



Country specific issues: cannabis decriminalisation, Agalega army base, education reforms and leadership qualities

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 7 survey in Mauritius



Port Louis, Mauritius - 21 February 2018

At a glance

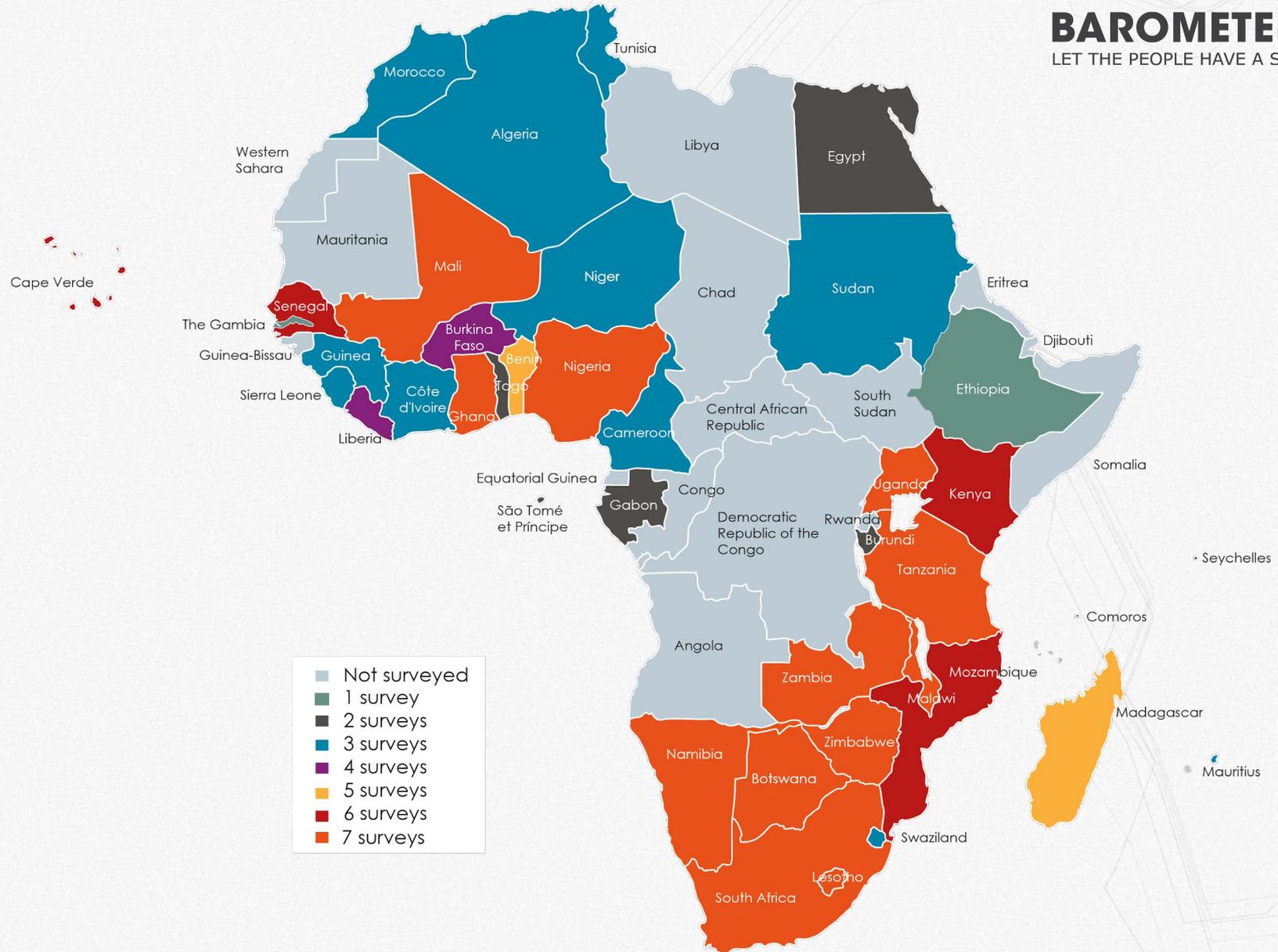
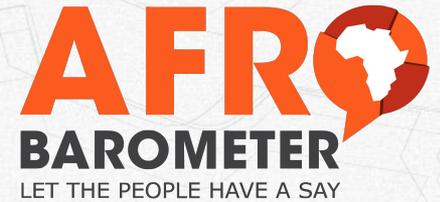
- **Views on decriminalization of gandia (cannabis) consumption:**
While two thirds of Mauritians are against the decriminalization of the consumption of gandia one-fourth of the respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” that the government should decriminalize the consumption of cannabis.
- **Fight against drug trafficking:** Mauritians are divided in half on the government’s handling of drug trafficking. Nearly half say the government has handled it “very/fairly badly” and another half say “fairly/very badly”
- **Child allowance:** By almost a three-fourths majority Mauritians “agree” or “strongly agree” to allowance to stem the problem of declining population growth

What is Afrobarometer?

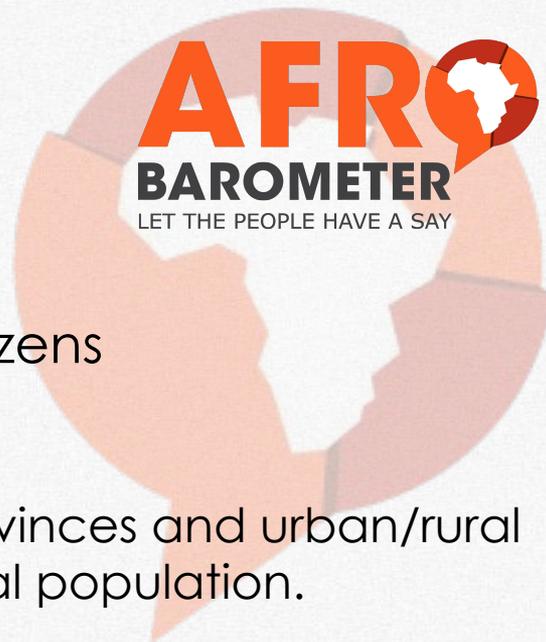


- A pan-African, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 African countries in 1999, expanded to 36 countries in Round 6 (2014/2015). Round 7 surveys are being conducted in 2016/2017.
- **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.
- A national partner in each country conducts the survey. In Mauritius, Afrobarometer Round 7 survey was conducted by StraConsult Ltd.

Where Afrobarometer works



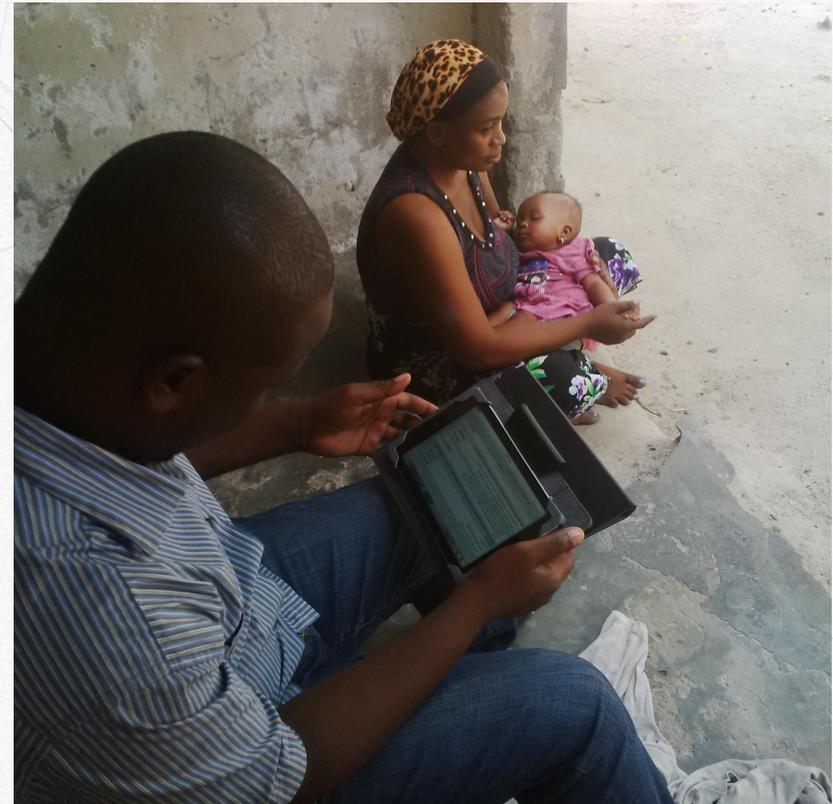
Methodology



- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across regions/states/provinces 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.
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in Mauritius of 1,200 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 7 in Mauritius was conducted between October 2017 and November 2017.

Survey demographics

| Gender | % |
|---------------------|----|
| Men | 50 |
| Women | 50 |
| Residence | |
| Urban | 41 |
| Rural | 59 |
| Education | |
| No formal education | 1 |
| Primary | 33 |
| Secondary | 49 |
| Post-secondary | 17 |
| Religion | |
| Christian | 33 |
| Muslim | 16 |
| Hindu | 45 |
| Other | 6 |



Findings

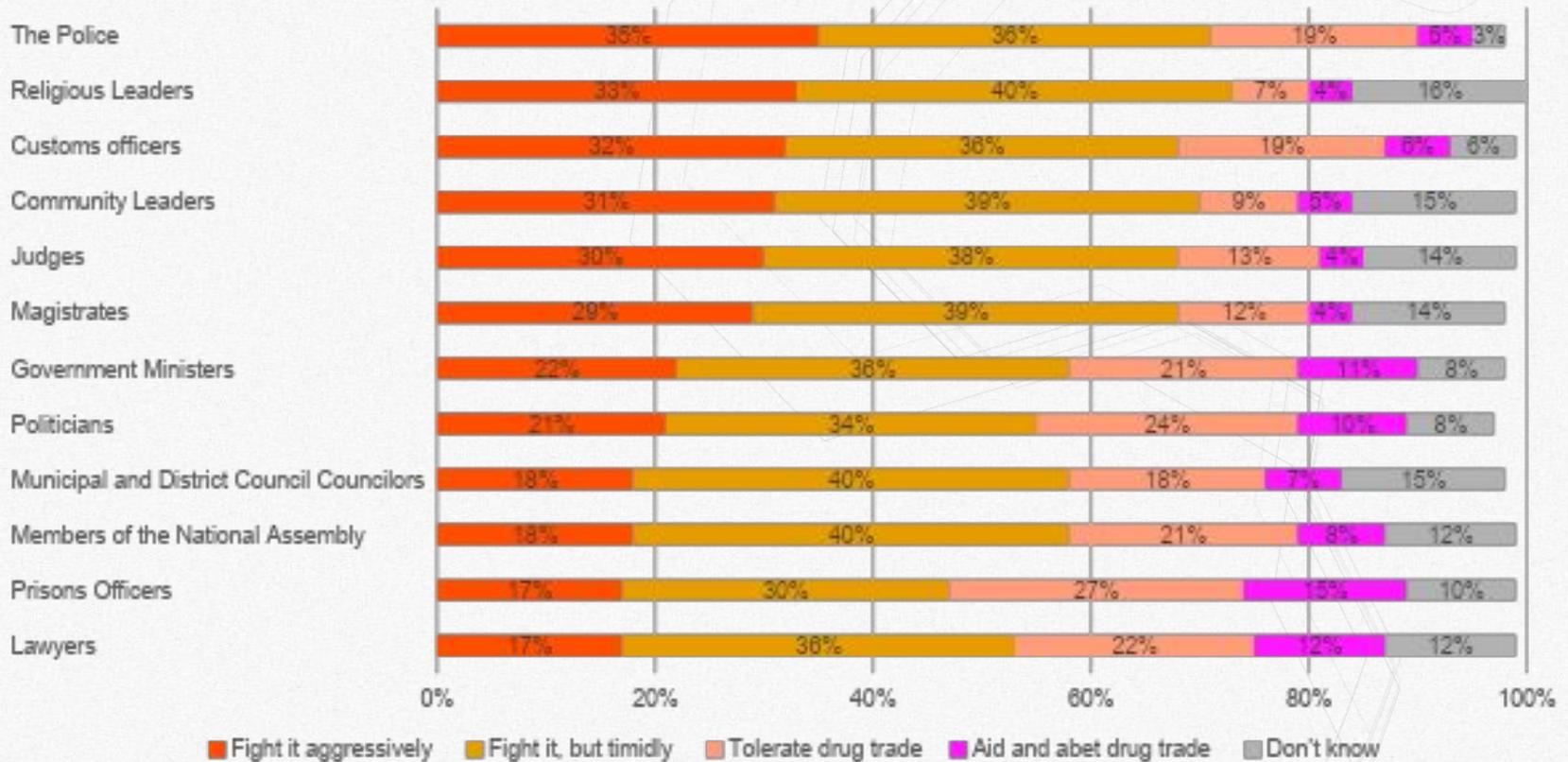
Fight against drug trafficking

Key findings



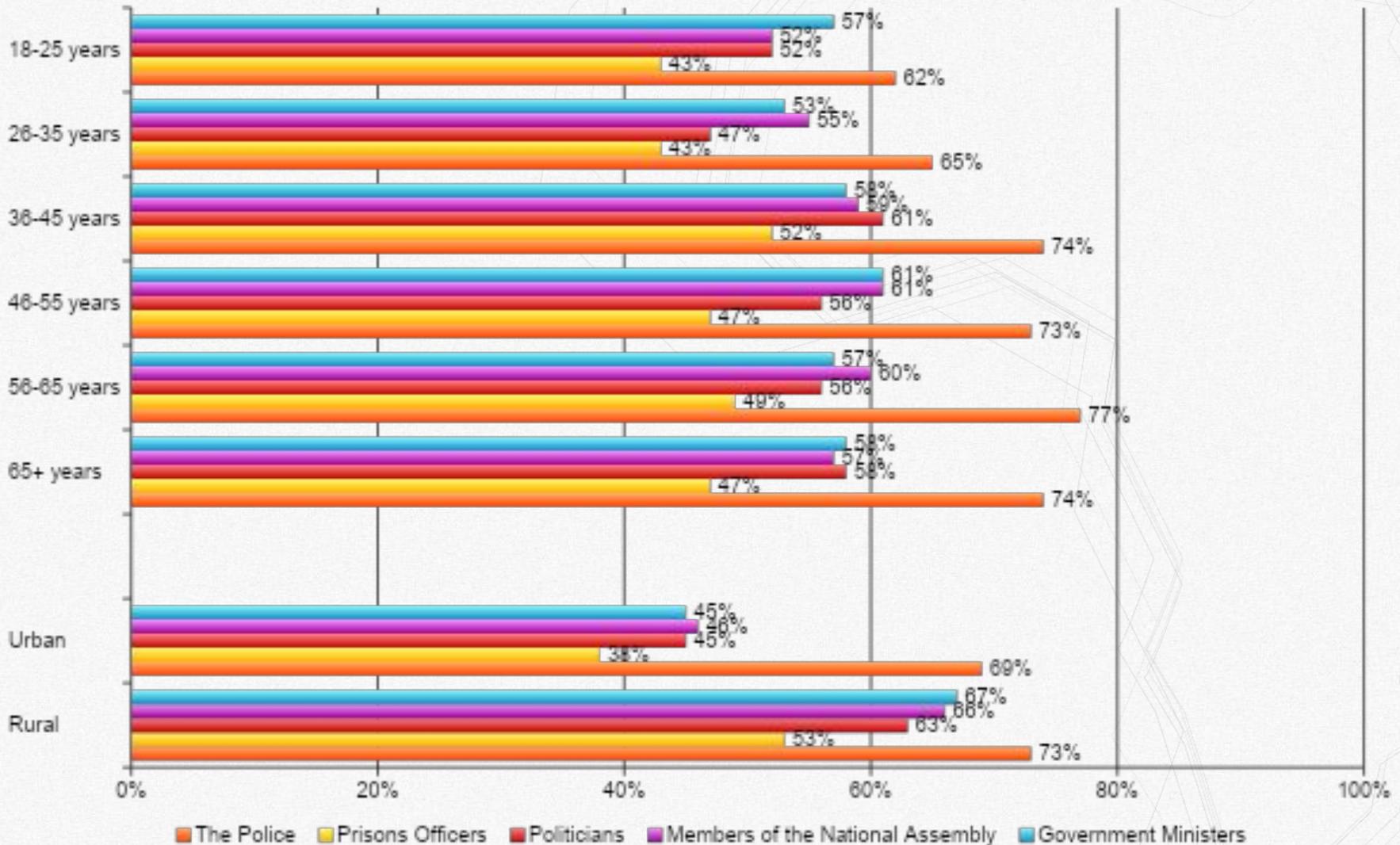
- While one-third of Mauritians (35%) say that the Police is fighting drug trafficking aggressively, 36% of the respondents feel that the Police is fighting it timidly. Four in 10 Mauritians (40%) feel that members of the national assembly, municipal and district council councillors and religious leaders are fighting drug trafficking but timidly.
- On the other hand, two in 10 Mauritians say that prison officers (27%), politicians (24%), lawyers (22%), members of the national assembly and government ministers (21%) are tolerating drug trade. When it comes to aid and abet drug trade, prison officers top the list with 15%, followed by lawyers (12%), government ministers (11%) and politicians (10%).
- While men and women almost equally believes that the police, prison officers, politicians, government ministers and members of the national assembly are doing the job well in fighting drug trafficking, rural residents are somewhat more likely than their urban counterparts to believe that these groups are fighting drug trafficking.
- Youngsters aged between 18 to 25 are less likely to believe that these groups are combatting drug trade as compared to the older age brackets

Fight against drug trafficking | Mauritius | 2017



Respondents were asked: How do you perceive the role of each of the following groups in combating drug trafficking in Mauritius? Do you think they fight it, tolerate it, or aid and abet it? [If "Fight", ask:], Do you think they fight it aggressively, or that they fight it, but timidly?

Fight against drug trafficking – Selected groups | by age and location | Mauritius | 2017

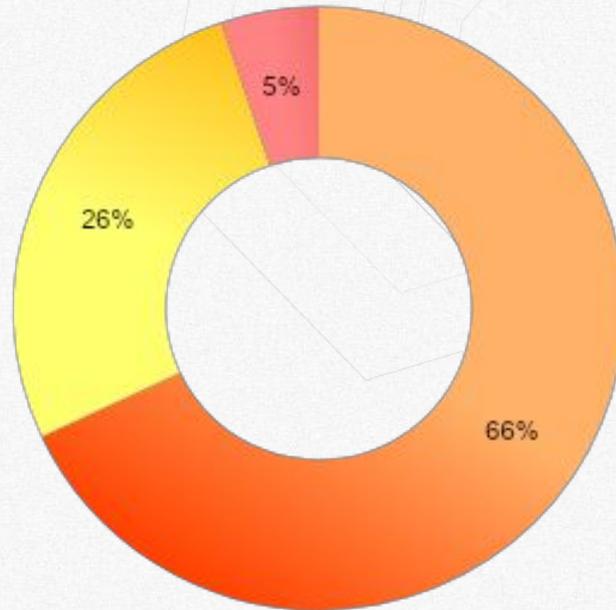


Decriminalization of Gandia's (Cannabis) consumption

Key findings

- Two-thirds (66%) of the respondents “disagree” or “strongly disagree” that the government should decriminalize the consumption of Gandia (Cannabis). However, 26% of the respondents say that the consumption of Gandia should be decriminalized.
- Rural residents are more insistent on decriminalizing the consumption of Gandia (Cannabis) than their urban counterparts (30% vs. 20%), and men are somewhat more likely than women to agree to decriminalize Gandia’s consumption (30% vs. 21%).
- Moreover, 32% of the people aged between 18 to 25 are more likely to be in favour of decriminalizing the consumption of Gandia as compared to people aged above 65 (12%).

Decriminalization of Gandia's (Cannabis) consumption | Mauritius | 2017

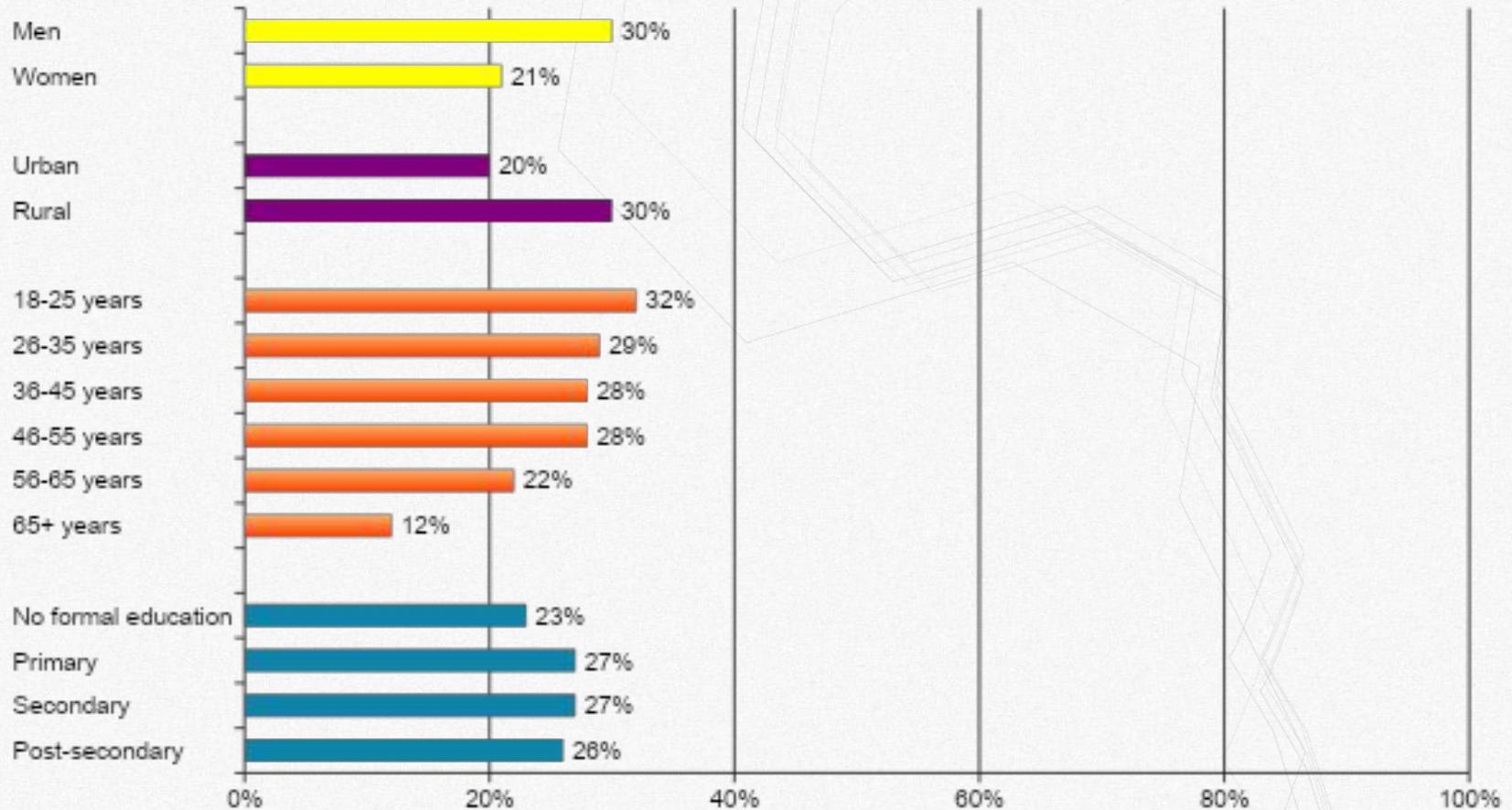


■ Strongly Disagree/Disagree ■ Strongly Agree/Agree ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree

Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree or haven't you heard enough to say?

Statement A: The government should decriminalize the consumption of Gandia (Cannabis)

Decriminalization of Gandia's (Cannabis) consumption | by demographics | Mauritius | 2017



CSQS

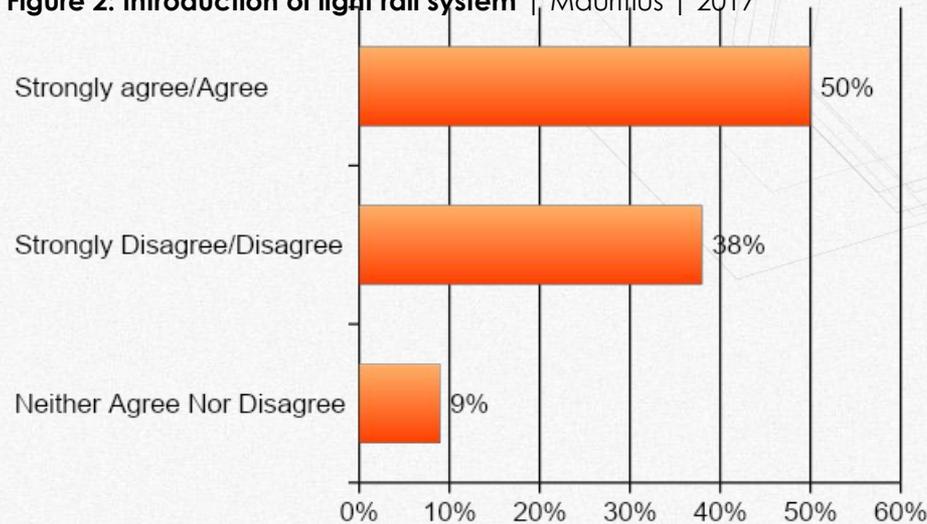
Key findings



- Surprisingly, half of the population “agree” or “strongly agree” that the introduction of a light rail system will provide speedier movement of people and alleviate transport problems in Mauritius and that the proposal to introduce a nine-year education system will have a positive effect on learner performance in the country. In addition, the majority of Mauritians want transparency with regards to the agreement signed between Mauritius and India regarding the Island of Agalega.
- Moreover, Mauritians express that they prefer to vote for a leader that has qualities even if that person has not served as prime minister in the past.

- Five in 10 Mauritians (50%) believe that the introduction of a light rail system will provide speedier movement of people and alleviate transport problems and the introduction of a nine-year education system will have a positive

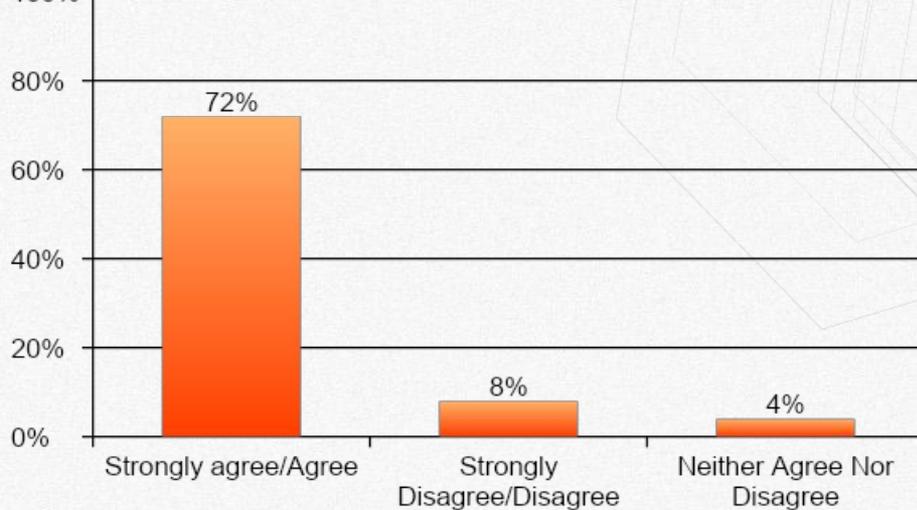
Figure 2: Introduction of light rail system | Mauritius | 2017



Respondents were asked: There have been a number of recent debates on government initiatives such as the proposal to introduce a light rail system, the extension of the school to nine years and the signing of an agreement between Mauritius and India about the Island of Agalega. For each of the following, please tell me whether you agree or disagree:

A. The introduction of a light rail system will provide speedier movement of people and alleviate transport problems in Mauritius

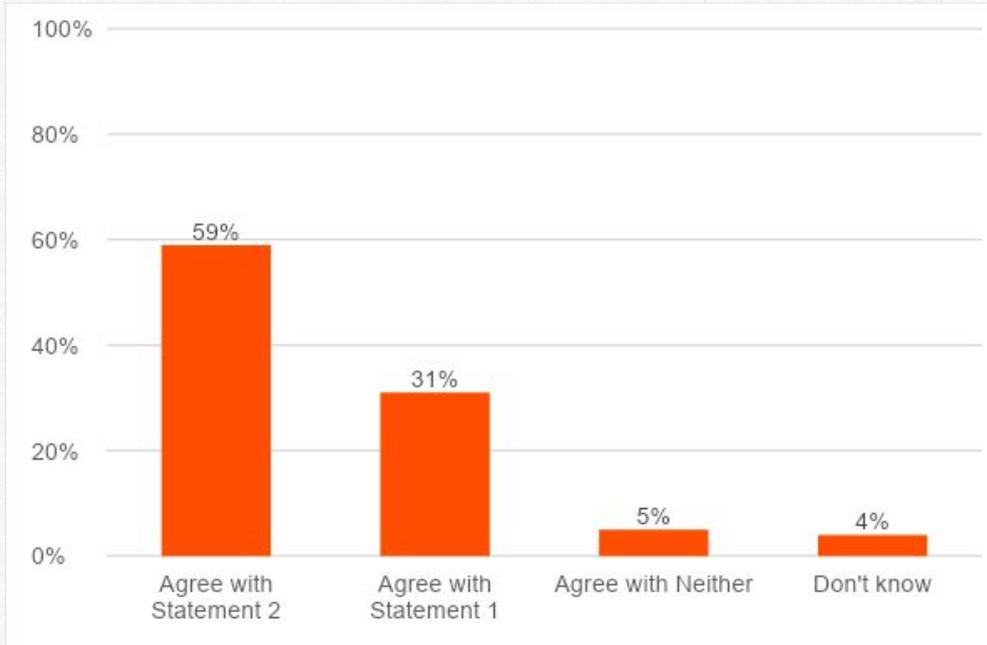
Figure 10: Agreement between Mauritius and India | Mauritius | 2017



Respondents were asked: There have been a number of recent debates on government initiatives such as the proposal to introduce a light rail system, the extension of the school to nine years and the signing of an agreement between Mauritius and India about the Island of Agalega. For each of these proposals, please tell me whether you agree or disagree:

C. In the spirit of transparency, government should present before Parliament the full details of the agreement signed between Mauritius and India regarding the island of Agalega.

... the leader qualities | Mauritius | 2017



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view. Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2

Statement 1: During national elections, I prefer to vote for a party that is led by a candidate who has served as a Prime Minister in the past

Statement 2: During elections in this country, what matters most for me are the qualities of the leader of the party irrespective of whether that person has been Prime Minister or not in the past.

Figure 3: Introduction of nine-year education system | Mauritius | 2017

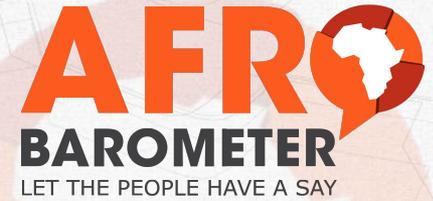


Respondents were asked: There have been a number of recent debates on government initiatives such as the proposal to introduce a light rail system, extension of the school to nine years and the signing of an agreement between Mauritius and India about the Island of Agalega. For each of these proposals, please tell me whether you agree or disagree:

B. The proposal to introduce a nine-year education system will have a positive effect on learner performance in the country.

Conclusions

Conclusions



- Mauritians feel that the fight against drug trafficking is not as aggressive as it should have been and that some of the groups tolerate and encourage drug trade.
- Moreover, Afrobarometer's latest survey findings reveal that Mauritians express clear disagreement regarding the decriminalization of the consumption of Gandia (Cannabis).



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Merci**

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