



Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI)
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News release

Zimbabweans say November 2017 military intervention was needed but want military out of politics

Most Zimbabweans see the military intervention that led to the resignation of President Robert Mugabe as either "the right thing to do" or "wrong but necessary," according to a new national survey by Afrobarometer partner Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI).

In interviews just weeks ahead of elections in July, four in 10 Zimbabweans (41%) fully endorse the military intervention that cleared the way for President Emmerson Mnangagwa to take over. While a majority (52%) say the intervention was wrong, 40% describe it as "wrong but necessary," and only 12% say it was simply wrong. Views on the military intervention vary considerably by province but only modestly by party affiliation.

Despite widespread support or acceptance of the 2017 military intervention, large majorities reject military rule and any regular role for the military in the country's politics.

Key findings

- Four in 10 Zimbabweans (41%) say the military intervention that led to Mugabe's resignation was "the right thing to do"; an equal proportion (40%) say it was "wrong but necessary." Only 12% say simply that it was "wrong" (Figure 1).
- Public opinion on the military intervention varies only modestly by political-party affiliation: MDC-T Chamisa supporters are somewhat more likely than ZANU-PF adherents to see the intervention as "wrong but necessary" (50% vs. 36%) but slightly less likely to see it as either "right" or "wrong" (Figure 2).
- Mashonaland East is the only province where a majority (52%) of respondents see the intervention as "right." Half as many Bulawayo residents (26%) agree (Figure 3).
- Seven in 10 Zimbabweans (70%) "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove" of military rule (Figure 4). Rejection of military rule is stronger among MDC-T Chamisa supporters (86%), urban residents (75%), and men (74%) than among ZANU-PF adherents (59%), rural residents (68%), and women (68%) (Figure 5).
- More than two-thirds (68%) of Zimbabweans "agree" or "agree very strongly" that the armed forces are for the external defence and security of the country and should not be involved in politics (Figure 6).

Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in African countries. Six rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 37 countries between 1999 and 2015, and a regular Round 7 survey was conducted in Zimbabwe in January-February 2017

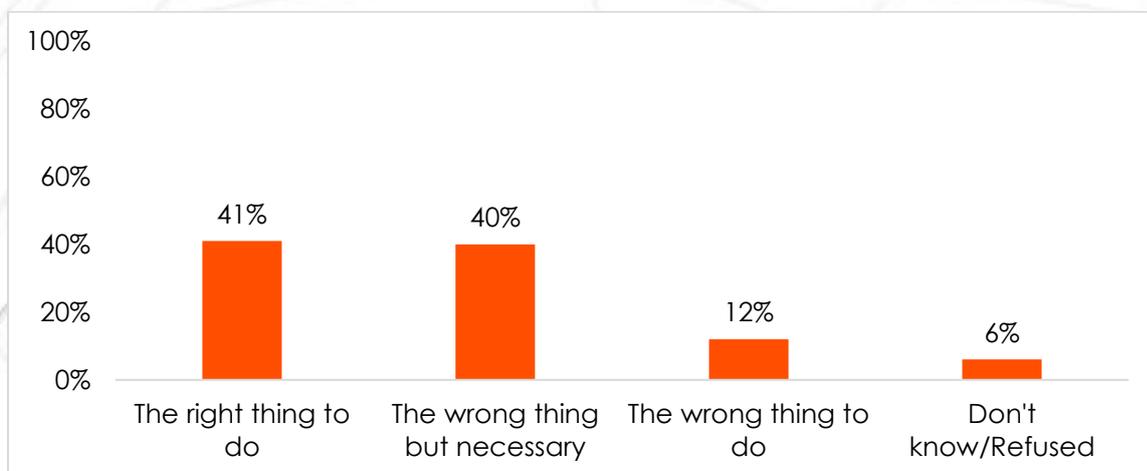


(for findings, please visit www.afrobarometer.org). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

For its latest survey, Afrobarometer national partner Mass Public Opinion Institute interviewed 2,399 adult citizens between 28 April and 13 May 2018. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level.

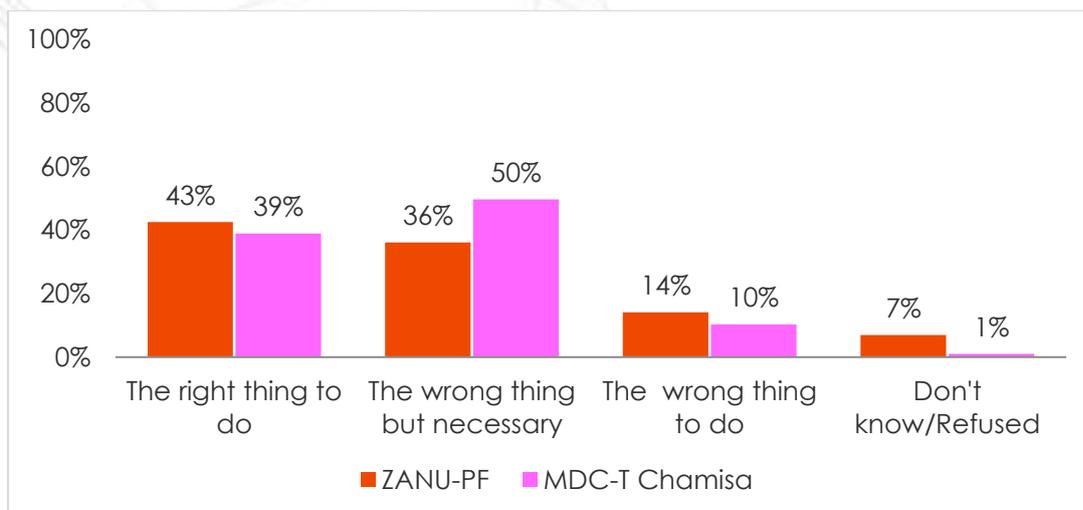
Charts

Figure 1: Was 2017 military intervention right or wrong? | Zimbabwe | 2018



Respondents were asked: What is your opinion about the military intervention that led to the resignation of President Mugabe and his replacement by President Mnangagwa? As a method of changing leaders, was it the right thing to do, the wrong thing but necessary, or the wrong thing to do?

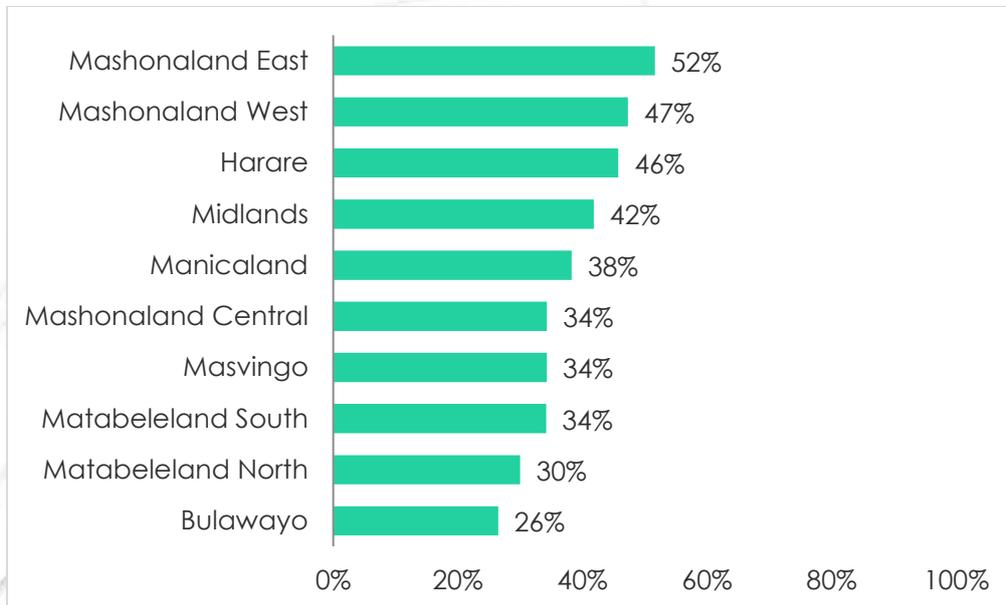
Figure 2: Was 2017 military intervention right or wrong? | by political-party affiliation | Zimbabwe | 2018



Respondents were asked: What is your opinion about the military intervention that led to the resignation of President Mugabe and his replacement by President Mnangagwa? As a method of changing leaders, was it the right thing to do, the wrong thing but necessary, or the wrong thing to do?

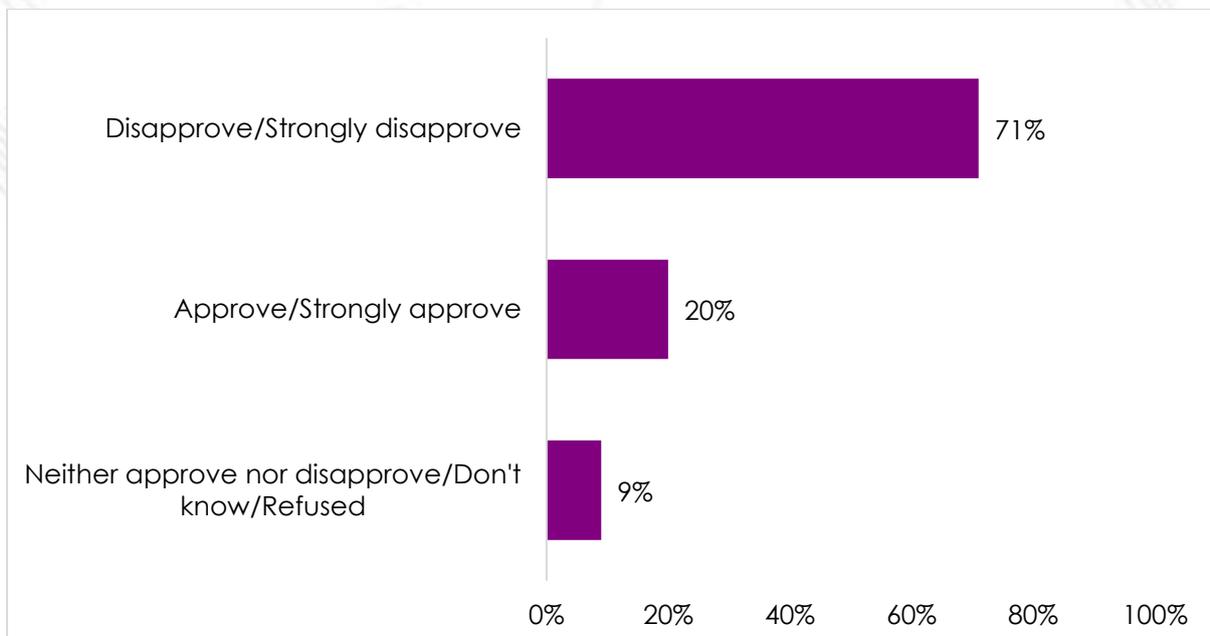


Figure 3: 2017 military intervention was 'right thing to do' | by province | Zimbabwe | 2018



Respondents were asked: What is your opinion about the military intervention that led to the resignation of President Mugabe and his replacement by President Mnangagwa? As a method of changing leaders, was it the right thing to do, the wrong thing but necessary, or the wrong thing to do? (% who say "the right thing to do")

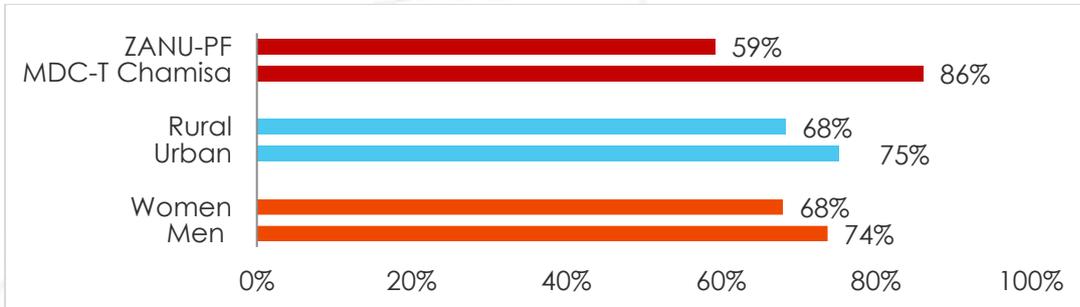
Figure 4: Views on military rule | Zimbabwe | 2018



Respondents were asked: There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives: The army comes in to govern the country?

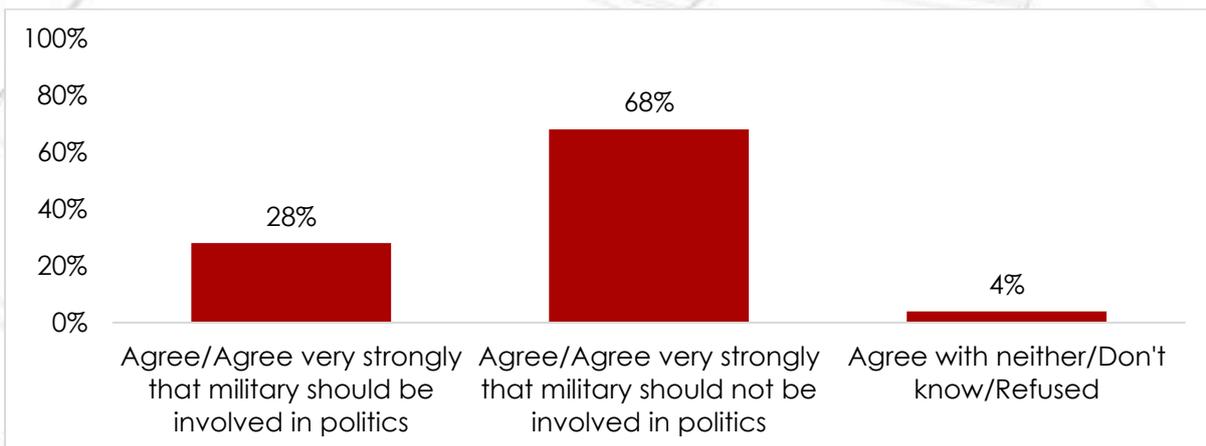


Figure 5: Rejection of military rule | by political-party affiliation, urban-rural location, and gender | Zimbabwe | 2018



Respondents were asked: *There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives: The army comes in to govern the country? (% who "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove")*

Figure 6: Should the military be involved in politics? | Zimbabwe | 2018



Respondents were asked: *Which of the following statements is closest to your view?*
Statement 1: *The armed forces liberated Zimbabwe from colonial rule; they must therefore continue to be actively involved in the country's politics.*
Statement 2: *The armed forces are for the external defence and security of Zimbabwe; they must not be involved at all in the country's politics.*

For more information, please contact:

Mass Public Opinion Institute
Eldred. V. Masunungure
Telephone: +263772100409
Email: director@mpoi.org.zw

Visit us online at:
www.mpoi.net/
www.afrobarometer.org

