

Advison Lesotho
Maseru, Lesotho
17 April 2018

News release

Basotho welcome SADC intervention, Afrobarometer survey shows

A majority of Basotho support a proposal to bring additional Southern African Development Community (SADC) troops into Lesotho to improve political stability in the country, a recent Afrobarometer survey shows.

The proportion of Basotho who see SADC as helpful to their country has almost doubled since 2014.

The issue of SADC troops currently deployed in the country is being debated in Lesotho. The government requested the SADC troop deployment after the killing of the Lesotho Defence Force Commander by his subordinates in September 2017. Meanwhile, Parliament is in consultations with a wide variety of stakeholders on the National Reforms Commission Bill 2018 aimed at reform of the country's political, electoral, and security systems.

Key findings

- More than six in 10 Basotho (63%) believe that SADC helps Lesotho “somewhat” or “a lot” – almost twice as many as held this view in 2014 (34%) (Figure 1).
- Two-thirds (68%) of Basotho support the deployment of additional SADC troops in Lesotho to improve political stability. Only one in five (22%) oppose the deployment (Figure 2).
- On the involvement of SADC in Lesotho reform processes, majorities say SADC should be “somewhat” or “very” involved in reforming Lesotho's political system (63%), electoral system (60%), and security forces (67%) (Figure 3).

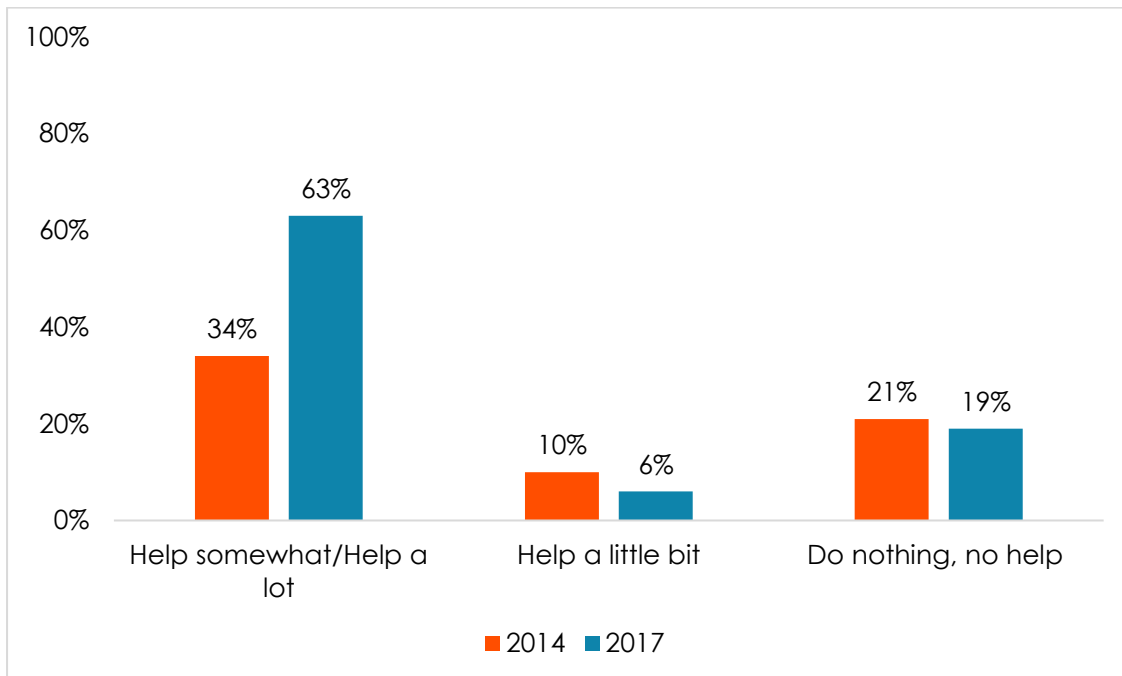
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in Africa. Six rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 37 African countries between 1999 and 2016, and Round 7 surveys (2017/2018) 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 Lesotho, led by Advison Lesotho, interviewed 1,200 adult Basotho between 25 November and 10 December 2017. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Lesotho in 2000, 2003, 2008, 2012, and 2014.

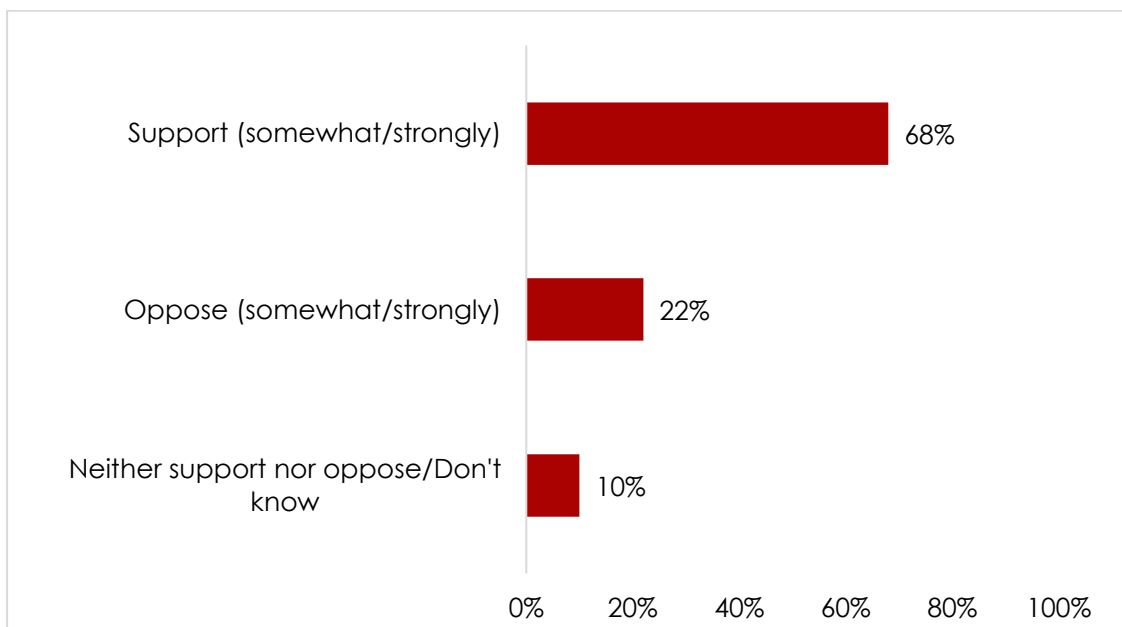
Figures

Figure 1: SADC helps Lesotho | Lesotho | 2014-2017



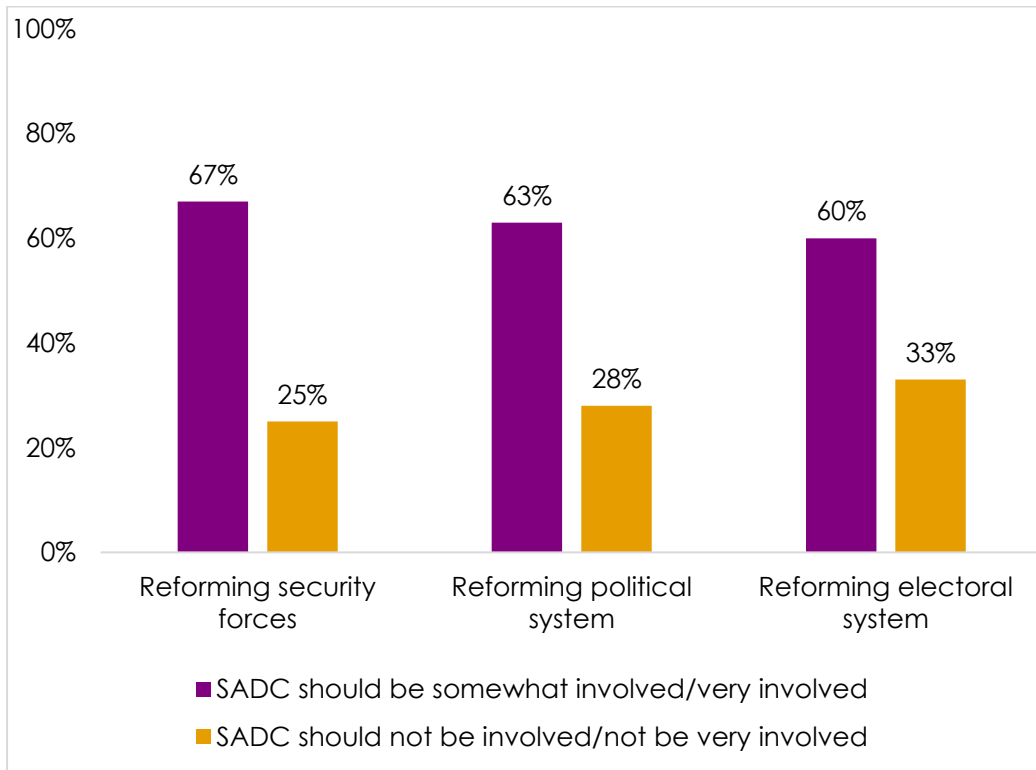
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how much do each of the following do to help Lesotho, or haven't you heard enough to say: The Southern African Development Community (SADC)?

Figure 2: Support for SADC troops deployment in Lesotho | Lesotho | 2017



Respondents were asked: Do you support or oppose the proposal to bring SADC troops into Lesotho to improve political stability in the country?

Figure 3: SADC involvement in Lesotho's reform processes | Lesotho | 2017



Respondents were asked: How involved do you think SADC should be in each of the following processes, or haven't you heard enough to say:

- Reforming Lesotho's political system?
- Reforming Lesotho's electoral system?
- Reforming Lesotho's security forces?

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