



Press Release
15 June 2017

7 out of 10 citizens approve of the performance of President Magufuli *Approval of the President is higher among older citizens and those with lower education levels*

15 June 2017, Dar es Salaam: Seven out of 10 citizens (71%) approve of the performance of President Magufuli since taking office. This is down from 96% in June 2016. Approval ratings for the President vary between groups.

- **68% of those under age 30** approve of the President compared to **82% of those over 50**
- **75% of citizens with no education or some primary** approve of the President compared to **63% of those with secondary education or higher**
- And approval is slightly higher among **poorer citizens (75%)** than among **the richest (66%)**.

Approval ratings for other political leaders have also fallen over the same period.

- **MPs:** 58% approval rating (April 2017) compared to 68% (June 2016)
- **Councilors:** 59% approval rating (April 2017) compared to 74% (June 2016)
- **Village / street chair-people:** 66% approval rating (April 2017) compared to 78% (June 2016)

These findings were released by Twaweza in a research brief titled *The end of the beginning? Priorities, performance and politics in Tanzania*. The brief is based on data from *Sauti za Wananchi*, Africa's first nationally representative high-frequency mobile phone survey. The findings are based on data collected from 1,805 respondents across Mainland Tanzania (Zanzibar is not covered in these results) in April 2017.

Support for political parties paints a mixed picture. Support for CCM has remained steady, ranging between 54% and 65% between 2012 and 2017. After a slump in 2013 and 2014 during which the party's approval rating fell to 54% (2013 and 2014) from 65% (2012), support has remained consistent since the election at 62% in 2015 and 63% in 2017. Support for Chadema, however, has seen declined to 17% in 2017 since it peaked at 32% in 2013.

Support for CCM is highest among older people (80%), compared to 55% among younger citizens. It is also higher among women (68%) than men (58%), in rural areas (66%) than urban areas (57%), among poorer citizens (69%) than among the relatively rich (53%). Fewer than half (46%) of those with secondary, technical or higher education support CCM. Support for Chadema generally follows the opposite pattern, higher among the young, men, the relatively wealthy and those with more education.

Over the past two years, however, citizens' priorities have shifted substantially. In 2015, 34% of citizens cited poverty or economic challenges as one of their top three priority areas for the country compared to 60% mentioning this in 2017. Even more notable, in 2015 fewer than one in ten citizens (9%) mentioned food shortages or famine as a priority issue compared to 57% in 2017.

During the same period, citizens' concerns about public services and corruption appear to have diminished.

Percentages of citizens citing the following issues as among the top three challenges for the country:

- Health: 40% in 2017 compared to 59% in 2015
- Education: 22% in 2017 compared to 44% in 2015
- Infrastructure: 21% in 2017 compared to 32% in 2015
- Water supply: 19% in 2017 compared to 46% in 2015
- Corruption: 10% in 2017 compared to 28% in 2015

Aidan Eyakuze, Executive Director of Twaweza, said: *“A majority of citizens continue to approve of the performance of the President. But the sharp drop in ratings, combined with the drop in approval ratings for all politicians, sends a sobering message. Citizens are fast losing trust in their political leaders*

“But beyond the headline approval ratings” he continued, “a more interesting trend is visible. First, the sharp drop in people mentioning public services as priority areas is noteworthy. These sectors have consistently topped the ranks for citizens’ main challenges over the past three years. This poll suggests that citizens are signaling improvements in terms of public service delivery. But, the steep rise in the number of citizens expressing concerns about poverty and about food shortages should not be ignored. Citizens are deeply worried about the most basic of issues - food - and they are sending a strong message to their leaders. Who is listening?”

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For more information:

Risha Chande, Senior Communications Advisor, Twaweza
e: rchande@twaweza.org | t: (+255) (0) 656 657 559

Notes to Editors

- This brief and the data contained can be accessed at www.twaweza.org, or www.twaweza.org/sauti
- Twaweza works on enabling children to learn, citizens to exercise agency and governments to be more open and responsive in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. We have programs, staff and offices across all three countries, and a globally respected practice of learning, monitoring and evaluation. Our flagship programs include *Uwezo*, Africa’s largest annual citizen assessment to assess children’s learning levels across hundreds of thousands of households, and *Sauti za Wananchi*, Africa’s first nationally representative mobile phone survey. We undertake effective public and policy engagement, through powerful media partnerships and global leadership of initiatives such as the Open Government Partnership
- You can follow Twaweza’s work

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