

RuralNet Associates Ltd
Lusaka, Zambia
14 April 2015

News release

Zambians disapprove of non-democratic means of governance

A majority of Zambians do not approve of non-democratic means of governance, according to the most recent Afrobarometer survey.

Results from the survey, which was conducted in October 2014, shows that most Zambians disapprove of undemocratic alternatives such as one-party rule and one-man rule.

The data is being released in view of the recent (January 2015) presidential elections that showed regional polarisation in voting patterns which have the potential to slow down the democratic process. It demonstrates that Zambians, in general, have faith in Zambia's democracy.

Key findings

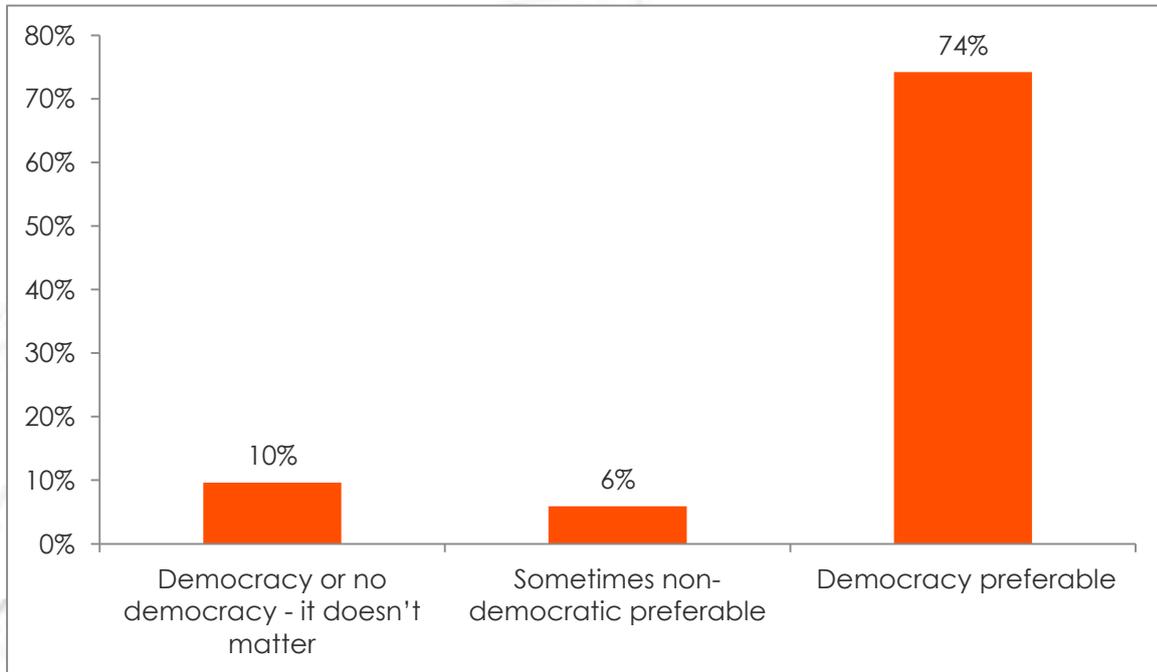
- A majority of Zambians (74%) say they prefer democracy to any other kind of government.
- Additionally, nine out of 10 (91%) disapprove of military rule and eight out of 10 (81%) disapprove of one-party rule, while another nine out of 10 disapprove of one-man rule
- Close to seven out of 10 Zambians (65%) say Zambia is either a full democracy, or a democracy with minor problems.

Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is an African-led, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and Round 6 surveys are currently under way (2014-2015). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of between 1,200 and 2,400 respondents.

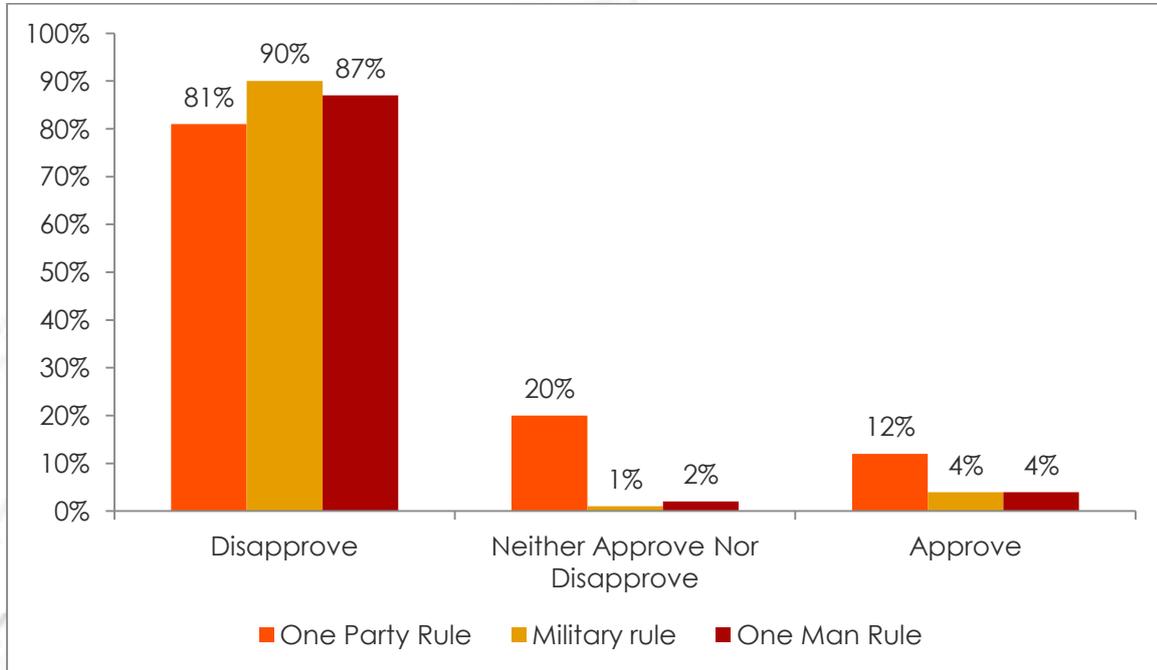
The Afrobarometer team in Zambia, led by RuralNet Associates, interviewed 1200 adult Zambians in October 2014. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Zambia in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2009 and 2012.

Figure 1: Demand for democracy | Zambia | 2014



Respondents were asked: Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion?
STATEMENT 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.
STATEMENT 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable.
STATEMENT 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.

Figure 2: Rejection of Undemocratic Alternatives | Zambia | 2014



Respondents were asked:

There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives?

- A. Only one political party is allowed to stand for election and hold office.
- B. The army comes in to govern the country.
- C. Elections and Parliament are abolished so that the president can decide everything.

For more information, please contact:

RuralNet Associates Ltd
 Fison Mujenja
 Telephone: +260 964864614
 Email: fisonmujenja@ruralnet.co.zm

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www.ruralnet.co.zm
www.afrobarometer.org

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