



Government performance and leadership trends in SA; trust and accountability of the President

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 6 surveys in South Africa



24 November 2015, Cape Town



At a glance

- **Government performance**: Government rated poorly on most performance areas and mostly on economic policy areas, rated positively on welfare distribution (84%) and food security (60%).
- **Leadership performance ratings**: premiers enjoy the highest levels of public approval, while those for President Zuma, MPs and local government councillors have declined since 2011.
- **Perceptions of President Zuma and office**: public confidence in the president has decreased significantly since 2011, and almost six in 10 South Africans believe he routinely ignores Parliament and the law.

What is Afrobarometer?



- A pan-African, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999, expanded to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013). 37 countries covered in Round 6 (2014-2015)
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- National Partners in each country conduct the survey. In South Africa, Afrobarometer Round 6 survey was conducted by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation and Plus 94 Research.



Where Afrobarometer works

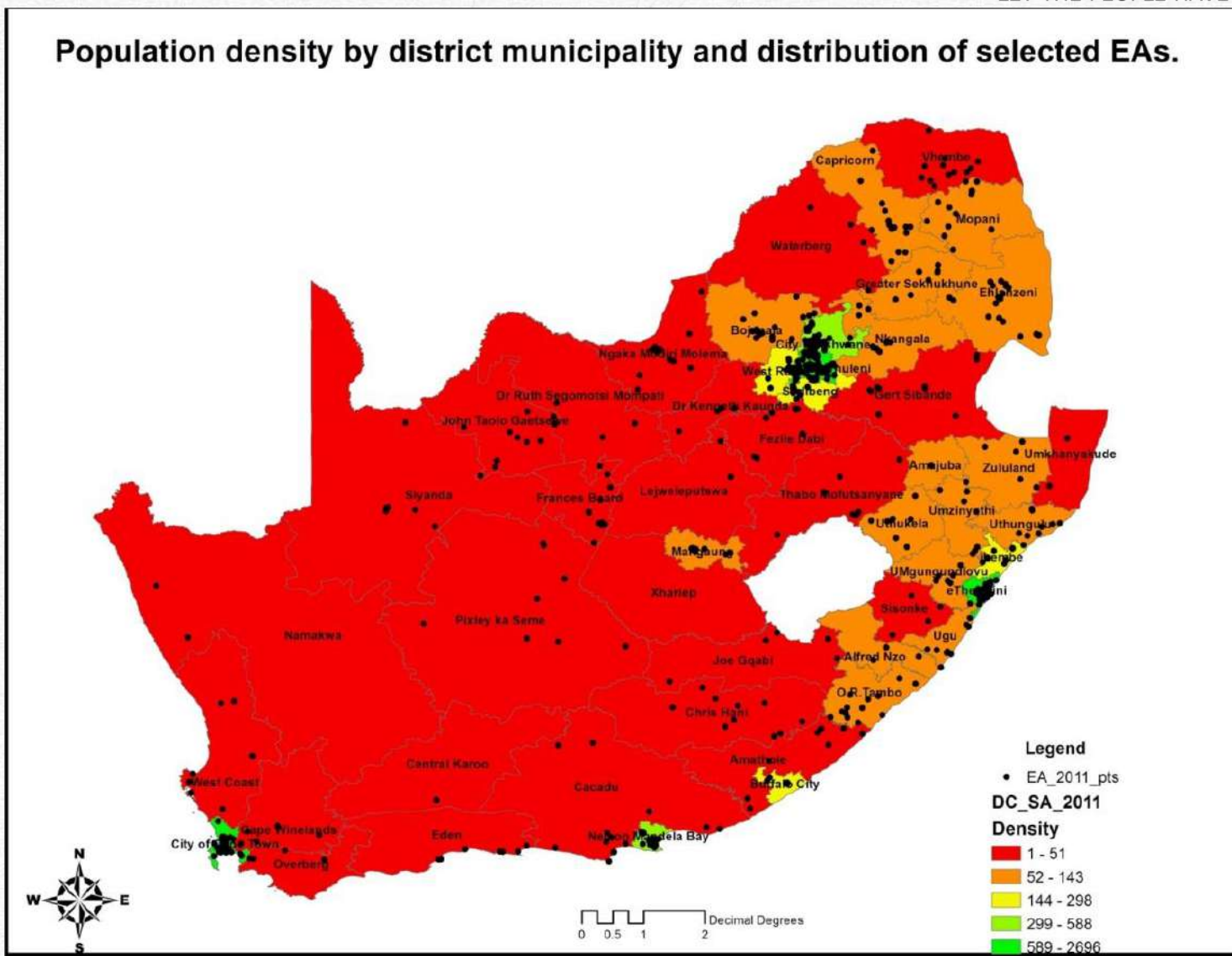


Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across [regions/states/provinces] and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
 - ❑ Every adult citizen has an *equal* chance of being selected.
- Face-to-face interviews In the language of the respondent's choice.
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in South Africa of 2,400 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 6 in South Africa was conducted between August and September 2015

Enumerator map

Population density by district municipality and distribution of selected EAs.



Survey demographics

		Unweighted	Weighted
Gender			
	Male	50%	50%
	Female	50%	50%
Location			
	Urban	68%	66%
	Rural	32%	34%
Province			
	Eastern Cape	13%	12%
	Free State	5%	5%
	Gauteng	24%	25%
	KwaZulu-Natal	18%	20%
	Limpopo	9%	10%
	Mpumalanga	7%	8%
	North West	6%	7%
	Northern Cape	8%	2%
	Western Cape	11%	12%
Education			
	No formal education	3%	3%
	Primary	12%	13%
	Secondary	59%	59%
	Post-secondary	26%	25%
Religion			
	Christian	82%	83%
	Muslim	3%	2%
	Other	15%	15%

Survey demographics

		Unweighted	Weighted
Race			
	Black African	70%	75%
	White	11%	9%
	Coloured	14%	12%
	Indian	6%	3%



Results





Government Performance

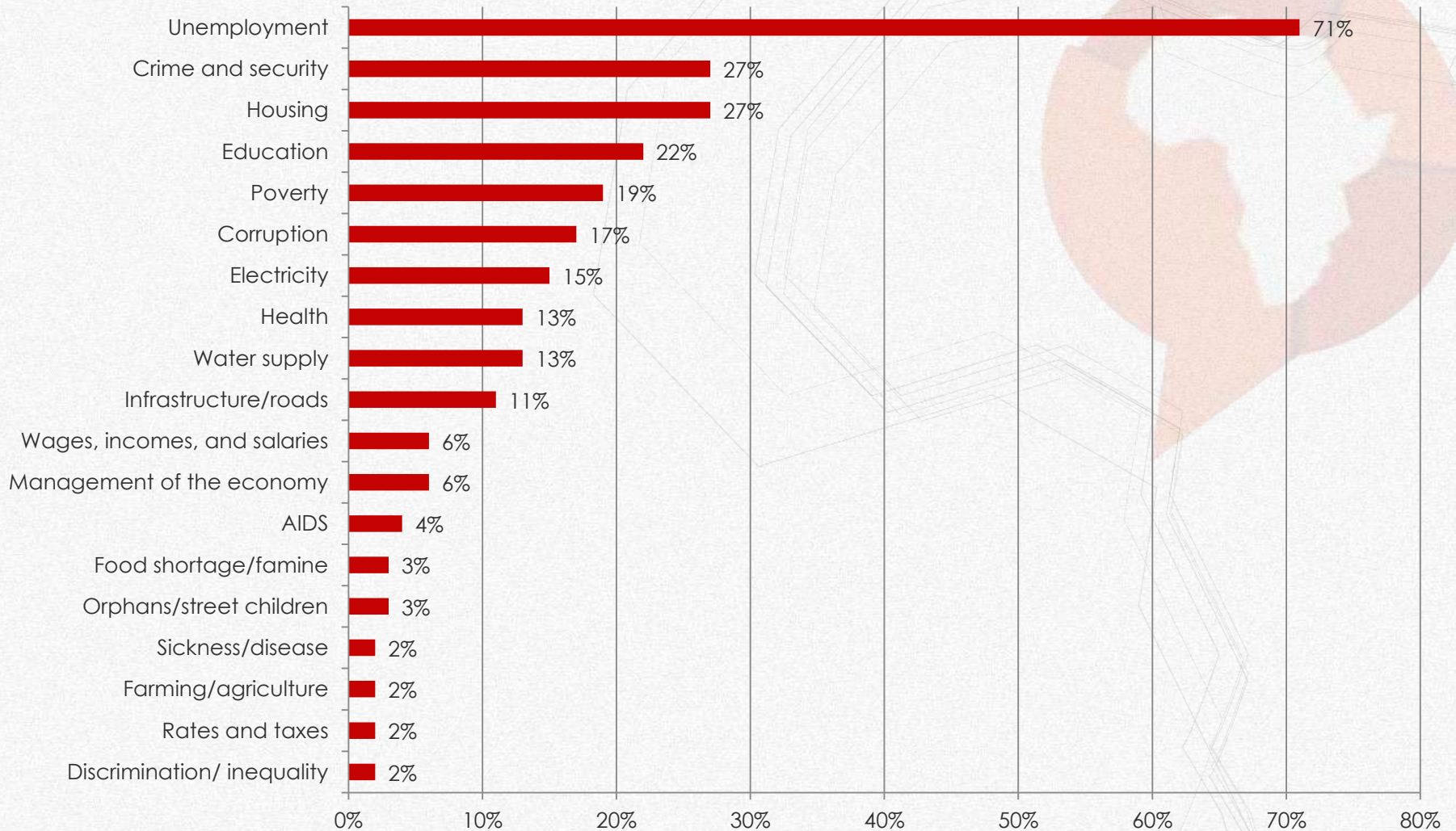
Key findings



- Unemployment remains by far the most important problem for South Africans, followed by housing, crime, education, poverty, and corruption. Education moved up in the priority list, but overall the problems that government should address have not changed substantially since 2011.
- Citizens rates its government poorly on most key performance areas and mostly on economic policy areas, rated positively on welfare distribution (84%) and food security (60%).
- Approval ratings of government performance on crime reduction, management of the economy and fighting corruption in government declined by more than 10 percentage points since 2011.
- In comparison to its neighbouring countries in Southern Africa- South Africa and Zimbabwe tops the list of non-performers on reducing crime, job creation, management of the economy and fighting of corruption in government.

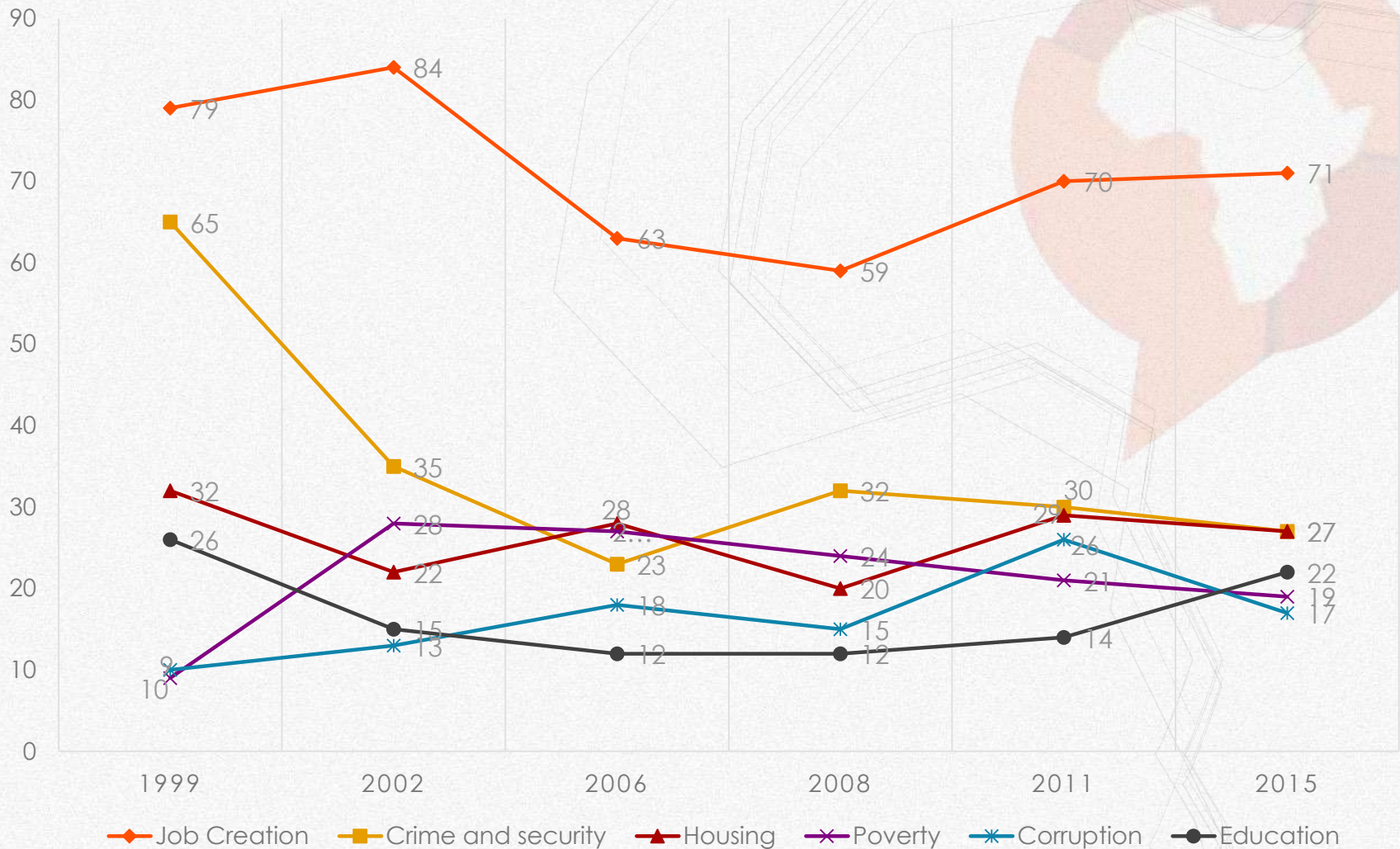


South Africans' Top Priorities (2015)



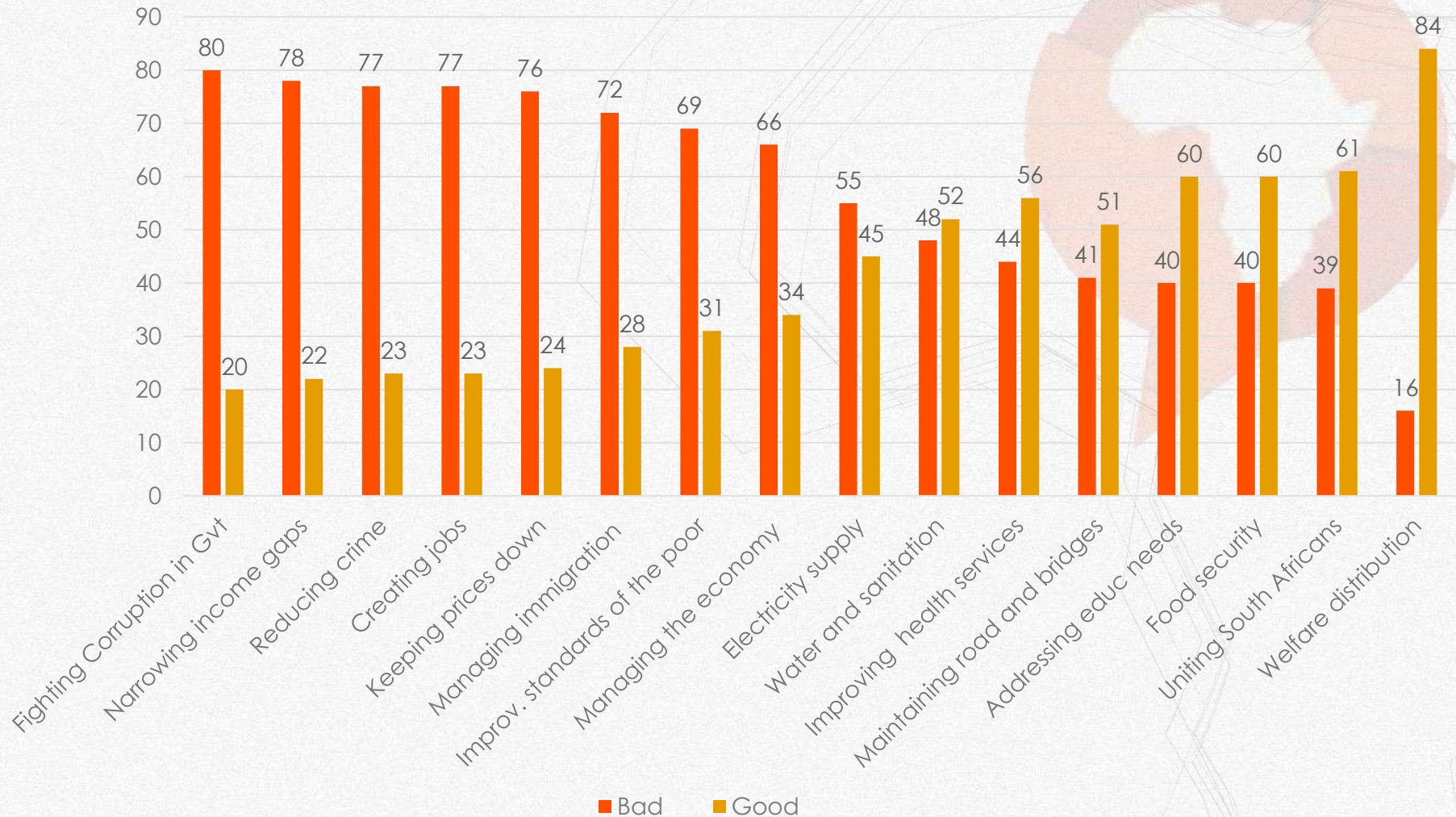
Respondents were asked: In your opinion what are the most important problems facing this country that the government should address? (Figure aggregates up to three responses per interviewee.)

South Africans' Top Priorities (1999 to 2015)



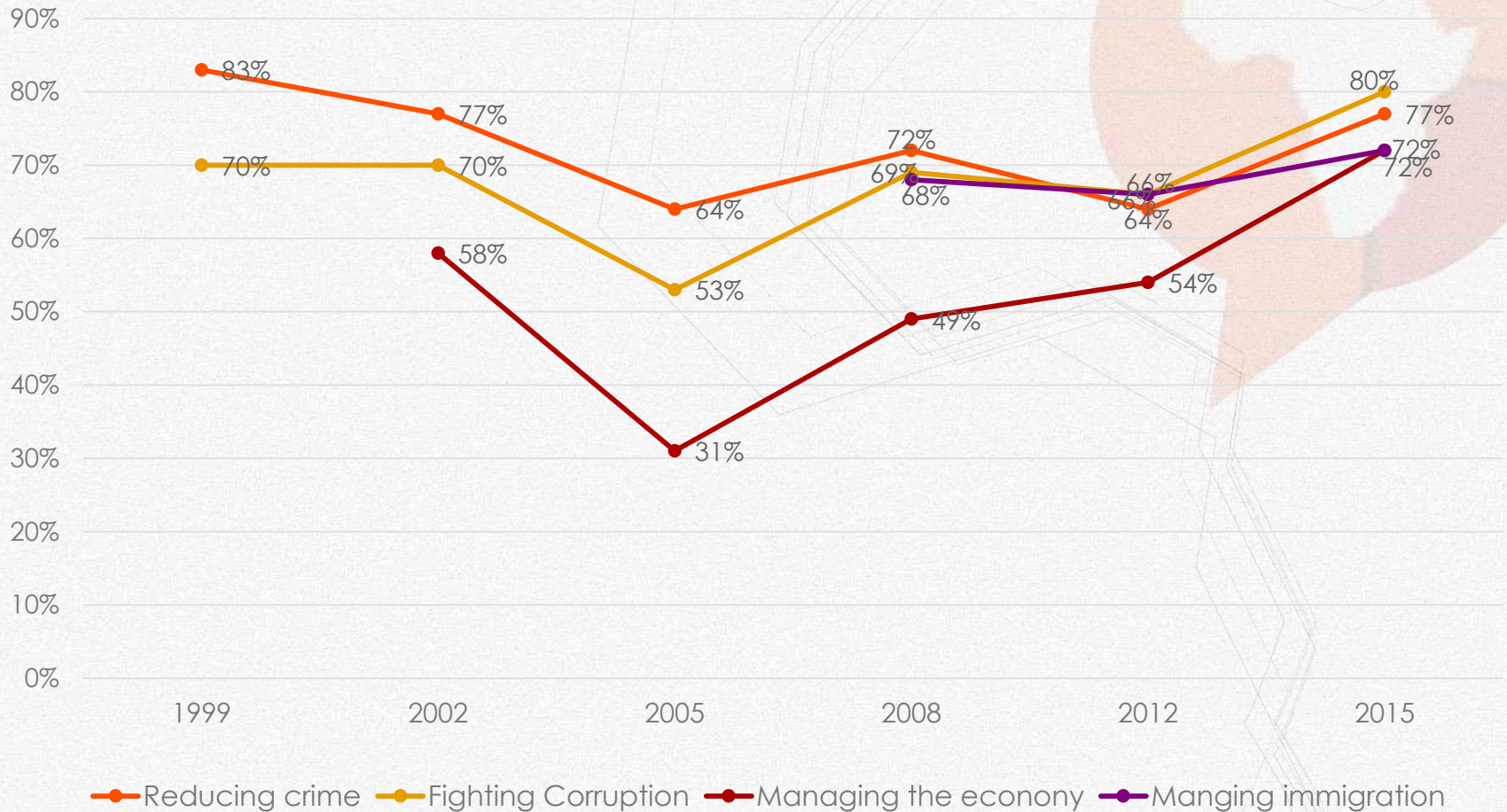
Respondents were asked: In your opinion what are the most important problems facing this country that the government should address?

Government Performance (2015)



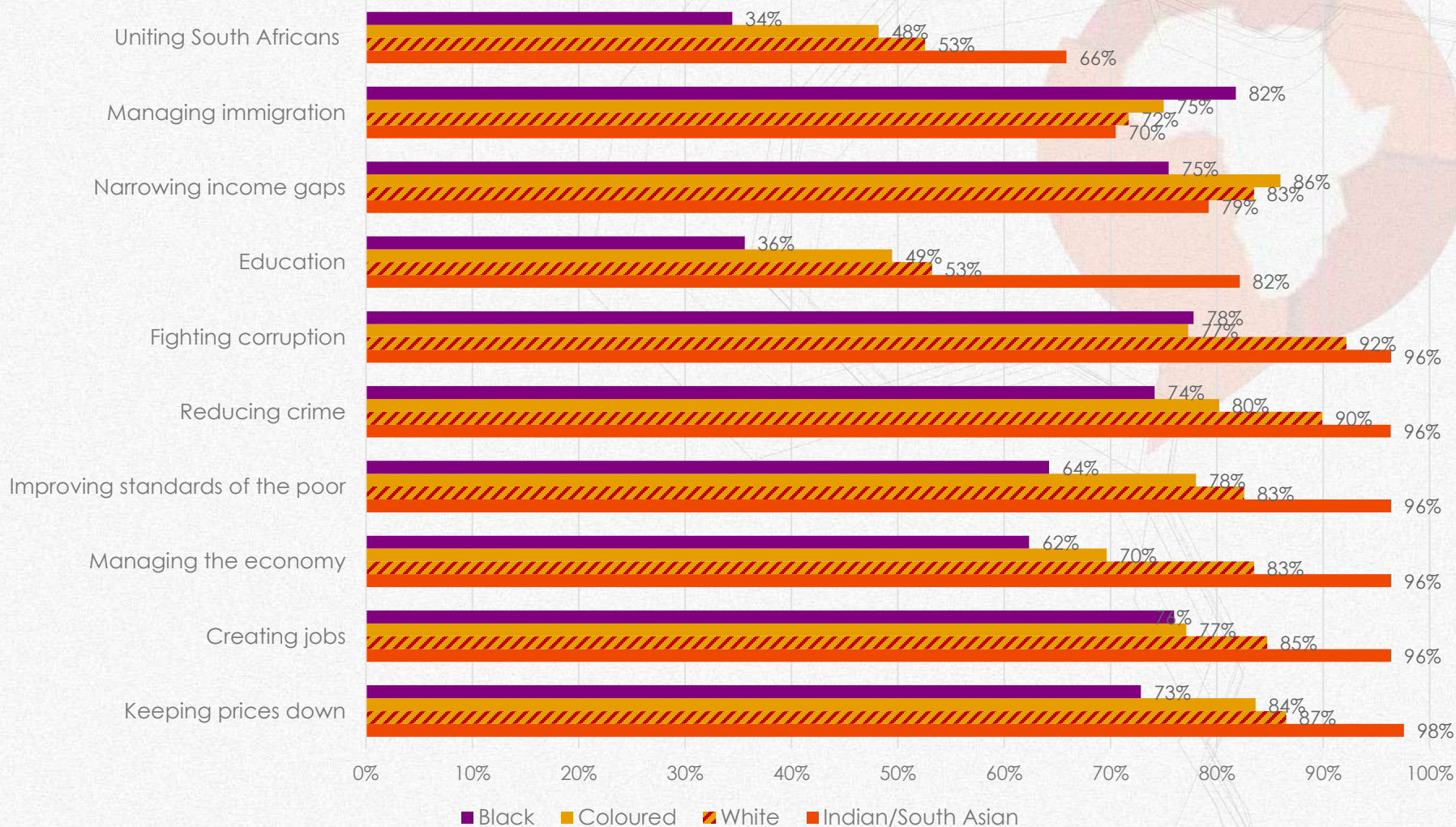
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say? ("Don't know" responses, which made up 3% or less of all responses, are excluded from this analysis.)

Increases in negative ratings (1999-2015)



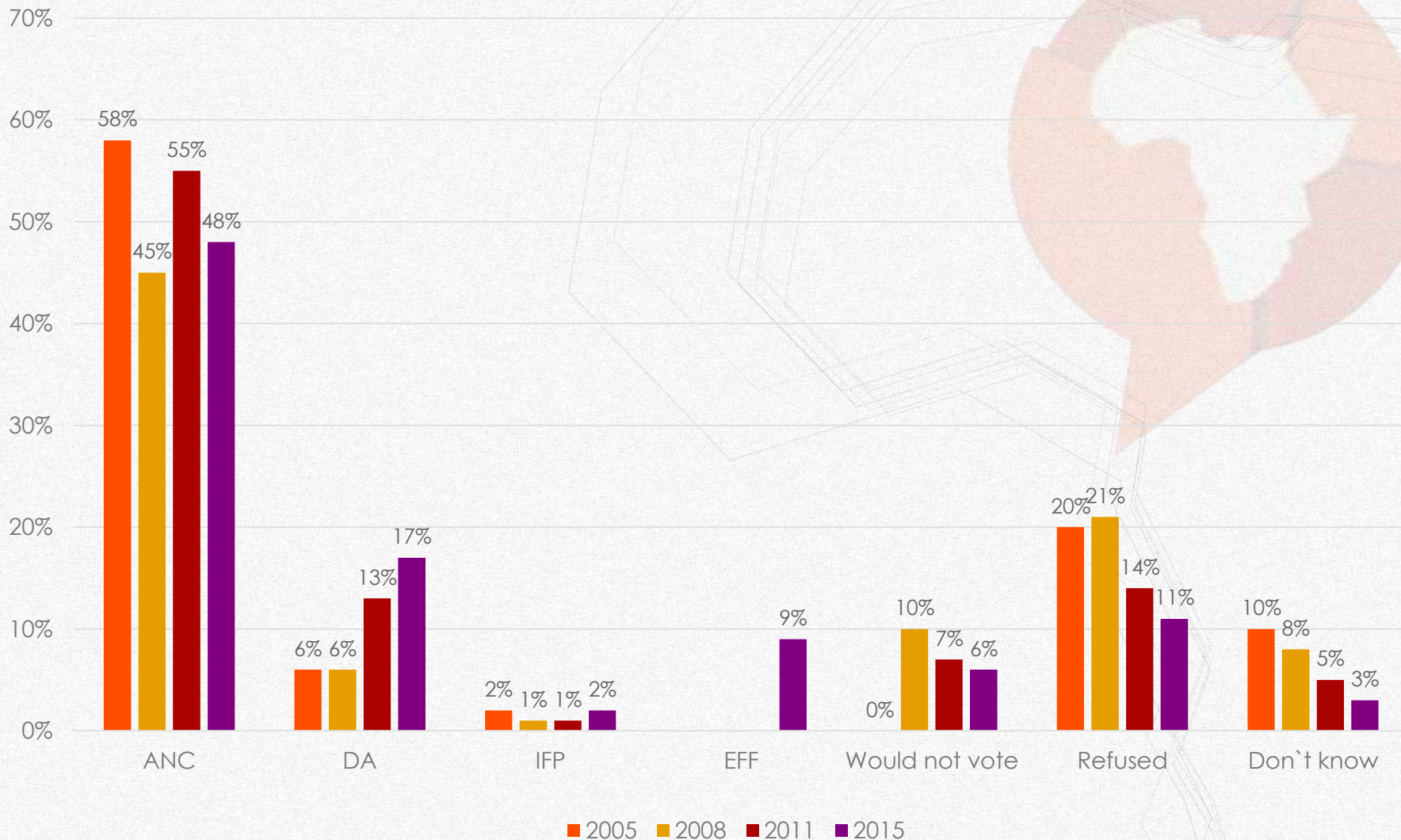
How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say?

Public disapproval by race



How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say?

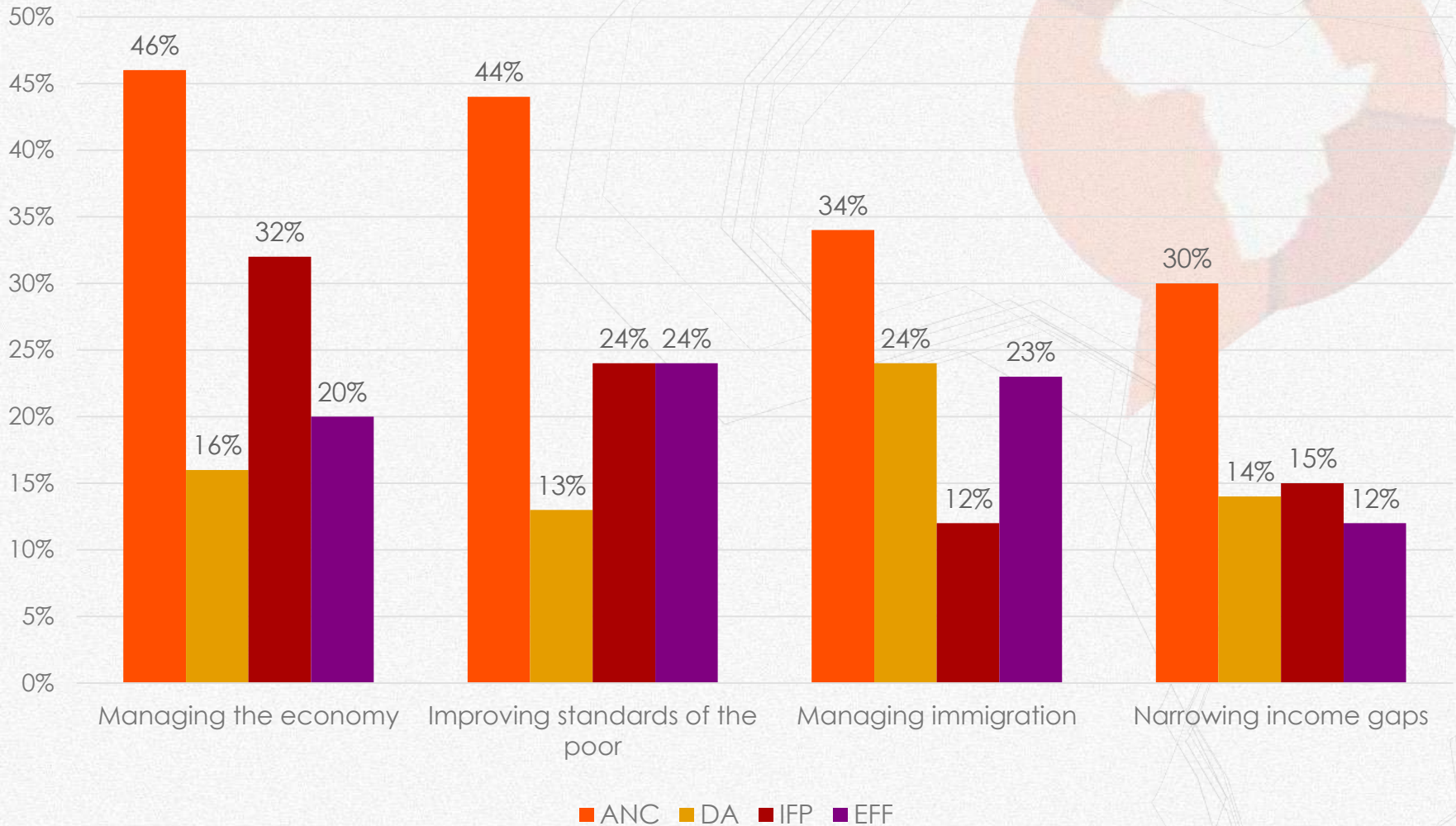
Political Party Support



Respondents were asked: If presidential elections were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you vote for?

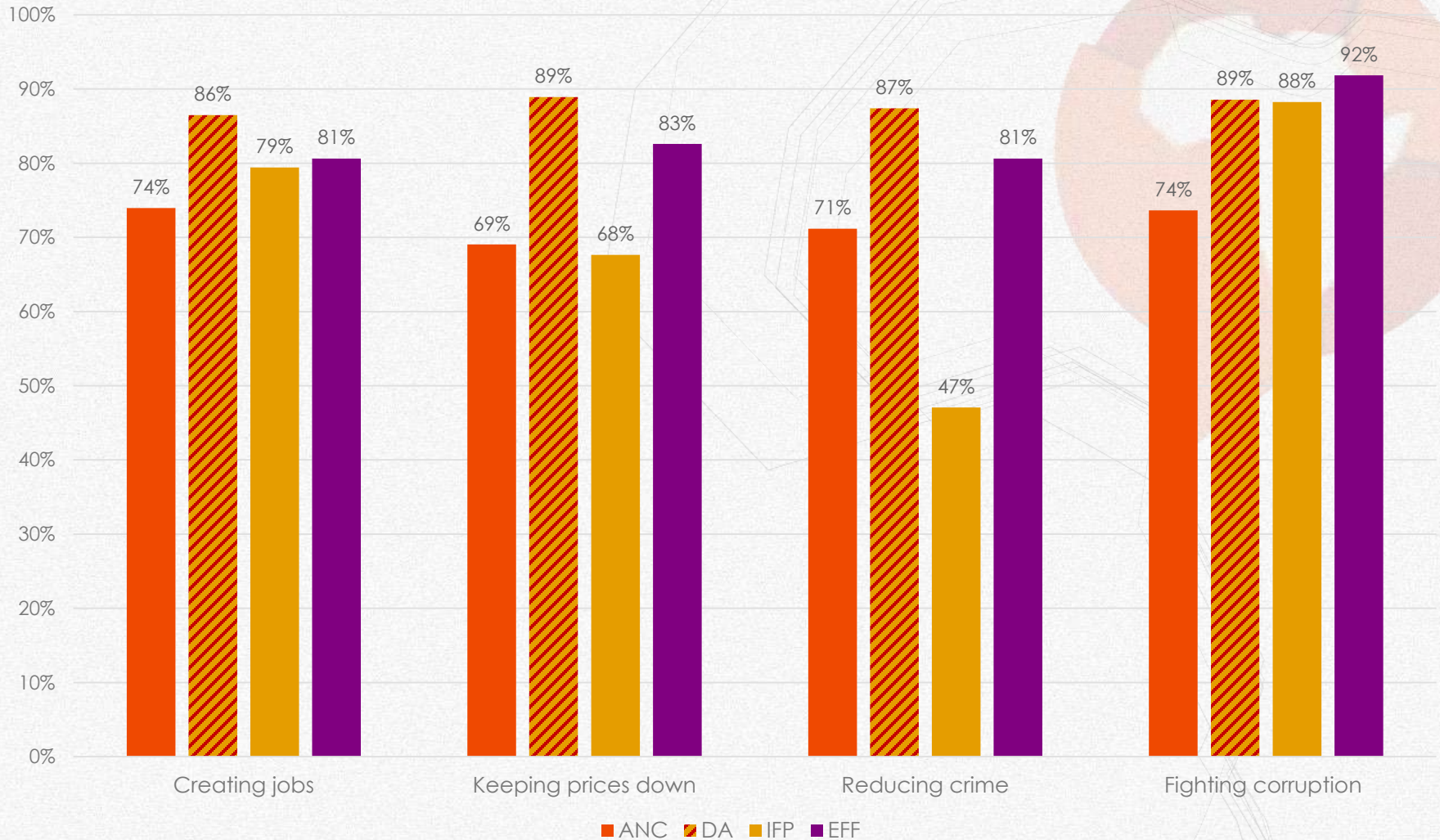
Public approval rating by party affiliation

Proportion saying "well"



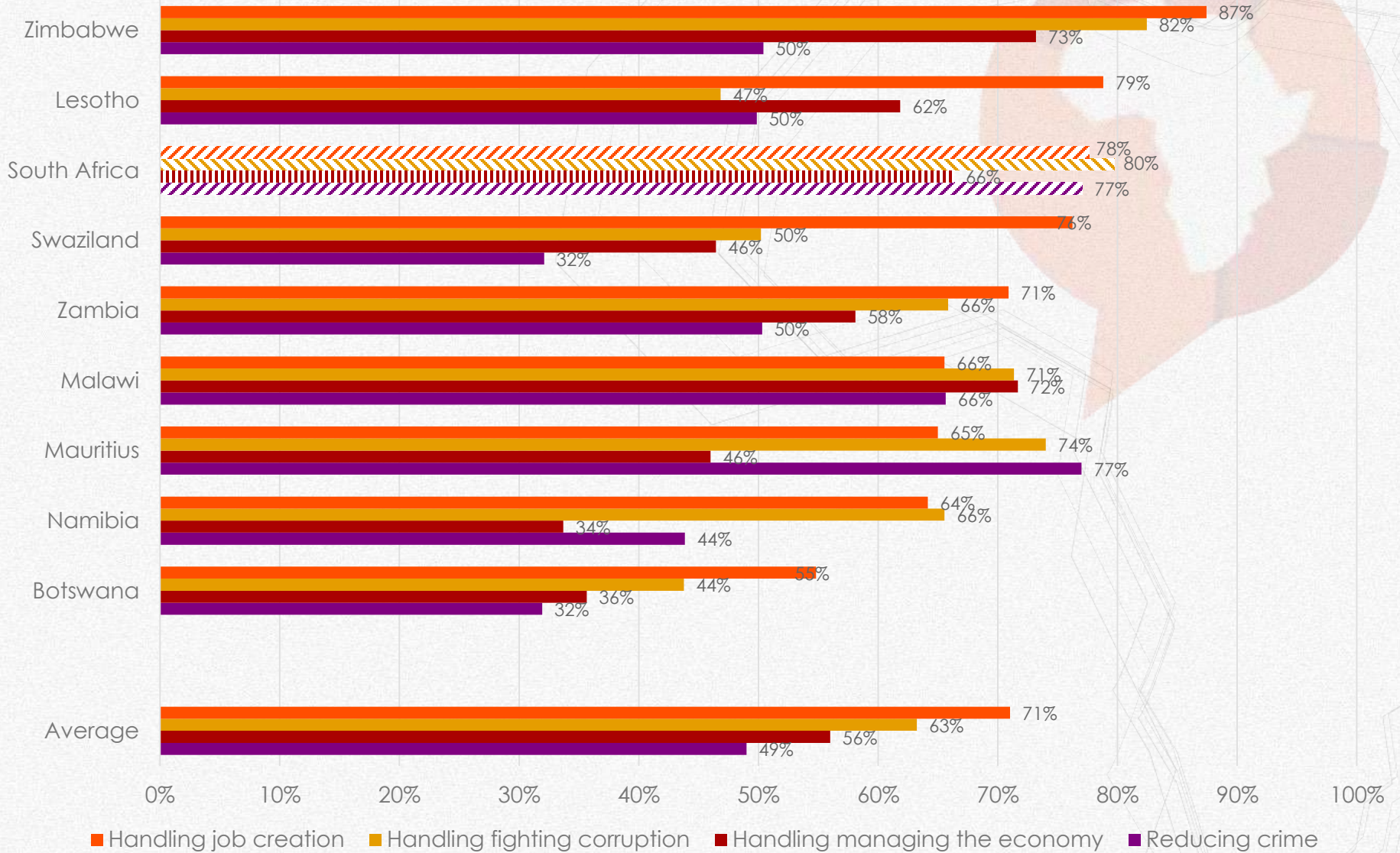
How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say?

Disapproval rating by party affiliation

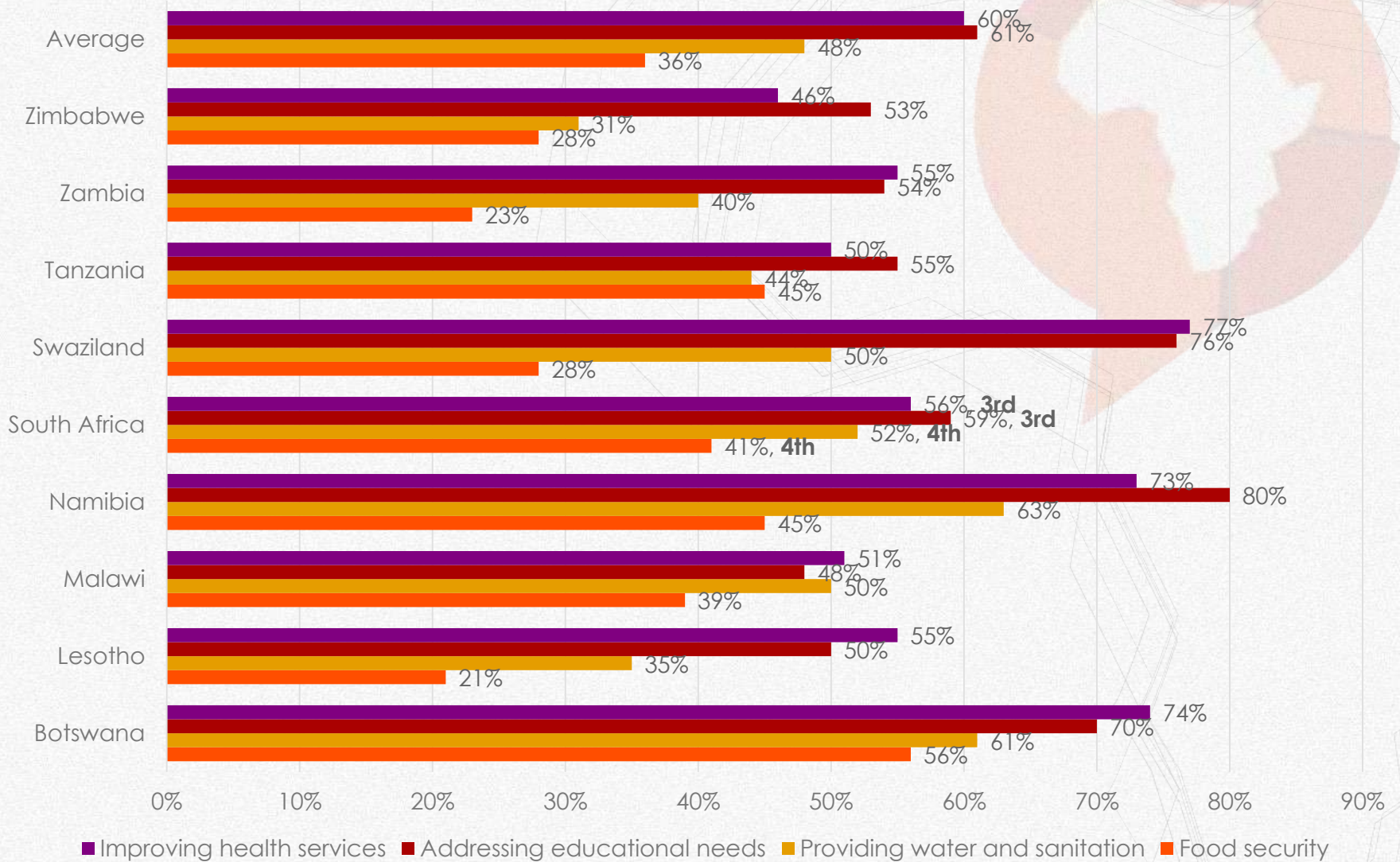


How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say?

Disapproval rating-by country



Approval rating by Country



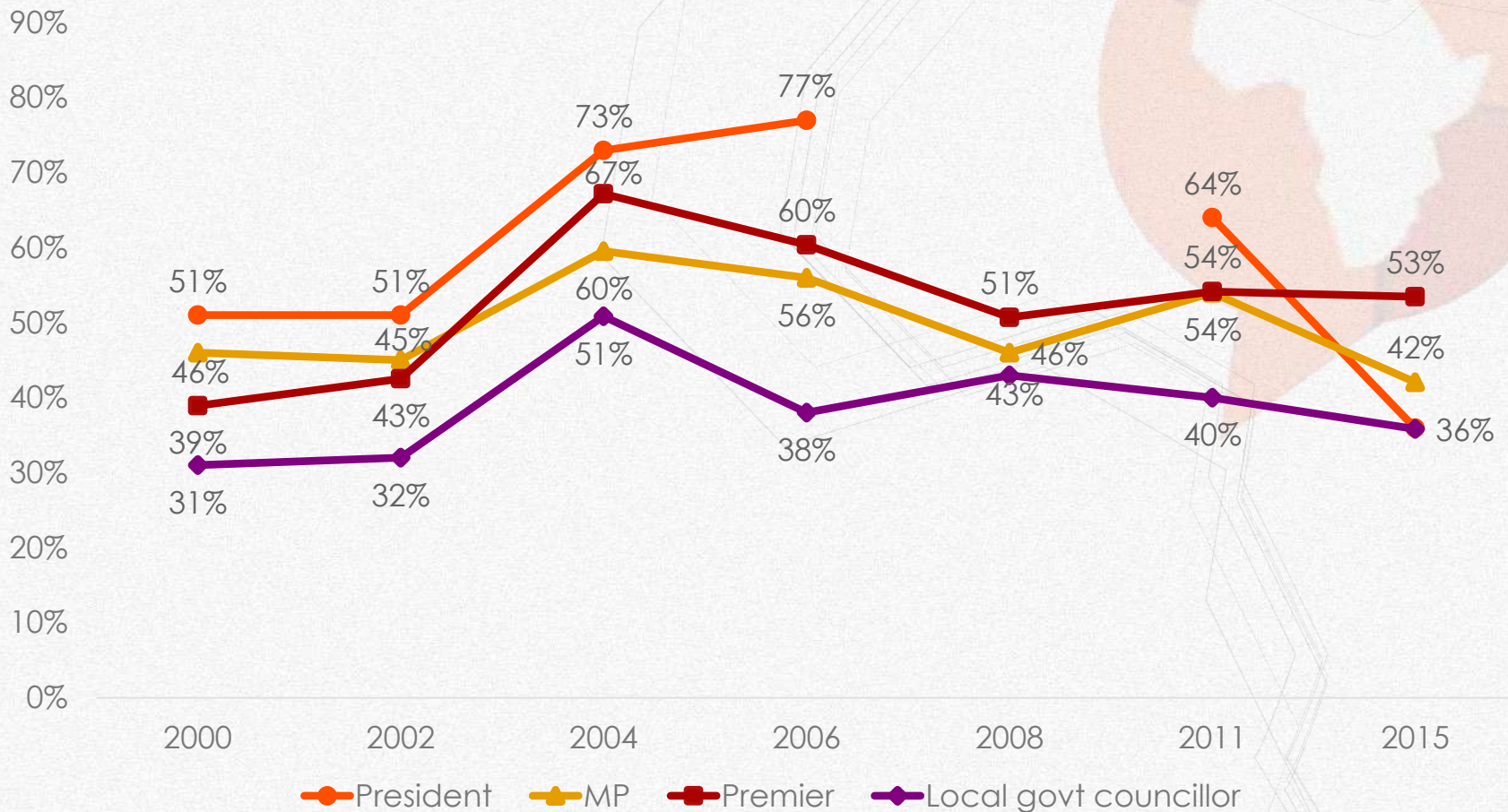


Leadership performance ratings

Key findings

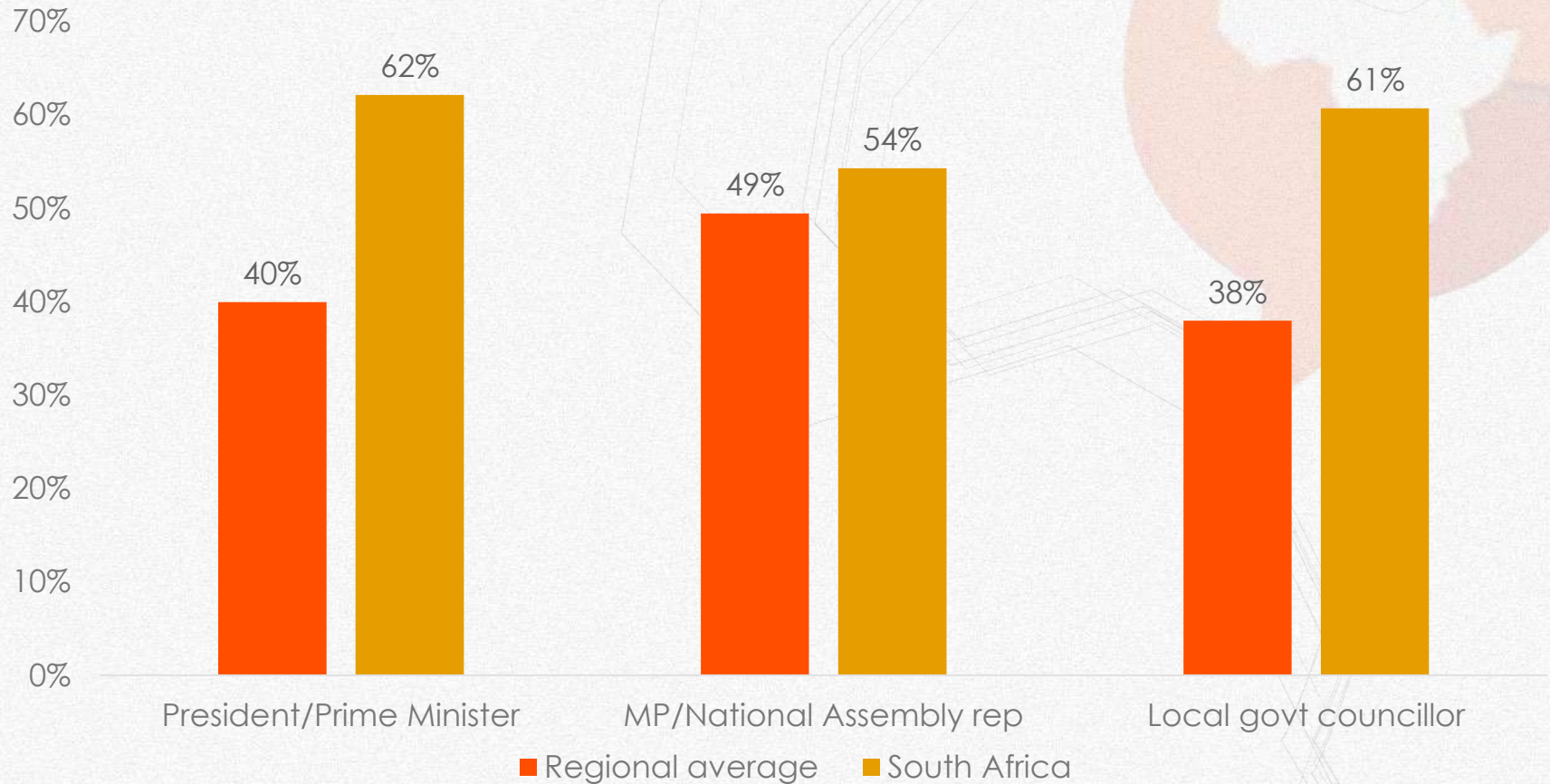
- Provincial leaders currently enjoy the highest approval ratings (54%) followed by MPs (42%), while those for President Zuma and local government councillors are 36%.
- South Africans are significantly more critical of the president (by 22 percentage points) and local government councillors (13 points) than citizens elsewhere in the region.
- At least two in 10 citizens believe that voters should be responsible for making sure that leaders do their jobs.

Approval of elected leaders' performance | South Africa | 2000-2015



Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past 12 months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?
 (% "approve"/"strongly approve")

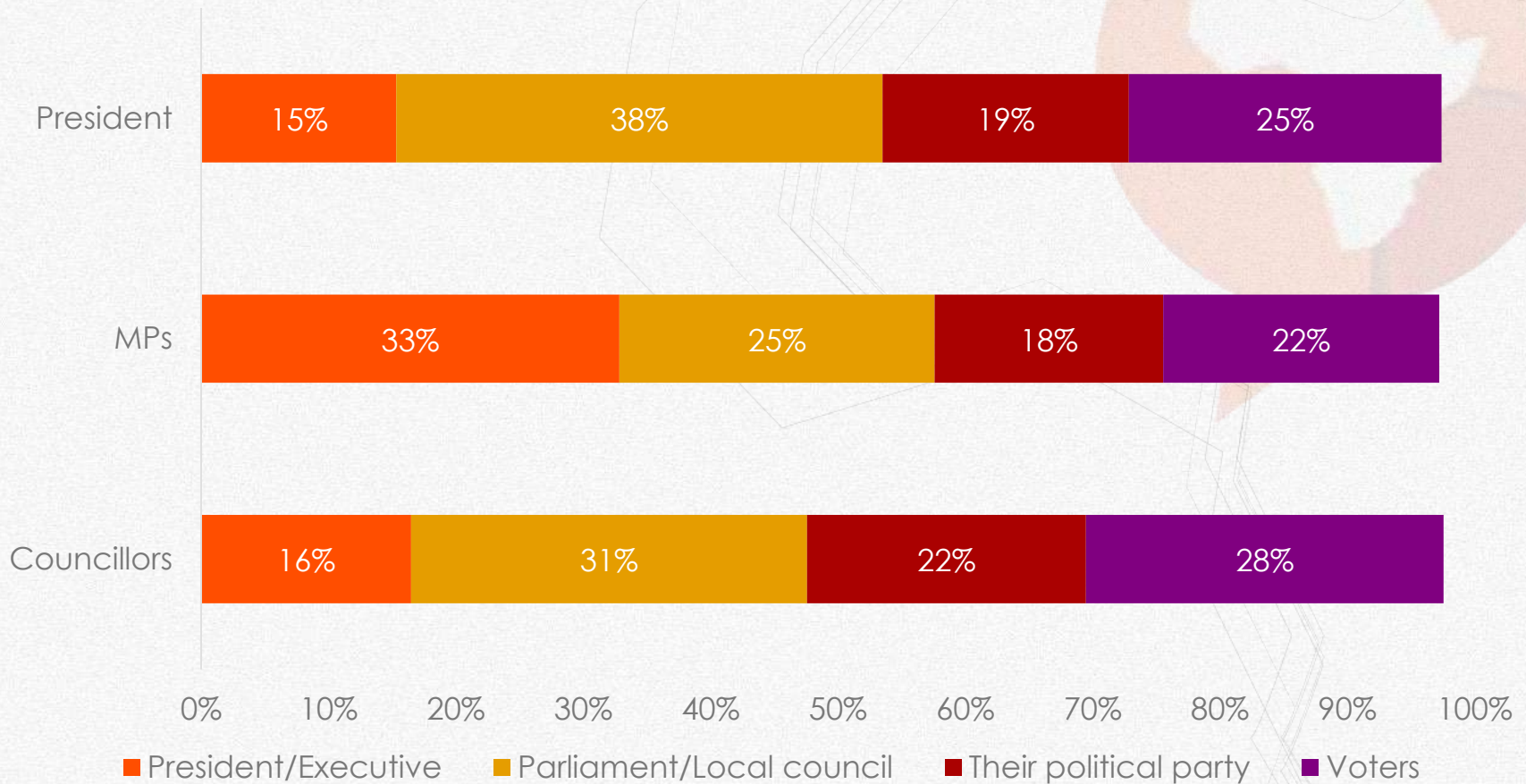
Disapproval of elected leaders' performance | Southern Africa | 2014/2015



(% "strongly disapprove"/ "disapprove")

Countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Oversight over elected leaders | South Africa | 2015



Respondents were asked: *Who should be responsible for making sure that, once elected _____ does/do their jobs? (Response options: executive, Parliament, political party, voters, no one)*

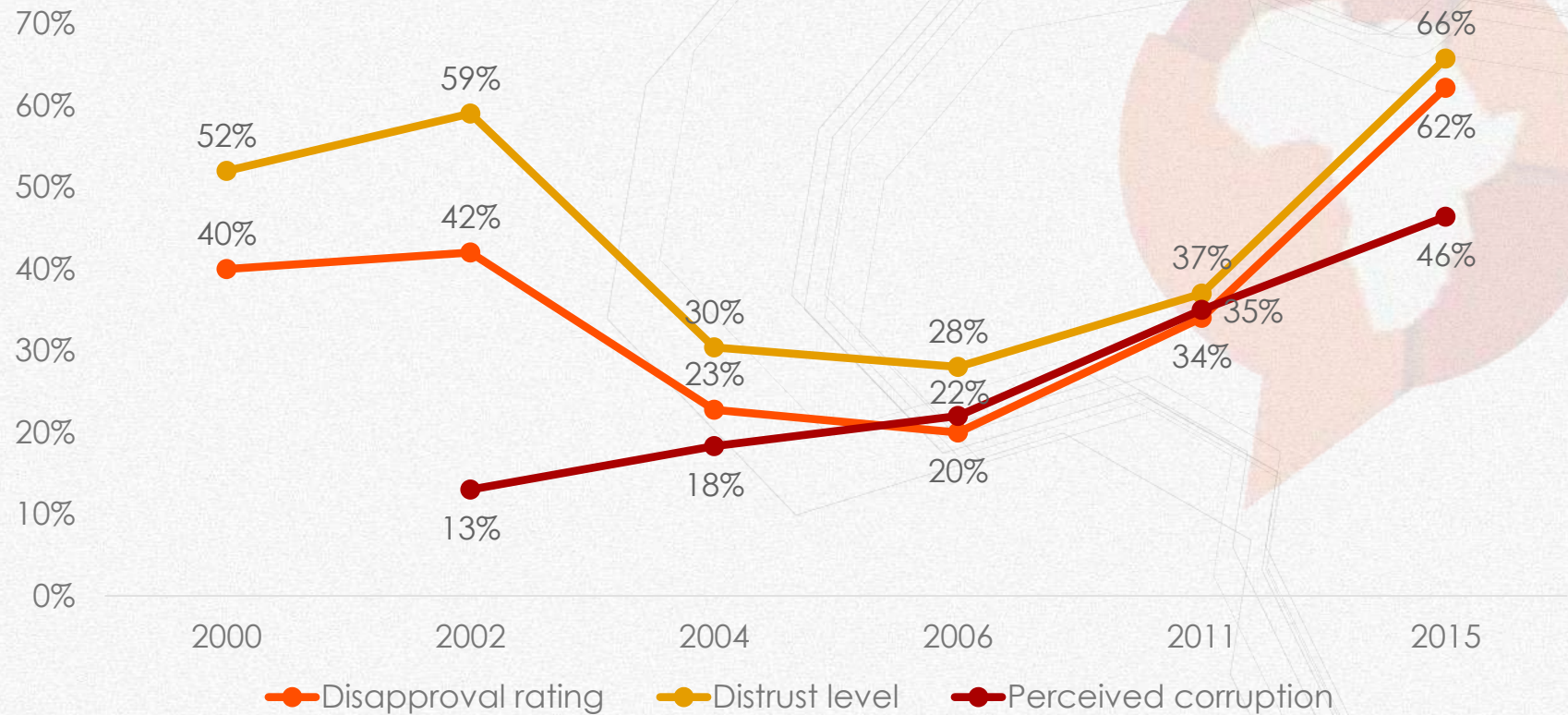


Trust and accountability of the President

Key findings

- Public distrust of the president (66%), disapproval of the president's performance (62%), and perceived corruption in this Office (46%) are all at their highest levels since 2000.
- Indian and White South Africans are the most critical of President Zuma, along with urban residents and non-ANC supporters.
- Perceptions that the president ignores the law and Parliament more than doubled between 2011 and 2015 to almost six in 10 South Africans.

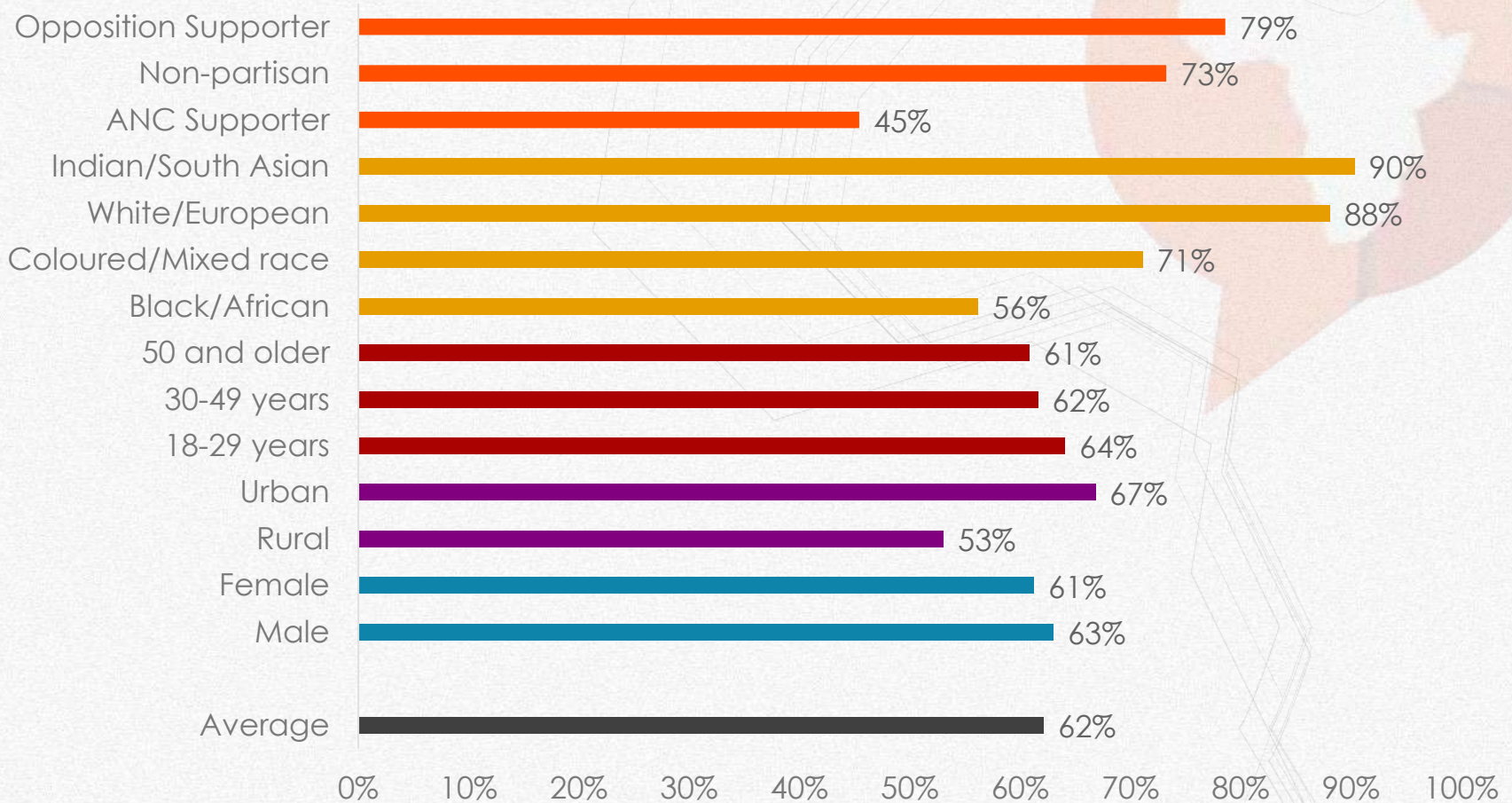
Negative evaluations of the president | South Africa | 2000-2015



Respondents were asked:

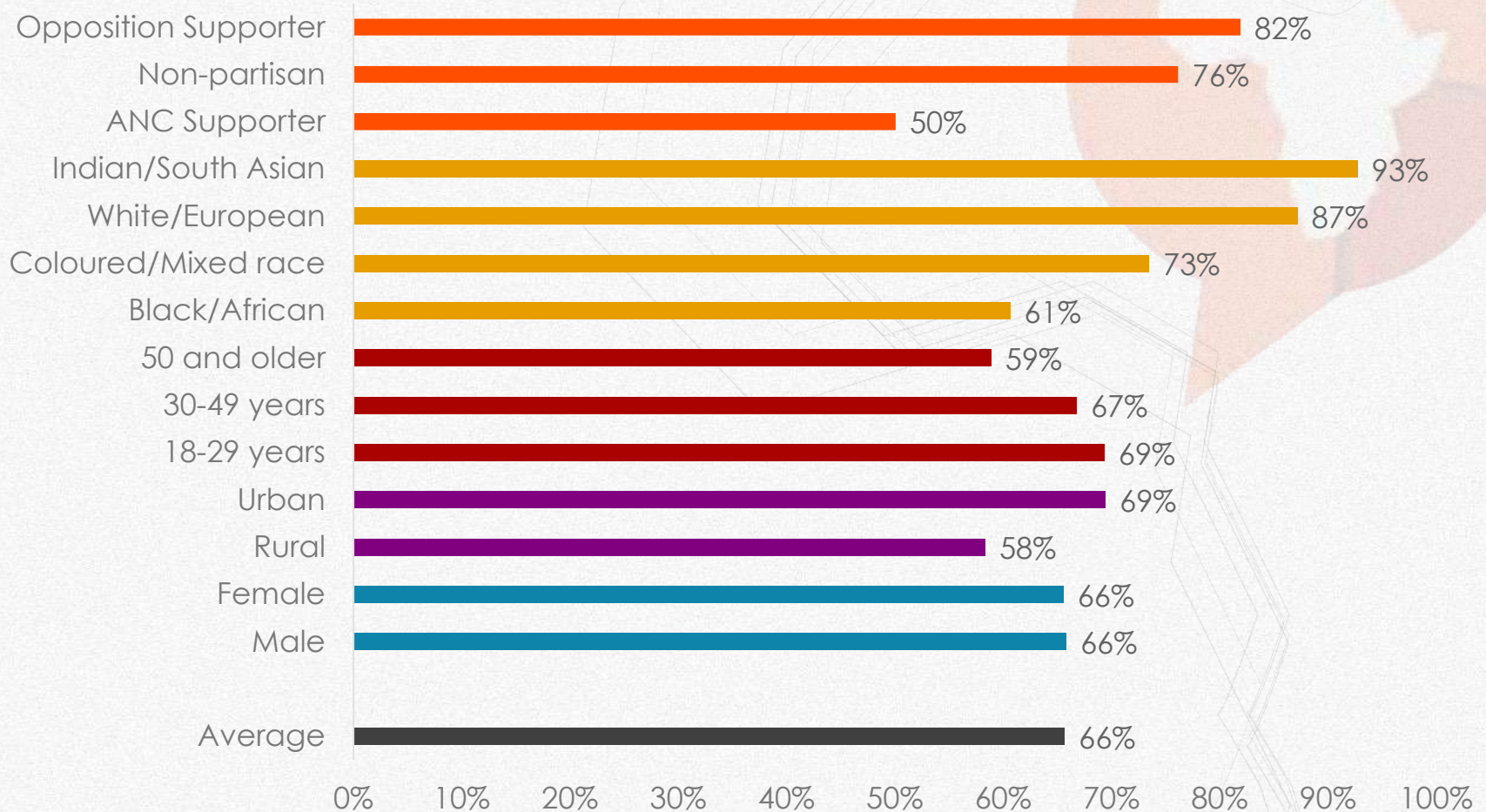
1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past twelve months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? President _____. (% "disapprove"/"strongly disapprove")
2. How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? The President. (% "not at all"/"just a little").
3. How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? The President and Officials in his Office. (% "all of them"/"most of them").

Public disapproval of President Zuma's Performance | 2015



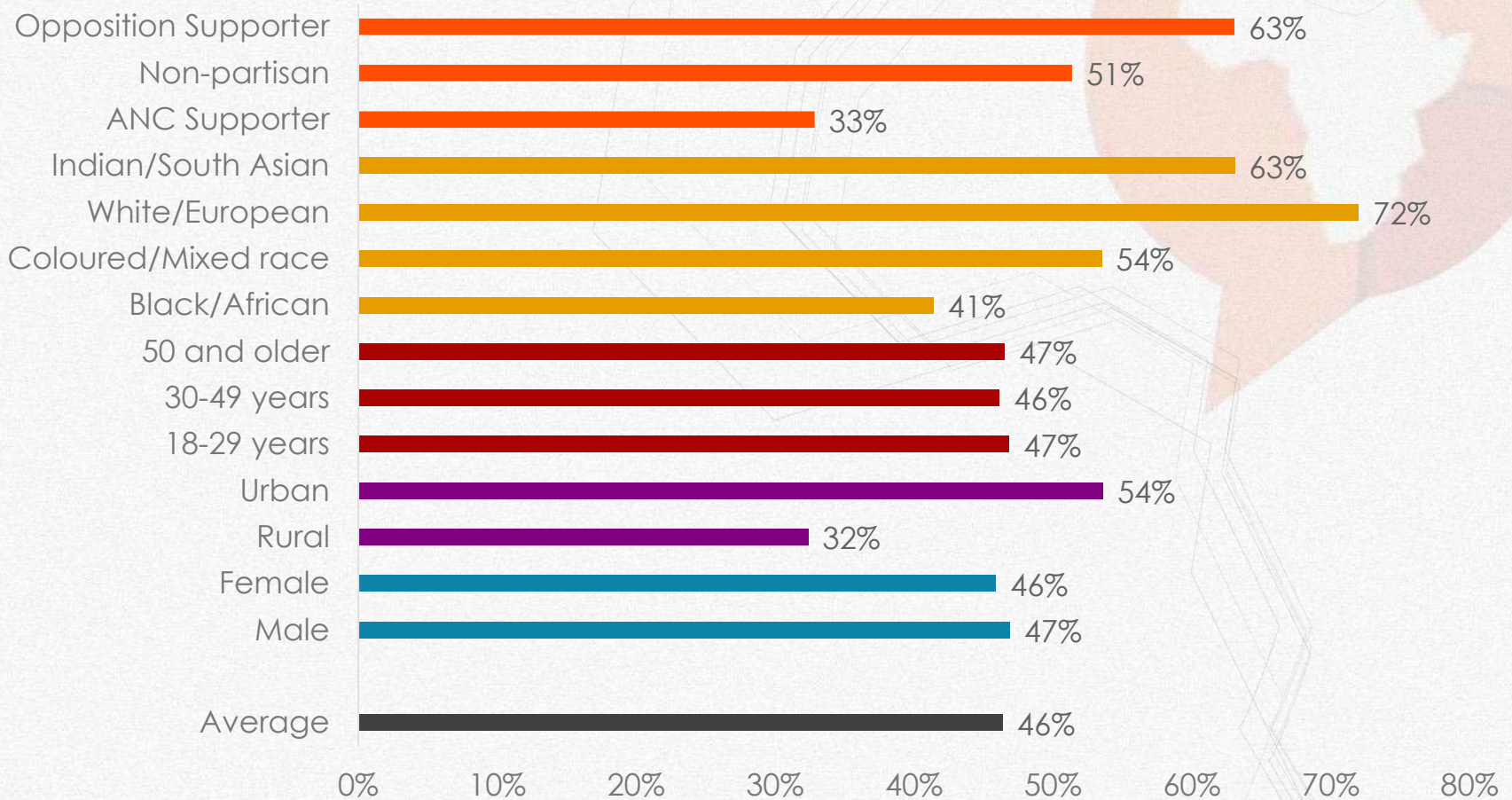
Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past twelve months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? President Jacob Zuma. (% "strongly disapprove"/"disapprove.")

Public trust in President Zuma | 2015



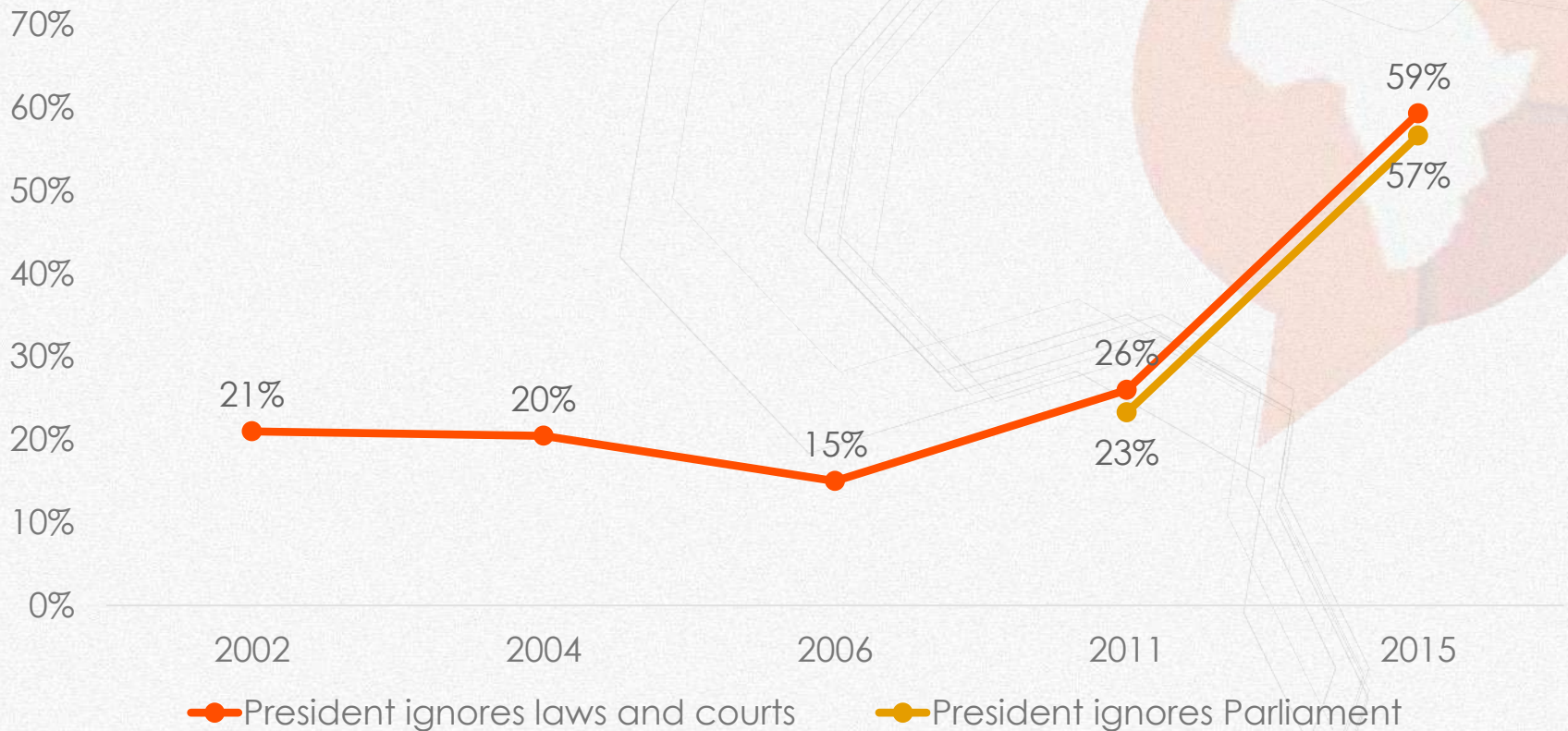
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? The President. (% who said "not at all" or "just a little")

Perceptions of corruption in the Office of the President | 2015



Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? The President and Officials in his Office. (% "all of them"/"most of them").

The president and the law | 2002-2015



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how often, in this country:

1. Does the President ignore the courts and laws of this country? (% "always/"often").
2. Does the President ignore parliament and just do what he wants? (% "always/"often").



Conclusions

- Majority of South Africans agree on the most important problems facing the country and want government to do a better job at a range of issues, including increasing employment, reducing crime, and greater access to housing.
- Elected leaders are not insulated from changes in public opinion – dissatisfaction with performance increased for President Jacob Zuma, MPs and local elected councillors.
- President Jacob Zuma faces the worst ratings of any elected leader in South Africa's 21 years as a democracy, even among the ANC's traditional electorate.



Thank you
Siyabonga
Rea leboha
Dankie
Inkomu
Gangans