

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.



Country Coverage: 1999-2012



- 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



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)



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



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



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

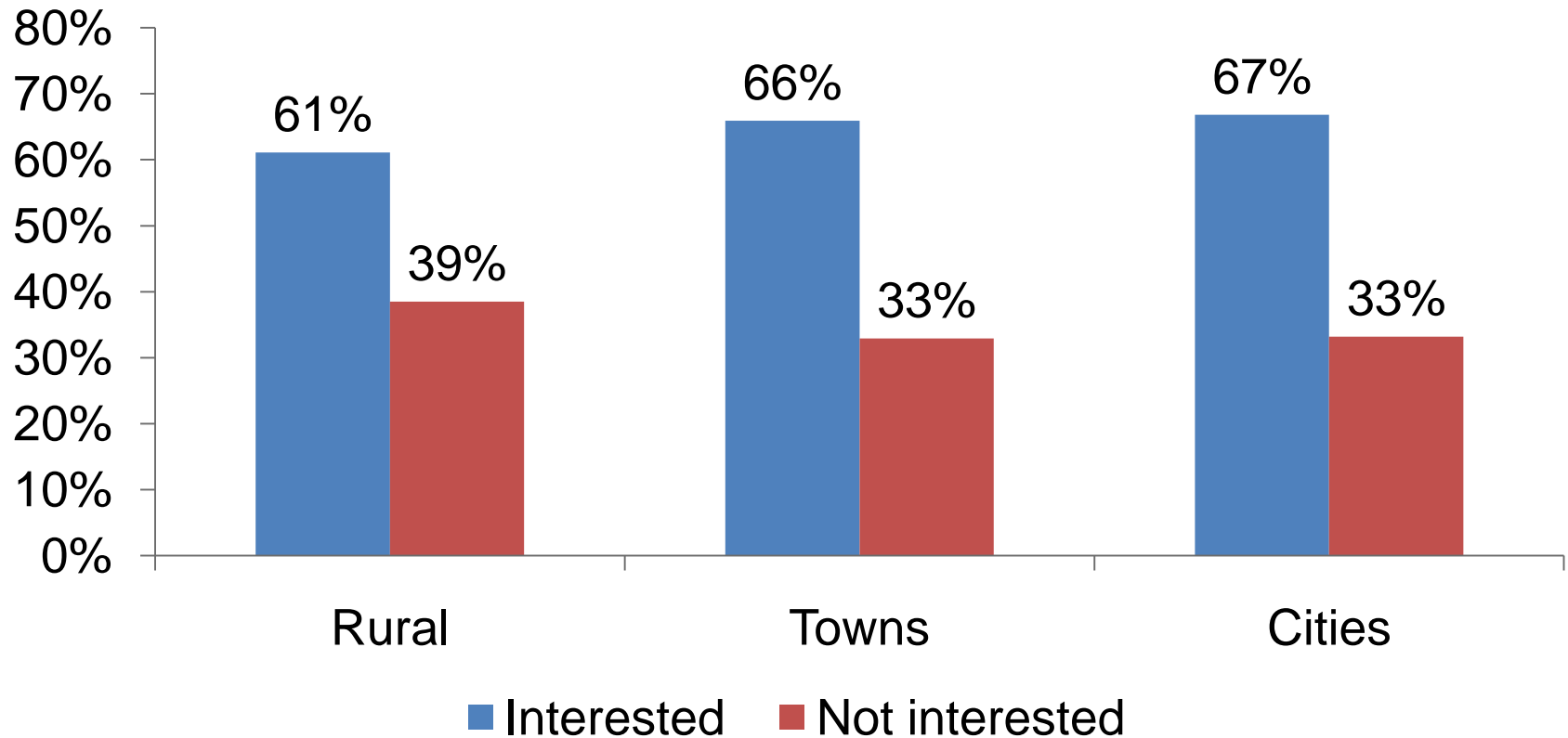


Key findings

- 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. www.afrobarometer.org



Interested in public affairs

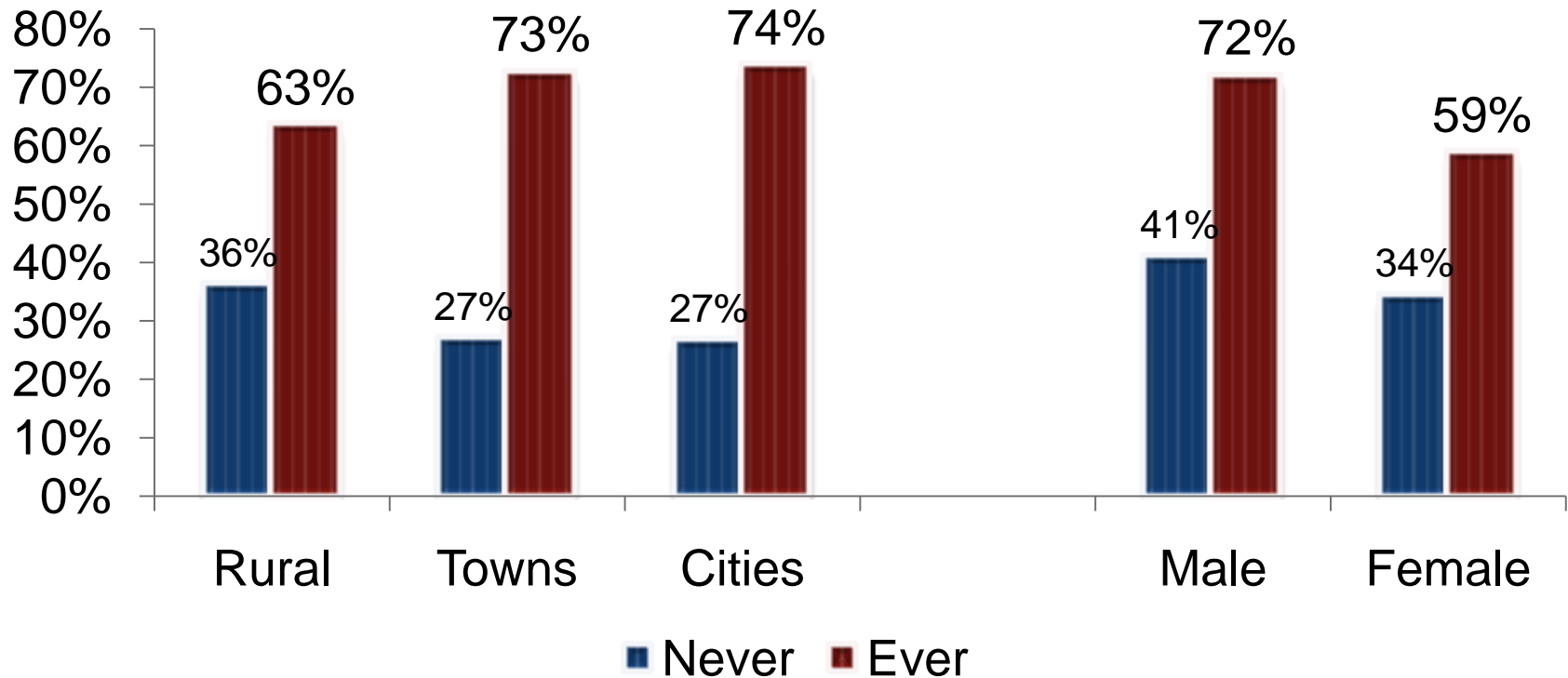


How interested would you say you are in public affairs?

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Whether politics is ever discussed

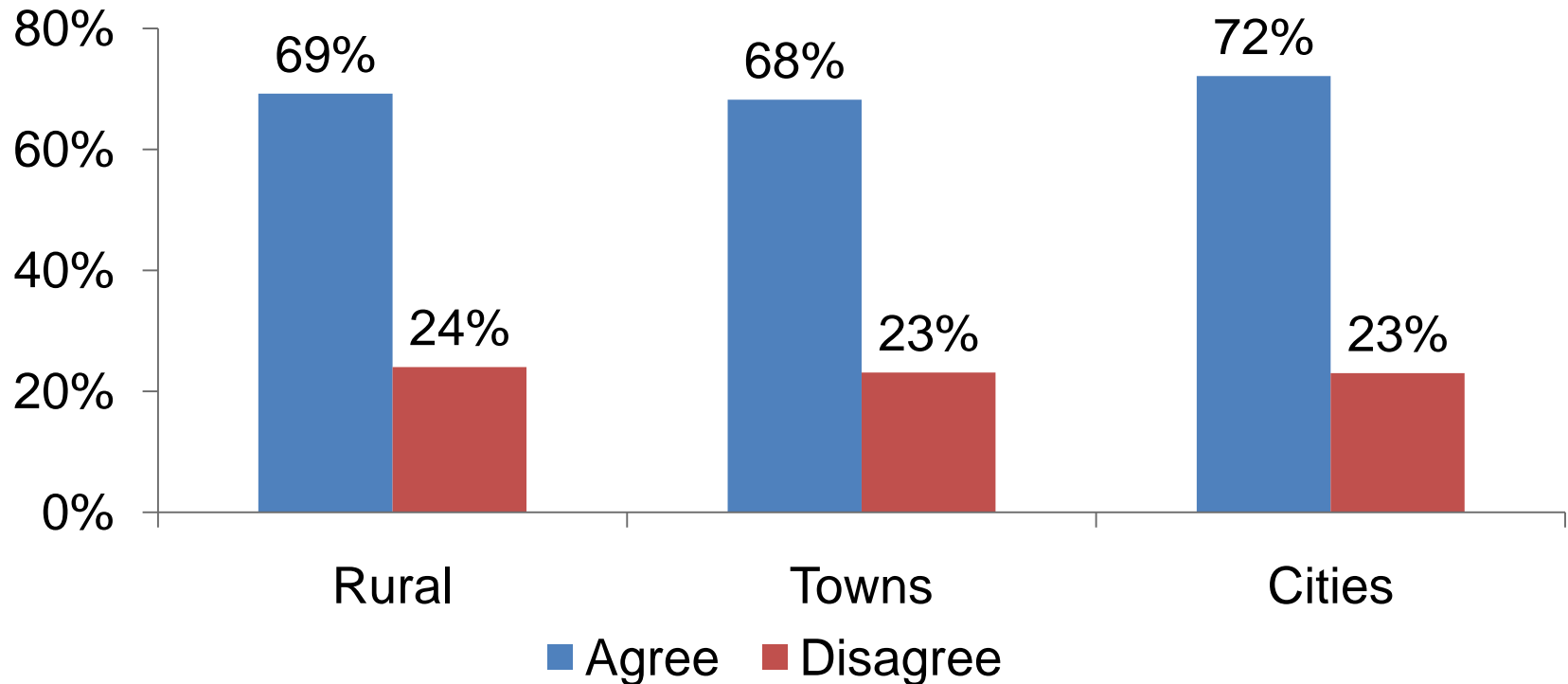


When you get together with your friends or family, would you say you discuss political matters?

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Politics is difficult to understand

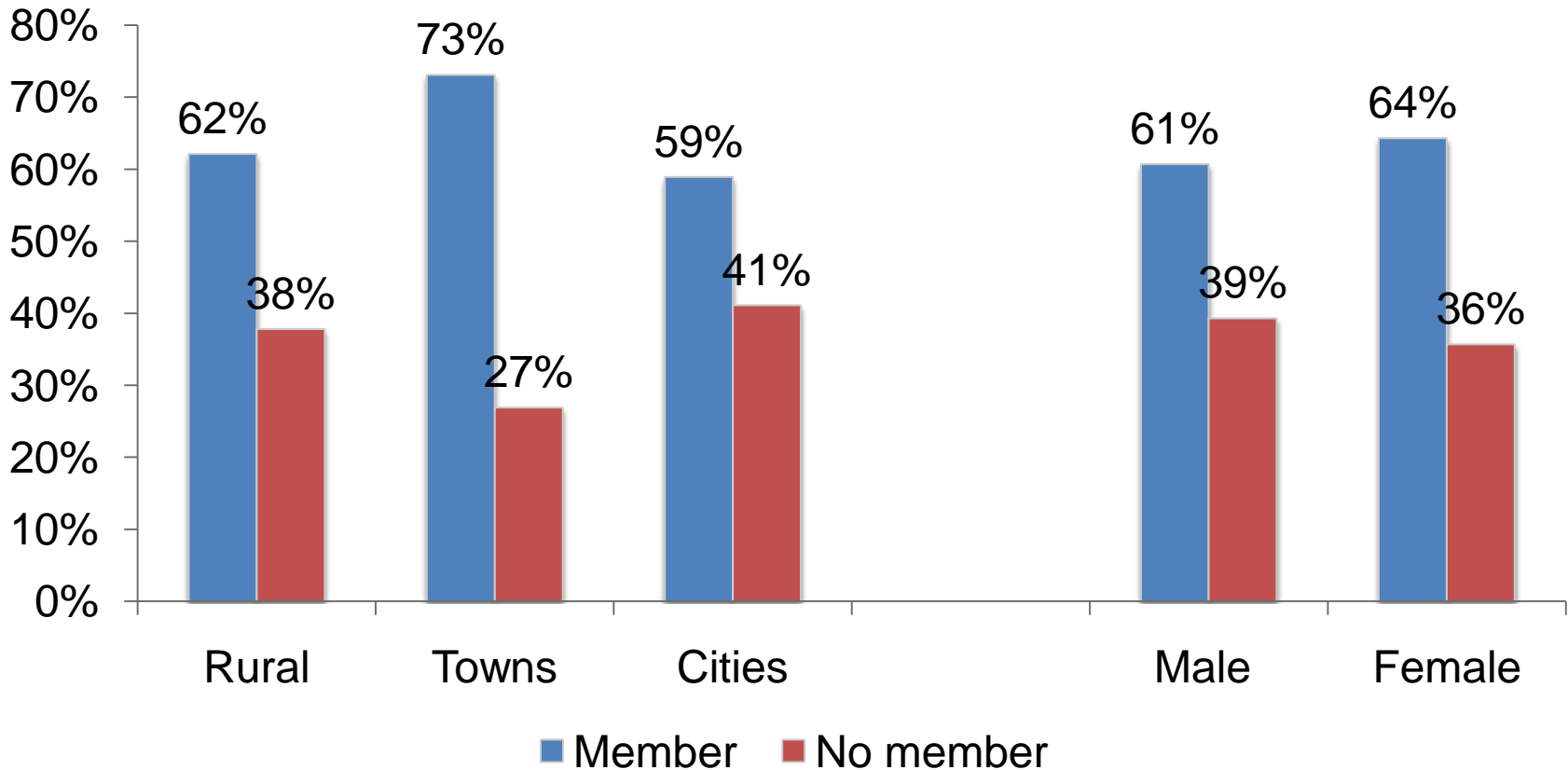


Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me cannot really understand what is going on

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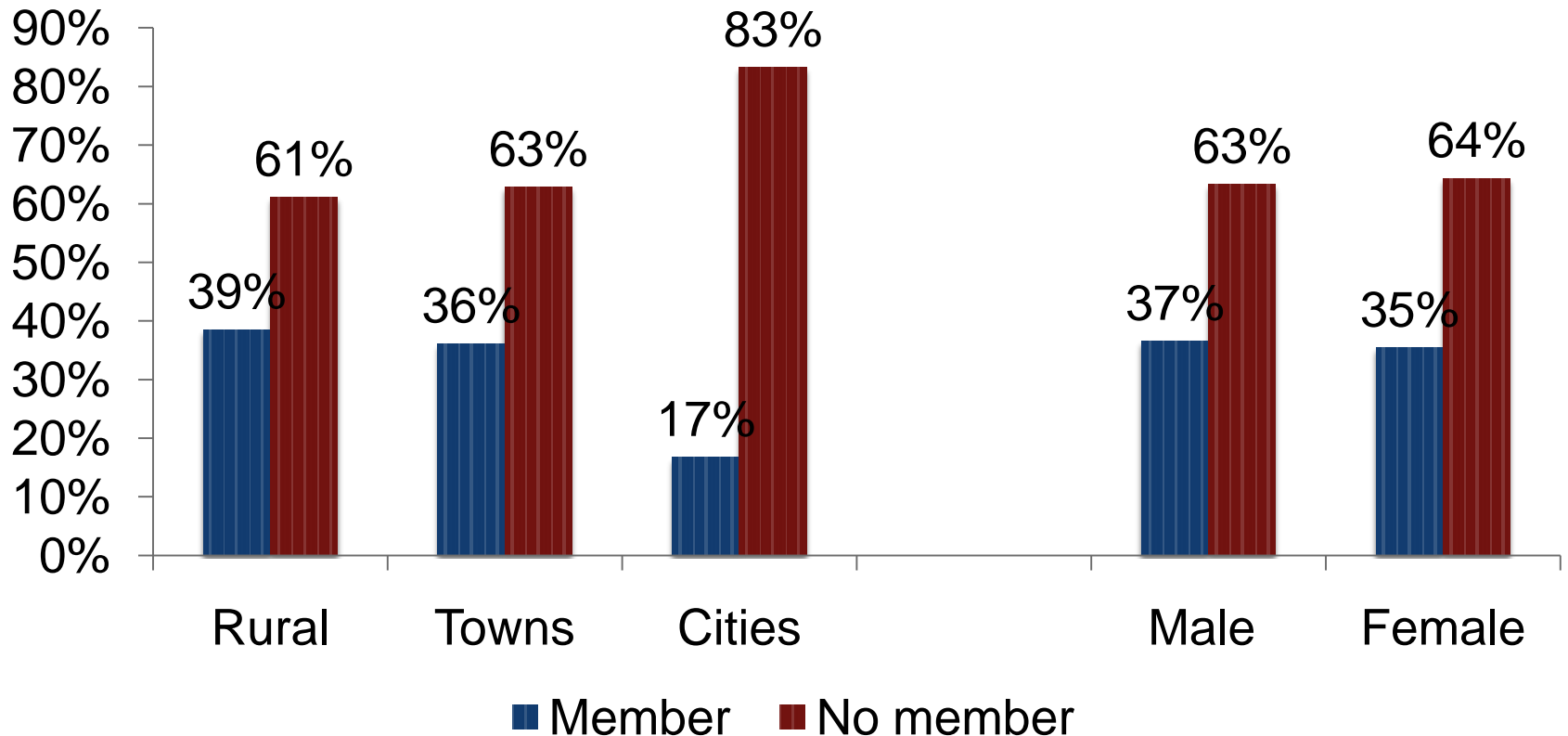
Membership of religious group



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



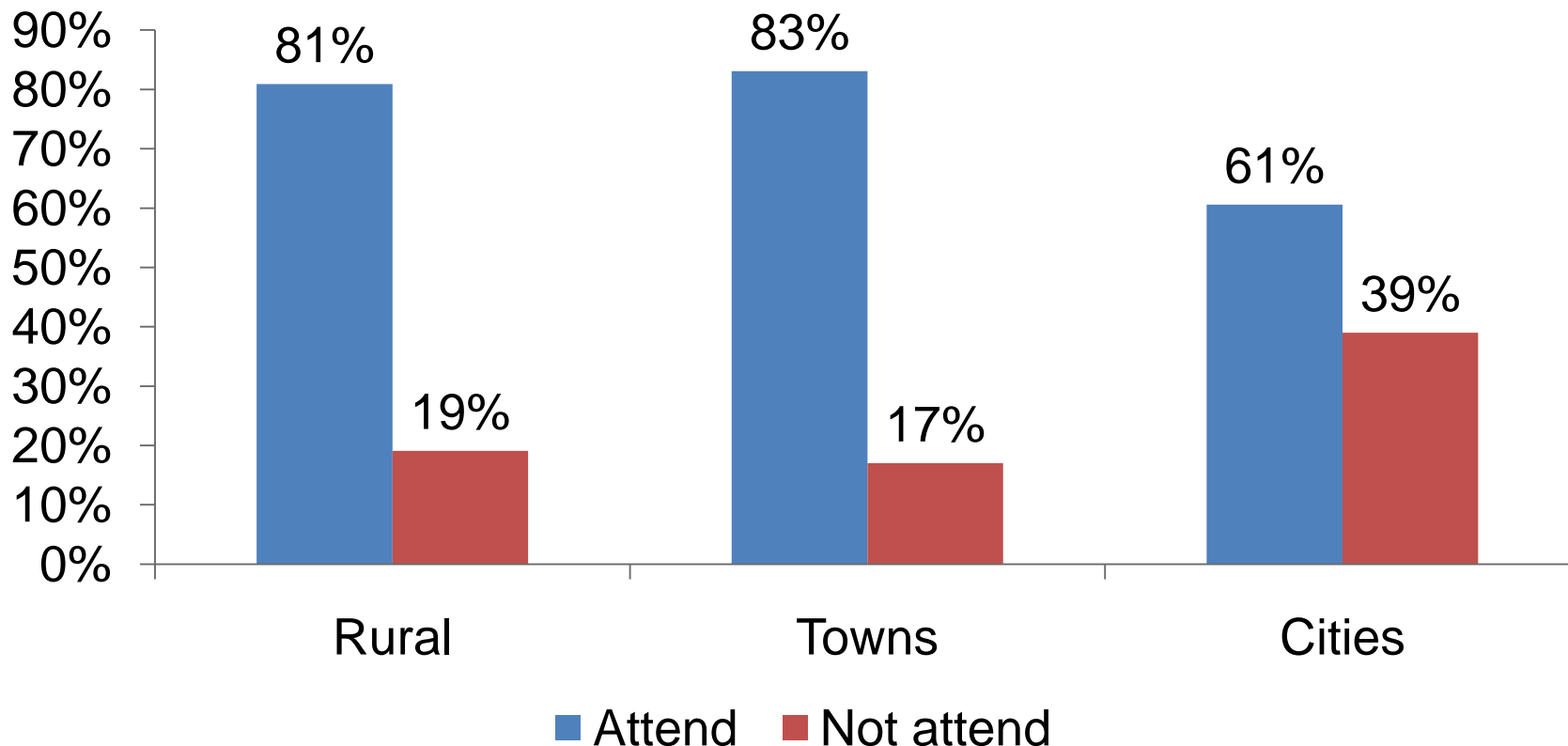
Membership in CBOs



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?



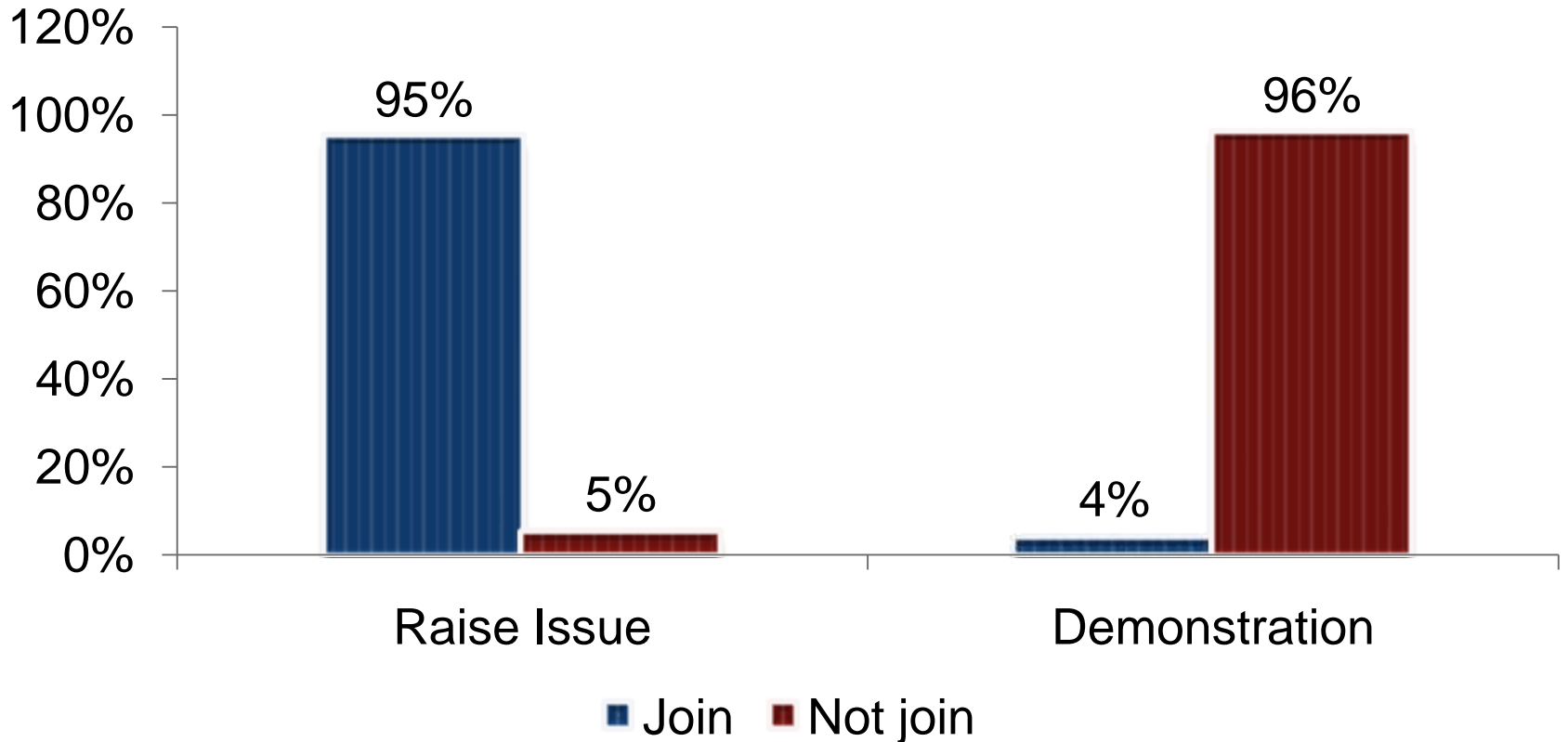
Community meeting attendance



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?



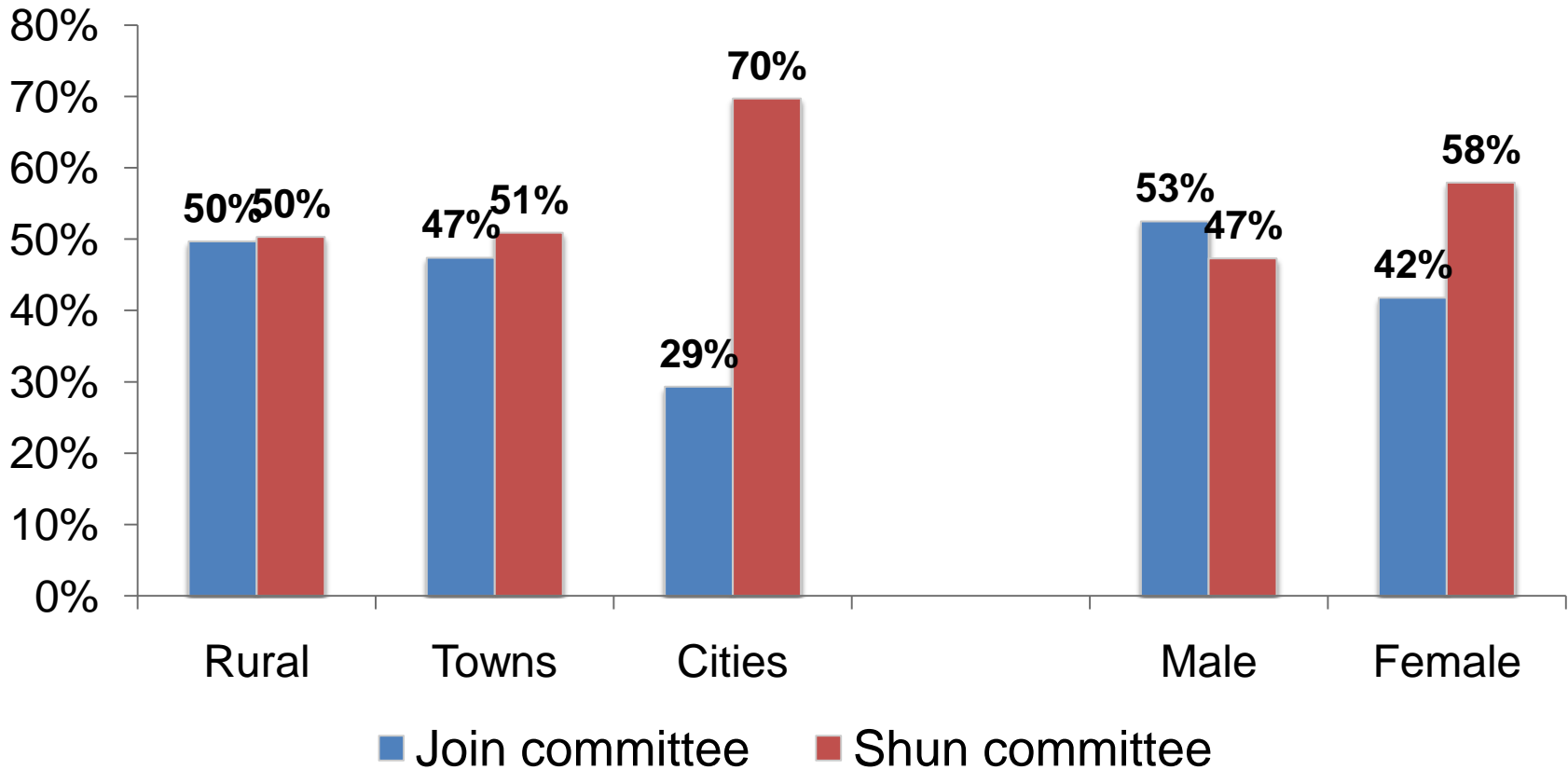
Citizen participation



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?



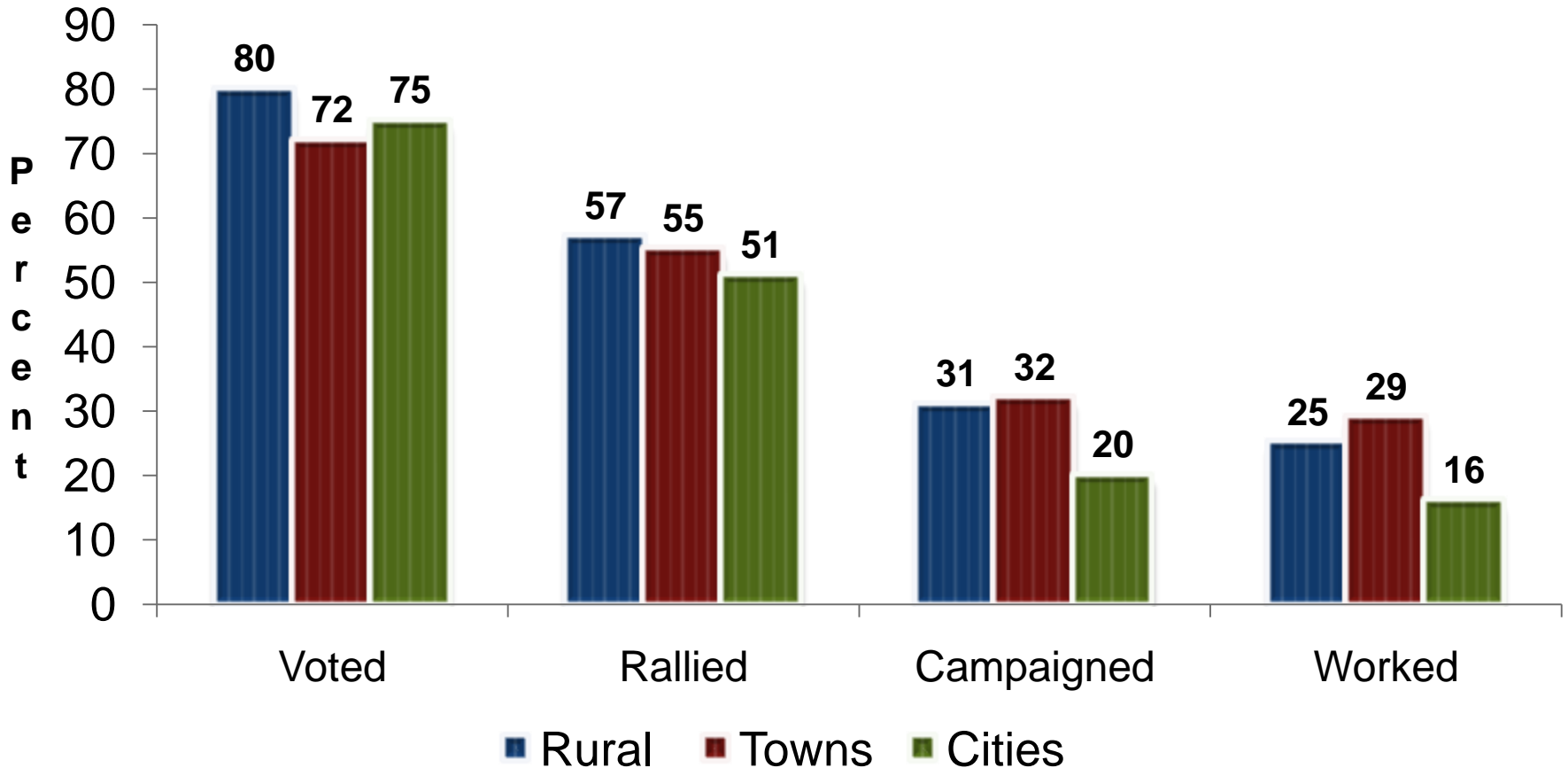
Participation in service management



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?



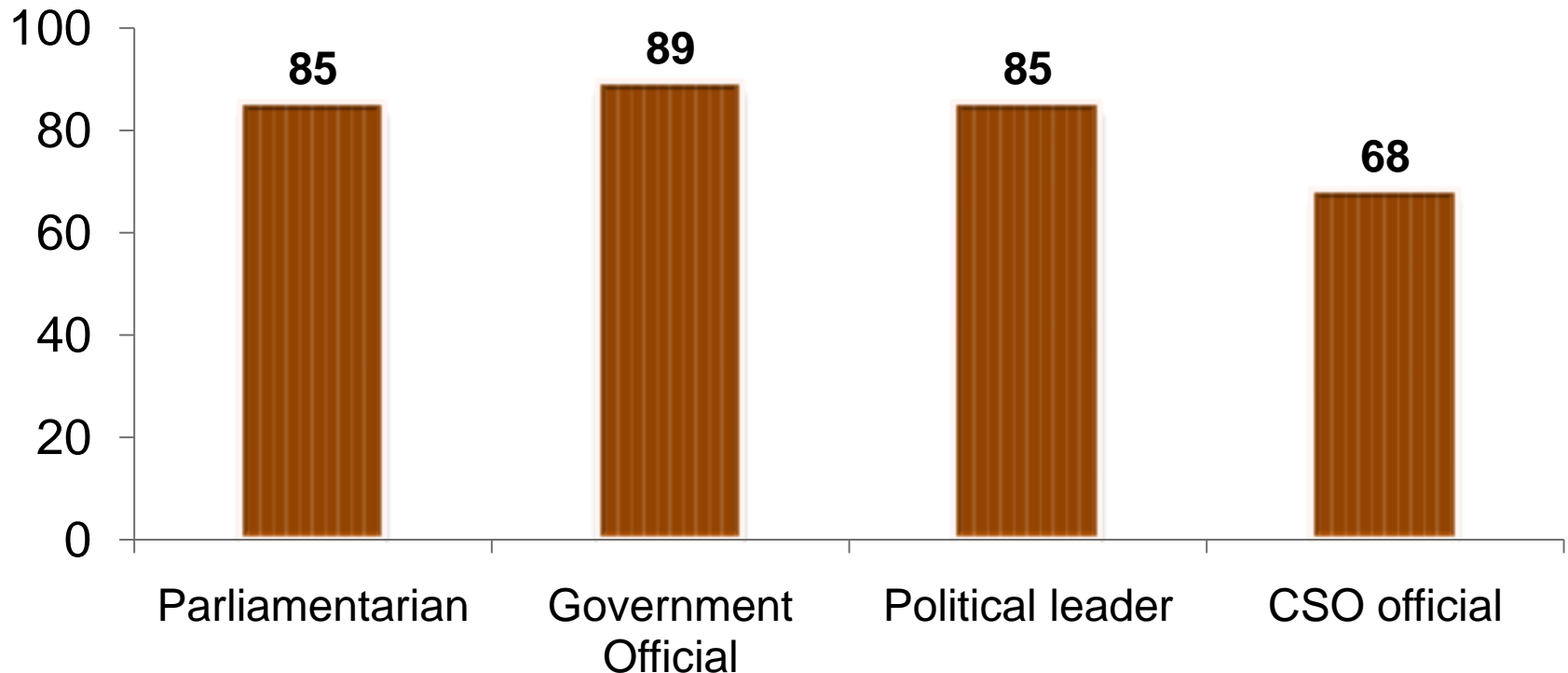
Participation in election activities



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



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?



Topic 2: State of Democracy

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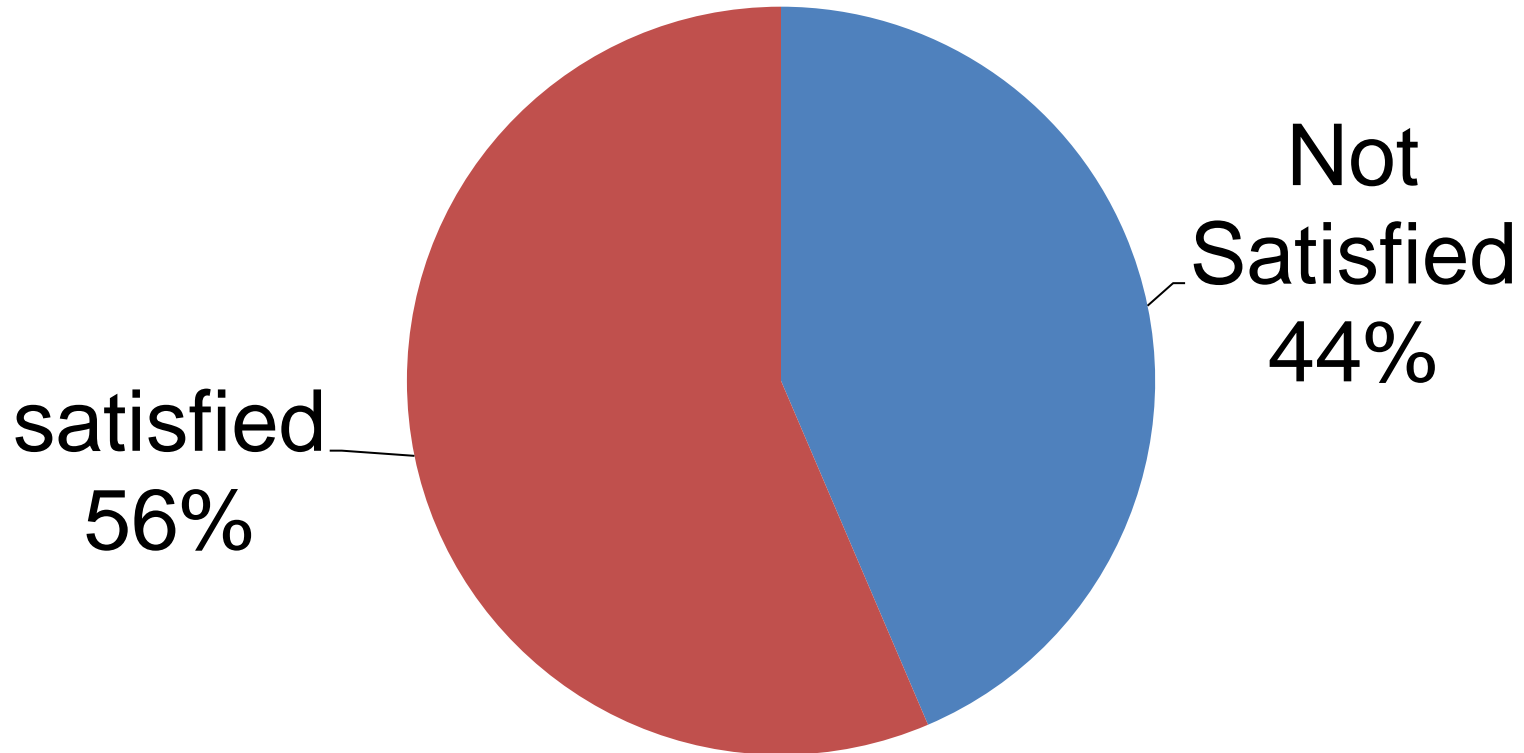


Key findings

- Only 1 in every 2 Malawians consider Malawi to be a democracy
- This is one of the lowest ratings compared to other 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 for democracy



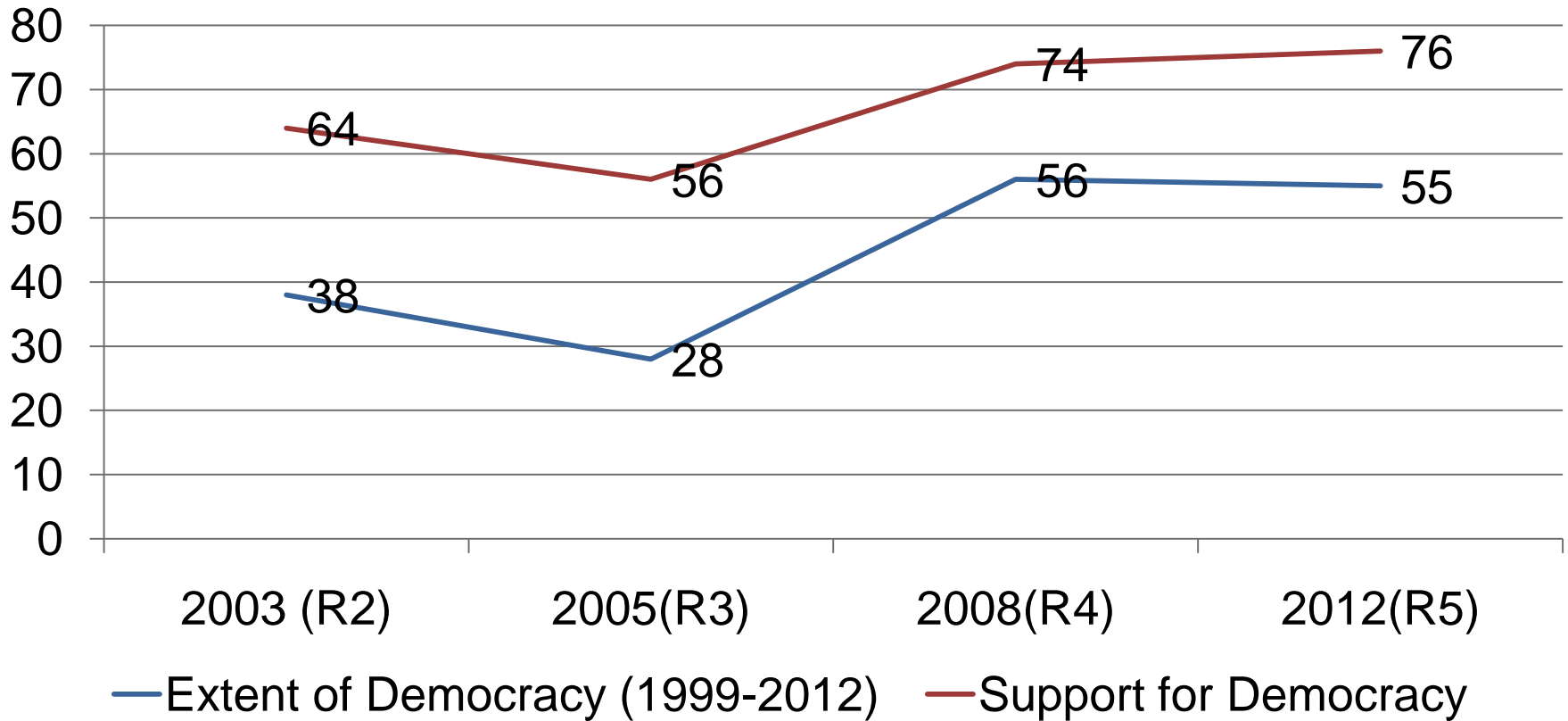
Satisfaction with Democracy in Malawi, 2012



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



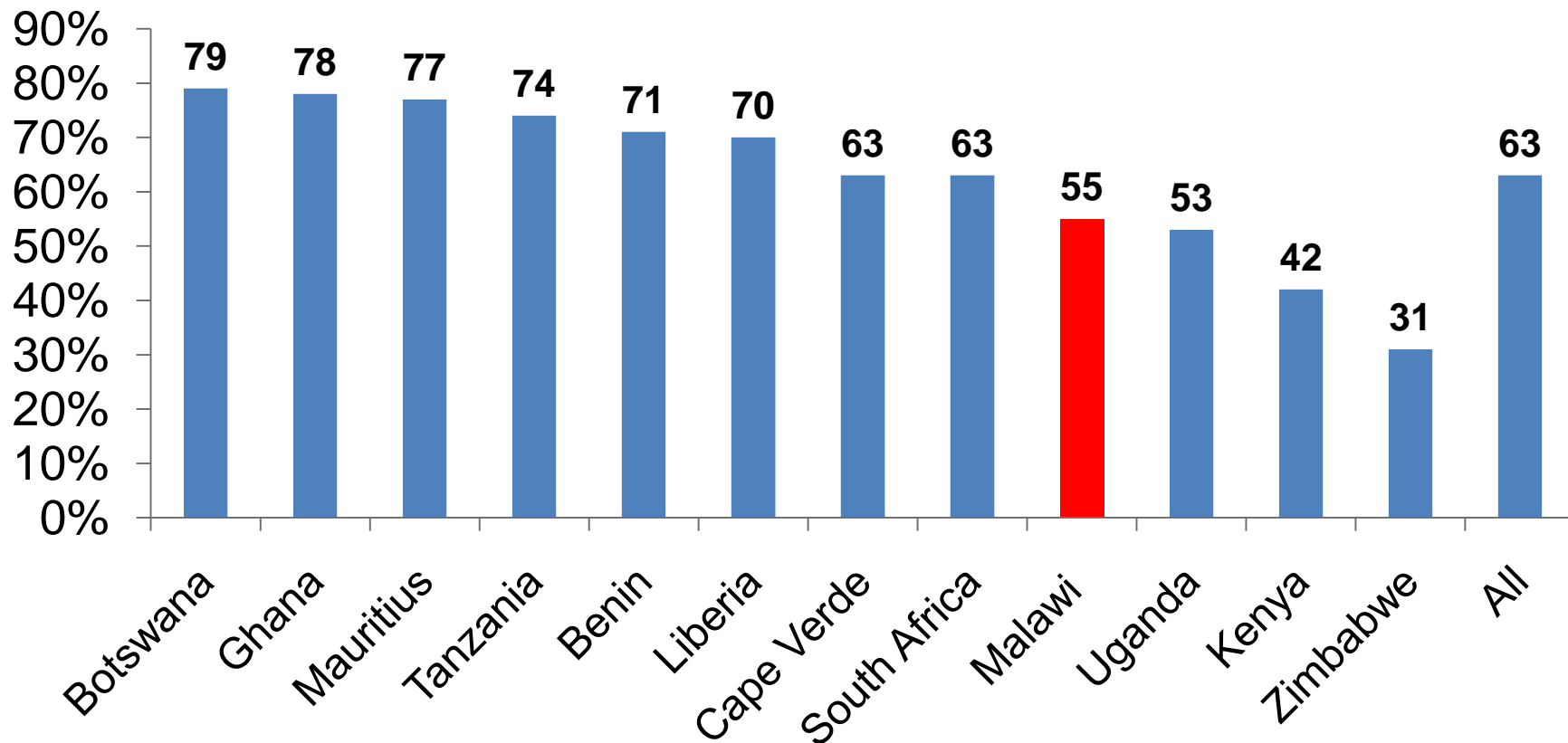
Extent and support for democracy in Malawi, 2003-2012



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



Extent of Democracy across AB countries



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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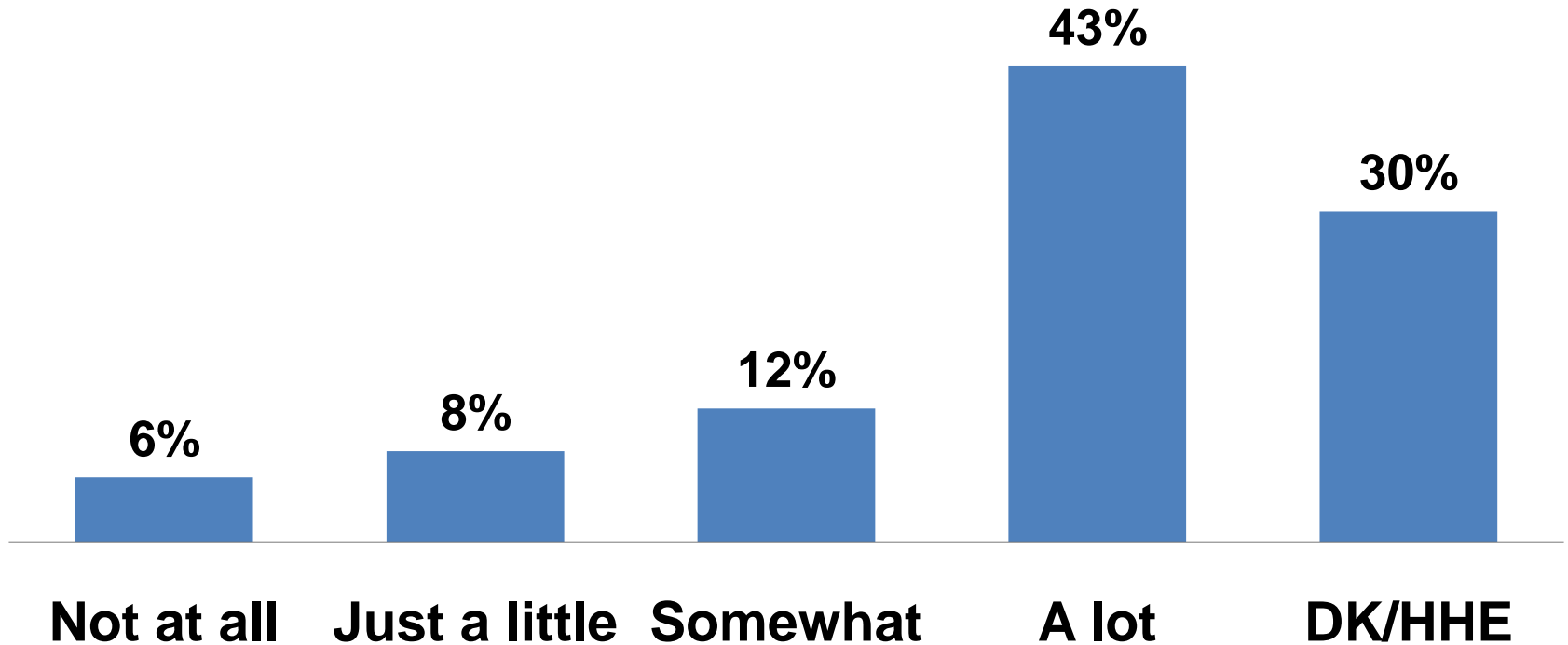
Trust in Institutions & offices



Body/Office	% trust “somewhat / a lot”
Courts of Law	88
Army	83
Human Rights Commission	69
Police	68
National Assembly	64
Malawi Electoral Commission	64
Law Commission	63
Ruling Party	60
CSOs/NGOs	59
President Joyce Banda	58
Ombudsman	55
Late Bingu wa Mutharika	53
Malawi Revenue Authority	50
Opposition Parties	46



Trust In Office of Ombudsman

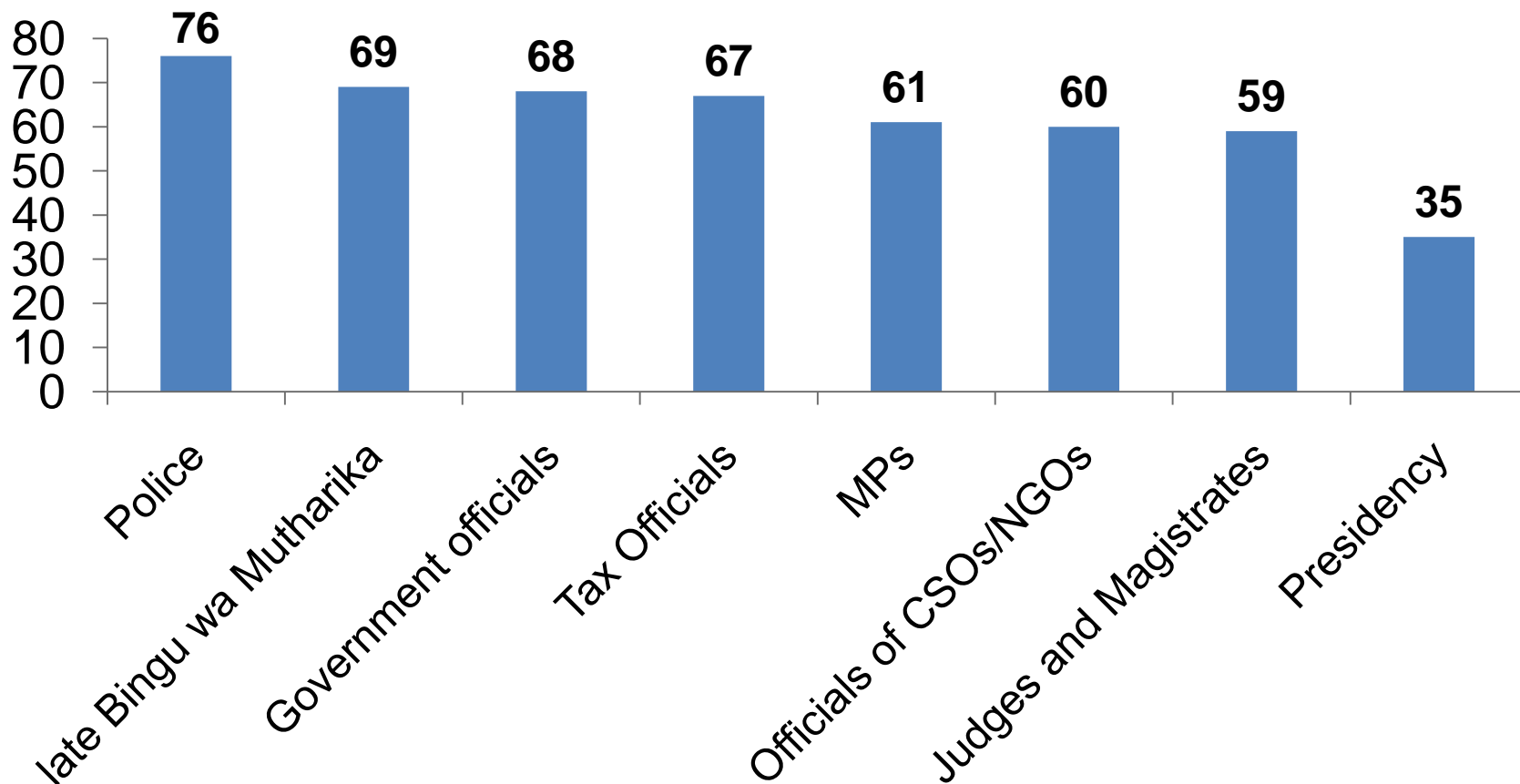


How much do you trust the Ombudsman, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

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Perceptions of Corruption

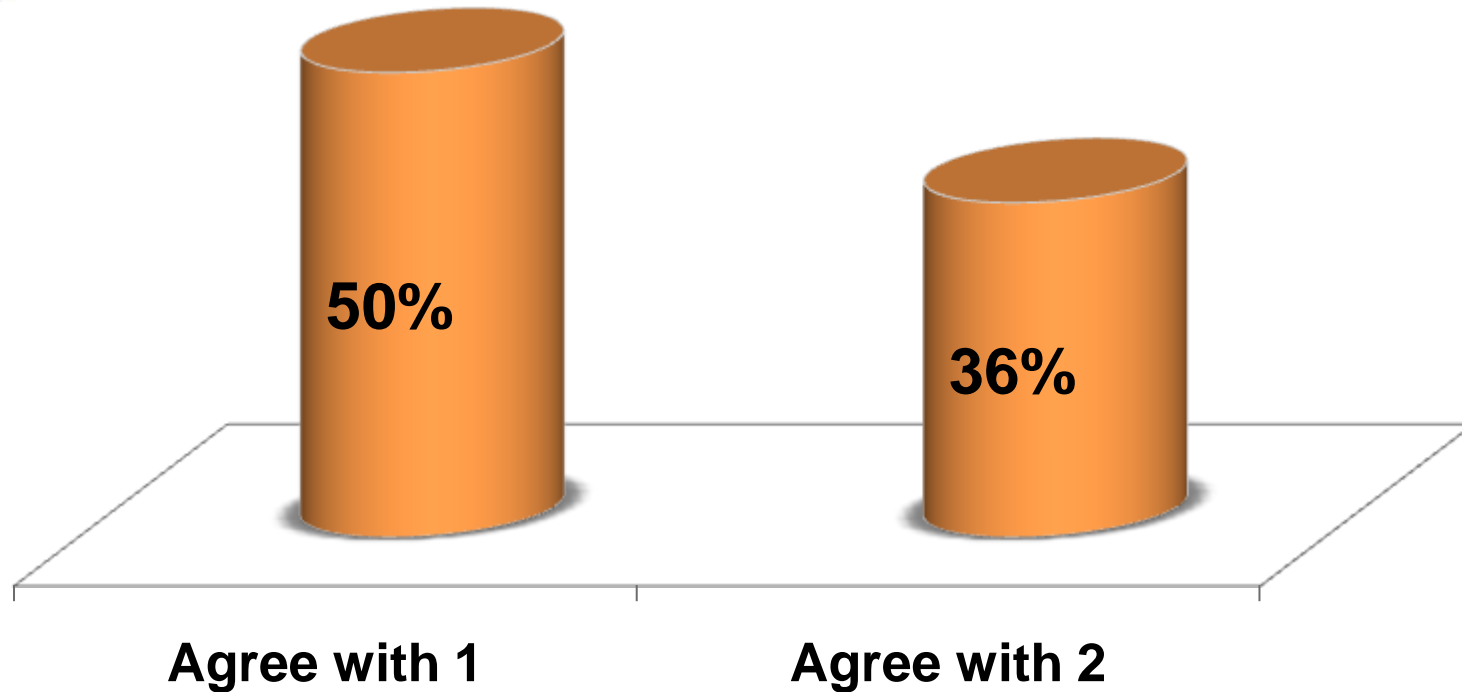


How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption ...? Percent saying some/most/all of them

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Performance of ACB



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.*



TOPIC 4:

QUOTA SELECTION POLICY, SELF IDENTITY AND CITIZENSHIP

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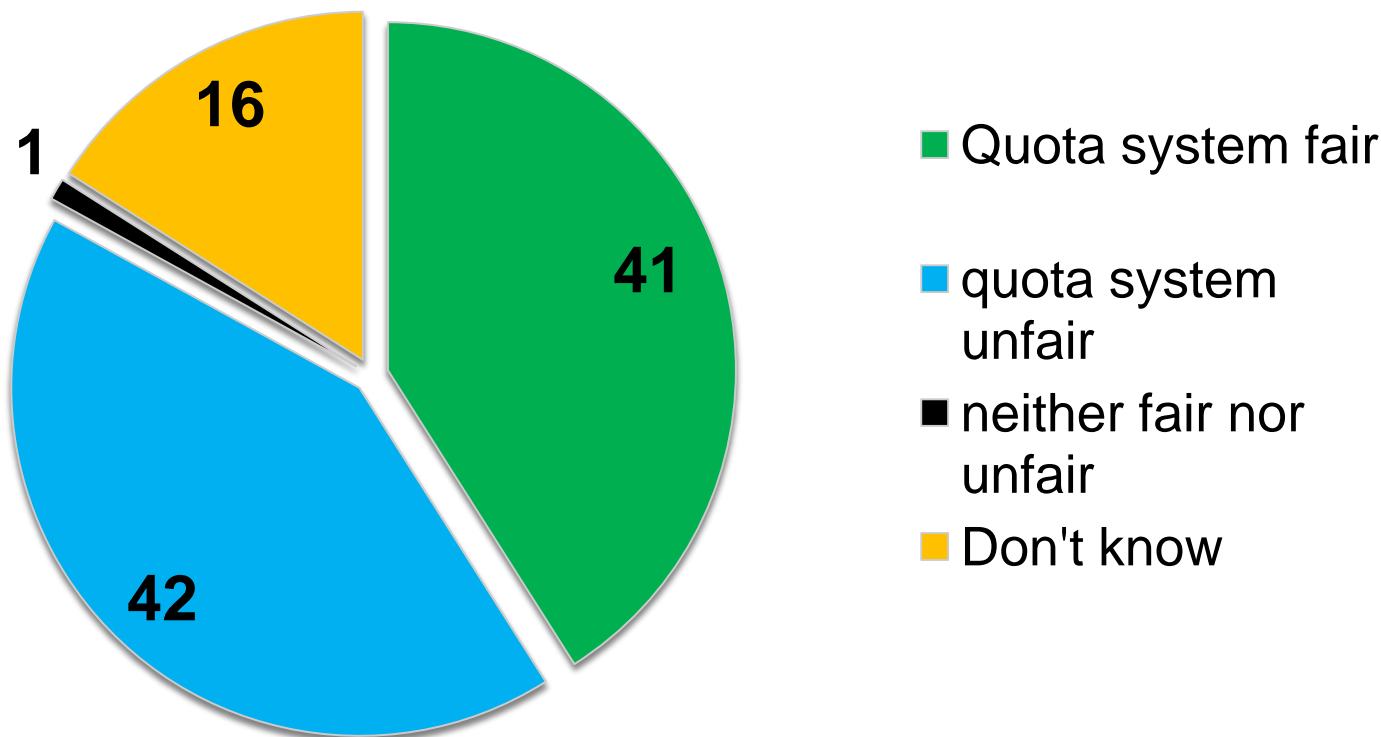
Key Findings



- 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%)



Opinion on the quota selection policy for University education



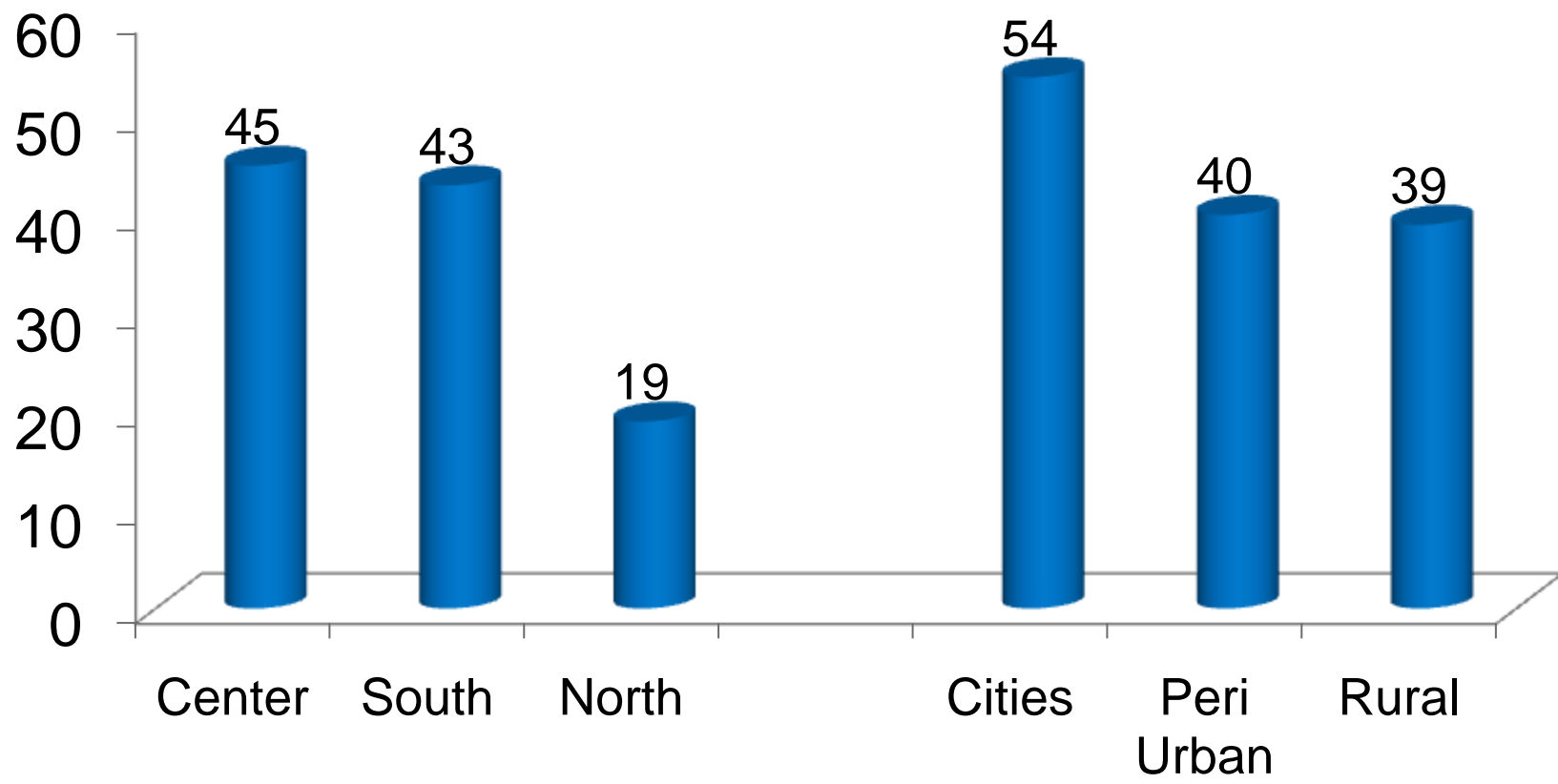
Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.

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

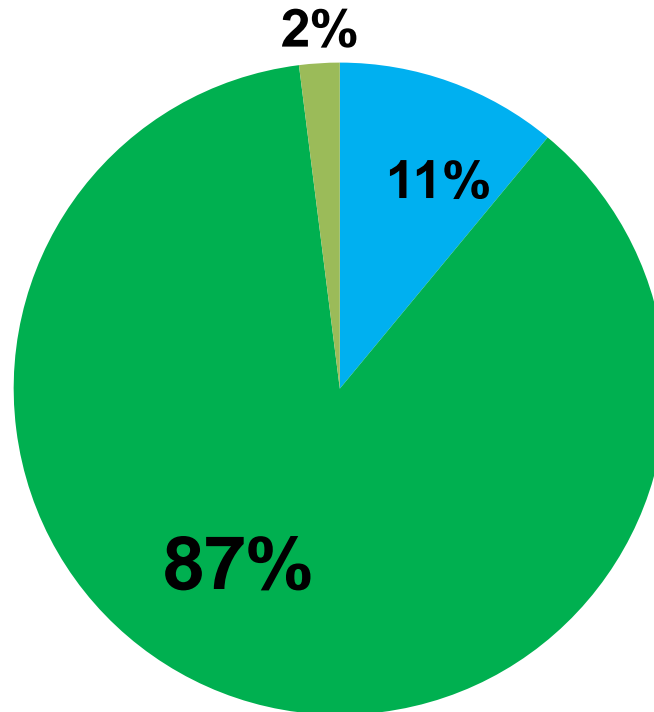


Support for quota selection by region and locality





Should Malawi allow dual citizenship?

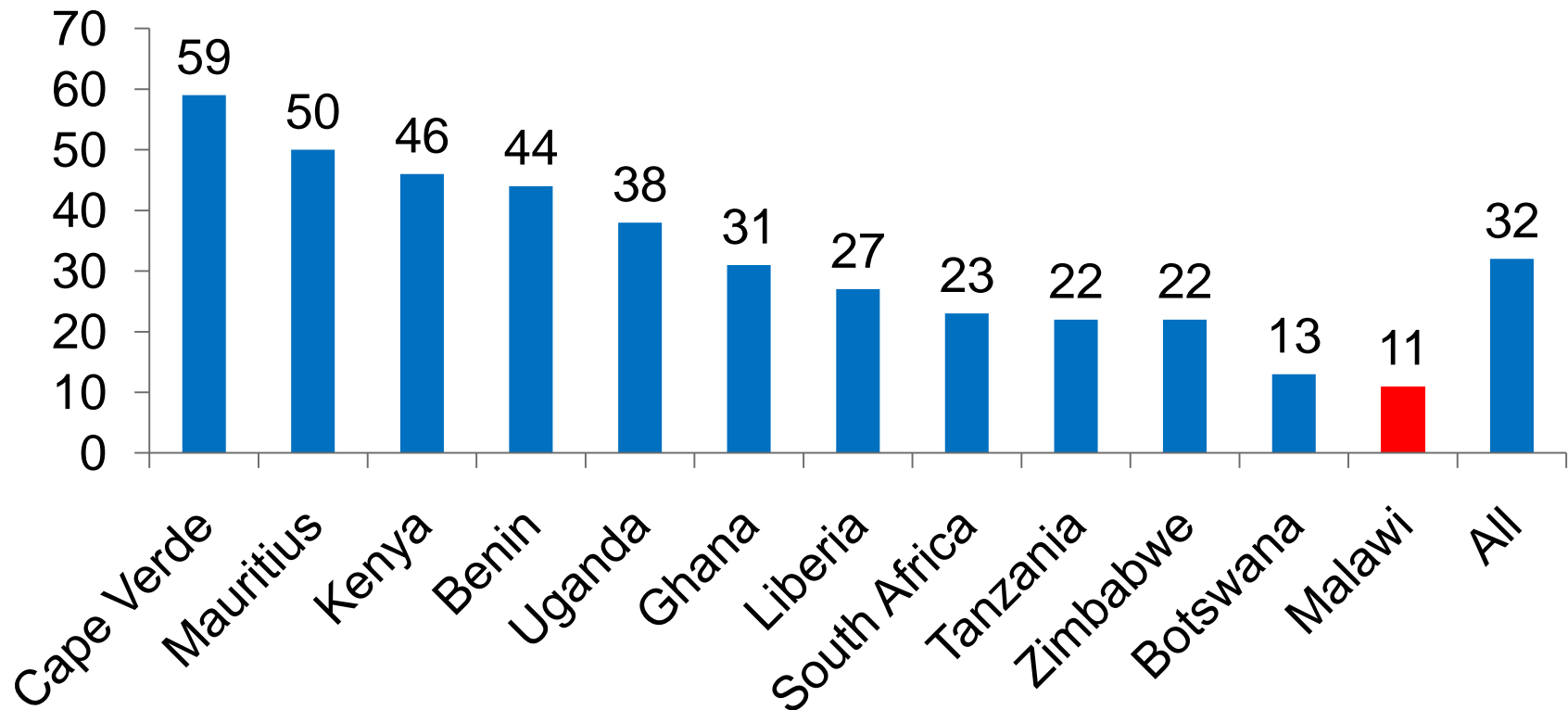


■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know

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?



Right to Dual Citizenship – 12 countries, 2012



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?

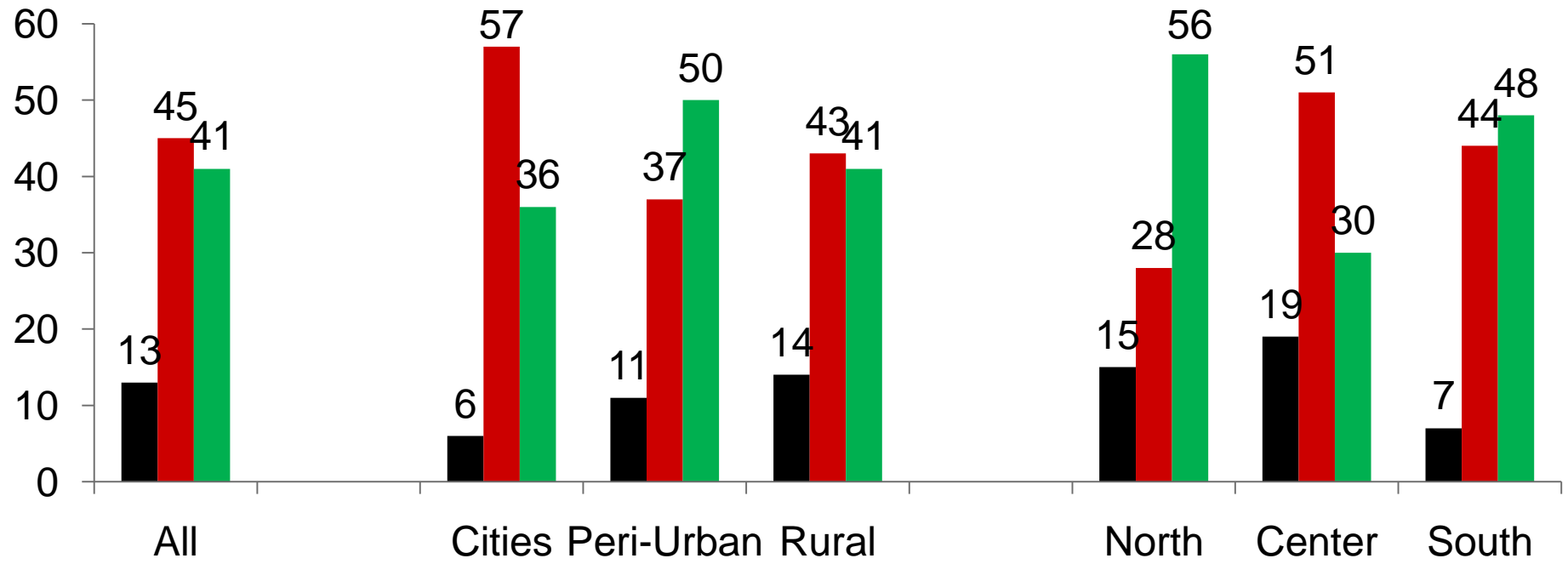


Born in country with one non-citizen parent	78
Born in country with two non-citizen parents	52
Wife of Citizen Husband	56
Husband of Citizen Wife	47
lived & worked in country for many Yrs	64

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.



Ethnic v National Identity, 2012

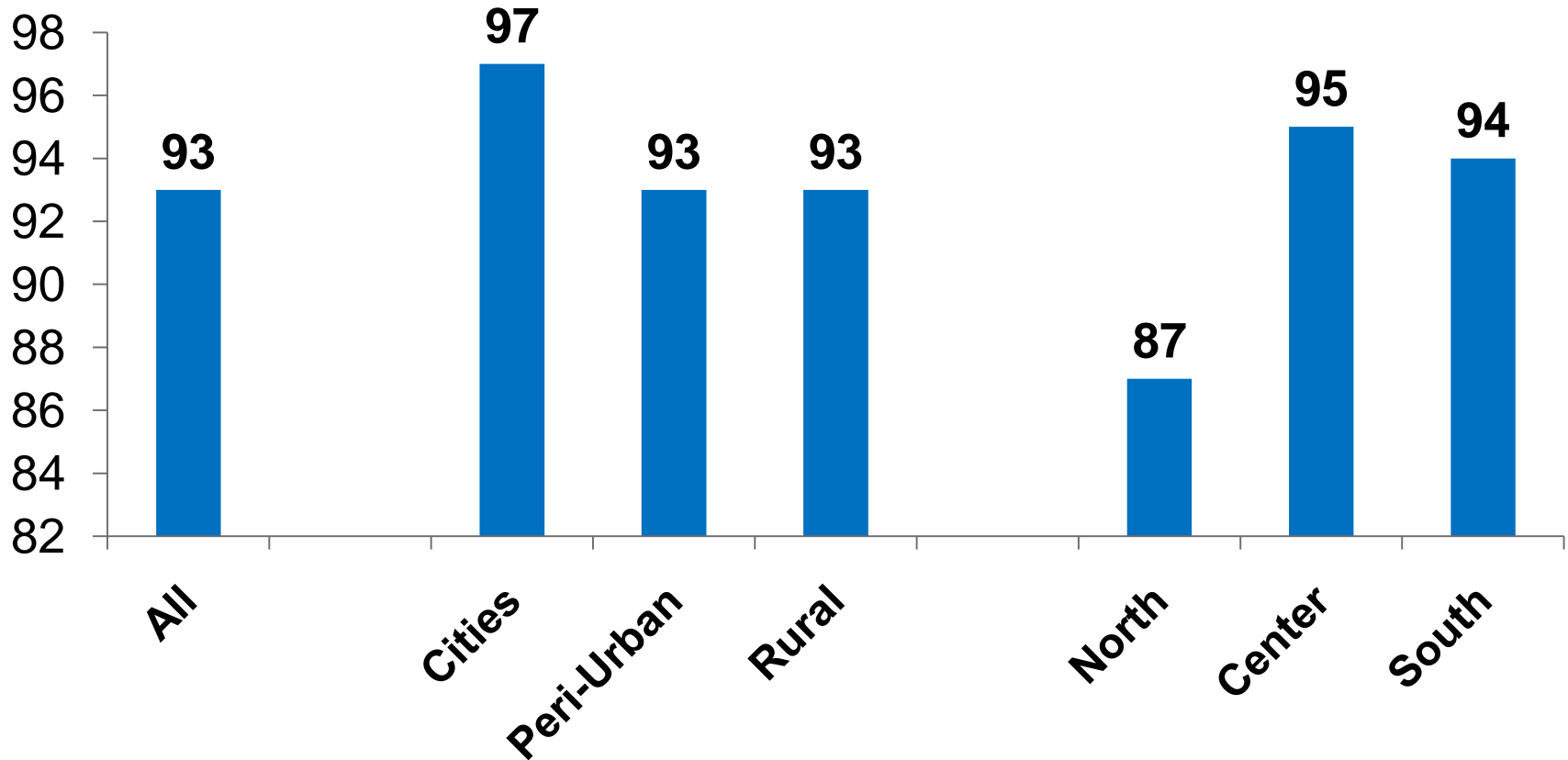


- Only ethnic group/more ethnic group than Malawian
- Equally Malawian/ethnic group
- More Malawian than ethnic group/only Malawian

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?



National Pride



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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