
An Assessment of the Performance of the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic

**A Study Conducted by the Research Department of the National
Commission for Civic Education (NCCE)**

August, 2009

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Acknowledgement

This survey report on the *Assessment of the Performance of the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic* was conducted by the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) in August, 2009.

We acknowledge that this survey has been successful due to the support, contributions and assistance of several individuals, institutions and organizations. We particularly wish to thank the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Laary Bimi, for his support and Mr. Jones Kugblenu, Director of Public Affairs of Parliament, for providing us with the needed information on Parliament. To the research assistants who collected the data and their directors, we say thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Our commendation also goes to the staff of the Research Department of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) headed by Mrs. Gertrude Zakariah-Ali, the directors and regional directors for their contributions.

The interviewees who availed themselves to be interviewed also deserve commendation as well as the community leaders for their support.

We are also very grateful to the Parliamentarians who took time off their busy schedule to respond to our call to be interviewed.

Finally, NCCE acknowledges with gratitude the diverse contribution of several other people which made this survey a success.



Baron Y. Amofo
Deputy Chairman (Programmes)

Executive Summary

The survey on *Assessment of the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic* was undertaken in August, 2009 to provide information on how democracy is deepening with regard to the Legislature and to document same. The findings so documented are expected to inform NCCE's public education on the role of state institutions. Parliament itself, Government and Civil Society Organisations may also make use of the findings in their work.

A total of one thousand, three hundred and forty-four members of the public were interviewed. Sixty-two MPs were also interviewed to complement the views of members of the public. This report presents the findings of the survey, highlights of which are presented below:

Orientation to Politics

The majority of respondents, one thousand, one hundred and fifty-five (85.9 per cent) voted in the 2004 Presidential and Parliamentary elections. This is similar to the pattern of national voter turnout in the 2004 elections. Majority of the one hundred and eighty-three (183) who didn't vote were underage. Sixty-five (32.7 per cent) fell in this category. Another fifty (25.1 per cent) didn't vote because they had travelled.

Knowledge of and Interaction with MP

One thousand, two hundred and twenty-nine (91.4 per cent) knew their MP. Only One hundred and nine did not know their MP.

As many as nine hundred and fifty-six (956) respondents said they interacted with their MP. Four hundred and eighty-three (483) however did so infrequently, while three hundred and fifty-seven (357) said it was frequent. Another one hundred and sixteen (116) interacted very frequently with their MP. A substantial number of two hundred and twenty-one (221) hardly interacted with their MP.

On the means of interaction with the MP, Six hundred and sixty (49.1 per cent) respondents identified social events organized by the people. This was followed by meetings organized by the MP, which was chosen by four hundred and eighty-one (35.8 per cent) respondents. Media events received the least number of respondents identifying it as a means of interaction with the MP. One out of every four respondent said they met with the MP more than four times in a year.

Role of the Member of Parliament

Nine hundred and eighteen (68.3 per cent) of respondents identified law-making as the main role of the MP. Reviewing and approving development programmes was stated by five hundred and seven (37.7 per cent) respondents. That the changed role of the MP in the Fourth Republican Constitution has not been fully appreciated was demonstrated by the seven hundred and one (52.2 per cent) respondents who identified the provision of infrastructure and social amenities as a role for the MP. Indeed, when constituents were asked to mention priority areas their MP should devote time to, as many as one thousand, one hundred and thirty-one (84.2 per cent) said MPs should bring development

projects to their constituencies. Five hundred and eighty-eight (43.8 per cent) said MPs should educate constituents on the Government's policies and programmes. As many as six hundred and eighty-seven (51.1 per cent) prioritized MPs' regular interaction with constituents. A good number of four hundred and forty-one (32.8 per cent) said MPs should pay attention to peace building, conflict prevention, resolution, and settling of disputes.

Approaching the MP on Issues

Nine hundred and three (67.2 per cent) respondents never approached their MP on any issue. Only four hundred and thirty-seven (32.5 per cent) approached their MP. Issues on which most constituents approached their MP included development projects, education, electricity, water and health in descending order of priority.

Respondents who never approached their MP either said they were not interested or that the MP was often not available in the Constituency.

Two hundred and ninety-six (22.0 per cent) of those who approached their MP were satisfied with the handling of their issues. Seventy-five (49.3 per cent) of the one hundred and forty-one respondents who were not satisfied said the MP offered no assistance.

Majority of constituents who approached their MP were satisfied with the reception given them. Only seventy-six (5.6 per cent) were dissatisfied with the way their MP received them.

The MP and the District Assembly

Fifty-two of the sixty-two MPs interviewed frequented their District Assembly meetings because it is their constitutional duty. Only one attended once, while three (3) never attended any meeting. Those who were infrequent or didn't attend cited late invitations and no invitations as their reasons.

Many MPs who attended Assembly meetings found them useful (35.5 per cent) or very useful (50 per cent).

MPs made good use of their share of the DACF by embarking on various development projects. Fifty-six MPs (90.3 per cent) constructed school buildings, and forty-three (76.8 per cent) undertook electrification projects. Thirty-four (54 per cent) engaged in the provision of pipe borne water or the digging of boreholes.

Relationship between MP and Metropolitan/Municipal/DCE

Forty-eight MPs said their relationship with the DMMCE was cordial, with fifteen (24.2 per cent) of them stating that the relationship was excellent. Only one lamented that the relationship with the Chief Executive was very poor.

On ways to improve upon the relationship, seventeen MPs (27.4 per cent) suggested improved communication between the MPs and Chief Executives, while fifteen (24.2 per cent) called for unity of purpose and partnership in development. Ten MPs (16.1 per cent) identified the need for education on their respective roles to help minimize conflicts. Six MPs (9.7 per cent) advocated for Chief Executives

to be prevented from contesting for the position of MP while still in office. This, they believed, will minimize the conflicts that arise between the two. They also suggested that the Chief Executives should be voted for.

Knowledge of, and Participation in the Work of Parliament

One thousand, one hundred and fifty-nine (86 per cent) of the respondents saw the main role of Parliament to be legislative. Monitoring and reviewing the executive's financial programme was the next important role. It was identified by four hundred and fifty-four (33 per cent) of the respondents. Proposing projects on socio-economic development for implementation was also mentioned by four hundred and twenty-six (32 per cent) of respondents. Two hundred and twenty (16 per cent) were able to identify debating issues on the floor of the House as a role of Parliament.

The findings also established that constituents are aware of the committees that existed in Parliament. When they were asked to mention committees that existed in the Fourth Parliament, they did so successfully. The Public Accounts Committee was the one which the majority of respondents mentioned. The next well known committee was the Appointments Committee, followed by the Finance Committee, then Education Committee. The Committee on Health was also mentioned. Fourteen per cent of respondents could not mention any committee of Parliament.

The survey also sought to find out how knowledgeable Constituents were about Laws passed by the Fourth Parliament. Eight hundred and thirty-one (61.9 per cent) of the respondents successfully mentioned one law which was passed by the Fourth Parliament. Four hundred and four (404) of them mentioned the National Health Insurance Act, the Domestic Violence Act had the next highest number of respondents mentioning it (281). The third most mentioned law was the Representation of the People's Amendment Act. One hundred and forty-six (146) mentioned it.

To assess further the participation of Constituents in the work of Parliament, the survey sought to find out the extent to which constituents followed proceedings in Parliament. They were asked to mention one debate in Parliament which interested them most. Sixty point four per cent (60.4 per cent) of respondents were able to mention one debate. These included the debate on the sale of Ghana Telecom, the National Health Insurance Bill, and the Representation of the People's Amendment Bill.

As to whether or not Constituents expectations of the Fourth Parliament were met, six hundred and seventy-two (50 per cent) said it was met. Six hundred and thirty-two on the other hand said their expectations were not met.

Passage of the National Health Insurance Act, diligence on the part of parliamentarians and the exercise of control over Government expenditure were some of the reasons which accounted for their expectations being met. Reasons for the unmet expectations included high rate of absenteeism, inability to control Government expenditure and partisanship on the floor of the House.

Performance of Parliamentarians and Parliament

Eighty-three (6.2 per cent) out of a thousand three hundred and forty-four respondents said their MPs performed excellently. Two hundred and forty-one (17.9 per cent) rated their MPs' performance as very good. Six hundred and six (45.1 per cent) perceived the MPs performance to be just good.

Those who felt their MPs didn't perform well were two hundred and eighty-two (282). Two hundred and sixteen of them (216) said the performance was poor, while the rest said it was very poor.

In assessing the performance of Parliament as a whole, seven hundred and sixty-nine (57.2 per cent) of the thousand three hundred and forty-four (1344) respondents said the performance was good. Two hundred and fifty-four (18.9 per cent) perceived it to be very good. Only thirty-seven said the performance was excellent.

Respondents who said Parliament didn't perform well numbered two hundred and four (204). One hundred and seventy (12.6 per cent) of them rated the performance as poor, while thirty-four (2.5 per cent) said it was very poor.

Enhancing Work of Parliamentarians and Parliament

On problems faced by MPs and Parliament, twenty-one MPs (33.9 per cent) mentioned lack of office space. Lack of logistics and research support was mentioned by sixteen MPs (25.8 per cent). Nine MPs (14.5 per cent) also mentioned lack of knowledge on the role of the MP and Parliament as a constraint. Poor remuneration and lack of appreciation of their work were also mentioned.

Various suggestions to deal with the constraints in order to enhance the performance of MPs and Parliament were made. Constituents wanted MPs to be provided with research assistants, and requisite logistics for their work. On the other hand, they want MPs to be more involved in the activities of their District Assemblies and be more in touch with their Constituents.

To enhance the performance of Parliament as a whole, constituents want parties in Parliament to relate more harmoniously. They also want to see more interaction between Parliament and the people. For this reason Parliament should establish complaints offices in the constituencies. Constituents also want more power for Parliament to check the Executive, but do not want Parliamentarians to be appointed as Ministers.

MPs on their part felt that the provision of logistics such as printers, photocopiers and stationery will greatly enhance their performance. Twenty (32.3 per cent) of them mentioned this. Seven (11.3 per cent) of the MPs suggested more refresher courses for MPs to update their knowledge. Six (9.7 per cent) want better remuneration for them to function more effectively. Five (8.1 per cent) called for intensive civic education on the roles of MPs. Even though lack of office space was mentioned by twenty-one (33.9 per cent) MPs as a constraint, only fourteen (22.6 per cent) called for the provision of office space in order to enhance the work of Parliament.

CHAPTER 1

Introduction and Methodology

1.0 Background

1.1 Democratic Governance

The legislature is one of the four arms of government. Parliament represents the voice and will of the citizenry. In our present democratic dispensation, our Parliament is the embodiment of two hundred and thirty (230) constituencies. Every four years, the representatives of these constituencies solicit the mandate of their electorate. The representatives, constitutionally designated as Members of Parliament (MPs), therefore represent the collective voice of their constituents.

The economic, political and social well-being of a people underscores the type of governance prevailing within its state. Good governance can only come about when the efficacy of Parliament is not in doubt. It must be able to ensure that the other arms of government operate within the laws of the country.

Parliamentarians must work for the welfare of the electorate. The interest and well-being of the citizenry should be of utmost concern to them. If they fail to live up to expectation, then, they have not only betrayed this mandate but will cause mass discontent against themselves and the Government in power. Parliament as an entity must create the enabling environment for its members for them to be able to put up their optimum in the performance of their functions which include:

- Making of laws.
- Reviewing of laws.
- Examining government budgets.
- Vetting Ministerial appointees.
- Ensuring transparency, equity and accountability on the part of the executive.

The Fourth Republic has been stable with a change in government from one political party to another. The capacity of Parliament needs to be strengthened on a continual basis for the promotion of Good Governance. The survey to assess the performance of the Fourth Parliament is expected to contribute to strengthen the Fifth Parliament of the Fourth Republic.

1.2 Objectives of Survey

The main objective of the survey is to ascertain the performance of the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic. The specific objectives are to:

- Determine the effectiveness of parliamentarians in the performance of their roles as law makers, debating issues and participating in committee meetings.
- Assess the role of the MPs in the well-being of their constituents.
- Assess the relationship between MPs and the chief executives of district, municipal and metropolitan assemblies.
- Find out the challenges to the work of the parliamentarian and Parliament.
- Obtain suggestions on how to enhance the work of Parliament.

1.3 Methodology

1.3.1 Area of Study

The exercise covered the ten administrative regions of the country. It was implemented as a sample survey where sixty constituencies were to be covered. All constituencies were not covered due to resource constraints.

1.3.2 Sample Design and Selection

In all, a sample size of 1,540 was decided upon. 1,440 questionnaires were to be administered to the general public in sixty (60) constituencies and one hundred (100) questionnaires to selected parliamentarians including the parliamentarians from the sixty constituencies selected. The selection of the sample constituencies was guided by the proportionate share of regional population to the national population.

Twenty-four (24) questionnaires were to be administered in each constituency. Four electoral areas were randomly selected in each sample constituency for questionnaire administration. Six (6) questionnaires were to be administered in each of the four electoral areas selected. Two of the general public questionnaires were to be administered to opinion leaders such as chiefs, district chief executives and assembly members. Thirty per cent (30 per cent) of the twenty-four (24) general public questionnaire were to be administered to women in the constituency.

One of the MPs' questionnaires was to be administered to each MP of the Fourth Parliament for the sixty sample constituencies. Forty (40) other questionnaires were to be administered to MPs of the Fourth Parliament each of whose constituencies were close to one of the sixty sample constituencies. The household was the primary sampling unit. The research assistants were to use the day's code to select the starting point from the primary sampling point randomly chosen by the interviewer. A sampling gap of three (3) for sparsely populated areas and five (5) for densely populated areas was supposed to be used for selecting subsequent households.

The respondents' selection Kish Grid was to be used to select one respondent in each household. One questionnaire was to be administered in each household. Household for the purpose of our study follows that of the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS, 2000), which defines it as a person or group of persons who live together in the same house or compound, share the house keeping arrangements and are catered for as one unit.

1.3.3 Survey Instrument

The main instrument used for the survey was the semi-structured questionnaire. Two different questionnaires were developed, one to be administered to the general public and the other to members of the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic.

Each of the two questionnaires was in two sections, the first section captured the socio-demographic background of the respondents and the second section captured views from the respondents. The questionnaires were developed, pre-tested, reviewed and produced by the Research Department.

1.3.4 Training of Research Assistants

Training of research assistants took place at the Public Service Workers' Union building in Kumasi on the of August 11, 2009 for the Northern sector (Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions) and of August 13, 2009 for the Southern sector (Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Volta and Western regions).

Research Assistants from the regions were briefed on the selection procedure, objective of the assignment and proper use of the survey instruments. This was to enable them to undertake quality fieldwork.

1.3.5 Questionnaire Administration

Questionnaires were administered to the general public over a period of four days, starting from of August 16 to 19, 2009. Each of the fifty-six research assistants who took part in the data collection administered twenty-four questionnaires to members of the general public, at the rate of eight per day. Four electoral areas in each of the fifty-six constituencies were covered. Six questionnaires were administered in each electoral area. The random walk and day's code were applied in selecting households. The respondents Kish Grid was also applied in selecting respondents.

Thirty of the questionnaires for MPs were administered to thirty MPs in their constituencies. The other seventy MPs who were in the sample could not be interviewed in their constituencies. Thirty-two of these seventy were contacted by the Head Office staff who later administered the MPs questionnaire to them at different times between September and October, 2009.

1.3.6 Supervision and Monitoring

To ensure the quality of the research work, a two-day monitoring was undertaken by Regional Directors or their representatives in the various regions. This was done to supervise the work on the field and closely monitor the work of the research assistants.

At the end of the exercise, research assistants submitted their questionnaires and report on the fieldwork to their respective regional offices. Regional Directors verified the submitted questionnaires and reports, collated them and submitted them to the NCCE Research Department in Accra.

1.3.7 Data Capture and Processing

The retrieved questionnaires were edited, coded, captured and processed, using the SPSS Software. The results were analyzed and the report produced using Microsoft Word and Excel.

1.4 NCCE and its Work

The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) has been playing an important role in the democratic governance in the country since the inception of the Fourth Republic. It has over the years engaged the general public in civic education on their rights and responsibilities.

To enrich its educational programmes and activities, the Commission has undertaken a number of research assignments. The most recent was the *Opinion Poll on Issues of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter in Election 2008*. The purpose was to inform the general public, civil society, political parties and indeed government to ensure peaceful and transparent election.

These activities of the NCCE have helped to a large extent to shape the thinking of individuals, NGOs, Civil Society and indeed the government in the realm of economic, social and the political way forward for Ghana.

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CHAPTER 2

Socio-Demographic Background of Respondents

2.0 Introduction

This section looks at the response from the regions and the socio-demographic background of the respondents. This is important in order to find out the response captured in the questionnaires administered to the regions and the views from the public according to their sex, age, educational background, occupational background, marital status and religious affiliations. This will help us understand better the responses given by the various segments of the population.

2.1 Questionnaire Administration

The questionnaires were originally expected to be administered in 60 constituencies, but it was finally administered in only 56 constituencies because the research assistants from four of the sampled constituencies were absent during training and so could not take part in the administration of the questionnaire. The four were Kade in the Eastern Region, Damango/Daboya in the Northern Region, Nkwanta North and Hohoe South all in the Volta Region. They could not attend the training sessions due to problems with information dissemination.

A total of 1,344 questionnaires were administered nationwide to 56 constituencies and 62 questionnaires to some selected MPs of the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic. The number of constituencies chosen for each region depended on the proportion of the region's population to the total population figure. It is for this reason that the number of questionnaires administered differed from region to region.

Table 2.1: Response to Questionnaire from Regions

Region	No. of Constituencies	No. of Questionnaire Administered	Percentage
Ashanti	9	216	100
Brong Ahafo	6	144	100
Central	5	120	100
Eastern	6	144	100
Greater Accra	7	168	100
Northern	6	144	100
Upper East	4	96	100
Upper West	3	72	100
Volta	4	96	100
Western	6	144	100
Total	56	1,344	100

2.2 Age and Sex Distribution of Respondents

The data was collected from a target group of individuals who were of voting age in Ghana (18 years and above).

Out of a total of 1,344 respondents, the age group 30-39 had the highest response rate with 342 (25.4 per cent) respondents. The age group 20-29 had the second highest number of 299 (22.2 per cent) respondents. The third highest were respondents within 40-49 age range with 260 (19.3 per cent) of the total respondents. In addition, 224 (16.7 per cent) respondents were from the ages of 50-59 whereas the least respondents came from those of 19 and below with 56 (4.2 per cent) respondents. Only nine (0.7 per cent) people did not respond to this question.

With the sex of respondents, there were 774 males representing 57.6 per cent and 564 females representing 42 per cent of the total number of respondents. A little over 40 per cent of female respondents shows that more women are now politically inclined.

Fig 2.1: Age and Sex of Respondents

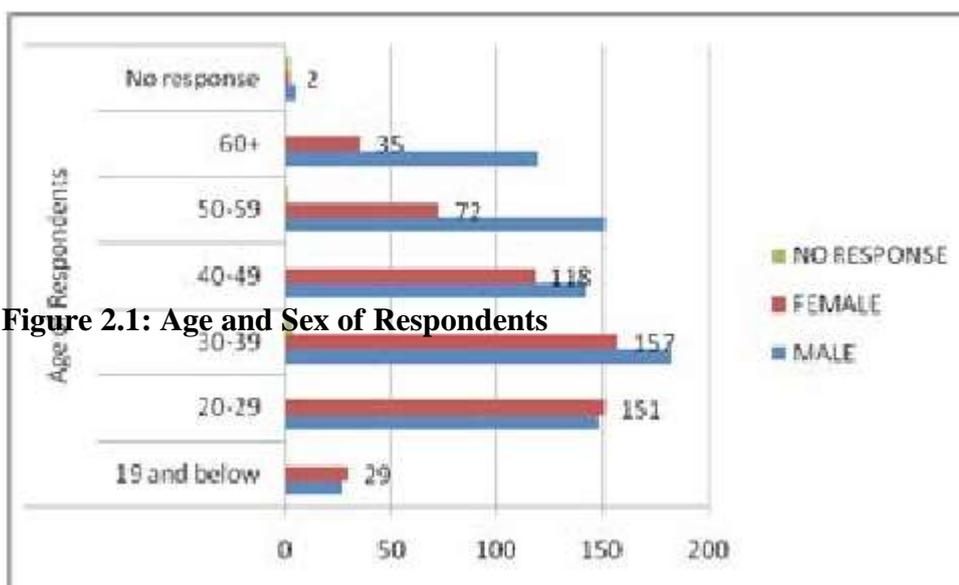


Figure 2.1: Age and Sex of Respondents

A cross tabulation of sex and age of respondents above show that almost all the age groups have a higher response rate for males compared to females. It is only in the case of individuals in the ages of 19 and below and 20-29 that female respondents exceed that of males. In this instance, 27 (48.2 per cent) of them were males and 29 (51.8 per cent) of them were females for the age group 19 and below and 148 (49.5 per cent) males and 151 (50.5 per cent) females for 20-29 age group. Five males and two females did not provide their ages during the administration of the questionnaire.

The highest female respondents were from 30-39 age group representing 157 or 27.8 per cent of total female respondents and the least respondents fell within 19 and below age category with 29 (5.1 per cent) female respondents.

On regional basis, all the regions had more male respondents than females. Western Region had 73 (50.7 per cent) males, which is close to the female figure of 68 (47.2 per cent). Central Region also had a close range figure of 62 (51.7 per cent) males to 58 (48.3 per cent) females.

2.3 Educational Background of Respondents

Respondents were supposed to state their highest educational attainment which will help in comparing their views on issues according to their educational background for better understanding of their responses.

Table 2.2: Educational Background of Respondents

Level of Education	Frequency	Per cent
No Formal Education	226	16.8
No Formal Education but can Speak/Write in English and/or Vernacular	39	2.9
Basic (Primary, Middle School, JSS ETC	468	34.8
Secondary (SSS, Training College, Vocational)	368	27.4
Tertiary (Polytechnic, University etc)	218	16.2
Any Other	14	1.0
No Response	11	.8
Total	1,344	100.0

The table above shows that out of a total number of 1,344 respondents interviewed, 1068 (79.5 per cent) said they had received some kind of formal education (comprising of the basic, secondary, tertiary, and others) whereas 265 (19.7 per cent) had no formal education (comprising of those in the no formal education and no formal education but can speak/write in English and/or vernacular categories).

However, 39 or 14.7 per cent of respondents with no formal education said they could read and write in English and/or vernacular. Of those who had received some formal education, majority of them had completed their Basic education and they formed 34.8 per cent of the total number of respondents. Secondary school leavers came next with 368 (27.4 per cent) respondents and tertiary 218 (16.2 per cent). Only 14 people had educational qualification that could not be captured under the educational levels categorized in the questionnaire. They were under the “others” group and among them were night schools, Arabic schools and adult education. 11 (0.8 per cent) of the respondents did not state their highest educational level.

An analysis of the educational background and age of the respondents shows that 26 (46.4 per cent) of the respondents who were 19 and below were in the secondary school, 20 (35.7 per cent) of them were in the basic school and only one person was at the tertiary level. This is so since in Ghana majority of persons who are 19 and below are in the Basic and Secondary level. A number of respondents, 119 (or 39.8 per cent) of the age group 20-29 had secondary education as their highest educational attainment.

The educational profile of females interviewed indicates that 220 (39 per cent) of them had basic education, 133 (23.6 per cent) had secondary and 52 (9.2 per cent) had tertiary as their highest educational level. In regard to the number of male respondents, 246 (31.8 per cent) had basic education, 234 (30.2 per cent) had secondary education and 166 (21.4 per cent) had tertiary education as their highest. 156 (27.6 per cent) of the female respondents had no formal education as compared to 108 (13.9 per cent) of males with no formal education. In contrast, 659 (85.1 per cent) of male respondents and 406 (72 per cent) of female respondents had some form of formal education.

From the survey, the region with the high number of respondents with no formal education was Northern Region, 58 (40.28 per cent), followed by Upper East Region, 31 (32.3 per cent) and Upper West Region, 20 (27.8 per cent). Volta Region had the least number of respondents with no formal education.

2.4 Occupational Background of Respondents

The survey sought to find out the occupational background of the respondents. For the purpose of this survey, the various occupations in Ghana were categorized into eight groups.

Table 2.3: Occupation of Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Per cent
Student	146	10.9
Farmer/Fisherman	302	22.4
Teacher/Lecturer	149	11.1
Civil/Public Servant	141	10.5
Professional	32	2.4
Trader/Businessman	257	19.1
Unemployed	128	9.5
Artisan	99	7.4
Any Other	78	5.8
Don't Know	1	0.1
No Response	11	0.8
Total	1344	100

The analysis of survey results reveal that the highest number of respondents (302) were farmers/fishermen. They constituted/formed 22.4 per cent of the total respondents. Traders/businessmen were the next predominant occupation with 257 (19.1 per cent), followed by teacher/lecturer 149 (11.1 per cent), students 146 (10.9 per cent) and civil/public servant 141 (10.5 per cent). Artisans such as masons, welders, numbered 99 representing 7.4 per cent. Those in the professional groups were 32 (2.4 per cent) and those in the unemployed groups were 128 (9.5 per cent), 78 respondents were in occupations other than the ones listed and they formed 5.8 per cent. Among them were pensioners and pastors. Eleven people did not respond to the question.

Analysis of the occupation and sex showed that 103 (18.3 per cent) of the female respondents were farmers/fishermen. The professional group recorded the least number of female respondents of 10 (1.8 per cent). 197 (25.5 per cent) of males interviewed were farmers/fishermen, 107 (13.8 per cent) were

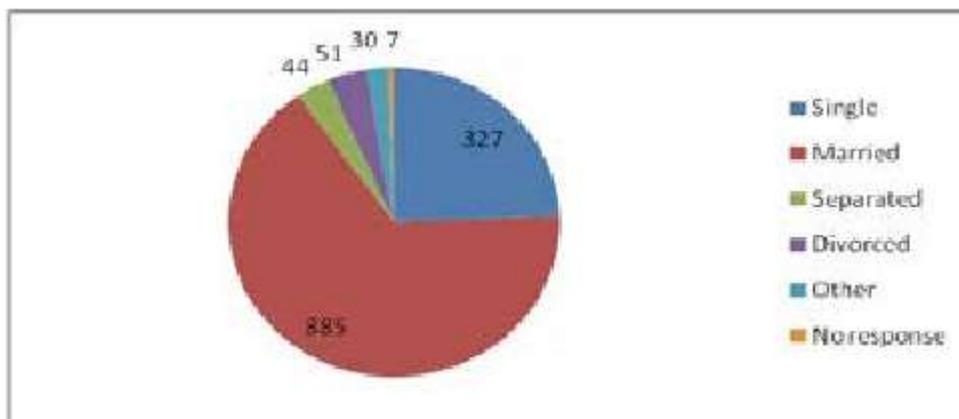
teachers/lecturers and 105 (13.5 per cent) were civil /public servants. 71 (12.5 per cent) of the women respondents were unemployed as compared to 56 (7.2 per cent) of men who were unemployed.

Over 60 per cent, that is 34 of the respondents within the age group 19 and below were students. In addition, for respondents, aged 20-29, 94 (31.4 per cent) of them were students and 41 (13.7 per cent) were traders/businessmen. A high number of respondents' aged 20-39 years were unemployed and this can be attributed to the high rate of unemployment situation among the youth in the country. Of the respondents who were 60 and above, 73 (47 per cent) of them were farmers/fishermen.

A regional analysis shows that farming and fishing were mostly predominant in the Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Central, Northern, Upper East and Western regions. Greater Accra Region had most of their respondents being traders/businessmen and the attributed fact is that it is the centre for trading activities in Ghana.

2.5 Marital Status of Respondents

Fig 2.2: Marital Status of Respondents



In trying to find out the marital status of respondents, it was realized that 885 or 65.8 per cent of respondents were married. 327 (24.3 per cent) of respondents were single, 44 (3.3 per cent) were separated and 51 (3.8 per cent) were divorced. 30 (2.2 per cent) people were in a status not covered by the first four categories mentioned above. They fall under the other category and among those in this group were the widowed. 7 people however, did not state their marital status.

A study of the ten regions shows that majority of the respondents in all the regions were married followed by those who were single. Eight (4.8 per cent) of the respondents from the Greater Accra Region were separated as compared to three (1.8 per cent) of those divorced. From the survey, Upper West Region had no divorce cases.

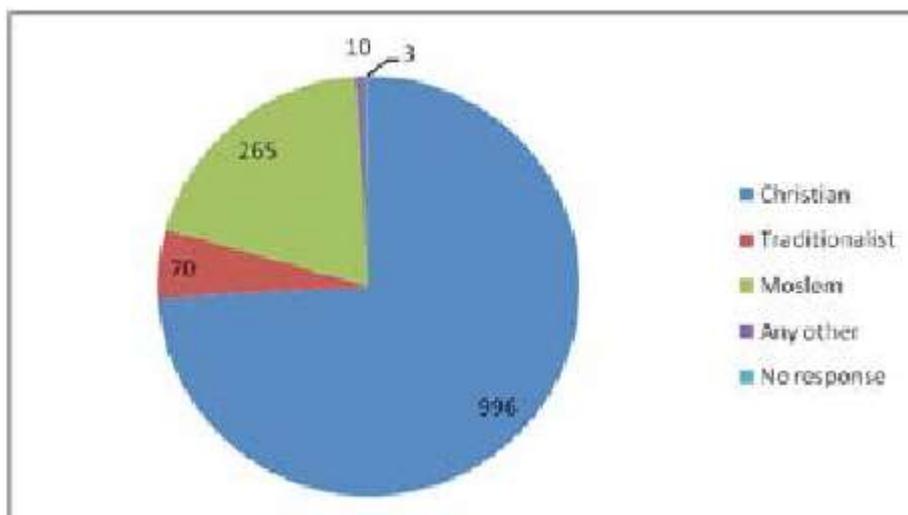
An analysis of the marital status and sex of the respondent's shows that 550 (71 per cent) of male respondents were married, 180 (23.3 per cent) were single, 18 (2.3 per cent) separated and 17 (2.2 per cent) divorced. In comparison, 333 (59 per cent) of the female respondents were married, 147 (26 per cent) were single, 34 (6 per cent) divorced and 25 (4.4 per cent) separated.

The survey shows that 191 representing 58.4 per cent of the total number of respondents, who were single, were within the 20-29 age group. The 30-39 age group had the highest number of married respondents of 239 (27 per cent) respondents. The highest number of those divorced was within the 50-59 age group with 18 (35.3 per cent) respondents.

2.6 Religious Background of Respondents

In Ghana, freedom of worship has made it possible for citizens to join any religious denomination of their choice. However, there are three dominant ones, which are Christianity, Islam and African Traditional Religion.

Fig 2.3: Religious Affiliation of Respondents



Analyzing the religious background of the respondents, it was observed that 996 (74.1 per cent) respondents were Christians. Respondents who were followers of the Moslem religion were 265 (19.7 per cent). Traditionalists were 70 (5.2 per cent) and respondents who did not fall under any of the three main religions were 10 (0.7 per cent). They were classified under “others”. Religions such as Buddhism fell under this category. Three (0.2 per cent) respondents did not answer to this question.

A cross tabulation of the regions shows that Central Region had 109 (90.8 per cent) of their respondents being Christians and Upper West had 30 (41.7 per cent) of their respondents being Christians. Also, 108 (75 per cent) respondents in the Northern Region and 4 (4.2 per cent) respondents in the Volta Region were Muslims.

CHAPTER 3

History of Parliament In Ghana

3.0 Introduction

Ghana was the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to achieve independence on March 6, 1957. During the reign of Queen Victoria from 1837 to 1901, the Gold Coast had its first stint with legislative power. From 1850 to 1865, the Gold Coast was given its own legislative council which consisted of the Governor and at least two other persons.

Laws passed by the legislative council were termed Ordinances and the Governor could withhold assent to an ordinance which was not agreeable to any Act of the British Parliament.

In 1874 the Gold Coast was given a separate government and from then the legislature began to grow steadily but even by the end of the 19th Century the powers of the legislature were still limited.

3.1 Legislative Council

In 1916, the legislative council was reconstituted to include nine nominated unofficial, six of whom were Africans, as opposed to eleven officials and the Governor. The first Legislative Council election was held in 1925 under the Guggisberg constitution.

In 1949, the Governor ceased to be an ex-officio President of the legislative council and an unofficial member was appointed president. This system went on until 1951 when the Legislature elected its first speaker. This was the beginning of representative government. The first elections to the Legislative Assembly took place in 1951 when 75 members were elected under the 1950 constitution when the Convention People's Party won most of the seats and Dr. Kwame Nkrumah was appointed leader of Government Business.

In 1954, there was an amendment to the Constitution which brought along with it an era of responsible government. The 1957 Constitution had provided for an Assembly of a speaker and 104 members elected by political parties on the basis of universal adult suffrage. As compared to the 1954 Constitution which can best be described as an advanced colonial legislature, the 1957 Constitution provided us with a sovereign parliament fashioned after the West Minster model. On July 1, 1960, Ghana became a sovereign Republic under the First Republican Constitution. The National Assembly Constituted under the independence Constitution of 1957 became the First National Assembly of the first Republic with a five year term. The parties represented were the Convention People's Party, (CPP) and the United Party (UP).

3.2 Legislative Assembly

The Political disturbances in February 1948 culminated in the appointment of the Watson Commission which recommended that the Burns Constitution of 1946 should be replaced with a constitution in which African ministers would be entrusted with the business of Government be accountable to an elected legislature.

Following the recommendations of the Watson Commission, a constitutional committee named the Coussey Committee was appointed to examine proposals for constitutional and political reforms as made in the Watson report. The Coussey Report gave the Gold Coast a constitution under which a measure of self government would be enjoyed. This formed the basis of the Legislative Assembly of 1951 which gave the Gold Coast limited responsible government.

The First National Assembly of the Republic of Ghana was dissolved in May 1965 and a general election was held in the following month in which all the 198 members of the national party, the Convention People's Party were returned unopposed. The 1960 Constitution and the 1964 constitutional amendments conferred considerable powers on the president.

3.3 Parliament of the First Republic

The First Republican Constitution had some features of both the presidential and parliamentary system of government. All bills passed by Parliament had to be assented to by the President in order to become law. The Executive President had wide powers with a multiparty legislature, which was later reconstituted into a one party legislature.

In February 1964 Ghana adopted a one party system of government. The Republican constitution was amended, making the C.P.P the national party and all other political parties were forbidden. Parliamentary democracy was interrupted when the first Republican Government was overthrown in a coup d'état on February 24, 1966.

The Second Republican Constitution was fashioned after the West Minister System. It had provided for a Prime Minister who was the head of government and a President who was the Head of State. The leader of the majority party in Parliament became a prime minister.

3.4 Parliament of the Second Republic

Parliamentary democracy was restored when those in control of the reigns handed over power to a constitutionally elected Government in 1969.

A National Assembly was made up of 140 members who were elected on the basis of universal adult suffrage. The C.P.P was barred and therefore did not contest the elections. Under the 1969 Constitution the Prime Minister and his ministers were members of Parliament.

The Second Republican Constitution was overthrown in a coup d'état on January 13, 1972 after only twenty-seven months in office. Parliament was in abeyance till September 24, 1979 when constitutional democratic governance was again restored. The Third Republican Constitution was completely different from the West Minister System. There was a pronounced shift to an executive presidential system of Government. There was an Executive president and a multiparty legislature.

3.5 Parliament of the Third Republic

In September 1979, the ruling government of the AFRC under so much political pressure restored constitutional rule under the 1979 Constitution. Under the Third Republican Constitution, the People's National Party (PNP) won the general election held in June, 1979. The presidential election held in the same month on the basis of universal adult suffrage was inconclusive and a run-off was held in

July where Dr. Hilla Limann won. The AFRC handed over power to the president-elect on September 24, 1979.

Under the 1979 Constitution, President, Vice, ministers of state and their deputies were not members of Parliament. The Constitution provided for a separation of powers between the Executive and Parliament. That was the first time Ghana moved away from the Westminster system. Parliament no longer consisted of the President and the Legislature and the word ‘Parliament’ was for the first time used to describe the Legislature only.

Parliament had one hundred and forty seats and a life span of five years. On December 31, 1981 a constitutional democratic government was again interrupted by a Coup d’état.

3.6 Parliament of the Fourth Republic

The country returned to constitutional rule following the approval in a referendum of the 1992 Constitution in April, 1992 which was the beginning of the Parliament of the Fourth Republic. The 1992 Constitution provided for an elected multi-party democratic Parliament consisting of not less than one hundred and forty members. However, a constitutional instrument was provided for membership of Parliament to increase to 200. The old Parliament House could not accommodate the 200 members, so Parliament temporarily moved to the International Conference Centre

The First Parliament of the Fourth Republic had two hundred members and a four-year term was inaugurated on January 7, 1993. The Fourth Republic has so far been stable, having travelled over twelve years and it is now in the fourth parliament unlike parliaments of the previous republics. The house deliberates on issues of public concern and tries to resolve conflicts among concerned groups. The system provides an excellent ground for public participation in the business of the house. Debates allow for a thorough consideration of proposals before being passed by the house.

The multiparty system is a significant and remarkable feature of the Fourth Republican Parliament. Article 97 (1) (g) prohibits an MP from joining a party other than the one on whose ticket he or she is elected. Paragraph (h) of this article also prohibits an independent MP from joining a political party. This constitutional provision seeks to preserve the sanctity of our multiparty democracy. The Fourth Republican Constitution provides for the appointment of more than half of ministers of state from Parliament. The Constitution also requires that the President’s nominees for ministerial and deputy ministerial appointments be subject to prior approval by parliament.

The First Parliament of the Fourth Republic consisted of three parties, namely the National Democratic Congress, (189 seats), the National Convention Party (8 seats) and the Eagle Party (1 seat). There were sixteen women among the 200 members. Three members were independent, two of them women. The main opposition parties – the New Patriotic Party, the People’s Heritage Party and the National Independence Party were conspicuously absent from the First Parliament of the Fourth Republic. They boycotted the 1992 parliamentary elections and participated in the elections of the second parliament. A late election was held in the Afigya Sekyere East Constituency, which was won by the NPP, bringing opposition seats in Parliament to 67. The winning party – The National Democratic Congress (NDC) – won 133 seats in a progressive Alliance with the Eagle Party (EP) and the Democratic People’s Party (DPP), who did not support any candidate of their own.

The main opposition parties in the Great Alliance consisted of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) (61 seats), the People's Convention Party (PCP) (5 seats) and the People's National Convention (PNC) (1 seat). The number of women members increased from 16 in 1992 to 18 in 1996.

The Fourth Republican Constitution introduced a mixture of both presidential and parliamentary systems of government. The Executive President had a majority of his ministers appointed from within Parliament. Members appointed from outside parliament could participate in debates in the house but could not vote.

The committee system was common to all the parliaments. The constitutions provided for the appointment of various committees from the membership of the house to exercise oversight responsibility over the ministries, departments and agencies.

An important function of the committees has been to examine bills in detail and propose amendments where necessary. Under the second, third and fourth Republican constitutions, committees have been classified as standing, select and Ad hoc. Committees of parliament of the first Republic in particular were classified into Sessional Select Committees and ad hoc committees.

Despite its limitations if any, it is worthy to note that, the 1992 constitution guarantees the independence of parliament as well as its financial autonomy.

3.7 The Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic

The election of 2000 was indicative of a steady progress towards the consolidation of our democratic governance.

The presidential election of 7th December 2000 was inconclusive as none of the candidate received the required number of votes. The NPP presidential candidate, Mr. John Agyekum Kuffour, and the National Democratic Congress presidential candidate, Professor John Evans Atta Mills, had to go for a run-off on December 28, 2000. Mr. J. A. Kuffour was elected the second president of the Fourth Republic of Ghana in the run-off. History repeated itself in 2008. The presidential election of December 2008 again did not produce a winner. There was a run-off between Professor John Evans Atta Mills of the National Democratic Congress and Nana Akuffo Addo of the New Patriotic Party. In the run-off, Prof. John Evans Atta Mills emerged the winner and on January 7, 2009, Prof. John Evans Atta Mills took over the reigns of Government as the President of the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic of Ghana.

This last general election demonstrated our maturity and unity as a nation. The smooth transfer of power from a democratically elected government to another was significant and the previous government must be commended for ensuring a peaceful transition.

CHAPTER 4

The Public and the Member of Parliament

4.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the presentation and analysis of data collected from the public on the performance of their Members of Parliament (MP).

Peoples' interest and involvement in politics is important to the sustenance of the democratic dispensation of any nation. It was therefore necessary to explore the political orientation and knowledge of respondents.

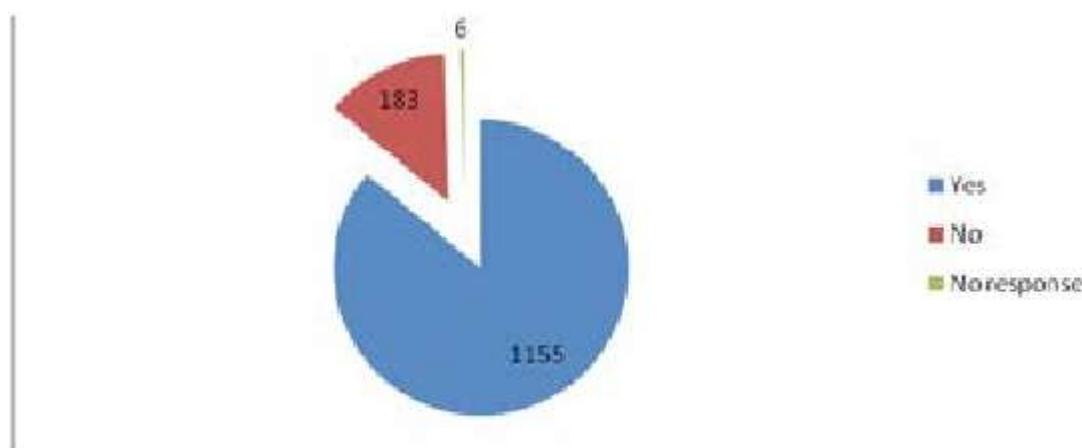
4.2 Political Orientation

Citizen's active participation in the structures and process of governance is very important to ensure good governance and enhance development of their constituencies and the country as a whole. Also Parliament, one of the structures of governance, has its members being elected representatives of the people. The citizenry are expected to play an active role in the processes of governance by voting in both the presidential and parliamentary elections and participate at the lower levels of governance. This will make the people identify themselves with development policies and programmes and be committed to them.

4.2.1 Voting in the 2004 Elections

An analysis of the results presented in figure 4.1 revealed that majority of respondents, 1,155, representing 85.9 per cent voted in the 2004 elections which was close to the national voter turnout of 85.1 per cent. On the other hand 183 (13.6 per cent) did not vote while 6 (0.4 per cent) did not give any response. The fact that 85.9 per cent of respondents voted in the elections which is a reflection of the national voter turnout of 85.1 per cent is an indication that Ghanaians generally are highly interested in politics and actively participate in it. The voter turnout could have gone beyond 85.1 per cent probably if the NCCE were adequately resourced to embark on effective voter education.

Figure 4.1: Voting in 2004 Elections



A critical look at the voter turnout against the sex of respondents indicated that more men, 685, representing 59.3 per cent voted as against 466 (40.3 per cent) of women.

The table below shows the voter turnout for respondents from the various regions;

Table 4.1: Voting in the 2004 Elections by Regions

Region	Yes Frequency	% Within Region	No Frequency	% Within Region
Ashanti	193		21	
Brong Ahafo	126		18	
Central	108		12	
Eastern	116		28	
Greater Accra	128		39	
Northern	127		16	
Upper East	90		6	
Upper West	58		14	
Volta	86		10	
Western	123		19	
Total	1155		183	

The regional analysis revealed that out of 216 respondents (who were registered voters) in the Ashanti Region, 193 of them actually voted in the elections representing 89 per cent. Western Region had 144 respondents out of which 123 (85 per cent) voted. Greater Accra Region had 168 respondents out of which 128 (76 per cent) voted. Brong Ahafo and Northern regions had the same number of respondents of 144. However, 126 (85 per cent) voted in Brong Ahafo Region and 127 (88 per cent) voted in the Northern Region. Upper West, which had the least number of respondents (72), recorded the lowest number of 57 respondents who voted.

On the other hand, Greater Accra Region had the highest proportion of respondents who did not vote as 39 of the 128 respondents representing 23.2 per cent of respondents from the region did not vote. Eastern Region comes next with 28 (19 per cent), followed by Ashanti Region, 21 (10 per cent) and Western Region, 19 (13 per cent). Upper East Region registered the lowest number of respondents who did not vote.

Respondents assigned various reasons for not voting in the elections. A significant number of them, 65 (32.7 per cent), said they were not of voting age. A little over a quarter 50 (25.1 per cent) of those who did not vote also indicated that they had travelled out of their constituencies with 19 (9.6 per cent) stating that they had lost interest in elections. Those who moved from their constituencies or voting areas and could not go through the process of vote transfer and hence did not vote in the elections accounted for 12 (6.0 per cent). A little over 6 per cent had lost their Voter Identification Cards and 5 per cent had their names missing from the electoral register. Close to 10 per cent claim they had lost interest in elections and a very insignificant proportion of 1.5 per cent felt their single vote would not influence the election results. The rest, 7.5 per cent stated other reasons as being indisposed and engaged in some other activities as the reasons why they did not vote whereas 5.5 per cent did not respond to the question.

4.2.2 Voting for the Parliamentarian

Table 4.2: Voting for the Parliamentarian

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1,108	82.4
No	203	15.1
No response	33	2.5
Total	1,344	100

It can be deduced from table 4.2 above that, 1,108 representing 82.4 per cent of the respondents voted for their parliamentarian as against 203 (15.1 per cent) who did not vote for them.

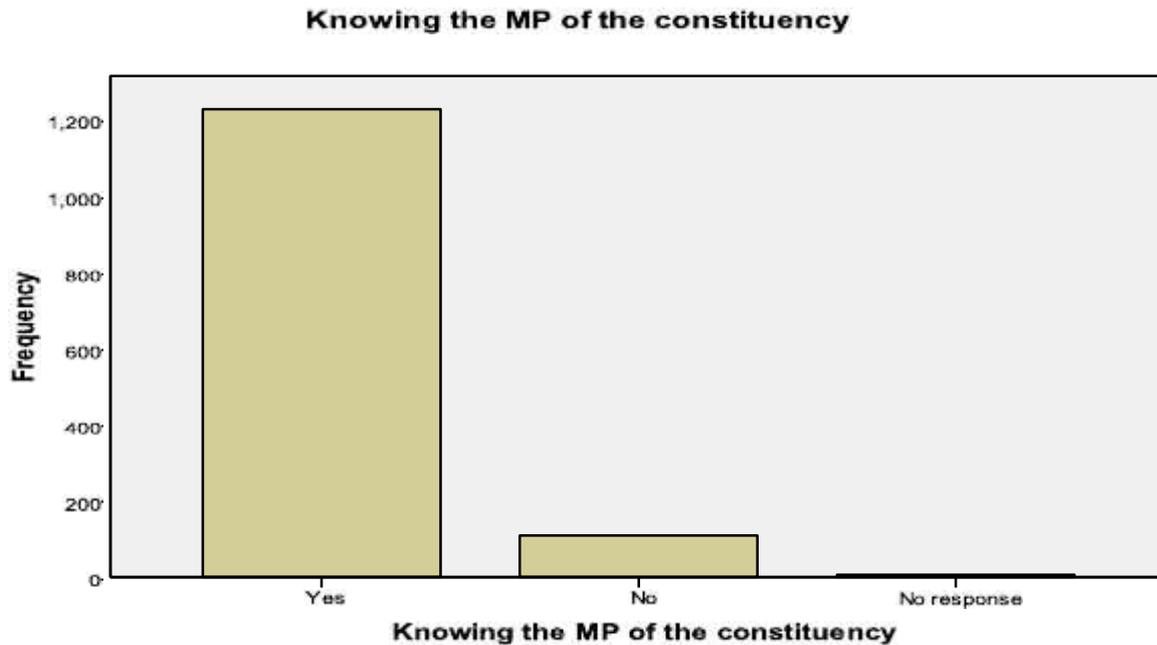
Among the reasons given by interviewees who did not vote for their MPs were that they had travelled indicated by 41 (20.19 per cent) with 21 (10.3 per cent) saying they had lost interest in the elections. A small proportion of 16 (7.9 per cent) did not find their names in the electoral register while 14 (6.9 per cent) were on transfer from the voting area. An insignificant number of 8 (3.9 per cent) were presiding over elections. A remarkable response given by 2 (0.9 per cent) respondents was that they did not know who to vote for. Also 3 (1.5 per cent) of the respondents felt their single vote would not influence the outcome of the results. The rest constituting 88 (43.3 per cent) gave various reasons such as ill health, not of voting age and visual impairment.

4.3 Political Knowledge

4.3.1 Knowledge of MPs

The MPs are elected representatives of the people. It is therefore important that their Constituents know them and are able to approach and interact with them. Thus to determine the relationship that existed between the MPs and their Constituents, respondents were asked if they knew their MPs. It was evident that 1,229 representing over 91.4 per cent of respondents knew their MP as shown in the figure 4.2 below. It was only 109 (8.1 per cent) who did not know them. However, a small proportion of 0.4 per cent did not give any response.

Figure4.2: Knowing the MP of the Constituency



The results further revealed that out of the 1,229 respondents who said they knew their MPs, 1,096 (89.2 per cent) voted for them or any of their contenders in the parliamentary elections with 129 (10.5 per cent) not voting for their parliamentarians.

4.3.2 Level of Interaction with MPs

In relation to the extent of interaction with the MP, a substantial number of the respondents, 483 (35.9 per cent), did not see it to be so frequent. The next most significant number of respondents, 357 (26.6 per cent), felt it was frequent while 116 (8.6 per cent) rated it to be very frequent. Of the remaining respondents, 221 (16.4 per cent) said they hardly interacted with the MP, while 161, representing 12.0 per cent had no idea if there was ever any interaction with him/her.

Further, it was noted that a large number of respondents, 469 (38.2 per cent), who knew the MP indicated that the interaction had not been so frequent. Another significant proportion of respondents, 352 (28.6 per cent), believed that it was frequent while 114 (9.28 per cent) said it was very frequent. 87 (7.1 per cent) of those who knew the MP had no idea if there was any interaction between the constituents and the MP and 4 (0.3 per cent) gave no response.

Table 4.3: Level of Interaction Across Regions

Region	Very Frequently	Frequently	Not so Frequently	Hardly	No idea	No Response	Total
Ashanti	16	62	71	38	28	1	216
Brong Ahafo	10	46	66	10	11	1	144
Central	11	41	35	19	14	0	120
Eastern	7	21	66	41	9	0	144
Greater Accra	3	9	59	49	47	1	168
Northern	10	68	46	7	13	0	144
Upper East	3	24	35	19	14	1	96
Upper West	9	23	38	1	1	0	72
Volta	23	24	12	23	14	0	96
Western	24	39	55	14	10	2	144
Total	116	357	483	221	161	6	1344

Table 4.3 above which depicts the analysis of the level of interaction against regions brought to light that the bulk of respondents from the Ashanti Region, 71 (5.3 per cent), indicated that the interaction was not as frequent as against the Volta Region Region that recorded the lowest number of respondents for this response. Northern Region had the highest number of respondents, 68 (5.1 per cent), who rated the interaction to be frequent. 49 (3.6 per cent) of interviewees from the Greater Accra Region were of the view that there was hardly any such interaction. No region had above 30 respondents who thought the interaction was very frequent. Upper West Region had only one respondent each 1 (0.07 per cent) saying there was hardly any interaction and had no idea if there was ever any interaction.

4.3.3 Means of Interaction

The survey also sought to find out the form in which the interaction took place. Table 4.4 gives a vivid explanation as to the most prominent approach used by the Members of Parliament to interact with the constituents.

Table 4.4: Means of Interaction

Means of interaction	Frequency	Percent
Social Events Organized by the People	660	49.1
Media Events Organized by the MP	107	8.0
Meetings Organized by the MP	481	35.8
Rallies Organized by the MP	325	24.2
Any Other	156	11.6

From table 4.4 above it can be seen that 660, representing 49.1 per cent of the respondents, indicated that the interaction with the MP was usually through social events they organized, 107 (35.8 per cent)

of the respondents also stated that they interacted with the MP mainly through meetings organized by him/her. Rallies, being the main forms of galvanizing support, were chosen by 24.2 per cent of the respondents as the medium through which they interacted with the MP and a small proportion of 170 (8.0 per cent) mentioned media events organized by the MP as the means of interaction.

The frequency with which the MP holds meetings or fora with the members of his constituency reflects his association with them. Respondents were therefore asked the number of times the MP held meetings with them. It was discovered from the results that 328 respondents, constituting 24.4 per cent, noted that the constituents met with the MP on more than four occasions. Close to this figure, 289 (21.5 per cent), of respondents said, they had no idea if there was ever any meeting. Others 190 (14.1 per cent) said they met twice, 150 (11.2 per cent) said thrice while 196 (14.6 per cent) confirmed that they had never met with him.

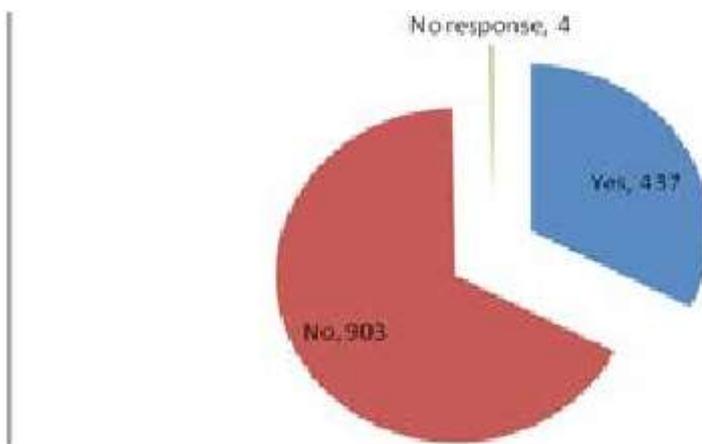
Thus, this seems to suggest that either meeting organised by the MP were not publicised or some of the people are just apathetic towards activities in the constituency.

4.3.4 Approaching MP on Issues

The survey also sought to find out how approachable the MP was such that people can easily approach him on any issue. In this regard, respondents were asked if they had ever approached the MP on any Development problem confronting them in the Constituency. It was discovered that more than half of the respondents, 903 representing 67.2 per cent, did not approach him whilst 437 (32.5 per cent) did approach him.

The graphical description is indicated in the figure 4.3 below.

Figure 4.3: Approaching the MP on Issues



It was further noted that of the 1,229 respondents who knew the MP, only 432 (35.1 per cent) approached him.

On regional basis, the region with the highest number of its respondents approaching the MP is the Northern Region with 68 (47 per cent) followed by the Volta Region where 43 (45 per cent) of its respondents had approached their Members of Parliament. Closely following is the Upper West Region with 32 (44 per cent). On the other hand, the Eastern Region had 104 (81 per cent) of its 129 respondents not approaching the MP. The Greater Accra Region followed with 134 (80 per cent), Brong Ahafo Region, 108 (75 per cent), Ashanti and Upper East regions had 146 and 65 respectively which came up with 68 per cent each.

4.3.5 Reasons for approaching the MP

The respondents gave various reasons for approaching the MP. In the first category of reasons, the major issues for which the MP was approached were development projects, 93 (21.3 per cent), education, 75 (17.2 per cent), electricity, 65 (14.9 per cent), water, 48 (10.9 per cent), health issues, 23 (5.3 per cent), school building, 21 (4.8 per cent), child support, 18 (4.1 per cent) and support for small scale business, 16 (3.7 per cent).

On the contrary, the most striking reasons given by respondents for not approaching the MP were that they were not interested in approaching him indicated by 137 (15.2 per cent) and he was mostly not available or he was hardly seen in the constituency noted by 5.3 per cent of the public.

4.3.6 Satisfaction of Demands

It was also necessary to find out if the reasons for approaching the MP were satisfied. Out of the 437 respondents who approached the MP, 22.0 per cent were satisfied while 11.3 per cent were not and 11.1 per cent gave no response.

Among the reasons given by respondents who said their demands were satisfied were the following:

- All the issues raised were resolved.
- Some of the issues were resolved.
- Electricity was provided.
- Water was provided.
- Brought new development projects to the constituency.
- Infrastructure was provided.
- Supported small scale businesses.

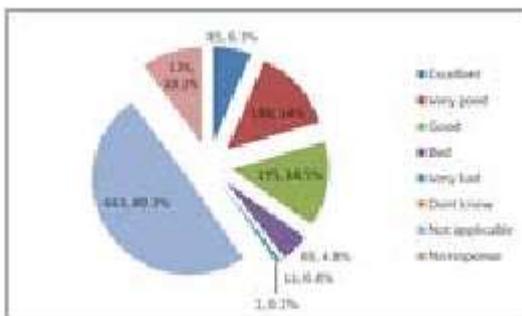
The main reasons given by those who were not satisfied were that the MP did not offer any assistance, 75 (49.3 per cent), 14.5 per cent also indicated that the MP promised to help resolve the issues but failed to fulfill his/her promise. Others representing, 16 (10.5 per cent), said they were told by the MP categorically that there were no funds to meet their request, and a few 4 (2.6 per cent) were of the opinion that though the MPs expressed the desire to assist, effective plans were not put in place to deal with the issues.

4.3.7 Reception of MP

The reception of the MP towards his constituents is very relevant to determine the frequency and ease with which the people would continue to approach him.

Figure 4.4 below shows a large number of respondents 195 (14.5 per cent) rating the reception of the MP to be good. Almost the same proportion of respondents 188 (14.0 per cent), said it was very good and 85 (6.3 per cent) felt it was excellent. On the other hand 65 (4.8 per cent) said it was bad with a very insignificant proportion 11 (0.8 per cent) saying it was very bad. Only 1 (0.1 per cent) of them could not rate the reception of the MP. This presupposes that though some of the respondents did not approach the MP they were still able to comment on his reception based on what they had heard from others.

Figure 4.4: Reception of MP



4.3.8 The Role of MP

The MP, though a member of the National Parliament, is a non-voting member of the local assembly and he performs the following roles:

- He serves as a link between the Local Parliament and the National Parliament.
- Guides the Assembly on legislation passed by Parliament to ensure that its bye laws are not at variance with national legislation.
- Understands the problems of the electorate more readily and knows the kind of advocacy to put forward for their area in Parliament
- Briefs the Assembly on proceedings in Parliament, the state of certain projects or programmes that are of interest to the district.
- The MP is mainly a legislator.

On the role of the MP, over half of the public 918 (68.3 per cent) were able to identify legislation as the main role of the MP. Surprisingly, quite a substantial proportion of 701 (52.2 per cent) identified provision of infrastructure and social amenities as their responsibilities. A remarkable role identified for the MP by 130 (9.7 per cent) was paying school fees. Other responsibilities identified by respondents were: propose for consideration and adoption of projects suitable for the socio-economic development of the people by 570 (42.4 per cent) respondents, examine, criticize, review, approve and monitor plans, programmes, in terms of their viability and acceptability for the general good of the people 507 (37.7 per cent).

This seems to suggest that Ghanaians are awake to the current democratic dispensation and activities of the governance process. It is therefore heartwarming to realize that we are making some progress. However, there is still room for improvement. NCCE has a herculean task of educating the citizenry on the role of the MPs and Parliament as a whole.

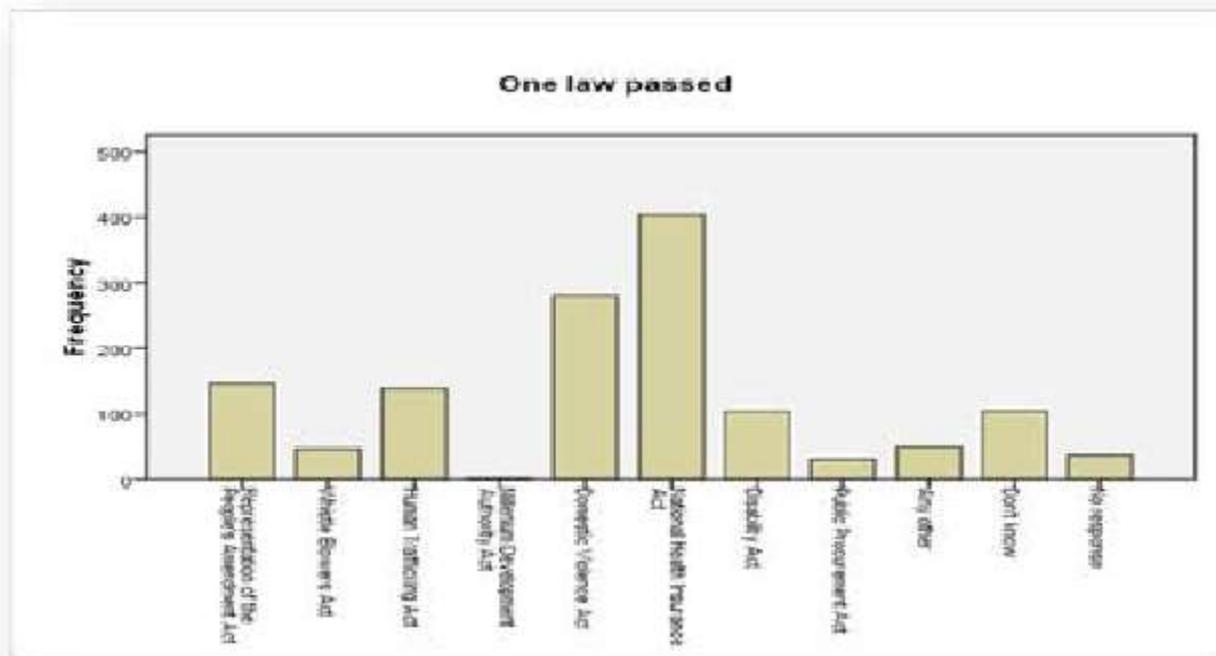
Also, this reflects the level of poverty and misconception by some of the people. The MPs are also to be blamed since they have shifted from their constitutional role to performing such roles as paying fees, hospital bills, National Health Insurance registration and others.

4.4 Knowledge of the Activities of Parliament

4.4.1 Knowledge of a Law Passed in Parliament

Effective participation of citizens in governance also involves knowing the structures and processes of governance. As such a series of questions in this regard were asked to ascertain how knowledgeable respondents were in the activities of Parliament. It is for this reason that respondents were asked to mention one law that had been passed by the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic. The result of the investigation is presented in figure 4.5 below.

Figure 4.5: One Law Passed



As portrayed in the figure above, the major law noted by a high category of respondents 404 (30.1 per cent) was National Health Insurance Act. The second law identified by another significant number of the public, 281 (20.9 per cent), was the Domestic Violence Act, followed by Representation of the People's Amendment Act indicated by 146 (10.9 per cent) respondents.

Scrutiny of the results further revealed that of the respondents who mentioned the National Health Insurance Act (NHIA), 148 (37 per cent) were those with basic education. The next highest category was those with secondary and post secondary education. They were 99 (25 per cent). Very close to this proportion was the category with no formal education. They constituted 93 (23 per cent).

Out of 281 respondents who mentioned the Domestic Violence Act, 108 of them had Basic Education, 80 of them were secondary school certificate holders, 52 tertiary and 33 had no formal education. Thus it was evident that people are conscious of things happening around them irrespective of their level of educational attainment.

4.4.2 Knowledge of Committees in Parliament

In assessing knowledge of respondents on the committees in the Fourth Parliament, it is worthy to note that almost all the committees mentioned by respondents actually existed in Parliament, which again confirms the fact that respondents are not ignorant of the structures of Parliament.

The Public Accounts Committee was the most prominent mentioned by 16 per cent of respondents. The Appointments committee had 13.9 per cent with the Finance and Education Committee following with 10 per cent and 9 per cent respectively. The Committee on health was identified by 7 per cent of interviewees with several other committees obtaining less than 5 per cent each. A little over 14 per cent of the respondents did not know of any committee in Parliament.

4.4.3 Listening to Proceedings in Parliament

Respondents were further asked to state a debate in the Fourth Parliament that interested them most. Among the debates that interested respondents were the debate on the sale of Ghana Telecom, stated by 22.0 per cent of the public, National Health Insurance Bill noted by 21.7 per cent, the debate on the Representation of People's Amendment Bill by 16.7 per cent. 18 interviewees representing 1.3 per cent had no idea.

It was considered necessary to find out if the people's expectation of the Fourth Parliament was met. It was realized that exactly half of the total number of respondents 672 (50.0 per cent) said their expectation was met while the rest 632 (47.0 per cent) thought otherwise. Those who felt their expectations were met gave the following reasons for their assertion.

- Passage of the National Health Insurance bill.
- Effectively overseeing government programmes.
- Parliamentarians were very diligent.
- Consensus was reached on many occasions.
- Parliament discussed many issues of national interest.
- Exercised control over government expenditure.

On the contrary, the reasons below were given by respondents whose expectations were not met.

- Did not effectively control government programmes
- Partisan in deliberations on the floor of Parliament
- Inability to control government expenditure.
- Several discussions and programmes were in the interest of the parliamentarian.
- High rate of absenteeism.

4.4.4 Major Role of Parliament

The major roles or functions Parliament is expected to perform are as follows:

- Make new laws and review existing ones.
- Examine, criticize, approve and monitor government programmes in terms of their viability and benefit to the people.
- Monitor and control government spending.
- Consideration of proposal for adoption of projects suitable for socio-economic development of the people.

The study sought to find out if the respondents knew these functions.

The majority of respondents 1,159 (86 per cent) gave legislation as the main role of Parliament. The second prominent role mentioned by respondents is monitoring and review of the Executive's financial programme 454 (33 per cent), while 426 (32 per cent) said among their role is to propose for consideration and adoption of projects suitable for the socio-economic development of the people with 220 (16 per cent) saying they are also expected to debate on issues that are brought to the floor the house.

4.5 Political Participation

4.5.1 Projects Undertaken by the MP

The main role of the MP is legislation and not embarking upon developmental projects, but he is expected to coordinate and harmonize the developmental vision of his constituency with the district assembly in his locality. However, due to their own campaign promises to the electorate, and the subsequent expectation of electorate the MPs are allocated five (5 per cent) per cent of the District Assemblies Common Fund to supplement development projects in his/her constituency. It was therefore prudent to find out the development projects the MP had undertaken. The details are presented in table 4.5 below.

Table 4.5: Projects Undertaken by MP

Projects	Frequency	Percent
Schools	582	43.3
Roads	234	17.4
KVIPs	257	19.9
Clinics/Hospitals	119	8.9
Bridge	107	8.0
Electrification Projects	392	29.2
Water	233	17.3
Has not Undertaken Any Project	75	5.6
No idea	273	20.3
Others	238	17.7

It was realized that close to half of the interviewees 582 (43.3 per cent) identified schools constructed or rehabilitated with the fund, electrification project was the next, noted by 392 (29.2 per cent.)

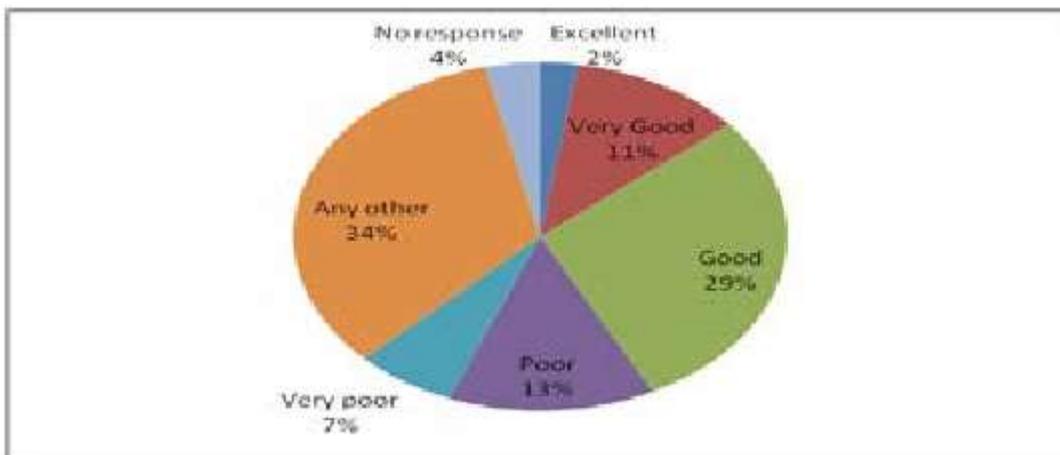
Other projects mentioned by respondents worth noting were KVIP, 257 (19.9 per cent), roads, 234 (17.4 per cent) and water, 233 (17.3 per cent).

A small proportion, 119 (8.9 per cent), also mentioned clinics and hospitals. 75, representing 5.6 per cent of interviewees, did not think any development project was undertaken. It is worth-noting that quite a significant number of respondents, 273 (20.3 per cent), had no idea at all of any project undertaken with the MPs Common Fund. As many as 238 (17.3 per cent) stated other reasons such as paying school fees or granting scholarships to students with the fund.

4.5.2 Relationship Between the MP and District, Municipal or Metropolitan Chief Executive

The effective and smooth administration of the Districts, Municipal or Metropolis hinges very much on the cordial relationship that exists between the MP and their District, Municipal or Metropolitan Chief Executive. Thus most of the respondents representing 385 (28.6 per cent) perceived the relationship to be good while 182 (13.5 per cent) thought otherwise. A small proportion of 33 (2.5 per cent) of respondents held the view that it was excellent while 17.4 per cent were not aware of the kind of relationship that existed between them. The Figure below expatiates on the relationship;

Figure 4.6: Relationship between MP and Chief Executive



Probing further, respondents were asked to give reasons for the rating they assigned to the relationship. It was noted that a large number of respondents, 236 (20 per cent), were of the view that because their public appearance was frequent and cordial, they had a cordial relationship. Another 228 respondents representing, 29.4 per cent, explained that they were usually seen sharing ideas together, while 143 (12 per cent) said they initiated and implemented projects together. A small proportion of respondents 27 (2 per cent) also realized that they were non-partisan in their work though they belonged to different political parties.

It should be noted that the fact that they appear frequently in public and relate well or share ideas together does not necessarily mean that they have good relations.

On the other hand, of the 271 (20.1 per cent) of the respondents who did not rate the relationship in any positive light, 181 (13.5 per cent), reasoned that the relationship was not cordial and there was no

collaboration between them. The rest 160 (11.9 per cent) were of the opinion that political competition was the source of the strained relations that existed between them.

4.5.3 Priority Areas

When respondents were asked to indicate the priority areas they expect their MP to devote time to, as many as 1,131 (84.2 per cent) being the majority wanted their Members of Parliament to bring development projects to their various constituencies. As MPs are elected representatives of the people in Parliament, 51.1 per cent desired that the MPs interact more frequently with their constituents. Another 98, representing 7.3 per cent of the respondents expected their MPs to focus on granting of scholarship to students as well as providing job opportunities to the youth. A cross tabulation of the priority areas of respondents against region and age are as follows:

Table 4.6: Priority Area

Priority Area	Frequency	Percent
Bringing Development to His/Her Constituency	1131	84.2
Peacemaking/Dispute Settling and Prevention	441	32.8
Regular Interaction with People in the Constituency	687	51.1
Working to Strengthen the Party	207	15.4
To Educate Constituents on Government Issues and Programmes	588	43.8
Any other	98	7.3

Development Projects

Across the regions, the Upper West had 66 of the 72 respondents constituting 92 per cent desiring development projects in their constituencies. It is followed closely by Upper East with 87 out of 96 interviewees representing 90.6 per cent. Ashanti and Volta registered the same proportion of responses, 87.5 per cent, which is slightly higher than that of the Northern Region figure which is 122 of 144 responses, representing 84.7 per cent. With the rest of the region, none had below 70 per cent of responses for this priority area. It is not surprising that the less developed regions noted development projects as their priority area since most of these areas lack basic social amenities and infrastructure development. In all the age categories, none had below 80 per cent of the respondents desiring developments projects.

Dispute Settlement and Prevention

It was discovered that all the regions with the exception of the Volta and Northern regions had below 40 per cent of the respondents expecting their MPs to focus on dispute settlement and prevention.

It is anticipated that the respondents in trouble spots advocated disputes settlement and prevention as their priority. These regions were the Volta Region which recorded 62 of 96 (64.5 per cent) respondents and Northern Region 102 of 144 (70.8 per cent) people. Similarly, no age group registered above 35 per cent of respondents who opted for this as their main area of concern.

Regular Interaction

It is important to note that with the exception of the Volta Region where over 70 per cent of respondents wanted the MP to interact regularly with their constituents, the response rate in the rest of the regions was below 70 per cent. In the same vein it was only the age category of 50-59 that had over 50 per cent.

Working to Strengthen the Party

Notably, it was only in the Volta and Upper East regions where respondents of 49 per cent and 31.3 per cent respectively stated that MPs should work to strengthen the party. The responses in the rest of the regions were below 20 per cent.

Educate Constituents on Government Policies and Programmes

On educating the constituents on government policies and programmes, the highest response was from the Volta Region with 72 (75 per cent) of 96 respondents, followed by the Upper West Region with 61.1 per cent and Greater Accra 99 (58.9 per cent). The response rate in the other regions was below 50 per cent. Again with responses for the age categories none was above 50 per cent.

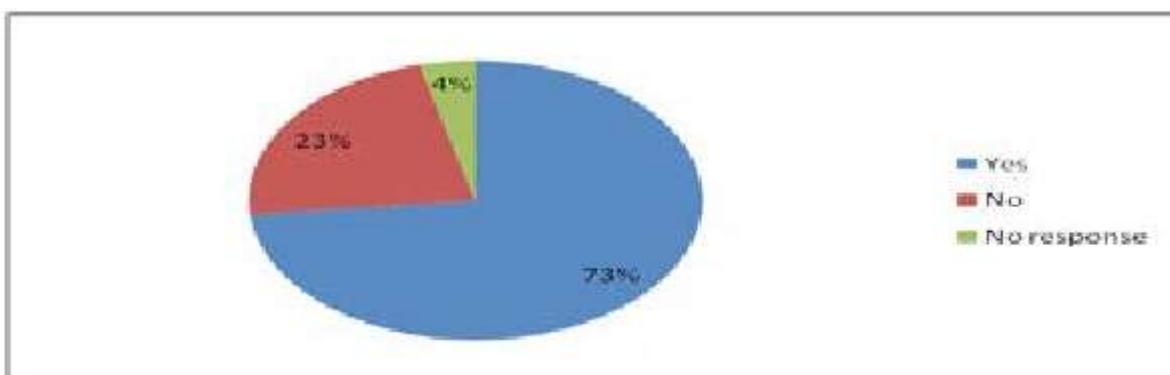
In all the areas of priority to respondents, a cross tabulation with sex of respondents showed that males topped, with the exception of development projects where a higher percentage of females (86 per cent) as compared to males (83 per cent) was recorded.

4.5.4 Partisanship in Deliberations in Parliament

Generally, deliberations in Parliament are expected to be in the national interest though members of the house have their own political affiliations. It was therefore important to seek the views of the public in this regard.

The results of the study showed that out of a total of 1,344 respondents 986 representing 73 per cent stated that the MPs were partisan whereas 305 (23 per cent) did not share this view as shown in figure 4.7 below

Figure 4.7: Partisanship in deliberations



Certainly, this is not a good testimony, with the majority of respondents feeling that our parliamentarians only go to Parliament to seek their own interest and that of their parties. Our young democracy could

adversely be affected. They are supposed to first and foremost seek the national interest and that of their constituencies before their parties.

It must be noted that 86 per cent of the respondents from the Upper West Region stated that the Members of Parliament were partisan just as was stated by 84 per cent of the respondents from the Volta Region. 82 per cent from the Upper East Region also indicated that their MPs are partisan during deliberations. The other regions followed with 79 per cent from the Eastern, Ashanti, 77 per cent from Brong Ahafo, 74 per cent from Greater Accra, 71 per cent from Central 68 per cent and Northern, 65 per cent. The Western region had the least number of respondents, 58 per cent, indicating that their MPs were partisan.

The respondents who perceived parliamentarians to be too partisan in deliberations in Parliament explained that discussions in the house were always along party lines. This was indicated by the majority of the respondents, 1,203, representing 90 per cent. A second significant number of respondents 21 (2 per cent) also said that parliamentarians by their sitting arrangements in the house were unquestionably partisan. Notably, 59 (4.4 per cent) respondents who said parliamentarians were too partisan could not give any reason for their assertion. Others, 17 per cent, cited rampant walkout on debates of national interest and MPs personal interest overriding that of the nation.

For the reasons why respondents perceived parliamentarians to be non-partisan, 143 (46 per cent) of them, being the majority noted that deliberations in the house were in the national interest; with 78 (26 per cent) saying MPs pursue the national interest and were generally objective while 8 (0.6 per cent) said MPs approved programmes such as the Capitation Grant and the School Feeding Programme.

4.5.5 Monitoring and Controlling Government Spending

Parliament has oversight responsibility for monitoring and controlling government spending so that remains within the proposed budget. Hence the study attempted to seek the opinion of respondents on the issue.

Again, the investigation showed that over half of the public, 867 (64.5 per cent), constituting the majority did not believe Parliament had been effective in this area, with a third (32.7 per cent) thinking differently. This implies that Parliament is not being effective in this area and in future need to concentrate more on monitoring and controlling government spending.

Table 4.7: Monitoring and Controlling Government Spending

Region	Yes	No	No Response	Total
Ashanti	94	122	0	216
Brong Ahafo	68	74	2	144
Central	33	85	2	120
Eastern	51	92	1	144
Greater Accra	44	105	19	168
Northern	75	69	0	144
Upper East	20	75	1	96
Upper West	7	65	0	72
Volta	8	87	1	96
Western	37	93	14	144
Total	437	867	40	1344

Table 4.7 gives the details of the regional distribution on the monitoring and controlling role of Parliament. The regional distribution revealed that the region with the majority of respondents who believed Parliament had been effective in controlling government was the Northern Region where 75 (52 per cent) of the 144 interviewees commended Parliament in this area. The Brong Ahafo Region was next with 68 (47 per cent) and the Ashanti Region had 94 (44 per cent) of its 266 respondents,.

On the other hand, in the Upper West and Volta regions, a little over 90 per cent of the respondents opined that Parliament was not effective in monitoring and controlling government spending, followed by the Upper East Region which had 78 per cent of its interviewees lamenting the lack of control over government spending.

The respondents, who thought that Parliament had been effective in controlling government spending were of the opinion that the public accounts committee was effective in its work. Many projects were undertaken successfully as a result of the effective oversight by Parliament. They also went further to state that institutions set up to control government spending were effective and that Parliament as a whole effectively helped to reduce government spending. Issues raised by members on the floor of the house effectively reduced government spending. Some commended MPs who raised issues with the Ghana @ 50 expenditure as well as other government programmes.

The reasons given by those who felt parliamentarians had not been effective include the following:

- Could not effectively control the Ghana @ 50 spending.
- Funds allocated for some projects are misappropriated.
- MPs themselves are corrupt.
- Public account committee has not been effective.
- Does not have effective control in reviewing appropriation bill.
- Parliament does not propose enough Projects to be implemented by the Executives.
- Shoddy work done due to lack of following proper procedures for awarding contracts.
- Appropriate huge sums of money for themselves in the form of ex gratia.

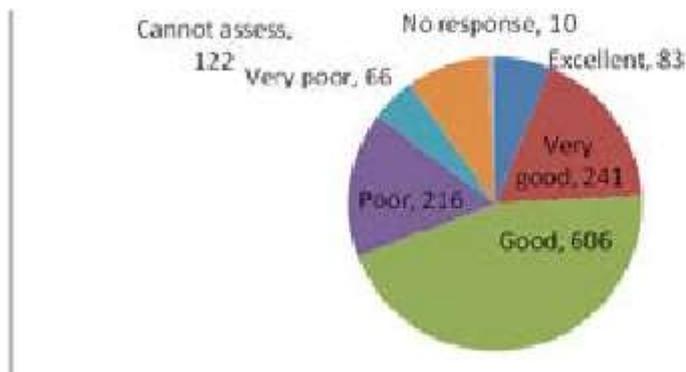
This should inform politicians that the public is not ignorant of what is happening in the circles of government, therefore when the people talk they should listen.

4.6 Assessment of Parliament and Parliamentarians

The position of MPs in Parliament is secured based on the assessment by their constituents and this is reflected in the voting pattern. Thus to assess the performance of the MP, respondents' views were sought on the performance of the MP. Respondents' rating of their MPs performance is indicated in the figure 4.8:

4.6.1 Assessment of the Performance of MP

Figure 4.8: Performance of MP



A minority of respondents, 83, representing 6.2 per cent of the 1,344 interviewees, rated the performance of their MPs to be excellent. Volta Region topped with 12 (13 per cent) of its 96 respondents, closely followed is the Western Region with 16 (11 per cent), followed is the Central region 13 (11 per cent), and the Eastern region with 10 (7 per cent).

A total of 241, representing 17.9 per cent, stated that the performance of their MPs was very good. Out of this, the Northern Region had the highest number of 49 (34 per cent) of its 144 respondents. The Western Region followed with 32 (22 per cent) respondents, while the Volta and Ashanti regions had the same number of respondents, 31 of their various interviewees saying the performance was very good.

Almost half of the respondents, 606, representing 45.1 per cent, stated that the performance of their MPs was good. Apart from the Volta and Upper West regions, all the regions had a higher number of respondents rating the performance of their MPs to be good with the Eastern Region topping with 59 per cent and the Upper East Region 57 per cent.

In the views of 216 (16.1 per cent) respondents, the performance of their MPs was poor. For the regions, Central Region leads in this rating, with over a quarter (26 per cent) of its respondents complaining about the performance of their MPs. Closely following is the Greater Accra Region where 23 per cent of its respondents indicated that the performances were poor.

Of the 1,344 interviewees, 66 representing 4.9 per cent said their MPs performance was very poor. Almost 12 per cent (11.9 per cent) of the respondents from the Greater Accra Region confirmed this and the Western Region followed with 11.8 per cent of its respondents expressing disappointment about the performance of their MPs.

Interestingly 122 (9.1 per cent) of the 1,344 respondents could not assess the performance of their MPs. Over 11 per cent of the respondents from both the Brong Ahafo (11.1 per cent) and Volta regions (11.4 per cent) could not assess the performances of their MPs.

4.6.2 How the Work of Parliamentarians Can Be Enhanced

When the respondents were asked to suggest ways in which the performance of the MPs could be enhanced, very useful suggestions were brought to the fore, which include the following:

- MPs should be provided with Research Assistants.
- MPs should keep in touch with their constituents.
- Political parties should select their candidates based on their competence and as much as possible include more women.
- MPs should be provided with the requisite logistics needed for their work.
- Review the Constitution to ensure that MPs do not become ministers.
- MPs should involve themselves in the activities of the District Assembly.

4.6.3 Enhancing the Performance of Parliament

In response to the question on ways the performance of Parliament could be enhanced, respondents, among other suggestions, given indicated;

- MPs should not be appointed as ministers.
- Parliament should interact regularly with the people.
- Parties in Parliament should develop a harmonious relationship.
- Parliament must ensure effective collaboration between the MPs and District/Municipal/Metropolitan Chief Executives.
- Parliament should establish complain offices in the various constituencies.
- Parliament should be provided with requisite logistics.
- Parliament should provide offices for members.
- Parliament should have a well furnished resource centre.
- Review constitution to empower of parliament to check the executives.

4.6.4 Assessment of the Performance of Parliament

Rating performance of Parliament on a five point likert scale of very good to very bad most of the respondents, over half, 769 (57.2 per cent), rated it to be good, 254 (18.9 per cent) felt it was very good. A small proportion of 37 (2.8 per cent) were very happy with the performance of Parliament.

In contrast, 170, representing 12.6 per cent interviewees perceived the performance to be poor and 34 (2.5 per cent) said it was very poor. 70 (5.2 per cent) people however, could not rate the performance of Parliament, while 10 (0.7 per cent) did not respond to this question.

Cross tabulating the performance of Parliament with education, it was noted that basic education topped in all the ratings with the exception of very poor where secondary recorded the highest number of respondents. Secondary education had the second highest number of respondents 9 (24.3 per cent) who rated the performance to be excellent and no formal education had the lowest number of respondents of 2 (5.4 per cent).

A total of secondary and no formal education both had 52 representing 20.5 per cent who thought the performance was very good. Tertiary education category came next in this rating with 40 (15.7 per cent)

number of respondents. Those who had no formal education but could read and write in English and/or vernacular recorded 5 (2 per cent).

The category of secondary education was the next category after basic education which rated the performance to be good with 233 (30.3 per cent), followed by tertiary education with 142 (18.5 per cent) respondents. The least number of respondents 100 (13 per cent) was from the no formal education category, followed by those with no formal education but can read and write, 25 (2.5 per cent).

For those who were not pleased with the performance of Parliament, again secondary education followed basic education with 42 representing 25.3 per cent of respondents who said performance was poor. The rest were no formal education 34 (20 per cent), tertiary 24 (14.1 per cent), no formal but can read and write 4 (2.4 per cent). A total of 15 (44.1 per cent) respondents in the secondary category perceived the performance to be very poor. With this rating, respondents in the basic education category came after secondary education with 12 (35.3 per cent) respondents and tertiary 3 (8.8 per cent).

CHAPTER 5

The Work of the Member of Parliament

5.1 Introduction

The legislative arm of government is an essential organ of the governance of the country. The survey therefore sought to take a critical look at the work of the Member of Parliament (MP) under areas such as Political Participation, The MP and his work in the constituency, The MP and his relationship with significant others such as the DCE and the Constituents, The MP and his work in parliament as well as their (MPs) challenges and suggestions to improve upon their work and that of the entire house (Parliament).

5.1.1 Political Participation

The survey sought to find out the number of times the MP has been in Parliament. It came to light that of the 62 MPs interviewed, 18 (29 per cent) of them were in Parliament for the first time in the Fourth Republic whereas 54 (71 per cent) of them had been in parliament for at least two terms. The details follow in table 5.1 below

Table 5.1: No of Terms in Parliament

	Frequency	Percent
Once	18	29.0
Twice	30	48.4
Three Times	6	9.7
More Than Thrice	8	12.9
Total	62	100.0

5.2 The MP and His Constituency

5.2.1 Attendance at Assembly Meetings

As the MPs are ex officio members of the District Assemblies, they are therefore expected to take active part in the activities of the assemblies. The survey therefore asked for the number of times the MPs attended district assembly sittings. Majority of the MPs (52) had been frequent at assembly meetings, as they had attended more than thrice. The table below gives a vivid representation of the responses provided.

Table 5.2: Attendance at Assembly Meetings

	Frequency	Percent
Nil	3	4.8
Once	1	1.6
Twice	5	8.1
Thrice or More	52	83.9
No Response	1	1.6
Total	62	100.0

The MPs were therefore asked to provide reasons for their frequent or infrequent attendance at assembly sittings; for those who frequently attended sittings, their reasons were that they attended to partake in decision-making for the development of the area and inform members of issues in Parliament as well as government programmes and policies. Others also stated that they were usually well informed of such meetings and hence attended as expected. Some MPs who frequently attended such meetings stated that they did so because it was their constitutional duty.

For those who did not frequently attend assembly sittings, their reasons were that; they were either not invited or invitations to them were late. Others also stated the timing of assembly meetings had not been conducive as it usually clashed with other equally important constitutional assignments. For others, the failure of the assembly to implement resolutions passed as well as repetition of issues discussed made them lose interest in attending such sittings.

5.2.2 Usefulness of Assembly Meetings

As the MPs are expected to attend District Assembly meetings, the survey sought to solicit their views on the assembly meetings they had attended. It was noted that of the 62 MPs interviewed, 31 representing 50 per cent stated that Assembly Meetings which they attended were very useful with 22 representing 35.5 per cent stating that it was useful. On the other hand, 5 representing 8.1 per cent saw the meetings they attended as a waste of time whereas 4, representing 6.5 per cent did not state their view.

Fig 5.1: Usefulness of Assembly Meetings Attended

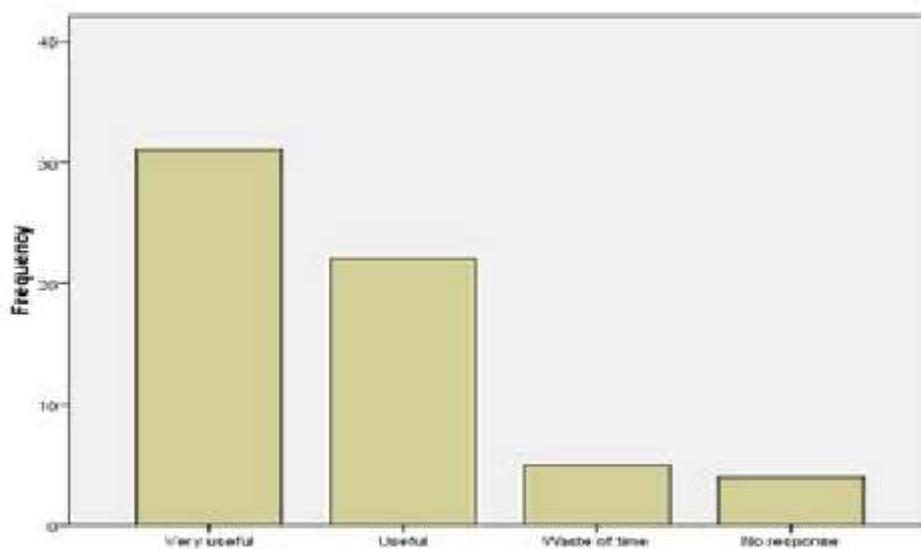


Fig 5.1: Regards of Assembly Meetings attended

5.2.3 Influence at Assembly Meetings

As representatives of their constituents at the legislature, they are expected not just to attend the Assembly meetings but also to ensure that bye-laws are in consonance with the national laws. They are also expected to make significant contributions at Assembly sittings as partners in development.

The Members of Parliament were asked of the extent to which their contributions on the floor of the Assembly influenced decisions.

Of the 62 MPs interviewed, 36 (58.1 per cent) stated that their contributions on the floor of the assembly influenced decisions largely whereas 17 (27.4 per cent) stated that their influence was to a small extent.

On the other hand, 6 (9.7 per cent) also stated that their contributions did not influence decisions at all with 3 (4.8 per cent) not stating the level of influence of their contributions on the floor. Table 5.3 provides the details.

Table 5.3: Extent of Contributions on the Floor of the Assembly Influenced Decisions

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	To a Large Extent	36	58.1
	To Some Extent	17	27.4
	Not at All	6	9.7
	No Response	3	4.8
	Total	62	100.0

5.3 The MP and Development

The MPs as partners in development are expected to undertake some projects with their share of the District Assembly's Common Fund. The Members of Parliament were therefore asked as to the projects which they undertook with their share of the common fund. Details of the projects undertaken are noted in table 5.4 below.

Table 5.4: Projects Undertaken by MPs with their Share of the Common Fund

Projects	Frequency	Percentage
Schools	56	90.3
Roads	24	38.7
Kvips	30	48.4
Clinics	32	51.6
Bridge	20	32.3
Electrification	44	71.0
Water	34	54.8

From the table above, it can be noted that the project that topped as the one most undertaken by the MPs is the construction of school buildings as indicated by 56 (90.3 per cent) of the 62 MPs who responded to the questionnaire. It is worth noting that all the MPs who constructed schools also undertook other projects; highest among them were those who also embarked upon electrification projects (43-representing 76.8 per cent). Electrification projects came next with 44 (71 per cent) of the MPs using their share of the common fund for electrification. 43 (97.7 per cent) of them also stated that they built schools.

With the provision of water as an important service for livelihood, 34 (54.8 per cent) of the MPs stated

that they used their share to undertake an activity related to the provision of water to their constituents. This was either in the form of extending pipe borne water in conjunction with the water company or providing boreholes for needy communities.

A little over half (32 representing 51.6 per cent) used their share to provide health posts or clinics to communities in the constituency in need. Of the 32 MPs who built health posts or clinics, 29 (90.6 per cent) of them also stated that they embarked on electrification projects.

In addition, 30 (48.4 per cent) of them also noted that they used part of their share to also provide places of convenience to their constituents.

Again, rehabilitation and construction of some roads and bridges were also undertaken with their share of the common fund. 24 (38.7 per cent) and 20 (32.3 per cent) MPs mentioned roads and bridges respectively. Of those who constructed roads, 22 (91.7 per cent) of them also used their share to construct schools.

It is worthy to note that mention was also made of the provision of some form of financial support to needy students. Others also talked of the construction of community centers, among others.

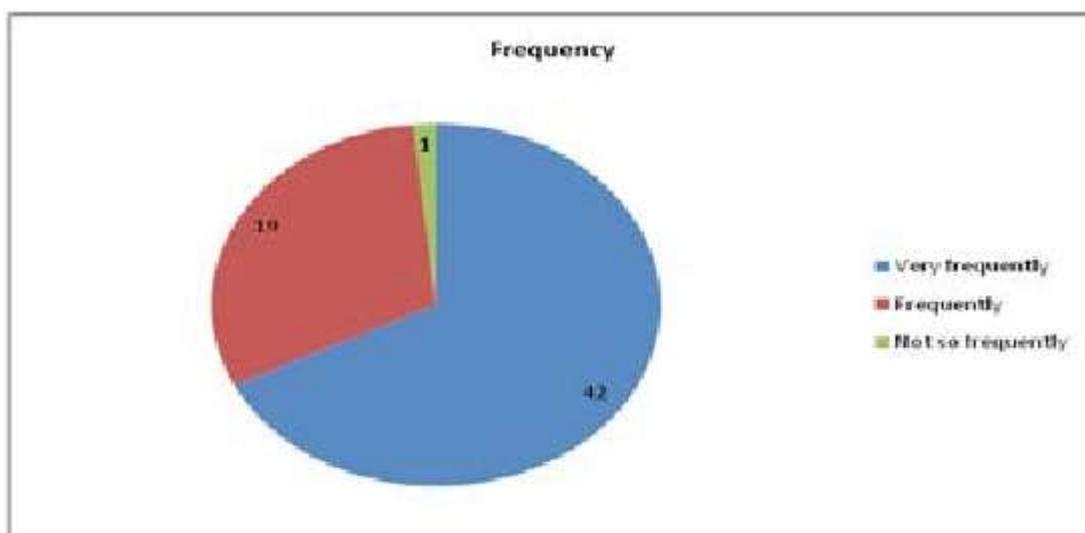
5.4 MP and His/Her Relationship With Significant Others

It is necessary for Members of Parliament to have cordial relationships with the various stakeholders, most importantly the constituents and the District, Municipal or Metropolitan Chief Executive.

5.4.1 Interaction between MP and Constituents

As the MPs are the representatives of the constituents, it is expected that they interact frequently to know their issues of concern. The survey therefore sought to ascertain from the MPs the extent to which they interacted with the constituents. Fig. 5.2 below presents the findings.

Fig 5.2: Frequency of Interaction Between MPs and Constituents



From figure 5.2 above it is obvious that majority of the MPs (42 representing 67.7 per cent) stated that they interacted very frequently with their constituents with 19 (30.6 per cent) stating that their interaction was frequent.

On the other hand 1 (1.6 per cent) stated his interaction with the constituents was not so frequent.

5.4.2 Means of Interaction

The survey also sought to ascertain from the MPs the means through which they interacted with the constituents. Table 5.5 provides the details.

Table 5.5: Means of Interaction with Constituents

Means of Interaction	Frequency	Percentage
Invitation by the Constituents	53	85.5
Social Events Organised by the People	56	90.3
Media Events Organised by the People	28	45.2
Meetings Organised by the MP	51	82.3
Rallies Organised by the MP	38	61.3

As stated in the table above, most (56-representing 90.3 per cent) of the Members of Parliament interviewed stated that they met with their constituents mostly through social events organised by the people. These social events included funerals, religious functions, parties etc. In addition, of the 56 MPs who met with their constituents through social events organised by the constituent, 47 of them also organised meetings themselves with their constituents.

Following social events organised by the people were invitations by the constituents to discuss matters of importance to them, be they general constituency development issues or issues mainly related to party politics. This had 53 (85.5 per cent) of the MPs stating so. Of the 53 MPs who stated that their meetings with their constituents was as a result of it being organised by the constituents, 45 of them stated that they themselves as MPs also organised similar meetings

Fifty-one (51-representing 82.3 per cent) MPs also stated that they organised meetings with the constituents themselves. 47 of them attended social functions organised by the constituents and 45 of those who organised meetings with constituents also stating that they were also invited by their constituents.

With rallies being a major medium through which politicians propagate their political agenda, 38 (61.3 per cent) stated that they also on their own as MPs use it. Of this number, 28 of them also used the media as a major tool of interacting with the people in the constituency.

5.4.3 Issues on Which Constituents Approached MP

When the MPs were asked to rank in order of importance, the issues on which constituents approached them, for the first ranking 37 (59.7 per cent) of them chose financial issues. 16 (25.8 per cent) stated

social issues with educational issues following with 9 (14.5 per cent) respondents.

For the second ranking, educational issues came first with twenty-six representing 41.9 per cent. Following were financial issues that obtained 16 (25.8 per cent) and social issues which came next with 13 (21 per cent). Social issues came up first for the third most important issue which constituents approached the MP with as indicated by 23 (37.1 per cent) of the MPs. Following were educational issues with 20 (32.3 per cent). Political issues came up first as the fourth issue of importance to the constituents with 27 (43.5 per cent) stating so. Religious issues came up first as the fifth which constituents approached them on as 27 (43.5 per cent) of the MPs stated so.

5.4.4 Appreciation of Efforts by Constituents

The Members of Parliament were asked how in their view, their constituents would rate their performance. The results are stated in Table 5.6 below.

Table 5.6: View of Constituents Rating of MPs Performance

	Freq.	Perc.
Excellent	22	35.5
Very Good	22	35.5
Good	8	12.9
Poor	2	3.2
Very Poor	1	1.6
Cannot Assess	7	11.3
Total	62	100.0

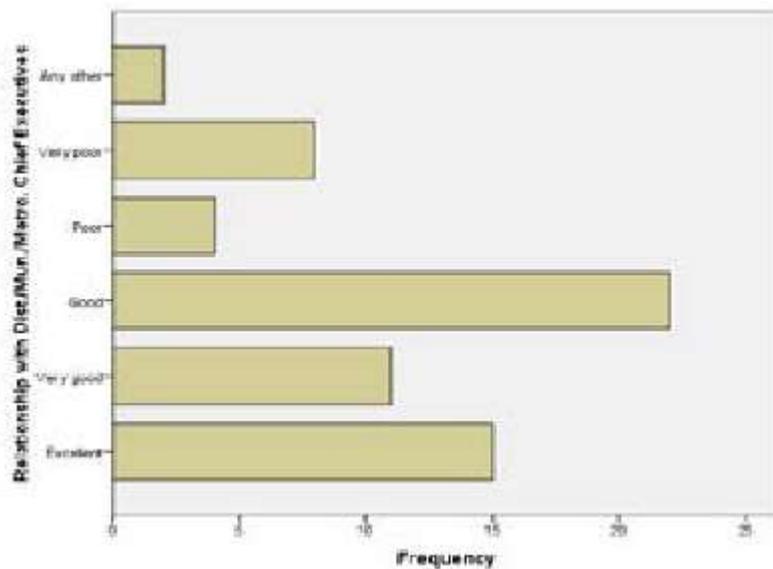
Of the 62 MPs interviewed, 22 (35.5 per cent) of them stated that their constituents would rate their performance as excellent with the same proportion stating that their constituents would rate their performance as very good. Those who stated that their constituents would rate their performance as good were 8 (12.9 per cent).

Seven (11.3 per cent) of those interviewed stated that they could not give an assessment of how their constituents would rate their performance. One person (1.6 per cent) stated that the constituents would rate his performance as very poor as his efforts were not duly appreciated.

5.4.5 Relationship Between MPs and the District/Municipal and Metropolitan Chief Executives (DMMCEs)

From fig 5.3 below, it can be noted that 22 (35.5 per cent) of the MPs stated that they had good relationship with the D/M/MCEs with 15 (24.2 per cent) stating that they had excellent relationship with the MPs. Eleven, representing 17.7 per cent of the MPs interviewed also indicated that they had very good relationship with their Chief Executive. Eight (12.9 per cent) of the MPs also noted that their relationship with the Chief Executive was very poor.

Figure 5.3: Relationship with District/Municipal/Metropolitan Chief Executives



5.4.6 Suggestions to Improve Upon the Relationship Between the MPs and DCEs

The existence of a harmonious relationship between the MP and the District/Municipal/Metropolitan Chief Executive is necessary to ensure the rapid development of the area. The Members of Parliament interviewed were requested to state what in their view would help improve the relationship existing between MPS and DMMCEs. In this light, 17 (27.4 per cent) stated that there must be frequent communication between the MPs and the DMMCEs. This they noted is necessary as consensus building is a necessary tool to bring about development in any multi-party democratic state.

In addition, almost a quarter (15-representing 24.2 per cent) of the MPs interviewed stated that both the D/M/MCEs should have unity of purpose towards development and see each other as the partner towards alleviating the plight of the citizenry. Ten (16.1 per cent) of the MPs also noted that both the D/M/MCEs should be well educated on their respective roles to minimize conflicts. It can be speculated that these respondents believe the conflicts that result between these partners usually come about because of conflicting roles due to the ignorance or deliberate disregard of their various limitations.

It is worthy to note that 6 (9.7) of them also stated that there must be a legal provision to prevent D/M/MCEs from contesting as MPs while they are still in office. They stated that such aspirants should resign from their position so as to give a level playing field between themselves and other aspirants. This they noted would enhance development as it will reduce the conflicts that usually characterize the relationship that exist between the Chief Executives and the incumbent MPs.

Another 6 (9.7 per cent) also indicated that the Members of Parliament should be given the opportunity to fully control their share of the common fund instead of the current situation where it is in the hands of the assembly, this they noted would curb the current situation where projects for which the MPs share of the fund should be used for results in disagreement thereby souring their relationship. Others also suggested that the District, Municipal and Metropolitan Chief Executives should be voted for by the people instead of the current arrangement where they are appointed by the President. They also noted that DMMCEs and MPs should respect each other and have confidence in themselves.

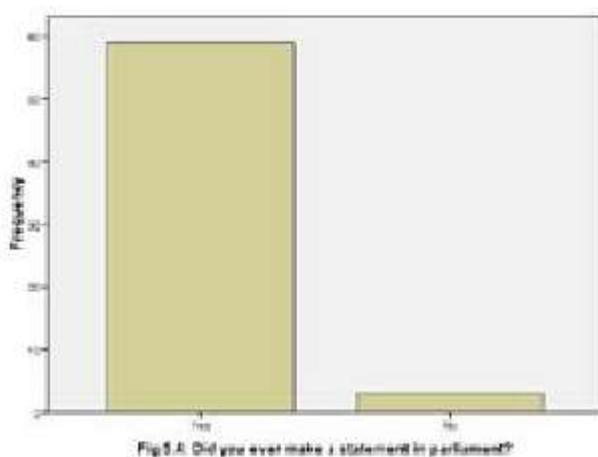
5.5 The MP and His Work in Parliament

With Parliament representing the legislative arm of government, the effectiveness of its members (MPs) is crucial to ensure its proper functioning.

5.5.1 Making Statements

Almost all the MPs interviewed (95.2 per cent) made statements in Parliament whereas 3 (4.8 per cent) stated that they did not make any statements in parliament.

Fig 5.4: Statements Made in Parliament



5.5.2 Issues on Which Statements Were Made

Sanitation and other environmental issues were mentioned by the highest number of the MPs, with 8 (12.9 per cent) of the MPs commenting on them. Following were issues on the deplorable state of roads in the constituencies of the various MPs 7 (11.3 per cent). Issues on Agriculture had 6 (9.7 per cent) of the respondents commenting on them.

Health and Issues on international trade had 4 (6.5 per cent) of the MPs commenting on each. 3 (4.8 per cent) of the respondents made statements on the security situation of the country. Issues on Energy, Mining, and the Economy among others were also mentioned.

5.5.3 Membership of Committee

The Public Accounts committee, the Committee on Education and that of Local Government came tops as the committees with the highest number of 5 (8.1 per cent) MPs, serving on them each. The committee on trade and industry followed with 4 (6.5 per cent) interviewed.

The committee on health as well as that of the Environment, Science and Technology followed, with 3 (4.8 per cent) MPs, The committee on Communication, Culture and chieftaincy, Finance, Gender and Children, Government Assurance, Land and Forestry, Local government and rural development, Mines and Energy and Youth and Sports all had 2 (3.2 per cent) MP each. The others belonged to a committee each.

5.5.4 Committees' Deliberation on Bills

When respondents were asked as to whether they had enough time at the committee stage to deliberate on issues brought before them, it came to light that 52 (83.9 per cent) of the MPs interviewed stated that their respective committees had enough time to deliberate on bills that came before them. Whereas 10 (16.1 per cent) of the MPs stated categorically that they did not have enough time to deliberate on bills.

The survey went further to enquire about the influence of the committee on bills brought before them. In this wise, 55 (88.7 per cent) stated that their committees had much influence where as 7 (11.3 per cent) stated that they did not have much influence on bills brought before them.

For the reasons why they believe the committees were able to influence bills brought before them or otherwise, the MPs stated that bills brought before them were thoroughly discussed and the necessary amendments made before they were passed. Also in their view, the unity exhibited at the committee stage ensures they have the necessary influence. Late submission of the report to the committee and the ill timing by the executives were cited by the 7 (11.3 per cent) respondents as the reasons they believe accounted for the inability of the committee to effectively influence bills that came before them.

5.5.5 Time at the House

The deliberative role of Parliament would be achieved if the house as a whole has enough time to, deliberate on bills brought before them by the Executive. The parliamentarians were asked whether the house had enough time to look into bills.

In this wise, 35 (56.5 per cent) of the respondents stated that the house had enough time to deliberate on bills with 27 (43.5 per cent) stating otherwise.

5.5.6 Effectiveness of Parliament in Controlling Government Financial Programmes

In the democratic governance of the country, the ability of the legislature to effectively control financial programmes of the government is necessary to ensure prudent fiscal management of the economy. A little over half (32-representing 51.6 per cent) of the 62 MPs stated that the house had not been effective in controlling government financial programmes. On the other hand, 30 representing 48.3 per cent stated Parliament had been effective.

5.5.7 Role of Parliament in the Effective Implementation of the Auditor General's Report

The work of the Auditor Generals Department is a major tool to curb corruption in Ghana. There have therefore been several calls on the state to ensure the effective implementation of the Auditor General's report. The parliamentarians were asked as to what role in their view Parliament can play in the effective implementation of the report.

In this light, 23 (37.1 per cent) of them stated that there is the need to resource the house, particularly the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), to make them more effective as it is the main organ responsible for following up on the report.

Besides resourcing the house they believe the role of ensuring prudent financial management and safeguarding the national coffers could be best achieved if they have punitive powers through the PAC

to punish officials found to be corrupt. This was stated by 16 (25.8 per cent) of the respondents (MPs).

Fifteen (24.2 per cent) also mentioned the need for the house to talk about ensuring that the office of the Auditor General is well resourced. According to them, it is worrying as most of the time the reports delay and hence officials who need to be brought to book might not even be available to be questioned. This, they believe, could be curtailed if the office is well resourced to recruit more staff to enable it to effectively undertake its constitutional mandate.

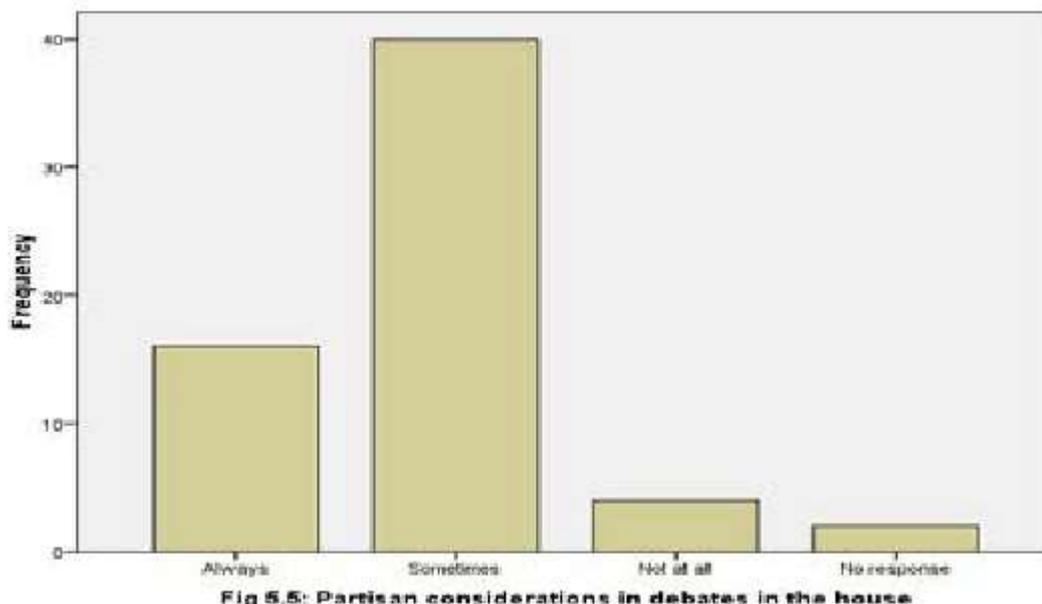
Others (12.9 per cent) MPs also noted that parliamentarians should be interested always in commenting particularly on the reports of the Auditor General and financial matters in general. They, therefore, called for the capacity of the parliamentarians to be built with regard to financial matters.

5.5.8 Partisan Nature of Debates in the House

With MPs being the representatives of their constituents, it is expected that they objectively undertake their activities in the house devoid of any partisan considerations. The survey therefore sought to find out from the parliamentarians if in their view they were partisan.

More than half (40) of the respondents stated that debates in the house were sometimes partisan with 16 (25.8 per cent) of the respondents stating that debates were usually influenced by partisan considerations. Four of the respondents stated that parliamentarians were not at all partisan with two not stating their opinion. The details are as shown in figure 5.5.

Fig 5.5: Partisan Considerations of Debates in the House



5.5.9 Reasons for View on Partisanship in Parliament

The Members of Parliament were also asked their reasons for their view on the partisanship of debates in the house.

For the majority of respondents (40) who stated that debates in the house are sometimes partisan, 19 of them, representing 47.5 per cent, stated that it is the case because of the whip system in the house where members are made to move in line with the view of their political party. The next in line, 13, representing 32.5 per cent of those who stated that the MPs were sometimes partisan indicated that it was so because in their view the MPs wanted to score political points.

For those who stated that the Members of Parliament were always partisan, 7 representing 43.8 stated that the MPs were partisan because they always wanted to score political points as the same number (7) of the respondents also stated that they are always partisan.

In the view of the 4 MPs who stated that the house was not at all partisan, 3 (75 per cent) stated that the house was usually united and contributed objectively towards the national interest with one stating that parliamentarians played their roles as expected and hence could not be said to be partisan.

5.5.10 “Winner-Takes-All” System of Law Making in Ghana

With the ruling party usually dominating the affairs of the country in almost all sectors, the question as to whether the winner-takes-all system is helping law making was put to the parliamentarians to give their views on it.

Of the 62 Members of Parliament interviewed, 37 (59.7 per cent) stated that it was not helping law-making in Parliament, with 25 (40.3 per cent) of the respondents stating otherwise.

5.5.11 Effects of the ‘Winner-Takes-All’ System on Law making in Ghana

The respondents were also asked the reasons why they believe the winner-takes-all system is helping law-making in Ghana or not.

Of the 37 respondents who stated that the winner-takes-all system is not helping law-making in Ghana, their reasons were that competence is overlooked as the winner usually concentrates on appointing majority if not all of its appointees only from that political party reducing the chances of the appointment of competent members of the minority parties. They also shared the view that it promotes partisanship and sycophancy which do not enhance development.

Of the 25 respondents who stated that it is helping law-making, their reasons were that confidentiality, trust and loyalty is assured which is necessary for the government to achieve its agenda. They also stated that it helped the government to easily implement its programmes as they already shared in the parties’ political philosophy. Others also stated that it helped Ghanaians compare the performance of the various parties in government.

5.6 Improving the Work of Parliament

As the legislature is essential in the nation's multi-party democracy, it is pertinent that serious efforts are made to ensure the effective functioning of the legislature as an essential arm of government. The parliamentarians were asked of the constraints they face and suggestions to improve upon their work in the house.

5.6.1 Constraints Faced by the Members of Parliament

The MPs are faced with myriad of problems and hence it is pertinent to find out from them the specific problems which they faced.

Lack of office space was the major constraint cited by 21 (33.9 per cent) of the MPs who responded to the questionnaire. Without MPs, there would be no legislation and hence it is worrying when they have to function without any office space. In addition, 16 (25.8 per cent) of them also noted that a major hindrance to their effective functioning was the lack of logistics and research support.

Further, Constituents lack of knowledge on the role of MPs and Parliament has resulted in the Constituents overburdening the MPs with financial demands. This is noted by 9 (14.5) of the MPs interviewed and according to them it was making their work extremely difficult.

Poor remuneration was also mentioned by 9 (14.5 per cent) of them as a major constraint to parliamentary work. This is not surprising since in their attempt to satisfy their constituents, some may end up using part of their salaries and allowances to help in alleviating personal problems of their constituents.

Others (6), representing 9.7 per cent also stated that the lack of appreciation of their work by a section of the public and the huge influence of the executive was a major constraint they faced. They noted that since the executive fully controls the 'purse' it had become extremely difficult for the legislature to get what it needs.

5.6.2 Suggestions to Enhance the Work of Parliament and Parliamentarians.

When the MPs were impressed upon to give suggestions on how best their constraint can be ameliorated, 20 (32.3 per cent) of them indicated that they can function effectively as Members of the legislature when they are provided with logistics such as printers, photocopiers, papers etc, they can function effectively .

Interestingly, even though lack of office space was the major constraint stated, its resolution didn't come up as the topmost suggestion for implementation. Only 14 (22.6 per cent) of the respondents stated that they should be provided with offices so as to enhance their work.

Seven (7-representing 11.3 per cent) of the MPs noted that more refresher courses should be held for MPs to enhance their knowledge on pertinent issues that might come before them.

In addition, 6 (9.7 per cent) of the MPs also noted that they should be well remunerated to enable them to function effectively.

They also called for intensive civic education on the roles and responsibilities of the MPs as stated by 5 (8.1 per cent) of the respondents. Others also called for Parliament to be given the opportunity to have control of its budget.

CHAPTER 6

Field Experience of Research Assistants

6.0 Introduction

The Research Assistants (RAs) that were selected for the exercise were given training so that a good job could be done. Research Assistants selected the respondents according to the instructions given them. At the end of the exercise, they wrote brief reports.

These reports captured the procedure adopted in performing the assignment, the response of interviewees, important or noteworthy information that caught their attention during administration of questionnaire and suggestions or comments on the execution of future projects.

6.1 Procedure Adopted in Selecting the Household

In selecting the various households for the exercise, research assistants used the Random Walk method with a sampling gap of three in rural areas and five in urban areas. In cases where the members of the household to be interviewed were absent, the research assistants moved on to the next household.

Most of the primary sampling points used by the research assistants were in public places such as markets, lorry parks, churches, mosques and the chiefs' palace. The respondents' selection Kish Grid system was used to select a particular member of the household to be interviewed. On the average research assistants administered not more than eight questionnaires a day.

6.2 Constraints Faced in Adopting Procedure Selected

Generally, the exercise was very successful, however the scattered nature of the settlements in several communities made the use of the Kish Grid difficult. Poor road network and difficulty in accessing commercial vehicles in certain areas did not augur well for the exercise.

Some respondents and MPs were also not available as they had gone to their places of work or travelled, and hence making it difficult to interview them. Most of the respondents complained that the questionnaires were too loaded.

6.3 Response to the Questionnaire

Respondents were receptive to the exercise. A lot of them expressed delight and felt privileged that their views were being sought on such an important issue and commended the NCCE.

It was noted during administration that respondents in certain remote areas took a long time to respond to some of the issues.

A few of the respondents however, declined the interview. According to some of them, they are not interested in the MP or their work since they do not see to the welfare of the people when voted into power.

6.4 Other Matters Noted

6.4.1 Socio-Economic and Political Issues

The respondents' complained about the poor state of the economy. Cost of living was on the increase and no employment to arrest the situation.

Lack of infrastructure in the communities was another issue of complaint noted by our Research Assistants. This situation was prevalent in the rural communities. No roads, no potable drinking water, etc.

It was the view of most respondents that MPs should concern themselves with their work in Parliament so that party executives and supporters take up the day-to-day politics.

Respondents were not happy about situations where communities suffers in terms of development, when they are not in support of the ruling power.

6.5 Suggestions

The following suggestions or recommendations came from the respondents.

NCCE should intensify education, especially in the rural communities, so as to create the necessary awareness among citizens.

The exercise was welcomed. Next time, if it is to be done again, it should be at the end of term of Parliament.

Most citizens do not know about most bills passed by Parliament. Ways must be found for the bills to be constantly in the public domain.

CHAPTER 7

Conclusion

The Assessment of the Performance of the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic was carried out in August, 2009 to establish and document the views of Constituents and Members of Parliament regarding how the legislature is evolving in Ghana. Views on the performance of the Fourth Parliament and suggestions for improvement in the work of Parliament are expected to guide Constituents, parliamentarians, Government and other stakeholders to contribute more effectively towards the work of Parliament for improved performance.

To provide a basis for taking views of the public more seriously, the survey sought to find out how politically active they were by asking whether they voted in the 2004 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections or not. The findings confirm that the public is politically active. More than eighty per cent of the one thousand, three hundred and forty-four (1,344) members of the public said they voted in the 2004 National Election. Even though more males (685) than females (466) said they voted, the forty per cent (466) of females meets the African and National Affirmative Policy figure of 40 per cent. However, more work needs to be done to translate this figure into actual representation of females in Political positions, especially Parliament.

Voting in the 2004 Elections was not the only criterion for establishing the eligibility of respondents to make pronouncements on the work of Parliament. The survey found out Respondents' knowledge of the work of Parliament and parliamentarians. The interest of Respondents in the work of Parliament and parliamentarians was also assessed to complement their knowledge to form a firm basis for interpreting their views on the performance of Parliament.

Many citizens interviewed were aware that the main roles of Parliament and the Parliamentarian were to make new laws and review existing ones. Nine hundred and eighteen (918) mentioned this role for the Parliamentarian, while as many as one thousand, one hundred and fifty-nine (1159) mentioned it as a role for Parliament as a whole. Many respondents also knew of the important role of the Members of Parliament as a link between Parliament and his Constituents and the District Assembly. Similarly many were aware of the oversight role of Parliament, Four hundred and fifty-four (454) respondents mentioned monitoring and review of the Executive's financial programme.

On other roles of the Member of Parliament, as many as seven hundred and one (701) Respondents mentioned provision of infrastructure and social amenities. This is however not a constitutional role of the Member of Parliament, and therefore calls for extensive civic education on the role of the Member of Parliament to erase this and other wrong perceptions of what is expected of the Member of Parliament. On the interest of citizens in the work of Parliament and parliamentarians, the findings of the survey established that interest is high. Many respondents were able to mention the various Committees of the Parliament. Only fourteen per cent didn't remember any of the Committees.

Many respondents were however able to mention one debate in the Fourth Parliament that they followed. More than 20 per cent mentioned the debates on the Sale of Ghana Telecom and the National Health Insurance. Sixteen per cent mentioned the Representation of the People's Amendment Bill. On knowledge of laws that were passed, the National Health Insurance Act, the Domestic Violence Act and

the Representation of the People's Amendment Act were identified by four hundred and four (404), two hundred and eighty-one (281), and one hundred and forty-six (146) respondents respectively. This is an indication that many Ghanaians follow the work of Parliament closely especially when topical issues are being discussed by the House.

The interest of constituents in the work of Parliament and Parliamentarians was further demonstrated by their knowledge of their MPs, their interaction with them, knowledge of the use of their District Assemblies Common Fund, and the means by which MPs interacted with the Constituents.

More than ninety per cent (1229) of Respondents knew their MPs. Even though some respondents (221) said they hardly interacted with their MP, majority (840) agreed there was interaction between their MPs and constituents. The fact that social events were cited as the most popular means by which interaction took place may be an indication of existence of social capital amongst community members. That very few Constituents (170) mentioned Media as a means of interaction points to a low usage of Media for social communication. NCCE should do well to see how this can be improved as a complement to direct communication.

The survey findings established that most constituents who approached their MPs did so to talk about Development issues. Notwithstanding the fact that provision of development infrastructure is not a constitutional function of the MP, this is a good sign that constituents are development conscious. The few who approach MPs for solutions to personal problems can be corrected through effective civic education by the NCCE and Civil Society Organisations.

The findings also confirm that many Constituents see their MPs to be relating well with them, as four hundred and sixty-eight (468) of those who ever approached their MPs had no problem with the way they were received.

The relationship of the key political players in the district or constituency can influence the outcome of development programmes. When Respondents' views were sought on the nature of the relationship between their MPs and the District Chief Executive, six hundred (600) of them felt the relationship was cordial. Even though more than half (903) of Respondents didn't approach their MP, that as many as Six hundred were able to observe the cordial relationship between the MP and the District Chief Executive shows how politically observant the Constituents are.

Respondents were equally observant concerning the kinds of projects MPs spent their share of the DACF on. Five hundred and eighty-two (582) Respondents were able to identify schools, electrification, roads and KVIPs as some of the projects MPs spent the DACF on. Interestingly two hundred and thirty-eight mentioned reasons, including paying of school fees and granting of scholarships to students. This draws attention to the fact that some education must be carried out to clarify when school fees can be paid as a matter of policy and when paying such fees as a demand on MPs by Constituents should be discouraged. The findings of the survey show that majority of Respondents were satisfied with the performance of their MPs and Parliament. Only 216 respondents said the performance of their MPs was poor and another 66 rated it as very poor. For Parliament, very few, one hundred and seventy said the performance was poor, while thirty-four (34) saw the performance as very poor. Seventy could not rate Parliaments' performance and only ten didn't respond.

When the sixty-two Members of Parliament who were interviewed were asked to state their perception on how their Constituents would rate their performance, only one said it would be very poor. Seven (7) others could not state their perception. More than half, forty-four of the MPs interviewed, had been in Parliament more than once or at least twice.

Corroborating the view of the Constituents that MPs' interaction with them was good, fifty-two MPs confirmed that their attendance at District Assembly meetings had been frequent. Only three (3) MPs never attended assembly meetings. Most of those who frequented Assembly Meetings also found them to be useful.

When Constituents were asked to mention issues that their MPs should give priority to, one thousand one hundred and thirty-one (1,131) of them mentioned development projects. On their part, Members of Parliament also placed financial, social and educational issues high above Political issues, as those Constituents often approached them with.

The survey results have established that Citizens are interested in the work of the legislature and politics. In general, the public is satisfied with the performance of the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic. Even though some members of the public felt there was partisanship and selfish interest in some decisions taken, majority rated the performance as either excellent, very good or good.

Areas mentioned for improvement by the public and Members of Parliament include increased financial resources and logistics to Parliament towards an improved performance. Others are improved relationship between MPs and the District Chief Executives, mitigating partisan debates and decision-making in favour of national issues and the national interest. To this end party considerations are to be downplayed in favour of harmonious relationship between parties in Parliament. The provision of research assistants to MPs was recommended by the public, as well as the provision of a resource centre.

There was a call for a review of the Constitution to amend the winner-takes-all principle, as well as empowering Parliament to check the Executive more effectively.

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APPENDICES

Sampled Constituencies (56)

Ashanti Region

1. Nhyiaeso
2. Oforikrom
3. Kwadaso
4. Akrofuom
5. Ahafo Ano North
6. Atwima Mponua
7. Ejura Sekyedumase
8. Mampong
9. Asawase

Brong Ahafo Region

1. Jaman North
2. Kintampo South
3. Nkoranza North
4. Berekum
5. Sene
6. Asunafo North

Central Region

1. Hemang Lower Denkyira
2. Komenda-Elmina-Eguafo-Abirem
3. Abura Asebu Kwamankese
4. Twifo Ati Morkwa
5. Awutu Senya

Eastern Region

1. Ofoase Ayirebi
2. Akim Abuakwa North
3. Asuogyaman
4. New Juaben North
5. Akropong
6. Lower West Akim

Greater Accra Region

1. Adenta
2. Dome Kwabenya
3. Weija
4. Ayawaso West Wuogon
5. Okaikoi North
6. Tema East
7. Ledzokuku

Northern Region

1. Karaga
2. Tamale North
3. Tamale South
4. Walewale East
5. Kpandai
6. Gushiegu

Upper East Region

1. Zebilla
2. Bolgatanga
3. Chiana Paga
4. Builsa North

Upper West Region

1. Sisala West
2. Wa West
3. Wa East

Volta Region

1. Central Tongu
2. Ho Central
3. Biakoye
4. Keta

Western Region

1. Suaman
2. Sefwi Akontombra
3. Essikado Ketan
4. Amenfi Central
5. Sekondi changed to Shama
6. Evalue Gwira

MEMBERS OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC

ASHANTI REGION

1. Adansi-Asokwa	Hon. Kobina Tahir Hammond
2. Afigya-Sekyere East	Hon. Hennric David Yeboah
3. Afigya-Sekyere West	Hon. Albert Kan-Dapaah
4. Ahafo Ano North	Hon. Kwame Owusu Frimpong
5. Ahafo Ano South	Hon. Stephen Kwaku Balado Manu
6. Akrofuom	Hon. Kwabena Appiah-Pinkrah
7. Amansie West	Hon. Kofi Krah Mensah
8. Asante Akim North	Hon. Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu*
9. Asante Akim South	Hon. Gifty Ohene-Konadu
10. Asawase	Hon. Dr. Adamu Mohammed Gibrine
11. Asokwa	Hon. Maxwell Kofi Jumah
12. Atwima-Kwanwoma	Hon. Dr. Matthew Kwaku Antwi
13. Atwima Mponua	Hon. Isaac Kwame Asiamah
14. Atwima Nwabiagya	Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio
15. Bantama	Hon. Cecilia Abena Dapaah
16. Bekwai	Hon. Ignatius Kofi Poku-Adusei
17. Bosome-Freho	Hon. Nana Yaw Edward Ofori-Kuragu
18. Bosomtwe	Hon. Simon Osei-Mensah
19. Effiduase-Asokore	Hon. Grace Coleman*
20. Ejisu-Juabeng	Hon. Akwasi Osei-Adjei
21. Ejura Sekyedumasi	Hon. Alhaji Issifu Pangabu Mohammed
22. Fomena	Hon. Akwasi Afrifa
23. Kumawu	Hon. Yaw Baah
24. Kwabre East	Hon. Kofi Frimpong
25. Kwabre West	Hon. Emmanuel Asamoah Owusu-Ansah
26. Kwadaso	Hon. Josephine Hilda Addoh
27. Mampong	Hon. Peter Abum Sarkodie
28. Manhyia	Hon. Dr. Kwame Addo-Kufuor
29. New Edubiase	Hon. Ernest Kofi Yakah
30. Nhyiaeso	Hon. Dr. Richard Winfred Anane
31. Nsuta-Kwamang	Hon. Kwame Osei-Prempeh
32. Obuasi	Hon. Edward Michael Ennin
33. Odotobri	Hon. Emmanuel Akwasi Gyamfi
34. Offinso North	Hon. Dr. Kofi Konadu Apraku
35. Offinso South	Hon. Kwabena Sarfo
36. Oforikrom	Hon. Elizabeth Agyeman
37. Old Tafo	Hon. Dr Anthony Akoto Osei
38. Suame	Hon. Osei Kyei-Mensah Bonsu
39. Subin	Hon. Sampson Kwaku Boafo

BRONG AHAFO REGION

40. Asunafo North	Hon. Robert Sarfo-Mensah
41. Asunafo South	Hon. Eric Opoku
42. Asutifi North	Hon. Paul Okoh

43. Asutifi South	Hon. Alhaji Collins Dauda
44. Atebubu-Amanting	Hon. Emmanuel Owusu Manu
45. Berekum	Hon. Capt. Nkrabeah Effah Dartey
46. Dormaa East	Hon. Yaw Ntow-Ababio
47. Dormaa West	Hon. Yaw Asiedu-Mensah
48. Jaman North	Hon. Alexander Asum-Ahensah
49. Jaman South	Hon. Anna Nyamekye
50. Kintampo North	Hon. Stephen Kunsu
51. Kintampo South	Hon. Yaw Effah-Baafi
52. Nkoranza North	Hon. Eric Amoateng
53. Nkoranza South	Hon. Kwame Amporfo Twumasi
54. Pru	Hon. Masoud Baba Abdul-Rahman
55. Sene	Hon. Felix Twumasi-Appiah
56. Sunyani East	Hon. Joseph Henry Mensah
57. Sunyani West	Hon. Kwadwo Adjei-Darko
58. Tain	Hon. Joe Danquah
59. Tano North	Hon. Ernest Akobuor Debrah
60. Tano South	Hon. Andrews Adjei-Yeboah
61. Techiman North	Hon. Alex Kyeremeh
62. Techiman South	Hon. Simons Addai
63. Wenchi	Hon. Prof. George Yaw Gjan-Baffuor

CENTRAL REGION

64. Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese	Hon. Andrew Kingsford Mensah
65. Agona East	Hon. John Agyabeng
66. Agona West	Hon. Samuel Kweku Obodai
67. Ajumako-Enyan-Essiam	Hon. Isaac Eduosar Edumadze
68. Asikuma-Odoben-Brakwa	Hon. Paul Collins Appiah-Ofori
69. Assin North	Hon. Ken Ohene Agyapong
70. Assin South	Hon. Dominic Kwaku Fobih
71. Awutu-Senya	Hon. Oppey Abbey
72. Cape Coast	Hon. Christine Churcher
73. Effutu	Hon. Samuel Owusu Agyei
74. Gomoa East	Hon. Richard Sam Quarm
75. Gomoa West	Hon. Joe Kingsley Hackman
76. Hemang-Lower-Denkyira	Hon. Rev. Benjamin Bimpong Donkor
77. Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abirem	Hon. Dr. Paa Kwesi Nduom
78. Mfantseman East	Hon. George Kuntu Blankson
79. Mfantseman West	Hon. Stephen Asamoah-Boateng
80. Twifo-Atti Morkwaa	Hon. Elizabeth Amoah-Tetteh
81. Upper Denkyira East	Hon. Nana Amoako
82. Upper Denkyira West	Hon. Benjamin Kofi Ayeh

EASTERN REGION

83. Abetifi	Hon. Eugene Atta Agyepong
84. Abirem	Hon. Esther Obeng Dapaah
85. Aburi-Nsawam	Hon. Magnus Opere-Asamoah
86. Afram Plains North	Hon. Joseph Tsatsu Agbenu

87. Afram Plains South
88. Akim Abuakwa North
89. Akim Abuakwa South
90. Akim Oda
91. Akim Swedru
92. Akropong
93. Akwatia
94. Asuogyaman
95. Atiwa
96. Ayensuano
97. Fanteakwa
98. Kade
99. Lower Manya Krobo
100. Lower West Akim
101. Mpraeso
102. New Juabeng North
103. New Juabeng South
104. Nkawkaw
105. Ofoase-Ayirebi
106. Okere
107. Suhum
108. Upper Manya Krobo
109. Upper West Akyem
110. Yilo Krobo

- Hon. Raphael Kofi Ahaligah
- Hon. Joseph Boakye Danquah Adu
- Hon. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo
- Hon. Yaw Osafo-Maafa
- Hon. Felix Kwasi Owusu-Adjapong
- Hon. William Ofori Boafa
- Hon. Kiston Akomena Kissi
- Hon. Kofi Osei-Ameyaw
- Hon. Dr. Charles Yaw Brempong-Yeboah
- Hon. Godfred Kwame Otchere
- Hon. Kwadwo Agyei-Addo
- Hon. Ofosu Asamoah
- Hon. Michael Teye Nyaunu
- Hon. James Appietu-Ankrah
- Hon. Dr. Francis Osafo-Mensah
- Hon. Hackman Owusu-Agyeman
- Hon. Yaw Barimah
- Hon. Kwabena Adusah Okerchiri
- Hon. David Oppon-Kusi
- Hon. Brandford Kwame Daniel Adu
- Hon. Frederick Opare-Ansah
- Hon. Stephen Amoanor Kwao
- Hon. Samuel Sallas Mensah
- Hon. Raymond Tawiah

GREATER ACCRA REGION

111. Ablekuma Central
112. Ablekuma North
113. Ablekuma South
114. Abokobi-Madina
115. Ada
116. Adenta
117. Ashaiman
118. Ayawaso Central
119. Ayawaso East
120. Ayawaso West-Wuogon
121. Dade-Kotopon
122. Dome Kwabenya
123. Domeabra-Obom
124. Klottay Korle
125. Kpone-Katamanso
126. Krowor
127. Ledzokuku
128. Ningo-Prampram
129. Odododiodoo
130. Okaikwei North
131. Okaikwei South
132. Sege

- Hon. Victor Okuley Nortey
- Hon. Kwamena Bartels
- Hon. Theresa Ameley Tagoe
- Hon. Alhaji Amadu Bukari Sorogho
- Hon. Alex Narh Tettey-Enyo
- Hon. Kwadjo Opare-Hammond
- Hon. Kwame Alfred Agbesi
- Hon. Sheikh Ibrahim Codjoe Quaye
- Hon. Dr. Alhaji Mustapha Ahmed
- Hon. Akosua Frema Osei-Opare
- Hon. Nii Amasah Namoale
- Hon. Prof. Aaron Mike Quaye
- Hon. Daoud Anum Yemoh
- Hon. Nii Adu Daku Mante
- Hon. Joseph Nii Laryea Afotey Agbo
- Hon. Abraham Laryea Odai
- Hon. Dr. Gladys Nortey Ashitey
- Hon. Enoch Teye Mensah
- Hon. Samuel Ayikwei Mankattah
- Hon. Elizabeth K. Tawiah Sackey
- Hon. Nana Akomea
- Hon. Alfred W. Gbordzor Abayateye

133. Shai-Osudoku	Hon. David Tetteh Assumeng
134. Tema East	Hon. Ishmael Ashitey
135. Tema West	Hon. Abraham Osei-Aidooh
136. Trobu-Amasaman	Hon. Samuel Nee-Aryeetey Attoh
137. Weija	Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey

NORTHERN REGION

138. Bimbilla	Hon. Mohammed Ibn Abass
139. Bole	Hon. John Dramani Mahama
140. Bunkpurugu/Yunyoo	Hon. Joseph Yaani Labik
141. Chereponi	Hon. Doris A. Seidu
142. Damango-Daboya	Hon. Alex Seidu Sofu
143. Gushiegu	Hon. Rita Tani Iddi
144. Karaga	Hon. Iddrisu Dawuda
145. Kpandai	Hon. Lakpalimor Kwajo Tawiah
146. Kumbungu	Hon. Alhaji Yakubu K. Imoro
147. Mion	Hon. Ahmed Alhassan Yakubu
148. Nalerigu	Hon. Hajia Alima Mahama
149. Nanton	Hon. Alhaji Alhassan Yakubu
150. Saboba	Hon. Charles Binipom Bintin
151. Salaga	Hon. Boniface Abubakar Saddique
152. Savelugu	Hon. Hajia Mary Salifu Boforo
153. Sawla-Tuna-Kalba	Hon. Donald Dari Saditey
154. Tamale Central	Hon. Alhassan Wayo Seini
155. Tamale North	Hon. Alhaji Abubakari Sumani
156. Tamale South	Hon. Iddrisu Haruna
157. Tolon	Hon. Umar Abdul-Razak
158. Walewale (East)	Hon. Alidu Iddrisu Zakari
159. Wulensi	Hon. Kofi Karim Wumbei
160. Yagaba-Kubori	Hon. Abdul-Rauf Tanko Ibrahim
161. Yapei-Kusawgu	Hon. Alhaji Seidu Amadu
162. Yendi	Hon. Malik Al-Hassan Yakubu
163. Zabzugu/Tatale	Hon. Mohammed Jagri

UPPER EAST REGION

164. Bawku Central	Hon. Mahama Ayariga
165. Binduri	Hon. Mark Anthony Awuni
166. Bolgatanga	Hon. David Apasara
167. Bongo	Hon. Albert Abongo
168. Builsa North	Hon. Agnes A. Chigabatia
169. Builsa South	Hon. Abolimbisa Roger Akantagriwen
170. Chiana-Paga	Hon. Pele Tumbakura Abugu
171. Garu – Tempane	Hon. Dominc Azimbe Azumah
172. Nabdum	Hon. Moses Aduko Asaga
173. Navrongo Central	Hon. Joseph Kofi Kowe Adda
174. Pusiga	Hon. Simon Atingban Akunye
175. Talensi	Hon. John Akologu Tia
176. Zebilla	Hon. John Akparibo Ndebugre

UPPER WEST REGION

177. Jirapa	Hon. Edward Kojo Salia*
178. Lambussie	Hon. Alice Teni Boon
179. Lawra-Nandom	Hon. Dr. Benjamin Bewa-Nyong Kunbuor
180. Nadowli East	Hon. Mathias Asoma Puozaa
181. Nadowli West	Hon. Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin
182. Sissala East	Hon. Moses Dani Baah
183. Sissala West	Hon. Haruna Bayirga
184. Wa Central	Hon. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpuo
185. Wa East	Hon. Bayon Godfrey Tangu
186. Wa West	Hon. Joseph Yieleh Chireh

VOLTA REGION

187. Akan	Hon. John Kwadwo Gyapong
188. Anlo	Hon. Clement Kofi Humado
189. Avenor-Ave	Hon. Edward Korbly Doe Adjaho
190. Biakoye	Hon. Emmanuel Kwasi Bandua
191. Buem	Hon. Henry Ford Kamel
192. Central Tongu	Hon. Joe Kwashie Gidisu
193. Ho Central	Hon. Capt. George Kofi Nfodjoh (rtd.)
194. Ho East	Hon. Juliana Azumah-Mensah
195. Ho West	Hon. Francis Aggrey Agbotse
196. Hohoe North	Hon. Prince Jacob Hayibor
197. Hohoe South	Hon. Joseph Zaphenat Amenowode
198. Keta	Hon. Dan Kwasi Abodakpi
199. Ketu North	Hon. James Klutse Avedzi
200. Ketu South	Hon. Albert Kwasi Zigah
201. Krachi East	Hon. Wisdom Gidisu
202. Krachi West	Hon. Francis Y. Osei Sarfo
203. Nkwanta North	Hon. Joseph K. Nayan
204. Nkwanta South	Hon. Gershon Kofi Bediako Gbediame
205. North Dayi	Hon. Akua Sena Dansua
206. North Tongu	Hon. Charles Senama Hodgobey
207. South Dayi	Hon. Daniel Kwame Ampofo
208. South Tongu	Hon. Kenneth Dzirasah

WESTERN REGION

209. Ahanta West	Hon. Samuel Johnfiah
210. Amenfi Central	Hon. George Kofi Arthur
211. Amenfi East	Hon. Joseph Baiden-Aidoo
212. Amenfi West	Hon. John Gyetuah
213. Aowin	Hon. Samuel Adu-Gyamfi
214. Bia	Hon. Michael Coffie Boampong
215. Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai	Hon. Christopher Addae
216. Effia-Kwesimintsim	Hon. Joe Baidoo- Ansah
217. Ellembele	Hon. Frederick Worsenao Armah Blay
218. Essikado-Ketan	Hon. Joe Ghartey

219. Evalue-Gwira	Hon. Kojo Armah
220. Jomoro	Hon. Lee Ocran
221. Juaboso	Hon. Sampson Ahi
222. Mpohor-Wassa East	Hon. Anthony Evans Amoah
223. Prestea-Huni Valley	Hon. Albert Kwaku Obbin
224. Sefwi Akontombra	Hon. Herod Cobbina
225. Sefwi-Wiawso	Hon. Evans Paul Aidoo
226. Sekondi	Hon. Papa Owusu-Ankomah
227. Shama	Hon. Angelina Baiden-Amissah
228. Suaman	Hon. Stephen Michael Essuah Kofi Ackah
229. Takoradi	Hon. Gladys Asmah
230. Tarkwa-Nsuaem	Hon. Gifty Eugenia Kusi

* - MPs who were deceased during the time this survey was conducted.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

Q UESTIONNAIRE

THE GENERAL PUBLIC

**TITLE: ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC (JANUARY 2005 – JANUARY 2009)**

**(PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE TREATED WITH UTMOST
CONFIDENTIALITY. CONSEQUENTLY YOU NEED NOT PROVIDE YOUR NAME)**

NAME OF INTERVIEWER.....

PLACE OF INTERVIEW.....

CONSTITUENCY.....

REGION.....

DATE OF INTERVIEW.....

SECTION A
SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

1. Sex:

- i. Male ii. Female.....

2. Age:

- i. 19 and below..... ii. 20 – 29.....
iii. 30– 39..... iv. 40 – 49.....
v. 50 – 59..... vi. 60+

3. Educational Background (Highest Attainment)

- i. No formal education
ii. No formal education (but can speak/write in English and/or vernacular).....
iii. Basic (Primary, Middle, JSS etc.)
iv. Secondary (SSS, Trg. Col., Voc. etc.).....
v. Tertiary institution (Poly, Univ. etc.).....
vi. Any Other (please specify).....

4. Occupation:

- i. Student ii. Farmer/ fisherman
iii. Teacher/lecturer iv. Civil/ public servant
v. Professional vi. Trader/ businessman
viii. Unemployed
vii. Artisan (specify)
ix Any other (specify).....

5. Maital Status

- i. Single iii. Separated
ii. Married iv. Divorced v. Other.....

6. Religion:

- i. Christian ii. Traditionalist
iii. Muslim iv. Any other (specify).....

SECTION B

7. Did you vote in the 2004 presidential and parliamentary elections?

- i. Yes..... ii. No.....

8. If your answer to Q. 7 is NO state the reason for not participating in the elections.

- i. Travelled.....
- ii. Transferred from voting area.....
- iii. General loss of interest in elections.....
- iv. Felt my single vote would not influence outcome of elections.....
- v. Missing name on electoral register.....
- vi. Loss of voter ID card.....
- vii. Not of voting age.....
- viii. Any other reason (please specify).....

9. Were you able to vote for your parliamentarian in the 2004 elections?

- i. Yes..... ii. No.....

10. If No, Why?

- i. Presiding over elections.....
- ii. Don't know who to vote for.....
- iii. Travelled.....
- iv. Transferred from voting area.....
- v. General loss of interest in elections.....
- vi. Felt my single vote would not influence outcome of elections.....
- vii. Missing name on electoral register.....
- viii. Any other
(specify).....

11. Did you know the MP for your constituency in the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic?

- i. Yes..... ii. No.....

12. To what extent did the MP interact with the constituents

- i. Very frequently..... ii. Frequently.....
- iii. Not so frequently..... iv. Hardly.....
- v. No idea.....

13. Mention the means by which the interaction took place?

- i. Social events organised by the people.....
- ii. Media events organised by him.....
- iii. Meetings organised by him.....
- iv. Rallies organised by him.....
- v. Any other (specify).....

14. How many times did your MP call a general meeting or fora for his constituents?

- i. Once.....
- ii. Twice.....
- iii. Thrice.....
- iv. Four or more times.....
- v. Not at all.....
- vi. Not applicable.....
- vii. Has no idea.....

15. Did you ever approach the MP on any problem facing the constituency?

- i. Yes.....
- iii. No.....

16. Give reasons for your answer (State specific issues if yes)

- i.
- ii.

17. Were the issues well addressed?

- i. Yes.....
- ii. No.....

18. Give reason for your answer?

- i.
- ii.

19. How would you describe the reception of the MP?

- i. Excellent.....
- ii. Very good.....
- iii. Good.....
- iv. Bad.....
- v. Very bad.....

20. What type of developments did your MP used his/her share of the common fund for?

- i. Schools.....
- ii. Roads.....
- iii. Kvips.....
- iv. Clinics/hospitals.....
- v. Bridge.....
- vi. Electrification project.....
- vii. Water.....
- viii. Has not undertaken any project.....
- ix. No idea
- x. Others (specify)
- xi.
- xii.

21. How will you describe the relationship between the MP and the District/Mun./Metro. Chief Executive for the term 2005-2009?

- i. Excellent.....
- ii. Very Good.....
- iii. Good.....
- iv. Poor.....
- v. Very Poor.....
- vi. Any other (specify).....

22. Give reason (s) for your answer

- i.
- ii.

23. In your own view, what do you think is the role of the MP?

- i. Make new laws and review existing ones.....
- ii. Examine, criticise, review, approve and monitor plans, programmes, proposals in terms of their viability and acceptability for the general good of the people.....
- iii. Approve, monitor and review the executive's financial programmes
- iv. Propose for consideration and adoption projects suitable for socio-economic development of the people.....
- v. Provide infrastructure and other basic amenities.....
- vi. Pay school fees.....
- vii. Any other (specify).....

24. What priority area would you expect your MP to devote time to?

- i. Bringing development to his/her constituency
- ii. Peace making/ dispute settling and prevention
- iii. Regular interaction with people in the constituency.....
- iv. Working to strengthen the party.....
- v. To educate constituents on government issues and policies.....
- vi. Any other (please specify).....

25. On the whole, how will you rate the performance of your MP?

- i. Excellent.....
- ii. Very Good.....
- iii. Good.....
- iv. Poor.....
- v. Very Poor.....
- vi. Cannot assess.....

26. Mention one law passed by the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic.

.....
.....

27. Name one committee within Parliament that you know of

i.

28. Mention one debate of the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic that was of interest to you.

.....
.....

29. Was your expectation of the Fourth Parliament met?

i. Yes..... ii. No.....

30. Give reasons for your answer.

i.

ii.

31. In your view, are MPs too partisan in their deliberations in Parliament?

i. Yes..... ii. No.....

32. Give reasons for your answer.

i.....

ii.....

33. Do you think parliament has been effective at monitoring and controlling government spending?

i. Yes..... ii. No.....

34. Give reasons for your answer.

i.

ii.

35. What do you consider as the major roles/functions of Parliament?

i.

ii.

iii.

36. How can the work of parliamentarians be enhanced?

.....
.....

37. What suggestions can you make to enhance the performance of Parliament?

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

38. On the whole, how would you rate the performance of the Fourth Parliament of the Fourth Republic?

- i. Excellent.....
- ii. Very Good.....
- iii. Good.....
- iv. Poor.....
- v. Very Poor.....
- vi. Cannot assess.....

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

Q UESTIONNAIRE

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

**TITLE: ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC (JANUARY 2005 – JANUARY 2009)**

**(PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE TREATED WITH UTMOST
CONFIDENTIALITY. CONSEQUENTLY YOU NEED NOT PROVIDE YOUR NAME)**

NAME OF INTERVIEWER.....

PLACE OF INTERVIEW.....

CONSTITUENCY.....

REGION.....

DATE OF INTERVIEW.....

SECTION A
SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

1. Sex:

- i. Male ii. Female.....

2. Age:

- i. 19 and below..... ii. 20 – 29.....
iii. 30– 39..... iv. 40 – 49.....
v. 50 – 59..... vi. 60+

3. Educational Background (Highest Attainment):

- vii. No Formal Education
viii. No Formal Education (but can speak/write in English and/or vernacular).....
ix. Basic (Primary, Middle, JSS etc.)
x. Secondary (SSS, Trg. Col., Voc. etc.).....
xi. Tertiary Institution (Poly, Univ. etc.).....
xii. Any Other (Please specify).....

4. Occupation:

- i. Student ii. Farmer/ Fisherman
iii. Teacher/Lecturer iv. Civil/ Public Servant
v. Professional vi. Trader/ Businessman
viii. Unemployed
vii. Artisan (specify)
ix Any other (specify).....

5. Marital Status:

- i. Single iii. Separated
ii. Married iv. Divorced v. Other.....

6. Religion:

- i. Christian ii. Traditionalist
iii. Muslim iv. Any Other (specify).....

SECTION B

7. How many terms have you had in Parliament?

- i. Once.....
- ii. Twice.....
- iii. Three times.....
- iii. More than thrice.....

8. How many times did you attend your District Assembly meetings during the term of office 2005-2009?

- i. Nil.....
- ii. Once.....
- iii. Twice.....
- iv. Thrice or more.....

9. What reasons accounted for your frequent or infrequent attendance at meetings of your District Assembly?

- i.
- ii.

10. How did you regard assembly meetings that you attended?

- i. Very useful.....
- ii. Useful.....
- iii. Waste of time.....

11. In your view, did your contributions on the floor of assembly influence decisions?

- i. To a Large Extent.....
- ii. To Some Extent.....
- iii. Not At All.....

12. What projects did you undertake in the constituency with your MPs' Common Fund?

- i. Schools.....
- ii. Roads.....
- iii. KVIPs.....
- iv. Clinics/Hospitals.....
- v. Bridge.....
- vi. Electrification project.....
- vii. Water.....
- viii. Any other (specify).....

13. To what extent did you interact with your constituents?

- i. Very frequently.....
- ii. Frequently.....
- iii. Not so frequently.....
- iv. Hardly.....

14. By what means did you interact with your constituents?

- i. Invitations by the constituents.....
- ii. Social events organised by the people.....
- iii. Media events organised by the MP.....
- iv. Meetings organised by the MP.....
- v. Rallies organised by the MP.....
- vi. Any other (specify)

15. In order of importance, what type(s) of problem(s) do constituents approach you on?

- i. Social
- ii. Political
- iii. Financial.....
- iv. Religious.....
- v. Educational.....
- vi. Any other (specify).....

16. What was the relationship between you and the District/MunicipalMetropolitan Chief Executive?

- i. Excellent.....
- ii. Very Good.....
- iii. Good.....
- iv. Poor
- v. Very Poor
- vi. Any other (specify).....

17. How would your constituents rate your performance?

- i. Excellent.....
- ii. Very Good.....
- iii. Good.....
- iv. Poor.....
- v. Very Poor.....
- vi. Cannot assess.....

18. What suggestions do you have to either improve or further improve relationship between parliamentarians and their District/MunicipalMetropolitan Chief Executive?

- i.
- ii.

19. Did you ever make a statement in Parliament?

- i. Yes.....
- ii. No.....

20. On what issue (s) did you make the statement?

- i.
- ii.

21. Mention one committee in Parliament to which you belonged?

.....

22. Did you have sufficient time at the committee stage to deliberate on bills?

- i. Yes.....
- ii. No.....

23. Was your select committee able to substantially influence bills that came before it?

- i. Yes.....
- ii. No.....

24. Give reason (s) for your answer

- i.
.....
.....
- ii.
.....
.....

25. Is the house as a whole given sufficient Information and time to examine issues brought

before it by the Executive?

- i. Yes.....
- ii. No.....

26. Will you say parliament was effective in controlling government financial programmes?

- i. Yes.....
- ii. No.....

27. What role do you think Parliament can play in ensuring the effective implementation of the

auditor-general's report?

- i.
.....
.....
- ii.
.....
.....

28. Are debates in the house influenced by partisan considerations?

- i. Always.....
- ii. Sometimes.....
- iii. Not At All.....

29. Give reasons for your answer to Q. 28.

i.

.....
.....

ii.

.....
.....

30. Do you think the ‘winner-takes-all’ system of government is helping law making in Parliament?

i. Yes ...

31. Give reasons for your answer.

i.

.....
.....

ii.

.....
.....

32. What major constraints did you face as a Member of Parliament?

i.

.....
.....

ii.

.....
.....

33. How can the work of parliamentarians and Parliament be enhanced?

i.

.....
.....

ii.