

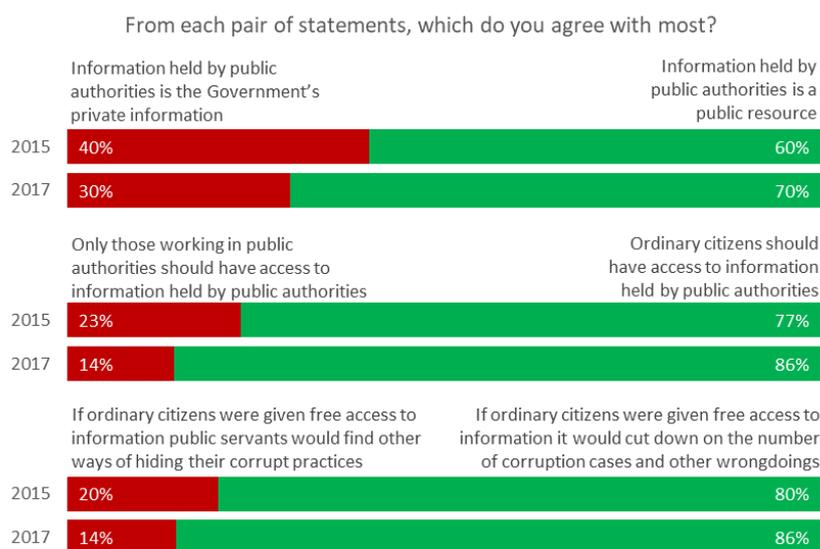
# Of the people, for the people, and by the people?

## Ten facts on civic space, democracy and politics in Tanzania

October 2017

### Fact 1. Public support for access to information is strong and getting stronger

There is a clear trend of growing public support for access to information. In 2017, more citizens see information held by public authorities as a public resource (70% compared to 60% in 2015); more now say that citizens should have access to information held by government (86% compared to 77% in 2015); and more citizens now think greater public access to information would lead to a reduction in corruption and other wrongdoing in government (86%, compared to 80% in 2015).



Source: Sauti za Wananchi mobile phone panel survey, September 2017 and April 2015

### Fact 2. When citizens request information from local government, on 2 in 3 occasions the requests are turned down

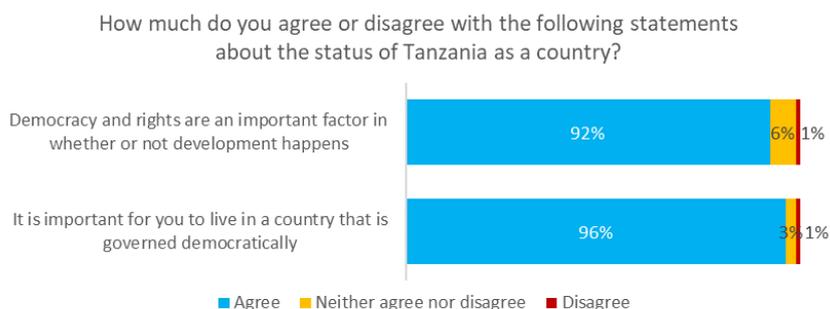
In research carried out in 2016, citizens requested information from 131 government offices across 26 randomly sampled districts. Government officials released data in 33% of cases, while in the remaining 67% citizens were denied any information.



Source: Tanzania Mystery Shopper Survey, Twaweza and MIT GOV/LAB, 2017

### Fact 3. Support for democracy among citizens is strong, and it is seen as important for development

More than nine in ten citizens (92%) say that democracy and rights are an important factor in whether or not development happens. And even more (96%) say that it is important to them that they live in a democracy.



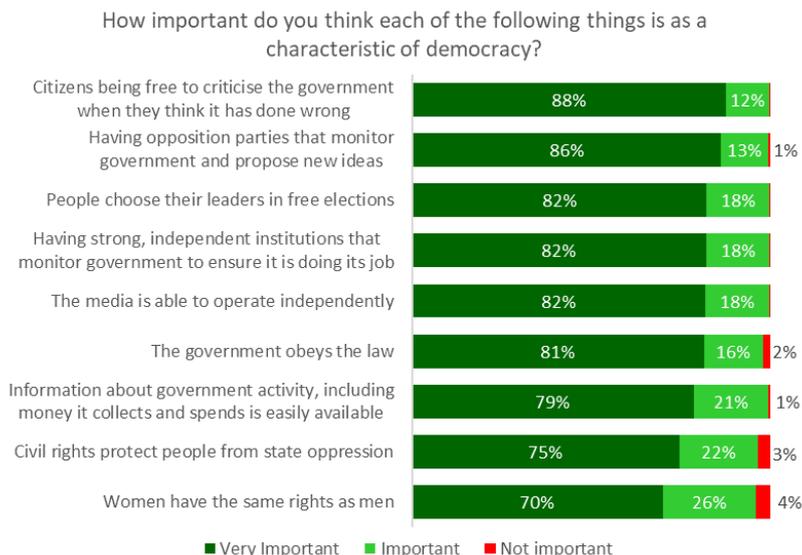
Source: Sauti za Wananchi mobile phone panel survey, November 2016

The data presented here comes from a range of sources. This includes Twaweza's flagship *Sauti za Wananchi* survey, a nationally-representative, high-frequency mobile phone panel survey of public opinion; a "mystery shopper" study of citizens requesting information from 131 different departments in 26 local government authorities (LGAs); and two nationally-representative surveys of citizens conducted by AIID for Twaweza in 2010 and 2015.

**Fact 4. Citizens' understanding of democracy encompasses a wide range of features**

Large majorities of citizens see each of nine different things as being "very important" characteristics of democracy. Nine in ten citizens (88%) see freedom to criticise the government as "very important", followed closely by having opposition parties that monitor government and propose new ideas, which is seen as very important by seven in eight citizens (86%).

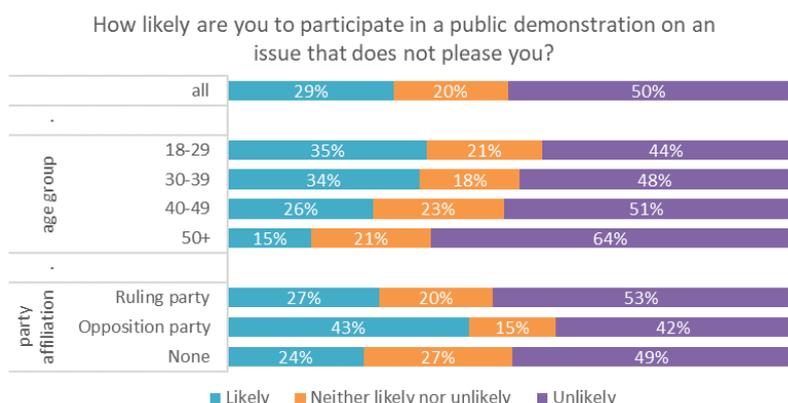
Eight in ten see people choosing leaders in free elections (82%), strong independent institutions that monitor the government (82%), independent media (82%), the government obeying the law (81%) and government transparency (79%) as very important aspects of democracy.



Source: Sauti za Wananchi mobile phone panel survey, November 2016

**Fact 5. Three in ten citizens say they are ready to participate in demonstrations**

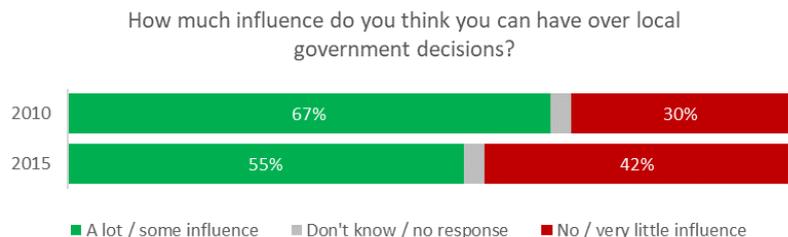
Three in ten citizens (29%) say they would be likely to participate in public demonstrations on "an issue that does not please them", while half (50%) say it is unlikely that they would do so. Readiness to join demonstrations is higher among younger citizens and among supporters of opposition parties.



Source: Sauti za Wananchi mobile phone panel survey, August 2016

**Fact 6. Citizens feel their influence over local government decisions is declining**

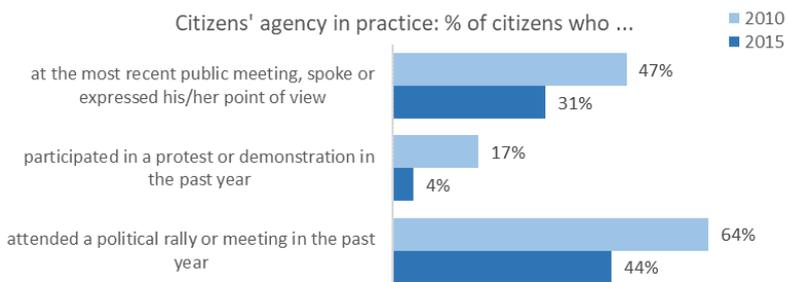
In 2015, four in ten citizens (42%) felt that they had little or no influence over decisions made by local government, up from three in ten (30%) five years earlier.



Source: Twaweza baseline and endline surveys, AIID, 2010 and 2015

**Fact 7. The number of citizens who took action to improve their lives dropped between 2010 and 2015**

The number of citizens taking three different types of actions that could influence government and improve their lives declined between 2010 and 2015. The number expressing a view at a public meeting dropped sharply (47% in 2010 to 31% in 2015), as did the number participating in demonstrations (17% to 4%) and the number attending political rallies or meetings (64% to 44%).



Source: Twaweza baseline and endline surveys, AIID, 2010 and 2015

**Fact 8. Citizens say that in general, refusing to participate in the Constitution review process affects the legitimacy of the end result, but did not support the UKAWA boycott in particular**

More than half the population (56%) agree with the statement that if a group decides not to participate in the Constitution making process, it makes the Constitution lack legitimacy among the population as a whole.

However, asked specifically about the UKAWA walkout from the Constituent Assembly, just four in ten (41%) said the walkout invalidated the whole Constitution review process.

If a group decides not to participate in the constitution-making process, the constitution will lack legitimacy among all citizens



Does walking out/boycotting of UKAWA during CA invalidate the constitution building process?



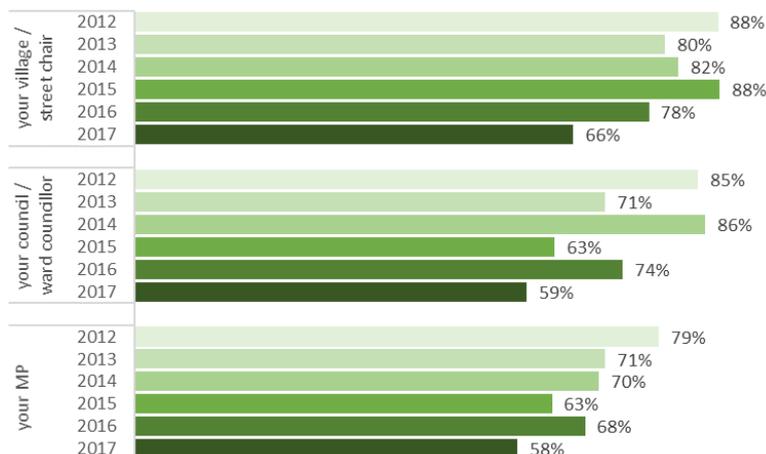
Source: Sauti za Wananchi mobile phone panel survey, August 2016

**Fact 9. Citizens approval ratings for their elected representatives has declined over the past five years**

Approval ratings for village / street chairpersons, ward councillors / councils and MPs have all declined in the past five years.

In 2012, nine in ten (88%) approved of the performance of their village or street chair. By 2017, two in three citizens (66%) feel this way. Similarly, between 2012 and 2017, the number of citizens approving of the performance of councillors has declined from 85% to 59%, and the number approving of MP's performance has dropped from 79% to 58%.

% who approve of the way the following elected representatives have performed since coming to office



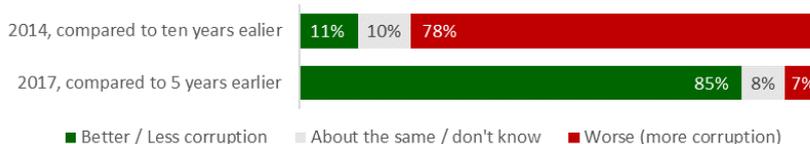
Source: Sauti za Wananchi mobile phone panel survey, April 2017

**Fact 10. A large majority of citizens think the level of corruption has fallen in recent years**

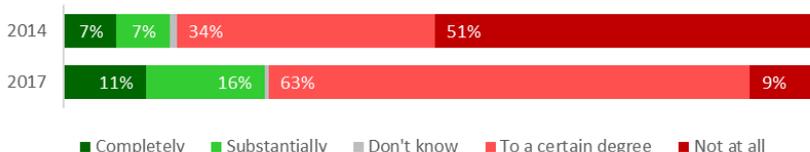
Overall, five in six citizens (85%) think there is now less corruption in Tanzania than was the case five years earlier. Just one in twenty (7%) think corruption has increased in the past five years. In contrast, asked a similar question in 2014, three in four citizens (78%) felt corruption was higher than it had been in 2004.

Similarly, citizens are now more positive about the possibility of reducing corruption. In 2014, half (51%) said corruption cannot be reduced at all; now just one in ten (10%) feel this way. However, even with this increased optimism, still just one in four (27%) think corruption can be either eradicated completely or substantially reduced in Tanzania, with the majority (63%) saying it can only be reduced to a certain degree.

How would you compare the level of corruption in Tanzania today with the level of corruption a few years ago?



To what extent do you think corruption can be reduced in Tanzania?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi mobile phone panel survey, August 2017