



Centre for Social Research, University of Malawi
Zomba, Malawi
30 May 2017

News release

Malawians see corruption increasing 'a lot,' new Afrobarometer survey finds

Most Malawians say that corruption in the country has increased over the past year, including two-thirds who say it has increased "a lot," according to a new Afrobarometer survey.

About half of Malawians think that "most" or "all" police officers, business executives, and officials in the Presidency are corrupt. Most respondents say that people risk retaliation if they report corruption and that the government is performing poorly in the fight against corruption.

The data are being released at a time when corruption scandals abound in Malawi and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs organised a national conference to reflect on the country's National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

Key findings

- More than seven in 10 Malawians (72%) say corruption has increased over the past year, including two-thirds (66%) who say it has increased "a lot" (Figure 1).
- About half of respondents say that "most" or "all" police officers (54%), business executives (47%), and Presidency officials (47%) are involved in corruption. Religious leaders are seen as least corrupt (22%) (Figure 2).
- About eight in 10 Malawians say that people risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they speak out about corruption (81%) and that the government is performing "fairly badly" or "very badly" in fighting corruption (78%).

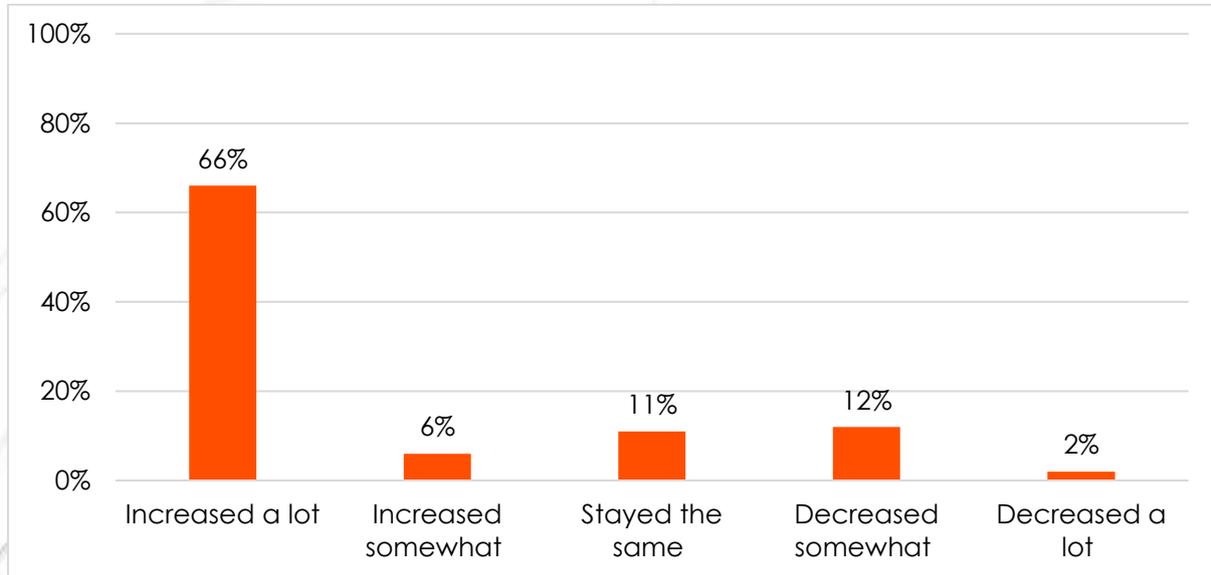
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in Africa. Six rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 37 African countries between 1999 and 2016, and Round 7 surveys (2016/2017) are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Malawi, led by the Centre for Social Research at Chancellor College of the University of Malawi, interviewed 1,200 adult Malawians in December 2016 and January 2017. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/- 3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Malawi in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012, and 2014.

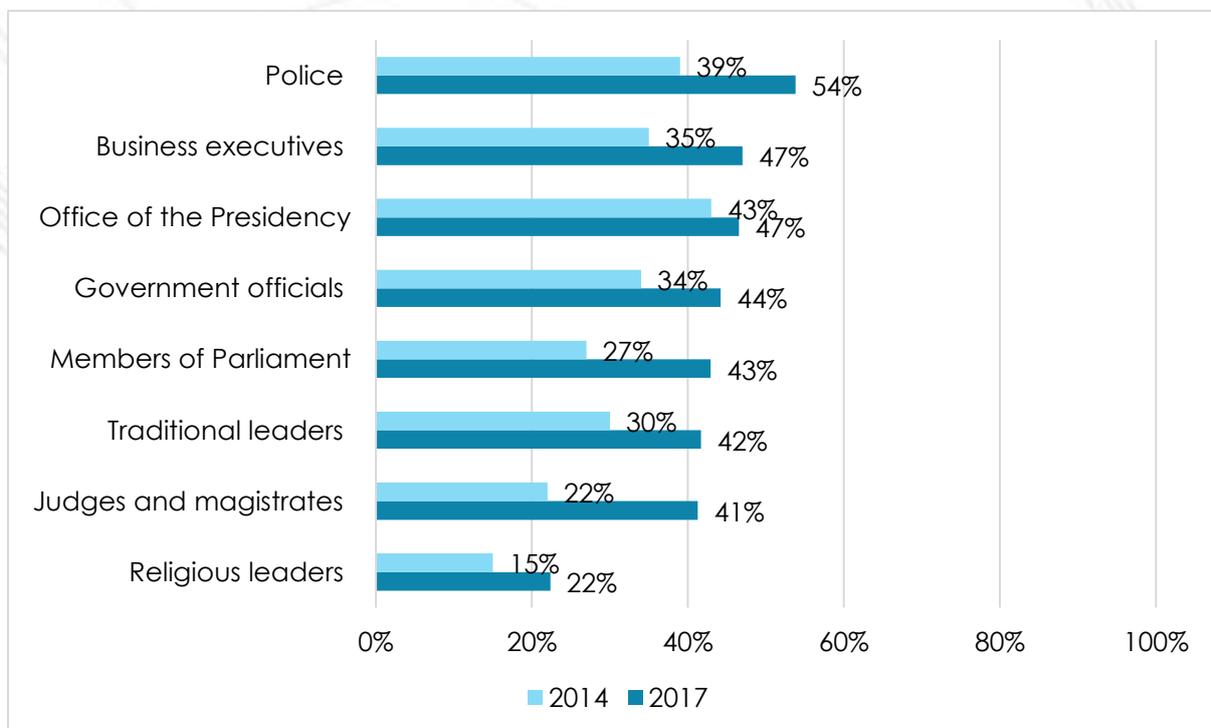
Charts

Figure 1: Increased levels of corruption over the past year | Malawi | 2017



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

Figure 2: Levels of corruption among public officials | Malawi | 2014-2017



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?

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