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12/3 "The Instrumental versus the Symbolic: Investigating Members' Participation in Civil Society Networks in Tanzania" Kenny Manara

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12/1 'The Growth of Micro and Small, Cluster Based Furniture Manufacturing Firms and their Implications for Poverty Reduction in Tanzania' By Edwin Paul Maede

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12/2 The Instrumental versus the Symbolic: Investigating Members' Participation in Civil Society Networks in Tanzania By Kenny Manara

12/1 The Governance of the Capitation Grant in Primary Education in Tanzania: Why Civic Engagement and School Autonomy Matter. By Kenny Manara and Stephen Mwombela

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Afrobarometer: the 1st phase of dissemination of findings from Views of the people.



2012 marked the first and seventh anniversary of the implementation of Tanzania's Five Year Development Plan and the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty, two related documents designed to steer and accelerate attainment of the country's vision 2025. A nationally representative public opinion survey was conducted between May and June 2012 to solicit and consolidate view of Tanzanians on progress using among others a series of nationally agreed indicators as the framework of analysis. Results presented below are organized in three broad themes reflecting the essence of the two national blueprints for development and reduction of poverty. These are the effectiveness of government, public service delivery, and, livelihoods and the macroeconomy.

About the Afrobarometer

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 5 rounds of surveys have been conducted since 1999.

The Afrobarometer is managed by the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) in collaboration with Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDASA), South Africa, Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi, Kenya, Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IREEP), Benin.

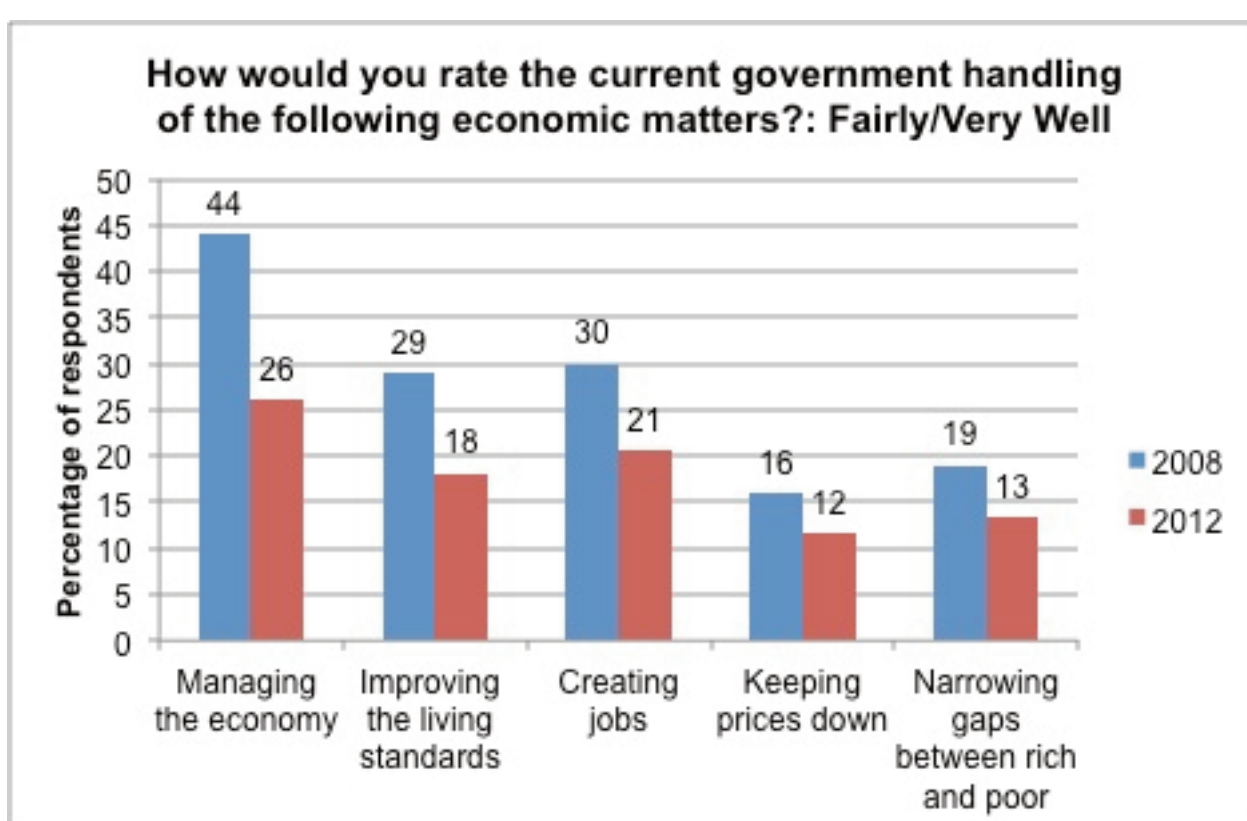
Field work for Round Five was conducted in Tanzania in May and June 2012. The survey interviewed 2400 adult Tanzanians, and a sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/- 2% at a 95% confidence level.

Findings

Effectiveness of Government

Conceptualization of the above captures perceptions on the role, function and execution of government duties related to the quality of the civil service, the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies.

On average, there were more people (both in relative and absolute terms) in 2012 than in 2008 who deemed the government to have underperformed in handling the economy. Closer scrutiny of popular assessments of government performance on economy reveals a mixed assessment of the government.

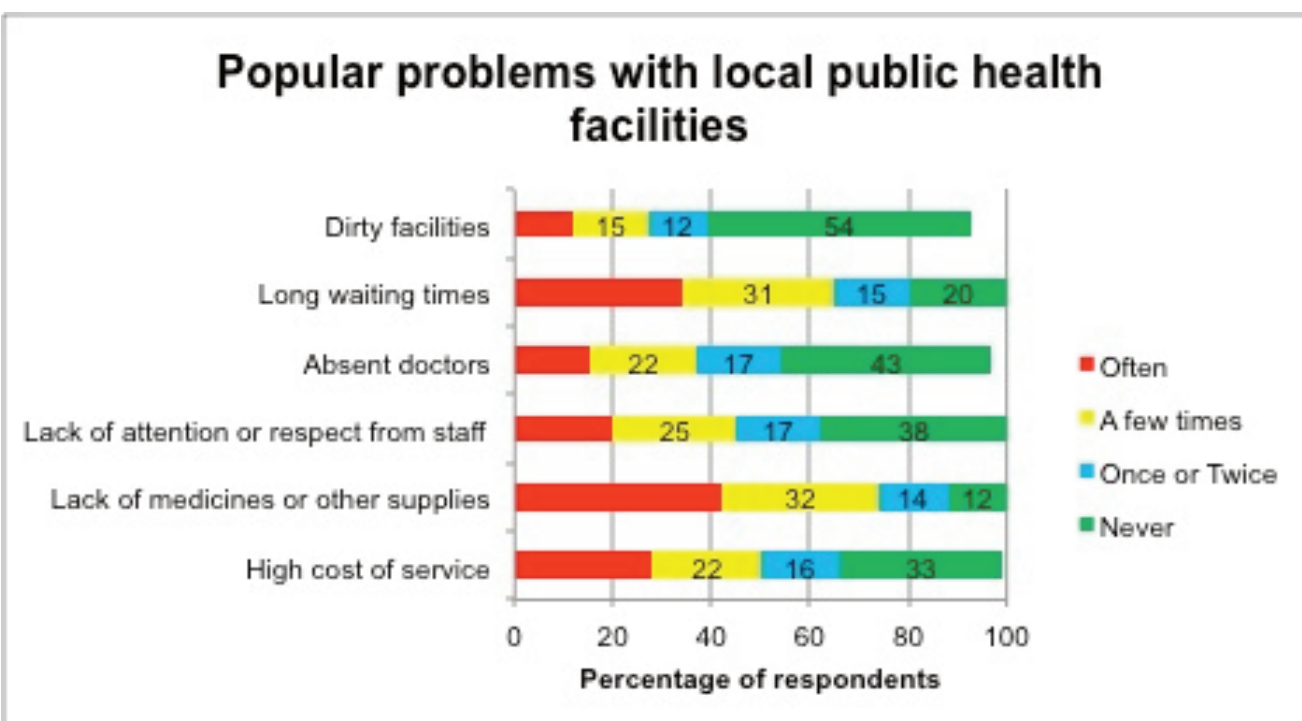


Evidence from round five of the survey suggest a sustained prevalence of problems afflicting the country at large with list of most important problems remaining largely unchanged from round 4 of the survey in 2008. The economy and food shortages notwithstanding, the importance of social services in underlining faith in the government is more pronounced with the recurrence of shortfalls in the services in the list of most important areas in dire need of attention.

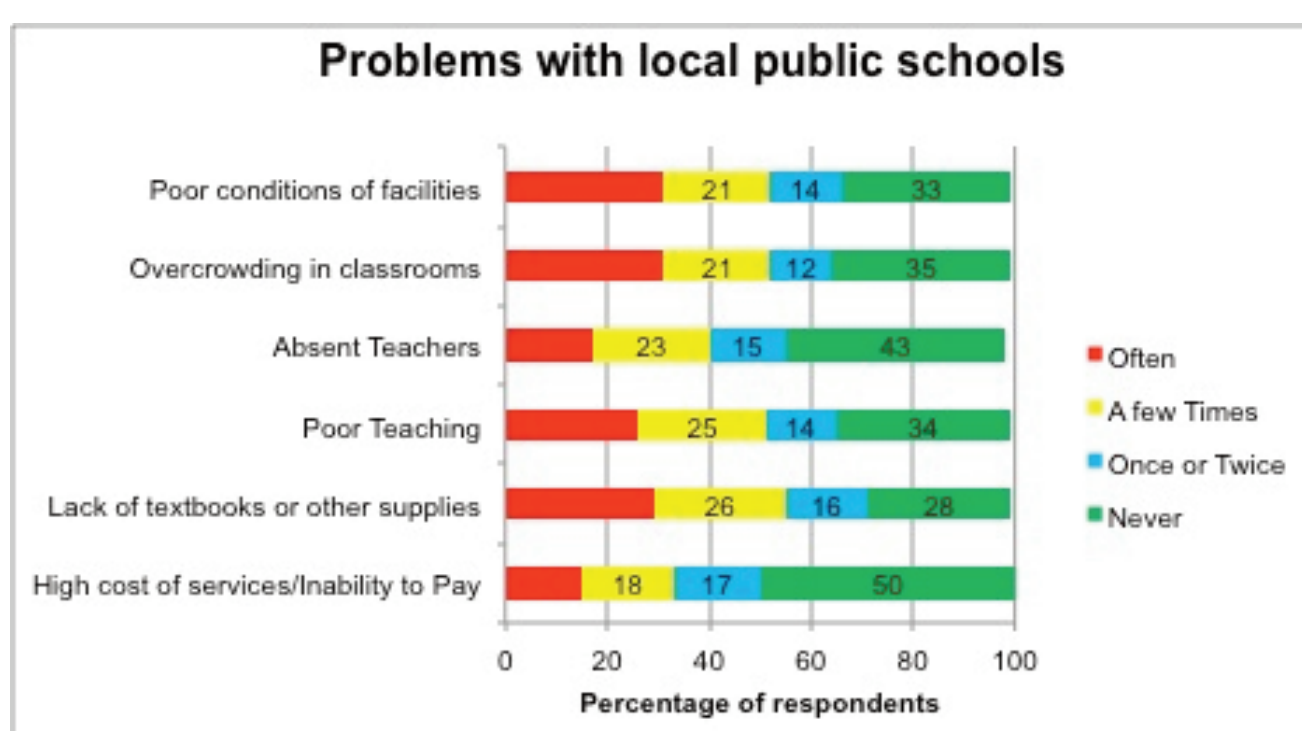
In sum, the composite assessment of the government's performance notwithstanding, the 2012 survey yields more negative responses and fewer corresponding positive ones in almost all aspects of government conduct compared to 2008. In spite of an adverse evaluation of government performance, Tanzanians remain optimistic on the government delivering on key problems afflicting them within the next five years. Introduced for the first in this year's survey, when asked about the likelihood of the central government solving the most important problems, two thirds (66 percent) of respondents remain confident on the government's likelihood to solve them, compared to less than 1 in 10 who remained overly pessimistic on the government's ability to deliver.

Public Service Delivery

Diseases, ignorance and poverty have since independence remained the primary preoccupation of Tanzania's development space. To this end various interventions have been instituted to address the interlinked social ills afflicting the country.



At the national level, about 8 percent of adults reported that their children had received free food when attending school, an observation that corroborates the success of the programme in incentivizing enrolment in public schools.



In recent years, however, analytical prisms in public education in Tanzania have shifted from focusing on numbers to focusing on quality. With 66 percent of adults complaining at least once about the quality of teaching in public primary schools, this year's survey provides ample grounds for a critical rethink of performance enhancing strategies in Tanzania.

Livelihoods and the Macroeconomy

Livelihoods are the essentials of daily welfare. Comparison of perceptions between this year's survey and round 4 of the survey in 2008, reveals overall general adverse assessment of personal living conditions. Not surprisingly as almost two thirds (64 percent) of all adult Tanzanians did not have a job that paid them a wage compared to 56 percent in 2008.

finally, in both 2012 and 2008, more than half (53 and 54 percent respectively) of all adults claimed to have gone without enough food to eat at least once in the preceding 12 months.

More results and information on the Afrobarometer can be found at www.afrobarometer.org