

Kampala, Uganda
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News release

Supportive but dissatisfied: Ugandans' views on multipartism

Ugandans support multipartism as a viable political system of governance but many are not satisfied with the way multi-party politics work in Uganda, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

A significant proportion of Ugandans say that competition between political parties often leads to violent conflict, that the opposition political parties and their supporters are often silenced by Government, and many fear becoming victims of political intimidation or violence during election campaigns.

Nearly a decade since the 2005 referendum on political system, these findings demonstrate that despite the low satisfaction with multiparty politics, many Ugandans support the idea of having many political parties, and think the opposition should work with government to develop the country.

Key findings

- Seven in ten (71%) Ugandans agree that many political parties are necessary to give Ugandans real choices in who governs them, compared to 41% in 2002 (Figure 1).
- The growth in support for multipartism has been matched by growth in feeling close to a political party, from 29% in 2000 to 73% in 2015.
- Trust in opposition political parties increased over the last decade and half, from 16% in 2002 to 31% in 2015, with a highest of 47% in 2012. In retrospect, trust in ruling NRM has increased from 56% in 2002 to 71% in 2015, with a lowest point of 45% in 2008.
- More than half (55%) of Ugandans perceive competition between political parties to often result in violent conflict, down from 65% in 2002 (Figure 2). Similarly, only 27% say the opposition or their supporters are never silenced by the government.
- Although abating, the number of citizens who fear becoming victims of political intimidation and violence during election stands at 63% (down from 73% in 2008).

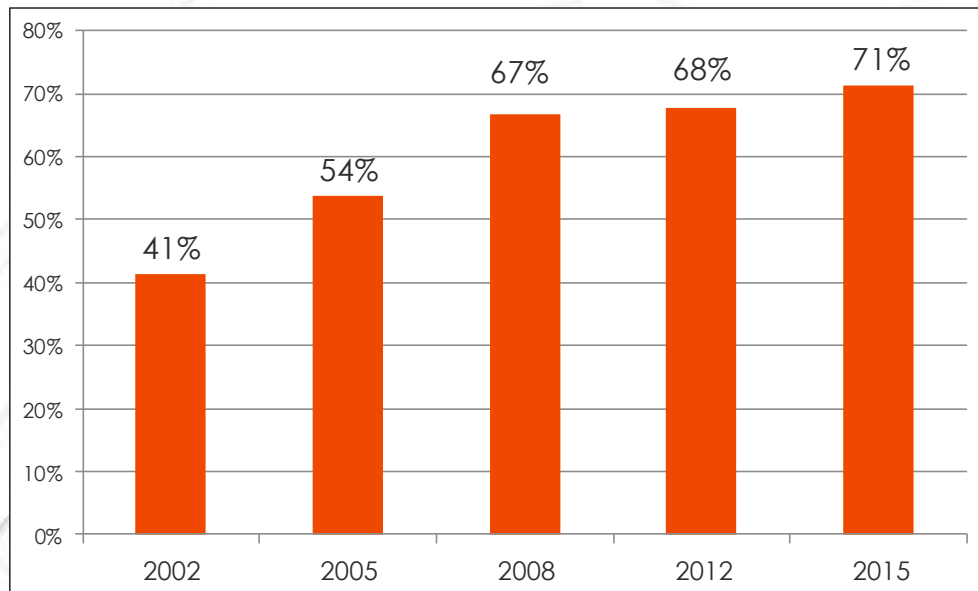
Afrobarometer survey

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 preferred by the respondent with nationally representative samples of between 1,200 and 2,400 respondents.

The Afrobarometer team in Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult, interviewed 2,400 adult Ugandans in May 2015. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Uganda in 2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, and 2012.

Charts

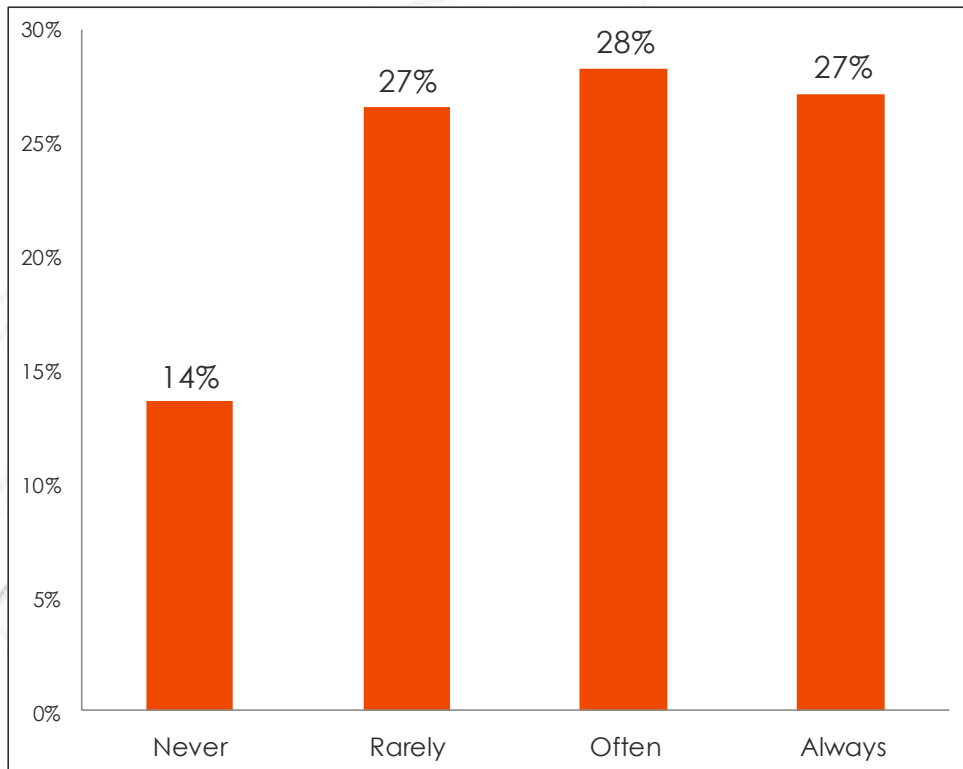
Figure 1: Support for multiparty politics | Uganda | 2000-2015



Respondents were asked:

Which of the following statements is closest to your view. Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.
Statement 1: Political parties create division and confusion; it is therefore unnecessary to have many political parties in Uganda. Statement 2: Many political parties are needed to make sure that Ugandans have real choices in who governs them.
(% who "agreed" and "agreed strongly" with Statement 2)

Figure 2: **Competition between political Parties as a cause of violent conflict** | 2015



Respondents were asked:

In your opinion, how often, in this country does competition between political parties lead to violent conflict? (Note: Total more is less than 100% due to "don't know" response which was excluded)

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