



Press Release

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Citizens on Zanzibar and Mainland want more accountability The majority of Tanzanians would vote Yes for the current draft of the constitution

23 April 2014, Dar es Salaam: Debate at the Constituent Assembly on the second draft of the constitution has been polarised but Tanzanians are united in emphatic support for articles that call for greater accountability from public officials and a more transparent system of governance. Among the articles in the second draft constitution that have support from at least six out of ten citizens are:

- The majority of Tanzanians are supportive of clauses around the public right to information, and increased accountability and transparency of public officials
- Proposals for checks on MPs and separation of powers to avoid conflicts of interests are widely supported

These findings were released by Twaweza in a research brief titled *What do people really think of the constitution? Findings of a nationally representative survey*. The brief is based on data from *Sauti za Wananchi*, a representative mobile phone survey of households across Mainland Tanzania, and *Wasemavyo Wazanzibari*, a representative mobile phone survey of households across Zanzibar, conducted by the International Law and Policy Institute.

Sauti za Wananchi found that, among citizens on the Mainland, support is extremely high for a number of articles that were presented in the first draft of the constitution and retained in the second draft. The articles cover greater accountability of, and strong checks and balances for, MPs, particularly to their constituents, and greater political competition.

The research also shows that, if voting today, Tanzanians would pass the current draft constitution. Six out of ten Tanzanians indicate that they would vote Yes with 65% of citizens on the Mainland and 62% of Zanzibari in favour.

However the question of the structure of the government remains contentious. A large majority (80%) of Zanzibaris are in agreement with a three government structure, while just under half (43%) of the respondents on the Mainland support it. In addition, just over half of Zanzibaris (53%) claim that their support for the current draft of the constitution is contingent on the three government structure.

Sauti za Wananchi and *Wasemavyo Wazanzibari* also found that citizens on the Mainland have had more exposure to debates and discussions around the new constitution. Six out of ten (62%) Mainland citizens have been exposed to radio, TV or public debates while only three out of ten (30%) Zanzibari citizens have done so.

Rakesh Rajani, Head of Twaweza, said “*Large majorities of Tanzanians care about key issues in the constitution – that governments be open and transparent, public officials be accountable and the like. Although the question of the Union remains contentious, it may be best approached through a review of its implications on the issues that are closest to people’s lives.*”

He further added, *“True leadership is not about forcefully advocating your own position, but appreciating different points of view, and crafting a new agreement based on core principles and shared interests.”*

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Notes to Editors

- This brief and the data contained can be accessed at www.twaweza.org, or www.twaweza.org/sauti
- Twaweza is a ten year citizen-centered initiative, focusing on large-scale change in East Africa. Twaweza believes that lasting change requires bottom-up action, and seeks to foster conditions and expand opportunities through which millions of people can get information and make change happen in their own communities directly and by holding government to account.
- You can follow Twaweza’s work

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