

## News release

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### Unemployment Remains the Top Issue in the Minds of Swazis

Swaziland was excluded from the United States Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) at the beginning of 2015 and there are expectations that this will have an adverse impact on the economy and employment. Also the continued unpredictability of the revenue derived from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) continues to be a major challenge for the government and its ability to address some of these issues.

According to the most recent Afrobarometer survey held in Swaziland in April and May 2015, one in two Swazis (53%) said that unemployment is one of the most important issues government should address, compared to (42%) in 2013 who stated the same.

Education (23%), poverty (23%), water supply (22%), infrastructure/roads (19%), health (18%) and corruption (17%) round up the top seven issues Swazi citizens would like the government to prioritise.

#### Key findings

- Half (53%) of Swazis said unemployment was an important issue for government, up 11% from 2013 (42%) indicating that this is a growing concern for Swazi citizens (see Figure 1).
- A little over a fifth (23%) of Swazis said the government was performing well when it came to creating jobs compared to almost a third (30%) of Swazis in 2013 who reported the same (see Figure 2).
- Almost three fifths of adult Swazis (60%) are of the opinion that trade agreements such as AGOA and SACU are vital in promoting development and government should therefore ensure that all conditions for such agreements are honoured (see Figure 3).

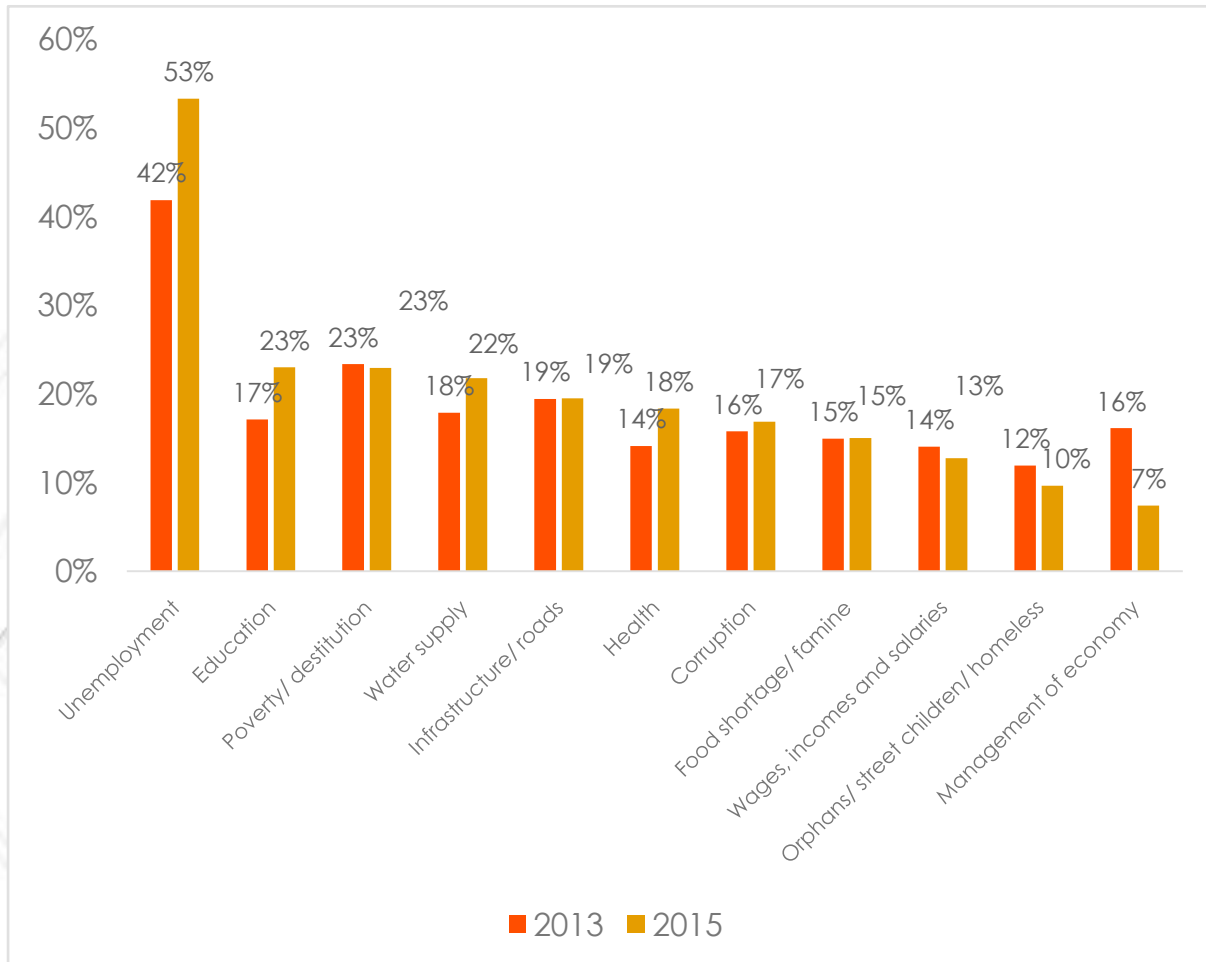
#### Afrobarometer

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. Six rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 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 Swaziland, led by activQuest, interviewed 1,200 adult Swazis in April and May 2015. 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 Swaziland in 2013.

## Charts

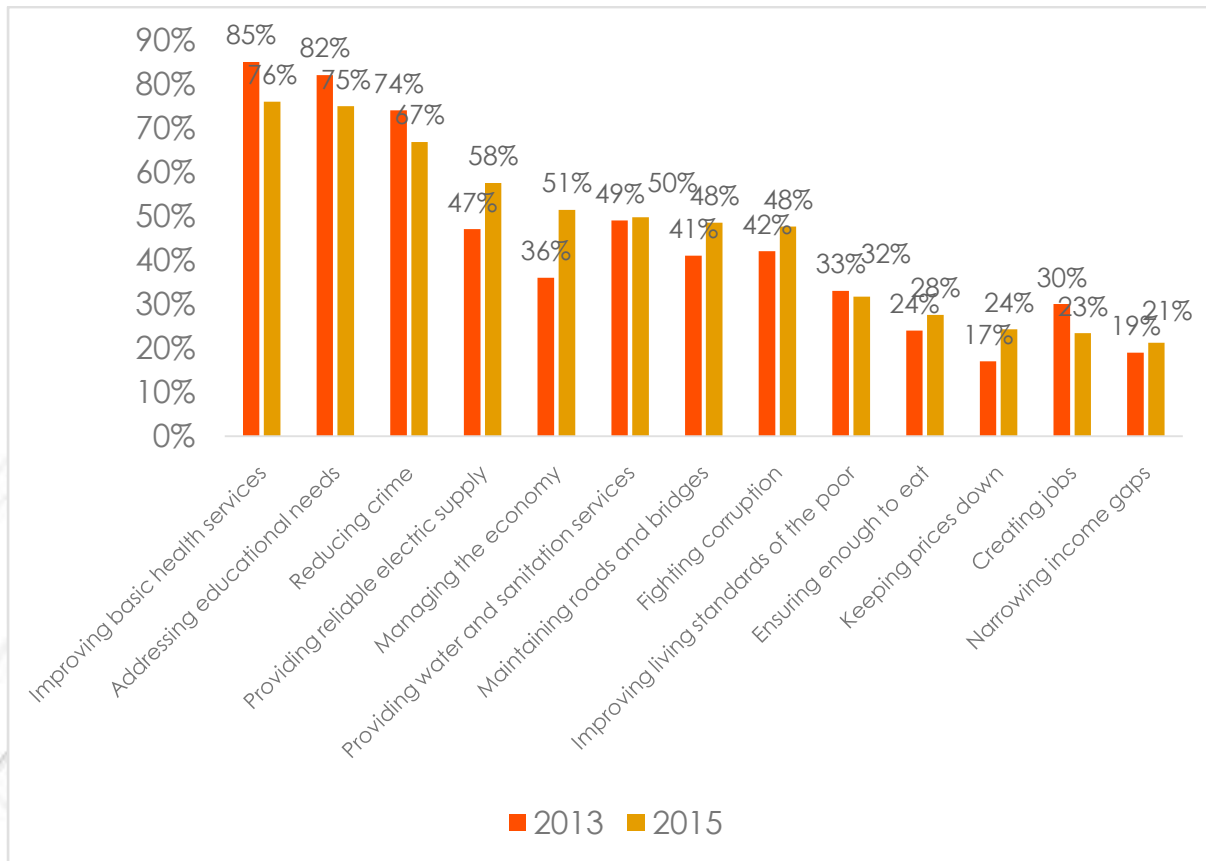
**Figure 1: Most important problems government should address | Swaziland | 2013 and 2015**



**Respondents were asked:**

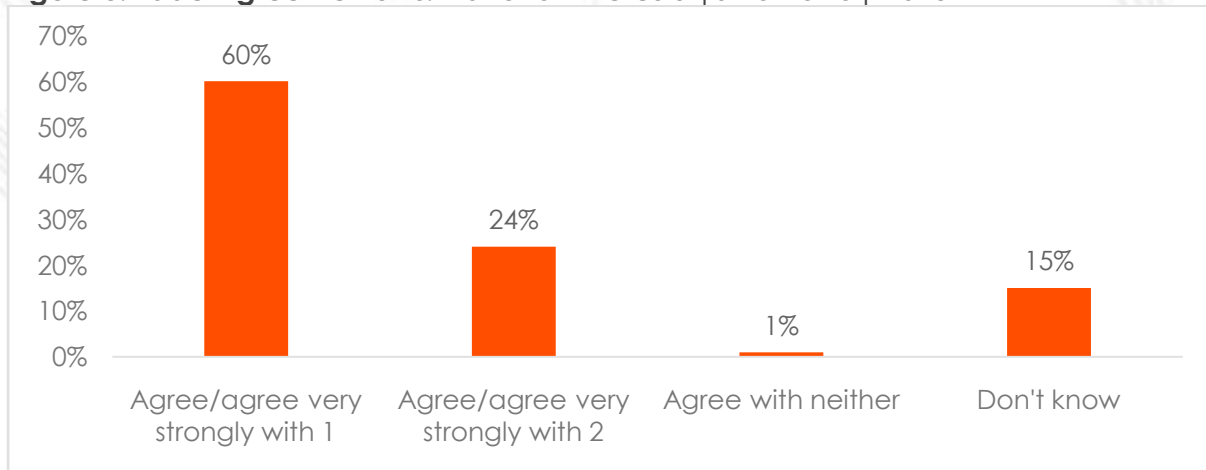
*In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address?*

**Figure 2: Government Performance on Different Issues | Swaziland | 2013 and 2015**



**Respondents were asked:** How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who responded fairly well/very well)

**Figure 3: Trade Agreements vs. National Interests | Swaziland | 2015**



**Respondents were asked:** Please, tell me which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.

**Statement 1:** Trade agreements with other countries such as the AGOA and SACU are vital for promoting development in Swaziland. Government should therefore ensure that all conditions of such agreements are honoured.

**Statement 2:** Since government is elected to represent the interests of the people of Swaziland, it should have the authority not to honour trade agreement conditions that it feels are not in the national interest)

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