

NASS Clerk to Legislative Aides: Stop Running Errands, Become Professional Lawmaking Support Officers

The Clerk to the National Assembly, Kamoru Ogunlana, has told Legislative Aides in the 10th National Assembly to move beyond “carrying bags and managing spare telephones” and reposition themselves as professional support officers capable of strengthening lawmaking, oversight and representation. Ogunlana made the charge on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, while declaring open a capacity building programme for Legislative Aides at A-Class Event Centre, Wuse II, Abuja. The Clerk said the role of Legislative Aides must evolve from personal, informal assistance to a structured, professional legislative support service. “A competent Legislative Aide should instead operate as a professional legislative support officer, equipped to undertake research, analyze bills and policy proposals, prepare briefing notes, monitor committee proceedings, track government policies, study budget proposals, and provide relevant background information on constituency matters,” he said. He expressed concern that in some instances, aides had reduced their job to running personal errands for lawmakers. While acknowledging that aides may sometimes assist principals with legitimate needs, Ogunlana warned that such tasks “must not become the defining purpose of the office.” He issued a four-part challenge: “move from attendance to engagement, from experience to expertise, from proximity to usefulness, and from routine to results.” With the 10th Assembly due to end on June 12, 2027, Ogunlana said the National Assembly had entered a transition period that would demand more from aides. He urged them to familiarize themselves early with rules on the commencement of a new session, election of presiding officers, formation of committees and other processes around the inauguration of a new Parliament. “Preparation starts now,” he stressed. The Clerk also addressed aides seeking elective office ahead of 2027, saying there was nothing wrong with political ambition but it must be pursued within legal and administrative boundaries. He noted that while some aides had resigned after participating in party primaries, others had not informed management. He tasked the training to provide clear answers on when an aide seeking elective office must resign, to whom the



KAMORU OGUNLANA, Esq.
CLERK TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

resignation should be addressed, and the procedures for compliance. “These are not theoretical questions,” Ogunlana said. “They are practical matters that Legislative Aides must understand as political activities intensify ahead of the 2027 elections.” Ogunlana said the Legislative Aides system had evolved from an informal arrangement to a structured support system with budgetary funding, defined ranks and institutionalized training. However, he identified unresolved

issues that must be addressed in the next phase of reforms: 1. Who regulates pay: Clarifying the roles of the National Assembly Service Commission, NASC, and the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission, RMAFC, in fixing salaries and conditions of service. 2. Employment status: Whether the temporary, non-pensionable appointment should be regarded as full-time or part-time. 3. Legal recognition: The National Assembly Service Act 2014 does not expressly define Legislative Aides or their functions. 4. Privileges: Whether the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act 2017 covers aides when carrying out official duties. He stressed that the goal of reforms should go beyond welfare to building “a professional legislative support service capable of attracting and retaining the best and brightest minds, while ensuring those entrusted with legislative responsibilities demonstrate

exemplary character, integrity and moral probity.” The Clerk reminded aides that their job is “fundamentally one of trust,” requiring confidentiality, discipline and loyalty to the institution, not just to individual lawmakers. “The National Assembly is a complex institution whose effectiveness depends substantially on the competence, discipline and integrity of the people who work within it,” he said. He commended the current crop of aides as possibly “one of the most educated and experienced groups” in NASS history, but added that education must translate into measurable performance. The 9-batch training programme, themed “Building Competence of Legislative Aides for Effective Legislative Support in the Legislature,” is organized by NASS Management with support from the National Assembly Service Commission, NASSLAF, and Periscope Consulting Ltd.