



Citizen views on most important problems and 2018 voting intentions

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 7 survey in Zimbabwe



Presented at Harare, Zimbabwe
10 May 2017



At a glance

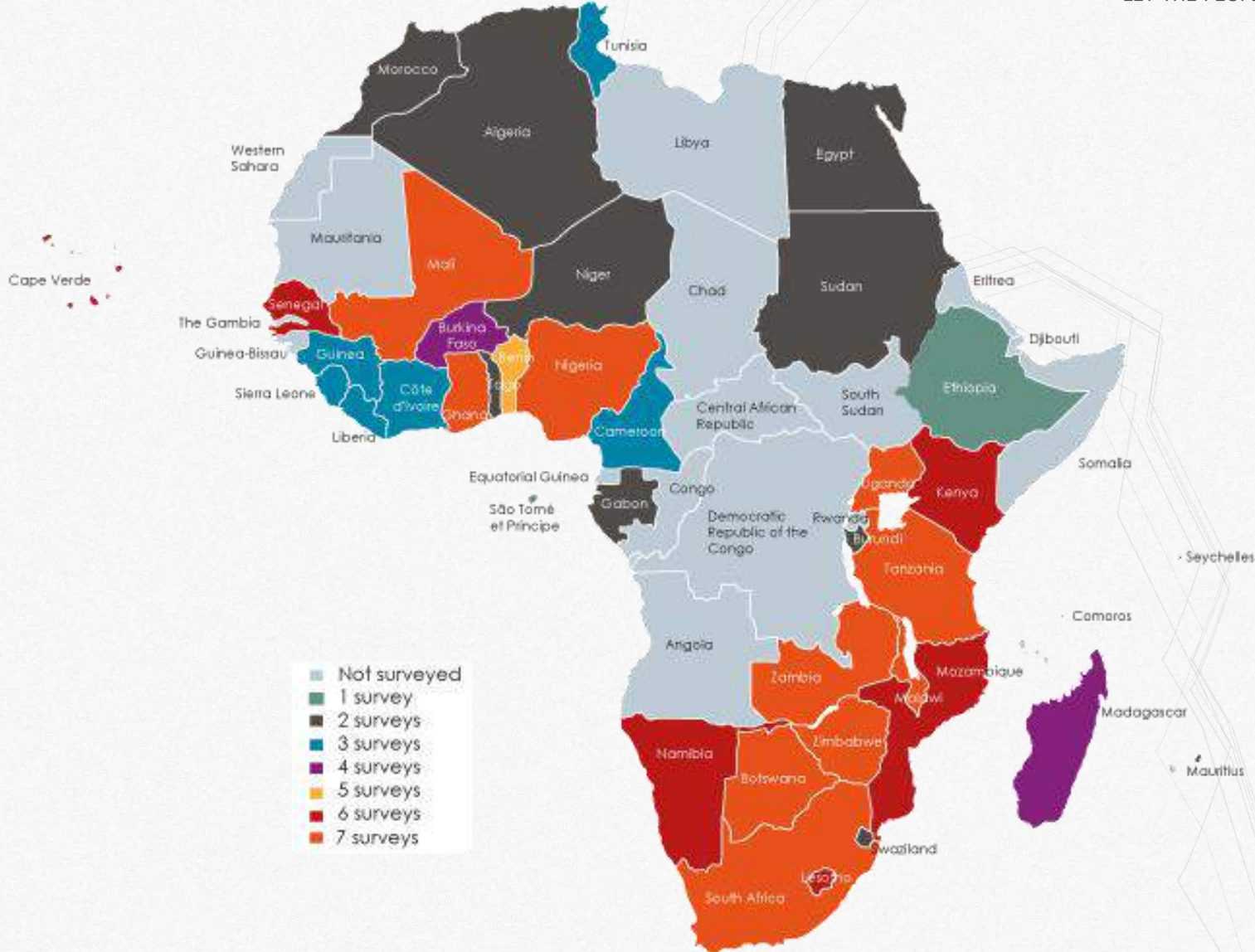
- **Most important problems:** Zimbabweans cite unemployment as the most important problem facing citizens that the government has to address.
- **Performance approval of elected leaders:** A majority approves of President Mugabe's performance over the past 12 months.
- **Support for grand coalition:** Almost half of adult Zimbabweans support the idea of a grand coalition ahead of the harmonised elections.
- **Voting intentions :** Survey shows that ZANU-PF has a clear edge if presidential elections were to be held tomorrow.

What is Afrobarometer?

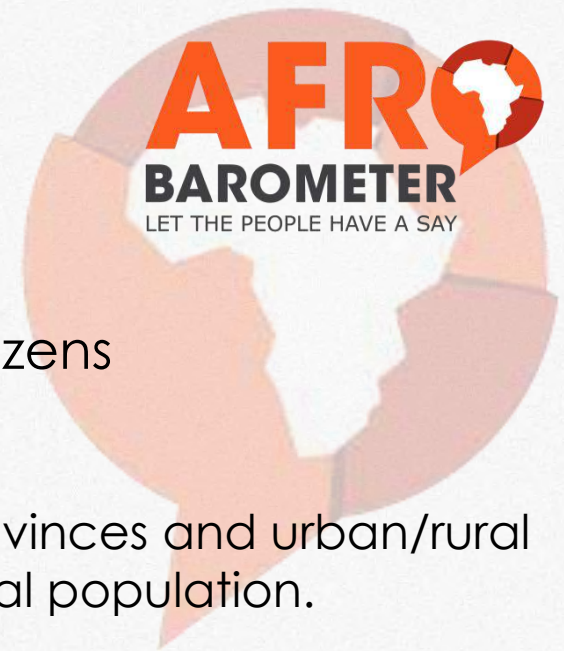


- A pan-African, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 African countries in 1999, expanded to 36 countries in Round 6 (2014/2015). Round 7 surveys are being conducted in 2016/2017.
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- A national partner in each country conducts the survey. In Zimbabwe, Afrobarometer Round 7 survey was conducted by the Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI).

Where Afrobarometer works

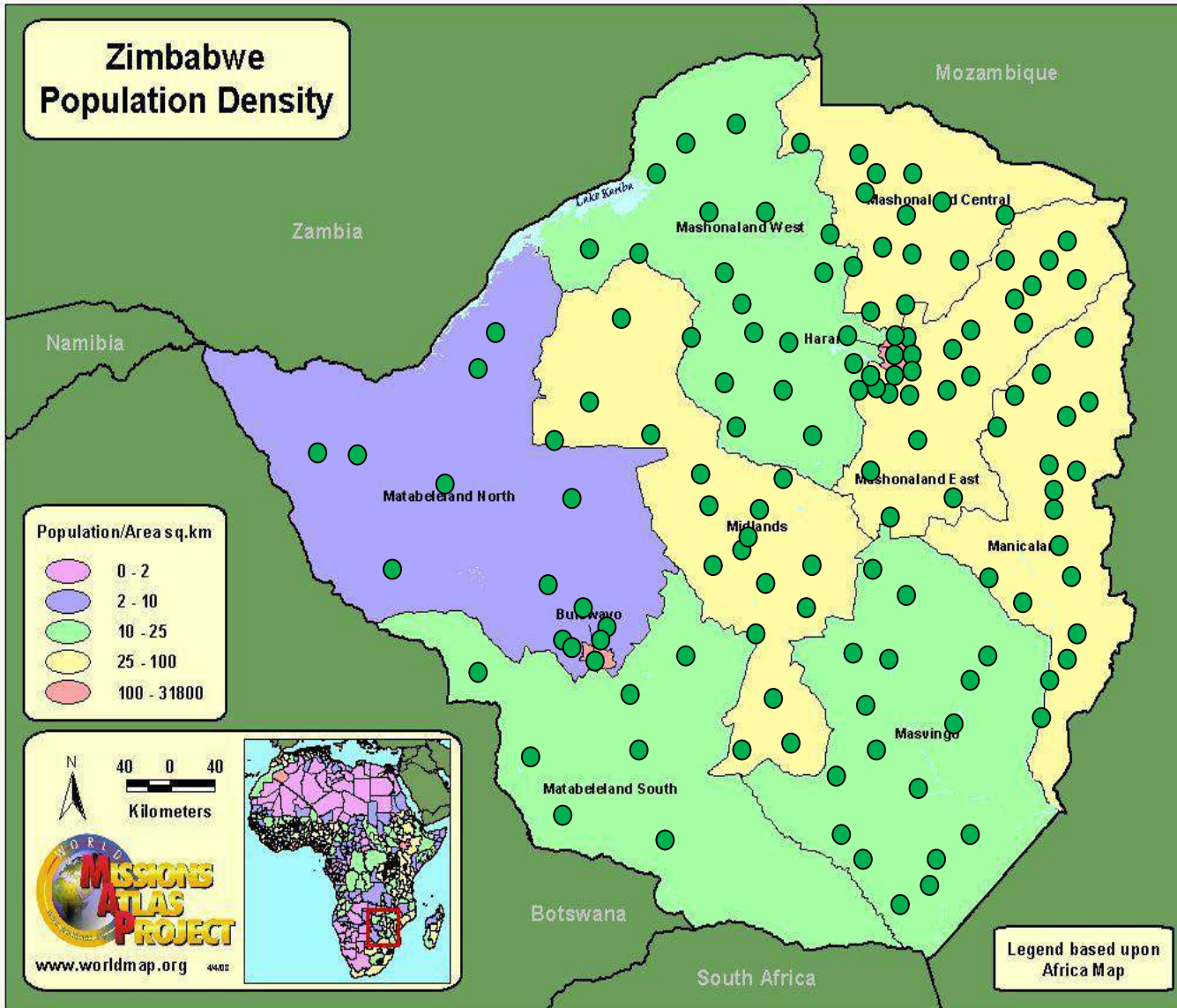


Methodology



- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across regions/states/provinces and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
 - ❑ Every adult citizen has an *equal* chance of being selected.
- Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in Zimbabwe of 1200 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 7 in Zimbabwe was conducted between 28 January and 10 February 2017.

Survey coverage



Survey demographics

Gender		%
	Men	50
	Women	50
Residence		
	Urban	33%
	Rural	67%
Education		
	No formal education	6%
	Primary	21%
	Secondary	58%
	Post-secondary	15%
Religion		
	Christian	74%
	Muslim	1%
	Other	25%

Findings



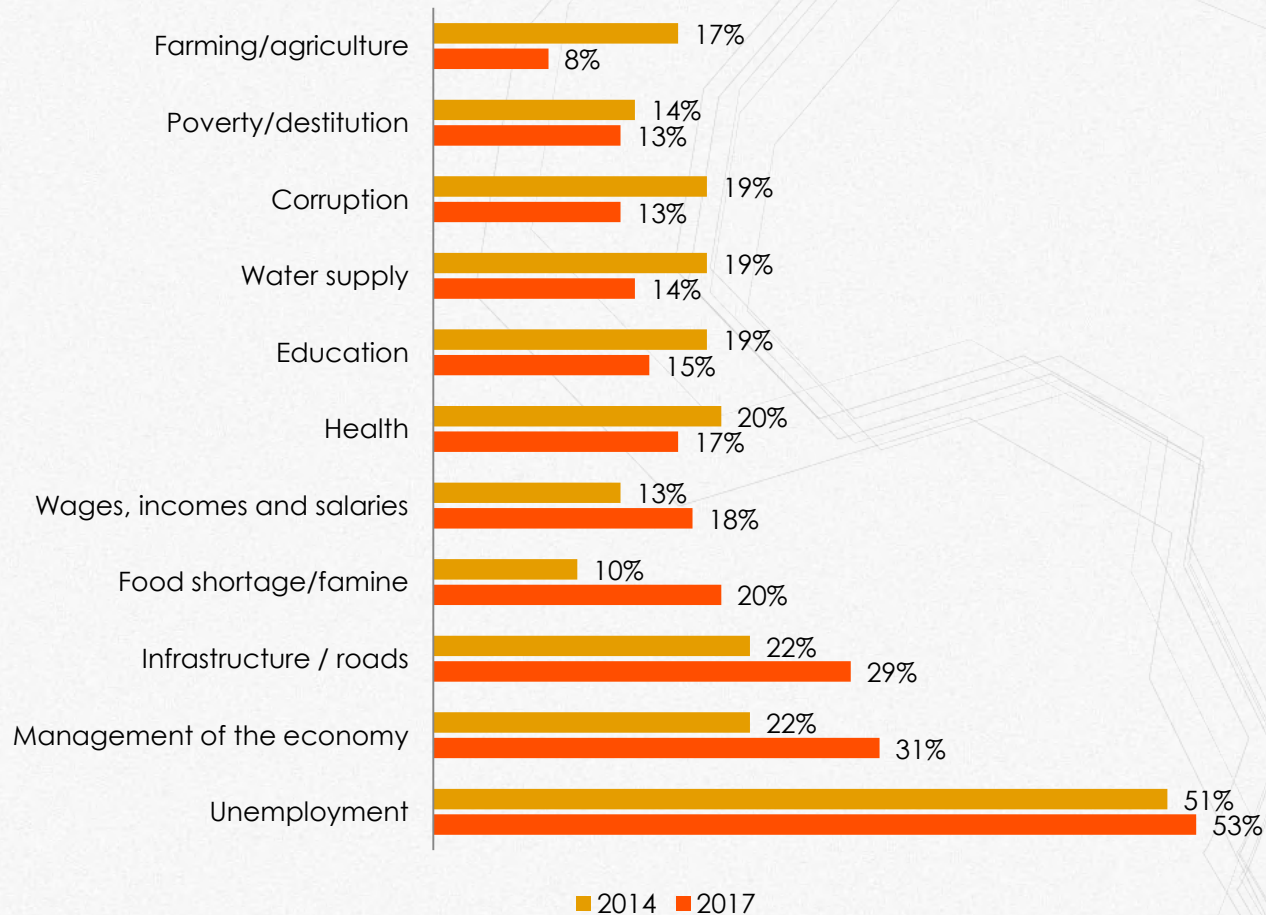
Most Important Problems for Zimbabweans

Key findings



- Five in 10 adult Zimbabweans (53%) identify unemployment as the most important problem that the government should address.
- There is an increase, from 22% in 2014 to 31% in 2017, in the number of Zimbabweans who think that management of the economy is the number two problem, behind unemployment, that the government of Zimbabwe needs to address.
- The survey also shows an increase in the proportions of ordinary Zimbabweans calling for the government to address infrastructure/roads (29% from 22% in 2014), wages, incomes and salaries (18% from 13% in 2014) and food shortages/famine (20% from 10% in 2014).

Most important problems | Zimbabwe | 2014 and 2017



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address?*

Performance approval ratings of leaders

Key findings



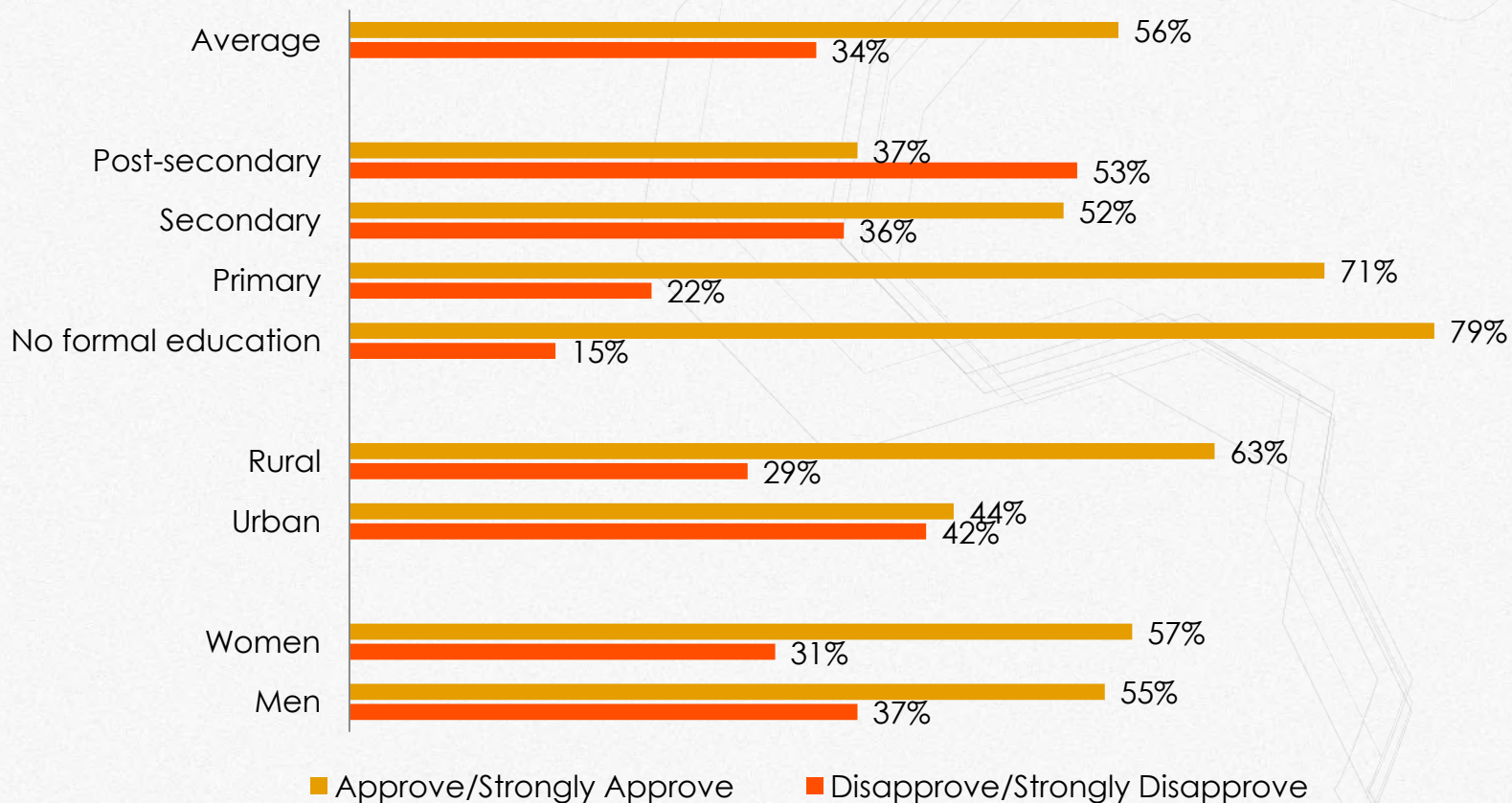
- President Mugabe continues to get positive ratings from Zimbabweans with above half (56%) saying that they approve of the way he has performed his jobs over the past 12 months.
- Less than half (40%) of adult Zimbabweans approve of the way their MPs have performed their jobs over the past 12 months.
- More women (57%) than men (55%) and more rural (63%) than urban (44%) based citizens approve of President Mugabe's performance. However, there is an inverse relationship between education level and approval of president's performance.

Performance approval for leaders | Zimbabwe | 2017

	Approve/Strongly Approve	Disapprove/Strongly Disapprove	Refused	Don't know
President	56%	34%	5%	6%
Your mayor	51%	21%	13%	1%
Local government councilors	49%	42%	2%	7%
Member of Parliament	40%	48%	3%	10%
Traditional leaders	28%	28%	1%	25%

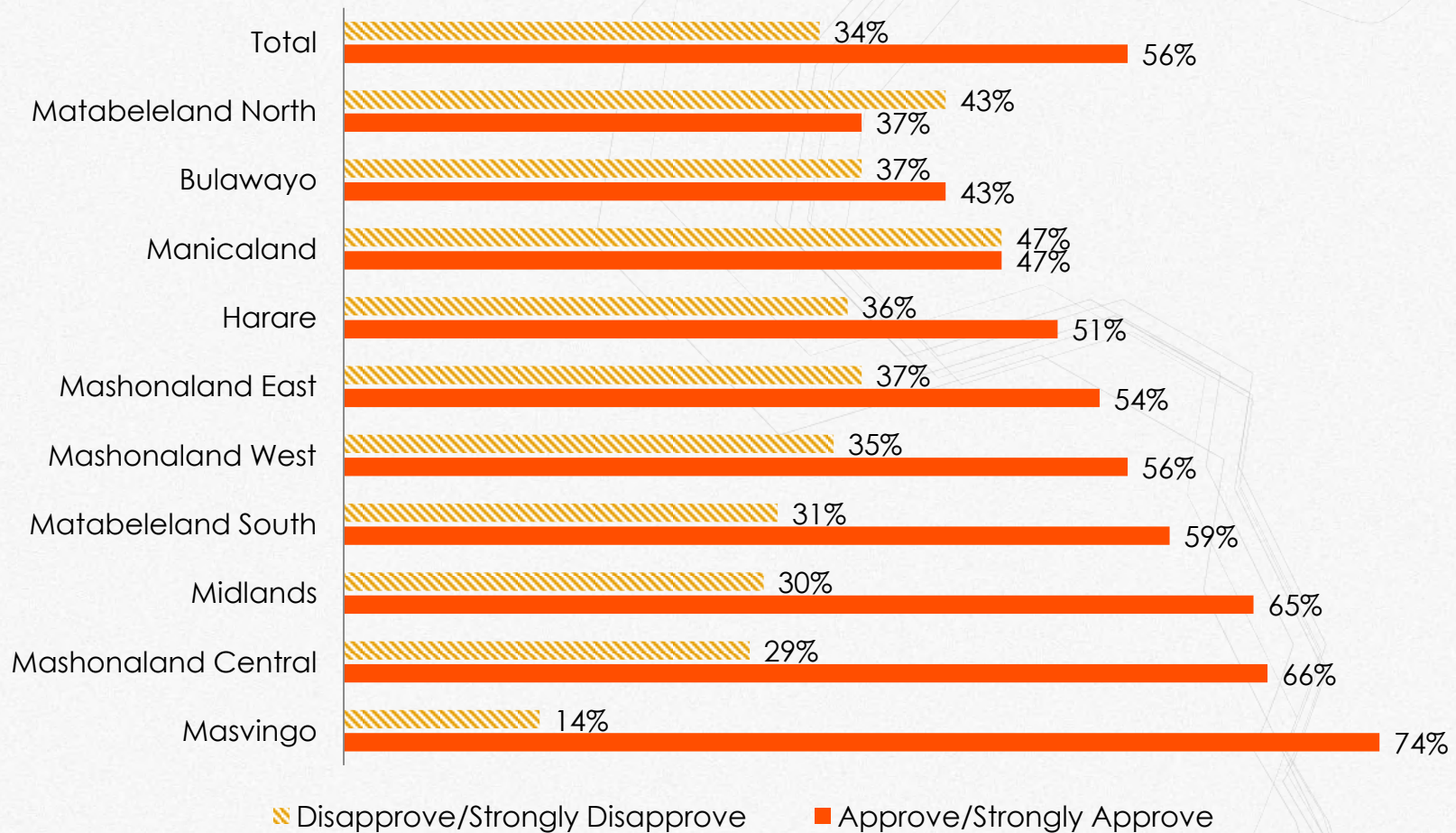
Respondents were asked: *Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past twelve months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (the total proportion for mayor and traditional leaders does not add up to 100% because of the N/A category which is not reported)*

Approval of President's performance | by education, urban-rural location and gender | Zimbabwe | 2017



Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past twelve months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

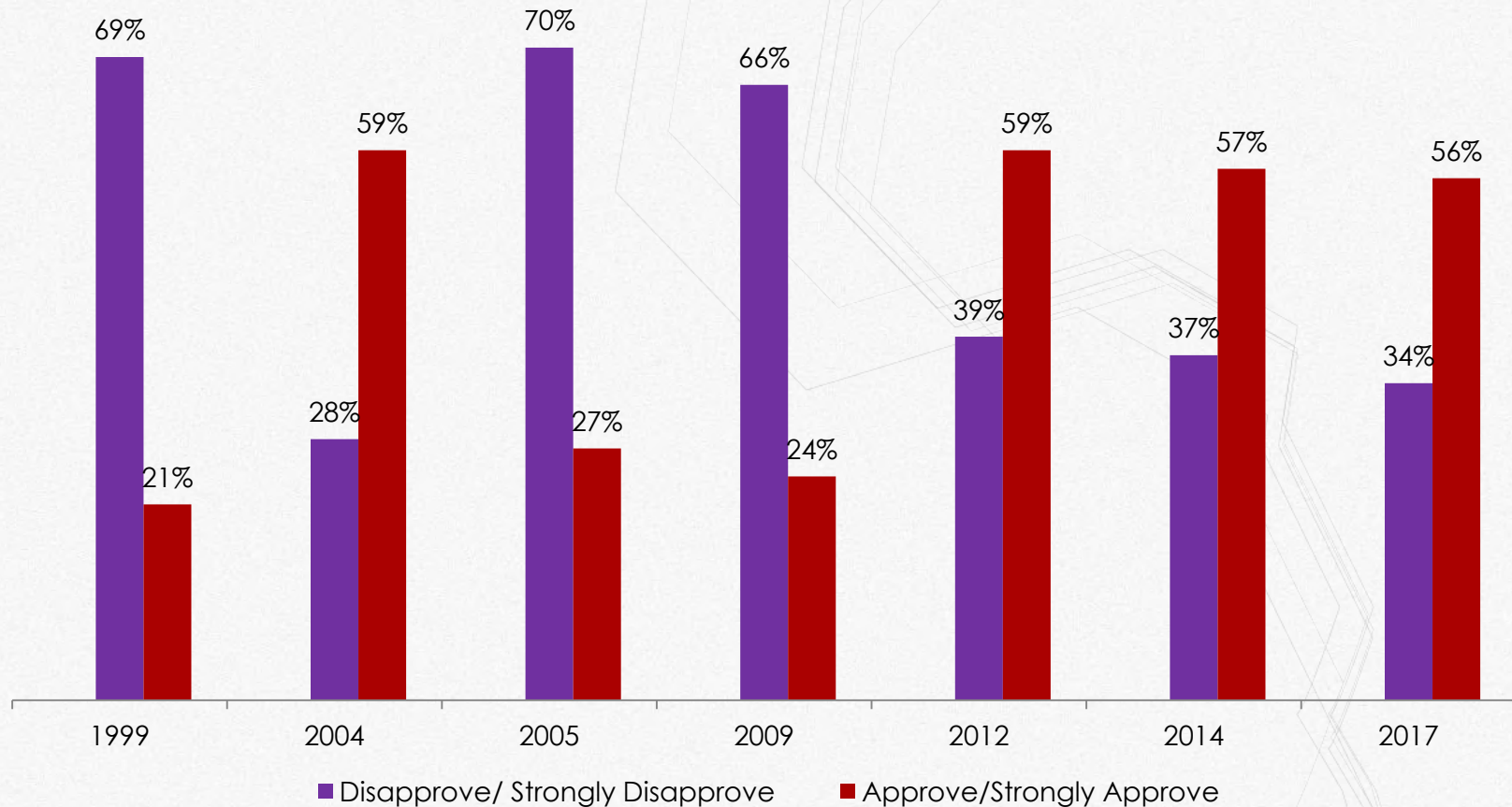
Approval of President's performance | by province | Zimbabwe | 2017



Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past twelve months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

Approval of President's performance | Zimbabwe

| 1999 - 2017



Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past twelve months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

Freedom to criticise public figures and institutions

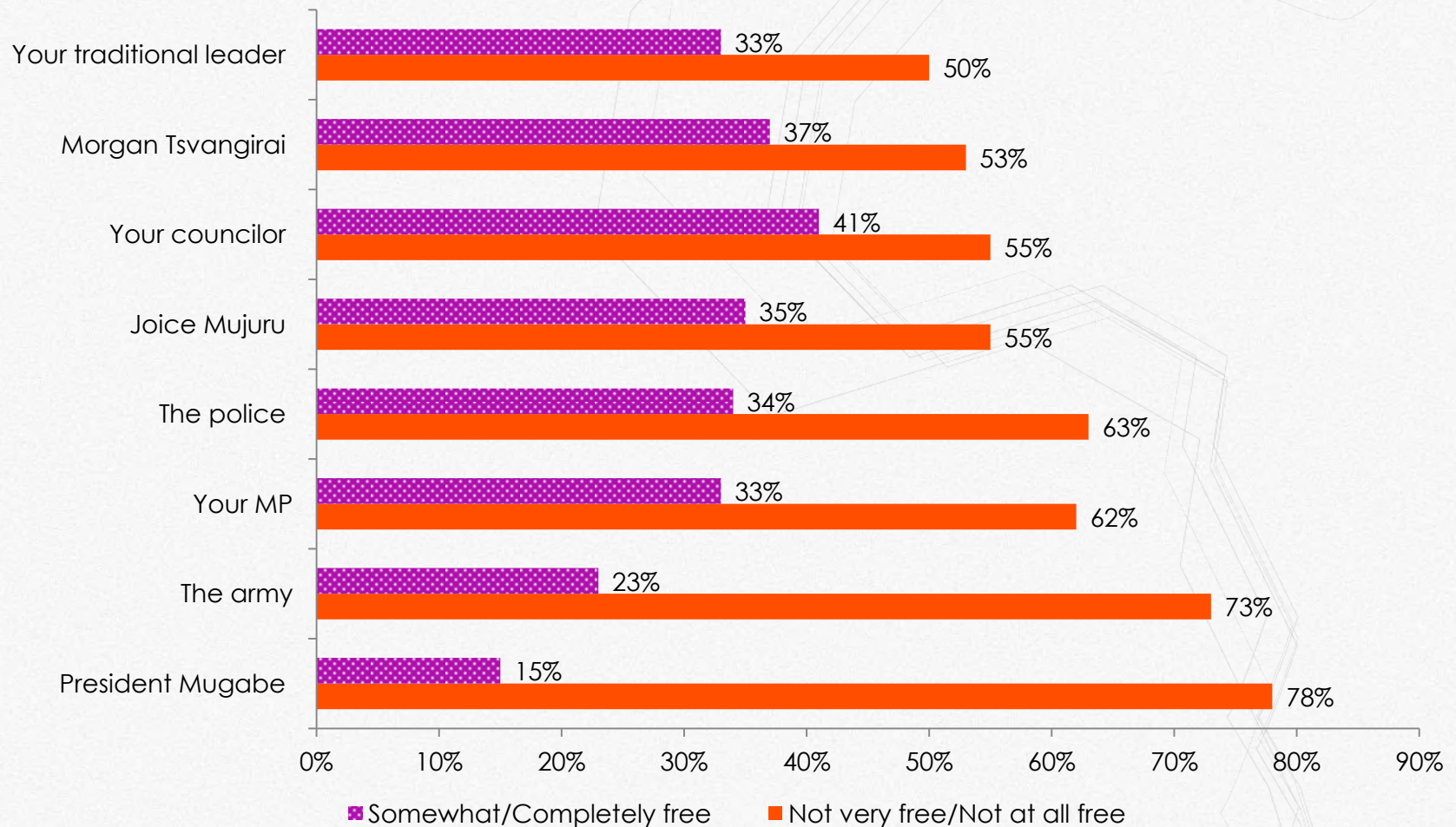
Key findings



- A majority of Zimbabweans (78%) are not very/at all free to criticise President Robert Mugabe.
- Midlands province has the highest proportion of residents (78%) while Mashonaland West province has the least proportion (41%) of residents who are 'not at all' feel free to criticise the President.

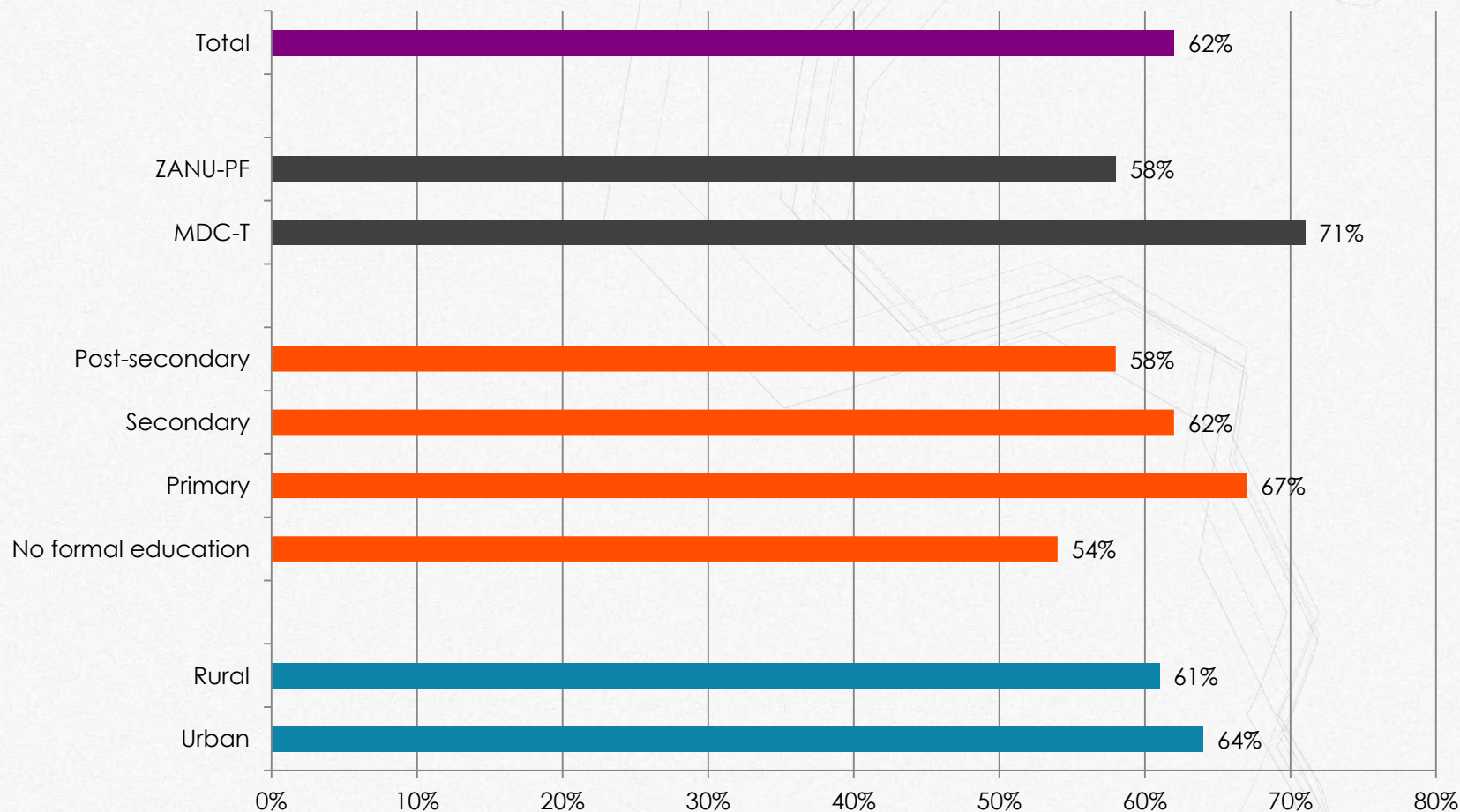
Freedom to criticise leaders and institutions

| Zimbabwe | 2017



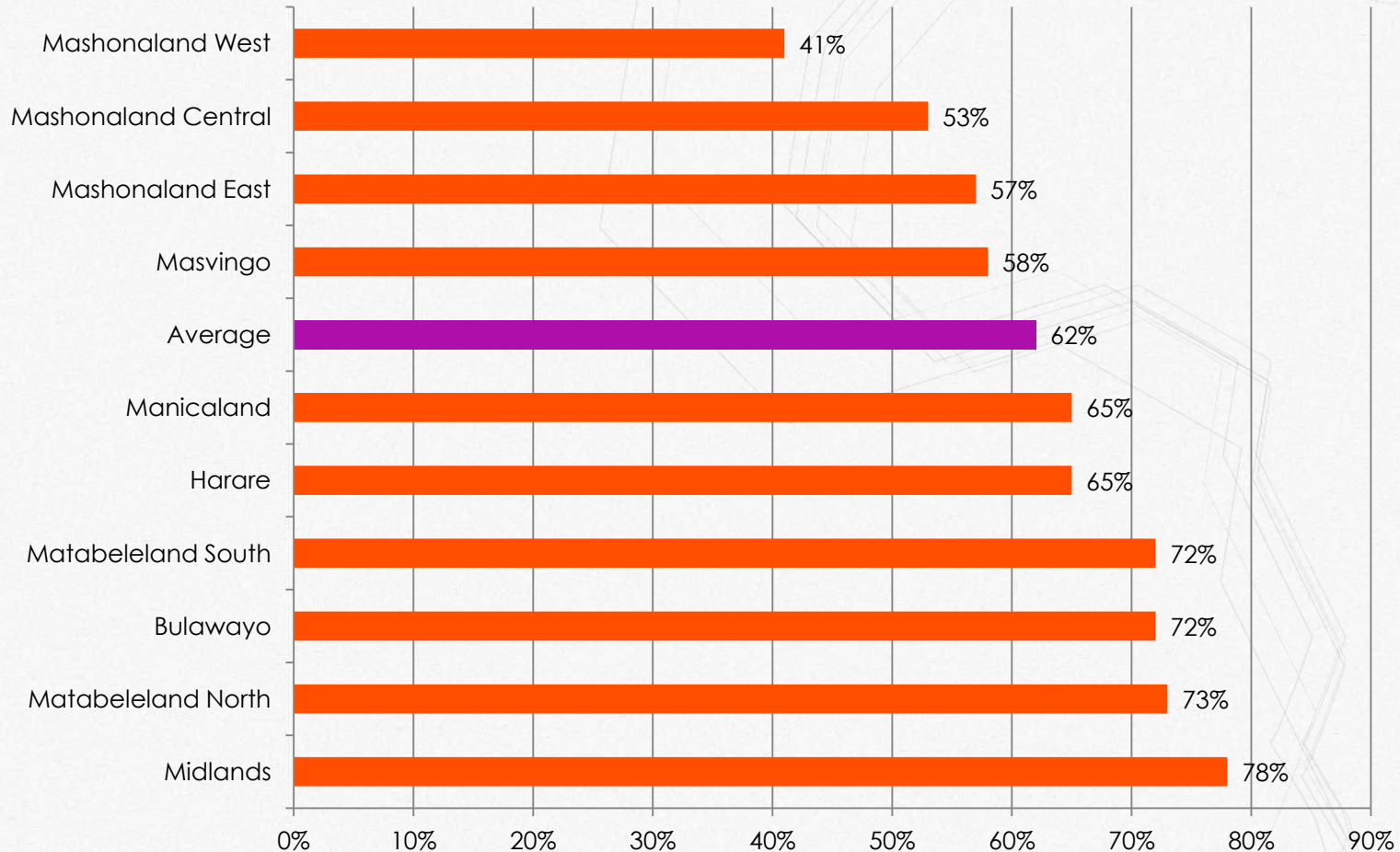
Respondents were asked: In this country, how free do you feel to criticise the following:

Freedom to criticise President Mugabe | by political party affiliation, education and urban-rural location | Zimbabwe | 2017



Respondents were asked: In this country, how free do you feel to criticise the following (*Not at all*):

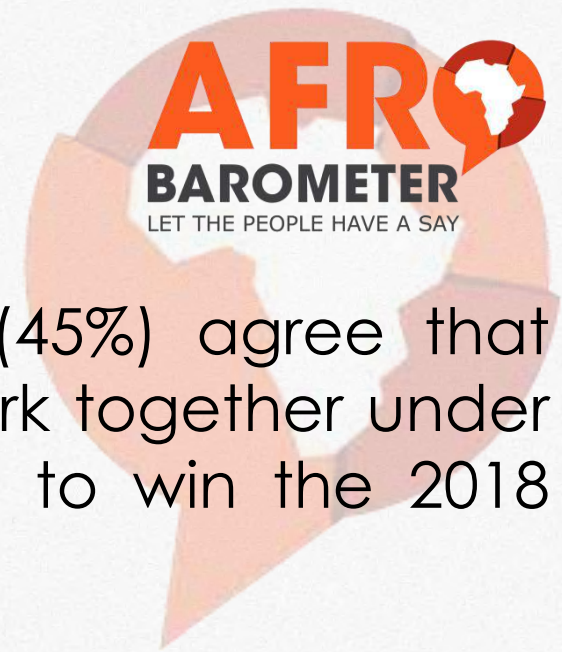
Freedom to criticise President | by province | Zimbabwe | 2017



Respondents were asked: In this country, how free do you feel to criticise the following:

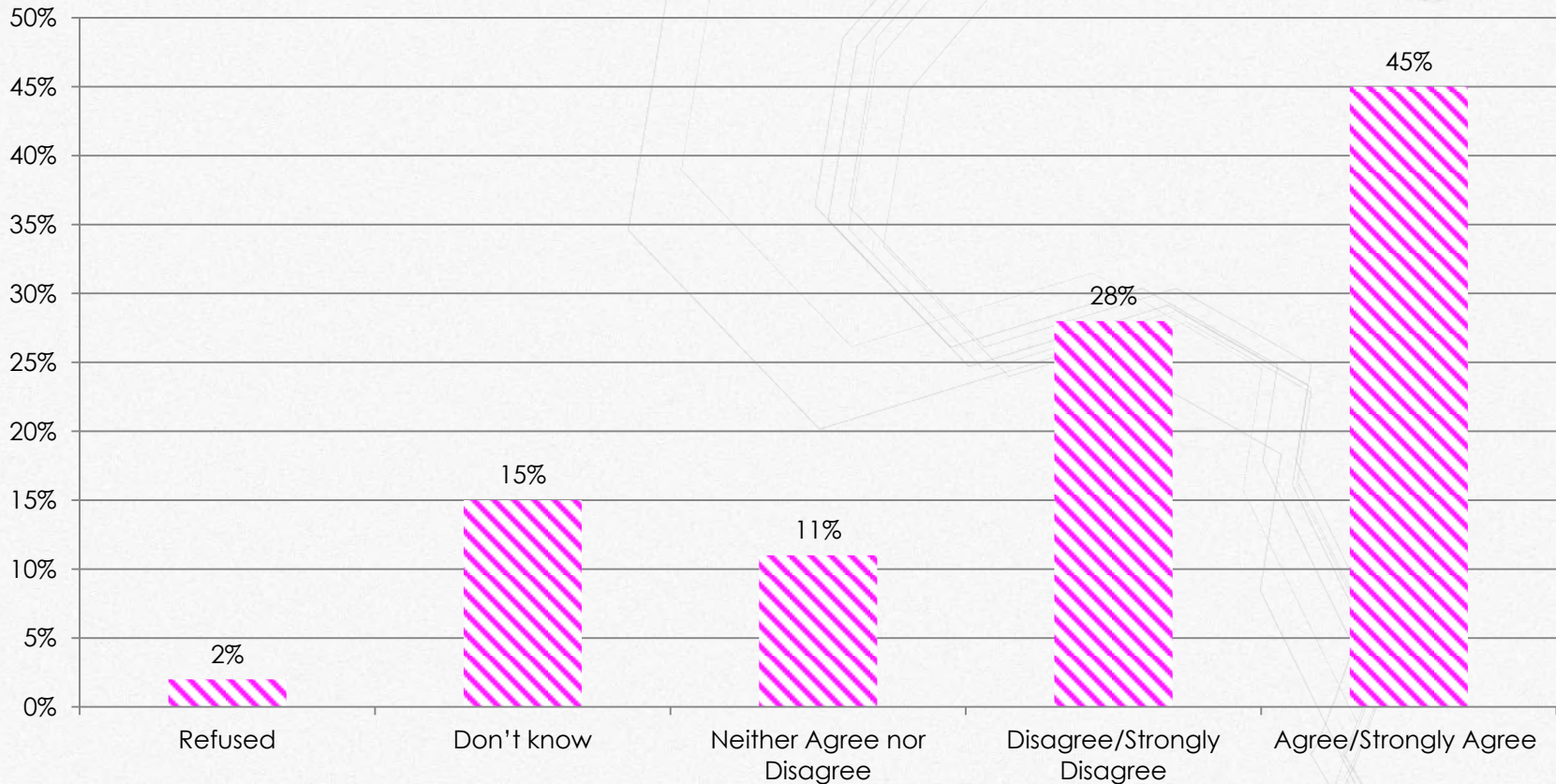
Attitudes towards opposition grand coalition ahead of 2018 elections

Key findings



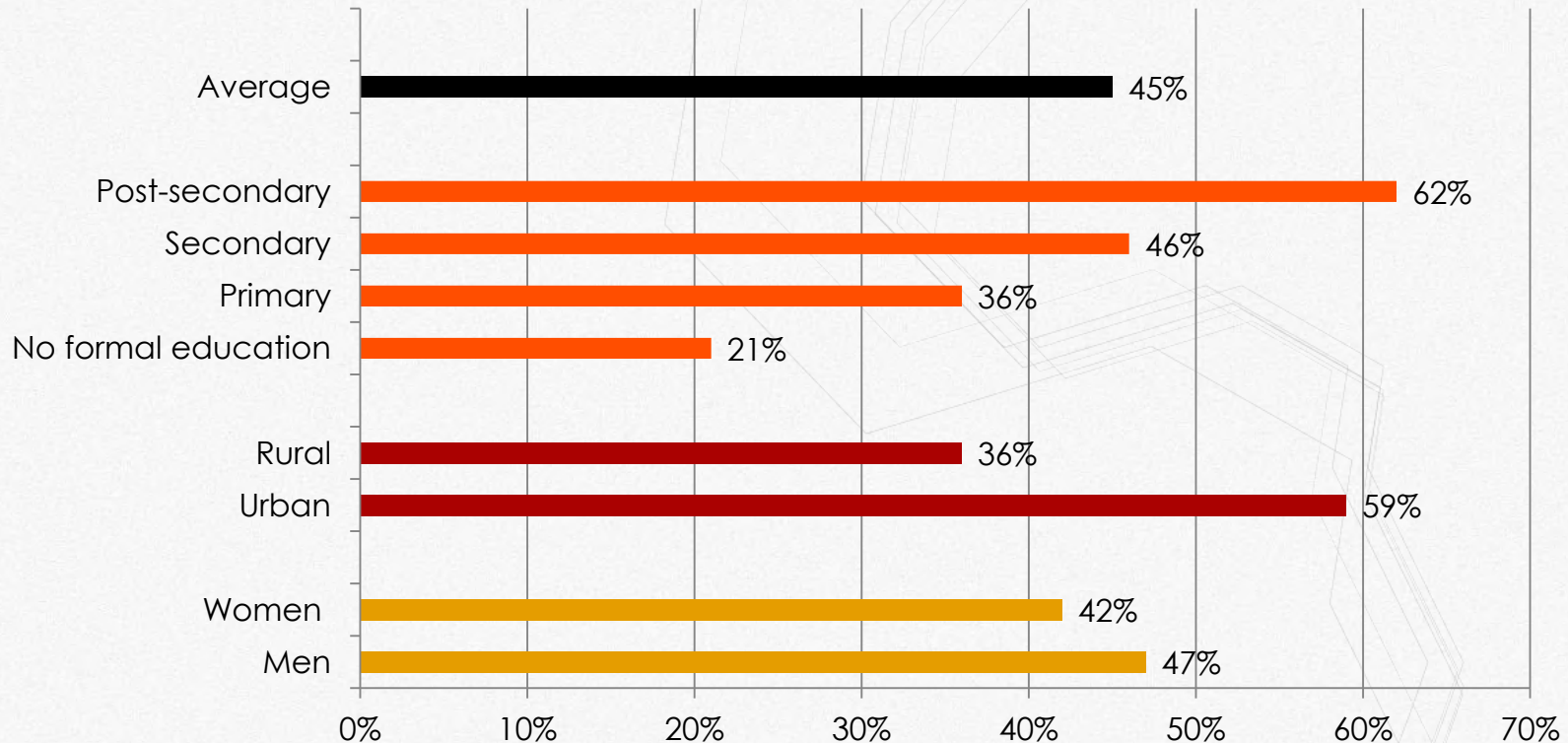
- A plurality of adult Zimbabweans (45%) agree that opposition political parties should work together under a grand coalition in order for them to win the 2018 harmonized elections.
- Support for a grand coalition ahead of 2018 elections is strongest among citizens who have post-secondary education (62%) and live in urban areas (59%). Majorities are supportive in Matabeleland North (52%), Harare (62%) and Bulawayo (64%) provinces.

Support for grand coalition ahead of 2018 harmonised elections | Zimbabwe | 2017



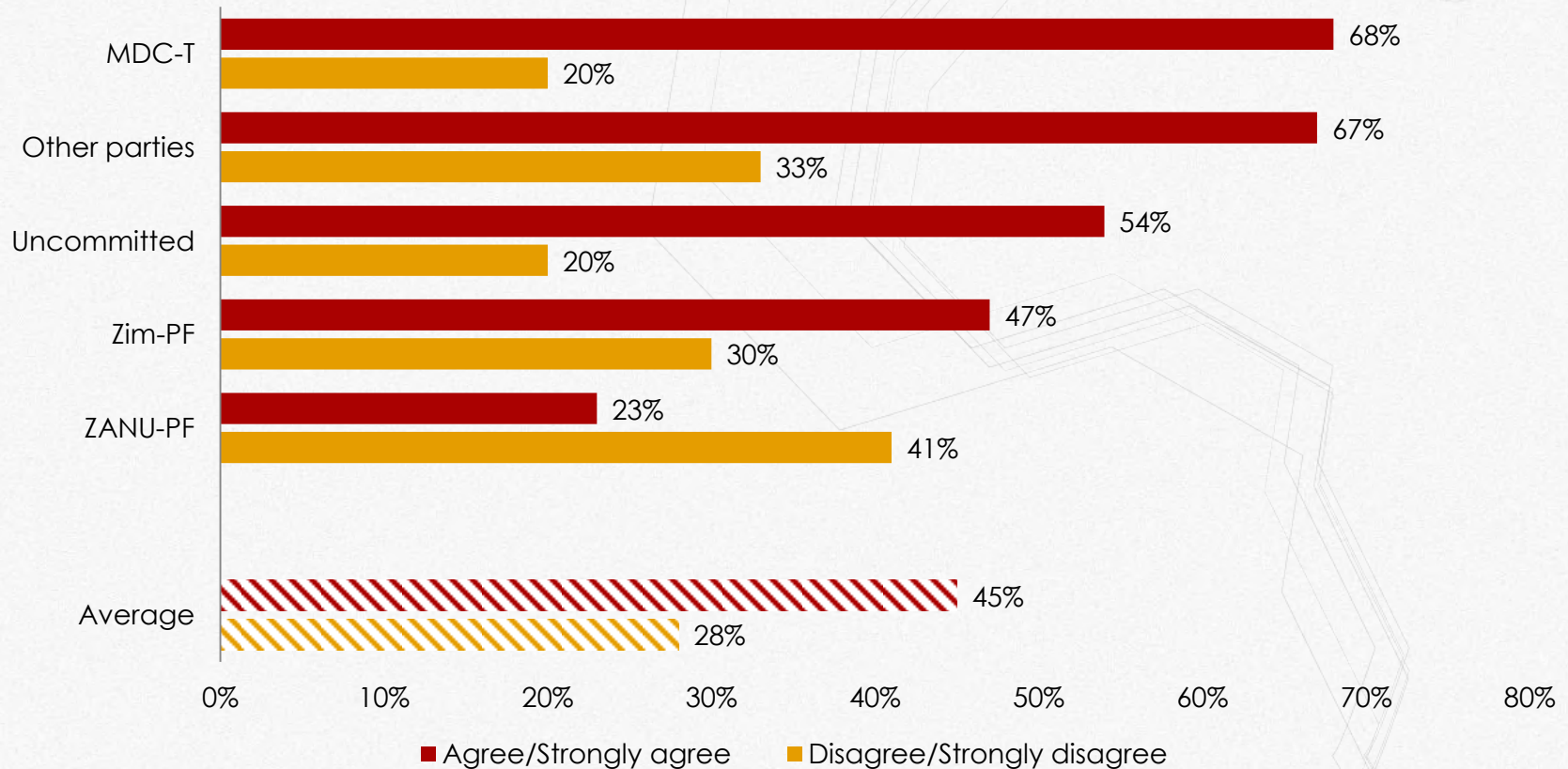
Respondents were asked: *For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree, or haven't you heard enough to say? In order to win the 2018 Presidential election, opposition political parties should work together under a Grand Coalition*

Support for grand coalition ahead of 2018 harmonised elections | by gender, urban-rural location and education | Zimbabwe | 2017



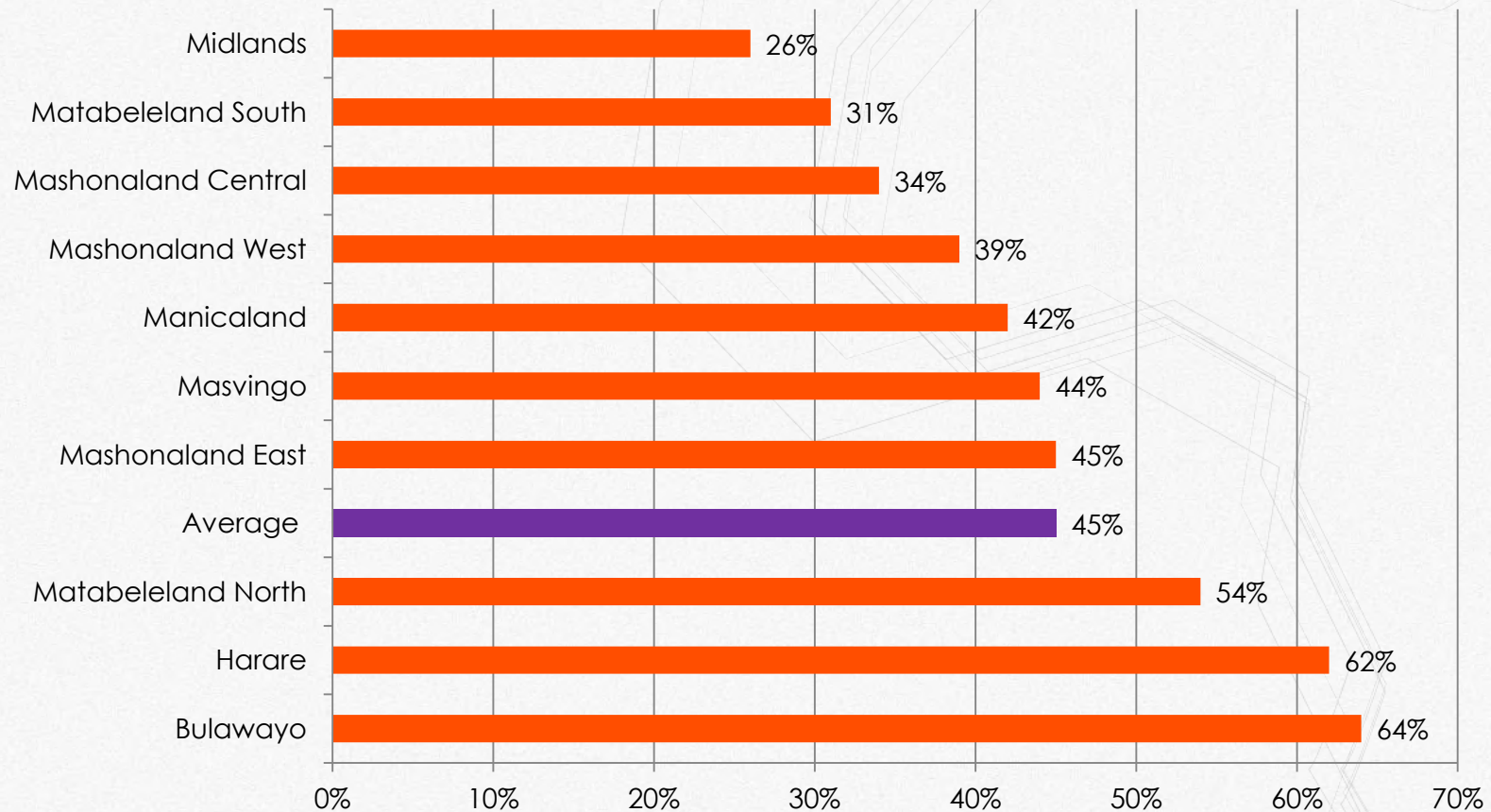
Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree, or haven't you heard enough to say? In order to win the 2018 Presidential election, opposition political parties should work together under a grand coalition

Support for grand coalition ahead of 2018 harmonised elections | by party affiliation | Zimbabwe | 2017



Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree, or haven't you heard enough to say? In order to win the 2018 Presidential election, opposition political parties should work together under a grand coalition

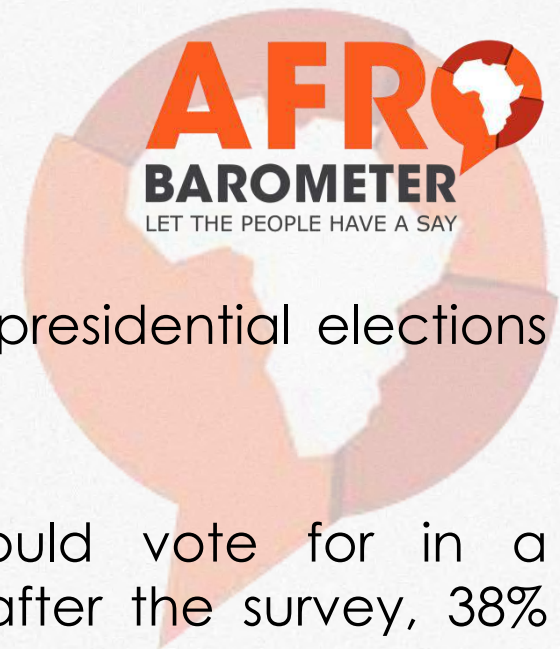
Support for grand coalition | by province | Zimbabwe | 2017



Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree, or haven't you heard enough to say? In order to win the 2018 Presidential election, opposition political parties should work together under a grand coalition

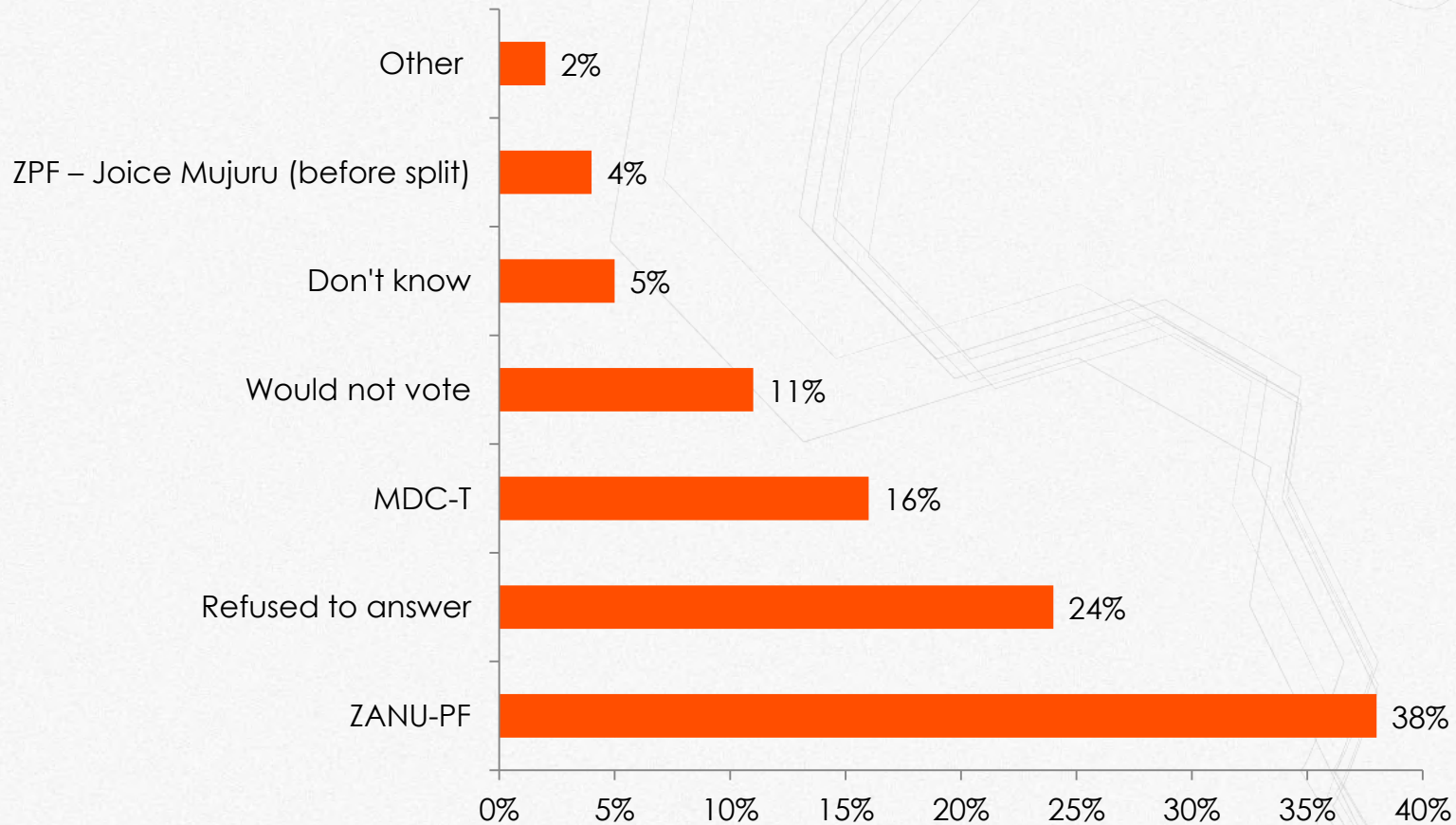
Voting intentions

Key findings



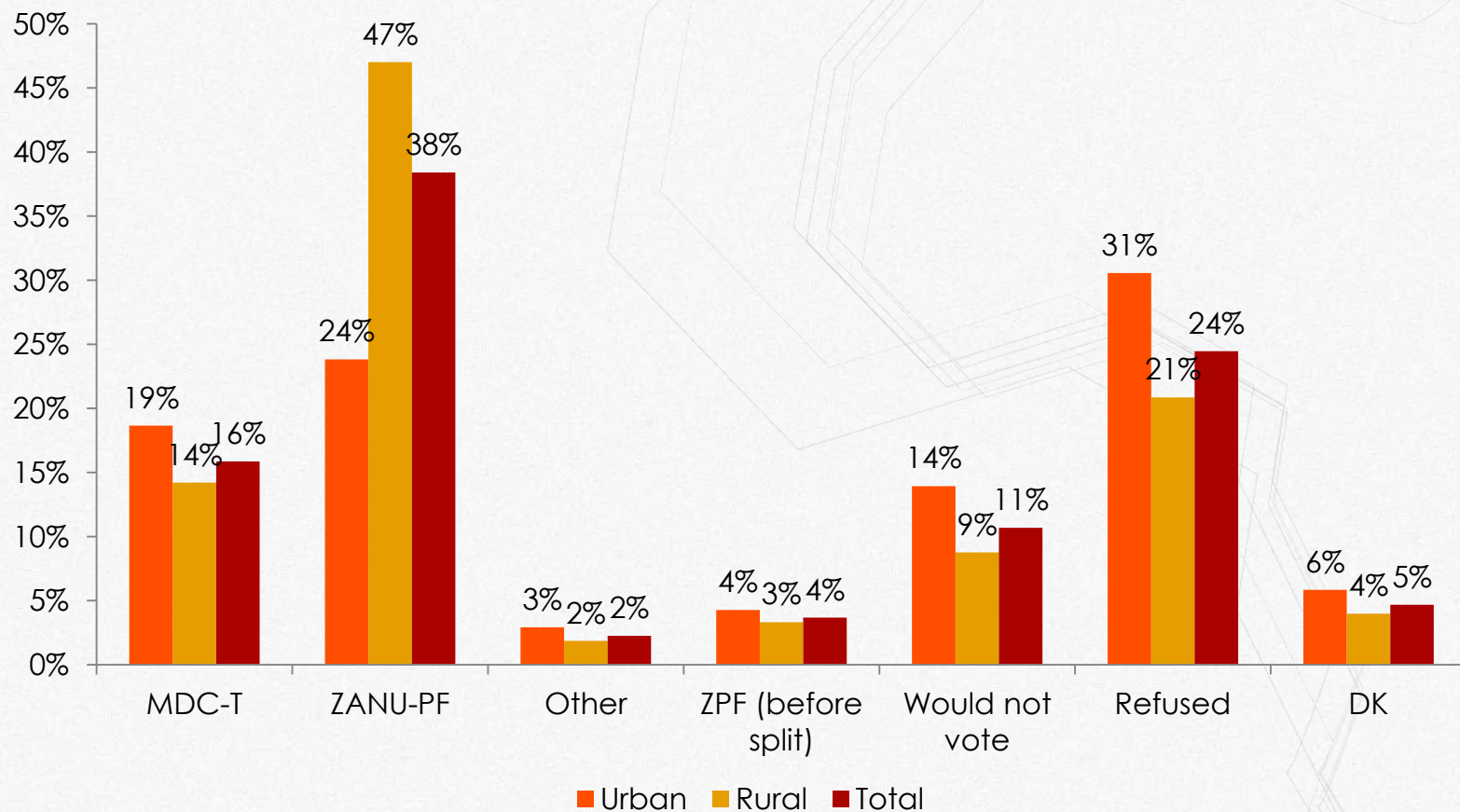
- Survey shows that ZANU-PF has an edge if presidential elections were to be held tomorrow.
- Asked which party's candidate one would vote for in a hypothetical presidential elections, a day after the survey, 38% said ZANU-PF, 24% refused to answer, 16% said MDC-T, 11% said they would not vote and 4% said they would vote for a ZIMPF candidate (before the split) and 2% said they would vote for other parties.
- Survey shows that ZANU-PF still commands support in the rural areas while a plurality (31%) of those who refused to answer are urban based.

Voting intentions | Zimbabwe | 2017



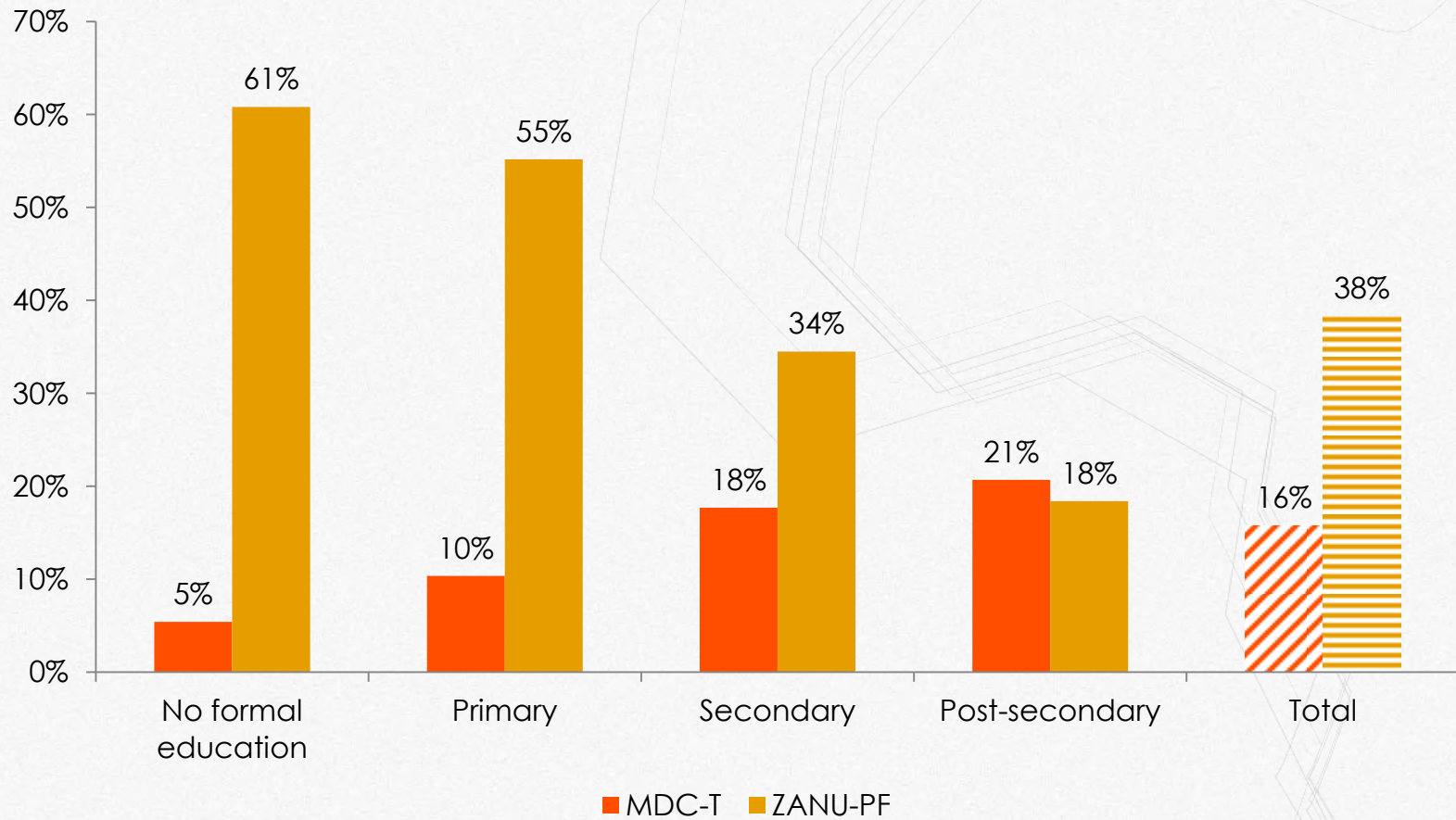
Respondents were asked: *If presidential elections were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you vote for?*

Voting intentions | by urban-rural location | Zimbabwe | 2017



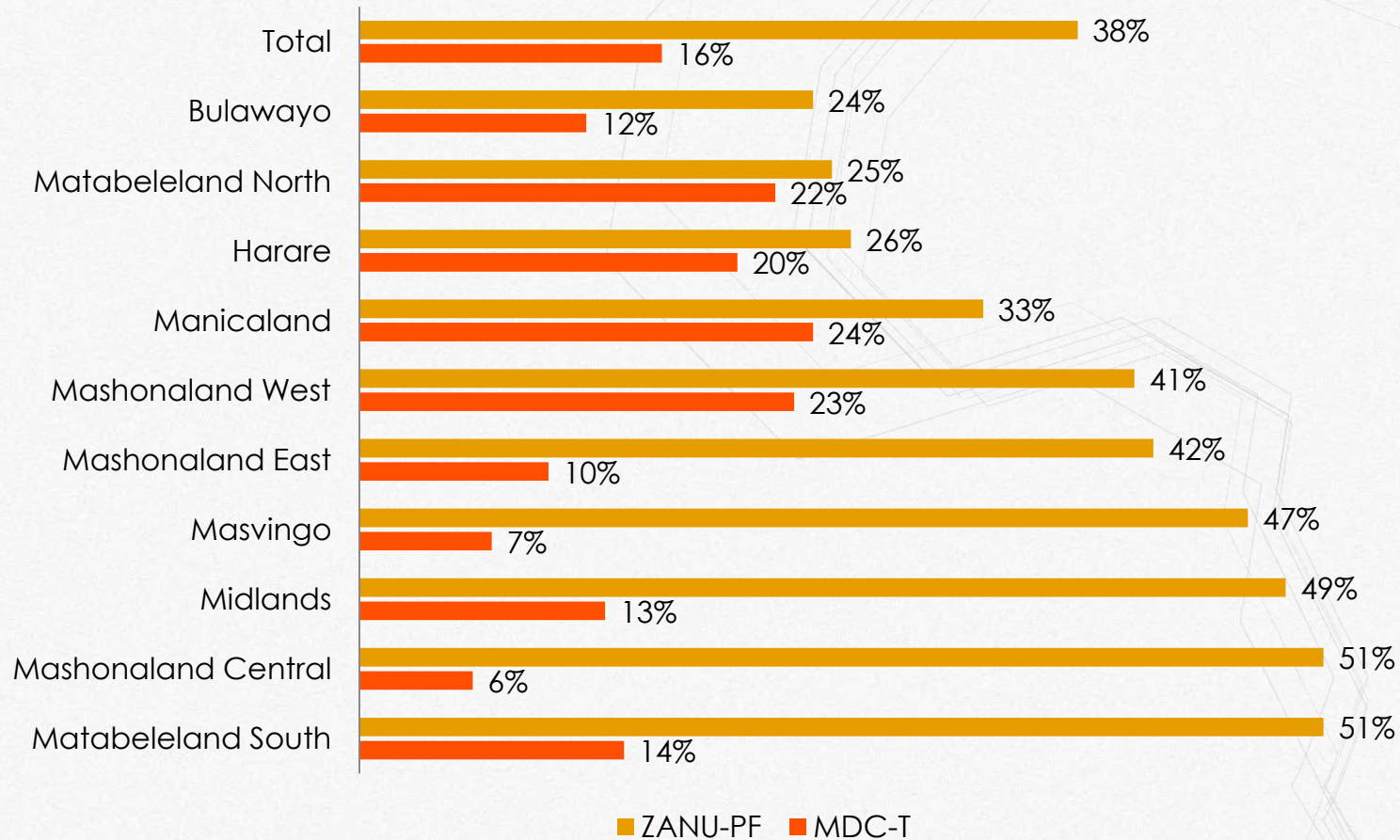
Respondents were asked: If presidential elections were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you vote for?

Voting intentions | by education level | Zimbabwe | 2017



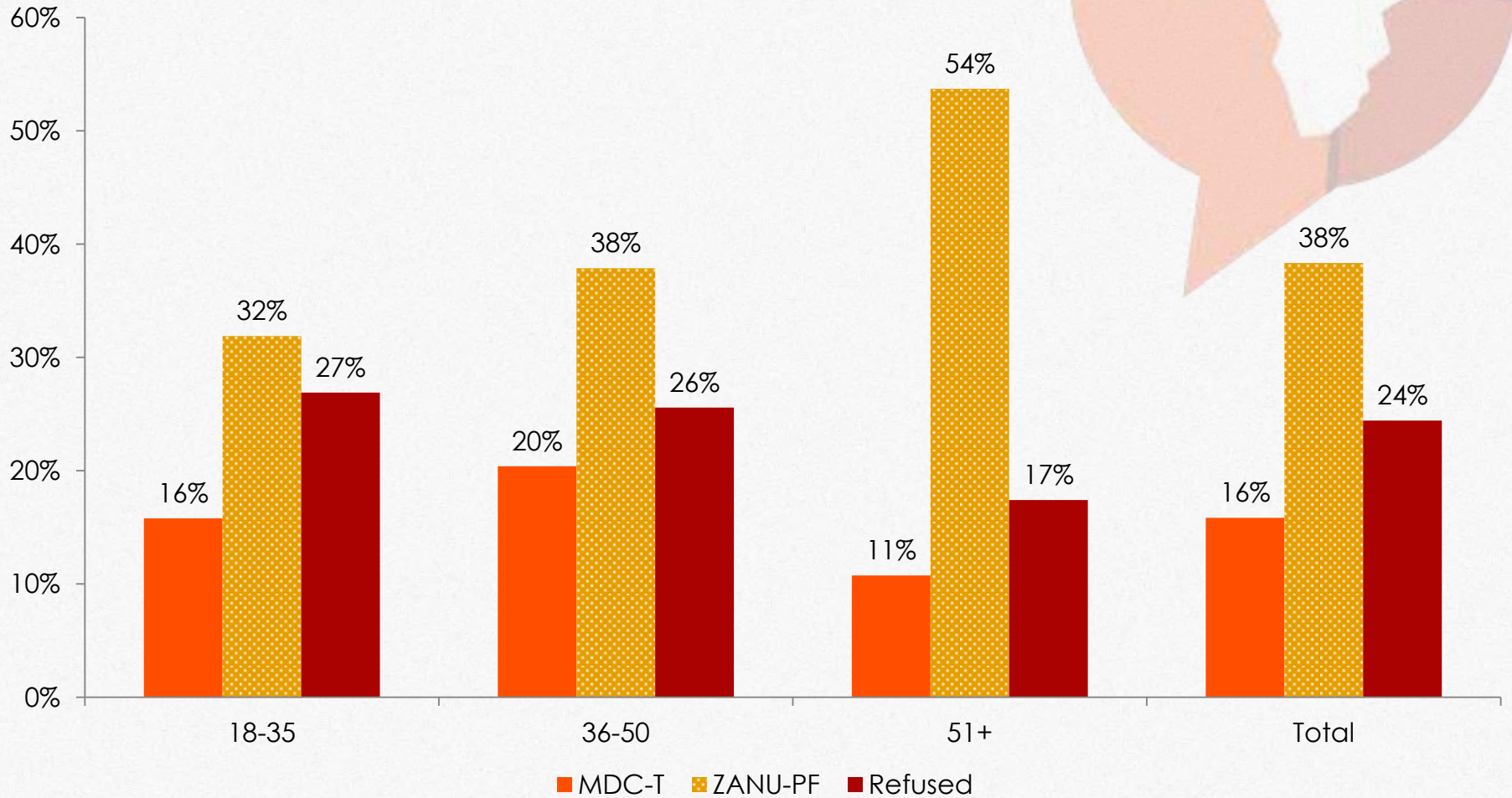
Respondents were asked: *If presidential elections were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you vote for?*

Voting intentions | by province | Zimbabwe | 2017

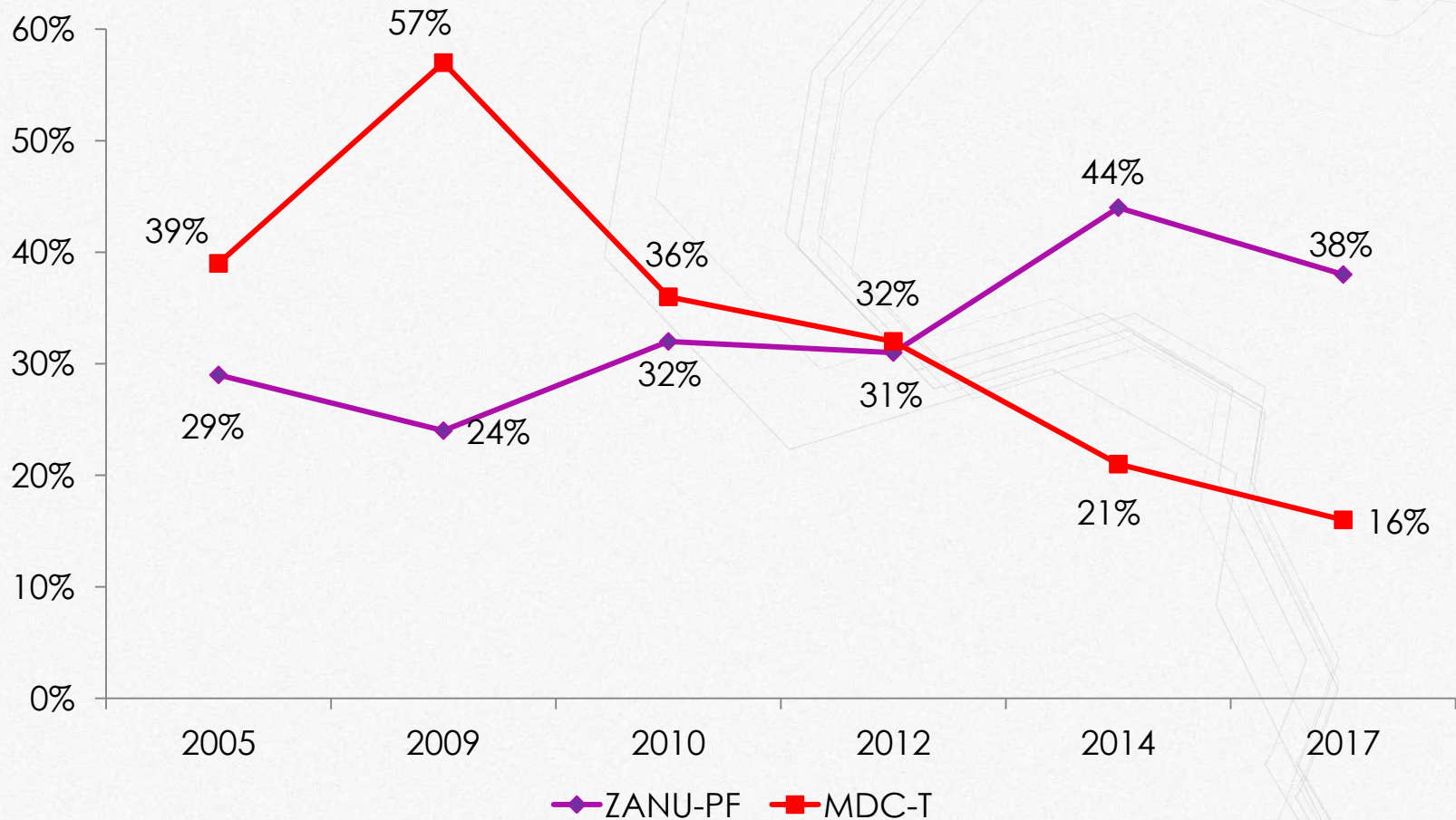


Respondents were asked: If presidential elections were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you vote for?

Voting intentions | by age | Zimbabwe | 2017



Professed voting intentions | Zimbabwe | 2005 - 2017



Respondents were asked: If presidential elections were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you vote for?

Conclusions



- A majority of Zimbabweans view the unemployment problem as a fundamental problem that the government has to deal with.
- President Mugabe continues to get positive ratings from Zimbabweans with more than half saying that they approve of the way he has performed their jobs over the past twelve months.
- Close to half of adult citizens feel that the opposition has a realistic chance of winning next year's presidential elections if they form a grand coalition. Despite this, the ruling ZANU-PF has an edge over the MDC-T and other opposition political parties.

Thank you

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