



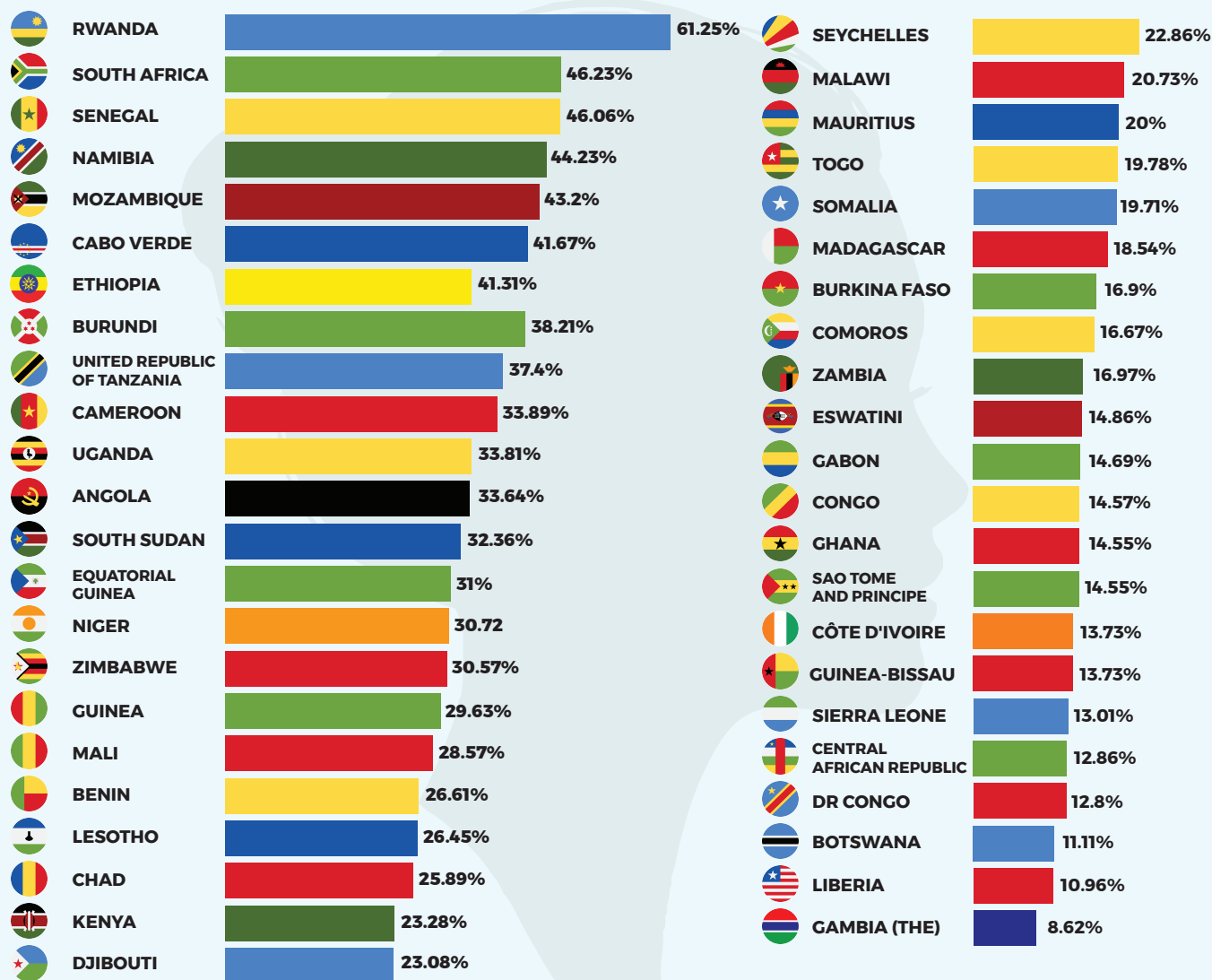
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INFOGRAPHICS

PLAC
POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN UNICAMERAL OR LOWER CHAMBERS OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS

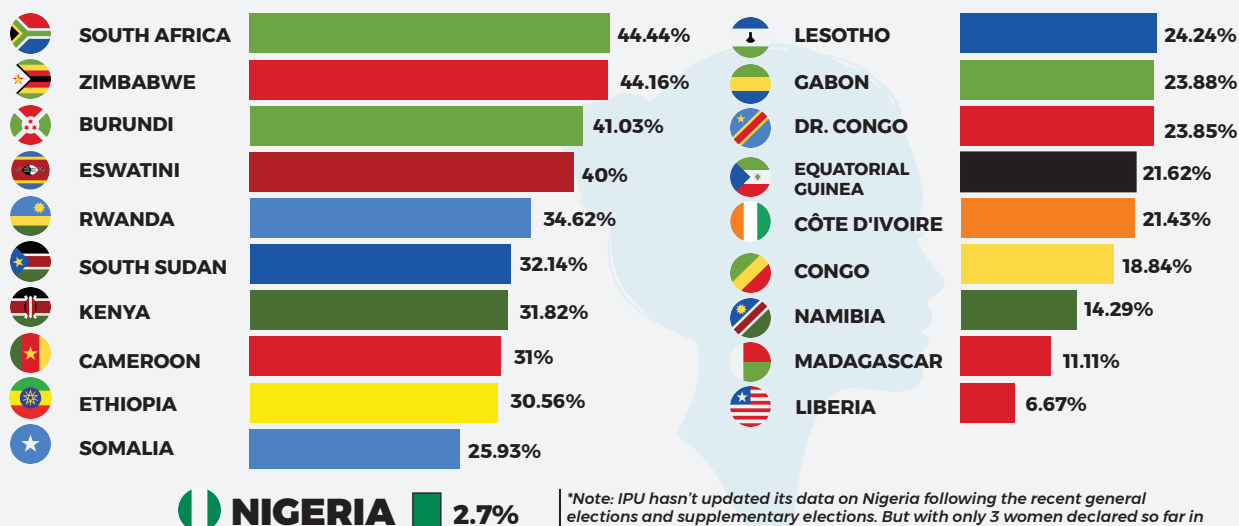
*As of 1st April 2023



*Note: IPU hasn't updated its data on Nigeria because numbers are currently in a state of flux following the recent general elections and supplementary elections. But with only 17 women declared so far in the 360-seat House of Representatives which is at 4.7%, Nigeria clearly falls at the bottom of this list.

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN UPPER CHAMBERS OF AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS

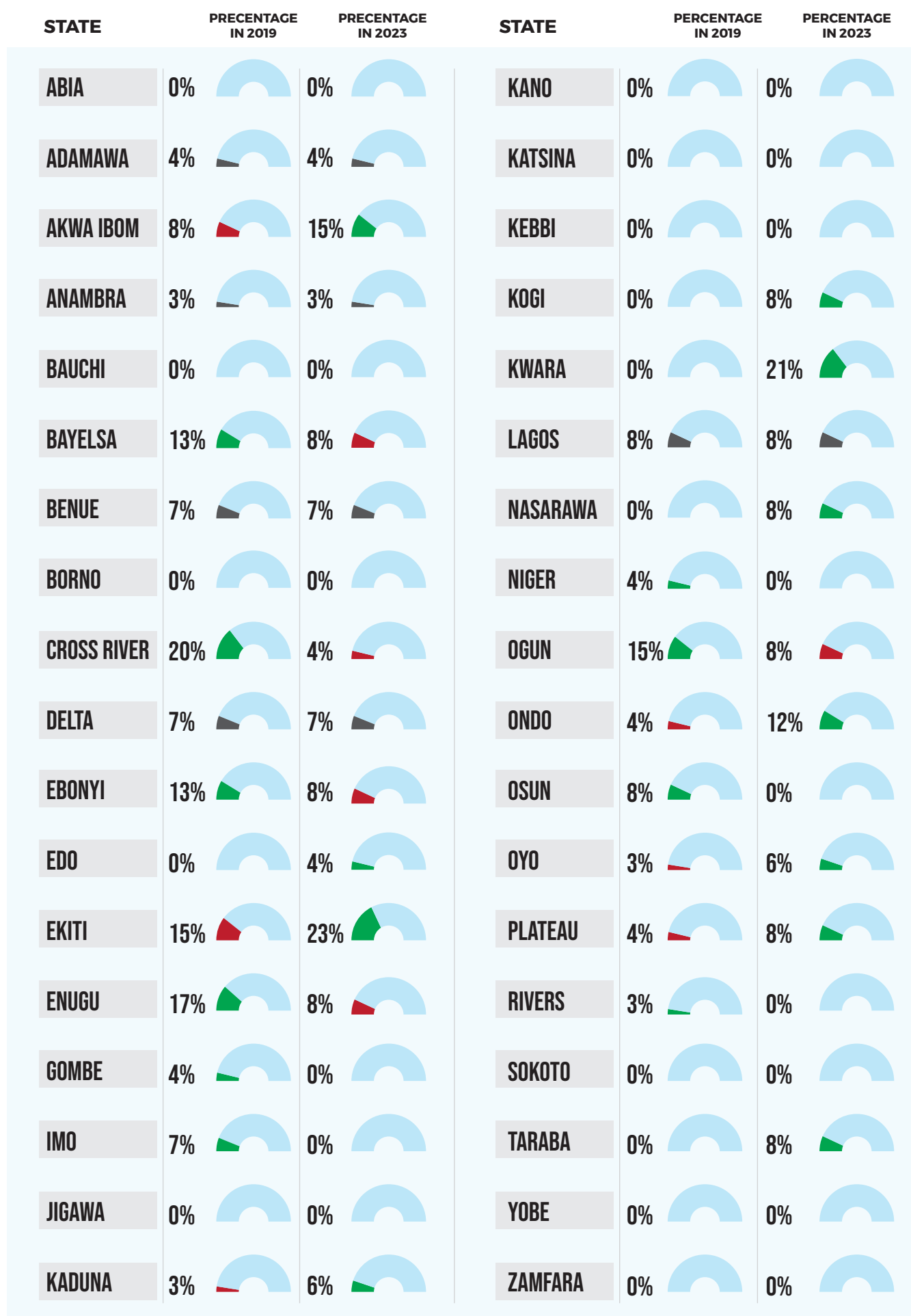
*As of 1st April 2023



*Note: IPU hasn't updated its data on Nigeria following the recent general elections and supplementary elections. But with only 3 women declared so far in the 109 seat Senate which is at 2.7%, Nigeria clearly falls at the bottom of this list.

WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN THE STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY

*As of March 2023



Increase in Women Representation Decrease in Women Representation No changes in Women Representation

Source: Media Reports. Numbers of State Legislators in a state of flux and subject to change.

FAST FACTS ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

- As of December 2022, with a Ranking of **183 out of 187**, Nigeria was (and still is) the African country with the lowest number of women in parliament (Interparliamentary Union).
- Countries where women account for less than 15% of parliamentarians do not apply affirmative action policies such as gender quotas.
- Most sub-Saharan African countries that have achieved a high level of women's representation have done so through the use of quotas. Examples are Senegal, Rwanda, South Africa, Namibia, and Uganda.
- Those countries that have not yet adopted a legislated quota or meaningful voluntary party quota are mostly Anglophone countries with plurality majority (first-past-the-post) electoral systems such as Botswana, Ghana, Nigeria, and Zambia.
- Up to 41 African countries use special measures or various forms of affirmative action, including voluntary or legislated quotas, to promote women's political participation.

ALGERIA	TOGO	KENYA	MOROCCO	SOMALIA
ANGOLA	EGYPT	LESOTHO	MOZAMBIQUE	SOUTH AFRICA
BOTSWANA	ZIMBABWE	LIBERIA	NAMIBIA	SOUTH SUDAN
BURKINA FASO	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	DJIBOUTI	NIGER	SUDAN
BURUNDI	MAURITANIA	MALAWI	CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE)	RWANDA
CABO VERDE	ESWATINI	MALI	LIBYA	TUNISIA
CAMEROON	ETHIOPIA	SIERRA LEONE	SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	UGANDA
COTE D'IVOIRE	GUINEA	MAURITIUS	SENEGAL	TANZANIA
ERITREA				

SPECIAL MEASURES FOR ELECTING WOMEN INTO LEGISLATURES

- **Legislated Candidate Quotas** - Quotas can be introduced via law which require parties to field a certain minimum percentage of women candidates. These could either be constitutional or electoral.
- **Reserved Seat Quotas** - Within the legislature, a certain number or percentage of seats will be set-aside for an under-represented group, such as women. This ensures that there are a guaranteed minimum number of women in the legislature. This kind of quota is often legislated.
- **Voluntary Candidate or Party Quotas**- These are non-binding targets pledged by political parties. They are unenforceable.

- Reserved seat quotas are more results based as they directly change the composition of the Parliament, whereas party or candidate quotas control the nomination practices of political parties.
- The electoral system and the quota or special measure to be used **must** be compatible.
- It is easier to apply quotas in systems that are party-centred (Proportional Representation systems) rather than candidate-centred systems (First-Past-the-Post).
- Party centred electoral systems tends to work well with nomination/candidate quotas.
- Candidate centred electoral systems often need quotas targeting results such as Reserved seats.



About PLAC

Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) is a non-governmental organization committed to strengthening democratic governance and citizens' participation in Nigeria. PLAC works to enhance citizens' engagement with state institutions, and to promote transparency and accountability in policy and decision-making process.

The main focus of PLAC's intervention in the democratic governance process is on building the capacity of the legislature and reforming the electoral process. Since its establishment, PLAC has grown into a leading institution with capacity to deliver cutting-edge research, policy analysis and advocacy. PLAC receives funding support from donors and other philanthropic sources.

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