



# 2014 Elections, the Constitution, and Democracy in Namibia

Results from the Round 6 Afrobarometer Survey in Namibia



Institute for **Public Policy** Research

# At a glance



- **Voter preferences:** Namibians endorse continuity in voter preferences and parties, with stronger voter engagement as elections approach. SWAPO continues to dominate.
- **Tolerance for opposition:** Namibians express greater tolerance for opposition parties with new leadership.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional amendment:** The amendment process was handled poorly, according to a large majority (59%), including a 55% majority of SWAPO supporters.
- **Support for democracy:** Democratic values seem to be strengthening.



# What is Afrobarometer?



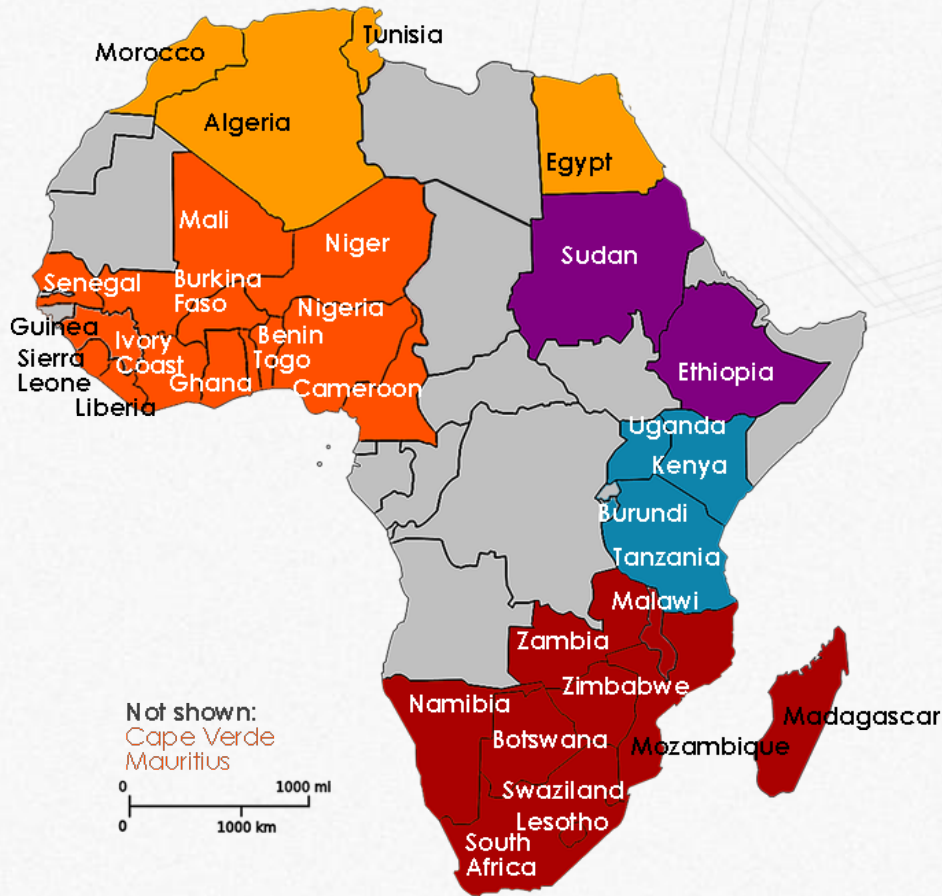
- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999, expanded to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013).
- Goal: To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- National Partners in each country conduct the survey. In Namibia, Afrobarometer Round 6 survey was conducted by the Institute for Public Policy Research and Survey Warehouse.



# Where Afrobarometer works

Face-to-Face Interviews | 35 Countries

Surveys by state, region



# Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
  - ❑ Sample is distributed across regions and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
  - ❑ Every adult citizen has an *equal* chance of being selected.
- Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in Namibia of 1,200 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/- 3% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 6 in Namibia was conducted by Survey Warehouse between 27 August and 19 September 2014.





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**BAROMETER**  
LET THE PEOPLE HAVE A SAY

# NAMIBIA RESULTS 2014



Institute for **Public Policy Research**

**Release #1 : The  
2014 Elections, the  
Constitution, and  
Democracy in  
Namibia**



**Institute for Public Policy Research**



[WWW.AFROBAROMETER.ORG](http://WWW.AFROBAROMETER.ORG)



# Political parties and voting preferences



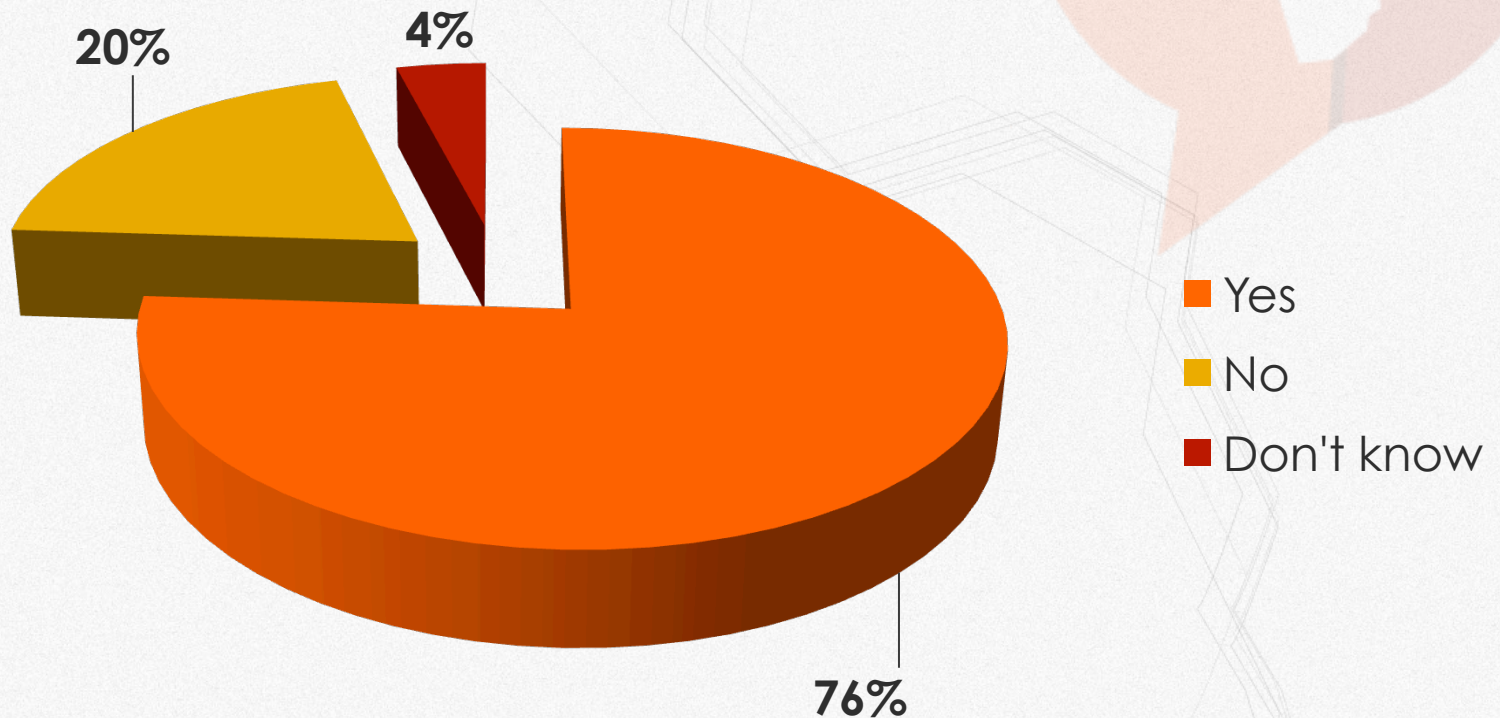


# Key findings

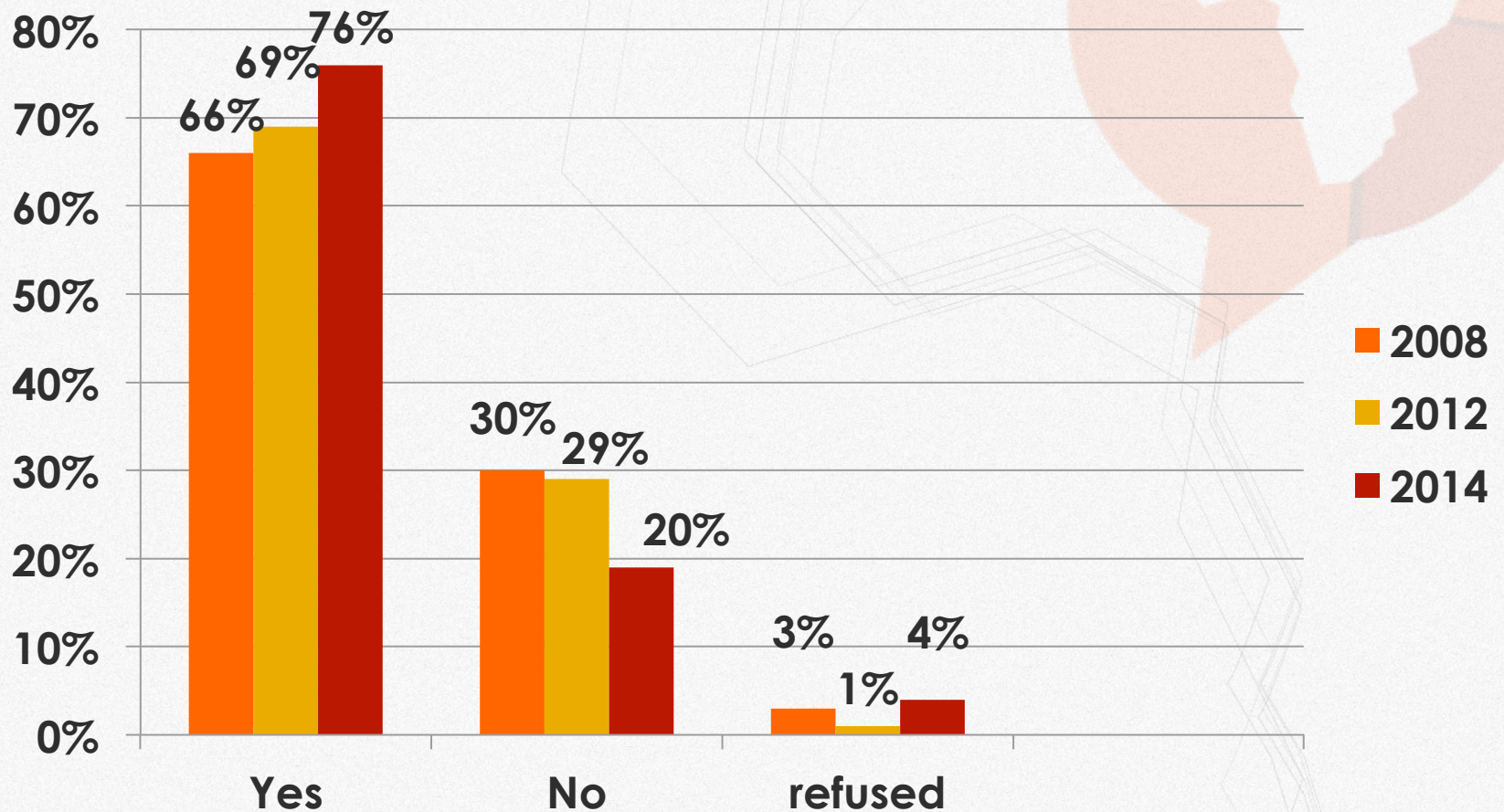
- Three-fourths of Namibians say they feel close to a particular political party. Party affiliation has grown stronger since 2008 (up 10% to 76%) and is stronger in rural areas (82%) than in urban areas (70%).
- SWAPO has increased its support by 4% since 2012 and would handily win a presidential election today. Opposition parties survive at smaller levels of support.
- Trust for the ruling party is strong at 72% “somewhat or a lot”, but responses may also reflect growing tolerance for opposition parties.

# Voter closeness to a political party 2014

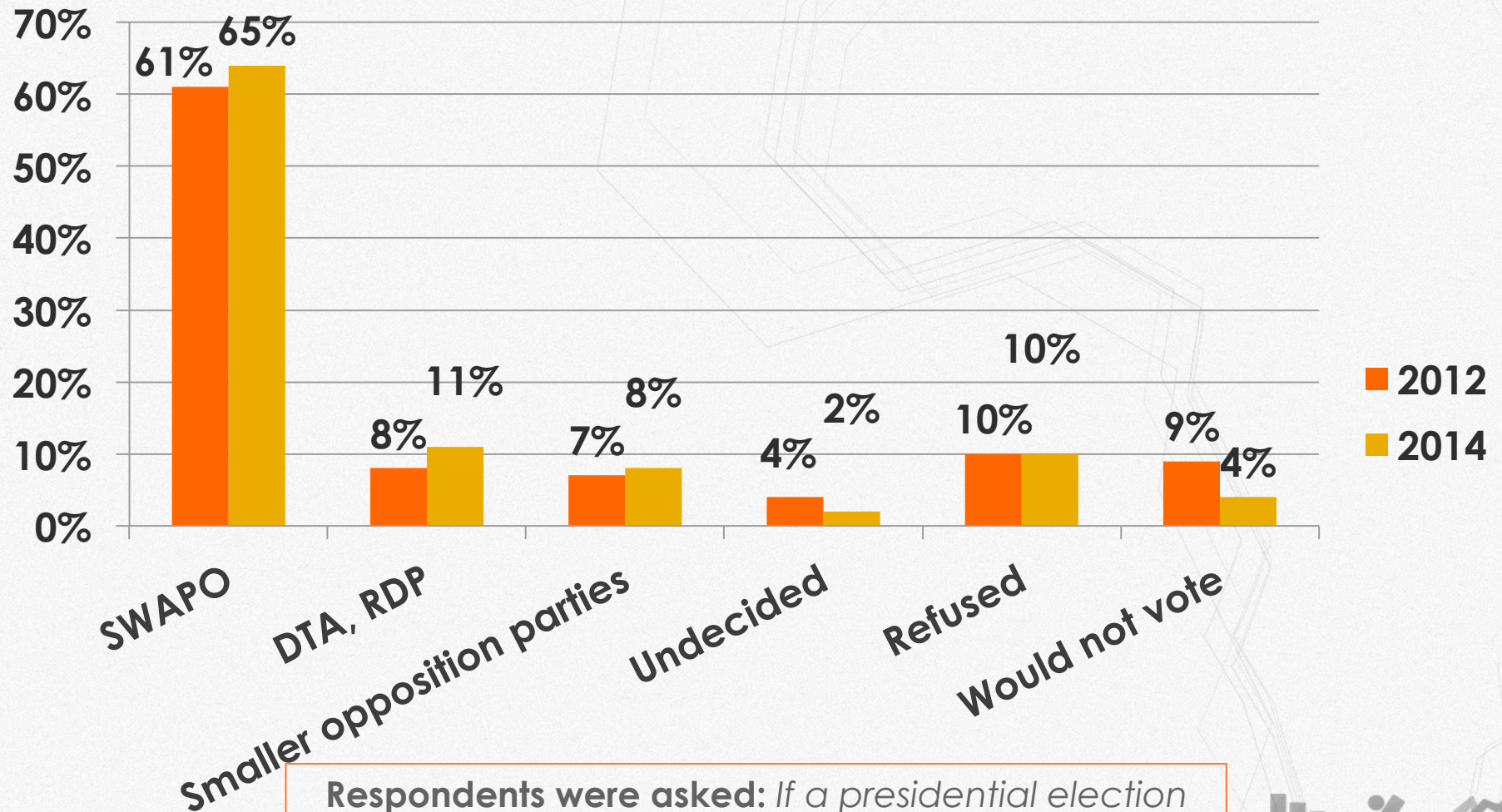
**Q: Do you feel close to any particular political party?**



# Closeness to a political party: Trend 2008-2014

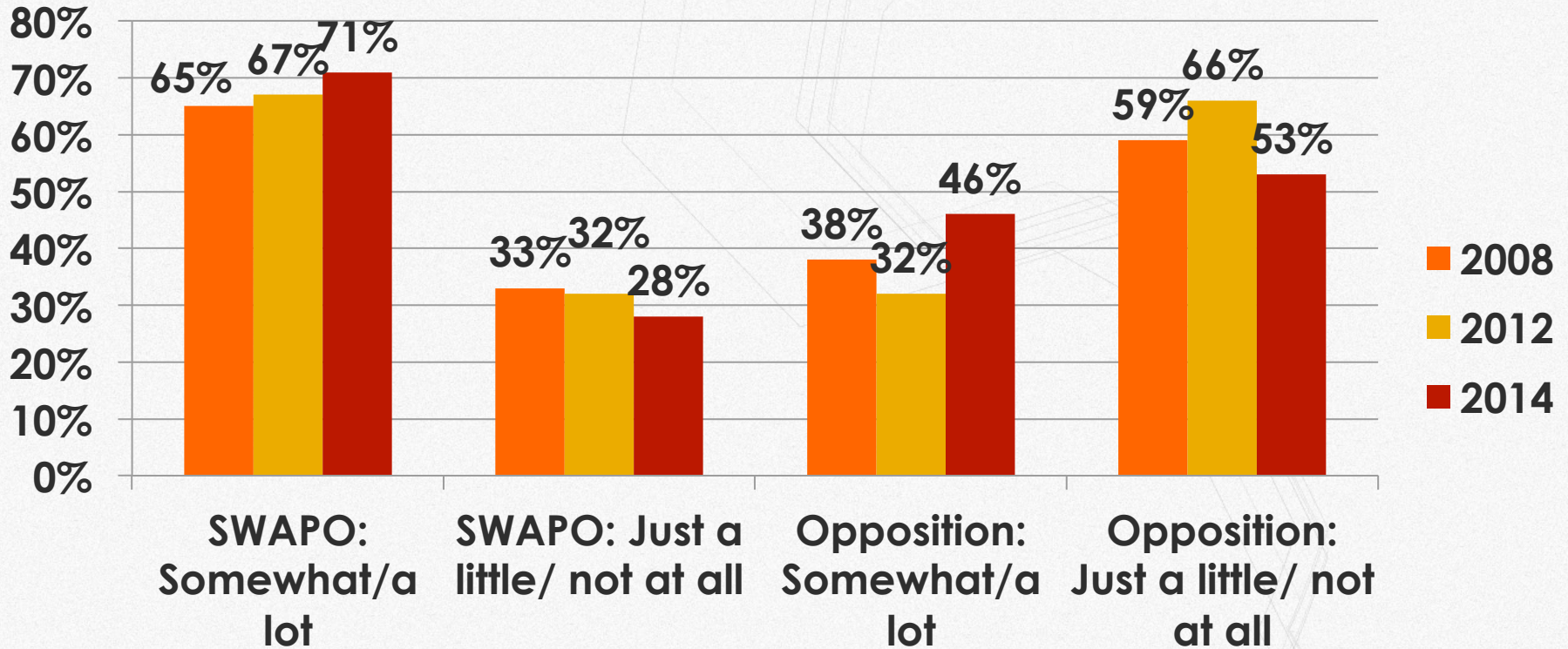


# Vote for which party (2012, 2014)



**Respondents were asked:** *If a presidential election were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you vote for?*

Ruling party trusted:  
tolerance for opposition parties may be increasing



**Respondents were asked:** *How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough to say: the ruling party? the opposition political parties?*





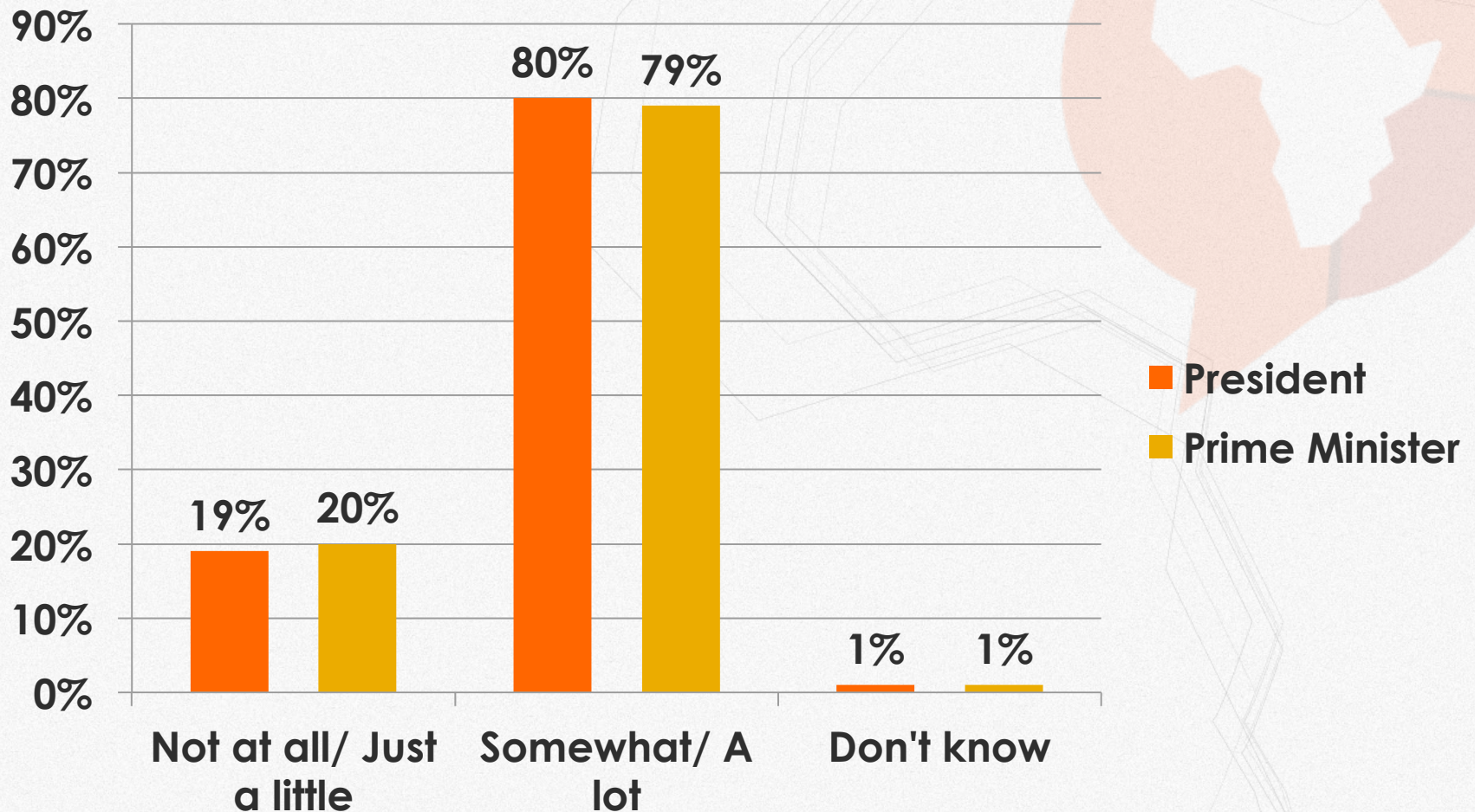
# Executive leadership: Trust and Performance

# Key findings

- Trust in the president and prime minister is strong in 2014 at around 80% positive.
- Performance approval ratings are high (88-89%) for both the president and the prime minister.
- Namibian leaders have been near the top ranking in prior Afrobarometer surveys going back to 1999. This trend of strong institutional support from respondents continues in 2014.



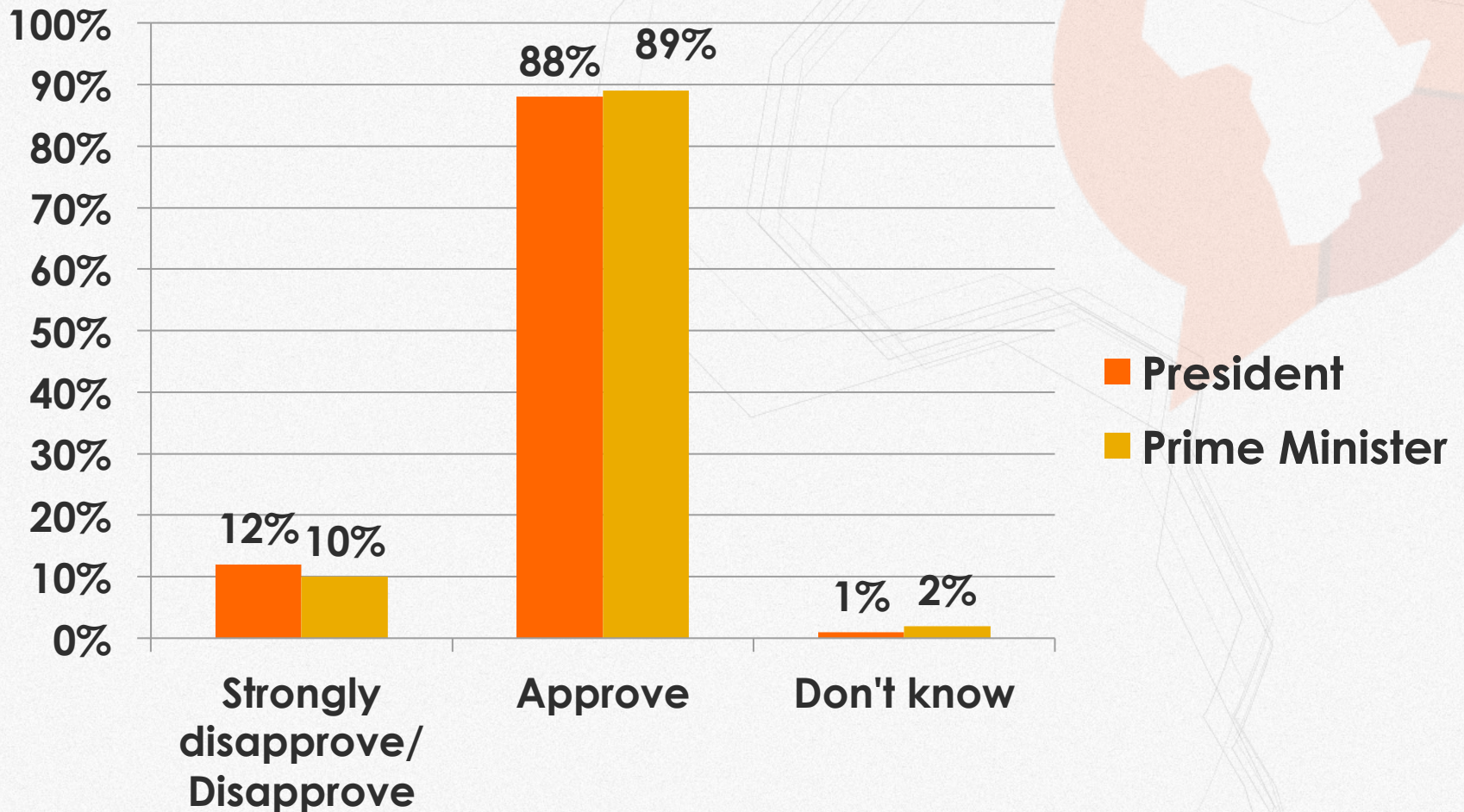
# Trust in the President and Prime Minister 2014



**Respondents were asked:** *How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough to say: the President; the Prime Minister?*

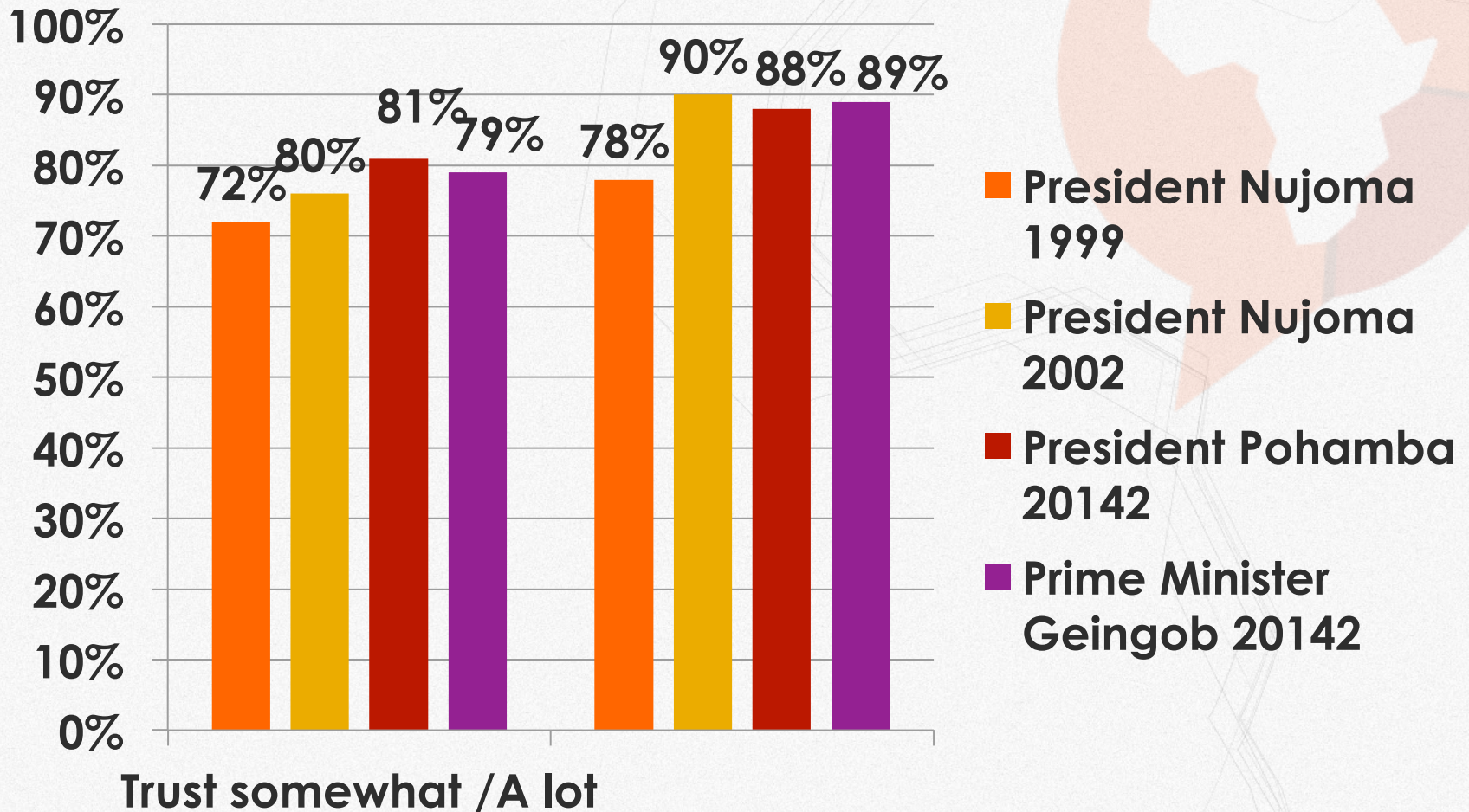


# Performance of the President and Prime Minister 2014



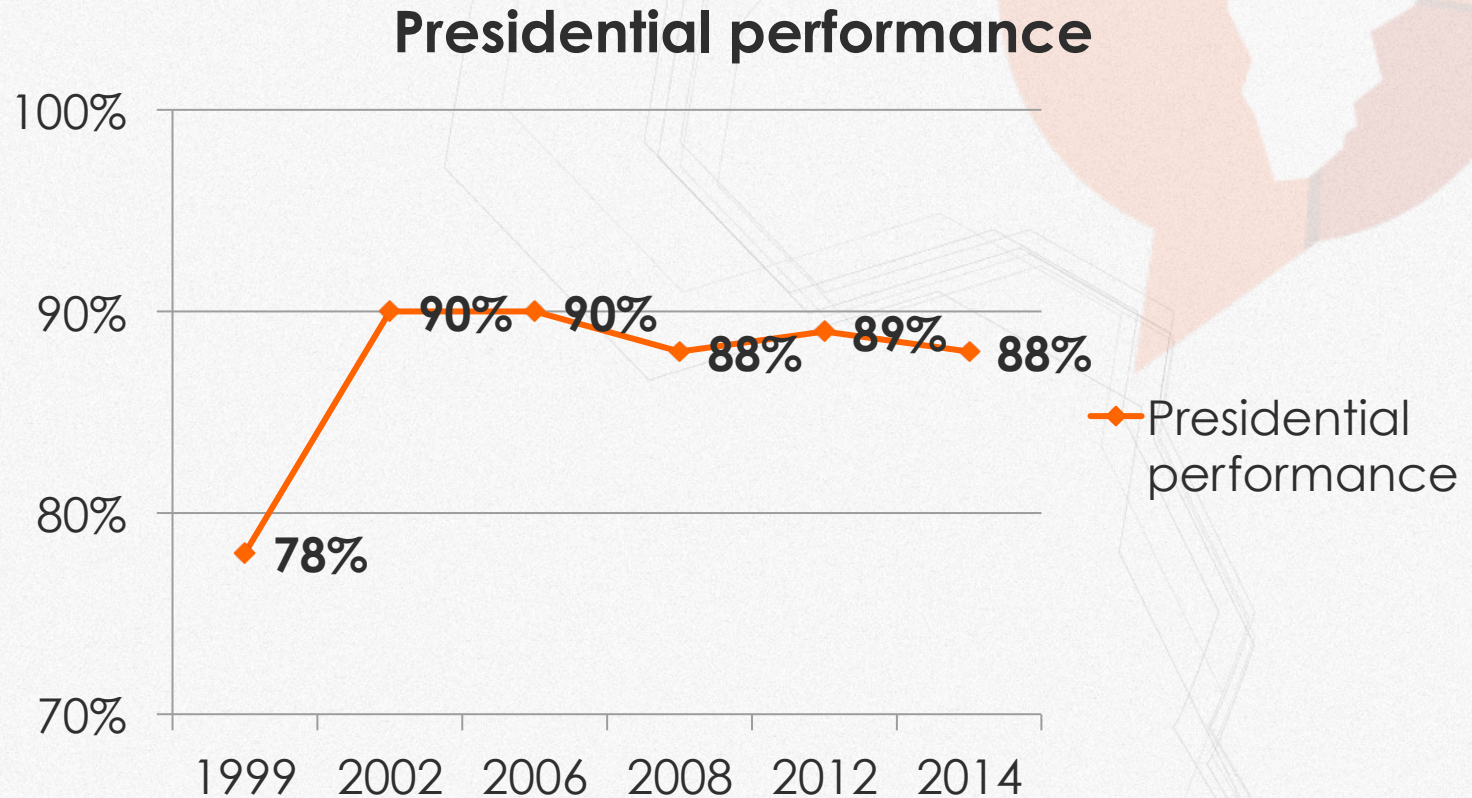
**Respondents were asked:** Do you approve or disapprove of the way the following people have performed their jobs over the past 12 months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: President Hifikipunye Pohamba; Prime Minister Hage Geingob?

## Trust and Performance Trends



Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough to say: the President; the Prime Minister?

# Presidential Performance Trend



*Do you approve or disapprove of the way the following people have performed their jobs over the past 12 months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: President Hifikipunye Pohamba; President Sam Nujoma.*



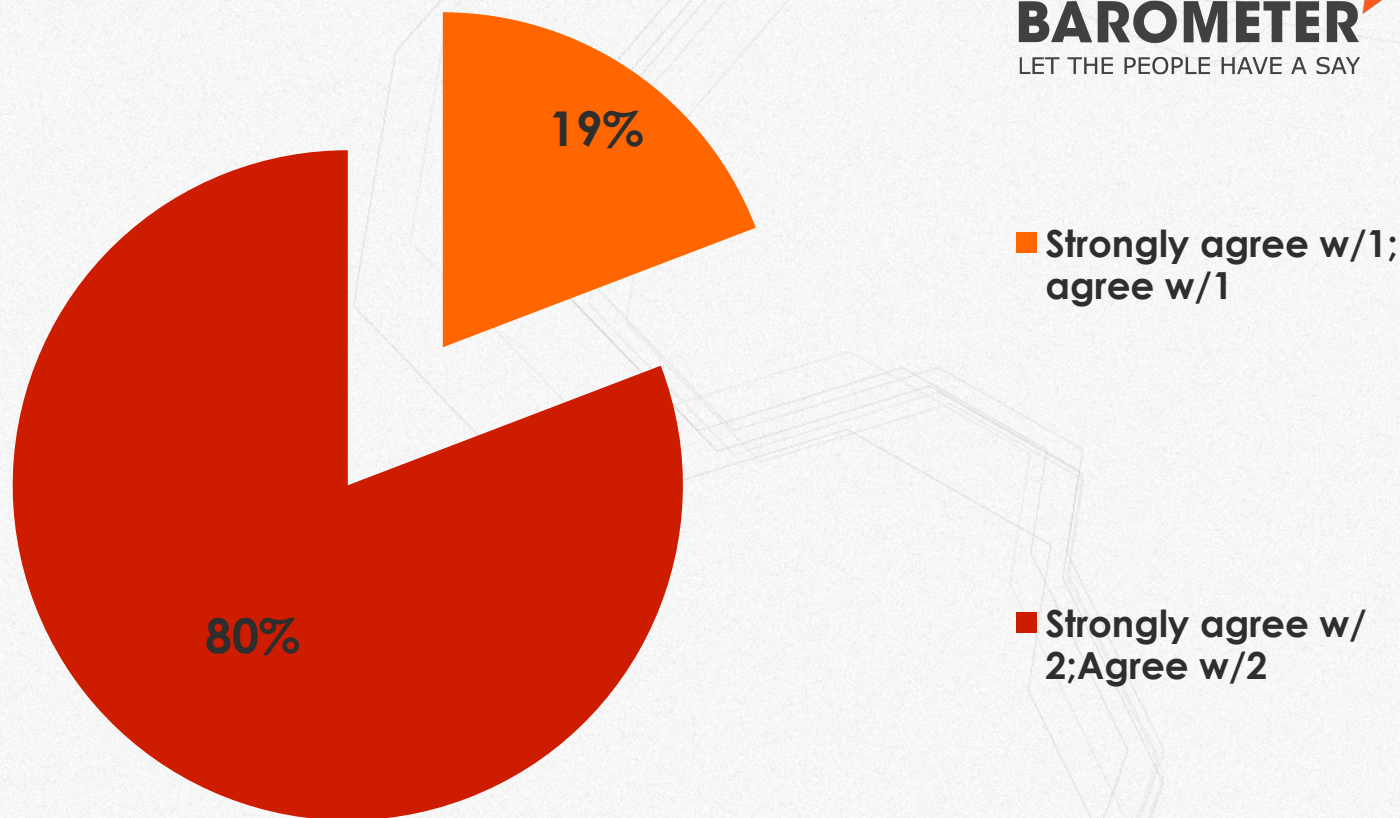
# Constitutional changes: 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment Bill

# Key findings

- ❑ Eight out of ten Namibians (80%) express a preference for widespread consultation when constitutional changes are proposed.
- ❑ The same is true of a majority of SWAPO supporters (55%).
- ❑ A majority of all respondents (59%) say there was a lack of adequate consultation for the Third Amendment process. A majority of SWAPO supporters (55%) said the same.



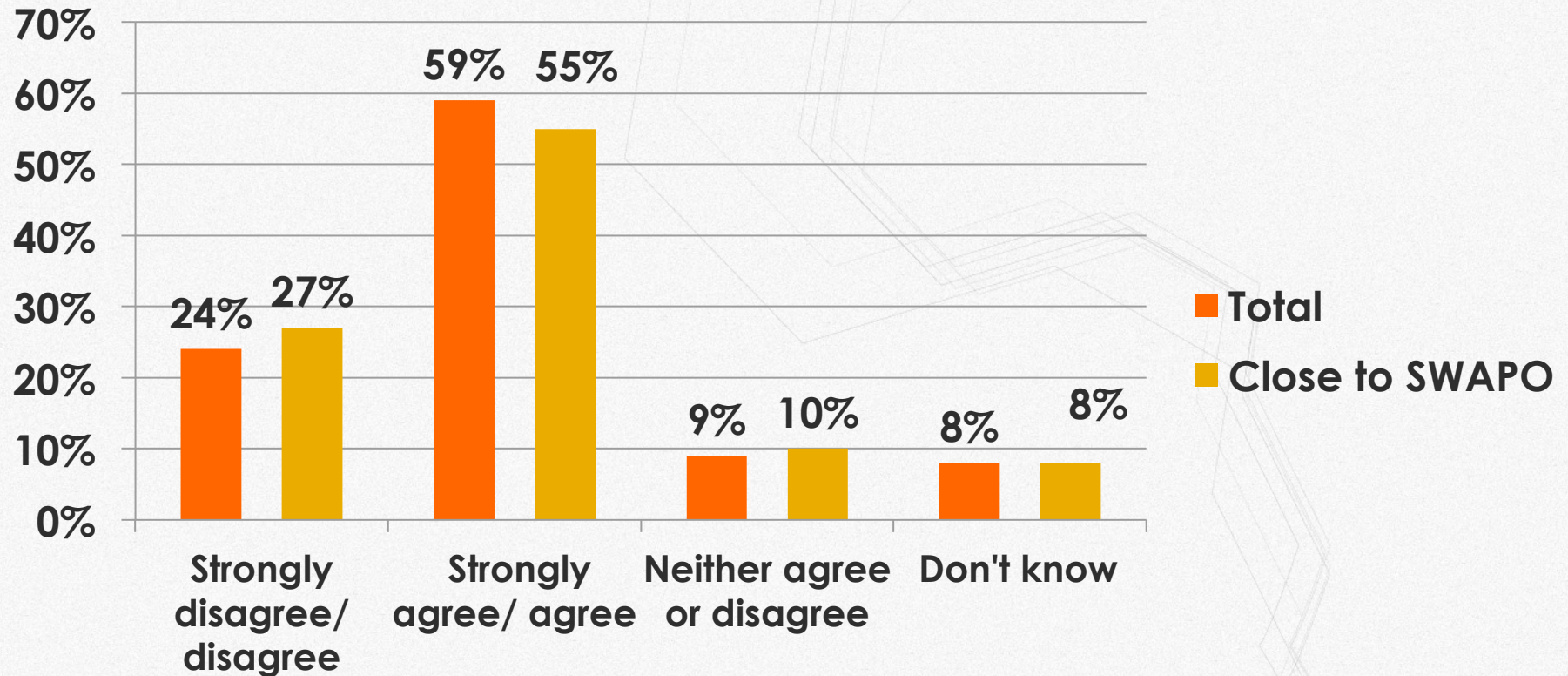
# Change without consultation vs widespread consultation



*Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Statement 1: "Government should make changes to the Constitution that they think are important without considering the views of ordinary citizens." Statement 2: "Government should always consult the public widely when considering changes to the Constitution."*



# Government consultation on Constitutional change proposals



**Respondents were asked:** Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Government has not consulted sufficiently on the recent Constitutional change proposals – for example for an appointed vice-president and a 50% increase in the size of Parliament.





# Key democratic values

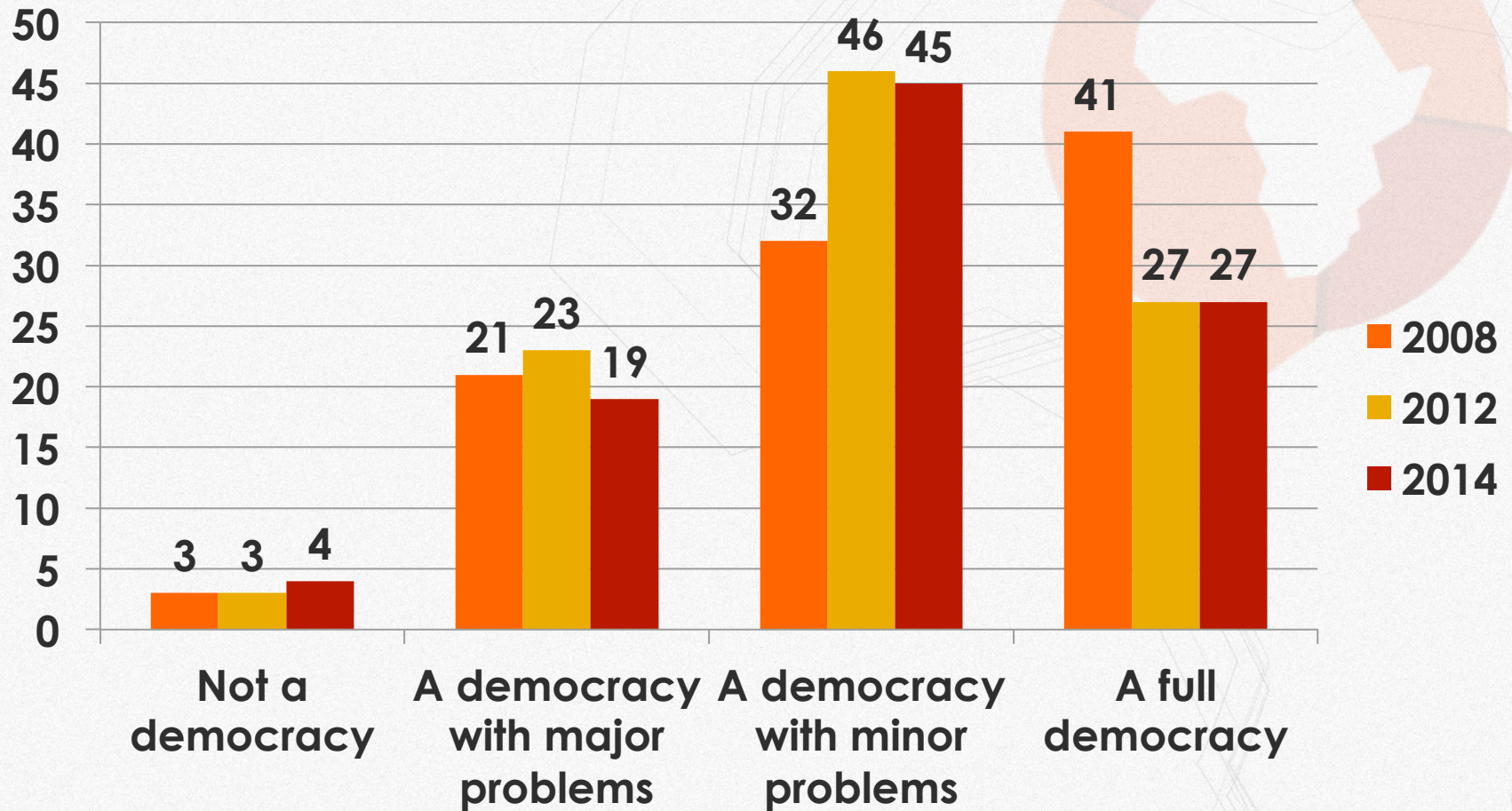


# Key findings

- More Namibians are satisfied with the way their democracy is working (73%) than was the case in 2008 (67%) and 2012 (62%).
- A large majority (72%) believe that Namibia has “a full democracy” or “a democracy with minor problems.”
- Three-fourths (74%) believe that democracy is preferable to any other form of government. This increased from 64% in 2012 and is the highest level recorded for Namibia.

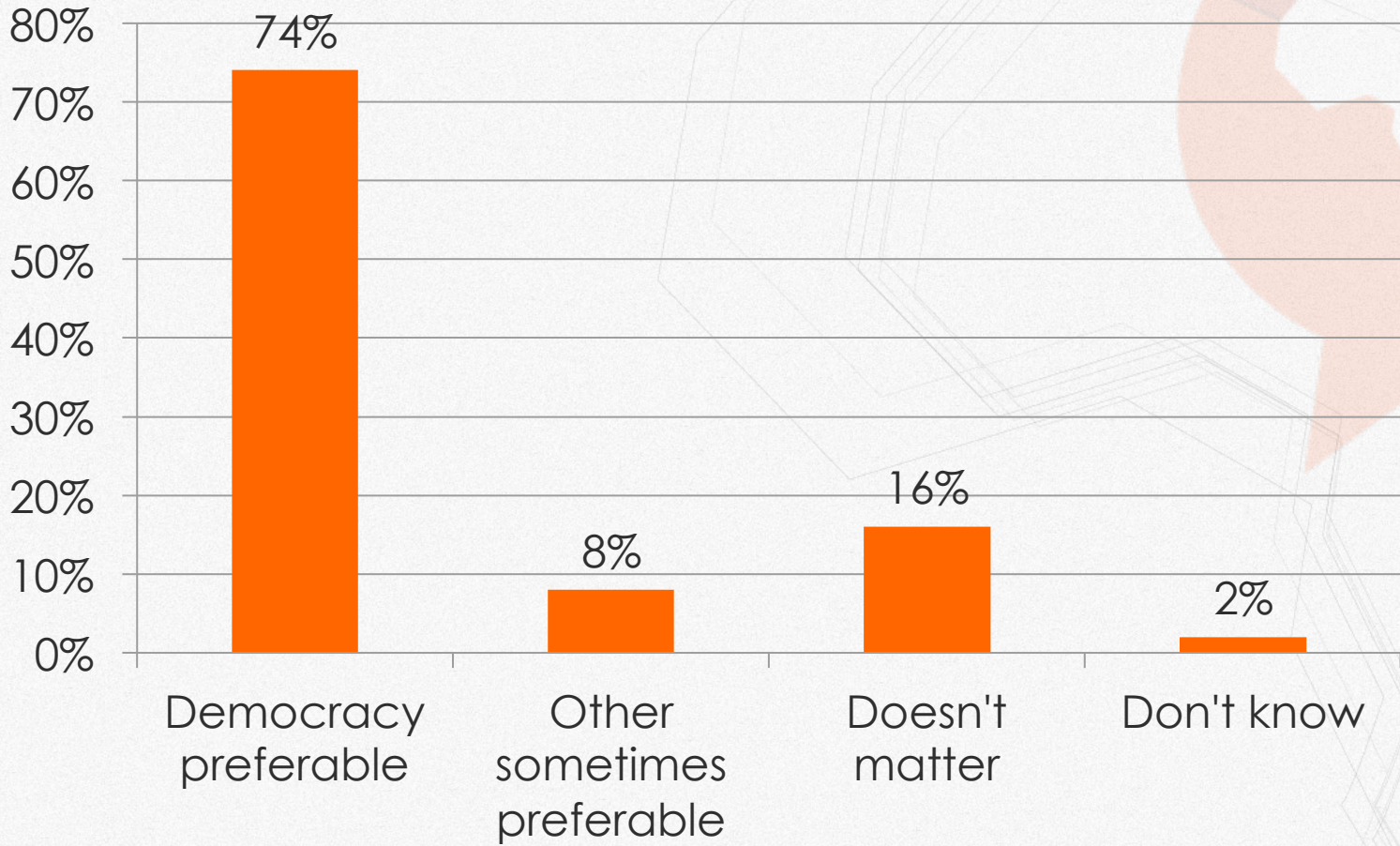


# Extent of democracy in Namibia



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, how much of a democracy is Namibia today?*

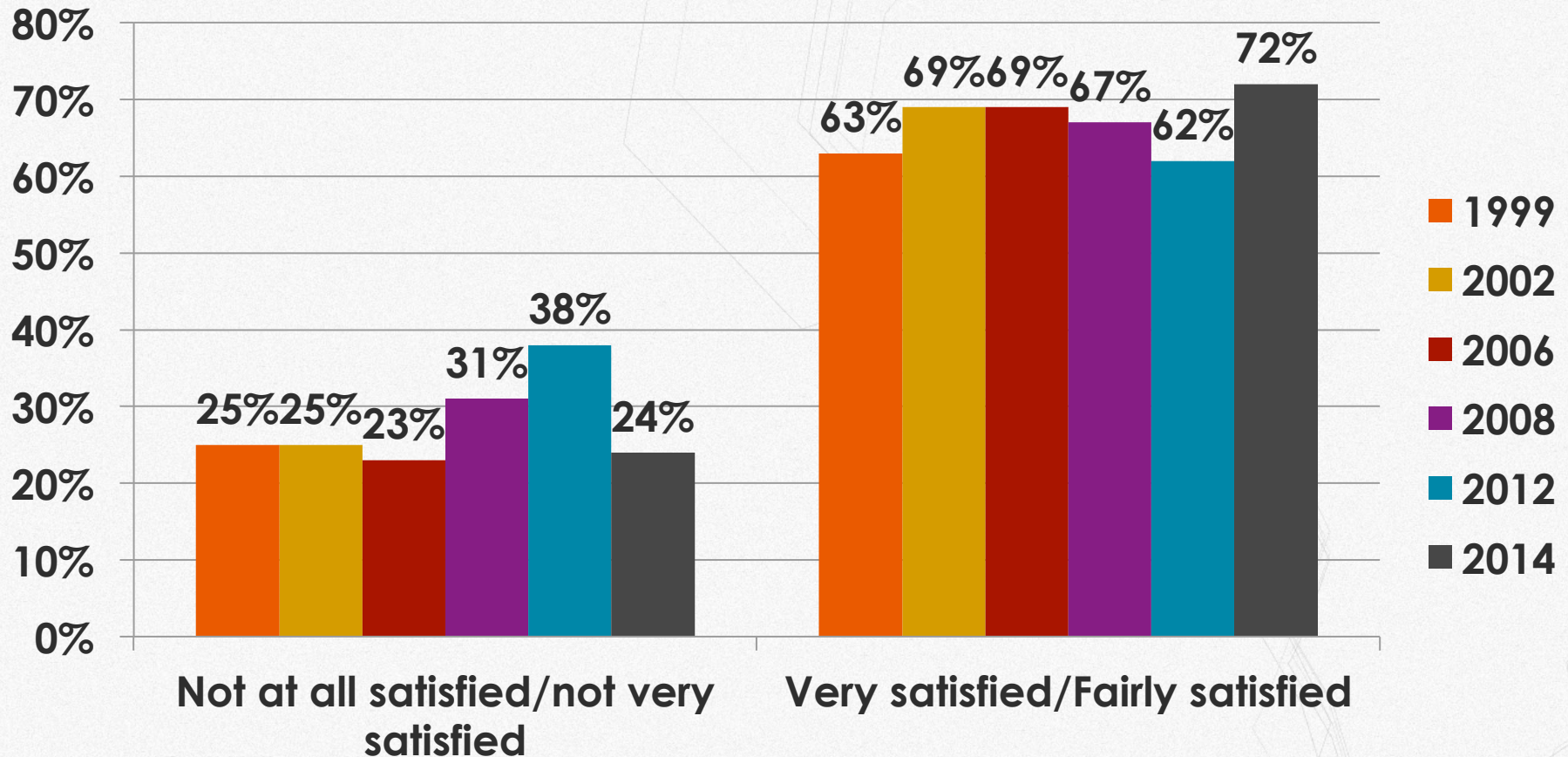
# Preference for democracy 2014



- **Respondents were asked:** Which of these three statements is closest to your opinion:
- Statement 1: "Democracy is preferable to any other type of government."
- Statement 2: "In some circumstances, non-democratic government can be preferable."
- Statement 3: "For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have."



# Satisfaction with democracy in Namibia





# Conclusions



# Conclusions

- ❑ Namibians maintain continuity in voter preferences and party alignments, with SWAPO dominance but survival of smaller parties.
- ❑ Survey respondents express high trust levels (around 80%) in both the president and the Prime Minister. Performance levels are around 88%.
- ❑ The Constitutional amendment process was handled poorly, according to a large majority (59%), including a majority of SWAPO supporters (55%).
- ❑ Democratic values seem to be strengthening among Namibians: including stronger voter engagement as elections approach, greater preference for democracy (74%), as well as a greater tolerance for opposition parties with new leadership.





End slide

Thank you for  
your attention

