

Press Release

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Afrobarometer Findings: Extractive States Tax-Use Opaque, Official Impunity High

Findings from the latest Afrobarometer survey of 34 African countries show a tension between the success of democratic institutions and the opacity of the tax system. The research also shows that a majority of survey participants perceive that officials who commit crimes rarely or never face consequences.

The findings will be published today (11 December, 2013) in the report "Mining, Oil States Open, But Official Impunity High: Few say they can track tax revenue use."

Twenty two¹ of 34 African countries surveyed by Afrobarometer stake their countries' economic futures on development of mineral or oil production, but successful shepherding of these natural resources hinges on governments' ability to manage them while maintaining stable democracies.

A majority of survey participants say they do not know how the government uses revenues from any of its taxes and fees, setting the stage for citizen frustration and concern. A majority also say that officials who commit crimes rarely or never face consequences.

Against these gaps in transparency and official impunity, majorities in oil and mineral rich states enjoy basic freedoms of speech and membership in political parties. Majorities also perceive their media as effective in monitoring government or reporting corruption, and say their presidents follow the rule of law.

The two streams of perception create interesting challenges for governments trying to negotiate with foreign companies for the best mineral and petroleum extraction deals while maintaining transparency and accountability.

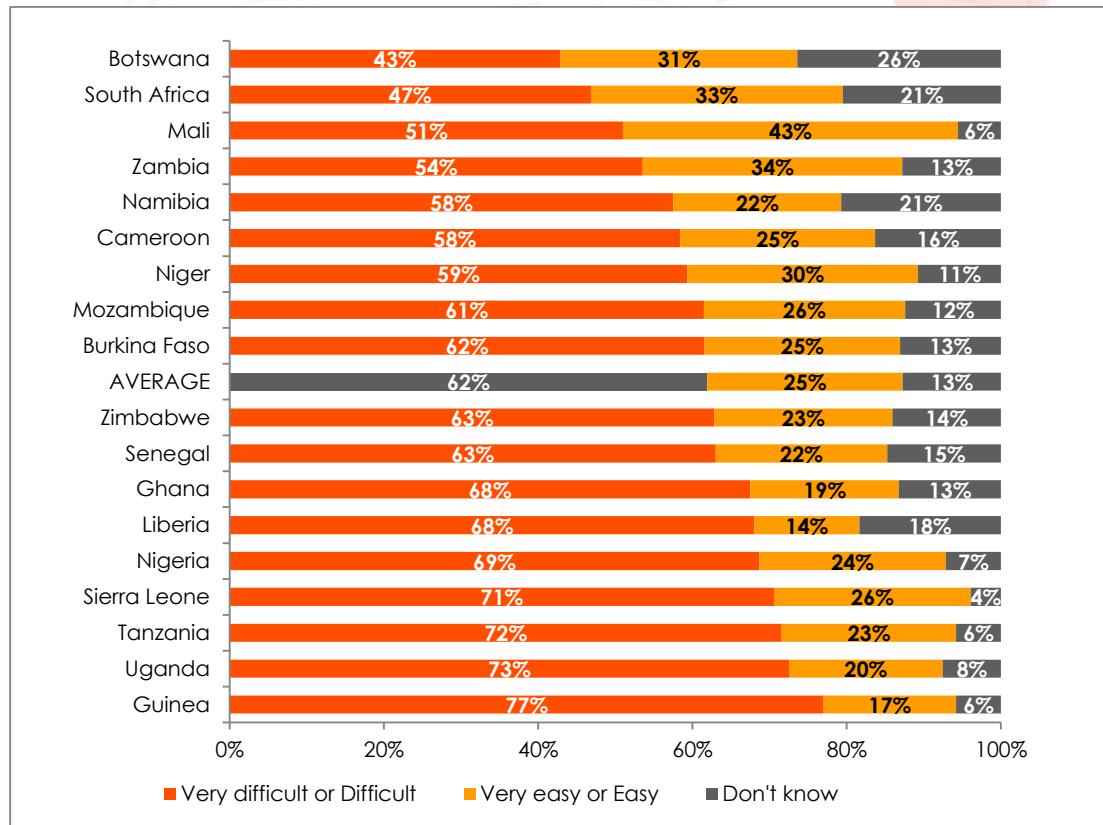
¹ The countries are: Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Key Findings

- About 6 out of 10 people in countries with extractive industries (62%) say it is fairly or very difficult to know how the government uses revenues from taxes and fees.
- A majority of people (54%) in extractive states say officials often or always go unpunished.
- Thirty-seven percent of people in extractive states say most or all tax officials are corrupt compared with 29% in states that do not get a significant amount of their revenue from oil or mining.
- Six in ten people (64%) in extractive countries say that they must often or always be careful about what they say about politics.
- Majorities give their countries high ratings on several key indicators of open democracies, such as free and fair elections, and freedom to join political parties. On average, more than six in ten people say the media is effective in monitoring government mistakes or corruption, for example.

Charts

Figure 1: Ease or Difficulty of Finding Out How Tax Revenue is Spent



Participants were asked: "Based on your experience, how easy or difficult is it to find out how government uses the revenues from people's taxes and fees?"

* **Note:** This question was not asked in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco or Sudan

Figure 2: Impunity Among Government Officials

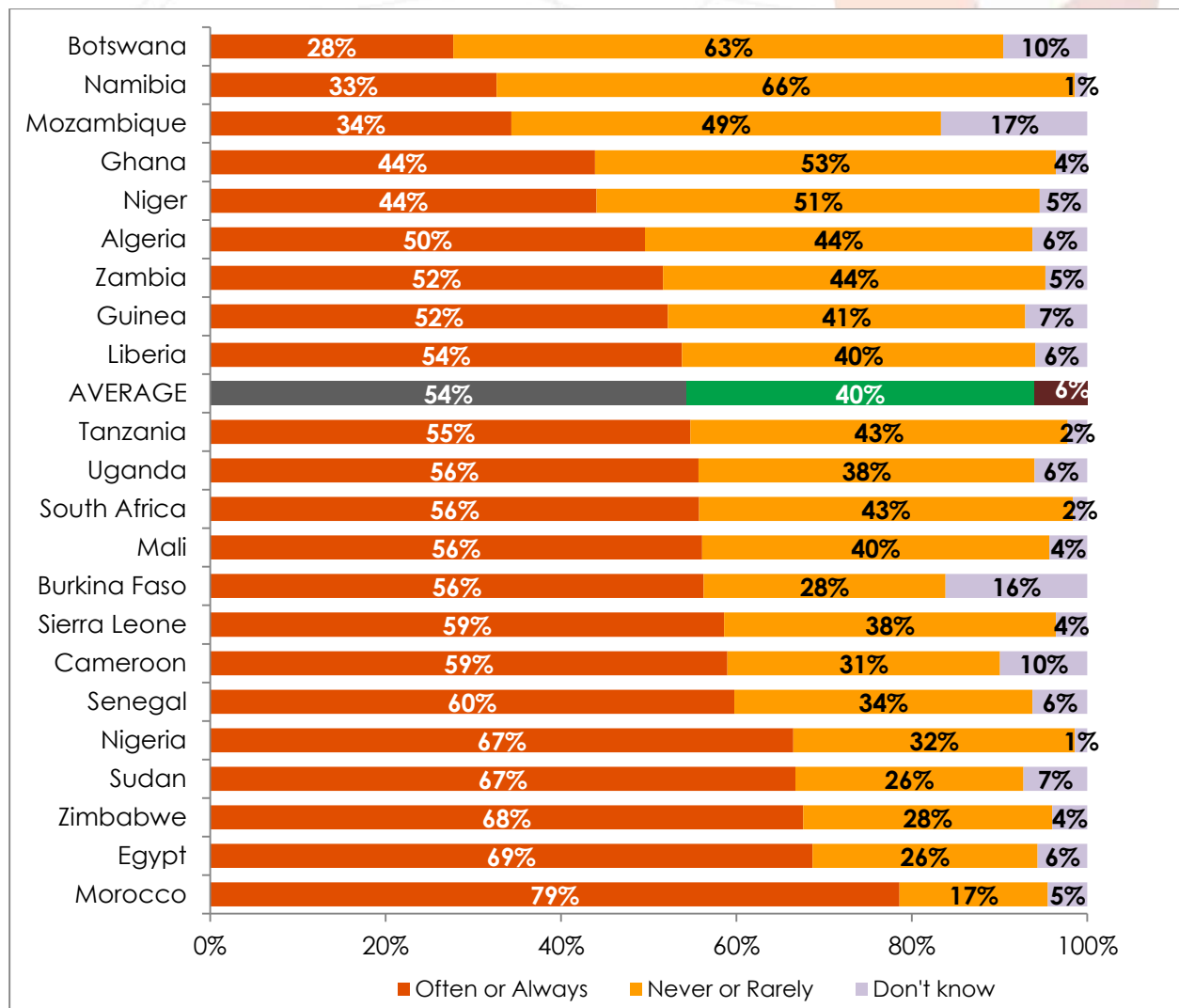


Table 1: Transparent and Accountable Governance Score for Extractive & Non-Extractive Economies

34-AB Countries			22-Extractive Industry Countries			12-Non-Extractive Industry Countries		
	Score on Index	Rank		Score on Index	Rank		Score on Index	Rank
Botswana	1.15	1	Botswana	1.15	1	Mauritius	1.04	1
Ghana	1.07	2	Ghana	1.07	2	Malawi	1.01	2
Mauritius	1.04	3	Niger	1.02	3	Benin	0.96	3
Niger	1.02	4	Namibia	1.01	4	Lesotho	0.96	3
Namibia	1.01	5	Tanzania	1.01	4	Cape Verde	0.94	5
Tanzania	1.01	5	Liberia	0.99	6	Burundi	0.90	6
Malawi	1.01	5	Senegal	0.99	6	Tunisia	0.88	7
Liberia	0.99	8	South Africa	0.94	8	Average	0.83	
Senegal	0.99	8	Zambia	0.94	8	Kenya	0.79	8
Benin	0.96	10	Sierra Leone	0.88	10	Madagascar	0.67	9
Lesotho	0.96	10	Algeria	0.87	11	Togo	0.67	9
South Africa	0.94	12	Mali	0.87	11	Swaziland	0.59	11
Zambia	0.94	12	Average	0.84		Cote D'Ivoire	0.54	12
Cape Verde	0.94	12	Guinea	0.83	13			
Burundi	0.90	15	Burkina Faso	0.79	14			
Sierra Leone	0.88	16	Uganda	0.78	15			
Tunisia	0.88	16	Mozambique	0.75	16			
Algeria	0.87	18	Cameroon	0.68	17			
Mali	0.87	18	Nigeria	0.68	17			
Average	0.84		Egypt	0.65	19			
Guinea	0.83	20	Morocco	0.59	20			
Burkina Faso	0.79	21	Zimbabwe	0.50	21			
Kenya	0.79	21	Sudan	0.49	22			
Uganda	0.78	23						
Mozambique	0.75	24						
Cameroon	0.68	25						
Nigeria	0.68	25						
Madagascar	0.67	27						
Togo	0.67	27						
Egypt	0.65	29						
Morocco	0.59	30						
Swaziland	0.59	30						
Cote D'Ivoire	0.54	32						
Zimbabwe	0.50	33						
Sudan	0.49	34						

Table Legend	Very open	Fairly open	Not open	Not at all open
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Afrobarometer

The Afrobarometer Network is a series of comparative studies on public opinion which currently includes more than 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2012). Based on representative samples of the population of the countries surveyed, Afrobarometer collects and disseminates information on the views of Africans on democracy, governance, economic reform, civil society and the quality of people's lives.