



Public trust in institutions, satisfaction with democracy decline in Mauritius

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 7 survey in Mauritius



Port Louis, Mauritius - 6 February 2018

At a glance



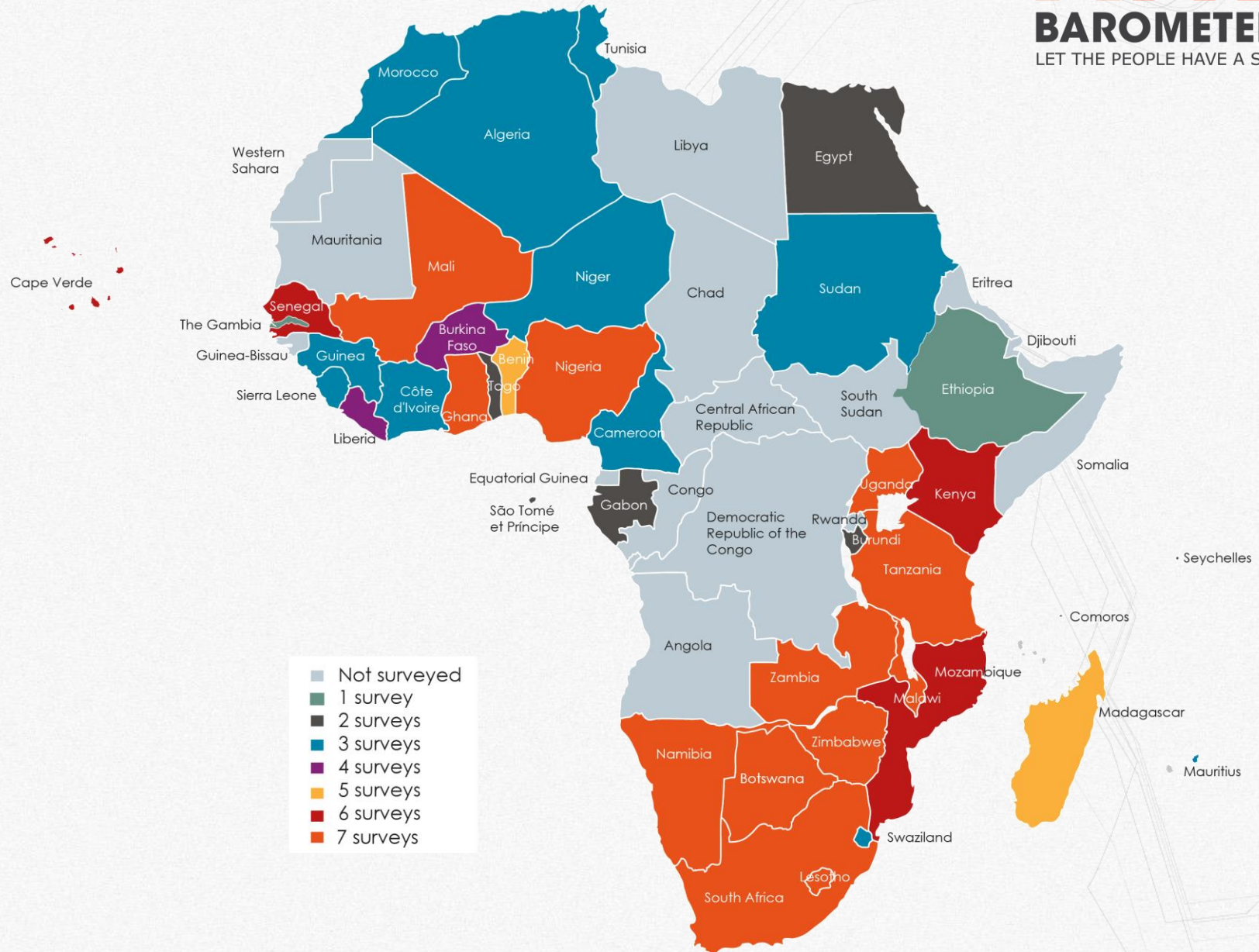
- **Overwhelming preference for democracy:** About three-fourths of Mauritians prefer democracy over any other system, consider multiparty competition necessary to give voters a real choice.
- **Views on political class and accountability:** Seven in 10 favour a two-term limit for the prime minister. Almost as many say it's more important for the government to be accountable than to be efficient.
- **Most important problems:** More than two-thirds of Mauritians cite unemployment as the most important problem that the government should address.

What is Afrobarometer?

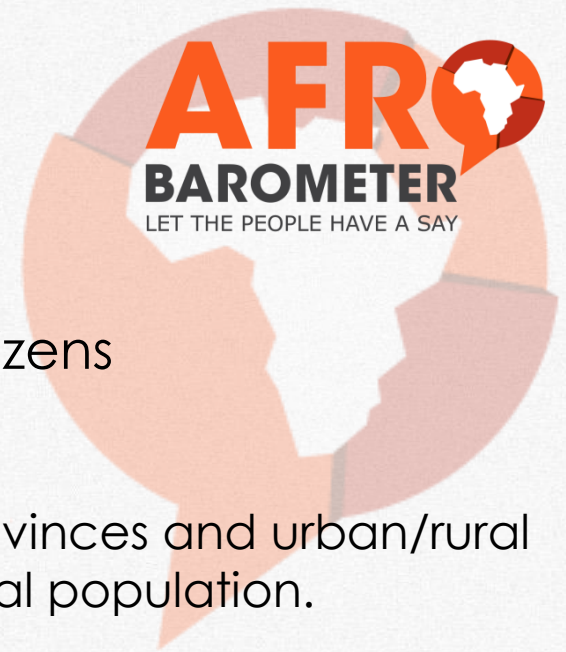


- A pan-African, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 African countries in 1999, expanded to 36 countries in Round 6 (2014/2015). Round 7 surveys are being conducted in 2016/2017.
- **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.
- A national partner in each country conducts the survey. In Mauritius, Afrobarometer Round 7 survey was conducted by StraConsult Ltd.

Where Afrobarometer works



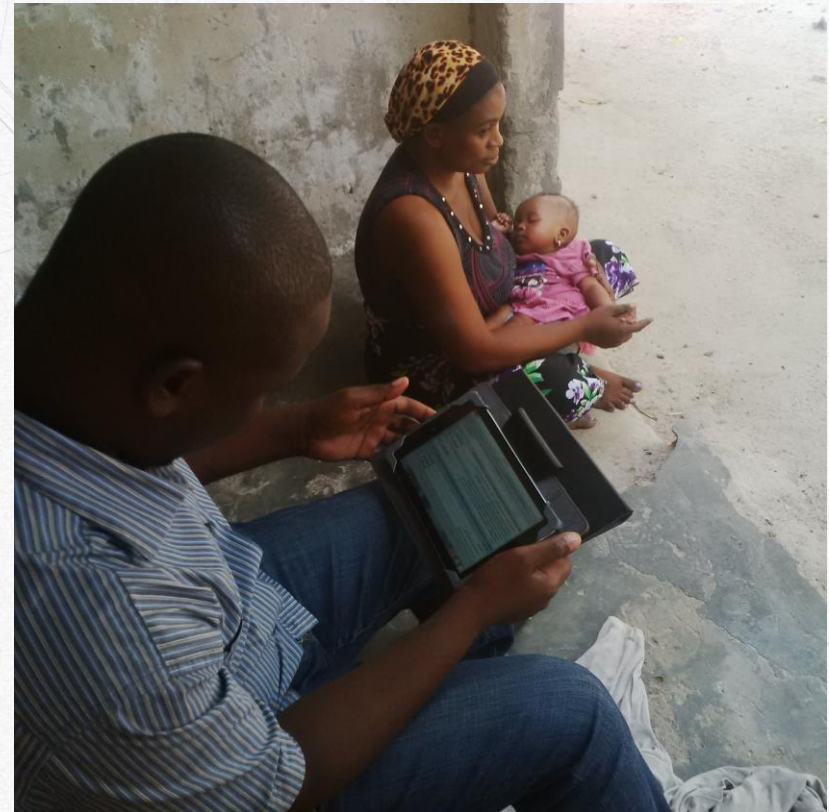
Methodology



- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across regions/states/provinces 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 Mauritius of 1,200 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 7 in Mauritius was conducted between October 2017 and November 2017.

Survey demographics

Gender	%
Men	50
Women	50
Residence	
Urban	41
Rural	59
Education	
No formal education	1
Primary	33
Secondary	49
Post-secondary	17
Religion	
Christian	33
Muslim	16
Hindu	45
Other	6



Findings

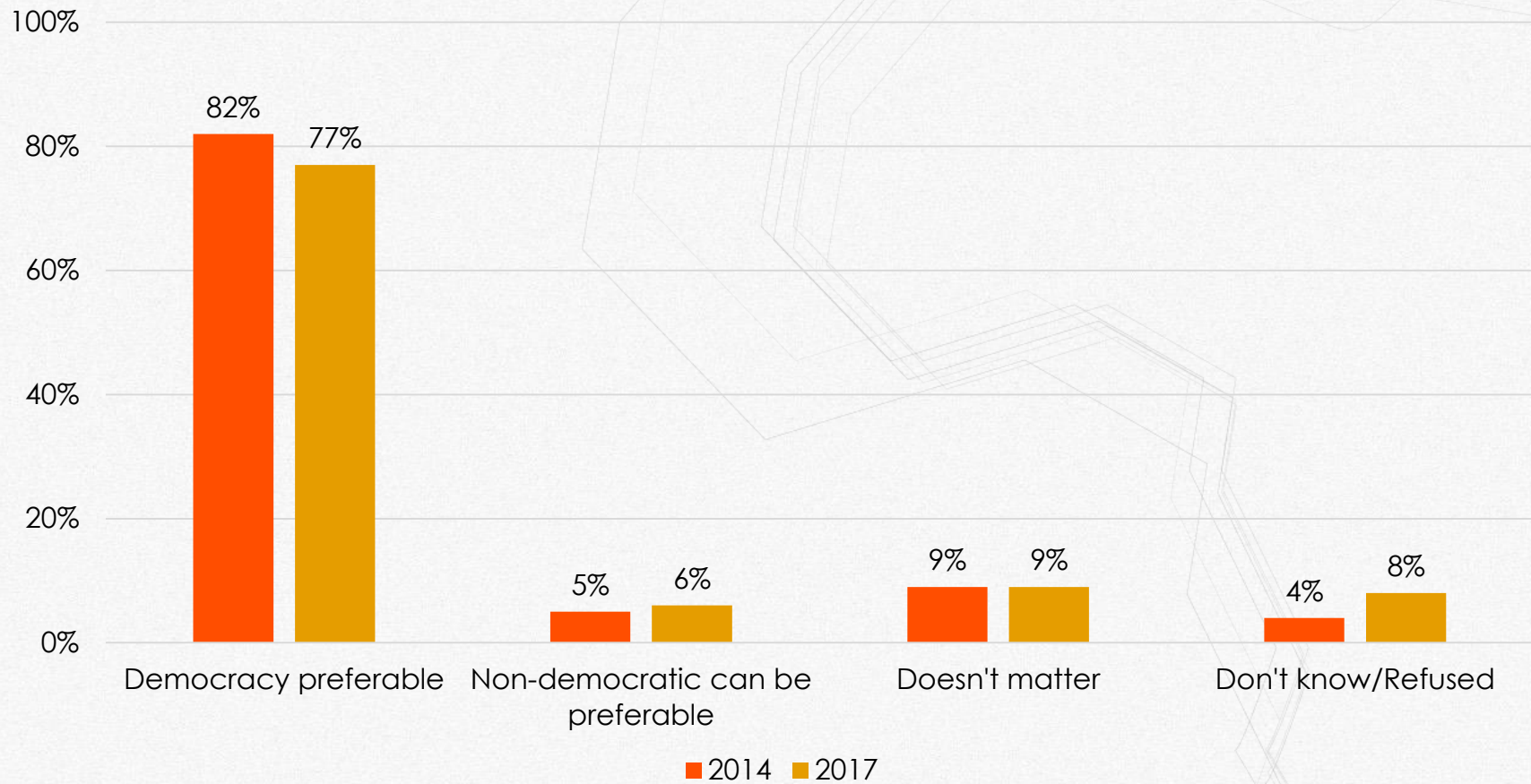
Support for democracy

Key findings



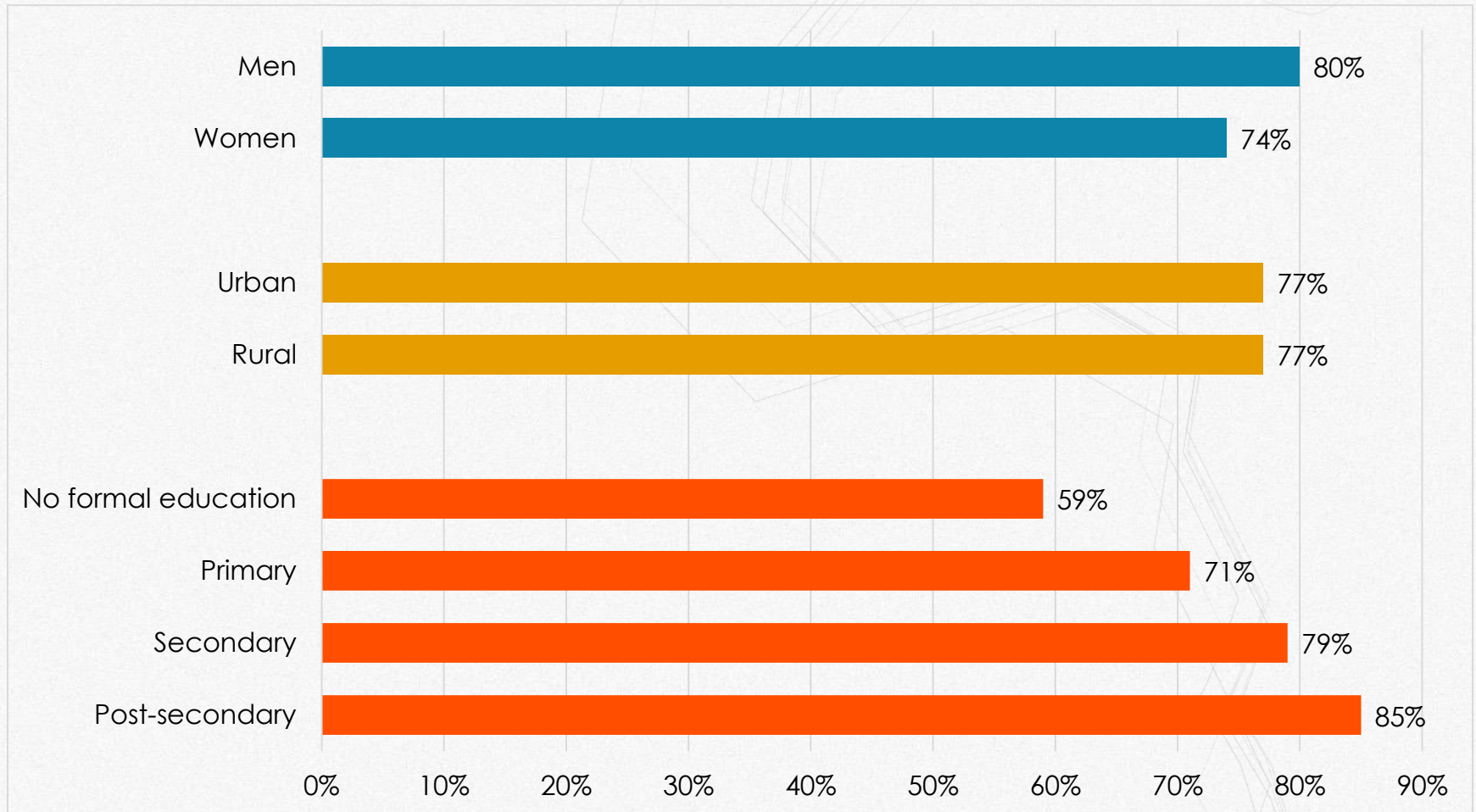
- More than three-fourths (77%) of Mauritians say that democracy is preferable to any other system of government, a decline from 82% in 2014.
- Only 6% believe that in some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable, while 9% say it doesn't matter what kind of political system governs the country.
- While urban and rural residents are equally strong in their support for democracy, men (80%) are somewhat more likely than women (74%) to prefer democracy over any other kind of political system.
- Support for democracy increases with respondents' education level, ranging from 59% among those with no formal education to 85% among those with post-secondary qualifications.

Support for democracy | Mauritius | 2014-2017



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 | Mauritius | 2017

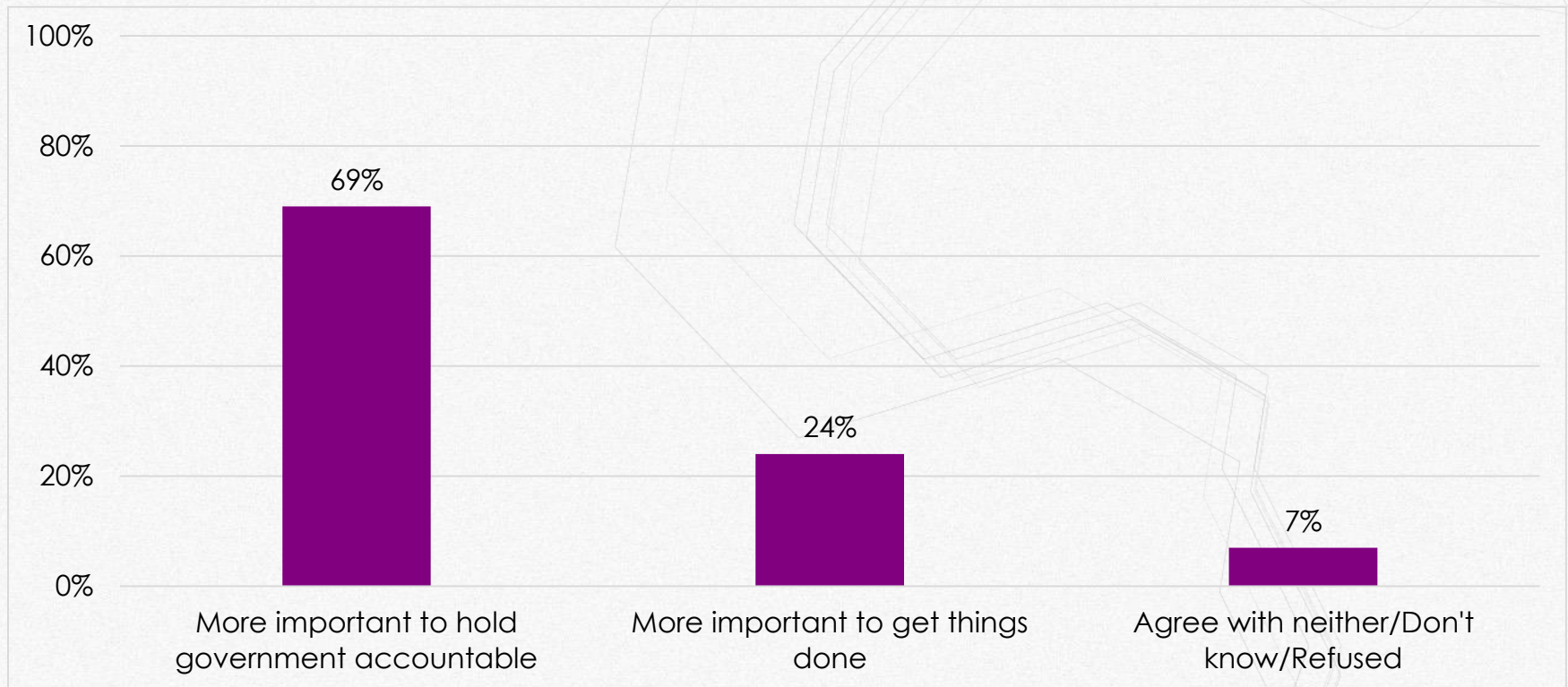


Support for holding government accountable

Key findings

- Mauritians value accountability over efficiency in their government: More than two-thirds (69%) “agree” or “agree very strongly” that it is more important for citizens to be able to hold government accountable, even at the cost of slower decision-making, than it is to have a government that can get things done without citizen influence

Government accountability vs. efficiency | Mauritius | 2017



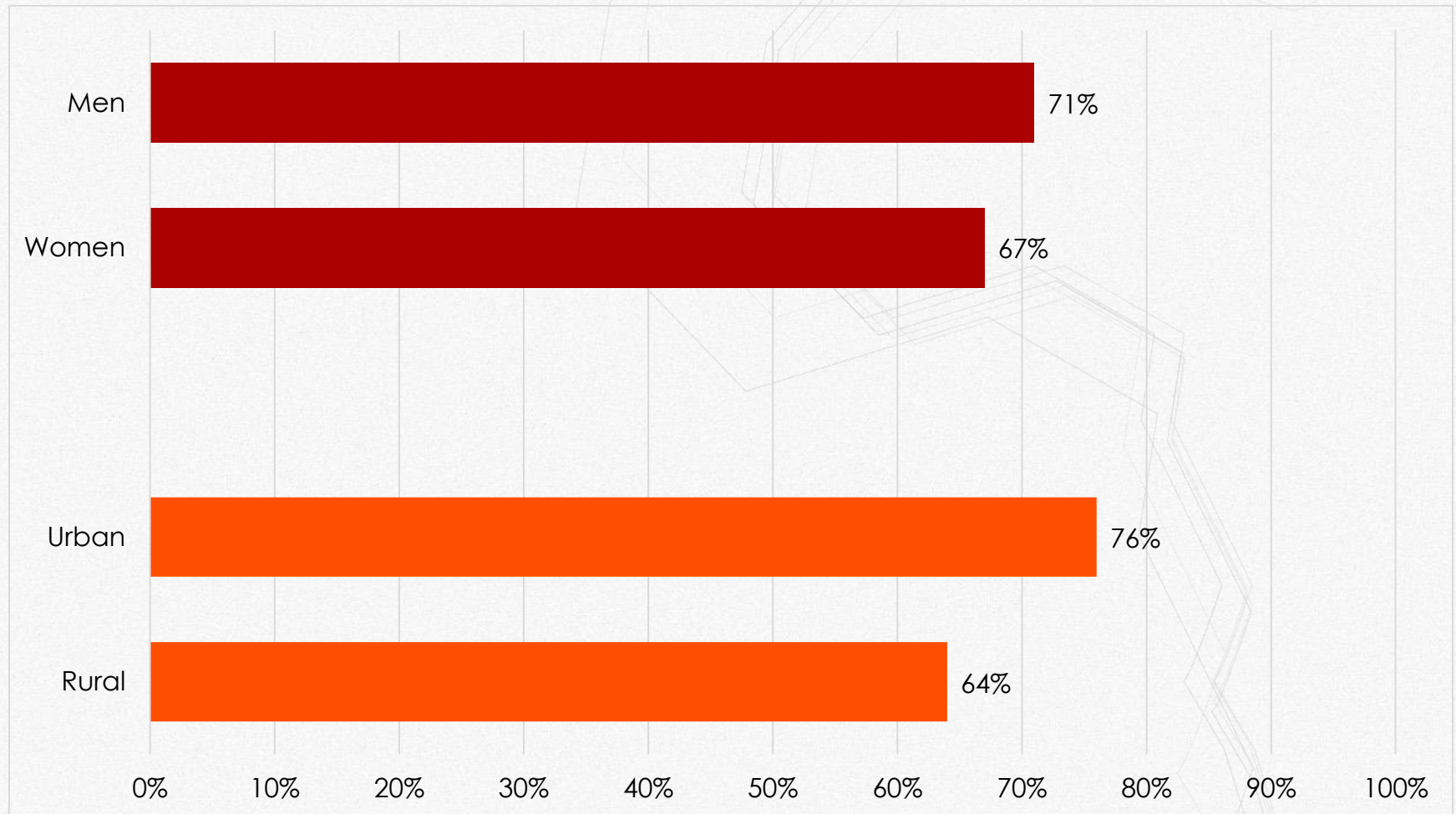
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: It is more important to have a government that can get things done, even if we have no influence over what it does.

Statement 2: It is more important for citizens to be able to hold government accountable, even if that means it makes decisions more slowly.

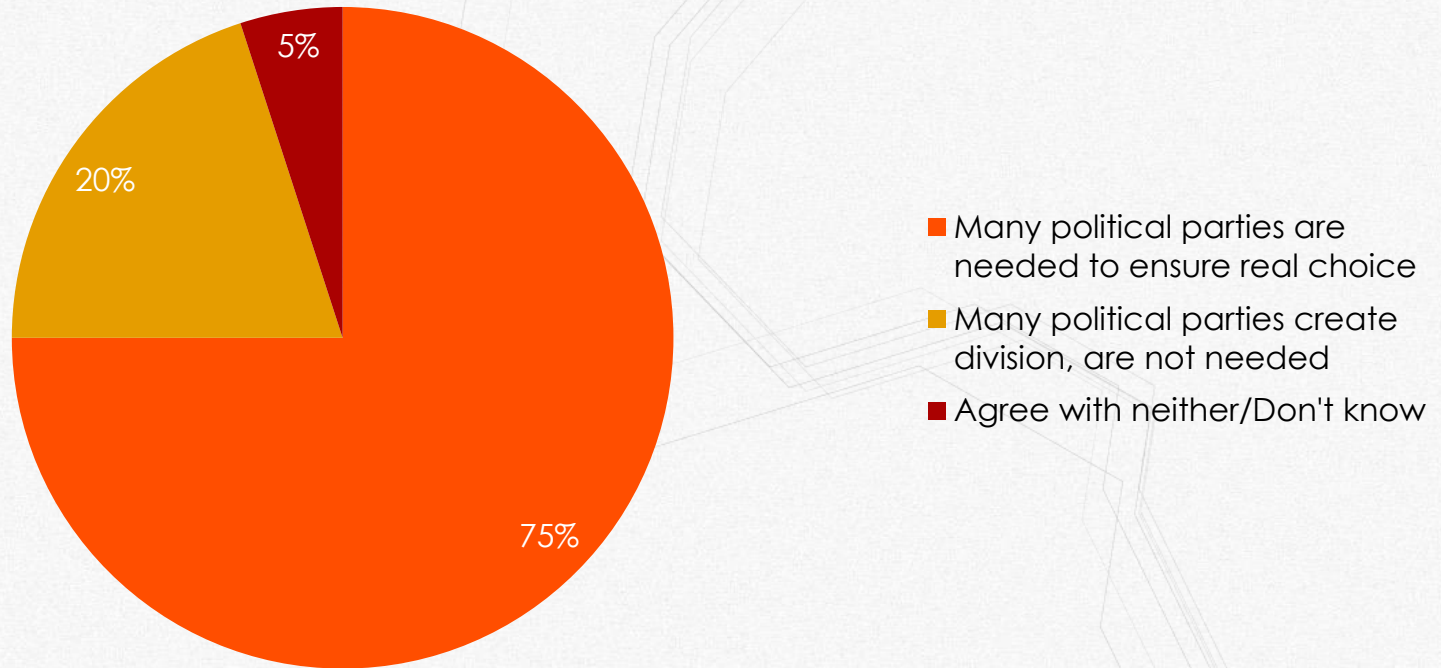
(% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement)

Government accountability vs. efficiency | by gender and location | Mauritius | 2017



Support for multiparty politics

Support for multiparty politics | Mauritius | 2017



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 Mauritius.

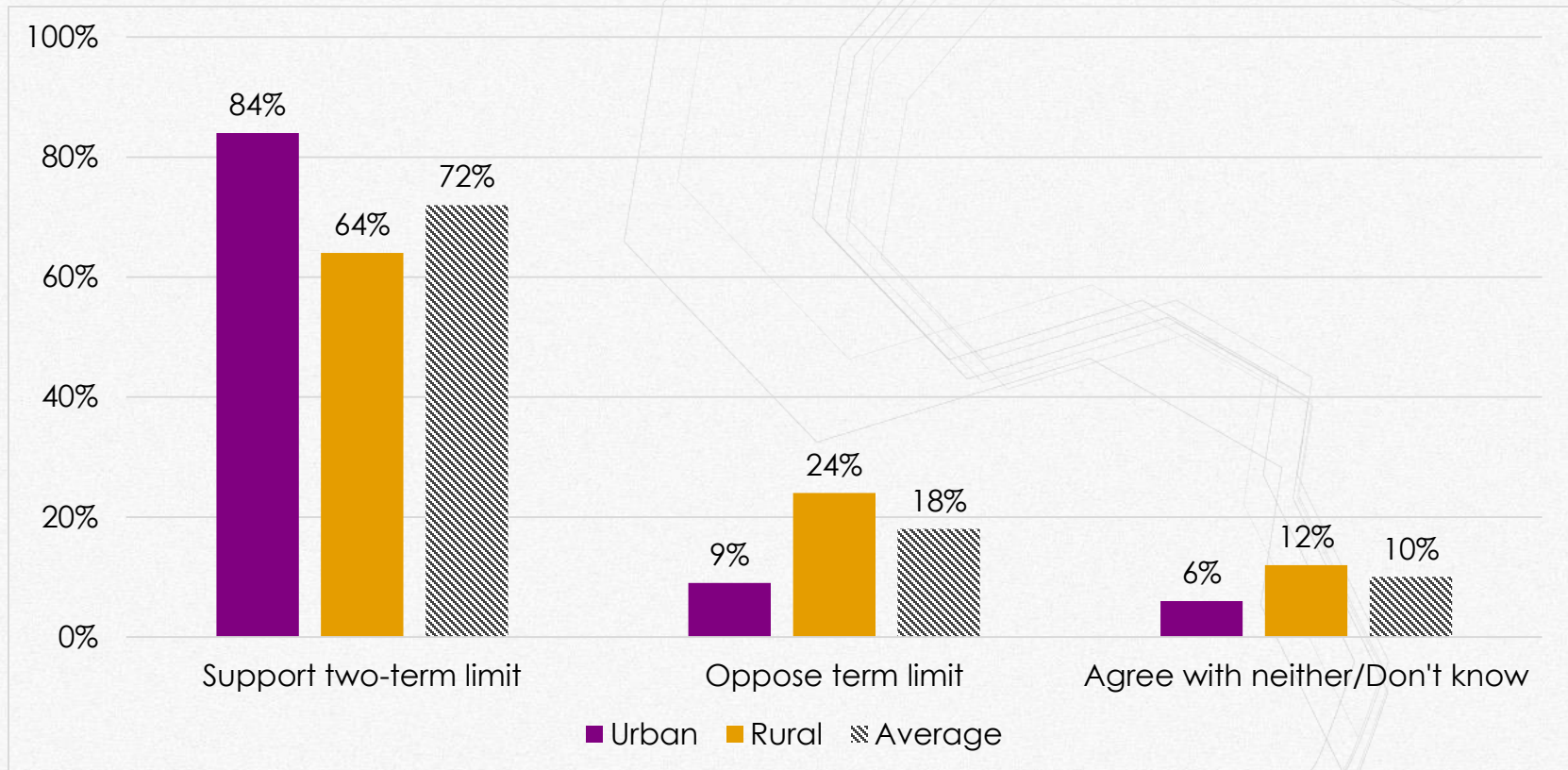
Statement 2: Many political parties are needed to make sure that Mauritians have real choices in who governs them.

(% who “agree” or “agree very strongly” with each statement)

Constitutional two-term limit for prime minister

Constitutional two-term limit for prime minister

| Mauritius | 2017



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

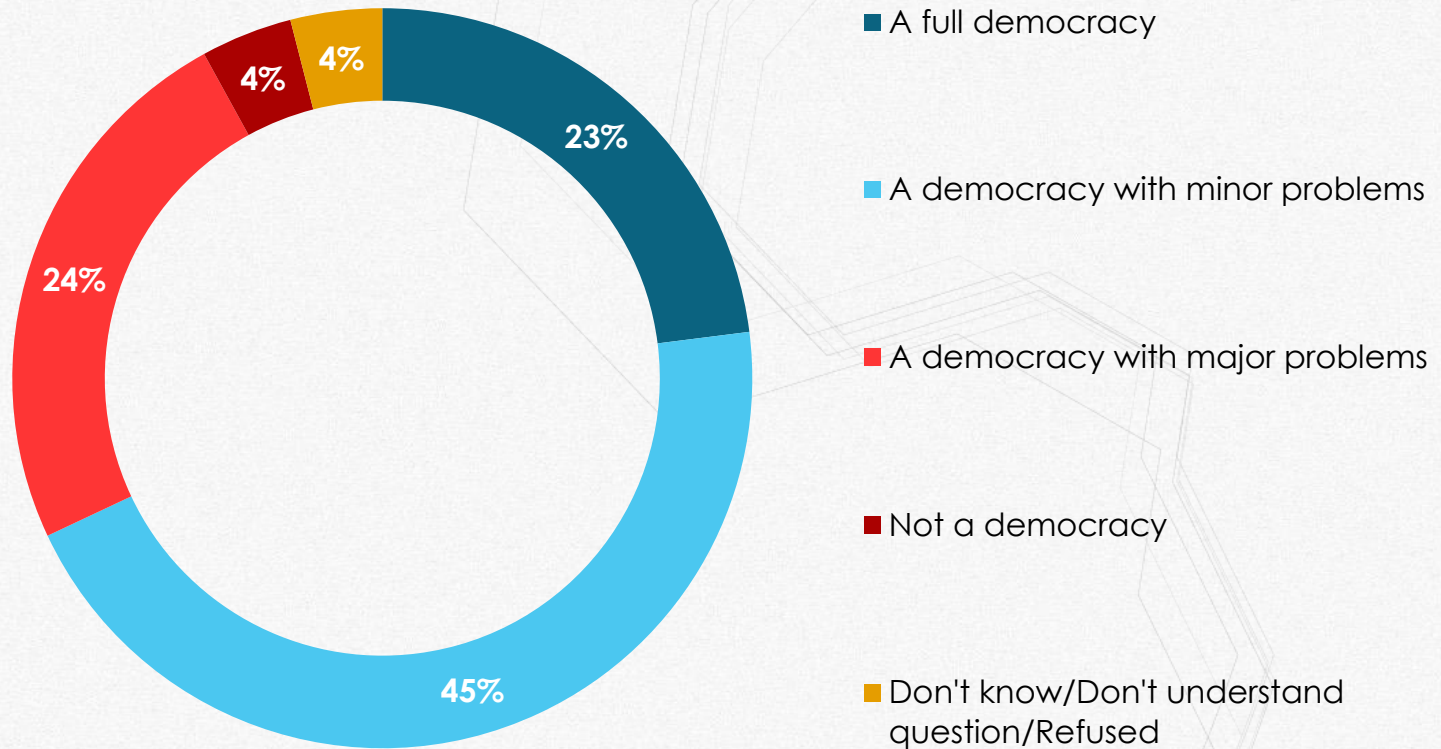
Statement 1: The Constitution should limit the prime minister to serving a maximum of two terms in office.

Statement 2: There should be no constitutional limit on how long the prime minister can serve.

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

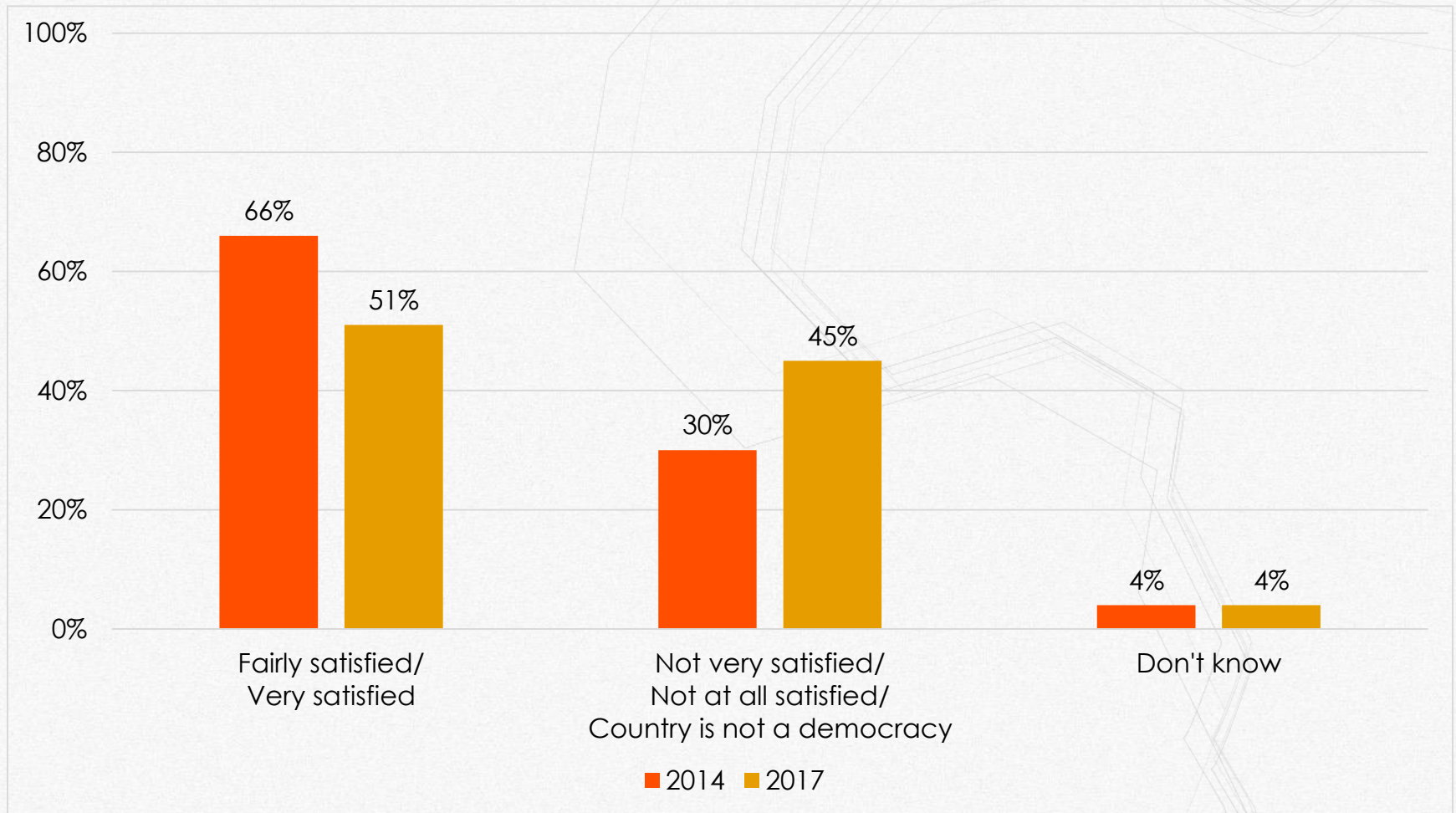
Extent of and satisfaction for democracy

Extent of democracy | Mauritius | 2017



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion how much of a democracy is Mauritius today?*

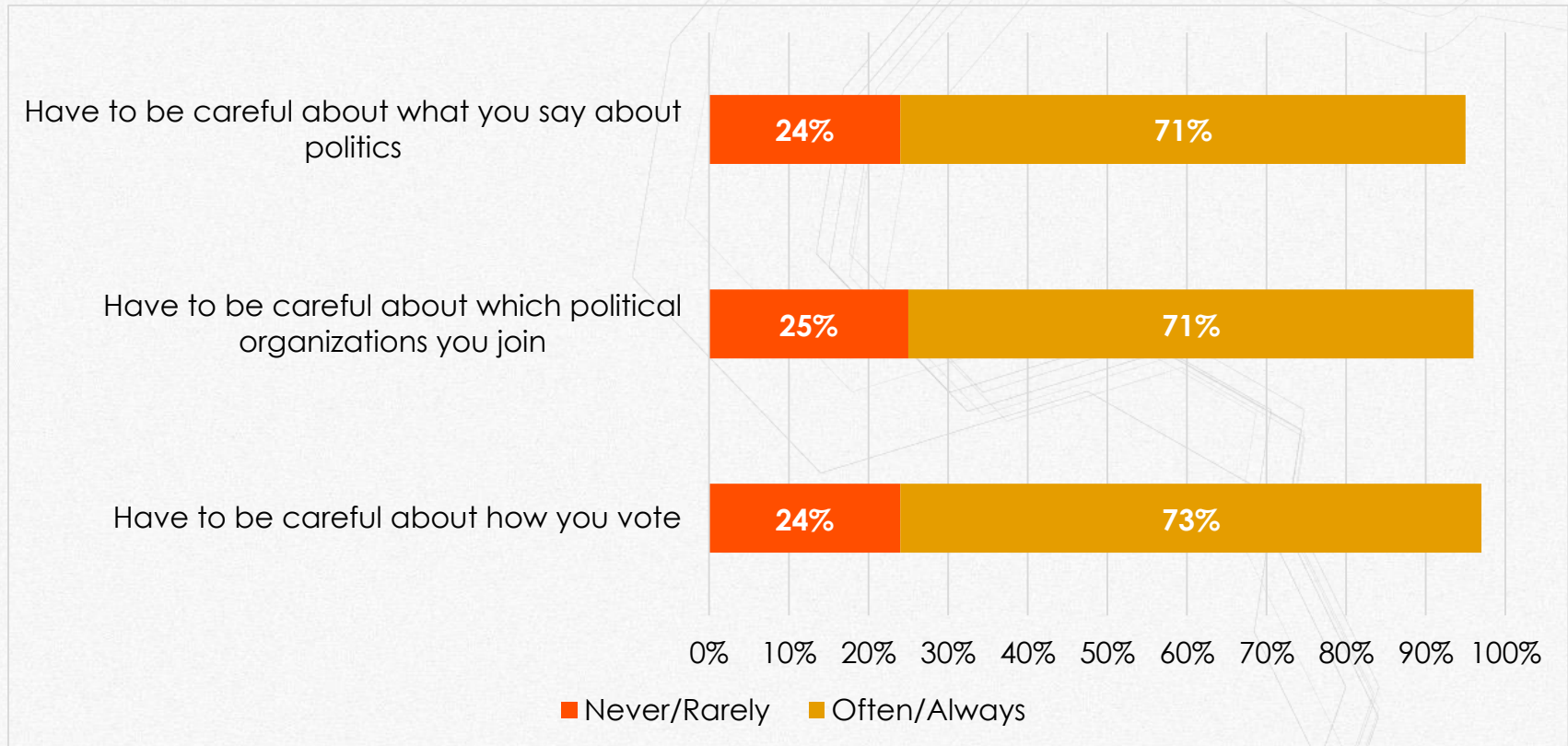
Satisfaction with democracy | Mauritius | 2017



Respondents were asked: Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Mauritius?

Political freedoms and trust in institutions, leaders' job performance

Political freedoms | Mauritius | 2017



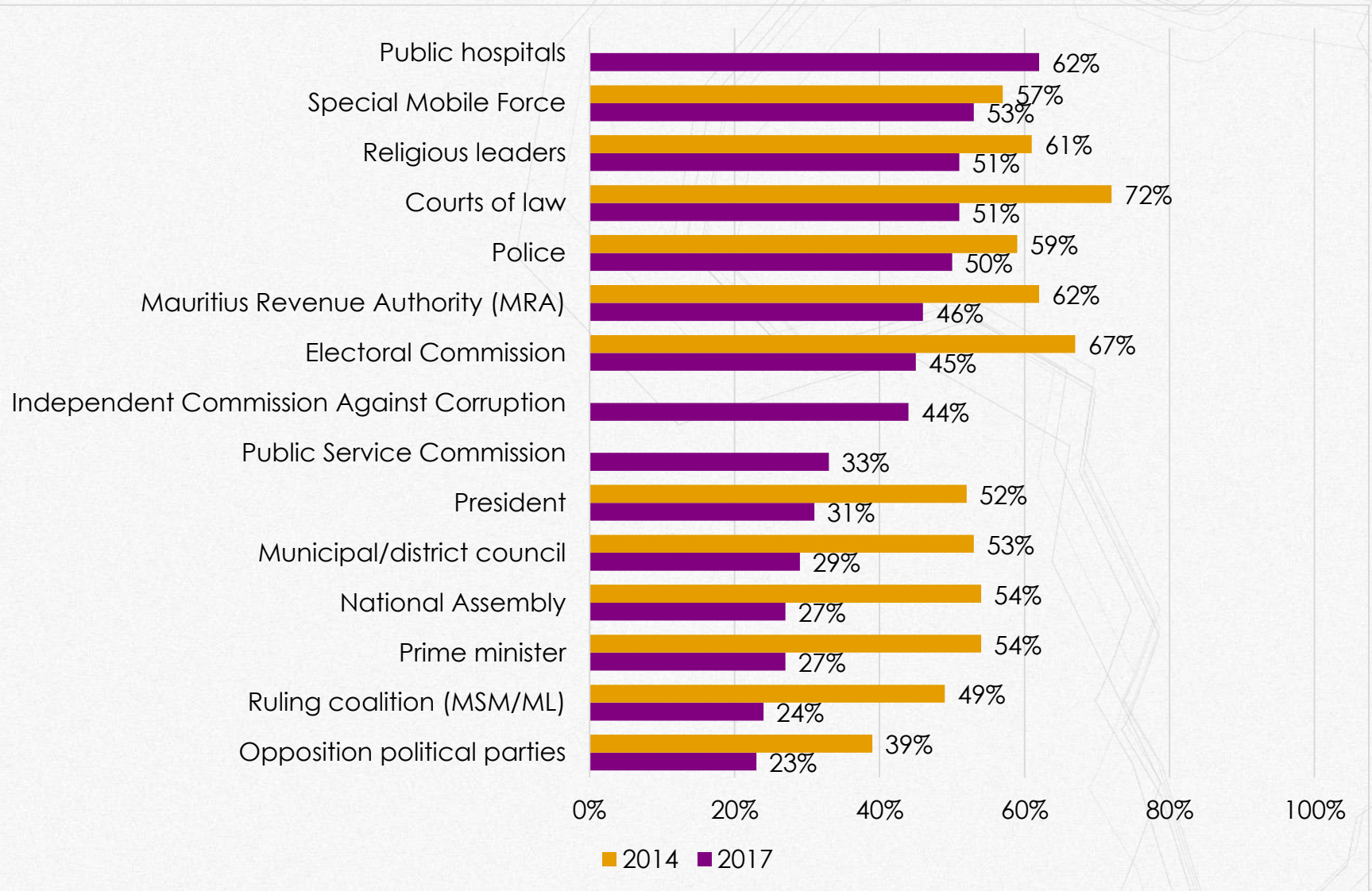
Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, how often, in this country:*

Do people have to be careful of what they say about politics?

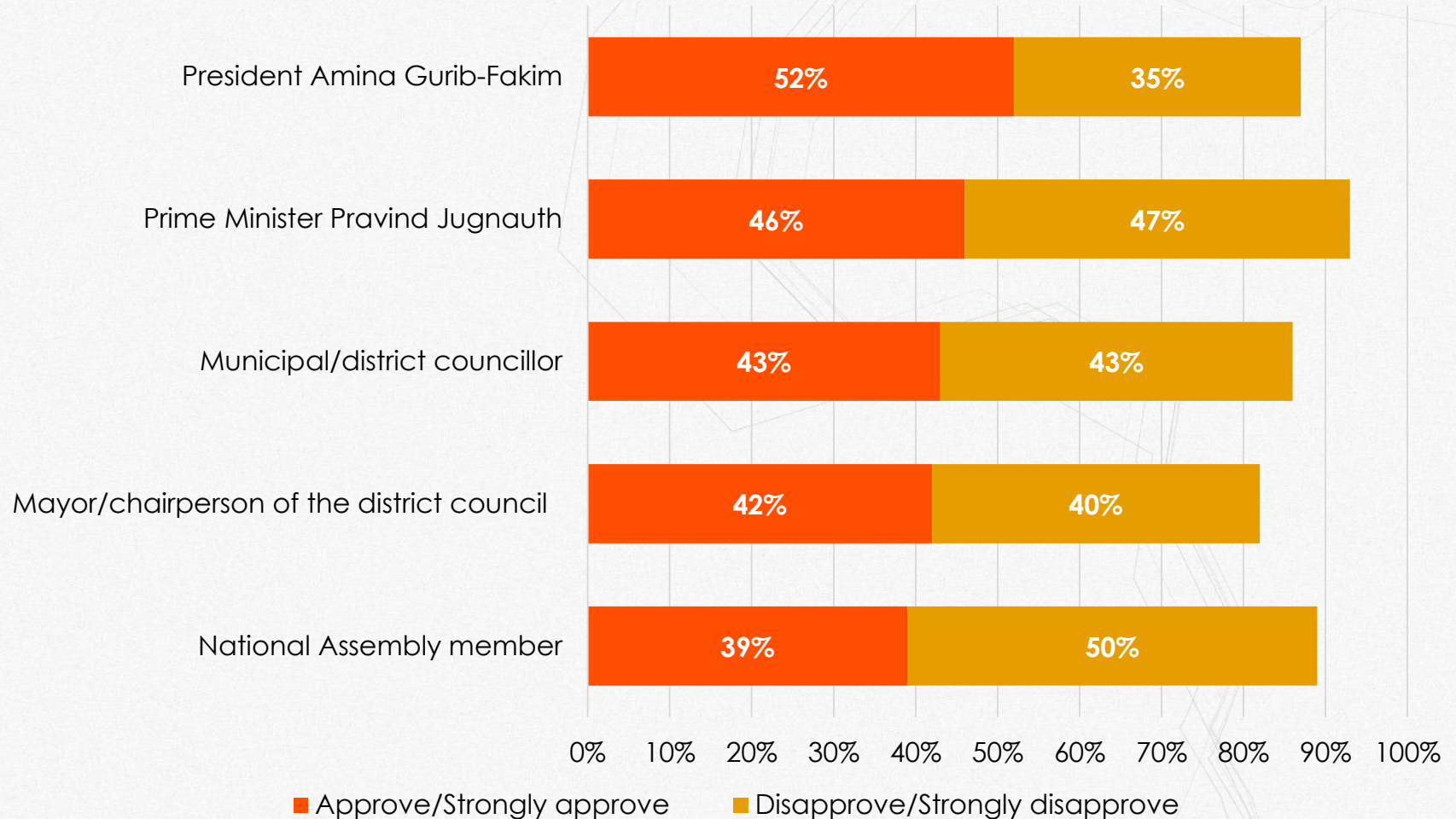
Do people have to be careful about which political organizations they join?

Do people have to be careful about how they vote in an election?

Trust in institutions | Mauritius | 2017

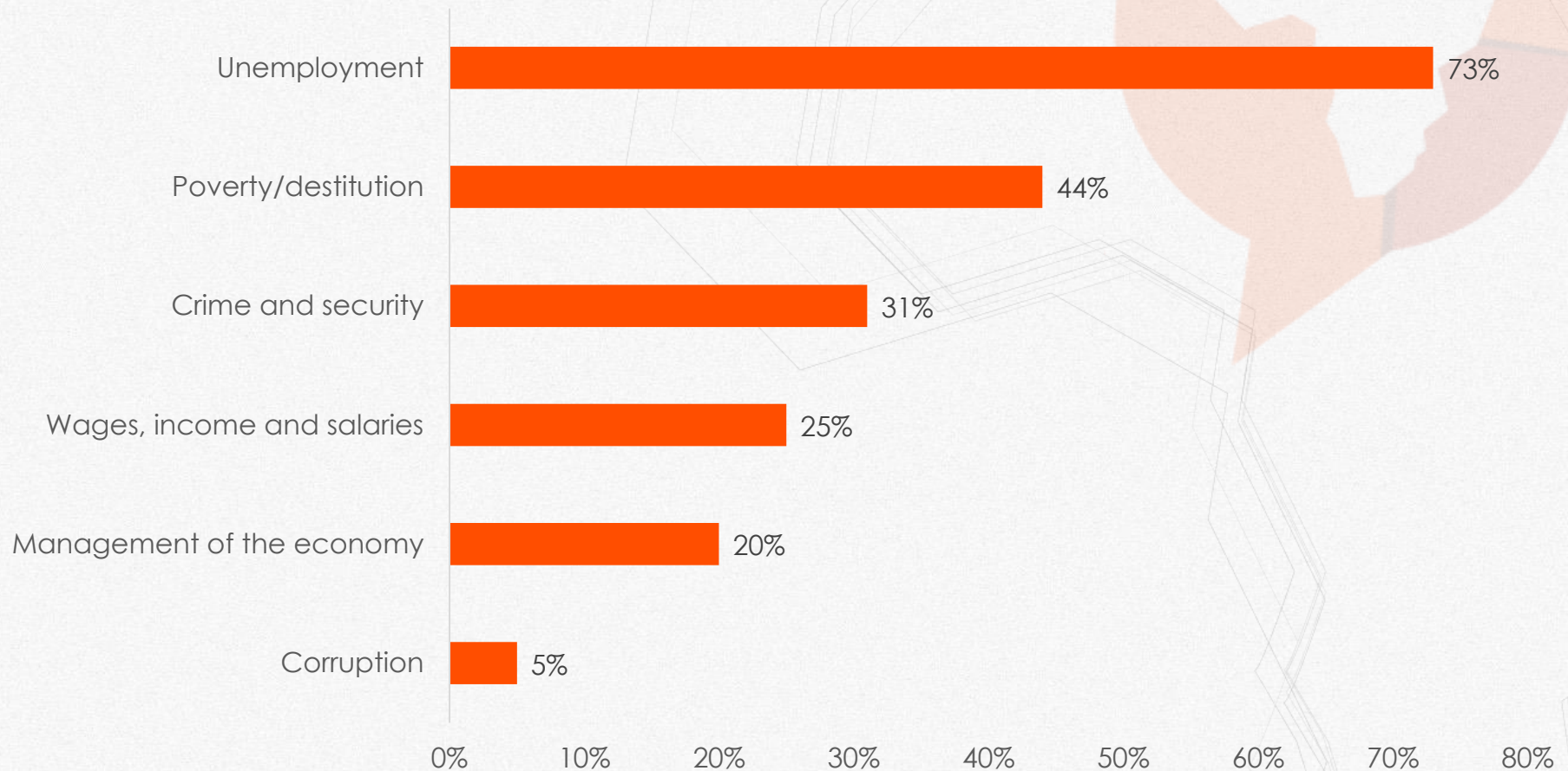


Job performance of leaders | Mauritius | 2017



Most important problems and handling problems

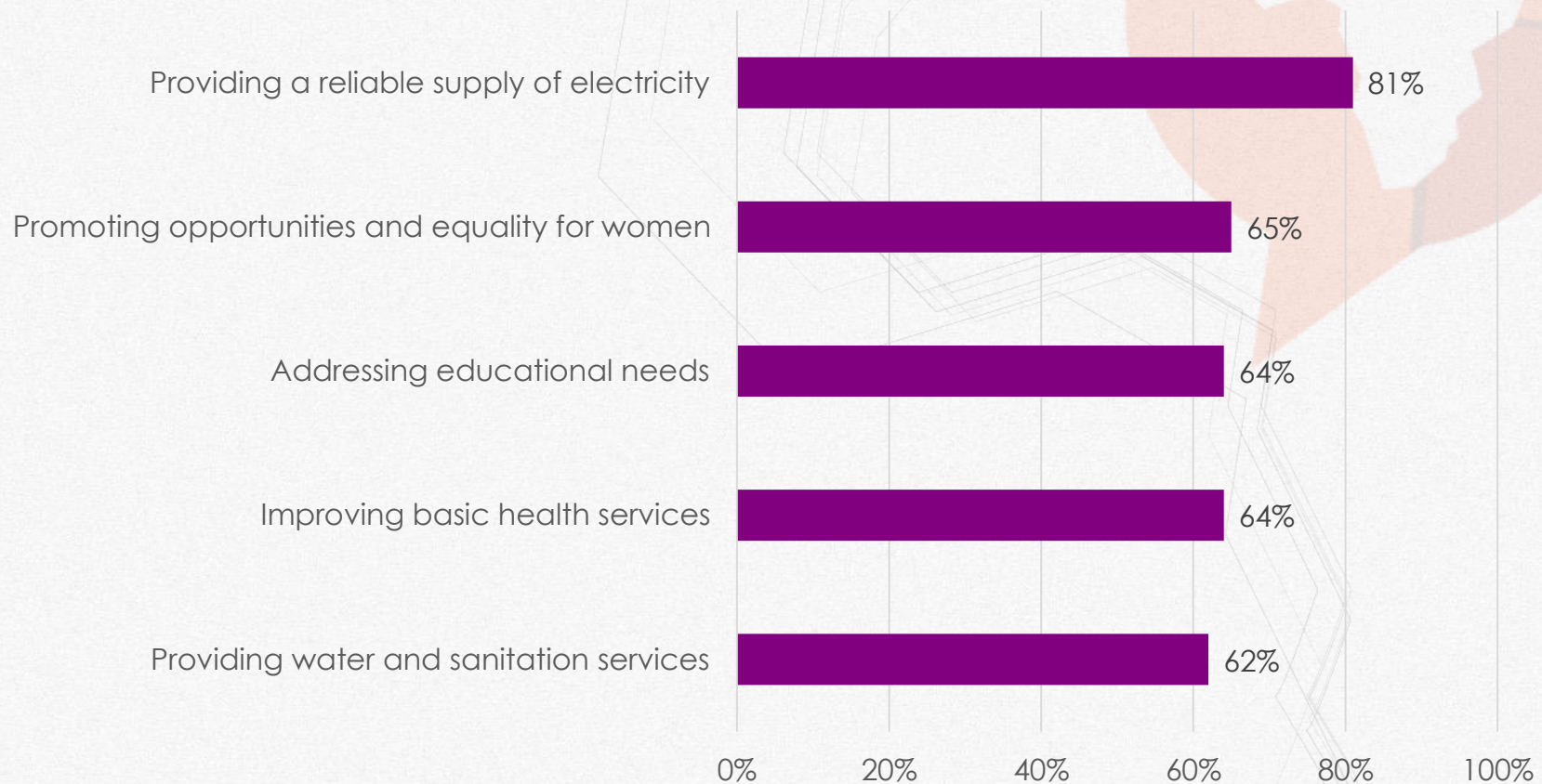
Most important problems | Mauritius | 2017



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

Handling solving issues well

| Mauritius | 2017



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?

Conclusions

Conclusions



- Mauritius clearly prefer democracy over any other system and consider their country a democracy.
- Afrobarometer's latest survey findings, however, may raise some red flags for the country's political leaders and democrats, showing less popular satisfaction with the way democracy is working, less trust in major institutions, less unfettered political speech, and mediocre performance ratings for elected leaders.

Conclusions

- Lastly, despite the official unemployment rate has decreased from 7.3% in 2016 to 7% in the third quarter of 2017, Mauritians strongly feel that unemployment remains a major problem for the country.

**Thank you
Merci**

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