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SÜDAFRIKA

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Value change in post-apartheid South Africa

The latest results of the World Value Survey South Africa 2013 provide a comprehensive insight into the public perception of the South African democracy. Against this background, Prof. Hennie Kotzé from Stellenbosch University presented the results during a breakfast briefing, jointly held by the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL Commission) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation (KAS) South Africa. The following question- and answer session reflected the different values and interests held by the participants. Despite their differing values, it was commonly acknowledged that the South African constitution forms the bedrock of the young democracy, as well as the framework for discussion. Thus, the preservation and strengthening of the constitution would serve as a prerequisite in uniting the nation in the diversity of its people.



f.l.t.r. Mr. Schoeman, CRL Rights Commission; Dr. Dix, KAS Resident Representative South Africa; Prof. Mosona, CRL Rights Commission; Prof. Kotzé, Stellenbosch University; Dr. Knoetze, Secunda

In his opening remarks, Prof. Mosona, deputy president of the CRL Rights Commission, highlighted the meaning of civil society for South Africa's democratic transition process. In so doing, he identified the missing discourse between government and civil society as a weak link for democracy. "Consequently, the discussion of the survey results with representatives from Chapter 9 Institutions, churches, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) could contribute significantly to the protection and promotion of cultural, religious, and linguistic rights".



Prof. Mosona, deputy president of the CRL Rights Commission

The value of civil society as a mainstay of democracy was also stressed by Dr. Dix, KAS Resident Representative South Africa. He referred to the role of KAS as a liaison between government and civil society. „As guests in South Africa and together with our partners, we do support the democratisation of the country through the support of civil society dialogue“. Dr. Dix amplified that the interests and needs of all South Africans shall be considered. The examination and discussion of the survey results would thus allow implementing the findings into the political process, independent from political influence.

World Value Survey South Africa

„The census of 3531 representatives from the South African public unfolds a growing discrepancy between government and civil society“, accentuated Prof. Kotzé. Characteristic thereof is an increasing dissatisfaction with the state of

democracy¹, while trust in political institutions recedes. In contrast, civil society organisations enjoy growing trust. “They thus play a crucial role in the democratic transition, although their democratic function has largely been neglected so far”, emphasised Prof. Kotzé.



Presentation on the results of the World Value Survey South Africa 2013 by Prof. Kotzé

Prof. Kotzé highlighted that the satisfaction with the state of democracy directly relates to the underlying understanding of democracy. The South African elite in particular perceive democratic values of freedom and equality as being immanent in the constitution. From this perspective, democracy is an end in itself, which is opposed to the perception of democracy as an instrumental value. In this vein, the majority of South Africans regard democracy as a tool to achieve value based aims; among others gender equality, poverty reduction, or the creation of employment. Due to the fact that policy making is related to social values, the aforementioned divergence limits the effectiveness of democratic transformation. As a result, the desire among the South African populace for a strong political leader increased about 24 percent in comparison to the survey results of 2006. “The public perception of the South African democracy is troubling; the democratic transformation process is stagnating”, noted Prof. Kotzé.

Against this background, it was paramount to foster the dialogue between civil society and government representatives, accentuated Renier

Schoeman from the CRL Rights Commission and moderator of the briefing. „Only if the divergent values are united in the common democratic interest, policy implementations may bear fruit to the benefit of all actors involved“. Despite differing private virtues, survey results reveal that the majority of South Africans perceive the constitution as fundamental for democratic stability². Therefore, constitutional values need to be strengthened in order to reach a common ground for debate and for the identification of public virtues. It was thus highlighted that representatives from the Chapter 9 institutions are in particular well positioned to move forward the debate. In conclusion, Prof. Kotzé highlighted that the engagement of civil society organisations with government institutions could contribute significantly to the mediation of differing interests, as well as to the rapprochement of different actors.

¹ cf. Figure 1

² cf. Figure 2

Appendix³

S Satisfaction with democracy

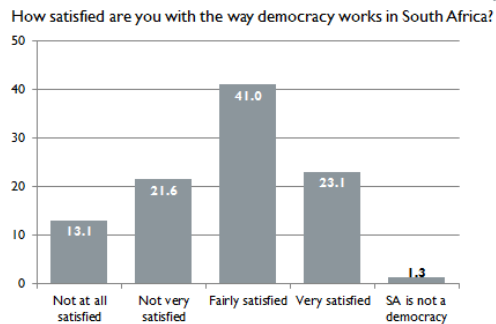


Figure 1: Satisfaction with democracy

S Importance of constitution

How important is our constitution for the stability of democracy in South Africa? Where would you place your views on this scale, where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "absolutely important"?

	TOTAL	White		Coloured		Black	Indian
		Afrikaans	Other	Afrikaans	Other	All	All
Mean	7.37	7.04	7.37	7.24	7.24	7.38	8.15
Median	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	8.00
Standard deviation	2.008	1.989	2.141	1.903	2.401	1.968	1.730

Figure 2: Importance of the South African constitution for democratic stability

S Background to the survey

- The World Values Survey (WVS) is a world- wide investigation of **socio-cultural and political change** and explores values relating to family, gender, work, politics, economics, religion and leisure time
- The **South African** leg of this survey is administered by the Centre for International and Comparative Politics, Stellenbosch University
- The South African WVS has been conducted in **1981, 1990, 1995, 2001, 2006 and 2013**, offering the opportunity to assess **changing values over time**
- Implementation of this research around the world allows for **global cross-cultural analysis**

Figure 3: Background information to the World Value Survey South Africa 2013

S Methodology

- Probability samples drawn from SA population 16 years and older
- Sample stratified into homogenous sub-groups by province, gender, population groups and community size
- Number of respondents: 1990=2736; 1995=2899; 2001=3000; 2006=3000; 2013= 3531
- Surveys conducted in 6 languages: English, Afrikaans, Zulu, Sotho, Tswana and Xhosa
- Structured face-to-face interviews
- Representative of the adult population of South Africa, within a statistical margin of error (of less than 2%) at 95% confidence level

Figure 4: Methodological background

³ Selected presentation slides made available with the kind support of Prof. Hennie Kotzé.
 Taken from: WORLD VALUES SURVEY Wave 6
 2010-2014 OFFICIAL AGGREGATE World Values Survey Association (www.worldvaluessurvey.org).