

Star Awards
Gaborone, Botswana
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News release

Majority of Batswana see opposition offering viable alternative vision and plan

A majority of Batswana say opposition parties offer a viable alternative vision and plan to the long-time ruling Botswana Democratic Party, according to the 2017 Afrobarometer survey.

The 2019 elections are widely seen as an important test for the opposition, which has been gaining strength under its Umbrella for Democratic Change coalition.

Key findings

- Six in 10 Batswana (62%) believe that opposition parties present a viable alternative vision and plan for the country (Figure 1).
- Men (65%) and urban residents (64%) are more likely to see opposition parties as a viable alternative than women (58%) and rural residents (57%) (Figure 2).
- Perceptions of the opposition as a viable alternative increase with respondents' education level.

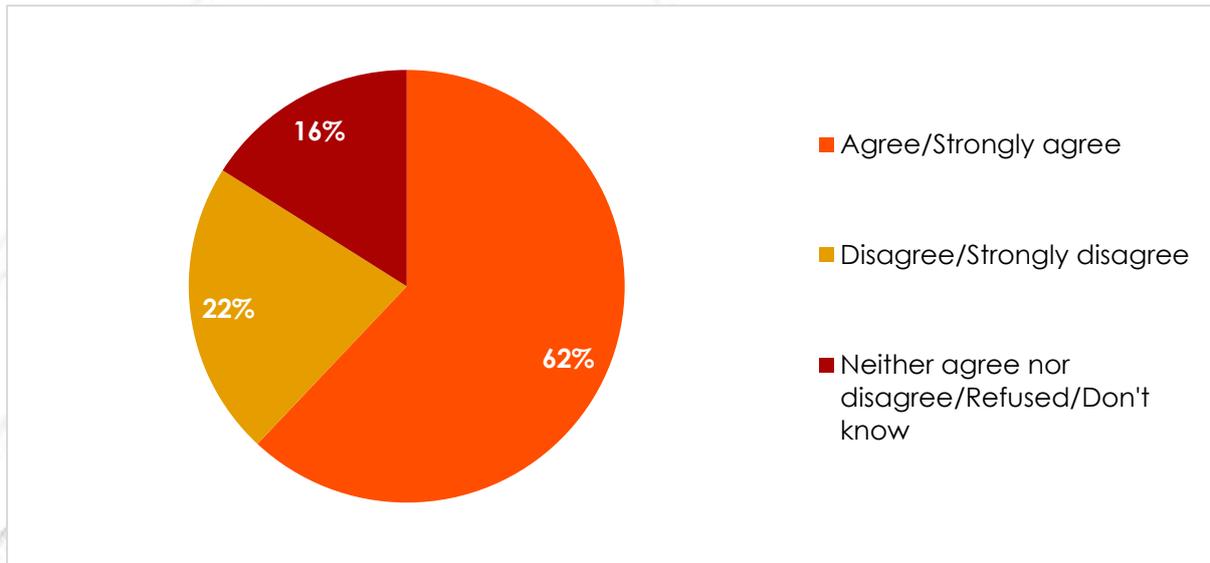
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in African countries. Six rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 37 countries between 1999 and 2016, and Round 7 surveys are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Botswana, led by Star Awards Pty Ltd, interviewed 1,200 adult Batswana in July 2017. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Botswana in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2012, and 2014.

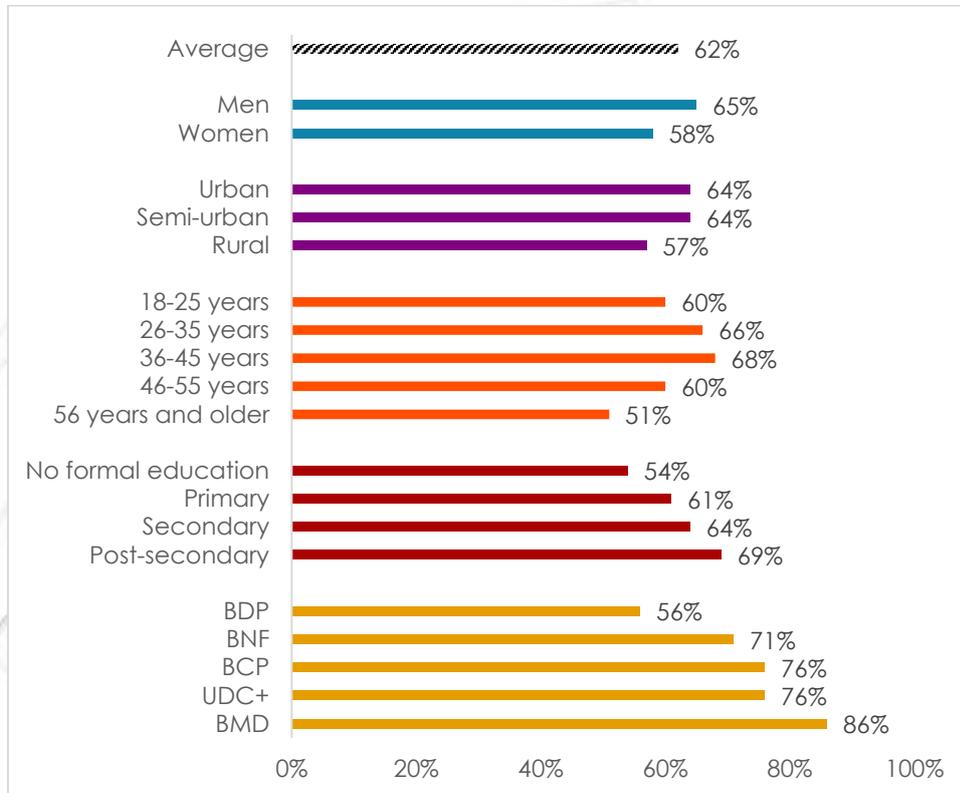
Charts

Figure 1: Viability of opposition parties | Botswana | 2017



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: The political opposition in Botswana presents a viable alternative vision and plan for the country?

Figure 2: Viability of opposition parties | by socio-demographics | Botswana | 2017



(% who "agree" or "strongly agree")

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