

RuralNet Associates Ltd  
Lusaka, Zambia  
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## News release

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### **Zambians' trust in the judiciary still high but begins to decline, legitimacy also suffers**

The percentage of Zambian citizens who recognize the legitimacy of the courts of law has declined from 79% in 2012 to 68% in 2014. The most recent Afrobarometer survey found that the percentage of Zambians who do not trust the judiciary has also declined from 62% in 2012 to 59% in 2014.

The data is being released against a backdrop of among the Zambian citizenry regarding the independence and virtue of the Zambian judiciary (See, for instance, Zambia – Justice and rule of law, downloadable at [http://www.osisa.org/sites/default/files/afrimap\\_zambia\\_justice\\_main\\_report\\_web\\_5july.pdf](http://www.osisa.org/sites/default/files/afrimap_zambia_justice_main_report_web_5july.pdf))

#### **Key findings**

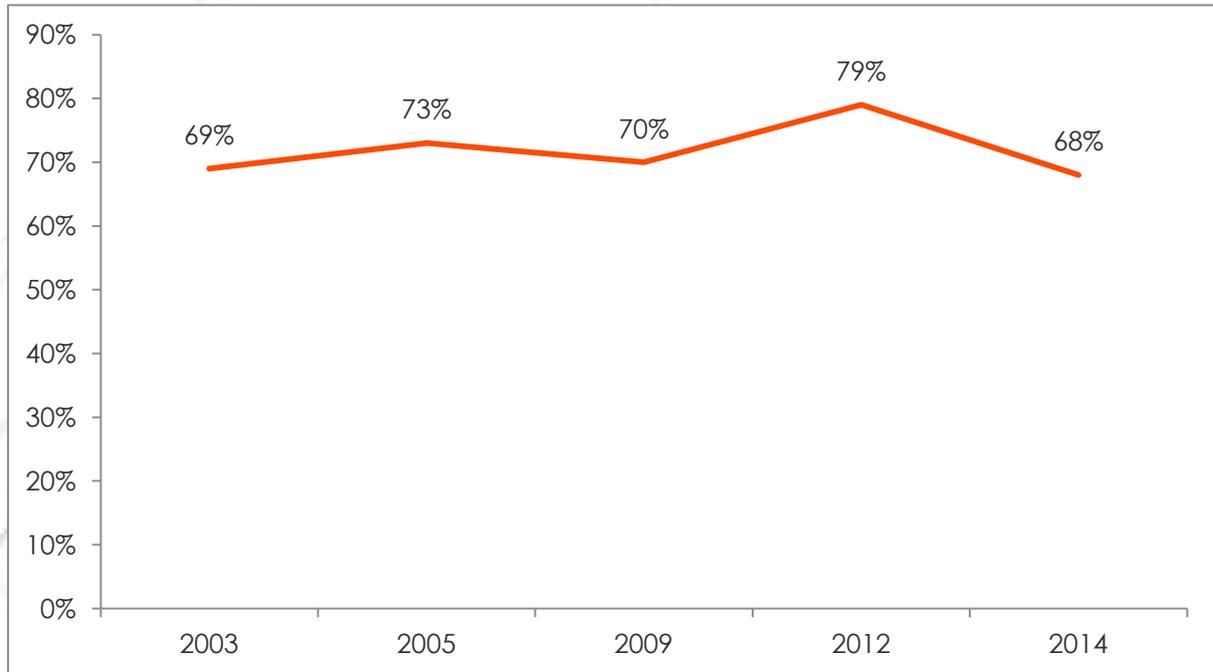
- The percentage of Zambian citizens who recognize the legitimacy of the courts of law has declined from 79% in 2012 to 68% in 2014.
- There is a slight decline in the percentage of Zambians who trust the judiciary from 62% in 2012 to 59% in 2014.
- The long term trend, however, shows that the level of trust has marginally improved between 1999 and 2014 (from 59% in 1999 to 62% in 2014).

#### **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.

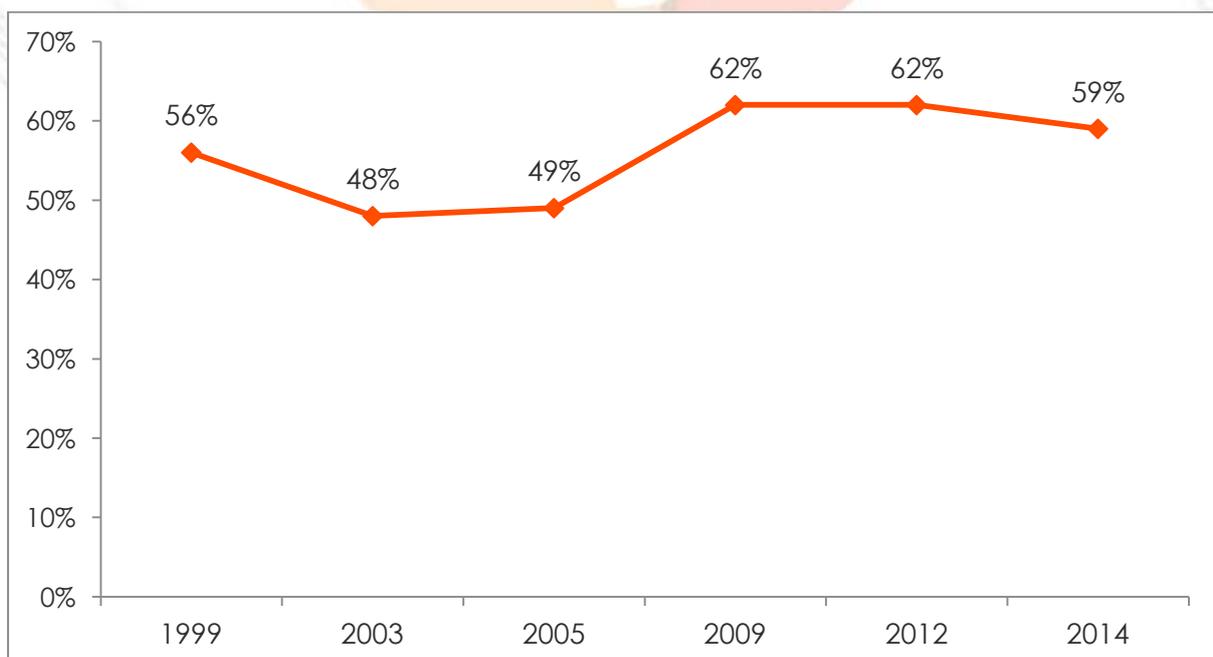
The Afrobarometer team in Zambia, led by RuralNet Associates, interviewed 1,200 adult Zambians in October 2014. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Zambia in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2009 and 2012.

**Figure 2: Legitimacy of the courts of law | Zambia | 2003-2014**



**Respondents were asked:** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree? The courts have the right to make decisions that people always have to abide by (Strongly agree/Agree).

**Figure 2: Level of trust in the Courts of law | Zambia | 1999-2014**



**Respondents were asked:** How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? Courts of law (Somewhat/A lot).

**For more information, please contact:**

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