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HATCHILE CONSULT LTD
Social Research and Integrated Business

AFRO BAROMETER
Let the people have a say

Kampala, Uganda
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News release

Over the years, a majority of Ugandans consistently express support for dialogue, cooperation, and unity, Afrobarometer study shows

Despite Uganda's cultural, ethnic, religious, political, and economic diversity, a majority of its citizens consistently express support for dialogue to resolve electoral disputes, cooperation in governing, and national unity, according to Afrobarometer surveys.

Findings from the Afrobarometer survey series show that a majority of Ugandans want the losing side in elections to accept the election results in the interest of national unity and to cooperate with the government to help develop the country.

Similarly, a majority of citizens say that despite the country's great diversity, there is more that unites Ugandans as one people than divides them.

Key findings

- In 2019, more than six in 10 Ugandans (62%) favoured national dialogue to resolve election-related disagreements, though this reflected a decline from 84% in 2017 (Figure 1).
- About two-thirds (65%) citizens said in 2024 that after losing an election, opposition parties should accept defeat and cooperate with the government to help it develop the country, rather than focus on monitoring and criticising the government to hold it accountable (Figure 2).
    - In 2017, more than eight in 10 respondents (82%) said that in the interest of national unity, the losing side in an election should accept the results even if they disagree with them.
- Despite Uganda's cultural, ethnic, religious, political, and economic diversity, about two-thirds (65%) of citizens said in 2019 that there is "somewhat more" or "much more" that unites Ugandans as one people than divides them (Figure 3).

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 Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult Ltd., interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,400 adult Ugandans in January 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 Uganda in 2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2022.

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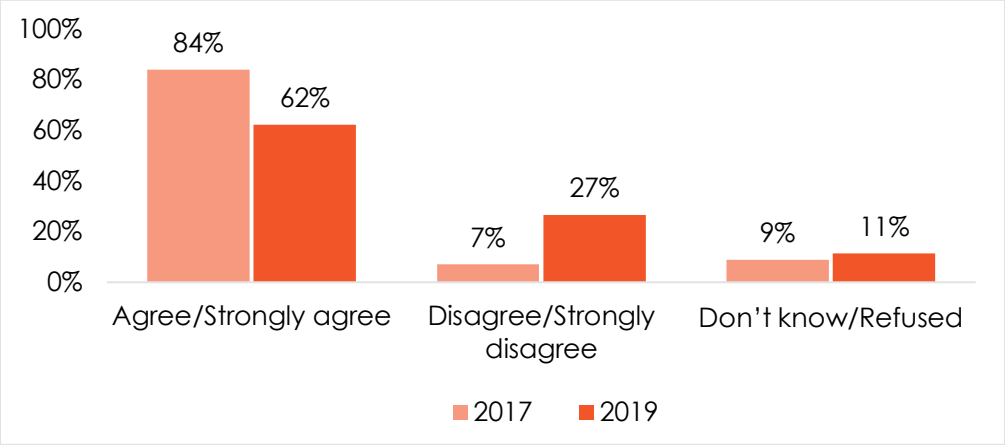
Charts

Figure 1: Citizen views on need for a national dialogue | Uganda | 2017-2019

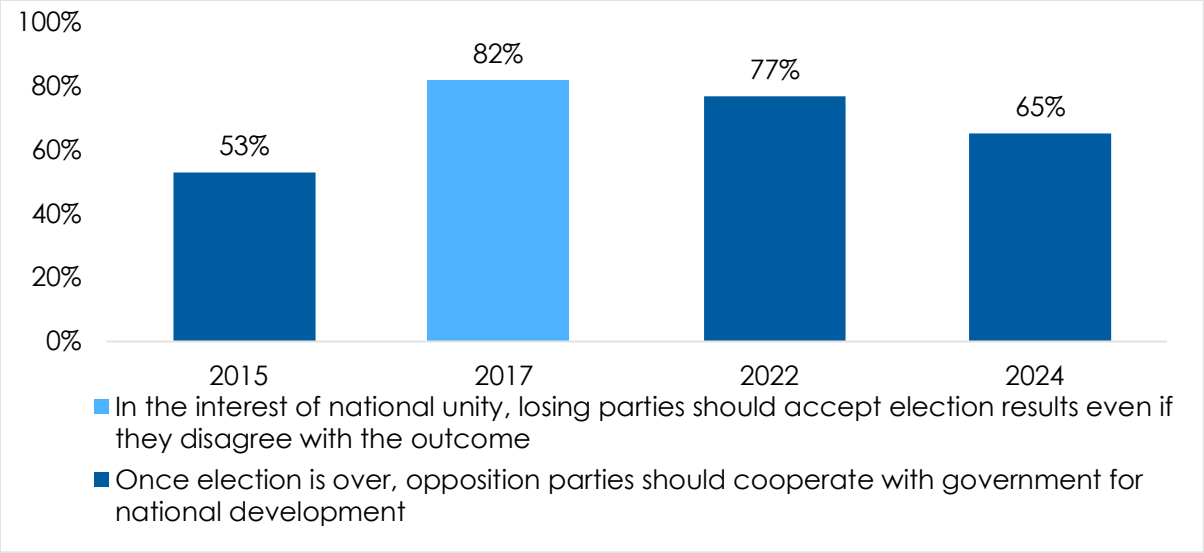


Respondents were asked:

In 2017: *For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree: Disagreements between opposition and government over 2016 election results highlight the need for national dialogue for the country.*

In 2019: *Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Disagreements between opposition and government over previous election results highlight the need for national dialogue for Uganda.*

Figure 2: Support for consensus despite disagreements over election results | Uganda | 2015-2024



Respondents were asked:

In 2017: *For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree: In the interest of national unity, losing political parties should accept election results even if they disagree with the outcomes. (% who "agree" or "agree strongly")*

In 2015, 2022, and 2024: *Which of the following statements is closest to your view?*

Statement 1: After losing an election, opposition parties should monitor and criticise the government in order to hold it accountable.

Statement 2: Once an election is over, opposition parties and politicians should accept defeat and cooperate with government to help it develop the country.

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

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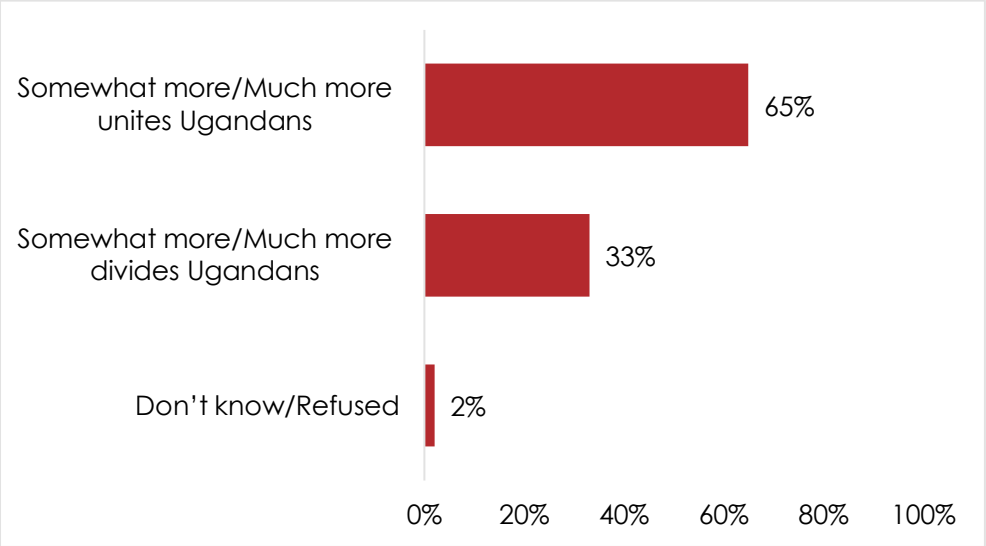
Figure 3: Views on national unity | Uganda | 2019



Respondents were asked: *Ugandans are very diverse. They come from different religions, ethnic groups, political parties, and economic and social backgrounds. Overall, would you say that there is more that unites all Ugandans as one people, or more that divides them?*

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