

From Legislature to the Presidency, Femi Gbajabiamila's Career Tracks the Logic of Nigerian Power

ABUJA, FCT, NIGERIA, August 2, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In Nigerian politics, influence is often measured not by political theatrics but by consistency, institutional knowledge, and the ability to remain relevant through changing administrations. Few politicians embody these qualities more than Olufemi Hakeem [Gbajabiamila](#), whose journey from the House of Representatives to Speaker of the House and now Chief of Staff to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu reflects one of the most remarkable political careers in Nigeria's Fourth Republic.



Femi Gbajabiamila , Chief of Staff to Nigeria's President

Gbajabiamila was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2003, representing Surulere I Federal Constituency of Lagos State. A lawyer educated in both Nigeria and the United States, he quickly distinguished himself through his understanding of legislative procedure, policy development, and parliamentary leadership. Rather than seeking prominence through political drama, he built his reputation by mastering the workings of the National Assembly and developing strong relationships across party lines.

His political influence continued to grow when he became Minority Leader in 2007, a position that required balancing robust opposition with constructive legislative engagement. Following the emergence of the All Progressives Congress (APC) as the governing party in 2015, Gbajabiamila transitioned to Majority Leader, demonstrating his ability to adapt to changing political realities while maintaining the confidence of his colleagues.

In 2019, he reached another significant milestone when he was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. As Speaker, he presided over one of Nigeria's most important democratic institutions during a period marked by significant legislative activity and close collaboration between the executive and legislative arms of government. His tenure was characterized by efforts to improve legislative efficiency, strengthen policy coordination, and advance reforms

aimed at supporting national development.

Beyond legislative leadership, Gbajabiamila earned a reputation as a consensus builder capable of bringing together diverse political interests in pursuit of common objectives. His experience, strategic thinking, and ability to navigate complex political environments further solidified his standing as one of the country's most influential political figures.

Recognizing these qualities, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu appointed him Chief of Staff to the President in 2023. The appointment represented a natural progression for a politician who had spent two decades at the center of Nigeria's legislative process. As Chief of Staff, Gbajabiamila now plays a critical role in coordinating government activities, supporting policy implementation, and facilitating communication between the Presidency, ministries, government agencies, and other key stakeholders.

Like many senior public officials, his position has attracted public scrutiny. Earlier this week, during proceedings before the House of Representatives investigating the activities of the fictitious Presidential Foreign Intervention Promotion Council, senior government officials, including the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, testified that documents bearing Gbajabiamila's signature were forged and confirmed that the purported government body was not authorized by the Federal Government. The testimony reinforced that he was not responsible for the fraudulent documents that had circulated publicly.

As Nigeria continues to pursue economic reforms, institutional strengthening, and improved governance, the Office of the Chief of Staff remains central to ensuring effective coordination across government. For Gbajabiamila, the journey from a first-time lawmaker in 2003 to Speaker of the House of Representatives and now Chief of Staff to the President reflects a career built on experience, institutional leadership, political resilience, and an enduring commitment to public service.

His rise remains one of the defining political success stories of Nigeria's democratic era, demonstrating how legislative experience, strategic leadership, and an ability to build consensus can shape a lasting legacy in national governance.

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