Survey on Local Governance and Constitutionalism in Zimbabwe

December 20, 2014 to January 23, 2015
Detailed Methodology

• The International Republican Institute (IRI) carried out a survey of Zimbabwean citizens aged 18 years and older.

• The questionnaire was designed by IRI in consultation with Target Research and Zimbabwean civil society stakeholders. Sample design, interview training and fieldwork was carried out by Target Research, a social and market research firm, in consultation with IRI.

• Face-to-face interviews were carried out with 1,215 respondents between December 20, 2014 and January 23, 2015. All interviewers were conducted in the language of the respondent’s choice.

• A random number between 1 and ‘n’ was selected within each district (where ‘n’ equals the total number of people in that district, based on 2012 census figures). The ward in which the random number fell (i.e. the ‘n-th’ population member) was selected as the ward for the first starting point in the district. In the event that there was more than one sampling point in a district, a sampling interval was then calculated (total population for the district / number of starting points) and added to the random number to select the next starting point in the district, and so on, to identify the wards for each starting point.

• Random numbers were then generated within the range of latitudes and longitudes for the wards selected, to identify actual starting points. A random walk was then employed by the research team in order to select households to interview at each starting point. The supervisor instructed each member of the research team to go in a different and in a particular direction (e.g. north-east, south-west) and to sample the first house while walking in that direction, and to then to continue in the same direction, skip ten houses (in urban areas) or five houses (in rural areas) and conduct subsequent interviews using this skip pattern. Individuals were then selected at random.

• In total 1,536 houses were visited to obtain 1,215 interviews. Thus, the response rate for this survey was 79 percent.

• The margin of error for the entire study is plus or minus 2.9 percentage points.

• The survey was funded by the National Endowment for Democracy.

• Charts and graphs may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.
Perceptions of the Economy and Living Standards
Overall, how would you rate the economy of Zimbabwe?

- Very bad: 41\% (Urban: 41\%, Rural: 30\%, All: 34\%)
- Fairly bad: 19\% (Urban: 19\%, Rural: 18\%, All: 18\%)
- Neither good nor bad: 17\% (Urban: 20\%, Rural: 17\%, All: 19\%)
- Fairly good: 20\% (Urban: 17\%, Rural: 20\%, All: 19\%)
- Very good: 2\% (Urban: 2\%, Rural: 4\%, All: 4\%)
- Don't know: 3\% (Urban: 3\%, Rural: 7\%, All: 6\%)
Overall, how would you rate your own present living conditions?

![Bar chart showing the distribution of responses to the question: Overall, how would you rate your own present living conditions? The chart includes categories such as Very bad, Fairly bad, Neither good nor bad, Fairly good, Very good, and Don't know. The chart also indicates whether the responses are from Urban, Rural, or All together.](image-url)
Since the end of the Government of National Unity, how would you rate the economy of Zimbabwe?
Since the end of the Government of National Unity, how would you rate your own living conditions?
Thinking about the Zimbabwean economy, in the coming year do you think that it is going to get better, worse or stay about the same?
Thinking about your personal economic situation, in the coming year do you think that it is going to get better, worse or stay about the same?
Overall, do you think Zimbabwe is headed in the right direction or wrong direction?
Why do you think Zimbabwe is headed in the right direction?
Why do you think Zimbabwe is headed in the wrong direction?

![Bar chart showing the percentage of people in various urban and rural areas who think Zimbabwe is headed in the wrong direction. The chart includes reasons such as lack of employment opportunities, high cost of living, and depression in the business sector.](chart-url)
If you could only choose one or the other, which is more important to you: a democratic system of government or a prosperous economy?
Service Delivery in Zimbabwe
Based on your own experience, how easy or difficult is it for you to obtain a birth certificate and national identity card?

- Very difficult: 14% (Birth Certificate), 10% (National Identity Card)
- Difficult: 24% (Birth Certificate), 20% (National Identity Card)
- Easy: 41% (Birth Certificate), 20% (National Identity Card)
- Very easy: 14% (Birth Certificate), 47% (National Identity Card)
- Don't know: 7% (Birth Certificate), 3% (National Identity Card)
What are the most important service delivery problems in Zimbabwe?

- Lack of/poor public transportation: 8%
- High school fees: 8%
- Load shedding (power outage): 8%
- Limited access to healthcare: 9%
- Poor refuse collection: 9%
- Lack of clean water: 12%
- Lack of water: 28%
- Poor infrastructure: 33%
What are the primary service delivery problems for urban Zimbabweans? (n=398)

- No electricity connection: 5%
- Poor sewage disposal: 8%
- Load shedding (power outage): 25%
- Lack of clean water: 15%
- Poor refuse collection: 26%
- Lack of water: 29%
What are the primary service delivery problems for rural Zimbabweans? (n=817)

- Poor infrastructure: 36%
- Lack of water: 23%
- Lack of agricultural advice and support: 21%
- Limited access to healthcare: 12%
- Lack of clean water: 12%
- Unaffordable healthcare: 11%
- Lack of/poor public transportation: 11%
- High cost of school fees: 11%
In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing the country that government should address? (Open-Ended)

- **MACRO ECONOMICS**
  - Unemployment: 29%
  - Taxes: 11%
  - Overall Wages, incomes and salaries: 6%
  - Loans and credit: 3%

- **HEALTH**
  - Availability of healthcare: 24%
  - Health: 13%
  - Sickness and disease: 4%
  - HIV/AIDS: 1%

- **SERVICES**
  - Water supply: 26%
  - Electricity: 8%
  - Services (Other): 2%

- **TRANSPORTATION**
  - Infrastructure: 26%
  - Transportation: 8%

- **POVERTY**
  - Poverty and destitution: 25%
  - Food shortage and famine: 5%
  - Orphans, street children, homeless children: 2%

- **EDUCATION**
  - Education: 24%

- **CORRUPTION**
  - Corruption: 21%

- **AGRICULTURE**
  - Farming and agriculture: 11%
  - Drought: 3%
  - Land: 3%

- **CRIME**
  - Crime and security: 8%
In your opinion, what are the things that cause service delivery to be poor?

- **Infrastructure**: Poor maintenance (24), Lack of funding (31), Inefficiency, incompetence (12), Don't know (22)
- **Availability of Water**: Lack of funding (20), Poor management, incompetence (25), Old pipes, burst pipes, and poor maintenance (16), Lack of capacity or demand outstrips supply (16), Water storage facilities are far away (16), Don't know (21)
- **Agricultural Advice and Support**: Lack of funding (10), Corruption, politics (19), Inefficiency, incompetence, poor management (17), Don't know (24)
- **Clean Water**: Lack of Funding (9), Old pipes, burst pipes, and poor maintenance (31), Lack of chemicals to treat water (22), Poor management, incompetence (21), Don't know (12)
- **Availability of Electricity**: Lack of capacity or demand outstrips supply (29), Lack of funding (14), Poor management, incompetence (11), Don't know (7)
In your opinion, what are the things that cause service delivery to be poor? (continued)

- **SCHOOL AFFORDABILITY**
  - Low salaries, unemployment: 44%
  - Lack of funding: 35%
  - Don't know: 7%
- **REFUSE COLLECTION, WASTE DISPOSAL**
  - Inefficiency, incompetent management: 27%
  - Don't know: 22%
- **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**
  - Poor maintenance: 28%
  - Lack of funding: 22%
  - Don't know: 6%
- **ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS**
  - Lack of funding: 49%
  - Poor management, incompetence: 28%
  - Corruption, politics: 11%
  - Don't know: 7%
- **ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE**
  - Lack of funding: 49%
  - Don't know: 14%
- **SEWERAGE DISPOSAL**
  - Burst pipes, poor maintenance: 34%
  - Lack of funding: 19%
  - Poor management, incompetence: 13%
  - Don't know: 22%
Roles, Responsibilities and Expectations of Local Leaders
If you had a problem or needed help, and it could not be solved within your circle of friends or family, to whom would you go to for assistance, advice or resolution?
Do you prefer your local traditional and elected leaders to have liberation credentials?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Traditional leader</th>
<th>Elected leader</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harare</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulawayo</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mashonaland West</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mashonaland Central</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mashonaland East</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manicaland</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masvingo</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matabeleland North</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matabeleland South</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midlands</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
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</table>
Do you prefer your local traditional and elected leaders to have a minimum of secondary education?

- Yes: 80% (Traditional leader), 91% (Elected leader)
- Does not matter: 20% (Traditional leader), 9% (Elected leader)
In your opinion, do citizens of Zimbabwe have a duty to participate in the following (n=1,215):

- Pay rates & taxes: Urban = 82%, Rural = 67%
- Register to vote: Urban = 88%, Rural = 88%
- Vote: Urban = 92%, Rural = 92%
- Influence government decisions: Urban = 86%, Rural = 89%
- Be informed: Urban = 97%, Rural = 96%
- Join a political party: Urban = 61%, Rural = 71%
- Join a local community group: Urban = 77%, Rural = 84%
- Join the military: Urban = 44%, Rural = 54%
Citizens’ Relationships with Local Government
Thinking about the following institutions and people, would you approve or disapprove of the job they are doing?
Perceptions of Elected Local Councilors (n=1,215)

- Are councilors accessible to the general public?
  - Strongly approve: 8%
  - Approve: 12%
  - Disapprove: 16%
  - Strongly disapprove: 7%
  - Don’t know: 30%

- Are councilors regularly working for the benefit of the common people?
  - Strongly approve: 7%
  - Approve: 14%
  - Disapprove: 26%
  - Strongly disapprove: 7%
  - Don’t know: 34%

- Are councilors honest?
  - Strongly approve: 19%
  - Approve: 24%
  - Disapprove: 12%
  - Strongly disapprove: 11%
  - Don’t know: 37%

- Have councilors made a positive impact on my quality of life?
  - Strongly approve: 6%
  - Approve: 15%
  - Disapprove: 38%
  - Strongly disapprove: 7%
  - Don’t know: 41%

- Are councilors poor leaders?
  - Strongly approve: 13%
  - Approve: 11%
  - Disapprove: 41%
  - Strongly disapprove: 7%
  - Don’t know: 37%

- Are councilors not responsive to my needs?
  - Strongly approve: 10%
  - Approve: 10%
  - Disapprove: 37%
  - Strongly disapprove: 9%
  - Don’t know: 34%
Perceptions of Traditional Leaders (n=1,215)

1. Are traditional leaders accessible to the general public?
   - Strongly agree: 59%
   - Agree: 37%
   - Disagree: 22%
   - Strongly disagree: 3%
   - Don’t know: 7%

2. Are traditional leaders regularly working for the benefit of the common people?
   - Strongly agree: 41%
   - Agree: 14%
   - Disagree: 26%
   - Strongly disagree: 3%
   - Don’t know: 17%

3. Are traditional leaders honest?
   - Strongly agree: 52%
   - Agree: 23%
   - Disagree: 23%
   - Strongly disagree: 57%
   - Don’t know: 52%

4. Have traditional leaders made a positive impact on my quality of life?
   - Strongly agree: 41%
   - Agree: 57%
   - Disagree: 52%
   - Strongly disagree: 3%
   - Don’t know: 17%

5. Are traditional leaders not responsive to my needs?
   - Strongly agree: 23%
   - Agree: 13%
   - Disagree: 52%
   - Strongly disagree: 52%
   - Don’t know: 3%
Perceptions of Ward and Village Development Committee Members (n=1,215)

- Are development committee members accessible to the general public?
  - Strongly agree: 52
  - Agree: 51
  - Disagree: 7
  - Strongly disagree: 5
  - Don’t know: 10

- Are development committee members regularly working for the benefit of the common people?
  - Strongly agree: 51
  - Agree: 50
  - Disagree: 7
  - Strongly disagree: 5
  - Don’t know: 10

- Are development members honest?
  - Strongly agree: 56
  - Agree: 5
  - Disagree: 11
  - Strongly disagree: 8
  - Don’t know: 5

- Have development committee members made a positive impact on my quality of life?
  - Strongly agree: 48
  - Agree: 21
  - Disagree: 17
  - Strongly disagree: 5
  - Don’t know: 5

- Are development committee members poor leaders?
  - Strongly agree: 53
  - Agree: 23
  - Disagree: 14
  - Strongly disagree: 4
  - Don’t know: 6

- Are development committee members not responsive to my needs?
  - Strongly agree: 51
  - Agree: 22
  - Disagree: 17
  - Strongly disagree: 5
  - Don’t know: 5
Are residents' associations accessible to the general public?

- Strongly agree: 13%
- Agree: 14%
- Disagree: 8%
- Strongly disagree: 13%
- Don't know: 16%

Are residents' associations regularly working for the benefit of the common people?

- Strongly agree: 38%
- Agree: 43%
- Disagree: 12%
- Strongly disagree: 12%
- Don't know: 16%

Are residents' associations honest?

- Strongly agree: 28%
- Agree: 40%
- Disagree: 11%
- Strongly disagree: 11%
- Don't know: 16%

Have residents' associations made a positive impact on my quality of life?

- Strongly agree: 40%
- Agree: 40%
- Disagree: 5%
- Strongly disagree: 5%
- Don't know: 16%

Are residents' associations poor leaders?

- Strongly agree: 19%
- Agree: 12%
- Disagree: 12%
- Strongly disagree: 12%
- Don't know: 16%

Are residents' associations not responsive to my needs?

- Strongly agree: 11%
- Agree: 18%
- Disagree: 5%
- Strongly disagree: 5%
- Don't know: 16%
In your opinion, what are the most important primary responsibilities of your local councilors?

- Listening to constituents’ problems and passing them on to central government (45%)
- Resolving constituents’ problems (7%)
- Infrastructure (14%)
- Income generating projects (14%)
- Service delivery (education, health) (7%)
- Water, sanitation (7%)
In your opinion, what are the most important primary responsibilities of your traditional leaders?

- Resolving constituents’ problems
- Listening to constituents’ problems and passing them on to central government
- Maintaining peace, harmony, community works together
- Passing laws
- Sharing land, sorting land issues, distribution of land
- Trying court cases, village court, arbitration of communal/justice issues
In your opinion, what are the most important primary responsibilities of your ward or village development committee members?

- Listening to constituents’ problems and passing them on to central government: 19%
- Resolving constituents’ problems: 18%
- Development programs: 15%
- Ensuring good basic service delivery (for example, health care and education): 15%
- Water, sanitation: 5%
- Hold community meetings, be accessible: 5%
Local Participation
Discussions and Decision-making

Do you feel that you are able to participate freely in community discussions or decision-making?
- Percent that answered yes:
  - Urban: 79
  - Rural: 88
  - All: 84

Do you know how to participate in community discussions or decision-making?
- Percent that answered yes:
  - Urban: 53
  - Rural: 72
  - All: 63

Are you interested in participating in community discussions or decision-making?
- Percent that answered yes:
  - Urban: 90
  - Rural: 78
  - All: 84

Percent that answered yes
- Urban
- Rural
- All
How many times have you participated in community discussions and decision-making?

- Never: 63
- Once or twice: 40
- A few times: 26
- Often: 34

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<th>Urban</th>
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<td>Never</td>
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<td>63</td>
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<td>Once or twice</td>
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<td>Often</td>
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What is your primary means of communication with your political and civic representatives?

- Not applicable, did not contact
- Town hall or community meeting
- Via a proxy (e.g. nongovernmental organization or elder)
- Visit in person

### With Residents’ Association
- **All**: 99%
- **Urban**: 96%
- **Rural**: 74%

### With Traditional Leader
- **All**: 71%
- **Urban**: 81%
- **Rural**: 71%

### With Elected Official
- **All**: 74%
- **Urban**: 81%
- **Rural**: 71%
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Voting gives me a chance to influence decision-making within Zimbabwe.
Who do you trust the most to impartially resolve economic disputes that may arise between residents in your community?

- Judiciary: 54%
- Community leaders: 14%
- Local government bodies: 10%
- Local political leaders: 9%
- Refused to answer: 6%
- Other: 7%
Who do you trust the most to impartially resolve political disputes that may arise between residents in your community?

- Police: 38%
- Local political leaders: 15%
- Community leaders: 14%
- Local judiciary: 9%
- Other local bodies: 9%
- Other: 9%
- Don't know: 7%

Other local bodies: 8%
Women and Youth in Decision-making
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements (n=1,215):

- Politicians do not listen to needs and ideas of women: 36% strongly agree, 29% agree, 2% neither agree nor disagree, 19% disagree, 27% strongly disagree.
- Women are adequately represented in decision-making positions: 63% strongly agree, 32% agree, 2% neither agree nor disagree, 10% disagree, 2% strongly disagree.
- Woman can be elected president: 66% strongly agree, 60% agree, 2% neither agree nor disagree, 8% disagree, 0% strongly disagree.
- Women have same opportunities for promotion as men: 71% strongly agree, 67% agree, 2% neither agree nor disagree, 10% disagree, 0% strongly disagree.
- Women make good political leaders: 71% strongly agree, 71% agree, 2% neither agree nor disagree, 0% disagree, 0% strongly disagree.
If two candidates were running for office, and they are exactly the same aside from gender, which candidate would you prefer?
Should the temporary parliamentary quota for women become permanent?

- **Yes**: 58%
- **No**: 28%
- **Don't know or refused**: 14%

* Sixty of 270 seats in the House of Representatives are reserved for women.
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

- Politicians do not listen to needs and ideas of youth
- Youth are adequately represented in decision-making positions
- Youths make good political leaders

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<th>Statement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Politicians do not listen to needs and ideas of youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth are adequately represented in decision-making positions</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youths make good political leaders</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>61</td>
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Percent that strongly agree or agree
If two candidates were running for office, and they are exactly the same, except one was a youth, which candidate would you prefer?

- **Youth**: 41%
- **Non-youth**: 43%
- **Doesn't matter**: 14%
- **Don't know or refused**: 2%
The New Constitution
Have you ever heard of the constitution of Zimbabwe? (breakdown by province)
From which of the following sources have you heard about the constitution?

- Family and friends: 72%
- Radio: 67%
- Television: 43%
- Poster or pamphlet: 43%
- A political party: 43%
- Local councilor: 42%
- Community meeting (other than COPAC): 40%
- Newspaper: 40%
- The president: 39%
- COPAC outreach meeting: 38%
- Traditional leader: 36%
- Members of Parliament: 30%
- Religious leader: 22%
- Social media: 14%
- Nongovernmental organization: 11%

* The Parliamentary Select Committee (COPAC)
Do you understand what the constitution says about:

- Freedom of assembly
- Freedom of expression
- Remuneration for similar work done by men and women
- Right to justice
- Custody and guardianship of children for men and women
- Rights of the disabled
- Rights for liberation war veterans
- Entitlement to property, land

Percent

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<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freedom of assembly</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freedom of expression</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remuneration for similar work done by men and women</td>
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<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Right to justice</td>
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<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Custody and guardianship of children for men and women</td>
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<td>52</td>
<td>56</td>
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<td>Rights of the disabled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rights for liberation war veterans</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entitlement to property, land</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>57</td>
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Do you believe that the current constitution will:

- Meet needs of all: 38% agree, 37% agree partially or neutral
- Improve living standards: 52% agree
- Affect your everyday life: 59% agree
- Protect political rights: 59% agree
- Protect socio-economic rights: 62% agree
- Protect cultural rights: 66% agree

Percent that agree

- Yes
- Partial or neutral
- No
- Don’t know
Do you believe that the current constitution was developed in a participatory manner?

- Yes: 55%
- No: 21%
- Don't know: 23%
Do you believe the Constitution is respected and adhered to by leaders and people of influence?

- Yes: 45%
- Partial/neutral: 24%
- No: 30%
- Don't know: 1%
How do you believe authority should be exercised?

- Through the Constitution: 50%
- Through parliament: 23%
- Through political parties: 18%
- Through traditional leaders: 4%
- Through liberation fighters: 3%
- Don’t know: 2%
- Refused to answer: 1%
How do you believe decision-making should be exercised?

- Through the Constitution: 42%
- Through parliament: 32%
- Through political parties: 18%
- Through traditional leaders = Through liberation fighters: 4%
- Don’t know: 2%
- Refused to answer: 1%

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