

ADVISION LESOTHO

Advision Lesotho
Maseru, Lesotho
16 March 2015

News release

Basotho see increased corruption despite government efforts

Basotho perceive an increased level of corruption in the past year, with the highest levels of perceived corruption among the police and business executives, according to Afrobarometer's most recent survey. Survey results show that citizens are divided in their assessment of the government's handling of the fight against corruption.

Most Basotho say ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption. The most frequently cited way for citizens to help fight corruption is by reporting corruption when it occurs. However, fewer than half of the population say they trust the Directorate for Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO), the institution to which these reports should be made, and a significant proportion (30%) haven't heard enough about the DCEO to comment on it.

These findings highlight the need for the DCEO to become more visible in order to build the public confidence and cooperation it needs to play its role effectively.

Key findings

- A majority (58%) of Basotho say the level of corruption in Lesotho has increased over the past year.
- The police and business executives are perceived as the most corrupt categories of officials/leaders. Basotho are divided in their assessment of the government's performance in fighting corruption and in their perceptions of the DCEO.
- Six in 10 respondents (59%) say ordinary Basotho can make a difference in the fight against corruption, most effectively by reporting corruption when it occurs. This highlights the importance of addressing the significant proportion (30%) of the population that has not heard enough about the institution responsible for combating corruption in the country (DCEO).

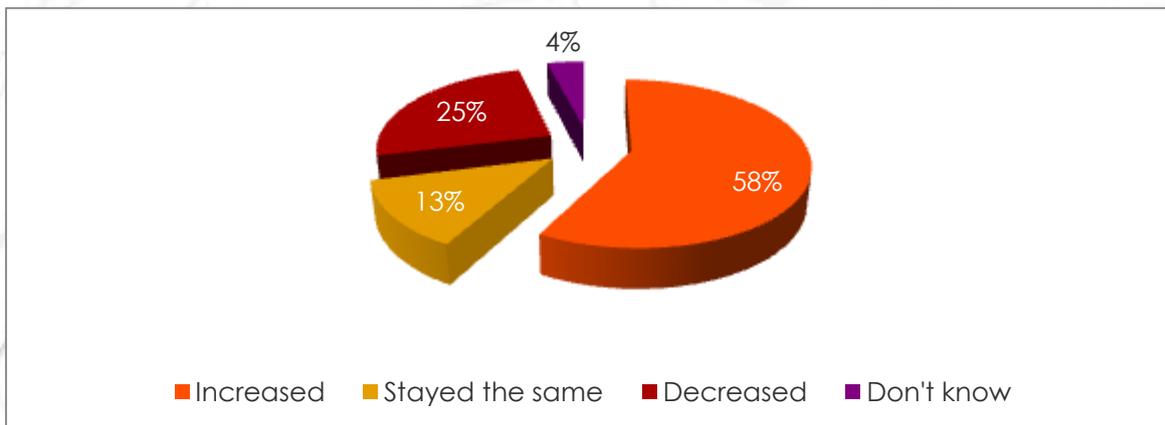
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is an African-led, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and Round 6 surveys are currently under way (2014-2015). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of between 1,200 and 2,400 respondents.

The Afrobarometer team in Lesotho, led by Advice Lesotho, interviewed 1,200 adult Basotho in May 2014. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Lesotho in 2000, 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2012.

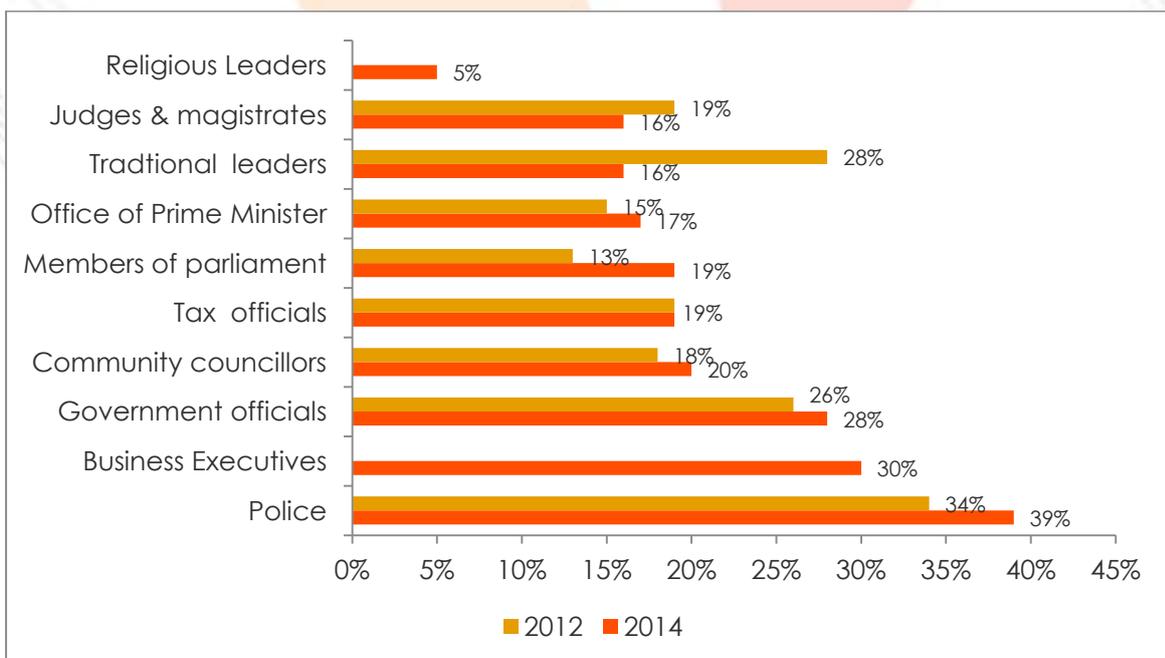
Charts

Figure 1: Perception of corruption level over the past year | Lesotho 2014



Participants were asked: In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same? ("increased"="increased a lot" or "increased somewhat"; "decreased"="decreased somewhat" or "decreased a lot")

Figure 2: Perception of corruption among officials/leaders | Lesotho | 2012 - 2014



Participants were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% who say "most of them" or "all of them")

For more information, please contact:

Libuseng Malephane
Advison Lesotho
Telephone: +266 22325293
Email: advison@ecoweb.co.ls

Visit us online at: www.afrobarometer.org

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @Afrobarometer.

