



activQuest
Mbabane, eSwatini
4 July 2018

News release

emaSwati show declining approval of elected leader as elections approach

A majority of emaSwati express dissatisfaction with the country's leaders, according to the most recent Afrobarometer survey, with job-performance ratings falling significantly from 2015.

Interestingly, on matters of service delivery, a majority of emaSwati are of the opinion that the government has done well in addressing educational needs, reducing crime, and improving basic health services. However, fewer than half of emaSwati approve of the government's performance in managing the economy, keeping prices stable, and creating jobs.

These data are being released as the country prepares for national elections that will take place later this year.

Key findings

- Fewer than four in 10 emaSwati approve of the job performance of the prime minister (36%), their member of Parliament (37%), and their local government councillor (28%), and their mayor (31%). These ratings are substantially lower than in 2015. (Figure 1).
- Most emaSwati say the government is doing a good job on improving basic health services (83%), addressing educational needs (81%), and a range of other issues. But a majority disapprove of government performance on narrowing income gaps (65%), keeping prices stable (61%), creating jobs (55%), and food security (51%). (Figure 2).
- Views are divided as to whether things have gotten better or worse with regard to personal safety, medical care, getting assistance from the police, and education, but about half of EmaSwati say little has changed (Figure 3).

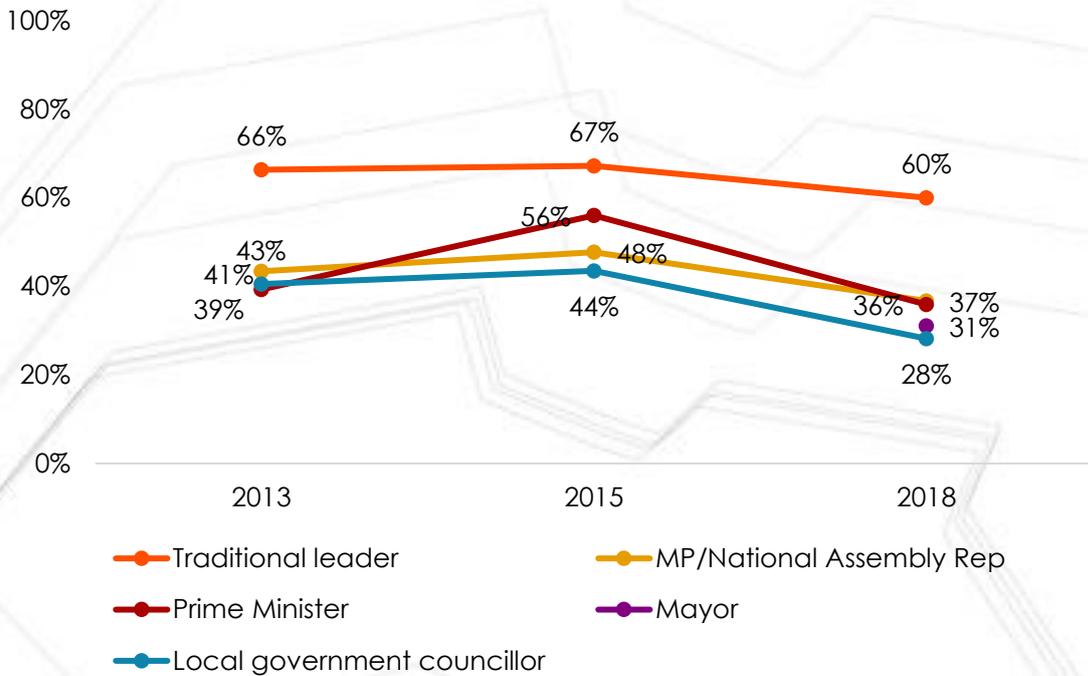
Afrobarometer

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 2015, and Round 7 surveys (2016/2018) 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 eSwatini, led by activQuest, interviewed 1,200 adult emaSwati in March 2018. 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 eSwatini in 2013 and 2015.

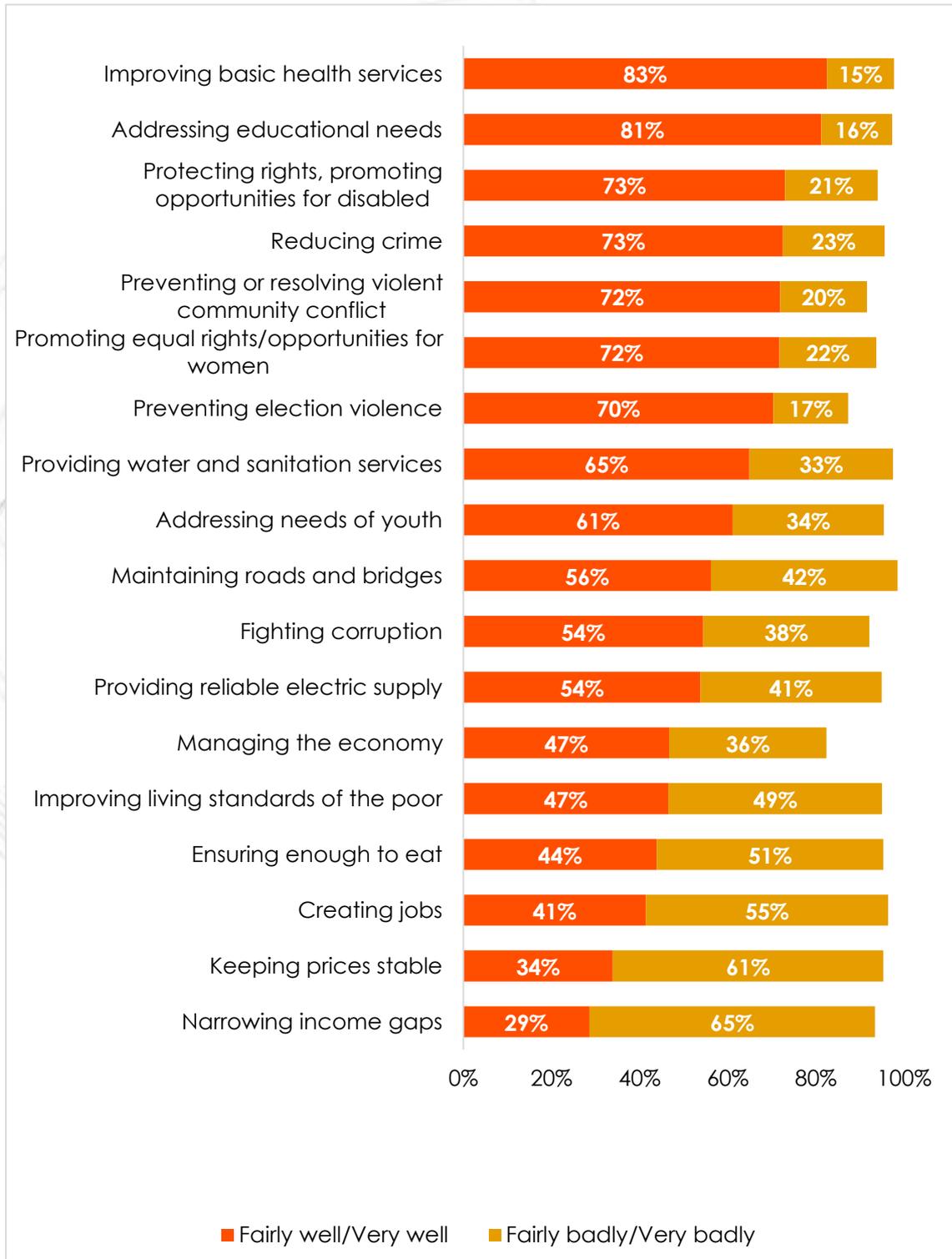
Charts

Figure 1: Approval ratings for public officials | eSwatini | 2013-2018



Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past 12 months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% who "approve, or "strongly approve")

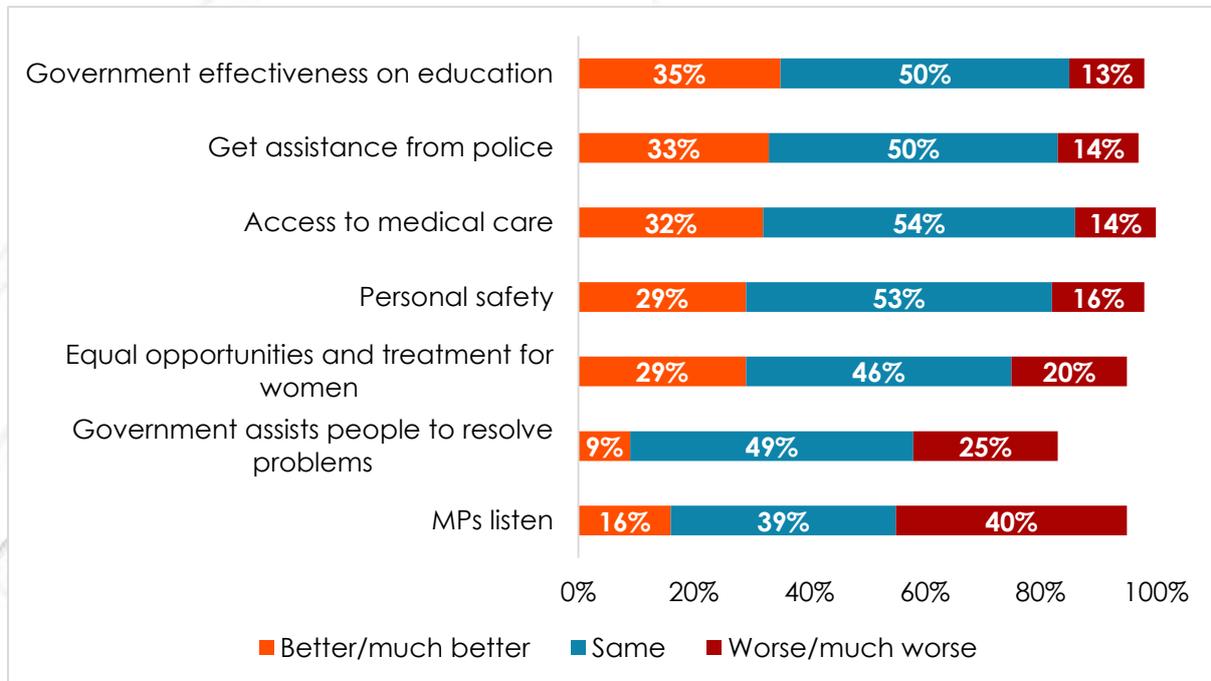
Figure 2: Assessing government performance | eSwatini | 2018



Respondents were asked: *Now let's speak about the performance of the present government of this country. How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say?*



Figure 3: Status of key issues compared to a few years ago | eSwatini | 2018



Respondents were asked: Please tell me if the following things are worse or better now than they were a few years ago, or are they about the same?

For more information, please contact:

activQuest
 Edward Okoth
 Telephone: 7618 4062
 Email: edward@activquest.com

Visit us online at:
www.afrobarometer.org

