

SA youth show little faith in political parties – poll

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JOHANNESBURG: Forty percent of young black people have little or no confidence in the country's political parties, according to a survey released yesterday.

The same was true of more than two-thirds of young people from other races, the study showed.

It was conducted by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) between March and April 2012 among 3 500 South Africans across the nine provinces. Half of this sample population was drawn from the youth.

The young blacks approached for the SA Reconciliation Barometer were under the age of 35.

Overall, 58 percent of young South Africans said they would consider supporting a political party different to that preferred by most of their friends and family.

The study found that 49 percent of all South Africans doubted that national leaders were concerned with the views of ordinary people.

“Not only young South Africans, but adults, really believe that political leaders are not responsive to their views, and they have no power to change the opinions of what happens in government,” said IJR researcher Kate Lefko-Everett.

About 44 percent said they had witnessed corruption in their own communities, and more than one in three believed the government was not doing enough to fight it.

The study showed that 70.5 percent of black youth had confidence in the presidency while only 40 percent of their white counterparts, 18 percent of Indian youth and 31.4 percent of coloured youth did so.

All sectors had confidence in the Constitutional Court, with 69.4 percent giving it the thumbs-up.

Economic inequality was seen as the main dividing factor among South Africans by 25.4 percent.

Of the sample, 47.7 percent believed their economic situation could improve in the next two years but 46.1 percent also believed they were likely to be unemployed in the next year.