

Hatchile Consult Ltd  
Kampala, Uganda  
23 September 2017

## News release

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### **Ugandans overwhelmingly favour age limit for president, Afrobarometer survey shows**

Three-fourths of Ugandans favour maintaining an age limit of 75 years for presidential candidates, a recent Afrobarometer survey shows.

Well before the current heated public debate about the presidential age limit, Afrobarometer asked Ugandans last December/January about a range of proposed electoral reforms. Dropping the existing age limit is the only one that failed to register majority support. (For details on the other questions asked, and responses, see [this press release](#).)

In fact, popular support for the age limit is remarkably strong: The 75% of respondents who want to keep the law include 62% who say they feel “very strongly” on this issue, and majority support holds across the political-party divide as well as across gender, age, education, and regional lines.

#### **Key findings**

- Three-fourths (75%) of Ugandans favour maintaining an age limit of 75 years on presidential candidates, including 62% who say they “agree very strongly” with this position (Figure 1).
- Support for the age limit is even stronger among men (78%) and urbanites (81%) than among women (71%) and rural residents (73%) (Figure 2).
- More than eight in 10 Ugandans with at least a secondary education favour keeping the age limit, compared to about seven in 10 among less-educated respondents.
- Even among National Resistance Movement (NRM) adherents, support for the age limit is high (67%), though considerably weaker than among supporters of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) (90%) and respondents who don't identify with any party (77%).
- Support for the age limit is greatest in Kampala (90%) and Central region (86%), dropping to 67% in the Northern region.

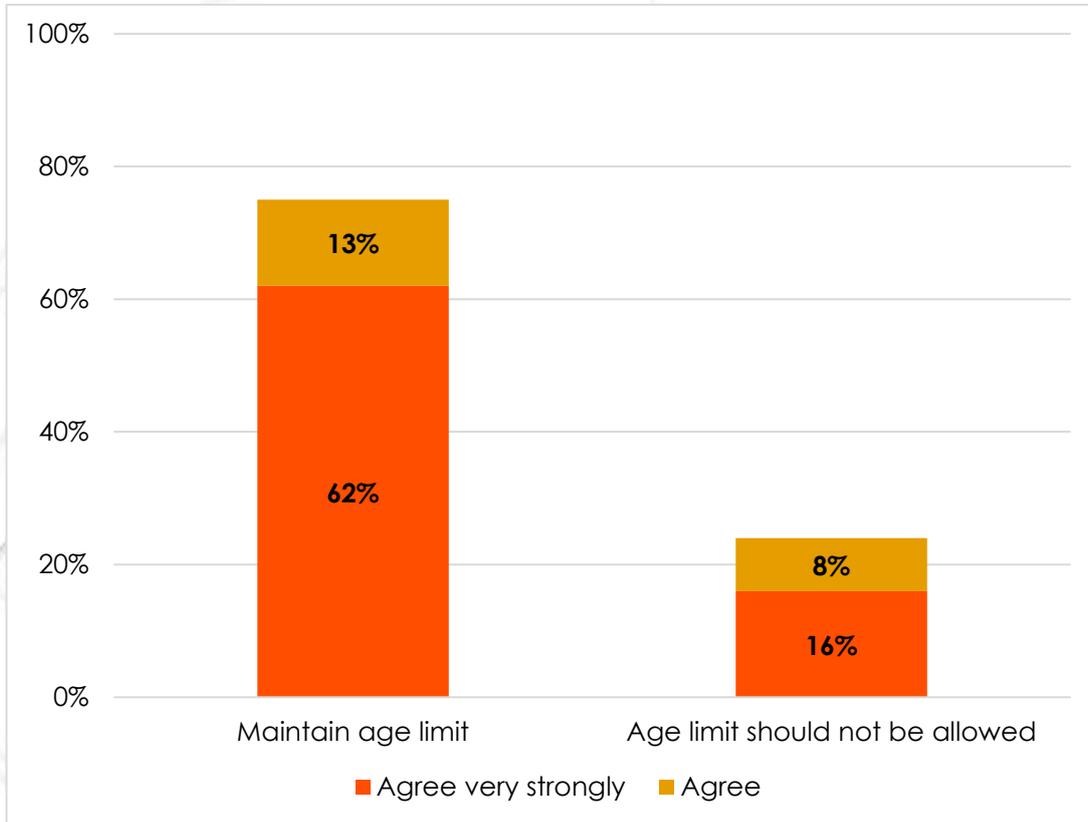
#### **Afrobarometer**

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 2016, and Round 7 surveys (2016/2018) are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult, interviewed 1,200 adult Ugandans between 26 December 2016 and 8 January 2017. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Uganda in 2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, and 2015.

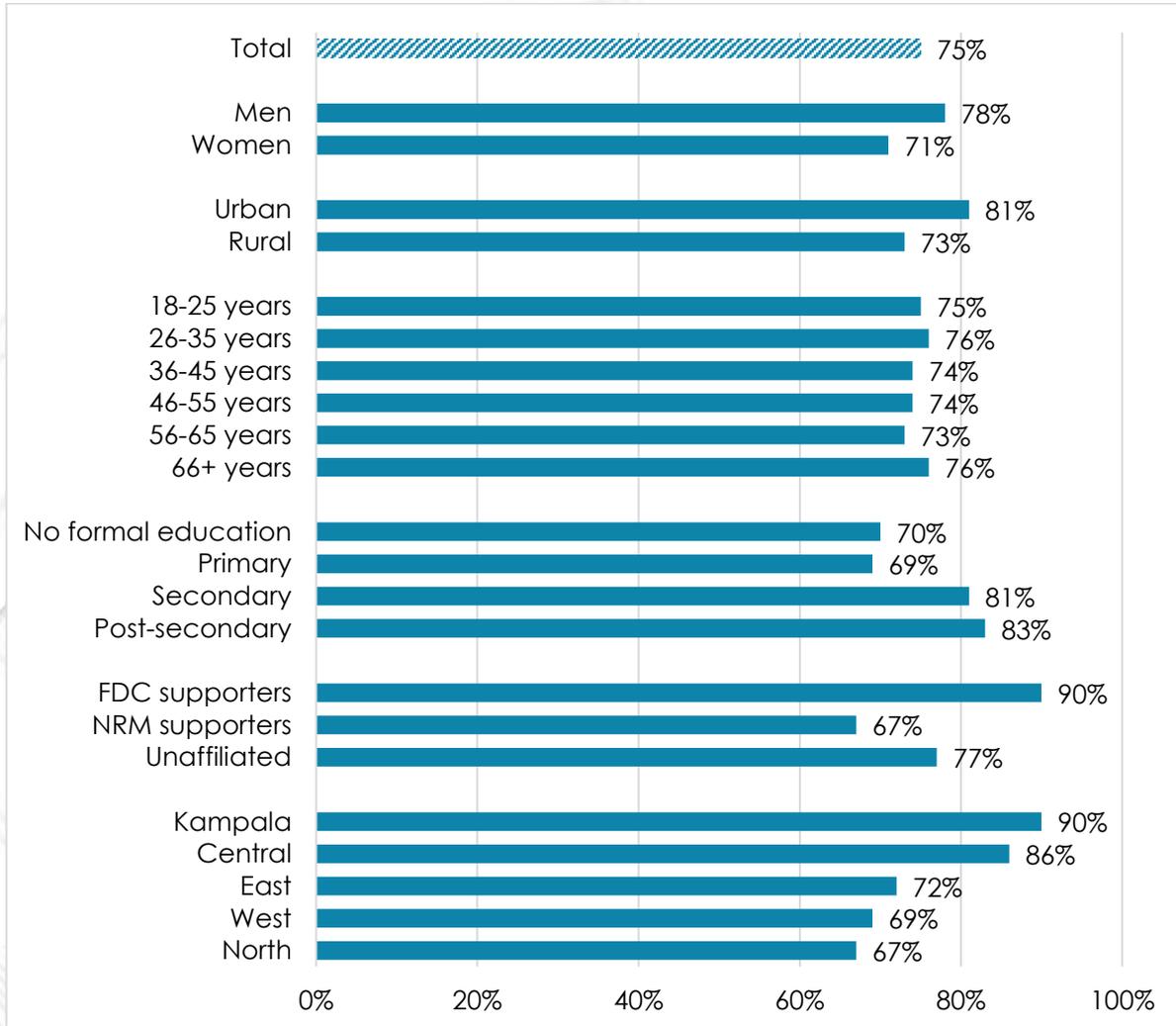
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Popular views on presidential age limit | Uganda | 2017**



**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view? .  
 Statement 1: The electoral law stopping any person older than 75 years from running as president in this country should be maintained.  
 Statement 2: Preventing persons older than 75 years from standing for election as president is a form of discrimination and should not be allowed.

**Figure 2: Support for presidential age limit | Uganda | 2017**



**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view? .  
 Statement 1: The electoral law stopping any person older than 75 years from running as president in this country should be maintained.  
 Statement 2: Preventing persons older than 75 years from standing for election as president is a form of discrimination and should not be allowed.  
 (% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with maintaining the age limit)  
 (Note: Political-party affiliation was measured based on responses to the questions "Do you feel close to any particular political party?" and, if yes, "Which party is that?" Responses: 46% NRM, 11% FDC, 6% other parties, and 37% who do not feel close to any party or refused to say.)

**For more information, please contact:**

Dr. Frederick Golooba-Mutebi  
National investigator  
Tel +256 782 673 107  
golooba@hatchileconsult.com, fgmutebi@gmail.com

Francis Kibirige  
National coordinator  
Tel +256 776 932 082  
francis@hatchileconsult.com, kibirige@msu.edu

Hatchile Consult Ltd.  
Tel +256 414 233 847  
6/8 Kisozi House Complex, Kampala

Visit us online at:  
[www.National Partner's Web site.org](http://www.National Partner's Web site.org)  
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