

Port Louis, Mauritius
8 March 2021

News release

Mauritians see increasing corruption, mistrust political class and key institutions, Afrobarometer survey shows

More than three-quarters of Mauritians say the level of corruption in the country increased last year, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey, and majorities express mistrust of their leaders and institutions.

Low levels of popular trust mark the established political class, including both the ruling coalition and opposition political parties, as well as the president and prime minister, the National Assembly, and the Electoral Commission.

At the same time, many Mauritians see widespread corruption among members of the National Assembly, in the prime minister's and president's offices, and in other key institutions.

Large majorities disapprove of the government's performance in fighting corruption and say that ordinary people risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they report incidents of corruption.

Key findings

- A majority of Mauritians express “just a little” trust or no trust at all in the nation's political institutions and leaders, including president (56%), prime minister (58%), the National Assembly and municipal/district councils (57% each), and both ruling and opposition parties (Figure 1).
 - Notably, almost two-thirds (63%) of citizens say they trust the courts of law “somewhat” or “a lot,” and the police are trusted by a majority (55%) of citizens. Mauritians are about evenly divided as to whether they trust the Mauritius Revenue Authority.
- More than three-quarters (77%) of Mauritians consider the level of corruption in the country to have increased “somewhat” or “a lot” during the previous year, a 16-percentage-point rise since 2017 (Figure 2).
 - The perception that corruption increased is more pronounced among residents in cities (81%) than in rural areas (75%), and among younger Mauritians (81%-83% of those aged 18-35 years) (Figure 3).
- Almost one-third of Mauritians say “most” or “all” members of the National Assembly (32%) and officials in the prime minister's office (31%) are corrupt (Figure 4).
 - Large majorities see at least “some” corruption among all key public institutions and leaders the survey asked about.
- A large majority (70%) of Mauritian citizens disapprove of the government's performance in fighting corruption (Figure 5).
- Three-quarters (75%) of Mauritians say that people who report acts of corruption to the authorities are at risk of retaliation or other negative consequences (Figure 6).

- o Risk of retaliation is less widely perceived among urban residents (69%), citizens with post-secondary education (68%), and those who are economically well off (66% among those with no lived poverty) (Figure 7).

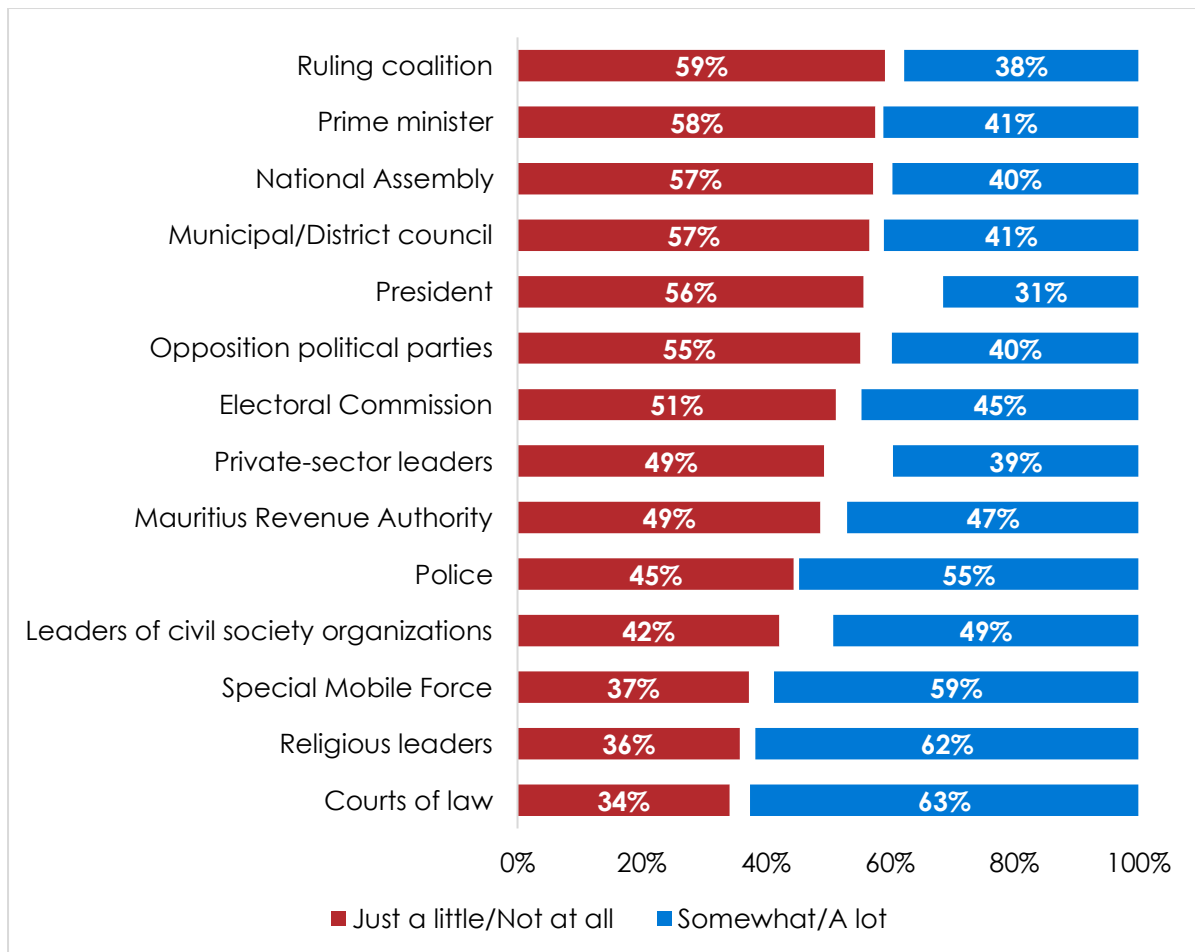
Afrobarometer survey

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Seven rounds of surveys were completed in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018. Round 8 surveys in 2019/2021 are planned in at least 35 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Mauritius, led by Straconsult Ltd., interviewed 1,200 adult Mauritians in November 2020. 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 Mauritius in 2012, 2014, and 2017.

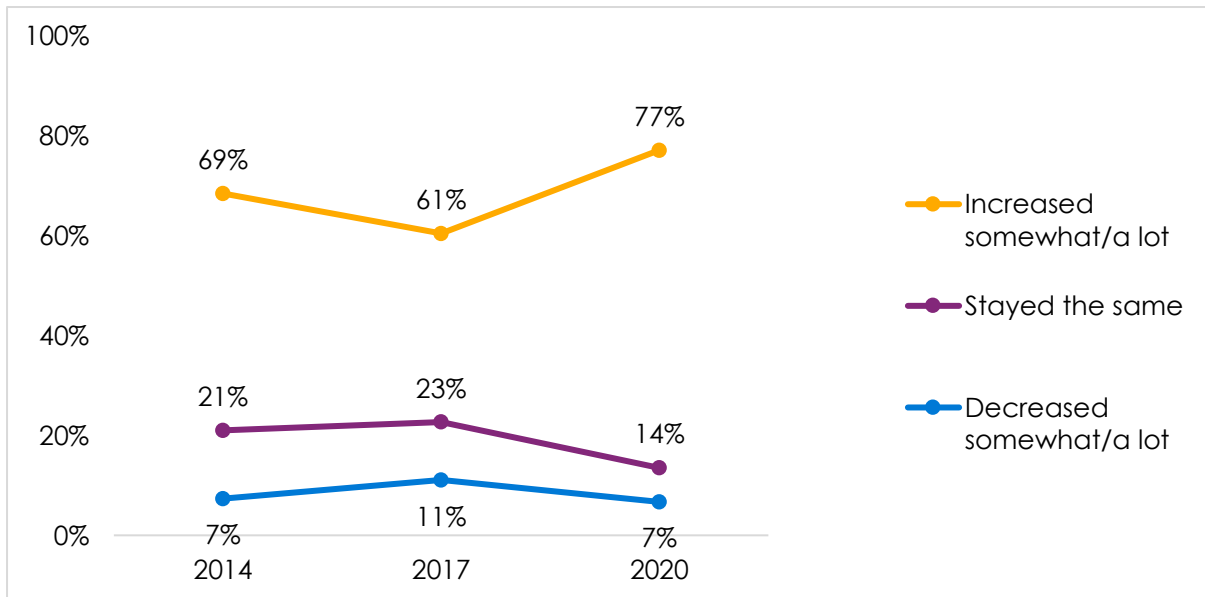
Charts

Figure 1: Trust in public leaders and institutions | Mauritius | 2020



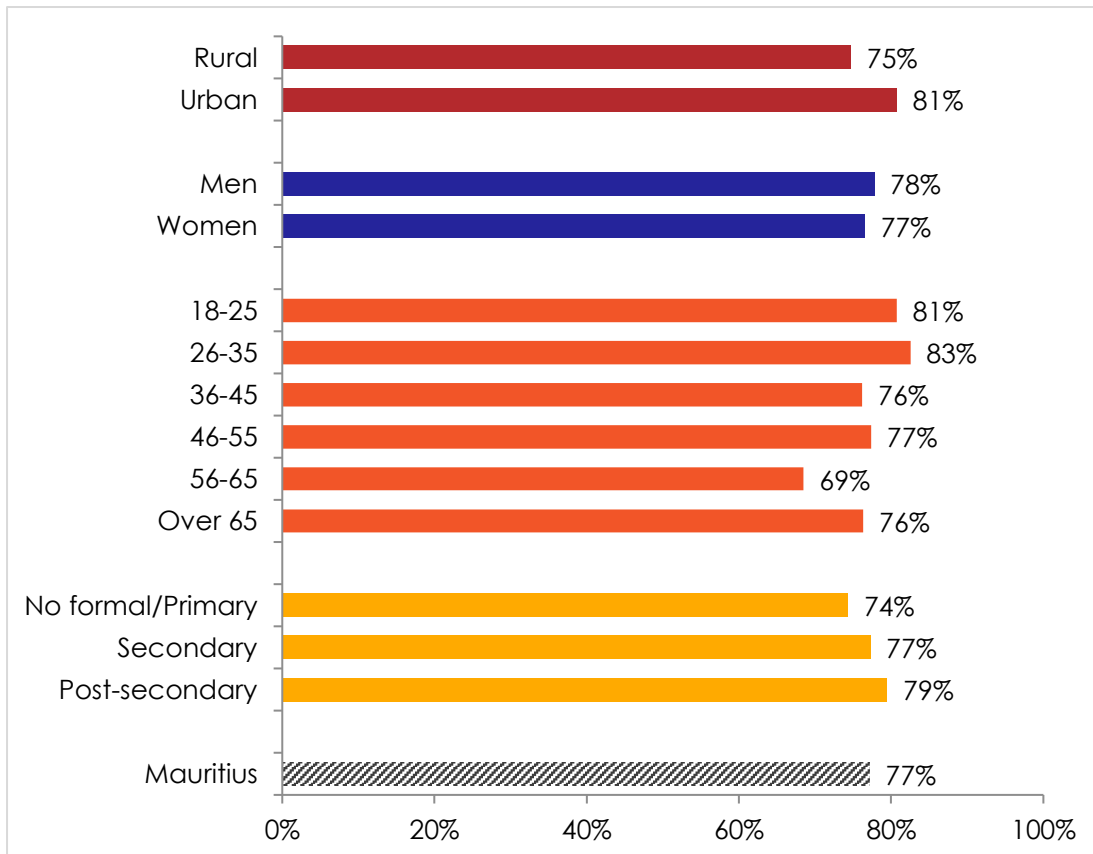
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

Figure 2: Perceived change in level of corruption | Mauritius | 2014-2020



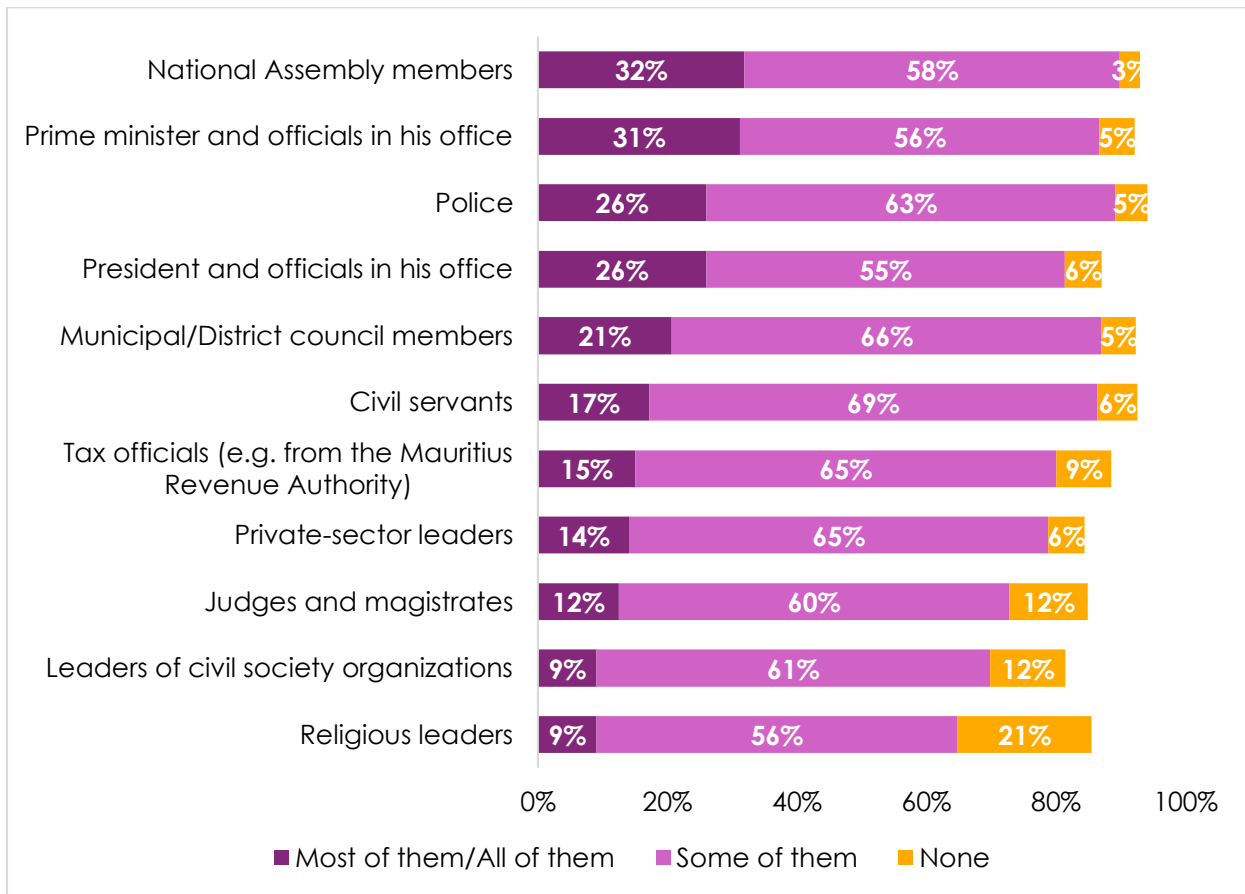
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

Figure 3: Perception that corruption increased | by socio-demographic group | Mauritius | 2020



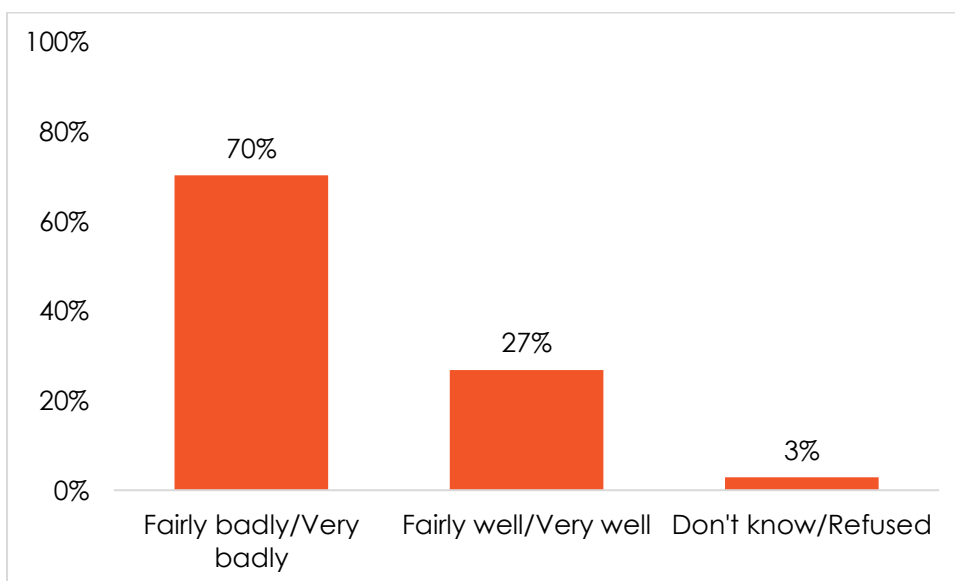
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same? (% who say "increased somewhat" or "increased a lot")

Figure 4: Involvement in corruption | Mauritius | 2020



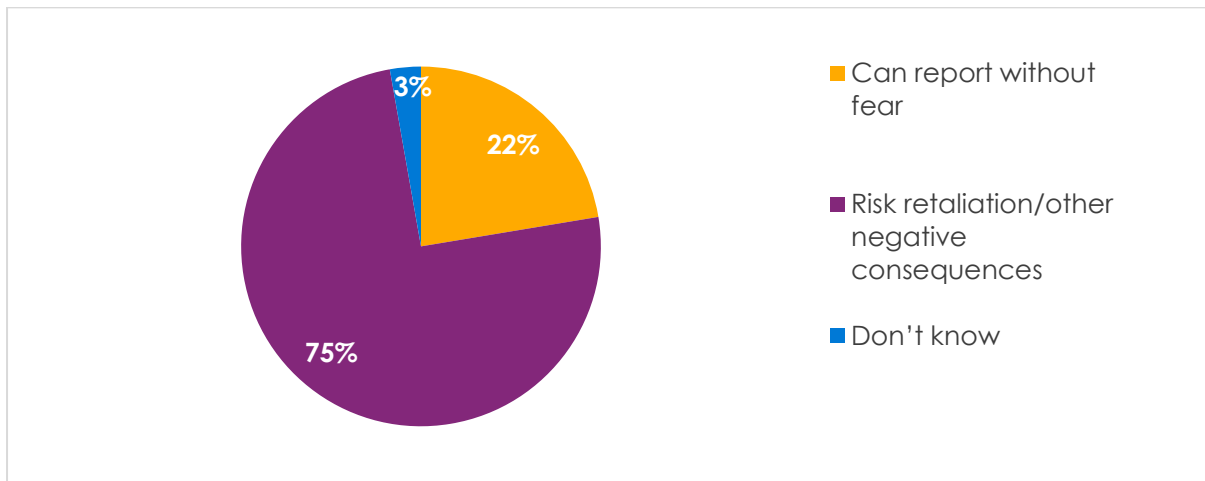
Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

Figure 5: Government performance in fighting corruption | Mauritius | 2020



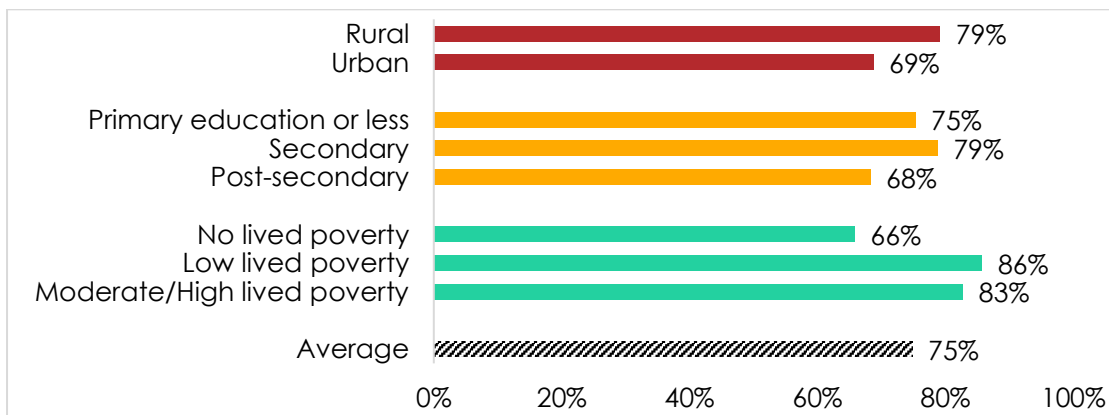
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Fighting corruption in government?

Figure 6: Can people report incidents of corruption without fear? | Mauritius | 2020



Respondents were asked: In this country, can ordinary people report incidents of corruption without fear, or do they risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they speak out?

Figure 7: People risk retaliation if they report corruption | by socio-demographic group | Mauritius | 2020



Respondents were asked: In this country, can ordinary people report incidents of corruption without fear, or do they risk retaliation or other negative consequences if they speak out? (% who say "risk retaliation or other negative consequences")

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