



UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA

University of Botswana

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PRESS RELEASE

Batswana Embrace the Parliament's Role in Promoting Accountability and Share Mixed Views of Who Should Initiate Lawmaking

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.

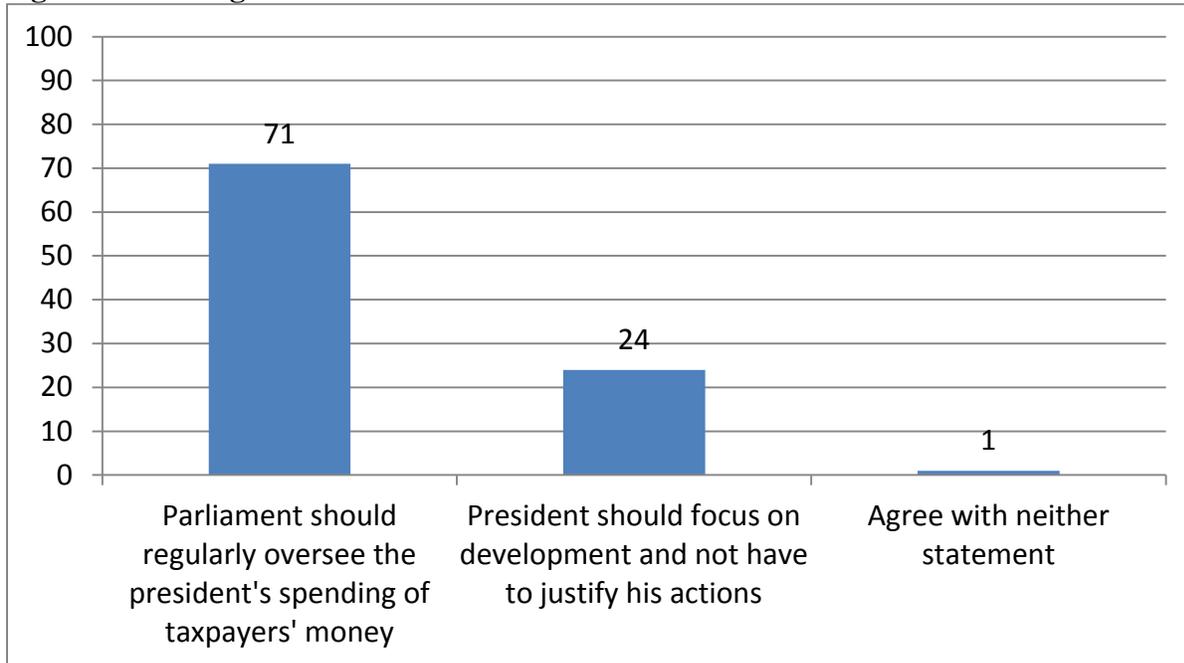
FINDINGS

The most recent Afrobarometer survey reveals that Batswana want the parliament to regularly monitor the actions of the president. Interestingly, Batswana largely agree that the opposition should focus on working with the government to enable development as opposed to criticizing government actions.

An Increasing Emphasis on Accountability

A majority of Batswana (71%) "agree" or "agree strongly" that the parliament should regularly monitor and hold the president accountable. This marks a significant increase from the 52% of Batswana that desired the parliament monitor the president regularly in the 2008 survey.

Figure 1: Holding the President Accountable



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

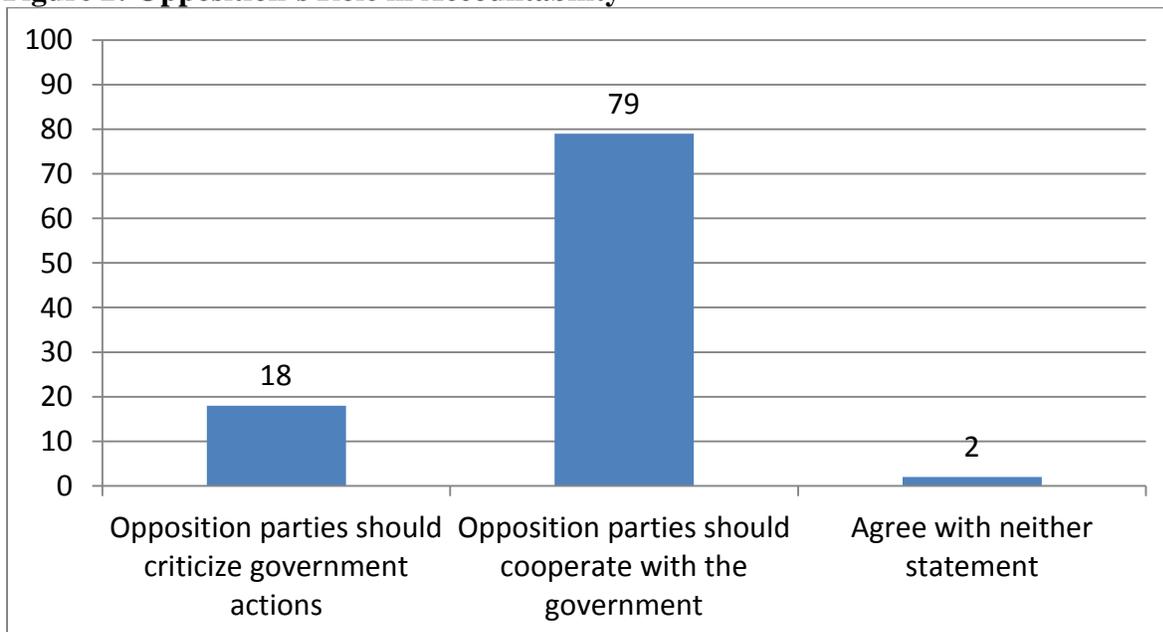
Statement 1: Parliament should ensure that the President explains to it on a regular basis how his government spends taxpayers' money. (% Agree or agree strongly)

Statement 2: The President should be able to devote his full attention to developing the country rather than wasting time justifying his actions. (% Agree or agree strongly)

Batswana Say the Opposition Should Cooperate with the Government

An overwhelming majority of Batswana (79%) “agree” or “agree strongly” that the opposition should focus on cooperating with the government to increase development. This is preferred to the opposition devoting its efforts to criticizing government actions.

Figure 2: Opposition’s Role in Accountability



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

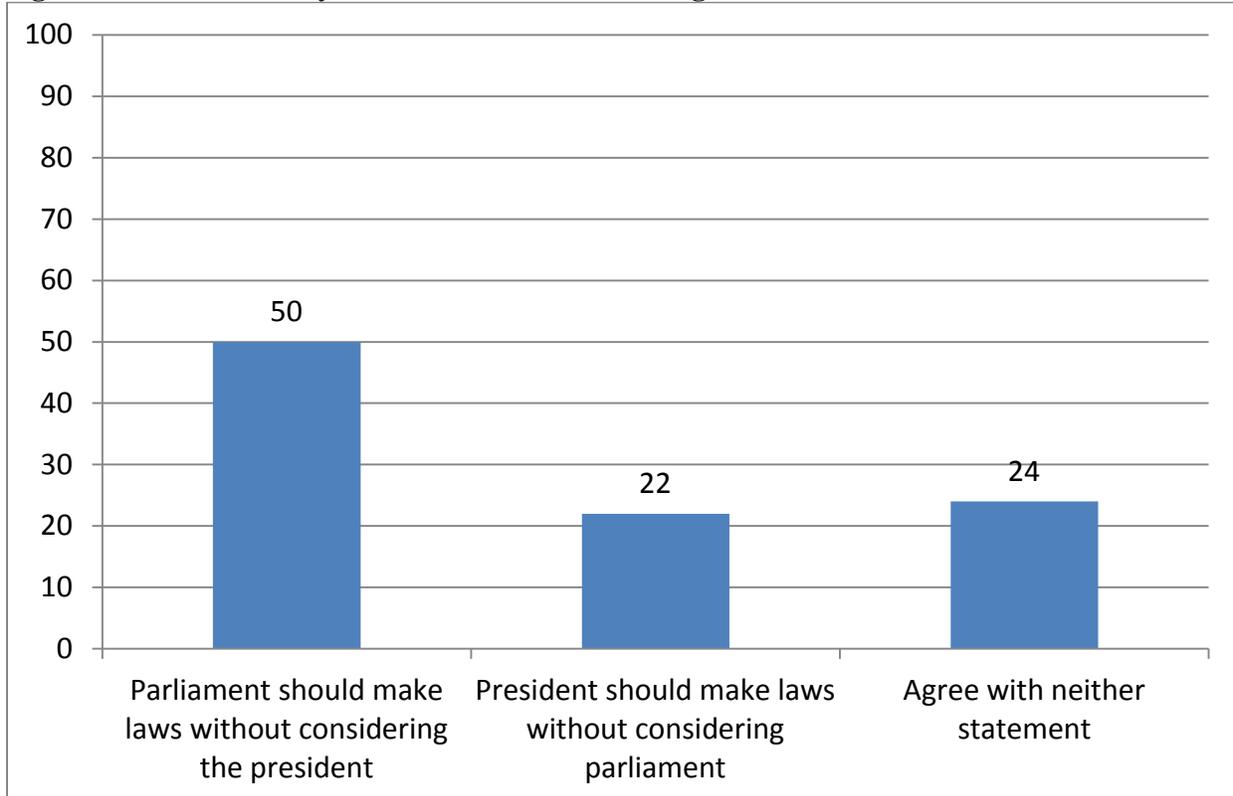
Statement 1: Opposition parties should regularly examine and criticize government policies and actions. (% Agree or agree strongly)

Statement 2: Opposition parties should concentrate on cooperating with government and helping it develop the country. (% Agree or agree strongly)

Mixed Opinions on the Relationship between the Parliament and the President in Lawmaking

Only half of the respondents (50%) think that the parliament should make laws irrespective of the president's agenda. On the other hand, 22% of respondents think that the president should make laws. It is important to note that 24% of respondents did not agree with either of these contrasting opinions.

Figure 3: Parliamentary v. Presidential Lawmaking



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

Statement 1: Members of Parliament represent the people; therefore they should make laws for this country, even if the President does not agree. (% Agree or agree strongly)

Statement 2: Since the President represents all of us, he should pass laws without worrying about what Parliament thinks. (% Agree or agree strongly)

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