



Center for Democratic Development  
Accra, Ghana  
28 November 2017

## News release

### Ghanaians call for tough punishment for corrupt public officials

A majority of Ghanaians demand stiff punishment for corrupt public officials, including jail time, restitution of stolen funds, and public shaming, according to a new Afrobarometer survey.

Findings show widespread popular perceptions of corruption in both government and private-sector leadership, with the police and judges most widely seen as corrupt. But public approval of the government's efforts to combat corruption has increased dramatically since 2014, after more than a decade of decline.

These findings provide solid backing for government and reformers seeking to strengthen laws and their enforcement in the fight against corruption. The findings are being released a few weeks after the passing of the Special Prosecutor's Bill, which is expected to help government effectively crack the whip of justice against corrupt public officers, political office holders, and accomplices.

#### Key findings

- Almost two-thirds (64%) of Ghanaians want corrupt officials prosecuted and, if found guilty, forced to return stolen funds, jailed, and publicly named and shamed. About one-fifth (22%) favour government retrieval of stolen funds without prosecution, while one in 10 (9%) would opt for prosecution without retrieval of stolen funds (Figure 1).
- Six in 10 Ghanaians (59%) say "most" or "all" police officials are corrupt, and substantial proportions say the same about judges and magistrates (38%), national government officials (35%), and other public leaders. Perceptions of corruption in the private sector are somewhat lower (Figure 2).
- The proportion of Ghanaians who think the government has performed "very well" or "fairly well" in fighting corruption more than doubled between 2014 and 2017, from 25% to 60%. After more than a decade of declining approval ratings, this puts popular approval near the 2002 high of 63% (Figure 3).

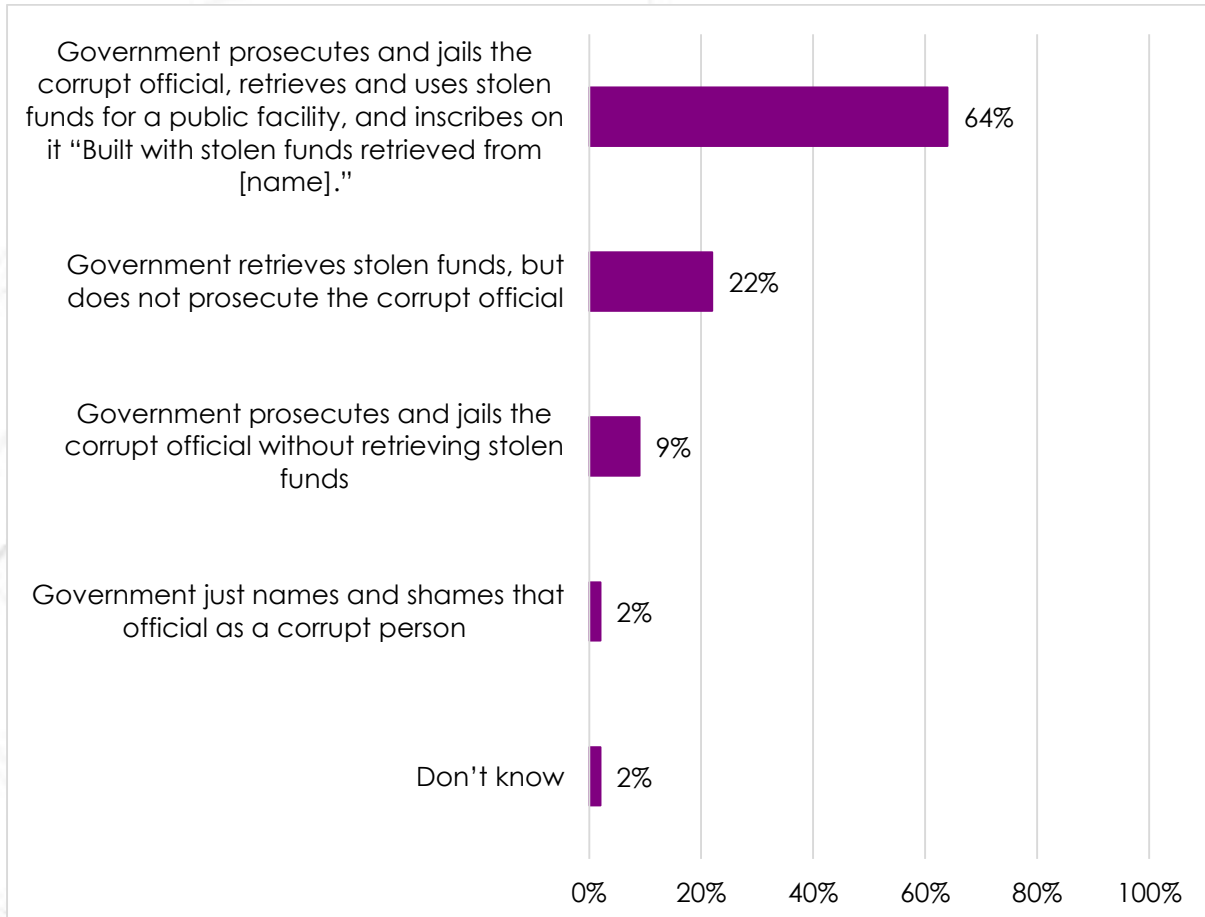
#### Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 35 countries in Africa. Six rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2015, and Round 7 surveys (2016/2018) are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Ghana, led by the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), interviewed 2,400 adult Ghanaians between September 9 and 25, 2017. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Ghana in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, and 2014.

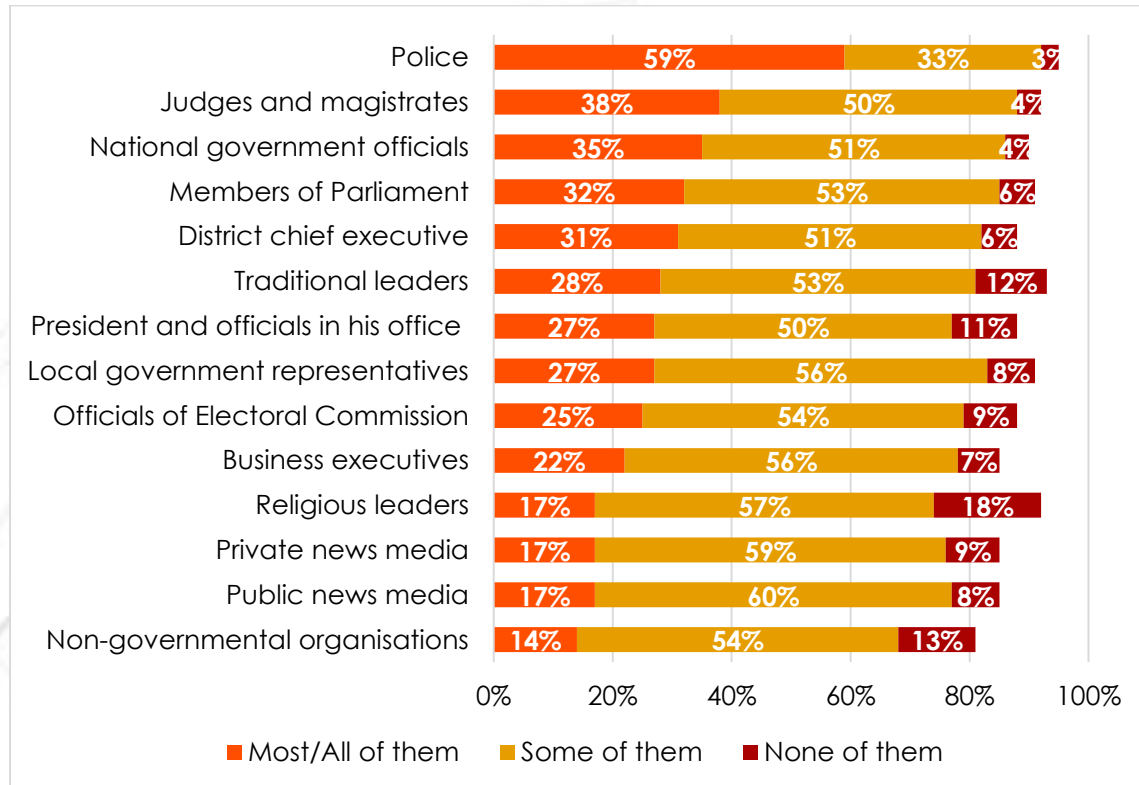
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Appropriate punishment for corrupt officials | Ghana | 2017**



**Respondents were asked:** *There have been different suggestions regarding how best to deal with people who engage in corrupt practices whilst in public office. In your opinion, which of the following would be the most appropriate form of punishment for such individuals?*

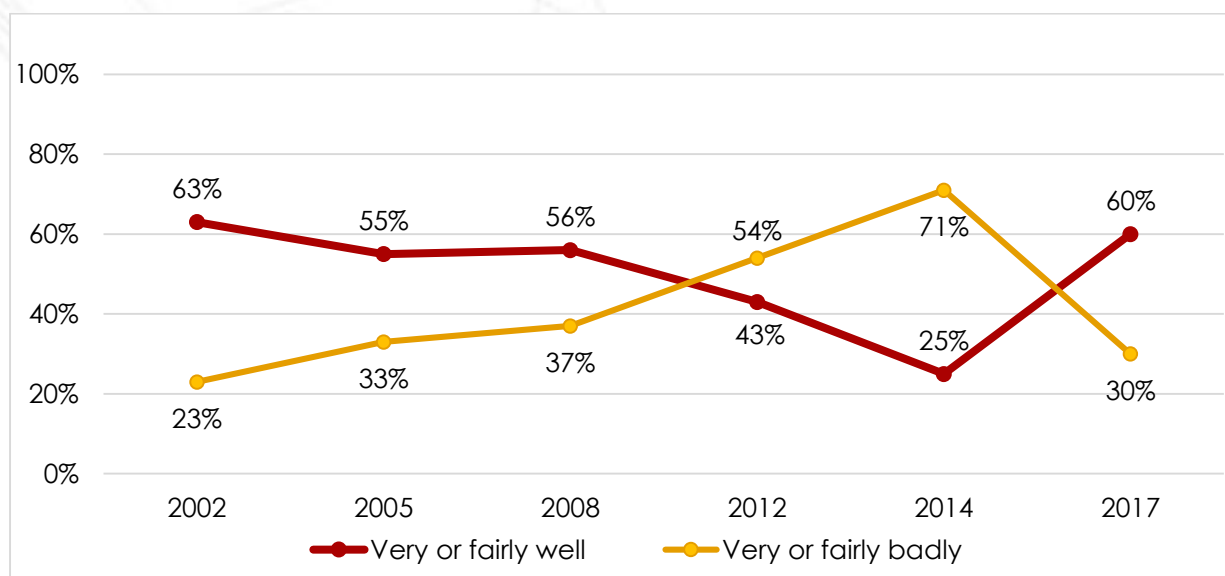
**Figure 2: Perceived corruption in the private and public sectors | Ghana | 2017**



**Respondents were asked:** How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

**Note:** Combining the percentages for "some of them" and "most/all of them" shows large majorities who perceive at least "some" corruption across the board.

**Figure 3: Government's performance in fighting corruption | Ghana | 2002–2017**



**Respondents were asked:** How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: Fighting corruption in government?

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