

PEOPLE'S VIEWS ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- ❖ **MORE THAN 75% OF THE POPULATION IS IN FAVOUR OF POSTPONING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.**
- ❖ **MORE THAN 70% OF THE POPULATION IS IN FAVOUR OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE PRIVATE MILITARY COMPANY (WAGNER).**
- ❖ **MORE THAN 80% OF THE POPULATION IS SATISFIED WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY AGAINST LESS THAN 15% DISSATISFIED.**
- ❖ **MORE THAN 85% ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY FRANCE TO MALI AGAINST LESS THAN 10% WHO ARE SATISFIED.**
- ❖ **ONLY 9% HAVE A FAVOURABLE OPINION OF FRANCE; THIS STATISTIC IS 89% FOR RUSSIA; 56% FOR THE UNITED STATES; 77% FOR CHINA; 20% FOR MINUSMA AND 8% FOR OPERATION BARKHANE.**

Mali is currently experiencing a period of rising tensions between our various personalities (political and religious) and between our authorities and certain partner countries such as France. It is in this context that the present survey is conducted in order to evaluate the opinion of the population on the national and international news. The survey was conducted from Thursday, September 30 to Sunday, October 03, 2021 on a sample of 1144 individuals in the district of Bamako. The results of the survey are therefore valid for the district of Bamako and do not necessarily reflect national opinion. The quota method (with gender and age as criteria) was applied and the sample is representative of the population of the district. On the first day of the survey, collectors worked in pairs with journalists to allow the latter to observe transparency in our data collection methodology.

The questions asked concerned the evolution of the general situation in the country (over the past two months); the population's opinion on whether or not the presidential elections should be postponed; the population's opinion on the arrival in Mali of the private Russian military company (Wagner); the opinion of the population on the management of the country by President Assimi Goïta and his team; the opinion of the population on different politicians and religious figures; the opinion of the population on different countries or organizations such as France, the United States, China, Russia, the Minusma and Operation Barkhane.

The results are as follows:

Q. In your opinion, over the past two months, has the general situation in the country improved, stayed the same or deteriorated?

According to the results of the survey: 27.80% of the population think that the general situation of the country has deteriorated; 21.50% think that it has remained at the same level while 50.17% think that the situation has improved.

Q. Today, there are two opinions among the Malian population: the first maintains that whatever the situation, the presidential elections must be organized within the next 5 months (i.e. in February 2022). The second opinion defends the postponement of these elections for a better organization at the appropriate time. What is your opinion? The results reveal that: 79.02% of the population of Bamako is for the postponement of the elections while 18.01% think that we should organize these elections in February 2022 and 2.97% did not give an answer to this question. The majority of the

population is therefore in favour of postponing the presidential elections. The intersection of this variable with the level of education shows that: more than 75% of people are in favour of postponement regardless of their level of education (79.26% for those who have less than the BAC level and 78.21% for those who have completed university studies).

Q. For those who indicated that they want the postponement of the elections, we asked, in their opinion, what is the ideal duration of the postponement? Considering the whole population (those who are not in favour of postponement were given the value 0 for the ideal duration of postponement), we note that about 67.40% of the population request a postponement of at least one year. We have 42.05% who are in favour of a minimum 2-year deferral and only 24.91% are in favour of a 3-year deferral.

Q. Concerning the arrival of the private military company Wagner, it appears that: 13.81% have never heard of this company; 78.58% are in favour of its arrival against 7.61% who are against. Considering only those who have heard of Wagner, the results indicate that 91.18% are in favour of its arrival against 8.82% who do not approve of such a project.

Q. Are you very satisfied; somewhat satisfied; not satisfied; not at all satisfied with the way President Assimi Goïta and his team are running the country? The results show that 87.50% are satisfied with the management of the country (with 44.32% very satisfied and 43.18% rather satisfied) against 12.50% who are unsatisfied (with 9.62% rather dissatisfied and 2.88% very unsatisfied).

Q. Opinion on the support provided by France: are you very satisfied; rather satisfied; not satisfied; not at all satisfied with the support provided by France in solving the problem of the North? The analysis shows that the majority of the population is not satisfied with the support provided by France. Indeed, 92.83% of the population (i.e. 9 people out of ten) declare not to be satisfied with the support provided by France (with 69.32% not at all satisfied and 23.51% not rather not satisfied). Only 7.17% said they were satisfied with this support.

Q. For each of the following countries or organizations, please tell me if you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable opinion.

- ✓ **France:** 7.95% of Bamako residents have a favorable opinion of France while 91.43% have an unfavorable opinion (0.61% could not give their opinion).
- ✓ **Russia:** 89.69% of Bamako residents have a favourable opinion of Russia, while 6.21% have an unfavourable opinion (4.11% were unable to give an opinion).
- ✓ **The United States:** 54.28% of Bamako residents have a favorable opinion of the United States while 37.15% have an unfavorable opinion (8.57% could not give an opinion).
- ✓ **China:** 77.19% of Bamako residents have a favourable opinion of China while 17.48% have an unfavourable opinion (5.33% could not give their opinion).
- ✓ **MINUSMA:** 18.71% of people living in Bamako have a favourable opinion of MINUSMA, while 78.85% have an unfavourable opinion (2.45% were unable to give an opinion).
- ✓ **ECOWAS:** 20.54% of Bamako residents have a favourable opinion of ECOWAS while 74.39% have an unfavourable opinion (5.07% could not give their opinion).
- ✓ **BARKHANE:** 7.26% of people living in Bamako have a favorable opinion of BARKHANE while 90.47% have an unfavorable opinion (2.27% could not give their opinion).

Q. For each of the following political figures, please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of the person. We note that:

- ✓ **For the President of the Republic Assimi Goïta:** 94.14% of People living in Bamako have a favourable opinion (with 62.85% very favourable and 31.29% rather favourable) of his person while 4.63% have an unfavourable opinion (1.22% could not give their opinion).
- ✓ **For the head of government, Mr. Choguel Kokalla Maiga:** 77.45% of People living in Bamako have a favorable opinion of his person while 17.48% have an unfavorable opinion (5.07% could not give their opinion).
- ✓ **Former Prime Minister Modibo Sidibé:** 39.34% of People living in Bamako have a favorable opinion of him while 48.17% have an unfavorable opinion (12.50% could not give their opinion).
- ✓ **Former Prime Minister Cheick Modibo Diarra:** 80.51% of People living in Bamako have a favorable opinion of him while 13.37% have an unfavorable opinion (6.12% could not give their opinion).
- ✓ **Former Prime Minister Moussa Mara:** 66.43% of People living in Bamako have a favorable opinion of him while 27.98% have an unfavorable opinion (5.59% could not give their opinion).
- ✓ **Former Prime Minister Souleyvou Boubeye Maiga:** 18.62% of people living in Bamako have a favorable opinion of his person while 73.17% have an unfavorable opinion (8.22% could not give their opinion).
- ✓ **The presidential candidate (of 2018) Aliou Boubacar Diallo:** 39.86% of People living in Bamako have a favorable opinion of his person while 34.18% have an unfavorable opinion (25.96% could not give their opinion).
- ✓ **Issa Kaou Djim:** 10.93% of people living in Bamako have a favorable opinion of his person while 78.06% have an unfavorable opinion (11.01% have no opinion or do not know the person).
- ✓ **Seydou Mamadou Coulibaly:** 14.77% of people living in Bamako have a favorable opinion of his person while 8.66% have an unfavorable opinion (76.57% have no opinion or do not know the person).
- ✓ **Maitre Demba Traoré:** 28.85% of people living in Bamako have a favorable opinion of his person while 14.60% have an unfavorable opinion (56.56% have no opinion or do not know the person).
- ✓ **Mamadou Igor Diarra:** 34.44% of people living in Bamako have a favourable opinion of him while 17.50% have an unfavourable opinion (48.16% have no opinion or do not know the person).
- ✓ **Q. In your opinion, should religious leaders get involved in politics or stay away?** On this question, 41.14% of the population think that religious leaders should get involved in politics while 53.58% think that they should stay away from the political field (2.27% could not give an answer).

Q. For each of the following religious figures, please tell me whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of the person?

- ✓ **Chérif Ousmane Madani Haidara:** 76.40% of People living in Bamako have a favorable opinion of him while 20.28% have an unfavorable opinion (3.32% could not give their opinion).
- ✓ **Imam Mahmoud Dicko:** 64.86% of people living in Bamako have a favorable opinion of him while 30.68% have an unfavorable opinion (4.46% could not give their opinion).
- ✓ **The Sheriff of Nioro (Bouyé):** 79.11% of people living in Bamako have a favorable

opinion of him while 15.99% have an unfavorable opinion (4.90% could not give their opinion).

- ✓ **Chouala Bayaya Haidara:** 37.15% of people living in Bamako have a favorable opinion of his person while 51.49% have an unfavorable opinion (11.36% could not give their opinion).

In view of these different results and taking into account certain realities in the field, we offer the following advice:

- ❖ **To His Excellency Assimi Goïta:** your popularity rating (about 90% favorable opinion) may be due to circumstantial events and not to the results of your work (as it is assumed that you have not yet had enough time to work). Everything will depend on your future behavior. Malians have observed in the past: people close to power getting rich, abuse of power, squandering of public property, injustice and impunity in many areas. If you allow such an atmosphere to take hold, it is a negative way to go down in history and to deviate from the course of change that Malians so much aspire to. So, take care in an uncompromising way that your relatives do not fall into this circle.
- ❖ **Again to His Excellency Assimi Goïta:** given the tension that exists between Malians on the one hand and between Mali and certain partner countries on the other, at least 4 things are necessary for the transition:
 - ✓ President, Prime Minister, members of the government, members of the CNT: must remain honest and modest. If you ever start buying things that far exceed your salaries then do not be surprised if the population turns against you.
 - ✓ You have to make intelligent use of the competition that exists between the developed countries. For example, if France refuses, then Russia, or China, or Iran, or maybe even Turkey, will be happy to start an acceptable collaboration with our country. However, do not forget that each country has its own interest in mind, even if some consider us with a little more dignity than others.
 - ✓ The anger of some French authorities may push them to support certain Malian politicians to prevent you from working. This anger can also push them to let the security situation of the country deteriorate so that the population is dissatisfied with the management of the country. One solution to these types of behaviour is to have an awake, conscious youth, disinterested in public money and whose voice carries outside Mali.
 - ✓ Continue the implementation of the peace agreement and understand that the people in the occupied areas have suffered enough from this situation.
- ❖ **To His Excellency Choguel Kokalla Maïga:** it is an opportunity to be Prime Minister of a President who wants change and to have a population that is thirsty for change; finally, we note that you may have the level, the competence that is needed to occupy this position. Therefore, bring a great change in the functioning of the Malian administration. Finally, prepare yourself to receive the same pressures as the President of the Republic in the days ahead.
- ❖ **To the politicians as a whole:** you like to speak in the name of the people, while it is not uncommon to see you supporting opinions totally opposed to those of the population. The fact that the majority of the population supported the coup d'état against IBK (see our poll on this subject) and demanded the postponement of the presidential elections should serve as a lesson. Unfortunately, most politicians remain deaf to the

call of the people. Understand that the population is becoming more and more demanding. Currently, in Africa, we notice more and more that the level of awareness and political maturity and or democratic populations exceeds that of the politicians who lead them.

❖ **To the French President, His Excellency Emmanuel Macron:** please note 3 things

- ✓ Even though the Malian authorities are the result of two coups d'état, the results of the poll show that the Malian President of the transition has more than 90% of favorable opinion; also, more than 80% of the population is satisfied with the management of the country. As for the Prime Minister, he has more than 70% of favorable opinion. Whereas: from 2012 to today, according to our polls, the popularity rating of France's support to Mali has dropped from more than 80% (poll in 2012) to less than 10% today. So look in the same direction as the Malian population.
- ✓ His Excellency Macron, did not you congratulate the government resulting from the first coup d'état indicating that they have done in a few months what the IBK regime could not do in 7 years? What barometer do you use to congratulate or qualify a government as illegitimate?
- ✓ With an authoritarian way, you ask to organize the presidential elections in February 2022, whereas more than 75% of the population wishes the postponement of these elections in order to better prepare them.
- ✓ Finally, your way of treating our countries is causing France to lose advantages. For example, Mali has just bought helicopters from Russia, and the other countries in the sub-region can follow in Mali's footsteps. This situation will therefore enable this great power, Russia, to export more to our countries and to strengthen its bilateral relations. All this is perhaps the result of the way Mali is treated. Indeed, even though we know that countries do not have friends, they only have interests, we prefer countries that treat us with a little more dignity.

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