

The Institute for Development Studies (IDS), in collaboration with Transparency International Kenya, has released the Afrobarometer Round 6 survey findings on corruption in Kenya.

According to the findings released at the Nairobi Safari Club on 14th April 2015, a majority of Kenyans say corruption has increased over the past year and the government has performed poorly in fighting it. The police, government officials, members of Parliament, and business executive are most widely perceived as corrupt.

Although most citizens believe they can make a difference in fighting corruption by refusing to pay bribes and by reporting bribery, a majority of those who said they paid bribes did not report the incidents. The main reasons for non-reporting are fear of consequences and perceived inaction by authorities.

Among the findings, two-thirds (64%) of Kenyans say that the level of corruption in the country has increased somewhat or a lot in the past year. Three-fourths (75%) of respondents say “most” or “all” of the police are corrupt, followed by government officials (46%) and members of Parliament (45%). Among non-state actors, business executives are viewed as the most corrupt (38%).

While seven out of 10 Kenyans (70%) perceive the government as having handled the fight against corruption “fairly badly” or “very badly”, a majority (69%) believe that the same government is better able to fight corruption than the opposition.

More than half (58%) of Kenyans say that ordinary citizens can make a difference in the fight against corruption, and 76 per cent believe in the effectiveness of the media in revealing government mistakes and corruption.

Prof Winnie Mitullah is the Core Partner Project Director for the region while Mr Abel Oyuke is the Core Partner Programme Manager. They are assisted in handling National Partner (NP) tasks by Dr Paul Kamau (IDS) and Dr Adams Oloo and Dr Joshua Kivuva, both from the Political Science Department, University of Nairobi.