



Malawians' Trust in Public Institutions Declines as Perceptions of Corruption Increase

Afrobarometer conducted a public perception survey between 22 March and 5th April, 2014 which covered trust in public institutions and corruption among public officials. This press release is meant to highlight the key findings in those two areas as a way of informing public debate and policy.

Key Findings

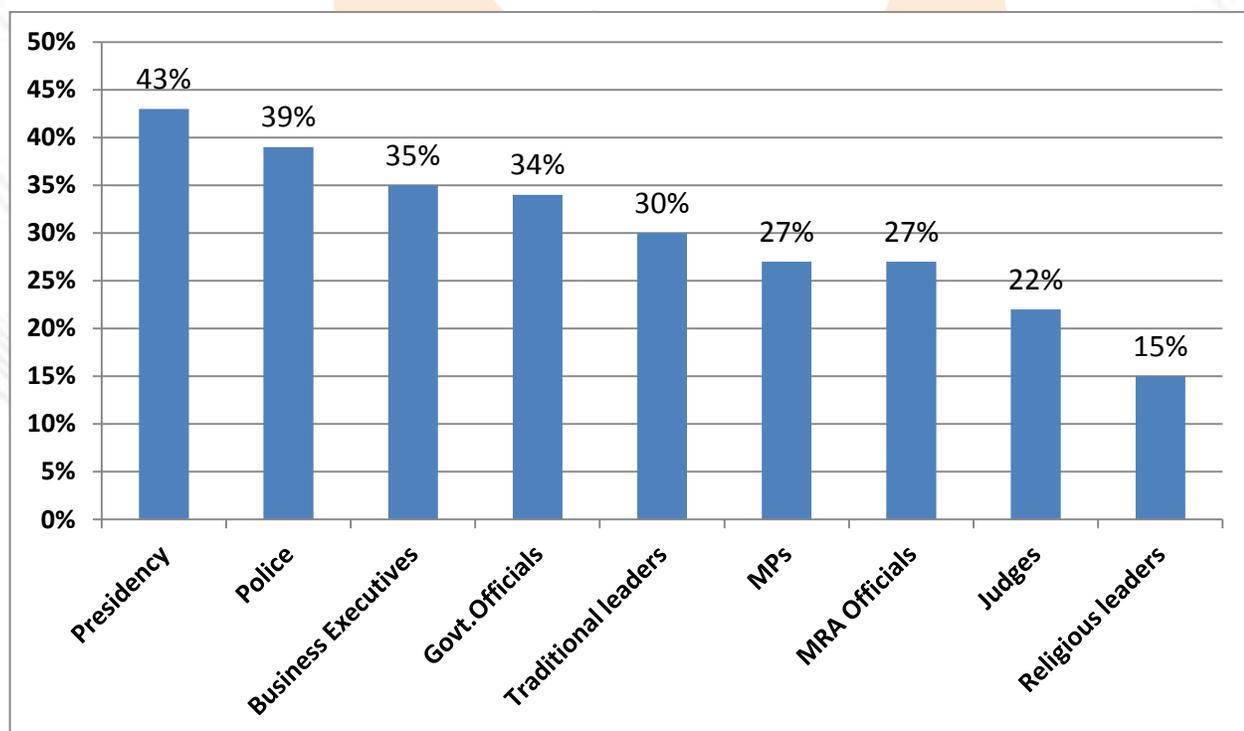
- Religious leaders (79%) and the army (78%) are the most trusted institutions, while Joyce Banda (the former President (29%) and her ruling party (35%) are the least trusted.
- There has been a drop in public trust for almost all public institutions, except for opposition parties and the Malawi Revenue Authority (Table 1).
- Joyce Banda (43%) and the Police (39%) were thought to be more corrupt than judges (22%) and religious leaders (15%) (Figure 1).
- Corruption was perceived by many (72%) to have increased between 2013 and 2014.
- A large proportion of Malawians approve of the performance of traditional leaders (79%) and very few approve the performance of previous MPs (32%).
- Overall, slightly above a third of Malawians (38%) approved the performance of the former president, whilst further analysis indicated strong regional differences in these ratings. A majority (67%) of surveyed respondents from the north approved the president's performance. By contrast, however, only a third of the people in central (33%) and southern regions (34%) approved of the performance of the former president (Figure 2).
- More than half of Malawians (59%) believe that the reasons for not reporting corruption is fear of consequences. Only 4% reported that not knowing where to report could be a factor.
- Despite the factors hindering prospects of reporting cases of corruption, a reasonable number (44%) believe that the best way to combat corruption is by reporting it.
- A majority of Malawians (74%) did not approve of the previous government's handling of 'cashgate' scandal and corruption in general (69%). Specifically 66% felt that it was handled **very badly**. A good number of Malawians (64%) believe that ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption in the country.
- The majority of Malawians (75%) believe the news media has been effective in reporting government mistakes and corruption.

Table 1: Comparative Trust Levels between 2012 and 2014

Institution	2012	2014
Courts of Law	80%	70%
Army	84%	79%
Police	68%	60%
National Assembly	64%	50%
Malawi Electoral Commission	64%	57%
Ruling Party	60%	35%
President Joyce Banda	58%	29%
Malawi Revenue Authority	50%	51%
Opposition Parties	46%	49%

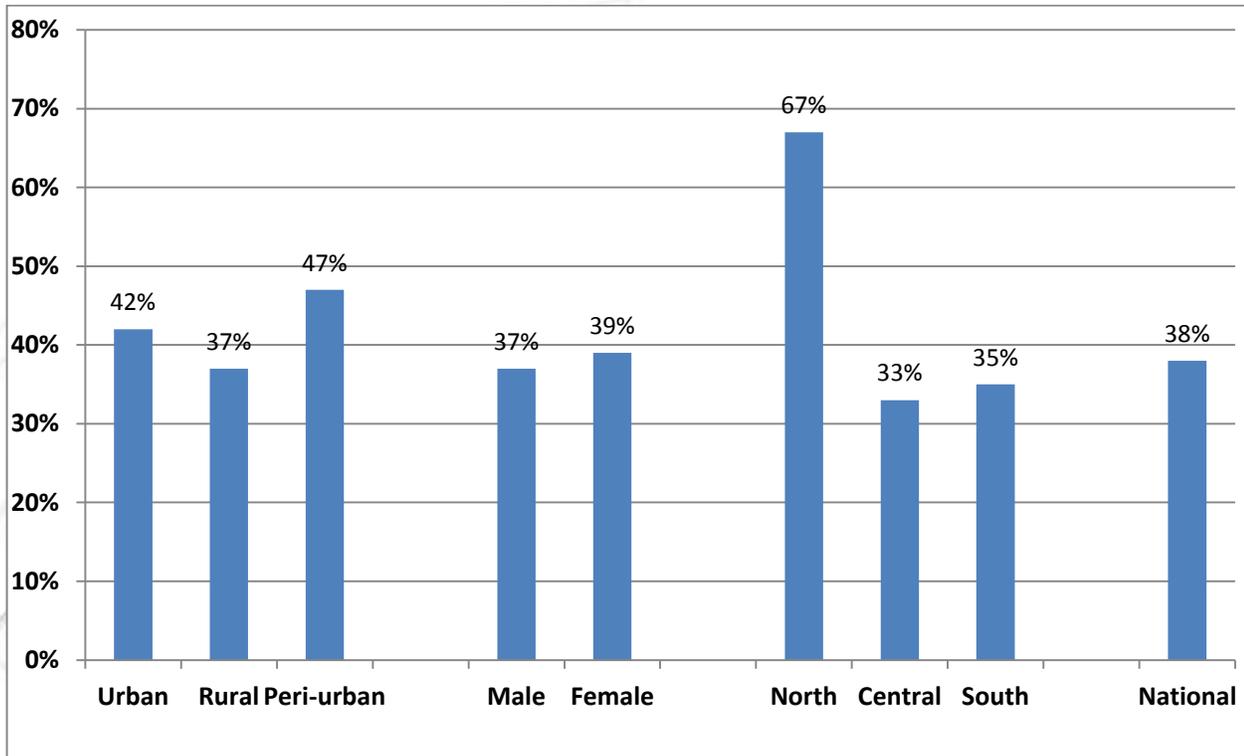
Question: "How much do you trust each of the following or haven't you heard enough about them to say?"

Figure 1: Perception of Corruption



Question: "How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?" (Most of them/all of them)

Figure 2 : Approval of former President Joyce Banda's Performance (2014)



Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past twelve months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is an independent research project that has measured countries' social, political, and economic atmosphere since 1999, and is now on its six survey round, covering 35 countries. In Malawi, the surveys are conducted by the Centre for Social Research at the University of Malawi. The Afrobarometer is funded by the Department of International Development (DFID), the United States Agency for International Aid (USAID), the Swedish Aid Agency (SIDA), Mo Ibrahim Foundation, World Bank, Transparency International and the Gates Foundation.

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