Perceptions of democracy, political parties and freedom of movement in SADC
Findings from Afrobarometer Round 6 Surveys in Swaziland
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.
- **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

Legend
- Sampled EAs
- Enumeration Areas

Population
- 48,000,000 - 1,000,000,000
- 12,000,000 - 22,000,000
- 22,000,000 - 32,000,000
- 32,000,000 - 43,000,000
- 43,000,000 - 54,000,000
- 54,000,000 - 65,000,000
- 65,000,000 - 80,000,000
- 80,000,000 - 1,200,000,000
- 1,200,000,000 - 1,500,000,000
- 1,500,000,000 - 1,700,000,000
- 1,700,000,000 - 5,000,000,000
## Survey demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Unweighted</th>
<th>Weighted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Region</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hhohho</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manzini</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiselweni</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubombo</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No formal education</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-secondary</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Religion</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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."
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”)
Respondents were asked: What, if anything, does “democracy” mean to you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil liberties/personal freedoms</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majority rule</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government by, for, of the people/popular rule</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voting/elections/...</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict/confusion</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality/justice</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working together</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace/unity/power sharing</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance/effectiveness/...</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social/economic development</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corruption/abuse of power</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (each less than 2%)</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know/Did not know</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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.

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Support for democracy by demographics | Swaziland | 2015

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

- University completed: 62%
- Secondary/high school completed: 56%
- Primary School completed: 35%
- no formal schooling: 25%
- 50 older: 31%
- 30-49: 49%
- 18-29: 49%
- Female: 42%
- Male: 48%
- Rural: 44%
- Urban: 50%

(AFROBAROMETER)
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")
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.
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)
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.
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)
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)
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