

ADVISION LESOTHO (PTY) LTD

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PRESS RELEASE

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS KEY TO CITIZENSHIP

Foreign-born spouses of Basotho and people born in Lesotho with at least one Mosotho parent should have the right to citizenship, according to a majority of people polled by Afrobarometer.

Eighty-one percent of survey respondents said that a native-born person with at least one native parent should be granted citizenship; 72% of respondents said wives of Basotho have the right to be citizens, and 51% said they would extend citizenship to the husbands of Basotho women.

In recent months policy makers and residents have debated who qualifies for Lesotho citizenship, with some individuals' citizenry questioned in both the media and the courts. Also recently, Inspector Masupha Masupha, a police spokesperson, said not a day goes by without someone being charged with illegal possession of a Lesotho passport.

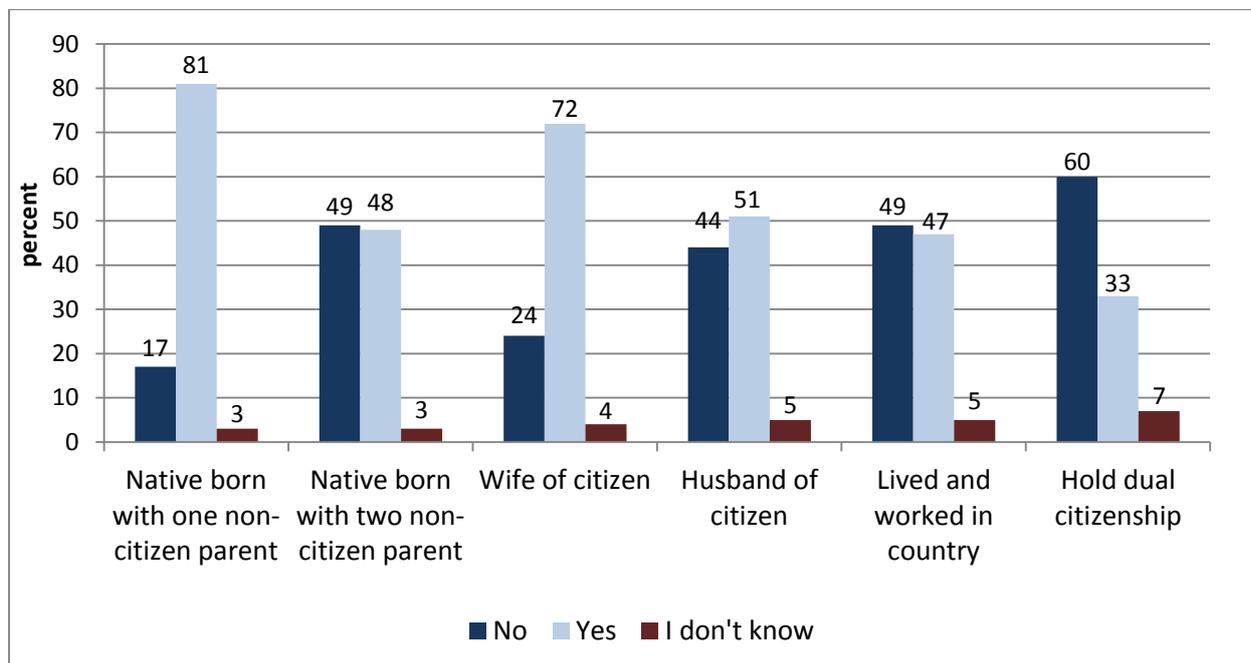
Respondents were less certain of the rights of citizenry for people who have worked in Lesotho for a long time: 48% of respondents say they should have rights, 47% percent say they should not.

Survey participants were also divided on whether people born in Lesotho of foreign-born parents people should be citizens with 50% saying yes and 47% saying no.

Basotho Reject Dual Citizenship

With many Basotho working in South Africa, the value of holding dual citizenship has also been debated. But a majority of survey respondents — 60%— said people do not have a right to be a citizen of Lesotho and a second country.

Figure 1: Definitions of Lesotho Citizens



Pride in National Identity Rises

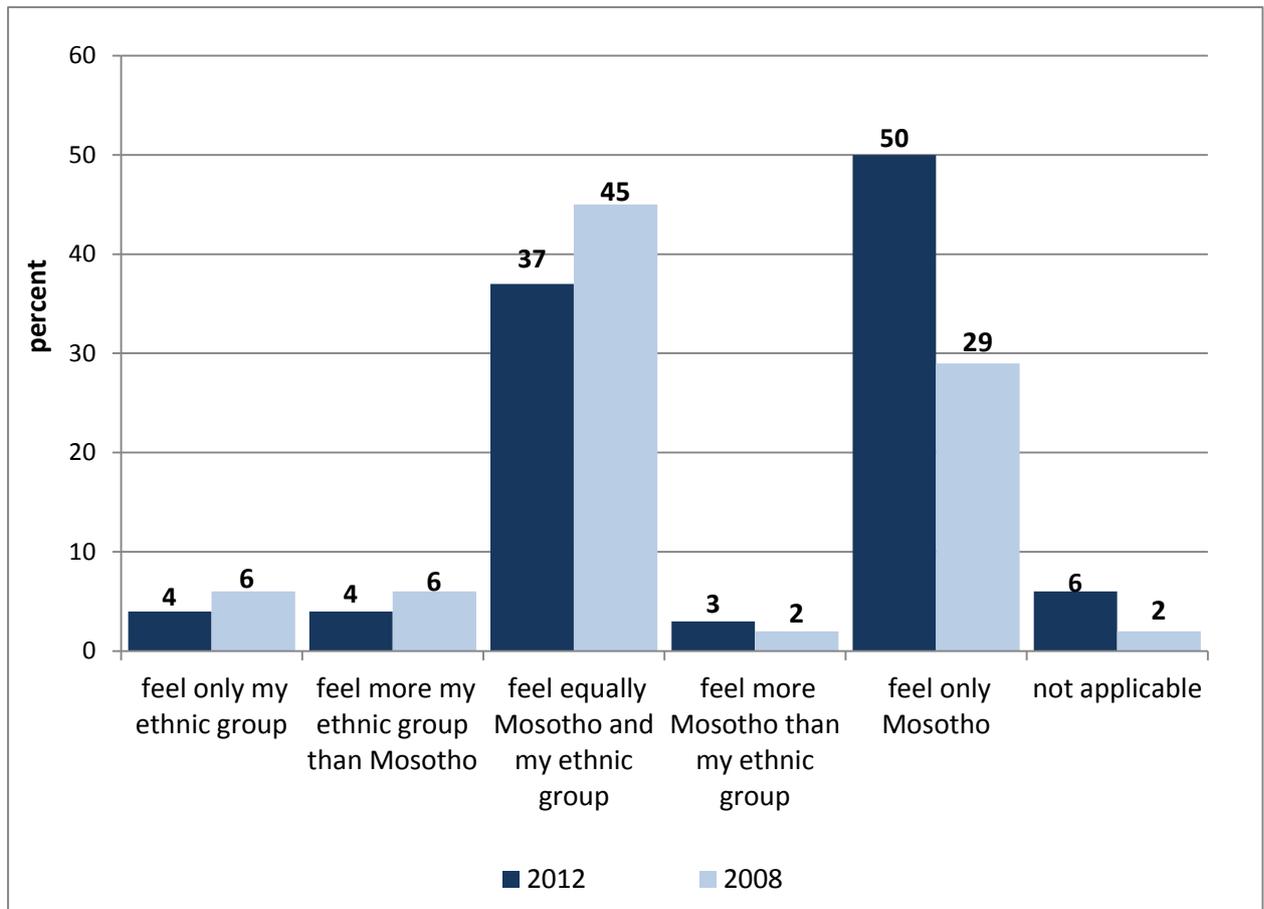
The number of people who value their Basotho identity has risen since 2008, the Afrobarometer survey shows.

Ninety percent of people surveyed in 2012 said they value their national identity — they feel more Mosotho than they feel a member of their ethnic group, feel equally Mosotho or feel only Mosotho —compared with 76% in 2008.

Basotho are often described as a homogeneous society more so because unlike other African countries, Basotho speak one language- Sesotho. The survey suggests that ethnic identity is not the important defining label as it is in some other African nations. In Lesotho, national identity counts more than ethnic group identity.

Survey participants were asked whether they consider themselves a Mosotho or a citizen of the country, and how much they value their ethnic versus national identity. The percentage of those who considered themselves equally Mosotho as well as a member of an ethnic group slipped to 37% in 2012 from 45% in 2008. That change also suggests that the importance of national identity is on the rise.

Figure 2: Value of National Identity compared with Ethnic Identity

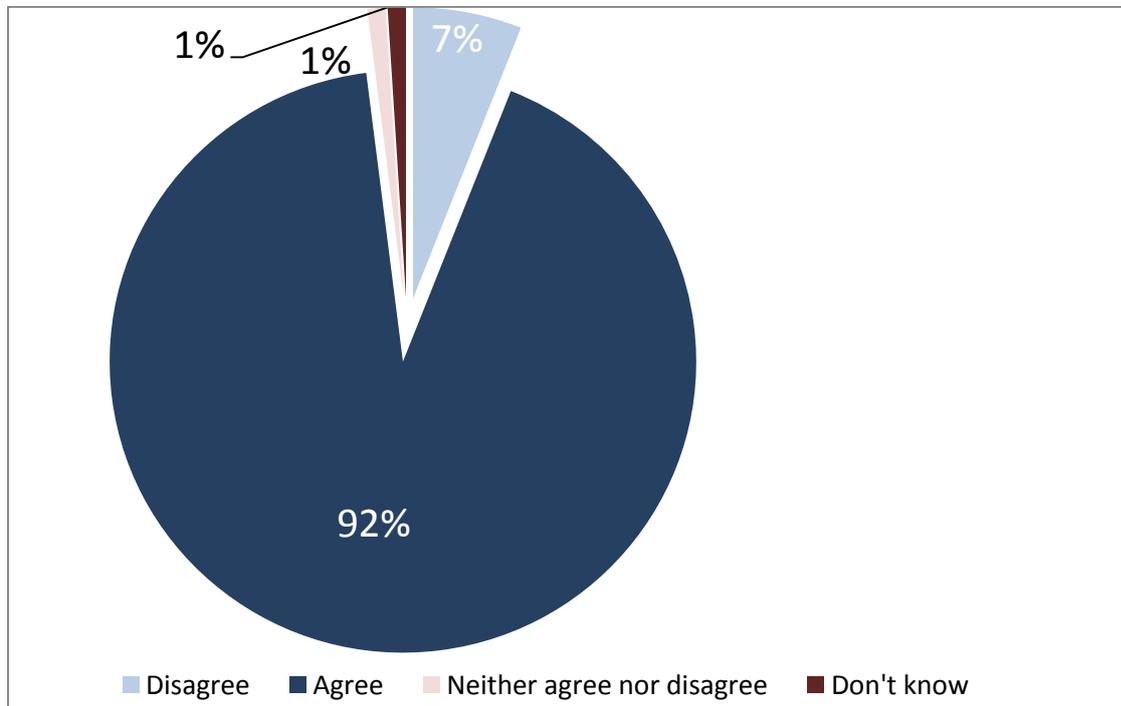


Basotho Express Pride in National Identity, Culture

The term Basotho, which describes indigenous Lesotho people generally, attracted wide approval. This pride in nationality may underlie attitudes on who has the right to citizenship and how one balances his ethnic and national identities.

Figure 3: Proud to be Called a Mosotho

Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement, *I am proud to be a Mosoto, or whether they don't know*



Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer conducts public attitude surveys, covering up to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013). It measures public opinions on democracy and its alternatives, and evaluations of the quality of governance and economic performance. In addition, the survey assesses the views of the electorate on critical political issues in the surveyed countries. The Afrobarometer also provides comparisons over time, as four rounds of surveys have been held from 1999 to 2008 and Round 5 is currently underway.

In Lesotho, Afrobarometer work is coordinated by a research team of Advision Lesotho. A research Consultancy Organisation based in Maseru. The Round 5 fieldwork was conducted in Lesotho from November 26, 2012 to 16 December 2012. 1200 adult Basotho were interviewed by the survey and this sample size yields results with a margin error of +/- 3% at a 95% confidence level.

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