



Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI)
Harare, Zimbabwe
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News release

Zimbabweans satisfied with voter registration but doubtful about Electoral Commission

Approaching their watershed 2018 election in July, Zimbabweans are pleased with their voter-registration process but doubtful about their Electoral Commission, a new national survey by Afrobarometer partner Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI) indicates.

Large majorities say they are satisfied with their experiences with biometric voter registration, but only about half trust the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) and think it performs its duties as a neutral body guided only by law.

Key findings

- Most Zimbabweans say they are “fairly” or “very” satisfied with their experiences with biometric voter registration centers, including the conduct of registration officials (95%) and the functioning of registration equipment (91%) (Figure 1).
- A slim majority (53%) of Zimbabweans believe that the ZEC is a neutral board, while 31% think it makes decisions that favour particular people, parties, or interests (Figure 2).
- Fewer than half (46%) of Zimbabweans say they trust the ZEC “somewhat” or “a lot” (Figure 3).

Afrobarometer surveys

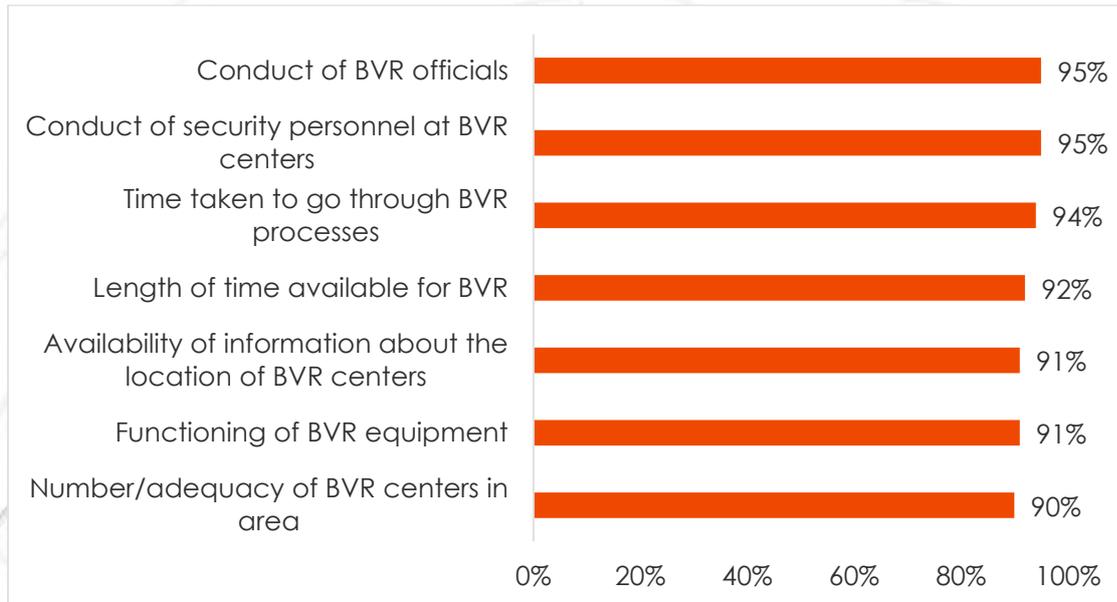
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in African countries. Six rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 37 countries between 1999 and 2015, and a regular Round 7 survey was conducted in Zimbabwe in January-February 2017 (for findings, please visit www.afrobarometer.org). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

For its latest survey, Afrobarometer national partner Mass Public Opinion Institute interviewed 2,399 adult citizens between 28 April and 13 May 2018. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level.



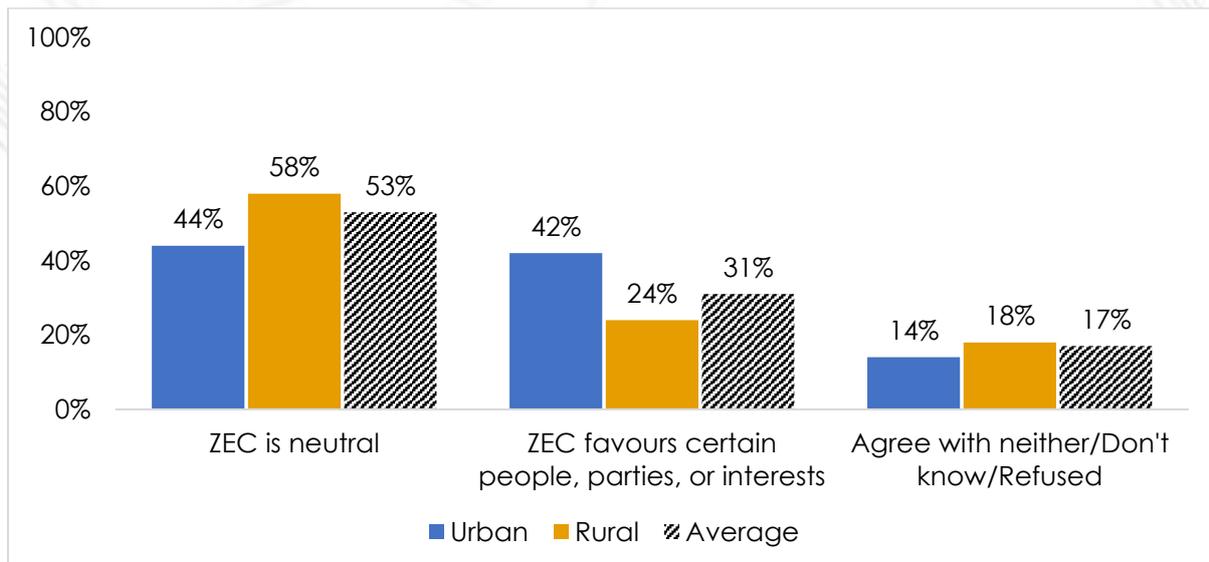
Charts

Figure 1: Satisfaction with experiences at biometric voter registration (BVR) centers | Zimbabwe | 2018



Respondents were asked: How satisfied are you with the following aspects of the biometric voter registration that was conducted in 2017/2018? (% who say "fairly satisfied" or "very satisfied")

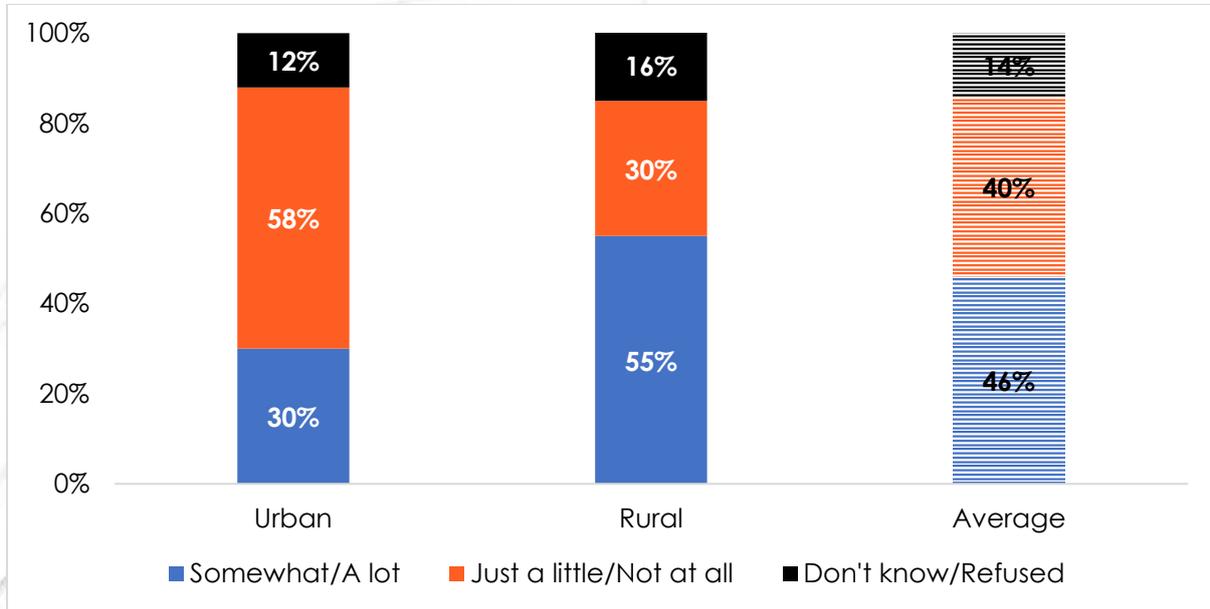
Figure 2: Is the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission neutral? | by urban-rural location | Zimbabwe | 2018



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) performs its duties as a neutral body guided only by law.
 Statement 2: The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) makes decisions that favour particular people, parties, or interests.



Figure 3: Popular trust in the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission | by urban-rural location | Zimbabwe | 2018



Respondents were asked: How much trust do you have in each of the following, or haven't you heard enough to say: Zimbabwe Electoral Commission?

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