Malawi AB R5 Survey Results

3rd Release: October 11, 2012

Crossroads Cresta Hotel
Bambooz Hall

www.afrobarometer.org
What is the Afrobarometer?

• The Afrobarometer (AB) is a comparative series of public opinion surveys that measure public attitudes toward democracy, governance, the economy, leadership, identity, and other related issues.

• The AB is an independent, non-partisan, African-based network of researchers.

• The first round of surveys took place in 1999-2001 in 12 countries. The Network is now conducting “Round 5” surveys in up to 35 countries during 2011-2012.

• **Purpose:** To measure popular perspectives on the social, political, and economic environments in each country where it is implemented and across Africa.

• **Goal:** To give the public a *voice* in policy making processes by providing high-quality public opinion data to policy-makers, policy advocates and civil society organizations, academics, media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.

[www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)

- Round 1, 1999-2001, 12 countries
  - Southern Africa: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe
  - West Africa: Ghana, Mali, Nigeria
  - East Africa: Tanzania, Uganda
- Round 2, 2002-2003, 16 countries
  - Cape Verde, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal
- Round 3, 2005-2006, 18 countries
  - Benin, Madagascar
- Round 4, 2008-2009, 20 countries
  - Burkina Faso, Liberia
- Round 5, 2011-2012, 35 countries
  - Burundi, Cameroon, Mauritius, Niger, Togo, and Sierra Leone

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Who is the Afrobarometer

- **National Partner** (NP) implements country survey
  - Malawi’s NP is Centre for Social Research (CSR) - CC of UNIMA

- **Core Partners** (4) for network technical support and management
  - Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Ghana
  - Institute for Democracy in South Africa (Idasa), South Africa
  - Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi, Kenya
  - Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IREEP), Benin

- **Support Units** (2) for capacity building and quality assurance
  - Michigan State University
  - University of Cape Town

- **Core Funders:** DFID, SIDA, USAID & the Mo Ibrahim Foundation (R5)

[Website: www.afrobarometer.org]
Survey Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  - Random selection of TAs, EAs & households
  - Every adult citizen in household has equal chance
  - Use quota system: equal number of men and women
- Face-to-face interviews in either Chichewa or Chitumbuka
- Standard instrument across countries for comparability
- Malawi R5 survey interviewed 2400 adult Malawian citizens;
  - Yielding results with a margin of error of +/- 2% @ 95% confidence level
- Malawi R5 field work run between 4 June and 1 July 2012

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Today’s release

• Civic Participation & Political participation
• State of Democracy
• Trust in Institutions & Corruption and Performance of ACB
• Citizenship & identities
• Selection of Students to University by ‘Quota’ system

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Afrobarometer Round 5 Malawi Survey
Summary of Results

TOPIC 1
Civic & Political Participation

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Key findings

• At least 6 in 10 Malawians are interested in politics and much more discuss politics

• There is a significant difference between men and women especially when it comes to discussing politics

• Both men and women regardless of residence find politics to be difficult to understand at times

• Although the majority of Malawians are members of some religious group, their membership in CBOs is very low

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Key findings

- Close to 8 in 10 Malawians (regardless of sex) attend community meetings but this is more prevalent in towns and rural areas.

- While almost all Malawians (95%) regardless of sex or location said they joined or could join others to raise an issue, a similar proportion did and could not participate in a demonstration.

- Less than half of Malawians participate in community management of services. Even then participation in community management of services is more prevalent among men and in rural areas and towns.

- On average, 8 in 10 of participated in the 2009 elections as voters with 57% attending political rallies, 30% campaigning for a candidate or party and 24% working for a candidate.

- There is very little contact between citizens and service providers.

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Interested in public affairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Interested</th>
<th>Not interested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towns</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How interested would you say you are in public affairs?

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Whether politics is ever discussed

When you get together with your friends or family, would you say you discuss political matters?

[Bar chart showing percentages of people who discuss politics]

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Politics is difficult to understand

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me cannot really understand what is going on

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Could you tell me whether you are an official leader, an active member, an inactive member, or not a member of a religious group?

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Could you tell me whether you are an official leader, an active member, an inactive member, or not a member of a voluntary association or community group?
Community meeting attendance

Please tell me whether you, personally, attended a community meeting during the past year. If not, would you do this if you had the chance?

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Please tell me whether you, personally, got together with others to raise an issue/attended a demonstration or protest march during the past year. If not, would you do this if you had the chance?

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Please tell me whether you, personally, participated in community management of services such as school, health, or water/borehole committee during the past year. If not, would you do this if you had the chance?
Participation in election activities

With regard to the most recent national election in 2009, which statement is true for you? Voted, attended a campaign rally, tried to persuade others to vote for a certain candidate or political party or worked for a candidate or party?

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Citizens who had no contact

During the past year, how often have you contacted a Member of Parliament/Official of a government agency/political party official/official of an CSO about some important problem or to give them your views?

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Topic 2: State of Democracy

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Key findings

• Only 1 in every 2 Malawians consider Malawi to be a democracy
• This is one of the lowest ratings compared to others countries
• Just over half of Malawians are satisfied with how democracy is working in Malawi
• Majority of Malawians have consistently preferred democracy from any form of government over since 1999
• The extent of democracy has always been below the support people have of democracy

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Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Malawi?

- Satisfied: 56%
- Not Satisfied: 44%
Extent and support for democracy in Malawi, 2003-2012

Support for democracy: Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion? Percent saying Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government

--- | ---
2003 (R2) | 64
2005 (R3) | 56
2008 (R4) | 74
2012 (R5) | 76

Support for democracy: Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion? Percent saying Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government
Extent of Democracy: In your opinion how much of a democracy is Malawi today? Percent saying “full democracy or democracy with minor problems”
Topic 3: Trust in Institutions, State of Corruption & ACB

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Key findings

- Courts of Law and the Army are the most trusted institutions (88% and 83% respectively) while the MRA and opposition parties are the least (50% and 46%)

- Some institutions like the Ombudsman are not known to the significant proportion of the Malawi population

- Police officers are considered to be most corrupt by Malawians (76%)

- 50% of Malawians think ACB works as a neutral body, only guided by the Law

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## Trust in Institutions & offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body/Office</th>
<th>% trust “somewhat / a lot”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courts of Law</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights Commission</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Assembly</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi Electoral Commission</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Commission</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruling Party</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSOs/NGOs</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Joyce Banda</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ombudsman</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Bingu wa Mutharika</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi Revenue Authority</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposition Parties</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How much do you trust the Ombudsman, or haven’t you heard enough about them to say?

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Perceptions of Corruption

How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption ...? Percent saying some/most/all of them

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Statement 1: The Anti Corruption Bureau performs its duties as a neutral body as guided only by the law.
Statement 2: The Anti Corruption Bureau makes decisions that favor particular people or political parties.

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TOPIC 4:
QUOTA SELECTION POLICY, SELF IDENTITY AND CITIZENSHIP

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Key Findings

• Malawians are evenly split on the fairness or not of the quota selection policy for higher education. 41% see the policy as fair while 42% see it as unfair.

• Support for the quota system is strongest in the Central (45%) and Southern (43) regions and lowest in the North (19%)

• Nearly nine in ten Malawians disapprove of dual nationality/citizenship. Among 12 Afrobarometer countries, Malawi is the least approving of dual citizenship.

• A plurality of Malawians (45%) self-identify by both national and ethnic identity.

• An overwhelming majority of Malawians (93%) state that they are proud to be called Malawians. National pride is highest in cities (97%) and the Central region (95%)

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Opinion on the quota selection policy for University education

Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.

Statement 1: The quota system of selection of students to public colleges and universities is necessary to ensure fair access to tertiary education for all districts of the country.

Statement 2: The quota system of selection of students to public colleges and universities is discriminatory and it does not promote fair competition among all students.
Support for quota selection by region and locality
In your opinion, which of the following people have a right to be a citizen of Malawi? A person who wishes to hold dual citizenship, that is, to be a citizen both of Malawi and some other country?
In your opinion, which of the following people have a right to be a citizen of [country]? A person who wishes to hold dual citizenship, that is, to be a citizen both of [country] and some other country?
Who should have Malawi Citizenship?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Born in country with one non-citizen parent</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born in country with two non-citizen parents</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife of Citizen Husband</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband of Citizen Wife</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lived &amp; worked in country for many Yrs</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In your opinion, which of the following people have a right to be a citizen of Malawi? A citizen would have the right to get a Malawian passport and to vote in Malawian elections if they are at least 18 years old.*
Let us suppose that you had to choose between being a Malawian and being a ________ [R’s ETHNIC GROUP]. Which of the following statements best expresses your feelings?
Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: It makes you proud to be called a Malawian (% strongly agreeing/agreeing).
Summary

1. Given that there are various levels of participation, Malawians are generally low level active citizens regardless of sex and location.

2. Malawians consider the status of democracy in the country to be less than ideal. This is also evidenced by demand for which surpasses supply of democracy.

3. Contrary to expectations, level of trust of institutions and perceptions of corruption of officials in those institutions do not go hand in hand, which indicate some tolerance of corruption.

4. Malawians are indifferent about the fairness of the quota system of selecting tertiary education students.

5. Malawians are proud to be Malawian and discourage dual citizenship.

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www.afrobarometer.org