



UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA

University of Botswana

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PRESS RELEASE

A Majority of Botswana Feel Close to a Political Party and Botswana Support a Direct Election of the President

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.

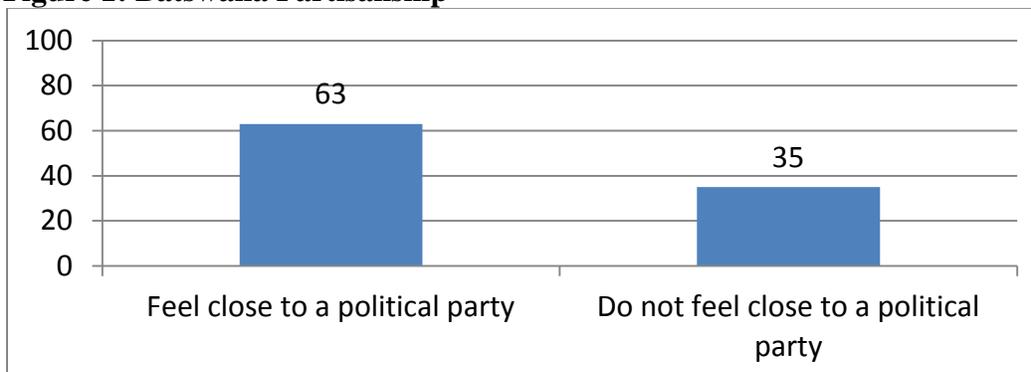
FINDINGS

The most recent Afrobarometer survey reveals that a majority of Batswana feel close to a particular political party, with the Botswana Democratic Party generally having the largest party affiliation in Botswana. The 2012 survey also shows that Batswana desire a direct election of the president. Interestingly, Batswana opinion on the direct election of president has completely reversed since the 2008 survey.

Batswana Party Affiliation

Nearly two-thirds of Batswana (63%) say they feel close to a political party. This figure does suggest, however, that a significant segment of the population does not feel a close attachment to a particular party.

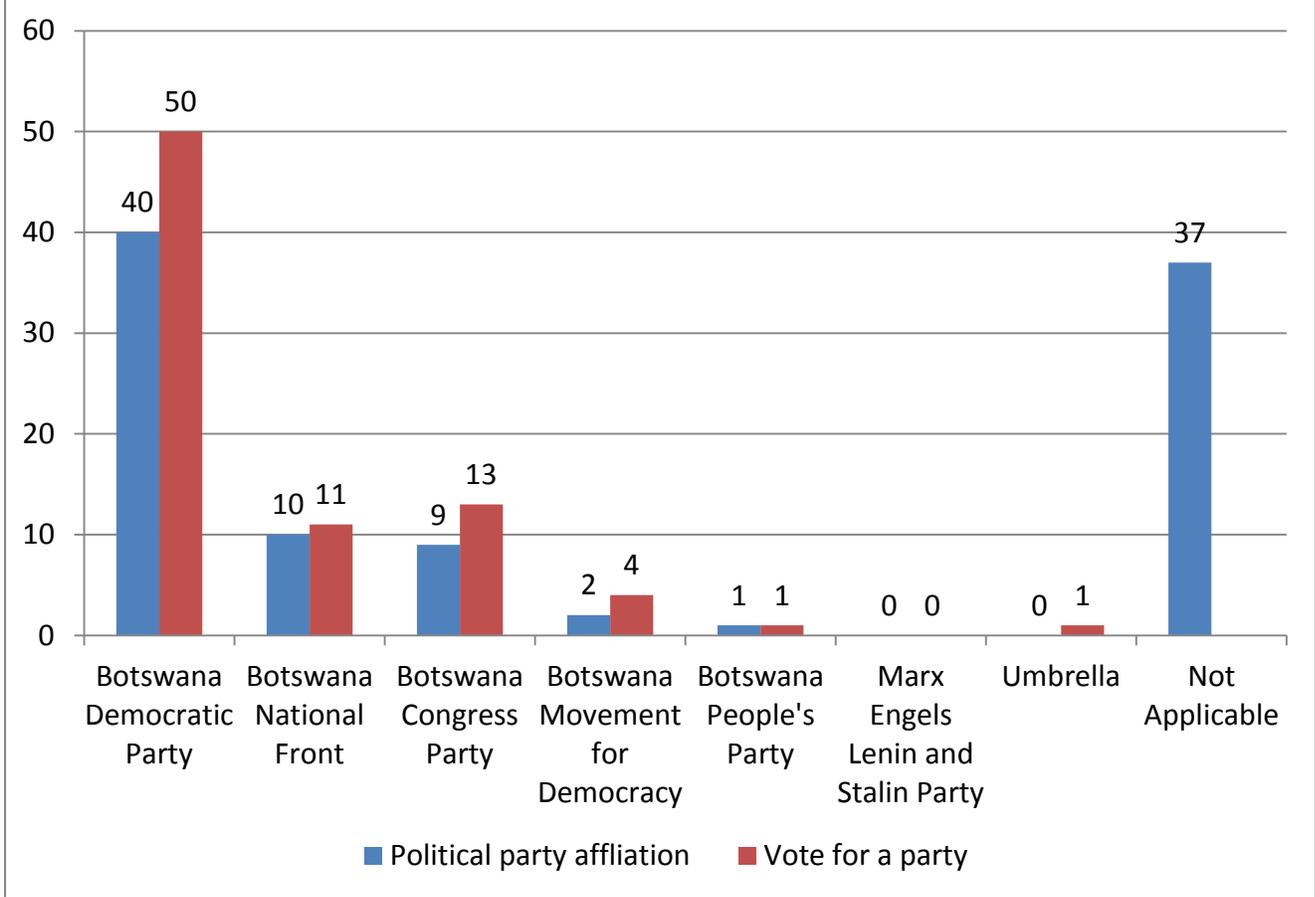
Figure 1: Batswana Partisanship



Question: Do you feel close to any particular political party?

Batswana party affiliation and support for the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) remains the highest of any party followed by the Botswana National Front (BNF) and the Botswana Congress Party (BCP). For instance, 40% of Batswana affiliate with the BDP, and the party enjoys electoral support (i.e. assuming that the election is held tomorrow) of 50% of Batswana. The affiliation and support is significantly less for other parties.

Figure 2: Political Party Affiliation and Support



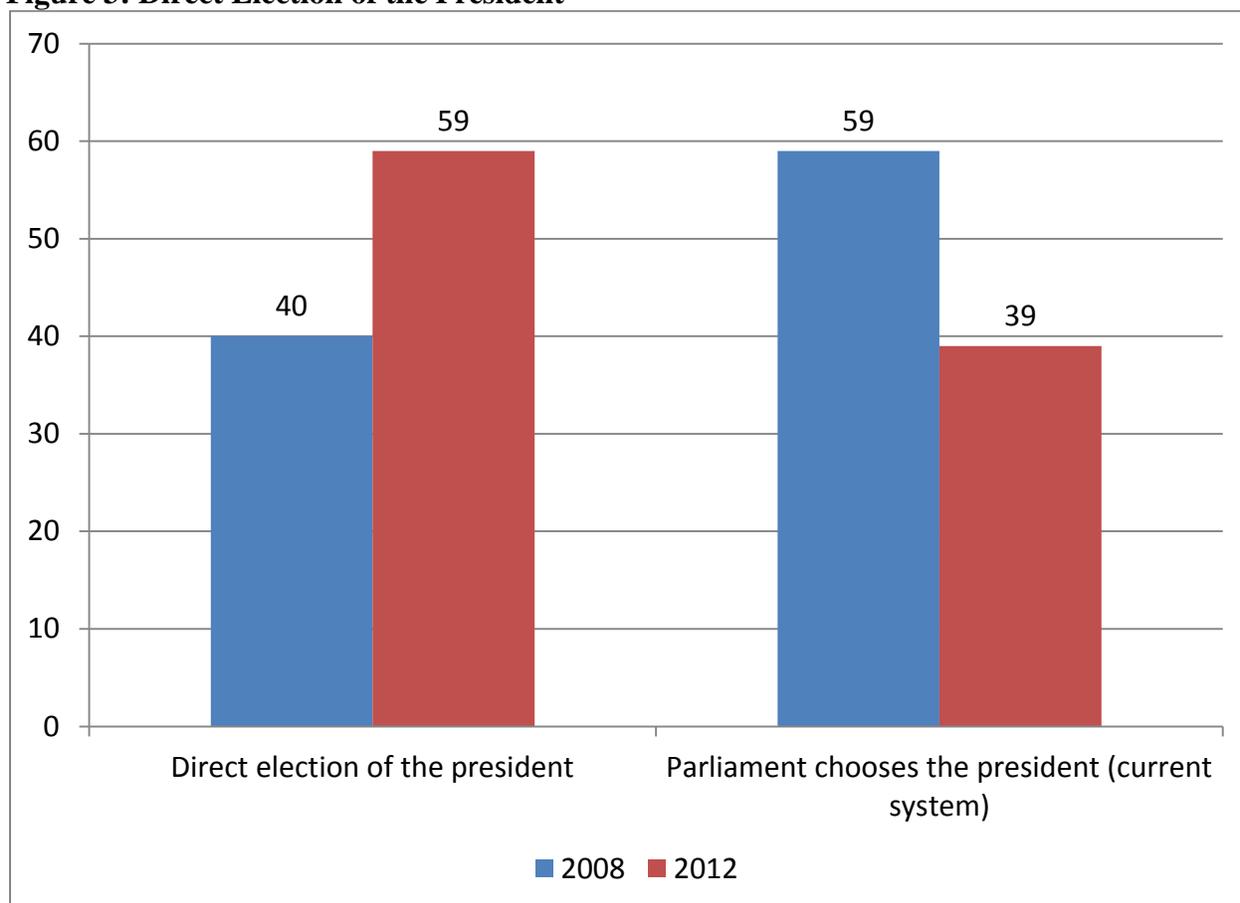
Question: If you are close to a political party, which party is that?

Question: If a National assembly election were to be held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you vote for?

Sharp Change of Opinion on the Presidential Election Process

In 2012, over half of Batswana (59%) think that the people should directly elect the president. This marks a large reversal in opinion when in 2008 over half of Batswana (59%) believed that the current system of the parliament selecting the president was preferred.

Figure 3: Direct Election of the President



Question: Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2.

Statement 1: The current system where parliament chooses the President should be changed to allow for direct election of the president. (% Agree or agree strongly)

Statement 2: The current system where the president of the country is chosen by Parliament has served Botswana well and should be retained. (% Agree or agree strongly)

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For further information, please contact Prof. Mogopodi H. Lekorwem at lekorwem@mopipi.ub.bw or 335 2741.