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Departmental questions: South African National Defence Force

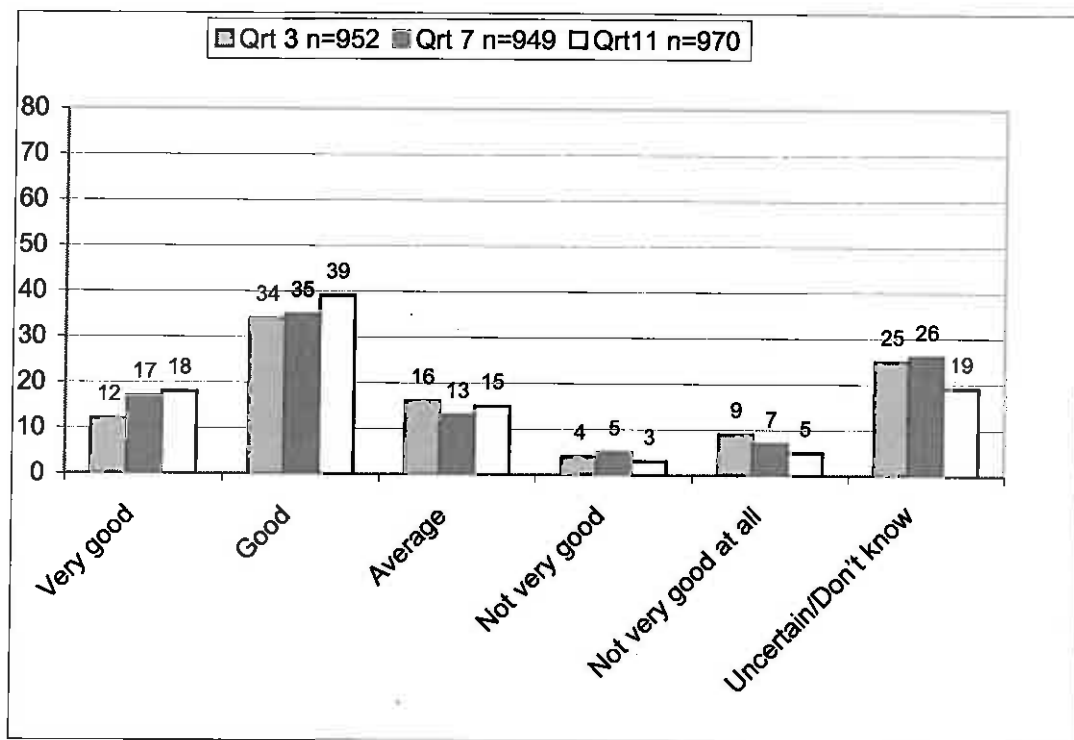
Quarter 11

KEY RESULTS

Background

This report deals with data over the period 15 August 2005 to 6 November 2005. A total of 970 respondents were interviewed and the data have been weighted to represent the adult population of South Africa. The sample is representative of the country's adult population (18+ yrs of age) in all key demographics and across all nine provinces and areas (metropolitan, small-urban, rural). It should be noted that a 4-5% change in results between quarters is significant.

Figure 1: Effectiveness of SANDF in defending the county



In quarter 11, more than half of South Africans expressed a positive view about the effectiveness of the SANDF in defending the country. This comprised almost two in five (39%) who were of the opinion that the SANDF is 'good' and a further 18% that thought the SANDF is 'very good' at defending the country. A slight increase or movement towards this positive perception can be observed in the above graph when looking in the previous quarters.

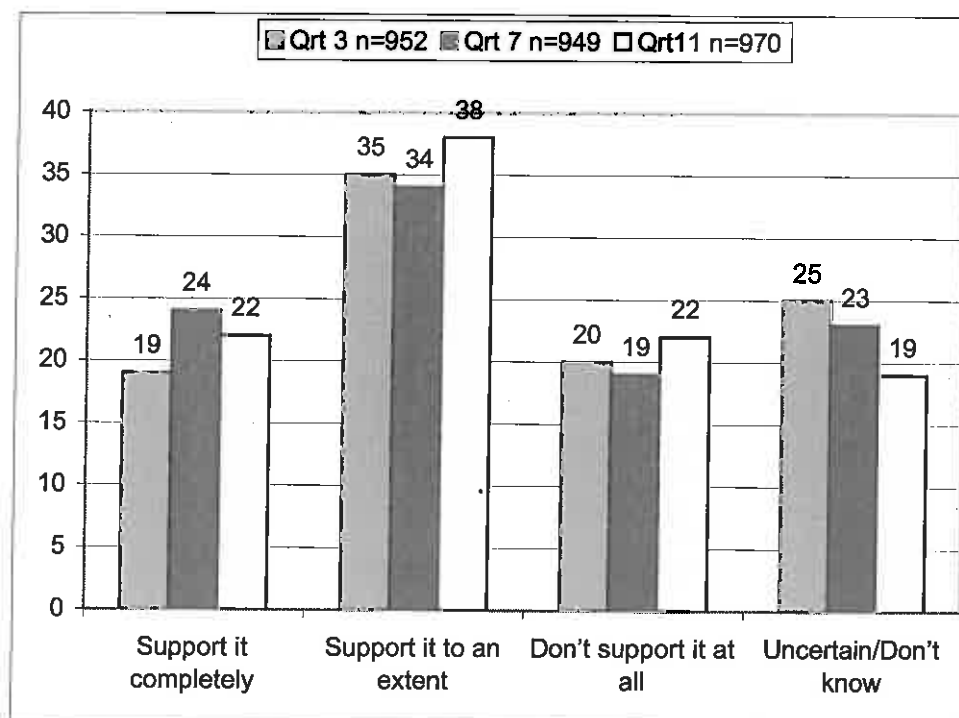
Only 8% of respondents were of the opinion that the SANDF is not very good or not good at all in defending the country. About 19% of the respondents indicated that they were uncertain about whether the SADF is effective in defending the country or not. Another interesting finding that can be noted is a significant decrease in proportion of people stating that they 'don't know' or were 'unsure' about this issue in quarter 11 (19%) as compared to previous quarters (quarter 3: 25% and quarter 7: 26%).

KEY RESULTS (Continued)

When looking at the responses to this question by specific variables, it is evident that a high proportion of people in rural areas; the Eastern Cape and Free State; in the LSM 4/6 (although with below 50 respondents); males; Africans; people with no income; people with some high school education (not matric); and people who perceive government to be going into the right direction or that the government is doing well were more likely to rate the SANDF positively.

In general the people who indicated that they were uncertain or that they did not know how to rate the SANDF were more likely to be residents of KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape; people in the higher LSMs (LSM 7/8); females in rural areas; Asians; people with no schooling; and people who were uncertain about the direction the country is taking. Surprisingly, a large proportion of people who perceived the government to be doing badly were also likely to say they were uncertain about the SANDF's performance.

Figure 2: Level of support for acquisition of weapons

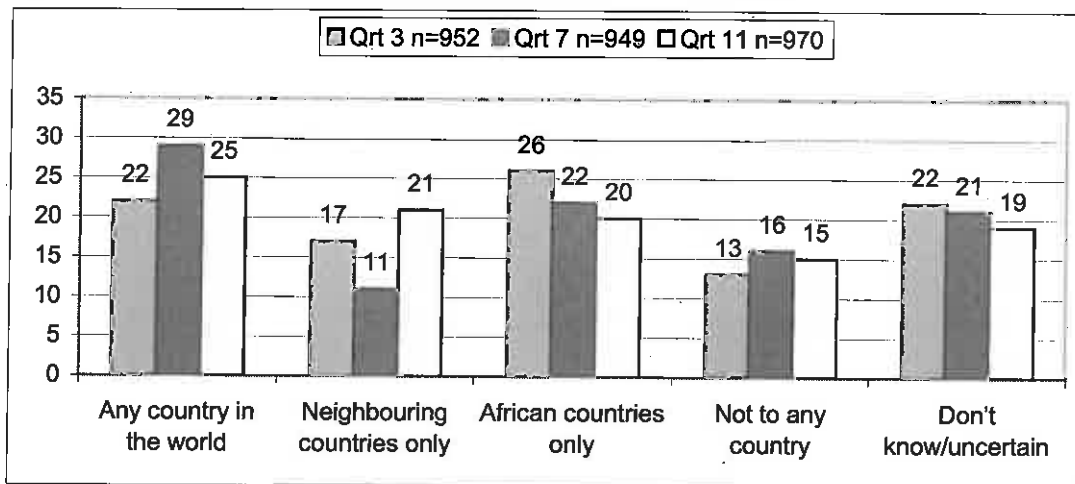


When asked to rate their level of support for the SANDF's acquisition of weapons and equipment, more than half of the population (60%) was supportive. Only about 22% said they do not support the acquisition of weapons and equipment by the SANDF at all. A further 19% indicated that they were uncertain on the issue.

KEY RESULTS

In general, people in Gauteng (47%); people aged 25-34 years (45%); those earning over R7500 per month (55%); people with some high school qualification but not matric (45%); and those perceiving the government to be doing well (43%) were the most likely to be supportive to the certain extent of the acquisition of weapons and equipment by SANDF. Conversely, people in the Western Cape; and those perceiving the country to be going into the wrong direction; those of the view that the government is doing badly; and those who are not committed to South Africa were the most likely to be opposed to the SANDF acquiring weapons and equipment.

Figure 3: SANDF's involvement in peace-keeping activities



People were also asked to state their perceptions of the SANDF's involvement in peace keeping. About a quarter (25%) of the population stated that SANDF should be involved in peace keeping efforts in any country of the world. This constitutes a slightly decrease compared with the previous quarter (quarter 7: 29%). Interestingly, a significant increase in support for SANDF deploying peace keeping forces in neighbouring countries only can be observed (21% in quarter 11). About 15% of the population did not want peace forces to be deployed anywhere in the world whilst a further 19% said they were uncertain.

In general, a high proportion of people in Eastern Cape, Gauteng, Limpopo and North West; those aged between 18-24; and those who perceived the country to be moving in the right direction were the most likely to be supportive of the SANDF's involvement in peace keeping activities in any country. The proportion of people who felt that the SANDF should not be involved in peace keeping activities in any other country was highest amongst people in Western Cape; Coloured and Asian people; those earning over R7500 pm (although with below 50 respondents); and those with no schooling (although with below 50 respondents).

Observations

- Responses to the SANDF were highly positive in all respects.
- In Quarter 11 there was a slight decrease on previous quarters in the proportions of those who were uncertain about the SANDF's activities.
- People in provinces with a largely rural base appeared to be the most supportive.
- Positive views about the SANDF correlate with the perception that the country is going into the right direction.
- Provincially, the Western Cape has the largest proportion of people who do not support the SANDF's involvement in peace keeping activities in any country of the world.