

Kampala, Uganda
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News release

Ugandans think political leaders serve their own interests; performance ratings for MPs and district councillors decline

A majority of Ugandans think their political leaders are more interested in advancing their own ambitions than in serving the people, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Popular performance ratings for members of Parliament and district councillors declined compared to previous survey rounds, and few citizens think their elected leaders do their best to listen to what their constituents have to say.

Just a year into the current five-year terms of parliamentarians and district councillors, these findings should encourage these leaders to listen to the public's concerns to foster inclusive and better service delivery.

Key findings

- Fewer than half of Ugandans approve of the way their members of Parliament (41%) and their district councillors (44%) performed their jobs during the 12 months preceding the survey. These performance ratings have worsened over the past six years (Figure 1).
- More than six in 10 Ugandans (62%) believe that their political leaders are more concerned with advancing their own ambitions than serving the interests of the people. This represents an improvement compared to 2015 (72%) (Figure 2).
- Few citizens think their members of Parliament (13%) and district councillors (25%) try their best to listen to what their constituents have to say (Figure 3).

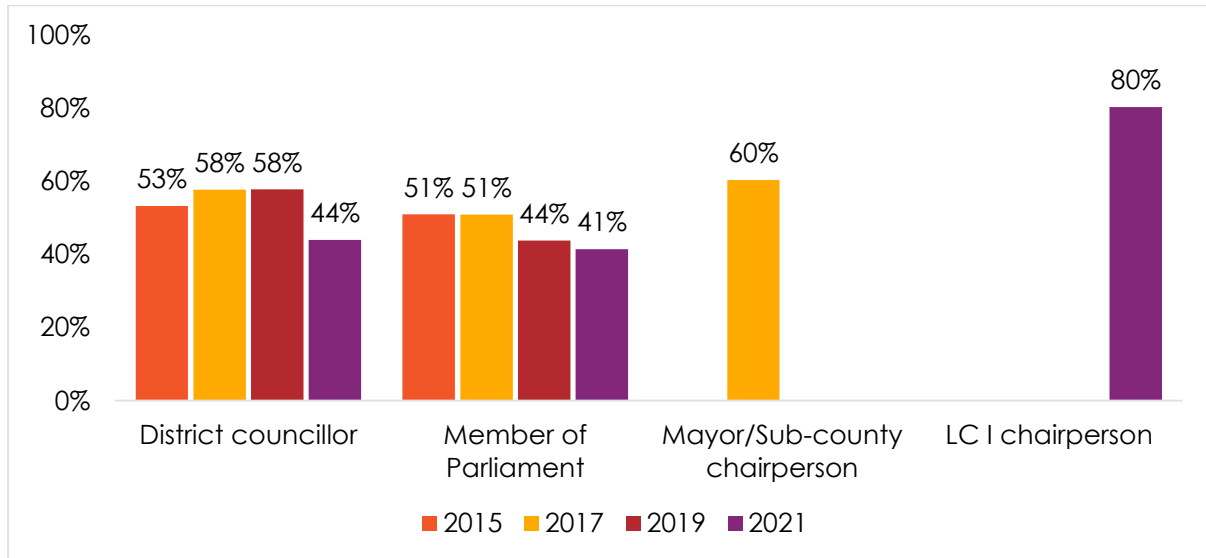
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that has provided reliable data on experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life in 39 African countries since 1999. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

With financial support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda, the Afrobarometer team in Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult Ltd., interviewed 1,200 adult Ugandans between 30 September and 31 October 2019 and 2,400 adult Ugandans between 22 December 2020 and 7 January 2021 in 300 enumeration areas across 110 districts. These sample sizes yield country-level results with margins of error of +/-3 and +/-2 percentage points, respectively, at a 95% confidence level.

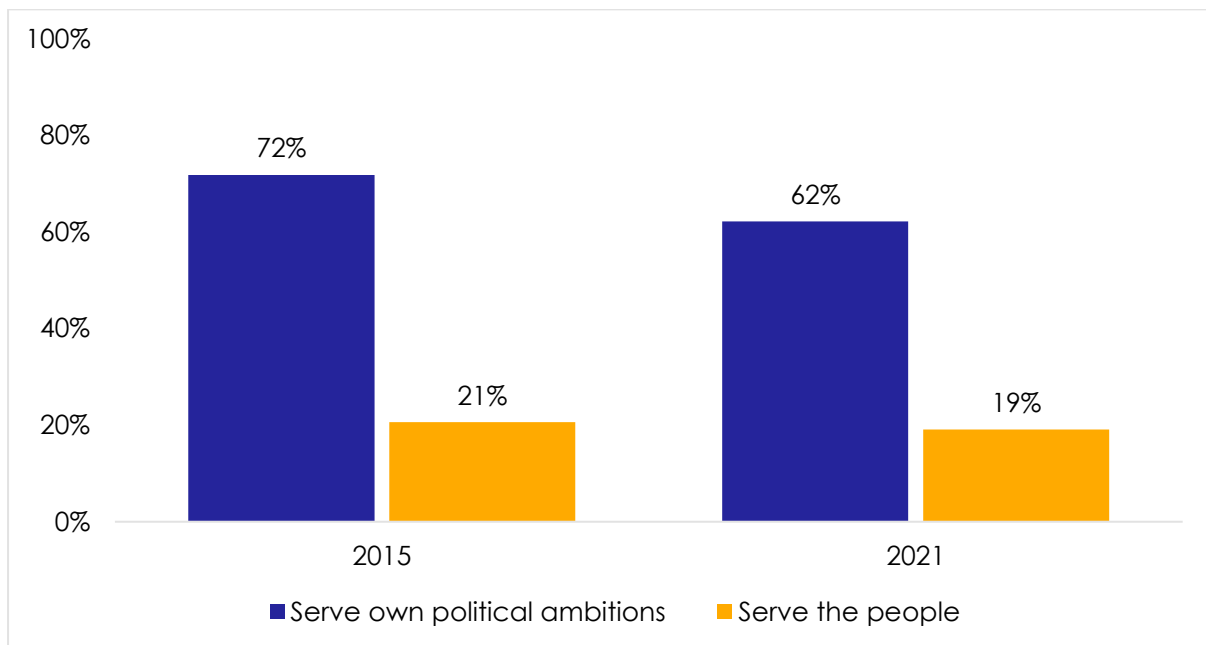
Charts

Figure 1: Performance approval of selected elected leaders | Uganda | 2015-2021



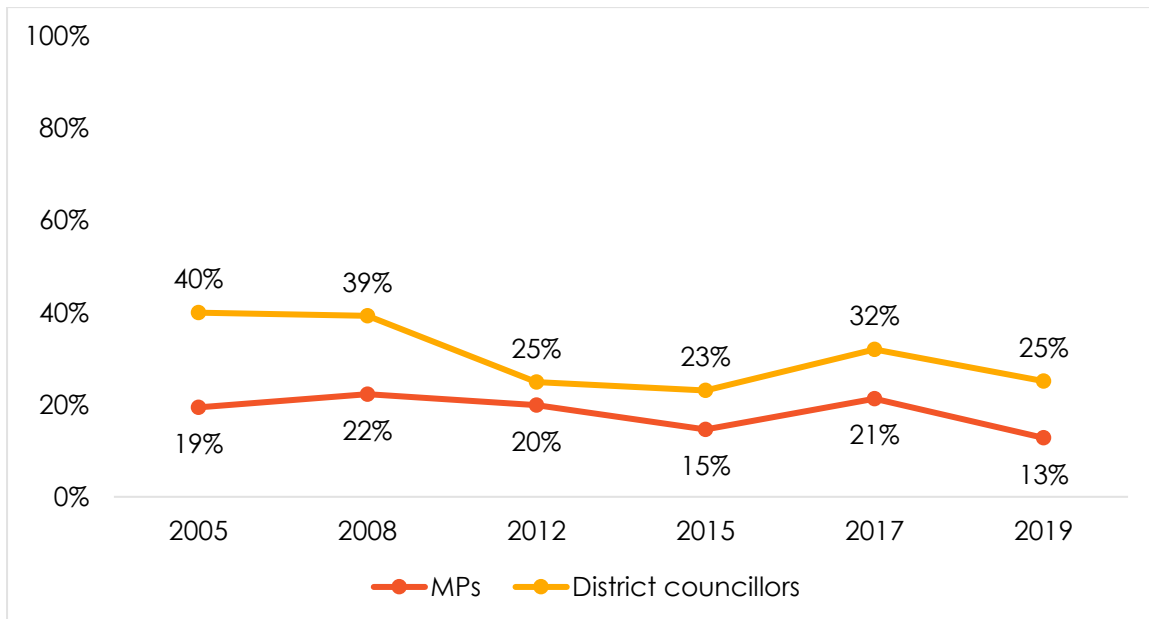
Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past 12 months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Your member of Parliament? Your elected district councillor? Your mayor/sub-county chairperson? Your LC I chairperson? (% who "approve" or "strongly approve")

Figure 2: Leaders serve own interests vs. serve people | Uganda | 2015-2021



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: In this country, politicians and political party leaders are most concerned with serving the interests of ordinary people.
 Statement 2: In this country, politicians and political party leaders are most concerned with advancing their own political ambitions.
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

Figure 3. Do elected leaders listen to the electorate? | Uganda | 2005-2019



Respondents were asked: How much of the time do you think the following try their best to listen to what people like you have to say: Your member of Parliament? Your elected district councillor? (% who say “often” or “always”)

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