

RuralNet Associates Ltd  
Lusaka, Zambia  
23 September 2015

## News release

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### **A majority of Zambians express confidence in the effectiveness of national elections**

The percentage of Zambian citizens who believe in the effectiveness of national elections in effecting change has nearly doubled in a space of 10 years. The most recent Afrobarometer survey has revealed that between 2005 and 2014, the percentage of Zambians who expressed confidence in the effectiveness of national elections to bring about change increased from 30% in 2005 to 59% in 2014.

The data is in agreement with other sources that lend credence to Zambia's strengthening democracy. For instance, in 1991, Zambia became one of the first post-independence countries in Africa to effect change of government through peaceful and competitive elections when the then-ruling United National Independent Party (UNIP) was dislodged by the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) in a national election. Change through competitive elections was repeated 20 years later when the ruling MMD lost power to the Patriotic Front in 2011 national elections (see Zambia's electoral commission website [www.election.org.zm](http://www.election.org.zm)).

#### **Key findings**

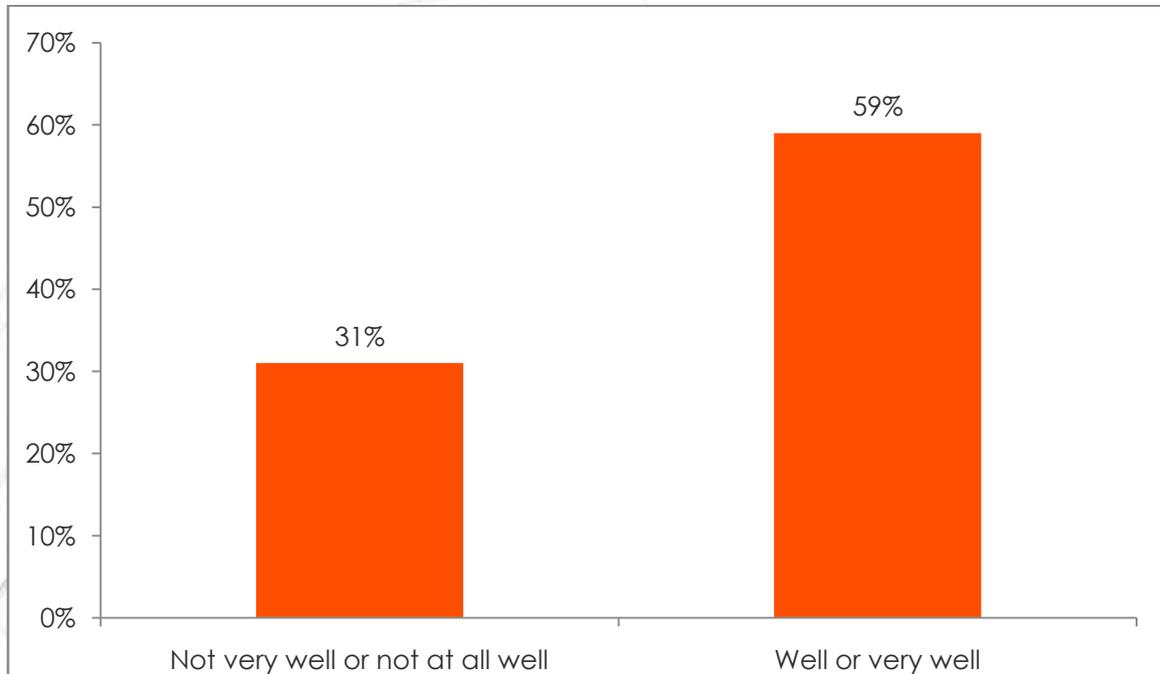
- Nearly six in 10 (59%) of Zambian citizens think elections enable voters to remove from office leaders who do not do what the people want.
- Similarly, about half (51%) think elections ensure that Members of Parliament reflect the views of voters.
- The level of confidence Zambians have in elections enabling the removal from office of leaders has been increasing from 2005 (30%) to (59%) in 2014.

#### **Afrobarometer**

Afrobarometer is an African-led, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and Round 6 surveys are currently under way (2014-2015). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of between 1,200 and 2,400 respondents.

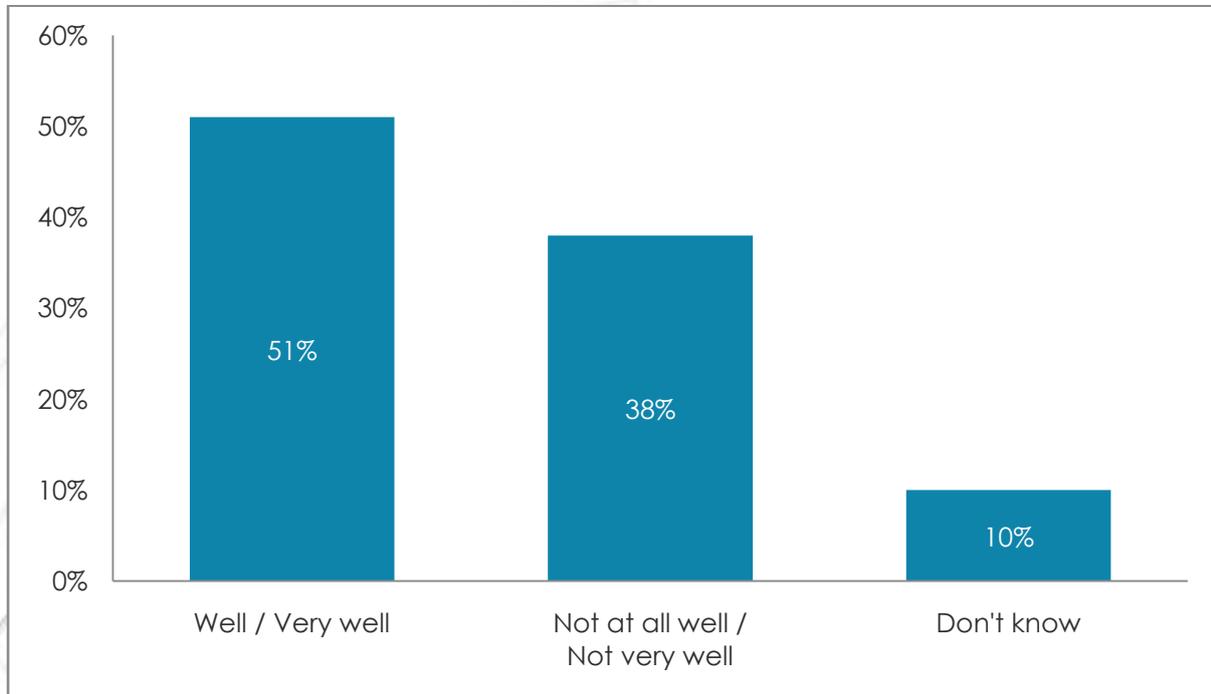
The Afrobarometer team in Zambia, led by RuralNet Associates, interviewed 1,200 adult Zambians in October 2014. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Zambia in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2009 and 2012.

**Figure 1: Elections enable voters to remove poorly performing leaders from office | Zambia | 2014**



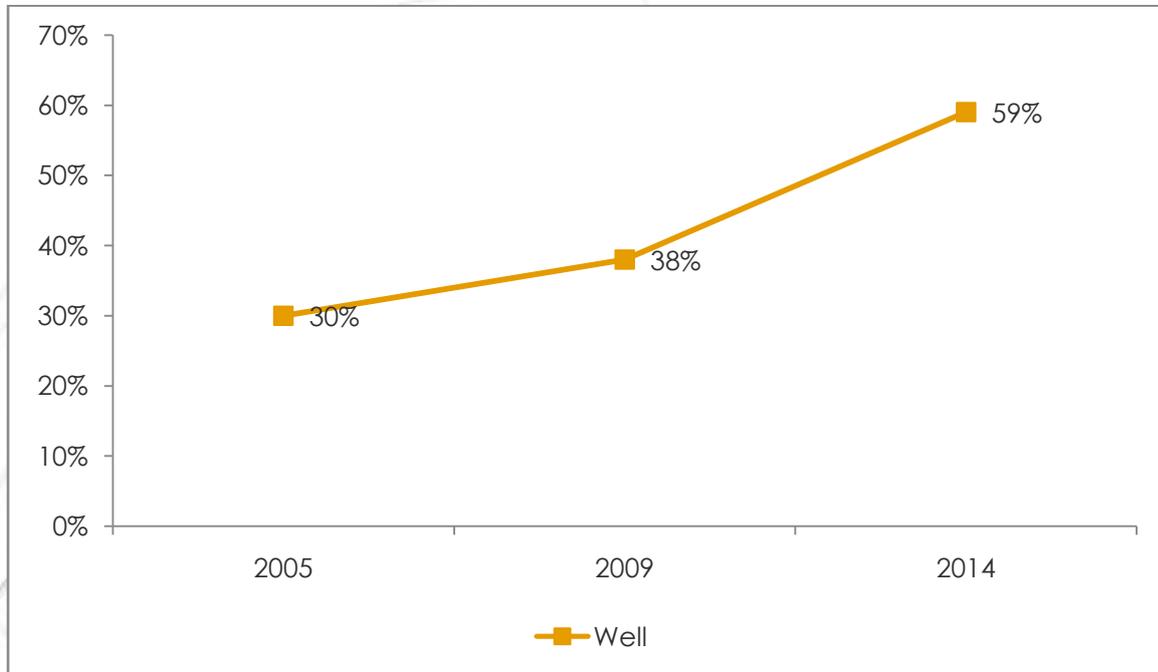
**Respondents were asked:** Think about how elections work in practice in this country. How well do elections enable voters to remove from office leaders who do not do what the people want (% who said "not very/not at all well", "very well/well").

**Figure 2: Elections ensure that voters' views are reflected | Zambia | 2014**



**Respondents were asked:** *Members of Parliament reflect the views of voters (% who said "not very/not at all well", "very well/well", "don't know").*

**Figure 3: Elections enable voters to remove poorly performing leaders from office**  
| Zambia | 2005 -2014



**Respondents were asked:** Think about how elections work in practice in this country. How well do elections: Enable voters to remove from office leaders who do not do what the people want (% who said "well")t.

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