Opinion Leaders' Panel 2008

Wave 9 Report

Research Study Conducted for
Government of Trinidad & Tobago

Fieldwork: 16 December 2007 – 21 January 2008

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background and objectives

The Opinion Leaders' Panel was established as part of the programme for Modernising Government in Trinidad & Tobago. The purpose of this research is to provide evidence about the views of citizens of Trinidad & Tobago as a basis for informed decision making, policy formulation and implementation with respect to public service delivery.

This volume contains the report from Wave 9 of the Opinion Leaders' Panel. This survey was conducted by MORI with HHB & Associates on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.

1.2. Methodology

Respondents were randomly sampled from the database of Opinion Leaders' Panel. In total, 983 Panel members were successfully interviewed for Wave 9 out of a sample of 1,121 who were contacted or attempt was made for contact. The response rate was therefore 88%.

All interviews were conducted face-to-face, in home, between 16 December 2007 and 21 January 2008.

The data have been weighted by age, ethnicity, gender and regional corporation to the 2000 census data. Weighting for work status of respondents was derived from an analysis of the most recent labour force survey data. In addition, because respondents were asked whether they had voted in the 2007 General Elections, the data was also weighted to the actual turnout at the elections.

In addition, four focus groups were conducted between 6th – 8th December 2007 across Trinidad, with a range of people from different ages and backgrounds.

1.3. Comparative data

Throughout this report, comparisons have been made with results from previous waves of the Opinion Leaders' Panel research. Fieldwork for these waves were conducted on the following dates:

Wave 1, 15 July – 29 August 2002 (base size 2,747)

Wave 2, 28 June – 16 July 2003 (base size 693)

Wave 3, 6 – 22 December 2003 (base size 700)

Wave 4, 17 July – 6 August 2004 (base size 710)

Wave 5, 29 January – 1 April 2005 (base size 2,426)

Wave 6, 22 July – 8 August 2005 (base size 687)

Wave 7, 31 May – 15 July 2007 (base 2,540)

Wave 8, 23 – 27 August 2007 (base 948, by telephone)

In addition, data from two other surveys have been used to make comparisons, where applicable. The details for these surveys are set out below:

i. MORI (UK) survey for The Electoral Commission among UK adults in 2001 (post 2001 UK General Election)
ii. MORI (Caribbean) survey among six English-speaking Caribbean nations in March-April 2007

1.4. Area combinations

Reference is made in this report to different areas of the country, which have been classified as follows:

i. **North** (Port of Spain and Diego Martin)

ii. **South** (San Fernando, Point Fortin, Princes Town, Penal/Debe and Siparia);

iii. **East** (Arima, San Juan/Laventille, Tunapuna/Piarco, Rio Claro/Mayaro and Sangre Grande);

iv. **Central** (Chaguanas and Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo); and

v. **Tobago**.

1.5. Presentation and interpretation of the data

This study is based on interviews conducted on a representative sample of the adult population of Trinidad & Tobago. All results are therefore subject to sampling tolerances, which means that not all differences are statistically significant. In general, results based on the full sample are subject to a confidence interval of ± 3 percentage points. A guide to statistical reliability is appended.

Where percentages do not sum to 100, this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of "don't know" categories, or multiple answers. Throughout the

volume, an asterisk (*) denotes any value less than half a per cent but greater than zero.

In the report, reference is made to "net" figures. This represents the balance of opinion on attitudinal questions, and provides a particularly useful means of comparing the results for a number of variables. In the case of a "net satisfaction" figure, this represents the percentage satisfied on a particular issue or service less the percentage dissatisfied. For example, if a service records 40% satisfied and 25% dissatisfied, the "net satisfaction" figure is +15 points.

In several places where identical questions were given to respondents in the baseline survey, or subsequent samples, and repeated in this ninth Wave a calculation of 'swing' is offered to indicate the change over time, comparing the attitudes of the Trinidad and Tobago public this Wave against previous Waves.. Swing is calculated by measuring the net positive (negative) response then and comparing it to the net positive (negative) score now, taking the sum and dividing it by two. This figure represents the number of people (in the aggregate) out of 100 who have changed their view over the two points in time.

It is also worth emphasising that the survey deals with citizens' ***perceptions*** at the time the survey was conducted **rather than with facts,** and that these perceptions may not accurately reflect the level of services actually being delivered.

1.5. Acknowledgements

MORI would like to thank Senator Conrad Enill, Minister; Mr Kennedy Sarawatsingh, Minister; Ms Arlene McComie, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Public Administration and their colleagues; Ms Gillian Macintyre, Ms Donna Ferraz, Ms Ingrid Ryan Ruben and Ms Coreen Joseph; the Central Statistical Office; Kim Bayley at Caribbean Market Research; and Louis Bertrand and the team at HHB & Associates for their help in executing this project. In particular, we would like to thank all the 983 citizens of Trinidad & Tobago who gave up their time to take part in this survey and to tell us their views.

1.6. Publication of data

As the Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago has engaged MORI Caribbean to undertake an objective programme of research, it is important to protect the interests of both organisations by ensuring that it is accurately reflected in any press release or publication of findings. As part of our standard Terms and Conditions of Contract, the publication of the findings of this research is therefore subject to advance approval of MORI Caribbean. Such approval will only be refused on the grounds of inaccuracy or misrepresentation.

2. Executive Summary

Happiness

- The vast majority of the public is happy with their lives at the moment (81%), which is similar to the level recorded in December 2003 (86%).

Running of the Country

- The proportion of the public satisfied with the way the Government is running the country has increased marginally since the General Election (up 5 points) and dissatisfaction has decreased (down 9 points). Even so, more people remain dissatisfied (54%) than satisfied (35%).

- The level of satisfaction with the performance of the Government in Trinidad and Tobago is similar to that observed in five other English-speaking Caribbean nations in which MORI Caribbean conducted research in 2007. Each of the following had satisfaction levels of 37% plus or minus 2%: St Kitts, St Lucia, Antigua, Dominica and Grenada. The outlier country is St Vincent where more than half the public (54%) were satisfied with their Government's performance.

- Key Drivers' Analysis of satisfaction with the Government in Trinidad and Tobago shows that the two most important attitudes that correlate with being satisfied with the Government are 'having confidence in the Prime Minister' and 'believing that it is likely that Vision 2020 will be achieved'.

- "Electricity", "education", "housing", "pensions" and "sport" are the five top-rated areas of government activity (out of a list of 28) in terms of public approval. For each of these areas, two-thirds or more of the public say the government is doing a good job. The public is divided on whether the government is doing a good or poor job on "water", the "financial sector" and "HIV/Aids" with as many people rating it positively as negatively.

- On seven (7) of the twenty-eight (28) areas of government activity, more than half the public consider the government to be doing a poor job as follows: "family life" (60%), "health" (63%), "agriculture" (63%), "wages" (67%), "drainage" (69%), "national security" (75%) and "food security" (77%).

- It is also worth highlighting that the proportion of respondents who said that the government was doing a poor job outweighed the proportion who indicated that government was doing a good job for both "public sector reform" (46% vs. 28%) and "local government reform" (46% vs. 27%).

- Two-thirds of the public hold the view that the system of governing Trinidad and Tobago could be improved quite a lot or a great deal. This is higher than in any of the other six Caribbean comparator countries where this question was asked (though in all countries around a half or more people think the same).

Constitutional Reform

- Half the public (51%) have heard at least a fair amount about discussions to change the country's Constitution. Over a quarter of the public (27%) strongly support the need to change the Constitution, compared with 7% who are strongly against. A further one in five people (20%) are generally opposed but say they could be persuaded to be in favour, if they thought it was good for the country, and one in four persons (25%) are generally in favour but could be persuaded against if they thought it was bad for the country. Just six percent of the respondents say they do not care whether the Constitution is changed or not.

Confidence in Key Institutions

- The institutions enjoying the highest levels of public confidence are the Church (79% have a great deal or some confidence) and media institutions: radio (74%), television (71%) and newspapers (65%). Banks are also highly regarded (69%). The institutions with the lowest levels of public confidence include Parliament (41%), the Police Service (40%) and political parties (36%).

- Confidence in institutions in Trinidad & Tobago are generally similar to the average confidence obtained for the six other Caribbean nations where the same question was asked in 2007. For three institutions, public confidence is higher in Trinidad & Tobago than the average of the other Caribbean nations: radio, newspapers and the Prime Minister. In contrast, fewer people in Trinidad & Tobago have confidence in the police than is evidenced in the other Caribbean nations.

Judges

- Half the public (51%) has confidence in Judges. This places them at mid-point in a league table of 22 different institutions of state as measured by levels of public confidence in each of them. The most popular description people select of Judges is that they are "knowledgeable about the law" (39%), but the next two most frequently selected descriptions are negative: "corrupt" and "slow" (both 33%). Relatively few people would say Judges are "impartial" (12%). Currently almost twice as many people disagree (57%) than agree (31%) that "all citizens are assured of fair and equal justice in Trinidad & Tobago".

Vision 2020

- More people have heard about Vision 2020 than ever before. Three in every four persons said that they had heard a fair amount or a great deal. Since the last wave of the Panel in August 2007, there has been no change in the level of public confidence that Vision 2020 will be achieved: 51% think it is likely/certain to and 42% think it is unlikely/certain not to. In the first half of 2003, when this question was first asked, twice as many people were confident about the country achieving Vision 2020 than not achieving it (63% vs. 30%).

- Key Drivers of confidence in Vision 2020 are: being satisfied with the performance of the Government, believing that people are "assured of free and equal justice" and having confidence in the Prime Minister.

The Election and Political Engagement

- Turnout at the 2007 General Election was higher among women (70%) than men (63%); middle class people (70%) than working class people (64%); and Indo-Trinidadians (74%) than Afro-Trinidadians (64%) or Other/Mixed ethnicities (53%). The biggest difference in turnout was by age with just over half of 18-24 year olds voting (51%) compared with four in five over 55 year olds (79%).

- The main reasons people give for voting are: that it is their "civic right/duty to vote" (29%); that they "wanted a change of government" (24%); and that they wanted to "improve the country" (17%).

- Most people were interested in news about the election (72%) and on balance people have a positive image of the campaign, though as many people say it was "confrontational" (31%) as was "informative" (30%). Many more people also think the election was "fought by the parties attacking the policies and candidates of other parties" (56%) than believed it was about "the parties putting forward their own policies and candidates" (16%).

- More than two in five people say they received too little information about "candidates in my constituency" (45%) or the "policies of the parties" (42%). Fewer feel they received too little information on the "parties' campaigns nationally" (29%) or on the "party leaders" (31%). Almost three-quarters of the public agree that "it is important to vote" (72%) even though turnout was 66% in the election. Two in five people say "there was very little difference between what the main parties were offering" (41%); and three in ten agree that "none of the parties stood for the policies I would like to see" (31%) or that "voting would not make much of a difference" (32%).

- There is little support among non-voters for changing the mechanisms of the voting process, such as voting at weekends or voting by post, as a way of encouraging them to vote. Voters and non-voters also reject the idea of putting a "none of the above" option on ballot papers as a means to allow people to vote but not for a candidate or party. When asked what could be done to increase turnout the three most popular responses are for "politicians to provide for people's needs outside of elections" (18%), for "successful political parties to keep their promises" (12%) and for "greater interaction between candidates/MPs and the electorate" (7%).

- Reflecting the extent to which people were exposed to different ways of campaigning, the public says the channels which had most effect on their decision on election day were "election coverage on TV" (45% say this influenced them a great deal or a fair amount), "views of family and friends" (44%), "party political ads on TV" (40%), "election coverage in newspapers" (40%), "party political advertisements in newspapers" (39%) and "election coverage on the radio" (39%). Fewer people say they were influenced by "personal visits from the parties" (21%), "election coverage on the Internet" (11%) or "telephone calls from the parties" (9%).

Serving the Public Interest

- Two-thirds of public (64%) believe that MPs put their own interests first, ahead of their party's (15%), the country's (11%) or their constituents' (4%). The vast majority of people want MPs to put the interests of the country first (78%). Two-thirds of the public think that Senior Public Officials put their own interests first (43%) or that of their friends' and relatives' (23%) when advising Government Ministers. Just 13% of the public are of the view that officials put the country's interests first, while almost everyone (93%) says that officials should put the country first.

Accountability

- There is wide agreement (67%) that officials should be able to give advice to Ministers without fear that it will become public knowledge. More people agree that Ministers should decide whether their official advice is given to the media (51%) than agree that the decision should be taken by the official (36%).

Promotion in the Senior Public Service

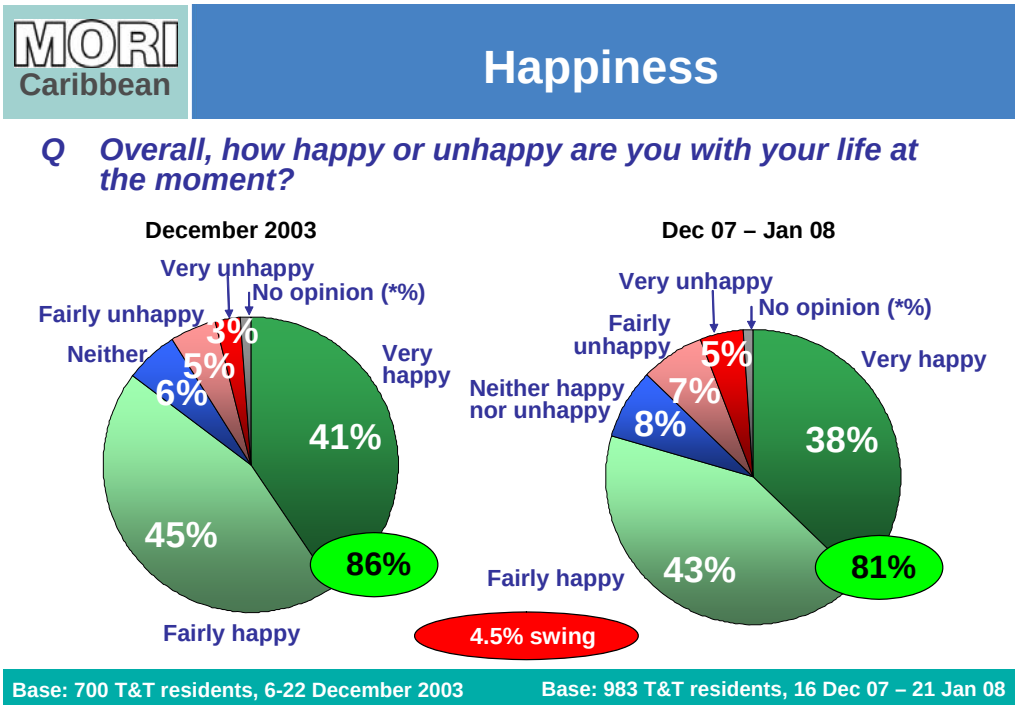
- The public thinks that promotion in the Public Service should be based mainly on how well an individual can do the job (67% select this). Only six percent think promotion should be based mainly on length of service.

3. Happiness

3.1. Happiness

The vast majority of adults living in Trinidad and Tobago say they are happy with their lives at the moment (81%). Just one in eight people (12%) say they are unhappy.

Levels of happiness are similar to those recorded in December 2003 when 86% of respondents said that they were happy and eight percent unhappy. The change in levels of happiness since the end of 2003 represents a 4.5% swing, as the percentage of persons who are happy is down five points and the percentage who are unhappy up four points.



Levels of happiness are high across all sub groups of the population with no difference, for example, between men and women. The youngest adults, aged 18-24 years olds, are most likely to say they are happy (91% do), this falls to 75% among 35-54 year olds.

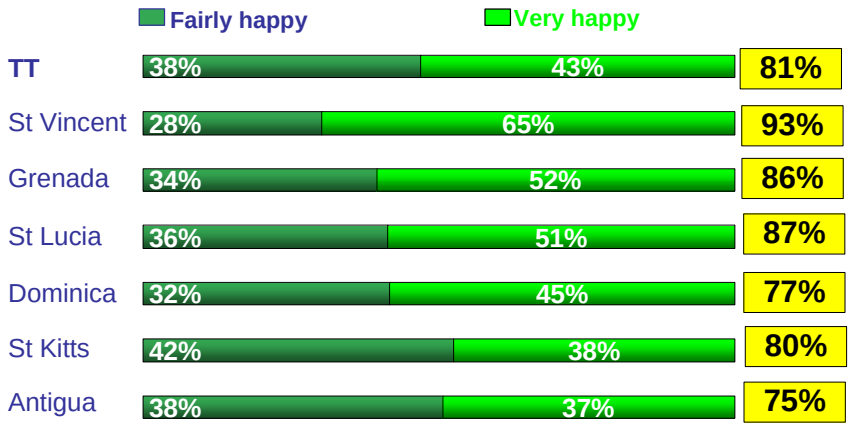
3.2. Caribbean Comparisons

Levels of happiness in Trinidad and Tobago are similar to those recorded in other English-speaking Caribbean nations where MORI asked the same question in 2007. In this survey, more residents in St.Vincent said they were happy with their lives (93%) than in any of the other countries surveyed. Adults in Antigua were least likely to say they were happy (75%).

MORI Caribbean

Happiness: Caribbean comparisons

Q Overall, how happy or unhappy are you with your life at the moment?



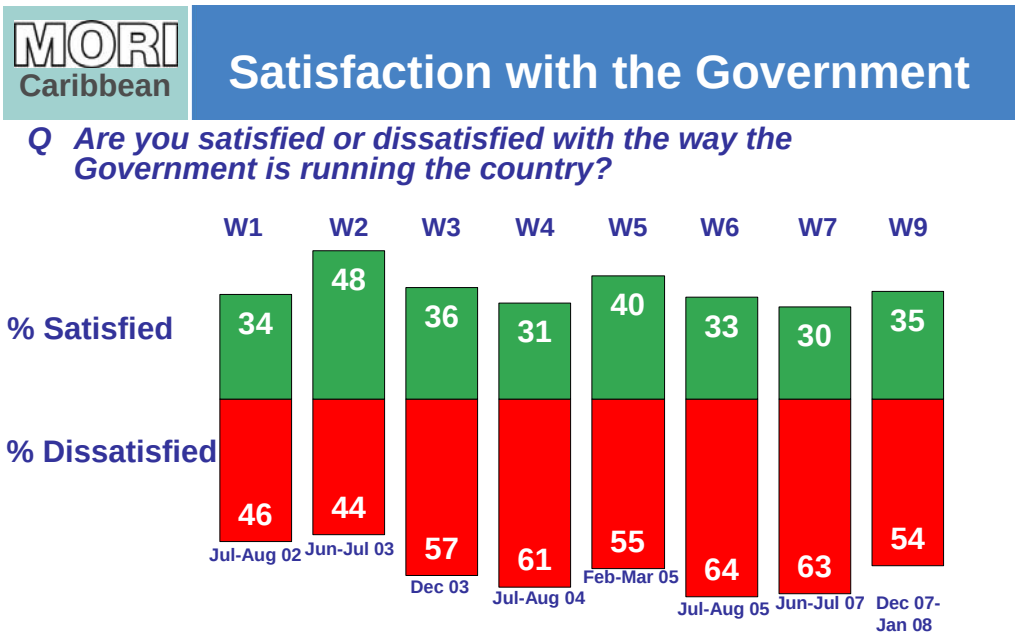
Base for other Caribbean nations: 3,034 adults 15+ across 6 Caribbean countries, c.500 in each country, 25 Mar – 27 Apr 07

4. Running the Country

4.1. Satisfaction with the Government

In the first wave of the Opinion Leaders Panel since the 2007 General Elections, we find that a third of the public (35%) say they are satisfied with the way the Government is running the country. This is an increase from 30% satisfied as measured in Wave 7 (June-July 2007).

The proportion of the public dissatisfied with the Government's performance has also compared with the levels recorded in 2007, from 63% in June-July 2007 to 54%. However, the latest findings still illustrate that more people are dissatisfied than satisfied with the way the Government is running the country.



Base: 983 T&T residents, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08

Across the key sub-groups of the public, "net satisfaction" (i.e. the proportion satisfied minus the proportion dissatisfied) is lowest among younger people, middle classes and Indo-Trinidadians. Only respondents in the over 55 sub group are more satisfied with the performance of the government than dissatisfied (net = +8).

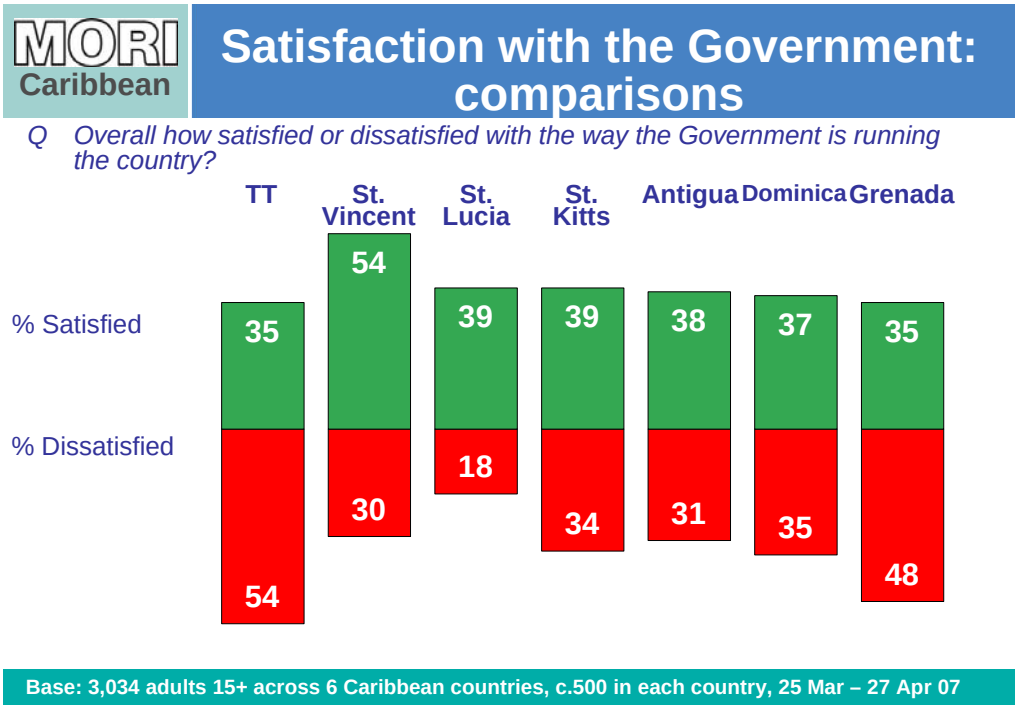
The change in net satisfaction for the sub-groups is also shown, represented by the swing calculation. As shown in Table 1, the swing is fairly consistent across sub-groups, with the exception of over 55s which have swung most negatively since Wave 1 of the Panel in July-August 2002.

Table 1: Change in levels of net satisfaction with the Government			
	Wave 1	**Wave 9**	**Swing**
Total	**-12**	**-19**	**-3.5**
Male	-15	-21	-3
Female	-10	-18	-4
18-34 years	-19	-22	-1.5
35-54 years	-15	-21	-3
55+ years	+2	-10	-6
ABC1[1]	-14	-24	-5
C2DE	-14	-18	-2
Afro-Trinidadians	+12	+8	-2
Indo-Trinidadians	-36	-41	-2.5

Source: MORI Caribbean

4.2. Caribbean Comparisons

The proportion of the public satisfied with the Government in Trinidad and Tobago is very similar to that in five of the six other Caribbean comparator countries, where satisfaction for each of these countries is 37% plus or minus two percent. The outlier country is St. Vincent, which is the only country where at least half the population (54%) approve of its Government's performance.



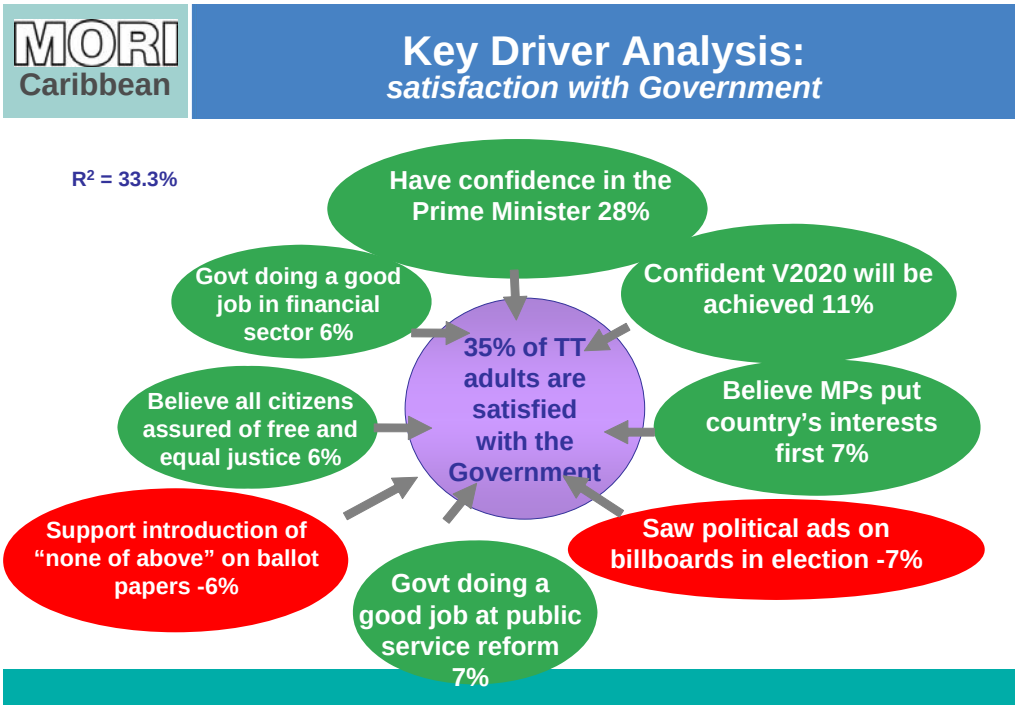
[1] In this report professional/non-manual workers refer to those residents in social grades ABC1. Residents in social grades C2DE are referred to as working class and unemployed/not working. Please see the appendix for further details.

4.3. Key Drivers of Satisfaction

The following chart shows the results of an advanced statistical technique that aims to measure which questions in the survey (known as "independent variables") have the strongest relationship with a dependent variable asked in the questionnaire, in this case satisfaction with the way the Government is running the country.

This technique is known as "Key Drivers' Analysis" and the analysis shows that the biggest "driver" of satisfaction with the Government is having confidence in the Prime Minister (28% of the correlation in the model is explained by this). The next most important factors are being confident that Vision 2020 will be achieved (11%), believing that MPs put the country's interests first (7%), and believing that the government is doing a good job at public service reform (7%).

The text in red bubbles indicate those independent variables which have the biggest negative impact on being satisfied with the Government, these are: seeing political advertisements on billboards during the election (-7%) and supporting the introduction of a "None of the Above" option on ballot papers (-6%).



4.4. Government Performance

For the first time in Wave 9, respondents were asked to indicate whether they believe the Government is doing a good job or a poor job on 28 different issues which have an impact on the quality of people's lives.

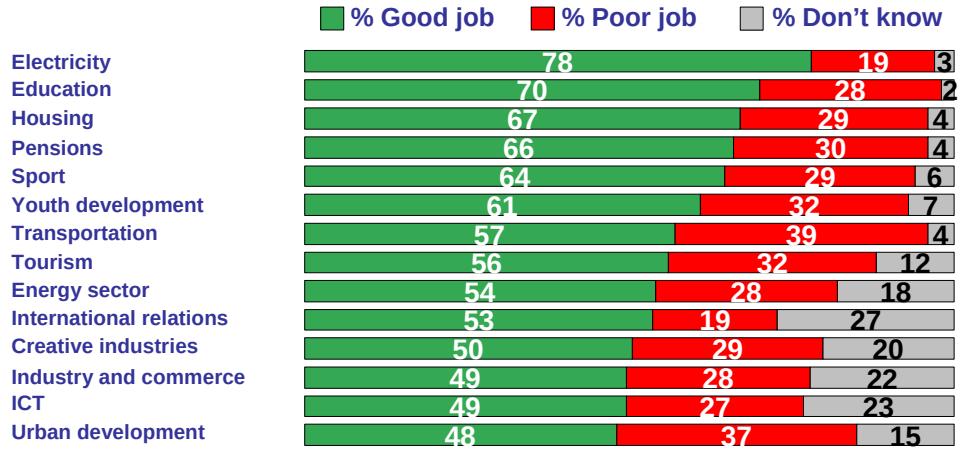
The first chart below shows those issues where the Government received the highest ratings from the public. "Electricity" is the top rated area, with 78% of the public saying the Government is doing a good job in this area compared with 19% believing it to be doing a poor job. Also highly rated are "education" (70% good job), "housing" (67% good job), "pensions" (66% good job) and "sport (64% good job).

When interpreting these findings it is important to note the proportion of people stating "don't know" for each category. For instance, public approval for the Government's performance on the "energy sector" and "international relations" are similar, but many more people say they "don't know" about the latter.

MORI Caribbean

Government Performance: top tier

Q The present government has promised to improve the quality of people's lives by addressing a number of areas. For each one of the following please tell me whether you think the Government is doing a good job or poor job at handling these.

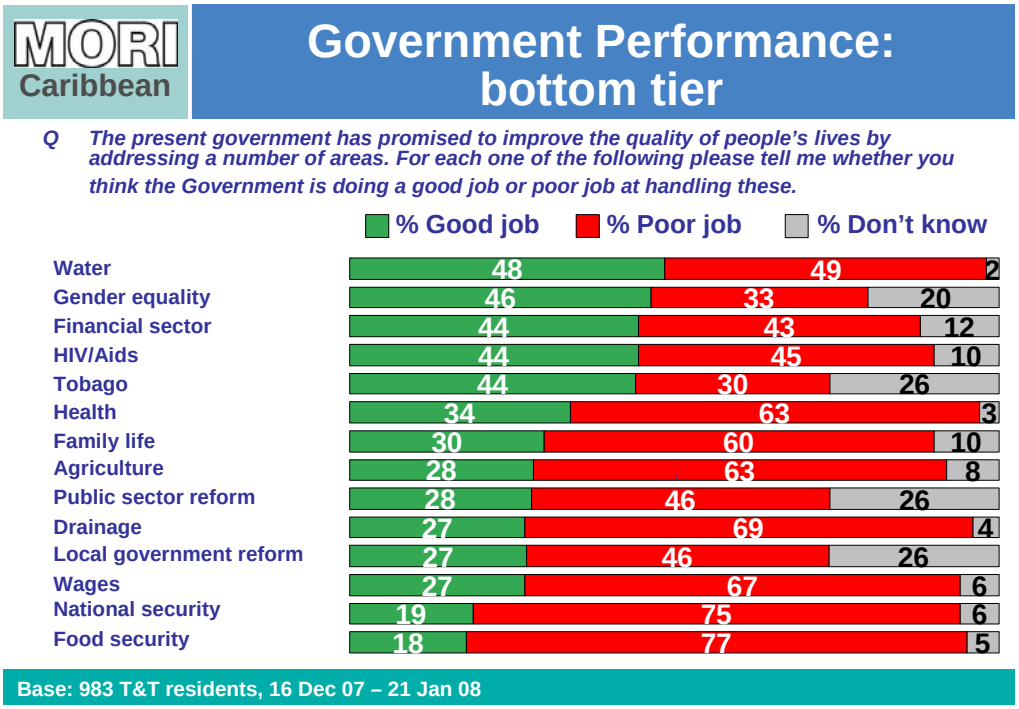


Base: 983 T&T residents, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08

The chart overleaf shows the other 14 areas of Government activity where fewer people rate the performance of the Government as good. At the top of this list is "water" where the public is divided with as many persons saying the Government is doing a good job (48%) as saying it is doing a poor job (49%).

The two areas of performance that are rated lowest are "national security" (19% say good job) and "food security" (18% say good job). For both these areas, we find around three quarters of the public saying the Government is performing poorly. In addition, there are five other areas where more than half the public is dissatisfied. These are "family life" (60% say poor job), "agriculture" (63% say

poor job), health (63% say poor job), "wages" (67% say poor job) and "drainage" (69% say poor job).



The key sub-group differences in the rating of the government's performance on these issues are discussed below:

- **Gender:** On most issues men are more critical than women. For example, 29% of men think the government is doing a good job on "health" compared to 38% of women; whilst 62% of men say the government is doing a good job on "pensions" compared to 71% of women.

- **Age:** For most issues, people between the ages of 35 and 54 years are the most critical of government performance, with ratings being higher among under 35s and over 55s. For example, with "national security" seven in ten 18-34s year olds (72%) and over 55s (70%) say the government is doing a bad job, but this rises to eight in ten for persons aged 35-54 years (80%). The two exceptions to this pattern are "pensions" (older people are more critical) and "wages" (younger people are more critical).

- **Social class:** For the most part there are no significant differences between middle class and working class people on these issues. The three issues where there are the biggest differences in terms of more middle class than working class saying the government is doing a good job relate to: "energy sector" (9 points higher), "ICT" (8 points higher) and "wages" (7 points higher). In contrast, working class people are more likely

to be positive about the government in terms of "water" (6 points higher) and "pensions" (9 points higher).

- **Ethnicity:** Consistently fewer Indo-Trinidadians than Afro-Trinidadians believe the government is doing a good job on each of these issues. The difference in ratings is highest for "gender equality" (21 point difference between Indo- and Afro-Trinidadian views), "youth development" (16 point difference), "ICT" (13 point difference), "education" (12 point difference) and "tourism" (12 point difference).

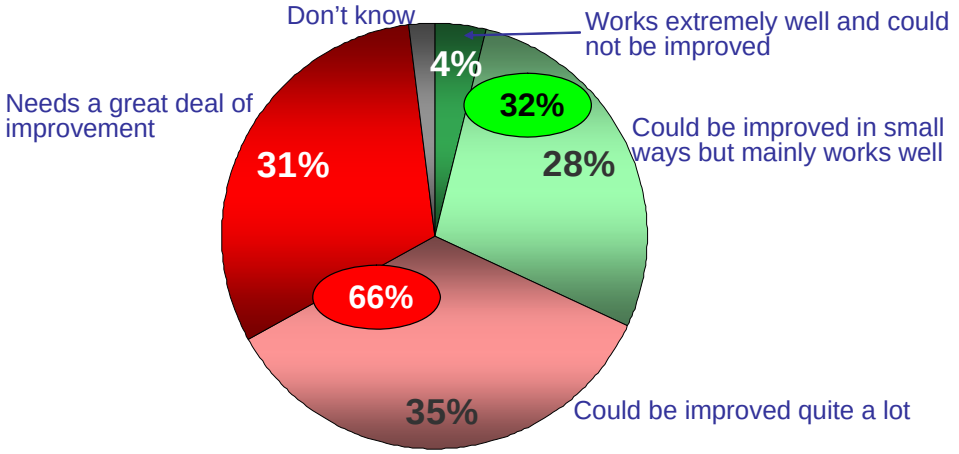
4.5. System of Governing Trinidad & Tobago

Two thirds of the public believes that the system of governing Trinidad and Tobago needs either a great deal of improvement (31%) or could be improved quite a lot (35%). A further three in ten says that it could be improved in small ways but mainly works well (28%). Just one in every 25 people say that the system works extremely well and could not be improved (4%).

MORI Caribbean

System of governing T&T

Q Which of the statements best describes your opinion on the present system of governing Trinidad & Tobago?



Base: 983 T&T residents, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08

Views about the extent to which the system of governing Trinidad and Tobago needs improving are fairly consistent across sub-groups of the population. The key difference is that while 52% of Afro-Trinidadians believe the system needs improving quite a lot or a great deal, this rises to 71% of Indo-Trinidadians and 74% of Other/Mixed ethnicity.

4.6. Caribbean Comparisons

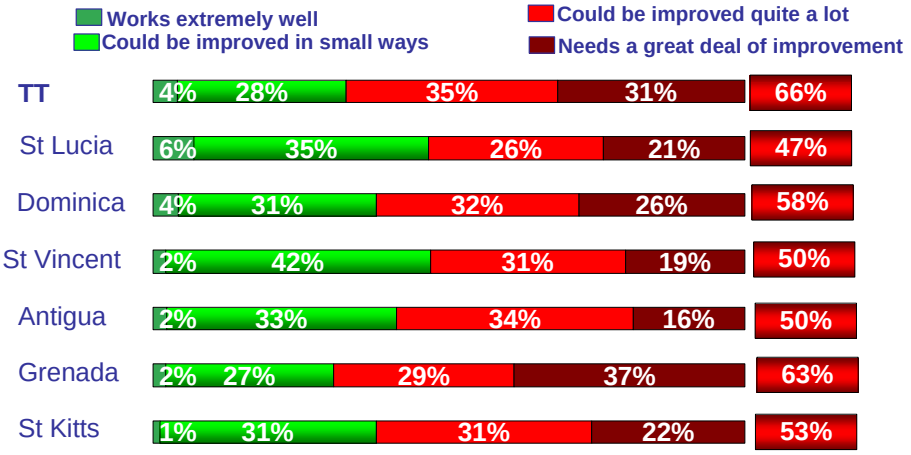
More people in Trinidad and Tobago believe that their system of government needs at least improving quite a lot (66%) than do residents in any of the other six Caribbean nations in which MORI asked this question in 2007. Residents of Grenada are closest in views to those of Trinidad and Tobago as 63% of Grenadians say that their system of government needs at least quite a lot of improvement.

In all of the seven countries in the Caribbean few residents are completely satisfied with the system of governing their country, with very small proportions saying their system works extremely well. In none of these countries do more than half of the residents believe their system of government works either extremely well or could only be improved in small ways.

MORI Caribbean

System of Government: Caribbean comparisons

Q Which of the statements best describes your opinion on the present system of governing <<COUNTRY>>?

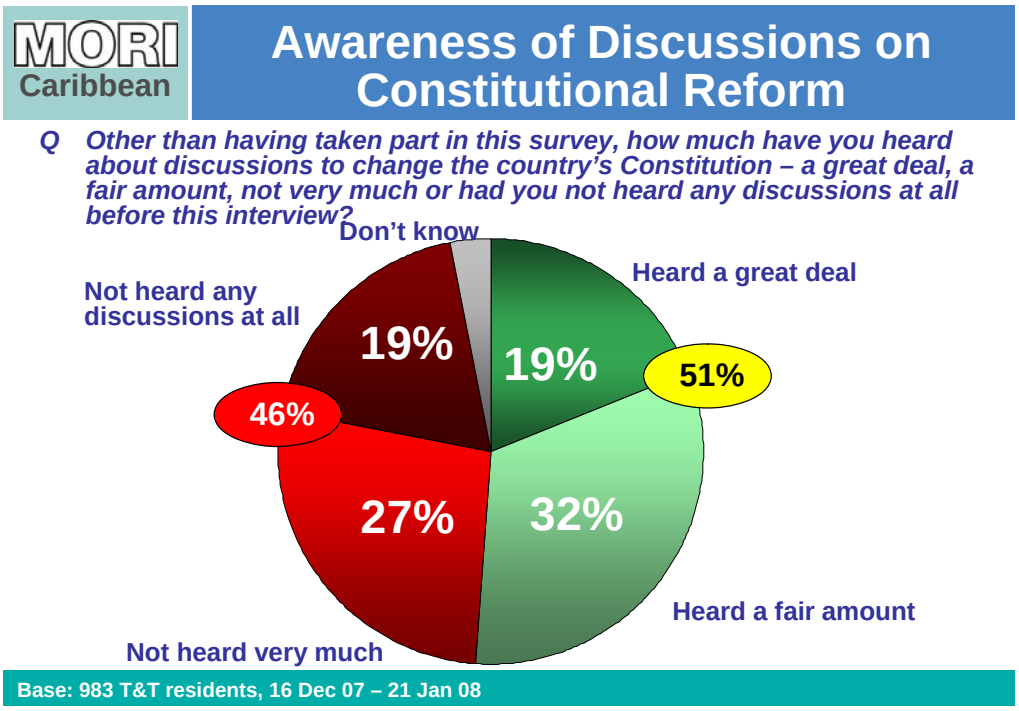


Base: 3,034 adults 15+ across 6 Caribbean countries, c.500 in each country, 25 Mar – 27 Apr 07

5. Constitutional Reform

5.1. Awareness of Discussions

Half the public (51%) have heard at least a fair amount about discussions to change the country's Constitution, including one in five who say they have heard a great deal. The same proportion say they have not heard any discussions at all (19%) and just over a quarter (27%) say they have not heard very much.



More men (56%) than women (46%) claim to have heard at least a fair amount about the discussions: fewer persons under the age of 25 (46%) have heard at least a fair amount than other age groups, and middle class people (61%) more so than working class (47%). There are no differences in terms of ethnicity in awareness about these discussions.

5.2. Attitudes towards Reform

Respondents were asked to select one of five statements that best reflects their views about the need to change the country's Constitution. The most popular view, held by 27% of people, is that they are strongly in favour of the Constitution being changed. This is four times the number of people who say that they are strongly against such a move (7%).

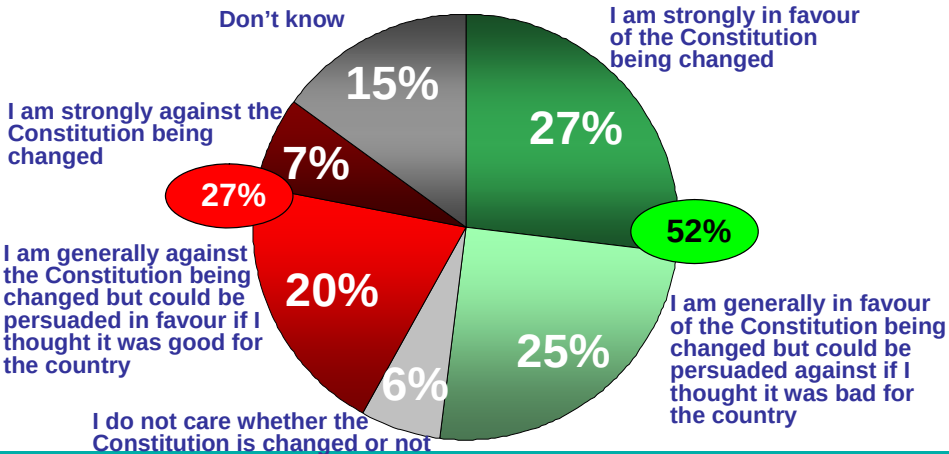
A further quarter of the public (27%) is generally in favour of Constitutional reform while saying that they could be persuaded against if they thought it was bad for the country. On the other side, one in five persons (20%) are generally against Constitutional reform but say they are open to be persuaded in favour of it.

In summary, at present 52% of the public are either strongly or generally in favour of Constitutional reform compared with 27% who are strongly or generally opposed to it.

MORI Caribbean

Views on Constitutional Reform

Q Which, if any, of the following statements comes closest to your views about the need to change the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago?



Base: 983 T&T residents, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08

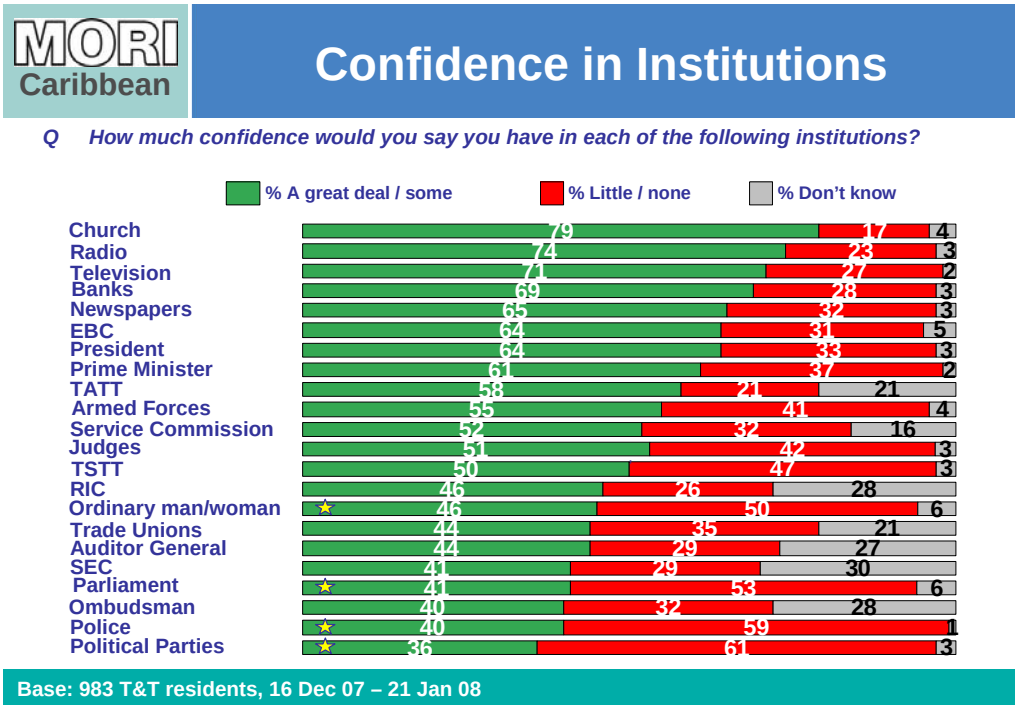
There are no differences in terms of people's age, social class or ethnicity as to whether they support (strongly or in general) the need to change the country's constitution. There are, however, significant differences between men and women: men support rather than oppose the need for reform by 56% to 23% (net support = +33); women support rather than oppose by 48% to 31% (net support = +17).

6. Confidence in Key Institutions

6.1. Confidence in Institutions

The public was asked to indicate their level of confidence in the 22 different institutions and organisations of the state. The chart below shows the proportion of the public expressing a great deal or some confidence (green bars), the proportion expressing little or none (red bars) and the proportion saying they don't know (grey bars).

The Church is the highest rated institution in terms of public confidence with four in five people (79%) saying they have at least some confidence in this institution. Media organisations are also highly regarded, as three quarters of the public say they have confidence in radio (74%), seven in ten confidence in television (71%) and two thirds in newspapers (65%).



There are four institutions where the number of people expressing little or no confidence in them is greater than the proportion expressing a great deal or some confidence. These are marked with a star sign in the chart above:

- Net confidence in "ordinary man/woman" is -4 (that is 46% have confidence vs. 50% that do not): lowest among 18-24 year olds (40% have confidence) and Afro-Trinidadians (42%).

- Net confidence in "Parliament" is -12 (41% have confidence vs. 53% that do not): lowest among 24-34 year olds (35% have confidence) and Indo-Trinidadians (37%).

- Net confidence in "Police" is -19 (40% have confidence vs. 59% that do not): lowest among under 35 year olds (36% have confidence).

- Net confidence in "Political Parties" is -25 (36% have confidence vs. 61% that do not): consistently low across mains sub-groups of the public.

6.2. Caribbean Comparisons

For twelve of the twenty-two institutions covered in the Opinion Leaders' Panel survey, MORI Caribbean asked the same question in six other Caribbean countries in 2007.

The chart below provides a summary of these results for each institution, by each country using a "net confidence" indicator. This is the difference between the proportion expressing confidence (a great deal or some) minus the proportion expressing little or no confidence for each institution. As such, any figure in black means more of the public in that Caribbean country have confidence in the institution than not; any figure in red is the reverse: more persons do not have confidence in the institution than have confidence in it.

MORI Caribbean

Confidence in Institutions

CONFIDENCE IN INSTITUTIONS								
Q. "… how much confidnece do you have in the … (great deal, some, little, none)"								7 Country
Institutions	Antigua	Dominica	Grenada	St Kitts	St Lucia	St Vincent	Trin & Tob	Average
(% NET SCORES)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Church	62	69	61	45	48	79	62	61
Banks	55	55	44	39	41	64	41	48
Television	38	46	51	-4	57	67	44	43
Radio	42	31	44	-1	56	66	51	41
Newspapers	22	17	0	-20	37	57	33	21
Armed Forces	14	3	15	22	4	33	14	15
Prime Minister	6	16	4	-2	19	39	24	15
Judges	18	14	7	11	0	28	9	12
Trade Unions	-9	-7	9	-18	18	18	9	3
Police	-13	11	3	-42	3	38	-19	-3
Parliament	-1	-11	-26	-26	-14	19	-12	-10
Political Parties	-23	-39	-26	-52	-33	5	-25	-28
Confidence Index	18	17	16	-4	20	43	19	18
Happiness Index	54	59	75	65	76	87	69	69
Base: 3,034 adults in Caribarometer 6 (c.@500 + 983 in Trin & Tob, 2007							Source: MORI Caribbean	

The institutions are ranked by their average net confidence score for the average of the seven countries. This shows that confidence across the seven Caribbean nations is highest for churches (61% net confidence), banks (48%), television (43%) and radio (21%).

The least trusted, with more people on average saying they do not have confidence than do have confidence across the seven nations, are the police (-3% net confidence), parliaments (-10%) and political parties (-28%).

When comparing net confidence ratings in Trinidad & Tobago against the other Caribbean nations, ratings are fairly similar. For three institutions more people in Trinidad & Tobago have confidence in the institutions than the Caribbean average:

- Radio (51% net confidence in TT vs. 41% net average)
- Newspapers (38% net confidence in TT vs. 21% net average)
- Prime Minister (24% net confidence in TT vs. 15% net average)

In contrast, fewer people in Trinidad & Tobago have confidence in the police (-19% net confidence) than in the other six Caribbean countries on average (-3% net confidence).

7. The Judiciary

7.1. Confidence in Judges

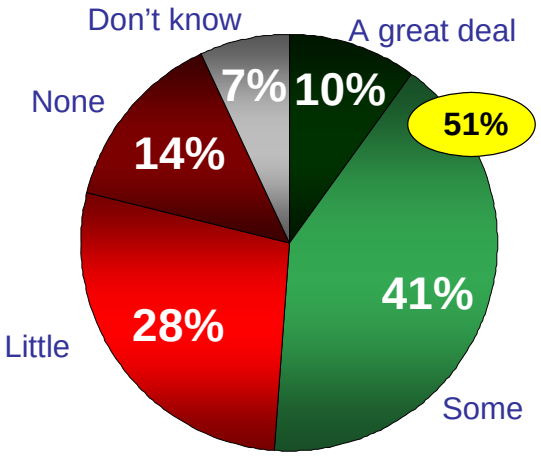
Half the public express at least some confidence in Judges, with one in ten people saying they have a great deal of confidence. In contrast four in ten people have either no confidence (14%) or only a little confidence (28%) in Judges.

There is no difference between men and women in the levels of confidence expressed in Judges, but there are some differences in terms of people's age and ethnicity. As shown in the chart below, adults under 35 years (56%) and Indo Trinidadians (54%) are more likely to express some or a great deal of confidence in Judges.

MORI Caribbean

Confidence in Judges

Q How much confidence do you have in Judges?



A great deal/some	
TT	51%
SV	63%
Ant.	54%
Dominica	54%
Grenada	50%
St Lucia	46%
St Kitts	45%
Men	50%
Women	51%
18-34	56%
35-54	49%
55+	44%
Afro TT	48%
Indo TT	54%
+ Govt	61%
- Govt	44%

Base: 983 T&T residents, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08

7.2. Image of Judges

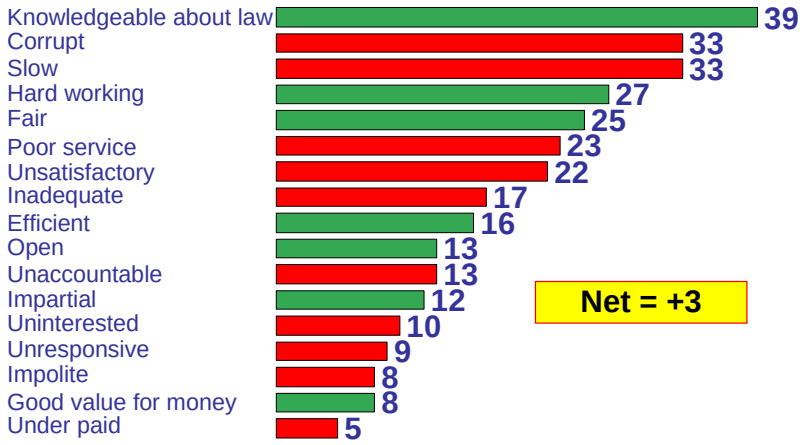
When shown a list of 17 different words that could be used to describe Judges, the public are most likely to say that Judges are "knowledgeable about the law" (selected by 39% of people). The next two characteristics, selected by 33%, are both negative descriptions: "corrupt" and "slow". It is also worth highlighting that just one in eight people would select "impartial" as a way to describe Judges.

Even so, the overall net image score for Judges is positive by +3. This is a calculation of the average of the positive descriptions chosen minus the average of the negative ones. This compares favourably with similar image questions asked of other type of public servants in wave 7 of the Opinion Leaders Panel. In this current survey, the net image score for the Police is -19, for Nurses -4, for Doctors zero and for Teachers +15.

MORI Caribbean

Image of Judges

Q ***These are some words that people have used to describe Judges. Please read through the list and tell me the letters that you think apply?***



Base: 983 T&T residents, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08

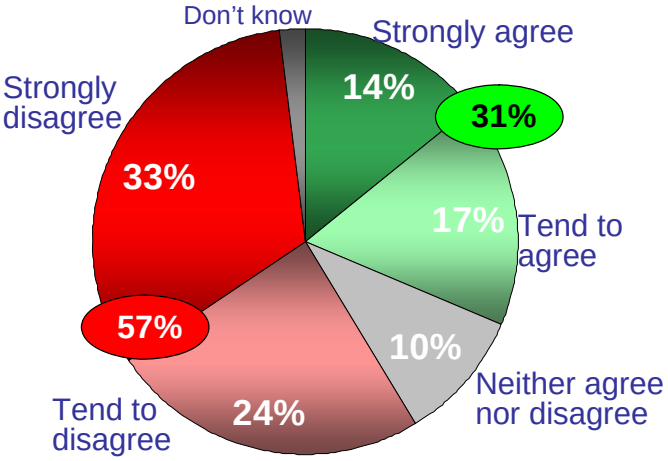
7.3. Fair and Equal Justice

One of the goals in the "Governance" section of the Vision 2020 Operational Plan is that "all citizens will be assured of fair and equal justice in Trinidad and Tobago". At present, by a ratio of almost two to one, the public do not think this is true.

Almost three in five people disagree that all citizens are assured of fair and equal justice in the country, including one in three (33%) who *strongly* disagree. In contrast three in ten (31%) believe fair and equal justice can be assured today. There is little difference in views between men and women or by people's age. However, more Indo Trinidadians (37% agree) are positive than Afro Trinidadians (30%), and there are very different views depending on where people live. Only 14% of people living in the North of Trinidad and 16% of those living in Central agree with the statement; much lower than the 30% who agree in East Trinidad and almost half (48%) in South.

Fair and Equal Justice?

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree that "All citizens will be assured of fair and equal justice in Trinidad and Tobago"?



A great deal/some	
Total	31%
Men	31%
Women	32%
18-34	30%
35-54	31%
55+	34%
Afro TT	30%
Indo TT	37%
North	14%
South	48%
East	30%
Central	16%
+ Govt	45%
- Govt	22%

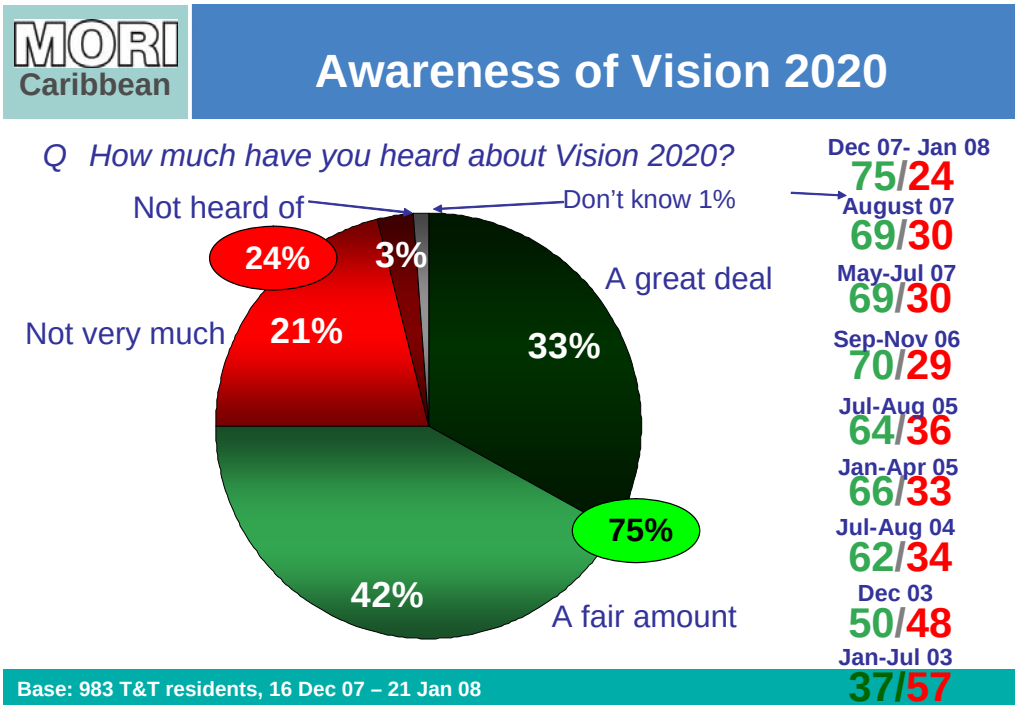
Base: 983 T&T residents, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08

8. Vision 2020

8.1. Awareness of Vision 2020

Three quarters of the public have heard at least a fair amount about Vision 2020; a third says they have heard a great deal, whilst just three in every 100 people say they have not heard of it at all.

The level of awareness of Vision 2020 has increased by six points since wave 8 of the Opinion Leaders Panel, conducted in August 2007, when 69% of the public said they had hear either a great deal or a fair amount about it. Compared to when this question was first asked in January – July 2003, the proportion hearing at least a fair amount about the Vision has doubled (from 37% to 75%).

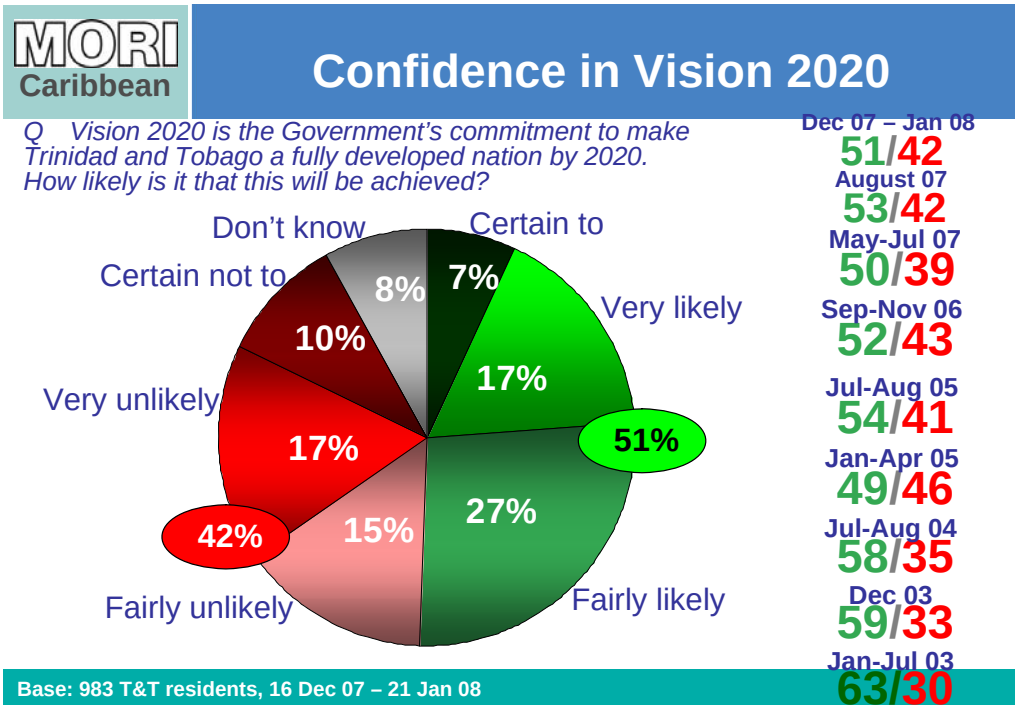


8.2. Confidence in Vision 2020

Half the public thinks it is certain (7%), very likely (17%) or fairly likely (27%) that "Trinidad and Tobago will become a fully developed nation by the year 2020". Two in five people consider this to be fairly unlikely (15%), very unlikely (17%) or certain not to happen (10%).

The level of confidence in Vision 2020 being achieved has remained stable since August 2007 (when 53% expressed confidence – not statistically different from the 51% measured in this survey).

However, compared to when the question was first asked in January – July 2003, confidence in the Vision has decreased 12 points, from 63%.



The key sub group differences in confidence in Vision 2020 are shown below:

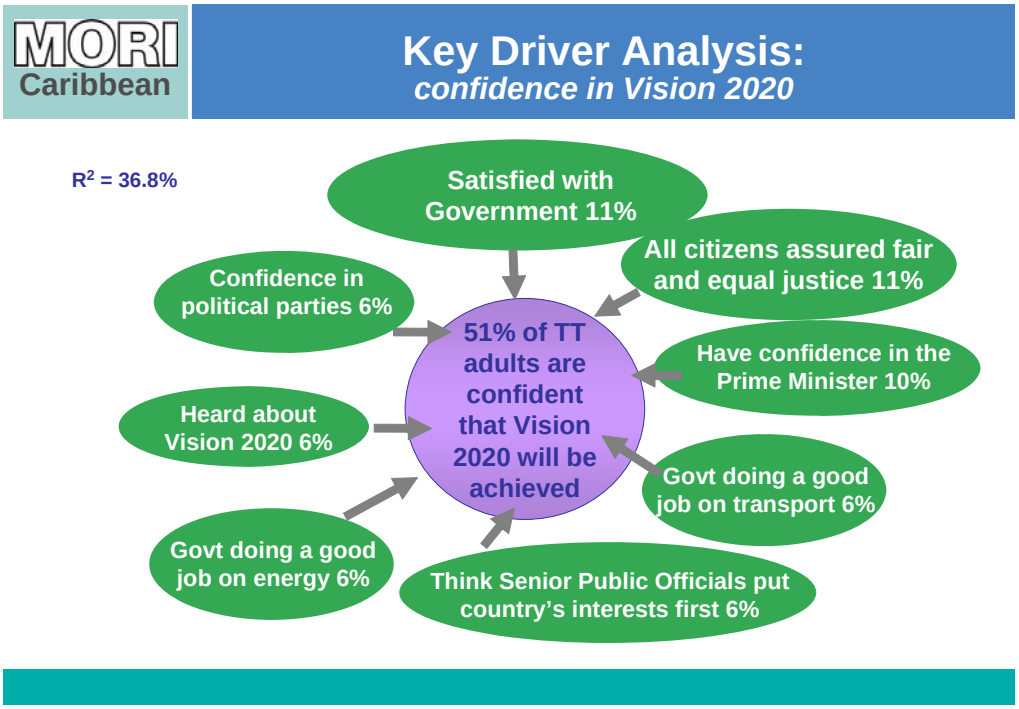
- **Gender:** More women than men are confident in Vision 2020 (55% vs. 46%);
- **Age:** No major differences. Just over half of the respondents between the ages of 18-34 years (53%) and those over the age of 55 years (52%) have confidence, compared with just under half of the respondents aged 35-54 years (47%);
- **Social class:** No difference in views between middle and working classes;
- **Ethnicity:** More Afro-Trinidadians (63%) than Indo-Trinidadians (39%) or persons of Mixed/Other ethnicities (51%) are confident in Vision 2020.

There is also a strong relationship between whether people are satisfied with the performance of the Government and have confidence in Vision 2020. Among those who are satisfied with the Government, three quarters (73%) have confidence that Vision 2020 will happen; among those who are dissatisfied with the Government, just a third (34%) are confident in Vision 2020.

8.3. Key Drivers of Confidence in Vision 2020

The following chart shows the results of an advanced statistical technique that aims to measure which questions in the survey (known as "independent variables") have the strongest relationship with a dependent variable asked in the questionnaire, in this case confidence that Vision 2020 will be achieved.

This technique is known as "Key Driver Analysis" and the analysis shows that the biggest "driver" of confidence in Vision 2020 being achieved is whether people are satisfied with the performance of the Government (11% explanation). Unlike, key drivers of Government performance, however, there is no one factor that stands out as having the greatest impact, as belief that all citizens are assured fair and equal justice (11% explanation) and having confidence in the Prime Minister (10% explanation) are similarly strong drivers.



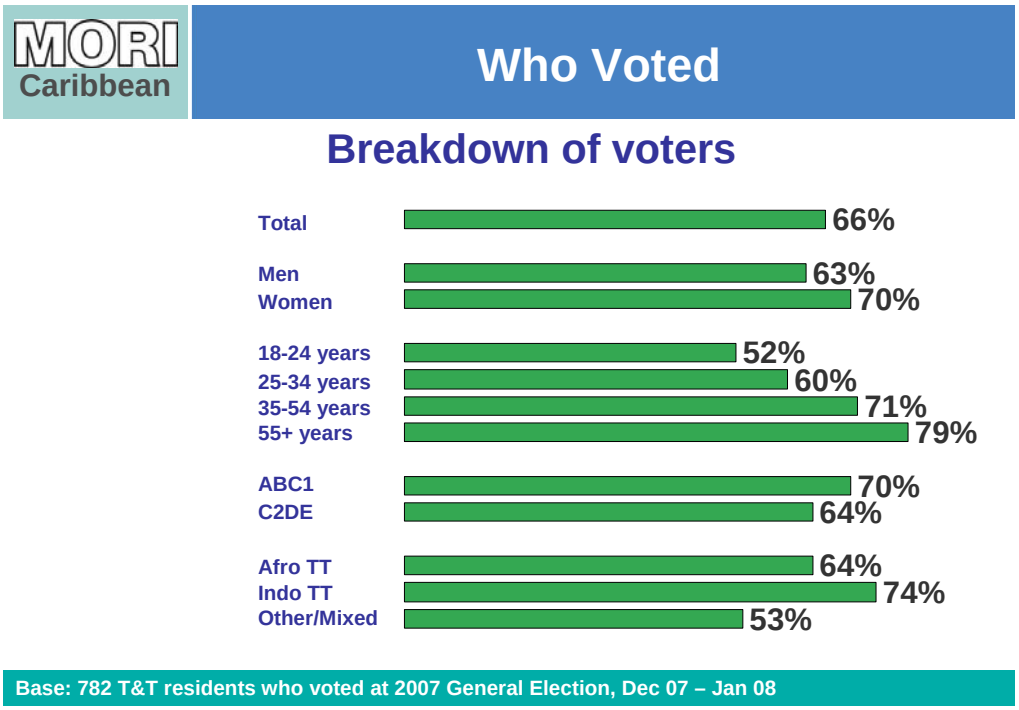
9. The Election and Political Engagement

9.1 Turnout

The following chart shows the proportion of each sub-group of the public who say they voted at the 2007 General Elections, with the overall result weighted to the actual turnout of 66%.

Turnout was higher among women (70%) than men (63%), and among middle class people, that is ABC1s, (70%) than working class, that is C2DEs (64%). There were bigger differences in terms of ethnicity, with more Indo-Trinidadians voting (74%), than either Afro-Trinidadians (64%) or those of Other/Mixed ethnicity (54%).

The biggest discriminator as to whether someone voted was their age. Just over half (52%) of 18 to 24 year olds say they voted in the election – for many of them it was the first General Election for which they were eligible to vote. In contrast, people aged over 55 years were 50% more likely to have voted than younger people, with 79% of them claiming to have voted.



9.2 Reasons for Voting

The three key reasons given for voting at the General Elections, without prompting from a list of options, were,:

- **"Civic right/duty to vote"** (29%): higher among women (32%) than men (25%), and relatively low among 18-34s (24%) and Indo-Trinidadians (25%);

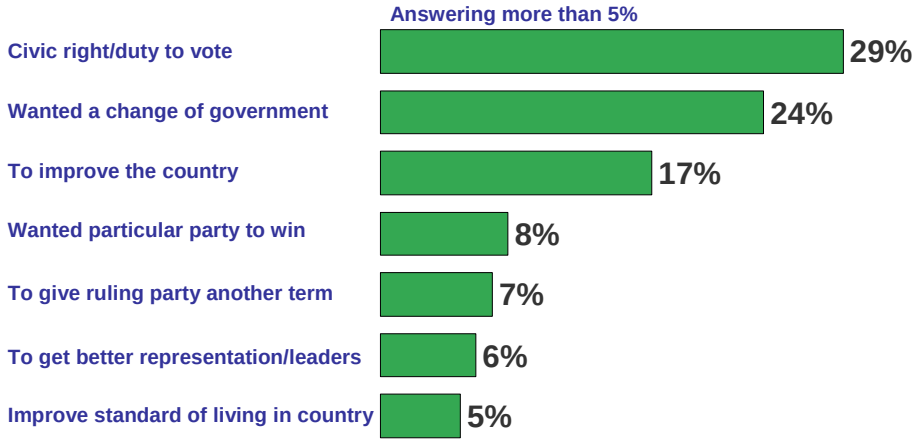
- **"Wanted a change of government"** (24%): highest among men (28%) and Indo-Trinidadians (35%); and

- **"To improve the country"** (17%): slightly higher among men (20%) that women (15%).

MORI Caribbean

Reasons for Voting

Q People give many reasons for voting at elections. What were the main reasons you decided to vote at this election? UNPROMPTED



Base: 782 T&T residents who voted at 2007 General Election, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08

9.3 Reasons for not Voting

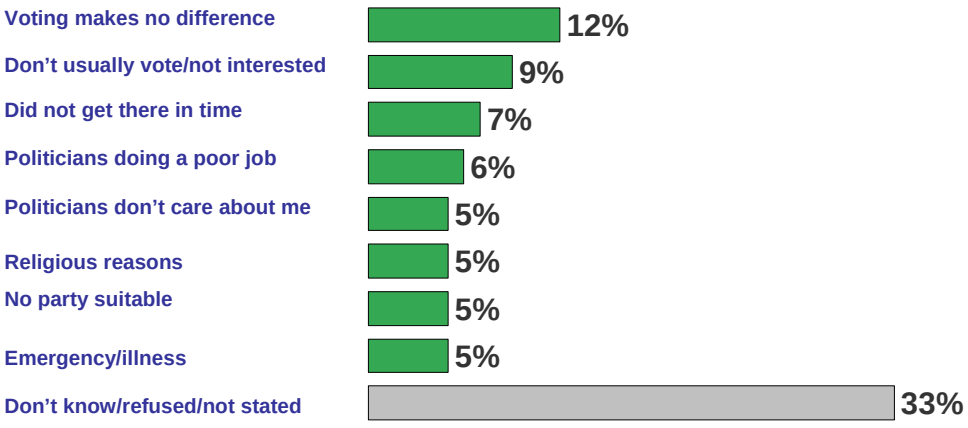
Many people who did not vote at the General Elections and who were asked why they did not vote, were unable to provide a specific reason. Further, as the following chart shows, no one or two reasons for non-voting are given by a significant proportion of non-voters to explain their reasons for not voting.

The efficacy of voting are the two most popular responses, either that "voting makes no difference" (12%) or that "don't usually vote/not interested" (9%). A smaller proportion say they "did not get there in time" (9%).

MORI Caribbean

Reasons for Not Voting

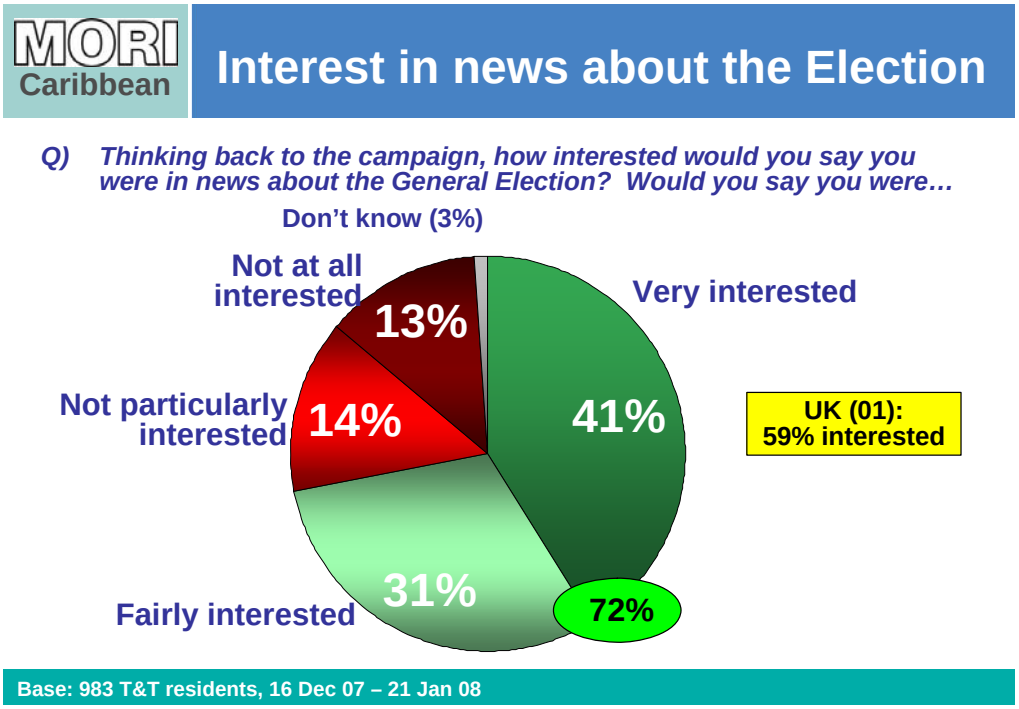
Q People give many reasons for not voting at elections. What were the main reasons you decided not to vote at this election? UNPROMPTED



Base: 201 T&T residents who did not vote in 2007 General Election, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08

9.4 Interest in News about the Election

Almost three quarters of the pubic were interested in news about the General Elections, including two in five who were *very* interested. The level of interest in the elections was therefore higher than both turnout (66%) and higher than what MORI had found in the 2001 General Elections in the UK (59%) when at that election turnout in the UK fell to 62%.



There are no differences by people's ethnicity in terms of interest in news about the election, but small differences by gender and age. More women (76%) than men (69%) claim to have been interested in election news; and more over 55s (75%) than under 25s (68%). Four in five voters (81%) were interested in election news, compared with just over half of non-voters (55%).

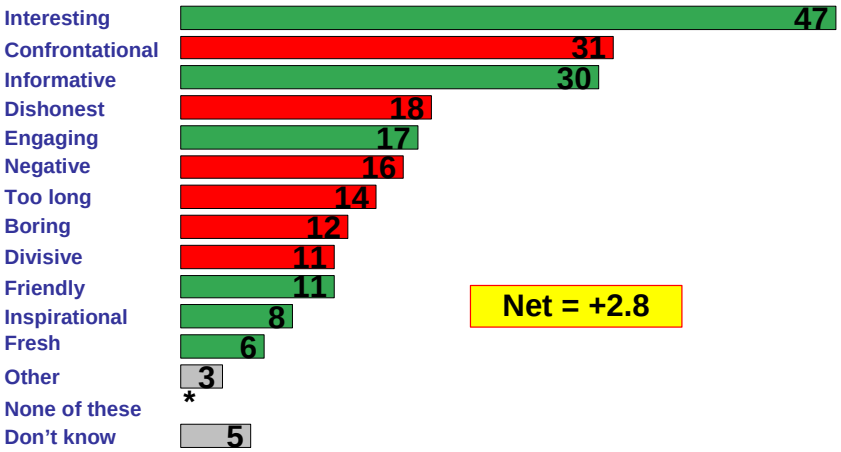
9.5 Image of the Campaign

When shown a list of different words or phrases to describe the election campaign, the public is most likely to select "interesting" (47%), which supports the earlier finding that most people when asked directly say they found news about the campaign interesting.

The next two most commonly selected descriptions of the campaign are that it was "confrontational" (31%) and "informative" (30%). The least likely ways people would describe the campaign are "friendly" (11%), inspirational" (8%) or "fresh" (6%). Nevertheless, the "net image" score for the campaign is positive at +2.8. This is a calculation of the average of the positive statements minus the average of the negative statements, which provides a simple way of measuring people's overall perceptions of the election campaign.

Perceptions of the Campaign

Q *Which, if any, of these words or phrases best describes your impressions of the recent General Election campaign?*



Base: 983 T&T residents, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08

Non voters are more critical of the campaign than are voters. For example:

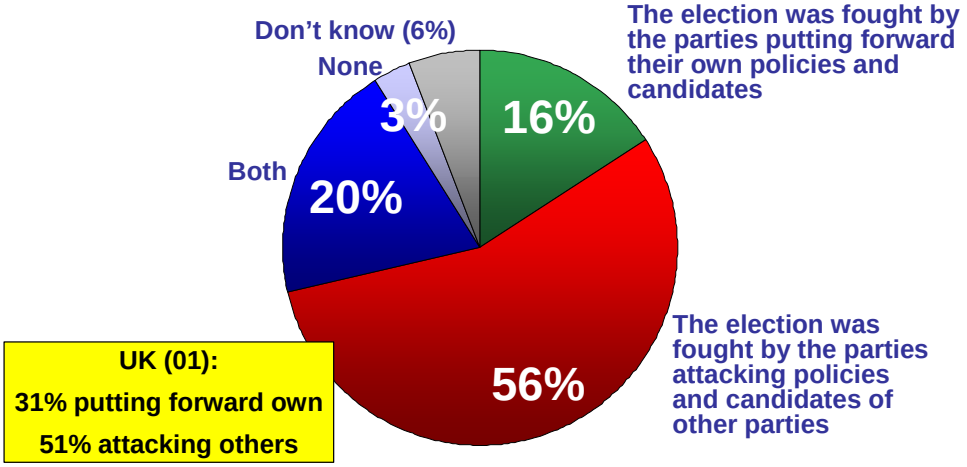
- Twice as many non-voters than voters thought the campaign was "boring" (19% vs. 9%);
- Over half of voters (54%) thought the campaign was interesting, compared with a third of non-voters (34%); and
- Twice as many voters than non-voters thought the campaign was informative (36% vs. 18%).

A further question was asked to determine the extent to which the public feels the campaign was fought by the candidates and parties in a positive or negative way. The majority of people believe the election was fought by the parties "attacking the policies and candidates of the other parties" (56%) rather than by them "putting forward their own policies and candidates" (16%). In the 2001 UK General Election, twice as many people in the UK felt that campaign was fought by positive promotion by the political parties (31%) than was the case in Trinidad and Tobago in 2007.

MORI Caribbean

Positive or Negative Campaign?

Q) Thinking about the election campaign, which of the following comes closest to your views?



Base: 983 T&T residents, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08

9.6 Information during the Campaign

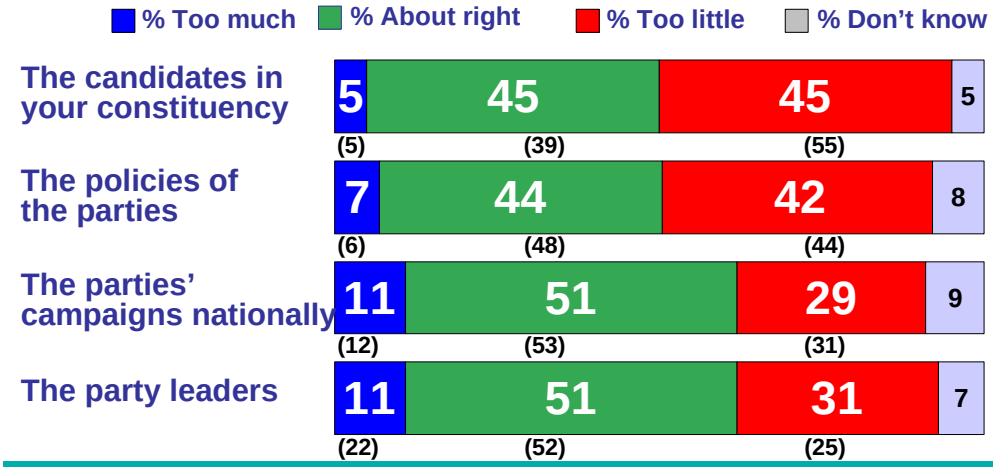
Few people believe that they received too much information during the campaign on any of the four aspects of the parties' campaigns, and people are much more likely to believe that they received too little. This view is most common in terms of information about "candidates in your constituency" (45% felt they received too little) and the "policies of the parties" (42% said too little).

Even so, for both these aspects, as many people think they received about the right amount of information as received too little. In addition, half (51%) say they received the right amount about the "parties' campaigns nationally" and about the "party leaders".

Views in Trinidad and Tobago about the 2007 General Election are similar to those in the UK about its 2001 General Election in terms of the amount of information during the campaign. The main differences are that in the UK more people wanted information on the "candidates in their constituency" than did people in Trinidad and Tobago (55% said too little in the UK vs. 45% in T&T) and twice the proportion in the UK than in Trinidad and Tobago felt they heard too much about the "party leaders" (22% vs. 11% respectively).

Information during the Campaign

Q Do you think you received too much, too little or about the right amount of information about the following aspects of the General Election…?



Base: 983 T&T residents, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08 UK comparisons in brackets

In Trinidad and Tobago, the main differences between voters' and non-voters' attitudes towards the amount of information during the campaign is that fewer non-voters say they received "about the right amount" and a corresponding increase in non-voters saying "don't' know".

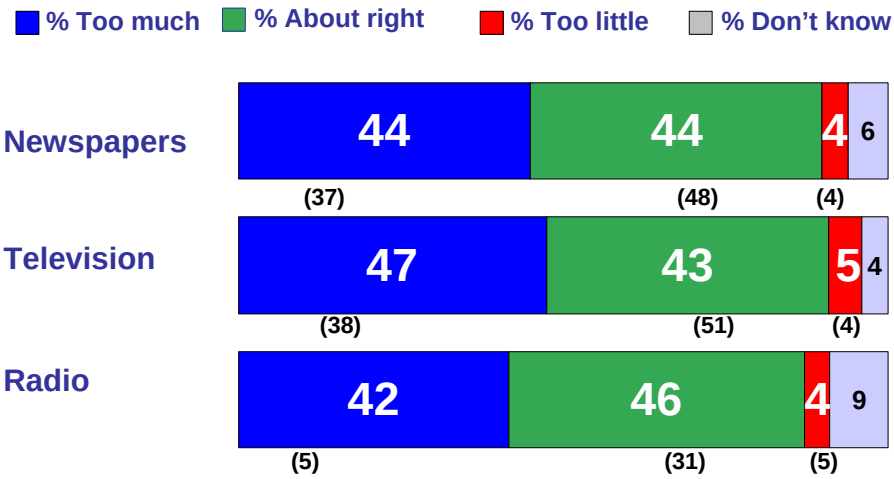
In terms of media coverage of the campaign, the public is almost equally split on whether there was too much election coverage in the three main types of media or about the right amount. Only one in twenty people think any of the media types provided too little information during the campaign.

Non-voters' and voters' views about the amount of election coverage from the media are similar. Non-voters, for instance, are no more likely to think there was too much coverage than are those who actually voted on election day.

MORI Caribbean

Election Coverage

Q How do you feel about the amount of coverage each of the following gave during the election campaign?



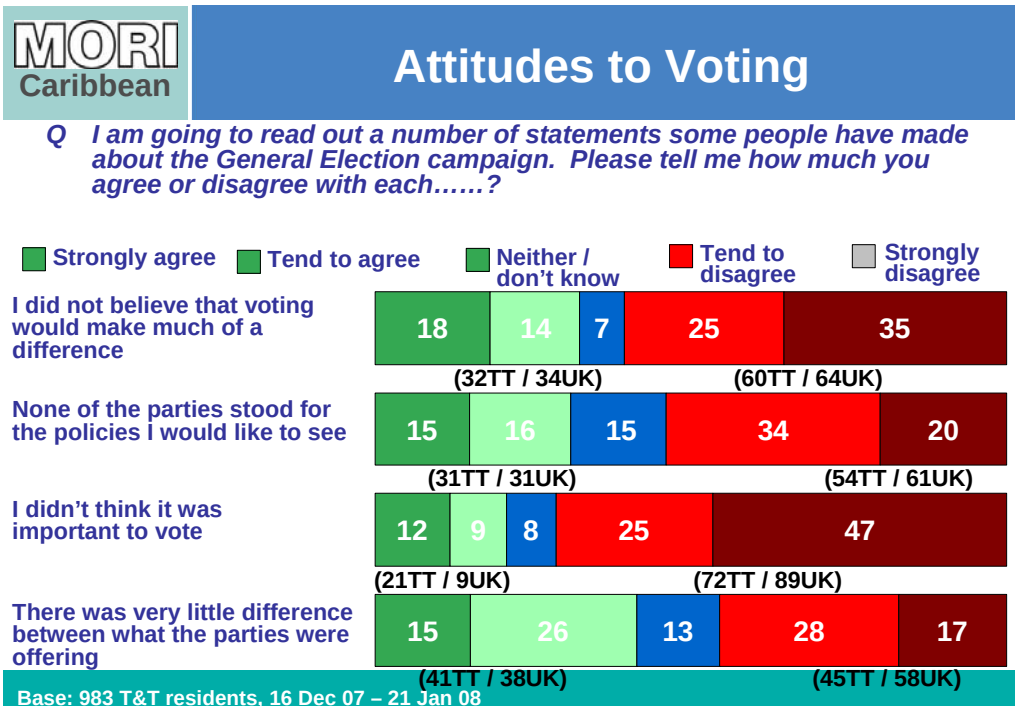
Base: 983 T&T residents, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08 UK comparisons in brackets

9.7 Attitudes to Voting

Almost three quarters of the public believe that it is important to vote (72%), even though only 66% actually voted. It is worth highlighting that this falls to 61% among 18-24 year olds. The gap between behaviour and belief in voting was even higher in the UK in 2001 where turnout was 62% and belief that it was important to vote was 89%.

How people answered the other statements on their attitudes to voting may help to explain this discrepancy. Although in each case more people disagree than agree with the statements, we still find more than three in ten people who agree that at the 2007 General Election:

- "None of the parties stood for the policies I would like to see" (31%): little difference in sub groups;
- "I did not believe that voting would make much of a difference" (32% agree): lowest among persons over 55 years of age (24%); and
- "There was very little difference between what the parties were offering" (41%): lowest among those over the age of 55 (35%).



Unlike many of the other indicators covered in this section of the report, there are substantial differences between voters and non-voters in their attitudes to voting, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Attitudes of Voters and Non-Voters to Voting

	% Agree	
	Voters	***Non-Voters***
I did not believe that voting would make much of a difference	22	53
None of the parties stood for the policies I would like to see	23	47
I didn't think it was important to vote	10	43
There was very little difference between what the parties were offering	36	52

Source: MORI Caribbean

9.8 Increasing Turnout

When asked, without prompting with a list of suggestions, what could be done to increase the number of people voting at General Elections the most popular response from the public is that they "don't know" (30% gave this answer in the survey).

The top three suggestions for improving voter turnout are:

- Politicians must provide for people's needs outside of elections (18%);
- Successful political parties must keep their promises (12%); and
- Greater interaction between candidates/MPs and the electorate (7%).

These suggestions illustrate the importance of Government delivering on their promises and the communication of that delivery in the time between successive elections in order to engage people to vote when the election date comes.

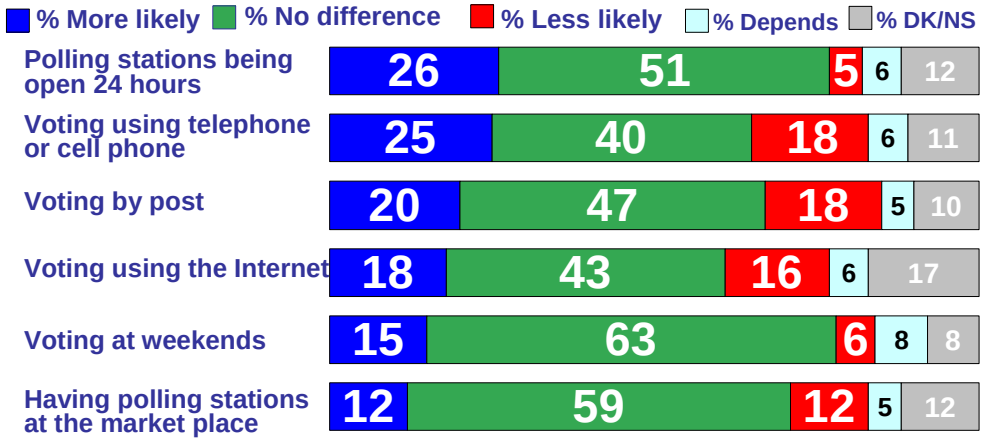
The survey also asked those people who did not vote whether a range of different mechanisms for voting would have any impact on their likelihood of voting at a General Election. The most popular response for all six options is that they would not make any difference, ranging from 40% of non-voters saying this about "voting by telephone or cell phone" to 63% if "voting at weekends" were available.

A quarter of non-voters say that allowing "polling stations to open 24 hours" would make them more likely to vote (26%) and a similar proportion say the same about "voting by telephone or cell phone" (25%).

It is interesting that for four of the six options almost as many non-voters say that these would make them less likely to vote as say it would make them more likely to vote. Only with "polling stations being open 24 hours" (26% more likely vs. 5% less likely) and "voting at weekends" (15% more likely vs. 6% less likely) do we find a large difference in this regard. And given the higher proportions who say none of these would make any difference, the findings suggest that changing the mechanisms of voting would potentially only have a marginal impact on the level of turnout at General Elections.

Increasing Turnout (1)

Q I am going to read out a number of suggestions that have been made for encouraging people to vote at General Elections. For each one, assuming it had been available at the General Election, would it have made you more likely to vote, less likely to vote or would it have made no difference to whether or not you voted?

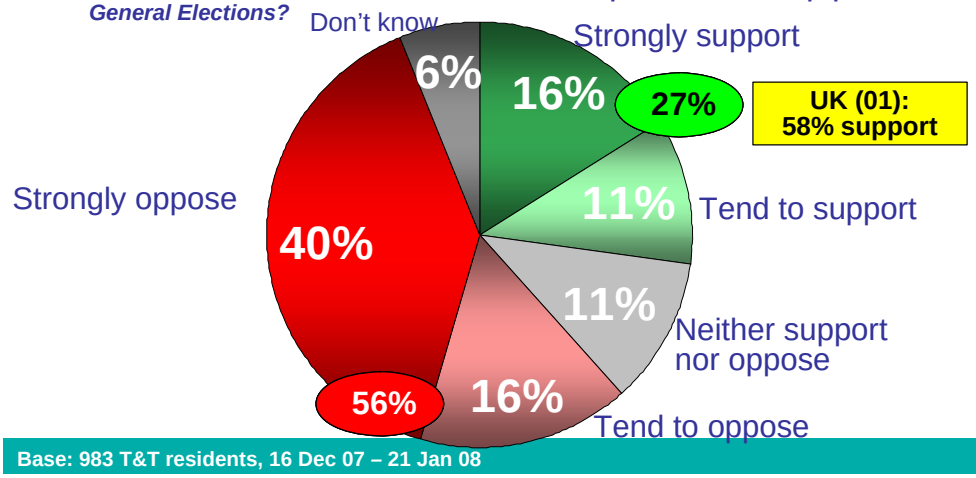


Base: 201 T&T residents who did not vote in 2007 General Election, Dec 07 – Jan 08

Some people believe that turnout would increase in elections if people are given the option to vote but not for one of the candidates/parties on the ballot paper, and instead to indicate that they support "none of the above" options. We tested out public reactions to this idea and the results show over half (56%) oppose a "none of the above" option on a ballot paper, including 40% who are strongly opposed to it. This is almost the reverse attitude in the UK where 58% support the inclusion of "none of the above".

"None of the Above" Option

Q Some people have suggested that the ballot paper for General Elections should include an option 'None of the above candidates' so that people can indicate that they do not support any of the candidates. At the moment there is not an option on the ballot paper allowing people to do this. Do you support or oppose the introduction of a 'None of the above candidates' option on the ballot paper for General Elections?



Base: 983 T&T residents, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08

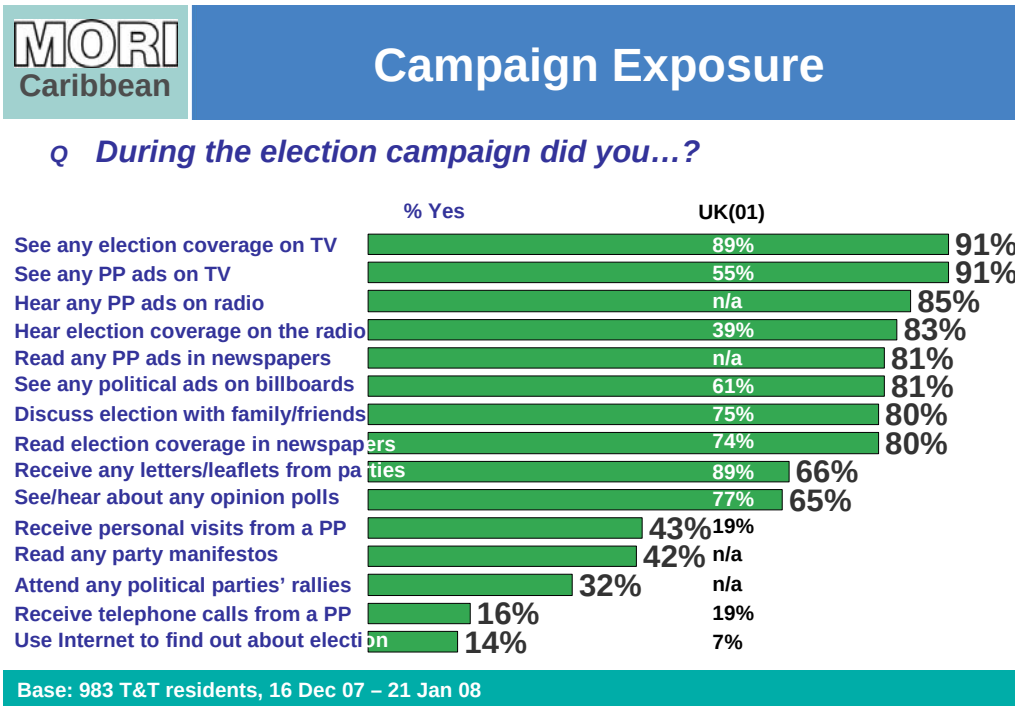
9.9 Campaign Exposure

Nine in ten people saw some election coverage on television (91%) and party political advertisements on television (91%) during the election campaign.

Other media sources, that is radio and newspapers, together with seeing political advertisements on billboards and discussing the election with family and friends were also widespread during the election campaign with more than four in five people saying they were exposed to this type of advertising.

Two thirds of the public received letters or leaflets from the parties or saw/read about opinion polls; and just over two in five said they had a personal visit from a representative of a political party (43%) or read any of the parties' manifestos (42%).

Receiving a telephone call from a representative of a political party (16%) or using the Internet to find out about the election (14%) were the least likely ways in which people were exposed to the election campaign.



The importance of different mechanisms for informing the public during the election campaign in Trinidad and Tobago is quite different to experience in the UK. This is mainly because of the more restrictive laws in the UK on the extent of advertising by political parties allowed in the media, so these forms of campaigning are of less importance in the UK. In contrast, more people in the UK recall receiving letters or leaflets from their candidates during the campaign than do in Trinidad and Tobago (89% to 66%): this is because in the UK all candidates are allowed to send up to two leaflets to constituents paid for by the postal service.

Non voters were less likely to have been engaged by the campaign in all of the different ways shown in the chart, especially in terms of having direct contact with any of the political parties, for example:

- "Personal visit from a representative of a political party": 50% of voters did, compared with 28% of non-voters;
- "Telephone call from a representative of a political party": 20% of voters did, compared with 9% of non-voters; and
- "Read any of the party manifestos": 51% of voters did, compared with 23% of non-voters.

9.10 Influences on Voting Decision

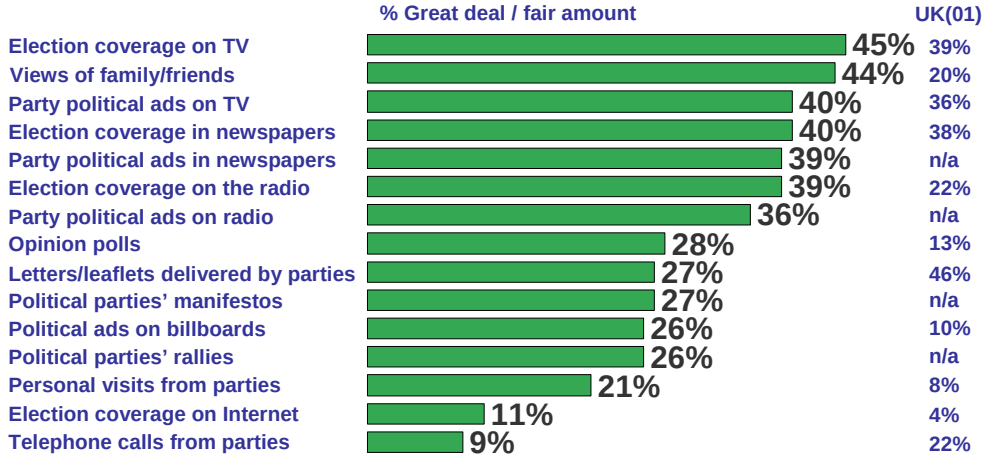
The influence of different campaign mechanisms on people's decision on what to do on the day of the General Election follow a similar pattern to the extent to which people were exposed to them. The most influential mechanisms were TV coverage (45%) and views of family and friends (44%), followed by election coverage and party political advertising in the newspapers and on television.

The least influential mechanisms were direct contact with the political parties, such as by telephone (9%) and personal visits (21%), together with any election coverage on the Internet (11%).

MORI Caribbean

Influences on Voting Decision

Q Please tell me how much influence, if any, each of the following had on your decision about what you would do on the day of the General Election?



Base: 983 T&T residents, 16 Dec 07 – 21 Jan 08

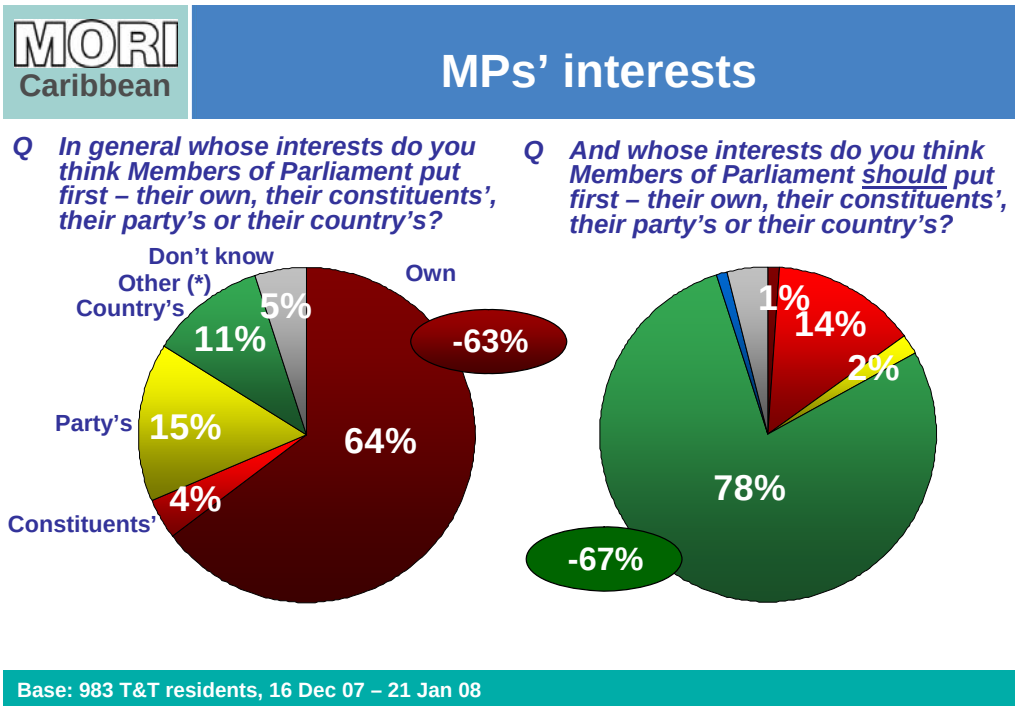
10. Serving the Public Interest

10.1 MPs' Interests

Two thirds (64%) of the public thinks that Members of Parliament (MPs) put their "own" interests first, ahead of their "party's" (15%), their "country's" (11%) or their "constituents"' (4%) interests.

In contrast, four in five people (78%) want MPs to put the "country's" interests first, followed by that of the "constituents"' (selected by 14% of respondents).

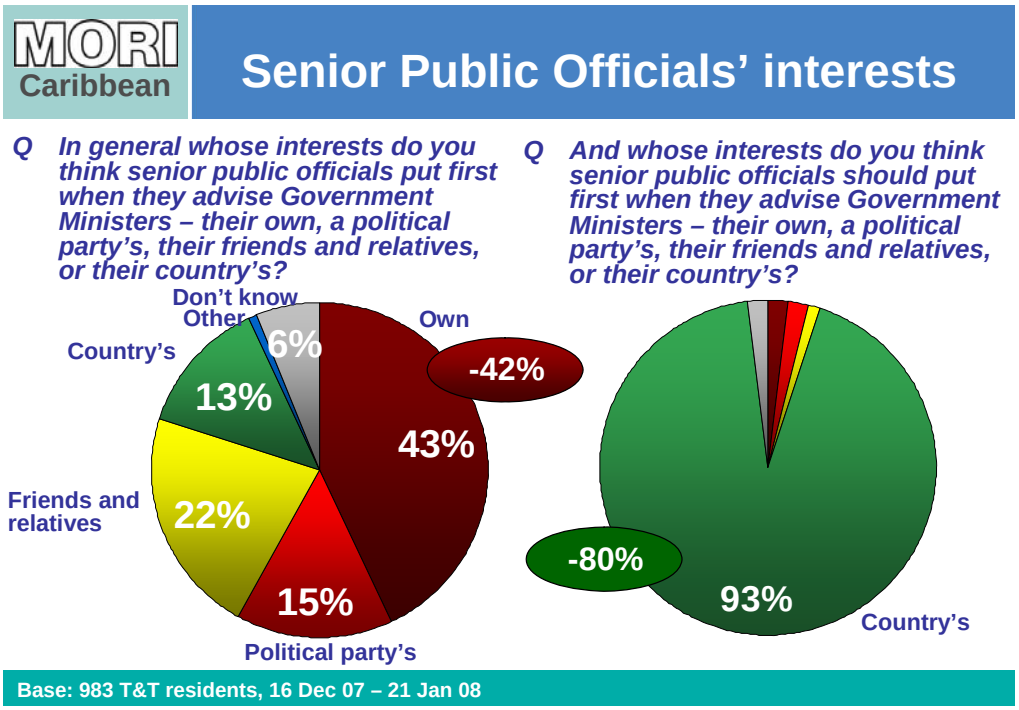
The difference between people's current perceptions of MPs' behaviour and what they should do in terms of their "own" interests is 63 points. That is, 64% of the public believes MPs currently put their "own" interests first, but only one percent thinks they should. The difference for "country" is 67%, that is, while 11% of the public believes MPs put the "country's" interests first, 78% want them to do this.



10.2 Senior Public Servants' Interests

The public also think that there is a mismatch between the current behaviour of Senior Public Servants and what they ought to do when advising Government Ministers.

Two thirds of the respondents expect that Senior Public Officials put their "own" interests (43%) or that of friends and relatives (22%) ahead of a "political party's" or the "country's" when advising a Government Minister. In contrast, the vast majority of the public (93%) thinks these officials should put the "country's" interest first.



11. Accountability

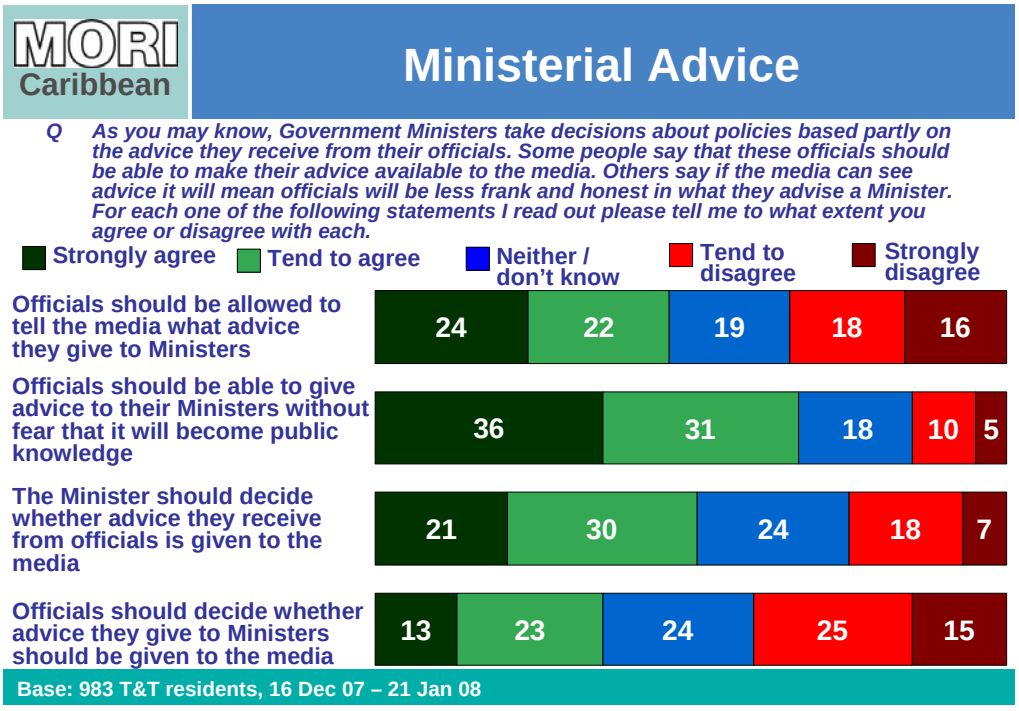
11.1 Ministerial Advice

The survey attempted to gain public views on whether advice given to Ministers by their officials should be kept confidential or whether it should be made public, and if the latter should decide when this happens.

The concept of providing confidential advice to Ministers is a convention many people would be unfamiliar with so it was necessary in the survey to explain why this happens giving both the advantages and disadvantages in order to better inform respondents.

Of the four statements then read out, the public is most likely to agree that "officials should be able to give advice to their Minister without fear that it will become public knowledge" (67%). Half the public also agree that "the Minister should decide whether advice received from officials should be given to the media" (51%). In contrast, the public is split with 36% in agreement and 40% in disagreement that "officials should decide whether advice they give to Ministers should be given to the media". Similarly, while 46% of the public agree that "officials should be allowed to tell the media what advice they give to Ministers" around a third (34%) of them disagree.

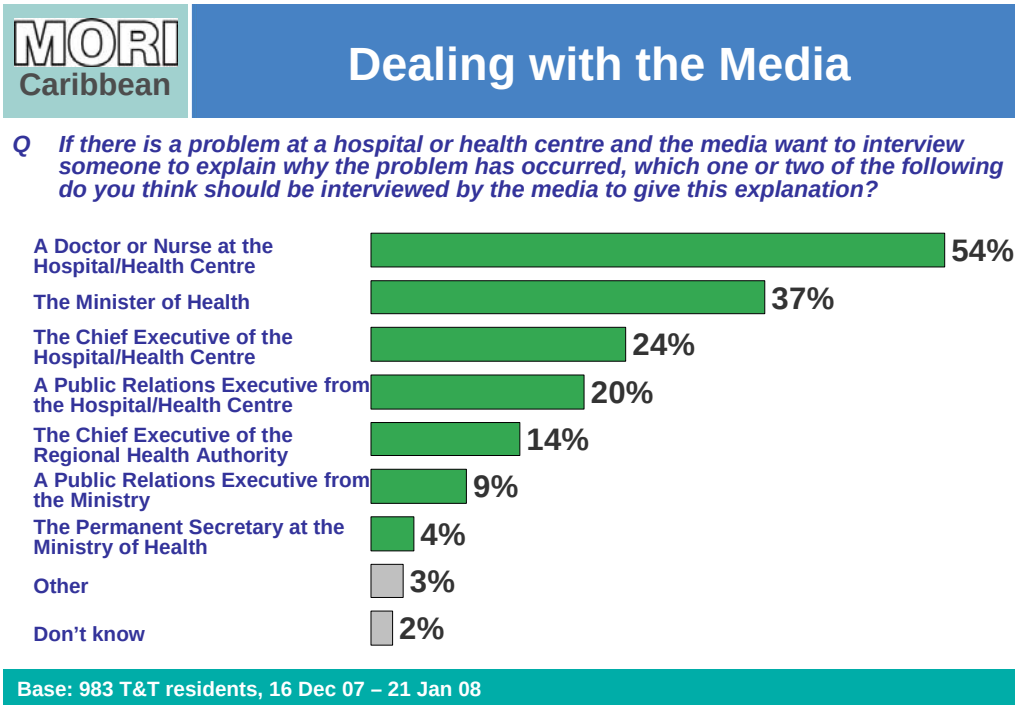
These findings suggest that the convention of officials providing confidential advice to their Minister finds broad public support, and that if this advice is given to the media it should be the Minister who decides, as long as this disclosure does not compromise the advising official.



11.1 Dealing with the Media

The majority of people (54%) say that a doctor or nurse should be the person nominated to talk to the media if there is a problem at a hospital or health centre. The next most popular interviewee would be the Minister of Health, selected by 37% of respondents.

Only one in five persons believe that a Public Relations Executive from the health institution would be best place to talk to the media, and even fewer (9%) want to hear from a Public Relations Executive from the Ministry of Health.

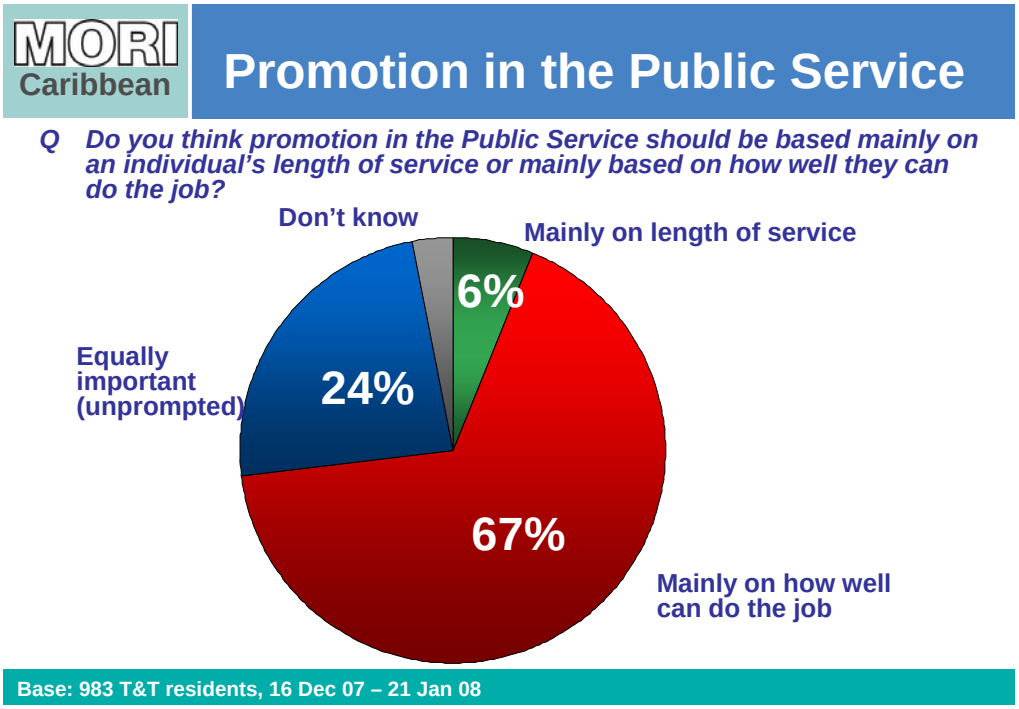


The order in which the public would like to hear from those working in the health sector when there are problems is the same for different sub-groups of the public.

12. Promotion in the Senior Public Service

11.1 Most Important Criteria for Promotion

There is a clear public consensus that promotion in the Public Service should be based mainly on how well individuals can do the job (67%) rather than mainly on their length of service (6%). A further quarter of the public say that both criteria should be of equal importance.



Appendices

I. Guide to Statistical Reliability

The sample tolerances that apply to the percentage results in this report are given in the table below. This table shows the possible variation that might be anticipated because a sample, rather than the entire population, was interviewed. As indicated, sampling tolerances vary with the size of the sample and the size of the percentage results. Strictly speaking, these sampling tolerances apply to only random probability sample, and thus these should be treated as broadly indicative.

Approximate sampling tolerances applicable to percentages at or near these levels

	10% or 90%	**30% or 70%**	**50%**
	±	±	±
Size of sample on which Survey result is based			
100 interviews	6	9	10
200 interviews	4	6	7
300 interviews	3	5	6
400 interviews	3	5	5
500 interviews	3	4	4
600 interviews	2	4	4
983 interviews	2	3	3

Source: MORI Caribbean

For example, on a question where 50% of the people in a sample of 983 respond with a particular answer, the chances are 95 in 100 that this result would not vary by more than 3 percentage points, plus or minus, from a complete coverage of the entire population using the same procedures.

Tolerances are also involved in the comparison of results from different parts of the sample, or when comparing results different groups of residents. A difference, in other words, must be of at least a certain size to be considered statistically significant. The following table is a guide to the sampling tolerances applicable to comparisons.

Differences required for significance at or near these percentages

	10% or 90%	30% or 70%	50%
Size of sample on which Survey result is based	±	±	±
100 and 100	8	13	14
100 and 200	7	11	12
100 and 300	7	10	11
100 and 400	7	10	11
100 and 500	7	10	11
200 and 200	7	10	11
200 and 300	5	8	9
429 and 554 (Men v. Women)	4	5	6
378 and 397 (Afro-Trinidadians vs. Indo-Trinidadians)	4	7	7
2,540 and 983 (Wave 7 and Wave 8)	2	3	4

Source: MORI Caribbean

The table above also shows that when comparing results from the Wave 9 survey with the Wave 7 survey, differences need to be around ±4% at the 50% level to be significant.

II. Guide to Social Classification

The table below contains a brief list of social class definitions as used by the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. These groups are standard on all surveys carried out by Market & Opinion Research International (MORI) Limited.

Table 15: Social Grades

	Social Class	Occupation of Chief Income Earner
A	Upper Middle Class	Higher managerial, administrative or professional
B	Middle Class	Intermediate managerial, administrative or professional
C1	Lower Middle Class	Supervisor or clerical and junior managerial, administrative or professional
C2	Skilled Working Class	Skilled manual workers
D	Working Class	Semi and unskilled manual workers
E	Those at the lowest levels of subsistence	State pensioners, etc, with no other earnings

III. Sample Profile

	Unweighted		*Weighted*	
	N	***%***	***n***	***%***
Total	***983***	**100**	***983***	**100**
Gender				
Male	*429*	44	*493*	50
Female	*554*	56	*490*	50
Age				
18-34	*358*	36	*418*	43
35-54	*375*	38	*369*	38
55+	*241*	25	*187*	19
Work Status				
Full/Part-time/Self-employed	*567*	58	*606*	62
Not working	*411*	42	*372*	38
Ethnicity				
Afro-Trinidadian	*378*	38	*365*	37
Indo-Trinidadian	*397*	40	*403*	41
Other	*185*	19	*192*	20
Regional area				
North	*120*	12	*108*	11
South	*272*	28	*287*	29
Central	204	21	181	18
East	353	36	364	37
Tobago	31	3	40	4

IV. Detailed Information on Response Rates

In total 983 adults living in Trinidad and Tobago were interviewed for the Wave 9 survey (all existing Panel members).

Interviews for Wave 9 were carried out face-to-face, in home, between 16 December 2007 and 21 January 2008. A total of 983 successful interviews were completed out of a sample of 1121 persons who were contacted or attempts were made for contact. The overall response rate was 88%. The total number of non-respondents was 138, which is calculated through a combination of no contact made (79), moved/migrated (24), deceased (3), unable to take part (e.g. sick or out of the country) (6) and refusals to take part (26).

V. Validation Checks

HHB & Associates carried out a series of validation checks to monitor the quality of interviewing. A summary of the validation process outcome is shown below.

Checks by Supervisors and Co-ordinator

In the field, 150 validation interviews were done by the Supervisors and the Co-ordinator:

i) 5 people were not interviewed (action – all questionnaires were rejected and face to face interviews done);

ii) 26 respondents refused to be on the Panel when contacted (action – these were removed from the panel); and

iii) 10 respondents were not asked the full set of questions (action – panel members were re-interviewed).

109 calls were made to respondents to verify only that they were visited by the interviewers and all questions were asked. In all cases the interviews were completely done by the interviewer.

VI. Topline Results