



Centre for Democracy & Development
Centre pour la démocratie et le développement

WOMEN IN ELECTIVE OFFICES IN NIGERIA



July 2018



INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is a Federal Republic composed of 36 states, with a population figure put at 193,392,517 (98,630,184, 51% males and; 94,762,333, 49% females) as at April 2018 by the National Population Commission (NPC) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The country's federal structure comprises of three arms: The Executive, the Legislative and the Judiciary. The Executive power is exercised by the President/Vice President at the federal level and the 36 Governors/Deputy Governors at the state level. The two chambers of the legislature known as the Senate and House of Representatives hold the Legislative power at the National Level. There are 36 Houses of Assembly at the State level having legislative powers. People who occupy these offices are elected by the people during elections conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The intent of this factsheet is to revisit discourse on women representation in elective offices in Nigeria by providing reliable data on the trends and generate robust discussion around the issues as the country prepares for the 2019 general elections. By so doing, we hope that issues that emerge from the analysis would generate advocacy and policy actions from all stakeholders, including; government, political parties, Civil Society Organizations, women's activists, HeforShe and women in politics to increase the number of women's political representation in Nigeria. The data below represent women in elective offices as at 2018.

EXECUTIVE POSITION

Presently, no female politician occupies any of the positions of: President, Vice President, and Governors. Thus, the analysis below focuses on deputy governorship positions, which is the highest executive level representation for women in the country.

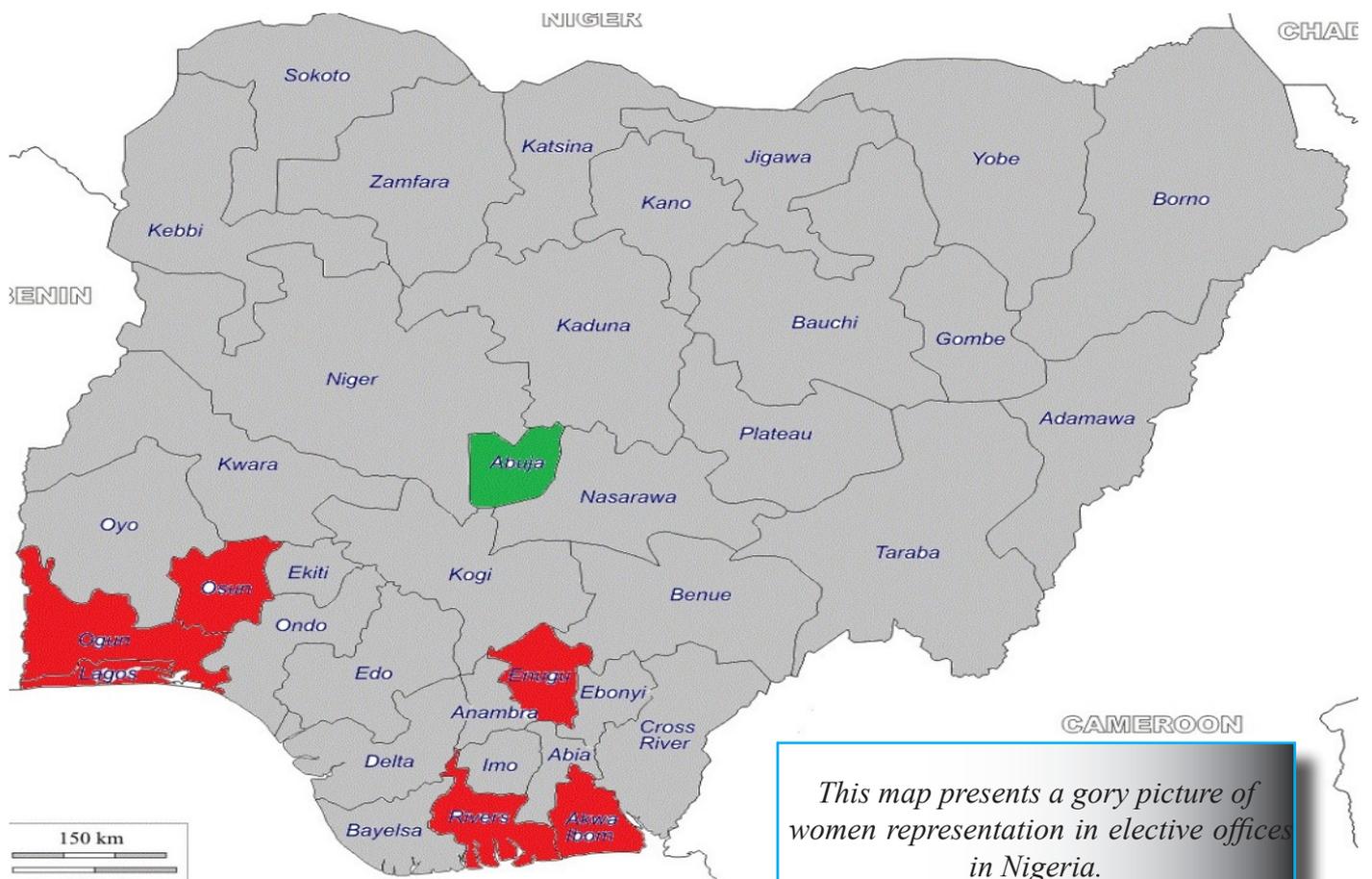


Table 1: Women's representation by geopolitical zone: Deputy Governorship Position

Geo-political zone	Number of States	Number of States with Women as Deputy Governor	Percentage
Northern Region			
Northern	19	0	0%
North Central	6	0	0%
North West	7	0	0%
North East	6	0	0%
Southern Region			
Southern	17	6	35.3%
South-South	6	2	33.3%
South West	6	3	50%
South East	5	1	20%
TOTAL	36	6	16.7%

Source: CDD 2018

Data Analysis

1. Percentage of women occupying deputy governorship seats in Nigeria is 16.7% nationally.
2. There are 6 States (including Osun, Lagos, Ogun, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Enugu States) with female deputy governors. All these States are in Southern Nigeria.
3. South West (8.3%) geopolitical zone represents the highest number of women occupying deputy governorship position seats, followed by South-South (5.6%) and South East (2.8%).
4. While the country-level representation is put at 16.7%, 35.3% (6) of 17 States in the Southern geo political region have women as deputy governors.
5. All States from the Northern region (Northeast, Northwest and Northcentral) have no women as deputy governor.

LEGISLATIVE POSITION

Currently, there are 469 legislators in Nigeria's National Assembly – 109 and 360 in The Senate and House of Representatives respectively. Out of this, only 29 (7 from the Senate and 22 from the House of Representatives) are female legislators which constitute 6.2% of the total number of legislators at the national level. Conversely, male legislators constitute 93.8% of the total number. At the state level, there are 51 women out of 990 members, representing a total of 5.2% of members at the SHAs.



Men/Women Representation in the National and State House of Assembly

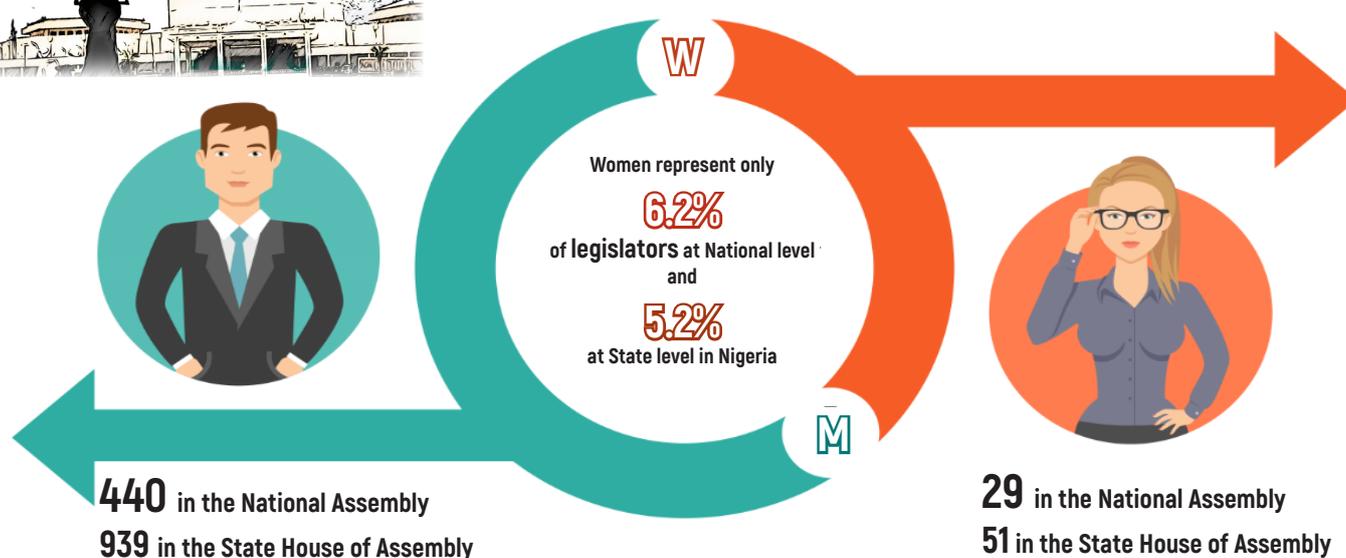


Table 3: Women and geopolitical zone representation: The Senate

Geo-political zone	Number of available seats	Number of seats occupied by women	The percentage in Proportion to allocated seats
Northern Region			
Northern	58	1	1.7%
North Central	19	0	0%
North West	21	0	0%
North East	18	1	5.6%
Southern Region			
Southern	51	6	11.8%
South-South	18	1	5.6%
South West	18	4	22.2%
South East	15	1	6.7%
TOTAL	109	7	6.4%

Source: CDD 2018

Table 4: Women Representation in the Senate (1999-2015)

Year	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	N	N	N	%	%
1999	106	3	109	97.2	2.8
2003	105	4	109	96.3	3.7
2007	100	9	109	91.7	8.3
2011	102	7	109	93.6	6.4
2015	102	7	109	93.6	6.4

Sources: 2015 Nigeria Election Observation Report, retrieved at <http://www.iri.org/2015%20Nigeria%20Election%20Observation%20Report/1/assets/basic-html/page40.html>; National Assembly Website, www.nassng.org; and <http://www.shineyoureye.org/position/senator/>

Data Analysis

1. There are 7 female senators in the Senate in 2015 compared to 3, 4 and 9 in 1999, 2003 and 2007 respectively.
2. Women constitute 6.4% of a total number of legislators in the Senate. It is same with the number of women representative in 2011.
3. The 6.4% marks a decrease of 1.9% from the 8.3% of women in the upper chamber in the 6th Assembly in 2007 but an increase of 2.7% from 3.7% representation in the 5th Senate in 2003.
4. The South West geopolitical zone (22.2%) recorded the highest number of women representation in proportion to the total number of senators from the zone in 2015.
5. 5.6%, 5.6% and 6.7% senators from North East, South South and South East zones respectively are female senators in proportion to allocated seat per geo-political zone in 2015.

6. North Central and North West have no female senator in 2015.

7. At the regional level, while 1.7% of senators from the North of Nigeria are female senators, 11.8% is from the Southern region. This latter percentage is higher than the national average of 6.4% in 2015.

House of Representatives

Table 5: Women and geopolitical zone representation: HoR

Geo-political zone	Number of available seats	Number of seats occupied by women	The percentage in Proportion to allocated seats
Northern Region			
Northern	191	6	3.1%
North Central	51	2	3.9%
North West	92	0	0%
North East	48	4	8.3%
Southern Region			
Southern	169	16	9.5%
South-South	55	8	14.5%
South West	71	3	4.2%
South East	43	5	11.6%
TOTAL	360	22	6.1%

Source: CDD 2018

Table 6: Women Representation in the HoRs (1999-2015)

Year	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	N	N	N	%	%
1999	348	12	360	96.67	3.33
2003	339	21	360	94.17	5.83
2007	335	25	360	93.06	6.94
2011	334	26	360	92.78	7.22
2015	338	22	360	93.89	6.11

Sources: 2015 Nigeria Election Observation Report, retrieved at <http://www.iri.org/2015%20Nigeria%20Election%20Observation%20Report/1/assets/basic-html/page40.html>; National Assembly Website, www.nassnig.org; and <http://www.shineyoureye.org/position/senator/>

Data Analysis

1. There are 22 women out of 360 members of House of Representatives (HoRs). Thus, women constitute 6.11% of the total number of legislators in HoRs.
2. The number of female members of HoRs grew by 2.5% from 3.33% in 1999 and 5.83% in 2003. This further increased to 6.94% in 2007 and 7.22% in 2011.
3. 6.11% recorded in 2015 represents a decline of 0.83% and 1.11% compared to figures in 2007 and 2011 respectively but an increase of 0.28% and 2.78% in 2003 and 1999 respectively.
4. South South recorded the highest representation of 14.5% in proportion to its 55 representatives in 2015.
5. South West, South East, North East and North Central recorded 4.2%, 11.6%, 8.3% and 3.1% respectively in proportion to their number of representatives in 2015.
6. North West has no female representation in the HoRs in 2015.
7. Except for South West (4.2%), North Central (3.1%) and North West (0%) other geopolitical zones' percentages (in proportion to their allocated seats) are higher than national average (6.11%) percentage in 2015.
8. At the regional level, the percentage of Southern representation (9.5%) is higher than the national average while representation in the Northern region (3.1%) is lower than national average in 2015.

State Houses of Assembly (SHAs)

Table 7: Women and geopolitical zone representation: SHAs

Geopolitical Zones	Number of available seats	No of seats occupied by women	Percentage of Women
Northern Region			
Northern	525	12	2.3%
North Central	153	9	5.9%
North West	216	0	0%
North-East	156	3	1.9%
Southern Region			
Southern	465	39	8.4%
South-South	160	15	7.4%
South-West	179	11	6.1%
South-East	129	13	10.1%
TOTAL	990	51	5.2%

Source: CDD 2018

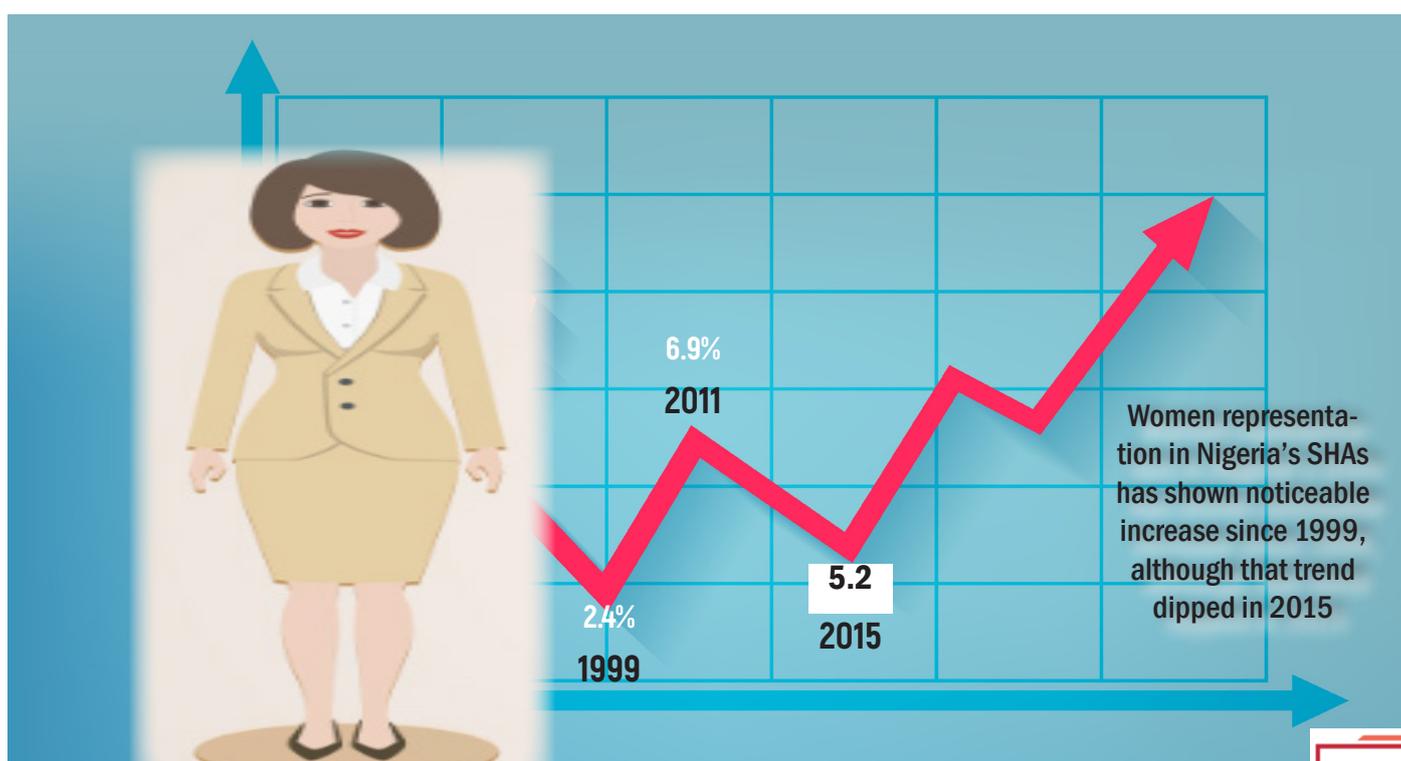
Table 8: Women Representation in State Houses of Assembly (SHAs) (1999-2015)

Year	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	N	N	N	%	%
1999	966	24	990	97.6	2.4
2003	950	40	990	96.0	4.0
2007	933	57	990	94.2	5.8
2011	922	68	990	93.1	6.9
2015	939	51	990	94.8	5.2

Source: 2015 Nigeria Election Observation Report, retrieved at <http://www.iri.org/2015%20Nigeria%20Election%20Observation%20Report/1/assets/basic-html/page40.html>

Data Analysis

1. A total of 51 women occupy legislative seats in State Houses of Assembly across the country. This represents 5.2% of 990.
2. Despite the fact that women representation in SHAs has reflected noticeable increase since 1999 when it increased from 2.4% in 1999 to 6.9% in 2011. Available data shows that this dipped in 2015 by 1.7% to 5.2%.
3. The national average of 5.2% is higher than the regional average of 2.3% in the North but lower than the Southern region of 8.4% in 2015.
4. At geo-political zone level, South East recorded highest percentage of 10.1%, followed by 7.4%, 6.1%, 5.9% and 1.9% from South South, South West, North Central and North East respectively in 2015.
5. North West has no female representative in 2015.





49%
of total Population

Of the total **1534** elective positions available

Women hold **86** positions and Men hold **1,449** positions

51%
of total Population



THE PARADOX

Table 9: Distribution of Women and Men in Elective Positions as at 2018

Elective Positions	Available seats	Female	Male	Female (%)	Male (%)	Difference	The difference (%)
President	1	0	1	0.0	100.0	-1	-100.0
VicePresident	1	0	1	0.0	100.0	-1	-100.0
Governor	36	0	36	0.0	100.0	-36	-100.0
Deputy-Governor	36	6	30	16.7	83.3	-24	-66.7
Senate	109	7	103	6.4	93.6	-96	-87.2
HoRs	360	22	338	6.11	93.89	-316	-87.78
SHAs	991	51	940	5.8	94.2	-834	-88.3
TOTAL	1,534	86	1,449	5.5	94.5	-1363	-89
POPULATION (NBS, 2017)	193,392,517	94,762,333	98,630,184	49	51		-2.0

Source: CDD 2018

Data Analysis

1. Women constitute 49% of the country's population (NPC, 2017) while men represent 51% of the population. By implication, the difference between the numbers of women and men is 2%.
2. However, in elective positions at national and state levels, the difference between women and men is 89%.
3. Available data shows that out of the 1,534 elective positions available at national and state levels, women only occupy meagre number of 86 while men occupy 1,449 elective positions.

Way Forward

Apparently, from data presented above, the issue of women's political participation vis-à-vis the benchmarked 35 percent affirmative action is in reverse. At all levels, the quest for equal representation seems utopic since the return to democracy in 1999. Rather than sustaining gains, women's representation has increasingly witnessed a downward trend. And in some cases where it maintained an upward trend, representation is very low as it is yet to become commensurate with the investment made by different stakeholders since 1999 to improve women's involvement in public offices. More so, there are political positions that are strictly considered no-go-area for women. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported that in 2017, Nigeria's population growth rate is projected at 193 million out of which women constitute 49%. Still, women hardly represent 10% of those in elective positions in the country.

Unfortunately, some have attributed low representation of women in politics to women's lack of capacity to lead and interest in politics, to mention a few. However, evidence debunks these explanations and suggests to the contrary. Nigeria is endowed with women who have showcased extraordinary leadership capacity; those who have made headway in their various endeavour despite enduring societal challenges confronting them.

In a bid to improve women's involvement in political offices, it is imperative to see what lessons that could be learned from states, zones, and regions where relatively huge successes have been recorded. For example, 35.3% of 17 States in the Southern region have women as deputy governors with most of this coming from South West Nigeria. Also, while the south west geo-political zone recorded the highest number of women representatives (22.2%) in the Senate, women representing the south-south in the House of Representatives constitute 14.5% of the total number of seats available for the zone. It is therefore essential that we interrogate and better understand the political environment and underlining factors that necessitated this development to enhance the capacity to build on the gains and develop a robust pathway for enhancing women's participation in the country.

Political parties also constitute an essential institution in determining women’s political participation as they play the role of gate-keepers for women’s inclusion/exclusion in legislative and deliberative bodies of the state. More prominent, established parties tend to be more internally undemocratic as they have more structures and linkages that advantage male candidates and disadvantage female contestants, especially in the absence of party mandated sex quotas. This has been the case in Nigeria where only two big parties have won elections and ruled the country since the Fourth Republic. Although most elective offices currently occupied by women were gained through the two dominant political parties – the APC (All Peoples Congress) and PDP (Peoples Democratic Party), women could leverage the opportunities presented by the newly emerging smaller parties that create a broader political space for projecting women’s voices.

As these smaller parties provide women with greater chances for contesting in elections, women could leverage the platform to build a political base through networking and connecting with voters at the grassroots level. These networks and mass mobilizations improve women’s political influence and increase their opportunity for electoral success. However, women’s utilization of smaller, more internally democratic parties as a pathway for electoral success can only be achieved within the ambit of general democratic consolidation, where these smaller parties do not remain intractably locked out of power in the political contestation of the state.

Lessons For Improvement

Lesson

01

We must interrogate and better understand the political environment that has led to the relatively huge successes of women participating in politics in the South-West region

1

Lesson

02

Political Parties must increase internal party democracy to ensure women have equal opportunity at governance as their male counterparts.

2

Lesson

03

Women should leverage the opportunities presented by the newly emerging smaller parties to project women’s voices.

3

Lesson

04

Women should build a political base through networking and connecting with voters at the grassroots level.

4

APPENDIX

ELECTED WOMEN IN EXECUTIVE POSITIONS AS AT 2018

SUMMARY

Executive Positions:	6 (Six) Deputy Governors
National Assembly	29 (Senators (7) HOR Members (22)
State Assembly	51 members
TOTAL	86 ELECTED WOMEN AT NATIONAL AND STATE LEVELS IN NIGERIA

ELECTED WOMEN IN EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

S/N	NAME	STATE	POSITION/PARTY
1	Otunba (Mrs.) Grace TitilayoLaoye-Tomori	OSUN	Deputy Governor / APC
2	DrIdiatOlurantiAdebule	LAGOS	Deputy Governor / APC
3	Chief MrsYetundeOnanuga	OGUN	Deputy Governor / APC
4	Dr. IpaliboGogoBanigo	RIVERS	Deputy Governor / PDP
5	Cecilia Ezeilo	ENUGU	Deputy Governor / PDP
6	Lady Valerie Ebe	AKWA IBOM	Deputy Governor / PDP
Total			6 (Six)

ELECTED WOMEN IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NO	NAME	STATE	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
SENATE				
1	Stella Adaeze Oduah,	ANAMBRA	Anambra North,	PDP
2	Rose OkojiOko,	CROSS RIVER	Cross River North	PDP
3	Fatimat Olufunke Raji-Rasaki,	EKITI	Ekiti Central	PDP
4	Biodun Olujimi	EKITI	Ekiti South	PDP
5	Oluremi Shade Tinubu	LAGOS	Lagos Central,	APC
6	Binta Masi Garba	ADAMAWA	Adamawa North,	APC
7	Monsurat Jumoke Sunmonu	OYO	Oyo Central	APC
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES				
1	Elendu-UkejeNnennaL I	ABIA	Bende Constituency(Abia),	PDP
2	Onyejeocha Nkiruka Chiduben,	ABIA	Isuikwuato/Umunneochi (Abia),	PDP
3	Eucharria Azodo Okwunna,	ANAMBRA	Aguata (Anambra),	PDP
4	Sodaguno A Festus Omoni,	BAYELSA	Ogbia (Bayelsa),	PDP

5	Evelyn Omavowan Oboro,	DELTA	Uvwie/Okpe/Sapele (Delta),	PDP
6	Gabriella Igbinedion	EDO	Ovia North East, (Edo),	PDP
7	Stella UchenaObiageliNgwu,	ENUGU	Uzo-Uwani/ Igbo Etiti (Enugu),	PDP
8	Aishatu Jibril Dukku,	GOMBE	Dukku/Nafada (Gombe),	APC
9	Binta Bello	GOMBE	Kaltungo/Shongom (Gombe),	PDP
10	Barr (Mrs) Rita Orji,	LAGOS	Ajeromi/Ifelodun I(Lagos),	APC
11	Beni Butmaklar, Langtang	PLATEAU	North/Langtang South (Plateau),	PDP
12	Asabe Vilita Bashir,	BORNO	Gwoza/Dambo/Chibok (Borno),	APC
13	Princess Olufunke Adedoyin,	KWARA	Ekiti/Irepodun/Isin/Oke-Ero (Kwara),	APC
14	Ayo Hulayat Omidiran,	OSUN	Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan (Osun),	APC
15	Dorathy Mato	BENUE	Vandeikya/Konshisha	APC
16	Talatu Yohanna	ADAMAWA	Demsa/Lamurde/Numan	APC
17	Owoidighe Ime Ekpoatia	AKWA IBOM	Eket/Onna/Esit Eket/Ibeno	PDP
18	Joan Onyemaechi Mrakpor	DELTA	Aniocha North/Aniocha South/Oshimili N & S	PDP
19	Betty Blessing Apiafi	RIVERS	Ahoada-East/Abua/Odual	PDP
20	Boma Goodhead	RIVERS	Asalga/Akulga	PDP
21	Lynda Chuba Ikpeazu	ANAMBRA	Onitsha North/South	PDP
22	Nsiegbe Ibiba	RIVERS	Port Harcourt 2	PDP
Total			29 (NASS Members)	

ELECTED WOMEN IN STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY

NO	NAME	STATE	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
1	Rt. Hon. Elizabeth Uyin-mwen Ativie	EDO	Uhunmwode	APC
2	Hon. Princess Titilayo Owolabi-Akerele	EKITI		
	Ikole II	PDP		
3	Hon. Mariam Garba Bagel	BAUCHI	Dass	APC
4	Rt. Hon. Ngunan Addingi	BENUE	Buruku	APC
5	Hon. Uju Onwudiwe	IMO	Njaba	APC
6	Hon Maria Ude	EBONYI	Afikpo North	PPA
7	Hon. Dr blessing Okwuchi Nwagba	ABIA STATE	Aba North	PDP
8	Hon. Justina Obadiah Nkom	ADAMAWA	Lamurde	SDP
9	Hon. Sodom Tayedi	ADAMAWA	Numan	APC
10	Hon. Felicia Bassey	AKWA IBOM	Okobo	PDP
11	Hon. Mfon Etim Ekong	AKWA IBOM	Nsit Ibom	PDP
12	Hon. Beverly Ikpeazu	ANAMBRA	Onitsha South II	PDP
13	Hon. Vivian Okadigbo	ANAMBRA	Oyi	PDP
14	Hon. Nikky Ugochukwu	ANAMBRA	Orumba South	PDP
15	Hon. Rita Maduagwu	ANAMBRA	Nnewi South II	PDP
16	Hon. Ebiuwou Obiyai	BAYELSA	Yenogoa II	PDP
17	Hon. Ngo Iwowari-Gold	BAYELSA	Nembe II	PDP
18	Hon. Kate Owoko	BAYELSA	Southern Ijaw I	PDP
19	Hon Ngohema Utsaha Agaibe	BENUE	Gboko East	APC
20	Hon. Dr. Itam Abang	CROSS RIVER	Boki I	PDP
21	Hon. Elizabeth Ironbar	CROSS RIVER	Akpabuyo	PDP
22	Hon. Regina Anyogo	CROSS RIVER	Yala I	PDP
23	Hon. Barr Princess Pat Ajudua	DELTA	Oshimili North	PDP
24	Hon. Orezi Esievo	DELTA	Isoko South I	PDP
25	Hon. Angela Nwaka	DELTA	Aniocha	PDP
26	Hon. Atake Ibori-Suene	DELTA	Ethiope	PDP
27	Hon. Shola Ogbemi-Daibo	DELTA	Warri South I	PDP
28	Hon. Augusta Chika Ude	EBONYI	Ohaozara East	PDP
29	Hon Franca E. Okpo	EBONYI	Abakaliki North	PDP
30	Hon. Cecilia Abosedede Dada	EKITI	Ilejemeje	PDP

33	Hon. Dr. Uche Ejiogu	IMO	Ihitteuboma	APC
34	Hon. Ngozi Obiefule	IMO	Isu	APC
35	Hon. Felicia Ebun Owolabi	KWARA	Ekiti Kwara	APC
36	Hon. Bunmi Afolayan	KWARA	Oke Ero	APC
37	Hon. Sikira Anako	KWARA	Odo Ogun	APC
38	Hon. Princess Segilola Abdulkadir	KWARA	Ilorin Central	APC
39	Hon. Aishat Ibrahim	KWARA	Ilorin East	APC
40	Hon. Mosunmola Rotimi Sangodara	LAGOS	Surulere II	PDP
41	Hon. Adefunmilayo Tejuosho	LAGOS	Mushin	APC
42	Hon. Omotayo Oduntan Oyeledun	LAGOS	Alimosho II	APC
43	Hon. Mojisola Ojora	LAGOS	Apapa I	APC
44	Hon. Binta Mamman	NIGER	Gurara	APC
45	Hon Yetunde Sogbein Adekanbi	OGUN	Odeda	APC
46	Hon. Juliana Folakemi Akin-tayo	OGUN	Egbado South	PDP
47	Rt. Hon. Jumoke Akindele	ONDO	Okitipupa II	PDP
48	Hon. Adesanya Kemisola Adenike	ONDO	Akure South 1	PDP
49	Hon. Bolanle Olufunke Agbaje	OYO	Ibadan North I	APC
50	Hon. Alice Dumlong Asaije	PLATEAU	Pankshin North	APC
51	Hon Victoria Ada Nyeche	RIVERS	Port Harcourt I	APC
Total	51 members			