

Survey Report on the Quality of Governance in Liberia 2018



**Liberia's Prime Democracy Advancement Institution Releases
Fifth Survey Report on Quality of Governance in Liberia**



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Summary of the Report

The Naymote Partners for Democratic Development releases the fifth survey report assessing citizens' perception on the quality of governance in Liberia.

Using a sample size of 3,185 (women 46% and 54% men) registered voters from across 46 electoral districts within the 15 counties participated in the survey.

54% of respondents were between ages 18-35, this means younger people mostly participated in the survey. 35% of respondents were business people, 30% were self-employed, 12% farmers, 10% government employees. 89% of the respondents were high school and college students.

64% of respondents think the country is going the wrong direction, 70% of the respondents describe the current economic condition in the country as poor, 74% of the respondents said they are satisfied with the way democracy is working in the country, 86% of the respondents said they do not approve the president appointing local leaders or chiefs in their district. The Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) is rated as the most trusted security agency in Liberia, as 61% of the respondents rated the AFL as the most trusted while 32% said they are fairly trusted.

The Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency is the least trusted security agency in Liberia as 72% of respondents don't trust the DEA.

Generally, respondents rated government performance in handling the economy as poor, job creation as poor, improving living standard of Liberians as poor, keeping prices stable as very poor, improving health services as poor, addressing educational needs of citizens as fair, fighting corruption as very poor while addressing infrastructural development/road was rated as fair, addressing youth needs as fair, addressing women needs as fair.

Introduction

1.0 Liberia's prime democracy advancement institution, Naymote Partners for Democratic Development, presents the results of the fifth survey designed to assess citizens' perception on the quality of governance in Liberia.

The results represent a survey conducted in 46 out of 73 electoral districts across Liberia's 15 counties. The survey considered the geographic, mobile coverage and economic condition of the respondents and targeted 3,200 registered voters as sample size of 2.1 million registered voters <http://necliberia.org/>. The survey was conducted from August 20 to October 25, 2018 using open and closed ended questionnaires by 5 enumerators.

1.2 Methodology

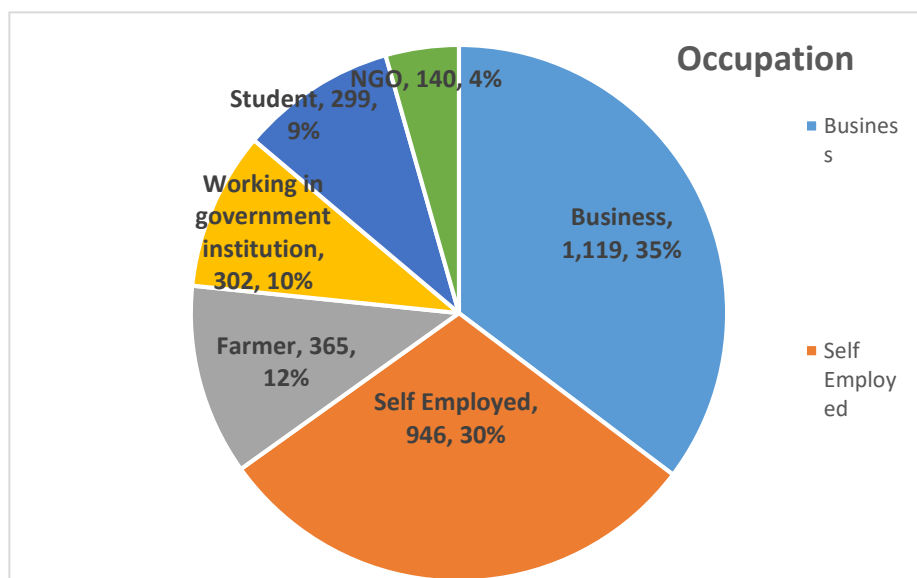
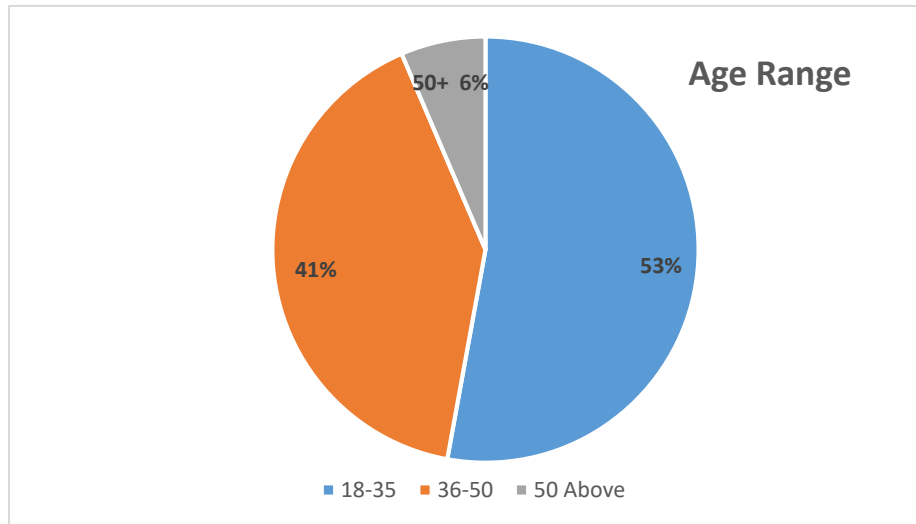
The survey was conducted using mobile phones and Google Form to collect and analyze the data collected from a phone bank of over 9,235 registered voters within 46 electoral districts across the 15 counties.

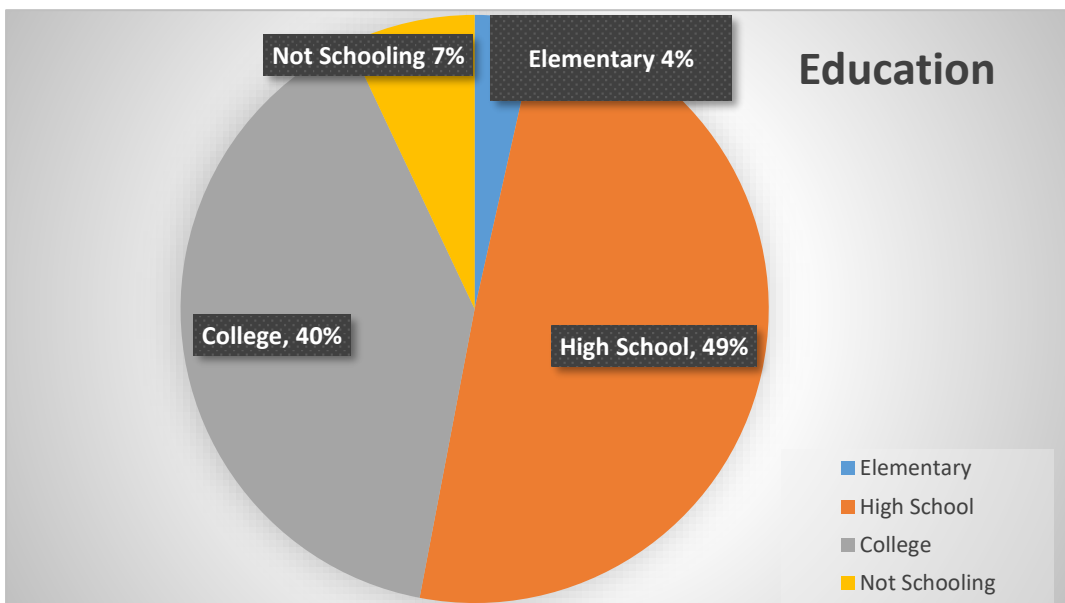
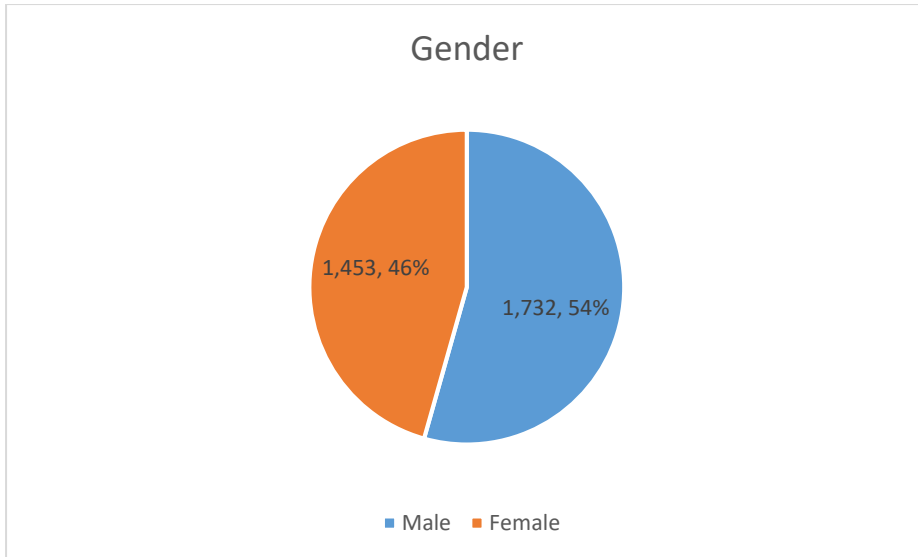
The 3,200 registered voters were randomly selected as respondents for the survey and five enumerators were trained in random sampling methodology to conduct the survey.

13 persons were interviewed per day each by the five enumerators and 70 respondents per electoral districts were targeted for the survey. Enumerators used mobile phones to collect and store the data using a google form to analyzed the data which was closely monitor by a data entry clerk and verified by a data supervisor weekly for accuracy.

Working with 2.1 million registered voters from the 2017 Presidential and Legislative Elections, a confidence level of 95% and a sample size of 3,200 registered voters were targeted for the survey with a margin error of 5%, however, **3,185 (54% males and 46% females)** were able to participate in the survey.

1.3 DEMOGRAPHICS





Respondents were taken from a wide range of occupations, including farmers, self-employed, NGOs, government employees, marketers, motorcyclist, community leaders, elders, students, business men and women, and professionals in other areas.

LIMITATIONS

The survey is generally a perception of what Liberians (registered voters) think about the quality of governance in Liberia and the issues they are concerned about. There are 2,183,629 registered voters in Liberia, as per the National Elections Commission, 2017 voter registration record spread across 73 electoral districts in the 15 counties.

However, the survey is a representation of registered voters in Liberia and does not represent the total of registered voters in Liberia.

Regardless of the few challenges faced by our enumerators in reaching respondents in hard to reach counties, the survey results is a good assessment of registered voter perception about governance in Liberia.

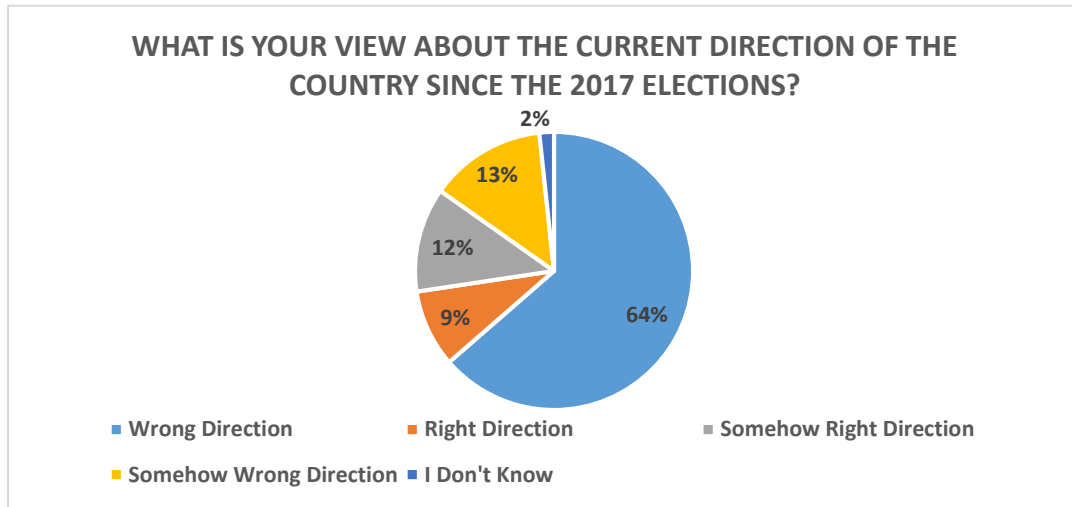
Total number of respondents per county, district and percentage

No.	Counties	# of district	Number of persons reached	Percentage
1	Montserrado	10	700	22%
2	Bong	5	350	11%
3	Margibi	4	280	9%
4	Bomi	2	140	4%
5	Nimba	6	420	13%
6	Grand Gedeh	2	140	4%
7	Grand Bassa	4	280	9%
8	Grand Cape Mount	2	140	4%
9	Lofa	3	210	7%
10	River Gee	1	70	2%
11	Grand Kru	2	110	4%
12	Maryland	2	135	4%
13	Sinoe	1	70	2%
14	Rivercess	1	70	2%
15	Gbarpolu	1	70	2%
GRAND TOTAL		46	3,185	100%

2.1 SURVEY RESPONSES

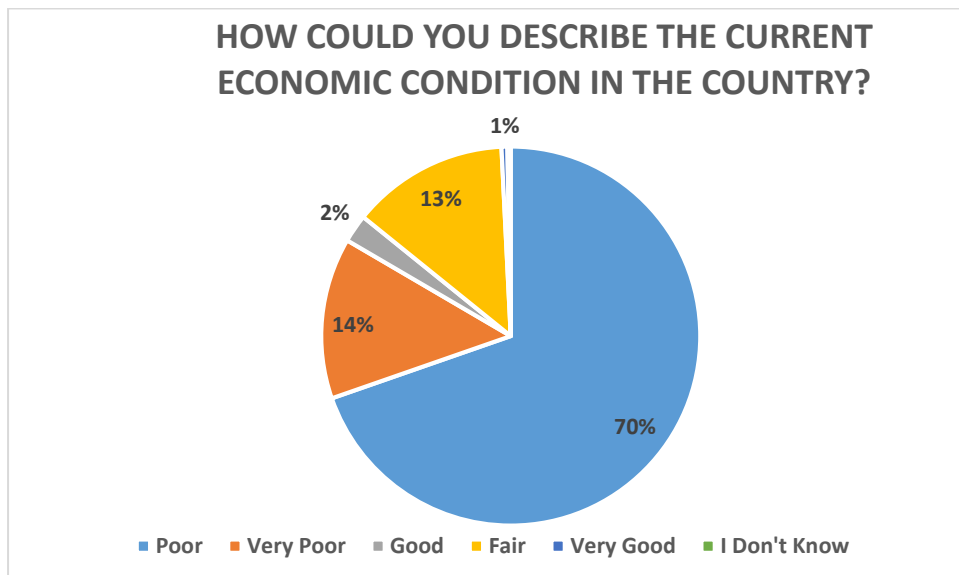
The survey considered number of key questions including citizens view about the current direction of the country, the current economic condition in the country, citizens view about democracy in Liberia. The survey also accessed the performance of elected officials, the government performance in handling key national issues, local government election, trust in the security agencies and the most important problems the government needs to address.

2.2 IN GENERAL, WHAT IS YOUR VIEW ABOUT THE CURRENT DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY SINCE THE 2017 ELECTIONS?



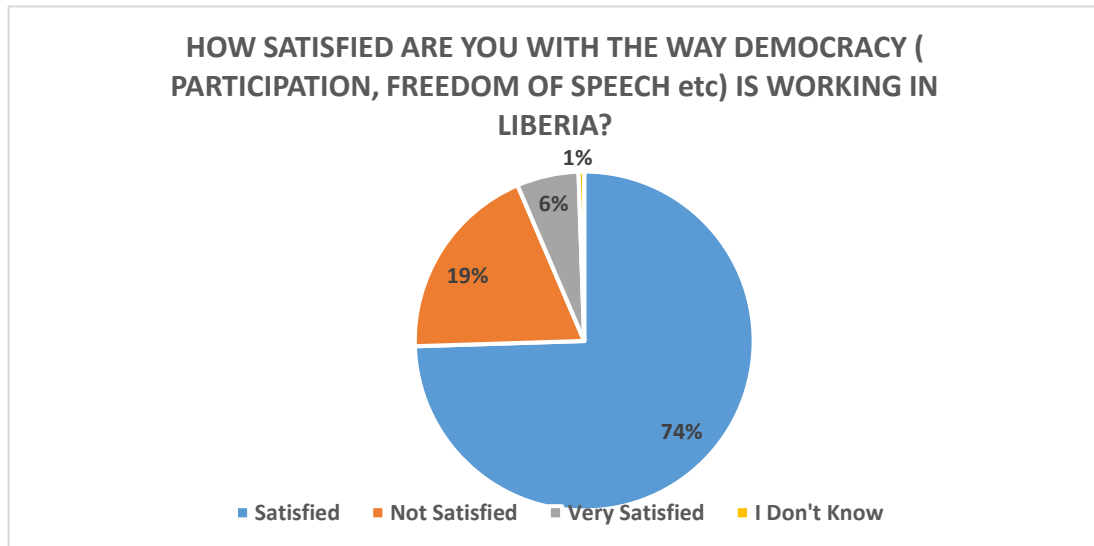
64% of respondents think the country is going the wrong direction, 13% said the country is somehow going in the wrong direction while 9% said right direction, 12% said the country is somehow going in the right direction, and 2% of the respondents said they don't know.

2.3 HOW COULD YOU DESCRIBE THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDITION IN THE COUNTRY?



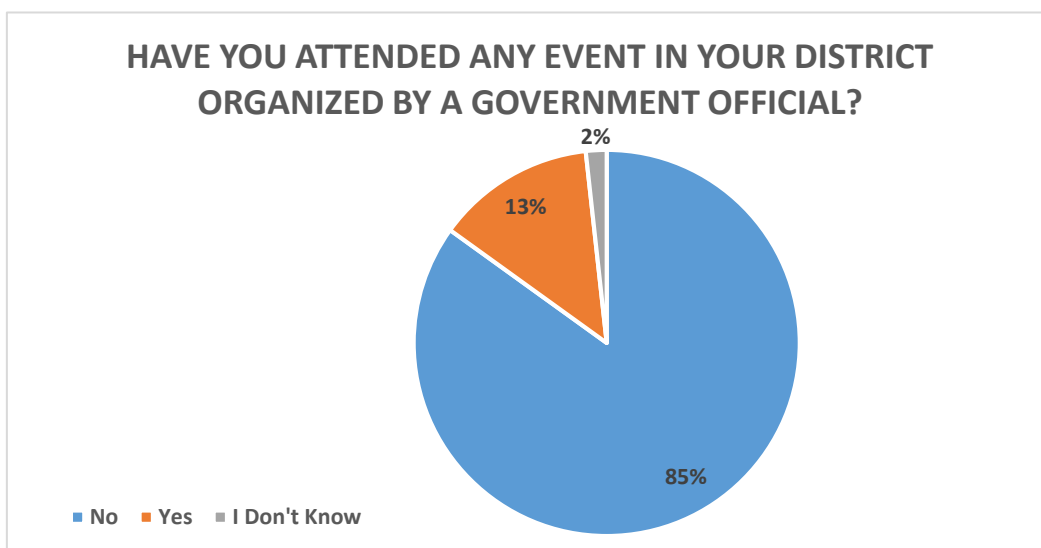
70% of the respondents describe the current economic condition in the country as poor, while 14% describe the current economic condition as very poor, 2% of the respondents describe the current economic condition in the country as Good, while 1% describe the current economic condition in the country as very good, 13% of the respondents describe the economic condition in the country as fair and 9% don't know.

3.0 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE WAY DEMOCRACY (PARTICIPATION, FREEDOM OF SPEECH etc) IS WORKING IN LIBERIA?



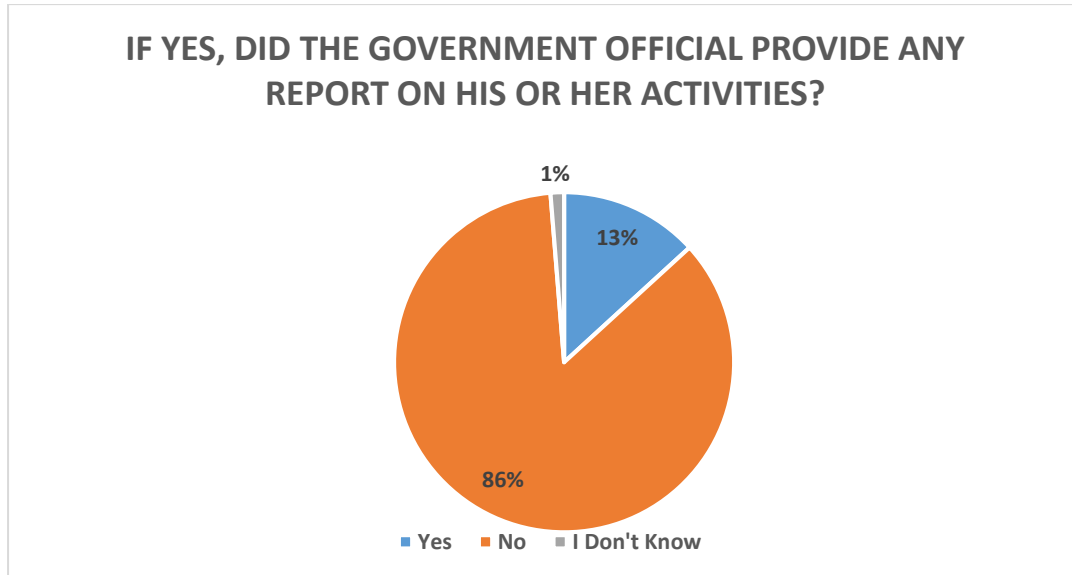
74% of the respondents said they are satisfied with the way democracy is working in the country, while 6% said they are very satisfied with the way democracy is working, 19% are not satisfied with the way democracy is working in the country, 1% said they don't know.

3.1 HAVE YOU ATTENDED ANY EVENT IN YOUR DISTRICT ORGANIZED BY A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL?



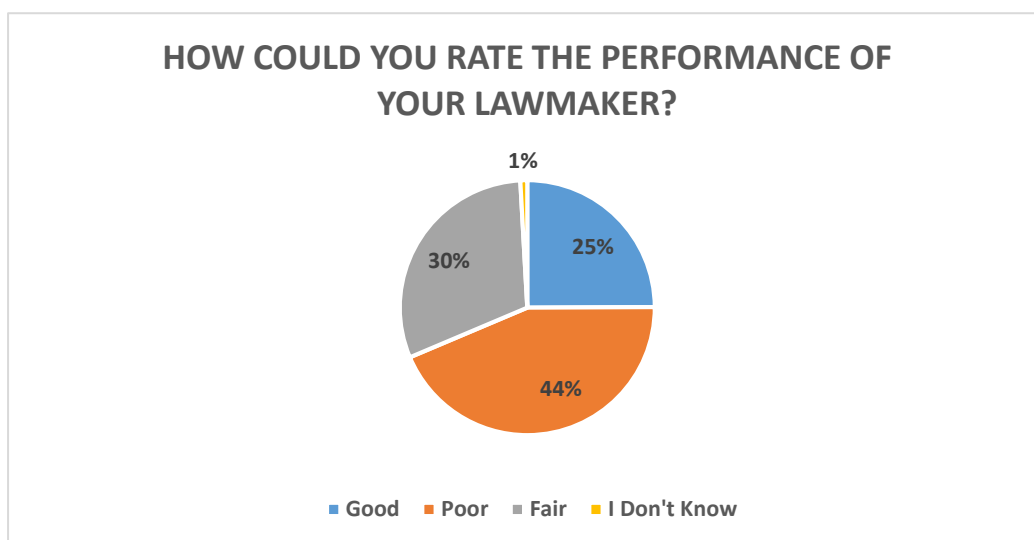
During the survey, 85% of the respondents stated that they have not attended any meeting organized by a government official while 13% have attended meeting organized by a government official and 2% don't know if they have attended meeting organized by a government official.

3.2 IF YES, DID THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL PROVIDE ANY REPORT ON HIS OR HER ACTIVITIES?



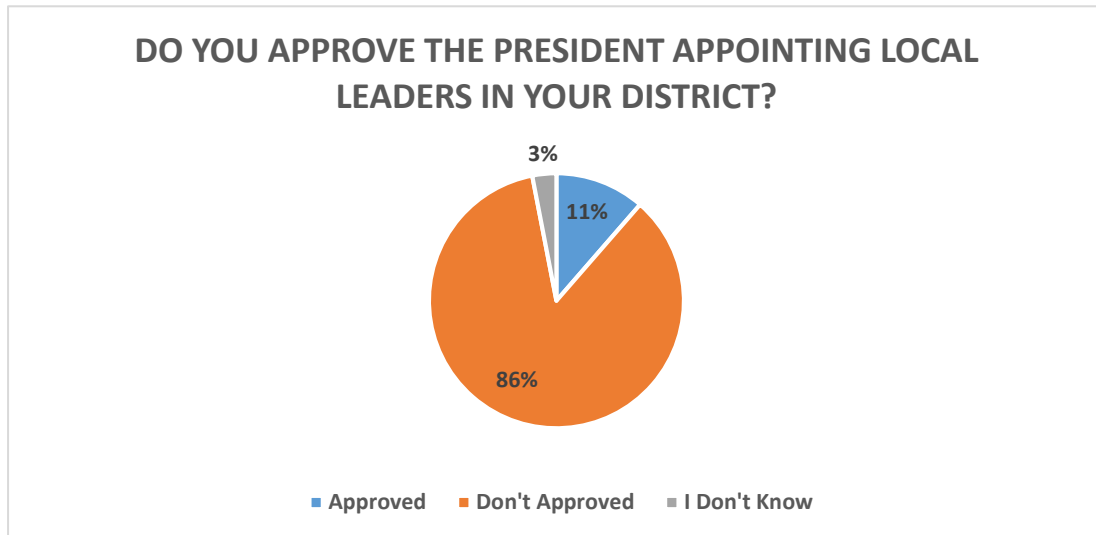
In response to a follow-up question, 13% said the government official provided a report on his or her activities, while 86% said they did not get a report from the government official activities and 1% don't know.

3.3 HOW COULD YOU RATE THE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR LAWMAKER?



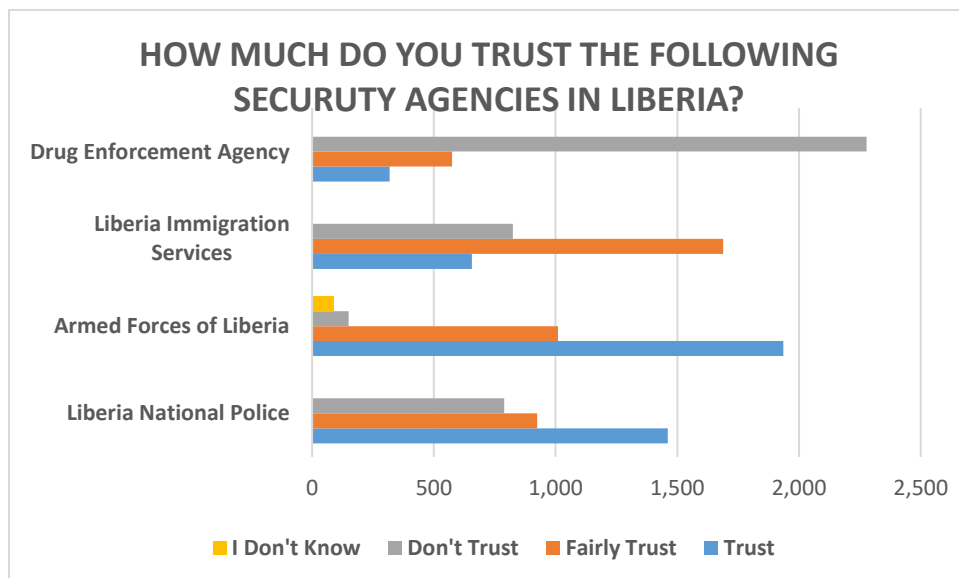
44% of respondents rated their lawmakers performance as poor, while 30% rated their lawmakers performance as fair and 25% rated lawmakers performance as good, while 1% said they don't know.

4.0 DO YOU APPROVE THE PRESIDENT APPOINTING LOCAL LEADERS IN YOUR DISTRICT?



86% of the respondents said they do not approve the president appointing local leaders or chiefs in their district while 11% said they approve the president appointing local leaders and 3% of the respondents said they don't know.

4.1 HOW MUCH DO YOU TRUST THE FOLLOWING SECURITY AGENCIES IN LIBERIA?



61% of the respondents said they trust the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), 32% said they fairly trust the AFL, while 4% don't trust and 3% said they don't know.

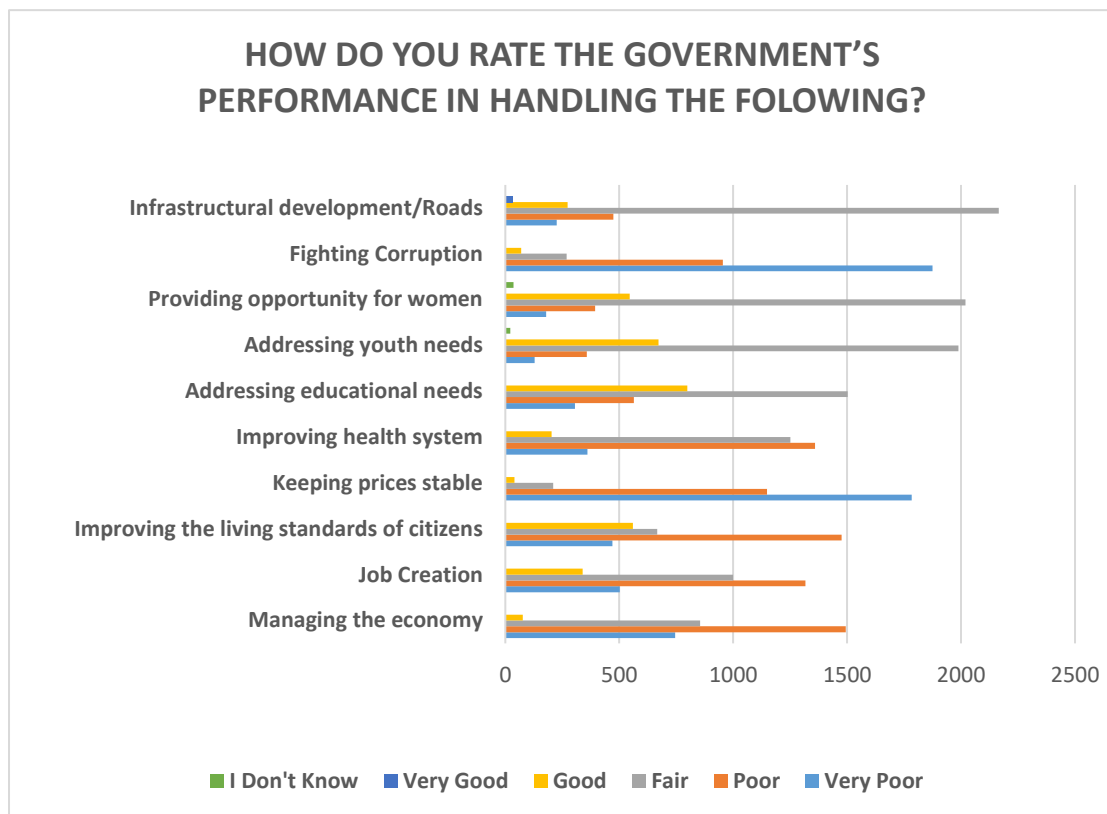
46% of respondents said they trust the Liberia National Police, 29% said they fairly trust the LNP while 25% said they don't trust the police.

21% of the respondents said they trust the Liberia Immigration Services, 53% of the respondents said they fairly trust the LIS and 26% of the respondents don't trust.

The Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency is the least trusted security agency in Liberia as 72% of respondents don't trust the DEA, while 18% fairly trust the DEA and 10% trust the Drug Enforcement Agency.

4.2 HOW DO YOU RATE THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN HANDLING THE FOLOWING?

Economy, Job Creation, Improving living standards of citizens, Keeping prices stable, Improving health services, Addressing educational needs, youth needs, providing opportunity for women, fighting corruption, roads and infrastructural development.



70% of the respondents rated the government performance in handling the economy as poor, 57% rated job creation as poor, 61% rated improving the living standards of citizens as poor, 92% rated keeping prices stable as very poor, 54% rated improving health services as poor, 47% of respondents rated addressing the educational needs as fair, addressing youth needs 62% of respondents rated fair.

64% of the respondents rated providing opportunities for women as fair, 89% of the respondents rated the government's performance in fighting corruption as very poor, while 68% of respondents rated infrastructural development and roads as fair.

4.3 WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS FACING THE COUNTRY THAT THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO PRIORITIZED?

Respondents identified the economy as first priority that the government must address follow by health care, education, infrastructure development/road and unemployment.

Conclusion

The results of this survey reflect the perception of the respondents. It has no views, choices or perception of the enumerators or the management of our institution or the supporting institution the National Endowment for Democracy. This is simply an exercise organized to assess citizens' perception on the quality of governance in Liberia. The institution strongly believes that this report will help strengthen democratic governance and public service in Liberia. The results is intended to assist stakeholders to make better decision about governance in Liberia especially after the first peaceful and democratic transition of power in 73 years.

Recommendation

The government need to improve on information sharing to citizens about happening in government especially in rural communities, be more responsive, accountable and accessible to the needs of citizens,

Government should develop programs and projects to improve the living standards of citizens, provide better/quality health care and education, etc.

About NAYMOTE

The institution was established in 2001 by student's leaders and activists and has been one of the leading national institution promoting democratic governance, peacebuilding and civic engagement in Liberia. The institution is a member of the World Movement for Democracy, the World Youth Movement for Democracy, the African Movement for Democracy and the National Civil Society Council of Liberia. The survey was undertaken with technical support from the Center for Democratic Governance through a grant support from the National Endowment for Democracy.

For more information about the survey please contact info@naymote.com or +231770510479.

The project is supported through grant from the National Endowment for Democracy.

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is a private, nonprofit foundation dedicated to the growth and strengthening of democratic institutions around the world. Each year, NED makes more than 1,600 grants to support the projects of non-governmental groups abroad who are working for democratic goals in more than 90 countries.