



# Namibians' Public Policy Preferences

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 6 Surveys in Namibia



# At a glance

- Many government policies enjoy widespread support
- Some government policies fail the popular test
- Unemployment and poverty top the most important problems for Namibians



# 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 **Survey Warehouse** and **IPPR**.



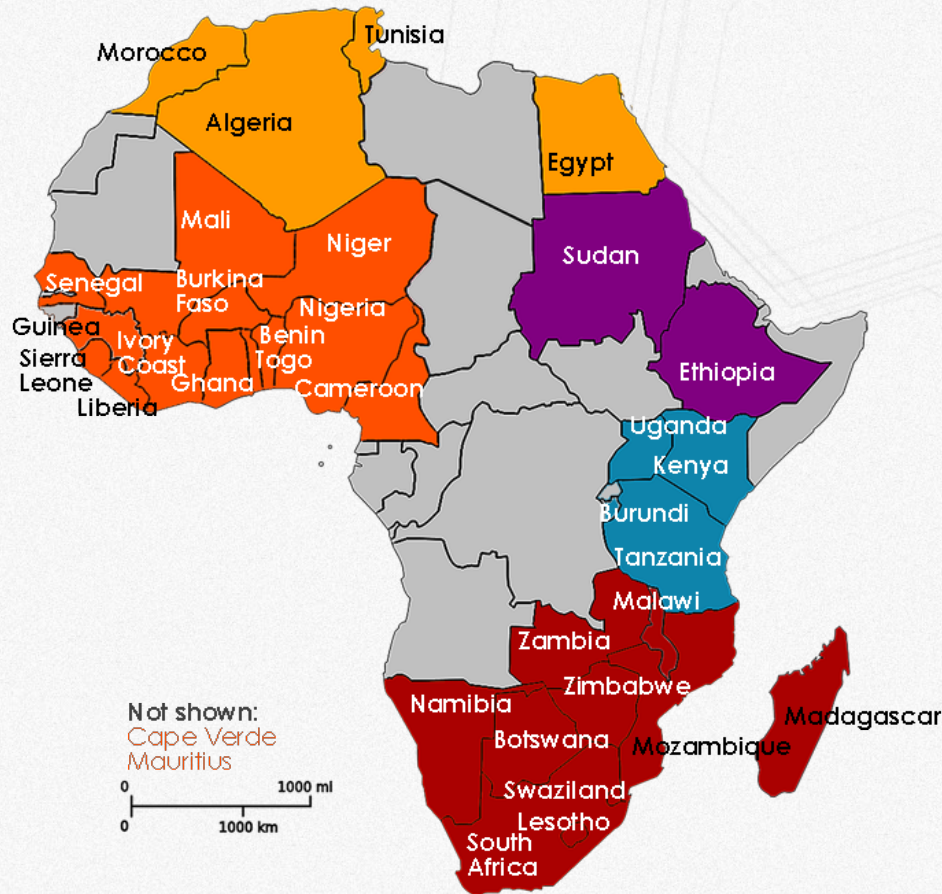
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# Where Afrobarometer works

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 all **14 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 between **27 August** and **19 September 2014**.



# Enumerator map



# Survey Demographics

## Gender

	Un-weighted	Weighted
Male	50%	50%
Female	50%	50%

## Location

	Un-weighted	Weighted
Urban	49%	49%
Rural	51%	51%

## Education

	Un-weighted	Weighted
No formal schooling	6%	13%
Primary	22%	21%
Secondary	53%	44%
Post secondary	19%	22%



# Survey Demographics



LET THE PEOPLE HAVE A SAY

## Province/Region

## Un-weighted

## Weighted

Zambezi	4%	4%
Erongo	8%	9%
Hardap	4%	4%
!Karas	4%	4%
Kavango West	3%	3%
Kavango East	6%	6%
Khomas	19%	19%
Kunene	4%	4%
Ohangwena	10%	10%
Omaheke	3%	3%
Omusati	11%	10%
Oshana	9%	9%
Oshikoto	8%	8%
Otjozondjupa	7%	7%



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# Results

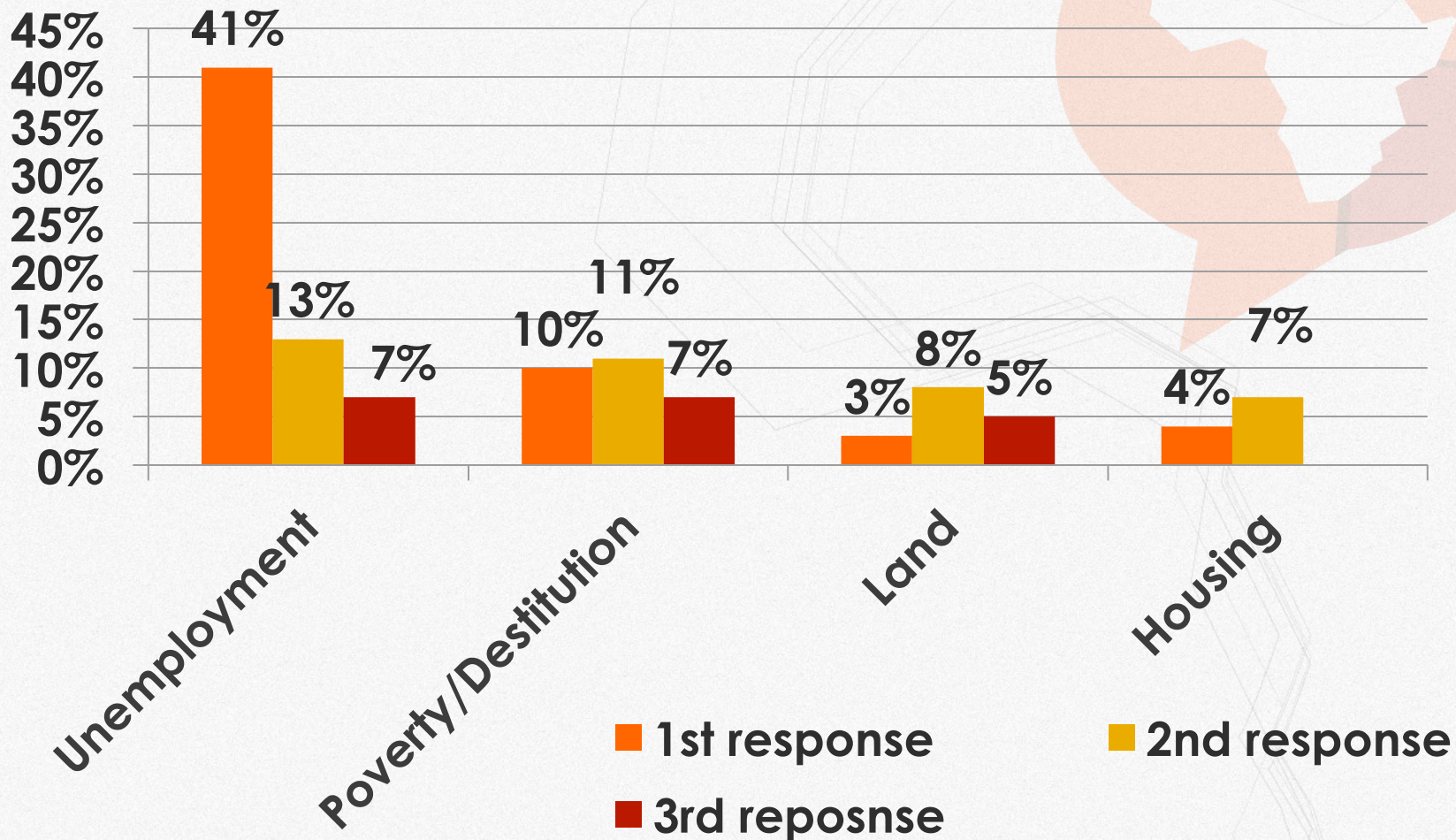




# Namibia's most important problems



# Most Important Problems facing Namibians - 2014



What is the most important problem facing Namibia?



# Government's handling of major policies

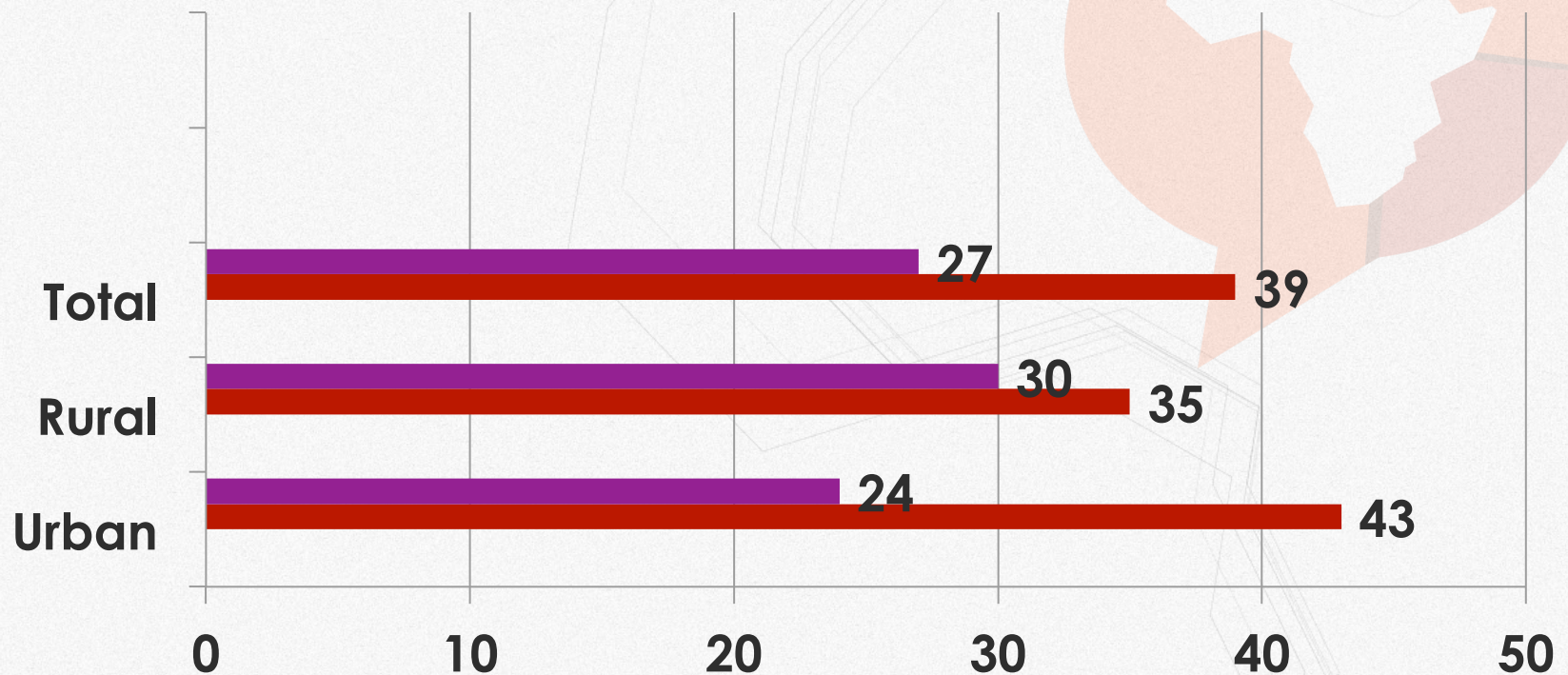


# Key findings

- Strong public support of the government's policies on education, health and managing the economy
- Weak public support of the government's policies on poverty reduction, income inequality and job creation.
- Unemployment and poverty are clearly the most important problems identified by Namibians



# Economic management - 2014

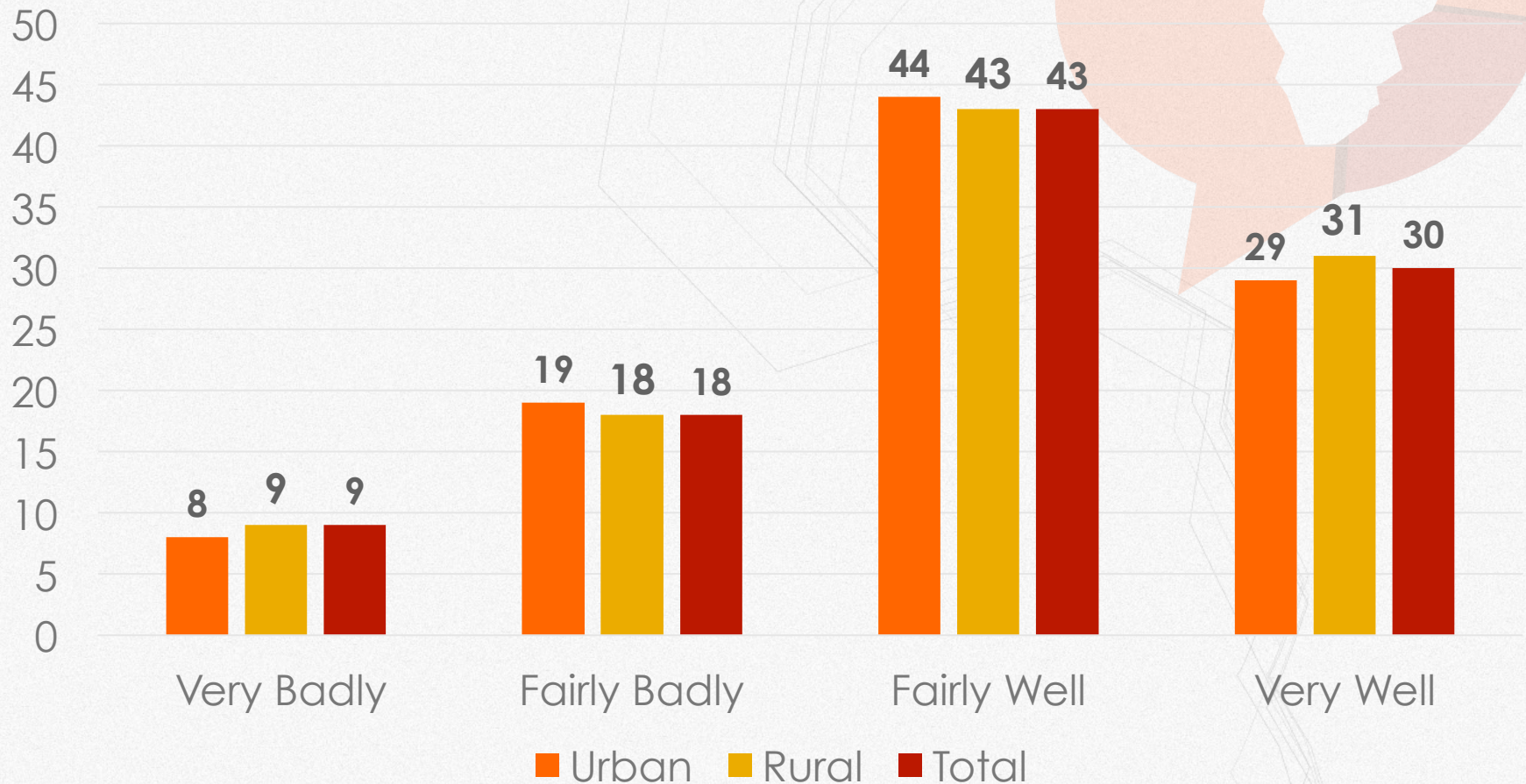


■ Q66a. Handling managing the economy Very Well

■ Q66a. Handling managing the economy Fairly Well

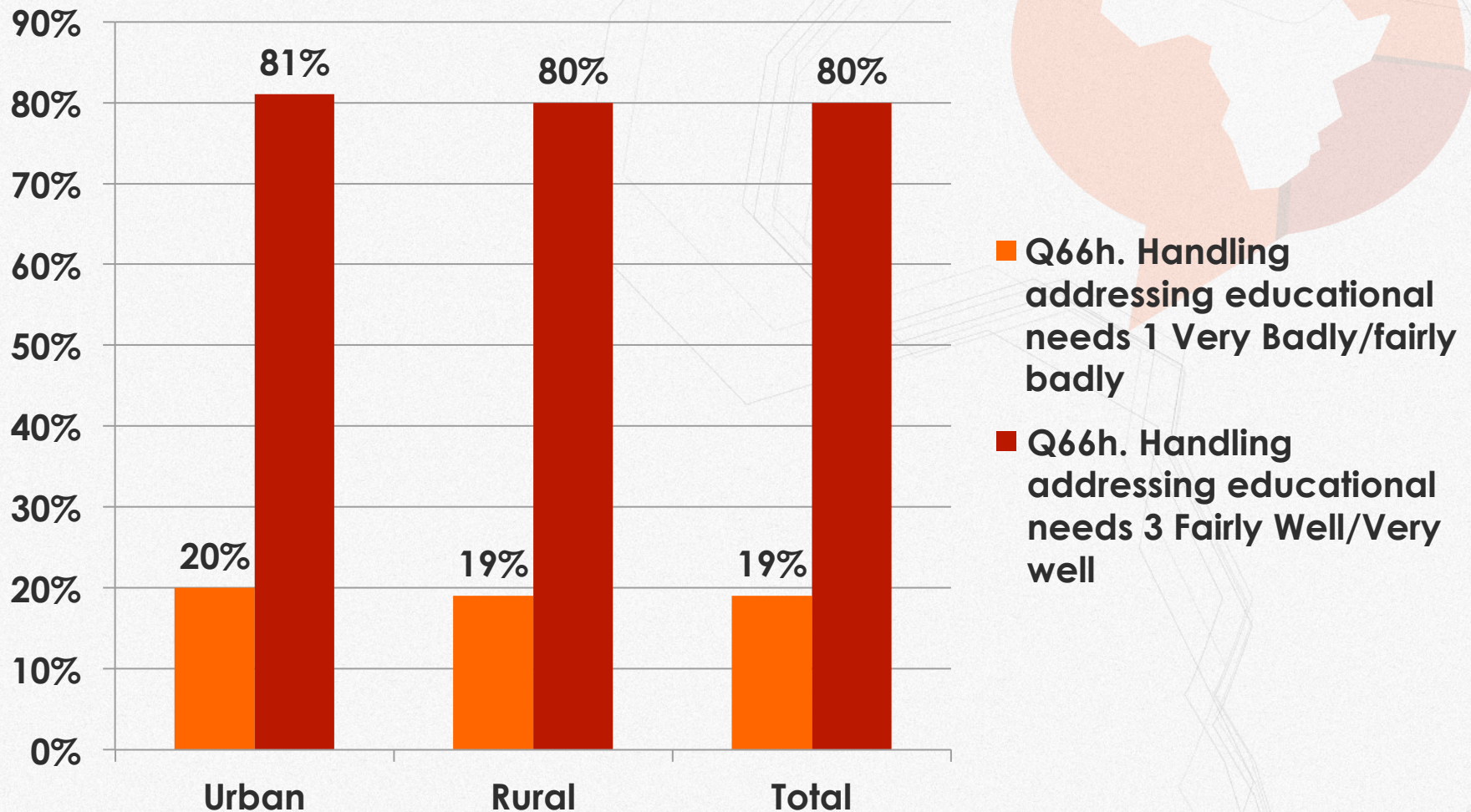
How well has the Government managed the following, or don't you know enough to say?  
Managing the economy

# Basic health services - 2014



How well has the Government managed the following, or don't you know enough to say?  
Handling improving basic health services.

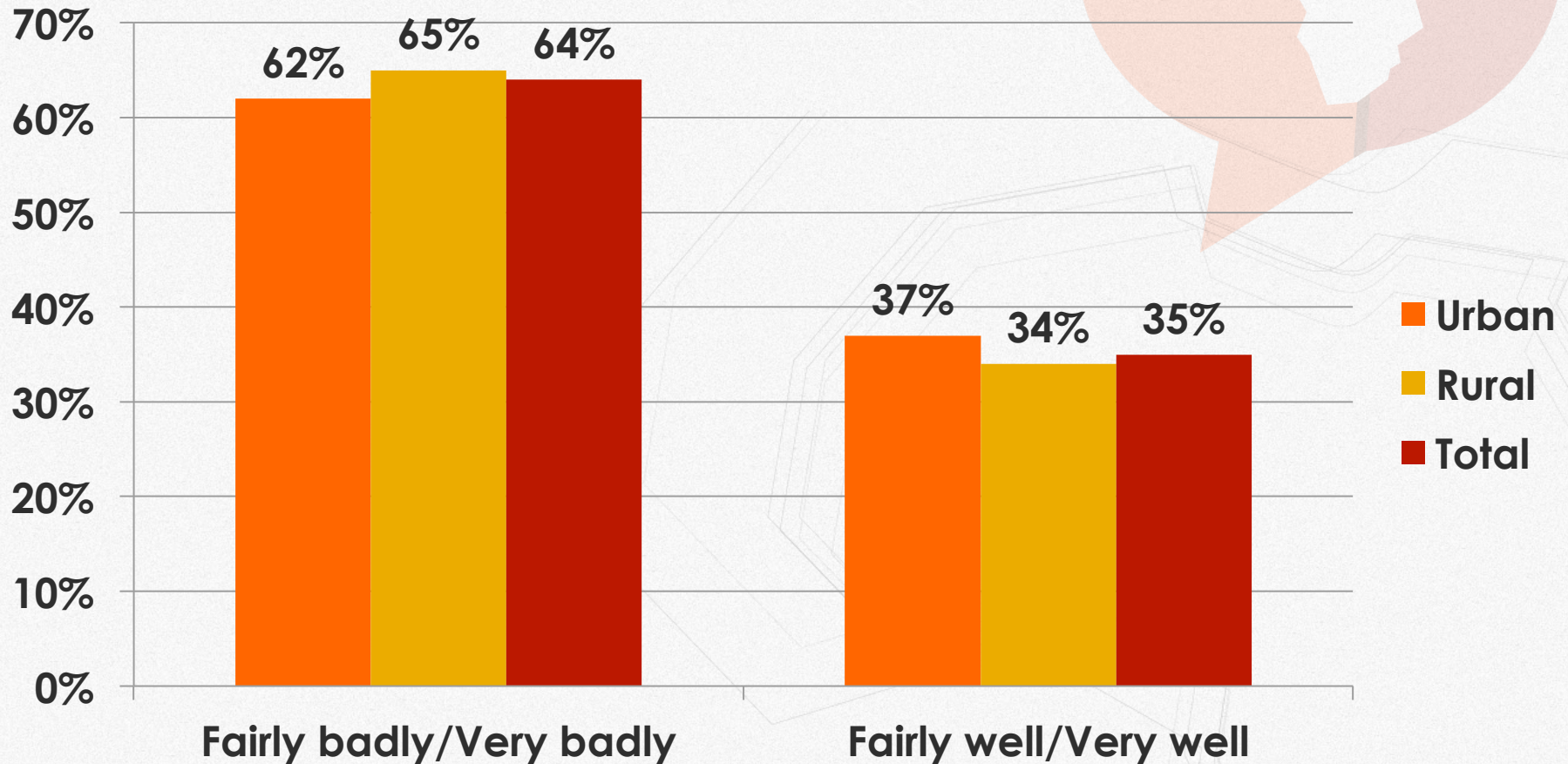
# Handling education - 2014



How well has the Government managed the following, or don't you know enough to say?  
Handling Education

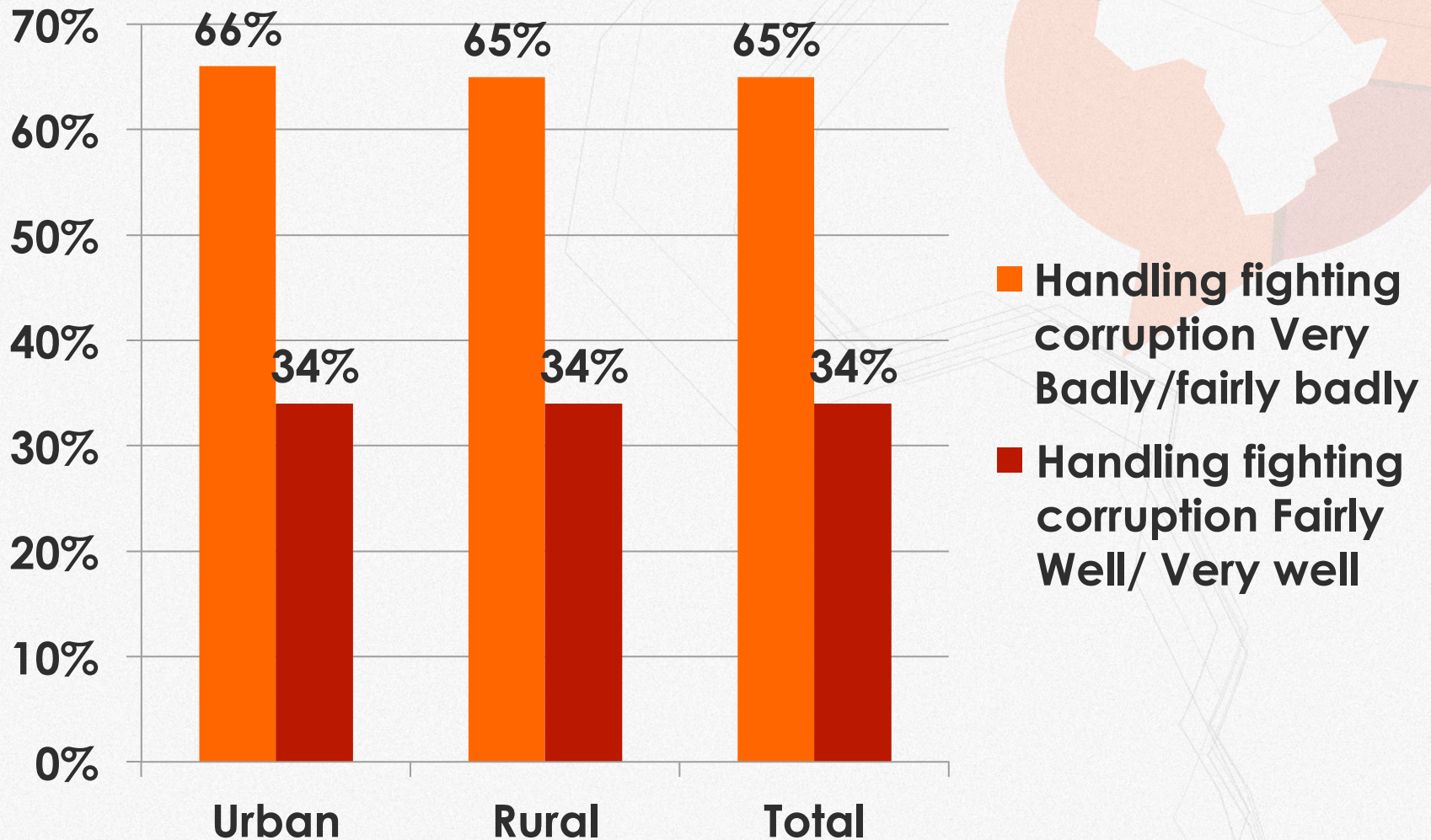


# Creating jobs - 2014



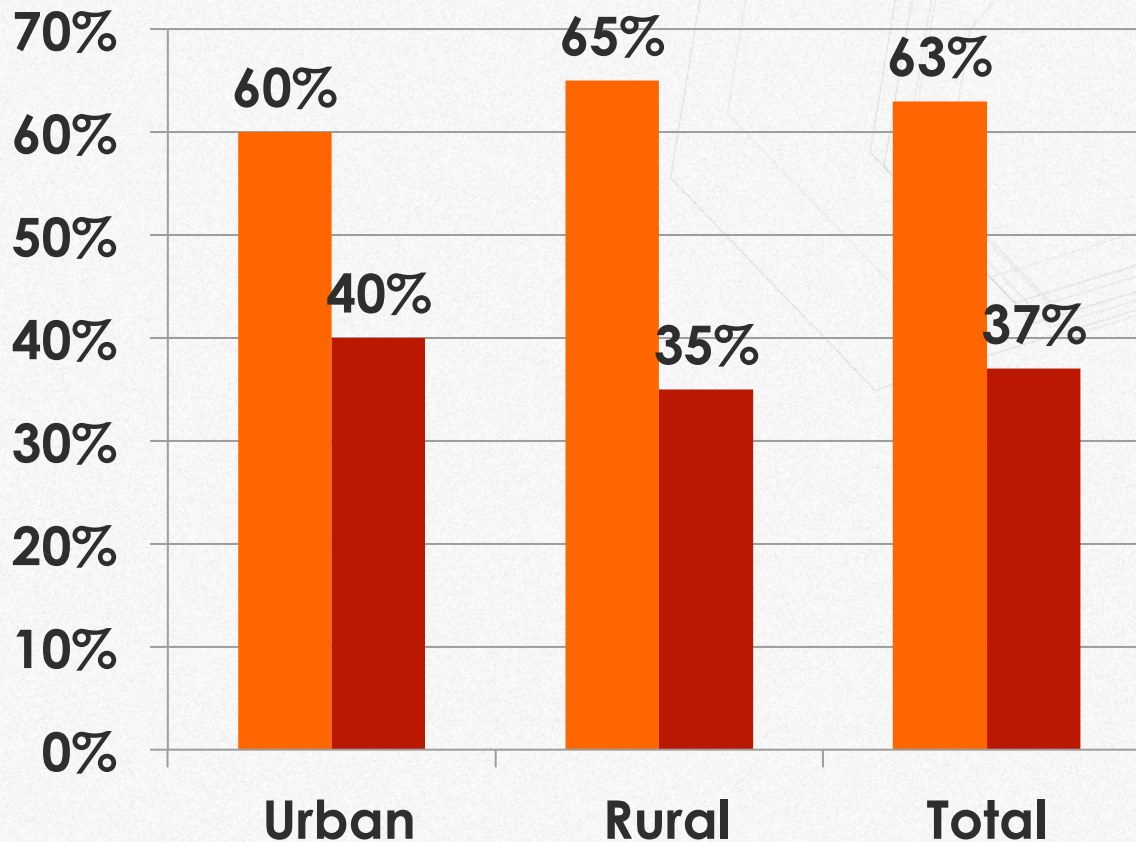
How well has the Government managed the following, or don't you know enough to say?  
Handling creating jobs.

# Fighting corruption - 2014



How well has the Government managed the following, or don't you know enough to say?  
Fighting Corruption.

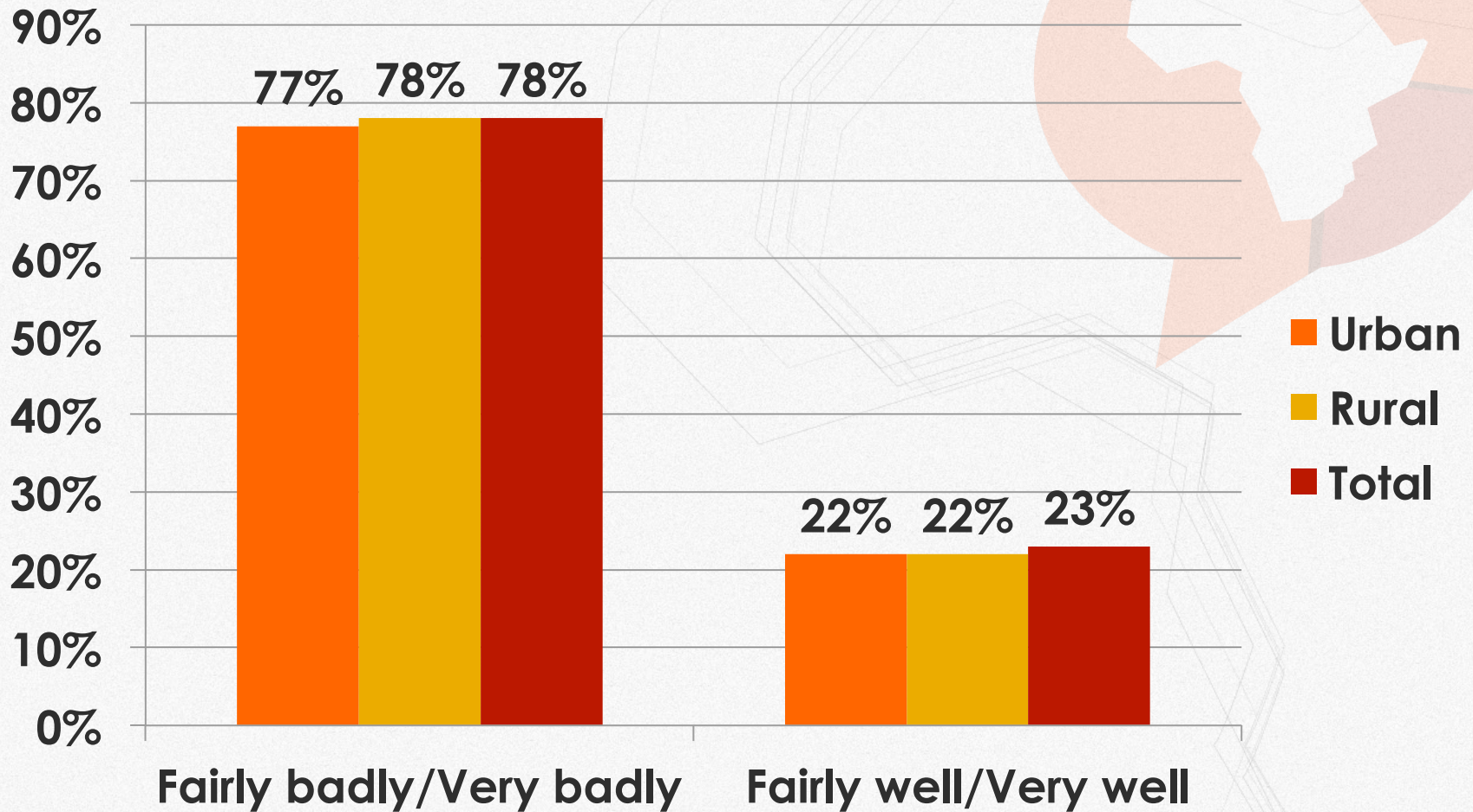
# Improving the Living Standards of the Poor



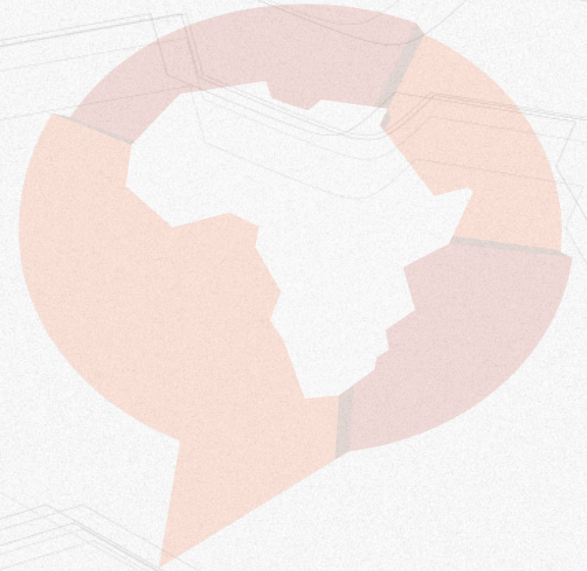
- Q66b. Handling improving living standards of the poor Very Badly/fairly badly
- Q66b. Handling improving living standards of the poor Fairly Well/very Well



# Handling narrowing the income gaps - 2014



How well has the Government managed the following, or don't you know enough to say?  
Handling narrowing income gaps



# Country Specific Policy Questions for Namibia



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# Country Specific Questions for Namibia - 2014



- The government should adopt a basic income grant, even if it means increases taxes.
- The handling of government tenders should be reformed to get rid of nepotism and favouritism.
- Salary increases of civil service, MPs and executives of state-owned enterprises should not be implemented.
- Too much emphasis placed on rewarding party loyalty at the expense of service delivery.

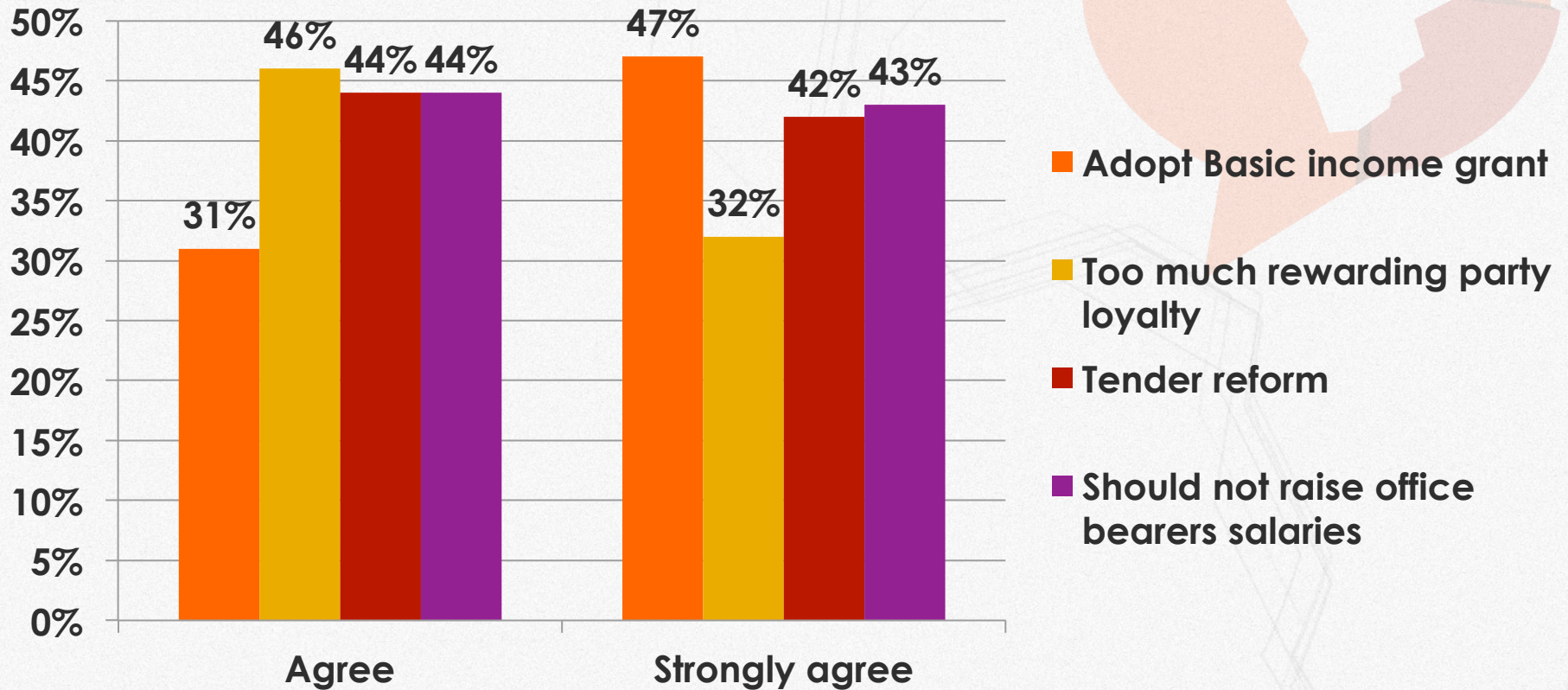


# Key findings

- Most Namibians support the **Basic Income Grant** policy, even if they have to **pay more taxes** to fund it.
- **Eight out of 10** Namibians want the **tender system reformed** to remove nepotism and favouritism influences.
- **Eight out of 10** Namibians favour **not giving a pay raise** to office bearers and think that too much emphasis has been given to party loyalty over service delivery.



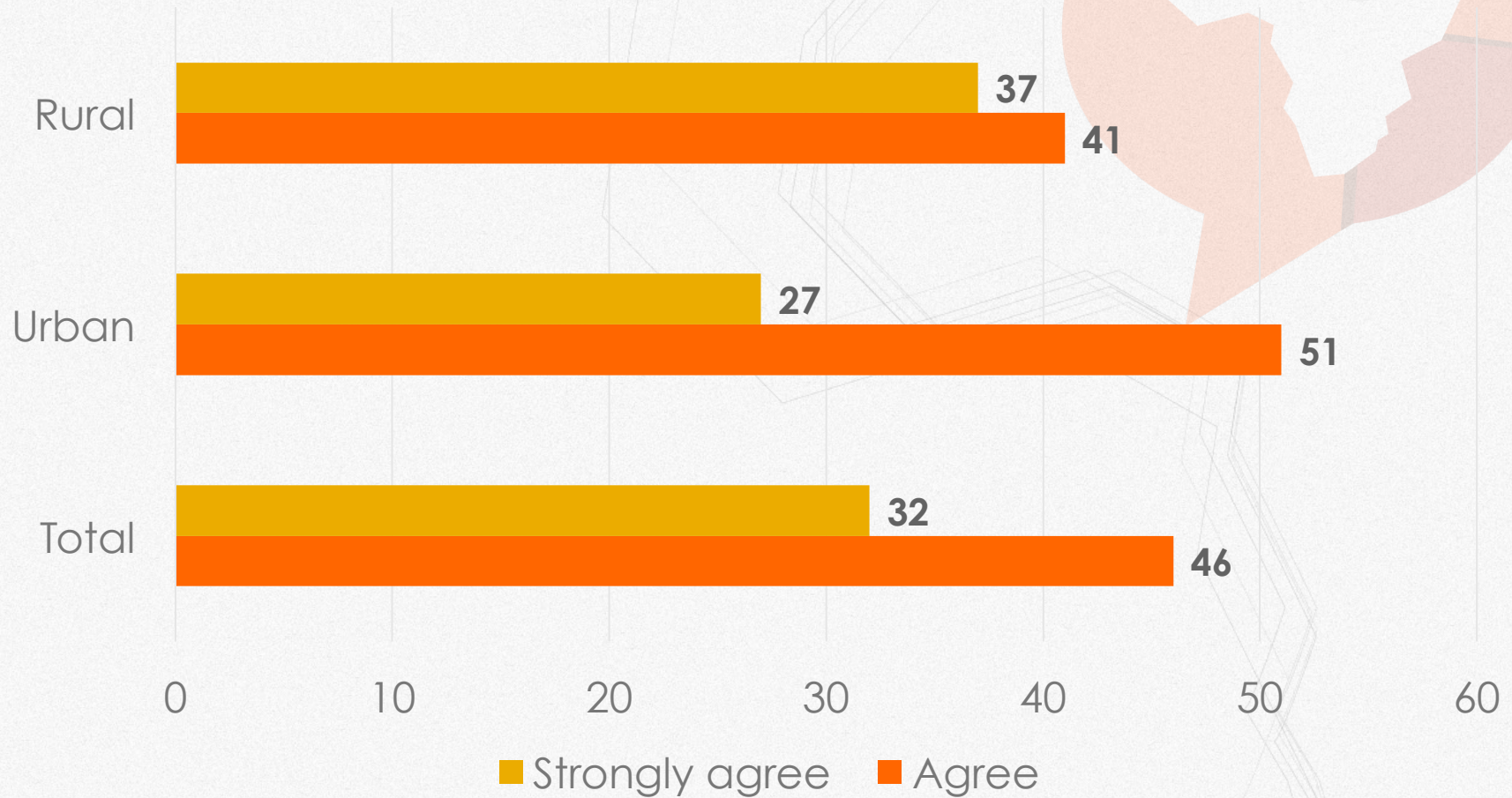
# Summary of Country Policy Questions - 2014



- Proposal to increase salaries of Office bearers, parliamentarians and executives of State Owned Enterprises should not be implemented.
- Process handling government tenders should be reformed to get rid of nepotism and favouritism
- Too much emphasis placed on rewarding party loyalty at the expense of service delivery
- Government should adopt Basic Income Grant, even if it means increases taxes

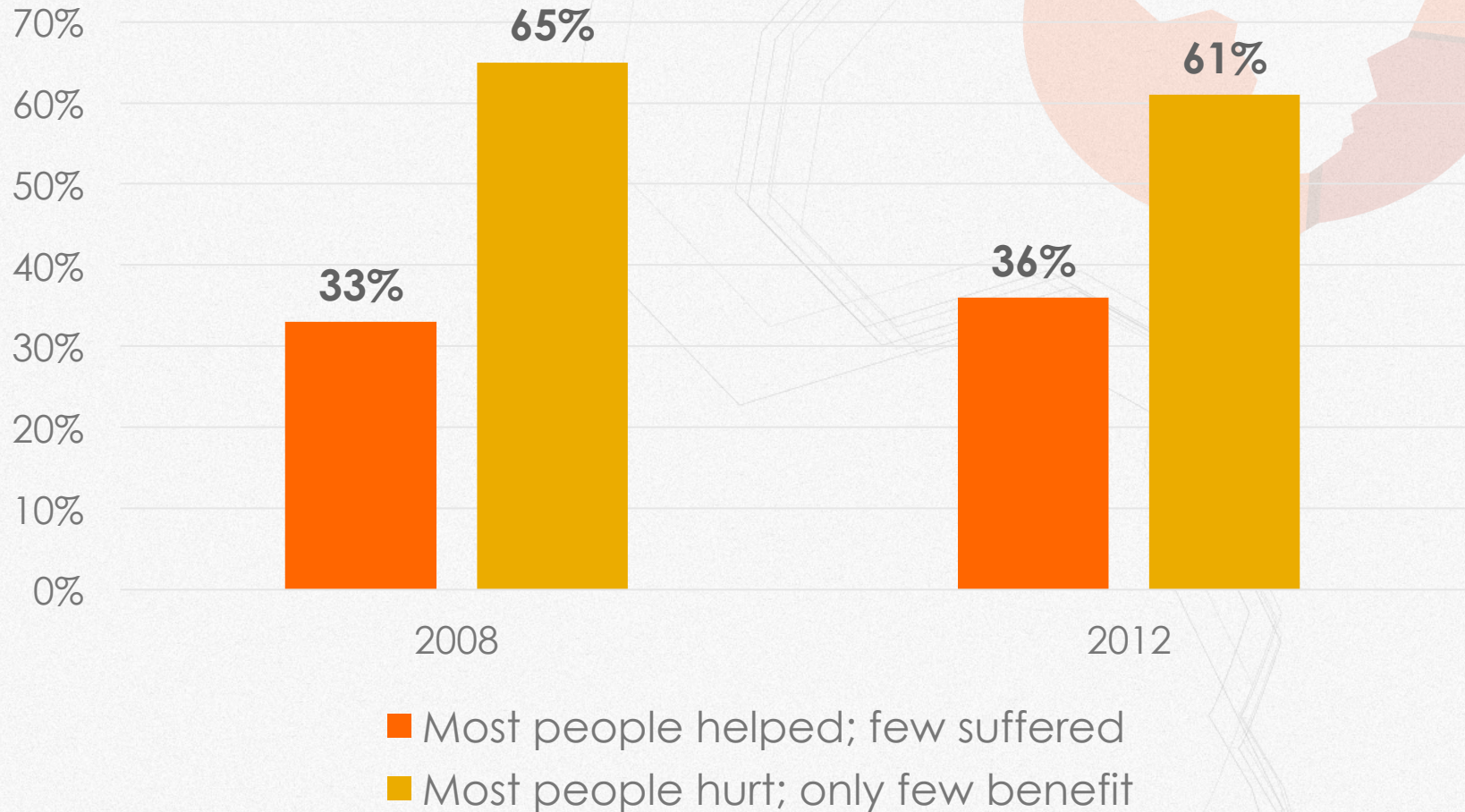


# Party Loyalty vs. Service Delivery



*Too much emphasis is placed on rewarding party loyalty at the expense of service delivery.*

# Government's Policies Helped Most or Only a Few?



1) Government's economic policies have helped most people; only a few have suffered or 2) Government's policies have hurt most people and only benefitted a few .



# DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN NAMIBIA

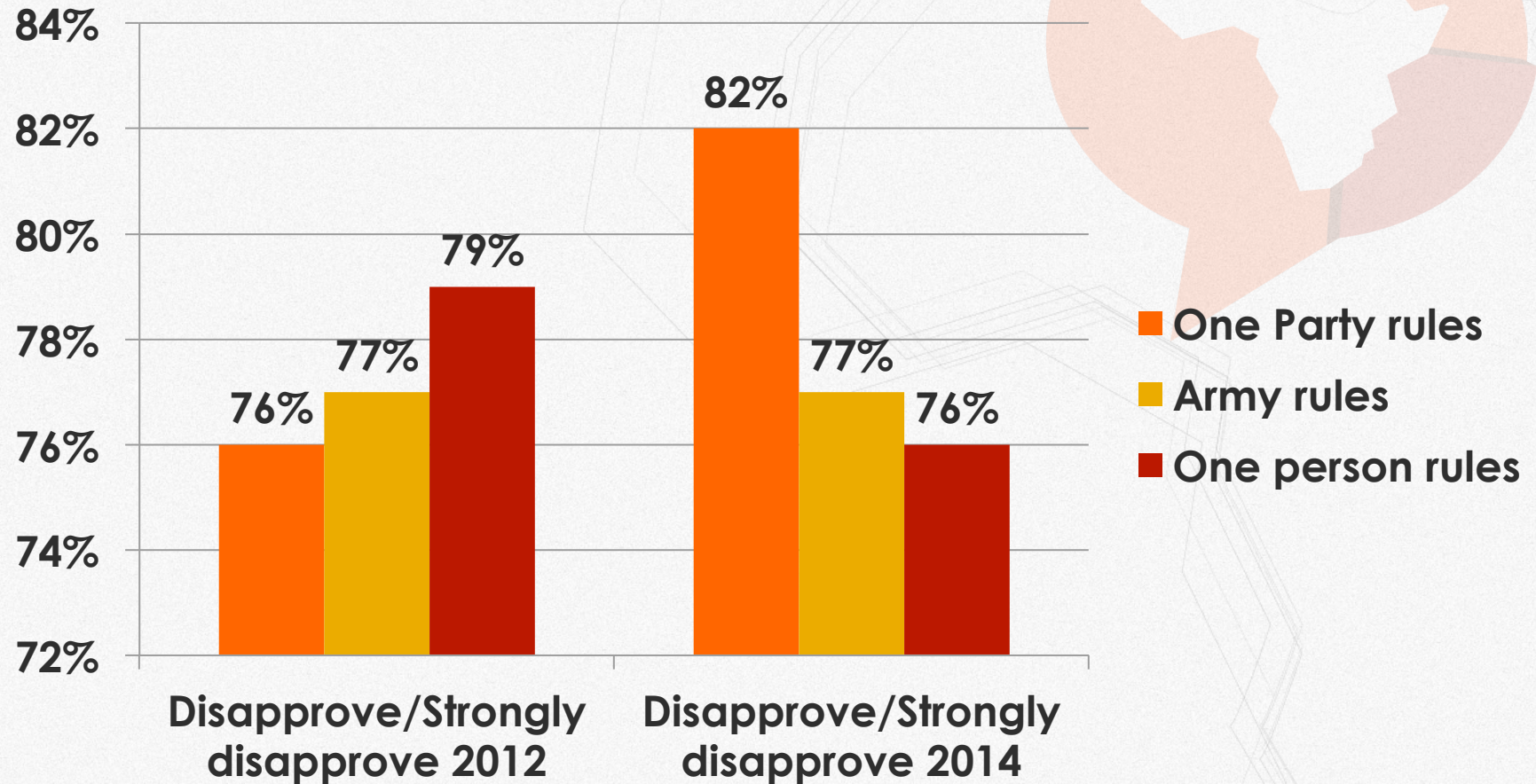


# Key findings

- Namibians continue to **reject non-democratic regime types** by very large margins.
- Namibians mostly define **democracy** in relation to **personal freedoms** (speech, movement, organisation membership, access to information).
- The second largest group links **democracy** to **elections** and **multiparty-ism**.

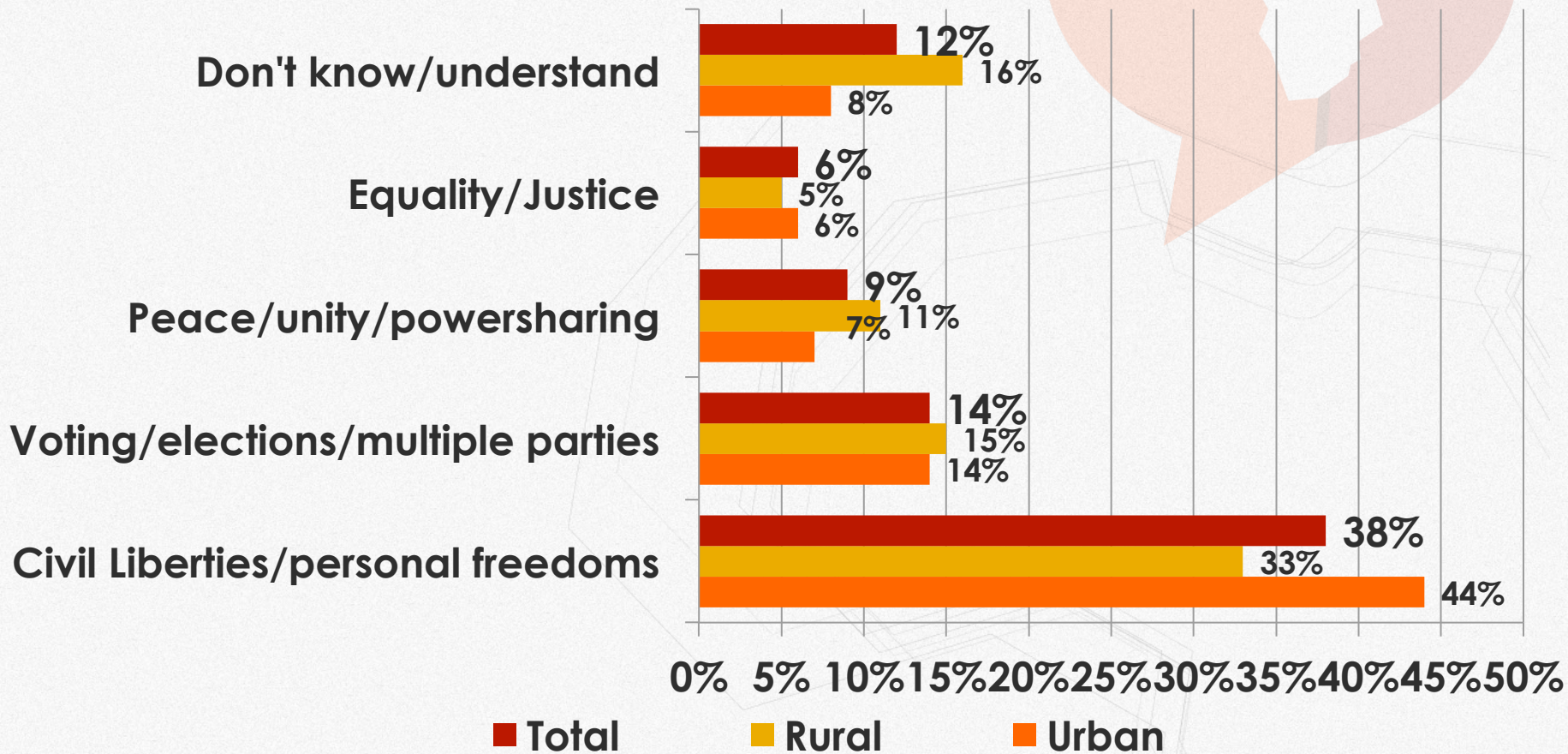


# Reject Non-Democratic alternatives - 2014



There are many ways to govern a country. Would you approve or disapprove of the following alternatives?

# What do Namibians mean by Democracy?





# Conclusions



# Conclusions about public policies



- Many government policies (managing the economy, healthcare, education) receive high positive evaluations from respondents.
- Some of the most important policies as identified by the respondents (job creation, poverty, income inequality) received the worst negative evaluations in the survey.
- Namibians continue to reject non-democratic regime types and value democracy for personal freedoms and election opportunities.



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Thank you



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