

Lobito-Benguela, Angola
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News release

Angolans divided on president's performance, Afrobarometer survey shows

Angolans are evenly divided in their assessment of President João Lourenço's performance in office, the most recent Afrobarometer survey shows.

While detractors match admirers when it comes to his job performance, a majority of citizens say that Lourenço, who became president in September 2017 after the 38-year rule of José Eduardo dos Santos, rarely or never ignores the National Assembly or the country's laws.

A majority of Angolans also endorse the rule of law, saying that the president "must always obey the laws and the courts, even if he thinks they are wrong."

Key findings

- Angolans are almost evenly divided in their assessments of President João Lourenço's performance, with 43% approving and 45% disapproving of how he did his job during the previous year (Figure 1).
 - Approval is highest among residents of the North Region¹ (55%), senior citizens (53%), and those who are economically well off (50%) (Figure 2).
- A majority (55%) of Angolans say the president "rarely" or "never" ignores the National Assembly and does what he wants, while two out of 10 (21%) say this happens "often" or "always" (Figure 3).
 - The perception that the president frequently ignores the National Assembly is more common among respondents in the South Region (30%) and those without formal education (27%).
- Similarly, more than half (53%) of Angolans say the president "rarely" or "never" ignores the courts and laws, while 23% say he does so "often" or "always" (Figure 4).
- A slim majority (51%) of citizens say the president must always obey the laws and the courts, even if he thinks they are wrong, while 35% think he should not be bound by laws and judicial decisions he considers wrong (Figure 5).
 - Residents of Cabinda (68%) and the North Region (65%), along with the most educated respondents (57%), are most likely to insist that the president must always follow the law (Figure 5)

Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life.

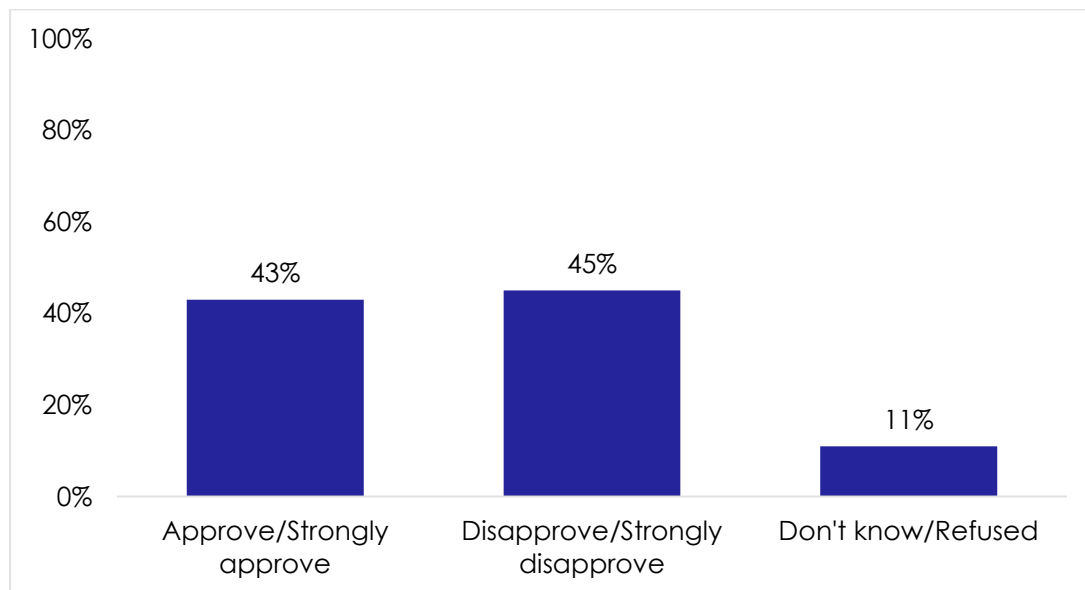
¹ In accordance with National Statistics Institute classifications, regions include the following provinces: North (Cabinda, Uíge, Zaire), Center North (Bengo, Cuanza Norte, Malange), Luanda, Center (Benguela, Bié, Cuanza Sul, Huambo), East (Cuando Cubango, Lunda Sul, Lunda Norte, Moxico), and South (Cunene, Huíla, Namibe). Results for Cabinda province, which are included in the North region average, are also shown separately.

Seven rounds of surveys were completed in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018. Round 8 surveys are planned in at least 35 countries in 2019/2020. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

In its first survey in Angola, the Afrobarometer team, led by Ovilongwa – Estudos de Opinião Pública, interviewed 2,400 adult Angolans between 27 November and 27 December 2019. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.

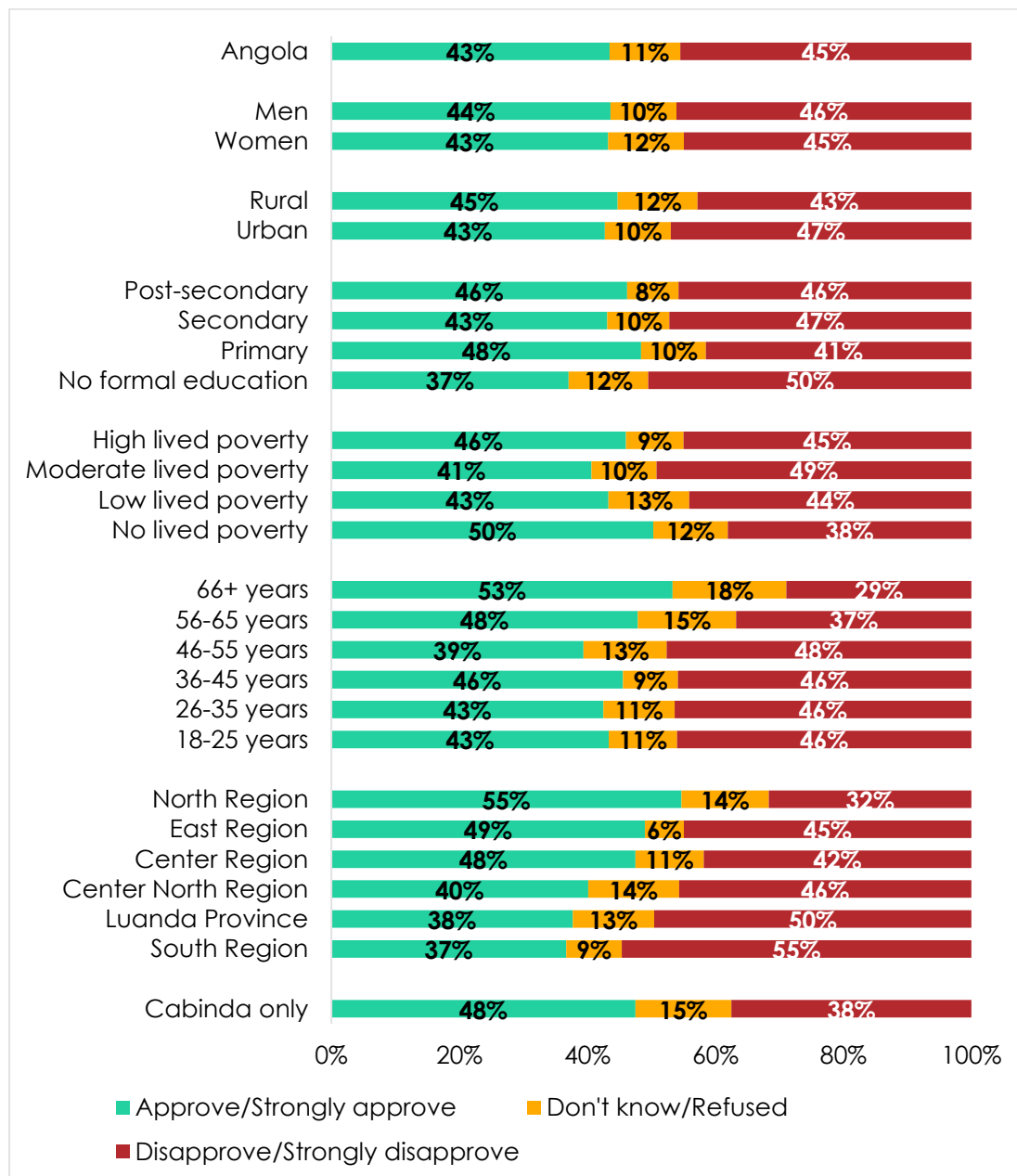
Charts

Figure 1: Assessment of president's performance | Angola | 2019



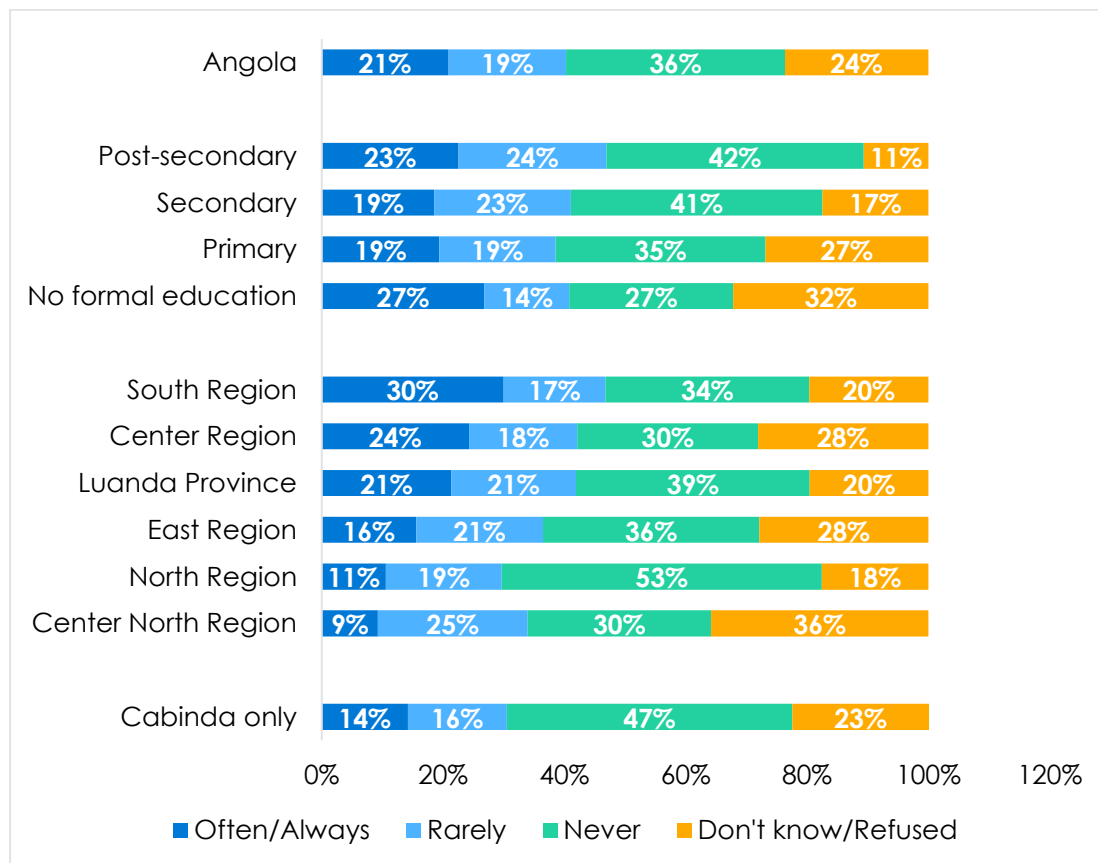
Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past 12 months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: João Lourenço?

Figure 2: Assessment of president's performance | by socio-demographic group
 | Angola | 2019



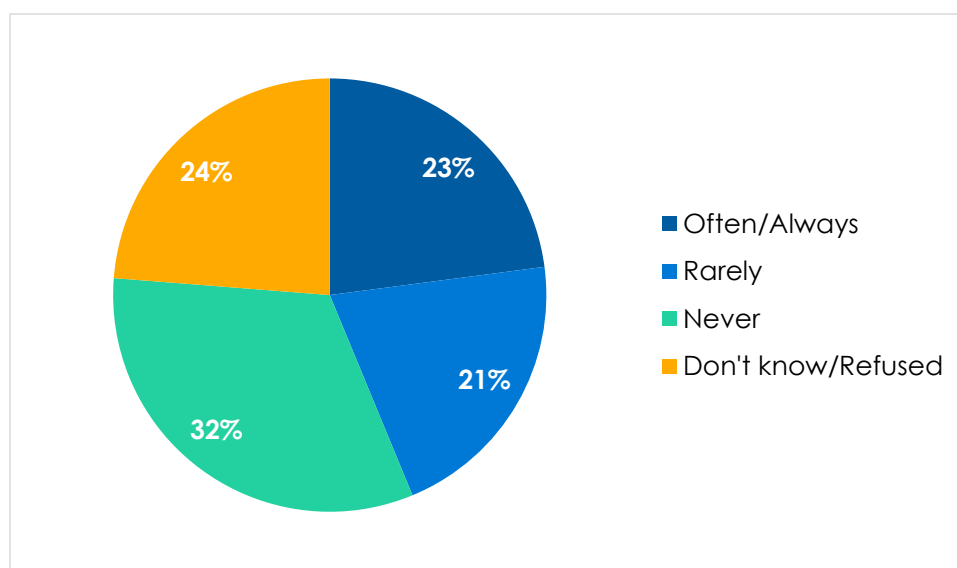
Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past 12 months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: João Lourenço?

Figure 3: Does the president ignore the National Assembly? | by socio-demographic group | Angola | 2019



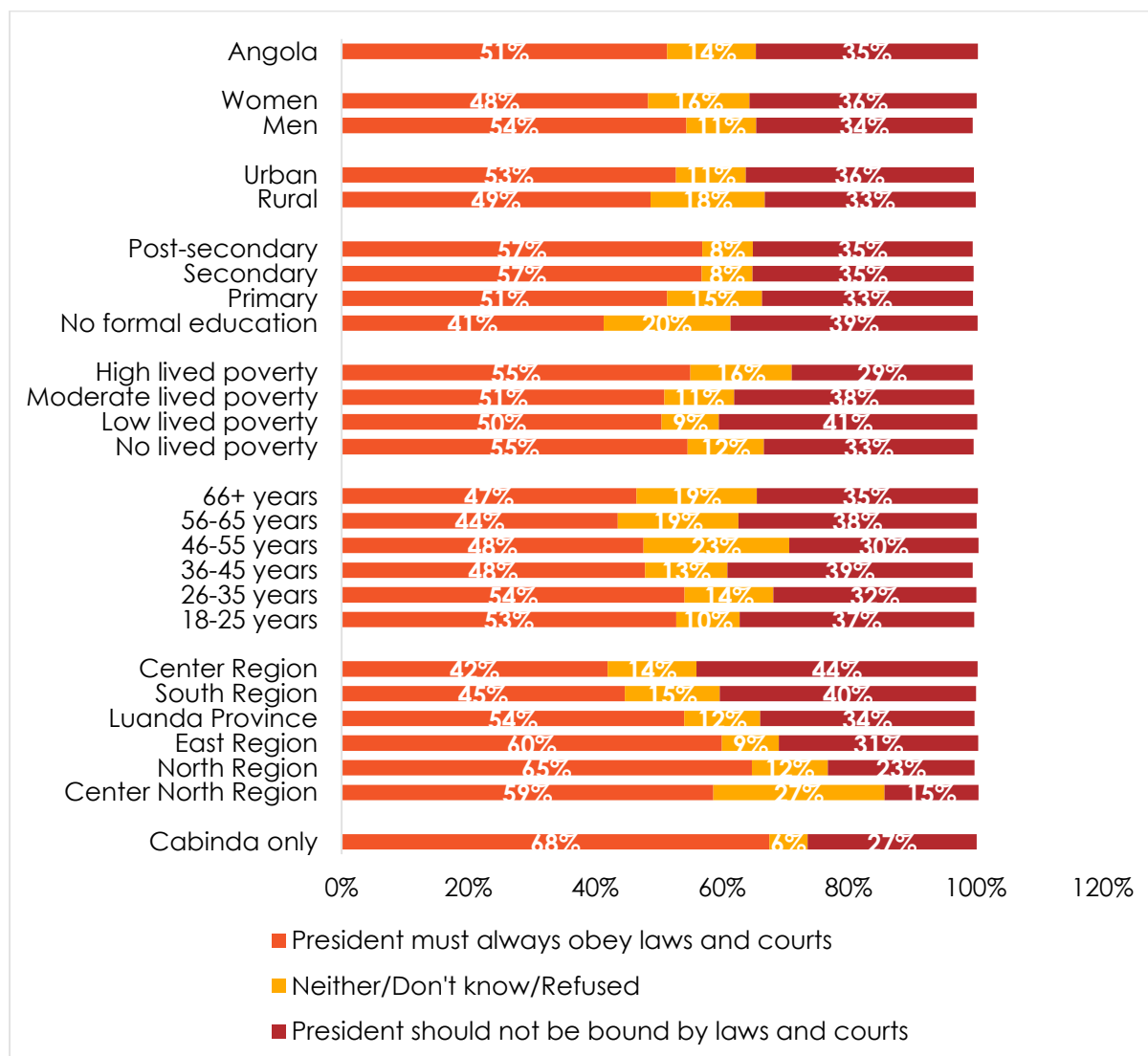
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how often, in this country, does the president ignore the National Assembly and just do what he wants?

Figure 4: Does the president ignore the courts and laws? | Angola | 2019



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how often, in this country, does the president ignore the courts and laws of this country?

Figure 5: Must the president obey laws and court rulings, even if he disagrees?
 | by socio-demographic group | Angola | 2019



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: Since the president was elected to lead the country, he should not be bound by laws or court decisions that [he] thinks are wrong.

Statement 2: The president must always obey the laws and the courts, even if he thinks they are wrong.

(% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement)

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