

SPEECH BY RT. HON. HENRY NWAWUBA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 4TH LEGISLATIVE MENTORSHIP INITIATIVE (LMI) FELLOWSHIP

November 10, 2025 – CoSPAL Centre, Airport Road, Abuja

Protocol [Tentative]

The Chief of Staff to the President and Founder of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR;

Special guests;

Distinguished colleagues of the Selection Panel;

Members of the LMI Planning and Advisory Committee;

Directors, staff and facilitators of the Initiative;

Our exceptional Fellows-in-Training;

Ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honour to stand before you this morning at the opening of the 4th Legislative Mentorship Initiative Fellowship, a platform that continues to shape the future of leadership and legislative governance in Nigeria.

Since its inception in 2022, the LMI has remained a model for structured mentorship, driven by a clear vision—to build a generation of young Nigerians equipped with the competence, character, and commitment required for transformative public service.

The vision of Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila has truly taken root. Through this initiative, hundreds of young professionals across the country have been exposed to the realities of governance, policy-making, and the legislative process. Many of them have gone on to serve in different capacities in government, academia, civil society, and private institutions with renewed purpose and patriotic zeal.

Today, as we welcome the 4th cohort—50 bright minds selected from across the 36 states and the FCT—we are not just celebrating their selection, but reaffirming our belief in the promise Nigerian youths hold. You represent the future of our democracy, and your journey here marks a new chapter in nation-building.

As Chairman of the LMI Selection Panel, I can attest to the rigor, fairness, and inclusivity of the selection process. The Fellows we are about to unveil today embody diversity—geographically, professionally, and ideologically.

The National Assembly Library and Resource Center, which I have the privilege to lead, shares a similar vision—to be the hub of knowledge that strengthens legislative excellence and governance innovation. We see mentorship and knowledge-sharing as two sides of the same coin; both are essential to building institutions that outlast individuals.

Let me at this point specially commend and pay tribute to my friend and my Speaker in the 9th Assembly, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR—the visionary behind this transformative initiative. His foresight in creating the LMI has redefined legislative mentorship in Nigeria, providing a sustainable pool of capable young leaders who will carry forward the ideals of effective representation, accountability, and nation-building. This initiative stands today as a testament to his unwavering belief that leadership is not about tenure, but about legacy.

To our Fellows-in-Training, I urge you to take full advantage of this opportunity. Engage deeply. Ask questions. Challenge assumptions. And above all, stay grounded in service. The knowledge you will acquire over the coming weeks is not just for personal advancement, but for the collective progress of our nation.

On behalf of the LMI Advisory and Selection teams, I now have the honour to announce and present to you, the Fellows-in-Training of the 4th Legislative Mentorship Initiative Fellowship.

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Congratulations to you all, and welcome to the LMI family.

Thank you.

Rt. Hon. Henry Nwawuba