

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
21 May 2024

News release

Vast majority of Ethiopians support democracy, demand accountable governance

A large majority of Ethiopians support democracy and reject one-man rule, the most recent Afrobarometer survey shows. Slimmer majorities also oppose one-party rule and military rule.

Most Ethiopians want an accountable government, a prime minister answerable to Parliament, and elected officials who listen to their constituents, according to survey findings.

However, a majority of Ethiopians consider their country either a democracy with major problems or not a democracy at all, and close to six in 10 say they are not satisfied with the way their democracy is working.

Key findings

- A vast majority (86%) of Ethiopians prefer democracy to any other kind of governance. Clear majorities also reject non-democratic regimes: one-man rule (88%), one-party rule (62%) and military rule (61%) (Figure 1).
- More than six in 10 citizens (62%) say it's more important to have a government that is accountable to its citizens than one that "gets things done" (Figure 2).
- Close to seven in 10 Ethiopians (69%) want the prime minister to be answerable to Parliament (Figure 3).
- More than seven in 10 (72%) say elected officials should listen to constituents' views and do what they demand, rather than follow their own ideas about what is best for the country (Figure 4).
- A majority (56%) of Ethiopians consider their country either "a democracy with major problems" or "not a democracy at all" (Figure 5).
- A similar majority (58%) say they are "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied" with the way democracy is working in their country.

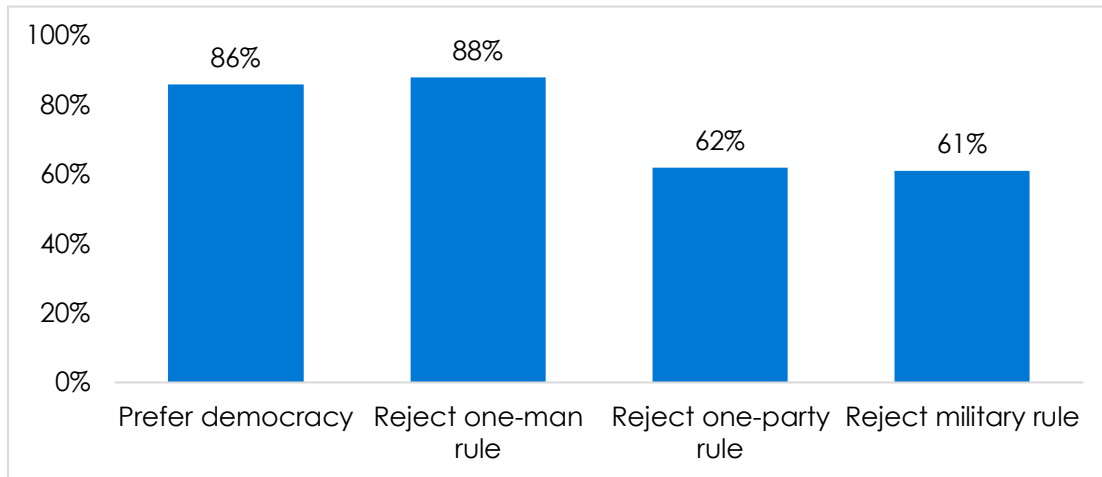
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine rounds of surveys have been conducted in up to 42 countries since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2023) cover 39 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

With support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Afrobarometer team in Ethiopia, led by ABC CON – Research & Consulting, interviewed 2,400 adult Ethiopians between 25 May and 22 June 2023. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Ethiopia in 2013 and 2020.

Charts

Figure 1: Views on democracy and authoritarian alternatives | Ethiopia | 2023



Respondents were asked:

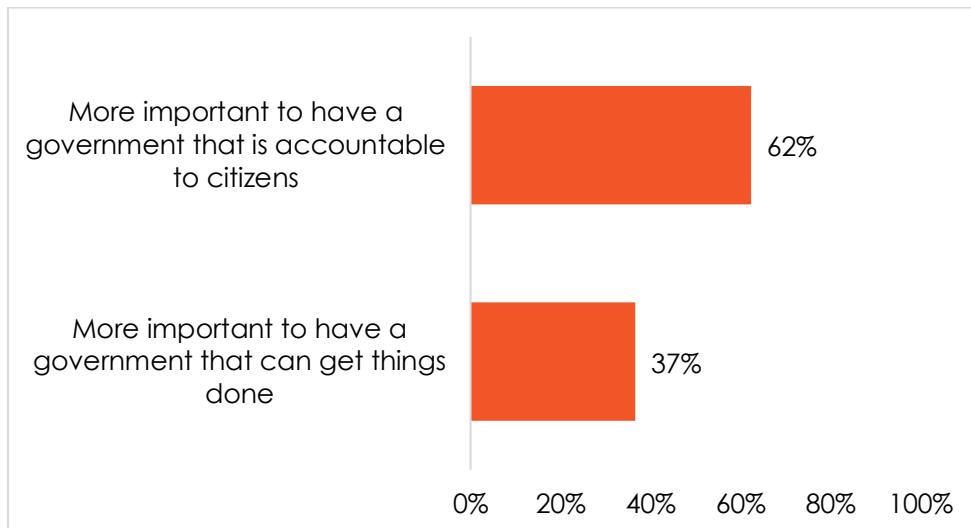
Which of the following statements is closest to your own opinion? (% who agree with Statement 1)

- 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.

There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives? (% who "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove" of each alternative)

- Only one political party is allowed to stand for election and hold office.
- The army comes in to govern the country.
- Elections and HPR/Parliament are abolished so that the prime minister can decide everything.

Figure 2: Government accountability vs. efficiency | Ethiopia | 2023



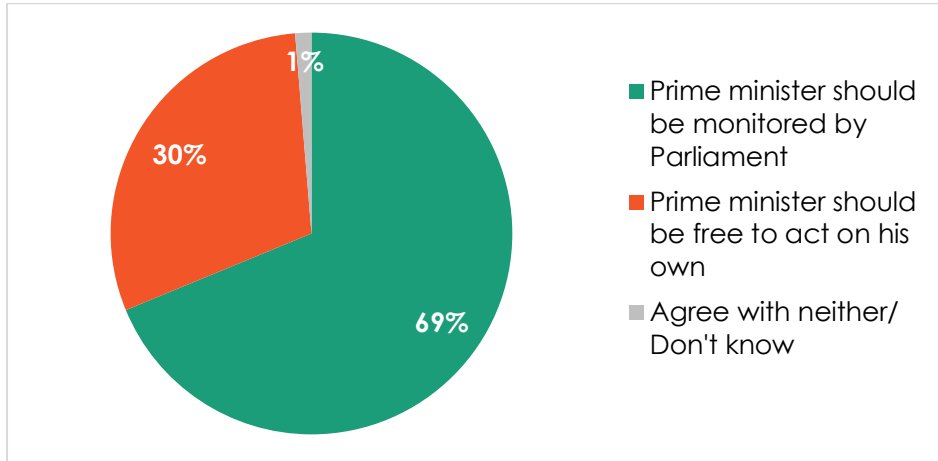
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

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 the government accountable, even if that means it makes decisions more slowly.

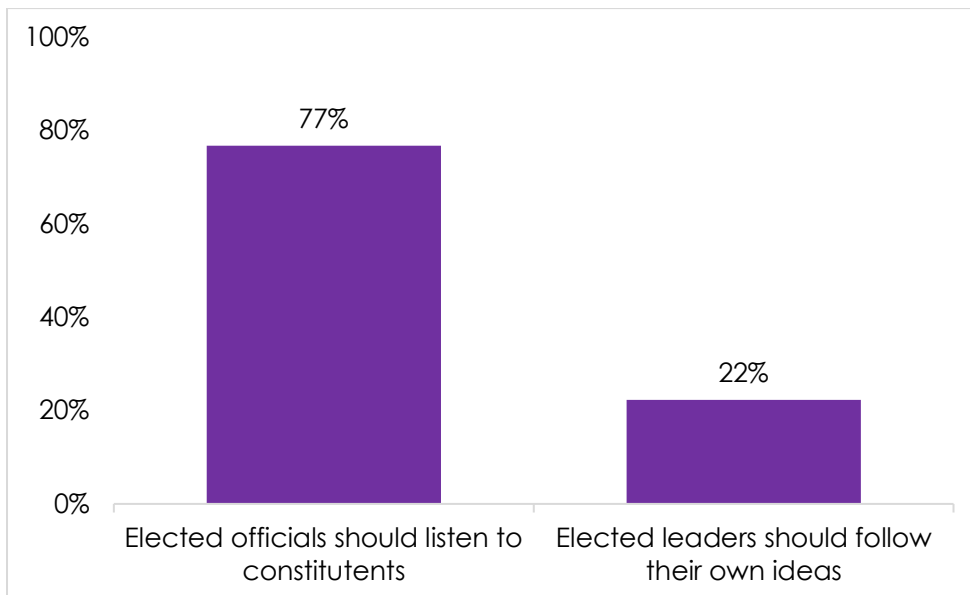
(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

Figure 3: Prime minister should be monitored by Parliament vs. free to act on his own
 | Ethiopia | 2023



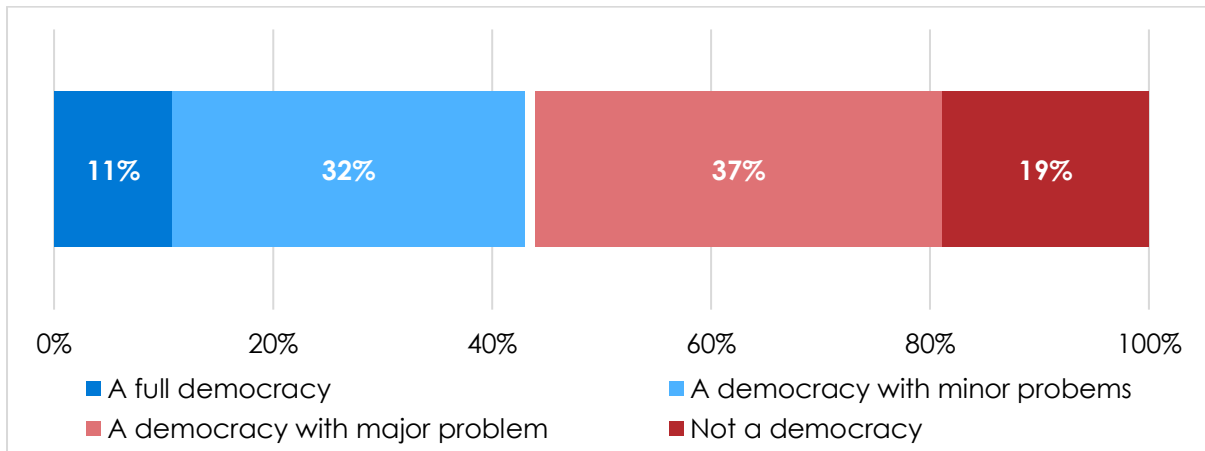
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: The House of Peoples Representatives (HPR) should ensure that the prime minister explains to it on a regular basis how his government spends taxpayers' money.
 Statement 2: The prime minister should be able to devote his full attention to developing the country rather than wasting time justifying his actions.
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

Figure 4: Should elected officials do what constituents want or follow their own ideas?
 | Ethiopia | 2023



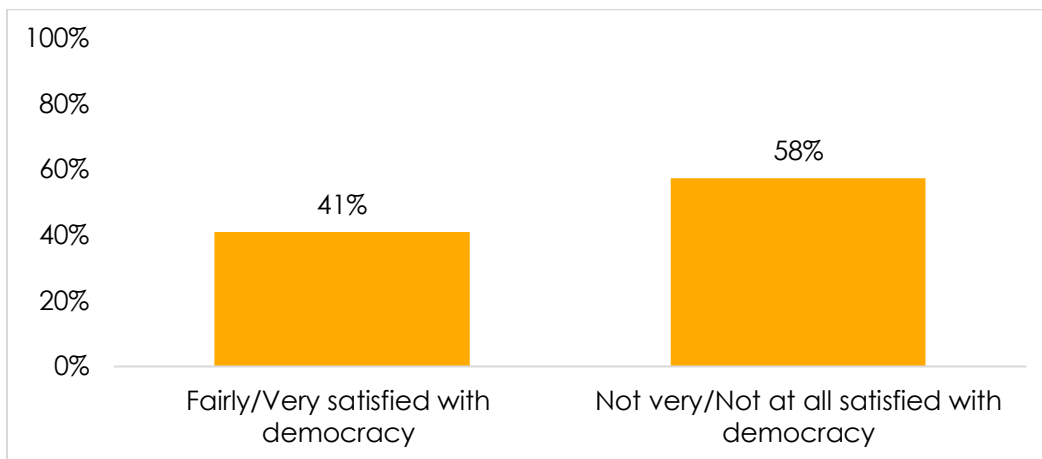
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: Our elected officials should listen to constituents' views and do what they demand.
 Statement 2: Our elected leaders should follow their own ideas in deciding what is best for the country.
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

Figure 5: Extent of democracy | Ethiopia | 2023



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

Figure 5: Satisfaction with democracy | Ethiopia | 2023



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

For more information, please contact:

Mulu Teka
 National Investigator
 ABCON – Research & Consulting
 Tel +251 973 077 414, +251 115 531 470, +251 115 521 696, +251 115 537 061
mulu.mtg@gmail.com / info@abconltd.et
 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Visit us online at:
www.afrobarometer.org
www.abconltd.et

Follow our releases on #VoicesAfrica.

