

SURVEY

Kenyans divided on citizenship for refugees

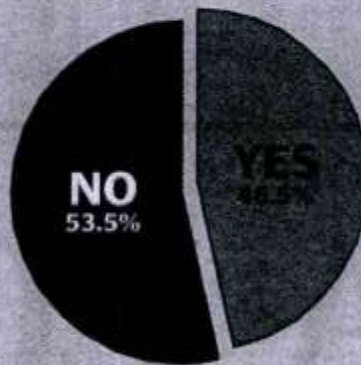
Kenyans are divided on whether the government should grant citizenship to children born to refugees in Kenya, a survey commissioned by the *Sunday Nation* reveals.

In the survey, 53.5% of the respondents opposed the idea, compared to 46.5% who felt the children are entitled to residency status.

Among respondents who opposed the proposal, 15.3% said the plan would cause an influx of refugees, while another 11.9% said they would be a burden to the government which would have to maintain them. Another 9.1% said the children would be competing with Kenyans for scarce resources while 7.4% said their parents are not Kenyans.

Among respondents who felt the proposal was timely, 48.3% said the children are citizens by virtue of birth and 14.5% said they have no other place to call home. With a sample size of 1,902, the face-to-face survey was conducted by the NMG Research Department in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru, Eldoret, Nyeri and Meru.

Do you support the government's plan to grant citizenship to children born to refugees in Kenya?



	Yes	No
Total	46.5%	53.5%
Gender		
Male	44.8%	55.2%
Female	49.4%	50.6%
Age		
18-24	52.1%	47.9%
25-29	43.9%	56.1%
30-34	41.0%	59.0%
35-39	47.2%	52.8%
40-44	37.5%	62.5%
45-49	25.0%	75.0%
50+	45.0%	55.0%
Social Class		
AB	46.1%	53.9%
C1C2	49.6%	50.4%
DE	44.1%	55.9%

What do you think? Join the debate by SMSing your comments on this story to 6667 beginning with the letters 'SN'. A sampling of your views will be published in the 'Sunday Nation' next week and an even wider selection posted on the Nation website. You can also participate by sending an email to myview@nation.co.ke. Please indicate your name and location.