Results from the Afrobarometer Round 5 Survey in NIGERIA

4 of 4 Public Release events

10th September, 2013

Lagos, Nigeria

www.afrobarometer.org
www.nationalpartner.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

- 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
  - Four countries were included = Cape Verde, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal

- Round 3, 2005-2006, 18 countries
  - Two countries were included = Benin, Madagascar

- Round 4, 2008-2009, 20 countries
  - Two countries were included = Burkina Faso, Liberia

- Round 5, 2011-2013, up to 35 countries
  - Thirteen countries were included = Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Guinea, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Togo, Tunisia, Sierra Leone, Sudan

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Country Coverage Round 5: 2011-2013
Who is the Afrobarometer?

→ A Pan-African Network of survey researchers and analysts.

- In each country there is a **National Partner** responsible for survey implementation. In Nigeria, the National Partner is CLEEN Foundation.

- Four **Core Partners** provide technical assistance and Network 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

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

- Round 5 **Core Funders** include
  - DFID
  - SIDA
  - USAID
  - Mo Ibrahim Foundation

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Survey Methodology

• Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  o all respondents are randomly selected
  o every adult citizen has an equal and known chance of being selected

• Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent’s choice

• Standard survey instrument across all countries for comparability

• The survey interviewed 2,400 adult Nigerians; A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/- 2% at a 95% confidence level.

• Field work for Round 5 in Nigeria was conducted between 29th October and 30th November in 2012.

• Afrobarometer’s work in Nigeria is coordinated by The CLEEN Foundation and field work was carried out by Practical Sampling International PSI.

www.afrobarometer.org
## Survey Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
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<th>Un-weighted</th>
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# Survey Demographics

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<tr>
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<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Higher</td>
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[www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
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<td>Adamawa</td>
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<td>Kebbi</td>
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<td>Nasarawa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<td>Ogun</td>
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<td>Ondo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plateau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rivers</td>
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<td>5%</td>
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<td>Sokoto</td>
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<td>Taraba</td>
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<td>Yobe</td>
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<td>Zamfara</td>
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TOWARDS PUTTING TAX RETURNS ON PUBLIC RECORDS IN NIGERIA
Key Findings of R5 Nigeria

- Afrobarometer Round 5 survey revealed that majority of respondents (75%) were proud to be called Nigerians.
- 80% say they are “usually very careful” in dealing with others; only 16% thought most people can be trusted in the country.
- 51% of respondents agreed that it is better to pay higher taxes to ensure better services are provided by government.
- 23% say the major reason for avoiding paying government taxes is the poor services they receive from government.
- Large number of the residents (72%) believe media revelations on government mistakes and corruption are not very effective.
Question: Do you have a job that pays a cash income?

- Most Nigerians 49% say they do not have a job that pays a cash income.

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Question: If you have paid employment, are you required to pay an income tax, that is, a tax deducted from your wages by your employer versus If you are self employed, are you required to pay a tax on the earnings from your business or job?

- Income taxes
- Self-employer taxes

- Not required to pay: 5%
- Required to pay: 18%
- Not applicable: 76%
- Don't know: 1%

- Not required to pay: 13%
- Required to pay: 26%
- Not applicable: 60%
- Don't know: 2%
Question: In the last year, how often have powerful people or groups other than government, such as criminals or gangs, made people in your community or neighborhood pay them money in return for protecting them or their businesses?
Question: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: It makes you proud to be called a Nigerian

- Majority of Nigerians 75% say they are proud to be called Nigerians.
Question: How interested would you say you are in public affairs?

- Only 29% of Nigerians say they are interested in public affairs. However, slight majority 34% say they are somewhat interested

[Bar chart showing percentages for Somewhat interested (34%), Very interested (29%), Not very interested (23%), Not at all interested (13%), Don't know (1%)]
Question: When you get together with your friends or family, would you discuss political matters?

The survey revealed that only 23% of the citizens frequently discuss political matters when they are together with friends or families.
**Question:** Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you must be very careful in dealing with people?

- **80%** must be very careful
- **16%** most people can be trusted
- **5%** don't know

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Question: Which of the following statements is closest to your view? “it is important to obey the government in power, no matter who you voted for” versus “it is not necessary to obey the laws of a government that you did not vote for?”

- The survey revealed that large majority of Nigerians 85% agree It is necessary to obey the laws of a government no matter who they voted for?

- It is important to obey the government in power, no matter who you voted for

- It is not necessary to obey the laws of a government that you did not vote for.
Question: “Are you required to pay Value added tax on the food or goods that you buy from shops or traders?”

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**Question:** Regardless of whether you are able to pay, are you required to pay property rates or taxes?

- 46% still think they are required to pay property rates or taxes even if they are unable to pay and 45% say they are not required to pay.
**Question:** Tell me whether you agree or disagree; The tax authorities always have the right to make people pay taxes.

- Most of the residents 66% agree the tax authorities always have the right to make people pay taxes and only 22% disagree.
Question: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven’t you heard enough about them to say: The Federal Inland Revenue Service?

Afrobarometer survey revealed that only 3% of the Nigeria citizens say they trust the Federal Inland Revenue Service “a lot”
Question: How many of these people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Tax Officials, like the Federal Inland Revenue Service officials or Local Government tax collectors?
Question: Please tell me whether you have refused to pay tax or fee to government during the past year?

- Large majority of Nigerians 89% say they had never refused to pay taxes to government authorities.
Statement: Citizens must pay their taxes to the government in order for our country to develop versus The government can find enough resources for development from other sources without having to tax.

- Majority of Nigerians 65% agree that Citizens must pay their taxes to the government in order for the country to develop and 35% on the contrary, say that government can find enough resources for development from other sources without having to tax.

- 64% agree that Citizens must pay their taxes to the government in order for the country to develop.
- 35% agree that The government can find enough resources for development from other sources without having to tax.
- 1% agree that Neither.

[Graph showing the statistics mentioned above]
Statement: It is better to pay higher taxes, if it means that there will be more services provided by government **versus** It is better to pay lower taxes, even if it means there will be fewer services provided by government.

- 51% Agree with higher taxes
- 43% Agree with lower taxes
- 4% Don't know
- 2% Agree with neither
Question: In your opinion, how often in this country do people avoid paying the taxes that they owe the government?

- Rarely: 45%
- Often/Always: 28%
- Never: 16%
- Don't know: 5%

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Question: In your opinion, how often do people obtain household services in this country without paying rates?
Question: For each of the following, tell me whether you think the action is not wrong at all, wrong but understandable, or wrong and punishable:

- Not paying for the government services
- Not paying the taxes

[Bar chart showing distribution of responses]
Question: In this country, how effective is the news the media reveals about government mistakes and corruption?

• Large majority of the residents believe media revelations about government mistakes and corruption are not very effective.
Question: Based on your experience, how easy or difficult is it to do each of the following?

- Don't have to pay taxes
  - Easy/Very easy: 4%
  - Difficult/Very difficult: 8%
  - Don't know: 7%

- Don't have to pay taxes
  - Easy/Very easy: 0%
  - Difficult/Very difficult: 0%
  - Don't know: 0%

- To avoid paying the income or property taxes that you owe to government
  - Easy/Very easy: 11%
  - Difficult/Very difficult: 24%
  - Don't know: 15%

- To find out how government uses the revenues from people’s taxes and fees?
  - Easy/Very easy: 73%
  - Difficult/Very difficult: 82%
  - Don't know: 7%

- To find out what taxes and fees you are supposed to pay to the government
  - Easy/Very easy: 24%
  - Difficult/Very difficult: 69%
  - Don't know: 11%
**Question:** What do you think is the main reason that some people avoid paying government the taxes and fees that they owe?

- The poor services they receive from... 23%
- People cannot afford to pay... 19%
- The taxes are too high... 13%
- People don't avoid paying... 6%
- Government wastes tax money... 11%
- The tax system is unfair... 10%
- Government officials steal tax money... 8%
- Don't know... 4%
- They know they will not be caught... 1%
THANK YOU
For more information and publications, please contact cleen@cleen.org and visit the Afrobarometer website at: www.afrobarometer.org or follow us on Twitter (@afrobarometer).