



Centre for Social Research  
Zomba, Malawi  
13 February 2015



## News release

---

### **Malawians admire South Africa's development model but quality of products damaging China's image**

Malawians wish the future development of their country to be modelled after that of South Africa, compared to alternative models of other countries like the USA, China and Britain according to the most recent Afrobarometer survey.

In related results, Malawians are divided on whether China's economic development assistance does a good job in meeting development needs of the country. Economic, rather than political, factors matter most in shaping Malawians' perception of China according to the survey—which was conducted in March and April 2014.

The findings show what Malawians think about critical issues of national development in relation to other countries, as Malawi continues the struggle in charting a long-term development agenda amidst contending international influences.

#### **Key findings**

- South Africa (cited by 31% of respondents) leads countries that Malawians look up to as a model for their development path, followed by the United States (24%), China (17%), and the United Kingdom (10%).
- About four in ten Malawians (43%) think China's economic development assistance does a "very good" or "somewhat good" job of meeting the needs of the country, while about the same proportion (38%) say China does a "very bad" or "somewhat bad" job.
- The quality of products (59%) is cited at the leading reason for negative image of China in Malawi. Other reasons are land grabbing by Chinese individuals or businesses (8%), taking jobs or business from locals (8%), behaviour of Chinese citizens in the country (6%) and China's extraction of resources from Africa (3%) (Figure 2).

#### **Afrobarometer**

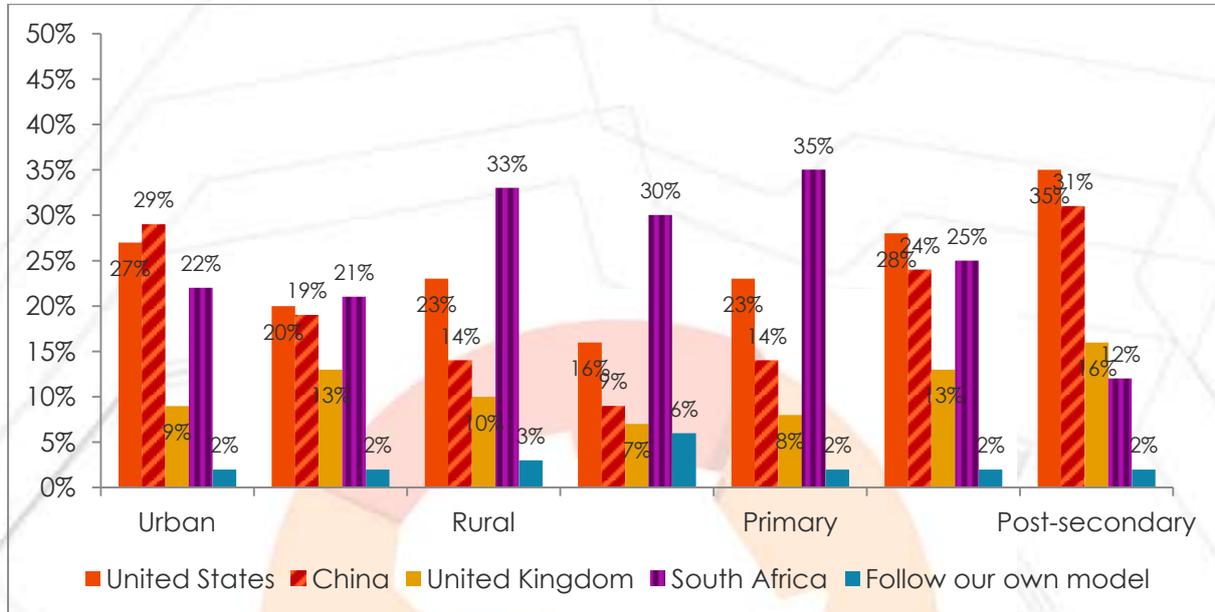
Afrobarometer is an African-led, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and Round 6 surveys are currently 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 Malawi, led by Centre for Social Research, University of Malawi interviewed 2,400 adult Malawians between 24 March and 5 April 2014. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Malawi in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2012.



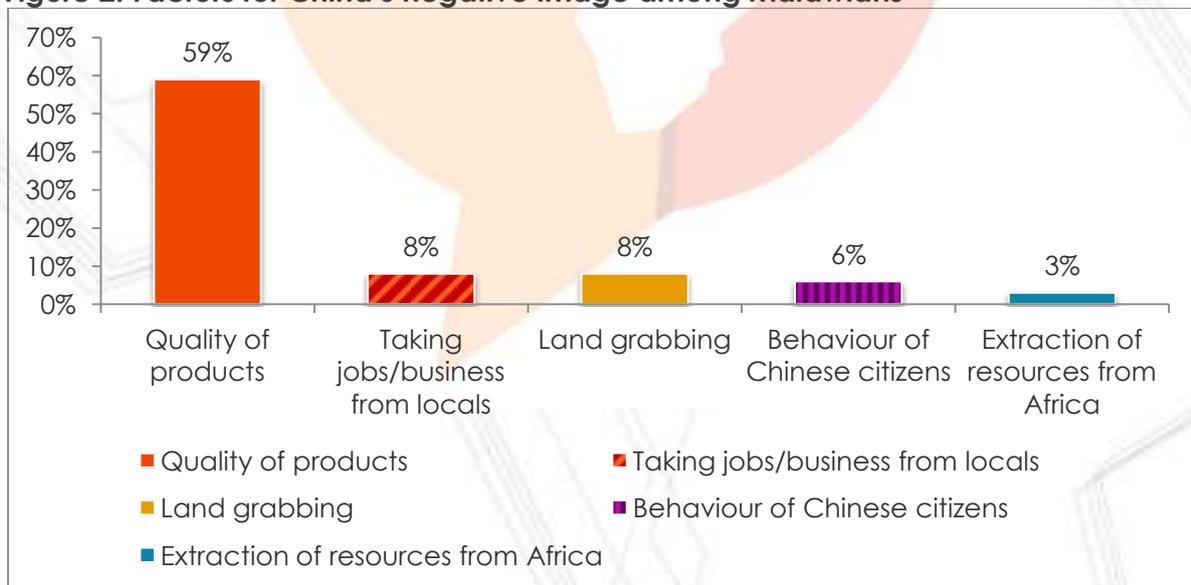
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Malawians' models of development | by location & education | 2014**



**Respondents were asked:** In your opinion, which of the following countries, if any, would be the best model for the future development of our country? United States, China, The United Kingdom, India, South Africa, We should follow our own country's model, none of these, other country (specify)

**Figure 2: Factors for China's negative image among Malawians**



**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following factors contribute most to negative image of China in Malawi, or haven't you heard enough to say? China's extraction of resources from Africa, land grabbing by Chinese individuals or businesses, China's willingness to cooperate with undemocratic rulers, taking jobs or business from the locals, the quality of Chinese products, the behaviour of Chinese citizens in the country, some other factor?



**For more information, please contact:**

Centre for Social Research  
Joseph J. Chunga  
Telephone: +265111637245  
Email: [jchung@cc.ac.mw](mailto:jchung@cc.ac.mw)

Visit us online at:  
[www.csrunima.mw](http://www.csrunima.mw)  
[www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)  
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @Afrobarometer.

