

Accra, Ghana
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News release

Ghanaians split on impact of current 'hung' Parliament, Afrobarometer survey shows

Almost half of Ghanaians say the country's "hung" Parliament has made members of Parliament (MPs) more effective at scrutinizing government spending, the recent Afrobarometer survey indicates.

But fewer see gains in MP effectiveness at passing laws or building consensus among political parties in the current Parliament, which for the first time is equally divided between the ruling NPP and the opposition NDC.

Survey findings show strong public support for the central role of MPs in making laws and holding the president accountable. But few citizens think MPs listen to what their constituents say, and most give their elected representatives a negative performance review.

Key findings

- Almost half (46%) of Ghanaians think the composition of the 8th ("hung") Parliament has made MPs "somewhat more" or "much more" effective in scrutinising government spending (Figure 1).
 - But fewer think MPs have been more effective at passing laws (39%) or more likely to cooperate and build consensus with members of other political parties (39%).
- Large majorities endorse the role of MPs in a democratic system:
 - More than eight in 10 (82%) say Parliament should monitor how the government spends taxpayers' money, and three-fourths (75%) say MPs should make laws for the country even if the president does not agree (Figure 2).
- Ghanaians are divided on who is responsible for ensuring that MPs do their jobs: 38% say it's the president, while 35% say it's the voters (Figure 3).
- Most Ghanaians (85%) say their MPs "never" or only "sometimes" listen to what people have to say. Only 14% say parliamentarians "often" or "always" try their best to listen (Figure 4).
- More than two-thirds (71%) of Ghanaians give MPs a failing grade on their job performance over the past year (Figure 5).

Afrobarometer surveys

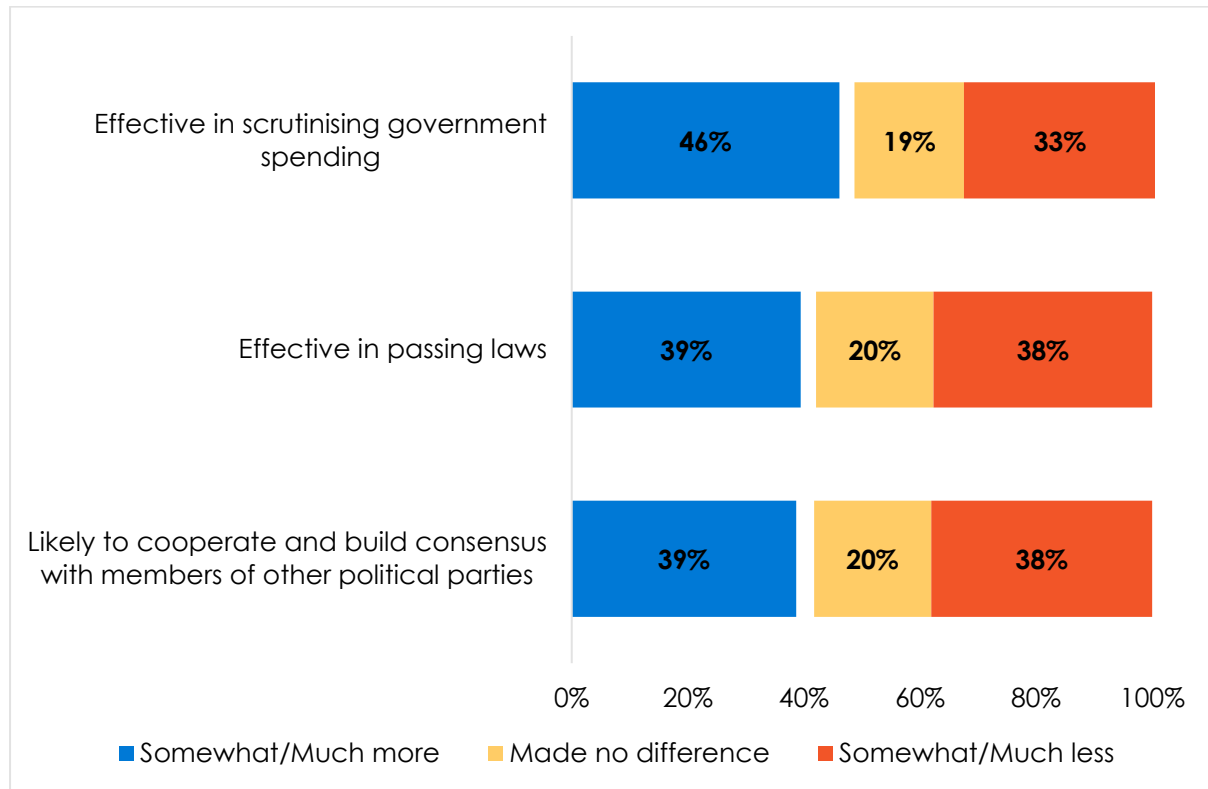
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2022) are currently underway. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Ghana, led by the Ghana Center for Democratic Development, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,400 adult Ghanaians in April 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points

at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Ghana in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2019.

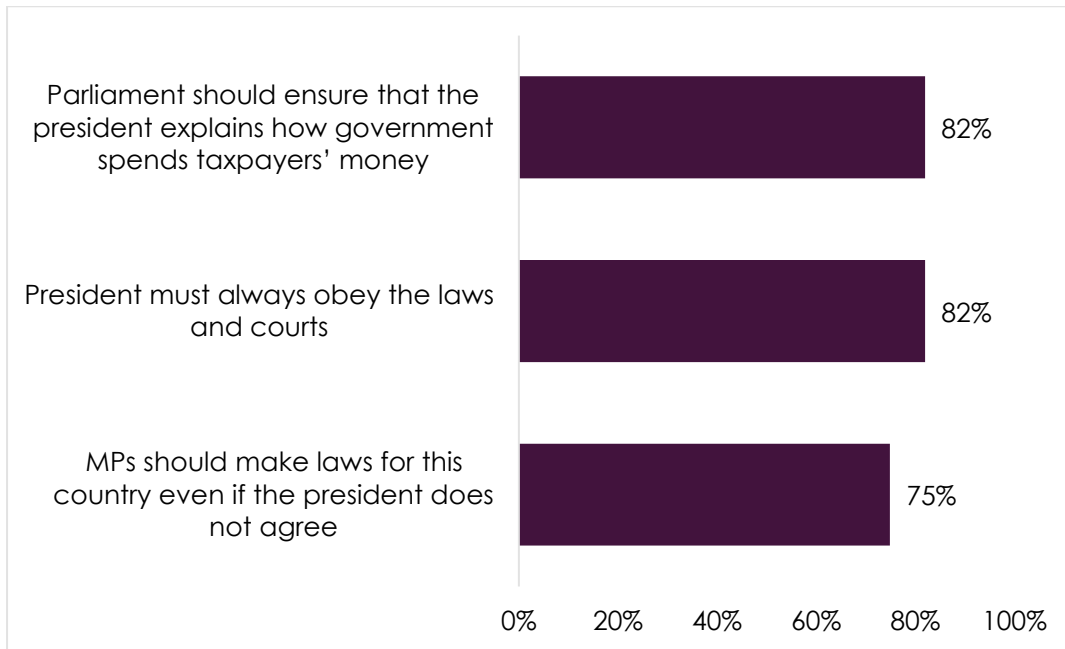
Charts

Figure 1: Has “hung” Parliament affected MP effectiveness? | Ghana | 2022



Respondents were asked: For each of the following, please tell me how you think the current composition of Parliament has affected how members of Parliament work or whether you haven't heard enough about it to say. Has the current composition of Parliament made MPs:
 More or less effective in passing laws?
 More or less effective in scrutinising government spending?
 More or less likely to cooperate and build consensus with members of other political parties?

Figure 2: Support for parliamentary oversight | Ghana | 2022



Respondents were asked:

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: Members of Parliament represent the people; therefore, they should make laws for this country, even if the president does not agree.

Statement 2: Since the president represents all of us, he should pass laws without worrying about what Parliament thinks.

(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with Statement 1)

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: Parliament should ensure that the president explains to it on a regular basis how his government spends taxpayers' money.

Statement 2: The president should be able to devote his full attention to developing the country rather than wasting time justifying his actions.

(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with Statement 1)

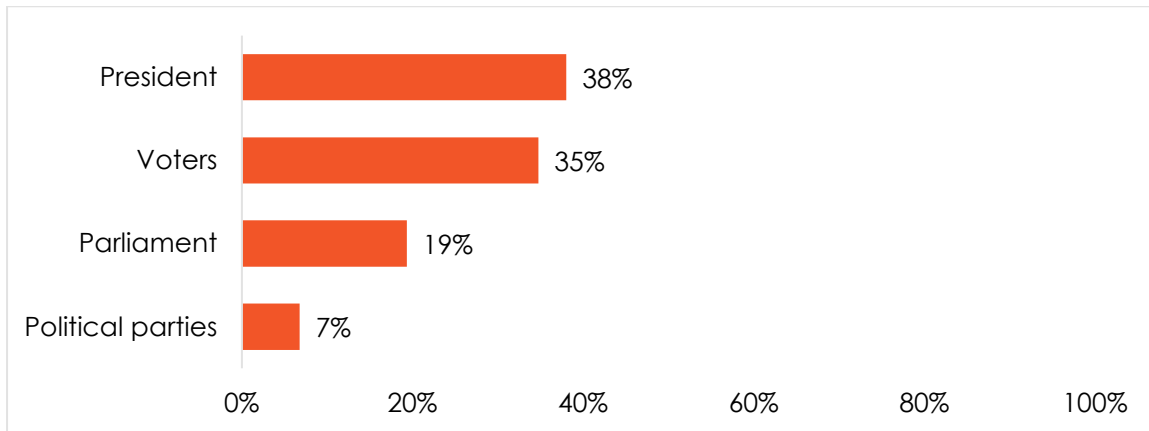
Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

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.

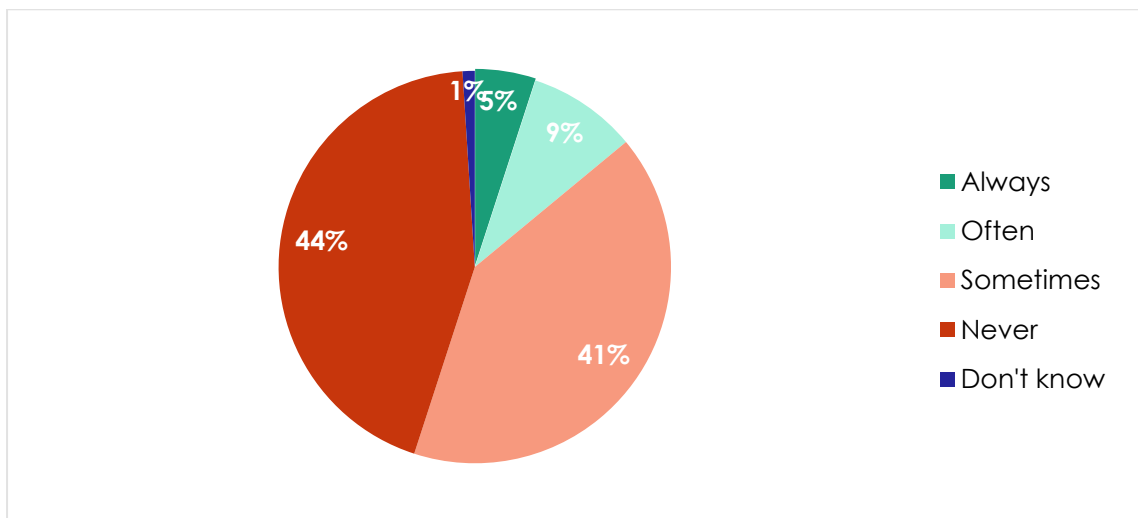
(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with Statement 2)

Figure 3: Who is responsible for making sure MPs do their jobs? | Ghana | 2022



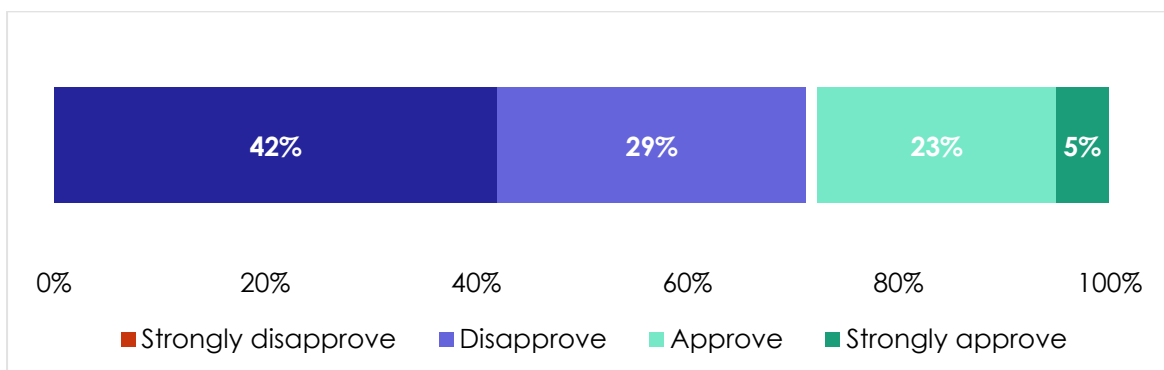
Respondents were asked: Who should be responsible for ensuring that, once elected, members of Parliament do their jobs?

Figure 4: Do MPs listen? | Ghana | 2022



Respondents were asked: How much of the time do you think members of Parliament try their best to listen to what people like you have to say?

Figure 5: Rating MP performance | Ghana | 2022



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

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