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MONITORING PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS IN NIGERIA

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Introduction

- Nigeria has been recording low participation of women in both elective and appointive positions.
- Efforts have been made by government and non-governmental organizations to increase the level of participation in line with the declaration made at the fourth World Conference on women in Beijing, which advocated 30% affirmative action.
- National Gender Policy (NGP) recommended 35% affirmative action



Objectives

They are:

- To review the importance of data in monitoring women participation in politics in Nigeria vis-à-vis the affirmative declaration.
- To examine factors militating against women participation in politics.



Women in Pre-Colonial Era

- In the era, Nigerian women were an integral part of the political set up of their communities
- See the table in the next slide



Table 1: Statistics of Women Traditional Rulers in Pre-colonial days.

S/N	Name	Town/Village	LGA	State	Type of Rule	Date
1	Luwo Gbadiaya	Ife	Ife Central L.G.	Osun	Ooni of Ife	Pre-colonial days
2	Iyayun	Oyo	Oyo L.G.	Oyo	Alaafin	Pre-colonial days
3	Orompoto	Oyo	Oyo L.G.	Oyo	Alaafin	Pre-colonial days
4	Jomijomi	Oyo	Oyo L.G.	Oyo	Alaafin	Pre-colonial days
5	Jepojepo	Oyo	Oyo L.G.	Oyo	Alaafin	Pre-colonial days
6	Queen Amina	Zauzau		Kaduna	Emir	Pre-colonial days
7	Daura	Daura	Daura Emirate	Katsina	Queen	Pre-colonial days
8	Kofono	Daura	Daura Emirate	Katsina	Queen	Pre-colonial days
9	Eye-moi	Akure	Akure	Ondo	Regent- Monarch	Pre-colonial days 1705-1735 AD
10	Ayo-Ero	Akure	Akure	Ondo	Regent- Monarch	Pre-colonial days 1850-51 AD
11	Gulfano	Daura	Daura Emirate	Katsina	Queen	Pre-colonial days
12	Yawano	Daura	Daura Emirate	Katsina	Queen	Pre-colonial days
13	Yakania	Daura	Daura Emirate	Katsina	Queen	Pre-colonial days
14	Walsam	Daura	Daura Emirate	Katsina	Queen	Pre-colonial days
15	Cadar	Daura	Daura Emirate	Katsina	Queen	Pre-colonial days
16	Agagri	Daura	Daura Emirate	Katsina	Queen	Pre-colonial days
17	Queen Kanbasa	Bonny	Bonny L.G.	Rivers	Queen	Pre-colonial days

Source: Kolawale, Adeigbe, Adebayo & Abubakar (2013)



Women in the Colonial Period

- Nigerian women were denied of franchise.
- In the 1950s women in Southern Nigeria were given the franchise.
- Three women were appointed into the House of Chiefs, namely:
 - Chief (Mrs) Olufunmilayo Ransome Kuti in the Western Nigeria House of Chiefs)
 - Chiefs (Mrs) Margaret Ekpo and
 - Janet Mokelu into the Eastern Nigeria
- The women's wings of political parties possessed very little functional relevance.



Women in the Post-colonial Period

- Nigerian women began to play very active roles in politics
- In 1960, Mrs. Wuraola Esan from Western Nigeria became the first female member of the Federal Parliament
- In 1961, Chief (Mrs) Margaret Ekpo became a member of the Eastern Nigeria House of Assembly till 1966
- Mrs. Janet N. Mokelu and Miss Ekpo A. Young became members of the Eastern House of Assembly



Women in the Second Republic (1979-1983)

- The second Republic witnessed a little more participation of women in politics.
- A few Nigerian women won elections into the House of Representatives and State Houses of Assembly respectively.
 - Two women were appointed among the Federal Ministers: Chief (Mrs) Janet Akinrinade
 - Mrs Adenike Ebun Oyagbola,
- Mrs. Francesca Yetunde Emmanuel was the only female Permanent Secretary (first in the Federal Ministry of Establishment and later Federal Ministry of Health)
- A number of women were appointed Commissioners in the states also.



Women in the Second Republic (1979-1983) Contd;

- A number of women were appointed Commissioners in the states
- In 1983, Ms Franca Afegbua became the only woman to be elected into the Senate.
- Also, very few women contested and won elections into the Local Government Councils



Return of Military rule (December 1983)

- The first formal quota system was introduced by the Federal Government as regards the appointment of women into governance
- One female must be appointed as a member of the Executive Council in every state
- In the early 1990s, two women were appointed Deputy Governors:
 - Alhaja Latifat Okunu of Lagos State and
 - Mrs Pamela Sadauki of Kaduna State
- No female minister



Third Republic

- Few women emerged as Councillors
- Only one woman emerged as Chairperson of a Local Government Council in the Western part of the country.
- No female governor emerged in any of the states.
- Two female Deputy Governors emerged, namely:
 - Alhaja Sinatu Ojikutu of Lagos State and
 - Mrs. Cecilia Ekpenyong of Cross River State.
- Mrs. Kofo Bucknor Akerele was the only woman who won a seat in the Senate in 1992.
- Very few women won election into the House of Representatives. E.g. Chief (Mrs) Florence Ita Giwa who won in the Calabar Constituency.



Third Republic Contd;

- President Babangida's Transitional Council appointed two women in January 1993:
 - Mrs. Emily Aiklmhokuede and
 - Mrs. Laraba Dagash.
- In the Interim National Government of Chief Ernest Shonekan, two female ministers were appointed into the cabinet.
- General Abacha administration also had a number of female ministers at various times in his cabinet, including Chief (Mrs) Onikepo Akande and Ambassador Judith Attah.
- During the military regime of General Abdulsalami Abubakar (June 9, 1998 - May 29, 1999), there were two women in the Federal Executive Council:
 - Chief (Mrs) Onikepo Akande (Minister for Commerce) and
 - Dr. Laraba Gambo Abdullahi (Minister of Women Affairs)



Re-introduction of Democracy (The Fourth Republic)

- Between 1999 and 2015 we have five administrations in Nigeria
- President Obasanjo occupied the office of president between 1999 and 2007
- President Umaru Musa Yaradua (2007-2010)
- President Goodluck Jonathan (2010-2011; 2011-2015)
- President Muhammadu Buhari (at present).



Table 2: Elective Position (1999 – 2015)

Office	1999		2003		2007		2011		2015	
	Seat Available	Women	Seat Available	Women	Seat Available	Women	Seat Available	Women	Seat Available	Women
President	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Vice President	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Senate	109	3(2.8)	109	4(3.7)	109	8 (7.3)	109	7(6.4)	109	8(6.4)
House of Reps	360	12(3.3)	360	21(5.8)	360	23(6.4)	360	26(7.2)	109	19(5.3)
Governor	36	0	36	0	36	0	36	0	36	0
Deputy Governor	36	1(2.8)	36	2(5.5)	36	6 (16.7)	36	3 (8.3)	36	4 (11.1)
State House of Assembly	990	12(1.2)	990	38(3.8)	990	52(5.3)	990	62(6.3)		
SHA Committees	829	18(2.2)	881	32(3.6)	887	52(5.9)	887	—		
Chairpersons	829	18(2.2)	881	32(3.6)	887	52(5.9)	887	—		
L.G.A Chairpersons	710	9(1.2)	774	15(1.9)	740	27(3.6)	740	—		
Councillors	8,810	143(0.02)	6368	267(42)	6368	235(3.7)	6368	—		



Appointive position

- In 1999 and 2003
 - out of 130 federal boards of public corporations only 7 (5.6 per cent) were women.
 - Out of 47 cabinet ministers appointed only 7 (14.89 per cent) were women
 - One woman was appointed as Director-General of a government regulatory agency.
 - Special Advisers and Senior Special Assistance were 2 women respectively.
 - Six (6) women were appointed as Special Assistant,
 - 8 women as permanent secretaries and
 - one woman as special assistant to the Vice President.
- In 2011
 - 12 women were appointed as Ministers out of 42(30 per cent)
 - 4 women out of 20 as Special Advisers
- Present regime only 6 women were appointed as Ministers out of 30 ministerial appointees



Effort made Towards Female Participation in Politics in Nigeria

- Several efforts have been made to address the low representation of women in elective and appointive positions in Nigeria; among such efforts are:
 - the establishment of Women Political empowerment office and Nigeria Women Trust Funds,
 - Women Lobby Group.
 - Institution of an INEC gender policy,
 - The national multi stakeholder dialogue;
 - The initiation of several interventions to actualize affirmative action
 - The convening of the Nigeria Women Strategy Conference
 - National Centre for Women Development in collaboration with National Bureau of Statistics are making efforts to have evidenced based data about this issue. Presently the available data are not harmonized. The data collation covers the period 1999 – 2015



CHALLENGES AFFECTING WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS IN NIGERIA

- Patriarchy
- Stigmatization
- Low level of education
- Meeting Schedules:
- Financing
- Political Violence
- Religious and Cultural barriers
- Lack of support and intimidation from men



Recommendation

- Political parties should create a support network for prospective aspirant
- Building mass Coalition of women support and advocacy group using NGOs and Grassroots women associations to coordinate support and advocacy for fellow women aspirants.
- To create enabling environment free from violence and harassments of any kind.
- Establishment of legal funds to assist women politicians to challenge electoral malpractices of any form at all levels of political processes.
- Introducing quota system at all levels of government



Conclusion

- Recently, the National Centre for Women Development embarked on the collection of a national data on involvement and participation of women in politics in Nigeria (1999 to 2015). One of the objectives of the data collection is to provide a baseline for the implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- The data collation of the exercise is completed.
- Hopes are high that the result will show the progress steadily made to achieving the affirmative declaration and determine how the gap that erstwhile existed has been closed as well as measure the variation between where we are and the affirmative action of 35 percent.
- Also, it will improve evidence-based planning and programming involving women in decision making; increase the support of key stakeholders on measures to increase representation of women in decision-making and further improved awareness of new advocacy tools among stakeholders to support the campaign for increased representation of women in decision making in Nigeria.



End of Presentation

- THANKS

