

**FINAL REPORT TO FORD FOUNDATION FROM RISE NETWORKS ON  
THE NIGERIAN STUDENT LEADERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2016 PILOT PHASE**

**Table of Contents**

- I.Executive Summary
- II.Introduction
- III.Program Delivery Review
- IV.Recommendations
- V.Shocking Decisions and Lessons Learnt
- VI.Summary of Expenditure
- VII.Overall Program Analysis
- VIII.Conclusion
- IX.The Full List and Details of the 2016 Fellows
- X.Closing Remarks



Group Photograph of the 2016 Class of The Nigerian Students Leaders Fellowship Program  
**Source:** Rise Networks Communications and External Affairs Unit



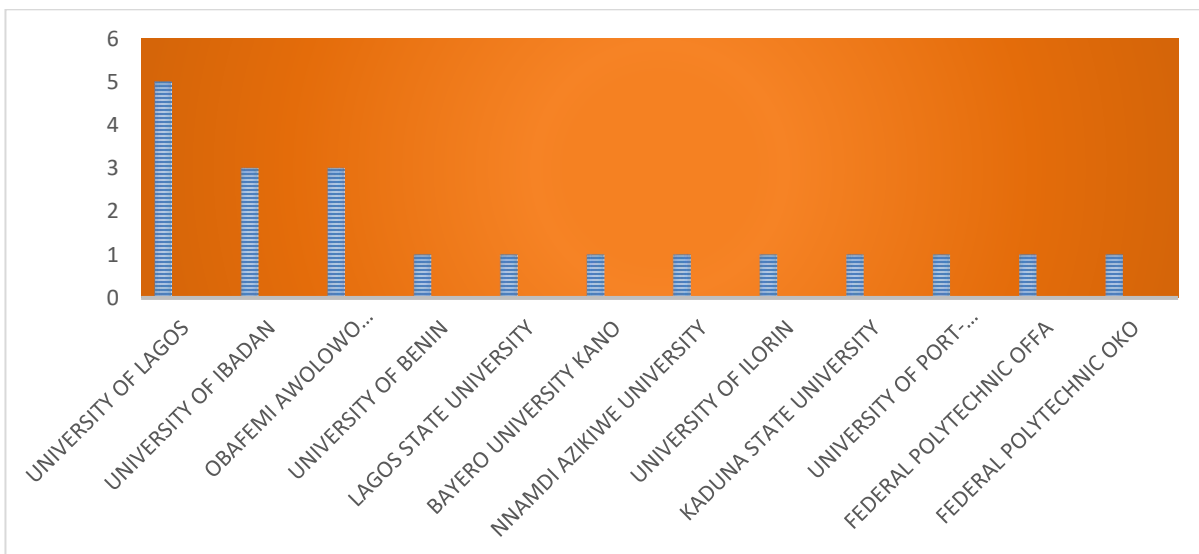
**FINAL REPORT TO FORD FOUNDATION FROM RISE NETWORKS ON THE NIGERIAN STUDENT LEADERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2016 PILOT**

**Fast Facts:**

1. **Both Male, the youngest Fellow was 18 and the youngest, 33.** We're aware that 33 is above our set age range but we did not receive too many applications from Northern Nigeria so for the sake of a regional spread, we selected this Fellow for the Zone especially since his credentials showed that he qualified for the Program. He is also the only Master's Degree Student in the 2016 Class.
2. **South West Nigeria** had the highest number of Applications and selected Fellows.
3. **University of Lagos** has the highest number of impressive Applicants.
4. The TSNLFP 2016 had **60 % Male** and **40% Female**.

**1.0 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The 2016 Nigerian Student Leaders Fellowship Program successfully ended after a week-long Boot Camp during which the 2016 TSNLFP Fellows were exposed to varying angles of Political Leadership, Public Administration and Service. The Boot Camp held from December 11<sup>th</sup> through to 17<sup>th</sup> at Definite Destiny Hotel in Ikeja, Lagos Nigeria and hosted the gathering of 20 High Impact Elected Student Leaders who were drawn from across several Nigerian institutions of higher learning after a competitive selection process. The 20 Student Leaders, comprising of 12 Men and 8 Women received Certificates of Participation at the end of the Boot Camp.



\*Explanatory Graph showing the Institutions of Higher Learning of the 2016 TSNLFP Fellows  
Source: **Rise Networks Programs Unit**

## 2. 0 - INTRODUCTION

After Ford Foundation gave a nod to the Pilot Proposal submitted by Rise Networks for Pilot Phase of the 2016 Nigerian Student Leaders Fellowship Program and gave a directive on Dates and modalities through their Program Officer, Youth Opportunity and Learning, Mr. Dabesaki Mac-Ikemenjima and Representatives of Rise Networks had signed all necessary Documents sent in by Ford Foundation Program Officer Joy Ehinor-Esezobor, a call for Applications was advertised in late November 2016 after which so many Applications were received.

Out of the pool of Applications we received within a 7day period, 20 suitably-qualified Student Leaders were selected from different Nigerian institutions of higher learning that cover the major geo-political zones of Nigeria.

This Pilot Phase served as a basic minimum product and prototype that forms a needs and impact assessment of a Program of this nature that has never hitherto held in Nigeria despite the obvious absence of credible Leadership and it is the hope of Rise Networks and many of the young people across Nigeria who have reached out to us in solidarity, endorsing the initiative that the Program will continue and be extended to other parts of the Country.

During the week-long Boot Camp, the Instructors (**Mr. Olakunle Soriyan and Mr. Cheta Nwanze**) focused on teaching the Fellows about sound, people centered, ethical Leadership skills, thereby preparing them for excellent performance in their future Political Careers.

The Training Content was grouped under the 5 under listed Core Themes:

1. **The Roles and Powers of the 3 Arms of Government in a Progressive Democracy**
2. **Lessons in Ethics, Public Narrative and Adaptive Leadership**
3. **The Political History of Nigeria and Leaders who changed the world**
4. **Creative Communication and Citizen Engagement in Public Service and**
5. **Multi-Negotiation Strategies, Policymaking and Mobilizing for Change**

While lecturing on the Subject area "**The Roles and Powers of the 3 Arms of Governance in a Progressive Democracy**", Mr. Nwanze stressed that although the Nigerian Government is made up of the 3 Arms of Government, Separation of Powers has completely failed in the country. He also pointed out that Nigeria desperately needs the systematic overhauling of her Judicial System as no progressive country in the world operates two separate legal systems as Nigeria does. Still on the topic, Nwanze stresses it to the Fellows that even though the Media may not be an Arm of Government, it still plays an integral role in the political process of any country.

On "**Lessons in Ethics, Public Narrative and Adaptive Leadership**" Kunle Soriyan stated that the assumption that Bad Leadership is Nigeria's main problem is erroneous and unfounded. In his opinion, Followers themselves who elect the bad leaders are complicit and to be blamed. He however noted that one major reason why most Leaders are ineffective and deficient is because they are insensitive, having alienated themselves from their basic humanity.

Cheta further emphasized that every aspiring Nigerian Leader has to make the deliberate effort to first understand the History of Nigeria as that would serve as guide towards preventing the mistakes of "**our heroes past**" and speaking of

heroes, he noted that Nigeria has never truly had heroes in the same sense Americans would talk about American heroes especially within the Political space.

Kunle took the standpoint that in Politics, Communication is indispensable. He stated that Propaganda is an integral aspect of Political Life and that unlike popular opinion, Propagandists do not lie! Instead, they just do not tell the entire truth and that is the very essence of Creative Communication in political circles. It is therefore incumbent on Leaders to use Creative Communication to engage stakeholders and citizens with the end goal of achieving the greatest possible good for their communities and Nations.

The Sessions were interactive, designed in a manner that encouraged the Fellows to contribute and share their opinion and viewpoints. The Instructors also made it mandatory for the Fellows to do and submit assignments at the end of every class day as a means of stimulating further reflections on the key lessons they had gleaned from the Daily Classes in preparation for the next day.

In a bid to get the views and gather the thoughts of the 2016 TNSLFP Fellows on the entire Program, they were all required to complete assessment Forms at the end of every training session and from the feedback we received, it is needless to say that the program achieved its set objectives. They claimed that the impact of the Boot Camp was so far reaching that it should have been a 2week Program. Many also told us that they felt more challenged and will be running for Office earlier in their lives than they originally planned for given that they now recognize the individual and collective Power of Young people and the network effects of been in the same location at the same time for organizing for Social Change. We are now in the process of following up on the Fellows and ensuring that they put everything they were taught into practice. They will be proceeding on Internship soon.

95% of the 2016 TNSLFP Fellows also indicated that the Boot Camp helped improved their knowledge of Nigeria's Political Landscape and Leadership. They were full of appreciation to Rise Networks and Ford Foundation even as they made some recommendations on possible areas that could use some more refinement to the extent to which we can integrate those into our plans.

### **3.0 - PROGRAM DELIVERY REVIEW**

This part of the Report discusses the extent to which the 2016 TNSLFP can actualize its projected goals and it analyzes the feedback collected from the Fellows through our Assessment Forms.

#### **3.0.1 - Highlights**

1. Program Organization, content and details met the highest levels of academic standards/rigor in practical terms
2. Instructors tutored patiently with the consciousness that they were Students and would need clarifications on several topical aspects of Public Administration, Policy and Politics.
3. The thematic issues that were chosen as the broad components of the Program, the knowledge of subject matter of Instructors, the case studies and the class assignments and exercises made the Program more helpful and significant

for them in comparison to other Seminars/Trainings most of them had attended in the past.

4. The Boot Camp helped reshape their understanding of the Nigerian Political System and its unique problems, while also challenging them to come up with solutions instead of been expectant that the status quo would change over time.

#### 4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Location should be rotated from Lagos to other cities.
- ❖ Inclusion of a class that will prepare Fellows for Public Speaking.
- ❖ The need to increase the number of Fellows beyond 20 People.
- ❖ Duration of the Boot Camp be increased beyond one week.
- ❖ Curriculum should be broadened to accommodate more topics.
- ❖ Indoor Games and Extracurricular activities including excursions to visit notable institutions and personalities.
- ❖ Inclusion of Women Instructors.
- ❖ Special considerations be given to people with disabilities.
- ❖ Media should be invited to cover the Program and interview the Fellows.
- ❖ The number of Facilitators should be increased to ensure that each topic is taught by experienced professionals and practitioners.

#### 5.0- SHOCKING DISCOVERIES AND LESSONS LEARNT

- i. **The Importance of Structures and Institutions in Public Service:** There is the need to imbibe the culture of building and maintaining Sustainable structures in Nigeria's Public Sector. This is especially crucial considering how flagrantly abusive our leaders are to the system. Particularly worrisome is the fact that even the young leaders themselves often take advantage of the weak political system, neglecting the administrative structures and institutions that document and checkmate their functions.

During our interaction with the Fellows, we discover to our utter amazement that the degree of abuse of Office at the level of student leadership resultant of inadequate checks and balances or through connivance with members of the other arms of Government was alarming. They easily neglect the tenets of separation of powers and shy away from functions and relevance of their subordinates. Many of them stated that it was common practice within the students' movement because those were the systems they met on ground and it seemed like routine but a Training like this has broadened their horizons on the many ways the power of one person can spark change and sanitize the System.

- ii. **Education and An Informed Citizenry Can Eradicate Corruption:** Information and Education can transform mindsets in very remarkable ways. Many of our Fellows felt pangs of guilt after this Training and we are proud of their openness in providing us insights about the Inner Workings of Student Politics on Campus.

There is grand corruption and a shameless manipulation of procedure in School Politics: The extent of corruption among our Student Leaders is so

devastating and nerve-wrecking that it is probably worse than what obtains at the state and national levels of our Country's Public Service. Some of the Fellows in Executive Positions narrated their experiences of their struggles with colleagues in the Parliament who would frustrate all their Programs because they did not give into graft and many of them sought our Counsel on how to manage such scenarios where they were stuck between the choice of stealing with their cohort or going it alone and facing hard consequences including the threat of achieving nothing during their tenures, bodily assault or other drastic repercussions. Some also owned up to either having been part of or spearheading the conversion of Public Funds for Private Use. They realized how much their efforts infringed on the rights of their fellow students who contributed those monies and who would eventually be deprived because of the unscrupulous activities of their elected representatives.

**iii. Administrative Staff in Tertiary Institutions are Culpable:**

For instance, in a University that has about 27 000 Students enrolled where Students Dues are charged at N300 which is payable as part of all the Fees charged by the School every Year but is meant for the Students' Government will receive a total sum N8.1 Million Naira {\$16 000} for those Dues. We heard that some of the School Staff who are saddled with the responsibility of Payment Collection at the point of remittance to the Students' Government Representatives start negotiating and demanding Kickbacks from them as pre-conditions for releasing the fund. These Students are therefore compelled to pay the University Staff, sometimes even the Dean of Students' Affairs to avoid such unnecessary gridlocks and that usually is the beginning of tampering with the Student Dues.

**6.0 SUMMARY OF THE EXPENDITURE**

Major Expenses incurred covered Hotel accommodation {70%}, Training Venue, Multimedia Equipment, Instructor Fees, Transportation, Feeding and Production of Training materials.

**7.0 OVERALL PROGRAM ANALYSIS**

The 2016 Nigerian Student Leaders Program was a resounding Success and the comments were largely positive. This is despite the very limited time we had to plan and implement the Pilot. A good case in point is that we publicized the Program vigorously and extensively, got enough student leaders to apply and then selected the best of applicants all within a 7-day Period. We recognize that we could have done much better if we had more time to advertise the Program. That said, we are hopeful that when the Program finally kicks off on a larger scale, we will allow for more time and resources to do the needful with Program Execution.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

The Nigerian Student Leaders Fellowship Program brings to bear all the cogent issues that require the joint collective action of Government, Educational Institutions, Civil Society and Citizens.

Most Young Leaders tend to emulate the prevalent trends and if corruption and the careless violation of Logic, Institutional Provisions and Legal Instruments begin at Campus Level, it will metamorphose into a hydra headed monster that cannot be curtailed at National Level. The good news though is that these irregularities can be nipped in the Bud and that is the essential priority of Rise Networks as we stay committed to the Cause of continually providing young people with lessons and mentoring that can prepare them to dare to be different as they aspire for future Public Office and take over the Leadership of Nigeria.

By this, the 2016 Nigerian Student Leaders Fellowship Program was a success and we are modestly optimistic that the 2016 Fellows will move from Learning to action. Rise Networks will consistently deepen our relationship with the Fellows and ensure that they become the yardstick for other change agents in Nigeria, Africa and the World.

## **9.0 THE FULL LIST AND DETAILS OF THE 2016 NSLP FELLOWS**

### **1: ADEROJU ADERONKE OKUNSANMI**

**Institution:** University of Ibadan, Oyo State

**Positions held:** Vice President, Students' Union (2016/2017), Vice President, National Association of Ondo State Students UI Chapter (2015/2016), Social Minister, Queen Idia Hall UI (2014/2015)

**Age:** 25

### **2: OJORA MARYAM OMOFADEKE**

**Institution:** University of Lagos, Lagos State

**Position held:** Financial secretary, Faculty of Science Students' Association

**Age:** 20

### **3: OLUDAYO OLUWATOSIN**

**Institution:** University of Lagos, Lagos State

**Positions held:** Academic Secretary

Society of Petroleum Engineering Students

**Age:** 23

### **4: OLADEJO ROMOKE AJOKE**

**Institution:** University of Ibadan, Oyo State

**Position held:** Vice President, Association of Faculty of Arts Students (AFAS 2016/2017 Session)

**Age:** 24

### **5: BABALOLA KABIRU OPEYEMI**

**Institution:** Obafemi Awolowo University, Osun State

**Position held:** President of the Department of Microbiology Students' Association

**Age:** 23

**6: IMRAN ABDULLAHI**

**Institution:** Bayero University, Kano, Kano State

**Position held:** Secretary General, Faculty of Arts Executive Council

**Age:** 20

**7: OBIAKOR LOVELYN CHIAMAKA**

**Institution:** Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

**Positions held:** House of Representatives Member, Pharmaceutical Association of Nigerian students (PANS), Public Accounts officer, Pharmaceutical Association of Nigerian Students and Secretary of Planning Committees for PANS.

**Age:** 27

**8: JENNIFER UMEH**

**Institution:** The Federal Polytechnic Offa, Kwara state

**Positions held:** Editor-In-Chief: Faculty of Communication & Information Technology Press, President, African Liberty Organization for Development, Vice President, Enactus Federal Polytechnic Offa Chapter and Financial Secretary, Federation of Igbo Students' Organization, FEDPOFFA Chapter.

**Age:** 22

**9: AMAECHI EMMANUEL**

**Institution:** University of Lagos, Lagos State

**Positions held:** Electoral Chairman, National Association of English and Literary Studies Students, University of Lagos Chapter (2014/2015); Class Governor, National Association of English and Literary Studies Students, University of Lagos Chapter

**Age:** 22

**10: NZUBE OKONKWO**

**Institution:** Federal Polytechnic, Oko, Anambra State

**Position held:** Governor, Students Union Government

**Age:** 22

**11: SHOBOWALE LUKMAN**

**Institution:** University of Ilorin, Kwara State

**Position held:** President, Students' Union Government

**Age:** 22

**12: GAMBO JATAU ZAKARIYA**

**Institution:** Kaduna State University, Kaduna State

**Position held:** Course Team Leader, M.A in History Students' Association, Kaduna State University

**Age:** 33

**13: OLANIYI OPEYEMI ENIOLA**

**Institution:** University of Lagos, Lagos State



**Position held:** President, Faculty of Arts Students' Association

**Age:** 24

**14: GOSPEL PRECIOUS**

**Institution:** University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State

**Positions held:** Senate Clerk and Secretary of the Directorate of Transportation

**Age:** 22

**15: OLUWASAYO FOLARIN**

**Institution:** University of Ibadan, Oyo State

**Position held:** Treasurer, Association of Civil Engineering Students, University of Ibadan.

**Age:** 20

**16: VICTOR TOCHUKWU EJECHI**

**Institution:** University of Benin, Edo State

**Positions Held:** Parliamentarian and Chairman, Security and Disciplinary Committee.

**Age:** 23

**17: OSARO JAMES ETINOSA**

**Institution:** University of Lagos, Lagos State

**Position held:** Vice President of the Society of Petroleum Engineering Students, University of Lagos

**Age:** 18

**18: UMEH AMARA REGINA**

**Institution:** Lagos State University, Lagos State

**Positions held:** Financial Secretary, Department of Mass Communication Students' Association

**Age:** 24

**19: ADETAYO HANNAH ADETORERA**

**Institution:** Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State

**Positions held:** Mozambique Hall of Residence Chairperson & Parliamentarian

**Age:** 22

**20: AKINBINU IFEOLUWA OLUWAMAYOWA**

**Institution:** Obafemi Awolowo University, Osun State

**Position held:** Assistant Secretary General, All Nigeria United Nations Students & Youth Association (ANUNSA)

**Age:** 22

## 10.0 - CLOSING REMARKS

The Board, Management and Staff of Rise Networks wishes to thank the Representatives of the Nigerian Office of Ford Foundation for the Devotion, Foresight and support they showed and gave us from inception and through the entire process of preparation and execution in addition to providing the funding for this Pilot Phase.

We appreciate your concerted professional efforts in ensuring that this laudable initiative with the demonstrable potential for catalyzing Africa's Successor Generation into Political Leadership as better equipped, responsible and accountable Politicians has developed its roots in Nigeria and will begin to reap fruits of our intended outcomes in few years from now.

Yours Sincerely,



**Akinbobola Omotuyi**  
Stakeholder Relations Coordinator



**Busola Ojumu**  
Administrator



**Toyosi Akerele-Ogunsiji**  
Founder

For:



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