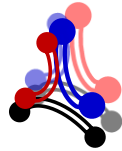




Kingdom of the Netherlands



**HATCHILE CONSULT LTD**

Social Research and Integrated Business



Let the people have a say

Kampala, Uganda  
2 July 2024

## News release

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### **Few Ugandans see elected leaders trying their best to listen or to serve the people, Afrobarometer surveys show**

A growing number of Ugandans say their elected representatives don't listen and are more interested in serving their own political ambitions than in serving the people, Afrobarometer survey findings show.

Only small minorities of citizens think that members of Parliament (MPs) and local district councillors try their best to listen to what ordinary citizens have to say, and both assessments have worsened since 2017.

Moreover, a growing majority of respondents say that politicians and political party leaders are most concerned with advancing their own ambitions rather than serving the people.

When Ugandans are asked what they consider the most important problems that the government should address, delivery of high-quality public services – including health, education, and water supply – continues to dominate their development priorities.

#### **Key findings**

- Only one-quarter (25%) of Ugandans say district councillors “often” or “always” do their best to listen to what ordinary people have to say. This figure has dropped from 32% in 2017 (Figure 1).
  - Members of Parliament fare even worse: Only 15% of respondents say MPs try to listen to their constituents, down from 21% in 2017.
- In 2021, more than three-quarters (79%) of respondents said that politicians and political party leaders are most concerned with advancing their own political ambitions rather than serving the people, up from 72% in 2015 (Figure 2).
- Health (62%), education (36%), infrastructure/roads (34%), and water supply (26%) top the list of problems that Ugandans say their government must address (Figure 3). Delivery of high-quality public services has consistently ranked high among citizens' development priorities.

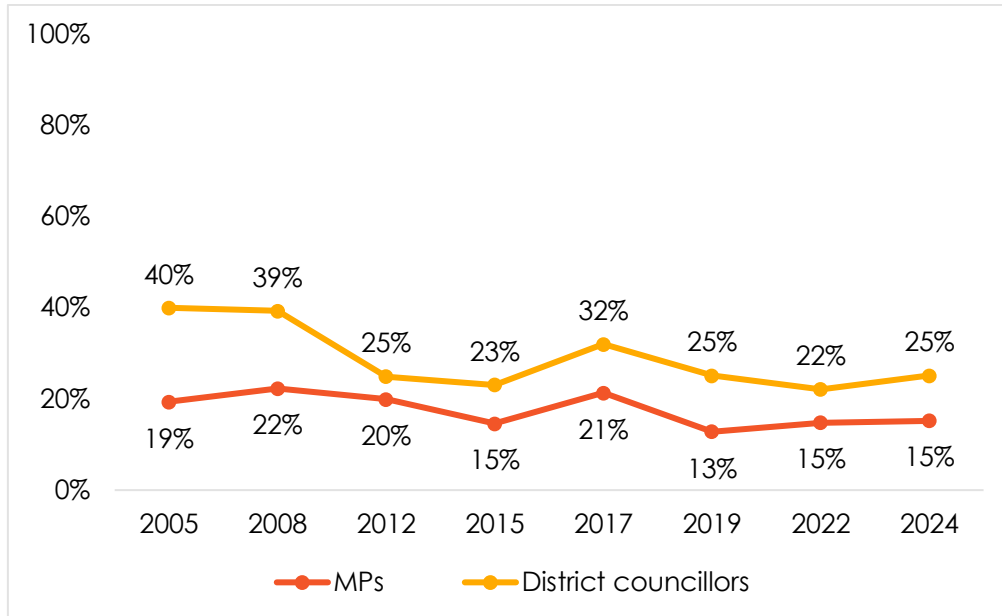
#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 were launched in January 2024. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult limited, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,400 adult Ugandans in January 2024. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous standard surveys were conducted in Uganda in 2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2022, and 2024.

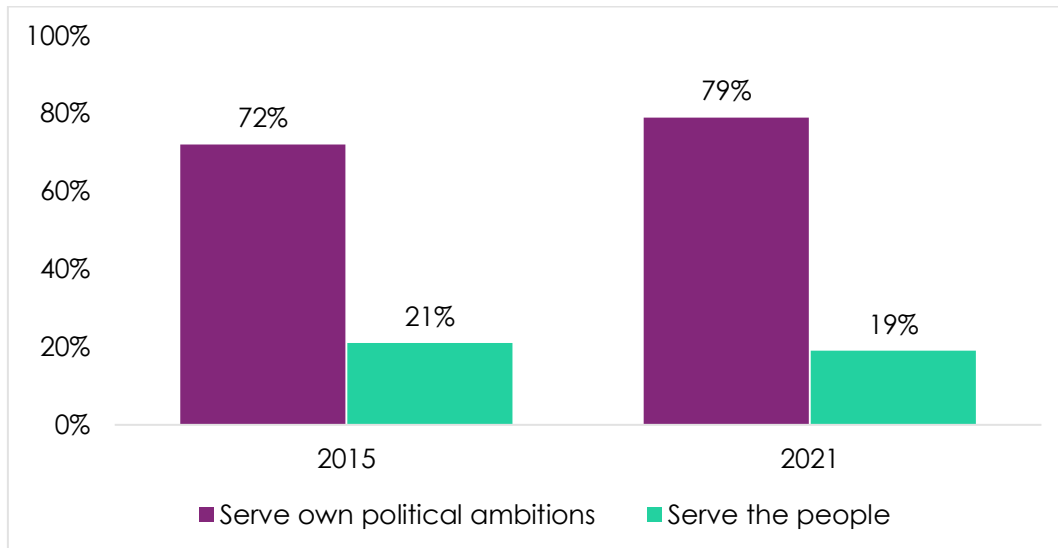
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Elected leaders try their best to listen to what ordinary people have to say**  
 | Uganda | 2005-2024



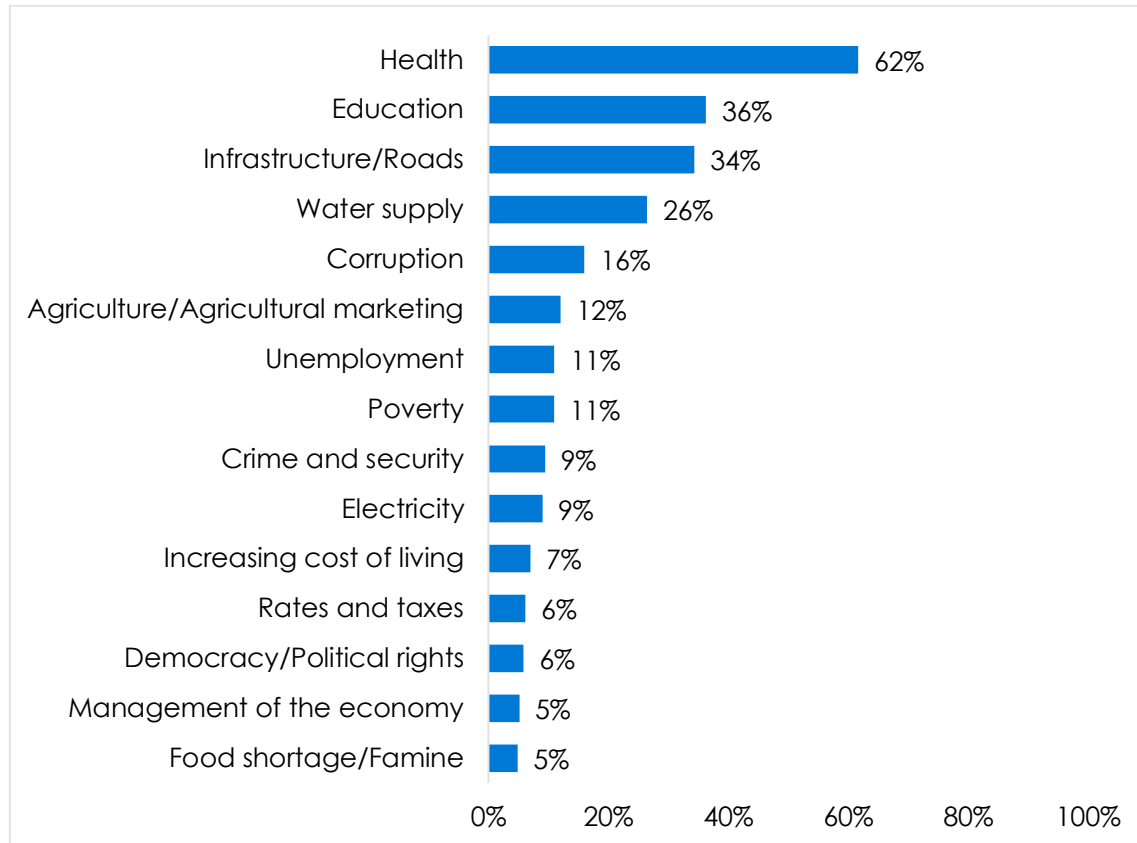
**Respondents were asked:** How much of the time do you think the following try their best to listen to what ordinary people have to say: Members of Parliament? Members of your local government council? (% who say "often" or "always")

**Figure 2: Leaders serve their own interests vs. serve the people** | Uganda | 2015-2021



**Respondents were asked:** Which of the following statements is closest to your view?  
 Statement 1: In this country, politicians and political party leaders are most concerned with serving the interests of ordinary people.  
 Statement 2: In this country, politicians and political party leaders are most concerned with advancing their own political ambitions.  
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

**Figure 3: Most important problems government should address** | Uganda – circa election years | 2012-2021



**Respondents were asked:** *In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Up to three responses per person. Figure shows % of respondents who cite each problem as one of up to three priorities.)*

**For more information, please contact:**

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