

Advison Lesotho
Maseru, Lesotho
17 April 2018

News release

Basotho support amending Constitution to give King greater say

Basotho trust their King more than any other governance institution and favour amending the Constitution to give him greater say on issues of national importance, according to the most recent Afrobarometer survey.

The trust in the King translates into the majority of the Basotho strongly agreeing that the Constitution of Lesotho should be amended to allow the King to have more say on issues of national importance.

The result comes at the time when Lesotho is preparing to undergo a multi-sectoral reform process. Under the constitutional reforms component, the issue of the King's role will receive attention. Basotho are already debating whether the King's role should remain as that of a ceremonial monarch without any influence or powers on issues of national importance or whether the King should be vested with powers that will give him a more prominent role to play on important national issues.

Key findings

- More than two-thirds (69%) of Basotho say they trust the King, including 57% who trust him "a lot." This is more than they trust other governance institutions in Lesotho (Figure 1).
- Three-fourths (75%) of Basotho say the Constitution should be amended to allow the King more say on issues of national importance (Figure 2). Most (71%) favour this option "very strongly."

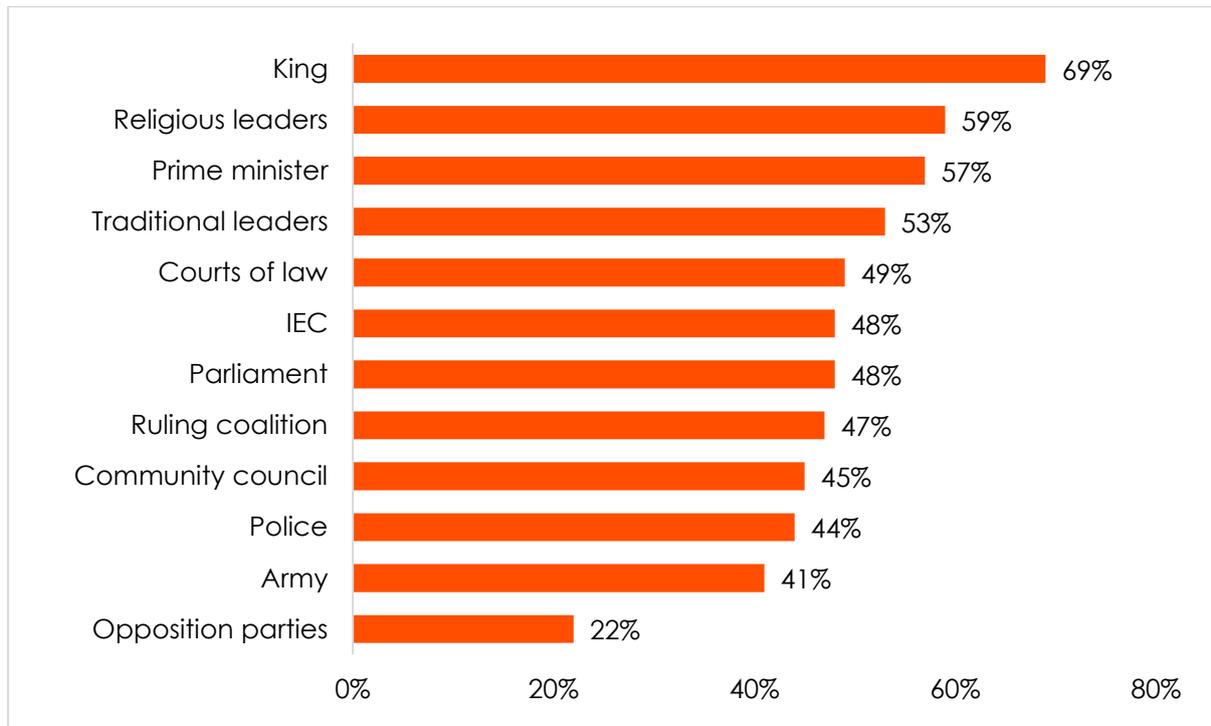
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in Africa. Six rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 37 African countries between 1999 and 2016, and Round 7 surveys (2017/2018) are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Lesotho, led by Advison Lesotho, interviewed 1,200 adult Basotho between 25 November and 10 December 2017. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Lesotho in 2000, 2003, 2008, 2012, and 2014.

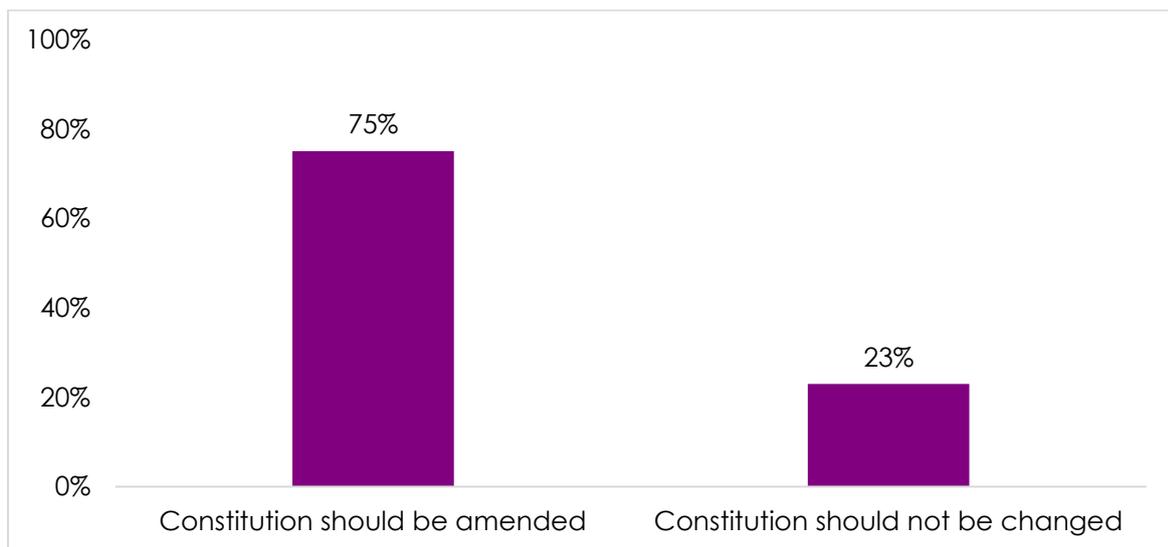
Charts

Figure 1: Popular trust in the King and public institutions/officials | Lesotho | 2017



Respondents were asked: How much do you trust the following, or haven't you heard about them enough to say? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot"?)

Figure 2: Should the Constitution be amended to give the King greater say? | Lesotho | 2017



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: The Constitution should be amended to allow the King to have more say on issues of national importance.
 Statement 2: The current Constitution, which limits the King's role in politics and government, has served the country well and should not be changed.
 (% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement)

For more information, please contact:

Advison Lesotho

Mamello Nkuebe

Telephone: +266 2232 5293/58455590

Email: advison@ecoweb.co.ls and mamello.nkuebe@gmail.co

Visit us online at: www.afrobarometer.org

