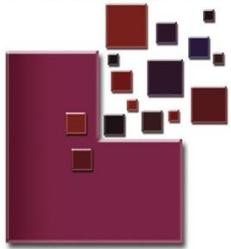




# Perceptions of democracy, political parties and freedom of movement in SADC

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 6 Surveys in Swaziland



activQuest

# At a glance

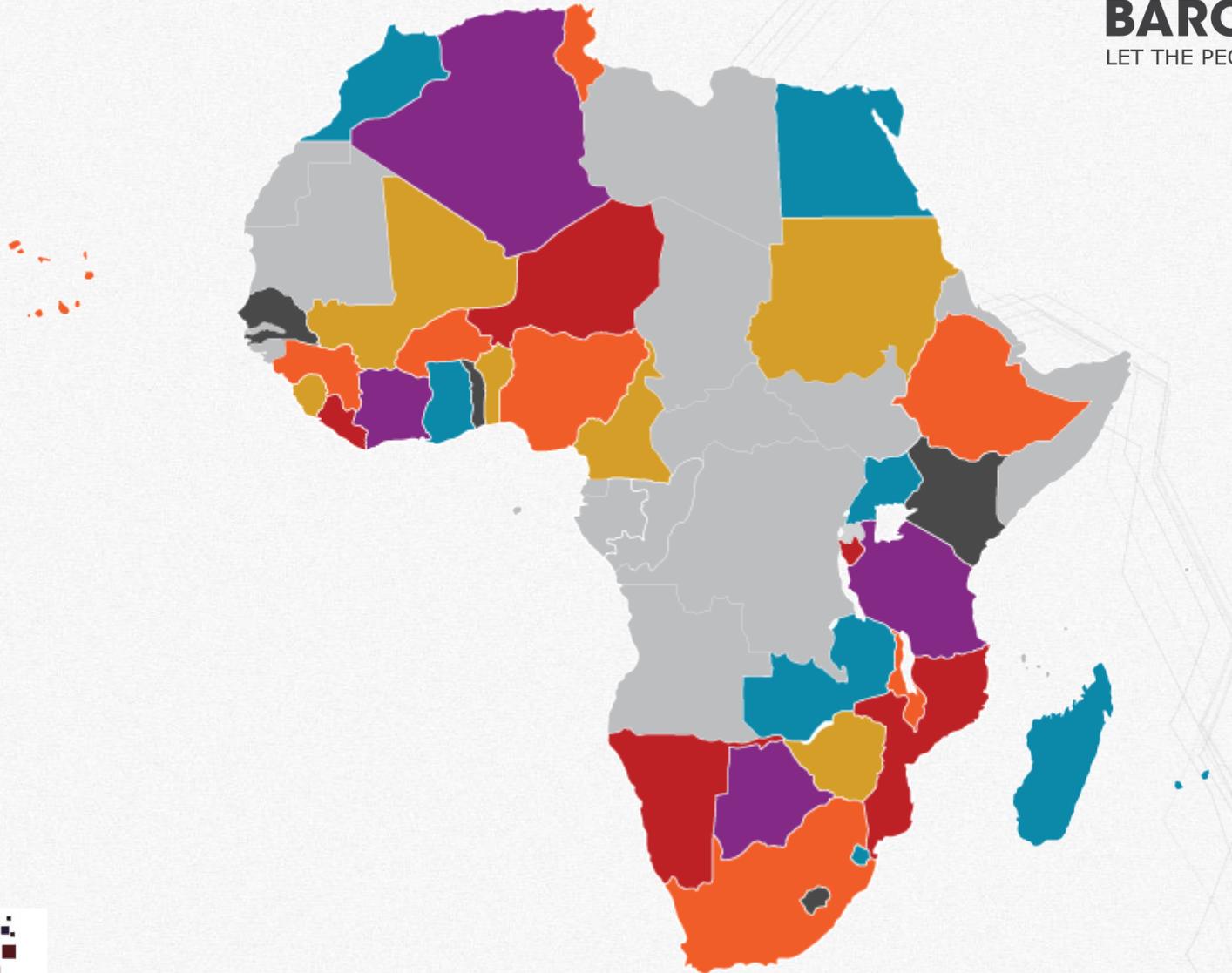
- **Political Parties**: Six out of every 10 (64%) of Swazi's believe political parties to be divisive and cause confusion hence they are unnecessary.
- **Democracy**: Public satisfaction with the way democracy works in Swaziland has decreased from 36% in 2013 to 28% in 2015
- **Freedom of movement**: More than half (55%) of Swazis say it is currently "difficult" or "very difficult" to cross international borders to work or trade in other countries in the region.
- **Regional intervention**: Pluralities of Swazis say the AU (44%) and SADC (48%) help their country "somewhat" or "a lot."

# What is Afrobarometer?



- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999, expanded to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013).
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- National Partners in each country conduct the survey. In **Swaziland**, Afrobarometer Round 6 survey was conducted by **activQuest**.

# Where Afrobarometer works



# Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
  - ❑ Sample is distributed across regions and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
  - ❑ Every adult citizen has an *equal* chance of being selected.
- Face-to-face interviews In the language of the respondent's choice.
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in **Swaziland** of **1,200** adult citizens yields a margin of error of **+/-3%** at a **95%** confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 6 in **Swaziland** was conducted between **21 April** and **4 May 2015**.

# Enumerator Map



Sampeld  
Enumeration Areas



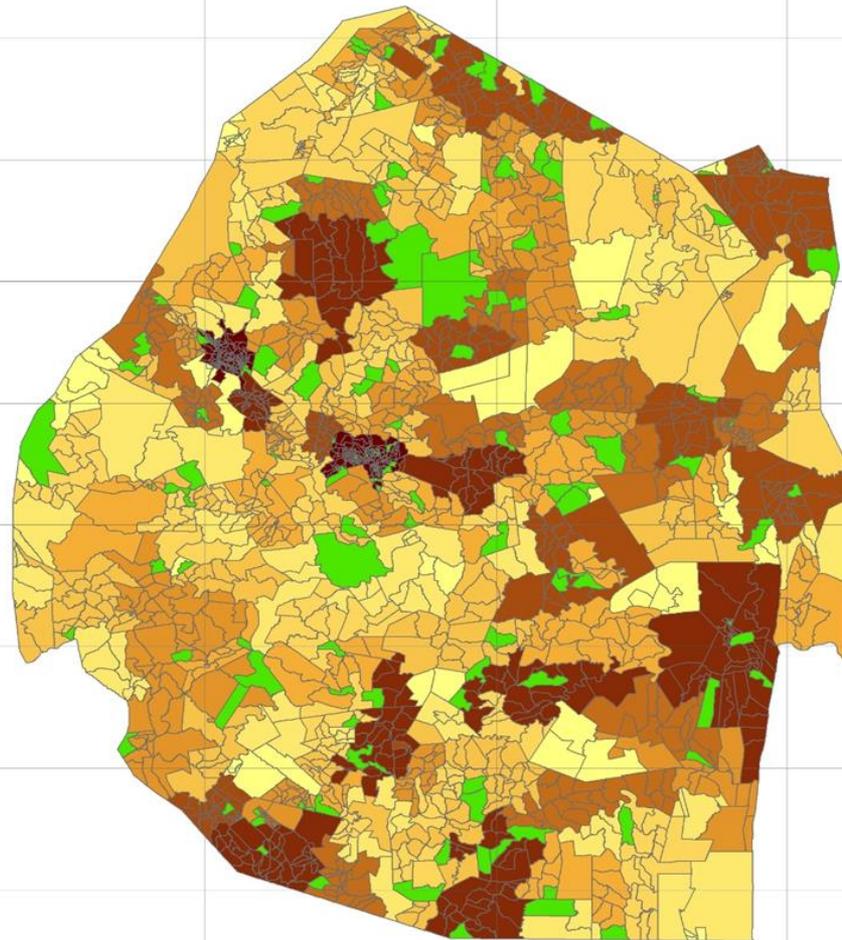
Plot 56, Office No.103, 1st Floor,  
African City Building,  
Gwamile Street, Mbabane.  
P. O. Box 1256,  
Mbabane  
Tel: 2404 7198  
Mobile: 7802 6341/2  
Mail: datamaticsSD@gmail.com  
Web: www.datamatics.co.sz



1:981 129



Transverse Mercator, Clarke 1880 Axis  
Central Meridian = 31 9 (E 31)



Legend	
	Sampled EAs
<b>Enumeration Areas</b>	
<b>Population</b>	
	48.000000 - 1210.000000
	1210.000001 - 2262.000000
	2262.000001 - 3249.000000
	3249.000001 - 4364.000000
	4364.000001 - 5483.000000
	5483.000001 - 6896.000000
	6896.000001 - 9231.000000
	9231.000001 - 12447.000000
	12447.000001 - 17297.000000
	17297.000001 - 58991.000000

# Survey demographics

		Unweighted	Weighted
<b>Gender</b>			
	Male	50%	50%
	Female	50%	50%
<b>Location</b>			
	Urban	23%	22%
	Rural	77%	78%
<b>Region</b>			
	Hhohho	29%	28%
	Manzini	33%	31%
	Shiselweni	19%	20%
	Lubombo	20%	20%
<b>Education</b>			
	No formal education	8%	8%
	Primary	22%	23%
	Secondary	50%	51%
	Post-secondary	19%	18%
<b>Religion</b>			
	Christian	90%	90%
	Muslim	0%	0%
	Other	10%	10%



# Results



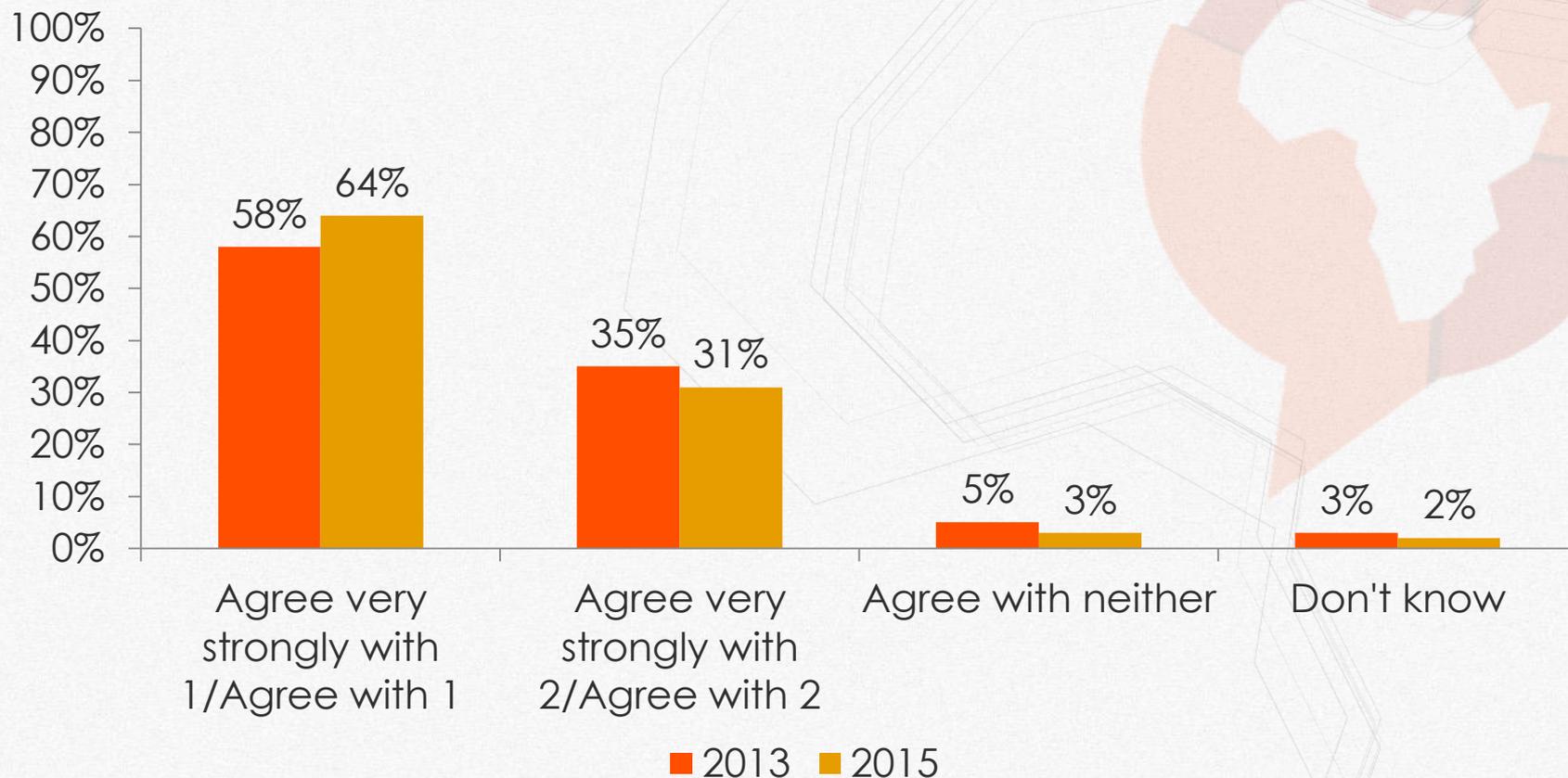


# Public perception of political parties

# Key findings

- Six in 10 Swazi (64%) feel that many political parties create division and confusion and are therefore unnecessary in Swaziland. This perception is an increase of six percentage points from 2012.
- Only one in 10 Swazi (10%) definition of democracy includes voting/elections/multiparty competition, while for about four in 10 Swazi (42%) say democracy means civil liberties/personal freedoms.

## Political parties divisive | Swaziland | 2013-2015

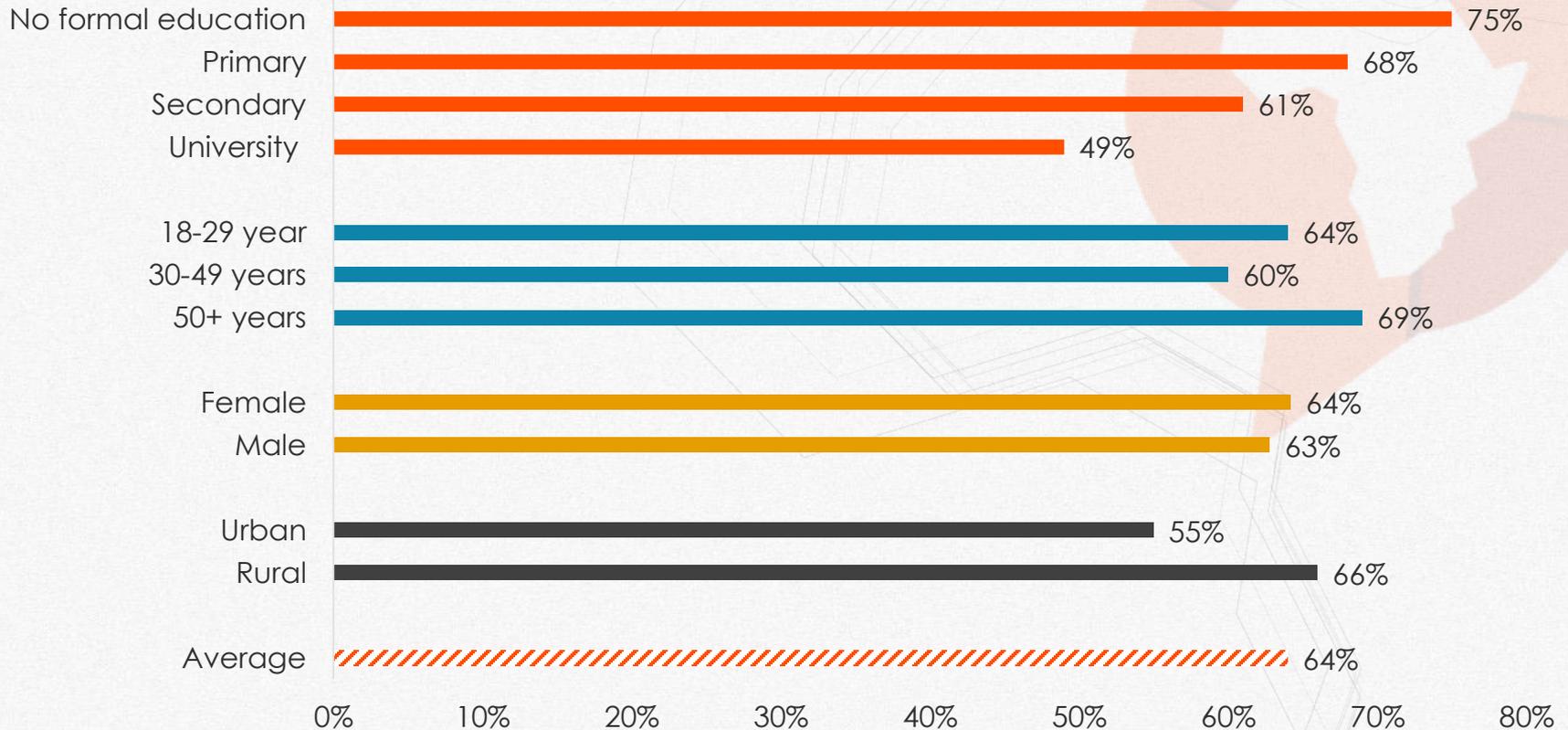


Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

"Statement 1: Political parties create division and confusion; it is therefore unnecessary to have many political parties in Swaziland.

Statement 2: Many political parties are needed to make sure that Swaziland have real choices in who governs them."

# Political parties divisive | by demographics | Swaziland | 2015



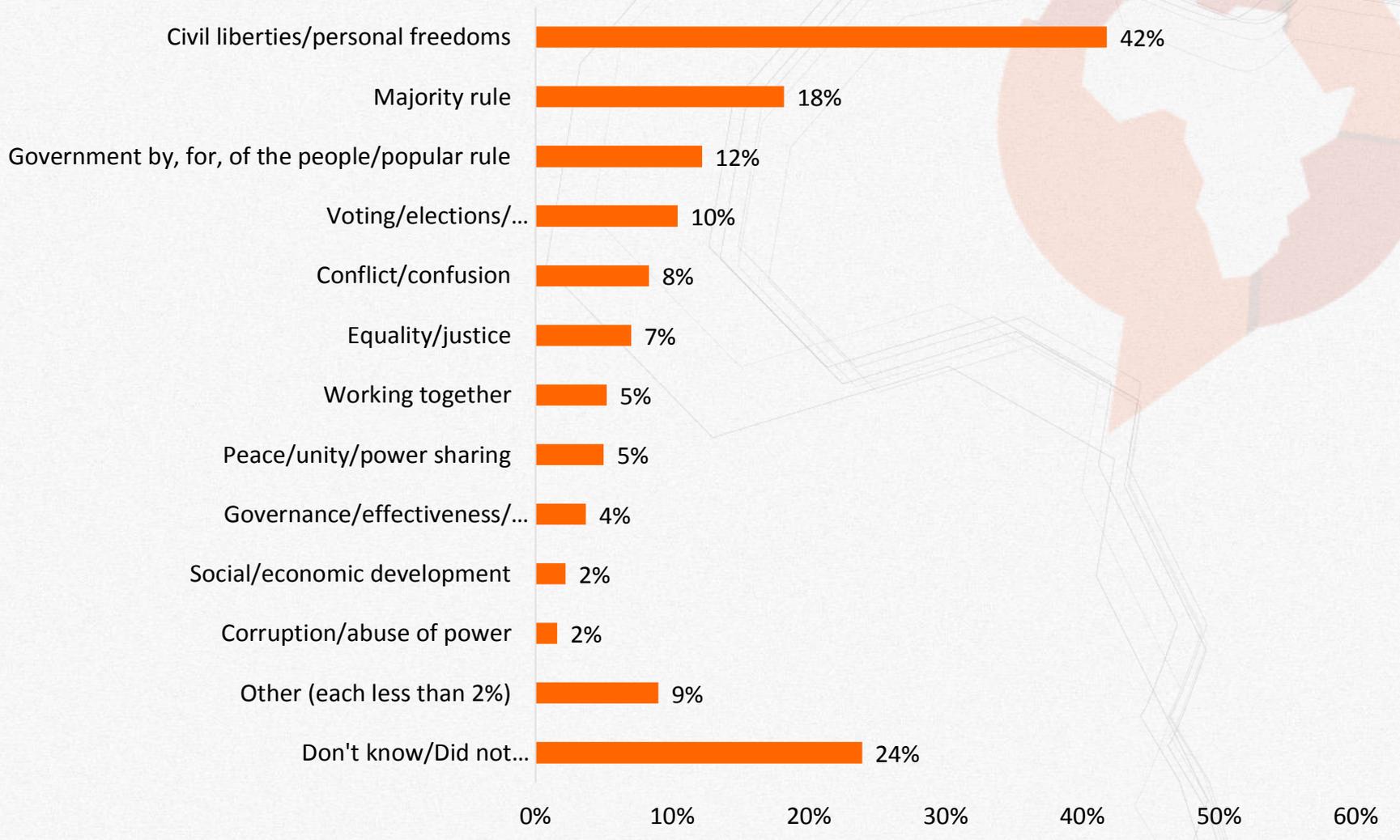
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: Political parties create division and confusion; it is therefore unnecessary to have many political parties in Swaziland.

Statement 2: Many political parties are needed to make sure that Swaziland have real choices in who governs them."

(% "Agree very strongly with 1" or "Agree with 1")

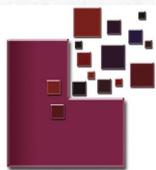
# Meaning of democracy | Swaziland | 2015



Respondents were asked: What, if anything, does “democracy” mean to you?



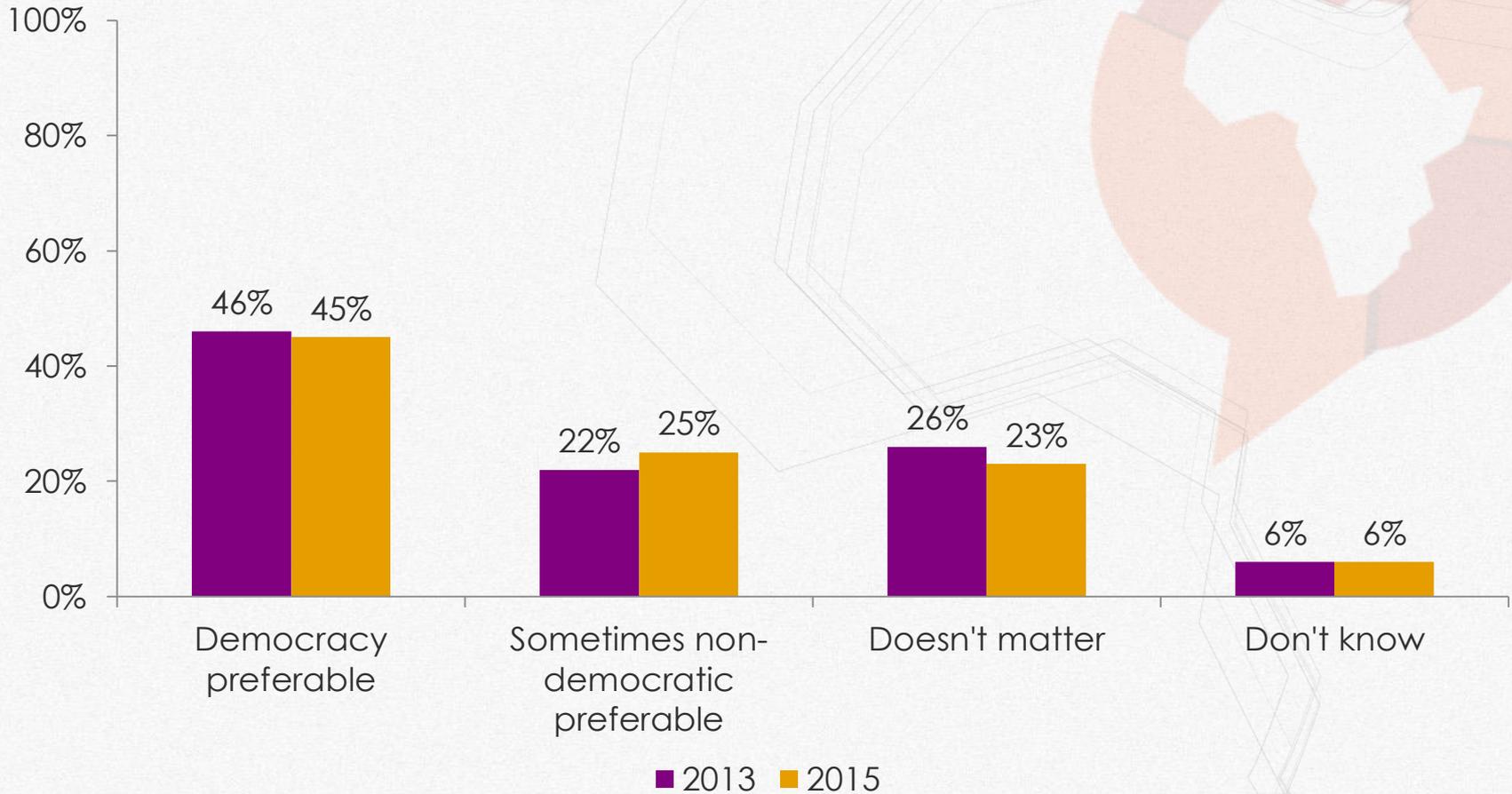
# Support for and satisfaction with democracy in Swaziland



# Key findings

- Public satisfaction with the way democracy works in Swaziland has decreased from 36% in 2013 to 28% in 2015
- Swazis' perceptions of the extent of democracy in Swaziland has decreased from 36% in 2013, to 33% in 2015.
- About seven in 10 Swazis continue to reject one party rule; with close to 80% rejecting any abolishment of *elections and Parliament*.

# Support for democracy | Swaziland | 2013-2015



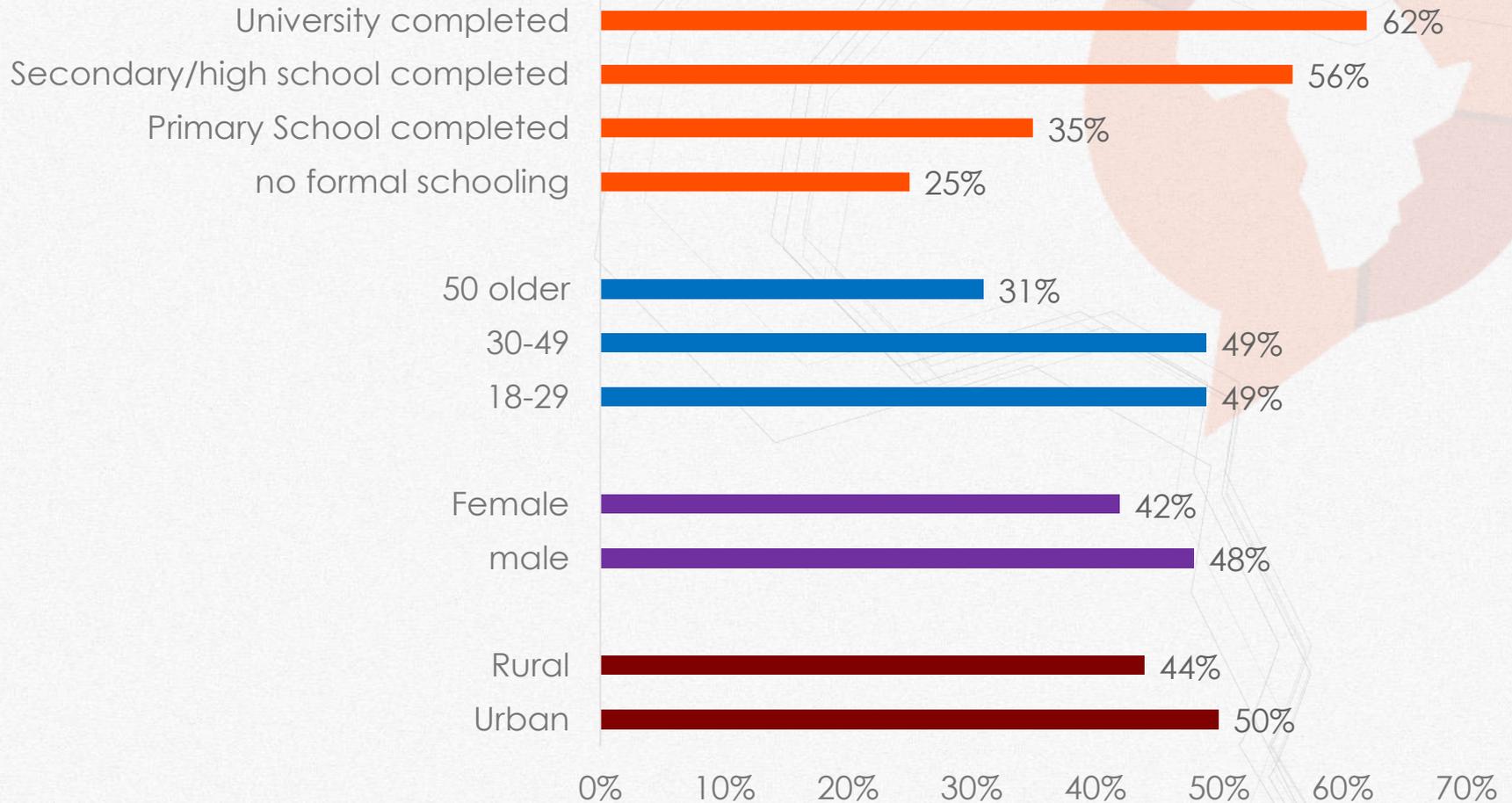
Respondents were asked: Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion?

Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.

Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable.

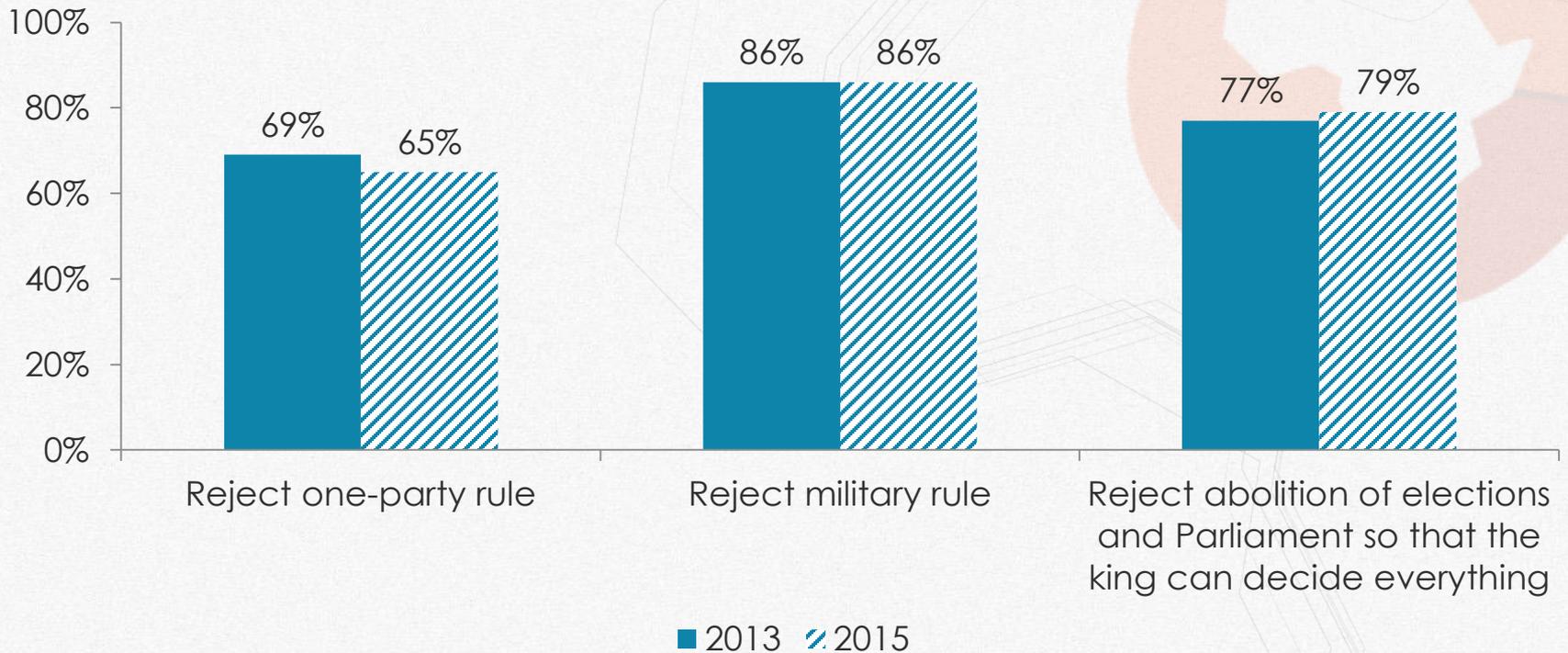
Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.

# Support for democracy | by demographics | Swaziland | 2015



(% who say "democracy is preferable to any other kind of government").

# Rejection of alternative regimes | Swaziland | 2013-2015



**Respondents were asked:** *There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives?*

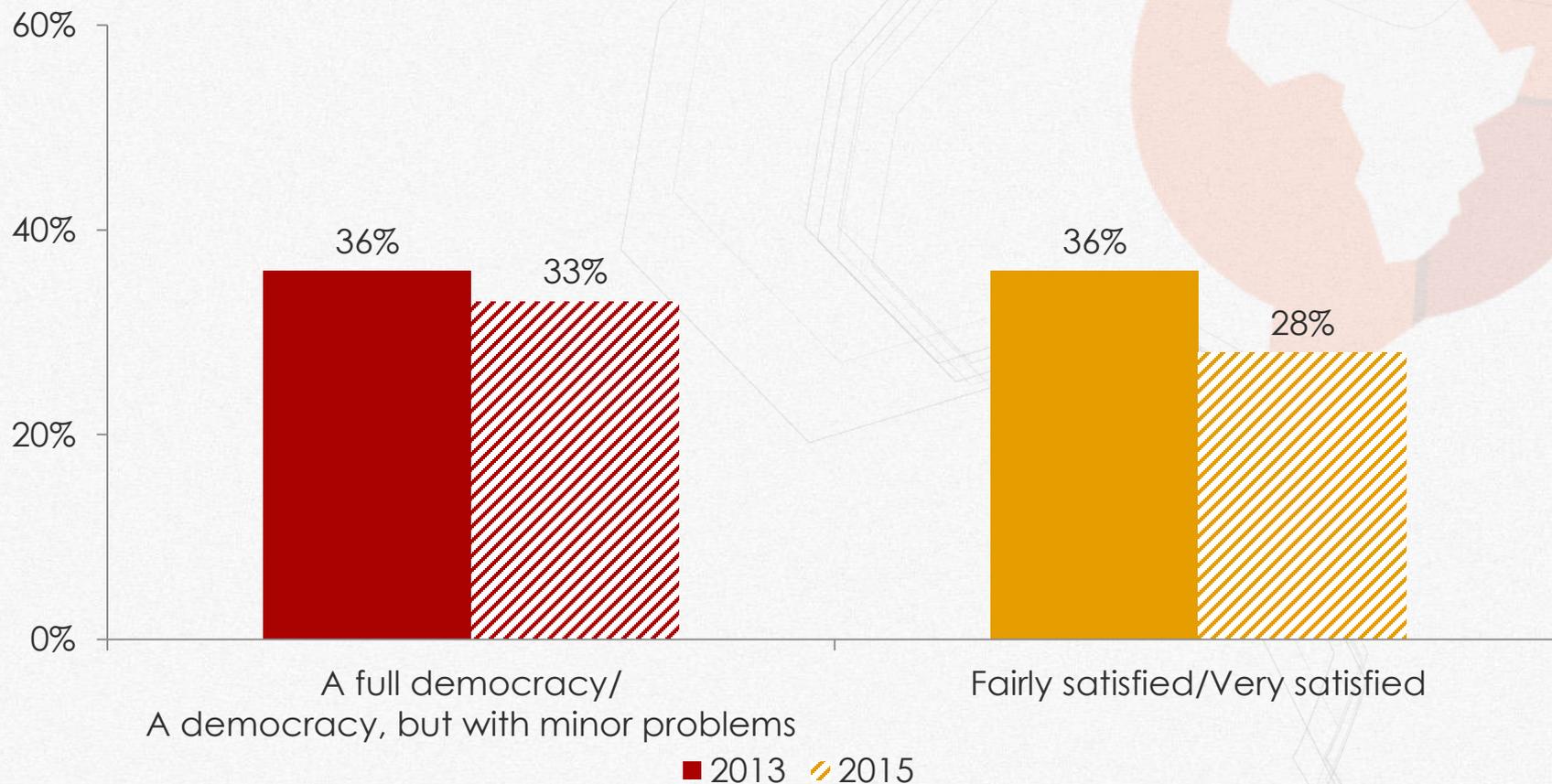
*Only one political party is allowed to stand for election and hold office*

*The army comes in to govern the country.*

*Elections and Parliament are abolished so that the king can decide everything.*

*(% "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove")*

## Satisfaction with and the extent of democracy | Swaziland | 2013-2015



Respondents were asked:

*In your opinion, how much of a democracy is Swaziland today?*

*Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Swaziland?*

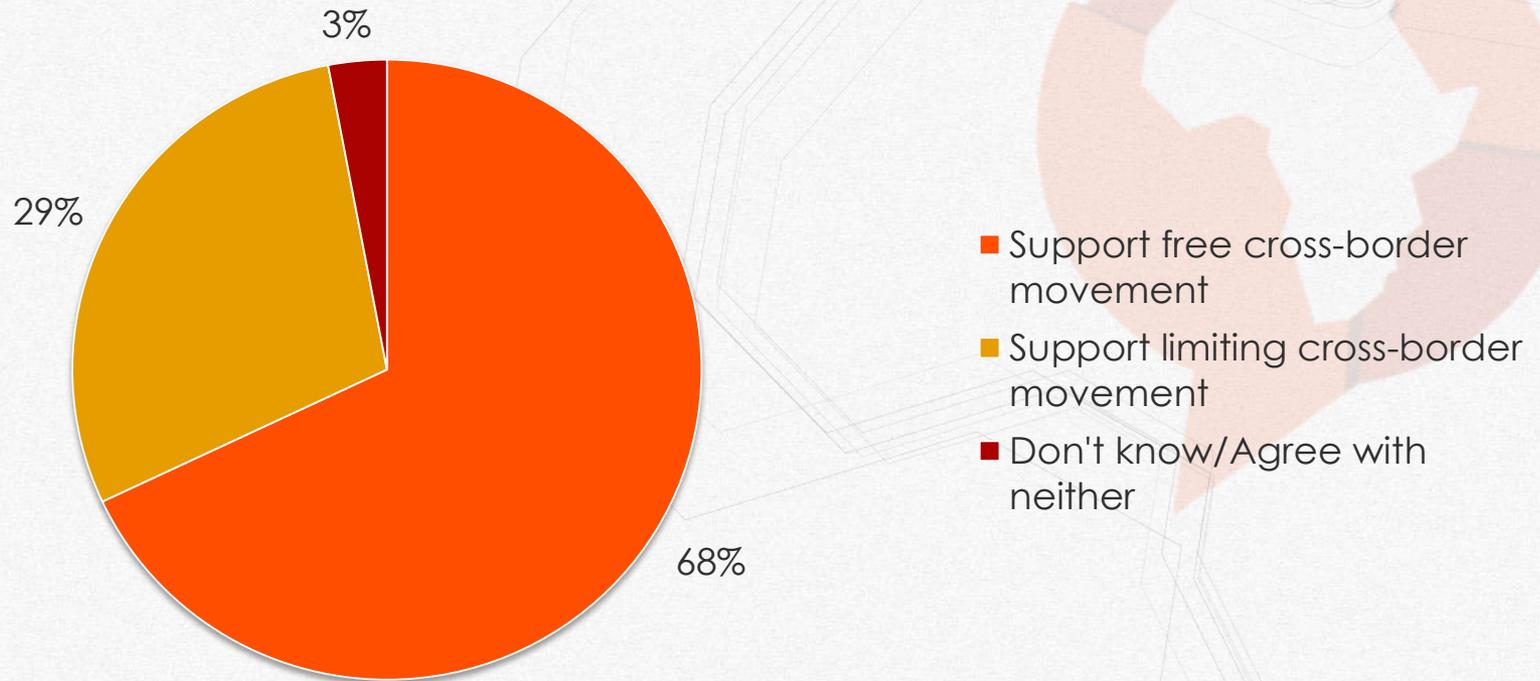


# Freedom of movement

# Key findings

- Two in three Swazis (68%) say people living in Southern Africa should be able to move freely across international borders for trade or work in other countries.
- More than half (55%) of Swazis say it is currently “difficult” or “very difficult” to cross international borders to work or trade in other countries in the region.

## Free movement across borders vs. limited movement | Swaziland | 2015



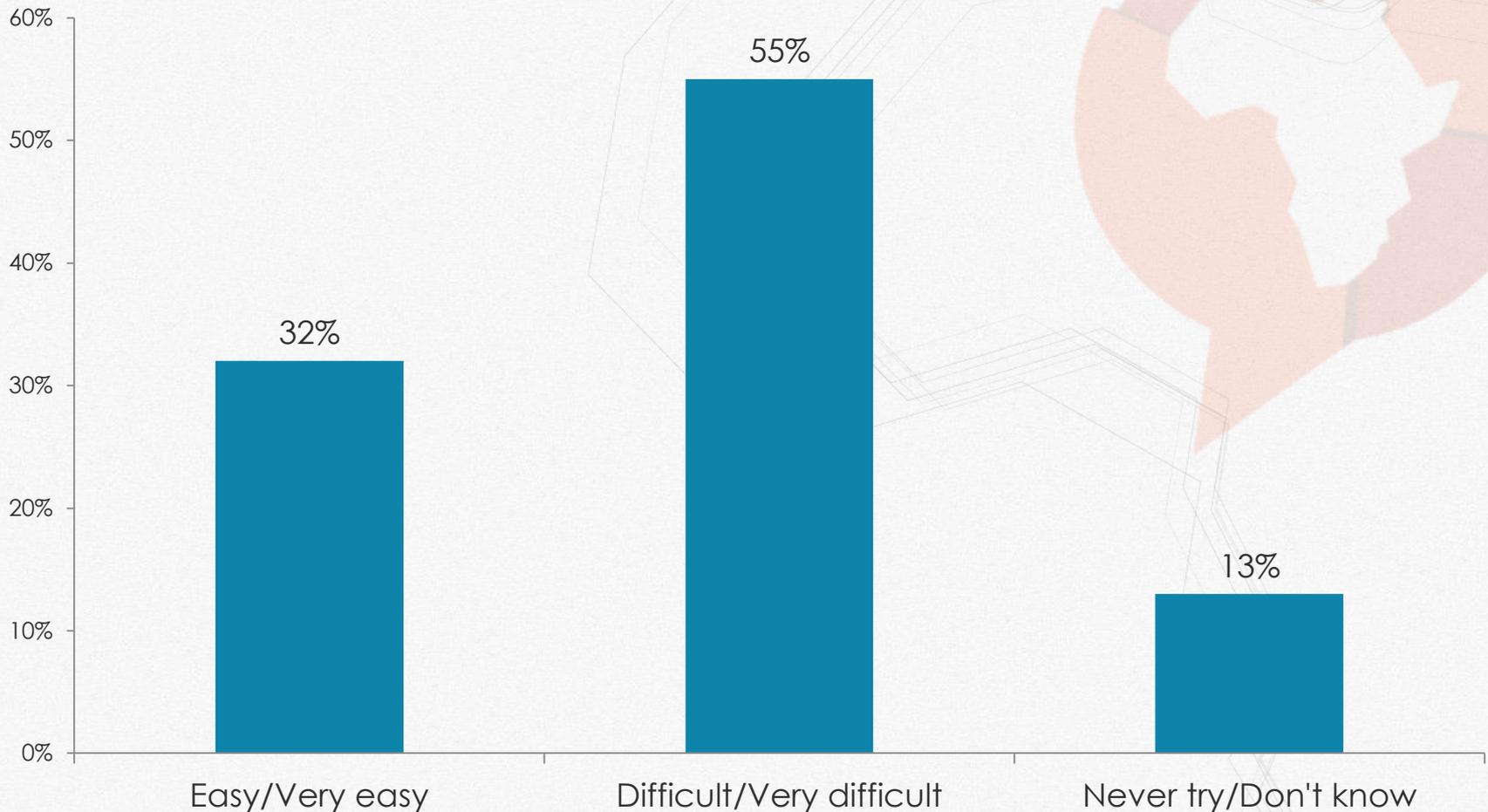
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.

Statement 1: People living in Southern Africa should be able to move freely across international borders in order to trade or work in other countries.

Statement 2: Because foreign migrants take away jobs and foreign traders sell their goods at very cheap prices, governments should protect their own citizens and limit the cross-border movement of people and goods.

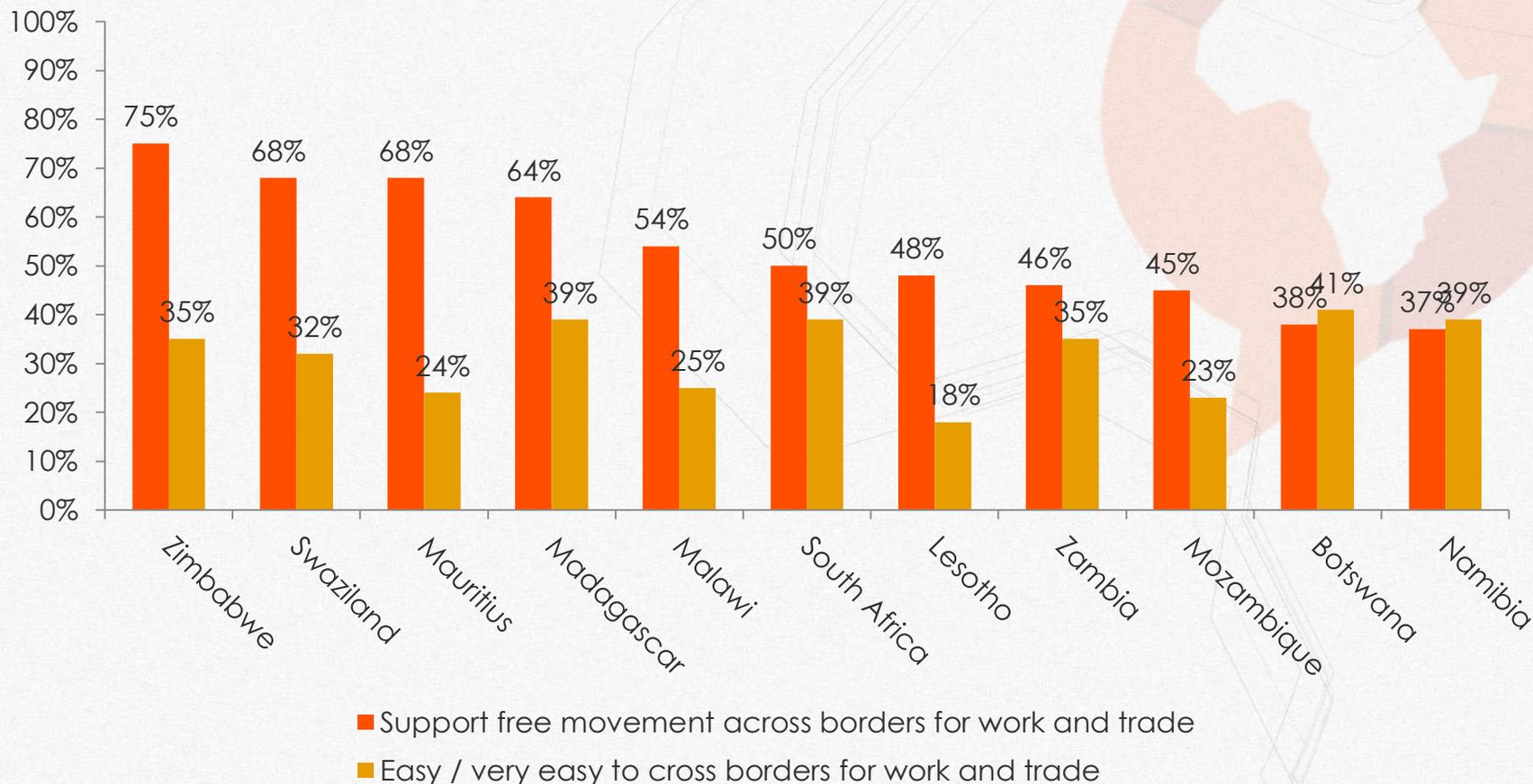
(% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement).

## Difficulty in crossing borders for trade or work | Swaziland | 2015



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how easy or difficult is it for people in Southern Africa to cross international borders in order to work or trade in other countries, or haven't you heard enough to say?

# Support for free cross-border movement and ease of movement across borders | Southern Africa | 2015



% of respondents who chose agree / strongly agree with statement 1.

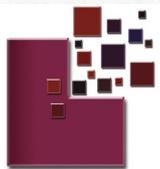
Statement 1: People living in Southern Africa should be able to move freely across international borders in order to trade or work in other countries.

Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how easy or difficult is it for people in Southern Africa to cross international borders in order to work or trade in other countries, or haven't you heard enough to say?

% of respondents who chose easy /very easy



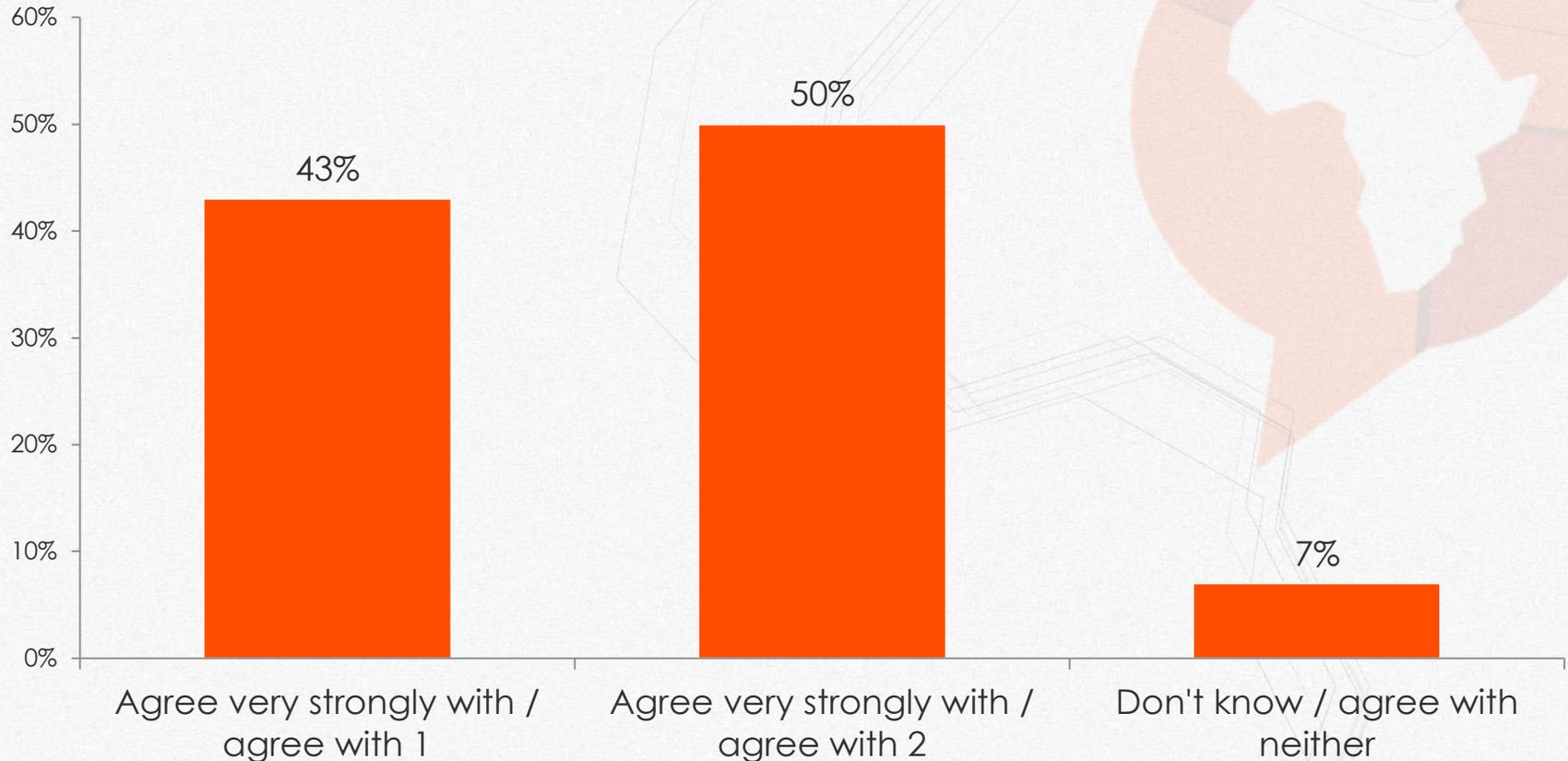
# Regional responsibility vs. respect for national sovereignty



# Key findings

- Swazis are divided over whether governments in the region should help guarantee free elections and human rights in neighboring countries (43%) or should instead respect other countries' national sovereignty (50%).
- Pluralities of Swazis say the AU (44%) and SADC (48%) help their country “somewhat” or “a lot.” More than one-third of citizens say they do not know enough about these organisations to assess whether they are helpful.

# Regional responsibility to prevent abuses vs. respect for national sovereignty | Swaziland | 2015



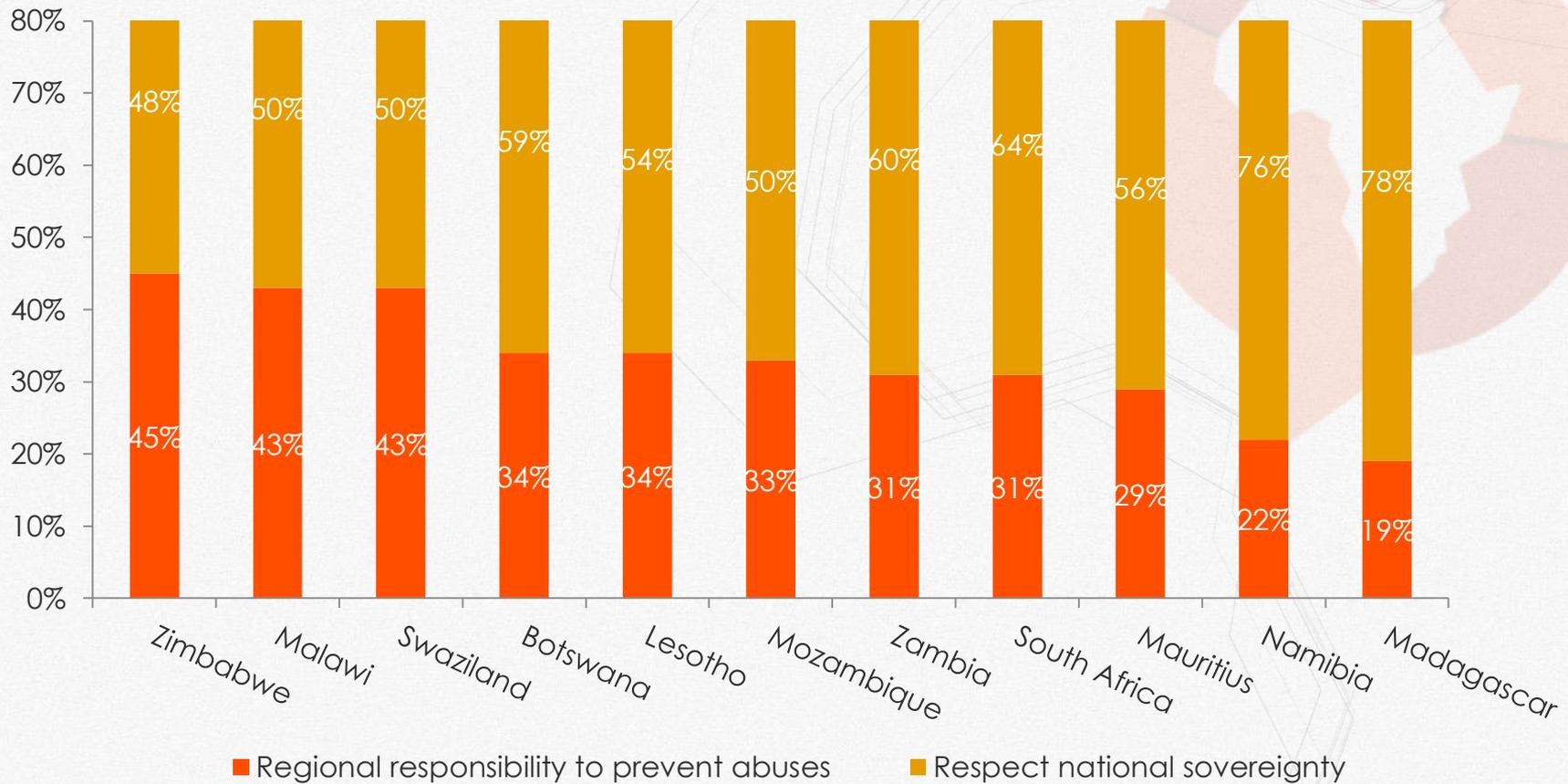
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.

Statement 1: The governments of each country in Southern Africa have a duty to try to guarantee free elections and prevent human rights abuses in other countries in the region, for example by using political pressure, economic sanctions or military force.

Statement 2: Each country in this region should respect the independence of other countries and allow them to make their own decisions about how their country should be governed.

(% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement)

# Regional responsibility to prevent abuses vs. respect for national sovereignty | Southern Africa | 2015



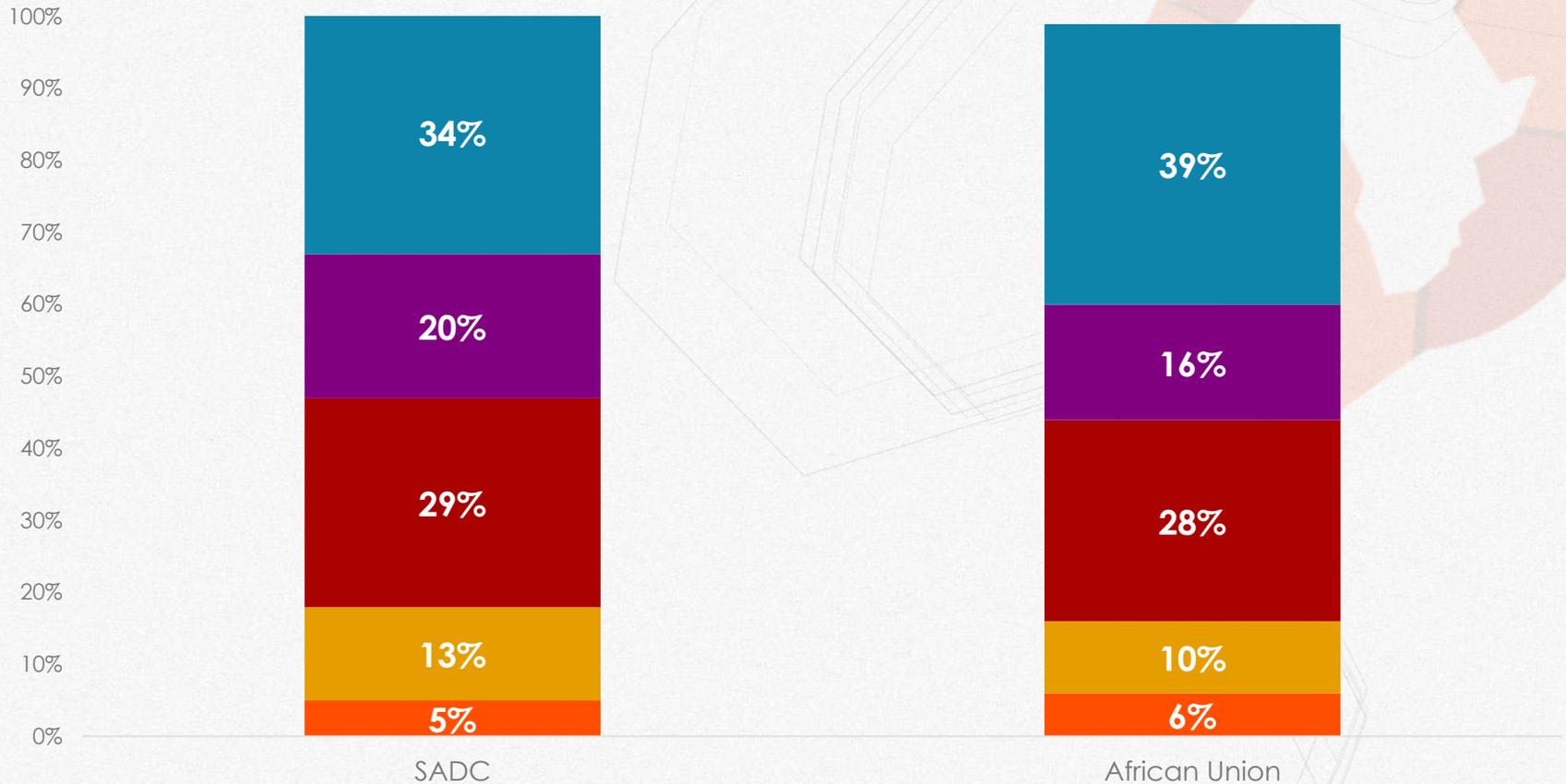
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.

Statement 1: The governments of each country in Southern Africa have a duty to try to guarantee free elections and prevent human rights abuses in other countries in the region, for example by using political pressure, economic sanctions or military force.

Statement 2: Each country in this region should respect the independence of other countries and allow them to make their own decisions about how their country should be governed.

(% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement)

# Helpfulness of AU and SADC | Swaziland | 2015



■ Do nothing, no help ■ Help a little bit ■ Help somewhat ■ Help a lot ■ Don't know

Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, how much do each of the following do to help your country, or haven't you heard enough to say?*



Thank you