

TOS
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VOICES OF IMPACT

TOS FOUNDATION AFRICA NEWSLETTER



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Founder's Note

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May proved to be a defining month on the global stage for TOS Foundation Africa- a powerful reminder that the fight for women's leadership is no longer just a local conversation, but an international movement. It was a month where years of quiet, relentless striving culminated in undeniable, far-reaching impact. From welcoming the Swiss Ambassador to our headquarters to witnessing our HerCademy cohort claim their space within the halls of national power, May solidified a truth we have always held close: the movement we are building here in Nigeria is now being seen, respected, and partnered with far beyond our borders.

The month also called us into the national conversation as party primaries begin shaping the road to 2027. Through a widely circulated opinion article on the structural exclusion of women from Nigeria's political process, we reminded the country that inclusion cannot remain a slogan repeated only at election time. If democracy is to reflect the people it serves, the barriers keeping women from candidacy, visibility, and decision-making must be confronted intentionally and urgently.

That conviction came to life through one of our proudest moments this month: the HerCademy cohort's internship at the National Assembly. Participants observed plenary sessions firsthand and engaged directly with lawmakers and officials shaping national policy. For many, it was their first time seeing power up close not as spectators, but as women preparing to occupy those same spaces.

What stayed with me most, perhaps, was watching this cohort sit confidently with parliamentarians asking sharp questions, contributing to conversations, holding the room with quiet assurance. That is not just training. That is transformation. That is what happens when women are given not just information, but access.

Then came the highlight of the month: the graduation of HerCademy Cohort 2026. To witness young women step into themselves not just as participants but as leaders was to understand once again why this work began. They came in with potential. They left with purpose. And in 2027, some of them will be on ballots, in chambers, and at tables that have waited far too long for their voices.

None of this happens by accident. It happens because of everyone who has chosen to believe in this work through partnership, presence, and the quiet, consistent act of showing up.

We are not done. We are still at the beginning.

Osasu

Chief (Mrs.) Osasu Igbinedion Ogwuche
Founder, TOS Foundation Africa

SWITZERLAND AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO TOS FOUNDATION AFRICA'S HEADQUARTERS

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TOS Group headquarters recently welcomed His Excellency Patrick Egloff, Ambassador of Switzerland to Nigeria, for a high-level engagement focused on advancing women's leadership through the HerCademy Leadership Institute.

Discussions explored shared commitments to creating pathways for women to thrive in leadership, governance, entrepreneurship, and social impact reaffirming the importance of sustained collaboration between civil society and diplomatic partners in driving systems-level change.



Through HerCademy, TOS Foundation Africa remains committed to equipping young women with the knowledge, confidence, mentorship, and practical tools to lead boldly and contribute meaningfully to nation-building. The engagement reflects a growing recognition that empowering women is not only a social imperative but a strategic investment in stronger institutions, more inclusive economies, and sustainable development.



TOS Foundation Africa expressed appreciation to the Embassy of Switzerland in Nigeria for its continued partnership in driving real and lasting impact.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



HERCADEMY COHORT 2026 – Legislative Immersion and Engagement with Office of the Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives (I)

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HerCademy Cohort 2026 –
Legislative Immersion and
Engagement with the Office of
the Deputy Speaker House of
Representatives.

The HerCademy 2026 Cohort
participated in a one week
internship at the National
Assembly, the heart of Nigeria's
federal legislature.



Our Fellows observed live
legislative proceedings from the
House of Representatives
chambers, gaining direct
exposure to the workings of
parliament. They also visited the
National Assembly Library Trust
Fund, engaging with Nigeria's
legislative history, an exhibition
celebrating women in
governance, and a rare listening
of the historic 1963 telephone
call between President John F.
Kennedy and Prime Minister
Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa
Balewa.



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



HERCADEMY COHORT 2026 – Legislative Immersion and Engagement with Office of the Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives (II)



They also reviewed the live bill tracker which shows the numbers of bills passed, assented to, and pending in the current 10th National Assembly.



During the internship, our fellows had first hand exposure to how informal networks operate within political institutions; the importance of building relationships deliberately, leading always with value rather than personal agenda; and the reality that power is transient therefore conduct in its presence matters greatly.



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



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EQUALITY



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HERCADEMY COHORT 2026 GRADUATION CEREMONY (I)



This May, TOS Foundation Africa convened the HerCademy Fellow Cohort 2026 Graduation Ceremony, bringing together distinguished guests, advocates, and graduands to mark a significant milestone in women's leadership development.

The Founder opened with a charge to graduates: dream bigger, lead stronger, and never shrink to fit rooms they were born to transform. The Project Lead followed with a reflection on the cohort's journey, the wins, the challenges, and the impact delivered through the HerCademy Leadership Institute.



Keynote addresses were delivered by the Ambassador of Switzerland, who noted that no nation reaches its full potential when half its population faces systemic barriers to leadership, and a representative of Senate leadership who reaffirmed commitment to championing the Reserved Seats for Women Bill.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



HERCADEMY COHORT 2026 GRADUATION CEREMONY (II)

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The Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, represented by his Deputy Chief of Staff, commended TOS Foundation and the Swiss Embassy for building a national pipeline of female leaders that strengthens Nigeria's democracy.



The Outstanding Fellow Award accompanied by ten million naira in support of her 2027 electoral race was presented to the cohort's best graduate. Goodwill messages were delivered by representatives of the President of the Federal Republic, the Deputy British High Commissioner, and the INEC Chairman. All graduates received certificates and were officially inducted into the HerCademy Fellow Alumni Network.



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HERCADEMY COHORT '26 GRADUATION: MOMENTS IN PICTURES

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REAL PATH TO WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION - WOMEN RADIO 94.7 FM

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Founder of TOS Foundation Africa, Chief Osasu Igbinedion Ogwuche, joined Women Radio 94.7 FM on Political Arena to address the systemic underrepresentation of women in Nigeria's national and state legislatures covering exclusionary party practices, constitutional reform, and the long-game advocacy strategy required to drive lasting change.

Chief Osasu presented concrete seat counts to illustrate the depth of the gender gap, identifying cultural and institutional barriers as the primary drivers. She highlighted consensus candidate selection and deliberate pressure on women to withdraw from contests as active mechanisms of exclusion citing the APC primaries as a case study. She also noted that some HerCademy-trained candidates have still faced demands to step down, underscoring that capacity-building alone cannot overcome structural resistance without political will.

On the Reserved Seats for Women Bill, Chief Osasu acknowledged strong verbal support from senior officials, while flagging practical constraints ahead. Legislative backlog means meaningful representation gains may not materialise until 2031 if action is not taken urgently.

The conversation concluded that moral appeals, however compelling, are insufficient on their own. Sustained, strategic advocacy not short, intense campaigns that lose momentum is what moves structural change.

"Paced, long-term advocacy not short bursts is what moves structural change. The goal is governance that reflects the full population it serves."

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17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



TOS FOUNDATION AFRICA RAISES ALARM OVER WOMEN'S EXCLUSION AHEAD OF 2027 ELECTIONS

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TOS Foundation Africa has renewed its call for urgent structural reforms to improve women's political participation in Nigeria, warning that party primary processes ahead of the 2027 elections are already sidelining female aspirants across major parties.

In a widely circulated opinion article by Founder Chief (Mrs.) Osasu Igbiniedion-Ogwuche, the Foundation argued that the persistent exclusion of women from political leadership is not merely a gender issue, it is a national development crisis with significant economic and democratic consequences.

With women occupying just 4% of National Assembly seats, Nigeria ranks among the lowest countries globally for female political inclusion. HerCademy participants across multiple parties have reported pressure to withdraw for preferred "consensus candidates," reinforcing concerns about deep structural barriers within party structures.

The Foundation reiterated its advocacy for the Reserved Seats for Women Bill currently stalled in the constitutional amendment process and pointed to Rwanda and Senegal as evidence that deliberate gender inclusion policies produce stronger democratic outcomes.

TOS Foundation Africa called on political parties, lawmakers, and national leaders to move beyond symbolic endorsements and commit to concrete legislative reforms that guarantee women a fair opportunity to participate fully in Nigeria's democracy. Advancing women's leadership, the Foundation maintained, is not charity, it is a strategic national investment.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“The case for women in leadership is not an emotional appeal; it is a socioeconomic imperative. The cost of leaving women out of governance is not just a gender issue. It is a national loss we can no longer afford.”

Chief (Mrs.) Osasu Igbinedion Ogwuche



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