



Institute for Justice and Reconciliation  
Cape Town, South Africa  
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## News release

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### **Majority of South Africans want a workers' party as alternative to ANC**

Twenty-one years after the African National Congress came to power in South Africa's transition to democratic institutions and rules, a majority of South Africans would support the creation of a workers' party to contest elections and fight for workers' rights, according to findings of the latest Afrobarometer survey.

This level of public support for a new labour/workers' party comes as a surprise given the ANC's centre-left "tripartite alliance" with the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the South African Communist Party (SACP), which professes to fight for the poor and working classes.

It also seems to give credence to calls by the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) for a "united front" to lead the establishment of a political party that would better represent working-class interests than the ANC-led alliance (Cloete, 2014).

**For more information, see Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 73, available at [www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org).**

#### **Key findings**

- Among those who have full-time jobs, six in 10 (60%) support the formation of a workers' party. Support is also strong among citizens who have a post-secondary education and those who are economically well off.
- A majority (54%) of citizens believe COSATU leaders are more focused on political power than on the interests of workers.
- A plurality (45%) of South Africans "agree" or "strongly agree" that to fully advance the interests of their members, trade unions should operate without any government influence or control.

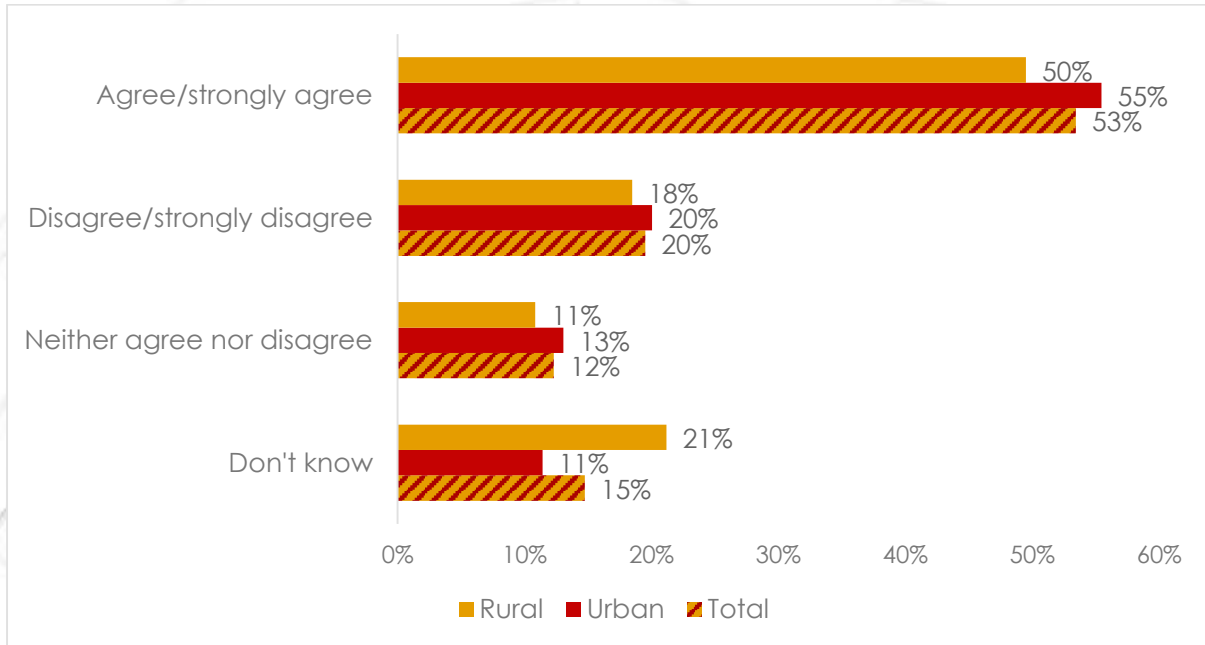
#### **Afrobarometer**

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. After five rounds of surveys between 1999 and 2013, results of Round 6 surveys (2014/2015) are currently being published. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of 1,200 or 2,400 respondents.

The Afrobarometer team in South Africa, led by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) and Plus 94 Research, interviewed 2,400 adult South Africans in August and September 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 South Africa in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2011.

**Charts**

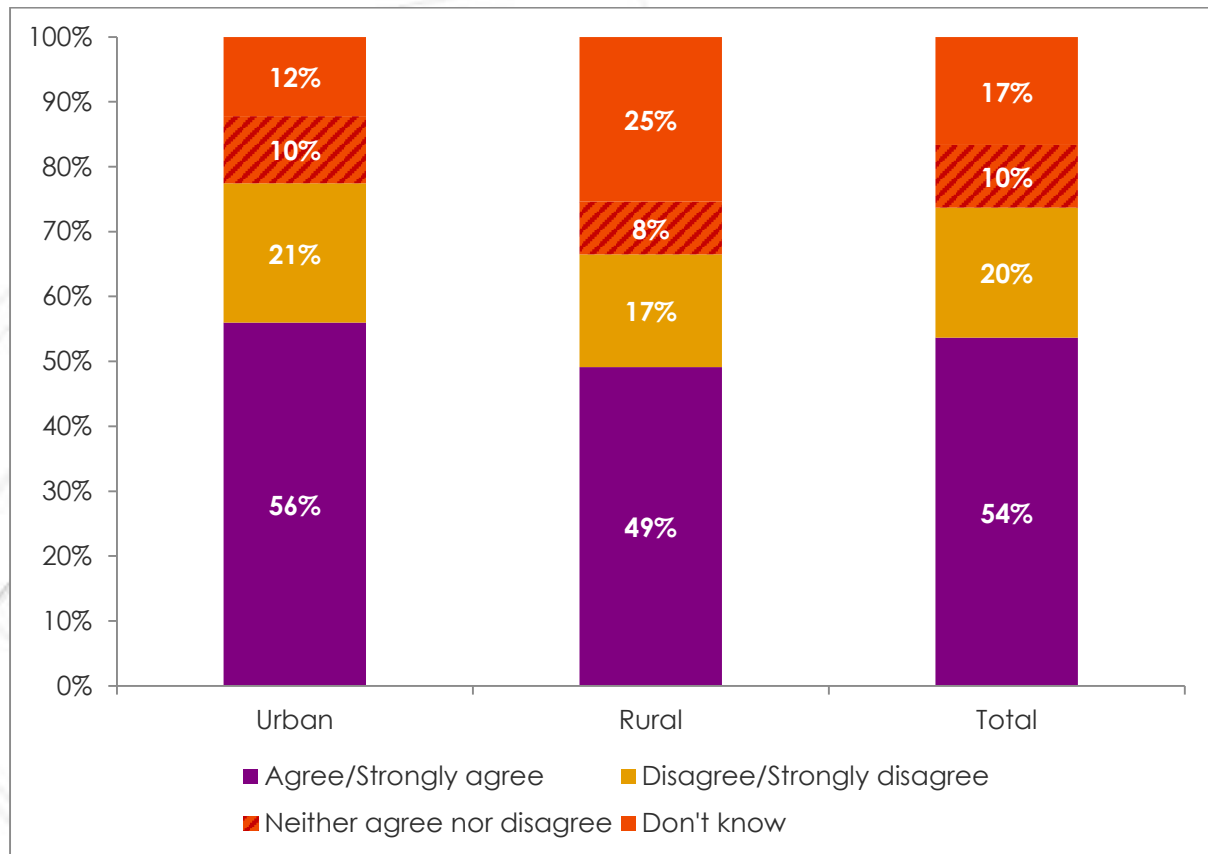
**Figure 1: South African support for establishing a workers' party | by urban-rural residence | South Africa | 2015<sup>1</sup>**



**Respondents were asked:** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree: South Africa needs a new workers' party that can defend the interests of the working class?

<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding, categories in graphics may not always sum to 100%.

**Figure 2: COSATU and concern for political power** | by urban-rural residence | South Africa | 2015



**Respondents were asked:** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree: *The leaders of COSATU are more concerned about political power than the interests of workers?*

**For more information, please contact:**

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