



We're too happy to worry about the gloom

South Africans are happier in real life than on paper.

By Andile Ndlovu

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In the survey, as many as 80% of South Africans said they were happy last year, an increase from 70% in 2013.

Just two weeks after being placed in the top 10 most miserable countries in the World Misery Index, which ranked 108 countries, a new survey by Ask Afrika has found that we are actually quite buoyant.

In the survey, as many as 80% of South Africans said they were happy last year, an increase from 70% in 2013. The latest results make us 10% happier than the global average.

A sample representing 34827961 South Africans was surveyed over the phone in December.

We are so happy that we are willing to take up arms for our country - 81% of South Africans, compared to 60% globally said they would go to war for the country.

Africans in general are happy - 83% of those surveyed were content, followed by Asia's inhabitants at 77%.

The happiest European country is Finland at 80%.

The happiest people in the world are the Fijians at 93%.

Iraq is the world's most unhappy country.

In France, Serbia, Greece and Belgium, almost 60% believe that 2015 will bring economic difficulties.

In South Africa, 28% said it would be a less prosperous year, 27% said it would be better financially and almost 40% believed things would be the same as last year.

Last month, South Africa was rated lower than only Venezuela, Argentina, Syria, Ukraine, Iran, Brazil, São Tome and Principe, Serbia and Jamaica on the World Misery Index by the Cato Institute, a right-wing US think tank.

The index is calculated as the sum of the unemployment rate, the lending rate and consumer inflation rate less the percent change in real GDP per capita.