



LEGISLATIVE MENTORSHIP INITIATIVE (LMI)

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

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME REPORT 2022



OUR PARTNERS



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE



“JUST BEGIN”

It is one thing to have a dream and it is another thing to see a dream become reality. The LMI dream is one which our country needed for a long while, but it is the dynamic hands-on leadership of Mr. Speaker that made it become a reality. When Mr. Speaker charged me with the responsibility of designing and developing a rigorous and impactful leadership development programme that would respond to

the challenge of building competent and capable leaders to lead our country into the future, we had no idea how it would evolve. Leaning on my experience as a Yale World Fellow and as an Aspen Fellow and working with an excellent team of colleagues at the Office of the Speaker as well as the LMI Management and Operations team, which include Solape Sonuga, Chimdi Neliaku, Ifeanyi Chukwudi and Praise Edeh, we set out to achieve Mr. Speaker's vision.

We spent over a year consulting, reflecting and designing a programme that would uniquely and specifically respond to the peculiarities of public sector leadership in Nigeria, and quite importantly, identify bright shining lights within our country's youth, who could take up the mantle of leading our country into a better future. Thanks to a seasoned selection panel, chaired by Hon. Henry Nwawuba, we found 73 amazing individuals who hold much promise for our nation and whom today we are proud to call LMI Fellows.

It is worth repeating that without the leadership, fundraising and personal financial contributions from Mr. Speaker, the LMI would not have been possible. It was his determination and doggedness when it seemed like we may not be able to secure adequate funding, that inspired the LMI Management team to press on and bring the LMI to life. As he said, “just begin”. I am grateful to Mr. Speaker for his vote of confidence, for his unwavering support and for the privilege of being chosen as the inaugural Director of this laudable programme but even more so for his wisdom, which guided us through the entire process.

Indeed, it is one thing to design a programme and it is another thing to run it successfully. Bringing together 73 young people for an intense residential public sector leadership boot camp was no small feat. It turned out to not just be a challenge worth facing but also an enjoyable experience and this is owing to the management and operations team who ensured that everything worked effectively, efficiently and impactfully. I owe them a debt of gratitude for the success of this

A leader is only as good as his team and I am incredibly proud of our LMI Management & Operations team, they did a brilliant job and proved themselves to be leaders in their own right. programme.

While we had a clear sense of the character and calibre of people that we wanted to select for the fellowship, we could not have put faces, voices and personalities to them in our design process. However, it was nothing short of an extraordinary experience seeing the faces of those who were eventually selected as Fellows-in-Training (FITs) and later graduated as full Fellows of the LMI. Listening to the 2022 cohort; their thoughts, ideas, passion and commitment to a better and greater future for our country was inspiring. The sacrifice of their time and the deployment of the full gamut of their intellect to learn the rudiments of public sector leadership was nothing short of impressive. Watching them evolve through the programme gives cause for great optimism for the future of leadership in our public sector. These Fellows are doing, and will do, even greater things for Nigeria.

The inaugural cohort of 2022 have proven that Nigeria's youth are indeed willing and ready to take over the realms of leadership in our country and lead us in the right direction. However, as I have often said, passion and interest are not enough, competence and capability are crucial and that is what the LMI brings to the table. Training these passionate young people and equipping them with the tools to lead effectively in the public sector is what Mr. Speaker charged us to do and by God's grace, that is what we have done.

Our thanks and gratitude go to all those who suspended their scepticism and believed in the potential of this programme when we first discussed it with them. We are grateful to all our partners who supported, funded and enabled us to run this programme. As the LMI was not financed through public funds, we could not have implemented it without their contributions and Mr. Speaker's personal funds, which he invested in shaping the future our young people. We are thankful to Mr. Speaker, for he has shown that leadership is not about words but about action and literally putting your money where your mouth is. He has done all the above and that is why the LMI exists today, creating a new home for training Nigeria's young leaders.

A critical component of good governance is continuity and sustainability of programmes, policies and initiatives. Hence, as a further demonstration of Mr. Speaker's leadership, he has ensured that this novel programme will not be a flash in the pan but will now be a permanent institutional programme embedded in the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS).

Indeed, the LMI could not have found a better home than in the capable hands of the Director General of NILDS, Professor Abubakar Suleiman, who is an erudite academic, seasoned trainer, respected politician and former Minister of National Planning.

As we hand over LMI to NILDS to carry on, we rest assured that the LMI will go from strength to strength and will only get better in achieving its goal of building leaders for our public sector. To acknowledge the efforts of our founder and his legacy, LMI will now be most befittingly called “GLMI – Gbaja Legislative Mentorship Initiative”.

It is on this note that I say that the LMI, its founder, its funders, its fellows and the management and operations team, all give us cause to have hope in the future of Nigeria. We have no doubt that from cohort to cohort, transformational, impactful and inspirational leaders will emerge from the GLMI Fellowship to serve our nation with diligence and dedication. This will be a testament to the work we have done, the impact we have made and the future we are working to shape through the LMI

As I move on from my role as Director of LMI to its Advisory Council, I have no doubt that the GLMI under NILDS, will grow to become a formidable and highly-sought-after programme, not just in Nigeria but across Africa, building capable leaders across the continent. It has been an honour, a privilege and a great pleasure to serve as the inaugural Director of the LMI, thanks to Mr. Speaker, and I am excited by the great exploits the Fellows will do and the great impact the “GLMI” programme will continue to have in transforming our nation and building leaders for the future.

As we say at LMI: “thank you, thank you, thank you”.

DO



1.

BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION TO THE LMI

The Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) is a youth leadership development programme founded by the Speaker of the 9th House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR. This programme aims to train the next generation of public sector leaders, especially legislators, to embody the values of good character, commitment and competence and to build their capacity for excellence in public service.



OUR VISION is to attract and train dedicated young professionals to serve and excel in the public service, particularly the legislature. Our goal is to develop the next generation of legislators and ethical public sector leaders that are well equipped with responsive leadership skills, knowledge and expertise to enhance public service delivery and foster national cohesion.



OUR STRATEGIC GOALS ARE TO:

- a) Provide a unique opportunity for legislative leadership talent to be discovered, nurtured and enhanced
- b) Provide rigorous hands-on learning opportunities in the broad areas of public sector leadership
- c) Identify, train, and equip a new generation of public sector leaders, particularly parliamentarians

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



- a) 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.
- b) An understanding of Nigerian history in the context of our national vision, the trajectory of Nigeria's constitution, Nigeria's rich parliamentary history and apply lessons learned towards strengthening the legislative process and the emergence of a New Nigeria.
- c) An understanding of the role of parliament in nation building and the legislature as the anchor of democracy.



- d) An understanding of the culture of service, impact and sustained engagement for national development, empowered by hands-on understanding of the rudiments of legislative processes for greater and sustainable impact.
- e) An understanding of the importance of value-based, no-excuse leadership mentality with the competence for disciplined execution of programmes and projects.
- f) 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.
- g) The importance of passing the baton by helping our youths “the truth to know” through mentorship, team building and networking

2. THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) Fellowship Programme was a 5-week residential training programme that took place at Abuja from Saturday, 1st October to Sunday, 5th November 2022.

The Fellowship Programme is a first-of-its-kind initiative designed to help young people who are interested in serving in the public sector 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.

It is an inclusive programme that consisted of community interactions for 73 participants from all 36 states of Nigeria, plus the FCT between ages 21 and 35, with people with disabilities also represented.

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

3. THE SELECTION PROCESS

On the 26th of June, the LMI was officially launched and applications were opened to the public. Applicants were expected to apply to be a part of the Fellowship Programme via the online portal (www.lmi.ng/apply). They were expected to fill a personal information form, submit 2 essays, a statement of purpose, a curriculum vitae and a one-minute video explaining reasons for applying. The purpose of this was to ensure that all selected participants were patriotic Nigerians, committed to public sector leadership and governance.



Within 24 hours of its launch, the Programme received over 1,000 applications and as at the time applications closed on the 18th of July, over 4,000 applications were received. A Selection Committee was thus created to undertake an impartial, rigorous, merit- and inclusion-based process. The Selection Committee was made up of the following persons:

Hon. Henry Nwawuba (Chairman)

A successful banking & finance professional and a seasoned legislator who Chairs and drives the implementation of the Legislative Agenda in the House of Representatives

Kome Oruade

The Manager of a world class leadership programme with multiple years' experience selecting excellent fellows for Acumen

Nandom Rimdan

A sound Senior Legislative Aide in the House of Representatives with years of experience currently working with the Committee on Legislative Library, Documentation & Research.

Chimdi Neliaku

A lawyer, legislative consultant, PR practitioner, ADR professional and youth development expert with over 10 years of experience in convening youth leadership initiatives. She is a World Economic Forum Global Shaper.

Solape Sonuga (Secretary)

A dedicated professional working in the Office of the Speaker with a focus on research, policy, international and interparliamentary affairs. She coordinates a range on various high-level national & international projects

'Dapo Oyewole

A public policy, international affairs and strategic planning expert with over 20 years' experience in civil society, public and private sectors. A Senior Fellow at Yale University and the Aspen Institute

Falila Hamu

The Founder and Managing Partner of a renowned law firm who has also participated & led numerous youth leadership programmes worldwide. She is also a member of the World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community.

Idowu Bakare

A public servant with the House of Representatives Interparliamentary and Protocol Directorate. He is also an Aig-Imoukhuede Foundation Fellow.

Bella Anne Ndubuisi

A professional with years of experience delivering similar US Fellowship Programmes. A Global Shaper alumnus skilled in training facilitation, cultural affairs, public speaking, and people management.

Praise Edeh

A dedicated professional with years of experience organising youth leadership initiatives in Nigeria

After a few weeks of sifting through all submitted applications, 73 fellows were selected, representing all 36 states in Nigeria, including the FCT with a gender balance, as well as inclusion of people living with disabilities. The geographical spread of the selected Fellows is as follows:

NORTH-WEST – 12

NORTH-CENTRAL – 17

NORTH-EAST – 11

SOUTH-WEST – 15

SOUTH-SOUTH – 11

SOUTH-EAST – 7



4.

THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

The LMI programme was designed and targeted at equipping and empowering 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.

The Training Programme ran for five weeks and the Fellows had over 70 engaging sessions including lectures by local and international experts in the public sector, excursions to various MDAs, mock Parliamentary Sitings, group discussions, documentary screenings, social & team-building activities, etc.

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

THE PROGRAMME FEATURED:

- A. Training Sessions
- B. Distinguished Speakers Series
- C. Mentorship Exchange Programmes
- D. Excursions
- E. Parliamentary Simulations

4.1 TRAINING SESSIONS



I. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA:

The Journey from Country to Nationhood

Facilitator - Prof. Yakubu Ochefu (Secretary, Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities)

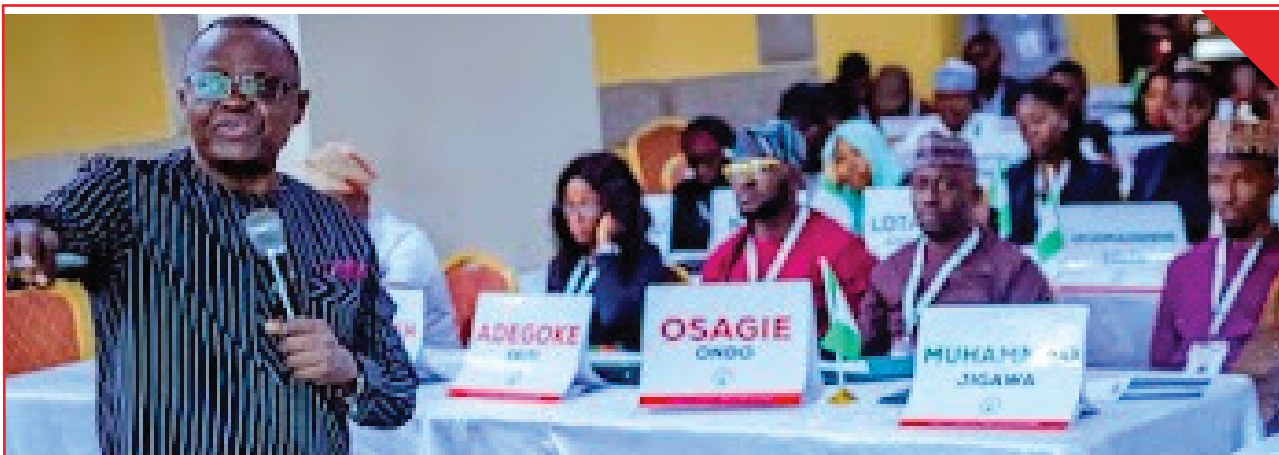
This session discussed Nigeria's history and journey of national development. The Fellows were exposed to individuals that led to the creation of the modern Nigerian nation, the reality of Nigeria in the pre-colonial era and colonial era, the struggle for independence, as well as Nigeria's journey to nationhood post-independence.



II. IDEOLOGY OF NATION BUILDING

Facilitator - Prof. Vincent Anigbogu (Director General, Institute of National Transformation)

This training session examined the concept of nation building and the ideologies that drive it. It explored the commonality of identity, shared values and world view that is required for nation-building. The Fellows learnt about the ideas and process through which a society with diverse people of diverse origins, histories, languages, cultures, and religions can come together within the boundaries of a sovereign state and chart a unified future.



III. DEVELOPMENT IDEOLOGIES: A Case Study of Development Models

Facilitator - Prof. Vincent Anigbogu (Director General, Institute of National Transformation)

This module provided the Fellows perspectives for understanding how the process of change in societies take place. Depending on which development ideology is adopted, there are different explanations of how nations grow. It explored various existing ideologies of development and examined case studies of development models from across the world, as a context for finding applicable development ideologies for Nigeria.



IV. BEHAVIORAL ENGINEERING FOR PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP

Facilitator - Dr. James Komolafe (CEO, Saba Resources)

This session exposed the fellows to the behavioural skills and requirements for excellent public sector leadership. It provided insight into how leaders can conduct themselves and engage society with their behavior in a manner that breeds trust, respect and moral authority.



V. POLICY MAKING AND STRATEGIC PLANNING IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Facilitator - Patrick Okigbo (Founding Partner, Nextier Advisory)

This topic provided the Fellows-in-Training with the tools and techniques needed for effective evidence-based policy making in the public sector. There was a significant and growing emphasis in the public sector on policy outcomes, value for money and operational efficiency. This topic was particularly important because today, public sector organisations are increasingly required to plan strategically for their future by using strategic planning tools.

Therefore, this topic addressed issues of setting strategic objectives, planning government programmes, and preparing public sector organizations for the future.



VI. PROTECTING THE FUTURE: Enhancing Policies and Legislation for Climate Change. *Facilitator - Prof. Okereke Chukwumerije (Professor in Environment and Development, AEFUNAI, Nigeria)*

Climate change is the world's single most important challenge, yet most countries are still quite poorly equipped to deal with its undeniable and increasingly profound impacts. Protecting the planet from the impact of climate change requires strategic long-term planning and collaboration between all sectors of society. Leaders in government, especially parliament have a key role to play in driving policies and legislation to tackle climate change. This training session exposed the Fellows to the need for sound climate legislation and policies in the bid to combat climate change.



VII. INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE FOR NATION BUILDING

Facilitator - Dr. Otive Igbuzor (Chief of Staff to the Senate President/Director, African Centre for Leadership, Strategy and Development)

This topic discussed basic concepts, strategies, and approaches to promote citizen participation and inclusion in governance and nation-building. It examined the various communication tools needed to drive and manage inclusion in governance. Inclusive governance is crucial to nation building and long-term sustainable development. Governance is inclusive when it effectively serves and engages all citizens; considers gender and other facets of personal identity; and when institutions, policies, and public services are accessible, accountable, and responsive to all members of society.



VIII. INCLUDING PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

Facilitator - Amb. Jake Ekpelle (Founder & CEO, Albino Foundation)

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 1 billion people, or 15%, of the global population are people with disabilities; 80% of whom live in less resourced nations. It is essential that people living with disabilities are included in governance. This topic aimed to introduce the conceptual models and processes in including persons living with disabilities in governance and development programmes. The course introduced these concepts to increase participants' understanding of disability and the needs of persons with disabilities in society.



IX. GENDER INCLUSION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Facilitator - Ms. Lilian Ngusuur Unaegbu (Programme Manager, UN Women)

Gender inclusion and women empowerment are key to achieving inclusive and sustainable development. Although there have been significant achievements over the years, women's socioeconomic disadvantage is still reflected in pervasive gender inequalities in earned income, access to productive resources such as credit and assets, educational attainment, and liberty to pursue a profession. This is a significant missed opportunity that impacts national development. This topic exposed the Fellows on the reality of how to analyze and measure the link between gender inclusion and national development. They also gained understanding on how to design policies and programmes to promote women's economic empowerment based on best practices and practical examples.



X. YOUTH INCLUSION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Facilitator - Mr. Samson Itodo (Executive Director, YIAGA)

National development cannot be achieved without the meaningful participation of young people. The development of any country depends on the productivity and creativity of its youthful population. The youth in any society are the engines of growth and development because they provide the labour force for production of goods and service. Their actions and inactions can also develop or destroy the fabrics of their society. Hence, including youths in governance and nation-building is critical to sustaining development efforts. This topic was designed to empower and equip the Fellows to address the barriers that inhibit youth participation and inclusion in governance



XI. THE TRAJECTORY OF NIGERIA'S CONSTITUTION

Facilitator - Dr. Sam Amadi (Director, Abuja School of Social and Political Thought)

Nigeria's constitutional development history can be divided into two epochal moments and generations; the colonial or pre-independence epoch which covers 6 constitutional instruments. (1914, 1922, 1946, 1951, 1954, and 1960) and the post-independence epoch which covers three constitutional instruments (1963, 1979, and 1999). This topic took the Fellows on a journey through Nigeria's constitutional development across these two epochal moments and highlighted the issues that necessitated constitutional amendments.



XII. STRATEGIC ADVOCACY: METHODS, TOOLS & TECHNIQUES

Facilitator - Abubakar Jimoh (Head of Communications at Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC))

Advocacy is the active support of an idea or cause expressed through strategies and methods that influence the opinions and decisions of people and organisations. In the political and development context, the aims of advocacy are to create or change policies, laws, regulations, distribution of resources or other decisions that affect people's lives and to ensure that such decisions lead to implementation. This topic examined some commonly used advocacy tools and techniques such as policy monitoring, policy dialogue, campaigns, etc. The Fellows participated in live scenarios using the techniques and strategies learnt.



XIII. POLITICAL COMMUNICATION: METHODS, TOOLS & TECHNIQUES

Facilitator - Ajuri Ngelale (Senior Special Assistant to the President on Public Affairs)

Political communication refers to all communication and interaction that occurs in a political context. This topic introduced participants to the tools typically engaged in political communication including agenda-setting, political marketing techniques, and crafting of communication strategies. Participants also developed skills in the analysis of the process and outcomes of political communication. This course helped the Fellows communicate better, understand political communication and the role that facts and evidence-based communication will play in good governance.



XIV. LEGISLATIVE SYMBOLS, SITTINGS AND PROCEEDINGS

Facilitator - Barr. Oscar Okoro (Clerk, House Committee on Finance/House of Representatives Chamber Staff)

In parliamentary proceedings symbols often signify the responsibilities of people in elected offices. This topic examined the various legislative symbols such as the mace and gavel and enlightened the Fellows on what these symbols represent. This course also explored the various processes and procedures of the legislative arm of government. The Fellows were also exposed to how legislative sittings and proceedings are conducted.



XV. PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND NATION BUILDING

Facilitator - John Mutu (Deputy Team Leader, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL))

Parliamentary democracy is a system of government in which citizens elect representatives to a legislative parliament to make the necessary laws and decisions for the country. This parliament directly represents the people and plays a central role in nation-building because it serves as a melting pot for the interests of all members of the society. This topic examined the concept of nation-building and the role of parliamentary democracy in driving nation-building efforts.

(Case Study Presentations were done by Dr. Jake Dan-Azumi (Special Assistant (Technical) to the DG, NILDS) and Dr. Nasir N. Abdulsalam (Special Assistant (Academic) to the DG, NILDS)



Dr. Jake Dan-Azumi
(Special Assistant (Technical) to the DG, NILDS)



Dr. Nasir N. Abdulsalam
(Special Assistant (Academic) to the DG, NILDS)



XVI. PARLIAMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Facilitator - Afolabi Adekiyaoja (Research Analyst, Centre for Democracy and Development)

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) play a major role in driving sustainable development in order to improve economic, social and political conditions in developing countries. This topic examined how the parliament could engage and partner with CSOs to further improve the effectiveness of development co-operation in delivering the sustainable development goals.



XVII. THE LEGISLATURE AS THE ANCHOR OF DEMOCRACY

Facilitator - Amb. Jerry Ugokwe (Two-Term Member of House of Representatives & Former Ambassador to Austria, Slovakia and UN Offices in Vienna)

The role of the legislative arm of government in a modern democracy cannot be over emphasised. A virile legislature will promote political stability and economic development, while a weak legislature will lead to political instability, underdevelopment, and will enthrone an autocratic and oppressive government. The legislature serves as an anchor of democracy through law-making, oversight functions and representation. This topic examined the theories and concepts of the democracy and the legislature's role in its sustenance.

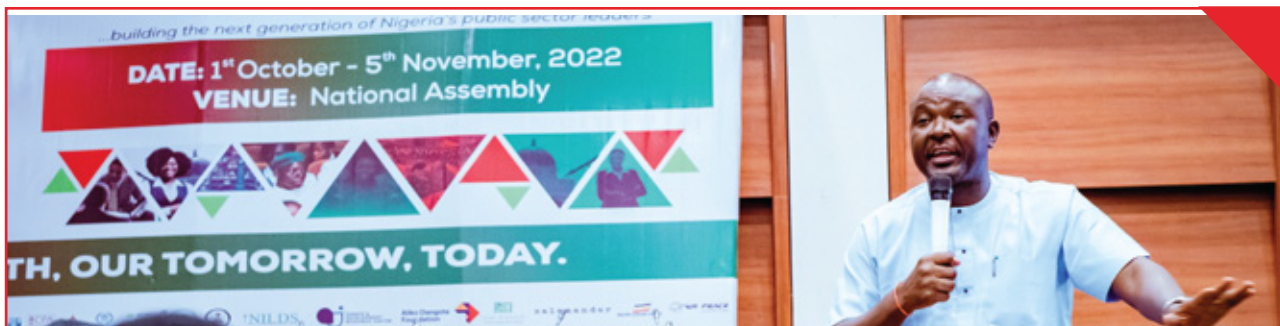
(Case Study Presentations were done by Dr. Jake Dan-Azumi (Special Assistant (Technical) to the DG, NILDS) and Dr. Nasir N. Abdulsalam (Special Assistant (Academic) to the DG, NILDS)



XVIII. DEVELOPING THE CULTURE OF SERVICE: SKILLS, VALUES AND ETHICS FOR EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SERVICE

Facilitator - Ms. Enene Ejembi (Head of Strategic Communications and Knowledge Management, DAI)

The quality of a country's public service delivery is key to its economic performance and the well-being of its citizens. An effective and efficient public administration serves the needs of its citizens and advances public good and social development. Hence, there is a need for public servants to develop a culture of service and abide by certain values and ethics that are consistent with the principles of democracy. In this training session, the Fellows were equipped with the knowledge, skills and values for effective public service delivery.



XIX. CAMPAIGNS, ELECTIONEERING & CONSTITUENCY ENGAGEMENT: SIMULATIONS AND CASE STUDIES. *Facilitator - Hon. Akin Alabi (Member of the 9th House of Representative and Chair, Committee on Inter-governmental Affairs)*

Campaigns, electioneering, and constituency engagement are key areas of the political process. This topic adopted a hands-on, innovative, and dynamic approach to exploring the strategic elements of political campaign management and constituency engagement in Nigeria. The Fellows were exposed to real strategies and case studies in constituency engagement and the overall reality of campaigning, electioneering and constituency engagement.



XX. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE AND DEMOCRATIC STUDIES (NILDS) NIGERIA'S RICH PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY

Facilitator - Prof. Abubakar Suleiman, (Director-General, National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS))

At the Fellows learning visit to NILDS, they learnt that Parliament in Nigeria has evolved and developed in phases from the colonial era to post-independence era. They explored and traced the development trajectory of the Nigerian legislature from the Legislative Council of 1862 to the present-day Bi-cameral legislature made up of two Independent Chambers: the senate and the House of Representatives.

The DG, who hosted the Fellows imparted exceptional words of wisdom and shared inspirational insight with the Fellows at this event

RUDIMENTS OF LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING: WRITING EXCELLENT AND IMPACTFUL MOTIONS, BILLS AND REPORTS

Facilitator - Dr. S. A. Dawanka (Head, Legal Services, NILDS)

Also at NILDS, the Fellows learnt that Legislators are tasked with transforming government policy into written law, but also tasked with ensuring that legislation are concise and clearly understandable giving minimal room for ambiguity and misinterpretation. Achieving both can be challenging as government policy often involves complex issues that are difficult to convey in everyday language. This topic helped the Fellows adopt a practical and hands-on approach to being equipped with the tools and skills for creating excellent legislation, emphasizing vocabulary, structure, language, style.





XXI. PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY: LEGISLATIVE INTERVENTIONS IN POLICY MAKING, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Facilitator - Prof. Femi Otubanjo (Research Professor on International Politics and Strategic Studies, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs)

There has been an increase in the role parliaments play in foreign affairs and international relations. Parliamentary Diplomacy is an important alternative form of diplomacy, which concerns the full range of international activities undertaken by parliamentarians to increase mutual understanding and cooperation between countries. Traditionally, diplomacy has been viewed as an exclusive purview of the executive arm of government, however, the relevance of parliaments in driving dialogue on key international issues and achieving resolution through parliamentary routes has become evident in recent times. In this training session, we examined parliamentary diplomacy, providing examples of how parliaments can and indeed do exercise their powers to legislate and hold government to account at the global and regional levels.



XXII. INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP ON EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SPEAKING FOR LEADERS

Facilitator - Prof. Okey Ikechukwu (Executive Director, Development Specs Academy)

Parliamentary debates are a key instrument through which parliaments propose and discuss policies, laws, and national issues. Becoming skilled at parliamentary debating takes an enormous amount of time, practice, and concerted effort. This session adopted a practical and hands-on approach to help the Fellows improve their debating and public speaking skills.



XXIII. LEGISLATIVE PROTOCOL & ETIQUETTE

Facilitator - Mr. Godwin Okon Ekpeyong, (Director, Protocol, NASS)

This session exposed the Fellows to the procedures, protocols and system of rules governing behaviour within the Nigerian legislature. They learnt about the various roles within the legislature and the rules of conduct parliamentarians adhere to during plenary sessions. Participants also learnt various tips for composition and interaction with members of the legislature in official capacity.



XXIV. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROTOCOLS & CHAMBER ETIQUETTE

Facilitator - Major R. K. Adebayo (rtd.) (Sergeant at Arms, NASS)

This training session focused on the the rules, ethics, and customs governing proceedings of the National Assembly. The Fellows learnt the various rules of behaviour and courtesies to be followed when in chambers. It also highlighted the rules and principles of parliamentary procedure and practice, the Standing Orders and Rules of Order for Plenary and Committee meetings, voting methods and so on.



XXV. UNDERSTANDING GOVERNMENT PROTOCOL AND ETIQUETTE

Facilitator - Mrs. Sonye Allanah (CEO, Consima Protocol & Finishing School)

This training session examined the ceremonial aspects of protocol procedures, rules of diplomatic interactions, etiquette, and rules of courteousness within government ranks. The Fellows were equipped with tools required to understand expected conduct or behaviour when dealing with high-ranking government officials and the critical skills needed to succeed in a multicultural and demanding workplace that involves interaction with government and diplomatic officials. The session adopted practical and interactive approaches to etiquette and protocol issues, emphasising real-life case studies, scenarios and situations that could be encountered. The Fellows also presented their Group Case Study Presentation on the topic.



XXVI. LEGISLATIVE ETHICS, PRIVILEGE AND VALUES

Facilitator - Hon. Abubakar Yunusa (Chairman, House Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission)

Public sector leaders are expected to exercise ethical leadership and abide by certain standards, value, and principles. This topic provided the Fellows with an overview of legislative ethics and values, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of legislators and their conduct in carrying out their official responsibility. They examined core theories of ethics with the aim of relating these to the legislature. They also examined various approaches to codifying and enforcing legislative ethics and values”



XXVII. CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS, MANAGING STAKEHOLDERS AND LOBBYING

Facilitator - Hon Henry Nwawuba (Committee Chair on the Legislative Agenda)

Success as a legislator will require skill and expertise in building relationships and forging mutually beneficial connections, managing diverse stakeholder expectations and lobbying. The session trained the Fellows on how to build sustainable relationships, as legislators and how to manage stakeholder needs and interests to ensure optimum results as public sector leaders.



XXVIII. BECOMING A PARLIAMENTARIAN: STEPS, PROCESSES, FINANCING AND OUTCOMES

Facilitator - Hon. Adewunmi Onanuga (Committee Chair on Women Affairs and Social Development)

This session examined the steps and processes of becoming a parliamentarian in Nigeria. The Fellows were guided through the requirements for attaining parliamentary office. They also learnt from the practical experiences of the Facilitator.



XXIX. EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP: TOOLS, STYLES AND TECHNIQUES

Facilitator - Dr. Ike Neliaku, FNIPR (Executive Secretary, Nigerian Prize for Leadership)

The political and economic landscape is constantly changing and new challenges are evolving that require effective and responsive public sector Leadership. Leadership is critical to good governance and public sector leaders need to be equipped with the right tools to navigate current global challenges. This session explored various tools and styles for effective leadership in the public sector. The Fellows were equipped to employ these tools to lead in today's public sector.



XXX. BUILDING A PERSONAL BRAND AND REPUTATION AS A CORE ASSET

Facilitator - Mal. Mukhtar Z. Sirajo, FNIPR (President, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations)

Every individual should have a personal brand. Personal branding is what shapes the perception of an individual in the eyes of the public. It entails building a reputation, creating a public image, and marketing oneself as an individual. This session took the Fellows through the importance of building and maintaining a strong personal brand and the steps involved in successfully doing so.



XXXI. CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING

Facilitator - Prof. Okey Ikechukwu (Executive Director, Development Specs Academy)

Critical thinking and problem solving have been identified as skills that are critical to the success of individuals and organisations. The ability to think effectively, assess problems and design a solution is necessary in both public and private sector workplaces. This session helped the Fellows improve their thought processes, ask the right questions, challenge assumptions, and consider varying viewpoints in assessing a problem. They have been equipped to properly identify and systematically work through a problem in a comprehensive manner, ensuring clarity in making decisions or recommendations.



XXXII. ENGAGING INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Facilitator - Dr. Chris Pycroft (Development Director, Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO))

Strong global partnerships and international cooperation are crucial to the achievement of sustainable development. This session examined the role of international development partners in achieving sustainable development. Several programmes and projects driven by the federal and state governments will benefit immensely from technical support and cooperation from international development partners and so, this session helped the Fellows to understand why international development partners are essential to Nigeria's development and how best to engage them.



XXIII. UNDERSTANDING THE SENATE: STRUCTURE, ADMINISTRATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Facilitator - Mr. Ibrahim Tafawa Balewa (Special Assistant to the Senate President on International Affairs)

Nigeria runs a bi-cameral legislature with the Upper Chamber as the Senate and the lower chamber as the House of Representatives. This session enlightened the Fellows on the importance of synergy between both chambers. It also focused on the way the Senate operates in the National Assembly as well as in collaboration with the House of Representatives.



4.2.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

The Speaker Series is a carefully curated one-on-one opportunity for the Fellows to listen, learn, interact and network with seasoned leaders in the public service. These seasoned leaders were individuals who had an excellent and demonstrable track record in public sector leadership as well as inspirational and commendable achievements nationally and internationally. The Distinguished Speakers we had during the series are:



Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila
(Speaker of the 9th House of Representatives and Founder of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative).

He spoke on the importance of Leadership and the role of a leader in ensuring the wellbeing of people around them.

Prof. Dr. Norbert Lammert
(Former Speaker of the German Bundestag and President, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung).

He spoke on Global Leadership and the Role of International Institutions and Parliaments in Fostering Good Governance



Amb. Prof. Martin Ihoeghian Uhomoibhi

(Former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs). He spoke on Foreign Affairs and Global Diplomacy: Role of the Parliament.

4.3.

MENTOR EXCHANGE SESSIONS

The Mentorship Exchange Sessions featured carefully curated one-on-one interactive sessions between the Fellows and public sector giants in Nigeria that have distinguished themselves in the nation, particularly in the Executive and the Legislature.



DR. JUMOKE ODUWOLE
Special Adviser to the President
on Ease of Doing Business



HON. ZAINAB GIMBA
Member, House of
Representatives and Chairperson,
Commonwealth Women
Parliamentarians



HON. IFEANYI MOMAH
Member, House of Representatives
and Chairman of the House
Committee on Federal Capital
Territory Judiciary



**MR. ABDUSALAM IDOWU
KAMALDEEN**
Special Assistant to the Speaker,
Special Needs/Equal
Opportunities



BARR. DUBEM MOGHALU Special
Adviser to the Speaker on
Research, Public Policy, Strategy
and Speechwriting



MR. LANRE LASISI
Special Adviser to the Speaker on
Media and Public Affairs



ADAKU APUGO (Special Assistant
to the Speaker on
inter-Governmental Affairs)

4.4. EXCURSIONS

The educative excursions were put together to ensure that the Fellows got a chance to engage with various organisations, Ministries, Departments and Agencies during their training. They got a chance to meet and interact with leaders in these organisations, learn how they function and build key relationships within the public sector. Organisations visited are:



SHEHU MUSA YAR'ADUA CENTRE



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ROBOTICS



TOUR OF THE SENATE HOUSE



ECONOMIC FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION
• Cybercrimes and Cybersecurity • Responsibilities of the EFCC



NIGERIAN ARMY RESOURCE CENTER



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



ASO ROCK PRESIDENTIAL VILLA



ASO ROCK PRESIDENTIAL VILLA



OPPORTUNITIES FOR RELAXATION AND SOCIAL INTERACTION

Opportunities for relaxation and social interaction were also provided. For example, a picnic was held at the Yar'Adua Center where the FITs, Management and operations team were able to relax and unwind.



MANDATORY PHYSICAL EXERCISE EACH MORNING

It was mandatory for Fellows to partake in physical exercise each morning to imbibe a culture of physical fitness, discipline and mental agility. A certified fitness trainer was employed to provide a fun but vigorous training to ensure that the FITs were fit.

4.5. FITS' SPEAKER SERIES

The Fellows were also given an opportunity to engage in a Speaker Series where they volunteered to give a speech on a critical topic and discuss amongst themselves. The FITs Speaker Series was done by the following Fellows:



SOLVING AFRICA'S IDENTITY PROBLEM
Stanley Udeh (Fellow-In-Training, Enugu State)



**UNDERSTANDING ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE
RESOLUTION (ADR)**
Folakemi Odeleye (Fellow-In-Training, Osun State)



**FUTURE OF WORK: TRENDING DIGITAL SKILLS
AND JOBS**
Esimaje Michael (Fellow-In-Training, Delta State)



**PERSONAL VALUES AND PHILOSOPHY; A MUST
HAVE FOR INTENDING LEGISLATORS**
Godson Nwankwo (Fellow-In-Training, Abia State)



**INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL EDUCATION AND
DISABILITY**
*Mohammed Bello Suleiman (Fellow-In-Training,
Niger State)*



HANDLING CRITICISM AS A LEADER
Sampson Kefas (Fellow-In-Training, Gombe State)



ECONOMIC GROWTH AND RECOVERY PLAN
Demilade Abolarin (Fellow-In-Training, Kogi State)



DRAFTING AND MAKING GENDER-NEUTRAL LAWS AND POLICIES
Douglas Magaji (Fellow-In-Training, Taraba State)



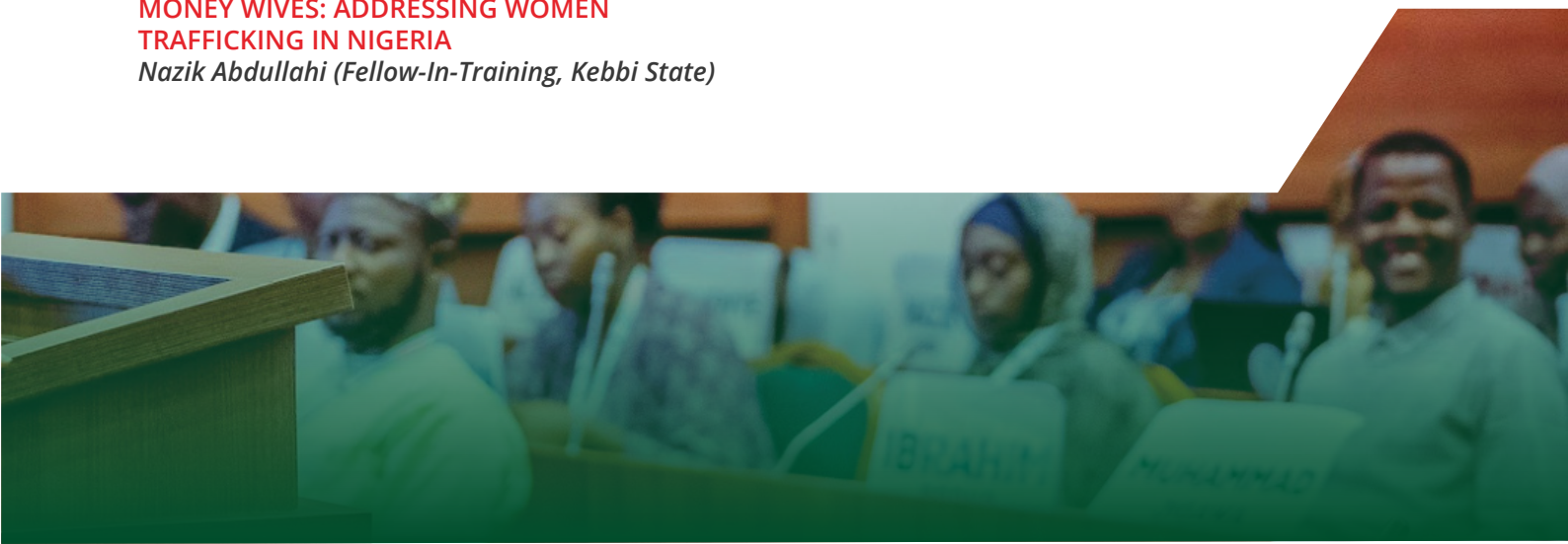
BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE : THE LMI EXPERIENCE
Pamela Igrubia (Fellow-In-Training, Bayelsa State)



FORENSIC PANACEA TO YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN NIGERIA
Akinyode Soyoye (Fellow-In-Training, Ogun State)



MONEY WIVES: ADDRESSING WOMEN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA
Nazik Abdullahi (Fellow-In-Training, Kebbi State)



4.6. PARLIAMENTARY SIMULATION

The Fellows also participated in a full parliamentary simulation where they practiced all they had learnt during the course of the training programme. Their simulation was all encompassing as it had elected officials, principal officers and parliamentary sessions.

THE ELECTIONS

An electoral process was initiated to select the principal officers of the inaugural LMI Parliament. The elections were coordinated by an electoral committee chaired by Ifeanyi Chukwudi (Project Officer, Administration). The Fellows undertook a 6-hour manifesto presentation and executed an engaging, yet free and fair election process. 7-minute manifesto presentations were taken from each of the 32 candidates and the elections held immediately. The results were also counted and declared immediately before everyone present. They are as follows:



SPEAKER

Olise Abu Michael (Winner)	23
Azizat Yishawu	22
Akinyode Soyoye	14
Boluwatife Asanya	12

DEPUTY SPEAKER

Fareed Ibrahim (Winner)	34
Abubakar Joji	19
Umar Faruk Musa	17
Esimaje Michael	1

MAJORITY LEADER

Miriya Sabo (Winner)	29
Godiya Haruna	21
Oluwatobi Ogunlere	13
Nafiu Habibu	8

MINORITY LEADER

Emmanuel Sunday (Winner)	30
Aliyah Tawasimi	19
Usman Kambari	14
Bukar Ibrahim	4

CHIEF WHIP

Aisha Abubakar (Winner)	34
Abdulbasit Kolapo	20
Hashim Adamu	11
Abubakar Tijanni	6

DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP

Jane-Harry (Winner)	21
Chinenye Nweke	20
Bashir Bala	18
Hussaina Shehu	12

CLERK

Nature-Ibora Edet (Winner)	23
Veronica Igube	18
Lotanna Nwafor	18
Nasirudeen Baba	12

DEPUTY CLERK

Muhammed Ismail (Winner)	44
Osagie Ayokunle	16
Kafayat Kareem	7
Ibrahim Modu Aji	5

After the elections, the LMI Principal Officers were sworn in by Hon. Henry Nwawuba Chair, House Committee on Legislative Agenda and Chair of the Selection Committee.

OFFICERS OF THE LMI PARLIAMENT

RT. HON. OLISE MICHAEL ABU
Speaker, LMI Parliament (Benue State)



HON. FAREED IBRAHIM
Deputy Speaker, LMI Parliament (Zamfara State)



HON. MIRYA SABO
House Leader, LMI Parliament (Kaduna State)



HON. MARTINS DAUBRY
Deputy House Leader, LMI
Parliament (Bayelsa State)



HON. AISHA ABUBAKAR
Chief Whip, LMI Parliament
(Bauchi State)



HON. JANE HARRY
Deputy Chief Whip, LMI Parliament
(Rivers State)



HON. SUNDAY EMMANUEL
Minority Leader, LMI Parliament
Kogi State)



HON. PAMELA IGRUBIA
Deputy Minority Leader, LMI
Parliament (Bayelsa State)



HON. VERONICA IGUBE
Minority Whip, LMI Parliament
(Nasarawa State)



HON. BALA BASHIR
Deputy Minority Whip, LMI
Parliament (Katsina State)



HON. NATURE IBORO-EDET
Clerk, LMI Parliament (Akwa Ibom
State)



**HON. MUHAMMAD MUBASHIR
ISMAIL**
Deputy Clerk, LMI Parliament
(Gombe State)

THE SIMULATION

Treatment of Motions in the National Assembly was facilitated by Mr. Ben Ekeyi (Legislative Strengthening and Governance Expert). The simulation provided an opportunity for the fellows to gain hand-on experience, learning the art and skill of parliamentary debating, movement of motions and other legislative processes.



5. THE GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Graduation and Conferment Ceremony of the Inaugural Cohort held on Saturday, 5th November, 2022 at the National Assembly Complex. Having completed all learning requirements, 72 Fellows-in-Training were conferred with full titles as 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 graduands.



6. OUTCOMES & LESSONS LEARNED

- The Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) Fellowship Programme has a key role to play in building and shaping the capacity of young leaders in governance and public sector leadership
- The transparent and merit-based application and screening process led to the selection of credible fellows which ultimately contributed to the programme's success
- The fellows had a rich training experience as the programme engaged credible professionals with decades of demonstrable experience and expertise in public sector leadership to facilitate the training sessions.
- The programme ensured the inclusion of people with disabilities as fellows, serving as a beacon for greater inclusion and non-marginalisation of people with disabilities in the public sector.
- The parliamentary simulation was effective in training the fellows in the art and skill of parliamentary debating and legislative processes.
- The programme also benefited from strong partnerships and collaborations with development partners and other public sectors institutions. These partnerships were critical to programme success.
- The House of Representatives was a critical partner as the programme benefited from the support of key members of the House, led by the Speaker.
- The Fellowship strengthened the conviction and resolve of the fellows to keep contributing to nation building, evidenced by the post-fellowship projects carried out by the inaugural LMI Fellows.
- The entire project would have been impossible without the dogged determination and the extraordinary leadership of the Speaker whose support opened doors, provided leadership and gave the moral authority to drive and ensure the LMI was an effective, impactful and transformative experience





My
LMI
Experience

Fellows share their LMI Experience in their own words

OLISE ABU, BENUE STATE

The Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) is a thought-provoking and wholesome experience (mental, physical, emotional, and social) that encapsulates a quality educational experience - in that, the LMI, did not just fill a pail (though it equipped one with nation-building tools), it lit a fire. A fire and force inscribing the DNA of excellent, detribalized, thoroughbred, and erudite public servants and political/social change-makers working assiduously to see Nigeria lead Africa to economic prosperity, socio-political stability, robust foreign policy, and fertile environment for technological innovation – as we approach the fourth industrial revolution.



Before delving into the renewed spark ignited by this quintessential fellowship, one cannot help but commend its wholesomeness in reiterating the connection between a sound mind and a sound body and the importance of meditation and reflection. Fellows were given a fitness instructor for exercise every morning by 6 am - and 24hrs access to the gym. We were comfortably accommodated and had a lot of quiet places for meditation – and we were encouraged to carry out personal reflection. The aim wasn't merely for comfort but for developing the complete human being - as Socrates puts it, an unexamined life is not worth living. There was also an in-house doctor who was with us everywhere we went. But most importantly, the LMI Staff were all accessible as many fellows could easily share their personal problems or dreams – a lesson on empathetic leadership for us all! All these made LMI go beyond a collegial atmosphere to a familial one. For example, we held keenly contested elections for principal officers akin to the Legislature - but we never lost ourselves and a sense of collective purpose.

Consequently, The LMI has lit a fire with education, networking and experience centred on the Legislature, research, national cohesion, development paradigms and ideologies, and socio-cultural and political-economic history. The LMI also involved soft skills in public speaking, protocol and etiquette in government, emotional intelligence, and diplomacy. Whilst LMI provided several excursions, two places gave an extra dose of belief and dream. The first was the opportunity to receive lectures and simulate parliamentary debates in the National Assembly, which made many believe they could be lawmakers too. Secondly, a visit to the State House was surreal and spoke to the hearts of many that it is possible to occupy it - with hard work and a commitment to serve.

I'm grateful for the incidental learning of cross-cultural friendships and partnerships with brothers/sisters from the 36 states together.

From Abia to Zamfara, fellows are working together to enlighten citizens on engaging the Legislature. We are poised to do more. Hence, I express profound gratitude to the Speaker of the 9th House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila for birthing this initiative. I'm deeply grateful to the organisers, led by the fellowship director, Mr. Dapo Oyewole. Special thanks to all facilitators, technical staff, security, and drivers who all made the fellowship a success.

LMI builds Leaders!

FAREED IBRAHIM, ZAMFARA STATE

I have always wanted to improve my personal and professional capacity to ensure the activation of sound, evidence-based youth policies and actions to its fullest realization in my community which was the reason why I joined the Legislative Mentorship Initiative Fellowship Program.

For 5 weeks, the training and mentorship sessions instilled in me the confidence and skills to serve as catalysts and change agents by understanding the role of young people in enhancing the tenets of democracy in Nigeria.

What kept me moving during this fellowship was the daily fitness session with Pedro and as well other amazing hospitality like the Accommodation and the general welfare provided. Not only that, the quick response medical team available did an amazing job when I was down with a fever.

It was an opportunity of a lifetime where I was able to network with fellow young insightful minds across the country who have been contributing to the sustainable development of humanity with their different civil society formations, innovations, analysis and use of advanced techniques to ensure inclusiveness and good governance. Legislative Mentorship Program has boosted my capacity in understanding who is a lawmaker, A true Representation and as well the roles of policy makers to their immediate constituencies with a view to creating awareness and empowering the citizens to own the governance processes and ensure a decent life for every citizen in our respective states and communities in Nigeria.

I believe this leadership program will bridge the communication gap and ensure service delivery between policymakers and people at the grassroots to understand what they truly want, which will formulate and implement effective policies and laws for sustainable development.



MYRA SABO, KADUNA STATE

I applied for the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI) when my plans to leave the country were solidified. It was the last straw before I lost all hope in the country. In my service to the nation, I started an initiative to provide digital literacy to children in the Niger Delta region and beyond. Of course, we had experience success, but that success was subjective because no policies had been put in place to back those successes.

Getting into LMI, my first shock was the colorful inclusion of individuals from the 36 states of the nation. This inclusion was a new approach. Different from other programs I had come to know. In this inclusive environment, I was privileged to emerge as the Majority Leader of the inaugural Cohort after a grilling election process.

Furthermore, one of the striking things for me was the intentional balance between mental and physical development incorporated into the training program. Besides from the boot camp leadership sessions, the LMI team ensured that we all participated in a daily fitness program. In addition, there was a standby medical doctor for every occasion. You could not ask for any better.

During these five weeks, LMI provided me with a platform to understand how national and international legislative processes work, the ability to hone my leadership capacities, especially among the divergent group of 76 fellows, and a platform to grow. It also provided the necessary exposure, network, and skill previously needed to improve my processes with my Initiative.

Finally, the LMI could not have come at a better time, as I was able to recalibrate my purpose for leaving the country. I have rekindled my passion for my initiative and begun training for the next set of volunteers. I am indeed thankful to the Office of the Speaker for this laudable fellowship called the “Legislative Mentorship Initiative.”



AISHA ABUBAKAR, BAUCHI STATE

The Legislative Mentorship Initiative was a five-week journey, the truest of them all, a journey of transition, exposition, and re-definition for the young, patriotic individuals who wanted to contribute their quota to Nation building. Youth who were grossly ill-equipped and inexperienced, youth who found it easy to sit in the comforts of their homes and places of work, to rage and rave about policies and projects, issues of governance, leadership, and the economy without proposing solutions, and in the case where solutions were proffered, they were poorly thought out and highly unimplementable.



But walking through the LMI tunnel, today, we have a re-defined Aisha Abubakar of Bauchi, Bashir Bala of Katsina, Olise Abu Michael of Benue, Adegoke of Ondo, Nwankwo of Abia, and Okotije of Rivers State.

We have learned from the experiences of great leaders, politicians, and captains of industries amongst others. We have learned a great deal of Nigerian history, the fault lines, and what must be done to fix what has been broken. The LMI has instilled in us the spirit of togetherness, patriotism, dedication, and the zeal to restore the glory of Nigeria while prioritizing our comfort, general fitness, and health in the most professional manner. We start our days with daily exercises meant to prepare our minds and bodies for the task that lies ahead. We had for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and also on standby, a medical doctor in cases of health emergencies.

To our Founding father, you have earned 74 resilient, bright-minded Soldiers, the leaders of Tomorrow, today. I believe, the most efficient "Thank you" we can give to you, is not through words, but by Actions. To the Great LMI Team, and Our FANTASTIC Director, who has been a true inspiration, I say a BIG THANK YOU!

From Godsons of Abia to the Fareeds of Zamfara State, I believe there is light at the end of the tunnel, and until we become active agents in Nation Building, the journey has only begun.

KOLAPO IMAM, KWARA STATE

I recently participated in a five-week Legislative Mentorship Initiative fellowship and I must say, it has been an incredibly enriching and transformative experience. I was opportune to live and engage with youths from all states in Nigeria and there was no better way to fully grasp what inclusion really is other than this beautiful experience.

From planning my daily routine to being more accommodating of the morning fitness sessions, lectures, group projects, meetings and catching up with friends. It was a vigorous, yet highly needed experience to become efficiently capacitated.

Firstly, the LMI program has significantly enhanced my capacity development towards understanding the interconnectedness of the different arms of government and how citizens can play their roles responsibly. The program covered a wide range of topics such as parliamentary procedures, public speaking, history, protocol, strategic communication and leadership skills, to name a few. The lectures were delivered by expert trainers, professors, ambassadors, legislators, and thought leaders who provided valuable insights and practical examples.

One of the most significant takeaways for me was learning about the role and functions of legislative bodies and how they can play a crucial role in shaping the direction and policies of a country. I also gained a deeper understanding of the importance of effective communication and lobbying skills in the legislative process. I equally contested for the position of Chief Whip, an experience that further exposed me to the realities of elections beyond tabloids and Twitter.

In addition to the theoretical aspects of the program, we also had the opportunity to participate in simulations and group exercises that allowed us to apply the concepts we learned in a more practical setting. This helped me better understand the legislative process's complexities and challenges and how to navigate them effectively. We visited key places such as the EFCC, NILDS, NARC, Shehu Musa YarAdua Centre and a host of others.

Furthermore, the training helped me to identify interesting ways to collaborate with the government to achieve growth for Kwara state and Nigeria. Through the various networking opportunities and guest speakers, I was able to make valuable connections with individuals who are working towards similar goals.



I believe that by working together and leveraging our collective expertise and resources, we can significantly impact our community and drive positive change.

Fellows-in-training, including myself, were comfortably domiciled in Abuja during the fellowship program. We all had standard rooms each with complete access to the outdoor swimming pool, gym facilities, praying area (for Muslims) and regular feeding for over 5 weeks.

For some of our sessions at the National Assembly or anywhere else, the LMI team was very responsive in providing excellent meals and more than enough drinking water for everyone, I miss the Chicken soup, to be honest. The LMI team orchestrated our comfortable movements within and outside the hotel by providing comfortable buses to take us to the National Assembly, Excursions and Picnics.

We had a live-in fitness coach, Pedro and he was very hands-on with our morning fitness routine and aerobics, we sometimes danced on weekends. We frequently organized gender- inclusive football matches, amateur swimming competitions with the LMI team supervision.

During the fellowship period, we had Doctor Uzor on standby for all of our medical needs such as regular vital check-ups, medications, or even Neurogesic if you nearly sprained your ankle while playing football like me. Overall, the welfare was great, the feeding was superb, thanks to the LMI team who were accommodating. Lastly, the media team took mind-blowing pictures of everyone and were very open to sharing them with us. Thank you team LMI.

Overall, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to participate in the first cohort of LMI. It has not only expanded my knowledge and skills in the realm of leadership and governance, but it has also inspired me to become more actively involved in driving positive change in my community. I highly recommend the LMI program to anyone looking to make a difference and contribute to the development of their country. The LMI team was very helpful, highly accommodating, friendly and committed to fellow's welfare and development. Hopefully, I will be able to impact future cohorts of the LMI Fellows as a trainer or volunteer.

EUNICE NWOKOCHA, IMO STATE

It is said that you never know the taste of the pudding until you eat it. Prior to the LMI programme, I had a lot of myths about the Nigerian Legislature and yes, there's an atom of truth in some of it but on the other hand, I came, I saw, and I understood that the Nigeria we want is not farfetched only if the youth who have always been tagged the Leaders of Tomorrow rise up and begin to build our tomorrow today.

This is the belief of the Speaker of the 9th House of Assembly, Rt. Hon Femi Gbajabiamila which birthed The Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI). I happened to be one of the beneficiaries of the first Cohort of this fellowship and also one among three persons with Disability who were selected for the programme.

It was an eye-opener to Nigeria's Legislative process and a wake-up call for us participants to pick up our sword and shield of capacity in order to build the Nigeria of our dreams for the betterment of our generation and generations to come.

It was an opportunity that brought great and highly intelligent youths with Capacity from all around the country and to top it all were Lecturers with great intellect.

Describing the experience ranging from top-notch and conducive accommodation, the right 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, (not to forget the title gained from one of my groups presentation - Ambassador Eunice White), the prompt response and attention by the medical team I, and also the recognition and special attention I received being a Person with Disability - I am a Person with Albinism and I am Visually Impaired (Low Vision) in order to be able to participate fully in the programme, and not to forget the morning exercises that helped to keep us fit, Yes it was really a refreshing moment with our fitness instructor Pedro.

Getting to meet great people of like minds, diverse backgrounds and knowledge, making friends and acquaintances was indeed a memory to hold on to. Learning new things and also unlearning some things was on a different level. Indeed it was an unforgettable experience and I remain ever grateful to the Speaker of the 9th Assembly who believed that Youths are the fulcrum of every nation, a Foundation upon which the present and future of every nation is built that gave birth to this great and noble Initiative to help in building the next generation of Nigerias public sector leaders.



And to the LMI Team - Mr. Dapo Oyewole, Chimdi Neliaku, Solape Sonuga, Praise Edeh, Ifeanyi Chukwudi, Pedro Johnson, Akumishi Ayenajeh, TaufEEK Abimbola, Ikechukwu lyk-Onumah, Dr Chigozie Uzoma, and other Team members I appreciate your efforts in putting together this wonderful experience with a lifelong impact. Together with my fellow Fellows, I look forward to a great Nigeria with Youthful impact for a better tomorrow today.

VERONICA PANA IGUBE, NASARAWA STATE

“When passing any legislation or policy, it is essential to consider the impact it will have on five key groups of people: the poor, women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and youth”

- Ambassador Jake Epelle, Founder and CEO, Albino Foundation.

The quote above is just one of the many learnings and tip of the iceberg of what got from the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI). My LMI experience was phenomenal and incredibly rewarding.

I had the opportunity to learn new skills, gain valuable insight, and form lasting connections with a diverse group of youths from across the 36 States in Nigeria including the FCT, these are vibrant Nigerians, who are leading the way in making positive changes in the country.

I also had the amazing opportunity to listen and learn from the stories of great and prominent Nigerian leaders, with some notable ones including the Right Honourable Speaker of the 9th House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, Hon. Akin Alabi through the Mentorship Exchange (MenX). These leaders shared the invaluable lessons they learnt on their own journeys, providing me with great insight into the Nigerian political and legislative landscape. It was an inspiring and humbling experience, and I am grateful for the chance to have heard these stories first-hand.

The accommodation was incredibly serene and peaceful, providing the perfect atmosphere for learning. The Fellowship offered Fellows in Training “FITs” as we were fondly called FITs an extraordinarily supportive learning environment with all the tools and assistance, they needed to realize our best potential. It was a wonderful environment for learning and development because everyone was so warm and accepting.



The LMI Fellowship not only enriched and built my knowledge capacity but it further strengthened my physical fitness through daily morning workouts. These workout sessions were super fun and allowed for bonding between FITs. as we were fondly called. We would cheer each other on and, on several occasions, Fellows led the workout sessions adding spice to the sessions. Saturday aerobics was my favorite session, as it was always filled with energy. Through this, I have learned to prioritize my physical well-being and exercise more as it is essential for good health. I am deeply appreciative of the Fellowships' commitment to prioritizing health throughout our journey. Having a doctor with us was a great comfort and assurance that we were safe and that our health was being taken seriously.

Books are said to be windows to different worlds and provide for great learning. We received a great number of books, some of my personal favourites being Mr. Speaker: The legislative life, service, and resilience of Femi Gbajabiamila, by Dr Charles Omole, Musa Abdulahi Krishi, The Arc of the Possible: A Memoir by Waziri Adio, Beating the Odds by Yiaga Africa, and "Gbajabiamila: The Long Road" By Ayo Adeagbo.

During the course of the Fellowship, I was able to take a bold step and do something that I had never done before - run for the position of Clerk of the Legislative Mentorship Parliament. Although I was not successful in my pursuit of the position, I gained valuable insight into the strategies for running for office, campaigns, and the lobbying process involved. Ultimately, I emerged as the Minority Whip and it was an amazing journey. This experience has opened up a world of possibilities and I am grateful for the opportunity to have taken part in it.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Right Honourable Speaker of the 9th House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, for initiating the Fellowship. My appreciation also goes to Hon. Henry Nwawuba, Mr. Dapo Oyewole, Solape Sounga, Chimdi Neliaku, Praise Edeh, Ifeanyi Chukwu, the media team, volunteers, LMI Partners, and everyone else who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the Fellowship a success. Without their efforts, the Fellowship would not have been possible. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

LOTANNA NWAFOR, ANAMBRA STATE

A lot of difference can be made in 5 weeks, and that was exactly what the LMI proved.

My experience as part of the Inaugural Cohort of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative was nothing short of impactful. I continue to appreciate that the organizers didn't pull us in for a brief spin for the sake of it; it was clear that detailed thought and planning was given to the curriculum, which we found to be wholesome, aimed at the overall development of young leaders like myself, with intentions to engage in impactful public service.



In 5 weeks of close to 60 lecture sessions, I learned from some of the very best minds in various fields, ranging from the political, to the legislative, and right down to the social. Those sessions were a privilege I do not think I will forget – to have received first-hand knowledge, gotten a wholesome view into the workings of each speaker's field of operation, and being able to ask questions that make it easier now to know just what to take up, and what to avoid on my own journey to successful leadership service, out of the wealth of resources and life stories shared by our resource persons is invaluable.

Beyond mental stimulation and development, the LMI challenged me to be the best I can, in so many ways, from public speaking opportunities to an adventure in running for an office within the Programme, and on to learning and using social skills in handling team work and relations in a multi-religious, multi-cultural setting that is a reflection of the foundation of my country.

The LMI experience has certainly given me hope for a better Nigeria.

As beautifully expressed by one of our esteemed resource persons, "the politician thinks of the next election...the statesman thinks of the next generation."

I deeply appreciate the Founder of the LMI, and Speaker, of the 9th House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabamila, and the LMI team, for thinking and acting from this perspective..

DANIEL ARCHIBONG, AKWA IBOM STATE

For someone who only recently, graciously, hopped out from a near-depressive state, caught up in the twilight of self-discovery and the ultimate search for a fulfilling and purposeful path in life, my LMI journey was, for me, a redefinition of life and the endless possibilities that abound for anyone willing, determined, and deliberate about winning.

Like other fellows, my LMI experience and its lifelong impact still resonate strongly, and essentially, climaxed my 2022 story. A foretaste of my experiences, too numerous to mention, would include;

- **The discovery of purpose:** At the LMI, I demystified my life's purpose and learned the path to actualizing the same by embracing and staying true to passion and associating with like-minds.
- **Learning from seasoned professionals:** The LMI provided us the opportunity of learning, first-hand, from the best facilitators from across the country and abroad including past and present legislators.
- **Strengthening of networks:** The LMI brought together young, visionary Nigerians from across all spheres of endeavors without prejudice to ethnic, tribal, political, and/or religious affiliations, thereby strengthening horizontal and vertical relationships amongst fellows, facilitators, and mentors.
- **Renewed hope in Nigeria and the future of Nigerians:** LMI presented to fellows, a Nigeria that can work, contrary to popular belief.
- **Experiencing a glimpse of the future, today:** At the LMI, we had several simulations and mock sessions of Legislative sittings and proceedings, preparing us for the future we envisage. This was priceless.
- **Access to critical information, role models, and mentors:** We had free access to National facilities and enjoyed the rare opportunity of MentX sessions with Legislators

I must profoundly salute the credibility and integrity of the selection process, which provided an equal opportunity to all eligible young Nigerians, like myself, to be numbered amongst 73 others as the first cohorts of the Legislative mentorship initiative program of The Speaker of the 9th House of Representatives, Rt. Honorable Femi Gbajabiamila. I, unequivocally, repose the same confidence for the subsequent selection of fellows.

Nigeria, and indeed the world, should await the manifestation of the Gbaja Fellows.



STANLEY UDEH, ENUGU STATE

My LMI journey started when I first saw the advert for the call for applications in July 2022. It was such an impressive initiative that came at the right time for me on my political journey. I had zeal and dexterity, and I was working towards making social impacts and contributing generally to national development.

I had started an initiative designed to be a reality TV show to foster the knowledge of African history, politics, governance, business, culture, and the people called The Debate Africa and have been promoting it at the time. Looking through the structure of the LMI program, I had no doubt this was where I needed to be to add knowledge (intellectual capacity), and network (relational capacity), and understand how to channel my energy in the right direction for a lasting societal impact.

These were my expectations from the LMI program and I must say that I got much more than I expected. The LMI program trained me across five (5) important sections of life; intellectually mentally, spiritually, physically, and socially. To know that all these happened while we were accommodated in a very comfortable and luxurious space with a standby doctor to attend to our health concerns and a fitness instructor to drill us every morning to ensure we are also fit in our minds as well as our bodies were just incredible. The program organizers were gracious enough to even provide us with a PC to aid our training. One could not have asked for more to be comfortable while being trained to be next-level legislators and political leaders.

I gained a very clear perspective on which sector to focus on when I will eventually join the race for political office. Though I consider myself more suited for an executive position, the LMI experience has taught me just how critical the legislature is and I will consider a legislative position first before an executive position next. I met and interacted with not just very brilliant members of the Faculty but also like-minded peers whom I still interact with and collaborate with on various social projects.

I am also currently in communication with the Special Adviser to the Governor of Lagos state on matters around Tech policies in Lagos state. I have also advanced my initiative; The Debate Africa to include serving Corp members. I just love what I have become after my LMI experience, and I can say that these will not go away anytime soon. Like I will always say, the journey to political leadership is still at day one.



OUR EXPERIENCE

MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS TEAM



SOLAPE SONUGA
Coordinator, LMI



CHIMDI NELIAKU
Programme Manager, LMI

It is often said that a leader's legacy is truly measured by the strength and success of his successor. This saying implies that it is the responsibility of the leaders of today to put systems and structures in place to build the capacity of those to whom they will pass on the torch. This has been a guiding principle for Mr. Speaker, who has been personally invested and committed to seeing that Nigerian youths—who are the leaders of tomorrow and critical players in nation-building today—are well equipped with the right knowledge and tools to lead and shape a better future for our country. This burden on Mr. Speaker led to the founding of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI).

From the stages of ideation and conceptualisation to the implementation of this rigorous fellowship programme, we were continually inspired, motivated and spurred by Mr. Speaker's vision to ensure that the next generation of leaders in Nigeria are fully trained and prepared to succeed in the public sector. Implementing this programme was tasking and demanding but we are proud that we gladly faced every challenge head-on and succeeded in making the LMI a reality under the capable leadership of the LMI Director, Mr. 'Dapo Oyewole. Hearing the exceptional testimonies of LMI Fellows about how valuable, impactful and transformational the experience was, made every effort invested incredibly worth it. We are convinced that LMI Fellows will take the world by storm.

As the LMI is handed over to the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) under the able leadership of the Director General, Professor Abubakar Suleiman, we are certain that the programme is set to grow in leaps and bounds and achieve even greater impact.

We are grateful to the Director of the LMI, Mr. 'Dapo Oyewole, for his exceptional guidance and leadership, for setting the standards high and enabling us to reach and exceed them. It is one thing to have a vision and it is indeed another to communicate that vision to others and ensure that they run with it. The Director did this exceptionally and we have the programme's success as a testament to that.

Finally, on behalf of the entire management and operations team, we extend our gratitude to our Founder, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR for his vision, foresight and leadership which birthed this transformational initiative and for his tenacious and continuous support in ensuring that the LMI was a success.

We are grateful for the opportunity to have served in this capacity and we are assured of greater transformational impact that will be achieved through this programme for Nigeria and the continent of Africa.

Thank you.

Yours in nation-building,

Solape @ Chimdi



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A. LMI FELLOWS



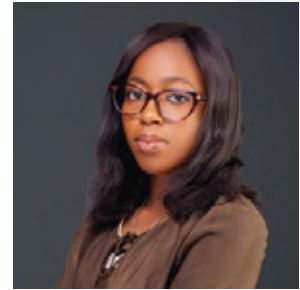
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ABIA



Abubakar Tijani-Garba
ADAMAWA



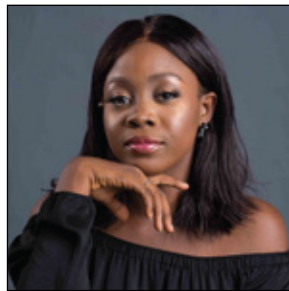
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Nature-Iboro Edet
AKWA IBOM



Daniel Emmanuel
AKWA IBOM



Lotanna Nwafor
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Aisha Abubakar
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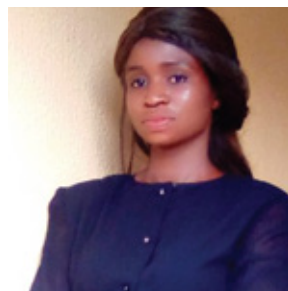
Godiya Haruna
BAUCHI



Pamela Igrubia
BAYELSA



Martins Daubry
BAYELSA



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Olise Abu
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Boluwatife Asanya
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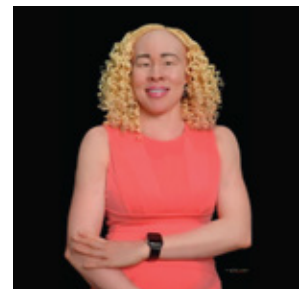
Stanley Udeh
ENUGU



Muhammad Ismail
GOMBE



Samson Kefas
GOMBE



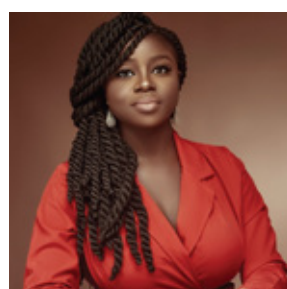
Eunice Nwokocho
IMO



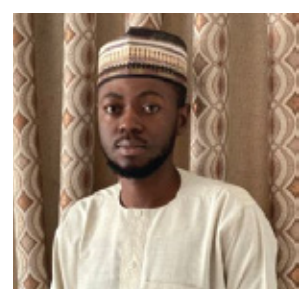
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JIGAWA



Nasiruddeen Baba
JIGAWA



Mirya Sabo
KADUNA



Ahmad Mustapha
KADUNA



Umar Musa
KANO



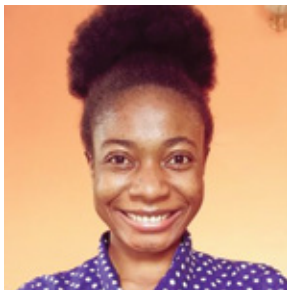
Bala Bashir
KATSINA



Nazik Abdullahi
KEBBI



Alyasau Atiku
KEBBI



Mercy Abdusalam
KOGI



Sunday Onuche
KOGI



Demilade Abolarin
KOGI



Kafayat Kareem
KWARA



Abdulbasit Imam
KWARA



Rahmah Muhammad Bello
KWARA



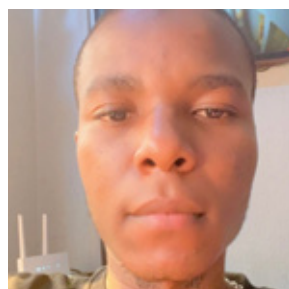
Toha Ajimoti
KWARA



Azeezat Yishawu
LAGOS



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Larinde Babatunde A.
LAGOS



Veronica Igube
NASARAWA



Adamu Auta
NASARAWA



Hussaina Shehu
NIGER



Mohammad Suleiman
NIGER



Abisola Peters
OGUN



Akinyode Soyoye
OGUN



Daisi Omokungbe
ONDO



Osagie Ayokunle
ONDO



Folakemi Odeleye
OSUN



Temiloluwa Oyeniyi
OYO



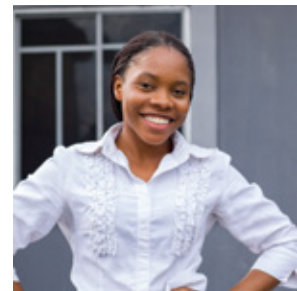
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OYO



Rosemary Emmanuel
PLATEAU



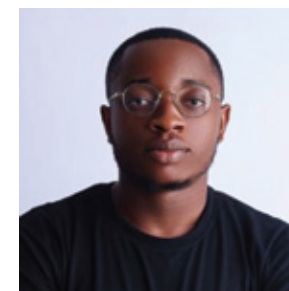
Nanven Mamdam
PLATEAU



Jane Harry
RIVERS



Igbanam Ukotije
RIVERS



Victor Bella
RIVERS



Kabiru Aminu
SOKOTO



Nafiu Habibu
SOKOTO



Douglas Magaji
TARABA



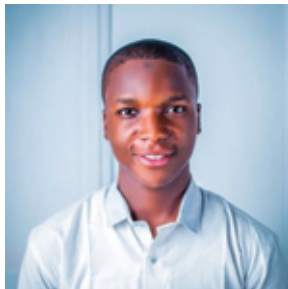
Abubakar Joji
YOBE



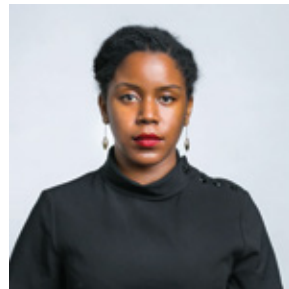
Usman Muhammad Kambari
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Zakariyya Haruna
ZAMFARA



Fareed Ibrahim
ZAMFARA



Aaliyah Tawasimi
FCT



Hashimu Adamu
FCT

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B. LMI HUMAN RESOURCE STRUCTURE

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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



MRS. SALAMATU GBAJABIAMILA
MEMBER



BELLA ANNE NDUBUISI
MEMBER

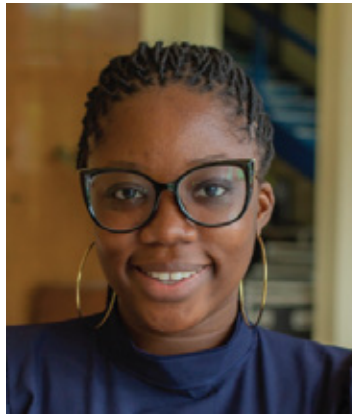


DAPO OYEWOLE
BOARD SECRETARY

LMI MANAGEMENT TEAM



'DAPO OYEWOLE
DIRECTOR



SOLAPE SONUGA
COORDINATOR



CHIMDI NELIAKU
PROGRAMME MANAGER

LMI OPERATIONS TEAM



PRAISE EDEH, FNPL
PROJECT OFFICER
(OPERATIONS)



IFEANYI CHUKWUDI, PMP
PROJECT OFFICER
(ADMINISTRATION)



**AKUMISHI B.
AYENAJEH, FICSIF**
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



CHIJOKE OBIOMA, FNPL
TECHNICAL SERVICES
SUPERVISOR



FUNMILAYO ROTIMI
ADMIN OFFICER



DR. CHIGOZIE UZOMA
RESIDENT DOCTOR



TAOFEEK ABIMBOLA
IT SPECIALIST



PEDRO JOHNSON
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LUCY WINIFRED
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**BARR. JOHN
ODANG AJI**
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**IKECHUKWU
IYK-ONUMAH**
OPERATIONS ASSISTANT



MARYAM GIDADO
TECHNICAL ASSISTANT



**INNOCENT
OGBUJI ERIC**
TECHNICAL ASSISTANT



**GWOTT
MOSES CHUWANG**
TECHNICAL ASSISTANT



**OLADIPUPO
TEMITAYO JAMES**
TECHNICAL ASSISTANT



**DAMILOLA
ADETUTU ADESANYA**
TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

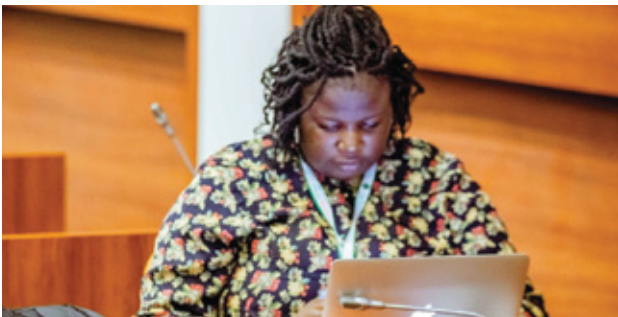
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C. PHOTO GALLERY















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