



Afro-Barometer Analysis of local governance issues in Zimbabwe

Citizen perceptions, citizen engagement and citizen participation

A disaggregated assessment of 6 rounds of afro-barometer findings.

Introduction

The purpose of the research was to come up with a disaggregated assessment of the status of and trends in governance issues using Afro-barometer data from Round 1 to Round 6 in Zimbabwe. 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. The Afrobarometer team in Zimbabwe, led by Mass Public Opinion Institute has conducted 6 rounds of surveys in Zimbabwe in 1999, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2010, and 2012. From Round 1 to 4 sample size was 1200 adult Zimbabweans and this yields results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. The sample size was however doubled to 2400 for Rounds 5 (2012) and 6 (2014). A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level. In carrying out the assignment and compiling the report, the Consultant looked at data from all the rounds, and where applicable, opinion was tracked from Round 1 to Round 6 if the question was asked throughout all the rounds. The reader should note that in some cases some questions were not asked during all the rounds and hence no trend analysis was done. Again while the Scope of Work required a disaggregation of the data to the District level, contributions for the Districts (in terms of sample size) were very small to the extent that generalisation of the data to the population would be very misleading. Thus in terms of approach, the researcher's first port of call was analysis of the November 2014 survey data when Round 6 was carried out in Zimbabwe, present findings on the national picture, disaggregate data using a number of demographic variables; e.g., place of residence, gender and province and where possible by district. Thereafter a trend analysis is done in cases where similar questions were asked in all the 6 Rounds. It is envisaged that the baseline will act as a pedestal upon which Election Resource Centre's future activities, for example researches/studies and interventions can be done. The research specifically focused on the following areas:

- Perceptions of citizen participation in local governance in between elections
- Contact between citizens and elected leaders (councillors and MPs)
- Perceptions of elected leadership (councillors and MPs) in Zimbabwe
- Engagement with non-elected leaders (traditional leaders, political party officials, government agency officials and religious leaders)
- Membership of voluntary association or community groups
- Attendance of community meetings

- Getting together with others to raise an issue
- Public attitudes towards modes of engagement e.g. refusal to pay a tax or fee to government, participating in demonstration or protest march, contacting the media, contacting a government official, joining others to request action from government
- Levels of transparency between local leadership and citizens
- Levels of accountability between local leadership and citizens
- Sources of information in local communities

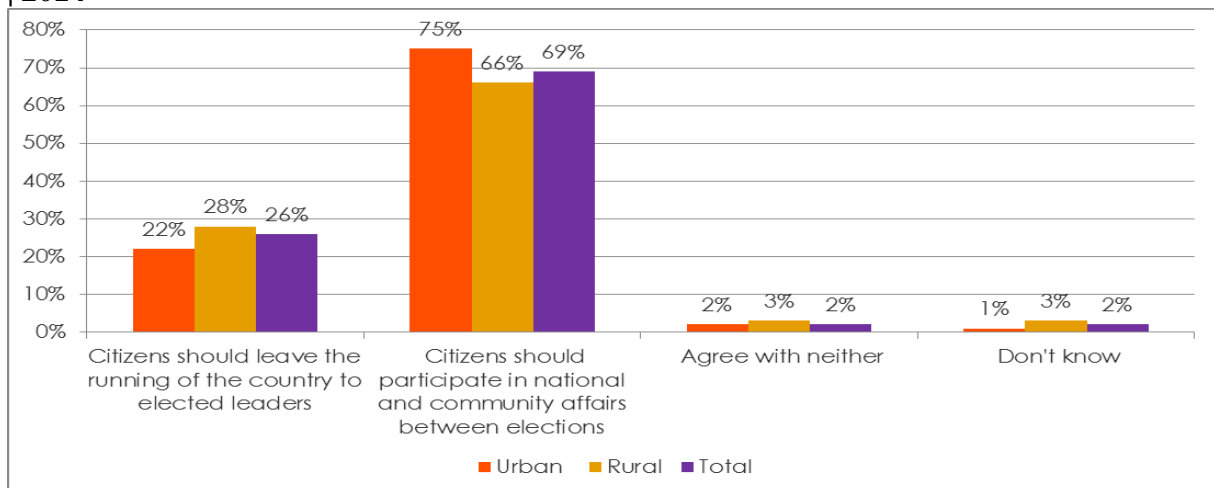
Key findings on Citizen Participation and Engagement

- About seven of 10 Zimbabwean adults say citizens have an obligation to vote in elections (74%) and to participate in national and community affairs between elections (69%).
- Yet most Zimbabweans never engage with their elected leaders to discuss important problems or share their views; on this indicator, citizen engagement is at its lowest level in a decade. Large majorities say they did not contact local government councillors (67%) or MPs (86%) in the year preceding the survey.
- Disengagement is also evident in low rates of contact with non-elected leaders such as officials of government agencies, political party officials, traditional leaders, and religious leaders.
- Few are active in voluntary or community organisations, and even fewer participate in individual or group action to raise an important issue or express dissatisfaction with the government. Most Zimbabweans (75%) say they are not members of voluntary associations or community groups and 63% said they did not get together with others in the previous 12 months to raise an issue (63%).
- Urban residents are particularly disengaged, and women are generally less likely to engage than men except when it comes to contact with religious leaders.
- One contributing factor to low levels of engagement may be the widespread public perception that members of Parliament (MPs) and local government councillors “never” or “only sometimes” try to listen to citizens.

Public Opinion on Citizen Engagement between Elections

Seven of 10 Zimbabweans (69%) say that the duty of every Zimbabwean citizen is not only to vote in elections but also to participate in national and community affairs between elections, as opposed to leaving the running of the country to elected leaders. This view is more widespread among urban dwellers (75%) than among rural residents (66%) (Figure 1).

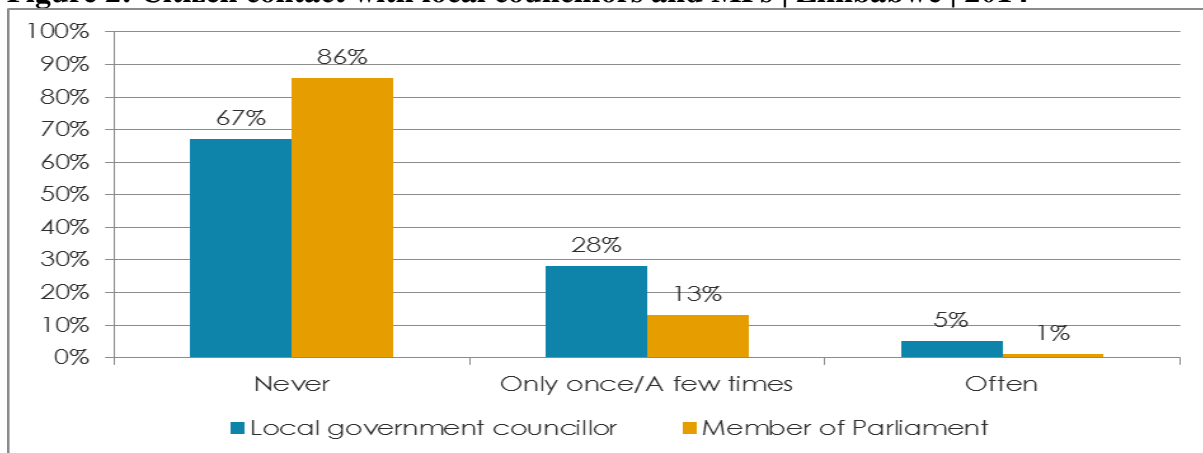
Figure 1: Citizen Engagement Between Elections | by urban-rural residence | Zimbabwe | 2014



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your own view?
 Statement 1: Citizens of Zimbabwe have a duty to vote in elections every five years but, at other times, should leave the running of the country up to elected leaders. Statement 2: The duty of every citizen of Zimbabwe is not only to vote in elections, but also to participate in national and community affairs between elections.

Despite their expressed belief that every citizen should engage in national and community affairs, an overwhelming majority of Zimbabweans never or rarely get in touch with their elected leaders. Most respondents indicate that during the year preceding the survey (November 2014), they never contacted local government councillors (67%) or MPs (86%) in order to share their views (Figure 2).

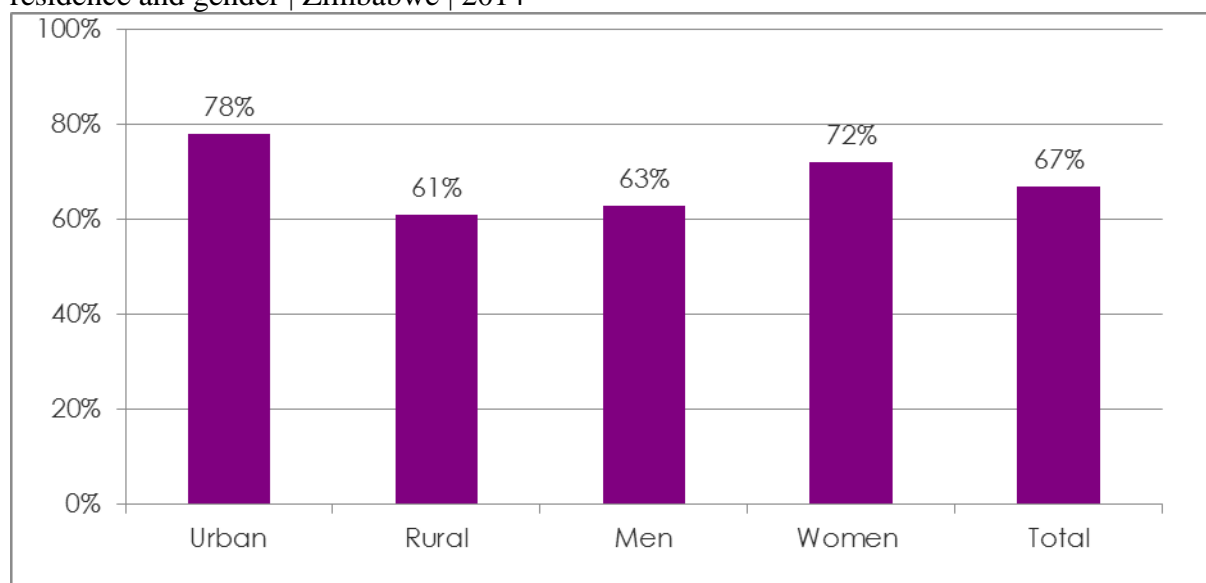
Figure 2: Citizen contact with local councillors and MPs | Zimbabwe | 2014



Respondents were asked: During the past year, how often have you contacted any of the following persons about some important problem or to give them your views?

As shown in Figure 3, contacting local government councillors is less likely among women than men (72% vs. 63% who say they “never” made contact) and less common among urban than rural residents (78% vs. 61% “never”).

Figure 3: Citizens who ‘never’ contacted local government councillors | by urban-rural residence and gender | Zimbabwe | 2014



Respondents were asked: During the past year, how often have you contacted any of the following persons about some important problem or to give them your views: A local government councillor? (% who say “never”)

Table 1: Contact local government councillor |by district | Zimbabwe |2014

	Never	Only once	A few times	Often
Bikita	44%	15%	19%	22%
Chikomba	67%	13%	17%	4%
Chipinge	64%	12%	23%	2%
Chiredzi	53%	14%	23%	11%
Goromonzi	94%	3%	-	3%
Hwedza	68%	-	26%	5%
Kwekwe Rural	56%	25%	13%	6%
Masvingo Rural	44%	12%	23%	21%
Mutare Rural	61%	21%	14%	5%
Mutasa	75%	14%	7%	4%
Sanyati	33%	-	67%	
Umzingwane	50%	33%	17%	

Majorities in most districts except Bikita (44%) , Masvingo Rural (44%) and Sanyati (33%) claimed that they never contacted their local government councillor in the previous year. The situation is worse in Goromonzi where 94% said they never contacted their councillors. On the other hand Masvingo Rural consists of the highest proportion of adult Zimbabweans (44%) who said they contacted their councillors a few times/often.

Table 2: Contact MP |by district | Zimbabwe | 2014

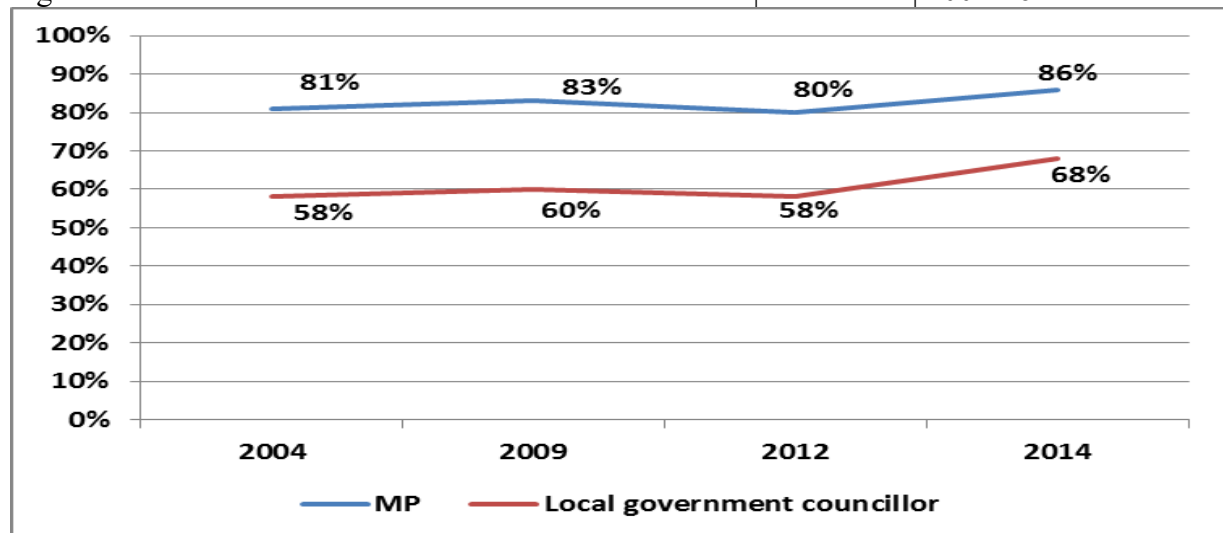
	Never	Only once	A few times	Often
Bikita	65%	19%	12%	4%
Chikomba	74%	9%	17%	-
Chipinge	77%	6%	15%	2%
Chiredzi	90%	7%	4%	-
Goromonzi	100%	-	-	-
Hurungwe	75%	14%	9%	2%
Hwedza	78%	6%	17%	-
Kwekwe Rural	78%	13%	9%	-
Masvingo Rural	54%	26%	19%	2%
Mutare	89%	3%	8%	-
Mutare Rural	82%	11%	5%	2%
Mutasa	82%	14%	-	4%
Sanyati	87%	7%	7%	-
Umzingwane	100%	-	-	-

An analysis of data by district shows a gloomy picture with at least 50% across all the districts claiming that they never contact their legislators. The picture is bad in Umzingwane and Goromonzi Districts where all the respondents said they never contact their MPs.

Trend in Contact of Elected Officials (2004-2014)

The proportion of citizens who had contact with their elected officials is at its lowest level since Afrobarometer began tracking this indicator in Zimbabwe in 2004 (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Citizens who ‘never’ contacted elected officials | Zimbabwe | 2004-2014

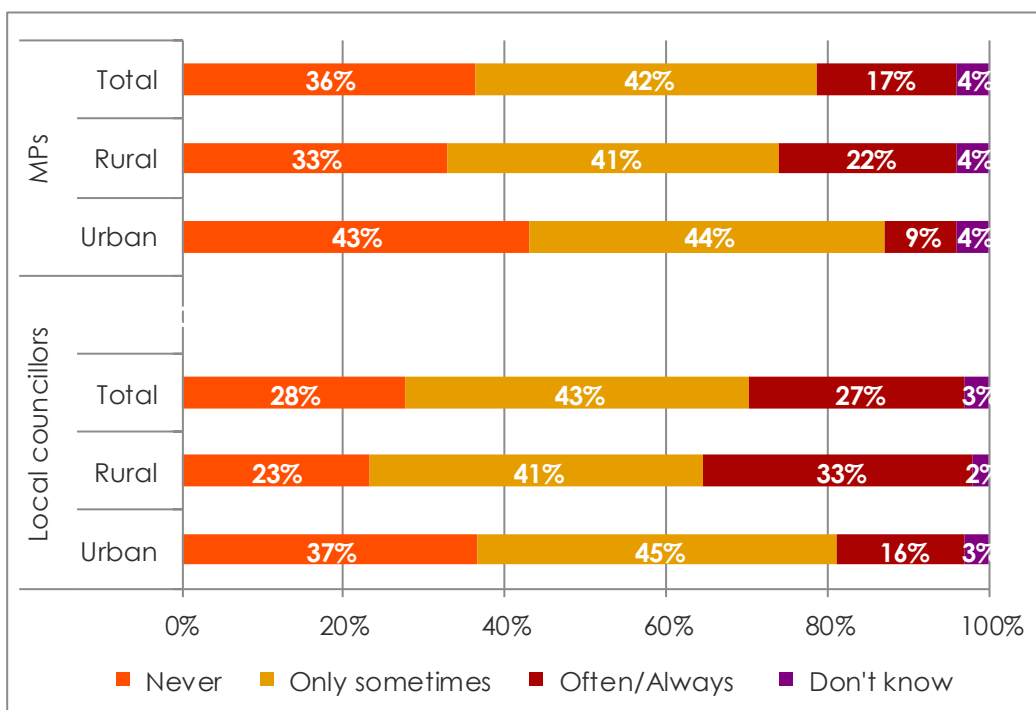


Respondents were asked: During the past year, how often have you contacted any of the following persons about some important problem or to give them your views: A Member of Parliament? A local government councillor? (% who say “never”)

Are elected leaders open to citizen engagement?

If many Zimbabweans fail to engage with their elected officials, one reason may be their perception that their leaders are not interested in hearing what they have to say. Almost eight of 10 Zimbabweans say parliamentarians “never” (36%) or “only sometimes” (42%) try their best to listen to ordinary citizens. Only 17% say MPs “often” or “always” do their best to listen. Urban dwellers are more critical than their rural counterparts on this issue (43% vs. 33% who say MPs “never” listen) (Figure 5). Local government councillors perform only slightly better than MPs in terms of lending their ears to the electorate: Seven of 10 respondents say councillors “never” (28%) or “only sometimes” (43%) listen to citizens. Again, urban residents are more critical than rural residents (37% vs. 23% who say that councillors “never” listen).

Figure 5: Willingness of MPs and local government councillors to listen to citizens | by residence location | Zimbabwe | 2014



Respondents were asked: How much of the time do you think the following try their best to listen to what people like you have to say: Members of Parliament? Local government councillors?

Perceptions of elected leaders’ willingness to listen vary by province. In Bulawayo, almost half (46%) of respondents say that local government councillors never listen, while only 18% share this view in Mashonaland Central. Similarly, two-thirds (67%) of respondents in the

metropolitan province of Bulawayo say that MPs never pay attention, while only 27% in Matabeleland North feel the same way (Table 1).

Table 1: Perceptions of local government councillors and MPs | by province | Zimbabwe | 2014

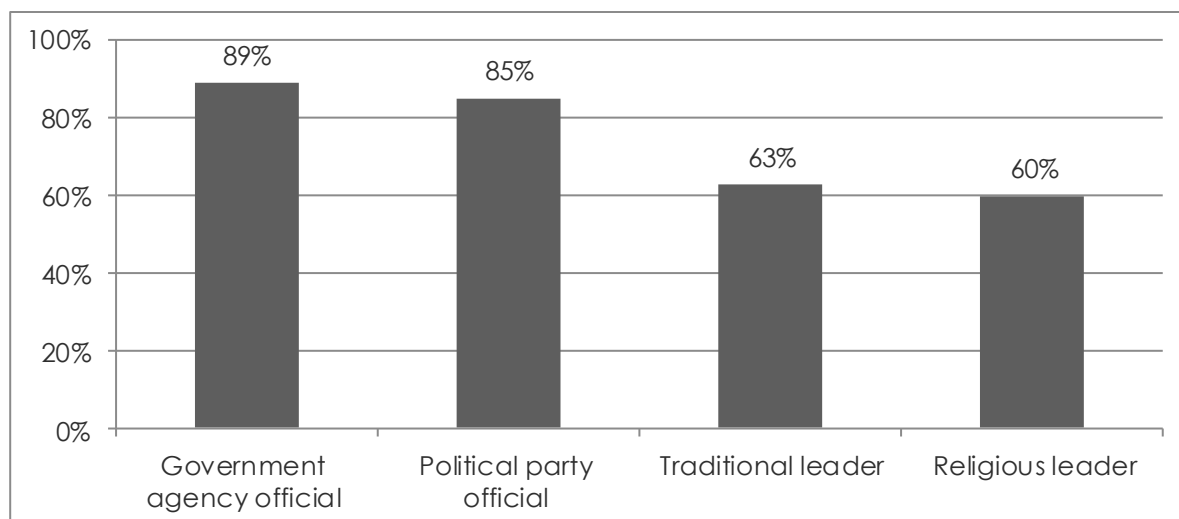
	Local government councillors “never” listen	MPs “never” listen
Bulawayo	46%	67%
Mashonaland East	36%	38%
Harare	34%	33%
Masvingo	31%	41%
Manicaland	28%	37%
Midlands	25%	31%
Mashonaland West	22%	36%
Matabeleland North	21%	27%
Matabeleland South	19%	29%
Mashonaland Central	18%	31%

Respondents were asked: *How much of the time do you think the following try their best to listen to what people like you have to say: Members of Parliament? Local government councillors?*

Engagement with non-elected leaders

A fairly high level of disengagement is also apparent in most citizens’ lack of contact with non-elected leaders. Nine of 10 respondents (89%) say they had no contact with officials from a government agency to present some important problem or to share their views. Citizen contact is more frequent with traditional and religious leaders. Still, about six of 10 respondents say they “never” contacted these leaders in the preceding year (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Citizens who ‘never’ contacted non-elected leaders | Zimbabwe | 2014



Respondents were asked: During the past year, how often have you contacted any of the following persons about some important problem or to give them your views? (% who say “never”)

As with elected officials contact with these non-elected officials is generally more frequent for rural than for urban residents and more frequent for men than for women. The only exception is religious leaders, with whom women are more likely than men to have contact (Table 3).

Table 3: Citizens who ‘never’ contacted non-elected leaders | by residence location and sex | Zimbabwe | 2014

	Urban	Rural	Men	Women	Total
Government agency officials	92%	87%	85	92%	89%
Political party officials	92%	81%	81	89%	85%
Traditional leaders	88%	48%	59	67%	63%
Religious leaders	67%	56%	53	57%	60%

Respondents were asked: During the past year, how often have you contacted any of the following persons about some important problem or to give them your views? (% who say “never”)

Table 4: Contact official of a government agency |by district | Zimbabwe |2014

	Never	Only once	A few times	Often	Don’t know
Bikita	78%	22%	-	-	-
Chikomba	83%	13%	4%	-	-
Chipinge	81%	6%	12%	-	2%
Chiredzi	95%	4%	2%	-	-
Goromonzi	91%	3%	-	6%	-
Hwedza	94%	6%	-	-	-
Kwekwe Rural	88%	9%	3%	-	-

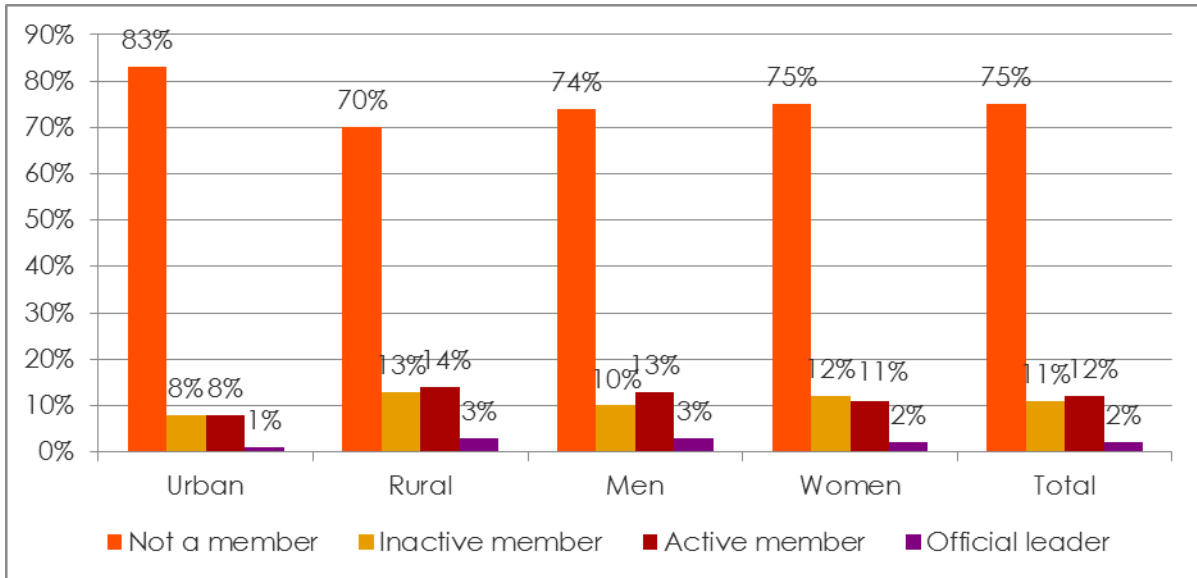
Masvingo Rural	88%	5%	7%	-	-
Mutare Rural	84%	9%	2%	5%	-
Mutasa	93%	3%		3%	-
Sanyati	87%	7%	7%	-	-
Umzingwane	100%	-	-	-	-

Contacting of officials of a government agency is not common in districts with at least 78% of respondents in all the districts saying they never contact officials of government agencies. Above half of those surveyed in all the districts also indicated that they ‘never ‘contact’ political party officials. Such a situation is very prevalent in Umzingwane and Hwedza districts.

Engagement in voluntary or community groups

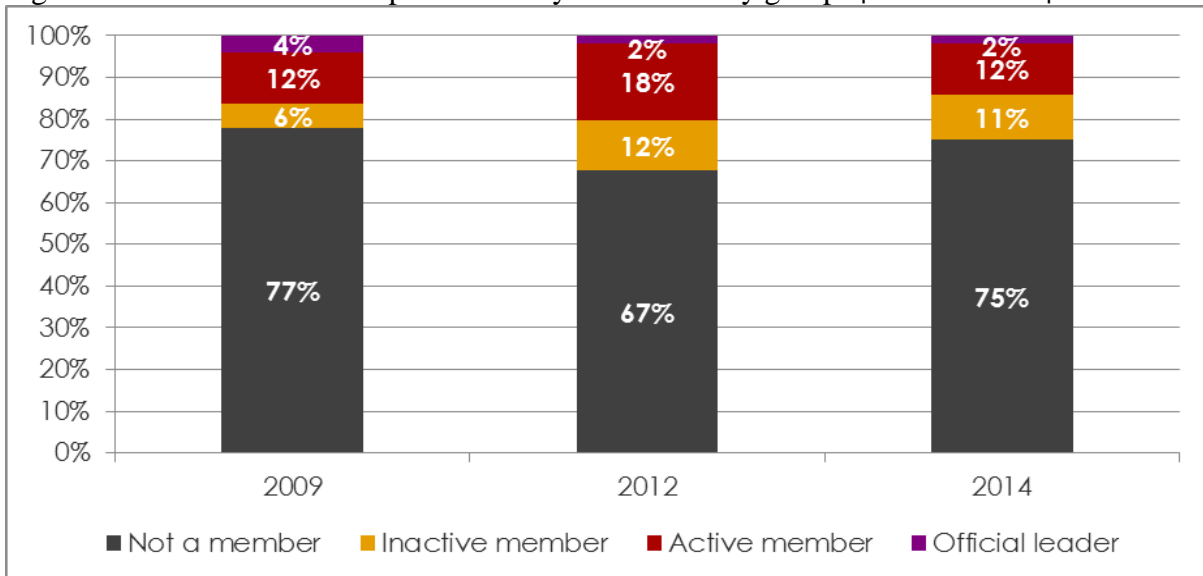
Most Zimbabweans are not active in (non-religious) voluntary associations or community groups: Three quarters (75%) say they are not members of such organisations, and of the one-fourth who claim membership, almost half say they are inactive (Figure 7). (By contrast, only 35% are not members of religious groups that meet outside of regular worship services.) Rural residents are more likely than their urban counterparts to join voluntary or community groups, 30% vs. 17%. Men and women are about equally likely to be active in such organisations. Reported membership in voluntary/community groups was higher around 2012 – at the height of the coalition Government of National Unity – than either before or after (Figure 8).

Figure 7: Membership in voluntary or community groups | by residence location and sex | Zimbabwe | 2014



Respondents were asked: Now I am going to read out a list of groups that people join or attend. For each one, could you tell me whether you are an official leader, an active member, an inactive member, or not a member: Some other (non-religious) voluntary association or community group?

Figure 8: Trend in membership in voluntary or community groups | Zimbabwe | 2009-2014



Respondents were asked: Now I am going to read out a list of groups that people join or attend. For each one, could you tell me whether you are an official leader, an active member, an inactive member, or not a member: Some other (non-religious) voluntary association or community group?

Attendance at community meetings is more common than group membership. Six of 10 respondents say they attended a community meeting in the previous year, either “once or twice” (18%) or at least “several times” (42%) (Figure 9). Three of 10 (30%) say that

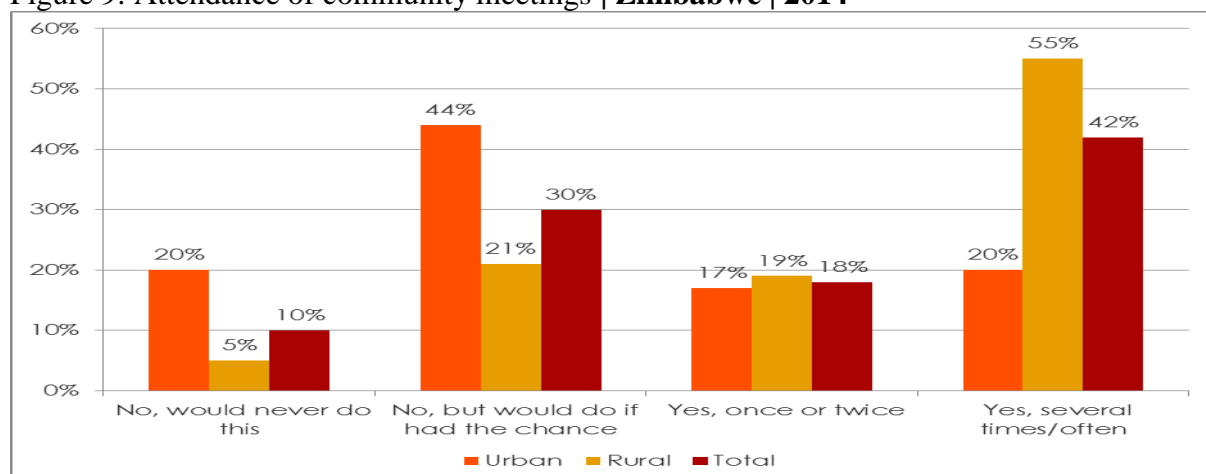
although they did not attend a community meeting during the review period, they would do so if afforded a chance. Rural residents (74%) are twice as likely as urbanites (37%) to have attended at least one community meeting during the previous year; a majority (55%) of rural residents attended meetings “several times” or “often.” One of five urban residents, but only one of 20 rural residents, say they would never attend community meetings. A majority of Zimbabweans in every survey since 2004 have attended community meetings at least once or twice, but the proportion is currently at its lowest point (60%) (Figure 10).

Table 5: Member of voluntary organisation or community group |by district |Zimbabwe |2014

	Not a Member	Inactive Member	Active Member	Official Leader
Bikita	59%	7%	26%	7%
Chipinge	67%	29%	4%	-
Chiredzi	68%	21%	9%	2%
Goromonzi	79%	18%	3%	-
Hurungwe	46%	15%	34%	5%
Hwedza	61%	33%	6%	-
Kwekwe Rural	55%	26%	7%	13%
Masvingo Rural	71%	10%	14%	5%
Mutare Rural	80%	2%	11%	7%
Mutasa	76%	3%	17%	3%
Sanyati	73%		20%	7%
Umzingwane	50%	17%	33%	-

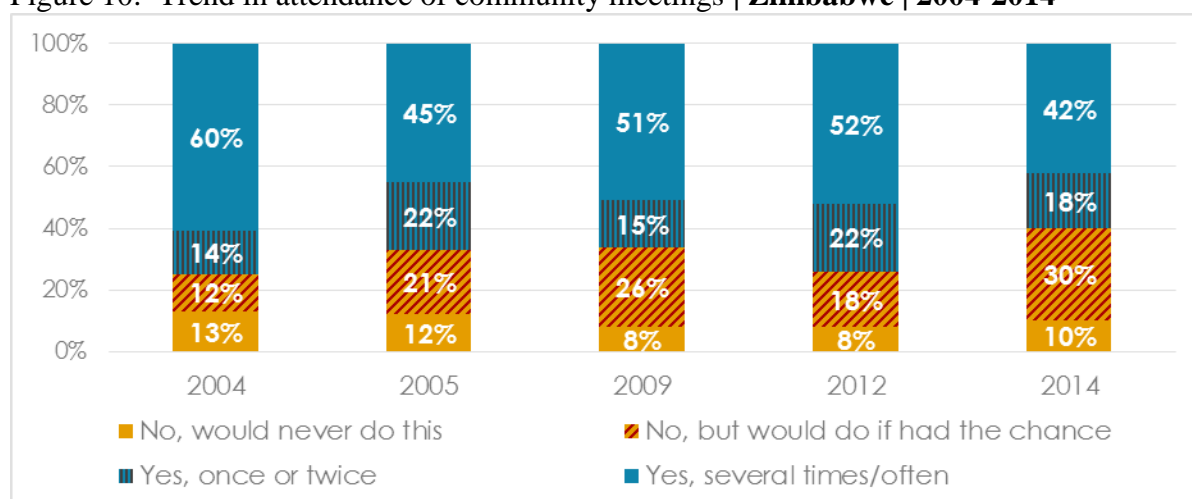
Non-membership of voluntary organisation or community group is highest in Mutare Rural District where 80% claimed non-membership. Goromonzi district is in second position (79%) while Umzingwane is at the bottom of the ladder with 50% saying they are not members of any community group or voluntary organisation. Hurungwe District has 34% who boast of active membership and in second place is Umzingwane with a third (33%).

Figure 9: Attendance of community meetings | Zimbabwe | 2014



Respondents were asked: Here is a list of actions that people sometimes take as citizens. For each of these, please tell me whether you, personally, have done any of these things during the past year: Attended a community meeting? If not, would you do this if you had the chance?

Figure 10: Trend in attendance of community meetings | Zimbabwe | 2004-2014



Respondents were asked: Here is a list of actions that people sometimes take as citizens. For each of these, please tell me whether you, personally, have done any of these things during the past year: Attended a community meeting? If not, would you do this if you had the chance?

Table 6: Attendance of community meeting | by district | Zimbabwe | 2014

	No, would never do this	No, but would do if had the chance	Yes, once or twice	Yes, several times/Yes often
Bikita	4%	15%	31%	51%
Chikomba	9%	26%	17%	48%
Chipinge	15%	29%	21%	35%
Chiredzi	4%	23%	38%	35%
Goromonzi	-	36%	36%	27%

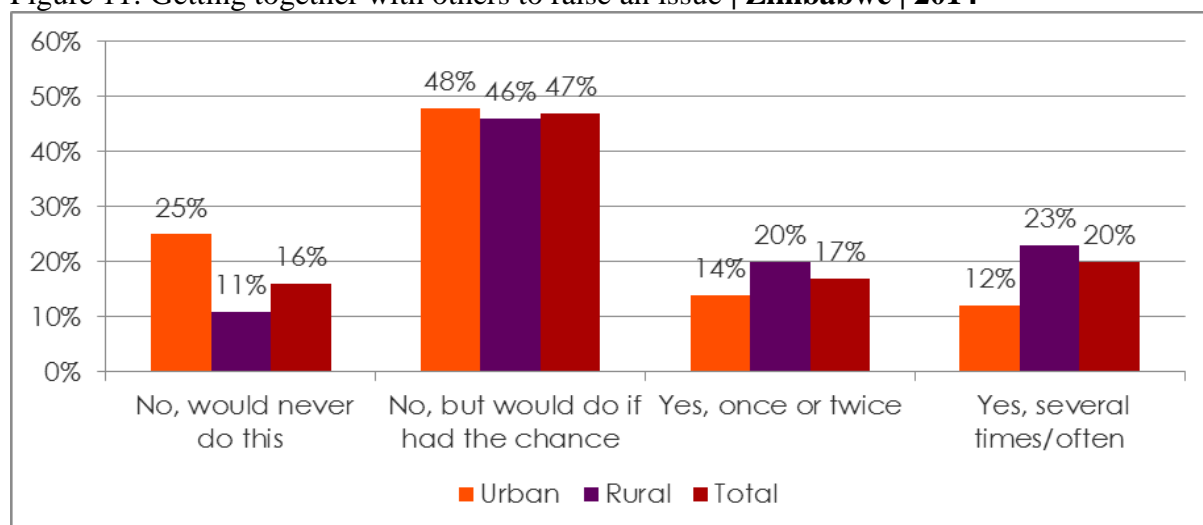
Hurungwe	2%	28%	11%	60%
Hwedza	17%	22%	-	61%
Kwekwe Rural	3%	6%	31%	59%
Masvingo Rural	-	9%	28%	63%
Mutare Rural	2%	30%	14%	54%
Mutasa	3%	23%	10%	64%
Sanyati	-	31%	13%	56%
Umzingwane	-	14.3%	29%	58%

Mutasa district sits on top in terms of people’s attendance of meetings with 64% claiming that they often do so at least several times. On the other hand, almost a fifth in Hwedza district (17%) said they would never attend community meetings.

Engagement through group or individual action

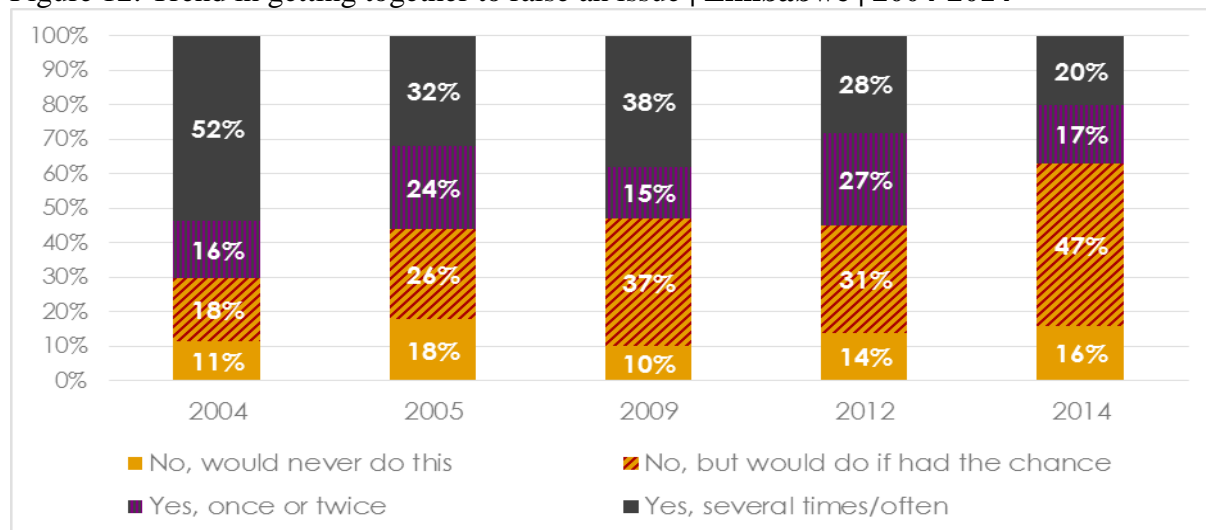
Citizens can also engage in group or individual action for a specific purpose, such as to raise an important issue or to express dissatisfaction with government performance. More than one-third of Zimbabweans say they got together with others during the previous 12 months to raise an issue; 17% say they did so “once or twice,” and 20% say they did so “several times” or “often” (Figure 11). Moreover, almost half (47%) of respondents say that while they did not join others to raise an issue during the previous year, they would do so if they had the chance. As with attendance of community meetings, urban residents are far less likely than their rural counterparts to engage in group action, and the proportion of citizens who joined others to raise an issue is at its lowest point since 2004 (Figure 12).

Figure 11: Getting together with others to raise an issue | Zimbabwe | 2014



Respondents were asked: Here is a list of actions that people sometimes take as citizens. For each of these, please tell me whether you, personally, have done any of these things during the past year: Got together with others to raise an issue? If not, would you do this if you had the chance?

Figure 12: Trend in getting together to raise an issue | Zimbabwe | 2004-2014



Respondents were asked: Here is a list of actions that people sometimes take as citizens. For each of these, please tell me whether you, personally, have done any of these things during the past year: Got together with others to raise an issue? If not, would you do this if you had the chance?

Small minorities of Zimbabweans engaged in actions to express dissatisfaction with government: 1% say they participated in demonstrations or protest marches at least once in the previous year, 2% say they refused to pay a tax or fee, 5% say they contacted the media, 15% say they contacted a government official, and 27% say they joined others to request action from the government (Table 8). Urban residents are more likely than their rural counterparts and women more likely than men, to say they would never engage in such actions to express their dissatisfaction.

Table 7: Joining others to raise an issue | by district | Zimbabwe | 2014

	No, would never do this	No, but would do if had the chance	Yes, once or twice	Yes, several times/Yes often
Bikita	15%	37%	22%	26%
Chikomba	8%	46%	25%	21%
Chipinge	17%	50%	23%	10%
Chiredzi	9%	42%	33%	15%
Goromonzi	27%	62%	6%	6%
Hurungwe	6%	39%	24%	32%
Hwedza	16%	42%	26%	16%

Kwekwe Rural	13%	32%	32%	22%
Mutare Rural	7%	57%	14%	21%
Mutasa	14%	62%	14%	10%
Sanyati	-	47%	13%	40%
Umzingwane	-	29%	29%	43%

Goromonzi district has the highest number of respondents who are reluctant to join others to raise an issue (27%) as well as a majority (62%) who said they have never joined others to raise an issue but would do so if afforded a chance. A plurality in Umzingwane district (43%) and 40% in Sanyati said they have joined others to raise an issue several times/often.

Table 8: Public attitudes toward modes of engagement | Zimbabwe | 2014

	No, would never do this	No, but would do if had the chance	Yes, once or twice	Yes, several times/often	Don't know
Refused to pay a tax or fee to government	74%	22%	1%	1%	1%
Participated in demonstration or protest march	69%	28%	1%	0%	1%
Contacted the media	34%	60%	4%	1%	1%
Contacted a government official	23%	62%	10%	5%	0%
Joined others to request action from government	19%	55%	15%	11%	0%

Respondents were asked: Here is a list of actions that people sometimes take as citizens when they are dissatisfied with government. For each of these, please tell me whether you, personally, have done any of these things during the past year. If not, would you do this if you had the chance?

Public Perceptions of Accountability

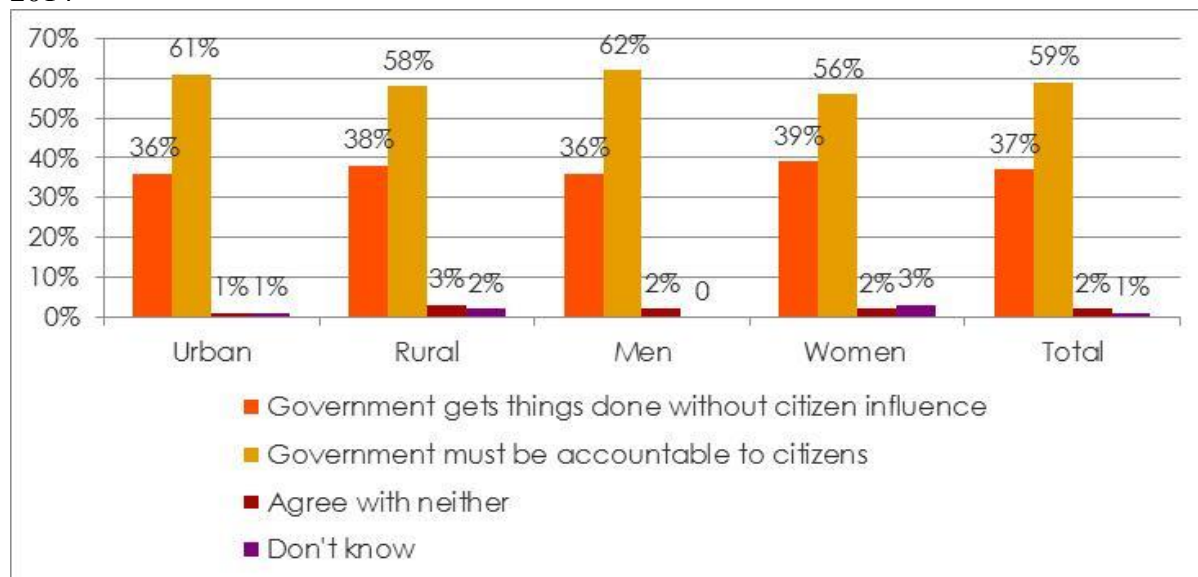
More than half of adult Zimbabweans (59%) share the thinking that accountability is a key tenet in governance, even if this slows the decision making process. However close to two-fifths (37%) do not place much emphasis on accountability but rather prefer a government that 'gets things done' even if the electorate does not have influence over that. A look at the urban-rural divide shows that more urbanites (61%) than rural dwellers (58%) prioritise accountability while the gender variable reveals that more men (62%) than women (56%) value accountability in governance processes. See Table 9.

Table 9 : Public Perceptions of Accountability | Zimbabwe | 2014

	Urban	Rural	Men	Women	Total
Government gets things done without citizen influence	36%	38%	36%	39%	37%
Government must be accountable to citizens	61%	58%	62%	56%	59%
Agree with neither	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Don't know	1%	2%	-	3%	1%

Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2. **Statement 1:** It is more important to have a government that can get things done, even if we have no influence over what it does. **Statement 2:** It is more important for citizens to be able to hold government accountable, even if that means it makes decisions more slowly.

Figure 13: Public Perceptions of Accountability | by residence location and sex | Zimbabwe | 2014



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2. **Statement 1:** It is more important to have a government that can get things done, even if we have no influence over what it does. **Statement 2:** It is more important for citizens to be able to hold government accountable, even if that means it makes decisions more slowly.

A breakdown of data shows that sentiments on whether the government must get things done without citizen influence versus the need to account varies by province. The call for accountability is highest in Bulawayo province where 7 out of 10 share this view. Mashonaland Central and West provinces jointly share the second spot while Manicaland has the lowest proportion of people who share this view – 48% - See Table 10.

Table 10: Public perceptions of accountability | by residence location and sex |Zimbabwe | 2014

	Government gets things done without citizen influence	Government must be accountable to citizens	Agree with neither	Don't know	Total
Bulawayo	29%	70%	2%	-	100%
Mashonaland West	32%	66%		2%	100%
Mashonaland Central	31%	66%	1%	3%	100%
Midlands	35%	63%	1%	1%	100%
Matabeleland North	34%	62%	2%	2%	100%
Matabeleland South	39%	61%	-	-	100%
Harare	38%	60%	%	1%	100%
Mashonaland East	41%	53%	5%	2%	100%
Masvingo	41%	49%	10%		100%
Manicaland	47%	48%	1%	4%	100%

Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2. **Statement 1:** It is more important to have a government that can get things done, even if we have no influence over what it does. **Statement 2:** It is more important for citizens to be able to hold government accountable, even if that means it makes decisions more slowly.

Whose duty is it to make sure that once elected the president does his/or her job? A plurality of Zimbabweans (46%) believe that the voters should be responsible for making sure that once elected, the President should do his or her job. This view is more widespread among urban adults (50%) when than rural adults (43%).

Table 11: Who should be responsible for making sure that the President does his/her job | by residence location | Zimbabwe| 2014

	Urban	Rural	Total
The President / Executive	12%	16%	15%
The Parliament / Local council	25%	21%	23%
Their political party	7%	12%	10%
The voters	50%	43%	46%
No one	2%	2%	2%
Don't know	4%	5%	5%

Respondents were asked: "Who should be responsible for: Making sure that, once elected, the President does his job?"

The sentiment that the voters should make sure that the president does his or her job found a majority of takers in the year 2009 (55%) before taking a dip by 16 percentage points to 39% and gaining 7 percentage points to 46% in 2014. In 2009, 2012 and 2014 significant

proportions (28%), (34%) and 23% respectively felt that horizontal accountability should be paramount with Parliament playing a leading role in ensuring that the president does his or her job. See Table 12.

Table 12: Trend in perceptions of who should be responsible for making sure that once elected the President does his job| Zimbabwe | 2009 - 2014

	2009	2012	2014
The president/executive	6%	12%	15%
The parliament/local council	28%	34%	23%
Their political party	5%	7%	10%
The voters	55%	39%	46%
No one	1%	3%	2%
Don't know	6%	5%	5%

Respondents were asked: *"Who should be responsible for making sure that, once elected, the President does his job?"*

A plurality of adult Zimbabweans (46%) think voters have a special role in making sure that local government councillors perform their jobs once they are given the mandate to lead. No significant differences occur between men and women and the rural and urban dwellers on this aspect. It is important to note that since Afrobarometer Round 3, pluralities have held this view, with the figure hovering around 41% - 44%. Parliament/local councils are seen as critical institutions that should have a say in making sure that local government councillors perform their jobs once they are given the mandate to do so. This view finds more takers among urbanites (33%) than rural dwellers (24%).

Table 13: Trend in perceptions of who should be responsible for making sure that once elected the local government councillors do their jobs| Zimbabwe | 2005 - 2014

	2005	2009	2012	2014
The president/executive	24%	7%	13%	16%
The parliament/local council	14%	25%	35%	28%
Their political party	6%	6%	8%	10%
The voters	55%	56%	42%	42%
No one	-	1%	1%	1%
Don't know	2%	4%	3%	3%

Respondents were asked: *"Who should be responsible for making sure that, once elected, local government councillors do their jobs?"*

The perception that the voter must have a critical role to play in making sure that the legislator is accountable is also held by many Zimbabweans and this view gets the nod from

42% of the voting population. This view was held by more than half in 2005 (52%) and 2009 (53%) before getting approvals from less than half in 2012 (37%) and 2014 (42%).

Table 14 : Trend in perceptions of who should be responsible for making sure that once elected Members of Parliament do their jobs| Zimbabwe | 2005 - 2014

	2005	2009	2012	2014
The President / executive	32%	16%	27%	26%
The parliament / local council	8%	20%	25%	20%
Their political party	6%	7%	7%	8%
The voters	52%	53%	37%	42%
No one	-	-	1%	1%
Don't know	2%	4%	3%	3%

Respondents were asked: "Who should be responsible for making sure that, once elected, Members of Parliament do their jobs?"

Sources of Information

(i) Radio News

A third (33%) indicated that they get news from radio on a daily basis while 28% said they get news from radio a few times a week and a similar proportion said they never get news from this medium. As expected, more urban residents (66%) compared to 58% of those residents based in the countryside at least get radio news at least a few times a week. More men (66%) than women (56%) get radio news at least a few times a week. Fewer urbanites (21%) compared to rural dwellers (32%) 'never' get news from radio. The gender variable shows that less proportion of men (23%) than women (33%) 'never' get news from radio.

Table 15: Frequency of getting news from radio | Zimbabwe | 2014

	Urban	Rural	Men	Women	Total
Never	21%	32%	23%	33%	28%
Less than once a month	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%
A few times a month	10%	7%	8%	8%	8%
A few times a week	29%	28%	30%	27%	28%
Every day	37%	30%	36%	29%	33%

Respondents were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: Radio?

A trend review shows that dependence on radio for news on a daily basis reached a peak in 1999 when 60% of the adult population claimed they relied on this for news and tumbled to an all-time low of 28% in 2009 before gaining 4 percentage points in 2012 and 2014.

Table 16: Trend in frequency of getting news from radio | Zimbabwe| 1999-2014

	1999	2003	2005	2009	2012	2014
Never	13%	29%	27%	36%	25%	28%
Less than once a month	4%	5%	7%	5%	7%	3%
A few times a month	6%	9%	7%	10%	10%	8%
A few times a week	15%	16%	19%	22%	26%	28%
Every day	60%	41%	40%	28%	32%	32%

Respondent were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: Radio?

Frequency of getting news from radio | by district| Zimbabwe | 2014

	Never	Less than once a month	A few times a month	A few times a week	Every day
Bikita	26%	7%	4%	37%	26%
Chikomba	52%	-	-	39%	9%
Chipinge	59%	-	4%	18%	20%
Chiredzi	40%	2%	9%	28%	21%
Goromonzi	47%	6%	6%	6%	35%
Hurungwe	17%	5%	2%	32%	45%
Hwedza	39%	-	-	33%	28%
Kwekwe Rural	9%	-	3%	31%	56%
Masvingo Rural	23%	5%	7%	30%	35%
Mutare Rural	-	-	-	28%	72%
Mutasa	7%	-	4%	22%	67%
Sanyati	40%	-	7%	40%	13%
Umzingwane	71%	-	-	-	29%

Umzingwane District has the highest percentage of people (71%) who do not depend on news from radio and in second position is Chipinge (59%) and Chikomba occupies third position (52%) in terms of majorities who do not depend on radio for news. On the other hand close to three quarters of people in Mutare Rural District (72%) depend on radio for news on a daily basis. In second position is Mutasa (67%) while Kwekwe Rural is on third position.

(ii) Television News

More than half of adult Zimbabweans (54%) claimed that they never got news from television. As expected the rural –urban divide is quite stark; with three - quarters of rural residents (76%) compared to 16% urban based citizens claiming that they ‘never’ received news from television. More women (57%) than men (51%) said they ‘never’ got news from

television. Close to half of urban based Zimbabweans (47%) compared to 5% of those domiciled in the rural areas claimed that they get news on television every day. See Table 17.

Table 17: Frequency of getting news from television | Zimbabwe | 2014

	Urban	Rural	Men	Women	Total
Never	16%	76%	51%	57%	54%
Less than once a month	4%	6%	5%	5%	5%
A few times a month	8%	6%	9%	6%	7%
A few times a week	26%	7%	14%	13%	14%
Every day	47%	5%	21%	20%	20%

Respondents were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: Television?

Dependency on television for news on a daily basis was at its peak in 1999 when a third (32%) said they use this medium to get news but there has been a decline to 20% in 2014. On the other hand, the lowest figure for those who ‘never’ used television was recorded in 1999 (38%) and was highest in 2009 (56%).

Table 18: Trend in getting news from television | Zimbabwe | 1999-2014

	1999	2003	2005	2009	2012	2014
Never	38%	53%	50%	56%	45%	53%
Less than once a month	8%	3%	7%	4%	8%	5%
A few times a month	11%	5%	6%	6%	9%	7%
A few times a week	9%	9%	10%	12%	15%	14%
Every day	32%	30%	27%	22%	24%	20%
Don't know	2%	0%	0%	0%	-	-

Respondents were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: Television?

Table 19: Frequency of getting news from TV | by district | Zimbabwe | 2014

	Never	Less than once a month	A few times a month	A few times a week	Everyday
Bikita	73%	12%	8%	8%	-
Chikomba	92%	4%	-	-	4%
Chipinge	85%	-	-	8%	8%
Chiredzi	65%	5%	5%	12%	12%
Goromonzi	53%	9%	9%	12%	18%
Hurungwe	82%	2%	6%	9%	2%
Hwedza	82%	6%	6%	6%	-
Kwekwe Rural	66%	3%	3%	16%	13%
Masvingo Rural	72%	12%	5%	5%	7%
Mutare Rural	33%	16%	7%	26%	19%

Mutasa	40%	36%	14%	7%	34%
Sanyati	87%	-	7%	7%	-
Umzingwane	86%			14%	

A breakdown of data by District shows that dependency on television for news is very low in most of these areas and the worst hit is Chikomba where 92% never depend on this medium for news. Everyday dependency on TV for news is high in Mutasa District where a third (34%) say they depend on news from TV on a daily basis.

(iii) Newspapers

As at November 2014, 55% of the adult population said they never got news from 'newspapers'. The rural-urban divide is quite vivid in terms of proportions who get news from newspapers with 24% of the urbanites in comparison to 73% of those in the rural areas claiming that they 'never' depend on news from newspapers. Fewer men (47%) than women (63%) never get news from newspapers. Almost a fifth (19%) claimed that they often get news from newspapers at least a few times week with 7% saying that they receive news from this medium on a daily basis – See Table 14.

Table 20: Frequency of getting news from newspapers | Zimbabwe | 2014

	Urban	Rural	Men	Women	Total
Never	24%	73%	47%	63%	55%
Less than once a month	9%	10%	11%	9%	10%
A few times a month	22%	11%	18%	12%	15%
A few times a week	25%	5%	14%	10%	12%
Every day	19%	1%	9%	5%	7%

Respondents were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: Newspapers?

The highest proportion of Zimbabweans who 'never' got news from newspapers was recorded in 2009 (63%) whereas non-usage of newspapers was at the lowest point in 1999 when only a third of the voting age population said they never got news from newspapers.

Table 21: Frequency of getting news from newspapers | Zimbabwe | 2014

	1999	2003	2005	2009	2012	2014
Never	32%	49%	52%	63%	49%	55%
Less than once a month	13%	10%	15%	8%	13%	10%
A few times a month	12%	14%	12%	12%	16%	15%
A few times a week	16%	15%	13%	11%	13%	12%
Every day	24%	12%	7%	6%	9%	7%
Don't know	2%	-	0%	0%	-	-

Respondents were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: Newspapers?

Table 22: Frequency of getting news from newspapers |by district |Zimbabwe |2014

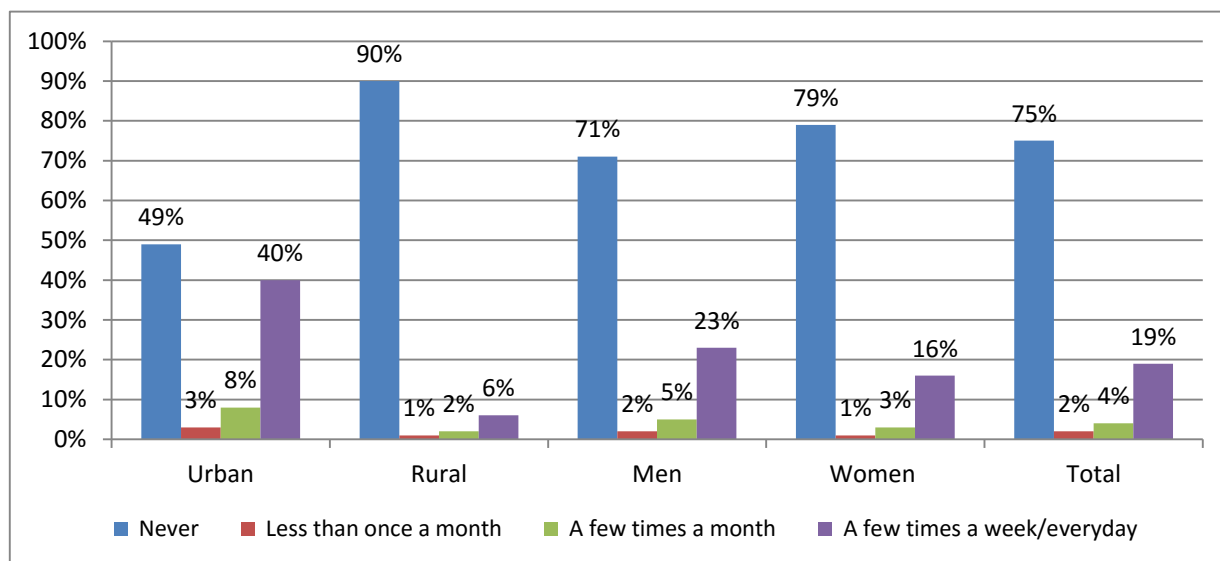
	Never	Less than once a month	A few times a month	A few times a week	Every day
Bikita	89%	4%	8%	-	-
Chikomba	92%	4%	4%	-	-
Chipinge	86%	4%	2%	6%	2%
Chiredzi	60%	9%	16%	12%	4%
Goromonzi	82%	9%	6%	3%	-
Hurungwe	73%	14%	8%	5%	-
Kwekwe Rural	59%	16%	9%	13%	3%
Masvingo Rural	74%	7%	9%	9%	-
Mutare Rural	40%	19%	23%	16%	2%
Mutasa	59%	11%	22%	7%	-
Sanyati	87%	-	13%	-	-
Umzingwane	50%	33%	17%	-	-

Newspapers are not common in all the districts with a notable exception being (Mutare Rural) where only less than half (40%) said they never depend on newspapers for news. In all the other districts at least half (50%) never get news through newspapers.

(iv) Internet News

Three - fourths of Zimbabweans (75%) never get news from the internet, with only 11% stating that they get news through the internet on a daily basis. As expected more rural residents (90%) than urbanites (49%) never get news from the internet. The data also shows that more women (79%) than men (71%) ‘never’ get news from the internet.

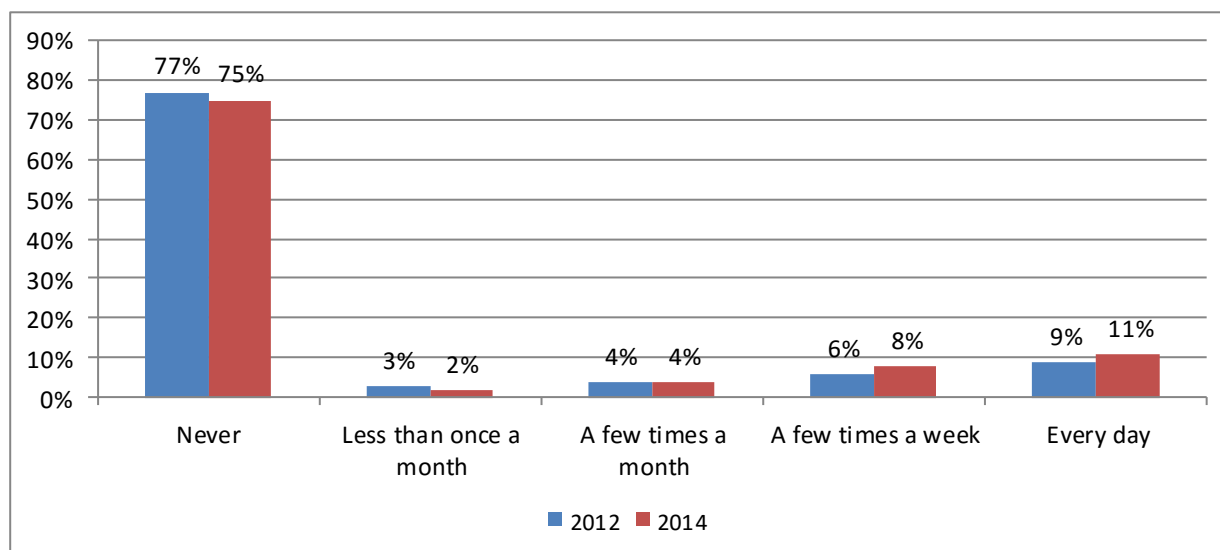
Figure 14: Frequency of getting news from internet | Zimbabwe | 2014



Respondents were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: Internet

When dependency on internet for news is tracked there is a two percentage point drop from 77% in 2012 to 75% in 2014. A two percentage point rise is also observed with reliance on internet marginally rising from 9% to 11% during the review period.

Figure 15: Frequency of getting news from internet | Zimbabwe | 2012- 2014



Respondents were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: Internet

Table 23: Frequency of getting internet news |by district | Zimbabwe| 2014

	Never	Less than once a month	A few times a month	A few times a week	Everyday
Bikita	100%	-	-	-	-
Chipinge	90%	2%	-	4%	4%
Chiredzi	91%	4%	-	-	5%

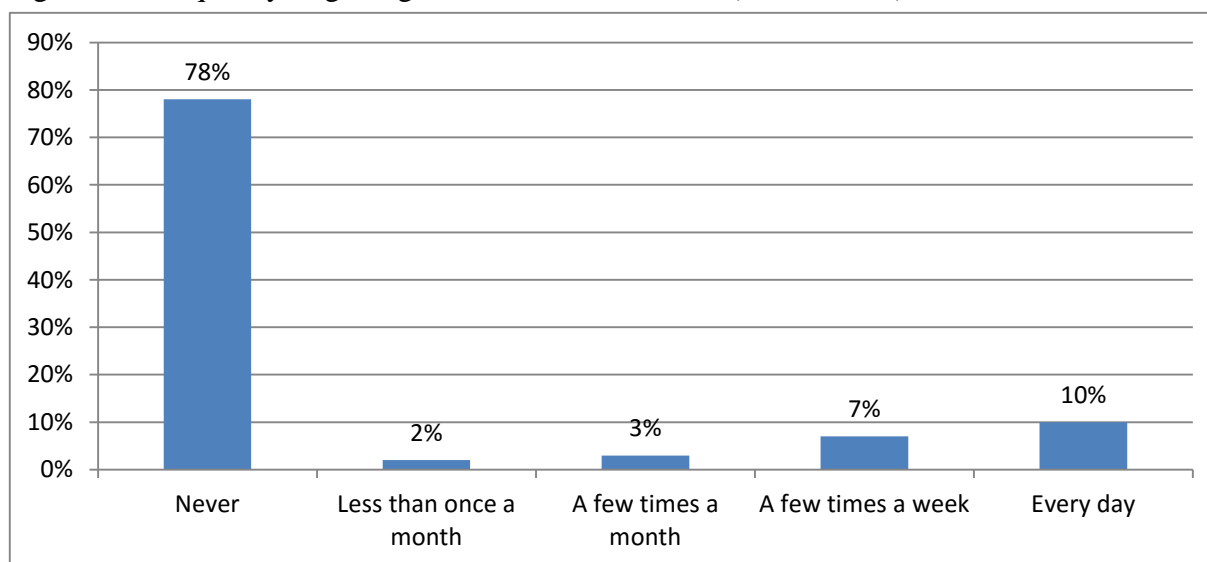
Goromonzi	97 %	-	-	-	3%
Hwedza	89%	6%	-	-	6%
Hurungwe	94%	2%	-	4%	-
Kwekwe Rural	69%	-	9%	3%	19%
Masvingo Rural	93%	2%	2%	2%	
Mutare Rural	84%	2%	5%	2%	7%
Mutasa	86%	-	3%	3%	7%
Sanyati	93%	-	--	7%	-
Umzingwane	100%	-	-	-	-

In all the districts use of the Internet for news is not common with more than half of the respondents in all the districts saying that they never get news from internet. The worst affected areas are Bikita and Umzingwane where virtually everyone said they don't receive any news via the internet. Kwekwe Rural boasts of the highest proportion of respondents who depend on the internet for news on a daily basis (19%).

(v) Social Media

The question on social media was only posed in 2014 and close to four-fifths (78%) revealed that they never get news from social media; with only a tenth (10%) saying they get news from this platform on a daily basis – See Figure 16.

Figure 16: Frequency of getting news from social media | Zimbabwe | 2014



Respondents were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: Social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

The rural-urban divide is quite evident with more respondents in the rural areas (92%) than in the urban areas (54%) saying they 'never' get news from the social media. More women (81%) than men (74%) 'never' get news from this medium. Reliance for news from social

media is highest in the urban areas where close to a quarter (23%) revealed that they get their news from this media.

Table 24: Frequency of getting news from social media | by residence and gender | 2014

	Urban	Rural	Men	Women	Total
Never	54%	92%	74%	81%	78%
Less than once a month	3%	1%	2%	2%	2%
A few times a month	7%	1%	3%	3%	3%
A few times a week	12%	3%	9%	5%	7%
Every day	23%	2%	11%	9%	10%

Respondents were asked: How often do you get news from the following sources: Social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

In November 2014, half of the adult population in Zimbabwe (50%) at least somewhat placed some trust in their local government council whereas 21% did not at all have faith in these local government institutions. More rural residents (59%) than urbanites (35%) have faith in local authorities. Trust in local government councils was at the bottommost point in 2005 where three out of ten (30%) of Zimbabweans indicated that they did ‘not at all’ have faith in the local authorities.

Table 25: Getting news from social media |by district | Zimbabwe | 2014

	Never	Less than once a month	A few times a month	A few times a week	Everyday
Bikita	100%	-	-	-	-
Chikomba	96%	-	4%	-	-
Chipinge	89%	2%	4%	4%	2%
Chiredzi	91%	2%	2%	-	5%
Goromonzi	97%	-	-	3%	-
Hurungwe	92%	2%	-	5%	2%
Hwedza	89%	6%	-	-	6%
Kwekwe Rural	88%	-	6%	-	6%
Masvingo Rural	95%	2%	-	2%	-
Mutare Rural	84%	5%	2%	2%	7%
Mutasa	86%	-	3%	3%	7%
Sanyati	93%	-	-	-	--
Umzingwane	100%	-	-	-	-

Dependency on social media for news is also a pipe dream for many in these districts. In all the Districts at least 84% never receive news from social media. The worst affected districts are Bikita and Umzingwane. A tenth (10%) in Mutasa district revealed that they get news from social media at least a few times week.

Table 26: Trend in trust in local government council | 2003 – 2014

	2003	2005	2009	2012	2014
Not at all	19%	30%	19%	17%	21%
Just a little	34%	35%	23%	31%	28%
Somewhat/A lot	39%	33%	51%	49%	50%
Don't know	8%	2%	6%	2%	2%

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

Trust in Institutions

The institution of traditional leadership seems to command some trust among Zimbabweans with a combined total of 62% saying they trust traditional leaders somewhat/a lot as compared to 12% who indicated that they do not at all trust these leaders. For the 3 rounds when opinion was sought on this issue, above half of the adult population trusted the institution of traditional leadership and the highest proportion of 62% was recorded in 2014.

Table 27: Trend in Trust in Traditional Leadership | 2003- 2014

	2003	2009	2014
Not at all	11%	18%	12%
Just a little	27%	14%	19%
Somewhat	27%	24%	31%
A lot	26%	35%	31%
Don't know	9%	9%	8%

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

In November 2014, above half (52%) placed faith in Parliament with 28% of this segment saying they trust it somewhat while 24% said they had a lot of trust in the Institution. A trend analysis shows that the least proportion (35%) of Zimbabweans who at least 'somewhat' trusted Parliament was in 2005 while the highest proportion (57%) was in 2009. See Table 18.

Table 28: Trend in trust in Parliament/National Assembly | 2003 – 2014

	2003	2005	2009	2012	2014
Not at all	13%	23%	11%	10%	17%
Just a little	36%	38%	25%	30%	26%
Somewhat/A lot	37%	35%	57%	56%	52%
Don't know	13%	4%	8%	4%	5%

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

Religious leaders command a lot of trust among Zimbabweans with 75% indicating that they at least 'somewhat' trust religious leaders. Only less than a tenth (7%) do not at all trust

religious leaders. More women (79%) than men (70%) have faith in religious leaders. The rural-urban divide also reveals that more rural residents (80%) than urbanites (66%) have faith in religious leaders. Table 29

Table 29: Trust in religious leaders | 2014

	2014
Not at all	7%
Just a little	15%
Somewhat	31%
A lot	44%
Don't know/Haven't heard enough	3%

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