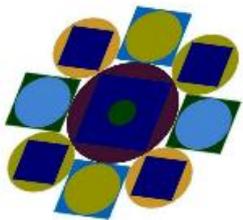




# Government and Leaders' Performance and Democracy

Findings from the Afrobarometer Round 6 survey in Lesotho



# At a glance

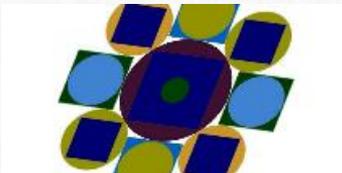
- **Government performance**: Basotho say that government performance has declined on 13 issues surveyed.
- **Approval of leaders**: Traditional leaders receive the highest approval rating (71%). Approval ratings for elected leaders have improved since 2012 but remain below 50%.
- **Political parties**: More than 60% of Basotho believe that the ruling coalition is better able to address key socioeconomic issues than opposition parties.



# What is Afrobarometer?



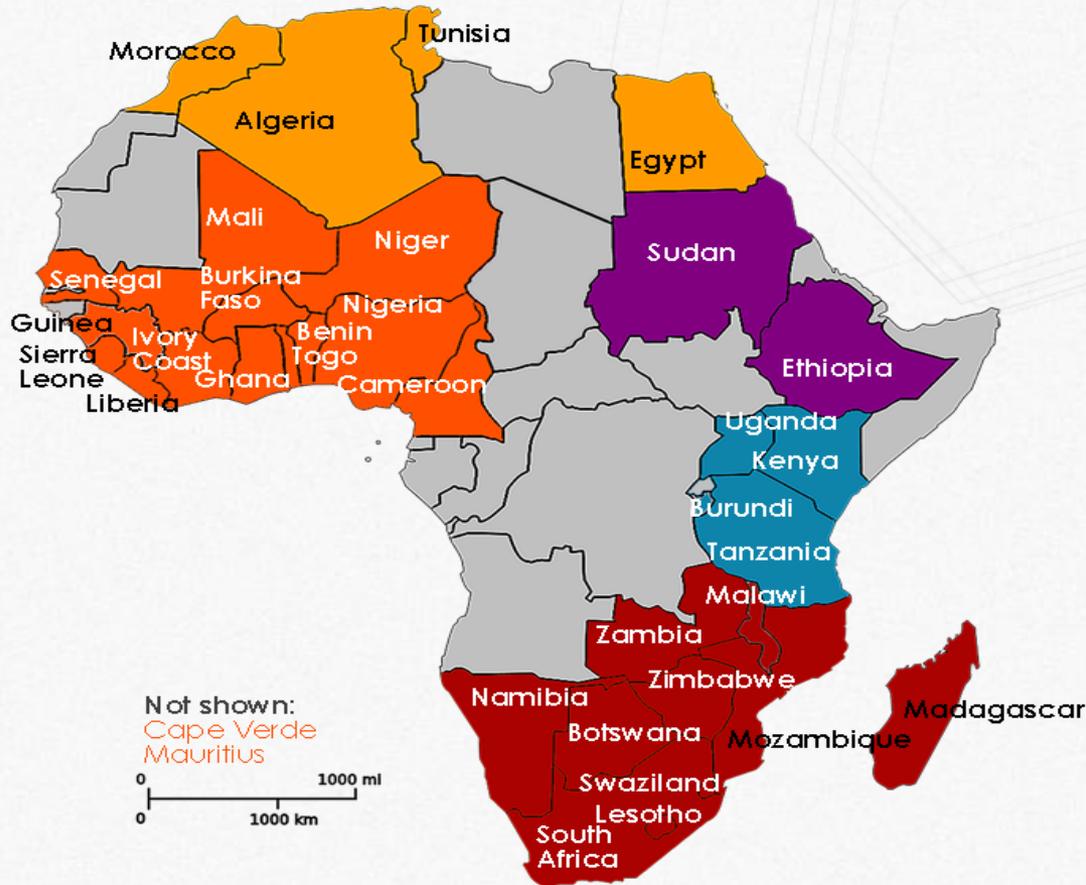
- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999, expanded to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013).
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking 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 Lesotho, the Afrobarometer Round 6 survey was conducted by Advision Lesotho.



# Where Afrobarometer works

Face-to-Face Interviews | 35 Countries

Surveys by state, region



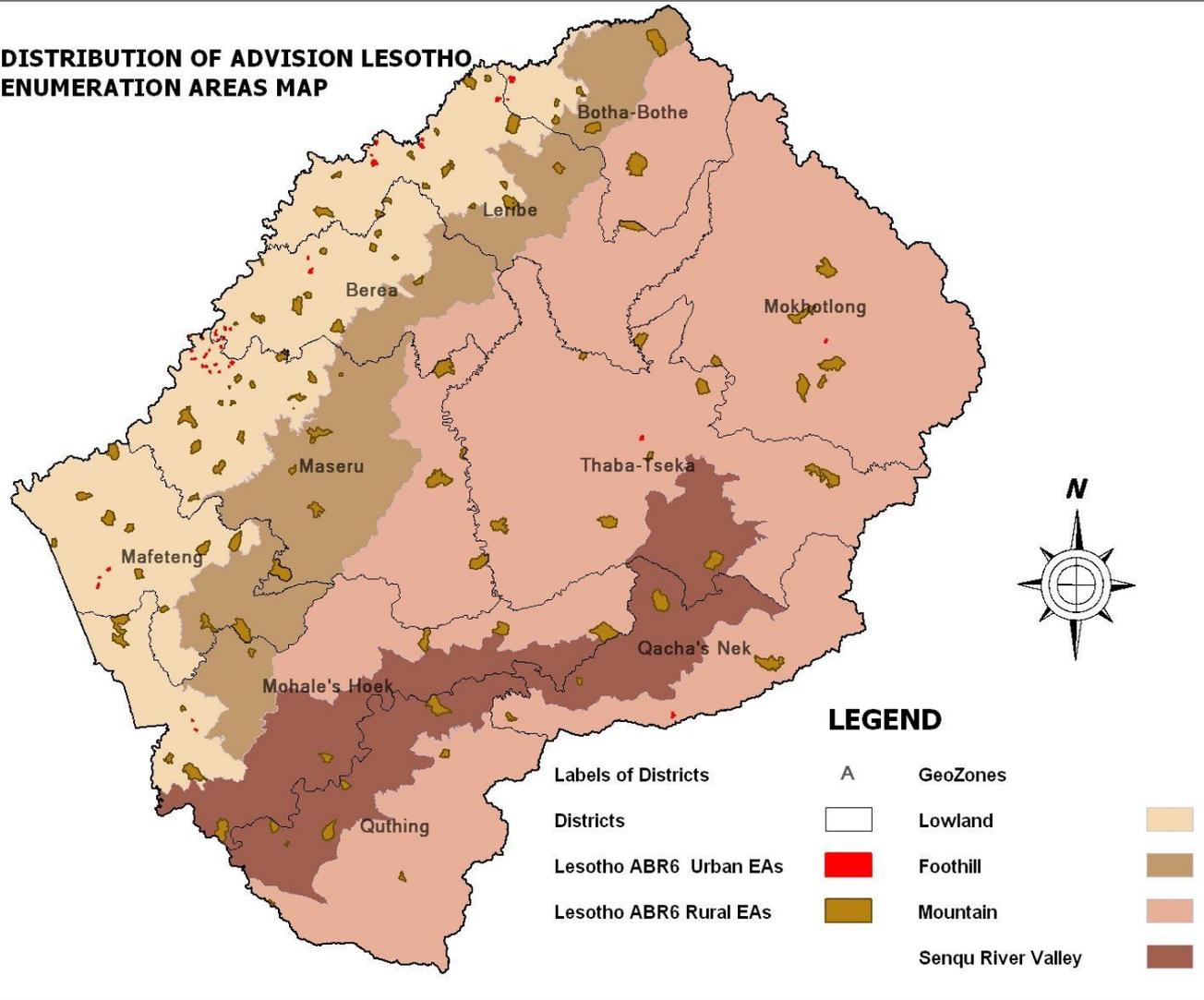
# Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
  - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
  - ❑ Sample is distributed across districts 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 (English or Sesotho).
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in Lesotho of 1,200 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 6 in Lesotho was conducted between **3** and **31 May 2014**.

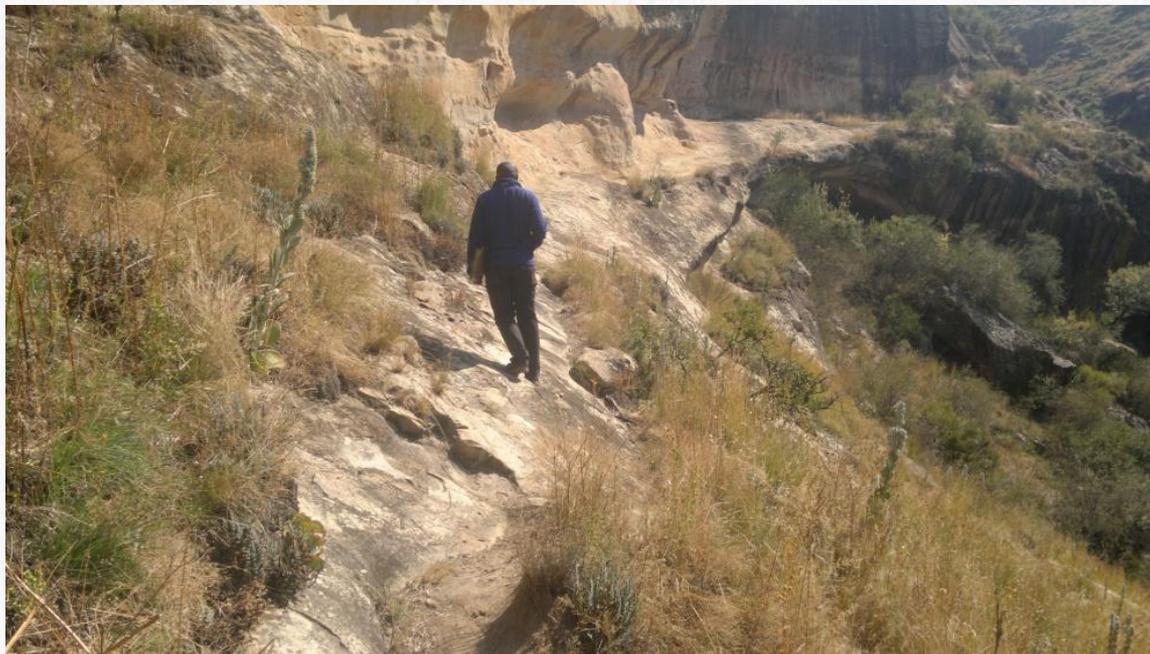


# Enumerator Map

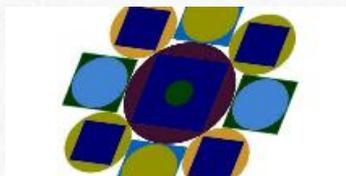
**DISTRIBUTION OF ADVISION LESOTHO  
 ENUMERATION AREAS MAP**



# Lesotho, the Kingdom in the Sky



A survey fieldworker negotiates difficult terrain to reach a remote village.



# Survey Demographics (1)

		Unweighted	Weighted
<b>Gender</b>			
	Male	50%	50%
	Female	50%	50%
<b>Location</b>			
	Urban	30%	30%
	Rural	70%	70%
<b>Education</b>			
	No formal education	11%	12%
	Primary	53%	52%
	Secondary	28%	28%
	Post-secondary	8%	8%
<b>Religion</b>			
	Christian	90%	90%
	Muslim	0%	0%
	Other	10%	10%
	Refused	-	-

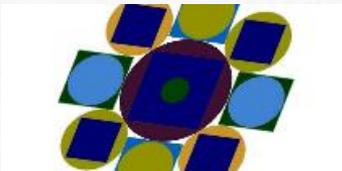
# Survey Demographics (2)

District	Unweighted	Weighted
Maseru	27%	27%
Mafeteng	10%	10%
Mohale's Hoek	9%	9%
Quthing	6%	6%
Qacha's Nek	3%	3%
Mokhotlong	5%	5%
Butha-Buthe	5%	5%
Leribe	15%	15%
Berea	14%	14%
Thaba Tseka	6%	6%



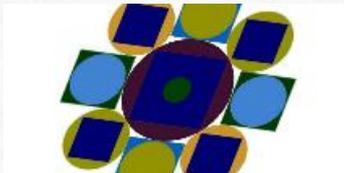
**Advision Lesotho  
performed the  
survey in Lesotho  
May 3-31, 2014**

We did face-to-face  
interviews in the  
language of the  
respondent's choice



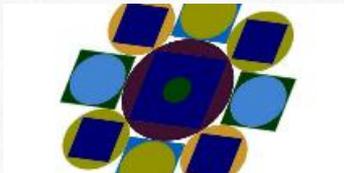


# Results



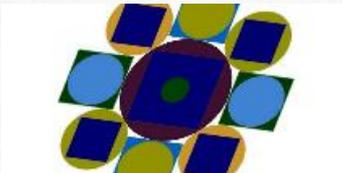


# Approval of leaders' performance



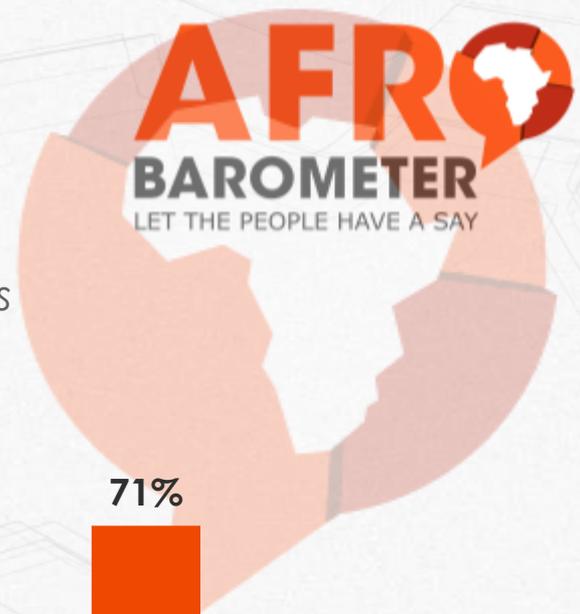
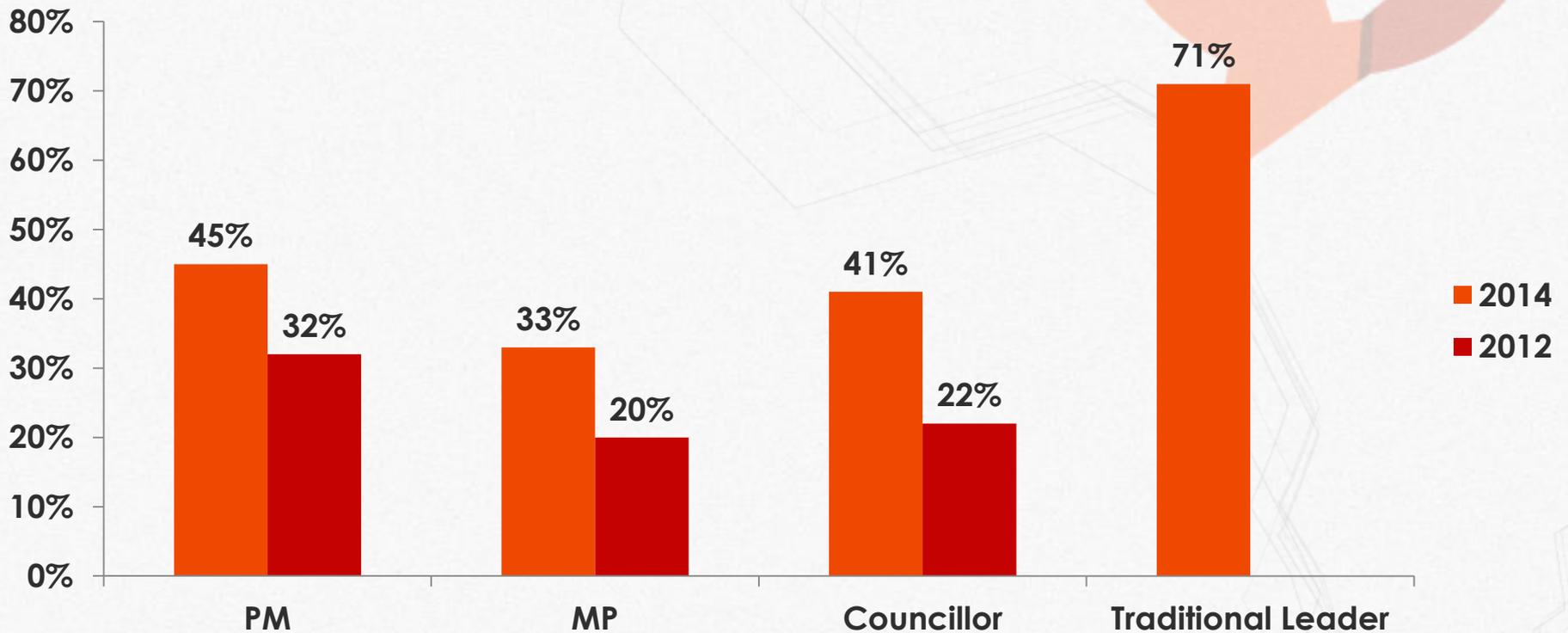
## Key findings

- Approval ratings for political leaders have improved from 2012 but remain below 50%:
  - 45% of respondents approve of the prime minister's performance, up from 32%
  - 1 in 3 (33%) respondents approve of the performance of their Members of Parliament, up from 20%
  - 4 out of 10 (41%) approve of the performance of their community councilors, up from 22%
- Traditional leaders received highest approval rating (71%)



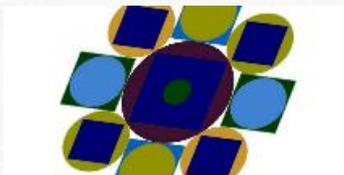
# Approval of leaders

**Respondents were asked:** Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past 12 months, or haven't you heard enough to say? (% who said "approve" or "strongly approve")



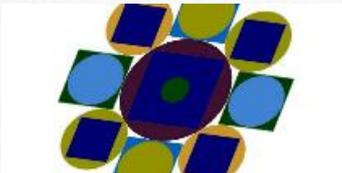


# Government performance



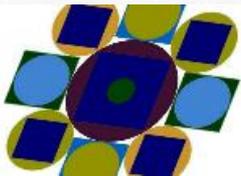
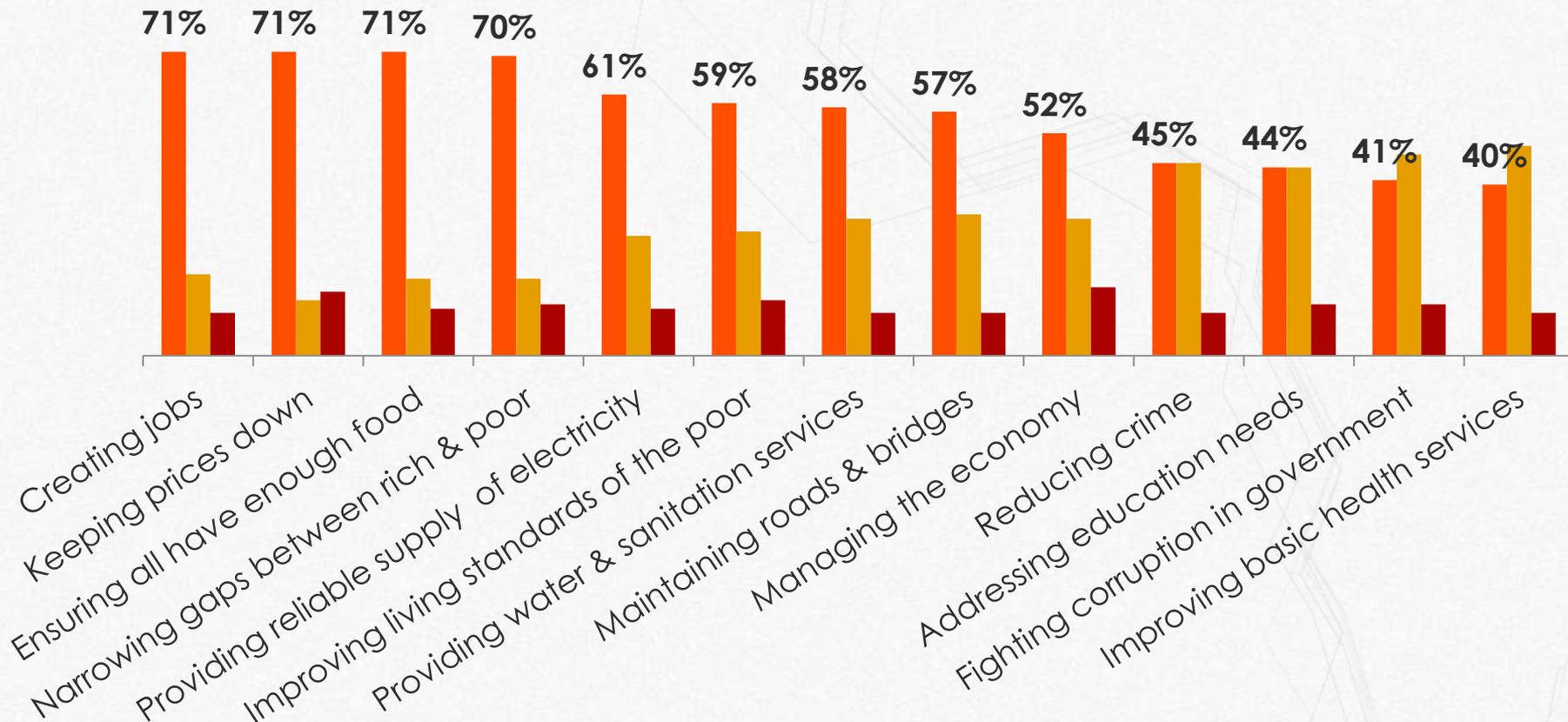
# Key findings

- Compared to 2012, more Basotho say that government is performing badly on a wide range of issues.
- Government receives the lowest approval ratings for its performance in controlling prices (13%), ensuring that everyone has enough to eat (18%), narrowing the income gap between rich and poor (18%), and creating jobs (19%).
- Government receives the highest approval ratings for its performance in improving basic health services (49%), fighting corruption (47%), reducing crime (45%), and addressing education needs (44%).



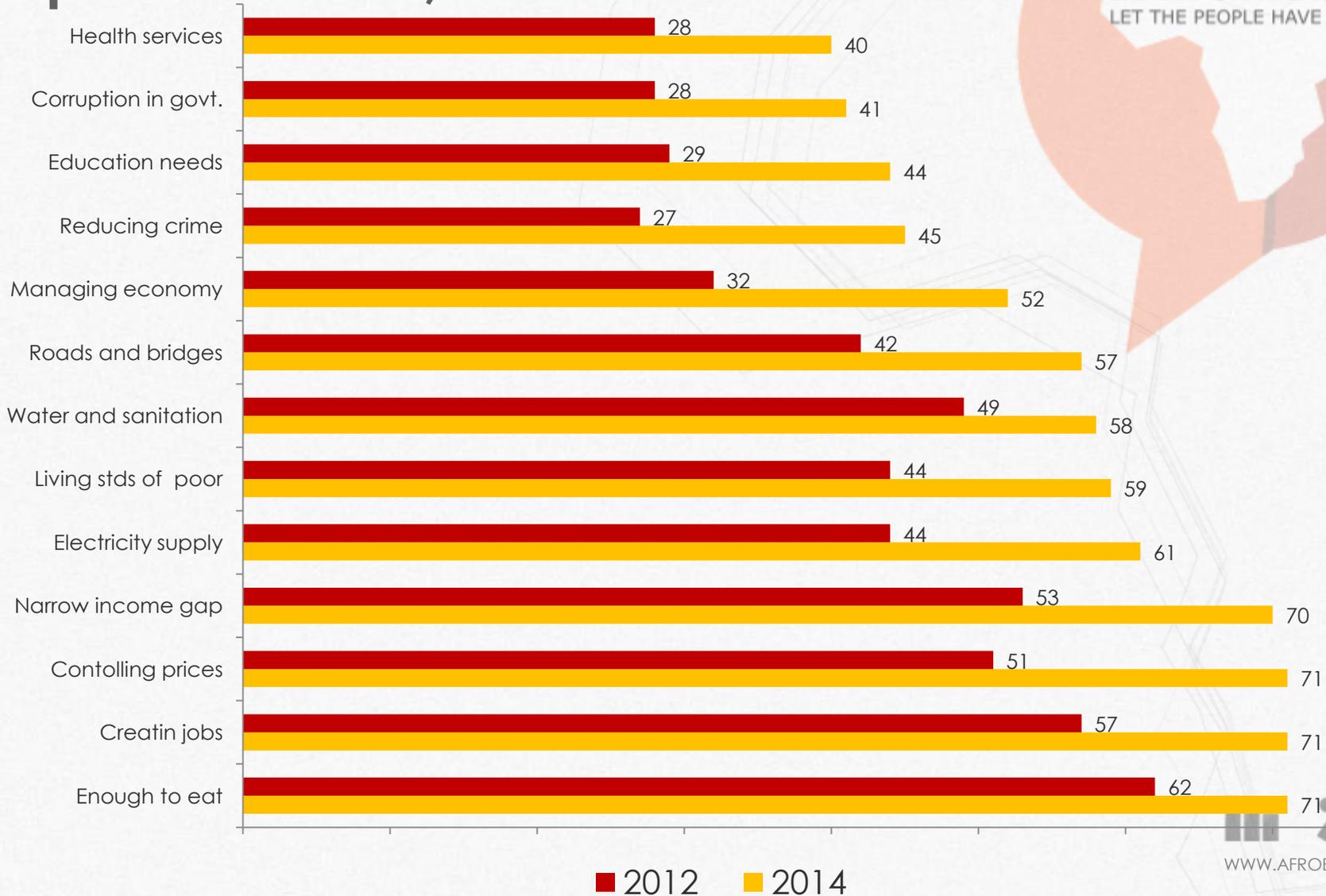
# Negative Ratings of Government Performance

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?*



■ Badly
 ■ Well
 ■ Don't know

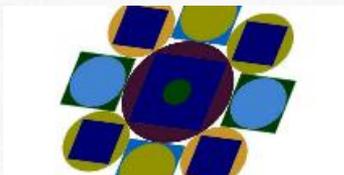
# Negative evaluations of government performance, 2014 vs. 2012



# Perceptions of local government performance

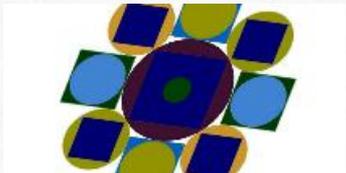


- Compared to 2012, more Basotho say local government has performed badly in providing needed services.
- Negative ratings for maintaining local roads increased from 60% in 2012 to 69% in 2014.
- Negative ratings for maintaining local marketplaces increased from 63% in 2012 to 68% in 2014.





# Capabilities of political parties



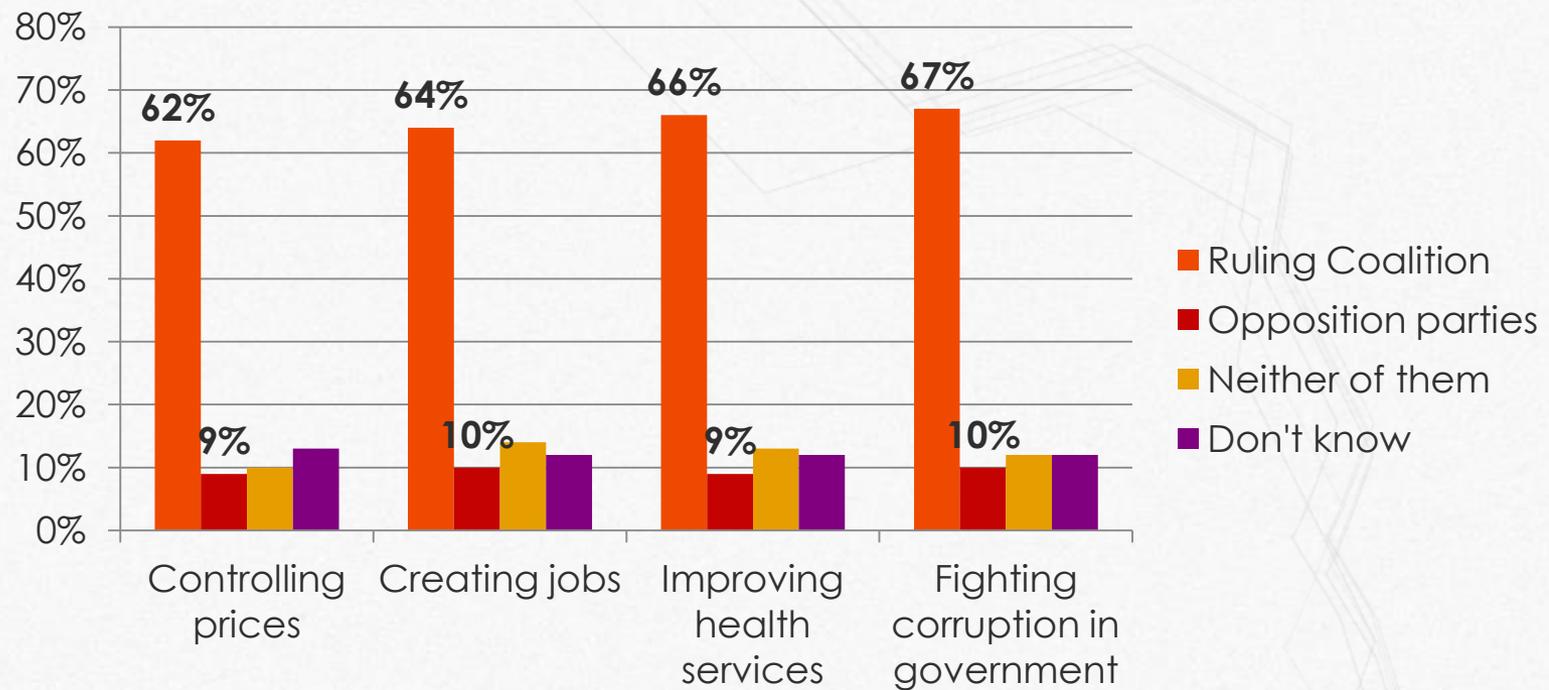
# Key findings

- Basotho say the ruling coalition is best able to address the following:
  - Fighting corruption in government (67%)
  - Improving basic health services (66%)
  - Creating jobs (64%)
  - Controlling prices (62%)
  
- Half of Basotho say the government is doing a good job in handling the most important problem (unemployment) as opposed to 4 out of 10 (41%) who say it is doing a bad job.
  
- Only 3 out of 10 (30%) respondents say there is another political party that could do a better job in solving the most important problem.



# Capability of ruling coalition and opposition parties to address public issues

**Respondents were asked:** Looking at the ruling coalition and opposition parties in this country, which would you say is most able to address the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say: controlling prices? creating jobs? improving basic health services? fighting corruption in government?

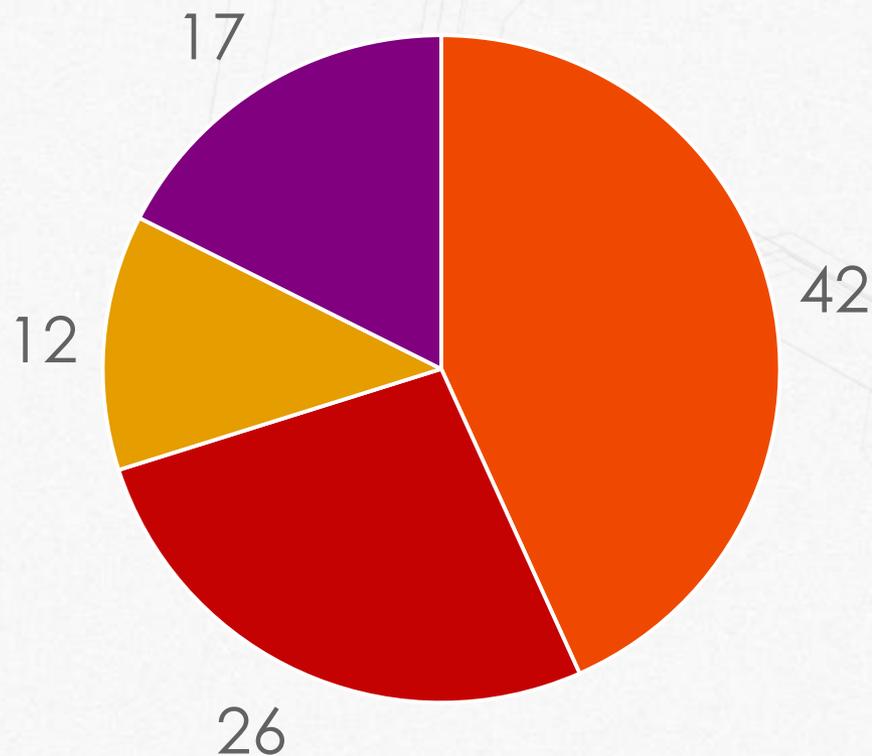


# Political opposition as a viable alternative to the ruling coalition

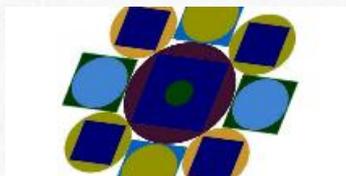
- About 4 out of 10 (42%) respondents disagree with the following statement: “The political opposition in Lesotho presents a viable alternative vision and plan for the country.”
- 3 out of 10 (28%) agree with the statement.
- 2 out 10 (17%) say they do not know.



# Political opposition as a viable alternative to the ruling coalition



■ Disagree ■ Agree ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree ■ Don't know





# Conclusions



# Conclusion

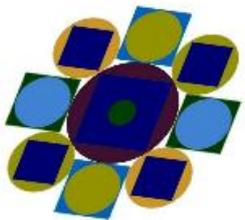
- Basotho increasingly disapprove of both central and local government performance on most issues.
- Approval for the way the prime minister, members of Parliament, and local councilors have done their jobs has increased since 2012.
- Basotho perceive the performance of traditional leaders significantly more positively than they do that of elected leaders.
- Less than a third of Basotho believe that the political opposition presents a viable alternative vision and plan for the country.





# Evaluations of democracy

Findings from the Afrobarometer Round 6 survey in Lesotho



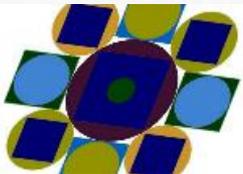
# At a glance

- **Demand for democracy**: Half of Basotho prefer democracy to any other form of government.
- **Rejection of non-democratic Rule**: A majority of Basotho reject one-party rule (57%), military rule (79%), and one-man rule (80%).
- **Supply of democracy**: Less than half of Basotho believe that the country is a full democracy.



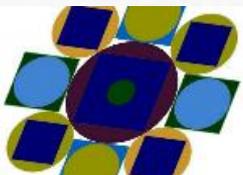
**Advison Lesotho  
performed the  
survey in Lesotho  
May 3-31, 2014**

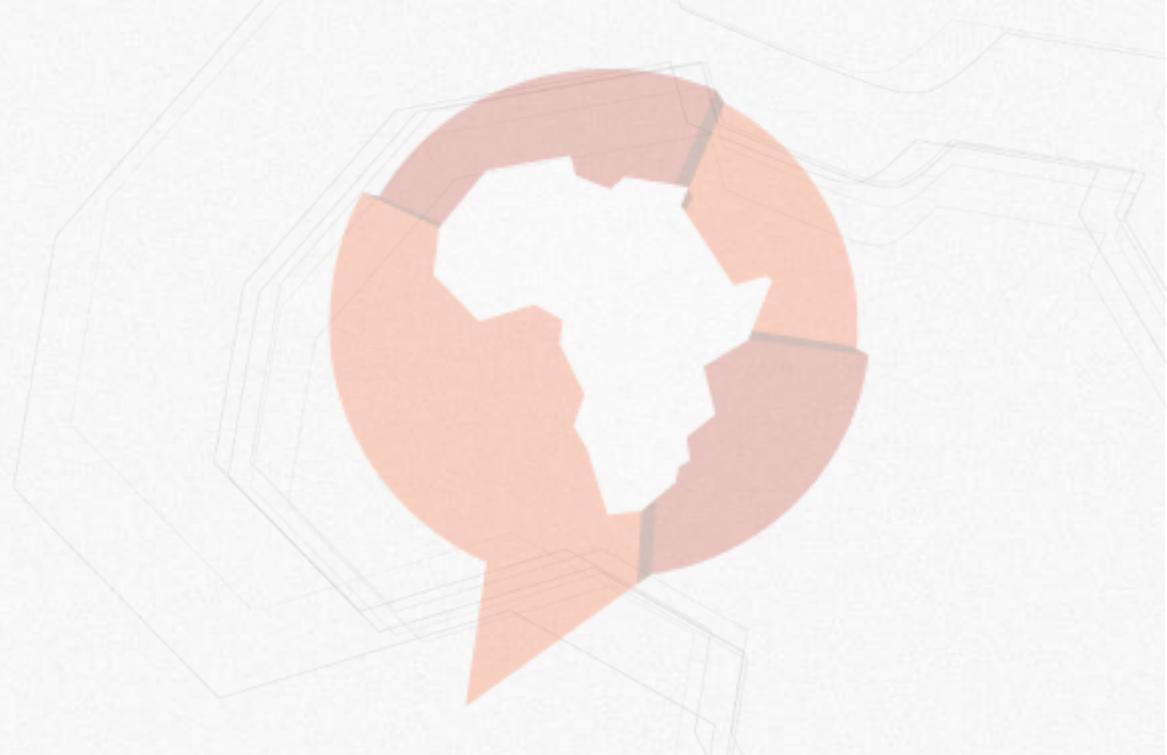
**We did face-to-face  
interviews in the  
language of the  
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**Advison Lesotho  
performed the  
survey in Lesotho  
May 3-31, 2014**

All districts and  
ecological zones were  
covered

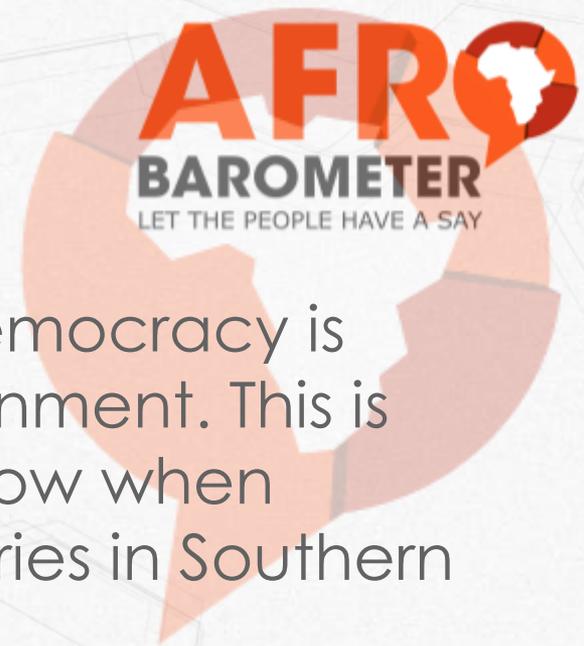
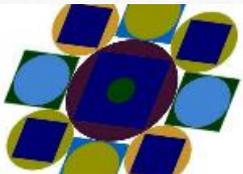




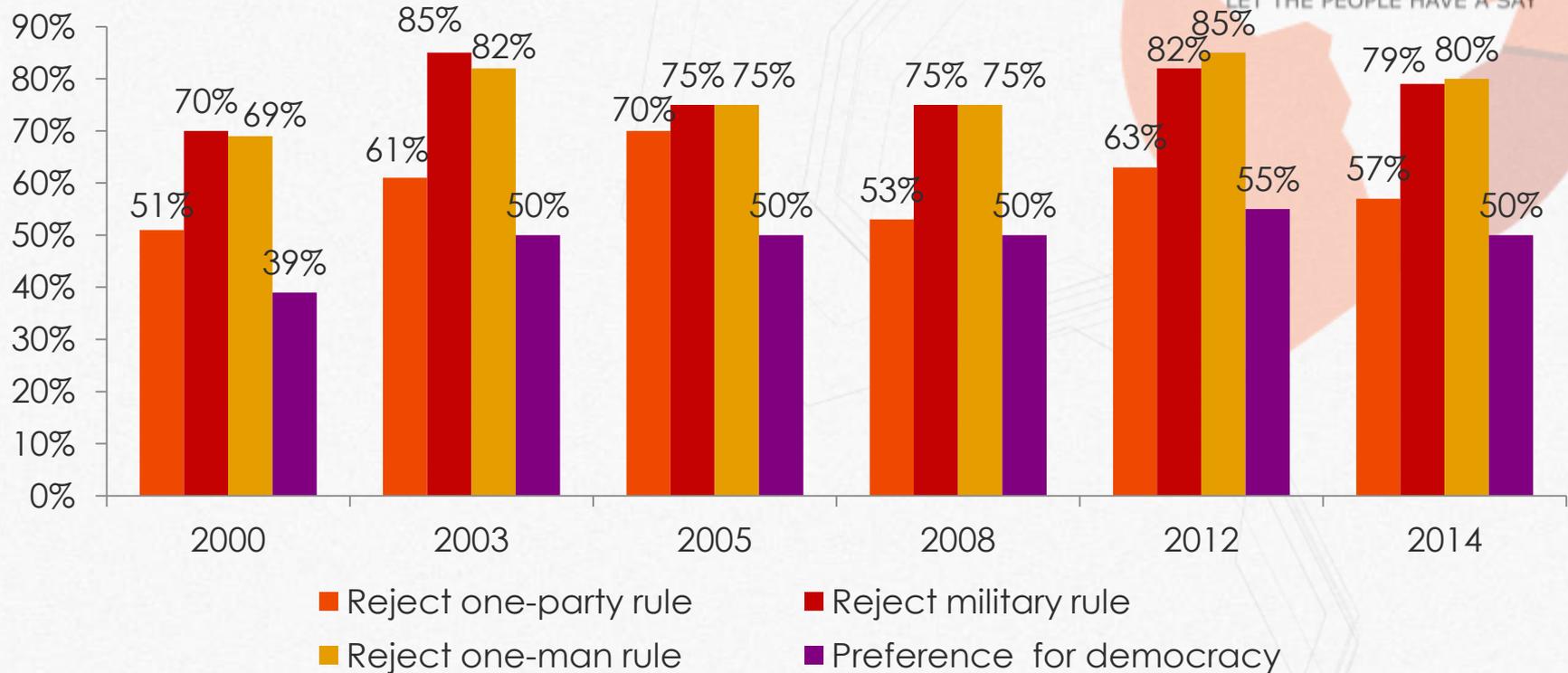
# Demand for democracy

# Key findings

- Only half (50%) of respondents say democracy is preferable to any other kind of government. This is lower than in 2012 (55%). This is quite low when compared to 4 other surveyed countries in Southern Africa
- A majority of Basotho reject non-democratic alternatives, but this rejection has weakened since 2012:
  - 57% reject one-party rule, while 63% did so in 2012.
  - 79% reject military rule, compared to 82% in 2012.
  - 80% reject one-man rule, down from 85% in 2012.



# Rejection of non-democratic rule and preference for democracy



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

- A. Only one political party is allowed to stand for election and hold office.
- B. The army comes in to govern.
- C. Elections and Parliament are abolished and the Prime Minister can decide everything, **and**

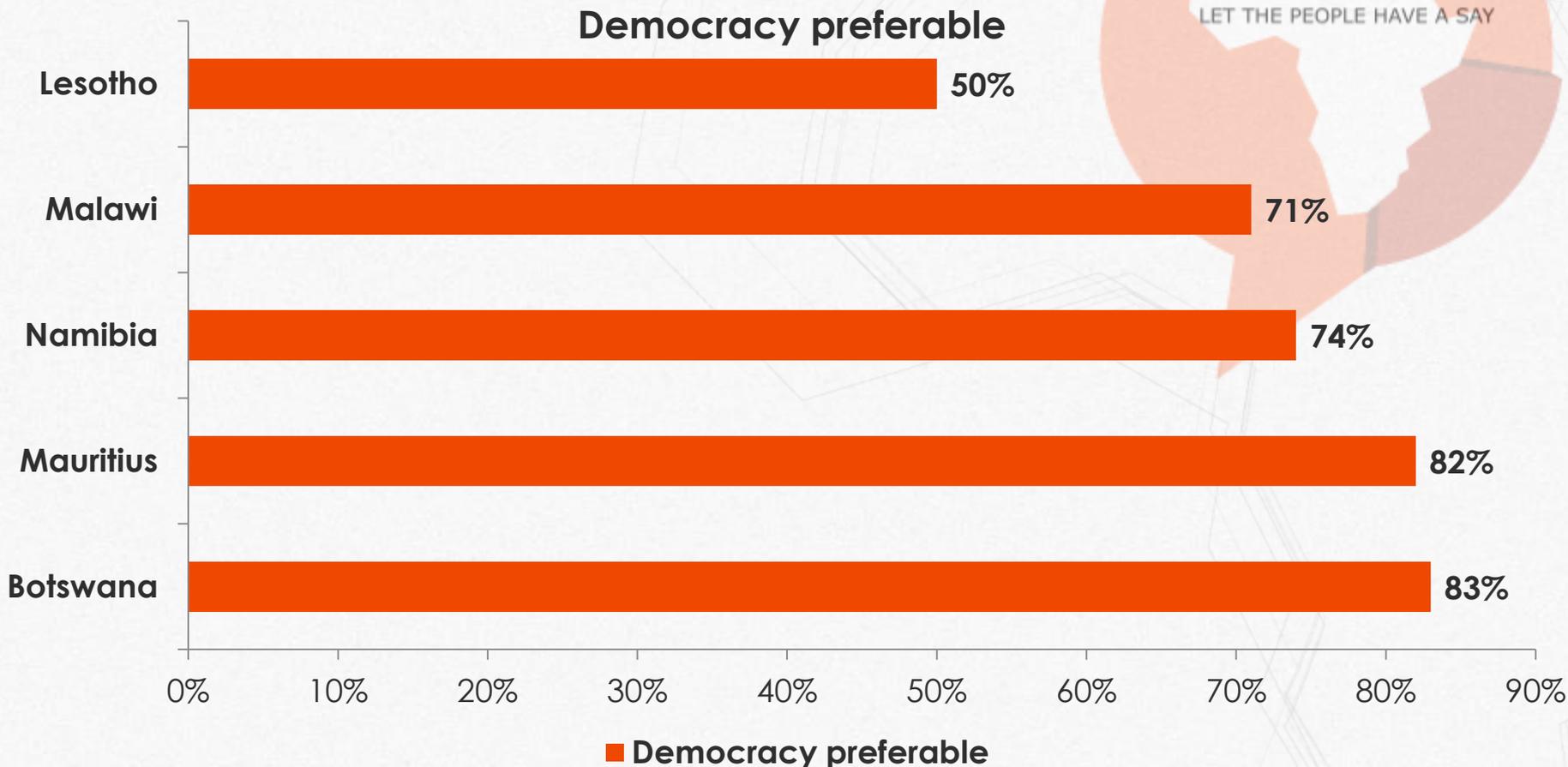
*Which of these three statements is closest to your opinion?*

*Statement 1: "Democracy is preferable to any type of government."*

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

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

# Preference for democracy in Five Surveyed Countries in Southern Africa



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

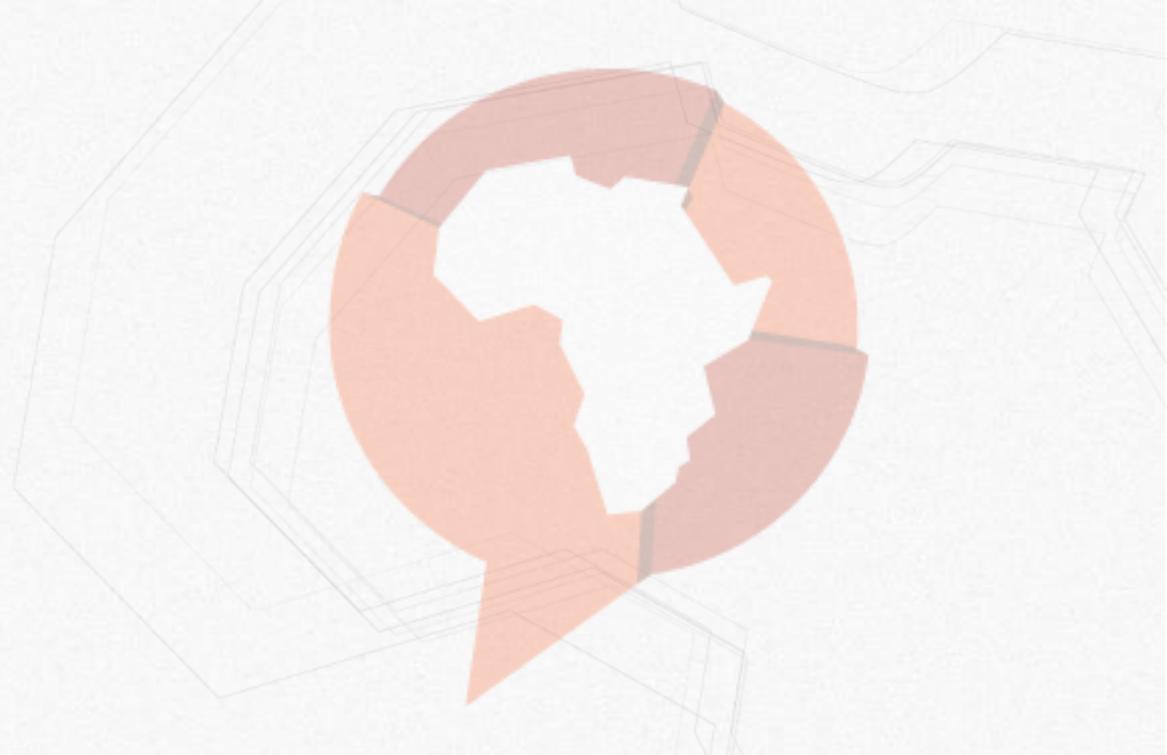
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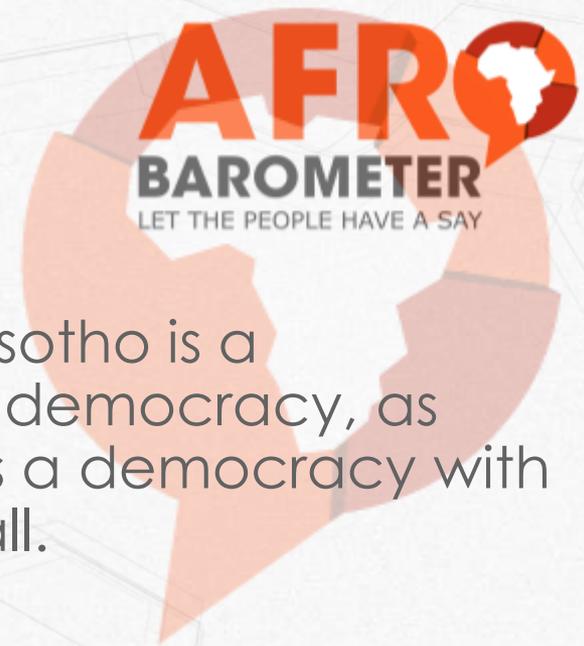
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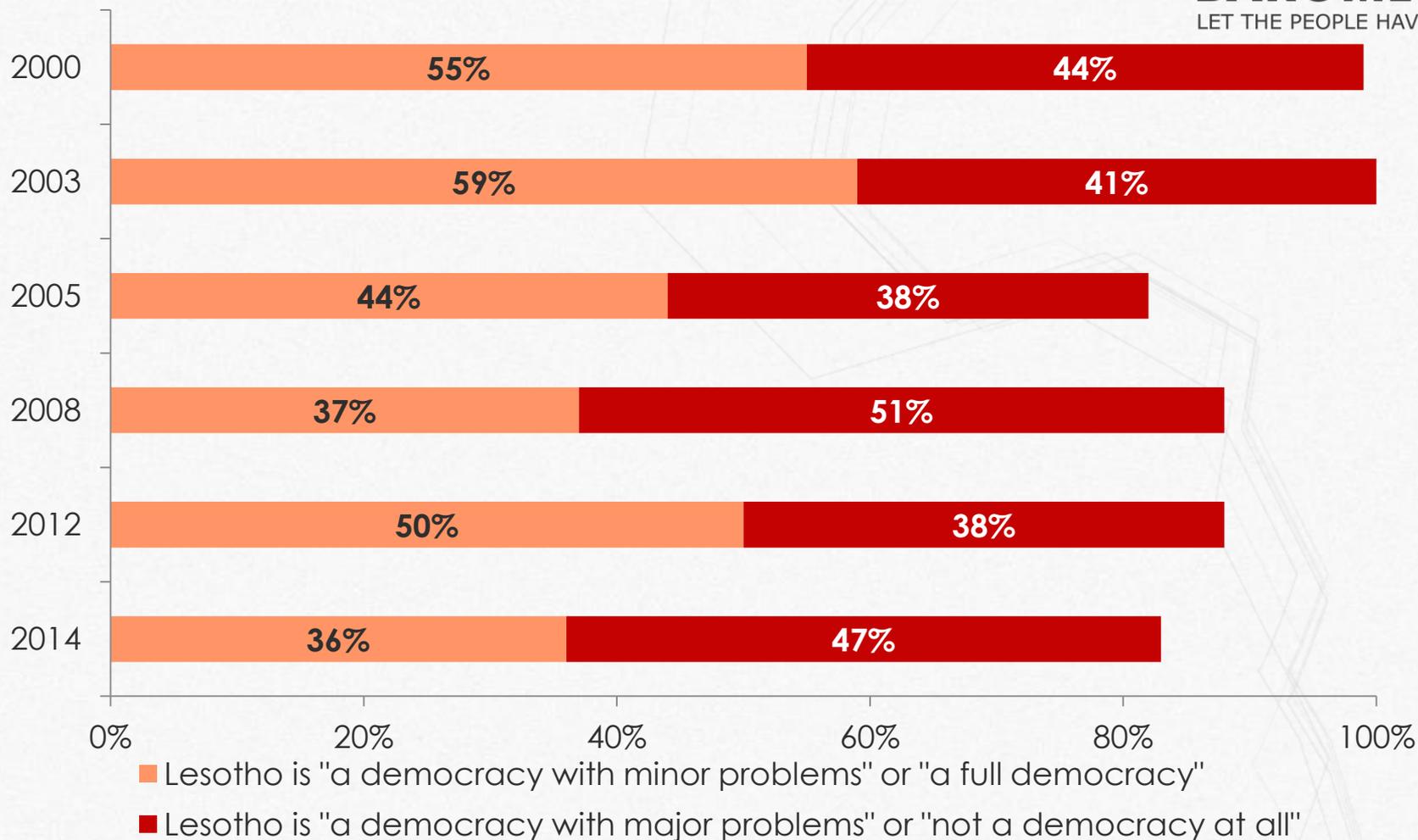
# Supply of democracy

# Key findings

- Only 4 in ten (36%) of respondents say Lesotho is a democracy with minor problems or a full democracy, as opposed to nearly half (50%) who say it is a democracy with major problems or not a democracy at all.
- Only a third (32%) say they are satisfied with the way democracy works in Lesotho, while 6 in 10 (57%) say they are not satisfied.
- Both findings reflect significantly more negative perceptions than in 2012.

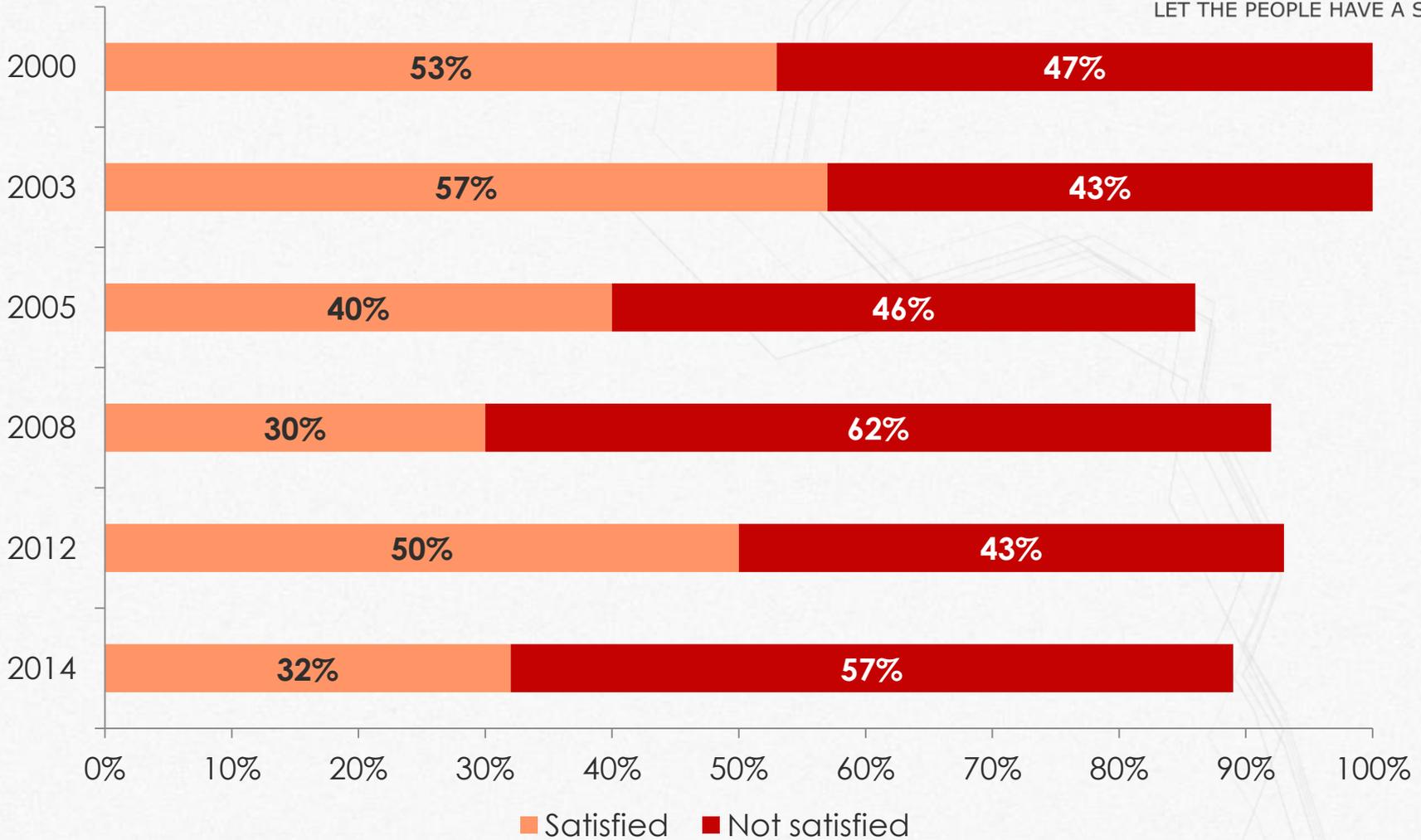


# Extent of democracy



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

# Satisfaction with democracy



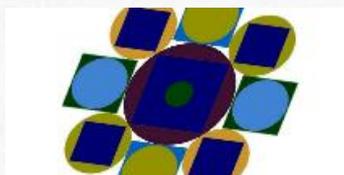
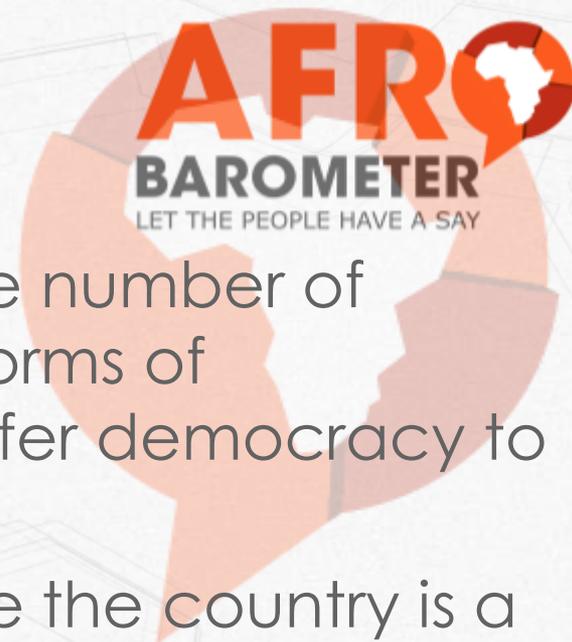
**Respondents were asked:** Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Lesotho?



# Conclusions

# Conclusion

- There is a significant gap between the number of people who reject non-democratic forms of government (72%) and those who prefer democracy to any other type of government (50%).
- Only 4 out of 10 (36%) Basotho believe the country is a full democracy or one with minor problems. Moreover, only 3 out of 10 (32%) are satisfied with the way democracy works in Lesotho.
- These findings reflect significantly more negative perceptions of Lesotho's democracy than in 2012.



Re a  
leboha  
*Thank you  
for your  
attention*

