

4 December 2013
Ezulwini, Swaziland

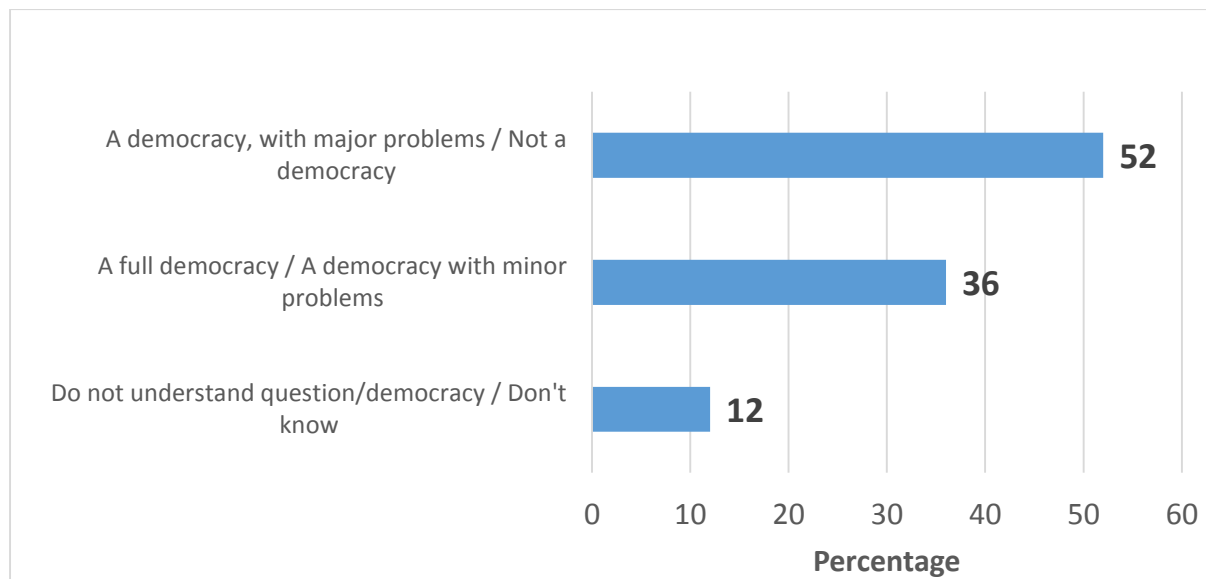
PRESS RELEASE

One In Two Swazis Believe Swaziland is not Democratic

One in two Swazis (52%) felt that Swaziland is not a democracy or is a democracy with major problems, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey completed in June 2013. Only 36% of Swazis endorsed Swaziland’s democracy with 12% stating they did not understand democracy or did not know as illustrated on Figure 1.

When disaggregated by age 59% of those aged 18-30 and 53% of those aged 31-50 questioned Swaziland’s democracy whilst only 36% of Swazis aged 50years and above did. Analyzed along gender lines, the survey reveal that 59% of men felt Swaziland is not democratic, or is a democracy with major problems, compared to 49% their female counterparts. Further, close to two thirds (63%) of urban population questioned the state of democracy in Swaziland against 49% rural residences. However, the results show no significant difference across the different four provinces in the country.

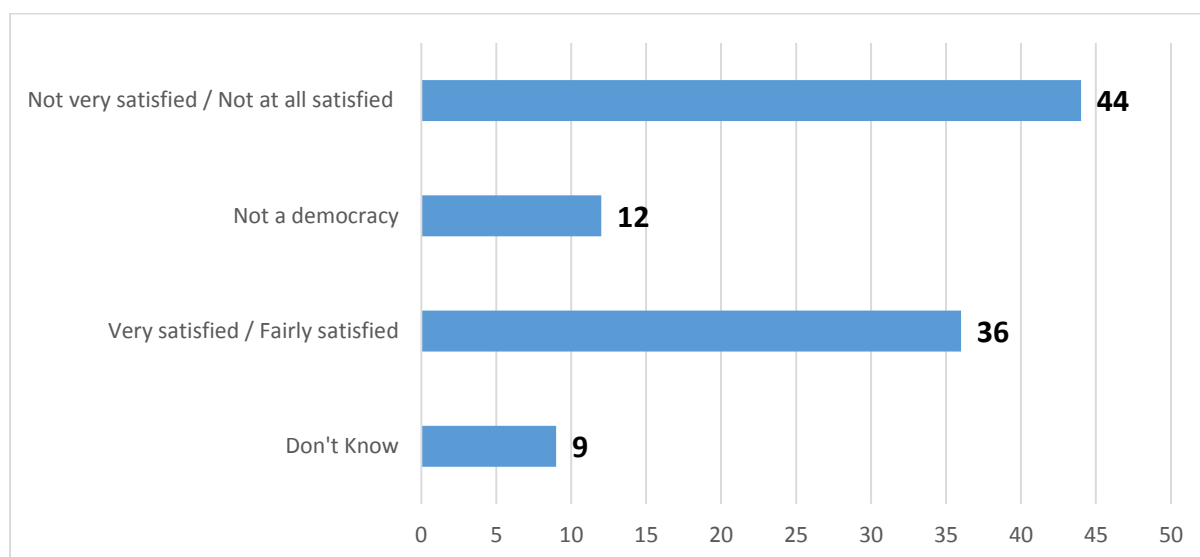
Figure 1: The extent of Democracy in Swaziland



Participants were asked: *In your opinion how much of a democracy is Swaziland today?*

The study further probed citizen’s satisfaction with the way in which democracy works in Swaziland, as illustrated by Figure 2 below. Pluralities, 44% of respondents were not satisfied with how democracy works in the country against 36% who were satisfied.

Figure 2: Satisfaction with Democracy



Participants were asked: Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Swaziland?" (% who chose each option)

Majority of youth aged 18-30years (53%) are least satisfied with the way democracy works in Swaziland as compared to the older generations: 42% middle aged (31-50years) and 30% old aged (50+), table 1. Further, more urban residences (47%) are dissatisfied with democracy in Swaziland as compared to 43% rural residence. A reflection on gender lines shows more males (48%) least satisfied with Swaziland's democracy, against four in ten females.

Table 1: Satisfaction with Democracy by Key Demographics

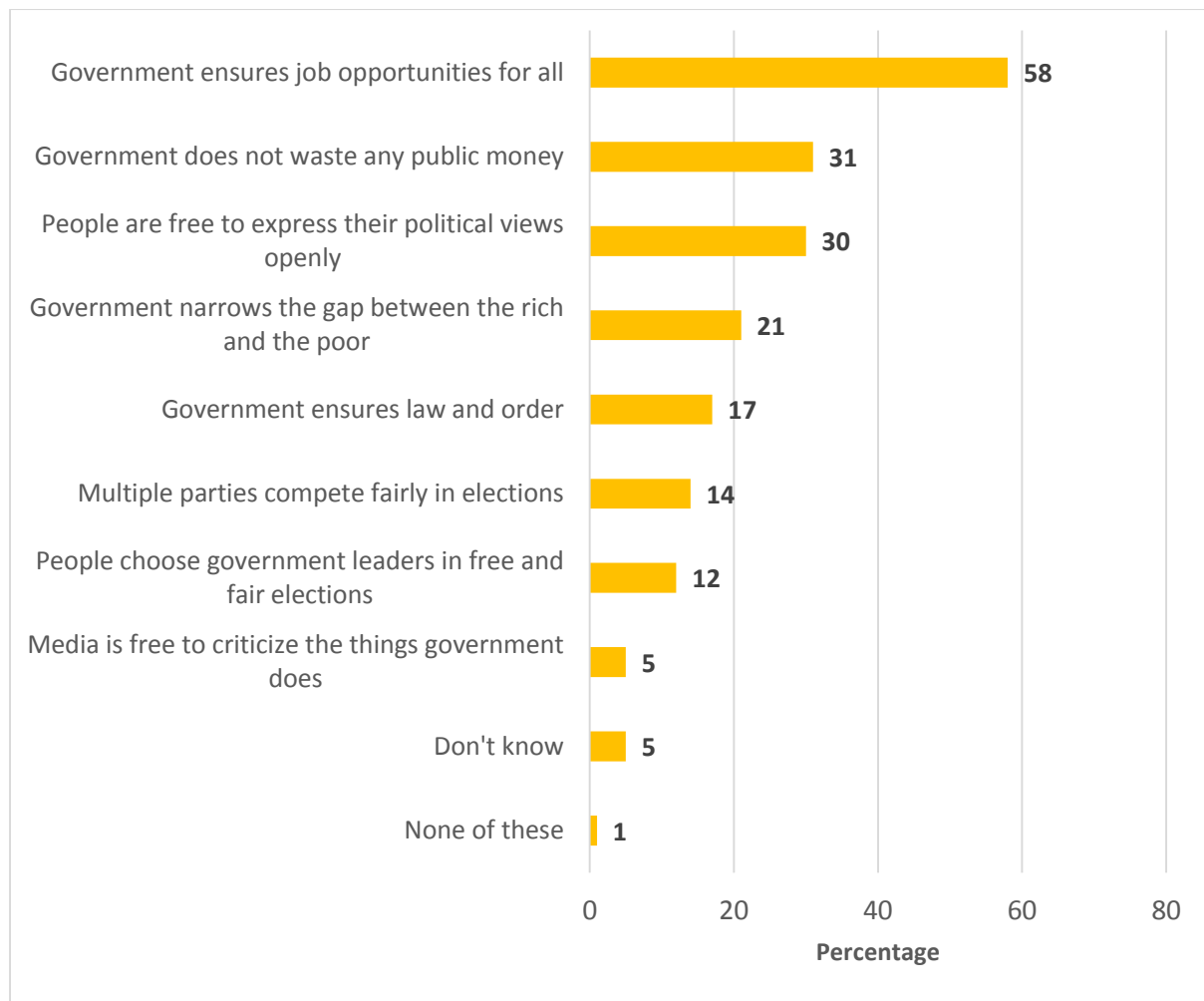
		Swaziland is not a democracy	Not at all satisfied / Not very satisfied	Fairly satisfied / Very Satisfied	Don't Know
Age	18-30	12	53	30	5
	31-50	13	42	37	8
	Over 50	11	30	44	15
Province or region	Hhohho	14	37	44	5
	Manzini	11	46	33	10
	Shiselweni	10	48	32	10
	Lubombo	11	46	32	11
Urban or Rural Primary Sampling Unit	Urban	15	47	31	8
	Rural	11	43	37	9
Gender	Male	13	48	34	5
	Female	11	40	37	13

Participants were asked: Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Swaziland?" (% who chose each option)

To further explore the question of democracy, we ask Swazis to highlight the essential characteristics of democracy. A clear majority (58%) single out job creation as one important aspect, whilst a third (31%) mention government's accountability to public funds and almost a similar proportion (30%)

highlight freedom of expression of political views, Figure 4. Also clearly visible is a quarter of Swazis who report a fair distribution of national resources as a key element of democracy.

Figure 3: Essential characteristics of democracy



Participants were asked: Many things may be desirable, but not all of them are essential characteristics of democracy. If you have to choose only one of the things that I am going to read, which one would you choose as the most essential characteristic of democracy?"

AFROBAROMETER

Afrobarometer conducted public attitude surveys, covering up to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013). It measures public opinions on democracy and its alternatives, and evaluations of the quality of governance and economic performance. In addition, the survey assesses the views of the electorate on critical political issues in the surveyed countries. The Afrobarometer also provides comparisons over time, as four rounds of surveys have been held from 1999 to 2008 and Round 5 is currently underway.

In Swaziland, Afrobarometer work is coordinated by the research team of activQuest (Pty) Ltd. a research consultancy based at the Gables in Ezulwini. The Round 5 fieldwork was conducted in Swaziland from the 22nd of May to the 4th of June 2013. 1,200 adult Swazi's were interviewed by the survey and this sample size yields results with a margin error of +/- 3% at a 95% confidence level.

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