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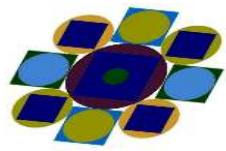


Interest in and Participation in Public and Political Affairs

Lehakoe Recreational Club

Maseru, Lesotho

07 May 2013

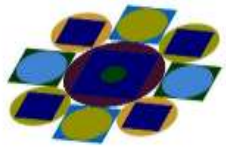


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Interest in Public Affairs



- **54%** in 2012 said they are very interested in public affairs
- **56%** in 2008 said they were very interested in public affairs.

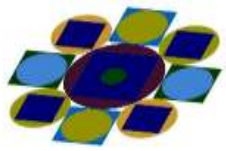


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Attitude Towards and Action in Politics



- **73%** said they voted. (The official voter turnout for 2012 elections is 51%)
- **57%** agreed that sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me cannot really understand what is going on

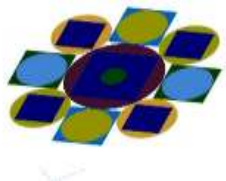


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Engagement in 2012 Elections



- **55%** said they never attended a political rally
- **68%** said never persuaded others to vote for a candidate or political party
- **87%** said they had never worked for a candidate or political party

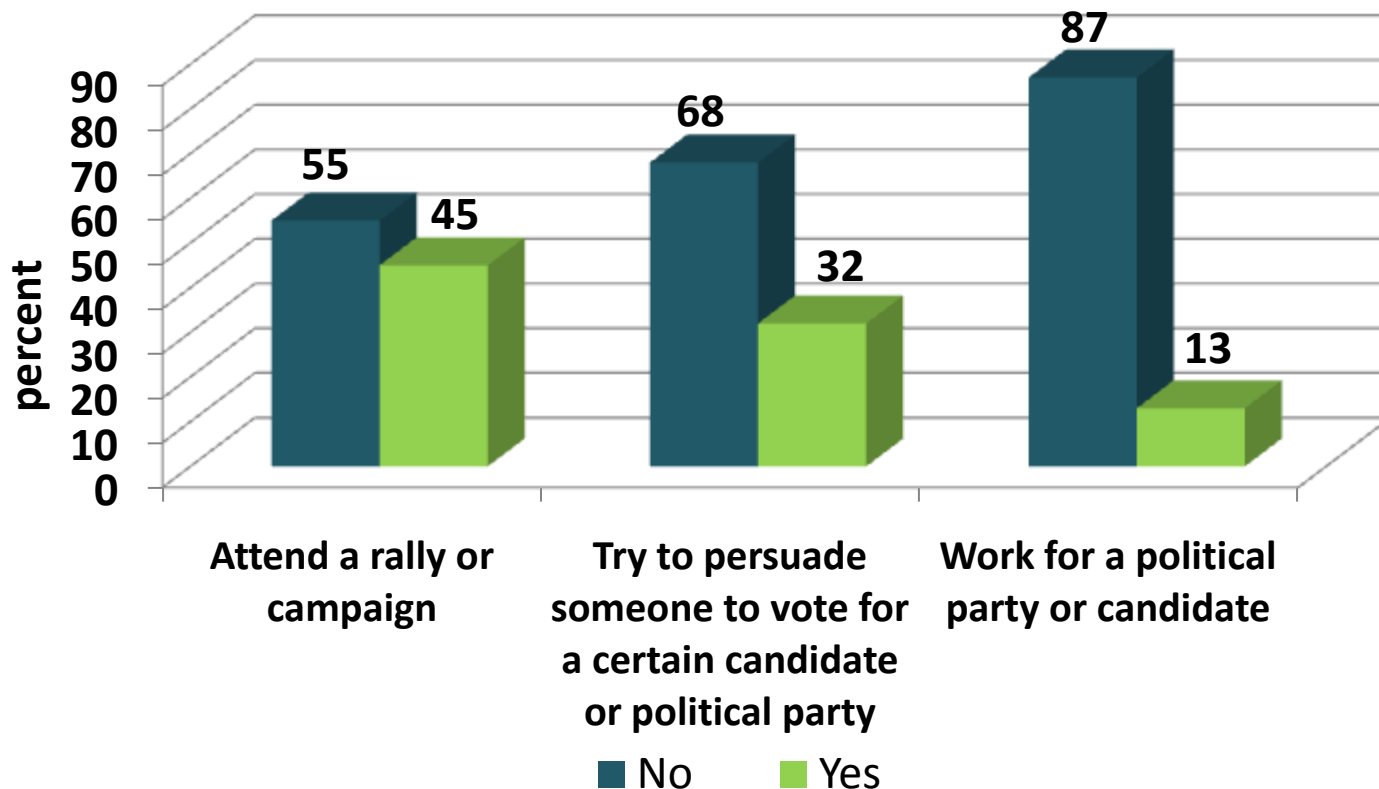


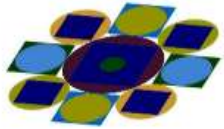
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Participation in Political Activities



Thinking about the last national election in May 2012, did you:



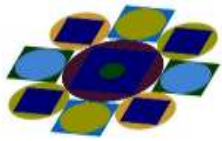


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Contact with Officials in Past 12 Months



- **90%** had never contacted a member of parliament
- **88%** had never contacted a government official
- **88%** had never contacted party official
- **70%** had never contacted a community councilor.
- The figures were not significantly different in the past rounds

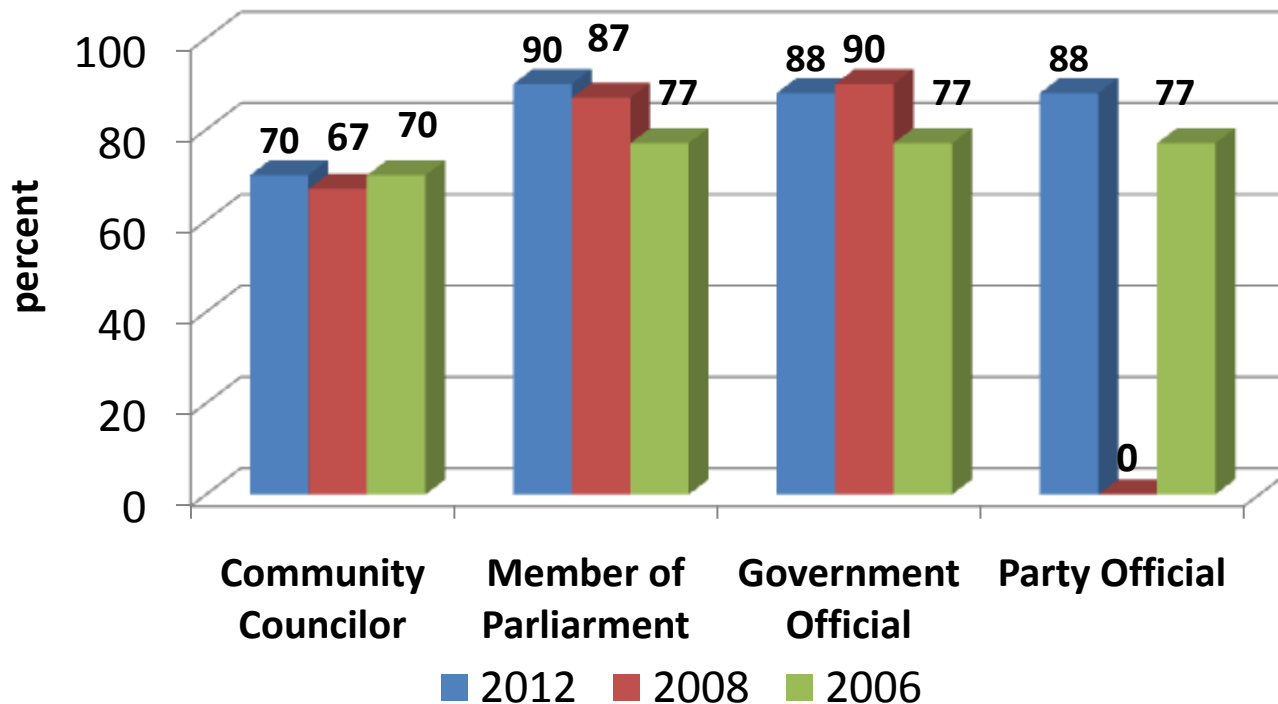


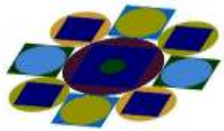
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Contact with Political and Government Officials



*During the past year, how often have you contacted any of the following persons about some important problem or to give them your views:
(Chart shows percent who did not contact the officials)*





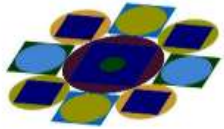
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Civic Engagement



- **80% in 2012** say they were not members of a religious group outside of regular services compared to 2008 compared with 44% in 2008
- **64% in 2012** say they were not members of a voluntary association compared to 57% in 2008

www.afrobarometer.org



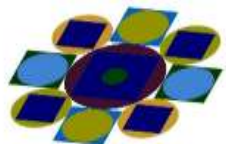
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Civic Action



- **76% in 2012** reported to have attended a rally at least once in the past 12 months
- **56% in 2012** reported to have met with others at least once in the past 12 months
- **67% in 2012** say they would never refuse to pay tax
- **62% in 2012** say they would never join a demonstration or protest march
- **87% in 2012** say they would never use force for a political cause

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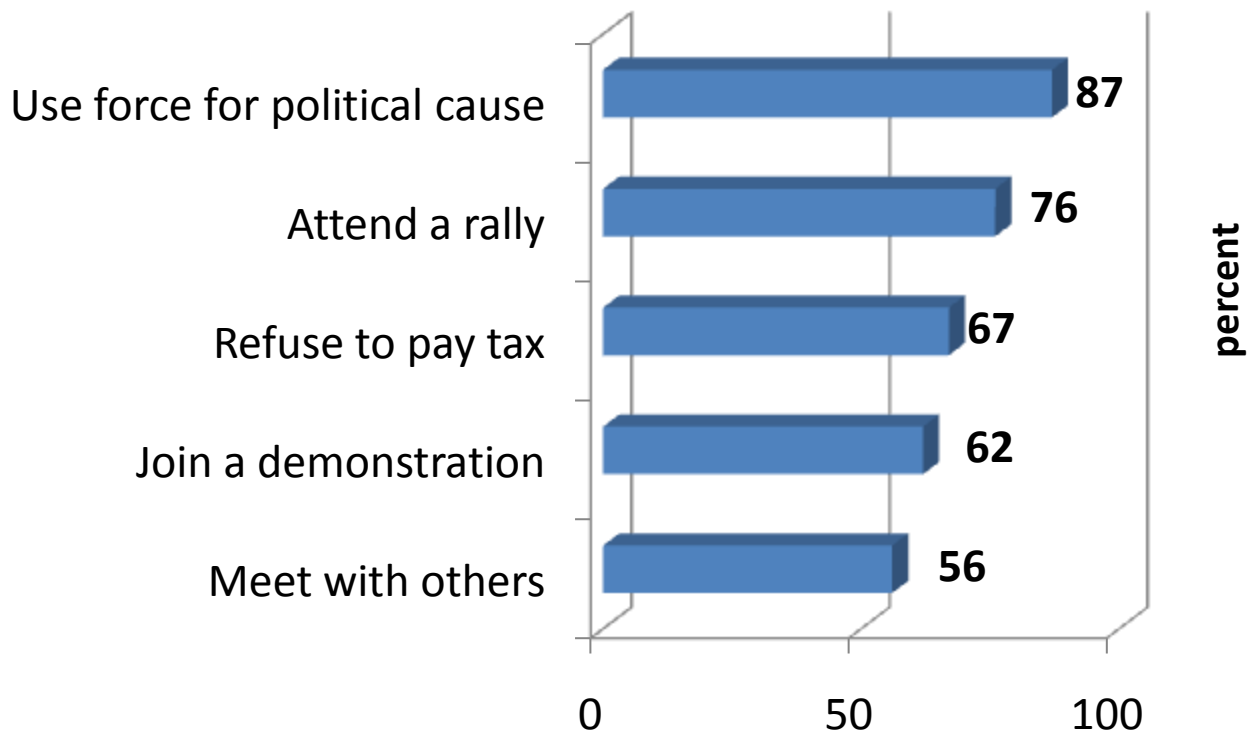
Taking Part in Political Actions

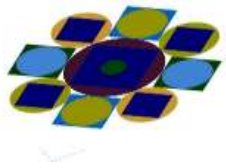


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For each of these, please tell me whether you, personally have done any of these things during the past year:

(Chart shows percent who did not participate in these activities)



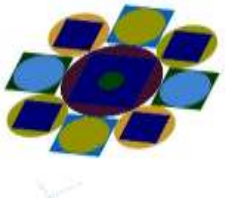


Key Findings



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- A majority of Basotho expressed a great interest in public affairs .
- There is very little contact with political, government and party officials.
- Basotho say politics is not something to be understood by an ordinary person
- They will refrain from participation in any action that might bring political instability and adverse effects.



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