He emphasised that true leadership involves entering challenging environments and effecting positive change without succumbing to negative influences, requiring moral, emotional, intellectual, and social strength. The session enlightened FITs on the importance of mentoring and the imperative of building a succession plan. This knowledge, acquired during the sessions, instilled a sense of responsibility among the cohort to not only develop their leadership skills but also contribute to the development of future leaders for the betterment of Nigeria. He charged FITs to always remember that a leader is someone who can enter a toxic environment and change it without being changed due to the moral, emotional, intellectual and social strength they possess. FITs were made to see the importance of mentoring and succession building.



## 6

### INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE FOR NATION BUILDING:

Facilitator: Dr. Otiye Igbuzor, Executive Director, African Centre for Leadership Strategy and Development

Understanding fundamental concepts like nation-state, nation, and governance is crucial. Encouraging FITs to embrace continuous inquiry, and envisioning nation-building as a collaborative effort involving diverse individuals, requires a blend of invention and innovation. The fundamental question emerges: What kind of nation do you aim to construct? Addressing challenges in nation-building, prioritising inclusive economic growth, and considering aspects such as health, education, living standards, ecological diversity, and good governance are essential focal points for FITs to be aware of. FITs learned about the four arms of governance—economic, political, administrative, and systematic governance. Their education extended to the two dimensions of inclusive governance: the inclusive process, where everyone is involved, and the inclusive outcome.

FITs acquired knowledge about the four pillars of governance, which encompass economic, political, administrative, and systematic governance. They gained insights into inclusive governance, a concept that goes beyond serving to actively engage all segments of the population. The five key groups emphasised in this context include youth, women, persons with disabilities, minority groups (ethnic and religious minorities), and the economically disadvantaged. FITs were tasked with fostering enlightened leadership and pro-poor policies to overcome obstacles impeding the nation's progress, including the Wazobia mentality, weak institutions, and the absence of a long-term development strategy. FITs learned that addressing inclusion, raising citizen awareness, and organising for change is a task for all.



## 7 CASE STUDY PRESENTATIONS BY FELLOWS IN TRAINING ON INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE FOR NATION-BUILDING

Fellows in Training (FITs) made a group presentation where they meticulously examined the dynamics of inclusive governance and its profound impact on the process of nation-building. The presentation not only shed light on the fundamental principles and challenges associated with fostering inclusivity but also offered innovative solutions and strategies to promote a more equitable and participatory approach to governance. The commitment of the FITs to contributing to the advancement of inclusive governance for the collective benefit of the nation was evident throughout this thoughtful and detailed presentation.



## 8

## UNLEASHING THE CAPACITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) FOR NATION BUILDING :

Facilitator: Amb. Jake Epelle, Founder/CEO, The Albino Foundation (TAF) Africa

Ambassador Jake Epelle generously shared his personal and professional values with the FITs. Stressing the importance of authenticity, he advised FITs to embrace their true selves and cautioned against subscribing to limiting belief systems, emphasising their potential impact on behaviour outcomes. Ambassador Epelle underscored self-awareness as a critical investment, urging individuals to understand themselves to manifest their true potential. He emphasised the transformative power of beliefs, encouraging FITs to focus on being solutions to problems rather than dwelling on them. Notably, he charged FITs, to be honest in all their endeavours, highlighting the enduring legacy of either creating or solving problems. The session also enlightened FITs about the influential role of advocacy in advancing inclusivity, imparting a holistic perspective on leadership and societal contribution.



## 9

## CASE STUDY PRESENTATION BY FELLOWS IN TRAINING ON UNLEASHING THE CAPACITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) FOR NATION-BUILDING

Group 2 presented a case study focusing on states that have undertaken measures to promote inclusivity. Their analysis encompassed strategies aimed at enhancing inclusivity for persons with disabilities in spaces, transportation, and digital platforms. The presentation concluded with a set of recommendations, proposing that the government implement inclusive policies and legislation. The group also highlighted the importance of ensuring accessibility in political processes and advocated for measures supporting economic empowerment to drive overall inclusivity.



## 10 HARNESSING THE CAPACITY OF WOMEN IN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP: Facilitator: Ms. Ibijoke Faborode, Founder/ CEO, ElectHER

During the session with Ms. Ibijoke Faborode FITs learned about the landscape of women's political leadership and the significance of women's inclusion in this sphere. The discussion addressed various factors contributing to low women's representation in Nigeria, including the high cost of running, media dynamics (tone and wording), issues within political parties, and a lack of political will, among other challenges. In the exploration of strategies to advance women in political leadership, Ms. Ibijoke Faborode underscored the importance of actively involving men in these conversations as crucial allies to the movement. She highlighted the value of women being receptive to feedback from their male counterparts, emphasizing that such openness allows for the reshaping of strategies aimed at fostering and propelling women into leadership roles.



## 11 CASE STUDY PRESENTATION BY FELLOWS IN TRAINING ON HARNESSING THE CAPACITY OF WOMEN IN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

Fellows in Training Group 3 engaged in a case study presentation centered around the crucial theme of 'Harnessing the Capacity of Women in Political Leadership.' In their comprehensive presentation, the group not only identified the challenges faced by women in political leadership but also presented well-thought-out solutions to address these challenges effectively. The thoughtful analysis and proposed solutions showcased the commitment of the FITs to contribute meaningfully to advancing gender inclusivity and empowerment in political spheres.





## 12 PLACING YOUTHS AT THE CENTRE OF THE POLICY TABLE: Facilitator: Ms. Bella Anne Ndubuisi, Host, Active Citizens

Fellows in Training (FITs) were immersed in a transformative learning experience as Ms. Ndubuisi skillfully guided participants through a comprehensive exploration of the pivotal role that young individuals can and should play in shaping and influencing policy decisions. The session provided a platform for FITs to delve into the intricacies of policymaking, fostering a deep understanding of the ways in which youth perspectives can contribute to more inclusive and effective policy outcomes. Through engaging discussions, collaborative activities, and real-world examples, the training illuminated the significance of incorporating diverse youth voices in the policy-making process. Participants emerged not only with enhanced knowledge but also with a newfound sense of empowerment and purpose, ready to actively contribute to shaping a more equitable and forward-thinking society. Ms. Bella Anne Ndubuisi's adept facilitation ensured that the session left a lasting impact, inspiring FITs to become proactive advocates for youth-centric policies and change agents in their respective communities.



## 13 CASE STUDY PRESENTATION BY FELLOWS IN TRAINING ON PLACING YOUTHS AT THE CENTRE OF THE POLICY TABLE

Fellows in Training (FITs) Group 4 presented an insightful case study on the imperative of 'Placing Youth at the Centre of the Policy Table.' During the presentation, the group thoroughly examined the role of youth in shaping policy decisions and discussed strategies to ensure their meaningful inclusion in the policy-making process. The presentation not only highlighted the challenges faced by young individuals but also put forth innovative and pragmatic solutions, demonstrating the commitment of the FITs to advocating for the active involvement of youth in policy formulation and implementation.



## 14 LEGISLATIVE SYMBOLS, SITTINGS AND PROCEEDINGS: Facilitator: Barr. Oscar Okoro, House Chamber Clerk, National Assembly

In the session with Barr. Oscar Okoro, FITs acquired knowledge about parliamentary symbols such as the mace, coat of arms, standing orders, gavel, wig, and gowns. They gained a deep understanding of parliamentary proceedings by exploring the standing orders of the House of Representatives. This encompassed the procedures for bills, voting, and various other parliamentary processes. They also delved into the methods for amending the Standing Orders, as well as understanding the order paper and notice paper, which delineate events for the day and week. Additionally, they discerned the distinction between the order of the day and the business of the day.



## 15 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATORS AS CATALYSTS FOR NATION BUILDING: Facilitator Hon. Enitan Jessica Oba, Council Leader, Ikorodu West Local Council Development Area

*"Governance is a platform to make an impact" - Hon. Enitan Jessica Oba*

Hon. Enitan Jessica Oba conducted a session guiding FITs through the intricacies of local government governance structures, namely the legislative, administrative, and executive arms, shedding light on their respective roles. She underscored the vital responsibilities of councillors, emphasising their involvement in policy formulation and implementation, community engagement, ensuring transparency and accountability through oversight of public resources, and participating in budget review and evaluation, and town planning, among other duties. The session also addressed challenges faced by local governments in Nigeria, with a specific mention of the issue of local government autonomy. Hon. Enitan Jessica Oba provided solutions aimed at ensuring the effective functioning of local governments for the betterment of communities and the nation. She advised FITs to embrace moral values, consistently

prioritise the welfare of the people, pursue knowledge beyond given parameters, and view governance as a platform for positive impact. She encouraged supporting and endorsing legislators with sustainable ideas to contribute to effective governance.



## 16 PARLIAMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

Facilitator: Mr. Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)

Mr. Clement Nwankwo led a session on enhancing collaboration between parliament and civil society for sustainable development. He highlighted the vital role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in influencing legislative processes, emphasising open communication and mutual respect. Practical strategies for effective engagement were discussed, including joint working groups, public hearings, and capacity-building initiatives. The session ended with optimism for a strong parliament-CSO partnership in driving sustainable development. Mr. Nwankwo encouraged FITs to use their experience to make positive impact, emphasising the power of individual initiative and honesty in addressing government issues.



## 17 PROTECTING THE FUTURE: ENHANCING POLICIES AND LEGISLATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE:

Facilitator: Hon. Terseer Ugbor, Member House of Representative and Deputy Chairman, House Committee on Environment

During the session Hon. Terseer Ugbor urged future legislators to prioritise climate change policies, emphasising the urgency of action and potential consequences of inaction. The discussion covered evaluating existing policies, identifying gaps, and exploring opportunities for improvement. Legislative tools for incentivising sustainable practices and stakeholder engagement were highlighted.



## 18 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROTOCOLS AND CHAMBER ETIQUETTE: Facilitator: Air Cdre S. Abdullahi Zakari (rtd), Head, Sergeant at Arms, National Assembly

During the informative session led by Air Cdre S. Abdullahi Zakari (rtd), Head of the Sergeant at Arms at the National Assembly, Fellows in Training (FITs) delved into crucial aspects of National Assembly Protocols and Chamber Etiquette. This session covered key concepts, including protocols and chamber etiquette, shedding light on legislative security and the essential roles played by the Sergeant at Arms. FITs gained insights into gallery rules, rules governing debates, and maintaining decorum within the National Assembly. The session further extended to encompass a thorough understanding of the functions of the Sergeant at Arms, emphasising their pivotal role in ensuring the smooth functioning of the legislative process. FITs were also acquainted with the intricacies of sanctions and ethics committees, providing a holistic perspective on the ethical considerations within the National Assembly. The session served as a valuable platform for FITs to enhance their knowledge and grasp the essential elements that contribute to the effective operation of the National Assembly.



## 19 THE LEGISLATURE AS THE ANCHOR OF DEMOCRACY: Facilitator: Amb. Jerry Ugokwe, Professor of Governance and Legislative Studies

*"When you want to make an impact do it" - Amb. Jerry Ugokwe*

*"Wherever you find yourself do the right thing" - Amb. Jerry Ugokwe*

Ambassador Jerry Ugokwe engaged Fellows in Training (FITs) in a session highlighting the vital roles and powers of the legislature conferred by the Constitution. FITs recognised the indispensability of the legislature in sustaining democracy. Ambassador Ugokwe, drawing from his experiences, urged FITs to embrace the fellowship, participate in politics, and contribute to nation-building.

The session emphasised the legislature's significance and inspired FITs to actively shape the democratic process. He emphasised the significance of acknowledging and respecting the Nigerian Flag, underscoring the importance of correctly using the appropriate flag for Nigeria.



20

### PUBLIC SPEAKING, YOUTHS ON THE PODIUM:

Facilitator: Chukwudi Okolie-Ugbaja representing Prof. Okey Ikechukwu, Executive Director, Development Specs Academy

During the engaging "You on the Podium" Public Speaking session led by Prof. Chukwudi Okolie-Ugbaja of Development Specs Academy, FITs gained valuable insights into the nature of public judgment. The four critical dimensions assessed during public speaking include how one is perceived by the audience, understanding one's identity, articulating one's professional role, and mastering the fusion of appearance and communication style. The session underscored the potential pitfalls of relying solely on self-assessment. Equipped with practical knowledge, FITs acquired a repertoire of tools and skill sets essential for effective public speaking. Key takeaways encompass fostering a resilient can-do spirit, recognizing the pivotal role of meticulous preparation, and prioritising consistent practice. Prof. Okolie-Ugbaja emphasized the significance of having a role model as a guiding force in the journey toward proficient and impactful public communication.



21

### THE ROLES OF THE CLERK TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SERVICE COMMISSION IN PARLIAMENTARY SUCCESS :

Facilitator: Mr Fineman Goyei, Assistant Director, Office of the Clerk to the National Assembly

The session provided an understanding of the responsibilities and functions that contribute to the effective functioning of the National Assembly. FITs delved into the pivotal role of the Clerk to the National Assembly, learning about their administrative duties, procedural responsibilities, and the crucial role they play in supporting legislative processes. The session

shed light on the National Assembly Service Commission and its significance in overseeing the welfare, recruitment, and management of staff within the National Assembly. This session equipped FITs with a holistic understanding of the organisational structures and key players that contribute to parliamentary success, laying a foundation for their informed participation and engagement within the legislative framework.



22

### EFFECTIVE POLITICAL COMMUNICATION:

Facilitator: Alkasim Abdulkadir, Communications Specialist

*"You shape the perception others have of you. Your actions define your brand, and the name people use for you is within your control." - Alkasim Abdulkadir*

During the session, Mr. Alkasim Abdulkadir emphasised the significance of identifying with Nigeria by respecting the symbols representing the nation. Mr. Abdulkadir stressed individual responsibility in shaping personal brand values, highlighting the role of personal branding in areas such as CV, social media, and email presentation. The concept of a counter-narrative was introduced, and he urged Fellows in Training (FITs) to be intentional about their personal branding. This involves maintaining a professional appearance, being prepared with business cards, and always presenting oneself appropriately. Mr. Abdulkadir underscored the importance of being known for something specific and leaving a lasting legacy. Building a political profile requires deliberate effort and mastery in a particular area. FITs were advised to ensure their profile reflects their desired image and to establish a digital footprint. Crisis communication was discussed, emphasising the value of honesty and having a prepared template for crisis management. FITs were encouraged to be intentional in building their political profile, recognizing the interconnectedness of personal branding and effective communication.



23

### BEHAVIOURAL RE-ENGINEERING FOR EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERS :

Facilitator: James Komolafe, PhD, CEO, School of Articulation and Behavioural Alignment (SABA)

During the enlightening session on Behavioral Re-Engineering for Effective Public Sector Leadership led by the esteemed Dr. James Komolafe, PhD. Fellows in Training (FITs) were immersed in a transformative experience. Dr. Komolafe shared invaluable insights into behavioural reengineering, unveiling a set of 10 templates designed to equip leaders with the tools for personal and professional development. One of the key takeaways from the session was Dr. Komolafe's emphasis on authenticity. FITs were encouraged to embrace their true selves, recognizing the power of authenticity in leadership. This foundational principle was woven into the fabric of the learning journey, empowering FITs to lead with genuineness and sincerity.

In addition to the behavioural reengineering templates, FITs delved into the essential competencies that effective leaders should possess. Dr. Komolafe outlined a comprehensive list of 10 competencies, serving as a roadmap for aspiring leaders in the public sector. These competencies formed the backbone of the training, offering FITs a holistic understanding of the skills required for successful leadership. FITs gained valuable insights into the art of seamless navigation in leadership roles. Dr. Komolafe shared practical templates that enabled FITs to navigate complex situations with finesse, fostering a culture of adaptability and strategic decision-making. A notable aspect of the session was the exploration of political climate building. FITs were equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to create a conducive political environment within the public sector. He underscored the importance of understanding and effectively engaging with the political landscape, a critical skill for leaders in the public sector.



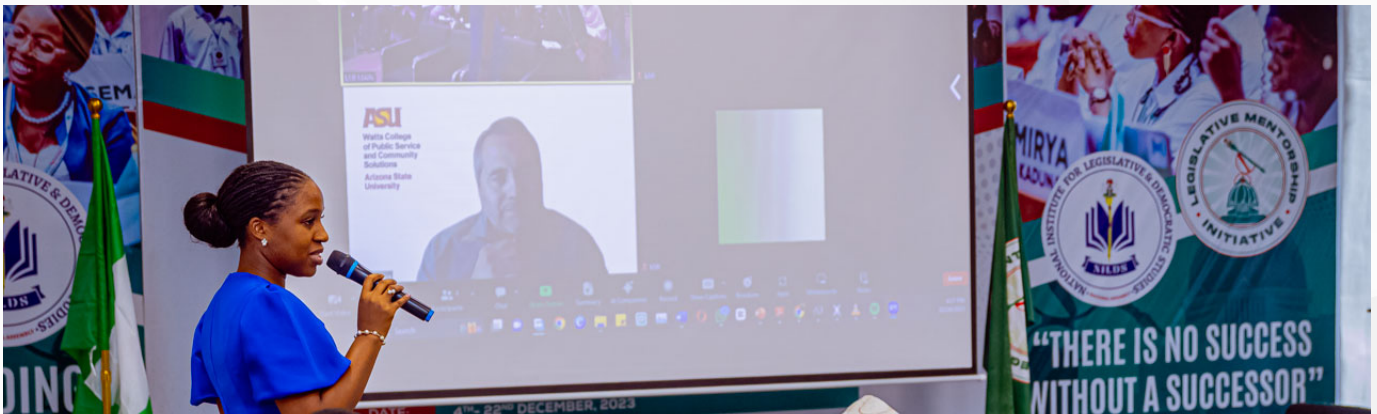
24

#### UNDERSTANDING GOVERNMENT PROTOCOLS AND ETIQUETTE:

Facilitator: Ms. Sonye Allannah, CEO, Consima Protocol and Finishing School

*Did you know that Netiquette, short for 'internet etiquette,' defines the guidelines for courteous and appropriate communication on the internet? It serves as the code of conduct for respectful online interactions. Now you know.*

During this enlightening session, Fellows in Training (FITs) delved into the significance of government protocols and etiquette, with a focus on the crucial aspects of first impressions for leaders. Ms. Allannah introduced the 'rule of 12,' encompassing the first 12 steps, words, inches, and the last 12 inches, emphasising the importance of body language and Netiquette. The learning extended to recognizing various forms of government officials, understanding dining etiquette, table manners, and the importance of punctuality. Ms. Allannah stressed the rule of 13—planning for good manners and respecting etiquette laws. Additionally, FITs were cautioned about pitfalls to avoid, including scandals, with a strong recommendation to implement the learned lessons immediately. Ms. Allannah concluded by underlining the significance of punctuality and presence, urging FITs to apply these lessons starting from the present moment.



## 25 PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AS A SCIENCE: Facilitator: Hector Zelaya, PhD. Executive Director, Bob Ramsey Executive Education, Arizona State University, USA

During the interactive session on Public Management as a Science, led by Dr. Hector Zelaya, Fellows in Training (FITs) gained valuable insights into the realm of public management. Dr. Zelaya emphasised the significance of scientific methods, drawing a distinction between natural science and behavioural science. Focusing on leadership development for public managers, he shared his expertise with FITs, fostering a comprehensive understanding of public policy, group norms, management of outliers, and the essential principles of equity and universality. The interactive discussion delved into critical aspects of public management, creating a dynamic learning environment for FITs.



## 26 DEVELOPING THE CULTURE OF SERVICE: SKILLS, VALUES AND ETHICS: Facilitator: Prof. Tunji Olaopa, Chairman, Federal Civil Service Commission

During this session Prof. Olaopa shared his personal and professional journey with FITs. Prof. Olaopa, characterised by his innate inquisitiveness from a young age, narrated how he posed critical questions about Nigeria and its development. Driven by principles, he emphasised how he utilised his pen to contribute to national discourse and enlighten the general public. Sharing pivotal moments in his life, Prof. Olaopa highlighted the influence of mentors who guided him through various stages, imparting valuable lessons such as strategic communication, speechwriting, and policy analysis. He elaborated on his transition into academia, culminating in his current position as a distinguished professor and his dedicated devotion to the public sector.





27

## THE DEMOCRATIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OF LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT:

Facilitator: Prof. J. Shola Omotola, Professor of Political Science, Federal University, Oye-Ekiti (FUOYE)

The session delved into the profound exploration of legislative oversight, shedding light on its democratic and developmental significance. Fellows in Training (FITs) were immersed in an in-depth examination of the oversight function within the legislative arm of government, recognising it as a pivotal role. The discussion underscored the centrality of legislative oversight, emphasising its crucial role in the democratic process and national development. Prof. Omotola elucidated the oversight powers bestowed upon the legislature and the various tools at their disposal for effective performance. These tools encompassed critical aspects such as budget defence and review, confirmations and screening of appointee nominees, handling public petitions, conducting public and investigative hearings, and engaging in motions and resolutions, among other essential functions. The session provided FITs with an understanding of the nature of legislative oversight and its fundamental contribution to the democratic framework and developmental trajectory of a nation.



28

## EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP: TOOLS, STYLE AND PUBLIC RELATIONS TECHNIQUES

Facilitator: Dr. Ike Neliaku, fnipr, President and Chairman of Council, NIPR and Chairman Board of Trustees Leadership Advancement Foundation

The Fellows in Training (FITs) learned about the essence of the public sector and its distinctive characteristics in Nigeria. FITs explored their perceptions of the public sector, identifying key influencers, including personal and group interests, ethnicity, tribe and family ties, religion, external aids, the role of the elite, environmental factors, and international relations.

The session delved into case studies, particularly the Affirmative Education Quota and international conspiracies, examining the intricate dynamics of the grand design in both Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Dr. Neliaku emphasised the tools and styles essential for effective leadership in the public service. He stressed the importance of knowledge, education, and being well-informed about the operational environment. Other key facets included emotional intelligence, fostering a culture of excellence, maintaining balance and objectivity (emphasising fairness and equity), valuing wisdom as a profitable attribute, and cultivating a deliberate and intentional desire to be different.

The session also provided valuable insights into public relations, elucidating on various types such as strategic communication, media relations, community relations, crisis communications, and stakeholder communications. Public relations techniques, including trend monitoring, trend analysis, consequence prediction, leadership counselling, and programme implementation, were discussed in detail. Adding another perspective to the discourse, his co-presenter Dr. Tomi Adejoruwa emphasised the significance of honest and open communication in the public sector and the case study of China's public sector.

Dr. Neliaku gifted some FITs who participated actively copies of his book, "**Seven Conspiracies of Power**", and other gifts.



## 1

### MENTOR EXCHANGE (MENTX) PANEL: Volunteering and Service: Pathways to Public Service

#### Mentors:

Hon. Rukayat Motunrayo Shittu, Chairman, Committee on Youth, Sports and Information, Kwara State House of Assembly;  
Rukayya Ibrahim Iyayi, Regional Specialist, UNDP Regional Bureau of Africa New York;  
Ameen Abdul, President, African Youth Network of All Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Africa and Member, Governing Board Nigerian Red Cross Society and  
Sadiq Muritala Adewale, Research Assistant, National Assembly.  
Moderator: Chimdi Neliaku Esq. Director LMI.

The MentX panel discussion, held in commemoration of the annual International Day of Volunteers celebrated every December 5, a day set aside to celebrate and appreciate the contributions of volunteers and volunteerism. The session took the form of a dynamic conversation aimed at empowering FITs with insights into the world of volunteering. FITs gained valuable perspectives from speakers who generously shared their volunteering journeys, including both successes and setbacks. The mentors emphasised the importance of having a genuine interest in chosen volunteer areas, advocating for FITs to be strategic and intentional in their choices. Key advice included thorough research to ensure alignment with personal values and a commitment to being teachable. FITs were charged to start engaging by joining a political party if they did not already belong to one and to go practice all which they had learned.



## 2

### MENTOR EXCHANGE (MENTX) : With AIG Dr. Aishatu Abubakar-Baju, OON, Assistant Inspector General of Police

*“Create your own space, don't get lost in the crowd. Dedication to your tasks sets you apart; it takes the extra step to be extraordinary. Seek opportunities for capacity building, invest in yourself, and adopt a growth mindset. Life has no shortcuts; every step is a lesson. Be intentional, know where your passion lies.” - AIG Dr. Aishatu Abubakar-Baju*

AIG Dr. Aishatu Abubakar-Baju generously shared her personal and professional journey with FITs, delivering a session rich in leadership and personal development insights. Encouraging FITs, she emphasised the importance of self-reflection to identify strengths and define personal aspirations. Dr. Abubakar-Baju underscored the profound satisfaction of aligning passion with the profession, emphasising that there's nothing more rewarding than being paid for doing what you love.

She urged FITs to carve out a niche for themselves, cautioning against getting lost in the crowd. According to her, it is one's unwavering dedication to assigned tasks that sets them apart. Going the extra mile is the key to achieving extraordinary results. The AIG stressed the significance of seeking opportunities for capacity building, emphasising the continual need for self-development and competence to stand out.

Dr. Aishatu Abubakar-Baju encouraged adopting a growth mindset over a fixed one, highlighting the ongoing process of learning and growth in every life step. She dispelled the notion of shortcuts, emphasising that each experience prepares individuals for the next stage. Lastly, she urged FITs to be intentional in identifying their passions and aligning their pursuits accordingly.



### 3 MENTOR EXCHANGE (MENTX):

With Amb. Adeyemi Dipeolu, PhD, Former Special Adviser to the President on Economic Matters

Ambassador Adeyemi Dipeolu graciously shared profound insights from his leadership journey, offering valuable guidance for FITs. In the first segment, he emphasised the critical importance of leadership skills, particularly focusing on emotional intelligence. This entails cultivating self-awareness, practising self-regulation, being motivated by a genuine passion for achievement, and demonstrating empathy by understanding and sharing the concerns and feelings of others. Ambassador Dipeolu highlighted essential leadership traits for FITs, with a particular emphasis on visionary leadership. He underscored the significance of not only having a vision but also possessing the clarity and communication skills to effectively convey and convince others of the plan. The ability to motivate and rally team members toward a shared goal emerged as a central theme. He emphasised the importance of acquiring resource mobilisation skills, both in terms of human and financial resources. Dipeolu underscored that

achieving tangible results should be the primary focus, highlighting the critical role of effective dispute resolution skills in navigating conflicts.

In the second part, Ambassador Adeyemi Dipeolu delved into critical leadership traits that should be actively avoided. He underscored the detrimental impact of negativity in the workplace and discouraged criticising predecessors, emphasising the need for leaders to focus on defining clear objectives and fostering team cohesion. Additionally, he highlighted the peril of viewing subordinates as threats, self-seeking behaviour and insincerity, emphasising the importance of genuine and collaborative leadership. Ambassador Dipeolu's insights serve as a guide for leaders, steering them away from counterproductive tendencies and towards a more constructive and inclusive leadership approach.



## 4

### MENTOR EXCHANGE (MENTX):

With Dr. Nelson Obinna Omenugha, the Special Adviser, Youth Empowerment Programme to the Governor Anambra State

*"The world waits for no one" - Dr. Nelson Omenugha*

Dr. Nelson Omenugha guided FITs through his personal and professional journey, sharing valuable leadership insights. He encouraged them to adopt a solution-driven mindset and actively participate. Emphasising the significance of early engagement, he advised the FITs that upon the completion of the LMI fellowship, they should remain resilient, and uphold their values. Stressing the importance of not taking the programme for granted, he urged them to explore how it could contribute to enhancing their state and the nation as a whole.

In detailing his role as the Special Adviser (SPAD) for the Youth Empowerment Programme to Governor of Anambra State, Prof. Charles Chukwuma Soludo CFR, Dr. Omenugha acquainted FITs with various programs, including "One Youth, Two Skills." He underscored the cultivation of values such as trust and integrity for a successful leadership journey. Dr. Omenugha encouraged FITs not to be passive observers but to actively engage in politics. Instead of remaining on the sidelines and complaining, he urged them to get involved and make a positive impact, learn the art of skill marketing, leverage expertise to initiate projects that disseminate the knowledge acquired during the fellowship and facilitate learning for others. He encouraged FITs to embody leadership qualities and "pay it forward" by imparting knowledge and experiences to benefit others.



## 5 MENTOR EXCHANGE (MENTX) : NAVIGATING LEADERSHIP IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR: STRATEGIES FOR YOUNG LEADERSHIP

### Mentors:

Hon. Mohammed Bello El-Rufai, Honourable Member, House of Representatives

Hon. Ibrahim Bello Mohammed, Honourable Member, House of Representatives

Moderator: Chimdi Neliaku, Esq. Director, LMI

The young Honourable members of the House of Representatives shared first-hand, personal experiences with Fellows-in-Training, highlighting competence, skills, character and privilege as some of the factors that contributed to their successes as leaders today. In the words of Hon. Bello El-Rufai,

*“Young people must realise that nobody owes you anything. Your ability to create the future that you dream of and desire determines the extent to which you will succeed”.*

The session ended with the announcement of elected members of the Principal Officers, handshakes between Mentors and elected officers and general parting words from the Mentors.



## 6 MENTOR EXCHANGE (MENTX): With Honourable Joshua Audu Gana, Vice Chairman, House Committee on Power

*"We must become a nation that approaches and addresses issues with a scientific and practical mindset." - Honourable Joshua Audu Gana*

Honourable Joshua Audu Gana generously shared his personal and professional journey with the Fellows in Training (FITs). During the session, he imparted valuable insights, urging FITs to cultivate a mindset that embraces the power of positive thinking and to remain steadfast in their belief in the possibilities before them. He emphasised the essence of leadership, highlighting that it is a responsibility carried out for the benefit of the people rather than oneself.

Honourable Gana advised FITs to maintain consistency in their leadership journey, acknowledging the inevitable highs and lows that life brings. In moments of challenge, he encouraged FITs to view downtime as an opportunity for personal growth, suggesting that they consider returning to education rather than succumbing to discouragement. Additionally, Honourable Gana underscored the importance of building and cherishing relationships, not only within their professional spheres but also with family, neighbours, and the broader community. When faced with challenges, he recommended FITs to reflect on their actions and consider what positive steps can be taken to address and strengthen relationships.



7

### MENTOR EXCHANGE (MENTX):

With Abass A. Adigun, Hon. Member of the House of Representatives

In the session with Abass A. Adigun, Hon. Member of the House of Representatives, Fellows in Training (FITs) had the opportunity to gain insights from his personal and professional journey. Hon. Adigun underscored the gravity of a political career, advising FITs to thoroughly assess whether they possess the qualities required for such a significant undertaking. He emphasised the importance of personal development, stating that aspiring politicians must actively cultivate their identities and be prepared mentally for the challenges inherent in politics. Hon. Adigun urged FITs to be more than just individuals seeking political office but to become someone who is genuinely committed and ready to dedicate themselves to the responsibilities of a political role.



## 8

### MENTOR EXCHANGE (MENTX): EARNING YOUR SEAT: STORIES OF RESILIENCE AND FORTITUDE

**Mentor:** Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, Chairman, Senate Committee on Local Content and Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Steel Development

Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan emphasised the universal principles applicable across various sectors, be it the Senate, private, or public. She shared her personal motivation and unwavering determination to pursue a political career, shedding light on the challenges she faced. Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan urged aspiring politicians among the FITs to deeply understand the essence of service, question one's motives for entering politics and identify the gaps they aim to address. Reflecting on her own journey, she credited influential female mentors and drew inspiration from her father's commitment to serving others. For her, service remains the driving force behind her political involvement. She encouraged prospective politicians to uphold ethical standards, emphasising the importance of doing the right thing in positions of power and authority. Stressing the need for competent women in leadership, she highlighted the necessity of thorough preparation before entering politics.

Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan discussed ongoing efforts in the National Assembly to pass affirmative laws, aiming for 35% representation of women in politics to foster inclusion. She advocated for a reformist approach in politics. Emphasising personal agency, she underscored the significance of intentional daily choices in shaping one's future. Drawing from her own experiences, she shared insights on goal-setting, time management, pushing beyond perceived limitations, cultivating curiosity and a proactive mindset, questioning the status quo and seeking opportunities to serve. Stressing the importance of collaboration, she recommended thinking big, building empathy, and embracing a deliberate approach to life. She encouraged FITs to discover their own truths and cautioned against derailing when presented with opportunities. Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan concluded with the empowering message that one's future is within their hands, urging everyone to be intentional in defining the life they aspire to lead.





9

**MENTOR EXCHANGE (MENTX):**

With Hon. Princess Miriam Onuoha, Chair, House Committee on TETFund

Hon. Princess Miriam Onuoha delivered a motivating message to the Fellows in Training (FITs), emphasising the boundless possibilities available to them. She encouraged FITs by instilling confidence in their potential, affirming that they have the capacity to become anything they aspire to be. Her counsel centered on the importance of maintaining focus in all endeavours, highlighting the significance of striving for excellence, particularly in academics. She emphasised the value of dedicated efforts and a commitment to the pursuit of the best. Hon. Princess Miriam Onuoha inspired the FITs to embrace their educational journey with determination and ambition. Her words resonated as a powerful reminder that with dedication and focus, they have the capacity to achieve their goals and contribute meaningfully to their chosen fields of study and beyond.



10

**MENTOR EXCHANGE (MENTX):**

With Kanu Godwin Agabi, SAN

In the MentX session with Kanu Godwin Agabi, SAN, FITs received valuable advice on approaching their endeavours with vigour and passion. Emphasising the significance of continuous self-improvement, he encouraged them to cultivate a strong reading culture and strive to evolve as individuals each day, avoiding stagnation. Mr. Agabi SAN stressed the importance of forward momentum, cautioning against moving backward in personal and

professional pursuits. His counsel extended to the spiritual domain, urging FITs to embrace prayerfulness irrespective of their religious beliefs. Emphasising the enduring impact of one's actions, he cautioned against engaging in activities that might bring shame, highlighting the importance of authenticity and living a truthful life. Mr. Agabi SAN underscored the value of individual contributions, urging FITs not to underestimate their impact. In discussions about the judiciary as the guardians of the law, FITs learned about the challenges facing the Judiciary. Additionally, Mr. Agabi SAN advised FITs to maintain their integrity by refusing to participate in actions that go against their principles, emphasising that such principled stands contribute to the betterment of the nation.



#### 11 MENTOR EXCHANGE (MENTX):

With Ms. Rinsola Abiola, Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the President on Citizenship and Leadership

Ms. Rinsola Abiola passionately urged the Fellows in Training (FITs) to translate the insights gained from the LMI into actionable initiatives within their communities. Emphasising the importance of passing on knowledge, Ms. Abiola inspired FITs to perpetuate the flame of enlightenment and civic engagement.

Sharing her personal journey into politics, Ms. Abiola recounted pivotal moments that shaped her political consciousness, highlighting her experiences within the APC Youth Forum. As the former Public Relations Officer (PRO), she detailed the group's concerted efforts to enhance youth inclusion in political discourse. Encouraging FITs to leverage their unique skills, she advised them to contribute value to their chosen political parties or service areas. Ms. Abiola emphasised the need for distinction and collaboration, urging FITs to consistently invest their full effort, allowing the quality of their work to be a testament to their capabilities.

Invaluable advice from Ms. Abiola included the counsel to develop a personal brand, a unique identity that sets individuals apart. She also addressed the inevitable challenges of conflicts and hostility, providing guidance on navigating such situations. She also encouraged FITs to be assertive, resilient, and proactive in dealing with adversities. Ms. Rinsola Abiola's Mentor Exchange served as a beacon, illuminating the path to effective leadership, advocacy, and imperative to creating lasting impact through collaboration and individual excellence.



## 1

### MASTERCLASS: NAVIGATING POLICY FRONTIERS: INSIGHTS FROM TRAILBLAZING LEADERS

With Hadiza Bala Usman, Special Adviser to the President on Policy Coordination and Chinenye Uwanaka, Convener/Co-Founder, Africa Policy Conversations  
**Moderator:** 'Dapo Oyewole, Chairman, Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI), Planning & Advisory Committee

In this enlightening session merging the wisdom of two distinguished leaders, Hadiza Bala Usman and Chinenye Uwanaka, FITs were equipped with invaluable insights into policy coordination, monitoring, implementation, and the power of dialogue in driving impactful change.

Hadiza Bala Usman, Special Adviser to the President on Policy Coordination, emphasised the essence of self-awareness and fearlessly embracing one's journey. She elucidated the significance of approaching assigned tasks with excellence and diligence, underscoring the importance of excelling in every endeavour.

Drawing from her vast experience, Mrs. Usman illuminated the principles of effective policy coordination and implementation, citing successful interventions from countries like Rwanda and Singapore. Notable among her contributions was the crafting of responsive Performance Bond policies and the innovative "Citizens Tracker" initiative, aimed at fostering citizen engagement and accountability.

Chinenye Uwanaka, Convener/Co-Founder of Africa Policy Conversations, delved into the transformative power of policy dialogue. She advocated for proactive leadership at every level, stressing the role of individuals as catalysts for change. Through her platform, she promotes inclusive conversations involving critical stakeholders, advocating for user-centric and research-based policies.

FITs were urged not to wait for formal positions to lead but to embrace their leadership potential. Both leaders cautioned against policy flip-flops and advocated for homegrown solutions tailored to Nigeria's unique context. Chinenye emphasised the importance of self-care in sustaining one's capacity for driving effective change.

In essence, the merged masterclass provided FITs with a comprehensive understanding of navigating policy frontiers, embracing leadership, fostering inclusive dialogues, and prioritising self-care as essential elements in driving impactful policy reforms.



2

## MASTERCLASS: BECOMING A PARLIAMENTARIAN: STEPS, PROCESSES, FINANCING AND OUTCOMES

With Hon. Adewunmi Onanuga, Deputy Chief Whip

Hon. Adewunmi Onanuga, Deputy Chief Whip, imparted valuable insights to Fellows in Training while outlining essential qualities like thinking outside the box, adopting a pragmatic approach, mastering parliamentary language, and the importance of cultivating strong relationships with others. Hon. Onanuga highlighted the necessity for FITs to be open to learning, encouraging them not to feel ashamed about admitting gaps in their knowledge. According to her, expressing the willingness to learn is a pathway to acquiring new skills and insights. She shared her personal journey into politics, offering a real-world perspective to inspire aspiring parliamentarians.



3

## MASTERCLASS: EFFECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

With Hon. Benjamin Kalu, Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives

In the Masterclass with Hon. Benjamin Kalu, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Fellows in Training (FITs) learned strategies for effective parliamentary debate and public speaking. The Masterclass underscored the importance of body language and gestures, highlighting their impact on the connection between presentation and audience perception. Attention was given to the role of confidence in garnering audience interest and the importance of respecting one's listeners. Practical sessions honed participants' skills, incorporating engaging techniques such as storytelling, humour, and audience adaptation.

Strategies to manage stage fright, including breathing exercises and maintaining a calm demeanour, were shared. Clarity in speech delivery was underscored, discouraging excessive raising of the voice.

The masterclass proved to be highly engaging and practical, offering Fellows in Training (FITs) valuable hands-on experiences. A notable component involved an imprimatur speaking engagement and a practical exercise focused on delivering a speech addressing the critical issue of domestic violence. In this exercise, FITs were divided into groups, each with two representatives tasked with presenting their perspectives in a mock debate session. The topic centered on the dangers of domestic violence and proposed corrective measures. The mock debate yielded two winners, Bernice A. Abeku, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker of the LMI Legislative Parliament, and Orevaoghene H. Arono. This interactive session not only energised FITs but also served to fortify their public speaking and policy recommendation skills, providing a tangible and impactful dimension to their learning experience.



In the enlightening Masterclass session with Hon. Akin Alabi and Hon. Babajimi Benson, Fellows in Training (FITs) got to learn practical tips on electioneering as both speakers generously shared their political journey, recounting challenges encountered and how they overcame difficult obstacles to clinch their seats at the House of Representatives. Drawing inspiration from his father who served as a Councillor, Hon. Alabi shared the seamless transition he experienced into politics as a result. Offering practical advice, he urged FITs to establish a solid foundation in their hometowns, engaging in grassroots politics by supporting local initiatives and becoming familiar with their communities. Advocating active involvement in a political party, Hon. Alabi underscored the importance of learning from experienced politicians within the chosen party and cultivating relationships with party leaders. He emphasised the significance of listening to the concerns of the people and understanding their needs. He further urged FITs to continue serving their communities and actively seek internship opportunities as part of their ongoing political education.

Hon. Babajimi Benson on the other hand, shared with FITs, valuable guidance on initiating their political journeys. He emphasised the importance of devising a strategic plan, outlining key strategies such as networking, building enduring relationships, and actively seeking exposure. He encouraged FITs to deliberately expose themselves to diverse experiences, advocating for volunteering and internships in both public and private sectors. Acknowledging the value of a tri-sectoral approach, he advised gaining experience in private and public sectors, coupled with engagement in social work, as this contributes to a well-rounded perspective and promotes a balanced perspective on issues. He recommended conducting a SWOT analysis to further refine and fortify their political strategies.



## 1 MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2023, FITs experienced an immersive Foreign Affairs Day marked by an excursion to the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This enriching visit involved a warm reception from the esteemed hosts, the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, and the Director-General of the Directorate of Technical Aid Corps (DTAC) Dr. Yusuf Buba Yakub. The FITs were actively engaged during this enlightening day, gaining valuable insights and firsthand experiences that added depth to their understanding of foreign affairs. The occasion served as a platform for meaningful interactions and exchanges with key figures in the ministry, contributing to the professional education and development of the FITs as they explored the intricacies of diplomatic endeavours.



## CONVERSATION WITH THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AMB. YUSUF MAITAMA TUGGAR : POSITIONING NIGERIA IN THE GLOBAL ARENA

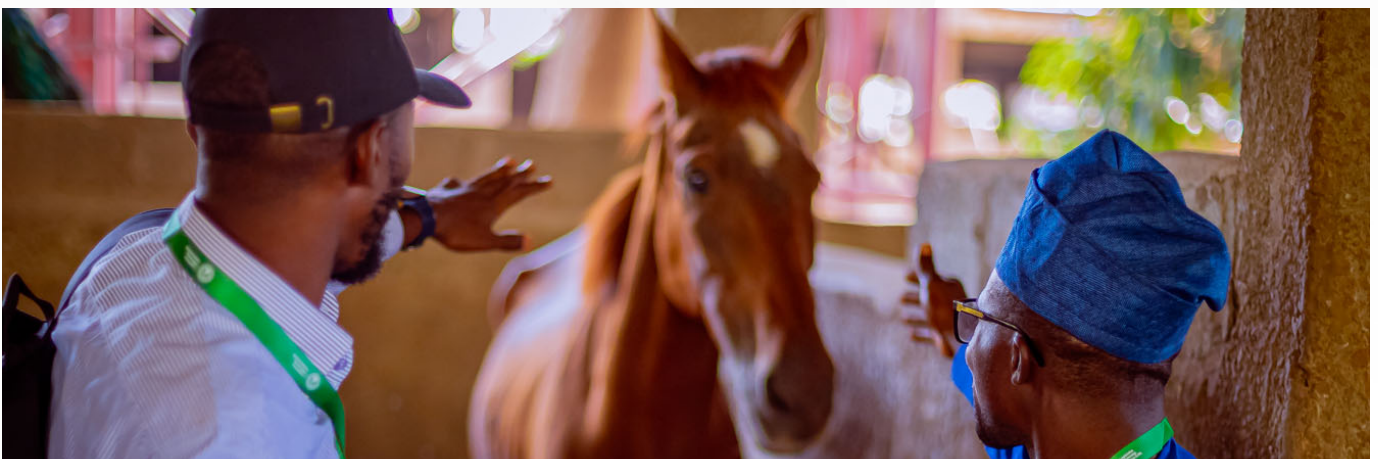
The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs took the opportunity to enlighten FITs on the key aspects of Nigeria's foreign policy. Specifically, the Minister outlined the foreign policy agenda of the Tinubu-led administration, underscoring the significance of development, democracy, demographics and diaspora as pivotal elements. The conversation delved into the historical roles that Nigeria has played in the African context, offering valuable insights into the country's contributions to the continent. Furthermore, the Minister emphasised the importance of fostering a sense of pride among Nigerians regarding their nation and highlighted the value of understanding and embracing Nigeria's rich history. This comprehensive discourse with the FITs revealed a strategic approach to foreign affairs, encompassing demographic considerations, diaspora engagement, historical awareness, and national pride as integral components of Nigeria's foreign policy framework.



## NIGERIA ON THE GLOBAL STAGE: FOREIGN POLICY AND DIPLOMACY IN A CHANGING WORLD:

Amb. Olusola Enikanolaiye, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and International Affairs

During this session FITs gained an understanding of Nigeria's foreign policy, encompassing vital national interests such as culture, security, and diplomacy. FITs further gained insights into the core elements defining Nigeria and also explored the historical evolution of its foreign policy, elucidating on its aims, objectives, vision, and mission. The FITs were briefed on the settled matters of Nigeria's foreign policy, considering the dynamic global landscape and changes in the domestic, regional, and African contexts. The session emphasised the evolving role of Nigeria in the world, encouraging FITs to specialise in specific areas of foreign policy, be it multilateral diplomacy, diaspora engagement, climate change initiatives, or investment promotion. Amb. Olusola Enikanolaiye charged FITs to consider other avenues of soft power diplomacy, recognising the potential of cultural exports such as music, sports, and cuisine, urging the FITs to leverage these elements to enhance Nigeria's global visibility and influence. FITs gained the knowledge to be able to navigate the complexities of foreign relations and strategically contribute to Nigeria's standing on the international stage.



## 2 ALMAT FARMS

The tour to Almat Farms proved to be an extraordinary and memorable experience for the Fellows in Training (FITs). Almat Farms welcomed the FITs into its enchanting environment, providing them with a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the agricultural and ecological wonders of the farm. Amidst the serene surroundings, FITs had the chance to explore various facets of the farm, gaining insights into its diverse offerings. From the intricacies of farm management to the fascinating world of animals on the farm, including the horse stable, crocodile enclosure, and tortoise habitats, FITs were exposed to a rich tapestry of agricultural

and wildlife experiences. The hands-on exploration not only deepened their appreciation for the interconnectedness of agriculture and nature but also allowed them to witness the commitment of Almat Farms to providing an educational and enjoyable experience. This visit undoubtedly left a lasting impression on the FITs, fostering a greater understanding of sustainable farming practices and the vital role that farms like Almat play in promoting agricultural awareness and environmental stewardship.



#### **FIRESIDE CHAT:**

With 'Dapo Oyewole, Chairman, LMI Planning and Advisory Committee and Senior Assistant to the Presidential on International Cooperation

During the Fireside Chat, Mr. 'Dapo Oyewole provided valuable insights into the desired impact and legacy that FITs should aspire to create. He emphasised that governance begins with self-governance, asserting that the ability to govern oneself is crucial. Purpose, he conveyed, emerges gradually as one takes each step, urging the audience not to rest in their comfort zones and to continually push beyond those boundaries, as life begins at the end of comfort zones. Lifelong learning, he highlighted, is a vital aspect of this journey.

Reflecting on his personal and professional journey, Mr. 'Dapo prompted FITs to question their leadership paths, asking, "Where are you going?" He emphasised the importance of self-awareness, self-mastery, and understanding one's true passions and motivations. He shared key thoughts on how leaders can navigate their journey:

- ➔ **Know Yourself:** Stressing the significance of self-governance, he urged individuals to master themselves, understanding their true path and what truly motivates them.
- ➔ **Be Intentional:** Encouraging intentionality, Mr. 'Dapo emphasized the need to build capacity intentionally, identify strengths and weaknesses, invest in knowledge, and constantly challenge oneself.
- ➔ **Light a Candle for Others:** Advising against being the sole candle on a hill, he urged leaders to light candles for others, fostering a spirit of mentorship and contribution.
- ➔ **Understand Your Environment:** Employing the strategy of audacity and managing one's shine, he advocated for strategic listening, interpreting body language, and distinguishing between reactions and responses.
- ➔ **Read and Self-Reflect:** Promoting the habit of reading and self-analysis, he underscored that a clear sense of values helps attract the right people and opportunities, contributing to personal and professional growth.

Throughout the chat, he emphasised the importance of constantly challenging oneself, maintaining a clear sense of values and asking the fundamental question, "Why?" to remain grounded and focused on the leadership journey.





### 3 NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE AND DEMOCRATIC STUDIES (NILDS)

#### Did you know?

Did you know that the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) serves as both the research hub and capacity-building agency, providing technical support for the National Assembly and other institutions in Nigeria?

Did you know that the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) offers internship opportunities for legislative drafters all for free?

Did you know that the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) started a radio station called the National Democracy Radio 104.9FM as part of its mandate to sensitise the Nigerian public to imbibe, support and defend democratic and legislative ethics?



#### A MASTERCLASS ON LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTIONS:

Prof. Abubakar Sulaiman, Director General, National Institute for Legislative and Legislative Studies (NILDS)

Prof. Abubakar Sulaiman, Director-General NILDS emphasised the vital role of fostering the capabilities of young individuals in legislative processes and within agencies under the National Assembly. He stated that the legislative branch stands as the cornerstone of democracy in any democratic system, underscoring the importance of ensuring parliamentary competence. The DG outlined key elements integral to parliamentary competence which encompass a deep understanding of legislative processes, including the significance of the mace, the various stages of law-making, the committee of whole, executive sessions, committee work, and oversight functions.

The DG provided comprehensive insights into the various agencies operating under the National Assembly including the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS), which serves as both a research hub and a capacity-building agency, offering crucial technical support to the National Assembly. In addition, the National Assembly Service Commission and the Public Complaints Commission play pivotal roles in recruitment, staff management, and addressing public grievances related to the National Assembly. The DG elucidated the distinct roles, functions, and contributions of these agencies, emphasizing their collective significance in supporting the overall efficiency of the legislative process.



**A WORKSHOP ON STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF LEGISLATIVE BILLS:**  
Dr. Tonye Clinton Jaja, Senior Research Fellow, NILDS

Dr. Tonye Clinton Jaja facilitated a workshop on the Structure and Content of Legislative Bills. During this session, Fellows in Training were educated on the concept of a bill and the comprehensive five-step process involved in drafting one. The steps covered understanding, analysis, design, composition and development, and scrutiny and testing. The session delved into the essential components, including the structure of a bill, the specific language used in drafting, and the approach adopted by the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS). Fellows in Training gained insights into the two main types of bills: executive bills and legislative bills. A crucial point emphasised was that drafting instructions for a bill must be provided in writing before the actual drafting process begins. This comprehensive session provided FITs with valuable knowledge on the intricacies of legislative bill drafting.



**A WORKSHOP ON RUDIMENTS OF LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING: WRITING EXCELLENT AND IMPACTFUL MOTIONS, BILLS AND REPORTS**  
Dr Usman Ibrahim, Senior Research Fellow, NILDS



Fellows in Training (FITs) were treated to an insightful tour of the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) Democracy Radio 104.9FM. This radio station serves a crucial role in fulfilling NILDS' mandate of sensitizing the Nigerian public to embrace, support, and defend democratic and legislative ethics. As part of this engaging experience, FITs had the opportunity to witness the inner workings of the radio station, gaining a deeper understanding of its mission and impact on public awareness. Also, the visit included a special 5 pm radio show where Chimdi Neliaku, Esq., Director LMI, Bernice A. Abeku, 2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker of the LMI Parliament, and Onyedika E. Ikebuaku, 2<sup>nd</sup> Majority Leader of the LMI Parliament were featured as guests. During the show, they shared insights about the LMI programme and their personal experiences during the fellowship, contributing to a dynamic dialogue on legislative matters and the significance of the training programme.



### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Sergeant at Arms Education and Excursion Team organised an enriching tour for Fellows in Training (FITs) at the National Assembly. The tour commenced at the Senate building and proceeded to the House of Representatives, offering FITs an opportunity to explore these significant legislative spaces. Within the chambers of the House of Representatives, FITs were privileged to witness the preliminary sessions. During this immersive experience, FITs gained insights into the intricate sitting procedures, fostering a better understanding of the legislative processes. The tour aimed to provide a firsthand glimpse into the workings of the National Assembly and facilitate a meet-and-greet session with legislators, creating a valuable educational and networking opportunity for the FITs.



### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY TRUST FUND

Fellows in Training (FITs) had an engaging tour of the National Assembly Library Trust Fund Complex, gaining valuable insights into the establishment and pivotal role of the National Assembly library led by Hon. Henry Nwawuba, Executive Secretary, National Assembly Library Trust Fund. The tour provided a dynamic and interactive learning experience, enlightening FITs on the library's mission to preserve the rich history of the National Assembly, encompassing bills, motions, and other significant documents. Notably, the library's archival scope extends back to the formation of Nigeria in the 1960s. Originally situated in Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos in 1978, it later relocated to the International Conference Center in Abuja. Recognizing the need to revitalise the library, a legislative agenda was set in motion by the 9th House of Representative, leading to the establishment of a committee and the subsequent signing of a bill by former President Muhammad Buhari. An integral aspect of this initiative is the Museum of the National Assembly project, synergizing with democratic archives. During the tour, FITs explored the library's comprehensive collection, including an e-library with over five hundred thousand resources, facilitating global access for Nigerian legislators and researchers. The library's advanced functionality enables convenient remote access, allowing users to tap into its wealth of information from the comfort of their offices. As the in-house arm of the National Assembly, the library is actively engaged in the digitization and archiving of all bill-related documents, further contributing to the preservation of Nigeria's legislative history.



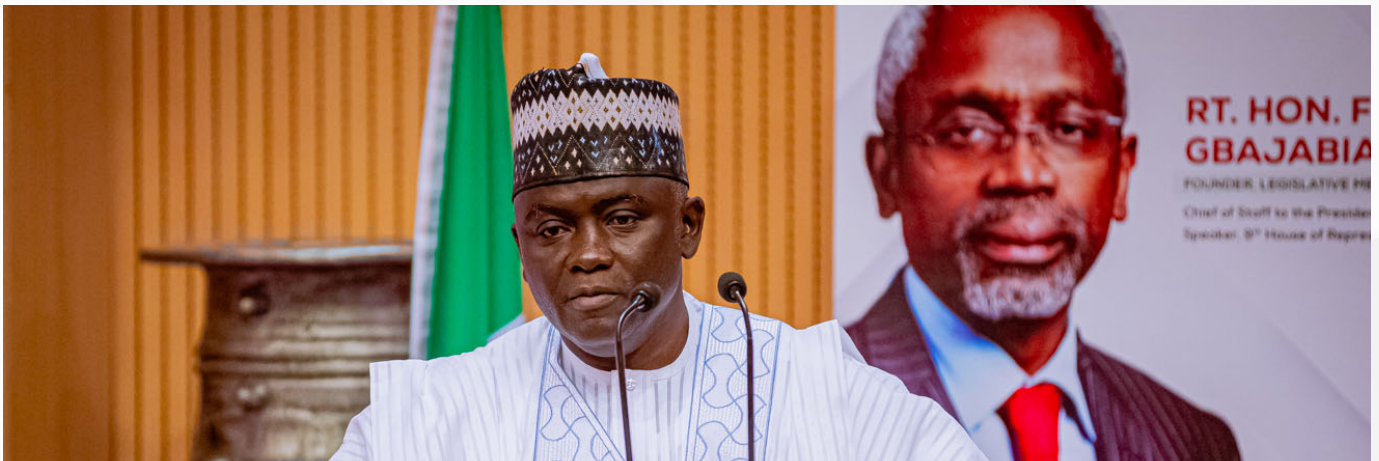
### OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER (NSA)

FITs were warmly received by the National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, mni, and other officers at the Office of National Security Adviser. The NSA charged FITs to imbibe character and competence as key attributes to success in life. In his words,

*"Today, I am in charge of Nigeria's security architecture... Tomorrow, it could be any of you seated here. Nothing is impossible if you remain committed, if you are competent and prove that you are worth it".*



# SPEAKER SERIES



## 1

### UNLEASHING NIGERIA'S SOFT POWER THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: Hon. Yusuf Buba, Director General, Technical Aid Corps (TAC)

*Did you know that Since its establishment 35 years ago, the Nigerian Technical Aid Corps has facilitated the exchange of over 6000 Nigerian professionals, including doctors, teachers, nurses, and various experts, who have been sent to other countries for two-year exchange programs?*

During this session, FITs gained valuable insights into Nigeria's utilisation of technical assistance on a global scale. FITs learned about the Technical Aid Corps (TAC) and its significance and impact as a two-year initiative deploying experts from Nigeria across diverse fields to actively contribute to the development of other nations. Additionally, FITs learned about the foreign policy agenda of the Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration, which encompassed demography, development, and diaspora, placing significant emphasis on the strategic use of soft power in diplomacy to realise Nigeria's foreign policy objectives.

Throughout the session, FITs gained insight into the concept of soft power and the advantages of programs like the Technical Aid Corps. Notably, these initiatives have significantly contributed to enhancing Nigeria's global image. The visiting volunteers under the Technical Aid Corps have demonstrated exceptional performance, fostering positive perceptions among the communities they serve. One key outcome is the strengthening of people-to-people relations in the beneficiary countries. Nigerians engaging in these programs build lasting friendships with individuals from other nations, thereby promoting cultural exchange and mutual understanding. Soft power, as facilitated through technical aid initiatives, plays a pivotal role in reshaping the international perception of Nigerians.

In the course of the session, FITs were introduced to Parliamentary friendship groups, and recognized as effective tools of soft power. These groups enable parliamentarians to engage meaningfully with their counterparts from other nations. A noteworthy achievement highlighted during the programme was the establishment of an annual trade fair, fostering interaction and idea exchange between Nigerian and Chinese businessmen. This not only exemplified the potential of such friendship groups but also underscored the importance of international collaboration and diplomacy in achieving shared goals.



## 2

## PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP: TRANSFORMATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND NATION BUILDING

With Stephen Twigg, Secretary General, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

During the session featuring Stephen Twigg, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), he generously shared insights from his personal and professional journey with the Fellows in Training (FITs). Twigg reflected on his early foray into politics, highlighting his experiences in local government, and shed light on his ongoing journey at the CPA, where he assumed the role of Secretary General in August 2020. Emphasising the importance of connecting with parliamentarians on critical global issues, particularly climate change, Twigg encouraged FITs to actively engage in politics. He stressed that politics extends beyond the realm of elected officials, urging participants to work in local government and view themselves as essential contributors to civic life.

In advocating for political involvement, Twigg underscored the significance of mentorship and learning from seasoned parliamentarians. He shared valuable perspectives on the role and responsibilities of the CPA and its role in bringing together individuals from diverse countries. Twigg also highlighted the CPA's recent initiatives, including the development of the Handbook on Youth Parliament. Additionally, he delved into the organisation's current strategy, outlining six key areas of focus, with particular emphasis on the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Mr. Twigg's session served as an inspiring call to action, encouraging FITs to consider political engagement, fostering connections, and actively contributing to the CPA's mission of uniting people across borders.



## 3

### AN AFTERNOON WITH MR. SPEAKER, RT. HONOURABLE TAJUDEEN ABBAS, HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

In an enlightening afternoon session with Mr. Speaker, Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, the distinguished Speaker of the 10<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives, Fellows in Training (FITs) were fervently encouraged to embrace their unique opportunity with open hearts and receptive minds. The Honourable Speaker emphasised the importance of approaching each experience with curiosity, humility, and a sincere willingness to absorb the knowledge and insights that would shape their understanding of legislative processes, ultimately equipping them for impactful public service.

During the engaging interaction, FITs were urged to actively seek learning opportunities from seasoned legislators, recognizing the invaluable wealth of experience they could gain. Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas provided a historical overview of the 10<sup>th</sup> House of Assembly, highlighting its distinction as the most youthful and diverse legislature to date. Notably, he mentioned the significant turnover, with over 277 first members elected into the 10<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives.

Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas underscored the core pillars of the 10<sup>th</sup> House's legislative agenda, launched November 14, 2023, which focuses on strengthening good governance, fostering economic growth and development, promoting inclusion and an open parliament, and addressing critical issues such as climate change and environmental sustainability. FITs were urged to familiarise themselves with this comprehensive legislative agenda, recognizing its pivotal role in shaping the nation's future.

The Honourable Speaker urged FITs to attend the upcoming Parliamentary Open Week scheduled for 2024, a prime opportunity for FITs to delve deeper into the inner workings of the legislature. The Honourable Speaker expressed hope that this experience would not only enhance FITs' understanding of legislative procedures but also inspire them to contribute as competent professionals and advisors to the legislative process. Mr. Speaker encouraged FITs to make the most of this unique opportunity, leveraging the insights gained to become valuable contributors to the noble cause of public service within the legislative framework of the 10<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives.





The inaugural Cohort of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) had the opportunity to address the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort of the LMI in a Fellows Showcase. During the Fellows Showcase, a hybrid session was moderated by Chijoke Obioma, LMI Coordinator and Veronica Pana Igube, Project Officer (Admin) and Majority Whip of the 1<sup>st</sup> LMI Parliament. The session started by Olise Abu, Speaker of the 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative Mentorship Initiative Parliament, where he showcased the milestones of Fellows giving insight into the remarkable journey of select fellows who achieved significant milestones post-Fellowship. Fellows showcased include Fareed Ibrahim, Temiloluwa Oyeniyi, Bella Victor, Hashimu Adamu, Dough Onah, Kolapo Imam, Eunice Uchechi Nwokocho, Dr. Azeezat Yishawu, Mohammed Bello and Daisi Omokungbe. As an integral part of the showcase, a dedicated Fellows session took place where four accomplished fellows shared their expertise. Okechukwu Collins addressed 'The Politics of Economic Reforms in Nigeria,' Nanven Mamdam discussed 'Participation as the Gateway for Youth Ascension in Politics,' Godiya Haruna delved into 'Ethical Leadership: The Pains and Gains,' and Esimaje Michael presented a Project and Research session.





## EMPOWERING FELLOWS-IN-TRAINING (FITS) THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

A Day of Impact at the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camp in Collaboration with Evergreen Initiative, Arm the Child Foundation, Matan Gobe Foundation, and the Legislative Mentorship Initiative.

Fellows in Training (FITs) actively engaged in community service by visiting the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camp in Abuja. They collaborated with esteemed organizations such as Evergreen Initiative, Arm the Child Foundation, Matan Gobe Foundation, and the Legislative Mentorship Initiative to execute a range of impactful community service projects. This collective effort reflects the commitment of FITs and their partners to making a positive difference in the lives of those affected by displacement, demonstrating a dedication to social responsibility and community welfare.



As part of LMI's commitment to the professional development of Fellows in Training (FITs) and fostering a culture of knowledge exchange, the Fellowship established a platform for FITs to actively participate in their own Speaker Series. Within this series, FITs have the opportunity to share their unique knowledge and expertise with fellow participants, creating a collaborative space for mutual learning and growth. This initiative underscores the Fellowship's dedication to empowering FITs and facilitating a dynamic exchange of insights within the community.

### Top 5 Speakers for the FITs Speaker Series:

Dr. Eze Sunday Victor - Enugu (Winning the War Against Non-communicable Diseases: The Time to Act is Now)

Abiodun Babatunde - Ogun (Transforming Africa's Education: A Step at a Time)

Praise Ekpo - Akwa Ibom (Celebrating Export Without Revenue)

Chinaza Nwoko - Abia (The Greatness Tribe)

Khadijat Suleiman - Kaduna (A Journey of Unity and Hope)



# FELLOWS IN TRAINING (FITs) MORNING EXERCISE SESSIONS



Fellows in Training (FITs) engaged in invigorating morning exercise sessions as a routine, occurring thrice a week. These energising sessions not only became a cornerstone of their daily schedule but also provided FITs with a dedicated avenue to prioritise and enhance their physical well-being.

The FITs' morning exercise routine was carefully crafted to infuse the sessions with dynamic energy, fostering an environment conducive to physical activity and overall health improvement. The sessions were thoughtfully designed to cater to the unique needs of individuals undergoing training, ensuring that the exercises were both effective and tailored to complement their professional development.

These morning exercises served as more than just a physical workout; they were an integral part of the FITs' holistic approach to personal growth and well-rounded skill development. Beyond the evident benefits to their physical health, the routine provided a valuable opportunity for FITs to foster camaraderie and team spirit. The shared commitment to these sessions created a sense of unity among FITs, reinforcing the importance of collective well-being within their training community.

The carefully curated exercises were aimed at enhancing cardiovascular fitness and strength while promoting mental clarity and alertness. Recognizing the demanding nature of their training, the morning sessions became a vital outlet for stress relief, allowing FITs to start their days with a positive mindset and heightened energy levels.

As FITs participated in these routine morning exercises, they found themselves better equipped to face the challenges of their training programs. The deliberate integration of physical activity into their daily lives not only contributed to improved health but also instilled a sense of discipline and balance, reinforcing the idea that a sound body is integral to a sharp mind. The FITs' morning exercise sessions transcended mere physical activity, evolving into a holistic practice that nurtured not only their bodies but also their mental resilience and teamwork skills. This intentional investment in their well-being underscored the commitment to producing well-rounded professionals prepared to navigate the rigours of their training with vitality and focus.



## INTRODUCTION TO PARLIAMENTARY SIMULATION: Facilitated by Mr. Benjamin Ekeyi, Legislative Expert

During the parliamentary simulation facilitated by Mr. Benjamin Ekeyi, FITs gained insights into the legislature's roles, specifically representation, oversight, and lawmaking functions within the government. The simulation provided a comprehensive understanding of the proceedings at both preliminary and full sittings, mimicking a session of the National Assembly, and delving into aspects such as oversight and committee levels. Additionally, FITs learned about the pivotal roles played by principal officers in the National Assembly. Fellows in Training (FITs) as part of their legislative learning took part in parliamentary simulation.

### Parliamentary Elections

The Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) conducted parliamentary elections for 9 out of the 10 principal positions, with Fellows in Training (FITs) participating in the process. The positions include the office of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Majority Leader, Deputy Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Deputy Minority Leader, Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip and Minority Whip.

### Manifesto Presentation

As part of the electoral process for principal positions in the 2nd Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI), Fellows in Training (FITs) had the opportunity to present their manifestos. In these articulate presentations, FITs not only outlined their proposed agendas but also delved into the specific policy issues they aimed to address. Each candidate passionately elucidated their vision for the initiative, highlighting their unique perspectives, proposed solutions, and the potential impact of their leadership. The manifesto presentations served as a crucial platform for candidates to connect with their peers, share their vision for the future of the initiative, and make a compelling case for why they deserved the votes of their fellow FITs.

### Election Results

#### The Speaker

Four candidates competed for the position of Speaker.



**BERNICE A. ABEKU**

KADUNA

Accountability Party

VOTES  
**21**

**WINNER**



**KATOR IGBUDU**

BENUE

One People's Party

VOTES  
**11**

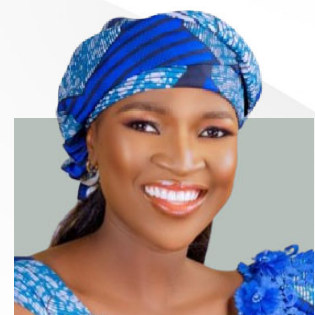


**FAHAD L. ABUBAKAR**

SOKOTO

National Unity Party

VOTES  
**09**



**RUTH KI**


PLATEAU

L-Cube Party

VOTES  
**02**

### The Deputy Speaker


Four candidates vied for the position of Deputy Speaker.



**AISHA M. RILWANU**  
KATSINA  
One People's Party  
VOTES **17**  
**WINNER**



**SAMIRA A. USMAN**  
KANO  
National Unity Party  
VOTES **01**



**BOLUWATIFE V. AGBONA**  
ONDO  
Accountability Party  
VOTES **12**




**JOSEPH KONBOYE WARIBUGA**  
BAYELSA  
L-Cube Party  
VOTES **14**

### The Majority Leader

The position of Majority Leader had three candidates.



**ONYEDIKA E. IKEBAKU**  
ANAMBRA  
L-Cube Party  
VOTES **23**  
**WINNER**




**KATHERINE K. KPANJA**  
NASARAWA  
National Unity Party  
VOTES **01**




**HALIMA A. MOHAMMED**  
FCT  
Accountability Party  
VOTES **21**

### The Deputy Majority Leader

The position of Deputy Majority Leader had two candidates vied for the position.



**PRAISE I. EKPO**  
AKWA IBOM  
One People's Party  
VOTES **31**  
**WINNER**




**CHINAZA S. NWOKO**  
ABIA  
L-Cube Party  
VOTES **14**

### The Minority Leader

The position of Minority Leader had two candidates vied for the position.




**MUNAWAR S. SIRAJO**  
**ZAMFARA**  
 National Unity Party **VOTES 35**  
**WINNER**



**TOLUWALOPE I. ADESINA**  
**OSUN**  
 One People's Party **VOTES 10**

### The Deputy Minority Leader

The position of Deputy Minority Leader had two candidates.



**HANNATU J. SADIQ**  
**KOGI**  
 Accountability Party **VOTES 29**  
**WINNER**




**ABIODUN O. BABATUNDE**  
**OGUN**  
 One People's Party **VOTES 16**

### Chief Whip


The position of Chief Whip initially had three candidates, but one candidate withdrew, leaving only two contenders for the final elections.



**JABIR YAHYA**  
**ADAMAWA**  
 L-Cube Party **VOTES 25**  
**WINNER**



**OREVAOGHENE H. ARONO**  
**DELTA**  
 One People's Party **VOTES 20**



**SORAYA KOSHONI**  
**LAGOS**  
 National Unity Party **VOTES --**  
**STEPPED DOWN**

### Deputy Chief Whip

The position of Deputy Chief Whip had two candidates.



**NAFISA BARAU**  
**BAUCHI**  
 Accountability Party **VOTES 27**  
**WINNER**



**LOLADE O. IPELE**  
**EKITI**  
 L-Cube Party **VOTES 18**

### Minority Whip

The position of Minority Whip had one candidate, who ran unopposed.



**WONDERFUL G. KOCE**  
**NIGER**  
 One People's Party **VOTES 45**  
**WINNER**

### Deputy Minority Whip

The position of Deputy Minority Whip had two candidates run for the position.



**PEACE U. OKO**  
**EBONYI**  
 L-Cube Party **VOTES 19**  
**WINNER**



**HALIMA A. MOHAMMED**  
**FCT**  
 Accountability Party **VOTES 18**



# OFFICERS OF THE LMI 2<sup>ND</sup> PARLIAMENT

After the Elections, the LMI Principal Officers were sworn in by Barrister John Aji.



**HON. BERNICE A. ABEKU**

**SPEAKER, LMI PARLIAMENT**

(KADUNA STATE)



**HON. AISHA M. RILWANA**

**DEPUTY SPEAKER,  
LMI PARLIAMENT**

(KATSINA STATE)



**HON. ONYEDIKA E. IKEBUAKU**

**MAJORITY LEADER,  
LMI PARLIAMENT**

(ANAMBRA STATE)



**HON. PRAISE I. EKPO**

**DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER,  
LMI PARLIAMENT**

(AKWA IBOM STATE)



**HON. MUNAWAR S. SIRAJU**

**MINORITY LEADER,  
LMI PARLIAMENT**

(ZAMFARA STATE)



**HON. HANNATU J. SADIO**

**DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER,  
LMI PARLIAMENT**

(KOGI STATE)



**HON. JABIR YAHYA**

**CHIEF WHIP, LMI PARLIAMENT**

(ADAMAWA STATE)



**HON. NAFISA BARAU**

**DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP,  
LMI PARLIAMENT**

(BAUCHI STATE)



**HON. WONDERFUL G. KOCE**

**MINORITY WHIP,  
LMI PARLIAMENT**

(NIGER STATE)



**HON. PEACE U. OKO**

**DEPUTY MINORITY WHIP,  
LMI PARLIAMENT**

(EBONYI STATE)

# THE GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Graduation and Conferment Ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort held on Thursday, December 21, 2023 at NILDS. Having completed all the learning requirements, 45 Fellows in Training were conferred with the title of Fellows of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative. The event was attended by members of the House of Representatives, members of the international community, partners of the LMI, family members and well wishers of the graduates.



## TESTIMONIES FROM FELLOWS



### EMPOWERING VOICES, SHAPING FUTURES: MY JOURNEY WITH LMI BY HON. BERNICE ABEKU, SPEAKER, 2ND LEGISLATIVE PARLIAMENT (KADUNA STATE)

They say time flies when you are having fun. I saw this saying come alive for me in the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI). It is profound just how much the events of a short, 3-week experience can transform and reposition the mind, broaden horizons and ignite a passion for active participation in governance.

From the topical legislature sessions, to mentor-exchange sessions and community service, LMI provided me a unique platform for learning, enabling me to comprehend the complexities of legislative mechanisms, fostering a deeper appreciation for the democratic process and the impact of governance on the average Nigerian.

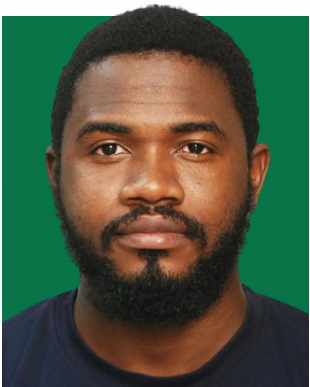
One of the highlights of my LMI journey was the opportunity to campaign for a seat in the LMI Parliament. The experience was both challenging and rewarding, pushing me out of my comfort zone and allowing me to showcase my commitment to public service. I am both proud and humbled to have been elected as the Speaker of the LMI Parliament, a position that comes with great responsibility and the chance to contribute to meaningful discussions.

However, my most prized gift from LMI is my new-found community of like-minded Fellows, building bonds, forming alliances to drive change and working towards the new Nigeria of our dreams. Indeed, LMI has made me a better leader, friend, citizen and an all-round better person.

As I reflect on my time in the LMI, I am filled with gratitude for the invaluable lessons learned and the supportive community that surrounds this initiative. I am excited about the future, armed with the knowledge and experiences gained during this mentorship, and look forward to continuing my journey of civic engagement and public service.

Now more than ever, I believe that transformational change is possible and there is no limit to the power of an empowered, young Nigerian.

I am thankful to the Founder, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila for dreaming and birthing the LMI and empowering the voices of the next generation of leaders.



### HON. KATOR IGBUDU, BEST GRADUATING FELLOW (BENUE STATE)

When I received the acceptance mail into the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative, I was reluctant in accepting the offer seeing that I had commitments that were conflicting with the scheduled residential training of the Fellowship. It was not until I had spoken with my friend who was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> cohort, who told in very strong and clear terms that “whatever it is, do not miss the Fellowship”, that I accepted the offer, and I am glad I took that decision. Attending the Fellowship was not only educational in terms of learning about

legislative processes and public service, but it was also transformative, rekindling a strong passion and commitment to serving our dear country, Nigeria.

As I reflect over the LMI experience, and the wonderful time spent with some of the most intelligent and committed young people in Nigeria, I recall several aspects that made the Fellowship an outstanding lifetime experience, a few of which include:

**The selection process:** Over 5000 applications were made for acceptance into the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort of the LMI and one can only begin to imagine how tedious and intense the selection process was before arriving at the 45 applicants that were accepted. The diversity of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort in terms of gender, ethnic representation, career paths, and social development interests, were all interwoven to provide a rich variety of Fellows with different world views and expertise, all united in the pursuit of service to Nigeria.

**Operational excellence:** The entire process, beginning with the call for applications up to the last day of departure was the hallmark of excellence in all ramifications. The respective teams were wholly committed to ensuring comfortability, provision for people with peculiar needs, security, and an overall seamless progression of events. This was highly commendable.

**Learning approaches:** The LMI adopted a range of learning approaches to provide not just a theoretical understanding of the legislative and governance processes but also a hands-on experience and intentional skills transfer from seasoned legislators and high-ranking experts with vivid experiences. The lectures, mentorship exchange sessions, speaker series, fireside chat, site visits, and simulation exercises were all structured to provide the best learning experience. Expression of views: the Fellowship also provided an ambient environment for Facilitators and Fellows in Training (as we were then) to freely express their views untethered by political, socio-cultural, or religious affiliations. Grounded in mutual respect and patriotism, conversations adhered to the Chatham House rules, fostering tough yet sensitive dialogues.

**Building networks:** The interactive nature of the Fellowship facilitated the building of relationships among the Fellows, the Facilitators and other individuals that ordinarily, we may not have had access to. These relationships will be strategic and instrumental in championing and effecting positive change.

**Inspiration:** The different learning sessions, site visits, and interpersonal communication were very inspiring and painted pictures of endless possibilities and opportunities for impact. At the end of the three-week residential Fellowship, we emerged as individuals well-versed in legislative and governance processes, fully inspired and committed to taking Nigeria to higher heights.

All these would not have been possible without the visionary strides and commitment to nation building by our Founder, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, Chief of Staff to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who has not only invested resources but his entire persona into the Fellowship and birthing the next set of legislators and public service leaders. I extend my gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity to be a part of the LMI and to actively contribute towards nation building.



### DR. EZE SUNDAY, MBBS, FNPL, FLMI (ENUGU STATE)

The experience I have gained over the course of the 3 weeks training has been very rewarding and insightful for me. I learnt the basic tenets of legislation and also the act of patriotism especially in light of the numerous exemplary demonstrations and selfless sacrifices shown by the Founder of the programme, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabamila CFR. I also got the opportunity to network with various people from across the country.

The experience climaxed for me on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 when the Cohort went to see the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Kashim Shettima. In the process of our interaction with the VP, the Chairman of the LMI Planning and Advisory Committee, Mr Dapo Oyewole introduced me as a Medical Practitioner. The VP asked me what my current role was, and in response, I briefly explained that I work at the Federal Ministry Of Health. I also added that I was the recipient of the 2019 Presidential Honours Award as the Overall National Best Youth Corp Member in Nigeria.

The VP appreciated the LMI committee for selecting valuable and high performing individuals like me in the fellowship. He then directed the chief of staff for me to be posted to the State House.

I look forward to assuming this position at the State House as it will help me further realise my dream of positively transforming national health indices through programs, policy advisory and strategic collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

I want to say a big thank you to the Vice President, to our Founder, the Chairman LMI Planning committee, our Director, Chimdi Neliaku, the operation team and every other person that has contributed to our modelling.

Through the new role I will be assuming at the State House, I pledge to work hard and deploy my experience in promoting national health wellbeing and reducing mortality and morbidity due to diseases.



### HON. HANNATU J. SADIQ, DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER, LMI

The Legislative Mentorship Initiative has been a transformative journey that has enriched my perspective on leadership in profound ways. Over the course of the three-week programme, I had the privilege of being inspired by experts from diverse sectors—public, private, and civil society organisations—all of whom are actively leading change in their respective fields.

One of the program's highlights was the opportunity to visit esteemed government parastatals, such as the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Assembly Library Trust Fund, and the National Security Agency. Engaging with the top leadership of these institutions allowed me to gain a clearer understanding of their roles in promoting nation-building. It was a unique chance to ask questions directly and demystify the inner workings of these crucial entities.

Moreover, I was thrilled by the remarkable diversity and inclusion within the cohort of participants. This aspect significantly enriched the overall experience. The varied perspectives and contributions from individuals of diverse backgrounds across the 36 states and the F.C.T underscored the profound notion that diversity and inclusion can serve as a catalyst for transformative impact rather than an obstacle to progress. The diverse array of experiences and viewpoints not only broadened my own understanding but also emphasised the importance of inclusive leadership in driving meaningful change. Moving forward, I am inspired to ensure that diversity and inclusion are integral components of any initiative I undertake. The Legislative Mentorship Initiative has illuminated the fact that embracing diverse perspectives not only enhances the quality of discussions but also leads to more comprehensive and effective solutions.

The impact of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative extends beyond traditional leadership skills. It influenced my critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and physical wellness. Most notably, it transformed my self-perception. Before embarking on the Legislative Mentorship Initiative, I found comfort in occupying the sidelines, content with being a backbencher and occasionally sitting on the fence. However, the programme instilled in me the courage to take a bold step forward. Inspired by the insights gained from the initiative and driven by the belief that I could make a meaningful impact in a leadership role, I decided to run for the office of Deputy Minority Leader. To my surprise and gratitude, I won the position with an overwhelming vote of confidence from my peers—a mandate that I do not take for granted. Becoming the Deputy Minority Leader is not just a personal achievement; it symbolises a shift in mindset and a commitment to embrace a more active role in shaping the future.

I also had an initial fixed mindset, that effective public sector leadership in Nigeria required an intricate web of academic degrees and political connections. However, I have come to the full understanding that, at the heart of public sector leadership is selfless service. Leaving the initiative, I felt equipped to lead with integrity, excellence, and empathy in any professional setting I find myself in. The Speaker Series, where Fellows shared their passions, challenged me to revisit an initiative close to my heart. I discovered like-minded Fellows with whom I am excited to collaborate post-programme to launch an initiative focused on teaching leadership at the family unit—an endeavour that promises to make a lasting impact beyond the confines of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative. I am immensely grateful to the visionary Founder of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative and the steadfast support from the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for keeping this transformative programme alive.



### HON. NWOKO, CHINAZA SCHOLASTICA (ABIA STATE)

The Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) Fellowship was an extraordinary journey, one that has transformed my perspective and prepared me for a future of purposeful leadership. As Nelson Mandela once said, ***"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world,"*** and LMI has epitomised this belief. From the moment I received the congratulatory email to my arrival in Abuja,

The warm reception from the LMI team and the hotel accommodation provided, made me feel not just welcomed, but truly at home.

A memorable piece of advice from the sergeant at arms resonates deeply with me: ***"Build relationships with your colleagues here, and with everyone you see. The friends you make today will be your connection tomorrow."*** Air Cdre S. Abdullahi Zakari (rtd), Head, Sergeant at Arms, National Assembly.

This shared wisdom encapsulates just one of many benefits of LMI – fostering connections that extend beyond the Fellowship, laying the groundwork for a network that will shape our collective future.

LMI did not just provide an opportunity for me to have first hand learning experience about our legislative system but also learn from our legislators experiences and political journey. LMI provided an opportunity for me to not just gain knowledge and learn new skills but also gain valuable insight, and build lasting relationships with amazing youths in all 36 states of the federation including the FCT.

I had an amazing opportunity to listen and learn from the stories of prominent Nigerian leaders such as The Vice President of Nigeria, His excellency, Kashim Shettima, The Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Hon. Benjamin Kalu, The Chief of Staff to the President Federal Republic of Nigeria and Founder of Legislative Mentorship Initiative, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila.

Also, we had mentor exchange sessions where valuable life experiences were shared by young and vibrant Nigerian legislators like Sen. Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, Hon. Mohammed Bello El-Rufai, and Hon Ibrahim Bello Mohammed.

Beyond the classroom experience, we had the opportunity to embark on learning visits to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the office of The National Security Adviser and Democracy Radio 104.9 Fm.

The seeds of knowledge sown by LMI have cultivated a profound sense of responsibility and a desire for positive change within me. The experience has equipped me with the tools to navigate the complexities of leadership.

As I return home, I carry with me not only newfound knowledge and a certificate but also a transformed identity. LMI has empowered me to embrace challenges, connect with diverse perspectives, and envision a world where legislative leadership drives meaningful change. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to be part of this transformative community. The lessons learnt, friendships forged, and the collective commitment to a better future will undoubtedly resonate in my endeavours for years to come as I contribute to a better Nigeria .



**HON. AYODEJI ALADEJANA (EKITI STATE)**

As a child, I watched my parents, both civil servants, rush out of the house early in the morning to catch up with the resumption time at work. My dad, a School Principal then, always wanted to arrive at his office early enough to be in good standing to correct staff and students who came late to school. Despite these efforts, I could not understand why the salary due to him would be delayed for a few

The ‘people in Government’ became my enemy as the available funds had to be rationed towards the important expenditure. Consequently, my brothers and I did not get toys as often as our friends, whose parents probably worked in the private sector or had other sources of income.

As I grew older, I became more interested in public service. In line with my understanding of governance at that time, if we had people with bright ideas in government, hardworking civil

servants like my parents would not have to draw up a scale of preference that would not involve getting toys and other goodies for their kids. My fascination for public service was driven by a deep-seated desire to contribute meaningfully to the betterment of our society.

It can be quite challenging to understand how governance operates in Nigeria. Simply reading or studying government processes in school will only give you an idea of what works in theory, which can be quite different from what happens in the country. Fortunately, the Fellowship Programme of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) gave me the necessary guidance and insight. It exposed me to the intricacies of the three tiers of government and instilled in me the values of purposeful leadership.

Participating in the second cohort of the Fellowship programme was a paradigm shift in my thinking. The opportunity to learn from accomplished thought leaders broadened my perspective. It rekindled my hope for the future of our country as I witnessed firsthand the dedication and commitment of those at the forefront of public service in our country. Connecting with like-minded individuals from across the nation allowed for a rich exchange of ideas, creating a network of support and inspiration while emphasising our collective responsibility in nation-building.

As thorough as it was, the selection process reinforced my belief that I have what it takes to make a meaningful impact. The well-structured lectures, insightful learning visits, and engaging mentor exchange sessions gave me a comprehensive view of the intricacies of governance in Nigeria. I also find it fascinating that the unique approach employed by the lecturers and mentors left a lasting impact on me, ensuring that their thoughts and ideas resonate deeply.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, the Founder of LMI, for envisioning and executing this impactful initiative. His commitment to grooming the successor generation of public sector leaders is evident in every aspect of the programme. The initiative's overarching goal of transforming participants into credible and capable leaders aligns seamlessly with the vision of sustainable nation-building.

As I look ahead, I am excited about the prospect of contributing to sustainable nation-building and unleashing the potential of our young leaders. The LMI has equipped me with the skills and perspective needed to play my part in this joint task, and I am confident that the flag of positive change will fly high, thanks to the invaluable experiences gained through this transformative Fellowship.



**HON. HALIMA MOHAMMED (FCT)**

The Legislative Mentorship Initiative has been an incredibly enriching experience which has left a lasting impact on both my personal and professional development. The initiative provided a unique and invaluable opportunity to delve into the world of legislation, understand the nuances of policymaking, and witness firsthand the dynamic interactions within the legislative environment.

Engaging with experienced mentors and seasoned legislators, I was able to broaden my understanding of how legislation is conceptualised, debated, and enacted. Witnessing the behind-the-scenes efforts required to translate ideas into tangible policies has given me a newfound appreciation for the complexity and dedication involved in shaping the laws that govern our society. Furthermore, I was able to make meaningful connections with mentors and colleagues who share a passion for public service and policy advocacy. The exchange of ideas,



experiences, and perspectives has not only enriched my knowledge but has also fostered a sense of camaraderie and a network of support within the legislative community.

Throughout the programme, my exposure to diverse perspectives challenged me to question preconceived notions and encouraged a more comprehensive understanding of the issues confronting our societies. I have also learnt the importance of listening actively, considering different viewpoints, and approaching challenges with an open mind. These skills are not only valuable within the legislative context but are transferable to various aspects of life.

In conclusion, participating in the Legislative Mentorship Initiative has ignited a sense of civic responsibility within me. Witnessing the dedication of mentors and legislators to serve their constituents and address pressing societal issues has inspired me to contribute actively to positive change. As I reflect on my time at LMI, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to be part of a community dedicated to shaping the future through legislation and public service. The knowledge gained, the relationships forged, and the inspiration drawn from this experience will undoubtedly influence my future endeavours, whether within the legislative realm or other spheres of community engagement.



### HON. MUNAWAR SIRAJI SIDI, FLMI (ZAMFARA STATE)

It was in 2022, when I saw the first LMI programme on news, notable for its enhanced inclusivity for Persons Living with Disabilities (PWDs). The programme was about the Nigerian Legislature and I felt the desire to join the next cohort. Yes, I am here today, a Fellow of the LMI. I came, I saw, and I understood that the Nigeria we want is to develop the next generation of legislators and ethical public sector leaders,

well equipped with responsive leadership skills, knowledge and expertise to enhance public service delivery and build a nation.

I acknowledge the Founder LMI, Speaker of the 9<sup>th</sup> House of Representative and Currently, Chief of Staff to President, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR, who has ensured that the LMI programme would always be inclusive for all; women, men and Persons Living with Disabilities. At the opening ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort of the LMI, I proudly stood among the beneficiaries of this second Cohort. During the first cohort, there were three persons with disabilities who were selected for the Fellowship.

I have gained a significant understanding of Nigeria's legislation, process, and policy, which I hadn't considered before. This newfound knowledge was prompted by Rt. Hon Femi Gbajabiamila CFR when he posed the following questions to us.

*"Who are you?"*

*Who do you want to be?"*

*What principles motivate your top priorities?"*

*What dreams inspire your every waking moment?"*

*These questions will speak to your vision and character and they are questions you alone must answer."*

I dedicated myself to rising up, seizing our swords and shields—equipped with the sharpened sword of capacity—to construct the Nigeria envisioned in our dreams, for the advancement of future generations. This opportunity attracted brilliant and highly capable youths from all

corners of the 36 states, as well as the FCT, within Nigeria and across Africa.

During the lecturers and LMI journey with great intellect. Describing the experience ranges from top-notch and conducive accommodation, the environment for learning, the excursions to notable organisations, group presentations were members of a group within a short time brainstorm to deliver an excellent output. Fellows were learning sign language from me as well as service that I was deaf person in order to be able to participate fully in the programme, and not to forget in the morning exercises that that helped to keep me fit.

It was truly an refreshing moment during our fellowships, connecting with remarkable individuals of similar aspirations, diverse backgrounds, and knowledge. Engaging with friends and acquaintances became a cherished memory, where discussions ranged from the simple to the profound. Undoubtedly, it was an unforgettable experience, and I am eternally grateful to the Founder of LMI, Speaker of the 9<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives, and current Chief of Staff to President Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila CFR. His belief in the pivotal role of youth as the cornerstone of every nation, the bedrock upon which both present and future are laid, birthed this noble Initiative. It stands as a beacon, aiding in the cultivation of the next generation of Nigeria's public sector leaders.

It was a remarkable journey, an influential advocate of adaptability and leadership inclusion of PWDs and I was elected to the LMI Minority Leader of the LMI Parliament. I demonstrated a profound commitment to advocate inclusion with dedication to humanitarian services, positions as a valuable asset to global initiatives.

The Chairman of the Planning and Advisory Committee, along with the Director of LMI, are committed to fostering transparency and excellence in their guidance, empowering us with the confidence to take bold action. You both exude charisma and demonstrate exceptional leadership in guiding us through this exciting three-week mentorship journey. I admire your exemplary behaviour and brilliance. I want to express my gratitude to the operations team, who have shown great respect and consideration for my special needs as a deaf person, accommodating me accordingly.

Thank you.



### HON. EKPO, PRAISE, DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER, LMI PARLIAMENT (AKWA IBOM STATE)

In December 2023, I had the incredible opportunity to be part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI). My expectation going into the programme was to meet a vibrant collective of brilliant and inquisitive young minds eager like me to acquire practical insights on governance beyond the periphery.

In three weeks, LMI presented us with the opportunity to learn the intricacies and inner workings of leadership and service, from the grassroots level to the global sphere. It was indeed a surreal experience to interact with policy makers from the local government level all the way to the upper echelon of leadership in Nigeria.

Invaluable insights were gained from the brilliant facilitators and organisers, ranging from macro concepts such as national history and nation building to more personal topics like maintaining proper decorum and observing protocol. However, learning was not just teacher-centred, LMI afforded us the opportunity to present our ideas on leadership and reform to our peers.

Equally compelling was the inclusive mix of our cohort. Culture, gender and marginalised groups were adequately represented, and their perspective on governance cemented in us the ideals of unity in diversity.

It is also impressive to state that our comfort was given the utmost priority. The attention paid to our physical and logistical welfare by the organising team ensured we went through the programme with sound minds and bodies.

Overall, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of LMI was a worthwhile experience. I would like to thank the Founder and the advisory/organising team for this opportunity. I was truly inspired by the people I met and their dedication to improving governance across all levels of leadership. I definitely gained a lot from the experience and feel more prepared to contribute my quota to national development.



### MY LMI EXPERIENCE BY HON. OLIVE CHIAMAKA SADIO REPRESENTING THE GOOD PEOPLE OF EDO STATE

***"You will definitely receive a strike if you arrive at the class, exercise area, dining area, or bus even a minute late."*** These were the words that stuck in my memory during my three weeks at the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) programme organised by Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabamila in December 2023.

When we came to camp, I had little or no idea what to anticipate. My goal was to acquire skills that would aid in the pursuit of my dreams for Nigeria and myself, but I was open to whatever LMI had to offer.

My experience at LMI was more than I had anticipated. The programme was nothing short of transformative, led by a committed and disciplined group of young people. The strike system, emphasising punctuality, became a significant aspect of our daily routine, instilling discipline and time management—two skills that are essential for effective leadership.

During the course of the programme, discipline was not only taught theoretically but also applied. The strike system reminded participants and facilitators alike that every minute matters and that disciplinary action was taken. The meticulousness and precision with which every element was executed demonstrated the organizers' dedication to establishing a positive learning atmosphere.

The training introduced me to a wide range of professionals and leaders from many fields and parastatals. Notable educators included Prof. Vincent Anigbogu, Director-General of the Institute for National Transformation, who shared insights into nation-building; Dr. Ike Neliaku, President of NIPR, who emphasized the need for Africa to break free from pre-programmed patterns to achieve its desired freedom; and legislative expert Mr. Benjamin Ekeyi, who introduced us to the legislative process and how laws and policies are formulated.

During the Speakers Series, Prof. Okey Ikechukwu, a popular instructor for public speakers, recognised my potential as a strong writer. The Speaker Series gave us a platform to convey our enthusiasm. I was motivated by mine as well as the commendation from Prof. Ikechukwu went on to create and publish an article that attracted like-minded individuals for future collaborations.

The training programme covered several areas of governance, delivering an all-encompassing comprehension of the different arms of government. From legislative simulations to meetings with ministers and experts, each session provided significant insights into Nigeria's policies and lawmaking processes.

One highlight was the inclusion of Persons Living with Disability (PWD), as demonstrated by Munawar from Zamfara State. Munawar, who was unable to speak or hear, demonstrated the remarkable provisions LMI had developed in partnership with the TAFAFRICA (Formerly The Albino Foundation). Throughout the session, interpreters were ready to assist Munawar, ensuring his full participation in all activities. This event reinforced the idea that effective leaders value and cherish the diversity of all people.

Aside from classroom study, the training featured learning trips and interactions with significant personalities, which enhanced our awareness of Nigerian governance processes. From the National Assembly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and even a visit to the Office of the National Security Adviser, each tour offered a new perspective.

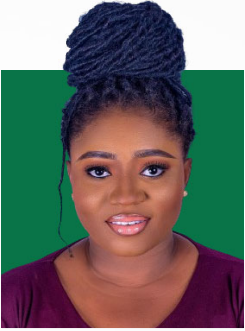
Inspired by what I had discovered, I embarked on the process of actually making an impact. My speech at the Speakers Series inspired me to launch a movement supporting seniors, and it has drawn interest from relevant individuals and organisations for cooperation. Thanks to the programme.

I am grateful for the unforgettable experience and commend Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabamila for his role in shaping the future of Nigeria. The diversity among my Fellows, their passion for moving Nigeria forward, and the harmonious coexistence during the three weeks showcased that unity across tribes and backgrounds is not only possible but crucial for building a peaceful and strong nation.

In conclusion, the LMI programme equipped me not only with knowledge but also with a renewed sense of purpose. I am excited to actively contribute to making Nigeria more inclusive, compassionate, and prosperous. The skills acquired, the connections made, and the experiences gained have set the stage for positive change, and I look forward to the journey ahead. Additionally, I appreciate all the thoughtful gifts received during the programme, which added a special touch to an already enriching experience.

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## THE LMI FELLOWS, 2<sup>ND</sup> COHORT



HON. CHINAZA S. NWOKO

ABIA



HON. JABIR YAHYA

ADAMAWA



HON. PRAISE I. EKPO

AKWA IBOM



HON. ONYEDIKA E. IKEBUAKU

ANAMBRA



HON. NAFISA A. BARAU

BAUCHI



HON. USMAN YAU

BAUCHI



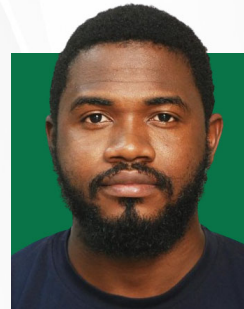
HON. JOSEPH KONBOYE WARIBUGO

BAYELSA



HON. ABIGAIL N. ATU

BENUE



HON. KATOR IGBUDU

BENUE



HON. MINTA S. YUSUF

BORNO



HON. OYEBANBUGHI E. INYANG

CROSS RIVER



HON. OREVAOGHENE H. ARONO

DELTA



HON. PEACE U. OKO

EBONYI



HON. OLIVE C. SADIQ

EDO



HON. AYODEJI ALADEJANA

EKITI



HON. LOLADE O. IPELE

EKITI



HON. SUNDAY V. EZE

ENUGU



HON. HALIMA A. MOHAMMED

FCT



HON. BLESSING YAHAYA

GOMBE



HON. CHIAMAKA L. OKOLIE

IMO



HON. AMINA SULAIMAN

JIGAWA



HON. BERNICE A. ABEKU

KADUNA



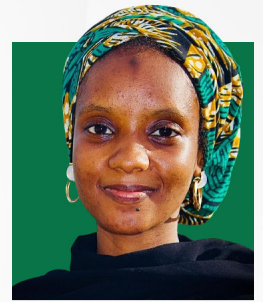
HON. KHADIJAT A. SULEIMAN

KADUNA



HON. SAMIRA A. USMAN

KANO



HON. AISHA M. RILWANU

KATSINA



HON. SALAHUDEEN B. BELLO

KEBBI



HON. HANNATU J. SADIQ

KOGI



HON. ADAM O. MUHAMMAD-THANNI

KWARA



HON. HABEEB A. TAJUDEEN

KWARA



HON. OLUWAFEYIJIMI DOSUMU

LAGOS



HON. SORAYA KOSHONI

LAGOS



HON. KATHERINE  
K. KPANJA

NASARAWA



HON. WONDERFUL  
G. KOCE

NIGER



HON. ABIODUN  
O. BABATUNDE

OGUN



HON. BOLUWATIFE  
V. AGBONA

ONDO



HON. DAISI  
S. OLAJORIN

ONDO



HON. TOLUWALOPE  
I. ADESINA

OSUN



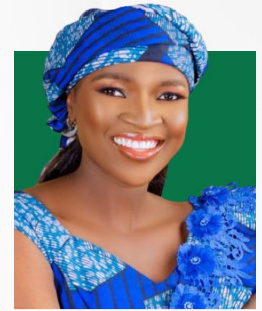
HON. DANJUMA  
A. BALOGUN

OYO



HON. VICTORIA  
A. AWORINDE

OYO



HON. RUTH KI

PLATEAU



HON. CHRISTIANA  
I. KUNKALA

RIVERS



HON. FAHAD  
L. ABUBAKAR

SOKOTO



HON. IYA B. PYIKI

TARABA



HON. SALEH H. LAWAN

YOBE



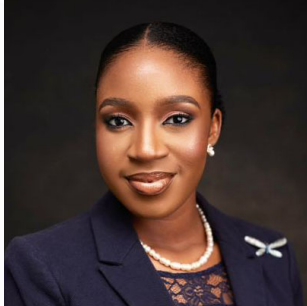
HON. MUNAWAR  
S. SIRAJO

ZAMFARA

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## LMI HUMAN RESOURCE STRUCTURE

### OPERATIONS TEAM



CHIMDI NELIAKU, ESQ.

**DIRECTOR**

### COORDINATING SECRETARIAT



CHIJIJOKE OBIOMA

**COORDINATOR**



JUDITH B. MAIGARI

**COORDINATING OFFICER**

### ADMIN SUB TEAM



BARR. JOHN AJI

**PROGRAMME OFFICER  
(ADMIN & LEGAL)**



ONYINYECHUKWU OKOLI

**PROJECT OFFICER  
(ADMIN)**



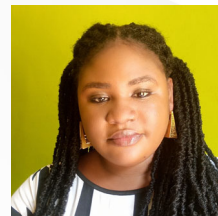
VERONICA IGUBE, ESQ.

**PROJECT OFFICER  
(ADMIN)**



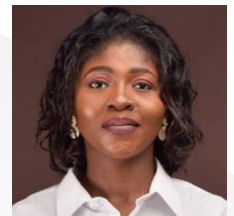
MOYO ADEOLUWADOTUN

**PROJECT OFFICER  
(KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT)**



FUNMILAYO ROTIMI

**PROJECT ASSISTANT  
(ADMIN)**

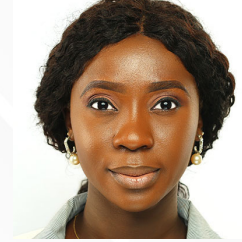
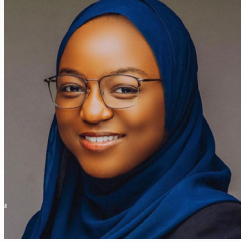


AISHA KASSIM

**PROJECT ASSISTANT  
(ADMIN)**



# OPERATIONS SUB TEAM



**IKECHUKWU IYK-ONUMAH** **RAMLAT ARFAH ZUBAIRU** **DAMILOLA A. ADESANYA** **IVEREN EVELYN AYEDE** **BONGOS OKOH**

**PROGRAMME OFFICER  
(OPERATIONS)**

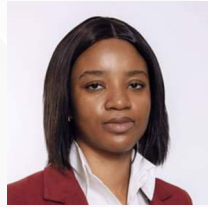
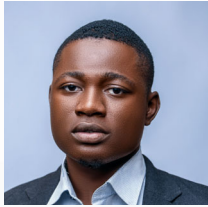
**PROJECT OFFICER  
(OPERATIONS)**

**PROJECT OFFICER  
(OPERATIONS)**

**PROJECT ASSISTANT  
(OPERATIONS)**

**IT SPECIALIST**

# COMMUNICATIONS SUB TEAM



**AGBENYI JOHN OTETAH** **OLAOTAN ADEYEKUN** **MABEL ECHEWUNE** **OLIJE ECHEWUNE** **CHINWE H. OGBUJAH** **MUBARAK IDRIS**

**COMMUNICATIONS  
OFFICER**

**PROJECT OFFICER  
(MEDIA)**

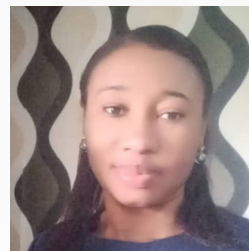
**OFFICIAL  
PHOTOGRAPHER**

**MEDIA  
ASSISTANT**

**VIDEOGRAPHER**

**VIDEOGRAPHER**

# HOSPITALITY SUB TEAM



**MOYO ADEOLUWADOTUN** **BASH BALA** **DIVINE-FAVOUR G. CHUKWU** **DR. UZOMA CHIGOZIE** **SOPRIYE TUBONIMI**

**PROGRAMME OFFICER  
(HOSPITALITY)**

**PROTOCOL  
OFFICER**

**PROJECT OFFICER  
(CATERING LOGISTICS)**

**RESIDENT  
DOCTOR**

**FITNESS  
TRAINER**

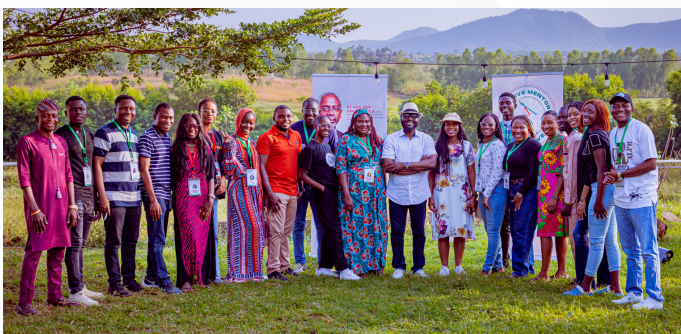
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### OPENING CEREMONY



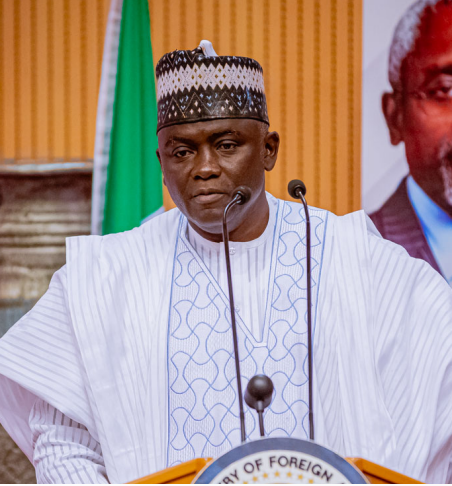
# TRAINING SESSIONS



## TRAINING SESSIONS



TRAINING SESSIONS



## TRAINING SESSIONS



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