



UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA

University of Botswana

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PRESS RELEASE

Batswana Trust in Political Institutions Declines, but Remains Relatively High

The Afrobarometer is a comparative series of public attitude surveys, covering up to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013). It measures public attitudes on democracy and its alternatives, evaluations of the quality of governance and economic performance. In addition, the survey assesses the views of the electorate on critical political issues in the surveyed countries. The Afrobarometer also provides comparisons over time, as four rounds of surveys have been held from 1999 to 2008 and Round 5 is currently underway.

Afrobarometer's work in Botswana is coordinated by the Southern African Barometer research team at the University of Botswana. Fieldwork for Round 5 was conducted in Botswana from 30 June to 11 July 2012. The survey interviewed 1200 adult Batswana, and a sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level.

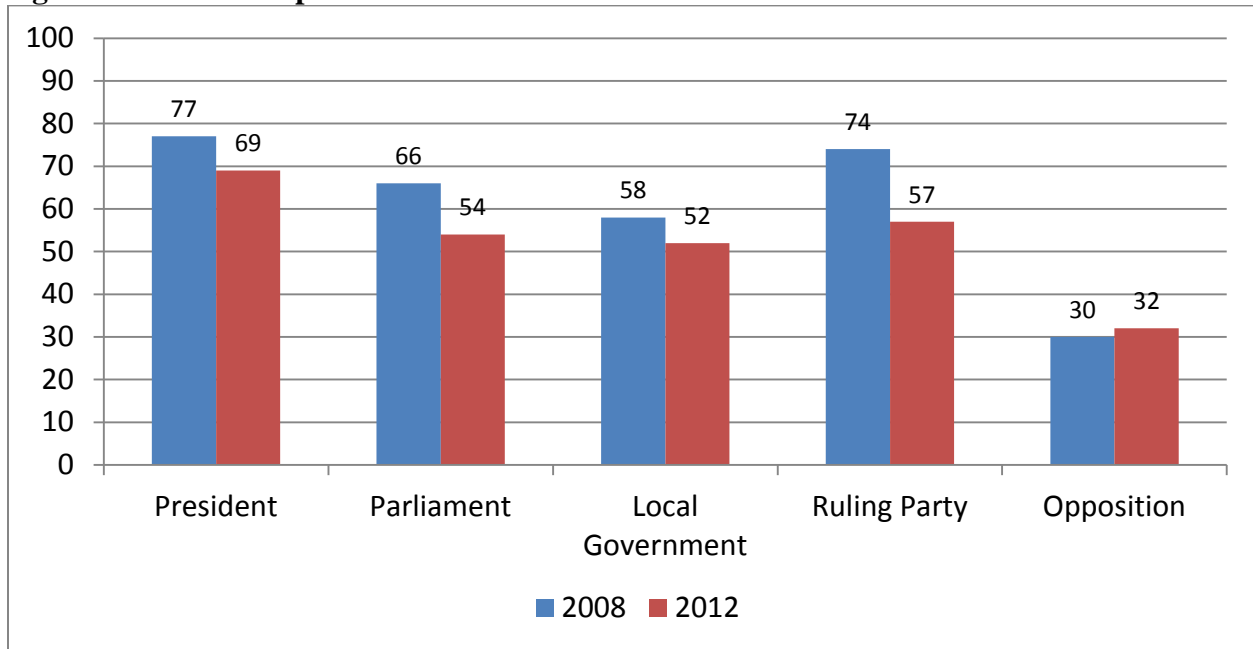
FINDINGS

Trust in Key Political Institutions Declines

The Afrobarometer Round 5 survey reveals Batswana's moderate to high levels of trust of political and other important institutions, such as the presidency, the parliament, IEC, and the military. However, the survey also illustrates a significant decline in trust when compared to measures of trust in 2008.

A majority of Batswana have trust in the president (69%), parliament (54%), and local government (52%). However, trust in the presidency (-8%), parliament (-12%), local government (-6%) has declined since the previous 2008 Afrobarometer survey. In addition, trust in the ruling party has declined as well, from 74% in 2008 to 57% in 2012. Finally, only one-third of Batswana (32%) trust the opposition.

Figure 1: Trust in Important Political Institutions



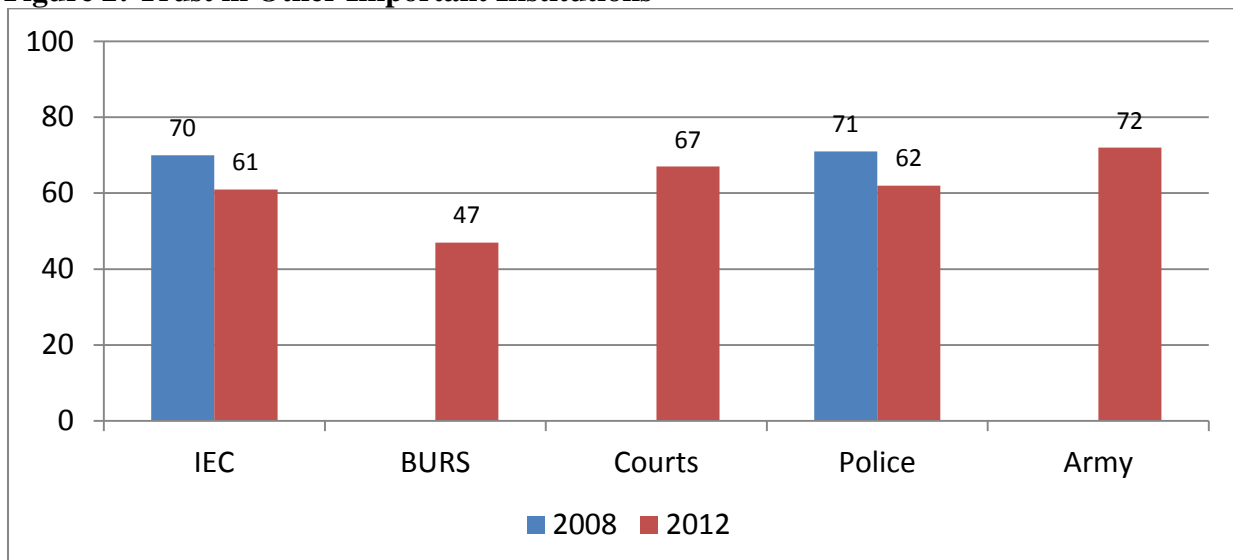
Question: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% somewhat or a lot)

Trust in Other Institutions

A majority of Batswana (61%) trusts the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC); however, this marks a 9% decline since the 2008 survey. Further, only 47% of respondents say that they have trust in the Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS). This may be linked to the fact that 30% of respondents say they know little about BURS, and another 23% have not heard about BURS.

When it comes to legal, law enforcement, and security institutions, Batswana maintain trust in courts (67%), police (62%), and the military (72%).

Figure 2: Trust in Other Important Institutions



Question: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% somewhat or a lot)
(Note: Questions about BURS, police and the army were not asked in 2008.)

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