

Institute for Public Policy Research
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News release

Namibians Express Strong Policy Preferences

Most Namibians favour policy changes from the status quo on several specific policies asked about in the 2014 Afrobarometer Round 6 survey, despite showing strong support for the ruling party. For example, 78% of Namibians interviewed for the Round 6 Afrobarometer opinion poll favoured the adoption of the Basic Income Grant Programme (BIG) even if it required new taxes such as Value Added Tax (VAT) or income tax. Although the government has rejected BIG, the people favour it nearly 8 out of ten. Similarly, nearly 9 in 10 Namibians interviewed want reform in the tendering system to “eliminate nepotism and favouritism”. Such a bill was removed from parliamentary debate last November and has not yet returned.

Eighty-six per cent (86%) of Namibians assert that too much emphasis is placed on party loyalty (“jobs for comrades”) at the expense of better service delivery. In a similar vein, 87% did not want the president to grant pay raises to political office bearers and State Owned Enterprise executives. These officials are already well within the top 1% of income earners in the country. In previous Afrobarometer survey rounds (See Figure 3) substantial majorities held that only a few had benefitted

Key findings

- Nearly eight of ten Namibians (78%) favour the adoption of the basic income grant (BIG) even if it requires more taxes
- More than 8 of 10 Namibians interviewed favour reforming the tender system to eliminate nepotism and favouritism.
- Nearly 9 out of 10 Namibians interviewed (87%) did not want pay raises for political office bearers and State Owned Enterprise executives and thought that there was too much party loyalty criteria in government hiring at the expense of service delivery.

Afrobarometer

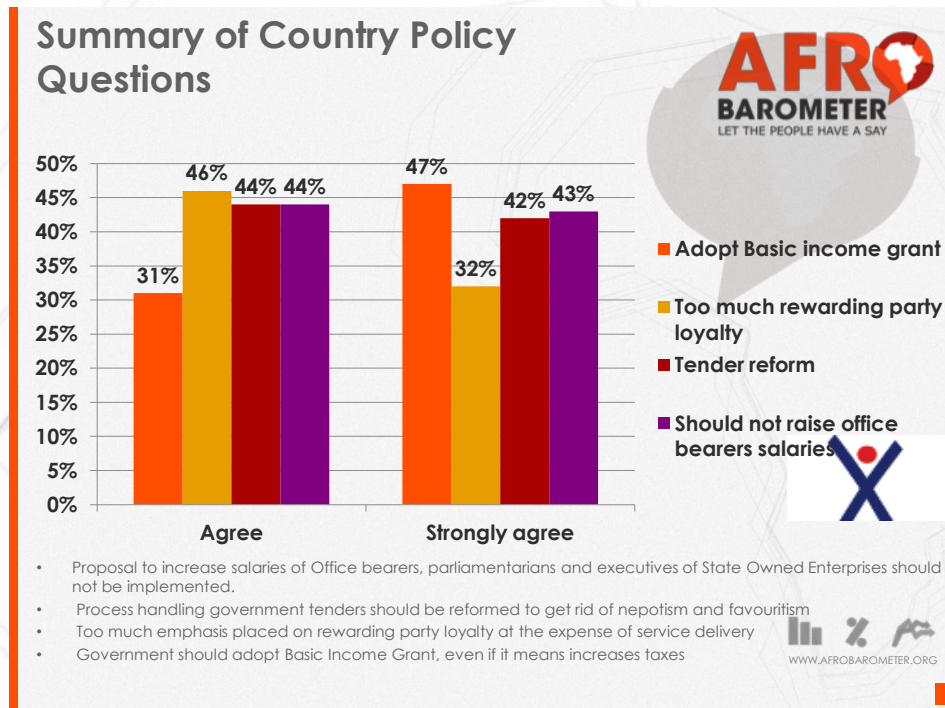
Afrobarometer is an African-led, non-partisan research project that has measured countries' social, political, and economic atmosphere since 1999. In its sixth survey round (2014-15), it is covering 35 countries. Afrobarometer is funded by the UK Department of International Development (DFID), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Mo Ibrahim Foundation and the World Bank.

The Afrobarometer team in Namibia, led by the Institute for Public Policy Research and Survey Warehouse, interviewed adult Namibians in August and September 2014. A sample of

this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Namibia in 1999, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2008, and 2012.

Charts

Figure 1: Summary of Country Specific Policy Questions
 Namibia | 2014

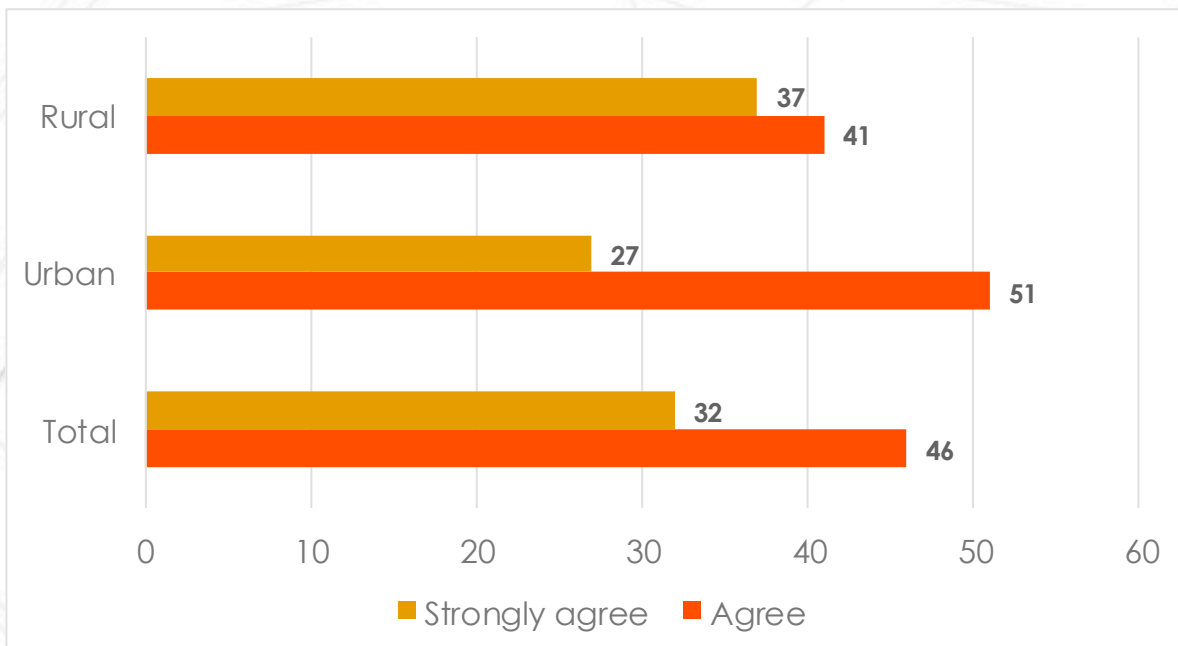


Respondents were asked:

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

Figure 2: Does Party Loyalty Compromise Service according to Namibian Respondents?

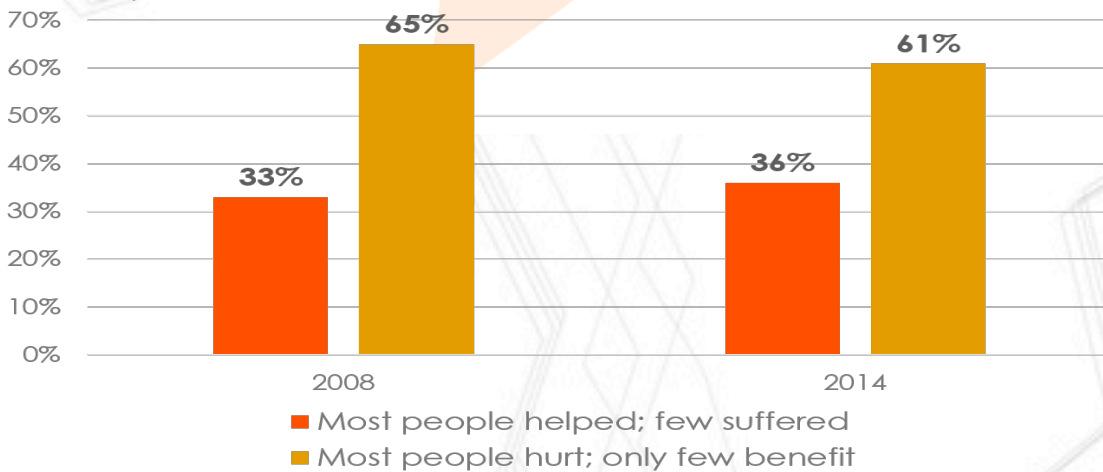
Namibia | 2014



Respondents were asked: . Too much emphasis placed on rewarding party loyalty at the expense of service delivery.

Figure 3. Do Government's economic policies help or hurt most people

Namibia | 2008, 2012



Respondents were asked: 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 .

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