The Status of Democracy in Trinidad and Tobago: A citizens’view

March 15th, 2010
University of West Indies
Sample Design
Methodology

- Face-to-face interviews by trained interviewers
- National probability samples of 1500 respondents 18 years and older
- Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) is used at every stage of sampling
- Sample is stratified to ensure that all major demographic segments of the population are included in the sample
- Estimated Error: +/- 3% with 95% confidence interval
- Interviews were carried out by The institute of International Relations (IIR) at UWI
Support for Democracy as a System
Agreement with Churchill?

“Democracy may have problems, but it is better than any other form of government. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?”

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Low Support          High Support
Support for Democracy in T&T

Substantial proportions of citizens agree with Churchill

High Support: 69.0%
Low Support: 31.0%

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Support for Democracy in T&T in Comparative Perspective

Support for Democracy

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Who are more likely to have “high” support for democracy in T&T?

Results significant at p.<0.05; control variables included
Satisfaction with Democracy
**PN4.** In general, would you say that you are very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the way democracy works in Trinidad & Tobago?

(1) Very satisfied
(2) Satisfied
(3) Dissatisfied
(4) Very dissatisfied
(88) DK (98) DA

**Level of Satisfaction with The Way Democracy Works in T&T**

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Satisfaction with Democracy in T&T in Comparative Perspective

Panama: 62.5
Costa Rica: 62.5
El Salvador: 54.7
Dominican Republic: 50.7
Paraguay: 49.9
Nicaragua: 48.6
Guatemala: 47.8
Venezuela: 46.3
Peru: 44.7
Trinidad & Tobago: 44.7
Mexico: 44.6
Guyana: 43.8

95% Confidence Interval (Design-Effects Based)

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
System Support Index
Items used to create “System Support” Index

- **B1.** To what extent do you think the courts in (country) guarantee a fair trial?
- **B2.** ¿To what extent do you respect the political institutions of (country)?
- **B3.** To what extent do you think that citizens’ basic rights are well protected by the political system of (country)?
- **B4.** To what extent do you feel proud of living under the political system of (country)?
- **B6.** To what extent do you think that one should support the political system of (country)?
Support for the Political System in T&T in Comparative Perspective

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Who supports the political system in T&T?

- Mean predicted system support across different age groups:
  - 18-30 years old
  - 31-45 years old
  - 46-60 years old
  - 61 and older

- Mean predicted system support by region:
  - Central
  - South
  - Tobago
  - East
  - West

- Perception of Family Economic Situation:
  - Income not enough, having hard time
  - Income just enough, stretched
  - Income not enough, can save
  - Income good enough, can save

Results significant at p.<0.05; control variables included

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Economic Crisis and its Relationship on Democracy
Perception of the Economic Crisis

CRISIS1. Some say that our country is suffering a very serious economic crisis, others say that we are suffering a crisis but it is not very serious, while others say that there isn’t any economic crisis. What do you think? [Read options]
(1) We are suffering a very serious economic crisis
(2) We are suffering a crisis but it is not very serious, or
(3) No economic crisis [Go to VB1]
(88) DK [Go to VB1] (98) DA [Go to VB1]

CRISIS2. Who is the most to blame for the current economic crisis in our country from among the following: [READ LIST, MARK ONLY ONE RESPONSE]
(01) The previous administration
(02) The current administration
(03) Ourselves, the Belizeans
(04) The rich people of our country
(05) The problems of democracy
(06) The rich countries [Accept also Unites States, England, France, Germany, and Japan]
(07) The economic system of the country, or
(08) Never have thought about it
(77) [Don’t read] Other
(88) [Don’t read] DK (98) [Don’t read] DR (99) N/A
Is There an Economic Crisis?

Trinidad & Tobago

- We are suffering a very serious economic crisis: 46.2%
- We are suffering a crisis but it is not very serious: 43.9%
- No economic crisis: 9.9%

Economic Crisis Perception

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

Latin America and the Caribbean

- We are suffering a very serious economic crisis: 47.1%
- We are suffering a crisis but it is not very serious: 47.2%
- No economic crisis: 5.7%

Perception of Economic Crisis

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Who is to blame for the crisis?

Trinidad & Tobago

- The current government: 44.0%
- Ourselves, the citizens of the country: 22.6%
- The rich countries: 8.9%
- Other: 15.9%

Latin America and the Caribbean

- The current government: 24.2%
- Ourselves, the citizens of the country: 13.2%
- The rich countries: 8.3%
- The economic system of the country: 13.5%

Who is the most to blame for the current economic crisis?

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Economic Crisis and Satisfaction with Democracy

Trinidad & Tobago

Perception of Economic Crisis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System Support</th>
<th>We are suffering a very serious economic crisis</th>
<th>We are suffering a crisis but it is not very serious</th>
<th>No economic crisis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Satisfaction with Democracy

We are suffering a very serious economic crisis: 41.8
We are suffering a crisis but it is not very serious: 44.8
No economic crisis: 49.0

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

Latin America and the Caribbean

Perception of Economic Crisis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System Support</th>
<th>We are suffering a very serious economic crisis</th>
<th>We are suffering a crisis but it is not very serious</th>
<th>No economic crisis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Satisfaction with Democracy

We are suffering a very serious economic crisis: 45.1
We are suffering a crisis but it is not very serious: 53.7
No economic crisis: 61.5

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Economic Crisis and System Support

Trinidad & Tobago

Perception of Economic Crisis

- We are suffering a very serious economic crisis: 41.8%
- We are suffering a crisis but it is not very serious: 44.8%
- There is not an economic crisis: 49.0%

Latin America and the Caribbean

Perception of Economic Crisis

- We are suffering a very serious economic crisis: 49.1%
- We are suffering a crisis but it is not very serious: 56.0%
- No economic crisis*: 59.5%

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

95% Confidence Interval (Design-Effect Based)
Perception of Insecurity and its Impact on Democracy
AOJ11. Speaking of the neighborhood where you live and thinking of the possibility of being assaulted or robbed, do you feel very safe, somewhat safe, somewhat unsafe or very unsafe?
(1) Very safe
(2) Somewhat safe
(3) Somewhat unsafe
(4) Very unsafe
(88) DK  (98)DR

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Perception of insecurity in T&T in Comparative Perspective

![Bar Chart]

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Who are more likely to feel somewhat or very unsafe in T&T?

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Perception of insecurity undermines democratic legitimacy

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Corruption and its Impact on Democracy
EXC7. Taking into account your own experience or what you have heard, corruption among public officials is…
(1) Very common
(2) Common
(3) Uncommon
(4) Very uncommon
(88) DK (98) DA

Perception of corruption

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Perception of Corruption in T&T in Comparative Perspective

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
Corruption Victimization
in T&T

Percentage of People Victimized by Corruption at Least Once in Past Year

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP
## Corruption Victimization in T&T in Comparative Perspective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Per cent of Population Victimized by Corruption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>32.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>27.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Source
AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

### Diagram

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Per cent of Population Victimized by Corruption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>32.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>27.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

95% Confidence Interval (Design-Effects Based)
Corruption Victimization in T&T by Regions

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP

Result significant at p.<0.05; control variables included
Corruption victimization undermines democratic legitimacy

Source: AmericasBarometer by LAPOP