



Justice Undeterred: Africa's Legal Landscape in the Face of COVID-19

Access to courts during COVID-19 | 11 African Countries | 2020

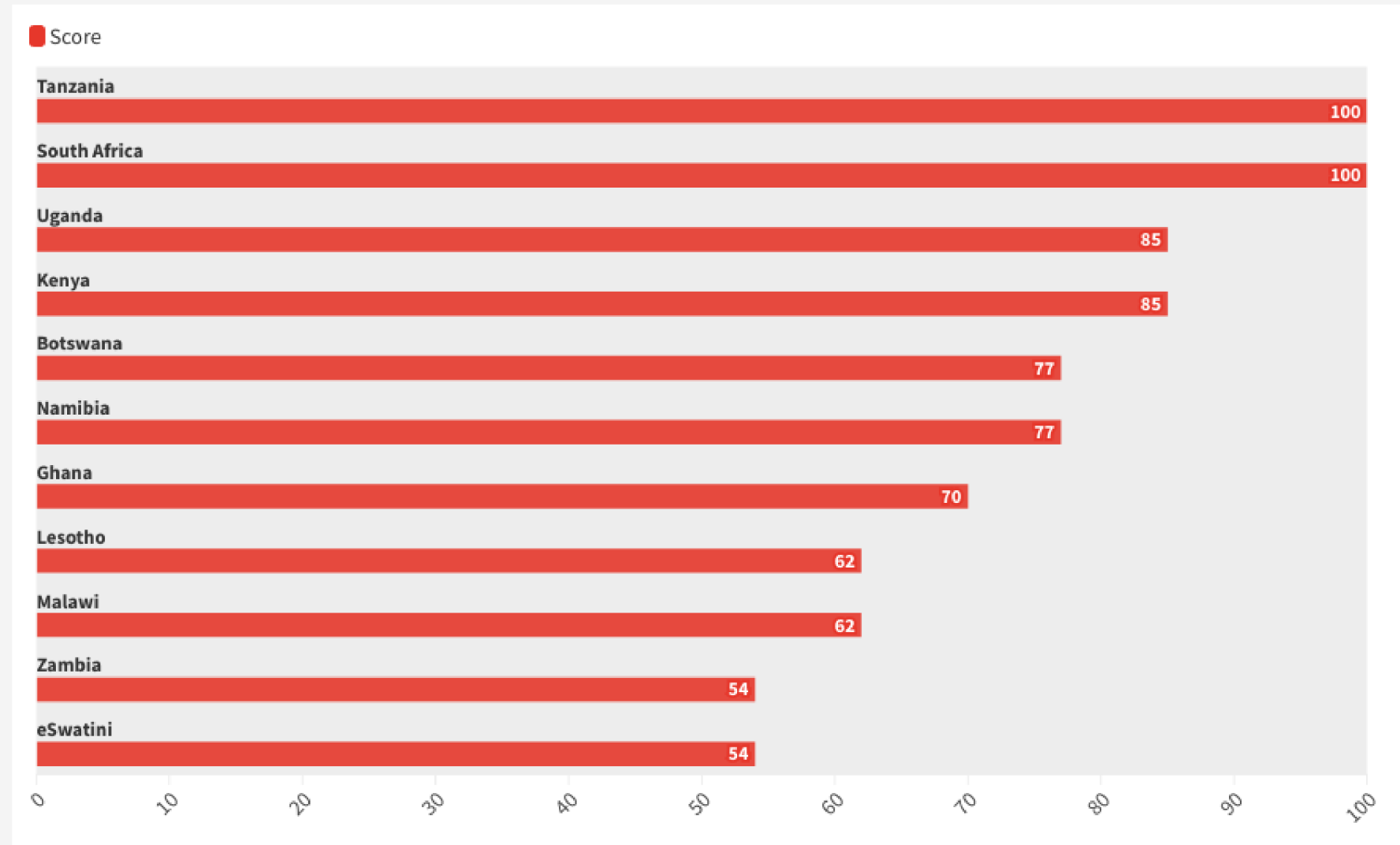
This is **a snapshot indication** of the performance of a selection of African countries on the provision or facilitation of the right of access to courts during the first month of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic (20 March -20 April 2020) in Africa.

This snapshot ranks **11 African countries** on *physical access to courtrooms, the nature of courts that were open, the nature of legal cases entertained, and the existence of rules for conducting virtual hearings.*

The ranking is based on data obtained primarily through desktop research and key informant interviews.

The scorecards provide a snapshot and not a complete picture.

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Which of the following courts were open during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Magistrates/District courts
- High courts
- Supreme courts

The research includes and ranks 11 African countries.

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Country	Magistrates/District courts	High courts	Supreme courts
Botswana	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ghana	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kenya	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lesotho	Yes	Yes	Yes
Malawi	Yes	Yes	Yes
Namibia	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Africa	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tanzania	Yes	Yes	Yes
Uganda	Yes	Yes	Yes
Zambia	Yes	Yes	Yes

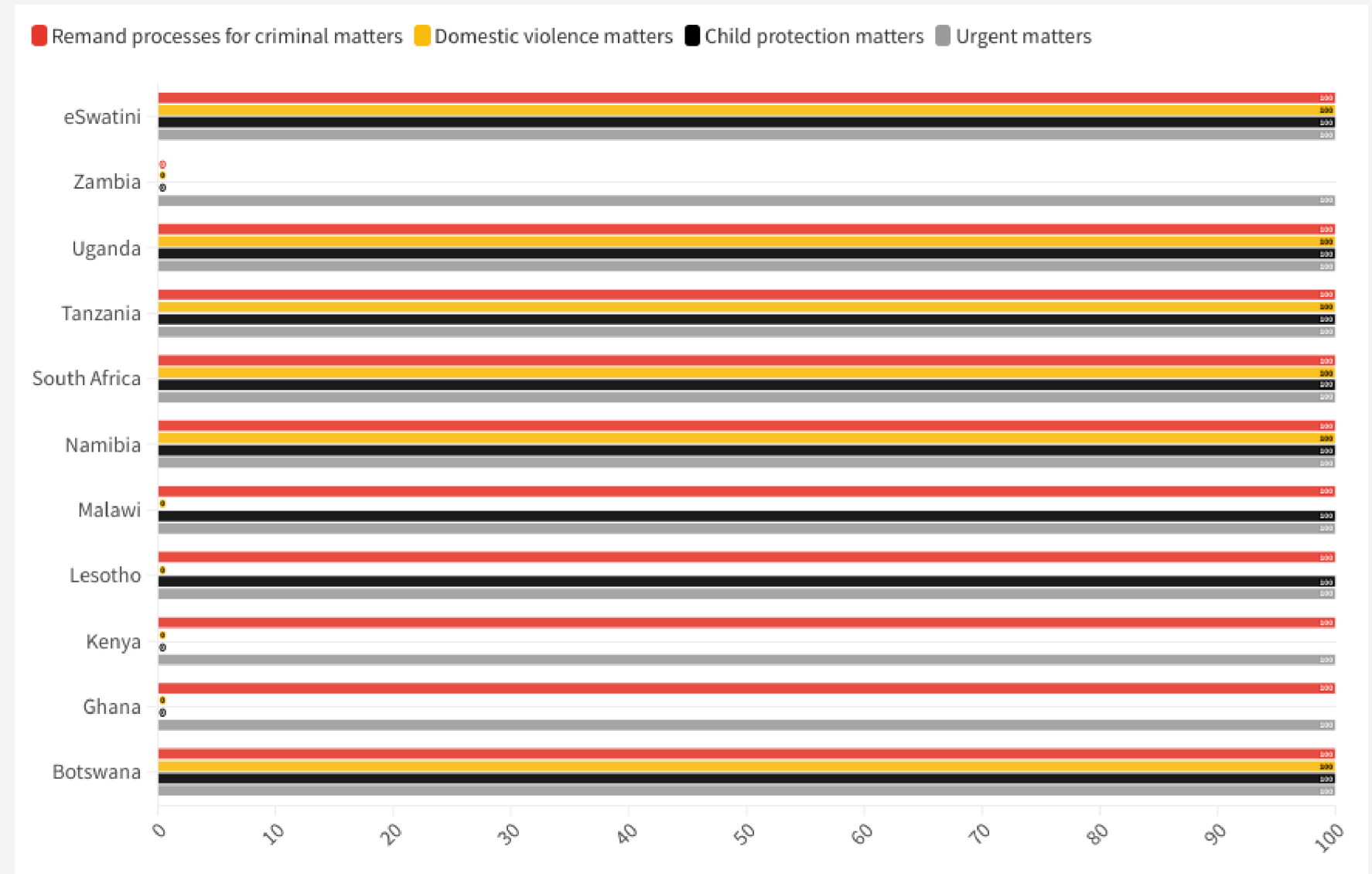


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What types of matters did courts deal with during Covid-19:

- Child protection matters
- Domestic violence matters
- Remand processes for criminal matters
- Urgent matters

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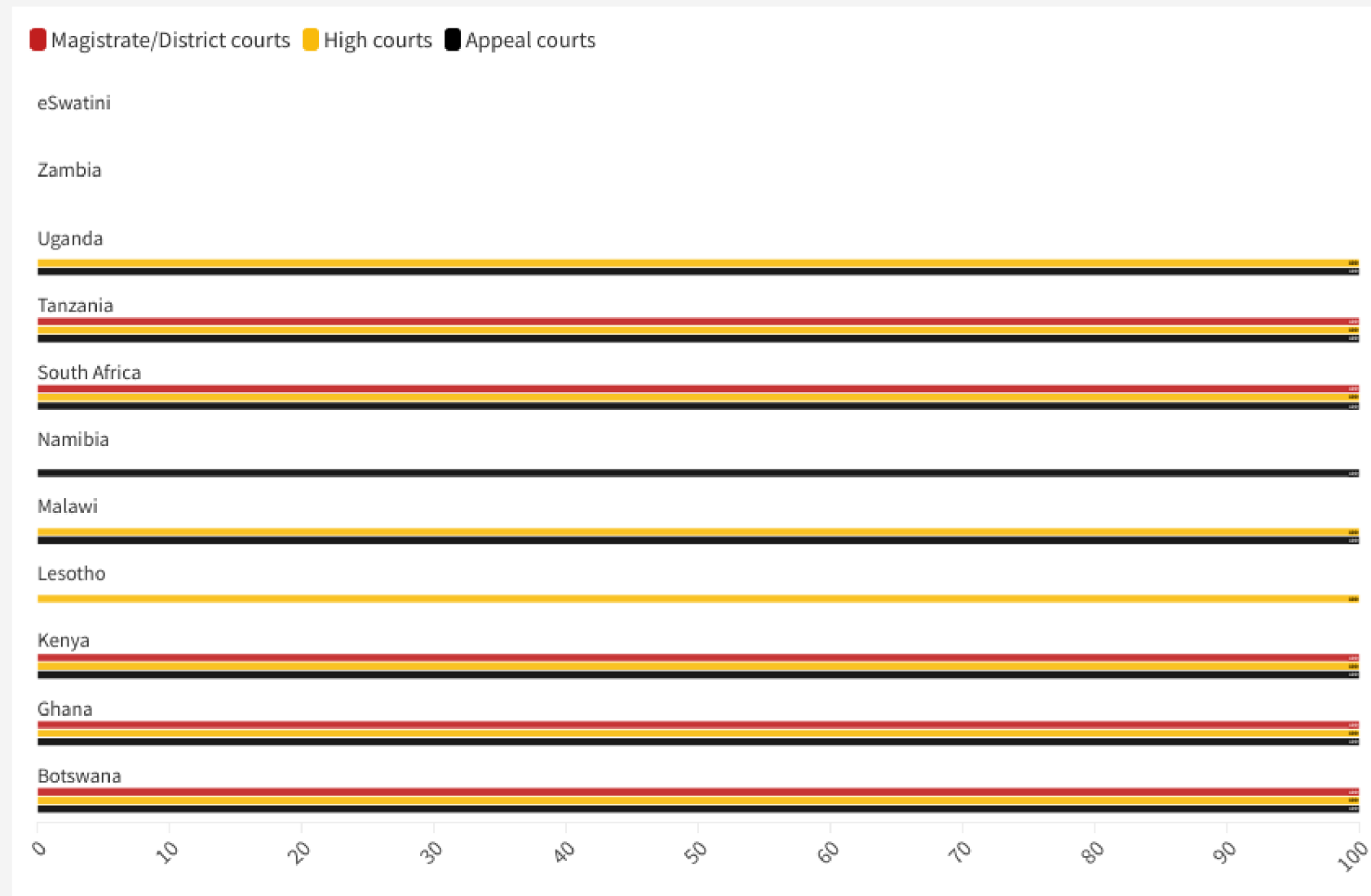


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Which courts used virtual hearings during COVID-19?

- Magistrates/District courts
- High court
- Supreme court

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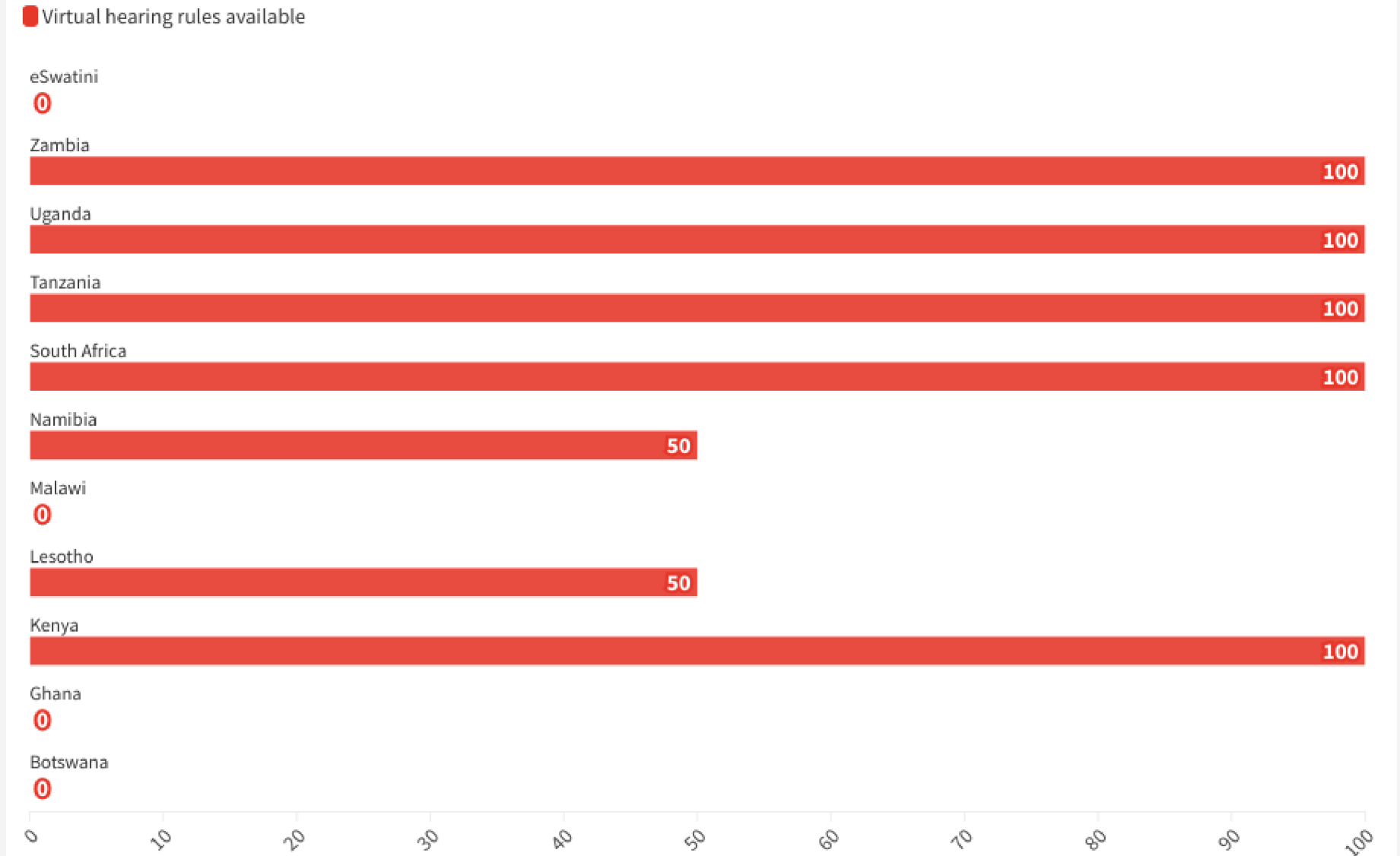
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Which courts had virtual hearings rules at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- All courts
- Some courts

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Were virtual hearings possible for all matters during COVID-19?

- Yes
- No

The research includes and ranks 11 African countries.

Country	Virtual hearings held
Botswana	No
Ghana	Yes
Kenya	Yes
Lesotho	No
Malawi	No
Namibia	Yes
South Africa	Yes
Tanzania	Yes
Uganda	No
Zambia	Yes
eSwatini	No

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Access to courts

Appeal, high and magistrates/district courts buildings are open



Virtual hearings

Courts used virtual hearings



Virtual hearings for all matters

All matters could be heard virtually

NO

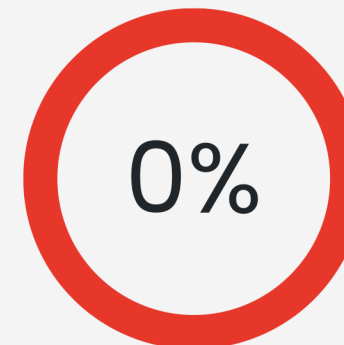
Types of matters heard

Remand, domestic violence, child protection, urgent matters



Rules for virtual hearings

The Country has rules for virtual hearings now



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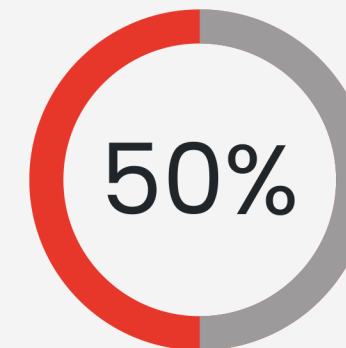
Virtual hearings for all matters

All matters could be heard virtually

YES

Types of matters heard

Remand, domestic violence, child protection, urgent matters



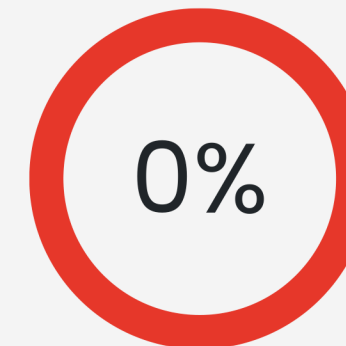
Virtual hearings

Courts used virtual hearings



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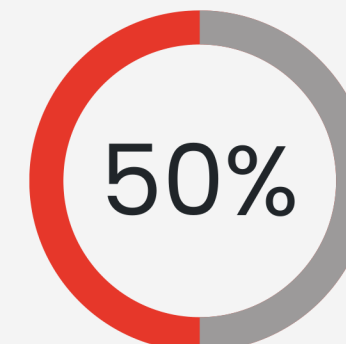
Virtual hearings for all matters

All matters could be heard virtually

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Types of matters heard

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Virtual hearings

Courts used virtual hearings



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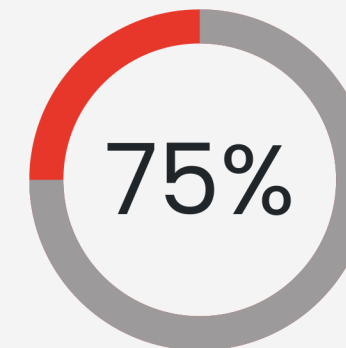
Virtual hearings for all matters

All matters could be heard virtually

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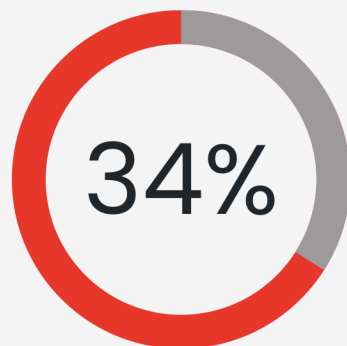
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Courts used virtual hearings



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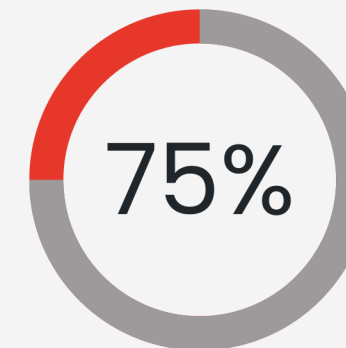
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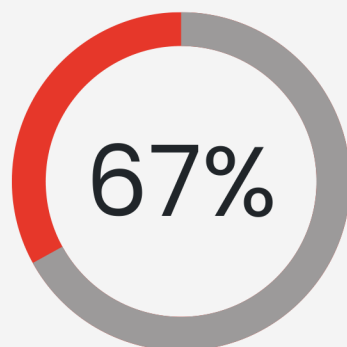
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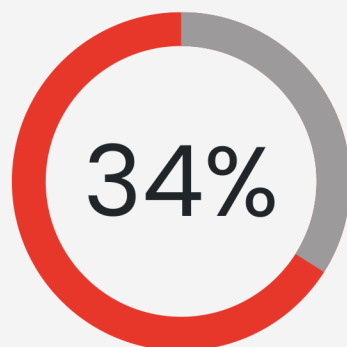
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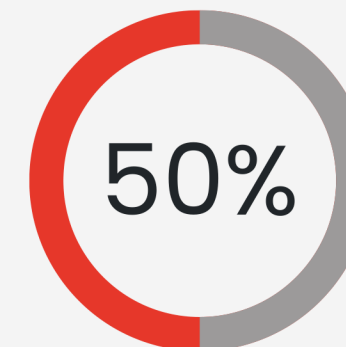
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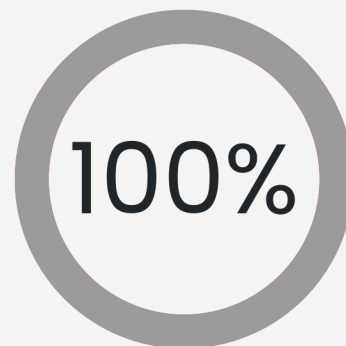
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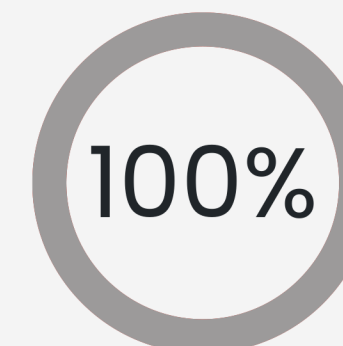
Virtual hearings for all matters

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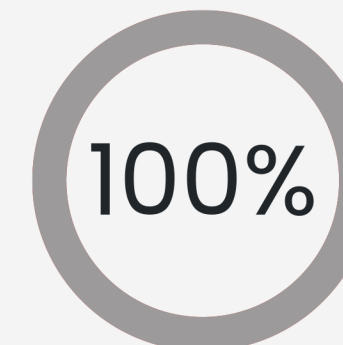
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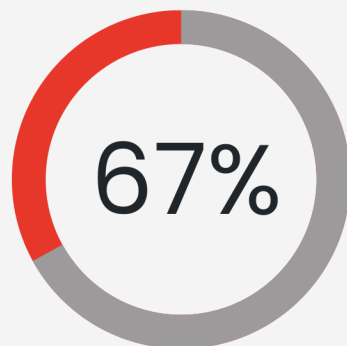
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100%

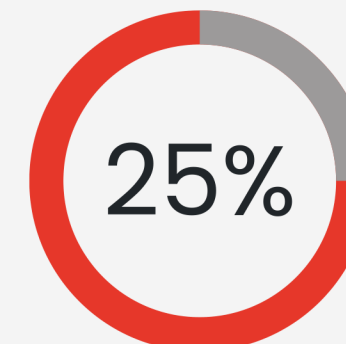
Virtual hearings for all matters

All matters could be heard virtually

YES

Types of matters heard

Remand, domestic violence, child protection, urgent matters



25%

Virtual hearings

Courts used virtual hearings



0%

Rules for virtual hearings

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100%

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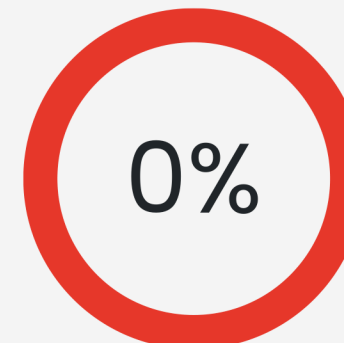
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