

StraConsult Ltd
Port Louis, Mauritius
6 February 2018

News release

Public trust in institutions, satisfaction with democracy decline in Mauritius

According to the most recent Afrobarometer survey, about three-fourths of Mauritians prefer democracy over any other system and almost as many say it's more important for the government to be accountable than to be efficient.

However, the survey reveals that only half of Mauritians are "fairly satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the way democracy is working in their country – a decline of 15 percentage points from 2014.

Moreover, along with decreasing satisfaction with democracy, Mauritians express sharply declining trust in their main public institutions and leaders. Political bodies and leaders earn the lowest levels of popular trust, and all experienced double-digit declines since 2014.

Key findings

- More than three-fourths (77%) of Mauritians say that democracy is preferable to any other system of government, a decline from 82% in 2014. Support for democracy increases with respondents' education level, ranging from 59% among those with no formal education to 85% among those with post-secondary qualifications.
- While half of the respondents (51%) say they are "fairly satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the democracy is working in Mauritius.
- Only about one-fourth of respondents say they trust opposition (23%) and ruling political parties (24%), the prime minister (27%), and the National Assembly (27%) – down by roughly half from 2014.

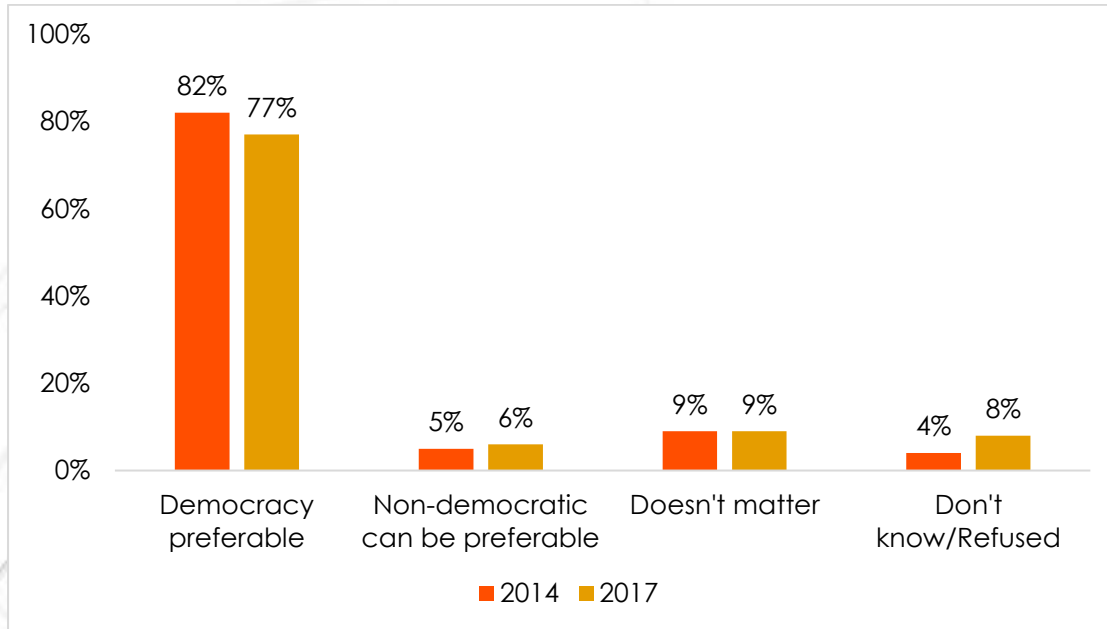
Afrobarometer

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 (2016/2017) 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 Mauritius, led by StraConsult, carried out face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adult Mauritians aged above 18 between October and November 2017 and respondents were determined by random sampling. 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 Mauritius in 2012 and 2014.

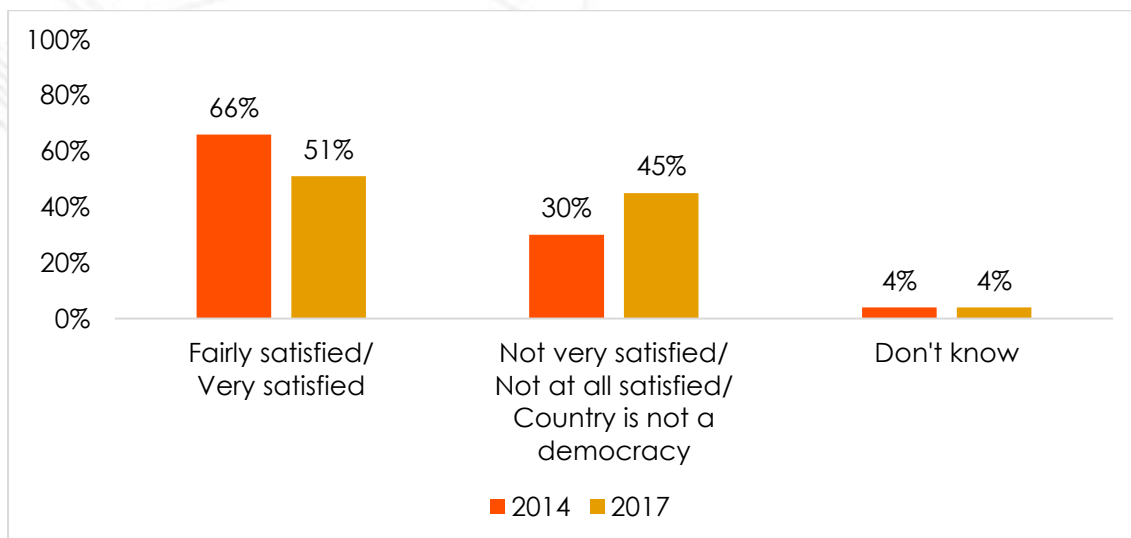
Charts

Figure 1: Support for democracy | Mauritius | 2014-2017



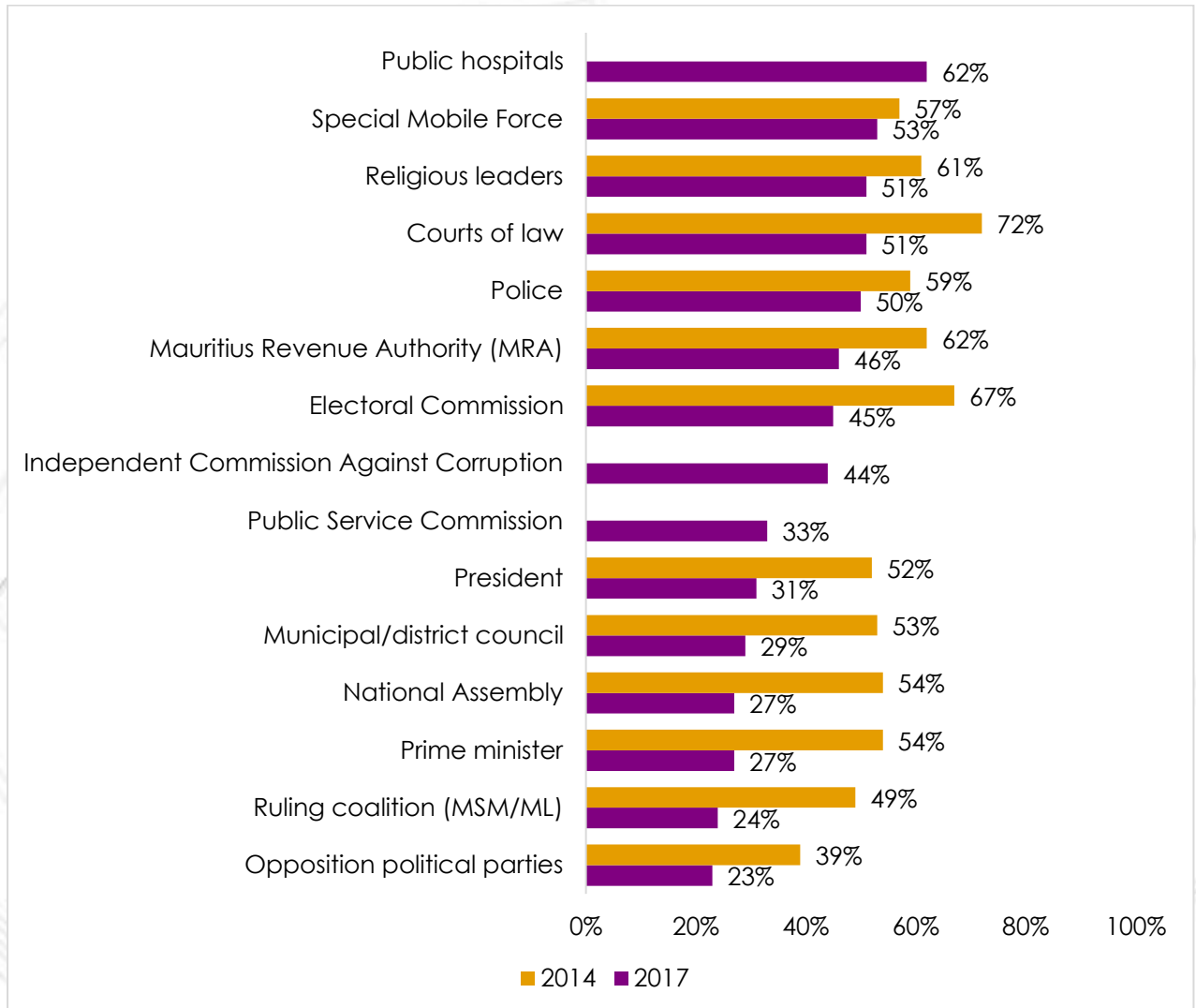
Respondents were asked: Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion?
 Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.
 Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable.
 Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what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

Figure 2: Satisfaction with democracy | Mauritius | 2014-2017



Respondents were asked: Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Mauritius?

Figure 12: Trust in institutions | Mauritius | 2014-2017



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

For more information, please contact:

StraConsult
L. A. Darga or Sadhiska Bhoojedhur
Telephone: +230-2107033
Email: straconsult@intnet.mu

Visit us online at:
www.straconsult.com
www.afrobarometer.org

Follow our releases on #VoicesAfrica.

