



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



Nairobi, Kenya
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News release

Kenyans oppose tax increases and housing levy, express concerns over country's direction, Afrobarometer study shows

Most Kenyans oppose increased taxes on petroleum products and a housing levy to fund the construction of affordable housing, a new Afrobarometer survey shows.

A majority of respondents also oppose increasing tax revenues in order to reduce government borrowing.

Survey findings show that the proportion of Kenyans who believe that most tax officials are involved in corruption has increased significantly over the past decade.

During the past year, a majority of Kenyans experienced moderate or high levels of lived poverty, and there is a widespread sentiment that the country is heading in the wrong direction.

Key findings

- More than six in 10 Kenyans (62%) oppose raising tax revenues to reduce government borrowing (Figure 1).
- Nine in 10 Kenyans (91%) disapprove of the increased tax on petroleum products (Figure 2).
- Seven in 10 (71%) disapprove of the housing levy for salaried employees to fund the construction of affordable housing (Figure 3).
- Almost half (46%) of citizens think that "most" or "all" tax officials are involved in corruption (Figure 4).
- About nine in 10 Kenyans (89%) say they or a family member went without a cash income at least once during the previous year, while 67% report experiencing a lack of medical care (Figure 5).
- A majority (59%) of Kenyans say that the country is going in the wrong direction, while 40% say it is going in the right direction (Figure 6).

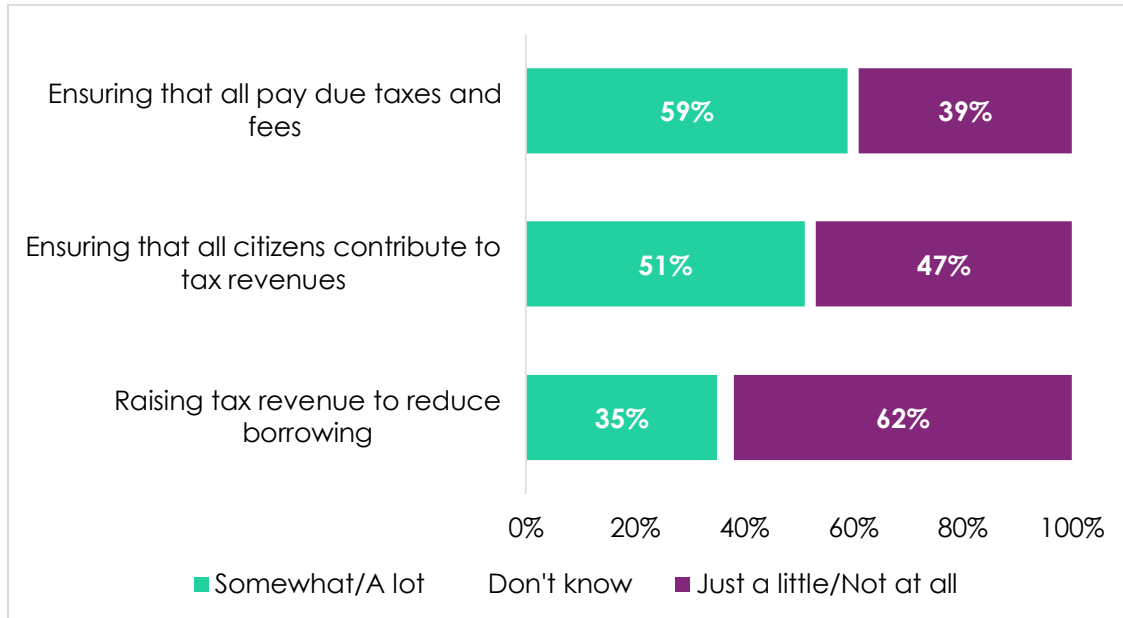
Afrobarometer surveys

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. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 surveys were launched in January 2024. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Kenya, led by the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,400 adult Kenyans in April-May 2024. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous standard Afrobarometer surveys were conducted in Kenya in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2016, 2019, and 2021.

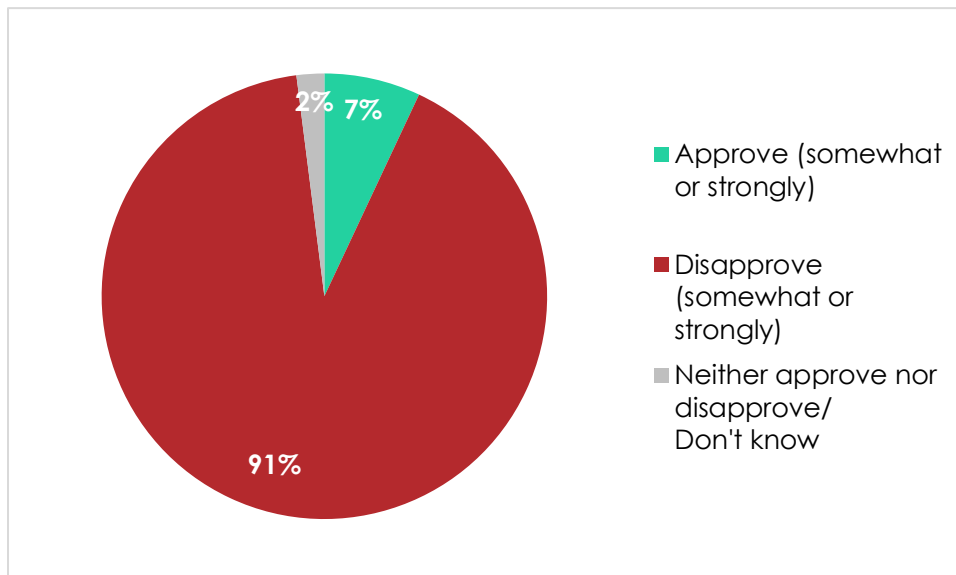
Charts

Figure 1: Views on measures to increase tax revenues | Kenya | 2024



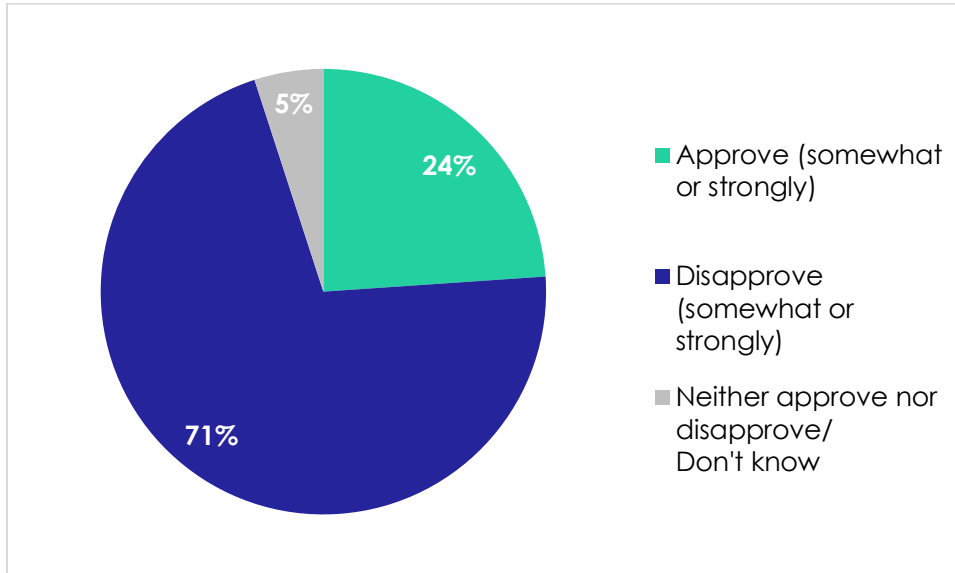
Respondents were asked: The government recently introduced new policies with the aim of raising additional tax revenue and increasing the proportion of people who pay taxes. How much do you support or not support each of the following tax measures, or haven't you heard enough to say:
 Raising more tax revenue to reduce borrowing from other countries?
 Ensuring that all citizens contribute toward government tax revenues?
 Ensuring that all citizens and businesses are paying the taxes and fees that they owe?

Figure 2: Views on increasing tax on petroleum products | Kenya | 2024



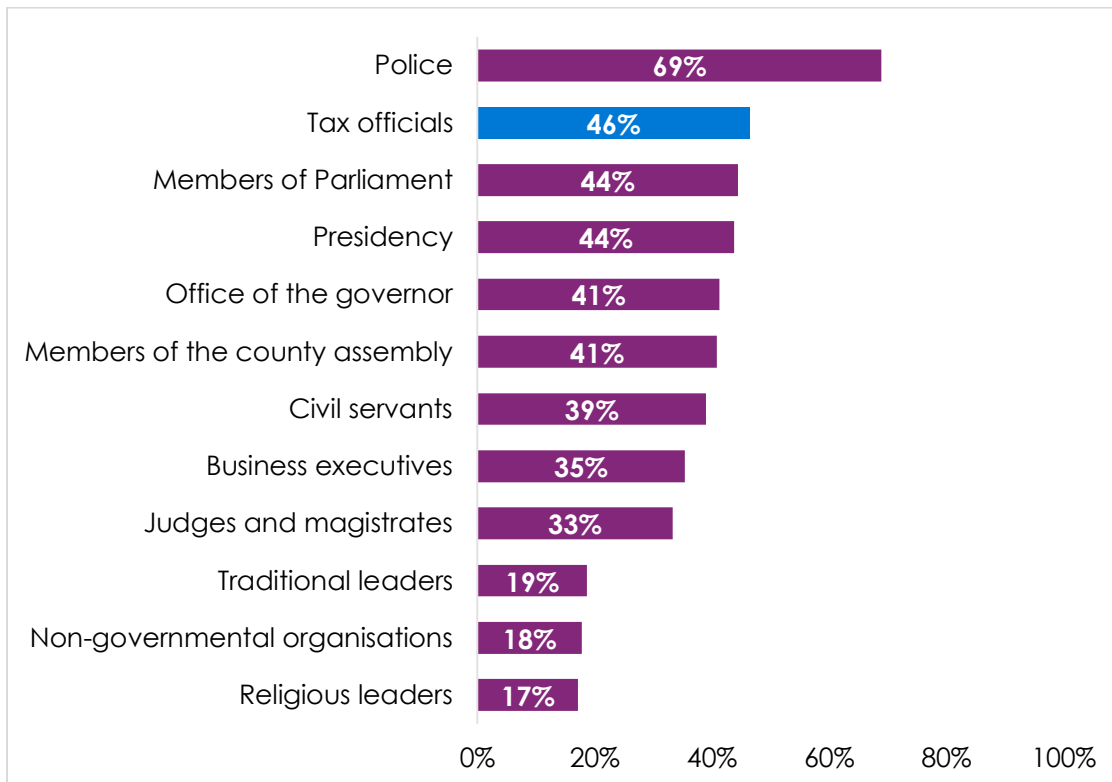
Respondents were asked: The president recently signed a new law which introduced new forms of taxes. Do you approve or disapprove of the following changes that are contained in the new law, or haven't you heard enough to say: Increasing tax on petroleum products?

Figure 3: Views on introduction of a housing levy for salaried employees | Kenya | 2024



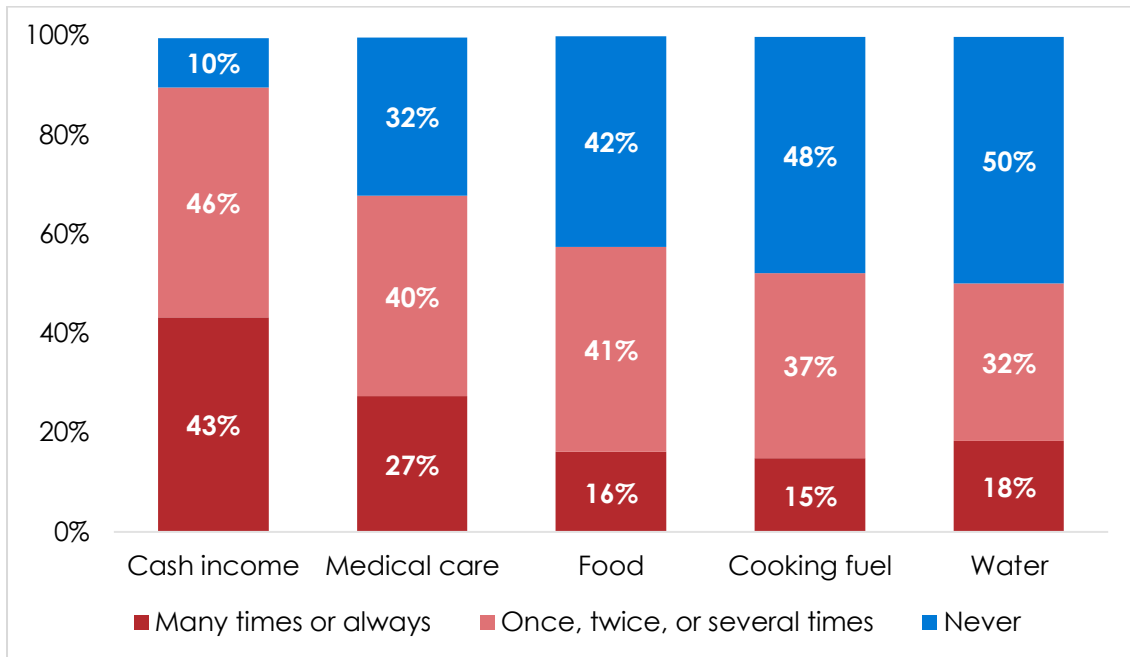
Respondents were asked: The president recently signed a new law which introduced new forms of taxes. Do you approve or disapprove of the following changes that are contained in the new law, or haven't you heard enough to say: Introduction of a housing levy for salaried employees to fund the construction of affordable housing across the country?

Figure 4: Perceived widespread corruption | Kenya | 2024



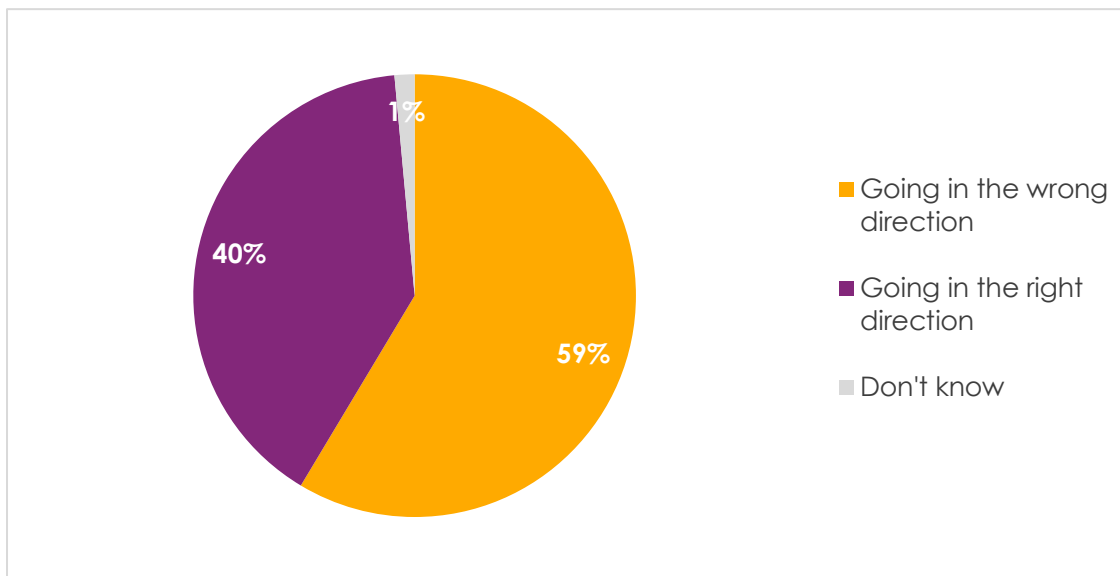
Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% who say "most of them" or "all of them")

Figure 5: Lived poverty | Kenya | 2024



Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough food to eat? Enough clean water for home use? Medicines or medical treatment? Enough fuel to cook your food? A cash income?

Figure 6: Direction of the country | Kenya | 2024



Respondents were asked: Let's start with your general view about the current direction of our country. Some people might think the country is going in the wrong direction. Others may feel it is going in the right direction. So, let me ask you about the overall direction of the country: Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?

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