

# **FINDINGS FROM AFROBAROMETER ROUND 5 SURVEY**

## **GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS' ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS**

**4<sup>th</sup> June, 2013**

## What is the Afrobarometer?

- The Afrobarometer (AB) is a comparative series of public opinion surveys that measure public attitudes toward democracy, governance, the economy, leadership, identity, and other related issues
- The AB is an independent, non-partisan, African-based network of researchers
- The first round of surveys took place in 1999-2001 in 12 countries. The Network is now conducting “Round 5” surveys in up to 35 countries during 2011-2012
- **Purpose:** To measure popular perspectives on the social, political, and economic environments in each country where it is implemented and across Africa
- **Goal:** To give the public a *voice* in policy making processes by providing high-quality public opinion data to policy-makers, policy advocates and civil society organizations, academics, media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans

## Round 1, 1999-2001, 12 countries

- *Southern Africa: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe*
- *West Africa: Ghana, Mali, Nigeria*
- *East Africa: Tanzania, Uganda*

## Round 2, 2002-2003, 16 countries

- *All Round 1 countries*
- *Cape Verde, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal*

## Round 3, 2005-2006, 18 countries

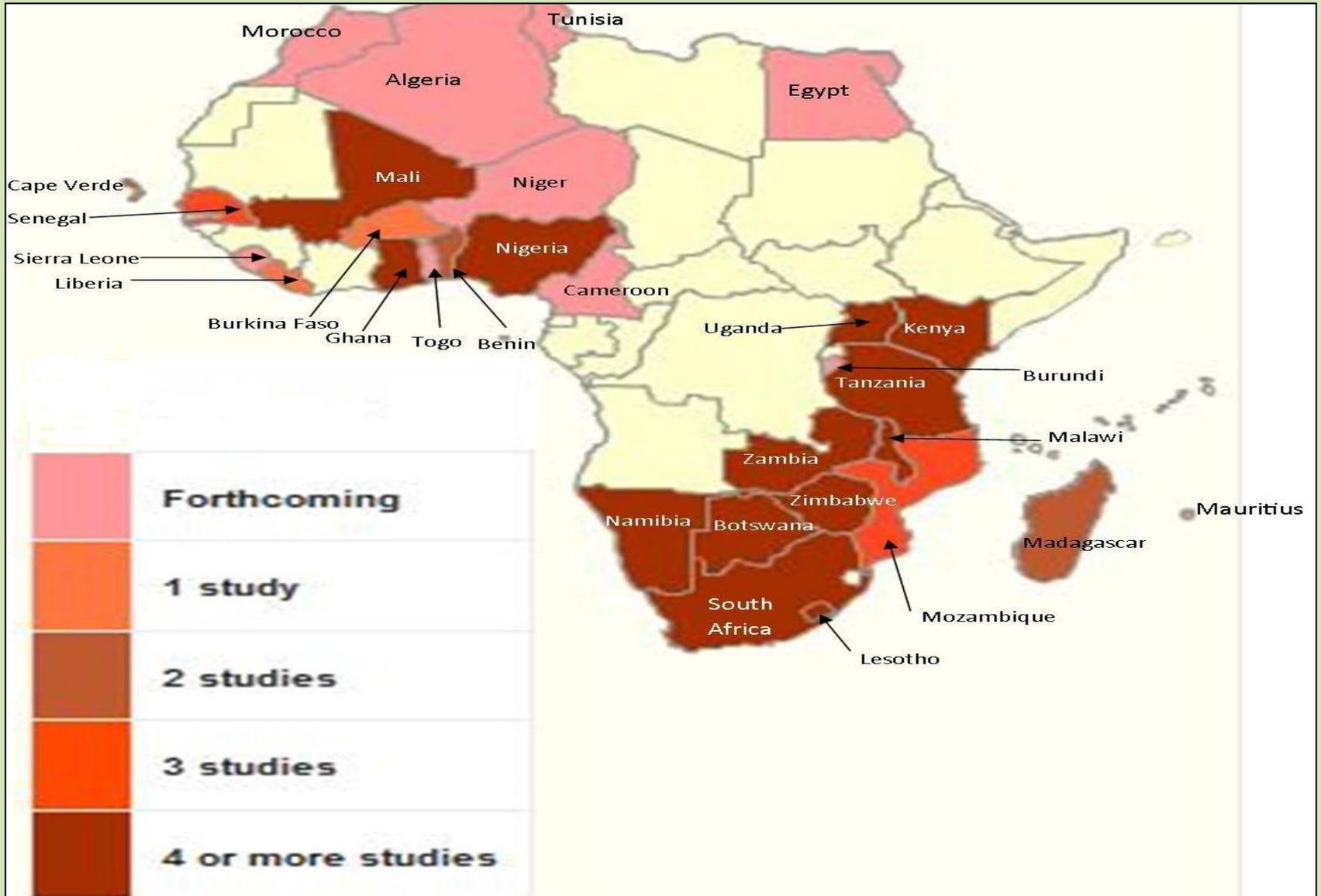
- *Benin, Madagascar*

## Round 4, 2008-2009, 20 countries

- *Burkina Faso, Liberia*

## Round 5, 2011-2013, 35 countries targeted

- *Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Guinea, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Togo, Tunisia, Sierra Leone, Sudan*



# Who is the Afrobarometer?

A Pan-African Network of survey researchers and analysts:

In each country there is a **National Partner** responsible for survey implementation and advocacy. In Ghana, the National Partner is CDD-Ghana

Three **Core Partners** provide technical assistance and Network management:

- *Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Ghana*
- *Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi, Kenya*
- *Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IREEP), Benin*

Two **Support Units** for capacity building and quality assurance

- *Michigan State University*
- *University of Cape Town*

Round 5 **Core Funders** include

- *DFID*
- *SIDA*
- *USAID*
- *Mo Ibrahim Foundation*

Nationally representative sample of adult citizens

- *All respondents are randomly selected*
- *Every adult citizen has an equal and known chance of being selected*

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

Standard survey instrument across all countries for comparability

The survey interviewed 1190 Sierra Leoneans who are 18 years and older. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of approximately +/-3% at 95% confidence level.

Field work for Round 5 in Sierra Leone was conducted between 23<sup>rd</sup> June and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

Afrobarometer's work in Sierra Leone is coordinated by ITASCAP Limited who were responsible for field work and CGG and Lena Thompson are responsible for dissemination and briefing papers.

	Weighted	Un-weighted
<b>AGE</b>		
Mean Age	36 yrs	36 yrs
Youngest Respondent	18 yrs	18 yrs
Oldest Respondent	78 yrs	78 yrs
18 – 30 years	40%	39%
31 – 45 years	41%	42%
46 – 60 years	13%	14%
61 years and above	5%	5%
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
None/Informal	33%	34%
Primary completed / Some primary school	14%	13%
Secondary completed / Some Secondary school	35%	34%
Higher (Post-secondary/Univ. / Some Univ.)	18%	18%
Don't Know	0%	1%

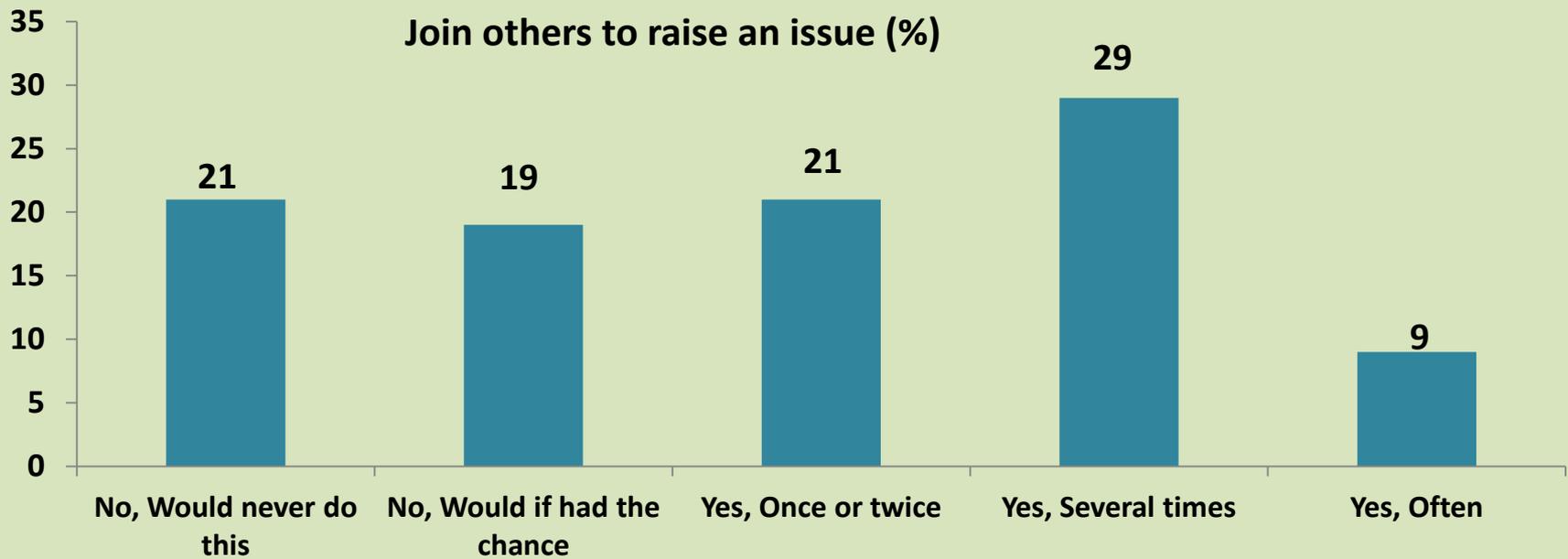
	Weighted	Un-weighted
<b><i>GENDER</i></b>		
Male	49%	50%
Female	51%	50%
<b><i>REGION</i></b>		
Western	21%	20%
Southern province	21%	22%
Eastern Province	24%	24%
Northern Province	34%	34%
<b><i>LOCATION</i></b>		
Urban	38%	38%
Rural	62%	62%
<b><i>RELIGION</i></b>		
Christian	46%	45%
Muslim	54%	54%
Other	0%	0%

**The presentation will focus on the findings relating to the following:**

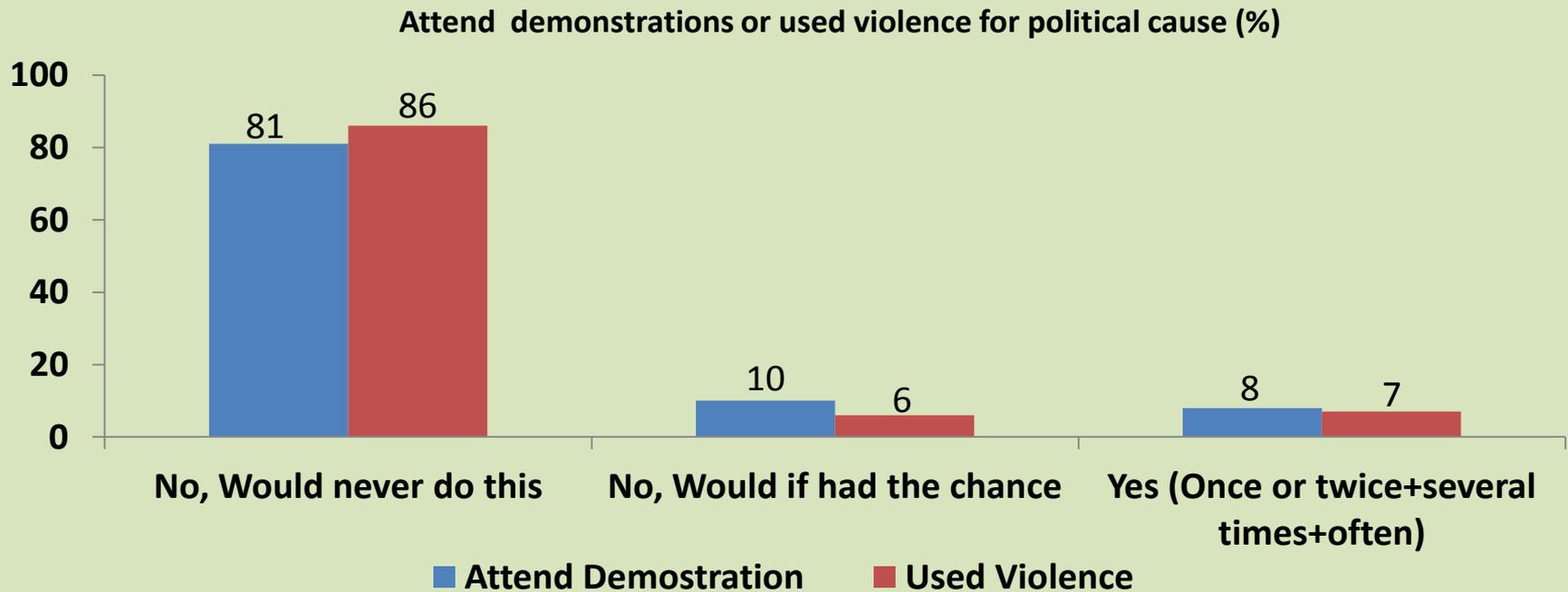
- Demand for government and public officials' accountability
- Evaluations of government and public officials' accountability
- Demand for public officials' responsiveness
- Assessment of public officials' responsiveness

# DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC OFFICIALS' ACCOUNTABILITY

- ❖ **59 percent** of Sierra Leoneans reported joining other citizens to raise an issue *“once/twice”, several times and often* in the past year.
- ❖ However, **21 percent** said they would never join others to raise an issue whilst **19 percent** would do so if they had the chance.

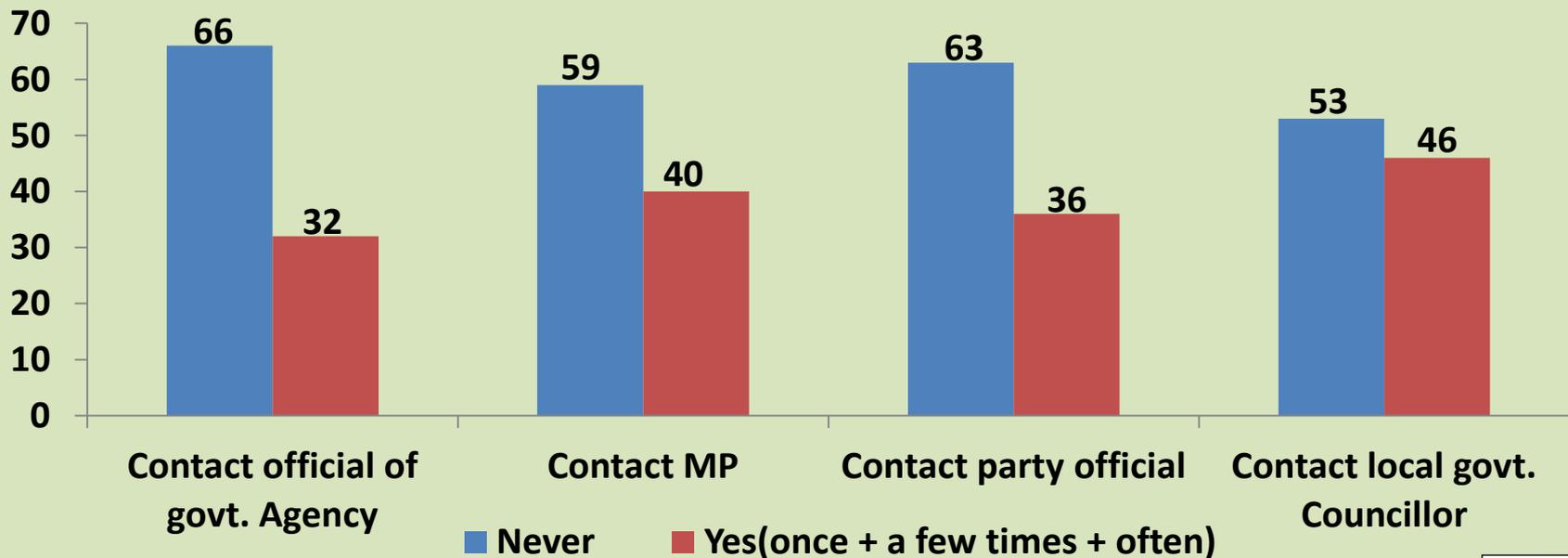


- ❖ A solid majority of Sierra Leoneans (**86 percent**) would never use force for a political cause; although **6 percent** said they would if they get the chance.
- ❖ Equally, a vast majority (**81 percent**) would never attend demonstration whilst **10 percent** said they would if the opportunity comes.



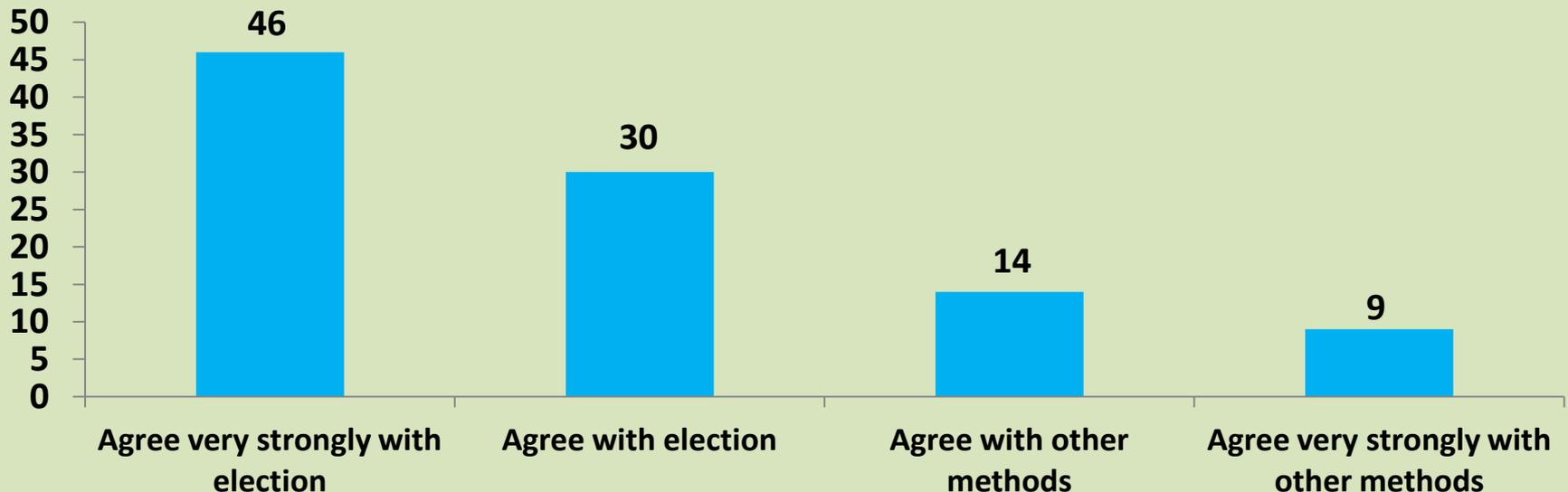
- ❖ Majority never contacted a local councillor (**53%**), Parliamentarian (**59%**), official of a government agency (**66%**) and official of a political party (**63%**) in the past year.
- ❖ Those who contacted these officials are in the minority (i.e. **32 to 46 percent**).

Contact with elected/govt. official in the past year %



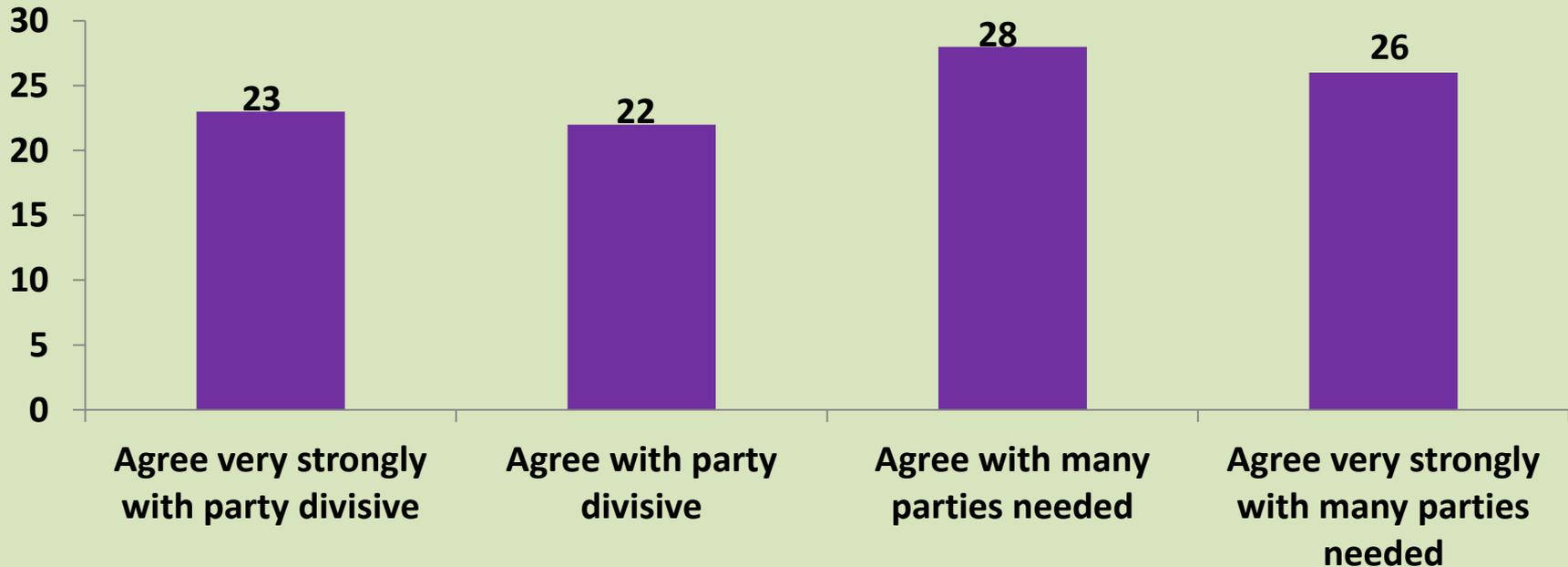
- ❖ Large majority of Sierra Leoneans (**76%**) prefer leaders to be selected through regular, open and honest elections.
- ❖ In contrast, just a small minority (**23%**) prefer other methods to be used in selecting leaders since elections sometimes produce bad results.

### Choose leaders through elections vs. other methods (%)



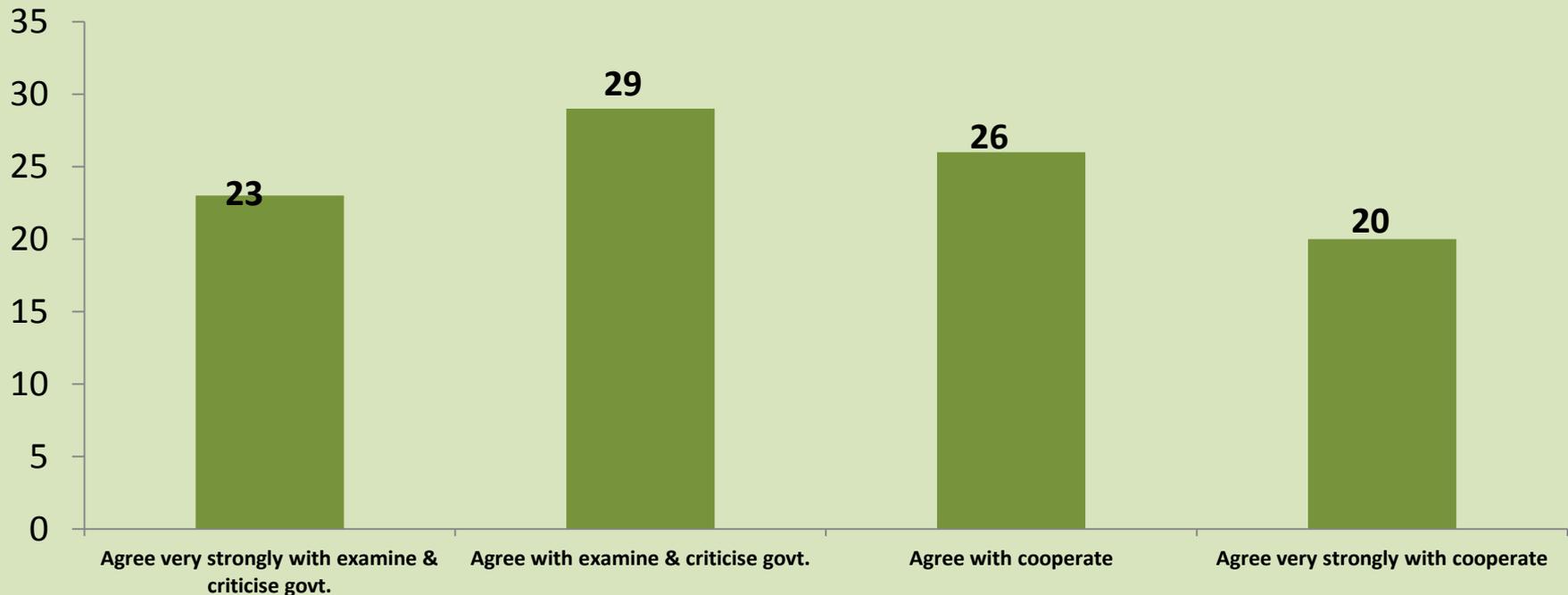
- ❖ Majority of Sierra Leoneans (**54 percent**) “*very strongly agree or agree*” that many political parties are needed for citizens to have real choices as to who governs them.
- ❖ On contrary a solid minority (45 percent) “*very strongly agree or agree*” that political parties create division and confusion and not many are needed.

Political parties divisive vs. many parties needed (%)



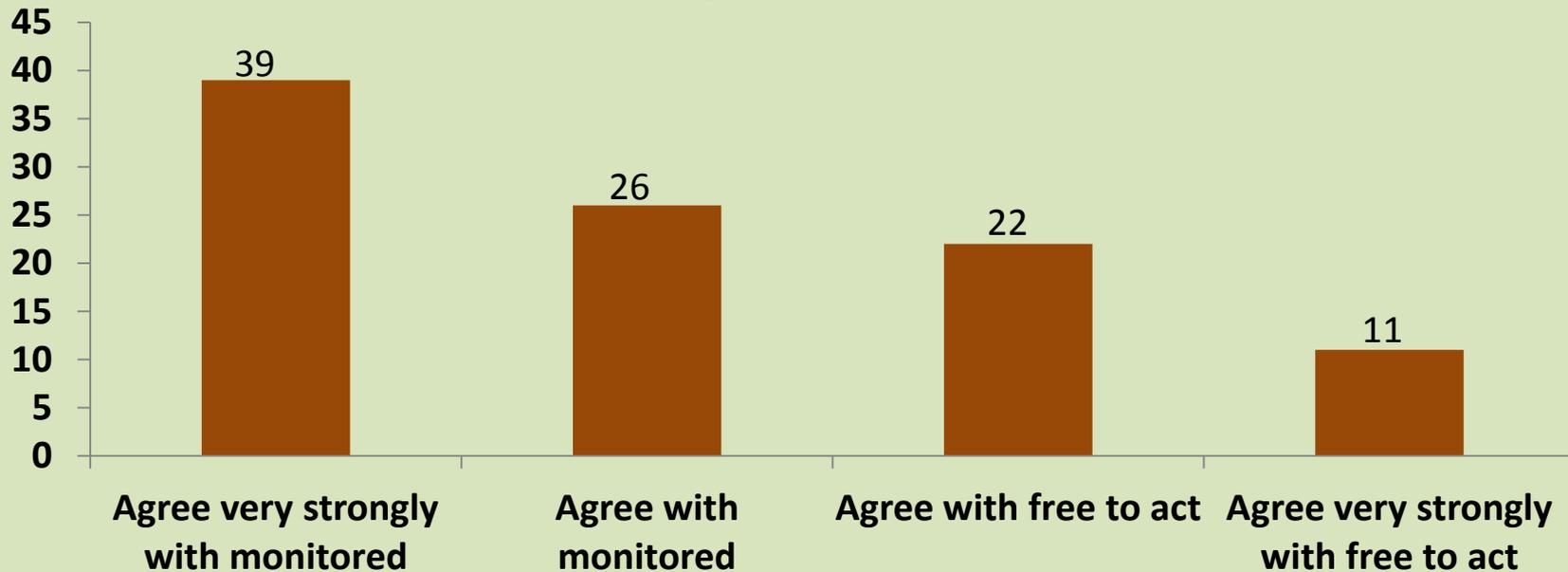
- ❖ *Sierra Leoneans do not show strong support for a critical opposition.* While **52%** endorse opposition parties that regularly examine and criticize government policies and actions, **46%** prefer opposition that will cooperate with government.

Opposition parties examine & criticise vs. cooperate (%)



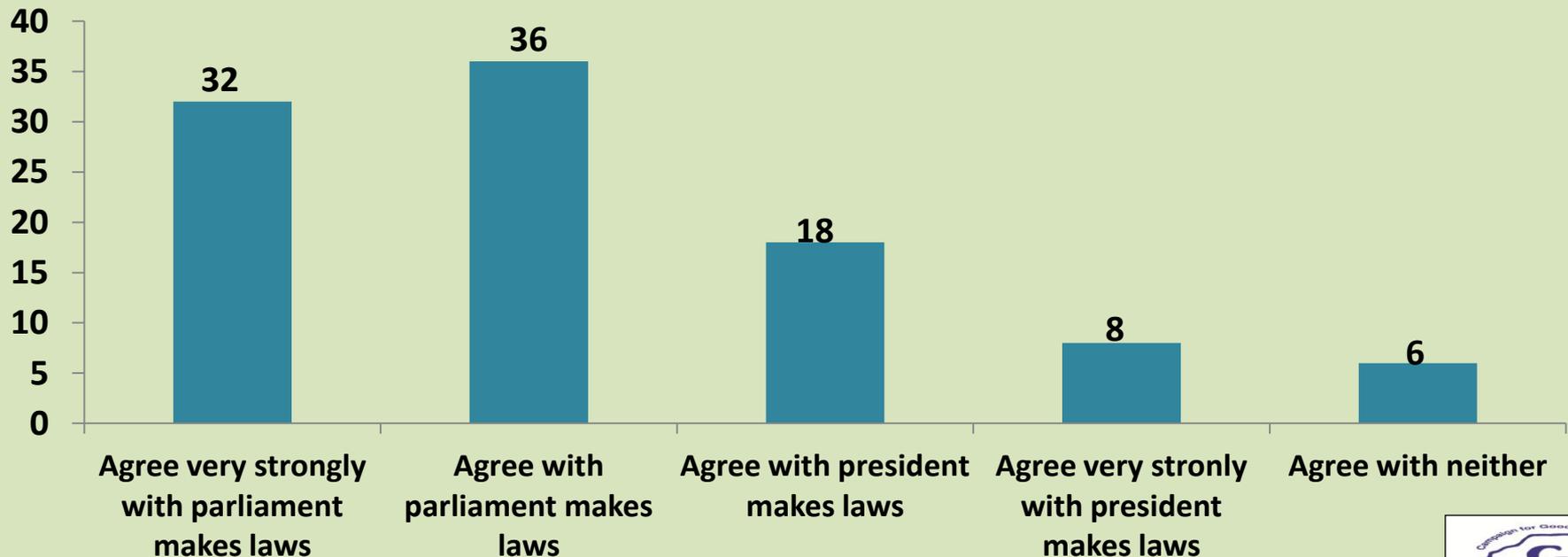
- ❖ Large majority of Sierra Leoneans (**65%**) “*very strongly agree or agree*” that parliament ensures that the President explains to it on a regular basis how government spends taxpayers’ money.
- ❖ A third (**33%**) however think the President should spend his time developing country rather than wasting time justifying actions.

President monitored by parliament vs. free to act on own (%)



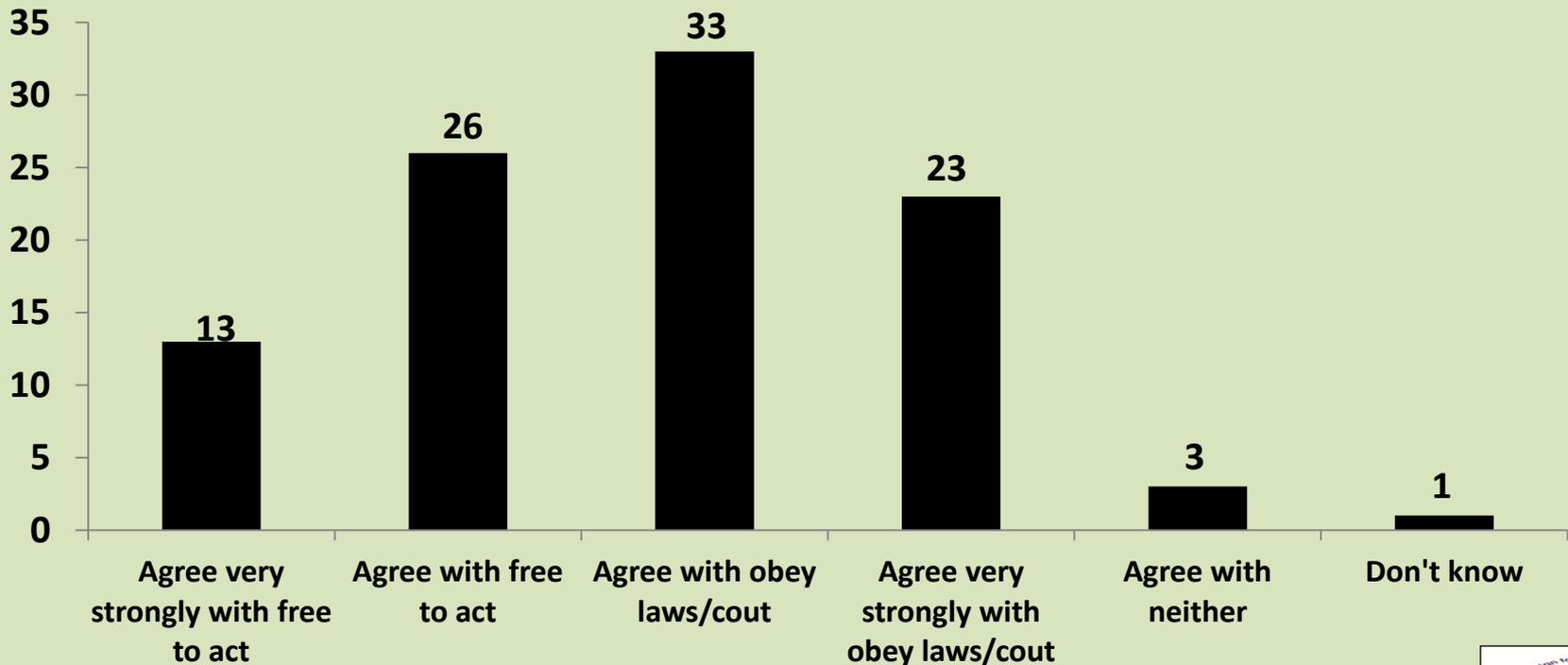
- ❖ Two-thirds Sierra Leoneans (**68%**) “*agree very strongly or agree*” that parliament represents the people; therefore they should make laws for the country, even if the President does not agree.
- ❖ Just a quarter (**26%**) believe the President rather should pass laws without worrying about what parliament thinks.

Parliament makes laws vs. president does (%)

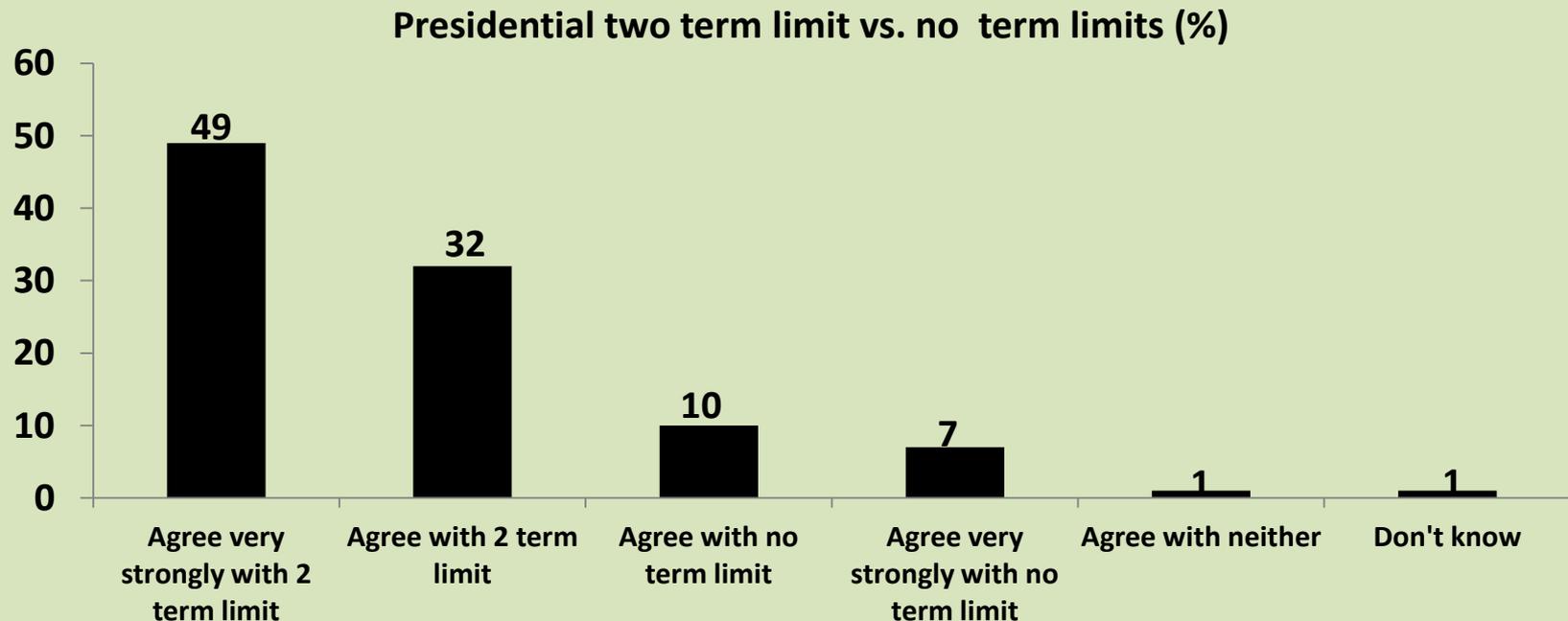


❖ While a **39%** of Sierra Leoneans think the President should not be bound by laws or court decisions that he thinks are wrong, a small majority of (**56%**) “*agree very strongly or agree*” that the President must always obey the laws and the courts, even if he thinks they are wrong.

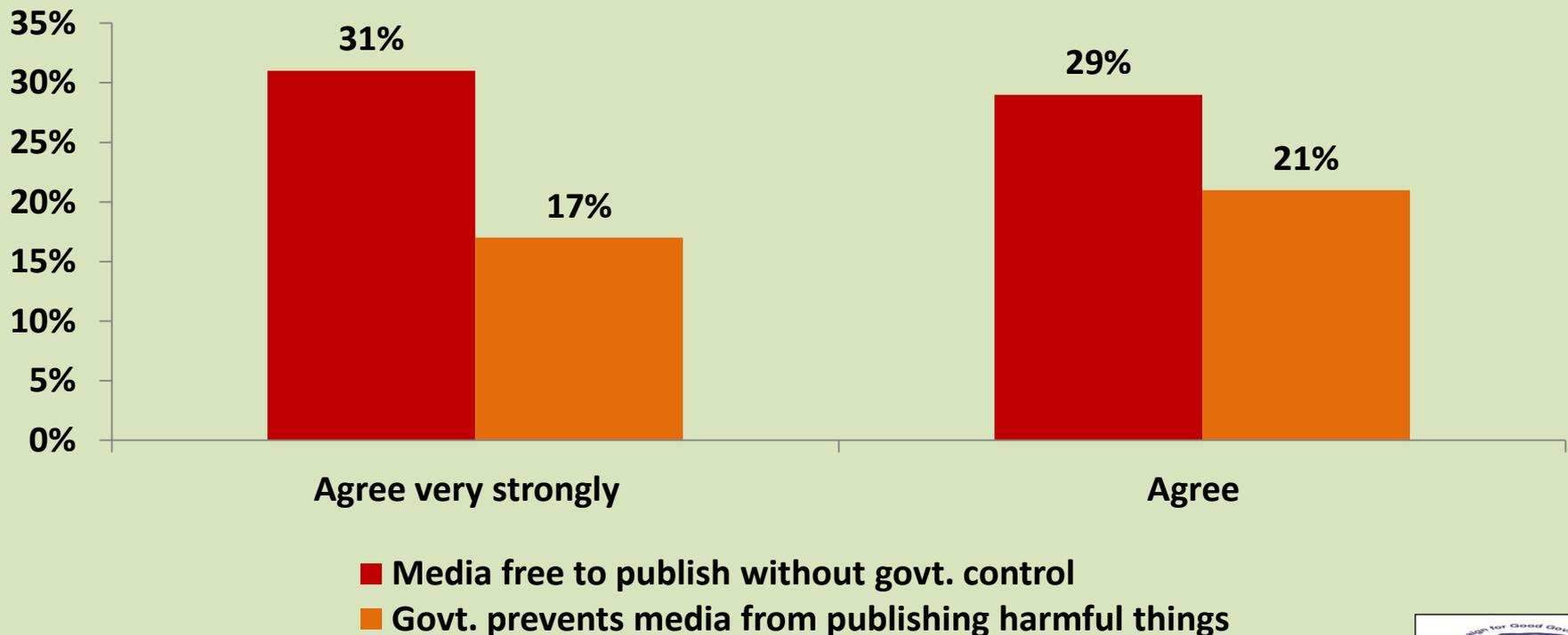
President free to act vs. obey the laws and court (%)



- ❖ Absolute majority of Sierra Leoneans (**81%**) “*agree very strongly or agree*” that the Constitution should limit the President to a maximum of two terms in office.
- ❖ Only **17%** will want the President to seek re-election without any term limit.

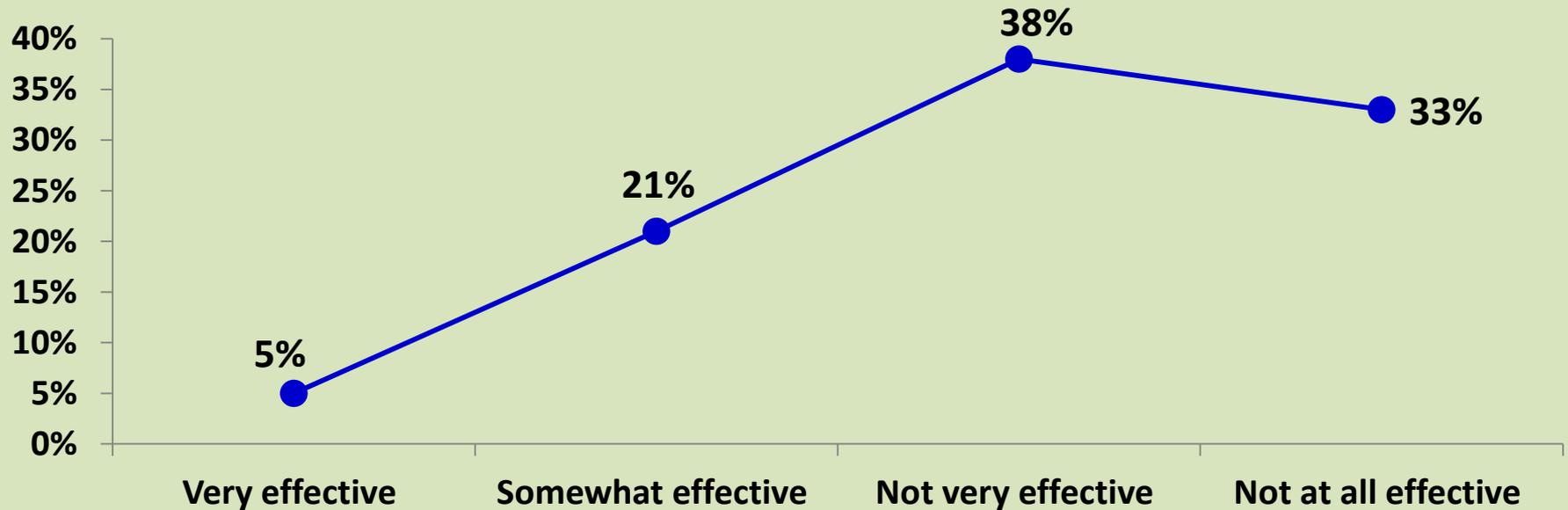


- ❖ **60%** of Sierra Leoneans “very strongly agree or agree” that media practice should be free to publish without government censorship/control.
- ❖ A little over a third (**37%**) however support government censorship/control over the media.



- ❖ Surprisingly, only **26%** think the media is “*very effective or somewhat effective*” in exposing government’s mistakes and corruption. The majority (**71%**) see the media as ineffective.

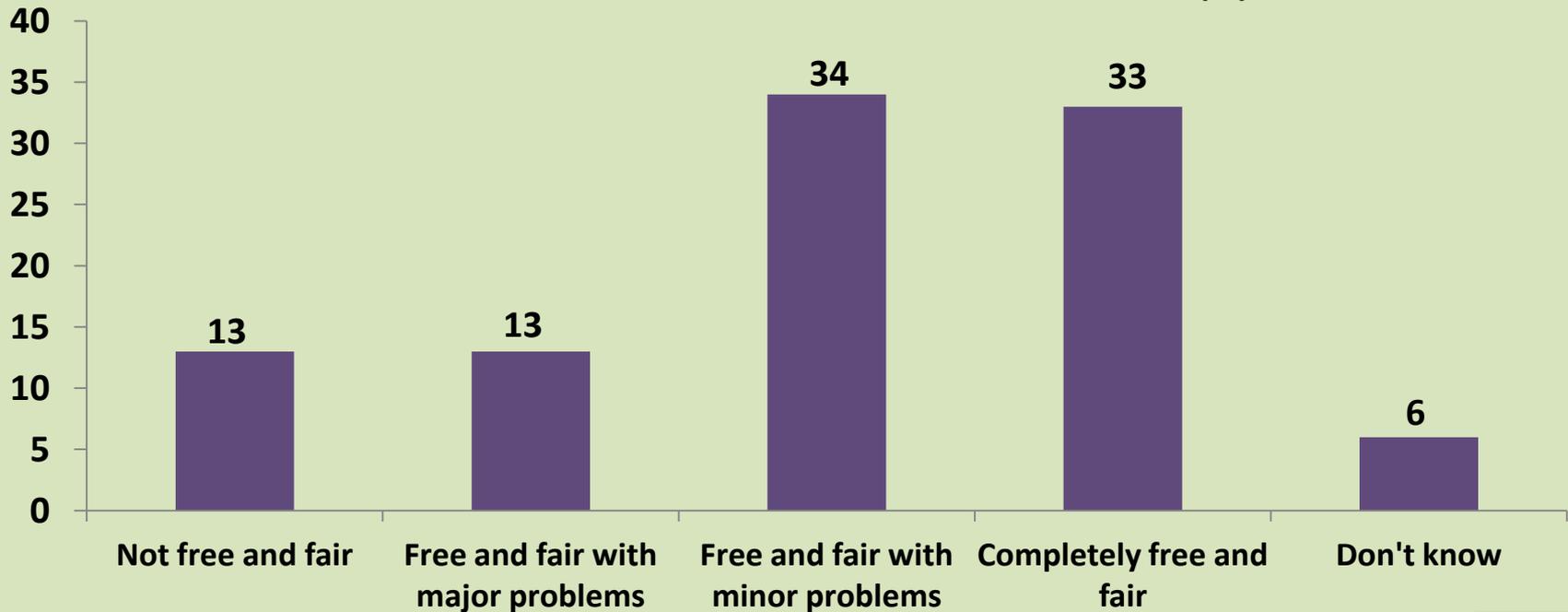
### Media effectiveness in exposing govt. mistakes and corruption



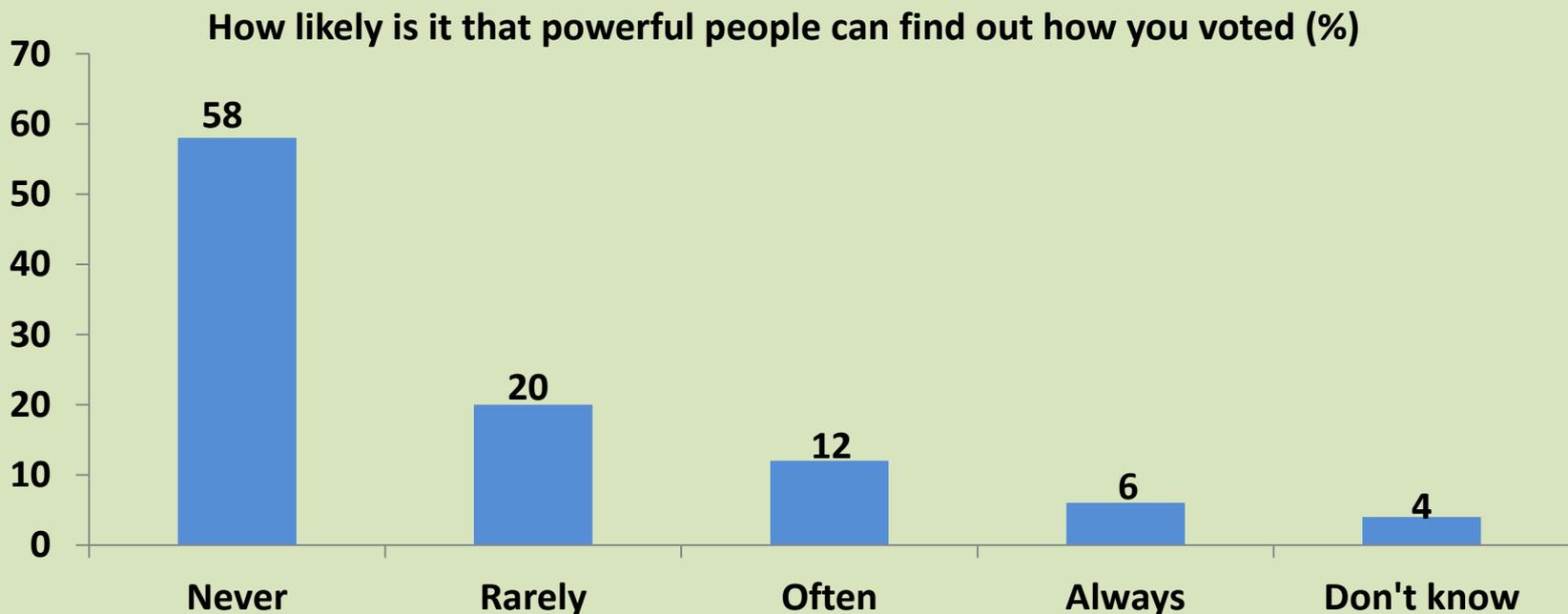
# EVALUATIONS OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS' ACCOUNTABILITY

- ❖ The majority of Sierra Leoneans (**67%**) assess the 2012 Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Council elections as *“completely free and fair or free and fair with minor problems”*.
- ❖ A quarter (**26%**) however think otherwise.

**Freeness and fairness of the last national election (%)**



- ❖ Indeed, a solid majority of Sierra Leoneans (**78%**) think it is “*never or rarely*” likely for powerful people in the society to find out how they voted.
- ❖ Less than a fifth (**18%**) do not think the secrecy of their vote is guaranteed.



- ❖ Sierra Leoneans perceive “*most and all*” officials in every sector of the country to be involved in corruption, the Police being the worst (**69%**) followed by tax officials (**57%**).
- ❖ Also, sizeable proportions (from **25%** to **53%**) see “*some*” public officials of specific state institutions to be involved in corruption.

	None Corrupt	Some of them Corrupt	Most of them Corrupt	All of them Corrupt	Don't know/ Haven't heard
The President and Officials in his Office	10	<b>47</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>7</b>	2
Members of the National Assembly	5	<b>53</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>	1
Judges and Magistrates	6	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>14</b>	4
Police	5	<b>25</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>29</b>	1
Local government councilors	5	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>13</b>	1
Government officials	4	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>8</b>	1
Tax Officials (e.g. NRA/Local Govt. tax officials)	6	<b>34</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>14</b>	4

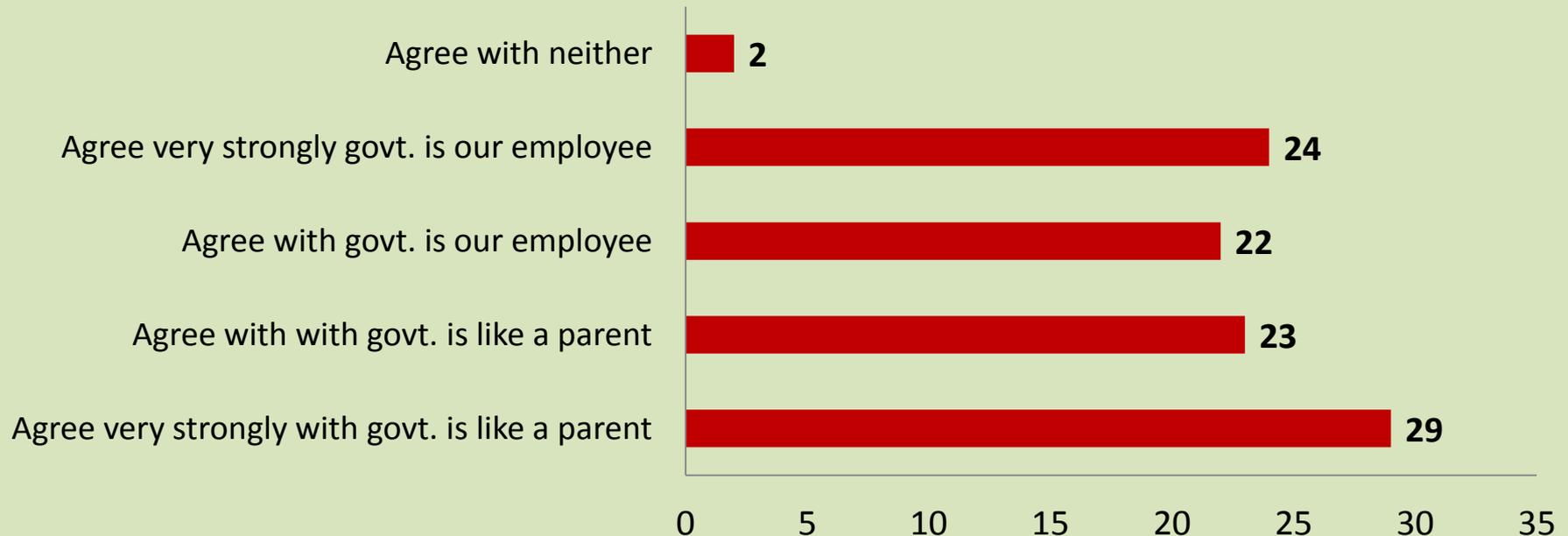
- ★ Sadly, a fourth or more of Sierra Leoneans report paying a bribe “*once/twice, few times or often*” in the past year to
  - *Obtain treatment in a local health clinic or hospital (40%);*
  - *Avoid problem with police (36%);*
  - *Secure government document or permit and primary school placement for ward (34% each); and*
  - *Procure water or sanitation service (24%).*

	Never	Once or Twice + A few times + Often	No experience in past year
Bribe to get treatment at a local health clinic or hospital	39	<b>40</b>	19
Bribe to avoid a problem with the police	39	<b>36</b>	24
Bribe to get a document or a permit	36	<b>34</b>	29
Bribe to get a place in a primary school for a child	44	<b>34</b>	20
Bribe to get water or sanitation services	50	<b>24</b>	25

# DEMAND FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS' RESPONSIVENESS

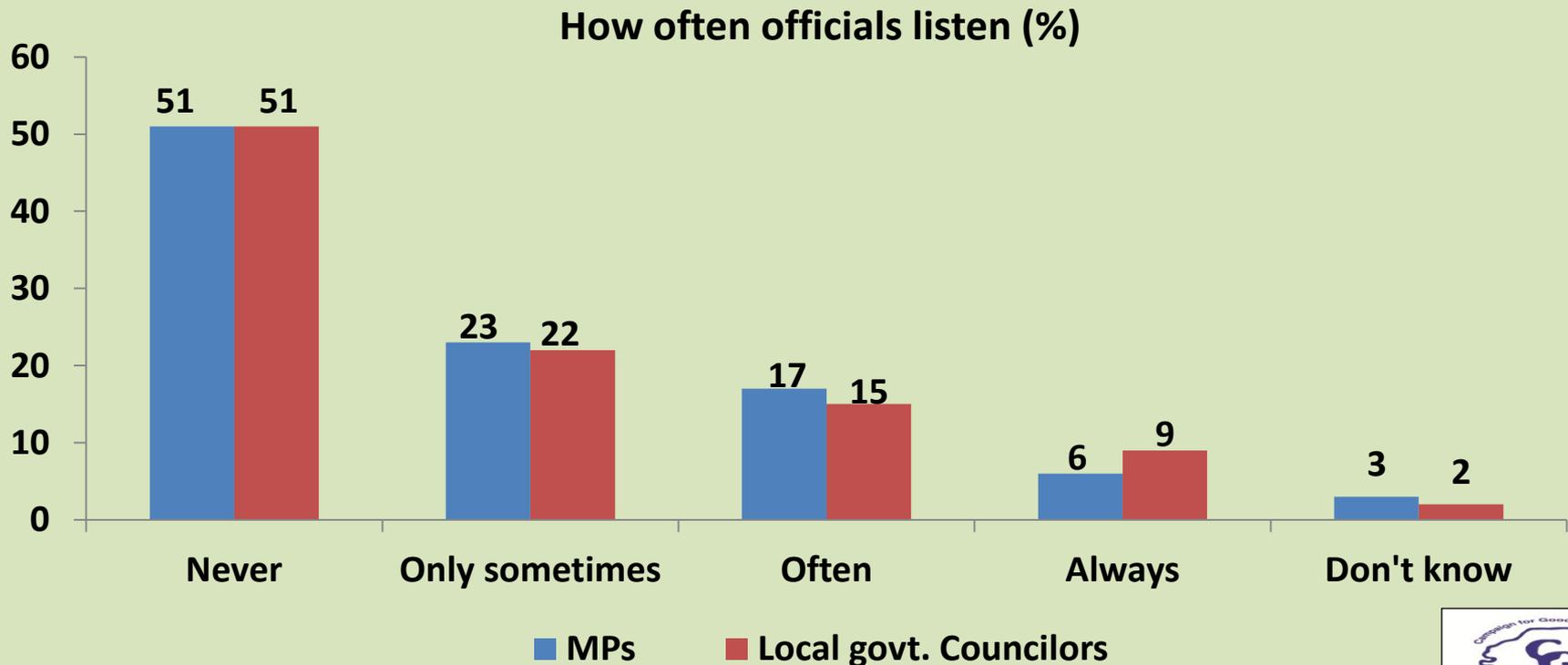
- ❖ Small majority of Sierra Leoneans (**52%**) consider government as a parent who should decide on what is good for citizens.
- ❖ A significant percentage (**46%**) however think government is like the employee and citizens are the bosses and therefore should tell government what to do.

### Govt. like a parent vs. an Employee [%]



# ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS' RESPONSIVENESS

- ❖ **Sierra Leoneans do not think national and local officials listen to citizens.** Fifty-one percent of those interviewed said Parliamentarians and Local government councilors never listen to what ordinary people have to say.
- ❖ Nonetheless, sizeable minorities (46% each) think their parliamentarians and local “sometimes, often or always” listen to them.



- ❖ Unemployment (**16%**) is the first most important problem Sierra Leoneans would want the government to address.
- ❖ The second important problem is either education or food shortages/famine (**16%** each).
- ❖ Health (**21%**) is the third most important problem identified by citizens..

Most Important Problem	Specific Problem	Percentage
First problem	Unemployment	16
Second problem	Education	16
	Food shortage/famine	16
Third problem	Health	21

- ❖ In general, most Sierra Leoneans believe the government has performed “*very badly or badly*” in the management of key economic performance indicators such as
  - *Inflation/keeping prices down (68%),*
  - *Narrowing income gap (59%),*
  - *Ensuring enough food (58%)’*
  - *Improving living standards of the poor (55%),*
  - *Creating jobs (51%).*

	Very/Fairly Badly	Very/Fairly Well
Keeping prices down	<b>68%</b>	31%
Narrowing income gaps	<b>59%</b>	39%
Ensuring enough to eat	<b>58%</b>	41%
Improving living standards of the poor	<b>55%</b>	44%
Creating jobs	<b>51%</b>	47%
Managing the economy	47%	52%

- ★ On the other hand, majority (from **74%** to **51%**) rated the national government efforts at delivering social services as “*very well*” or “*fairly well*”.

	Very/Fairly Badly	Very/Fairly Well
Combating HIV/AIDS	21%	<b>74%</b>
Improving basic health services	29%	<b>71%</b>
Maintaining roads and bridges	28%	<b>70%</b>
Resolving violent conflict between communities	37%	<b>58%</b>
Providing reliable electric supply	40%	<b>56%</b>
Fighting corruption	44%	<b>54%</b>
Addressing educational needs	46%	<b>52%</b>
Reducing crime	47%	<b>51%</b>
Providing water and sanitation services	47%	<b>51%</b>

VISIT

[www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)

For AB Publications

**THANK YOU**

# OPEN DISCUSSIONS, QUESTIONS & COMMENTS