



UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA  
University of Botswana

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Batswana Applaud Government Performance in Several Areas; Hold a Mixed Opinion on Economic Management**

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.

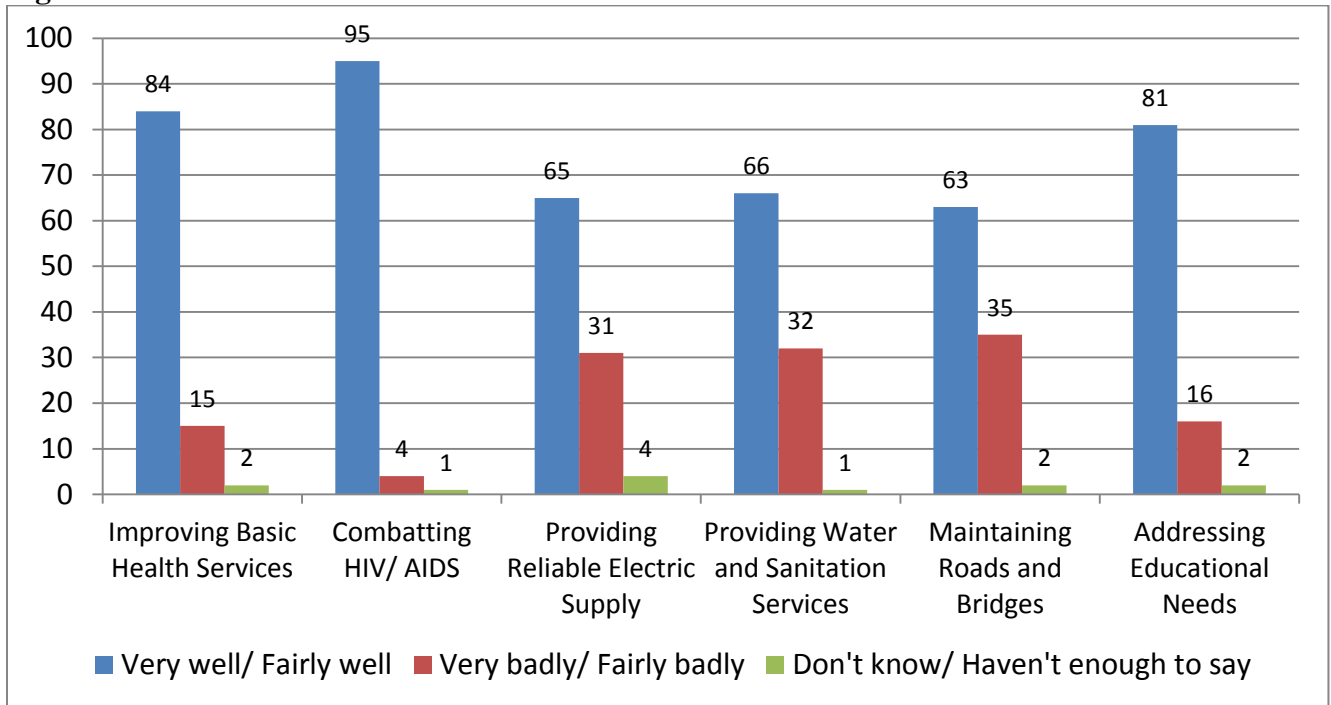
## FINDINGS

The most recent Afrobarometer survey reveals that Batswana generally approve of the government's performance delivering health-related services (e.g. improving health services and HIV/AIDS programs), education, maintaining the infrastructure, solving violent conflict between communities, and providing basic public goods (e.g. water and sanitation). However, the survey also indicates that Batswana hold a mixed opinion of the government's handling of the economy.

### **Batswana Applaud the Government's Performance in Several Areas**

In the area of health services, survey results reveal that a majority of Batswana think that the government is doing "very well" or "fairly well" improving basic health services (84%) and combating HIV/AIDS (95%). The positive rating of improved health services represents a moderate increase of 4% from the results in the last survey (2008). A majority of Batswana also gave "very well" or "fairly well" ratings for the government's provision of water and sanitation (66%), electricity (65%), and the maintenance of roads and bridges (63%). In addition, a majority (81%) believe that the government is addressing Batswana educational needs effectively.

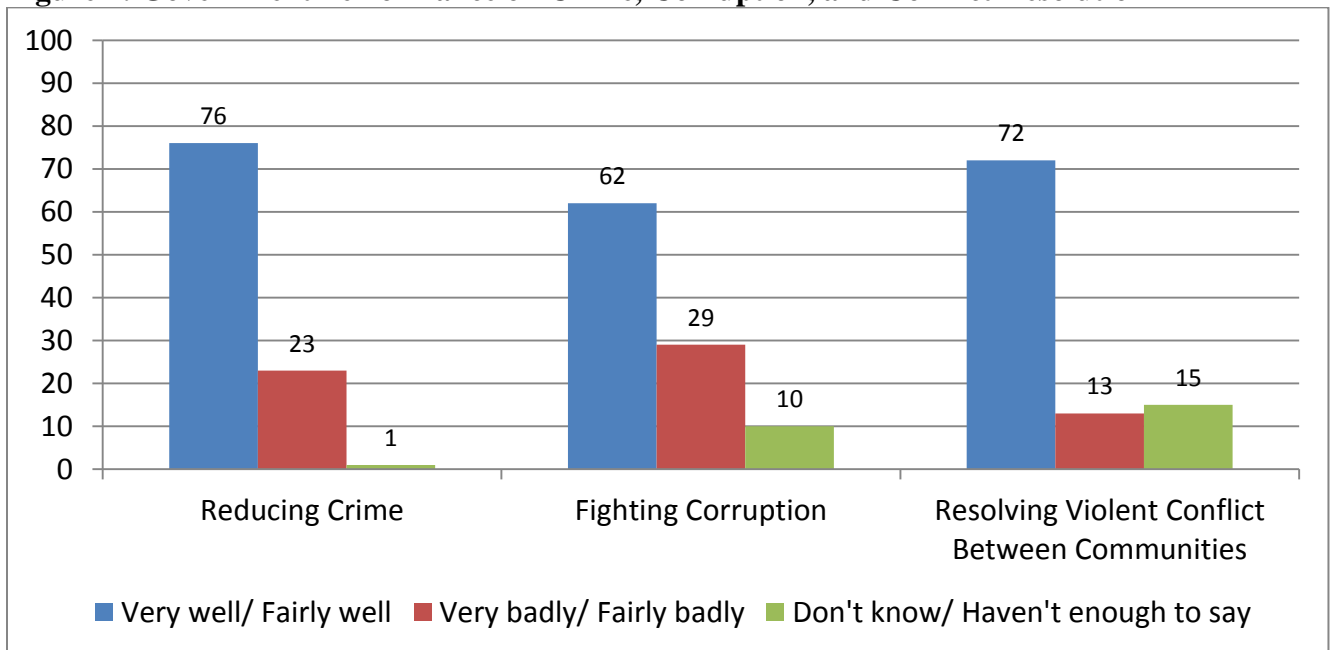
**Figure 1: Government Performance Indicators**



*Question: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say?*

In the area of the rule of law and providing for peace and security, the government gets favorable reviews for its efforts to reduce crime (76%), fight corruption (72%), and settle violent disputes between communities (72%).

**Figure 2: Government Performance on Crime, Corruption, and Conflict Resolution**



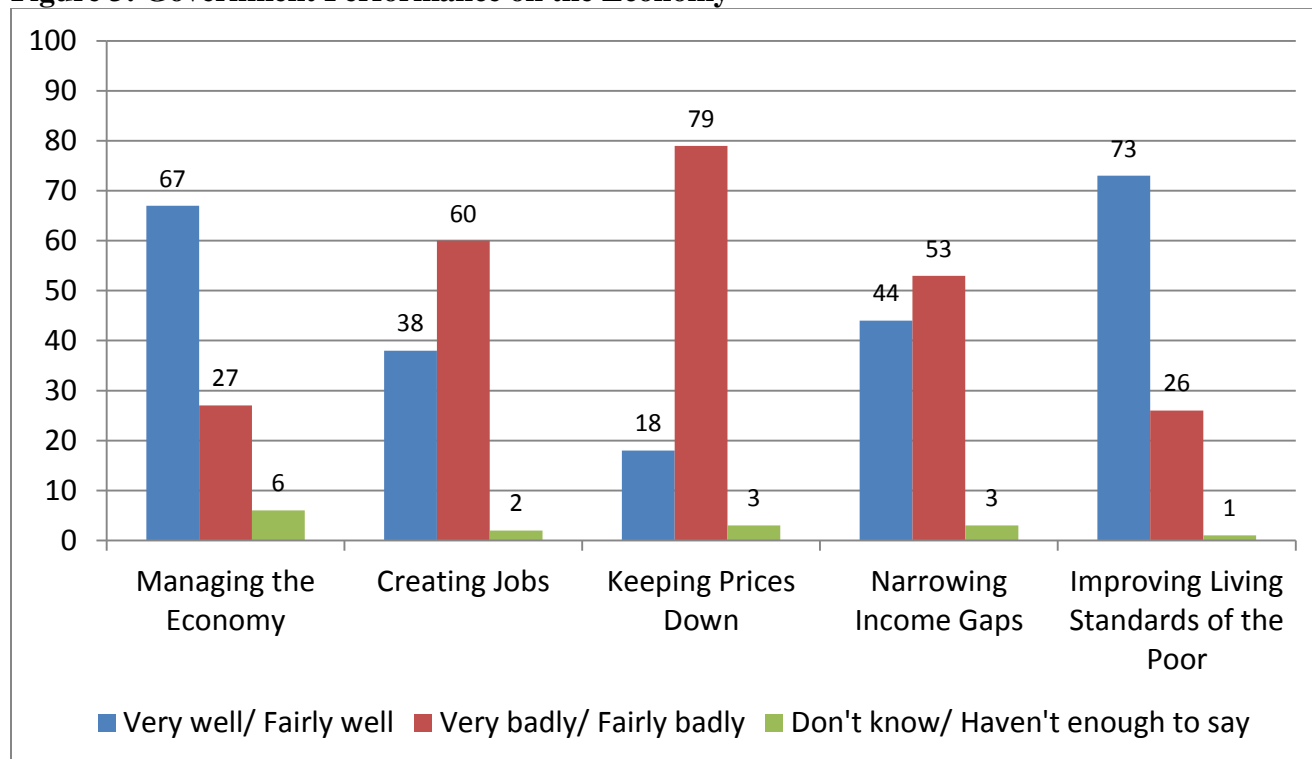
*Question: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say?*

In sum, these survey results suggest broad support for Botswana’s government performance across a number of health, public goods, and rule of law policy areas.

### Batswana Question the Government’s Economic Performance

A majority of Batswana (67%) judge the government’s management of the economy “very well” or “fairly well.” The rating reflects a significant decrease (of 9%) in positive ratings from the 2008 survey. This overall performance indicator contrasts with individual policy area indicators that show the government receiving significant criticism for its effectiveness creating jobs (38%), keeping prices down (18%), and narrowing the income disparity between the rich and poor (44%). Only for the government’s efforts to improve the living standards of the poor does a majority of Batswana (73%) show approval.

**Figure 3: Government Performance on the Economy**



*Question: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or haven't you heard enough to say?*

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