

Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
Cape Town, South Africa
13 November 2018

News release

Land reform should continue to prioritize forced removals, agricultural and urban vacant land

Afrobarometer's 2018 survey in South Africa shows that citizens want to prioritize the return of land taken from forced removals since the 1913 Land Act. More than a century later, the country is still struggling to redress this historical injustice and the inequality it continues to foster. Surprisingly, South Africans support keeping the willing seller policy and allowing farmers to keep ownership of land used by tenants. These viewpoints come at a time when the land debate is raging and Parliament has to decide on a proposal to change the Constitution with land expropriation without compensation.

Key findings

- When asked which type of land the government should prioritize for redistribution, more than eight out of 10 South Africans (84%) state a priority; only one in 20 (5%) say that land should not be redistributed.
- The most frequently cited priority for land redistribution is land taken away during the government's forcible removals of black South Africans, followed by agricultural land and urban vacant land.
- A slim majority (53%) of citizens say the government should maintain its "willing seller-willing buyer" policy in acquiring property, including paying the seller. Only 26% disagree.

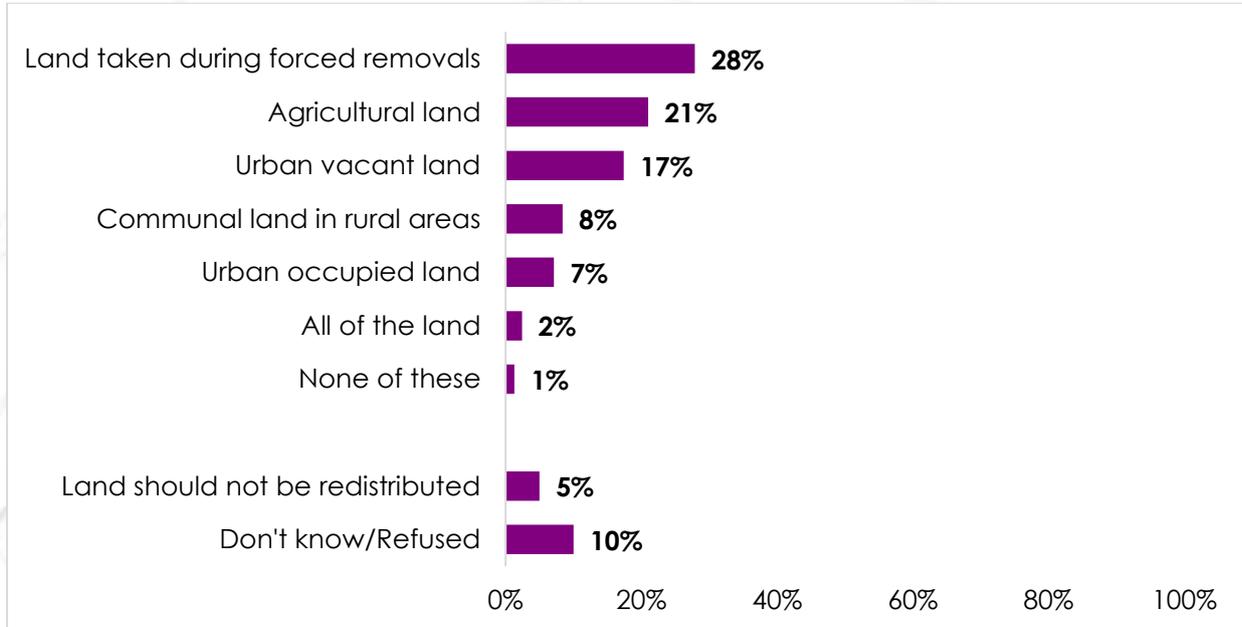
Afrobarometer

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 (2016/2018) 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 South Africa, led by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation and Plus94 Research, interviewed 1,800 adult South Africans between August – September 2018. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2,3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in South Africa in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2011, 2016 and 2018.

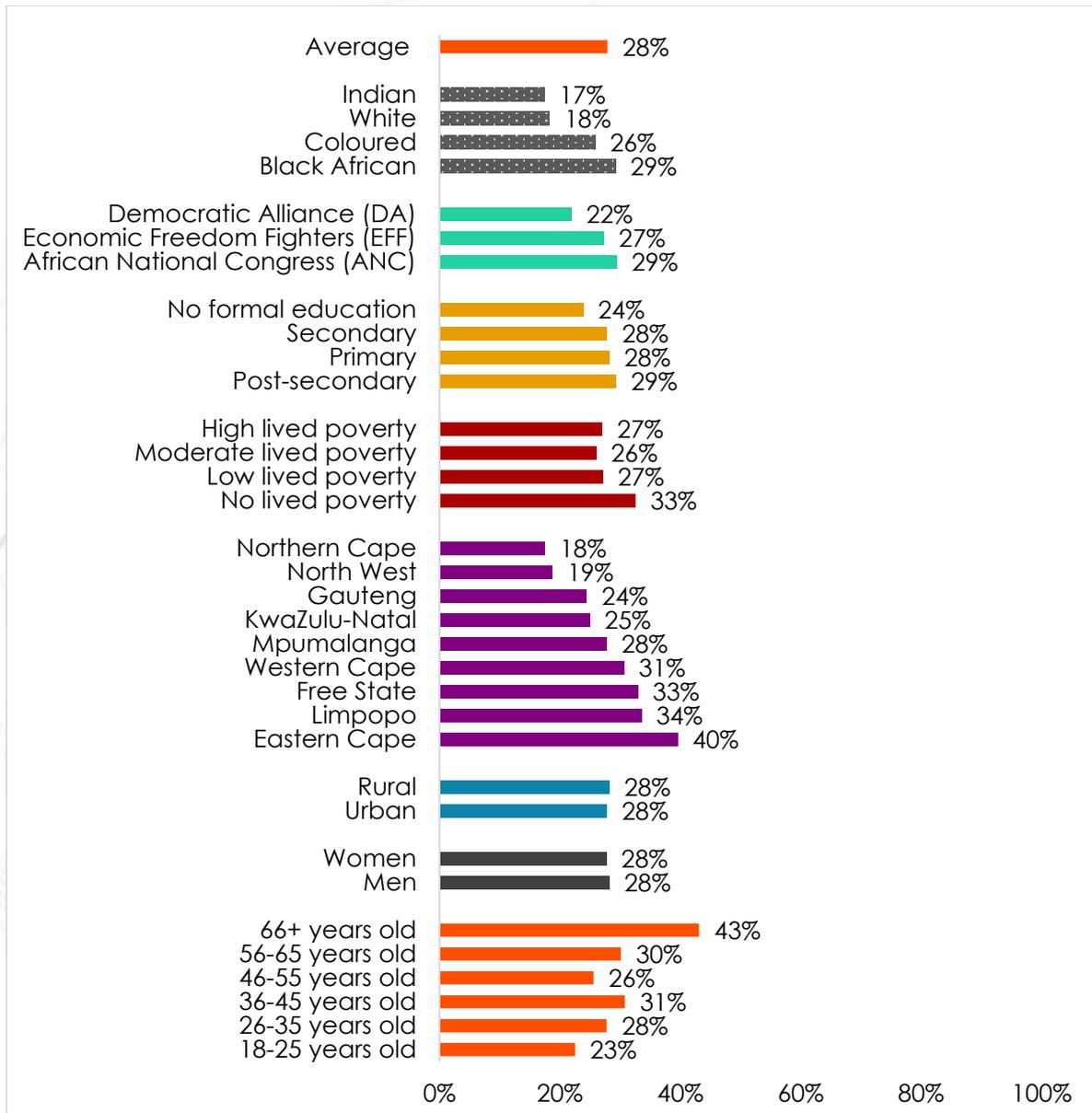
Charts

Figure 1: Type of land government should prioritize for land redistribution | South Africa | 2018



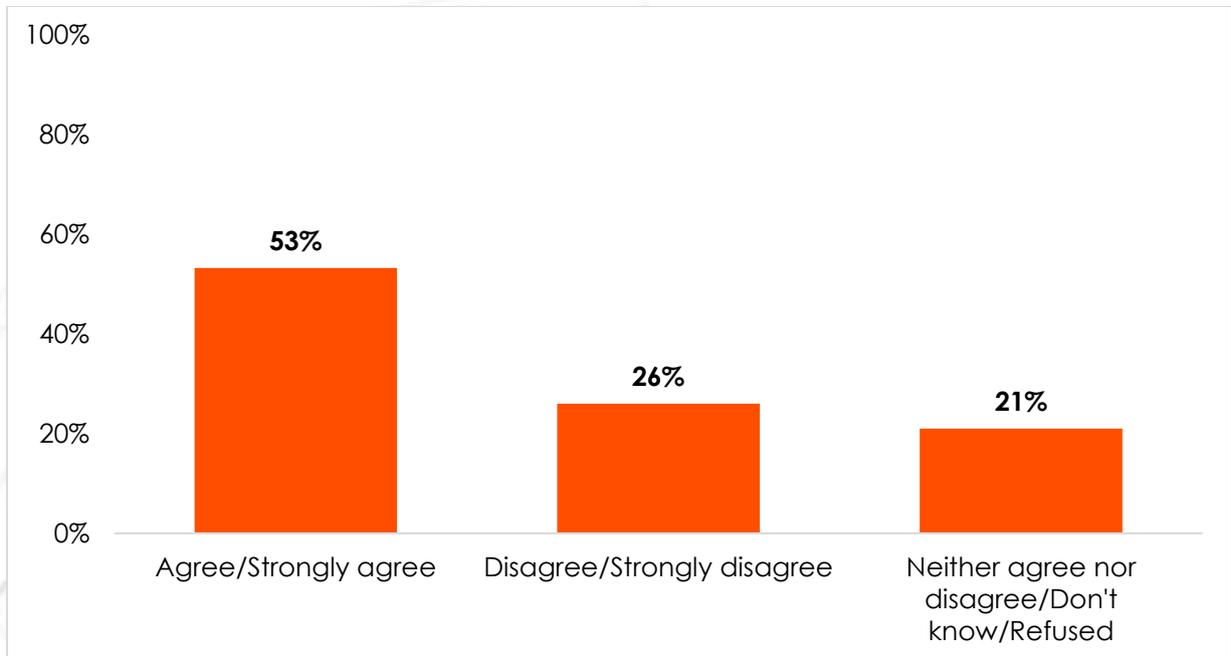
Respondents were asked: In recent months, the government has held several meetings to debate land distribution and the methods of land acquisition. In your own opinion, which of the following types of land should government prioritize for redistribution?

Figure 2: Prioritize land taken during forced removals | by socio-demographic group
 | South Africa | 2018



Respondents were asked: In recent months, the government has held several meetings to debate land distribution and the methods of land acquisition. In your own opinion, which of the following types of land should government prioritize for redistribution? (% who say "land taken during forced removals")

Figure 3: Government should abide by 'willing seller-willing buyer' policy | South Africa | 2018



Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree: The government must abide by the policy of willing buyer-willing seller in acquiring any property, including paying the current owners?

For more information, please contact:

Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
 Gugu Nonjenge
 Telephone: 021 202 4071
 Email: gnonjenge@afrobarometer.org

Visit us online at:
www.ijr.org.za
www.afrobarometer.org

Follow our releases on #VoicesAfrica.

