

Country Bulletins Presentation
Results from the Afrobarometer Round 5
Survey in **Mauritius**
19 June 2013



www.afrobarometer.org
www.nationalpartner.org

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.

Country Coverage: 1999-2012

- **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**
 - *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, up to 35 countries**
 - *Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Guinea, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Togo, Tunisia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Ethiopia, Swaziland*

Country Coverage Round 5: 2011-2013



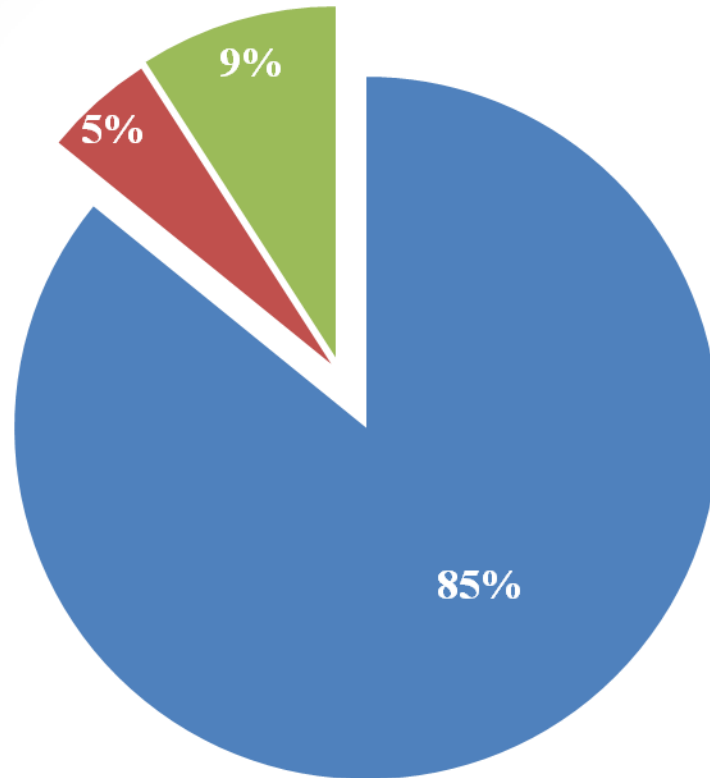
- A Pan-African Network of survey researchers and analysts.
- In each country there is a ***National Partner*** responsible for survey implementation. In Mauritius, the National Partner is StraConsult Ltd.
 - Four ***Core Partners*** provide technical assistance and Network management:
 - *Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Ghana*
 - *Institute for Democracy in South Africa (Idasa), South Africa*
 - *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 **1200** adult **Mauritians**; In order to allow for comparison, residents of Rodrigues were oversampled such that the total number of respondents in the survey from Rodrigues was 120 while on the main island of Mauritius the number of respondents was 1080.
- A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/- **3** % at a 95% confidence level.
- Field work for Round 5 in **Mauritius** was conducted between 7 January and 26 February in 2012.
- Afrobarometer's work in **Mauritius** is coordinated by **StraConsult** and field work was carried out by **StraConsult**

Afrobarometer Round 5 Mauritius
Survey Results:
Popular Attitudes towards Democracy
in Mauritius

- A majority of Mauritians – 85% – express support for democracy.
- While 85% indicated that they support democracy, only 72% say that they are satisfied with how democracy is working in Mauritius.
- 54% view the Mauritian democracy as having just minor problems - 22% think it is a full democracy.
- Two-thirds of Mauritians indicate that they are not close to any political party

Support for Democracy

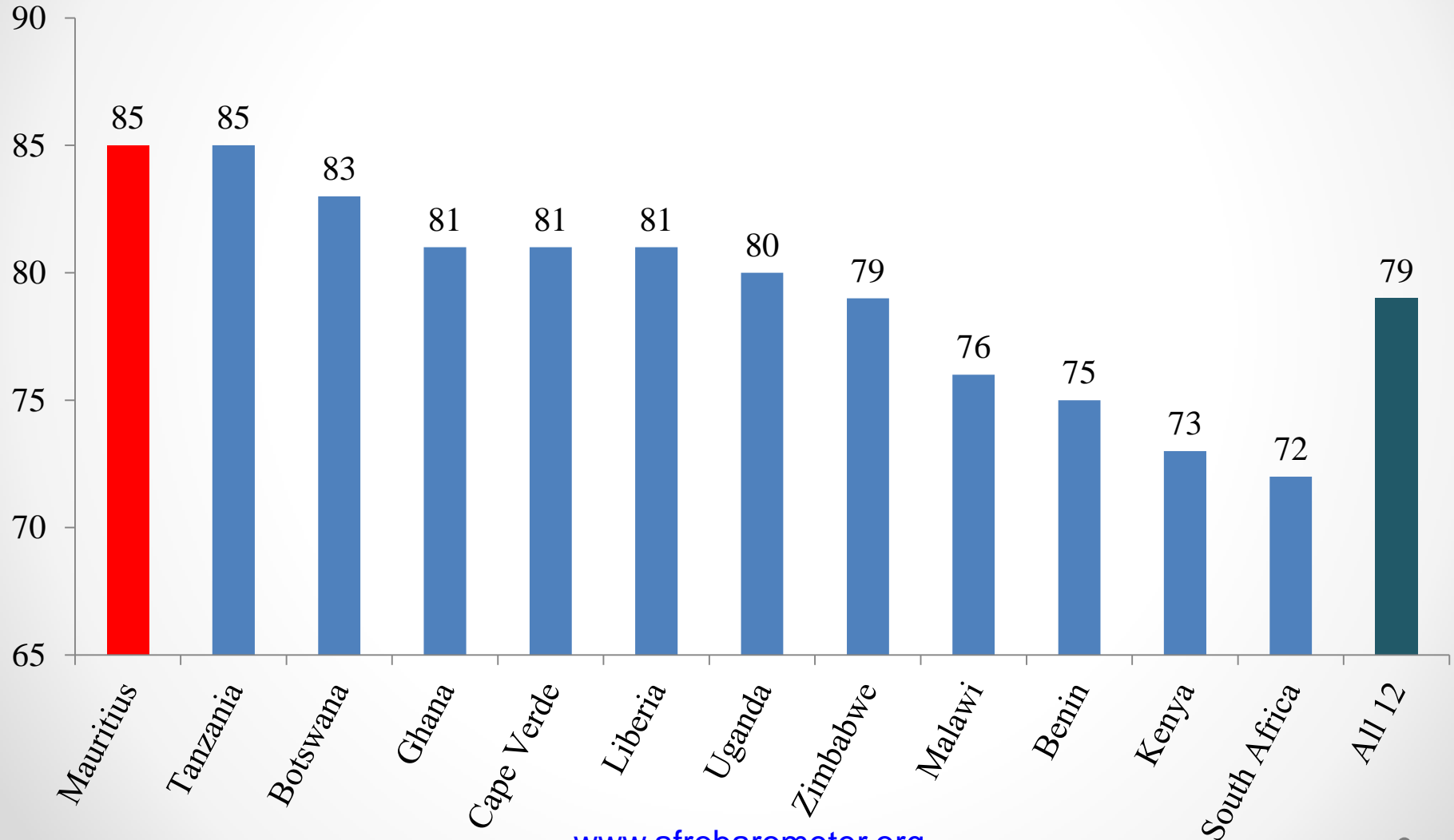


■ Support democracy ■ Sometimes non-democracy preferable ■ Does not matter

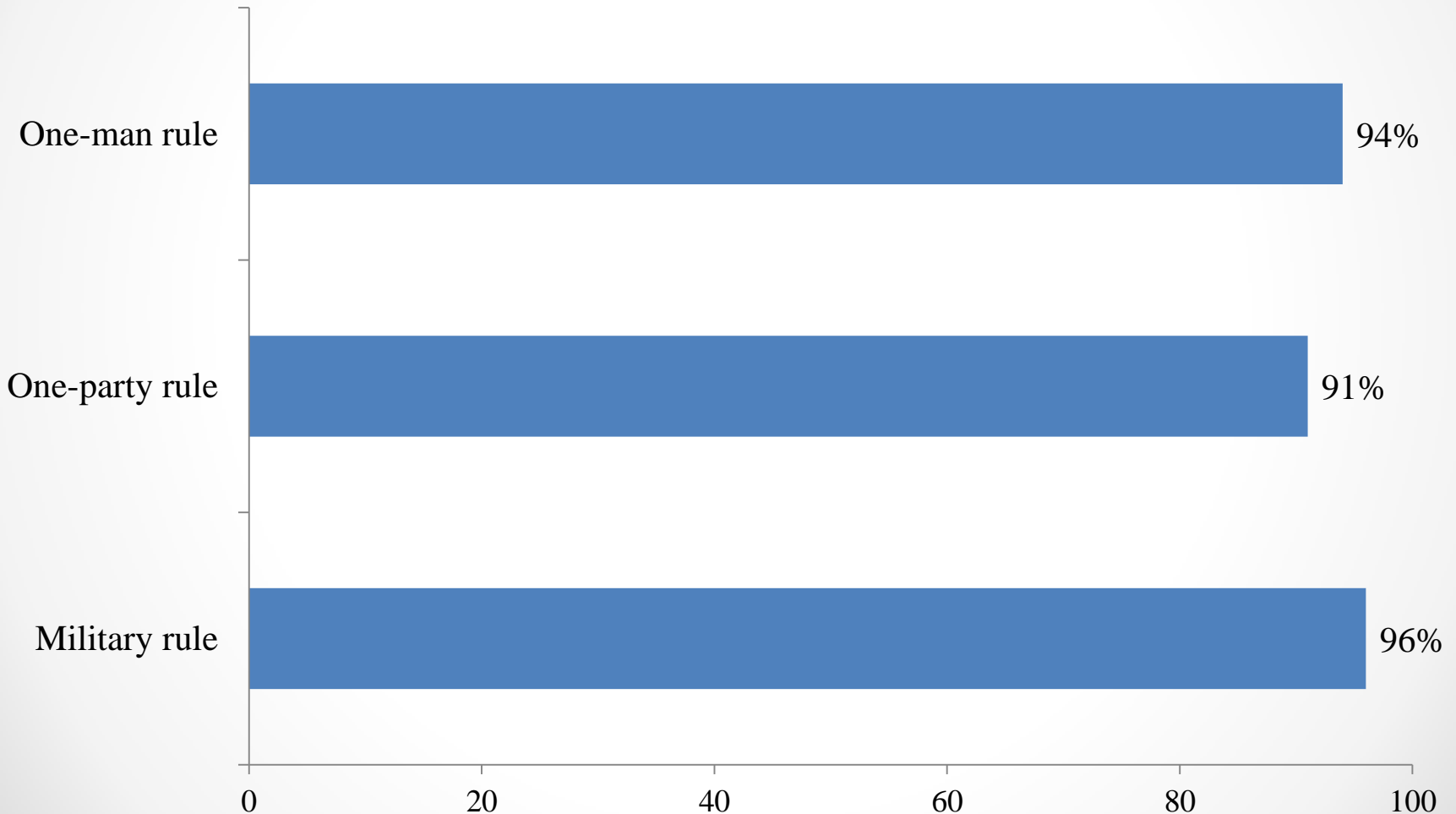
- A majority of Mauritians – 85% – express support for democracy while only 5% of respondents believe that sometimes non-democratic practices might be preferable.
- When compared with respondents in 11 other African countries having participated in the survey, Mauritians show the highest levels of support for democracy.

Support for Democracy

*Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government –
Comparison with other countries*



Percentage of respondents who say they do not support the following government types:

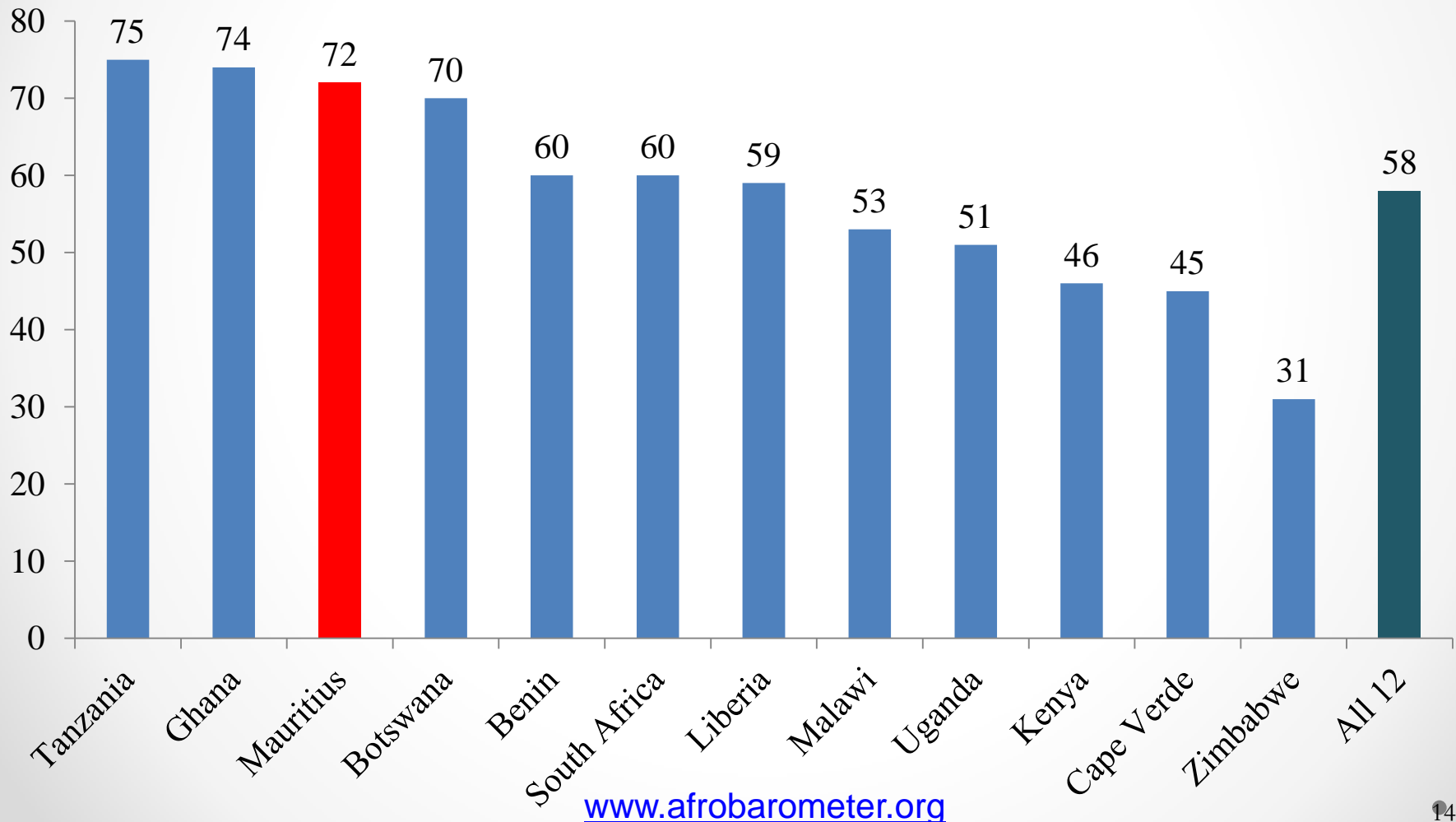


Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Mauritius?

	Percentage
Mauritius is not a democracy	0
Not at all satisfied	5
Not very satisfied	22
Fairly satisfied	56
Very satisfied	16

Satisfaction with Democracy -A Regional Perspective

Percentage of participants that are satisfied with democracy in 12 African countries



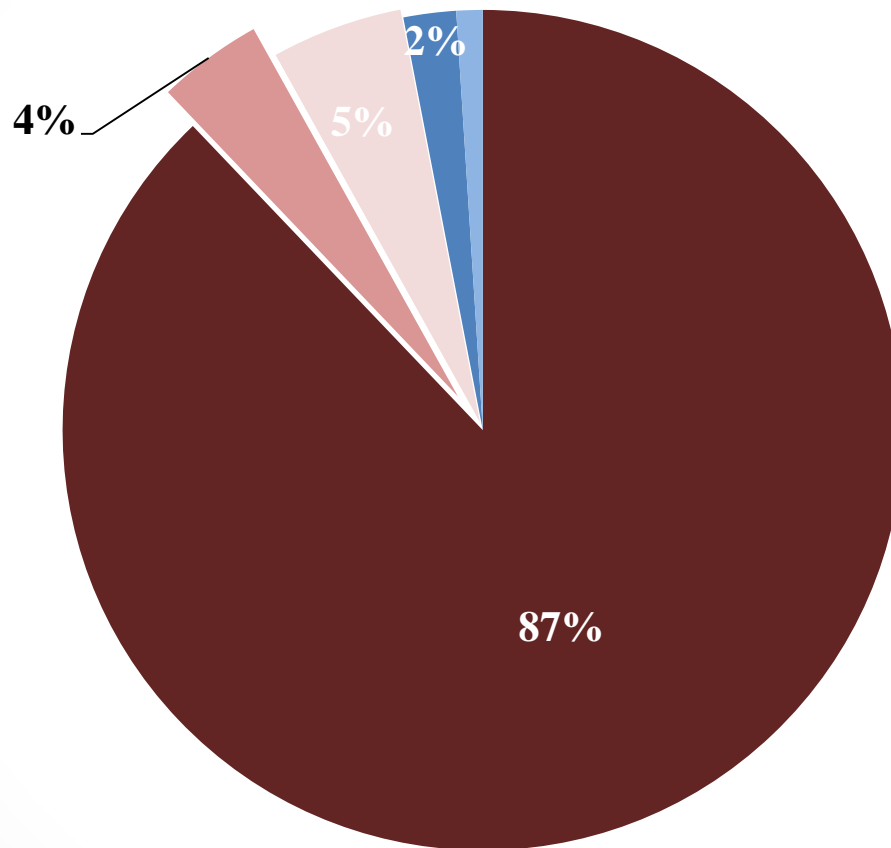
How much of a democracy is Mauritius today

	Percent
Mauritius is not a democracy	2
A democracy with major problems	19
A democracy with minor problems	54
A full democracy	22

On the whole how do Mauritians rate the freeness and fairness of the last national elections held in 2010



Regarding the most recent election which statement is true for Mauritians?



■ Voted in the last election

■ Decided not to vote

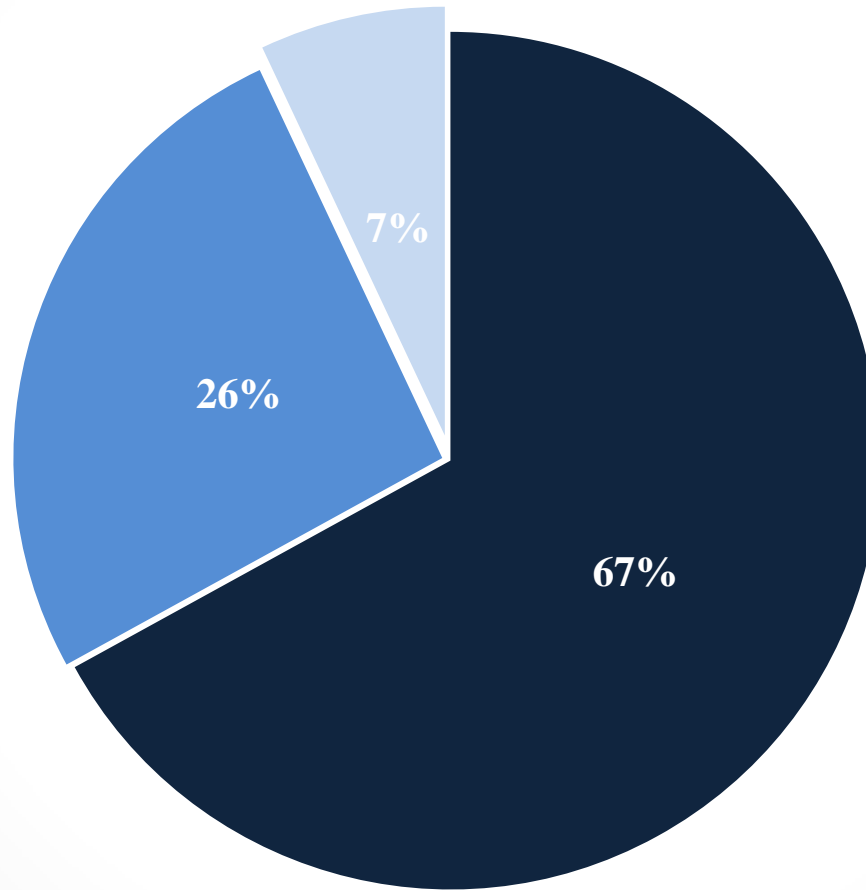
■ Did not vote for other reasons

■ Too young to vote

■ Name not in register

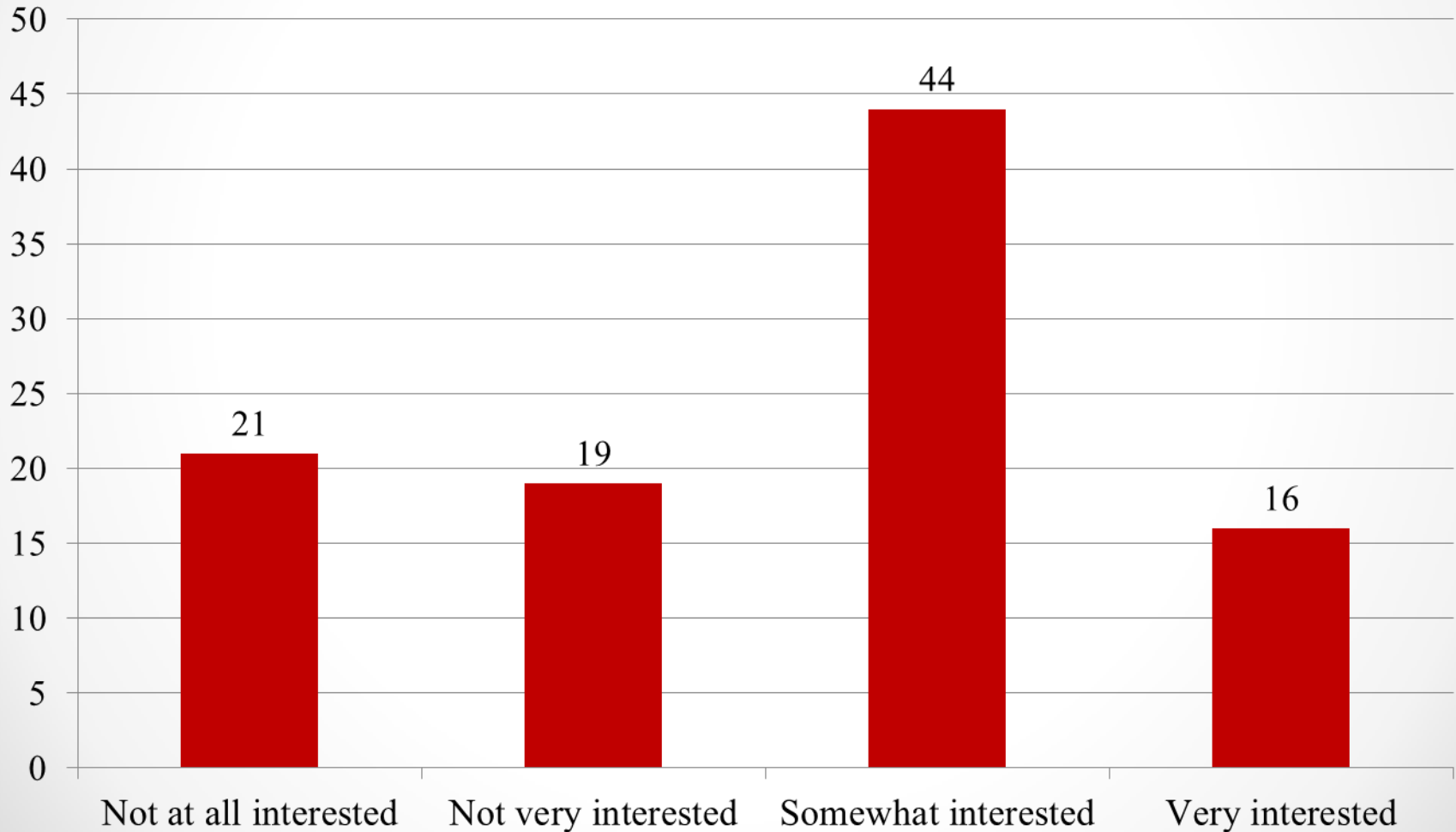
Political Party Affiliation

Do Mauritians feel close to any political party?



■ Not close to any party ■ Close to a party ■ Refuse to answer

How interested are Mauritians in public affairs?



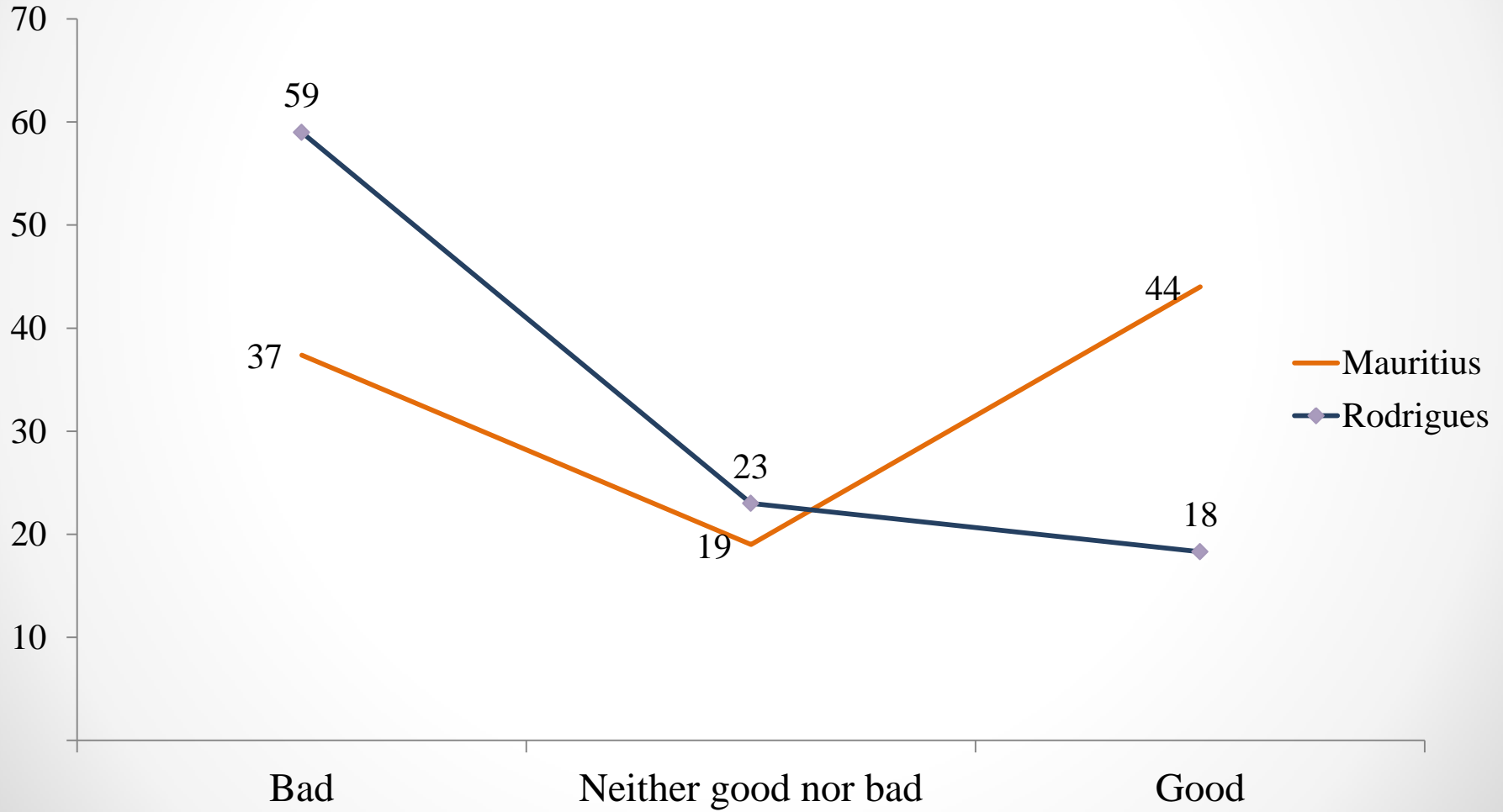
- *Although Mauritius may be seen by outsiders to be a model for African countries in terms of achievement in democracy, many Mauritian citizens are critical of the level of democracy within the country.*
- *Mauritians, as many of their counterparts on the continent, view democracy as the best type of government, yet they still feel that there is room for improvement in the Mauritian democratic model.*
- *A majority of Mauritian do vote in national elections and express interest in the political matters of their country. However, most of them avoid political partisanship and shy away from discussing politics with others.*

Afrobarometer Round 5 Mauritius Survey Results on:

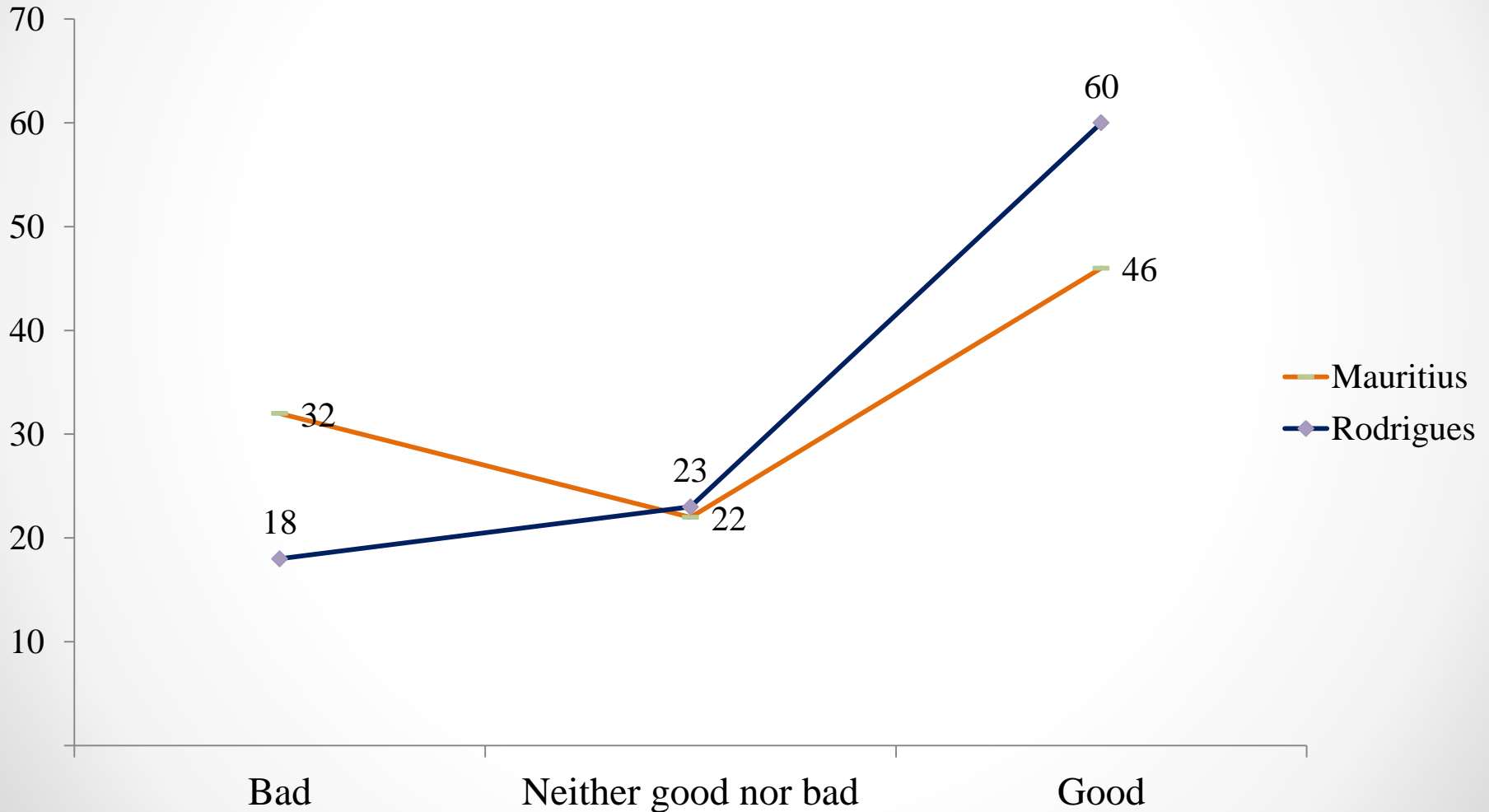
*Islands drifting apart? A comparative
analysis of the socio-economic experience
of Rodrigues and Mauritius Islands*

- A majority - 59% - of Rodriguans rate the country's economic conditions as bad compared to 37% of those on the island of Mauritius
- On personal living conditions-only 18% of Rodriguans rate their living conditions as bad compared to 32% of the residents on the island of Mauritius.
- A majority Rodriguans (62%) express satisfaction about the overall direction of the country-this compares to 53% residents of Mauritius Island.
- While the experience of lived poverty for the entire Republic of Mauritius stands above the other African countries, more Rodriguans said they experienced deprivation than those from the Island of Mauritius

In general, how would you describe: The present economic condition of this country?

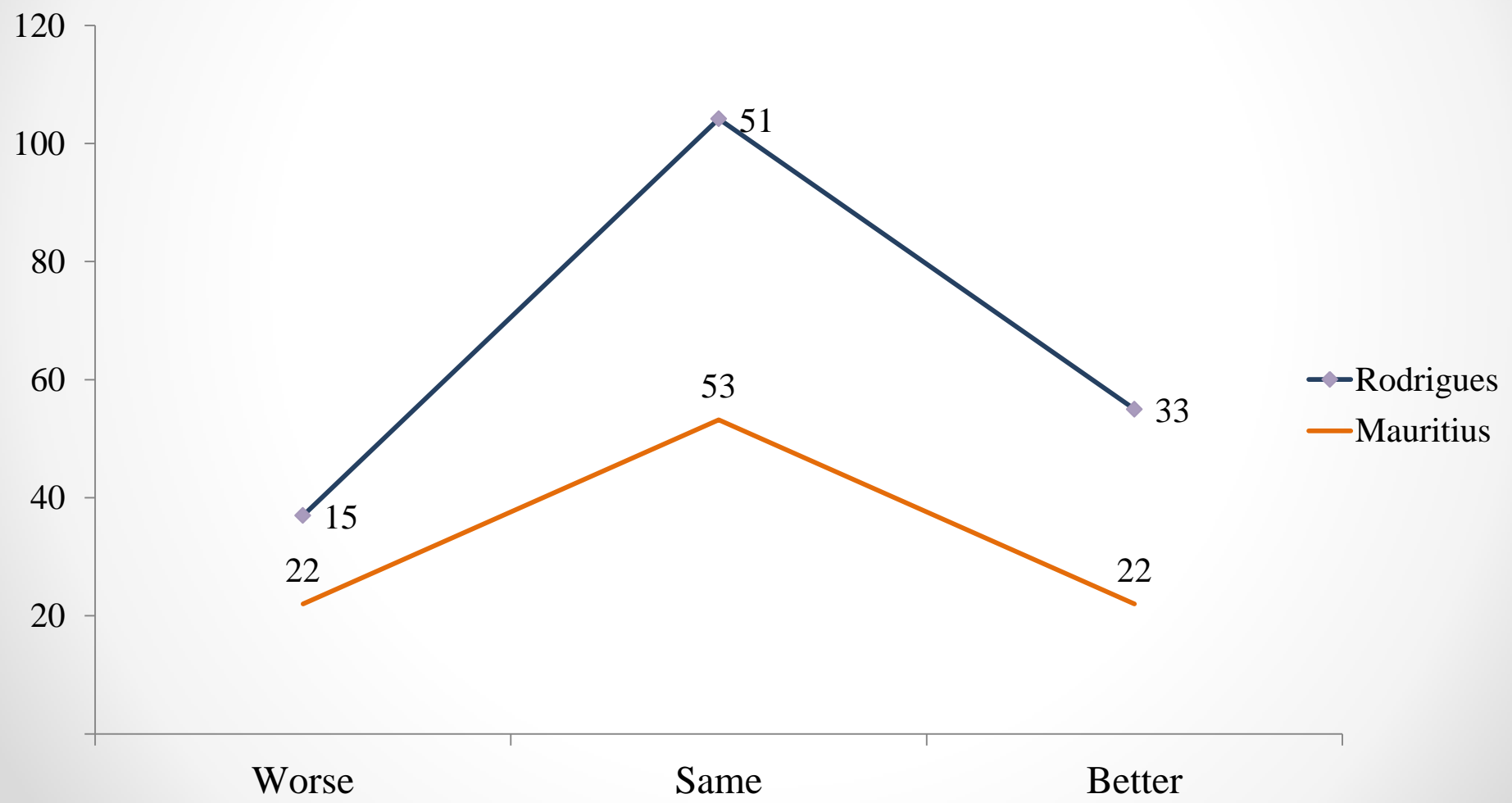


In general, how would you describe: Your present living conditions



Comparative Evaluations of Living Conditions

In general, how do you rate your living conditions compared to those of other Mauritians?



*Looking ahead, do you expect the following to be better or worse:
Economic conditions in this country in twelve months time?*

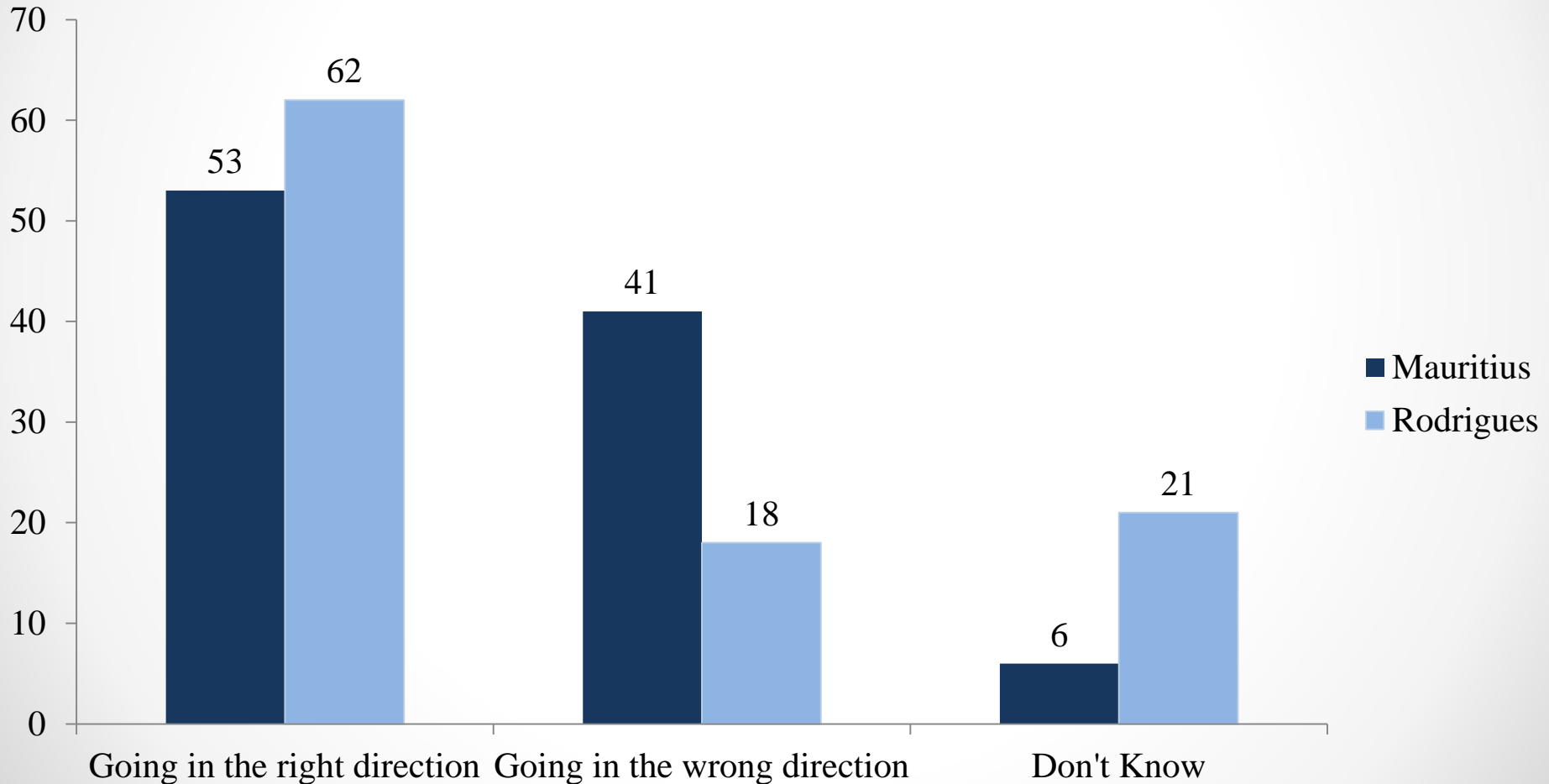
	Mauritius (%)	Rodrigues (%)
Much Worse	6	3
Worse	31	10
Same	34	28
Better	22	38
Much Better	3	8
Don't know	4	15

*Looking ahead, do you expect the following to be better or worse?
Your living conditions in twelve months time?*

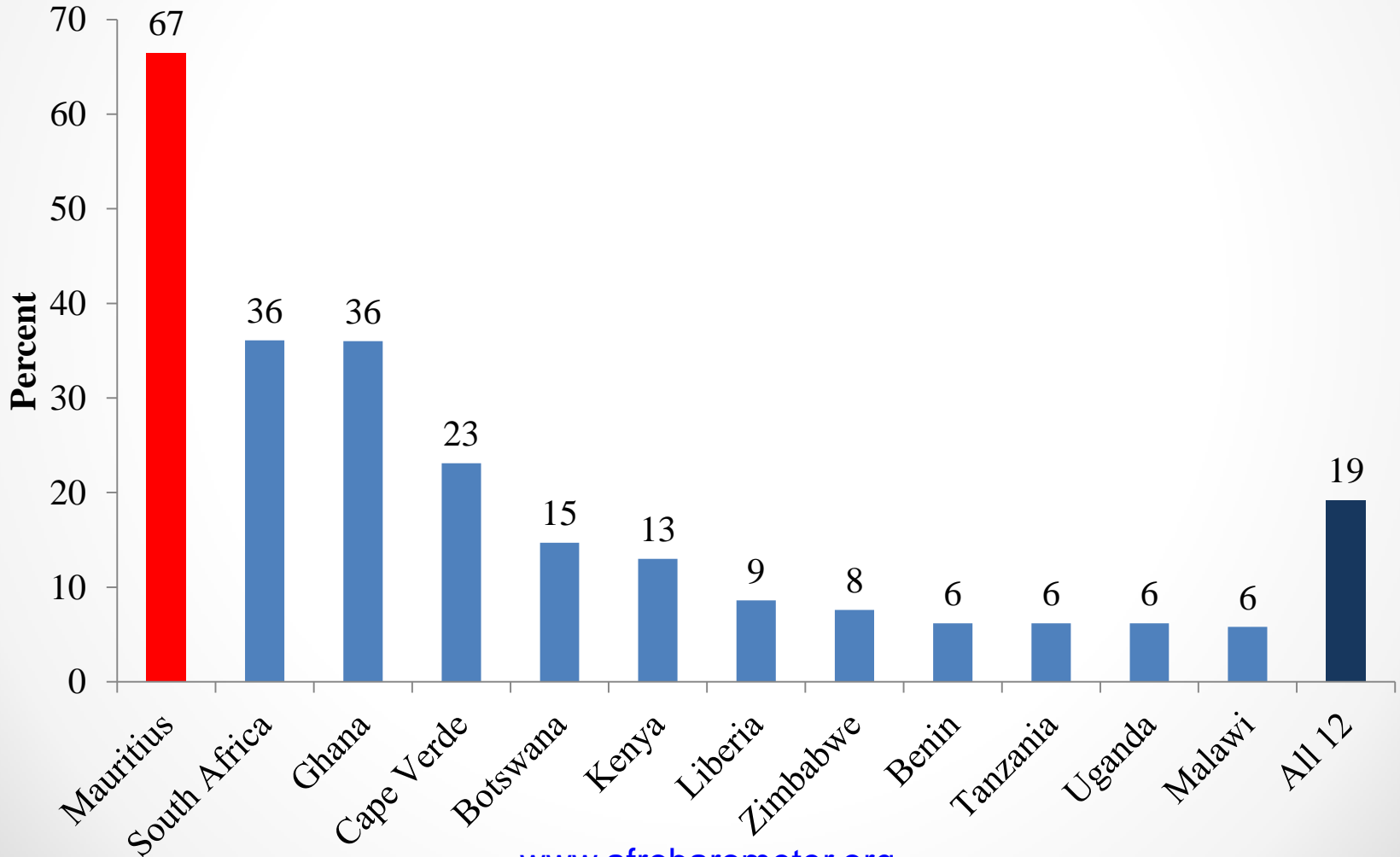
	Mauritius (%)	Rodrigues (%)
Much Worse	6	3
Worse	25	8
Same	40	28
Better	23	49
Much Better	3	8
Don't know	4	5

Assessment of the Country's Overall Direction

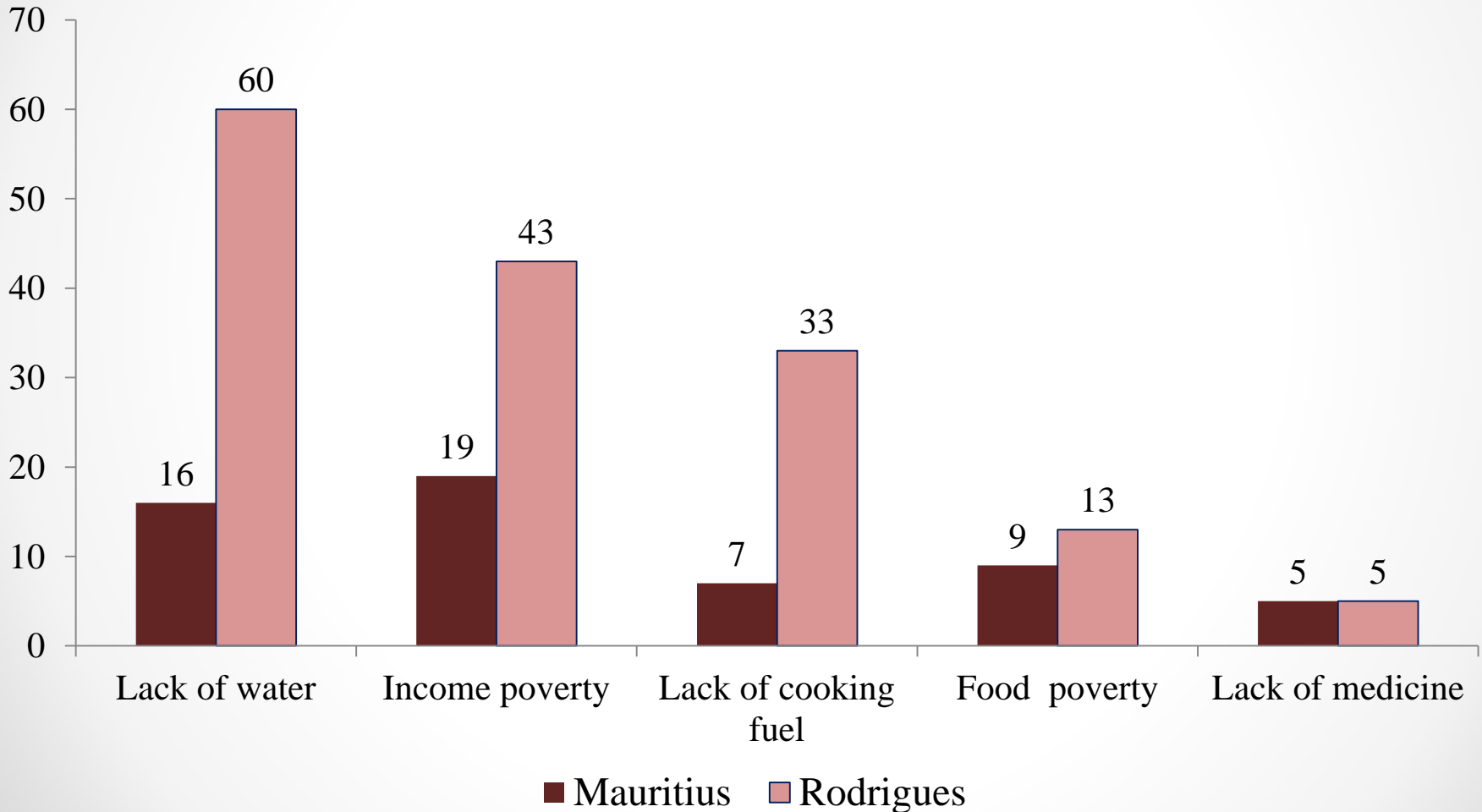
Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction?



Percentage of respondents in 12 African countries who did not lack basic necessities in 2012



Percentage of people who had gone without one of these necessities at least once in 2012



Conclusions

- *Residents of the Island of Mauritius are more positive about the economic situation of the country as compared to Rodriguans.*
- *On the other hand Rodriguans are more positive than the residents of the Island of Mauritius when it comes to their living conditions.*
- *Yet the distribution of the country's economic wealth has trickled down unevenly between residents of Rodrigues and the island of Mauritius - relatively more frequent and severe forms of lived poverty among the Rodriguans.*



AFRO BAROMETER

For more information and publications, please contact **StraConsult** on +2302107033 or email: straconsult@intnet.mu and visit the Afrobarometer website at: www.afrobarometer.org or follow us on Facebook (coming soon) and Twitter (@afrobarometer).