

Maputo, Mozambique
28 February 2019

News release

Mozambicans offer mixed views on freedom of speech, media, and association, Afrobarometer survey shows

A slim majority of Mozambicans say they feel at least “somewhat” free to say what they think, according to a recent Afrobarometer survey.

On media freedom, a plurality of Mozambicans say that the media has “somewhat more” or “much more” freedom to investigate and report on government mistakes or to criticize government actions or performance.

Key findings

- A slim majority (53%) of Mozambicans say they feel “somewhat free” or “completely free” to say what they think, while four in 10 (41%) say they feel “not very” or “not at all” free (Figure 1).
- Citizens are divided as to whether their freedom of speech has increased (37%) or decreased (33%) over the past few years; about two in 10 (22%) say it has not changed.
- A plurality (37%) of Mozambicans say the media now has “somewhat more” or “much more” freedom than “a few years ago” to investigate and criticize the government. But almost as many (29%) say the opposite (Figure 2).
- Mozambicans are equally divided as to whether the media should be free of government control (45%) or the government should have the right to prevent publications it considers harmful to society (44%) (Figure 3).
- Four in 10 respondents (41%) say they feel “somewhat more” or “much more” free to join any political organization they want than they did a few years ago. But half of respondents say freedom of association has decreased (26%) or remained the same (24%) (Figure 4).

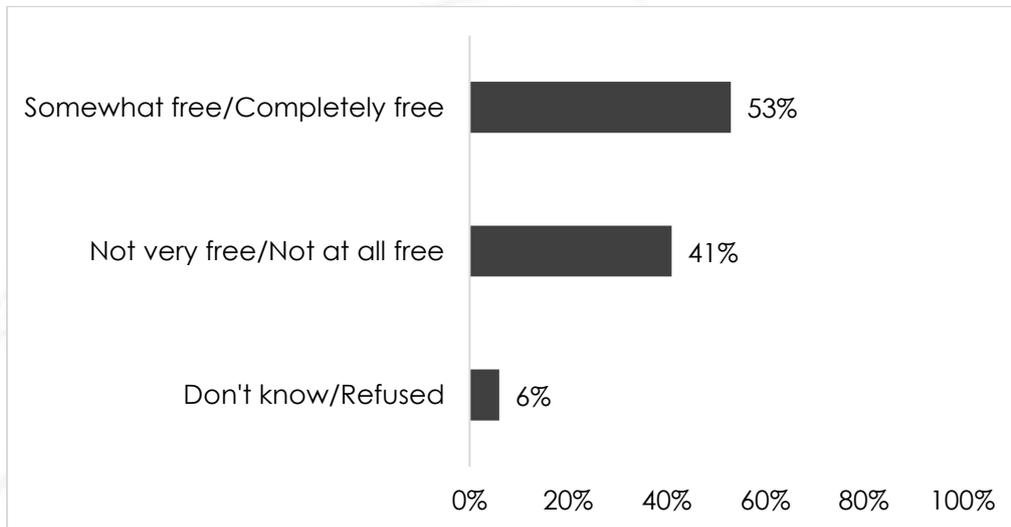
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in Africa. Six rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 37 African countries between 1999 and 2015, and results of Round 7 surveys (2016/2018) are currently being disseminated. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Mozambique, led by Ipsos, interviewed 2,400 adult Mozambicans between 3 June and 26 August 2018. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Mozambique in 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, and 2015. The 2018 survey was sponsored by the MASC Foundation.

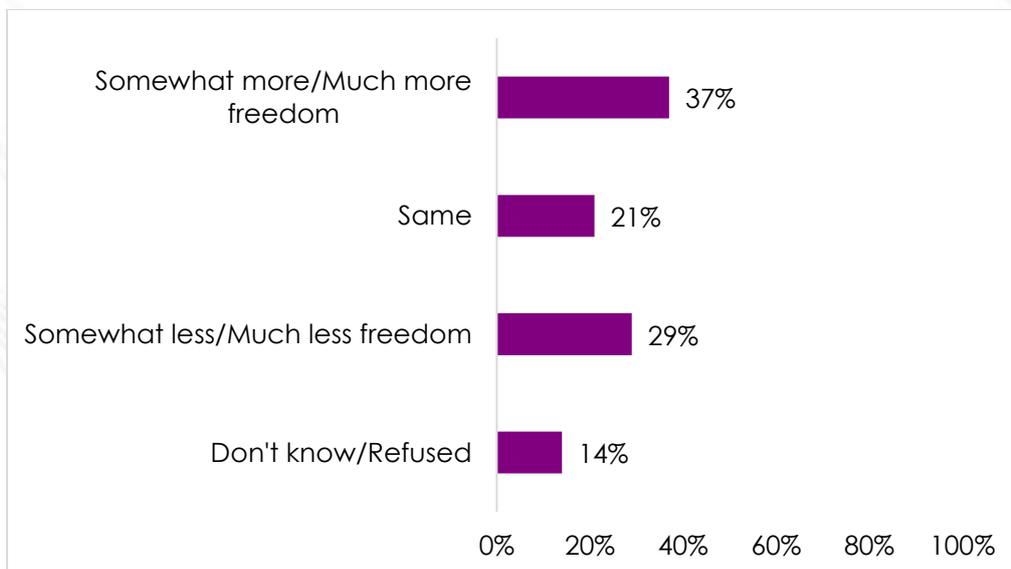
Charts

Figure 1: Freedom to say what you think | Mozambique | 2018



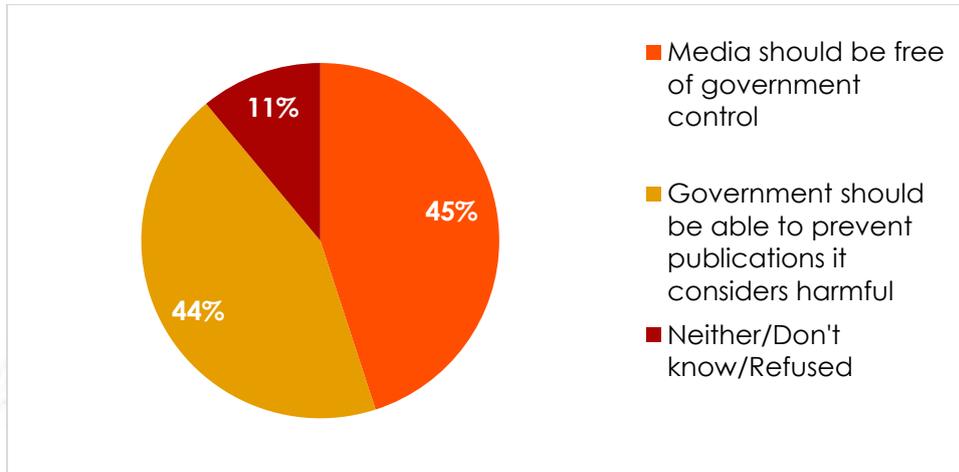
Respondents were asked: *In this country, how free are you to say what you think?*

Figure 2: Better or worse: Media freedom | Mozambique | 2018



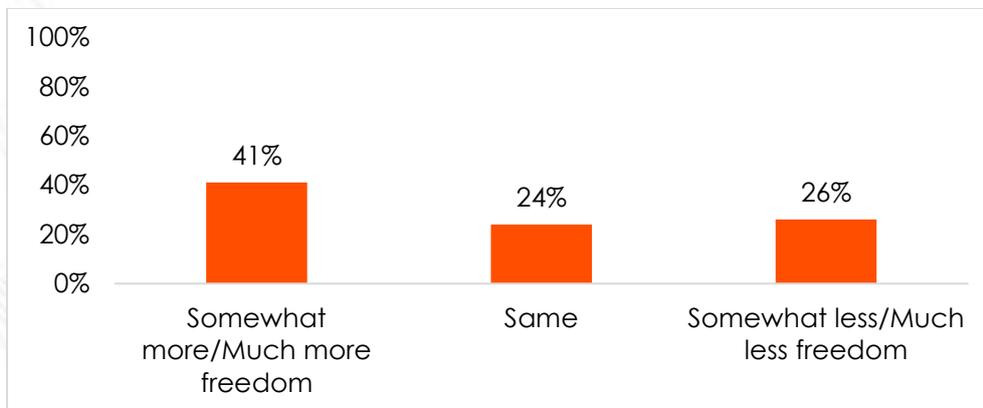
Respondents were asked: *Please tell me if there is more or less freedom now for each of the following things compared to a few years ago, or are things about the same: The media's freedom to investigate and report on government mistakes or to criticize government actions or performance?*

Figure 3: Support for media freedom | Mozambique | 2018



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: The media should have the right to publish any views and ideas without government control.
 Statement 2: The government should have the right to prevent the media from publishing things that it considers harmful to society
 (% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement).

Figure 4: Freedom to join political organizations | Mozambique | 2018



Respondents were asked: Please tell me if there is more or less freedom now for each of the following things compared to a few years ago, or are things about the same: Your own freedom to join any political organization you want?

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