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.


• **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.
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.
# Survey Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Un-weighted</th>
<th>Weighted</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>50%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>51%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No formal schooling</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post secondary</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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</table>

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## Survey Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province/Region</th>
<th>Un-weighted</th>
<th>Weighted</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zambezi</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erongo</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardap</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>!Karas</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavango West</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavango East</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Komas</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunene</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohangwena</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omaheke</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omusati</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oshana</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oshikoto</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otjozondjupa</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

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Namibia’s most important problems
Top Most Important Problems facing Namibians - 2014

What is the most important problem facing Namibia?

- 1st response
- 2nd response
- 3rd response

Unemployment: 41%
Poverty/Destitution: 13%
Land: 7%
Housing: 7%
Government’s handling of major policies

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

Managing the economy

**Q66a. Handling managing the economy**

- **Very Well**
- **Fairly Well**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>39</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0 10 20 30 40 50

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

Handling improving basic health services.

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

Handling Education

Q66h. Handling addressing educational needs 1 Very Badly/fairly badly

Q66h. Handling addressing educational needs 3 Fairly Well/Very well
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.

Urban

- Handling fighting corruption Very Badly/fairly badly: 34%
- Handling fighting corruption Fairly Well/ Very well: 66%

Rural

- Handling fighting corruption Very Badly/fairly badly: 34%
- Handling fighting corruption Fairly Well/ Very well: 65%

Total

- Handling fighting corruption Very Badly/fairly badly: 34%
- Handling fighting corruption Fairly Well/ Very well: 65%
Improving the Living Standards of the Poor

Q66b. Handling improving living standards of the poor

- Very Badly/fairly badly: Urban 40%, Rural 35%, Total 37%
- Fairly Well/very Well: Urban 60%, Rural 65%, Total 63%

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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

Fairly badly/Very badly

77%
78%
78%

22%
22%
23%

Urban
Rural
Total

Fairly well/Very well

0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%

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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.
Government’s Policies Helped Most or Only a Few?

1) Government’s economic policies have helped most people; only a few have suffered.

2) Government’s policies have hurt most people and only benefitted a few.

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1) Most people helped; few suffered
2) Most people hurt; only few benefit

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Too much emphasis is placed on rewarding party loyalty at the expense of 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
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.
There are many ways to govern a country. Would you approve or disapprove of the following alternatives?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative</th>
<th>72%</th>
<th>74%</th>
<th>76%</th>
<th>78%</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>82%</th>
<th>84%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military rule</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-party rule</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-man rule</td>
<td>77%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reject Non-Democratic alternatives - 2014

Disapprove/Strongly disapprove
What do Namibians mean by Democracy?

- Don't know/understand
  - Total: 12%
  - Rural: 16%
  - Urban: 8%

- Equality/Justice
  - Total: 6%
  - Rural: 5%
  - Urban: 6%

- Peace/unity/powersharing
  - Total: 9%
  - Rural: 11%
  - Urban: 7%

- Voting/elections/multiple parties
  - Total: 14%
  - Rural: 15%
  - Urban: 14%

- Civil Liberties/personal freedoms
  - Total: 38%
  - Rural: 33%
  - Urban: 44%
Conclusions

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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.
Thank you