

This data packet presents citizens' views and experiences on media and freedom of expression in Uganda. What types of media do citizens access most often, and which do they trust most? Do they feel they should have the right to criticise their leaders? Do citizens feel the media and journalists do a good job?

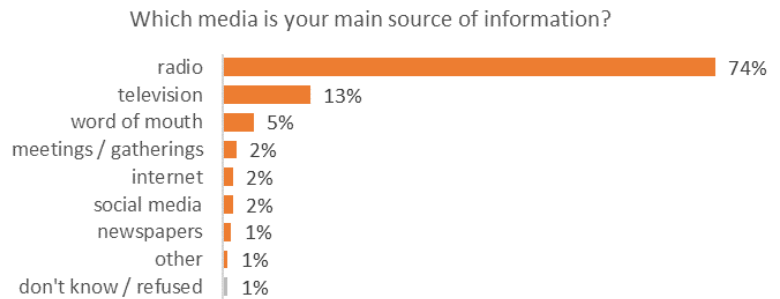
The data comes from Twaweza's *Sauti za Wananchi* survey, a nationally-representative, high-frequency mobile phone panel survey of public opinion and citizens' experiences. The data come from 1,796 respondents in the Sauti za Wananchi panel, collected between September 20 and October 10, 2019. Further details are available from www.twaweza.org/sauti.

Insight 1. Radio dominates as a source of information

For three out of four citizens (74%) radio is their main source of information, well ahead of any other media type. TV follows with around one out of ten citizens (13%) citing this.

There has been a slight shift over the past two years, with radio declining slightly and TV increasing slightly, but the change is small.

Few citizens depend primarily on other sources.



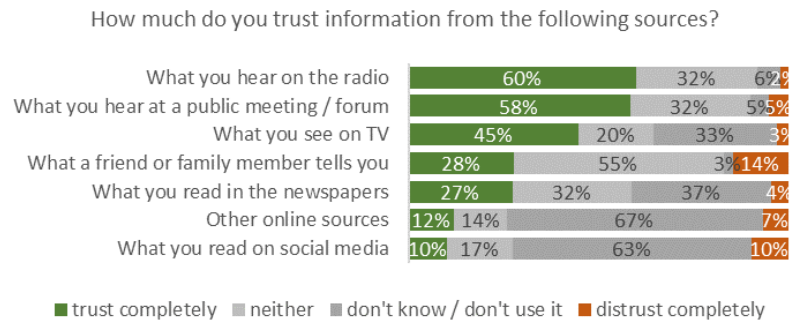
Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 12, Sep-Oct 2019

Insight 2. Radio is also the most trusted source

Six out of ten citizens (60%) say they trust completely what they hear on radio, more any other source, though closely followed by public meetings (58%).

TV (45%) is also widely trusted, though one out of three citizens (33%) don't watch often enough to have a view.

The most distrusted source is information provided by friends or family members. For most citizens, online sources are not sufficiently familiar.

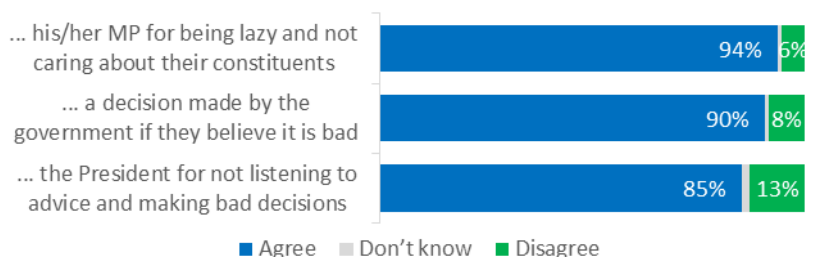


Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 12, Sep-Oct 2019

Insight 3. Most citizens feel they should have the right to criticise their leaders

Almost all citizens (94%) feel that a citizen should be free to criticise their MP for being lazy and uncaring, and almost as many feel that a citizen should similarly be free to criticise the President (85%) and government decisions (90%).

In more general terms – as statements of principle – seven out of ten citizens (71-72%) support the view that criticism of leaders is a good thing for the country, helping to correct mistakes, rather than damaging the country by undermining either the authority of leaders or respect and unity.



Citizens views on criticism of national leaders

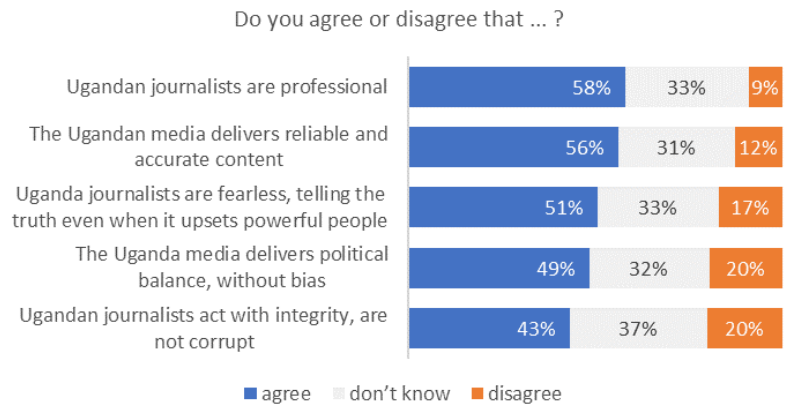


Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 12, Sep-Oct 2019

Insight 4. Citizens hold generally positive views of journalists and the media in Uganda

Six out of ten citizens (58%) see Ugandan journalists as professional, compared to one out of ten (9%) who disagree. Similarly, most citizens (56%) say the Ugandan media is reliable and accurate, compared to a small number (12%) who disagree, and more citizens agree (51%) than disagree (17%) that Ugandan journalists tell the truth even when this upsets powerful people.

Significant minorities disagree with the view that the media in Uganda is politically balanced and the view that journalists act with integrity, though even in these cases, more citizens hold positive than negative views.



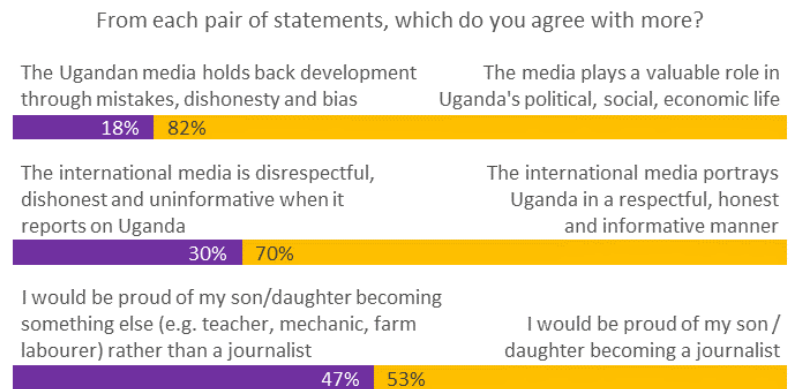
Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 12, Sep-Oct 2019

Insight 5. 8 out of 10 citizens say the media makes a positive contribution to Ugandan life

A clear majority of citizens (82%) hold the view that the media in Uganda make a positive contribution to the country, preferring this over the alternative, that the media holds back development through mistakes, dishonesty and bias.

Citizens are also positive about the role of international media when reporting on Uganda.

A small majority (53%) say they would be proud if their son or daughter became a journalist.

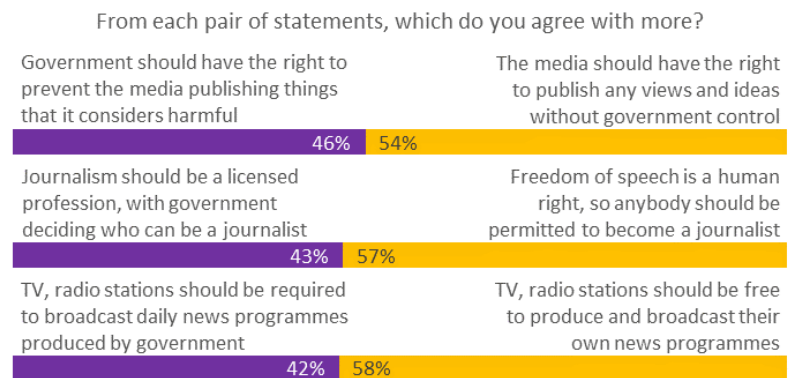


Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 12, Sep-Oct 2019

Insight 6. Most citizens say the media should be allowed to operate without government control

A small majority of citizens (54%) say the media should have the right to publish any views and ideas, without restriction by government, while the remainder (46%) say the government should have the right to prevent publication when it considers something to be harmful.

Small majorities also say there should be no government control over who is allowed to work as a journalist (57%), and that TV and radio stations should not be required to broadcast news programmes produced by government (58%).

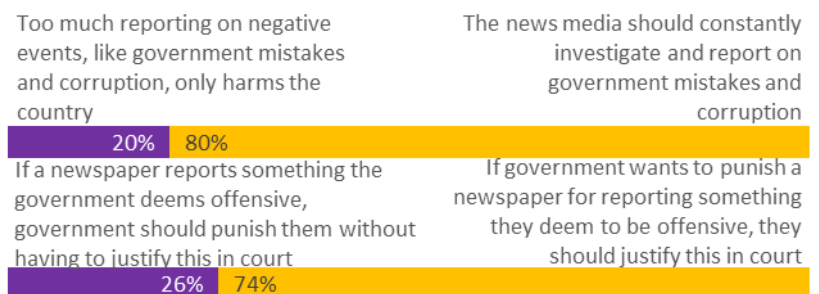


Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 12, Sep-Oct 2019

Insight 7. Most citizens support media investigations of government mistakes and corruption

Eight out of ten citizens (80%) say the media should constantly investigate and report on government mistakes and corruption, compared to two out of ten (20%) who say this only harms the country.

Three out of four (74%) say the government should only have the power to punish newspapers by taking them to court.



Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 12, Sep-Oct 2019