

THE IMPACTS OF FEMALE IN PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION

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Preamble

- ❖ There has been a constant call for female to occupy leadership and elective positions, especially because it is believed that female will be more compassionate, in Governance and also believed that they will bring it and its dividends to the grassroots
- ❖ Prominent of such was the Beijing conference of September 1995. Prior to which was that of Nairobi 1985, where Governments across the globe were tasked to ensure more participation of female in all levels, which will help champion equal participation, and leadership of female in public and political life

Preamble...

- ❖ These are very vital if the sustainable development goals are reached in 2030, from data seen worldwide female are underrepresented at all levels of decision making
- ❖ Female political participation is a human right issues that allows them to participate directly or through participation in conducting public affairs and government
- ❖ This right was enshrined in both 1948 universal declaration of human right and international convention on civil and political rights of female participation and was later enshrined in the convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted by UN in Beijing 1975

Preamble...

- ❖ However, the level of implementation varies amongst the commonwealth countries. In similar vein, South Africa develop community (SADC) recommends gender policy and institutional frameworks, which led to the declaration on gender and development, adopted in November 1977 in Blantyre by SADC Heads of government.
- ❖ This led to the recognition of gender equality as a human right, and a commitment of 30% quota of female representation in decision making process in 2005. This commitment was just on paper as many countries are yet to implement it.

Preamble...

- ❖ While more female than ever are being elected to parliaments around the world, according to Paxton, Kunovich & Hughes (2007) female representation in Latin America, Africa and the West progress slowly until 1995, in the most recent decade these regions shows substantial growth doubled the previous growth.
- ❖ In Nordic Countries female represent 41.6 percent of parliamentarians, followed by Europe with 20.1 percent, the Americas with 20.0 percent, sub-Saharan Africa with 17.6 percent, Asia with 16.6 percent, and Pacific with 14.6 percent and the Arab States with 9.6 percent

Preamble...

- ❖ The Paper is structure into 6 parts namely:
- ❖ Part 1: The historical perspective of female's political participation around the world;
- ❖ Part 2: Female active legislation from the feminist perspectives
- ❖ Part 3: Impact of female in political circle or legislative representation
- ❖ Par 4: Challenges of Female Legislative participation and,
- ❖ Part 5: The Rise of Women Activism in Politics
- ❖ Part 6: Takeaway/ Conclusion and Recommendations

Part 1: The Historical Perspective of Female's Political Participation Around the World

- ❖ Historically, female in politics and leadership around the world varies from countries to another. In Afghan female's political participation has significantly improve with the proportion of seat held by female in the parliament, which rises from 4% in 1995 to 28% in 2018.
- ❖ Similarly, in Australia female in politics ranked 50 out of 190 countries in terms of female in the lower house of parliament as at January 1st 2017; and in May 2018 female comprises approximately 38% of Senators and occupy 44 out of 150 seats in the House of Representative

Part 1: The Historical Perspective of Female's Political Participation Around the World...

- ❖ In 2003, Finland made a historical moment where all top leaders of the country were female and also represented different political parties; whereas, Riitta Uosukainen from the National Coalition party was speaker of the parliament in 2013 (Korppi-Tommola, 2014).
- ❖ In Spain Pedro Sanchez, the leader of Spanish socialist party presented his cabinet which included 11 females and 6 men on June 6, 2018, making it the cabinet with highest proportion of female in the world at the time

Part 1: The Historical Perspective of Female's Political Participation Around the World..

- ❖ This proportion was increased after a cabinet reshuffled on 12th July 2021.
- ❖ Turkey in 2018, the number of female in parliament has been continually risen and female representation rate did not fall below 10% after the 2007 election.

Part 1: The Historical Perspective of Female's Political Participation Around the World...

- ❖ Over the last two decades, the rate of female representation in national parliaments globally has incrementally increased from 11.8% in 1998 to 23.5% in 2018. Some regions have seen dramatic increases such as Sub-Saharan - Africa, where in the last 20 years the number of female in parliaments has risen from 11–23.6%, while the Arab states region has seen increase from 3.1 -17.5%.
- ❖ However, the total global female representation is still well below the 30% bench mark often identified as the necessary level of representation to achieve a “critical mass”.

Part 1: The Historical Perspective of Female's Political Participation Around the World...

- ❖ To be more specific, a breakdown of the strengths of African Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians from 2016 down 2020 electioneering years as presented in Table1 is quite revealing. On the top of list is Rwanda with 58% in 2016 but slightly drop to 56% in 2020 electioneering year.
- ❖ Rwanda statistics was closely followed by South Africa in the second position with 42% in year 2016 that risen to 45% in the year 2020. Amongst the 18 countries in this review, Nigeria is at the bottom of the list with the percentage of Female Parliamentarians risen from 2% in the year 2016 to a 5% mark in the year 2020 electioneering year

Part 1: The Historical Perspective of Female's Political Participation Around the World..

- ❖ Countries with improved female parliamentary representations include South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Eswatini, Zambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Botswana, and Nigeria.
- ❖ On the other hand, 4 countries registered declined in the numerical strengths of CWP in the years under review; these countries include Rwanda, Namibia, Lesotho and Seychelles. See Table 1 for detailed breakdowns.

Table 1: African Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians from 2016 - 2020..

Source: CPA Africa Region, 2022

Ranking	Countries	Total Members	2016			2020		
			Male	Female	Female %	Male	Female	Female %
1	Rwanda	106	45	61	58	47	59	56
2	South Africa	454	267	187	42	250	204	45
3	Mozambique	250	151	99	40	144	106	43
4	Tanzania	372	236	136	37	227	145	39
5	Namibia	146	93	53	37	94	52	36
6	Uganda	386	251	135	35	226	160	42
7	Cameroon	280	204	76	28	193	87	32
8	Kenya	416	329	87	21	320	96	24
9	Malawi	192	160	32	17	148	44	23
10	Lesotho	153	112	41	27	118	35	23
11	Seychelles	32	18	14	44	24	8	25
12	Mauritius	69	61	8	12	55	14	21
13	Eswatini	95	81	14	15	76	19	20
14	Zambia	158	138	20	13	130	28	18
15	Ghana	275	245	30	11	235	40	15
16	Sierra Leone	121	106	15	13	103	18	15
17	Botswana	63	57	6	10	56	7	12
18	Nigeria	469	462	7	2	448	21	5
	Total	4037	3016	1021	26	2894	1143	29

Part 1: The Historical Perspective of Female's Political Participation Around the World...

- ❖ Table 1 presents a cross-tabulation of African Commonwealth Women Parliamentary representation from 2016 to 2020 electioneering years.
- ❖ It shows that the total parliamentary reps risen from 1021 in 2016 to a total of 1143members in 2020. On the general note, we harvested a total rise of 3% in the strengths of women parliamentary representation among African states from 26% participation in 2016 up to 29% in the year 2020 respectively

Part 1: The Historical Perspective of Female's Political Participation Around the World...

- ❖ Indeed, the rate of variations in the 2 periods under review, varies from country to country. For instance, Mauritius, which ranked 12th in the list of countries registered the highest percentage increase of 9% increase with the period under review. More so, Uganda risen by 7% but ranked 6th in the list of nation.
- ❖ It was observed that the 11th ranked nation, Seychelles fell from 44% in 2016 down to 25% female parliamentary representation in Africa in 2020 electioneering year. These percentage variations in CWP reps is pictured in figure 1

Figure 1: African Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians from 2016 - 2020

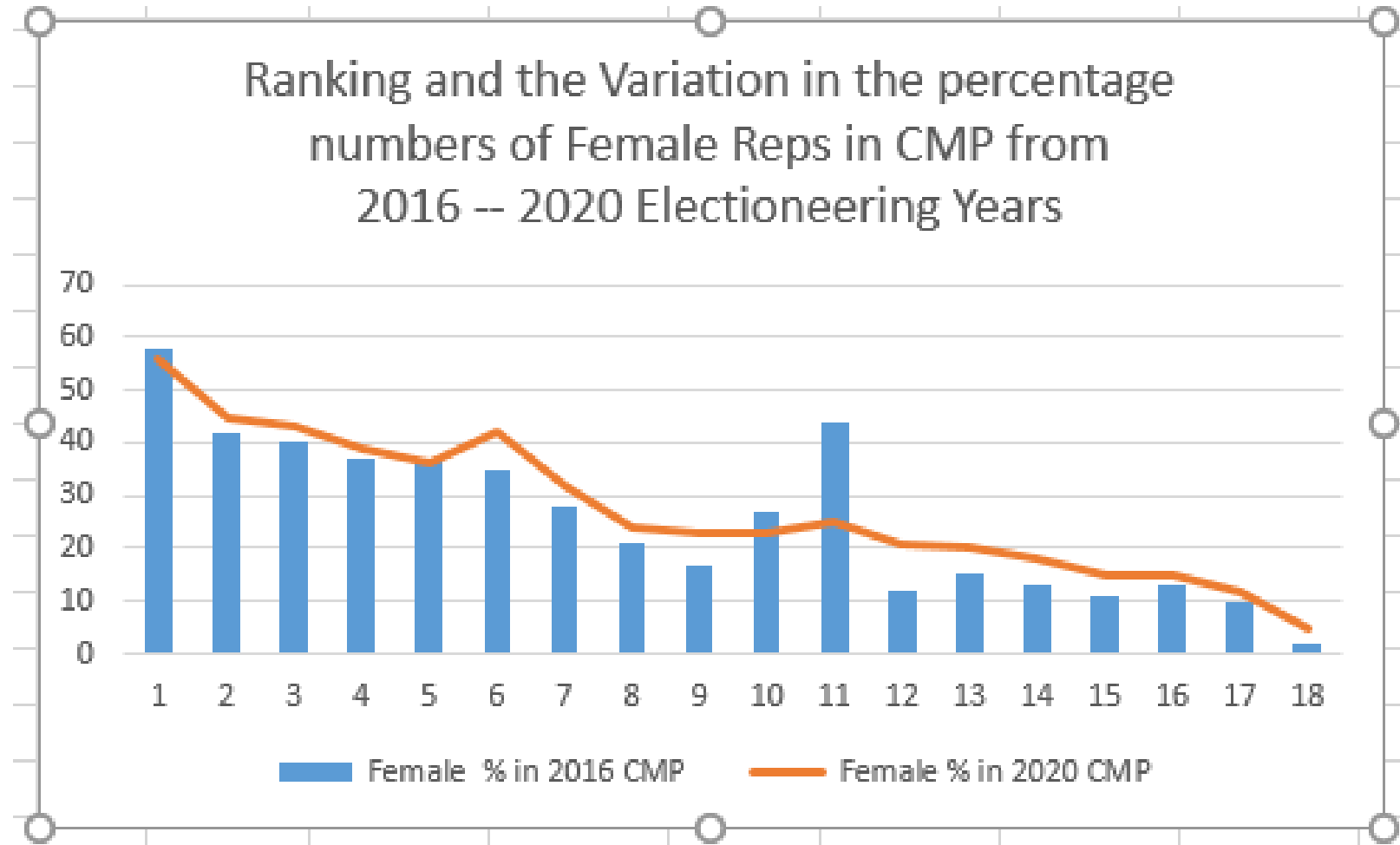
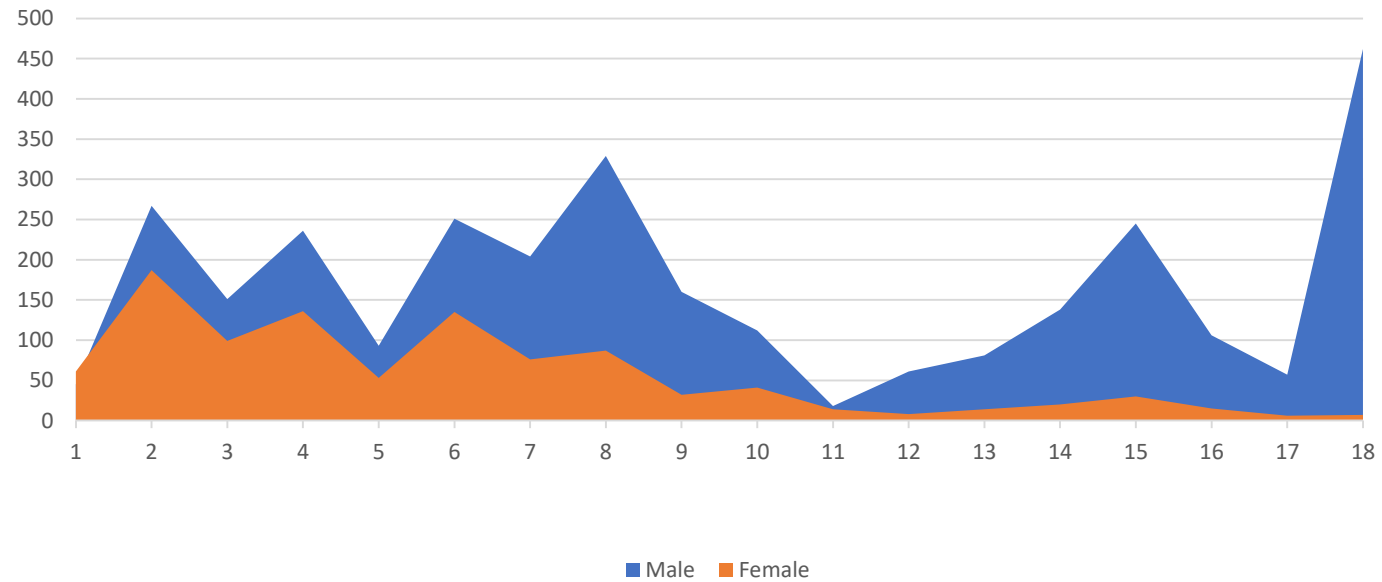


Figure 2: Gap between Men & Women Parliamentarians in 2016

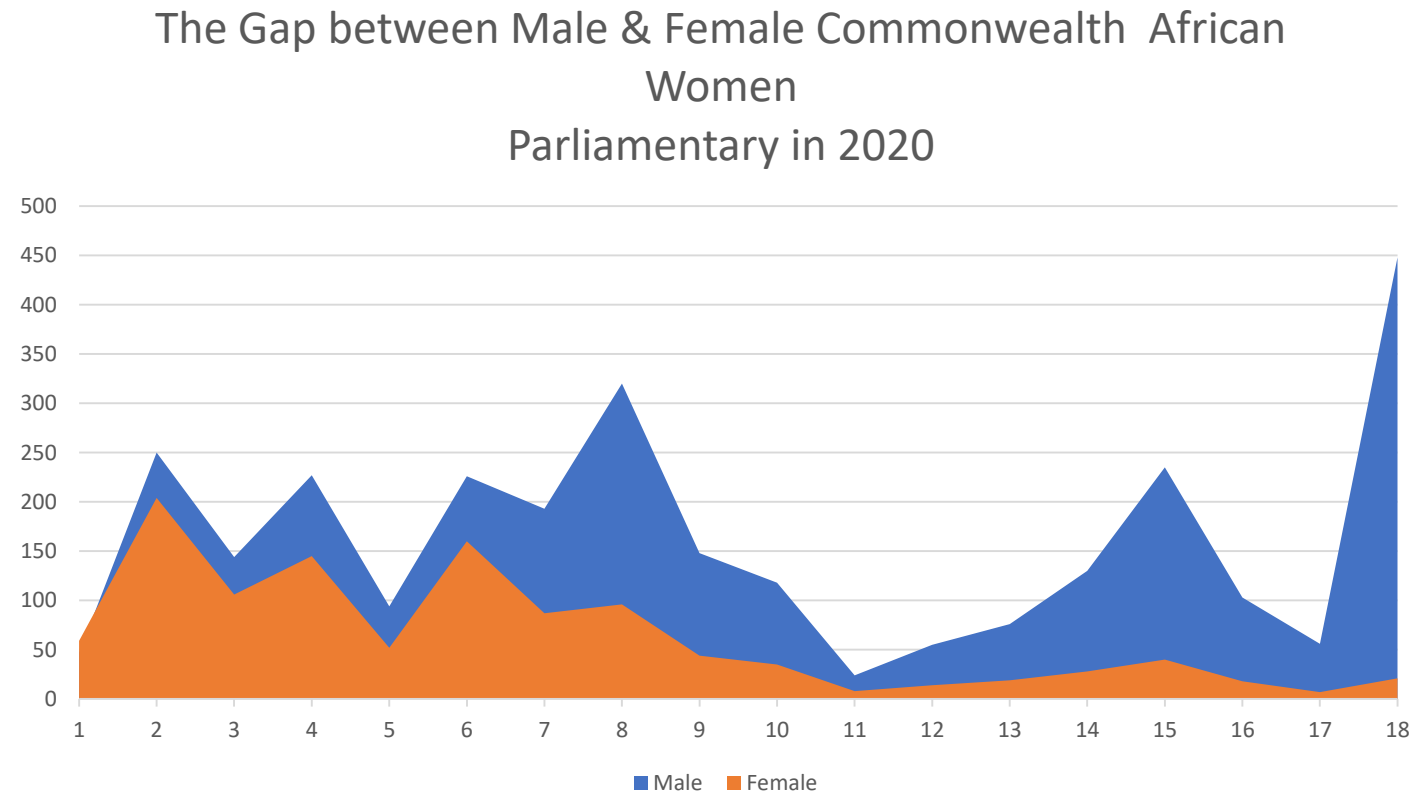
The Gap between Male & Female Commonwealth African Women
Parliamentary in 2016



Part 1: The Historical Perspective of Female's Political Participation Around the World...

- ❖ Figure 2 pictured the wide gaps as it shows that the CMP is largely male dominated legislative chamber. To the exception of Rwanda, the presence of female participation is below 30% UN benchmark.
- ❖ The scenario is worst in the case of Nigerian female representation with approximately 2% in the 2016 electioneering year.

Figure 3: Gap between Men & Women Parliamentarians in 2020



Part 1: The Historical Perspective of Female's Political Participation Around the World...

- ❖ It is crystal clear, the wide disparity between female to male legislative participation in CMP political space from 2016 - 2020 period. Indeed, some countries show significant improvement whilst others decline as indicated in figure 3.
- ❖ To underscores the cause of the wide discrepancies, a search light on different school of thoughts will guide us dissect the impacts of female legislative engagement and to create awareness for encouraging greater female participation in politics and leadership arenas.

Part 2: Female Active Legislation from the Feminist Perspectives

- ❖ A critical look at feminist theory, also known as feminism adds impetus to this impact of female participation analogy. The theorist in this school of thought believe that in the full economic, political, and social equality for Male and Female.
- ❖ Although all feminists strive for gender equality, there are various ways they approach their ideologies, including liberal feminism, socialist feminism, and radical feminism. Let's take a look at the basic feminist ideas and various approaches to achieving gender equality.

Part 2: Female Active Legislation from the Feminist Perspectives...

- ❖ **Working to increase equality:** Feminist thought links ideas to action, insisting we should push for change toward gender equality and not just talk about it. Just as the author is currently doing at local, state and national levels.
- ❖ **Expanding human choice:** The theorists believed that both men and women should have the freedom to develop their human interests and talents, even if those interests and talents conflict with the status quo. For example, if a woman wants to be a mechanic, she should have the right and opportunity to do so. This means, nobody has the monopoly of idea or job. All jobs belong to human in respect of male or female

Part 2: Female Active Legislation from the Feminist Perspectives...

- ❖ **Eliminating gender stratification:** The author supported Feminists theory that oppose laws and cultural norms that limit income, education, and job opportunities for women. Although, women have limitation
- ❖ **Ending sexual violence & promoting sexual freedom:** Feminists feel that women should have control over their sexuality and reproduction. The analyses show that integration of gender oppression with systems of inequality are based on race, class and sexuality. Consequently, the privilege and disadvantage are built into a matrix of domination and intersect to produce unique forms of oppression.

Part 2: Female Active Legislation from the Feminist Perspectives...

- ❖ In line with these aforementioned 4 types of feminism, the main domain of our discussion here goes with the 1st axiom, which sees gender inequalities as rooted in the attitudes of our social and cultural institutions. This is in line with the “Radical feminism” who claimed that women's oppression originates in sexuality and that women's bodies are controlled through violence, objectification, and social institutions such as medicine and religion.
- ❖ Though, the Liberal feminists do not see women's equality as requiring a reorganization of society, but rather, they seek to expand the rights and opportunities of women. This is what the paper attempt to seek. At this juncture, it is imperative to divulge on the impact of female legislation to create more awareness to encourage greater fe-male participation in politics and leadership in the country.

Part 3: Impact of Female in political circle or legislative representation

- ❖ Taking a critical look at the varied roles female politicians played; and, a crucial role for the common female to gain access to the state and its institutions. It is quite evident that females have enhanced their political participation and are often playing the role models in today's political landscape.
- ❖ However, its important to note that evidence gathered from the experiences and practices of female parliamentarians worldwide suggests that female political success and impact largely depends upon their links to civil society (Asiedu, Branstette & Gaekwad-Babulal, nd).

Part 3: Impact of Female in political circle or legislative representation...

- ❖ In particular, female reps in their constituencies use their critical mass in parliament through effective networking across party lines and the society at large via lobbying, facilitating legislation and peace-building.
- ❖ Furthermore, the socio-political context in which female parliamentarians operate can have positive or negative effects (Asiedu, et al., nd). Some the lines of impacts include but not limited to:

Part 3: Impact of Female in political circle or legislative representation...

- ❖ **Economic and political advancement:** Economic and political circumstances, legislature's procedures rules, and background experiences are worthy qualities which often enhance capacity of these women to deliver. The big question is; why does the world need more involvement of female in all aspect of political process?
- ❖ Female political participation has resulted in tangible gains for democracy, including greater responsible to citizen needs, increased cooperation across party and ethic lines, and a more sustainable future (Karam & Lovenduski, 2005). Women participation in political space has been established to bring progress and development to the people especially at the grassroot,

Part 3: Impact of Female in political circle or legislative representation...

- ❖ **Responsiveness to women and family Issues:** Female legislators are highly responsive to constituent concerns. Research shows that women lawmakers tend to see “women’s” issues more broadly as social issues, possibly as a result of the traditional roles they played as mothers and caregivers in the communities, and that more women see government as a tool to help serve underrepresented or minority groups.
- ❖ Women lawmakers therefore have often been perceived as more sensitive to community concerns and more responsive to constituency needs. Indeed, there is high tendencies toward, consensus building, and issue specialization that help female lawmakers achieve increased legislative effectiveness.

Part 3: Impact of Female in political circle or legislative representation...

- ❖ However, institutional circumstances can sometimes curb their impact. In my locality here in Nigeria, an example can be sighted of one our vibrant representative of the National assembly whos a female

Part 3: Impact of Female in political circle or legislative representation...

- ❖ **Corollary increase in policy making for Equity and Fairness:** Female's participation in political landscapes help advance gender equality as it affects both the range of policy issues that get considered and the types of solutions they proposed therein.
- ❖ Being female legislator has a distinct impact on the policy as more female are elected to leadership office, there is a corollary increase in policy making that emphasizes quality of life and reflects the priorities of families, female ethnic and racial minorities.
- ❖ According to National Democratic institute (NDI) chair Madeleine Albright, female in power “can be counted on to raise sensitive issues that others overlook. Such fundamental issues include, to support ideas that others oppose and to seek an end to gender abuses in modern society.

Part 3: Impact of Female in political circle or legislative representation...

- ❖ The study of over 100 countries around the world, found out that more than male counterparts, female tend to work across party lines, be highly responsive to constituent concerns, help secure lasting peace, encourage citizen, confidence in democracy through their own participation and prioritize health as seen during the Covid 19 pandemic, education and other key development indicators.
- ❖ Not every female elected would place female's issues or rights at the fore front of her own agenda (Karam & Lovenduski, 2005).

Part 3: Impact of Female in political circle or legislative representation...

- ❖ **Inclusiveness, responsiveness and transparency:** Female representation in legislative functions is not the only factor, but its critical for the development of inclusiveness, responsiveness and transparent democratic principles. Indeed, the positive impact of female in politics is undeniable.
- ❖ A particular reference to Kofi Annan assertion, has it that there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of female in leadership. That is, no other policy is as sure to improve nutrition and promote health, including the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other epidemics than female active participations

Part 3: Impact of Female in political circle or legislative representation...

- ❖ More so, no policy is as powerful in advancing education drive for the next generations than female active participations.
- ❖ On this note, Madeleine Albright has stated the world is wasting a precious resource in the dramatic underrepresentation of female position, often resulting in exclusion of females' talents and skills in political life.

Part 3: Impact of Female in political circle or legislative representation...

- ❖ **Team Work:** Male and female legislators most work together in order to solve the myriad of problems in their countries. In order to meet worldwide development goals and build strong, sustainable democracies, female must be encouraged, empowered, and supported in becoming strong political and community leaders.

Part 3: Impact of Female in political circle or legislative representation...

- ❖ **Peace Building:** Women are deeply committed to peace building and post-conflict reconstruction and have a unique and powerful perspective to bring to the negotiating table.
- ❖ Women suffer disproportionately during armed conflict and often advocate most strongly for stabilization, reconstruction and the prevention of further conflict.
- ❖ Moreover, research shows that women's engagement in the transitional processes and post-conflict governments can increase the legitimacy of emerging institutions, decrease government corruption, broaden the political agenda, promote consultative policymaking and encourage collaboration across ideological lines and social sectors.

Part 4: Challenges of Female Legislative participation

- ❖ Globally, there are a lot of obstacles ranging from level of socio-economic development, cultural, religious, ethnicity, educational, psychological, political party, male domination financial capacities, to lack of media support that were responsible for the side-lining of female in active politics, however, these barriers differ from countries to countries.
- ❖ **Societal Male domination:** Generally, the challenge here that women face when it comes to convincing men to allow them to come in and take some positions in politics is that of gender equality, Generally, female in Africa countries politics face a lot of violence in form of gender, sexual, and online harassment, abuse and intimidation.

Part 4: Challenges of Female Legislative participation...

- ❖ Gender inequality within the families, inequitable division of labour within households and cultural attitudes about gender roles further subjugate women and serve to limit their representation in public life.
- ❖ **Ideological and psychological obstacle:** According to Shvedova (2005) in Mlambo and Kapingura (2019) ideological and psychological obstacles results from the traditional role of women in the society of being restricted to mothers or caretakers, forging an image of women being apolitical.
- ❖ Ideological and psychological obstacles are gender ideology, cultural patterns, predetermined social roles assigned to women and men, lack of confidence on the side of women to stand for election, women's perception of politics as a dirty game, and the mass media depictions of women.

Part 4: Challenges of Female Legislative participation...

- ❖ **Financial Capacity:** most women are unable to afford money earmarked for obtaining election forms and financing election campaign, because of their financial constraints and lack of party support even if they are qualified for the position.
- ❖ Women are labelled electoral cattle because their organization networks are easily rallied for campaign rallies, balloting and for going to the polls in large numbers, they don't realize their political potentials.

Part 4: Challenges of Female Legislative participation...

- ❖ **Culture and traditions:** A woman is supposed to be a house wife or be a worker, thereby reducing her confidence in venturing in to politics. Politics is termed men and dirty game, not for women that are labelled as the weak sex.
- ❖ This is predicated as cultural patterns that predetermined social roles assigned to women and men (Mlambo & Kapingura, 2019).

Part 4: Challenges of Female Legislative participation...

- ❖ **Ethnicity:** here it's against some ethnic group to allow women venture into politics, they are only used as tools to gather their family to come out and vote.
- ❖ **Religious brief:** A lot of African countries prevent women to vouch for political positions under the pretence that women are subordinate to men; they are to be led but not to lead even if they have the capability and ability to do so.

Part 4: Challenges of Female Legislative participation...

- ❖ **Challenges Women Faces In Nigerian Political Dispensation**
- ❖ In discussing the challenges women face in politics in Nigeria, these challenge are and not limited to environmental factors, unequal access to education, religious barriers, family challenges, culture, poverty, domestic responsibilities, men domination, socio political factors, gender and sexual violence, purdah, the above named challenges are mostly seen in the Northern part of Nigeria, the southern women politicians face less of these challenges so they are more in parliament then their female counterparts from the north due to their being exposed to politics and western education earlier than their northern counterparts.

Part 4: Challenges of Female Legislative participation...

- ❖ According to (Bari, 2005) the interrelated problem in women in politics has to do with the structure of politics. From history, democracy has helped males well than females, considering the political system from early Greece to contemporary times of the 21st century, it has suited on public private opposition and exempted women from social responsibilities.
- ❖ In a similar opinion Ali and Koki (2018) opined that women have been set aside from the area of policy making as greatest of the political philosophers and thinkers which comprises Thomas Hobbs, John Lock, Aristotle and the rest, measured that women are suitable only for household responsibilities in their secluded domain and sustained that there was no room for women in politics because of their roles as housewives and mothers.
- ❖ This opinion contradicts the postulations of social constructivism theory which believes that all gender differences existing in the society are not natural but rather artificially built by the society.

Part 5: The Rise of Women Activism in Politics

- ❖ The relationship between political participation, gender equality and democratic process is interdependent since the implementation of each depends on each other. In fact, equality between men and women in all aspects of life cannot be achieved if there is no equality in the area of governance and political representation.
- ❖ According to the United Nations, gender equality means that women and men have equal opportunities and conditions for realizing their full potential in economic, social, cultural, and political development.
- ❖ It is the equal valuing by society of both similarities and differences of men and women and the roles they play. The World Health Organization defines gender equality as the absence of discrimination on the basis of a person's sex, in providing opportunities, in allocating resources and benefits or access to services.

Part 5: The Rise of Women Activism in Politics...

- ❖ The women's movement and rising levels of women's political participation have increased the pressure on parties to send more women to parliament. High levels of institutionalization, a localized level of candidate nomination, and leftist and post materialist values all individually enable parties to increase the representation of women.
- ❖ Further, high levels of women working at internal party offices and the presence of formal rules designed to increase the number of women in parliaments are both conducive to their representation.
- ❖ It appears that women's party activism, especially at the high levels, triggers the other factors, such as quota rules, that facilitate women's representation in parliament. Women's party activism is an integral key in an era where women's activity in party politics has increased substantially.

Part 5: The Rise of Women Activism in Politics...

- ❖ Not only can women party activists pressure the party for women's representation in parliamentary office, activists can also institutionalize the gains made by pressing to implement rules that call for guaranteed proportions of female candidates.
- ❖ The presence of women party activists in high-level positions together help parties adapt by increasing the likelihood parties will implement new rules to promote women candidates to parliaments. Importantly, women's activism within the party is a significant factor in emphasizing the importance of direct action.
- ❖ The evidence indicates that under-represented groups can increase their representation through party channels. Environmentalists, racial and ethnic minorities and citizen movements more generally might find descriptive representation by establishing themselves within the internal ranks of parties.

Part 5: The Rise of Women Activism in Politics...

- ❖ **Externally-** under gender quotas these bodies of international background like CEDAW, ECOWAS African Union, SADC in their conventions, increased women awareness on their importance in influencing politics and their aspirations and challenging the structure that causes their under-representation.
- ❖ These women movements transcend- religious, cultural, political and ethnic diversity to overcome negative perceptions of representation of women in legislature rejecting beliefs that limits women's role in society balancing private family and political life, gaining support from political parties and security campaign funding.

Part 5: The Rise of Women Activism in Politics...

- ❖ There is growing recognition of the untapped capacity and talents of women and women's leadership. Over the last two decades, the rate of women's representation in national parliament globally has increased from 15 percent in 2002 to over 19 percent in 2012.
- ❖ Some regions have seen dramatic increases such as Sub-Saharan - Africa, where in the last 20 years the number of women in parliaments has risen from 11-23.6% while the Arab states region has seen an increase from 3.1-17.5% total global representation is still well below the 30% bench mark, often identified as the necessary level of representation to achieve a “critical mass”, a considerable minority of all legislator with significant impact, rather than a token few individuals, not to mention short of women's representation as half of the world population.

Part 5: The Rise of Women Activism in Politics...

- ❖ Women's movement goes beyond political, religious, ethnics, diversity to overcome the tokenism perception of women representation in the legislature and to create strategic partnership to reject patronage and corruption practices.
- ❖ In Senegal, various women's organizations along with 30 NGOs formed a non-partisan group to campaign for the increase of legislation to at least 30% (Diop 2001, Sakho 2002 Trip 2006).

Part 5: The Rise of Women Activism in Politics...

- ❖ **Gender quotas**— This is a positive measurement instrument used for accelerating the achievement of gender balance, participation and representation by establishing a defined percentage or number of seats to be filled by or allocated to women, or men generally under certain rules or criteria. Gender quotas requires that women must constitute a certain number of percent of the members of a body whether a candidate lists, parliamentary or government.
- ❖ In Africa gender quotas are not new. Ghana was the first country to start it in 1960 according to Trip 2006, others are Tanzania (1975), Egypt (1976) Senegal (1982) and Uganda 1989.

Part 5: The Rise of Women Activism in Politics...

- ❖ Gender quotas can also set a limit on the representation of both gender hence, no sexes will have a greater representation in the decision making bodies. This type of quota is called gender neutral quotas where not more than 60% or less than 40% seats are occupied.
- ❖ Quotas has help to ensure marked effects on female representation in governance. In 1995 Rwanda ranked 24th in terms of female representation, jumps to first in 2003 after the introduction of quotas

Part 5: The Rise of Women Activism in Politics...

- ❖ Similarly, Argentina, Iraq, Mozambique and South Africa experienced some rise.
- ❖ Of the top rank 20 countries in terms of female representation in government, quotas system utilization to ensure female inclusion was carried out in 17 countries, though such inclusions is instituted at national level, efforts were made in India to include females at the subnational levels through quotas for parliamentary positions

Part 5: The Rise of Women Activism in Politics...

- ❖ Quotas have been useful in gaining support and opportunities when achieving seats of power although it is seen by many as wrong doings.
- ❖ According to Dahlerup and Freidenvall even though quotas create theoretical imbalance in opportunity for men they necessarily break the concept of “classical liberal notion of equality”.
- ❖ The introduction of “quota women” has triggered what political scientist refer to as a “mandate effect”, where quota women feel obligated to represent the interest of female public.

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RISE OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA

- ❖ **National Council Of Women Society (NCWS)** - this organization is an umbrella for women activities and they help in enlightening women in the area that they can occupy and also mobilize and rally round these women during campaign and elections.
- ❖ **FOMWAN-** is an Islamic women religious organization that enlightens women on their religious rights to look for political post to enhance development, they also rally round these women during campaign, election and while in office.

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RISE OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA...

- ❖ Christian women Association-This association is the umbrella of Christian women they organize a lot of activities that hinges on human development like engaging them in entrepreneurship skills to enhance their financial status.
- ❖ They also enlighten them on the importance of engaging in politics, participate in election process and be on the floor of the house and let their voices be heard during deliberations concerning maternal and child health, girl child education and gender-based violence.

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RISE OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA...

- ❖ **Lawyers-** They have helped women in seeking redress and right, for those women that encountered sexual harassment, verbal assault and threat which the evidence are available or handy, the continuous standing up for women in the period of political oppression have helped the women to see the need to rise and seek for their right.
- ❖ **Academicians-** Been knowledgeable in the pros and cons of politics and better equipped on how to withstand challenges and obstacles bedevilling the political arena, stand a better chance of competing with their male counterparts

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RISE OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA...

- ❖ They also help in many ways in enlightening different women groups either in schools, labour organizations, educating them on the need to participate in politics since they have acquired education or have the necessary skills to participate in partisan politics.

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RISE OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA...

- ❖ **Journalist-** Being conversant with journalism and the nitty- gritty of politics and been to so many political events have witness or encounter challenges militating against women in various societies looking for political posts, finding solution to the peculiar problems of women oppression in Nigerian politics, have opt for women participation in politics, so they can make use of the opportunity to seek for their right towards lifting them from the male oppression.

FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA.

- ❖ In Nigeria women are not equal to men in all sphere of life.
- ❖ The status of women in the society is very low compare to their male counterparts, this is because of the patriarchal and heterogeneous nature of the country, men are considered as leaders and they are the decision makers in the family, while women are relegated to the background to take care of domestic responsibilities.

FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA.

- ❖ Political activities encompasses both men and women coming together to protect the rights and interest of its members through mutual understanding and consensus for political and economic growth of Nigeria.
- ❖ Women that have contributed to the growth of the political party are always dumped or side-lined when they need to vouch for political posts due to subjection and domination by their male counterparts and lack of party support thereby damping their interest.

FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA.

- ❖ Miranda 2005 noted that every human being has the right to participate in decision making that define his/her life, this right is the foundation of the ideal of equal participation in decision makings among both genders.
- ❖ This right contends that since women know their condition better, they should equally partake with their men counterparts to have their views successfully unified at all stages of policy making and implementation.

FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA.

- ❖ In 2021 Nigeria has a projected population of 196,651,048 in all, out of this the men populace is 99,579,686 which is (50.6%) and the women populace is 97,071,362 which is 49.4% correspondingly.
- ❖ This mean that women have a meaningful population in the nation that needs to be considered and empowered at all levels.

FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA.

- ❖ The share of women in political offices has increased considerably over the past few decades in almost every country in the world, in developing countries the increase in female political representation has caused a better provision of public goods, especially with regards to education, protection against gender-based violence, improve gender equality and health.
- ❖ Proving the points earlier said, below are some female parliamentarian achievements.

FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA.

- ❖ **Honorable Dr. Zainab Gimba**, formally a commissioner of some ministries in Borno state which include poverty alleviation.
- ❖ She was very active and resourceful to the people of her constituency and Borno state in general, this committed spirit won her the people's trust, which made her people to support her to represent the people of Bama, Ngala and Kala-Balge federal constituency..

FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA.

- ❖ As it is in Nigerian politics, party stakeholders always have their preferred candidate but her constituents and supporters stood by her, staging day and night vigil under terrible weather and harsh condition, deprivations to withstand pressure and harassment from those in power intimidating her to step down for their preferred candidate.

FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA.

- ❖ She stood her ground and eventually they had to let go and she won the election.
- ❖ After inauguration she contributed on the floor and participated in committee works, due to her diligence, consistency and brilliance, she won the confidence of her female colleagues earning her the chairperson of Commonwealth women parliamentarian Africa, which spring shot her to presently holding the post of vice chairperson Commonwealth Parliamentarian International

FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA.

- ❖ She is a true lawmaker that has the interest of those in her constituency at heart, this is seen from selfless humanitarian activities through monetary, materials, food and non- food items, equipment to those that their lives were ravished by Boko Haram insurgency and other vulnerable e.g women, children and youths through vocational trainings and other forms of empowerment, and also sponsoring less privilege students acquire knowledge and securing job for those that merit it.

FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA.

- ❖ Her charismatic spirit earned her love and support from her Governor, people of her constituency, the state and by extension her colleagues in the green chamber
- ❖ Senator Abiodun Olujimi representing Ekiti South Senatorial District, before then she served in various positions which includes deputy Governor Ekiti State in 2005, been in politics since 1977.

FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT IN NIGERIA.

- ❖ She's known for her crave to drive good Governance to the grassroots through advocacy for right politics and action before and now while in senate.
- ❖ She fought effortlessly for the 35% quota for the female ministers on the floor of the house though did not scale through in addition plan to re-present the bill.

Part 6: Takeaway/Conclusion and Recommendations of Female in Parliamentary Representation

- ❖ There is growing recognition of the untapped capacity and talents of female and female's leadership. A considerable minority of all legislator with significant impact, rather than a token few individuals of female's representation in the world's population.
- ❖ The full and equitable perception of female participating in public life is essential to building and sustaining strong, vibrant democracies.

Part 6: Takeaway/Conclusion and Recommendations of Female in Parliamentary Representation...

- ❖ Accordingly, the meaningful participation of female in national, local and community leadership roles has become an important focus on global, development policy, still some ask what does it matter if female hold political offices as leaders, elected policy makers or civil society activist.
- ❖ In developed countries, higher female representation has not affected public policies as measured by spending patterns.

Part 6: Takeaway/Conclusion and Recommendations of Female in Parliamentary Representation...

- ❖ However, evidences have shown that female representation brought about changes in parliamentary deliberations and specific policy choices for example, maternal and child health care, increase in female representation has reduce corruption, rent extraction by those in authority thereby improving institutional quality.
- ❖ The ability for a woman parliamentarian to voice out important policy issues and follow them through depends on the strength of the gender equity lobby in civil society, the credibility of women politicians and their policies in the political competition and electoral politics.

Part 6: Takeaway/Conclusion and Recommendations of Female in Parliamentary Representation...

- ❖ It also depends on the capacity of the state and the political system to respond to new policy issues, accommodate a new set of political actors and to implement gender equity policies.
- ❖ Politics, as in many spheres of life is still very much a male enclave. From the local government unit up to the national level, the parliamentary inclusive, are dominated by Men.

Part 6: Takeaway/Conclusion and Recommendations of Female in Parliamentary Representation...

- ❖ In fact, equality between men and women in all aspects of life cannot be achieved if there is no equality in the area of governance and political representation. Indeed, the women's movement and rising levels of women's political participation have increased the pressure on parties to send more women to parliament.
- ❖ Thus, in this paper, it is strongly recommended for all stakeholders to ensure that certain party characteristics are evolved to encourage more female representation in the legislative functions for peace, progress and development.

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Part 6: Takeaway/Conclusion and Recommendations of Female in Parliamentary Representation...

- ❖ High levels of institutionalization, a localized level of candidate nomination, and leftist and post materialist values all individually enable parties to increase the representation of women.

Thank you for your time...