

**UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA**

**MPs AND THEIR CONSTITUENT'S RELATION IN THE 8TH  
PARLIAMENT OF GHANA: AN INSIGHT FROM TROBU CONSTITUENCY**



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PARLIAMENT OF GHANA: AN INSIGHT FROM TROBU CONSTITUENCY**



**A dissertation in the Department of Political Science Education,  
Faculty of Social Sciences, submitted to the School of  
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of the requirements for the award of the degree of  
Master of Education  
(Political Science Education)  
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**DECEMBER, 2023**

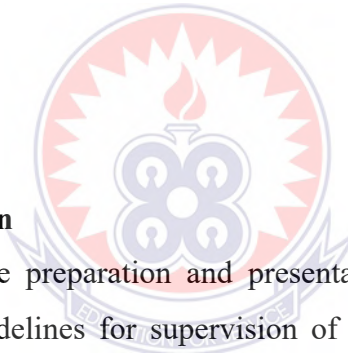
## DECLARATION

### Student's Declaration

I, Samuel Brefo, hereby declare that except for references made to other people's work which have duly been cited, this report is the result of my own research and that it has neither in whole nor in part been presented elsewhere.

Signature.....

Date .....



### Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this work supervised in accordance with the guidelines for supervision of thesis/dissertation/project as laid down by the University of Education, Winneba.

Supervisor's Name: Dr. Abdul Hakim Ahmed

Signature .....

Date.....

## **DEDICATION**

To my mother, Mrs. Janet Kwarteng



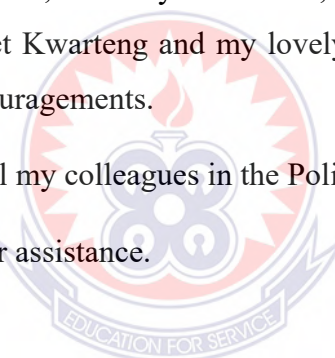
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## ABSTRACT

Effective relations between Members of Parliament (MPs) and their constituents are crucial for strong democratic representation and constituency development. This dissertation examines MPs and their constituents' relations in the 8<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Ghana under the Fourth Republic with a specific focus on the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region. It highlights the challenges faced by MPs in engaging with their constituents to ensure a good relationship. To achieve its objectives, the study adopted a purely qualitative approach. In all, ten participants were interviewed for the study. It was discovered that if the state can build national offices in all the constituencies for the MPs then once in a week, the MPs can meet their constituents to have interactions and know their problems as their representative. This then can facilitate good relations between them. The study revealed that there is the need for the MP to facilitate the creation of jobs for the people within the constituency. Consequently, the study recommends that the poor socio-economic status of the constituents made it difficult for the MPs to relate with their constituency members so MPs should facilitate the creation of jobs within the constituency to ensure development. The study again recommended that the government should build offices for the MPs in all the constituencies so that the constituents can interact with him.



## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

The key roles of legislatures or parliamentarians are drafting, enacting (passing, amending, and repealing) laws, and exercising oversight over the executive branch of the government (Boafo-Arthur, 2018). In a democracy, legislators perform these roles as representatives of the people. To perform its essential functions, the legislative body, in this case, the Parliament of Ghana, must be a strong institution of countervailing power to limit the discretion of the executive authority and ensure that the executive exercises its mandate in a transparent and accountable manner. In so doing, the parliament exercises “horizontal accountability” which refers to the oversight that certain branches of government are supposed to exercise over other branches of government. The legislature is an essential branch of government that should provide “horizontal accountability” and is necessary for representative democracy. There is evidence that stronger legislatures are good for democracy (Boafo-Arthur, 2018).

Understanding how MPs use ties to their constituency or localness, is important for understanding the nature of the MP-constituency relationship. MPs are expected to actively focus on their constituency in their work to help their campaign and gain re-election (Gyimah-Boadi & Rothchild, 2018). Ocquaye (2019) added that it is essential to explore the relationship between MPs and the constituents in promoting people’s participation in decision-making processes, and the enhancement of citizens’ participation in economic, social, and political decision-making of the country. According to Boafo-Arthur (2018), MPs with local ties will seek to integrate constituents’ participation function within the MPs and constituent operations.

Legislatures have a special and indispensable place in democratic governance because they are mandated to represent citizen's concerns most directly in the central government (Gyimah-Boadi & Rothchild, 2018). Embedded in the very concept of representative democracy is the idea that those who are affected by government decisions have a right to be involved in the decision-making process. The duty to support and facilitate falls on every single Member of Parliament (MP), and it cuts across every role of the MP, from representative to legislative to oversight. None of these roles can be fulfilled successfully without meaningfully engaging constituents. The benefits of doing so are extensive, and they accrue to MPs individually, to parliament as an institution, and to the public (James, 2017).

It is clear that constituency service is important both to citizens and politicians; it is an accepted view of the benefit of meeting voters' needs for various reasons, not least to improve their chances of re-election and the expected part of the job. Numerous opinion polls in different regions suggest that the public believes that some form or the other of constituency service is the most important role of an MP (Goldsworthy, 2017). MPs who effectively relate with their constituents are better able to build enduring political coalitions and secure continued electoral success (Ninsin, 2019). They are better equipped to expand their level of influence in government, elevate their public profiles, and build their brands. They have a greater ability to control their messages and speak for themselves, rather than having their narratives mediated by party leaders, the press, or other outside groups. MPs' relations with their constituents are also often the greatest source of personal fulfillment, and many MPs cite the opportunity to make a tangible difference in people's lives as where they derive the greatest meaning in their work (Ninsin, 2018).

Parliament as an institution benefits very broadly from effective communication with constituents as well (Owusu, 2017). Furthermore, institutional capacity is significantly augmented by having access to independent analysis from outside experts and civil society organizations (Owusu, 2017). This is especially helpful while parliamentarians are in the process of building up the capacity of their outreach activities and resources to ensure effective democratization. Effective MP relations with constituents and hearing the constituent's voices diversify and improve parliamentarians' knowledge base on democracy, enrich citizens' democratic roles, and expand deliberative capacity (Sekyi, 2017). MPs' relations with constituents enhance greater openness and transparency and also come with greater public trust, and with this growing trust comes greater legitimacy and relevance, and a stronger position concerning the MPs. MPs' regular two-way communication with their constituents also plays a critical part in educating citizens on the appropriate roles and functions of parliament, which helps to manage expectations and, in turn, further strengthens electorate trust (Sekyi, 2017).

The constituents can also greatly benefit from having their voices heard in the legislature via the MP's effective relations with the constituents and in places where decisions are made (Boafo-Arthur, 2018). The opportunity to share their lived experiences helps ensure that government programs and services are designed effectively and fixed when they are not. Having confidence that their elected representatives are open with them and listening to their input helps to create a virtuous cycle of constructive civic engagement (Goldsworthy, 2017). This is imperative for both developing and mature democracies alike. Effective, meaningful MP relations with constituents are built upon principles, achieve several important objectives, and often happen within the context of challenges

## 1.2. Statement of the Problem

For parliaments to be truly representative, citizens must have access to information about parliamentary proceedings, legislation, and policy, and be able to engage in continual dialogue with parliamentarians (Steiner,2018). The quality of elections is crucial as elected representatives can hardly fulfill their roles, specifically the role of representation if elections are flawed. Free, fair, and transparent parliamentary elections are critical to building credible parliaments and parliamentarian's accountability. Democratically elected parliament is the only true voice of the people and accountability to the people it serves is the basic plank of a democratic system.

In recent democratization processes taking place in Ghana since early 1992, the citizens and the political representations (MPs) are not showing progress on their path to building a fully-fledged democracy. Most electoral campaigns were full of promises but left unfulfilled and it was hard for the MPs to relate well with the constituency members.

The members of Parliament had failed to use constituency outreach activities to inform their constituents and be better positioned to address the needs of their constituents in a timely and consistent manner. By connecting with citizens and getting involved with their day-to-day challenges, elected officials can demonstrate the government's commitment to respond to the needs and problems of citizens. In addition, by listening to the concerns of citizens, MPs can solicit valuable information to develop more responsive and inclusive policies and legislation.

Boafo-Arthur (2018) emphasized that MPs' functioning does not align with the local democratization roles of Ghana's democracy. There have been several divergent studies on the role of MPs. For instance, Lindberg (2010), explored the accountability

pressures MPs in Africa face and analyzed how they response to them. Hanson (2016) discussed the main functions of parliament in a democracy. However, none of these seems to address the issue of Members of Parliament and their constituents' relations. Thus, there remain gaps in understanding the factors influencing effective relationship between MPs and constituency members when it comes to highlighting and addressing key local issues and challenges such as health, education, and development. This study seeks to help bridge the gaps in the literature on the discourse on factors that influence the relationship between MPs and their constituents in the 8<sup>th</sup> parliament of Ghana. The main problem of this study is to investigate the extent to which Constituents understand the role of their Members of Parliament (MPs) and the sort of relationship that exist between voters and their elected representatives. The study focuses on the Trobu Constituency in the 8<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Ghana.

### **1.3. Purpose of the Study**

The main purpose of the study is to examine MPs and their constituents' relations in the 8<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Ghana with a specific focus on the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region.

### **1.4. Objectives of the Study**

The study seeks to:

- i. To explore the constituent's understanding of the role of a Member of Parliament in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana
- ii. To examine how MPs in Trobu Constituency of Greater Accra Region of Ghana relate to their constituents

- iii. To find out the challenges that impede an effective relationship between MPs and their constituency members in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana
- iv. What are the benefits of the MP relations with the constituents to the constituency?
- v. Offer recommendations on how to engage or ensure better relations with MPs and their constituents.

### **1.5. Research Questions**

The study was guided by the following questions:

- i. To what extent do the constituents understand the role of a Member of Parliament in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana?
- ii. In what ways do MPs in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana relate to their constituents?
- iii. What are the challenges that impede effective relationship between MPs and their constituency members in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana?
- iv. What are the benefits of the MP relations with the constituents to the constituency
- v. Offer recommendations on how to ensure better relations between MPs and their constituents.

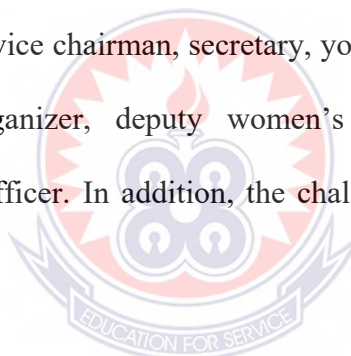
### **1.6. Significance of the Study**

This study explored the relations between the MP and constituency members in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. This study is significant because it provides data regarding how relations between MPs and their constituents

can be improved. The findings of this research would encourage MPs to review the use of outreach activities to increase their work performance in the constituency. The findings of this research are important as this study has the potential to promote transparency and accountability among Ghana's MPs.

### **1.7. Delimitation of the Study**

The study is limited to only officials of political parties in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. This study is undertaken in this area because for some time now, concerns have been raised in the various communities within the constituency on the poor relations between the elected parliamentarians and the constituents. In terms of scope, the study is delimited to NPP and NDC party officials of party chairperson, 1<sup>st</sup> vice chairman, secretary, youth organizer, financial secretary, treasurer, women's organizer, deputy women's organizer, assistant organizer, financial secretary, IT officer. In addition, the challenges associated with this study will also be considered.



### **1.8. Organization of the Study**

The study is organized into six chapters. Chapter one deals with the background to the study, statement of problem, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, delimitation of the study, and organization of the study. The second chapter focus on the review of related literature while the theoretical framework is discussed in the third chapter. The methodology is the subject of chapter four. The methodology describes the research approach for the study research design, the population, sample and sampling procedures, data gathering instrument, data collection procedures of the study, and the methods of data analysis. In chapter five, the results and discussions of the findings are presented.



Finally, the sixth and concluding chapter contains a summary of the findings, conclusions, recommendations, and suggestions for further research



## CHAPTER TWO

### REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

#### 2.1. Introduction

This chapter reviews the related literature conducted by different researchers on MPs and their constituents' relations relevant to the study. This study looks at the relevant literature under the following thematic areas:

- i. General studies on parliament
- ii. Global studies on members of parliament and their roles
- iii. Ghanaian studies on members of parliament and their roles
- iv. Studies on members of Parliament and their constituents' relation

#### 2.2. General Studies on Parliament

Parliaments are a key component of democratic governance in Africa. As legislative bodies, parliaments have the power to draft, debate, and enact laws. They also have oversight responsibilities to monitor the actions of the executive branch of government (Barkan, 2009). The evolution and development of parliaments in Africa have been shaped by the continent's complex colonial legacy as well as its post-independence political trajectory.

Nwokora & Pelizzo (2017), stated that during the colonial era, very few Africans had parliamentary representation. Mutua (2011), also argued that the colonial administration set up the executive and legislative councils that incorporated some African participation, but these were largely dominated by European settlers and Africans had very limited voice or power in these colonial parliaments. In the 1990s, democracy took shape across most of Africa countries which strengthened parliamentary institutions (Barkan, 2009). Multiparty elections brought more

pluralistic and competitive party politics into parliaments. Parliamentary role has been defined in different ways by different constitutions. According to the Irish Constitution, the government shall be responsible to Parliament (MacCarthaigh 2012). This can be interpreted as indicating that the Members of Parliament must hold the government to account. Gallagher (2010) indicates that by common consent, the Irish Parliament is not among the world's strongest in its capacity to control or even constrain the executive". Gallagher (2010) can only be understood as saying that the government dominates the Irish Parliament. Gallagher (2010) is further supported by Martin (2010) who says most popular accounts of Irish politics suggest that monitoring of the Irish government is weak and that the principals in Irish politics are often considered incapable of monitoring the government, with executive-legislative relations heavily imbalanced in favor of the executive (Martin 2010).

Allan (2018) claimed that Parliament is widely acknowledged as the pivotal institution of democracy. Allan (2018) added that in broad terms, everybody agrees on what the functions of a parliament are. Exactly how parliaments perform their role or should perform it is a subject that has not been sufficiently explored. Adjetey (2016) on the other hand defines parliament as a predominantly elected body of people that acts collegially and that has at least the formal but not necessarily the exclusive power to enact laws binding on all members of a specific geopolitical entity. Powell (2017) extended the definition of parliament as a 'predominantly elected body of people that acts collegially and that has at least the formal but not necessarily the exclusive power to enact laws binding on all members of a specific geopolitical entity'. A Member of Parliament regularly speak either in support of or in opposition to, a piece of legislation (Fishkin, 2019). In Parliament, Members may also address constituent concerns during debates, ask questions of Ministers during Question Time, and work

to create or amend laws (Fishkin, 2019). That is, parliament is crucial to the achievement of good governance in Africa. They are one of the key state institutions of democracy, playing an important role in terms of legislation, oversight, and representation (Adjetey, 2016).

### **2.3. Global Studies on Members of Parliament and their Roles**

In examining the work of MPs and their constituent's relation in Ghana, an international comparison became essential to understand and consider into the debate. A member of Parliament (MP) is a person elected by all those who live in a particular area (constituency) to represent them in the government (Aning, 2017). Aning (2018) added that a Member of Parliament is a person who has been elected by the people in a particular area to represent them in a country's parliament. According to Arlblaster (2018), a Member of Parliament is a candidate who has been given the mandate to represent a constituency in a country's Parliament.

Recent studies of MPs in Africa found they utilize social media to communicate with constituents but tend to prioritize national over local issues (Salo, 2020). According to Davidson (2018), MPs across Europe faced high demand to balance constituency, party, and legislative responsibilities. Schwindt-Bayer and his colleagues in their pioneered work found that in South America, female MPs are more likely to sponsor bills related to women's issues as compared to their male colleagues (Schwindt-Bayer et al., 2005).

In parliament MPs debate and pass laws through which the institutions of Government endeavor to guide the country's development (Barkan, 2018). Passing laws constitutes the core formal function of parliaments (Loewenberg, 2021). As sites where policies are introduced, deliberated, and enacted, parliaments transform social needs into

legally binding legislation and provides revenue for supporting state activities. However, in their literature review, Patz and Kantor, (2019), confirmed that, in Africa ruling party dominance enables executives to steer legislative agendas more than parliament itself. Also, LeVan (2015) added that Party fragmentation also stymies lawmaking efficiency at times. Similarly, Pelizzo and Stapenhurst suggest that overseeing executive branch implementation represents another key parliamentary duty (Pelizzo & Stapenhurst, 2004). It is clear to understand that, common oversight mechanisms involve reviewing audits, scrutinizing expenditures via committees like Public Accounts Committees, approving appointments, and summoning ministers to explain policies (Yamamoto, 2007). Yet presidents retaining residual power may bypass formal oversight (Owusu & Ohemeng, 2018). Pelizzo (2011) revealed that in developing countries, oversight remains constrained by the inadequacy of resources, legal authority, and enforcement capacity.

Beyond lawmaking, parliaments symbolically represent the electorate (Pitlik et al., 2002). As descriptive representatives, the composition of parliament conveys societal diversity. Meanwhile, substantive representation sees MPs advocate issues aiding constituents. Tensions arise balancing localized versus national interests (Lancaster, 1986). According to Ichino and Nathan (2013) to be able to balance these tensions, the media must expand civic consultation to improve responsiveness.

Scholars highlight parliaments conferring legitimacy on state policies (Mezey, 1979). As the institutional locus integrates societal interests, parliamentary approval provides symbolic validation for executive decisions. Besides this, Levitsky and Way (2002) added that undemocratic regimes manipulate parliaments to rubber stamp legitimacy without real discourse (Levitsky & Way, 2002).

#### **2.4. Ghanaian Studies on Members of Parliament and their Roles.**

The Fourth Republic Parliament of Ghana was reconstituted following Ghana's adoption of the 1992 Constitution (the Fourth Republican Constitution) and its return to multi-party democracy. The architecture of the 1992 Constitution has been described as complex (Adjetei, 2016). In 1992 Ghana adopted its model of the democratic system which has been described in different ways by different authors: a quasi-executive presidential system of government (Allan, 2018), a semi-presidential system, a presidential system of government, with a separately elected legislature, a hybrid of the presidential and parliamentary systems (Gyampo, 2017).

Adjetei (2016) describes the 1992 Constitution as one that decouples Parliament from the presidency but dilutes this decoupling by other provisions in the Constitution (Adjetei, 2016).

Since January 1993 there have been eight parliaments with the first seven parliaments of the Fourth Republic successfully serving their full four-year terms. With the inauguration of the Eighth Parliament of the Fourth Republic on January 7, 2020, the Parliament of Ghana has for the first time in the country's history run continuously for over twenty-five years (Ninsin, 2018).

275 MPs make up Ghana's unicameral parliament. The constitution defines MPs' key roles as representation, law-making, financial allocation, and executive oversight (Oquaye, 2004). Studies found that Ghanaian MPs strive to serve constituents through casework and local development projects, but limited resources force difficult tradeoffs and an urban bias (Lindberg, 2020). In the same way, Ichino and Nathan (2022) identified that community outreach via funerals and churches is an important representational tactic, but reaches limited segments of local populations. Scholars indicated that gender also shapes representative roles, as women MPs report taking a

more consultative approach focused on social welfare issues compared to their male counterparts (Marshall et al., 2022).

Analyses gauge strengths and deficits in parliament's institutional oversight capabilities. Examining public accounts committees (PAC) in Ghana, Pelizzo and Nwokora (2018) show MPs effectively scrutinize audit reports and agency expenses. As a result, they underscore resource deficits confronting oversight efforts. Extending focus to plenary dynamics, Lindberg and Zhou (2019) trace vocal Ghanaian MP opposition whenever executive accountability evasion measures arise. However, signs point to deepening partisan erosion of oversight capabilities amidst ruling party dominance (Gyimah-Boadi & Yakah, 2012).

Kunal et al., (2016), and Owusu-Ansah et al., (2021) extended this argument, highlighting that parliamentary oversight remains weak in Ghana due to limited resources, a dominant executive, and delays in committee operations that should investigate mismanagement reports. Kunal et al., (2016), argued that to be able to bolster oversight capacity, there must be reforms like independent research support, questioning procedures, and civic education.

Other scholars, also highlighted the dire problems of oversight and representation, and scholars debated reform directions for Ghana's legislature. Gyimah-Boadi and Prempeh (2012), argued for restructuring in electoral rules, elevating parliament's public profile, and demystifying the Constitution as priorities. Drawing wider attention, experiential learning programs have sought to expand the budget analysis capabilities of MPs in recent years (Ohemeng, 2016). However, Asante and colleagues (2020), insisted that partisan polarization undermines parliament's responsiveness to citizen interests.

Growing studies probe demographic representation dynamics within Ghana's parliament. Pointing to uneven progress, Sossou (2019) documents modest representation expansions among women. Meanwhile, persons with disabilities only first gained parliamentary access in 2016 amidst barriers (Naami & Hayashi, 2018). Scholars urge reforms to improve social inclusion and diversity (Kumi & Awuah, 2020). Yet, favorable identification links between voters and their coethnic MPs, detailed by Conroy-Krutz and colleagues (2019), suggest room for substantive representation already

Leveraging survey experiments, Kadima and Owusu (2020) uncover parliamentarian attitudes skeptical towards transparency reforms and asset declarations despite public criticism. Participant observation analyses by Pelizzo and colleagues (2016) reinforce impressions of Ghanaian MPs evincing reluctance to voluntary disclosures and limited budget expertise. Meanwhile, Asunka (2016) traces plummeting legislative speechmaking amidst growing perceptions of executive subversion of parliament's role since Ghana's return to multipartyism.

## **2.5. Members of Parliament and their Constituents' Relations**

Empirically, there are several perspectives at play in the relationship between MPs and constituents. Richards (1972) suggested that, there is a political benefit to gain from building a reputation for being a 'good constituency man,' but it is quite wrong to suggest that members bestir themselves to deal with the problems of electors out of a shrewd calculation of advantage. Hennl and Zittel (2011) show that the campaign efforts of individuals in the constituency can help mediate MPs and constituents' relations. Strøm (1997) argued that activity in the parliament and electoral performance should be understood jointly thereby bridging MPs and constituents'



relations. This implies that the candidate needs to be elected as an MP and once elected must be re-elected to pursue the preferred role-orientation. In this respect, we should expect that MPs will seek to enhance any trait that might improve their re-election chances. According to Ninsin (2018), representation is not only about the demographic characteristics of representatives but also about how they understand and advocate for the interests of their constituents. The electorate will therefore expect that their respective Member of Parliament represents their interests (Gyimah-Boadi & Rothchild, 2018). Most MPs will agree that the only tenable view is that they are representatives, not delegates, of the people who elected them. They will try to exercise judgment on behalf of those they represent rather than subordinating their views to them. This does not mean that they can ignore constituency interests but it does mean acceptance of the position that the vast majority of MPs are elected as members of political parties rather than as individuals and that the manifesto commitments of the party provide the platform for action (Gyimah-Boadi & Rothchild, 2018).

MPs do try to meet their constituency commitments by regular meetings with constituents in their constituencies.

According to Boafo-Arthur (2018), constituents help MPs as much as MPs help constituents. Evans and Silk (2018) indicated the MP's relations with the constituents help remove the hurdle of constituents' participation in democracy. Evans and Silk (2018) added that the main areas of difficulty affecting constituents' participation in the democratic process lacked the desire to improve, lack of awareness of the need, unacceptable climate, lack of feedback, and resistance to change conflict (Evans & Silk, 2018). According to Evans and Silk (2018), MPs' regular relations with constituents enable the MP to easily identify their needs and elicit their input on

policy debates. Frequent interactions between MPs and constituents also facilitate information sharing that could make the government more accountable to the people. MPs can also help achieve this outcome by informing constituents about legislative actions, ensuring that citizen voices are reflected in budgets and public policy, and assisting constituents in gaining access to governmental services (Friedrich, 2016). MPs help improve constituency relations by making regular visits to constituencies, particularly while Parliament is on recess and, in some cases, establishing offices in their constituencies (Friedrich, 2016).

A functional democracy needs an informed citizenry and empowered media, popular participation in policy-making, a responsive state, and governing processes that are open, transparent, and inclusive to all legitimate interests (Barkan, 2018). Improving relationships between citizens and their government means working simultaneously on state responsiveness and effectiveness, citizen empowerment, and the accountability of elected officials and council members. The state alone cannot solve many of society's problems and to provide the remedies for democracy's deficit also requires citizen action. A meaningful democracy must strengthen civic voices, demonstrate responsive governance systems, and promote the interests of all its citizens (Barkan, 2018).

According to Auty (2018), if an MP believes some critical comments have merit, he/she may wish to admit them and hope the audience will appreciate the display of honesty. Mostly, they tried to turn a critique into an opportunity for constructive problem-solving. Auty (2018) added someone complaints on the legislators on for example in helping with unemployment rates, challenge the MPs willingness to listen,

and it can likewise impress upon critics how difficult it is to get certain things accomplished in government (Auty, 2018).

Allen (2017) noted that the MPs and their constituent relations in Ghana since 1992 have enhanced MPs' re-election. MPs' relationship role with their constituents makes the MPs experience easier re-election (Allen, 2017). This is based on the fact that the electorates had the opportunity to assess the MP's trust, competence/ability, integrity, communication, benevolence, and political/quality of governance (Allen, 2017). The MP's performance in fulfilling his obligations on legislations, oversight, and representation makes his re-election easier (Allen, 2017).

The literature review demonstrates an insightful analysis of studies on the role and functions of MPs in parliament, and his/her oversight responsibilities. Yet this existing scholarship is silent on the relationship that exists between MPs' and their constituents in Ghana. My study seeks to fill this gap by shedding light on the relations between MPs and their constituents in Ghana using Trobu Constituency as a case study.

## CHAPTER THREE

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is anchored on the following theories:

- Public Choice Theory
- Social exchange theory

When examining the relations between MPs and their constituent's, the context provided is professional. Despite the actors not belonging to the same organization, the behavior that is examined is occurring in a work-place setting. Social exchange and public choice theories has been described as “one of the most influential conceptual theories for understanding behavior” (Cropanzano & Mitchell 2005) and they are therefore fruitful to apply to this study in order to understand influences shaping the relationship between the MPs and their constituent's in Trobu. It is important to note that social exchange theory and public choice theory are among the many theories that MP and constituent's relations could be analyzed through. However, this study has singled them out for application in its analysis because in my estimation, they are the most suitable for this study.

#### **3.1. Public Choice Theory**

The public choice theory is grounded in the philosophical works of its founding fathers, including Gruening (2001) and Hughes (1994) among others. Strong (2017) aptly defined public choice as politics without romance, seeking to displace the unrealistic conventional notion that participants in the political sphere aim to promote the collective good. According to Buchanan (1979), public choice theory uses the techniques of economic theory to study questions usually addressed by political scientists. This view projected public officials as munificent individuals who

devotedly discharge the "will of the people," with voters, and politicians, expected to subdue their parochial concerns in performing the public's business (Stegmaier & Lewis-Beck, 2018).

The public choice theory model takes on an economic view of voter choice. As one analyst puts it, it equates the behavior of voters in elections with the behavior of consumers in the economic market (Antunes 2010).

The rational-choice approach portrays voters as rational economic actors in the sense that they behave like consumers in a market, who express their choices amongst the available policy options presented to them by parties or candidates. Under the rational-choice approach, voting is seen as an instrumental rather than a habitual act. In other words, voting is a means to an end. According to Strong (2017), the rational voter will behave in the following five ways:

- i. The individual is always able to make a decision when presented with alternatives.
- ii. He or she can rank his or her preferences, in the highest preferred order.
- iii. The individuals' preference is transitive, meaning the voter will prefer alternative
- iv. The individual will always choose the most preferred alternative, which is the highest-ranked alternative in the preference order.
- v. The individual will always make the same decision whenever presented with the same alternatives under the same circumstances.

The underlying assumption is that voting is a conscious rational act, where individual voters weigh the pros and cons of the available options when determining their vote choice. Consequently, upon careful evaluation of the costs and benefits, a person will

vote for the party or candidate with programs and policies that best serve and reflect one's self-interests (Catt, 2016; Downs, 2017). According to Oppenheimer (2018), public choice theory focuses on the individual and his or her freedom of choice. It essentially posits that the voter engages in a rationally purposeful behavior when exercising choice in elections (Oppenheimer, 2018). Therefore, the motivation for an individual to vote or not and how to vote is calculated on the benefits derived from such a decision. Put differently, voters decide how they will vote based on what they expect to receive in exchange for their political support. It follows that as the expected benefits of voting vary from one election to the next, the voting preferences of rational voters are also likely to change in various elections (Rabinowitz & Macdonald, 2017). For example, a voter may be concerned about educational policies during one election cycle but may become interested in health and immigration policies in subsequent elections. It is these unaligned voters, whose interests are constantly changing, that are partly responsible for the alternations in electoral outcomes and for determining the winners and losers of elections (Rabinowitz & Macdonald, 2017). However, this theory provides insights into how public officials, bureaucrats, and government representatives can be influenced by their self-centeredness when making decisions for the public. Public choice theory assumes that public officials, like individuals in the private sector, are primarily motivated by their own self-interest (Buchanan & Tullock, 1962). This can manifest in seeking to maximize their personal wealth, power, or prestige. Moreover, bureaucrats and government representatives may be influenced by incentives within the bureaucratic structure, such as maximizing their agency's budget, power, or influence (Niskanen, 1971). They argued that, this can lead to decisions that prioritize the growth or preservation of the bureaucracy rather than the most efficient or effective use of the public

resources. It is on the basis of these salient assumptions that this study seeks to adopt the rational-choice perspective in explaining the relations between voters and their elected representatives.

The rational-choice model highlights two decisions made during elections: whether to vote or withdraw and whom to vote for if one decides to vote. The rational assumption is that the individual will vote if the expected reward from voting is higher than the expected reward from not voting (Strong, 2017). As one decides to participate in voting, the rational voter will imagine a scenario in which each party wins and then proceed to compare the possible benefits to be derived from those victories. In addition, the rational voter will vote for the candidate or party that champions their interests. However, the voter may likely abstain from voting if a win for either party brings about relatively similar levels of utility (Antunes, 2010). In sum, this model of voting asserts that the voter will perform a complete analysis of the choices and will select the outcomes with higher utility as opposed to those with lower utility (Strong, 2017). The interests of voters determine their voting choice.

However, the public choice theory logic can be criticized on grounds that its premises used economic tools to analyze political decision-making, assuming politicians and voters are rational self-interested actors (Buchanan & Tullock, 1962). Norms and habits may guide much action, and once these take root people may not question them but use them to pursue meaningful social action

However, the theory has been criticized for oversimplifying human motivation and overlooking collective action dilemmas (Mueller, 2003). Some theorists argued that almost everything humans do is rational, even philanthropy and self-sacrifice. By expanding to include all forms of action as rational, an action that is non-rational or

irrational becomes part of the model. By including every possible form of action in rational choice, it is not clear how the standards of what is rational and what is not are constructed.

### **Applicability**

This theory can be applied to MPs and Constituent in Trobu in the sense that, the MP as a rational actor seeking to maximize reelection chances would allocate particularistic resources and pork barrel spending to please constituents and bolster support. Constituent surveys can assess voter motives and whether perceived benefits influence MP approval and votes.

Voters are also rational utility maximizers. They demand benefits from the MP and withdraw support if dissatisfied. This consumer-voter logic can be tested through polling on what services citizens expect and whether the MP delivered.

Interest groups lobby MPs to shape policies benefiting them. Public choice predicts well-organized groups will capture legislators. The policy priorities and donor support for the MP sheds light on interest group influence. While simplistic, public choice assumptions allow potentially modeling the strategic interactions between Ghanaian MPs, voters, and lobbyists as they pursue self-interests within Trobu constituency.

In sum, the rational-choice theory approach provides insight into how attached and unattached voters make up their minds during elections. Additionally, rational-choice theory helps explain the need for MPs to interact with their constituents to reach good electoral results or not to interact with the constituents and to lose the elections.

### **3.2. Social Exchange Theory**

The study is also anchored on the social exchange theory postulated by Homans (1951, cited by Molm, 2019). According to Molm (2019), Social Exchange Theory



explains how a created relationship between two people or parties through a process of cost-benefit analysis to determine risks and benefits accrued to parties. In other words, the theory seeks to explain the economic relationship existing between two parties such that one party has something (goods) that the other party values most. Social exchange theory posits that these calculations occur in the form of friendship, and professional relationships involving social exchange with a focus on cost-benefit analysis. The metrics of this theory are to determine if one party is putting more effort into a relationship than the other party. It therefore explains how social behavior results in to exchange process (Molm, 2019). Social exchange theory highlights that if the costs of the relationship are higher than the rewards, such as a lot of effort or money put into a relationship and not reciprocated this could lead to problems (Jarvenpaa & Staples, 2017).

The core assumption of the theory is that human beings tend to seek out rewards and avoid punishment. The theory also favors fairness as it was developed in the 1970s when ideas of freedom and openness were preferred, but there may be times when openness is not the best option in a relationship (Cook & Gillmore, 2016). This implies that an individual focuses more on what he or she tends to benefit from the other party at a minimal cost. Therefore, the process of social behavior is solely driven by the profit maximization agenda. The theory assumes that the ultimate goal of a relationship is intimacy when this might not always be the case. The theory places relationships in a linear structure when some relationships might skip steps or go backward in terms of intimacy.

Several critics have identified certain shortfalls of the social exchange theory. Aside from some of the disagreements that have been associated with accepting the basic

assumptions of the approach, several other weaknesses have been attributed to the social exchange theory on the grounds that the theory analyzes social behavior through subjective, reciprocal cost-benefit exchanges (Homans, 1958; Blau, 1964). Critics question the social exchange theory's idea of individuals making rational cost-benefit calculations in their relationship. They claim that such calculations do not occur in social interactions, partially because the value of social benefits is highly subjective as opposed to the value of benefits in economic exchange (Miller 2005). Social exchange theory overlooks the possibility that the exchange of benefits may not be the end goal of the interaction. Instead, critical theorists point to the idea of social exchange only being an intermediate step to ultimately gaining social capital or the ability to influence (Zafirovski 2005). The theory again provides testable propositions but downplays collective bonds and morality in relations. The self-interest assumption is also culturally specific. They point to the importance of considering the cultural context that may affect the norms that regulate the social exchange (Cook 2000). Therefore, a limitation to social exchange theory is its lack of attention to the possibility of macro structures, such as culture, influencing individual behavior on a micro level. Instead, social exchange theory sees macro-level structures primarily as an outcome of micro-level structures stemming from interpersonal interactions (Zafirovski 2005).

### **Applicability**

Social exchange theory is therefore applicable to this study on MPs' interaction with constituents (Cook & Gillmore, 2016). The rationale behind the choice of this theory is that it focuses on a cost-benefit analysis of MP and constituents. In this study, the constituents mostly calculate the benefit associated with their interaction with the MP and vote accordingly (Clark & Mills, 2018). Moreover, it is the constituents that

mostly want to get more from an interaction or relationship than they give. When a relationship costs a person more than it rewards them, they end it. But when a relationship provides enough rewards, they continue it. Another aspect of social exchange theory is that people expect equity in exchange. People expect to be rewarded equally for incurring the same costs, and when they are not, they are displeased (Cook & Emerson, 2018).



## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **4.1. Introduction**

This chapter is devoted to discussing the methodology used in this study. The chapter clarifies the broad framework about how new knowledge will be discovered under which the study is carried out and provides relevant information on how the research was conducted as well as how the researcher intended to approach the research problem. This chapter discusses the research approach, research design, the population of the study, sample and sampling technique, data collection procedure, data analysis, ethical considerations, and ends with a conclusion.

#### **4.2. Research Approach and Framework for the Study**

Given the nature of the stance on both ontology and epistemology, a qualitative research approach within the interpretive paradigm was employed. The interpretive paradigm is based upon the view that the social world has a very precarious ontological status and that what passes as social reality does not exist in any concrete sense, but is the product of the subjective experience of individuals (Cassell & Symon, 2018). Society is understood from the standpoint of the participant in action rather than the observer and the interpretive social theorist attempts to understand the process through which shared multiple realities arise, are sustained, and are changed (Denzin, 2018). Like the positivist approach, the interpretive approach is based on the assumption and belief that there is an underlying pattern and order within the social world. However, the interpretive social theorist does not attempt to objectify the world but rather seeks to understand the subjectively derived meanings and understandings.

This study is situated within the interpretive paradigm because the researcher seeks to gain a solid understanding of the relations between the MP and constituency members in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. According to Creswell (2017), qualitative research seeks to explain and understand social phenomena within their natural setting. In terms of this study, the researcher constructed empirical evidence to gain an understanding of the relations between the MP and constituency members in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. Qualitative research, states Denscombe (2017), is a means of exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or a group of people ascribe to a social or human problem. Creswell (2017) explained that it involves data constructed in the participants' setting; data analysis that builds from particulars to general themes; and the researcher having to interpret the data. In addition, says Denzin (2018), qualitative research usually involves fieldwork, which requires the physical presence of the researcher.

In this regard, the researcher conducted interviews with ten (10) interviewees to gain insight into their experiences on relations between the MP and constituency members in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. Denscombe (2017) noted that qualitative research seeks to gain an in-depth understanding of individual experiences. It provides an in-depth understanding of the issues at stake. In a qualitative study, participants are encouraged during interviews to express their views and opinions on a particular topic relating to the research question. They explained that the main aim of qualitative research is to gain an understanding of a particular phenomenon in its real-world context. In this study, qualitative research was employed to gain an understanding of the relations between the MP and constituency members in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. Creswell

(2017) described qualitative research as using an approach that accommodates a wide range of different views. This research allows participants to express their views in an open-ended way. The researcher chooses the qualitative research approach as a form of interpretive sociology which uses methods resulting in a narrative, descriptive account of a setting or practice (Denscombe, 2017).

### **4.3. Research Design**

A research design, according to Creswell (2014), outlines the specific procedures for collecting, analyzing, and reporting in research. It may be thought of as a map of how the research will unfold and provide a logical plan as to how it will be conducted and the findings validated. Bryman (2015) formulates a research design as an integrated statement of and justification for the more technical decisions involved in planning a research project and a process. Bryman (2015) offers a closely related definition of design by stating that a research design involves a set of decisions regarding what topic is to be studied among what population with what research methods for what purpose. Therefore, research design is the process of focusing your perspective on a particular study. For Bryman (2015), the research design serves to plan, structure, and execute the research to maximize the validity of the findings.

This study applied a case study with a phenomenological approach, used in the present study. Creswell (2014) indicated that phenomenological design had the advantages of discovery of hidden forms of behavior, the exploration of causal mechanisms linking phenomena, the revelation of a critical case, and the explanation of variations. The case study method helped me in the collection of very extensive data to produce an in-depth understanding of the relations between the MP and constituency members in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of

Ghana. Moreover, I used a case study approach to gather some rich information on the subject under investigation. The use of the case study method in this study was necessary as I needed to develop an in-depth understanding of the relations between the MP and constituency members in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. Moreover, the purpose of utilizing the collective case study with the phenomenological approach is to capture the lived experiences of several individuals regarding a concept or phenomenon they have experienced (Creswell, 2014).

#### **4.4. Description of the Study Area**

Trobu is an electoral constituency within Ga-North Municipal in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. Ga North Municipal is one of the twenty-nine (29) districts in the Greater Accra Region.

Originally it was part of the then-larger Ga West District in 2004, until the eastern part of the district was split off to create Ga North Municipal District on 15 March 2018, (which was supported by Legislative Instrument (L.I.) 2314). Thus, the remaining part has been retained as Ga West Municipal District. The municipality is located in the western part of the Greater Accra Region and has Ofankor as its capital town.

Ga- North Municipal is bordered to the north by Ga West Municipal, Ga Central, and Ablekuma North Municipalities to the west, Accra Metropolitan to the south, and Ga East Municipal to the east. The Municipality is located in the northern part of the Greater Accra Region of the Republic of Ghana between latitude 5<sup>o</sup> 37'0 N and 5<sup>o</sup> 42'14 N, and longitude 0<sup>o</sup> 19'31W and 0<sup>o</sup>13'42W and covers a total land mass of 636.28. The population of the Municipality according to the 2021 population and housing census stands at 235,292 with 116,481 males and 118,811 females.

Trobu constituency consists of fourteen (14) electoral areas, which include, Nii Ankraman, Trobu, Tantra Hill, Ofankor North, Ofankor South, Omanjor, Amamoley, Ayawaso, Asofan, Pokuase, Afriaman, Abensu, Amanfrom, and Fise.

#### **4.5. Population of the Study**

Silverman (2013) described the population as a collection of objects, events, or individuals having some common characteristics that the researcher is interested in studying. The target population is the group of interest to the researcher. It is the group from whom the researcher would like to generalize the results of the study (Howell, 2017). The target population consisted of all constituency executives of the two main parties NPP and NDC comprising 34 members. Out of 34 members, 10 members were purposely selected to participate in the study.

#### **4.6. Sample and Sampling Technique**

For this study, participants were selected via purposive sampling in which the population of interest that can best help to answer the research questions selected. Pring (2020) recommended utilizing criteria sampling to establish procedures that will illuminate participants' varied experiences and reveal meaningful data that represents the population of interest. Consistent with phenomenological inquiry (Bryman & Bell, 2015), the present study sought to interview 10 participants who hold executive positions and have a genuine interest in exploring the topic of the relations between the MP and constituency members who are representative of the general interpreting population in the study area.

#### **4.7. Data Collection Instruments**

In line with the research design, the study employed an interview guide to elicit data for the study. According to Creswell (2017), the semi-structured interview guide is



often used when the topic studied is of sensitive in nature. The semi-structured interview guide is employed due to its flexibility and open-ended nature that facilitate obtaining in-depth information (Creswell, 2017). According to Denscombe (2017), the semi-structured interview guide is a flexible tool for data collection, enabling multisensory channels to be used; verbal, non-verbal, spoken, and heard. Moreover, the semi-structured interview may be controlled while still giving space for spontaneity, and the interviewer can ask for responses about deep and complex issues. Probing is used to get deeper information from the respondents, and good rapport with participants is a prerequisite for obtaining maximum cooperation and accurate information (Denscombe, 2017).

Therefore, in this study, the semi-structured interview guides will be employed in soliciting information from the purposively sampled respondents. Unstructured and open-ended questions will be administered to elicit views and opinions from the participants. Probing will be used by the researcher to obtain potentially important information from the participants. The flexibility of the semi-structured interview guide will yield high response rates, offering to collect in-depth information.

Semi-structured interviews are categorized by their formal nature. The interview guide used for the interview is usually a list of key questions with relevant topics that give some directions to the interview process (Howell, 2017). Further, less significant subtopics and questions similarly could be used to obtain nice-to-know responses. Any other filler questions or notifications may also provide support in giving structure to the interview at the same time as the interviewer conducts the interview; it is also vital that a track is maintained (Bryman, 2015). In this study, I made sure that the interview always revolved around the subject under investigation.

Delmont (2012) advocated using semi-structured interviews when the interviewer has only had one instance of interviewing with any given interviewee. Delmont (2012) further advocated semi-structured interviews for field interviews and multiple interviewers. Moreover, this approach can provide a clear set of instructions for interviewers and obtain reliable qualitative data that may later be comparable (Bryman, 2015). Semi-structured interviewing is often undertaken by a researcher who has a keen concern for understanding the topic and taking meaningful data as part of the research (Howell, 2017). As a study tool, the instrument is purely one link in a chain and is generally continued by in-depth planning and careful question-creating by the researcher (Elo & Kyngas, 2018). I found the rapport in which semi-structured interviews allowed the interviewer to provoke the expression of more information, by providing a setting in which they were given freedom to explain their interpretations in their own words. This approach encouraged the investigator and the interviewee to have a two-way communication via the opportunity for the interviewee to ask for clarification of the questions. Elo and Kyngas (2018) state that a semi-structured interview supports the conversation when there are sensitive subjects and delivers the reasons for the answers given by the interviewee.

The disadvantage that should be noted is that the findings may not be generalizable as they are obtained from a small sample that may be subjective as the data collected is not limited to fixed answers (Elo & Kyngas, 2018). Denzin (2018) argues that the biography of the researcher directly affects fieldwork and that positionality (position based on class, gender, race, etc.) plays a central role in the research process, in the field as well as in the final text. In addition, semi-structured interviews consume a large amount of time (Cassell & Symon, 2018).

Due to the business and working climate in the study area, interviews were a time-intensive activity as the entire process required multiple telephone calls and liaisons to confirm and reconfirm the appointment(s), to meet with the interviewees, and to allow for any extenuating circumstances that may have developed on the day of the interview within work parameters, and also to transcribe the findings and analyze the results.

Furthermore, interviewing skills to attain the interviewees are essential as there are sensitive cultural requirements that need to be adhered to, such as clothing and body language, as well as protocol. Interview skills were therefore required to minimize and mitigate all possible adverse scenarios and misunderstandings to reassure and make the interviewee comfortable (Denzin, 2018). Consequently, to avoid all the disadvantages of time interviews, I learned interview skills to enhance my interviewing techniques.

Semi-structured interviews have pre-determined questions but these can be modified during the interview as and when the interviewer perceives it to be appropriate (Denzin, 2018). This means that questions can be altered or omitted, explanations provided, and even further questions added as considered appropriate to suit the particular interviewee

#### **4.8. Trustworthiness**

Research done within the qualitative paradigm is largely an investigative process where the researcher gradually makes sense of a social phenomenon by contrasting, comparing, replicating, cataloging, and classifying the object of the study (Silverman, 2013). The aim of trustworthiness in a qualitative inquiry is to support the argument that the inquiry's findings are "worth paying attention to" and this is done by paying

attention to credibility, transferability, dependability, and conformability (Silverman, 2013).

#### **4.9. Data Collection Procedures**

The researcher used an interview guide to measure the opinion of 10 interviewees on relations between the MP and constituency members in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. Each session lasted for about forty-five (45) minutes. Earlier in the day for the interview, the researcher described the purpose and steps taken to maintain confidentiality and anonymity made known to them.

#### **4.10. Data Analysis Procedures**

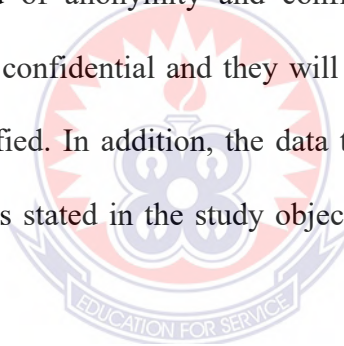
The interviews were transcribed to form the material for the analysis (Creswell, 2014). A manual analysis is conducted on interview texts, to look for groupings of behaviours. Undertaking a manual content analysis depends on compassion towards connections in a text. Creswell (2015) indicated that a manual that looks for statements is more sensitive to themes and connections between participant beliefs.

In this study, data were analyzed by using thematic analysis. The transcripts were checked through several times to understand the overall idea of the content. Following this, codes were allocated to significant concepts. Then, the concepts were grouped into themes. This method ensured that the elements of the coding frame reflected the language of the participants (Maxwell, 2012). After the categorization and coding of data into themes, the researcher analyzed and interpreted the themes to find answers to the research questions.

#### **4.11. Ethical Considerations**

Ethical issues play an important function when research is to be conducted among human subjects. Bryman (2015) indicated that ethics has been characterized as a

matter of principled sensitivity to the rights of others and that “while truth is good, respect for human dignity is better. Flick (2017) suggested that the researcher must protect human rights, guide them, and supervise the interests of people. According to Creswell (2014), the minimum ethical considerations are informed consent, privacy and confidentiality, and accuracy. In this research, all ethical requirements were followed throughout all phases of the research. The participants were asked to participate voluntarily and were given the chance to withdraw from participation if they choose to do so. Participants were told that answering and returning the questionnaire assumed their consent to participate in this study. All participants were assured anonymity and confidentiality of the responses. Similarly, all of the interviewees are assured of anonymity and confidentiality. All the interviewees’ information will be kept confidential and they will not be described in any way that allows them to be identified. In addition, the data that were collected were used for any purpose other than as stated in the study objectives, which were aimed only for academic research.



## CHAPTER FIVE

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### 5.1. Introduction

This chapter is dedicated to the presentation and discussions of findings of the study. It begins with the presentation of demographic characteristics of the respondents and followed by the analysis and discussion of the data collected from the field.

#### 5.2. Analysis of Demographic Characteristics of Participants

The first activity of this section of the study is to analyze the background characteristics of the various interviewees of the study. This is so because it highlights the caliber of persons who participated in the study. In all, ten (10) people were purposively selected to be interviewed in the study. All the 10 research participants met the inclusion criteria because they were party executive members. Additionally, the researcher ensured the protection of their identities by using a pseudonym code. For example, participant 1 of the NPP participants had labeled a pseudonym code as NPP01 during coding and that of NDC participants as NDC01.

The study participants comprised five (5) NPP constituency executive members and five (5) NDC constituency executive members.

Concerning the ten (10) party executives interviewed, all of them are aged between 30 to 50 years. In terms of their educational levels, it was observed that only one (1) out of the ten (10) participants have had senior secondary education, with the remaining nine (9) having their first degree. With regard to their working experiences, while those with the most working experience have been in the constituency for the past twelve years, those also with the least political experience for example have been in the constituency as executive members for the past four years.

Concerning their gender as well, 6 were male and 4 were female. To achieve the research objectives, the following research questions were asked during the study:

- i. To what extent do the constituents understand the role of Member of Parliament in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana?
- ii. In what ways do MPs in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana relate to their constituents?
- iii. What are the challenges that impede effective relationships between MPs and their constituency members in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana?
- iv. What are the benefits of the MP's relations with the constituents to the constituency?

### **5.3. Presentation of the Main Results**

#### **5.3.1. To What Extent do the Constituents Understand the Role of Member of Parliament in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana?**

When the participants of the study were asked to express their views on how the constituents understand the role of a member of parliament, the responses from the participants were interesting and revealing. This question was asked against the background that the core duty or role of a member of parliament is to represent their constituents in parliament by making laws and representing the interest of his people. Thus, most MPs only focused on parliamentary works and refused to come back to their constituencies after given the mandate to them. It was based on this information that the researcher wanted to ascertain if the constituents understood the real functions of Members of Parliament.

Analysis of their responses provides more information to answer research question one. With this question, the participants claimed that members of parliament perform many different roles and that the role of a Member of Parliament (MP) is multi-functional with law-making function and constituency service standing as outstanding from the responses of my interviewees.

According to some of my interviewees, the most fundamental function of the Parliament of Ghana is law-making. They further claimed that the law-making function of Parliament requires scrutinizing and passing bills and statutory instruments. The interviewees indicated that in democratic parliaments, MPs are elected by the citizens. They further indicated that through the electoral system, parliamentary seats are distributed to render MPs accountable to a specific constituency within a particular geographic, ethnic, religious, or other grouping or of particular interest or political view. This is the basis for parliaments' representative function.

One participant stressed that:

I can say that one of the key functions of Parliament is to pass laws and also have the power to amend, approve or reject government draft laws. But as am talking to you now, I might be wrong to boldly say “yes” Our members of parliament today are able to reject government policies or laws that are of interest to the president but evil to the nation, like the e-levy. It is common to note that many of these parliamentarians found themselves in the chamber not to ensure that good laws are passed to serve their constituents but rather they have a different agenda. (NPP01, January 28, 2024)



Another respondent stated that:

I believe that parliament considers draft legislation and ultimately approves its final form. Moreover, all parliaments have a role to play in reviewing draft laws before they are adopted, including the ability to recommend amendments to draft laws. (NDC01, January 28, 2024)

One of the participants in the study also revealed that:

I must admit that parliaments are more active in the development of draft laws prior to debate in the chamber in that special rules apply to the legislation containing the annual state budget – commonly considered one of the most significant laws reviewed by parliament. But you see if you have noticed, anytime there is a budget in the house, especially when more taxes are to be introduced on the neck of the citizens, most of the parliamentarians especially the minorities will always talk and make noise by rejecting the budget but at the end of it all they will accept and passed it and this makes it much difficult for us to see how dependent and powerful our parliament is in terms of this role. (NPP02, January 28, 2024)

Another participant claimed that:

It is obvious that the executive branch of government drafts laws and the main role of parliament is to review, amend, and pass laws which is the basic function of parliament but I must admit that our parliament today as we have in the country now aren't making any important laws to protect we the citizens but ... rather listening to the president and satisfying his interest at the expense of the people. (NPP03, January 30, 2024)

One of the respondents stated that: I think the representative function of parliament is indeed characterized by its role as an avenue for the expression and debate of issues of local importance and the translation of those debates into policies. (NDC02, January 30, 2024)

Most respondents claimed that constituency service is an important duty for MPs because it is critical for reelection. According to them, constituency service is also important for electoral reasons in that, addressing constituent needs is an important task for MPs. Meeting these demands can translate into votes and ultimate reelection. In an attempt to point out some constituency services that could enhance the reelection efforts of the MP one of the informants argued that:

I see that MPs' ability to deal with their constituents and satisfy their needs can enhance the MP's re-election. My brother let me be frank with you, now the minds and understanding of Ghanaians in politics are growing and if you tell me to vote for you, I will also ask myself what I'm going to benefit in the constituency before I do vote for you. So, if MPs can meet the request of their constituents, then the people too will reward them always. (NDC03, January 30, 2024)

One of the participants indicated that:

I believe that MPs' ability to provide personal benefits to constituents in the form of clientelism support such as electricity and helping lower socio-economic statuses can help grant the MPs re-election. See the truth is that there are many places here in Ghana if you go there today there's no light yet during the campaign delegates went there to campaign and promised them a whole lot. So, you can check all those MPs who are very concerned about their

constituents by providing them social amenities are always given reelection.  
(NPP04, January 30, 2024)

Another participant stated that:

I think constituents with some knowledge of or connections to the MP most commonly assume that the MP can help them as individuals with direct assistance, and help them by supporting policies that contribute to their well-being. (NDC05, January 30, 2024)

From the above discussions, it is clear that law-making and law amendment are the basic functions of Members of Parliament. While the constituents are aware of this, they believe that, for the member of parliament to have a good relationship with the constituents, he needs to balance party interest with the interest of the people by rejecting some bills or policies that are of interest to the party but harmful to the citizens.

Moreover, the ongoing findings reveal that personal services provided by the MP to the constituents, such as borehole water, public toilets, schools, etc can also ensure smooth and peaceful co-existence between them.

### **5.3.2. Ways the MPs in Trobu Constituency of Greater Accra Region of Ghana relate to their constituents**

This research question aims to determine how the MPs in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region relate to their constituents. Regarding this question, the participants asserted that the function of MPs in representing their constituency is considered essential in addressing the social and economic problems of the constituents. Responses of the various interviewees suggest that the MPs in the constituency generally have good channels of communication with their people. Thus,

apart from communicating effectively with the constituents the MPs' responsiveness and commitment to a community have also been identified as important reasons in enhancing the public image of the MPs. However, the respondents suggested that going forward, other good communication strategies like town hall meetings such be adopted to enhance the interactions between the MP and the constituents.

One of the interviewees stated that:

I believe that if your MP communicates well enough to the constituents it serves as signaling trustworthiness to boost the image of the MP and ensure good relations. See let me tell you, there is power in words or communication so even if as an MP you are not getting the necessary resources to your constituency, try as much to communicate to them anytime the needs arise. (NPP05, January 28, 2024)

Similarly, one of the interviewees reported that:

I think the MP must hold in-person town halls and community meetings, doing so will give the constituents direct access to ask any questions affecting them as well as to express their concerns. Because as an MP just like the system we operate in Ghana here, I don't think there is an office built or designated for the MP within the constituency where the people can always meet him, so then there is the need for the MP to build familiarity and trust through face-to-face interactions. (NDC04, January 28, 2024)

One of the interviewees stated that:

I think in most constituencies where the MPs have a good relationship with the constituents' is because such MPs attend significant community events. So, our MP must be present or show up at events within the constituency like

parades, opening of new local businesses, and more importantly funerals and festivals like the Homowo we celebrate here. Do you know that most of the people in this place complained bitterly that our MP doesn't like attending funerals at all even if you officially invite him. (NPP03, January 28, 2024)

One official from Nii Akraiman electoral area suggests that:

For me, I believe that in this modern world, the fastest way to make people hear or feel your presence is through social media, so I think that the MP can maintain an active social presence by regularly updating and addressing constituent-focused content on platforms like Facebook and Twitter and I tell you that, having these will help the MP provide updates, respond to questions, and take the pulse on community interest. But this is the case most MPs ignore social media all because they do not want to even hear or listen to their constituents'. (NDC03, January 30, 2024)

### **5.3.3. The challenges that Impede Effective Relation between MPs and their Constituency Members**

This research question seeks to find out from the participants the challenges that impede effective relations between MPs and their constituency members. With this question, the participants agreed that parliamentarians should keep in touch with the people they represent. Constituents demand more of their representatives' attention, while parties encourage their members to reach out to the people to convey political messages, but a lot of challenges often impede the relations between MPs and their constituency members, and notable among the factors is the poorer socio-economic status of the majority of the people. The interviewees asserted that the poor socio-economic status of the constituents makes it difficult for the MPs to relate with their

constituency members. They further claimed that constituents who had a poor socio-economic status were more likely to interact with MPs for financial assistance which often drains the MP's pockets. The interviewees noted that the constituency lacks development such as good roads, schools, hospitals, and markets, as well as jobs that can ensure a good standard of living for the people. This often complicates the interactions between the people and their elected representatives.

In their attempt to point out some of the associated challenges impeding effective relation with the constituent an informant had this to say:

I can say that a constituent's poorer socio-economic status leads to financial demands on the MPs which in most cases prevents the MP from interacting with the constituents. Most people like me for instance do believe that MPs make a lot of money directly and indirectly from their work as a result we mostly task them to do everything for us which is not possible for the MP to meet all the problems of individual constituents financially and collectively. (NPP03, January 30, 2024)

Another interviewee stated that:

Me like this, I know that majority of the people within this constituency are very much angry with the MP, especially the youth. I can factually state that our MP is not trying at all to help the youth in this constituency in terms of jobs. I can give you clear examples of some MPs who have been able to provide jobs even if not to all, to the majority of the people in the constituency, you just look at Effutu MP (Hon. Alexander Afenyo-Markin) and also North Tongu MP (Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa) as a result you

can see that these MPs have good relations with their constituents. (NDC02, January 28, 2024)

One other respondent stated that:

I think misaligned priorities serve as one of the impediments. Most MPs put their party's priorities ahead of all other issues. I know that yes, he became an MP on the ticket of a political party, but without the mandate of the constituent, such a candidate cannot assume office as MP. I, for instance, believe that the MP should always balance party and constituency needs so the people can relate to him well. (NDC04, January 30, 2024)

Another informant claimed that:

You see if you are a member of parliament and your constituency is recorded as one of the constituencies with bad roads in Ghana, you can never relate well with your constituents, my bro I won't send you far, you just look at the road from Asofan to Amamoley which links the highway, bet me that, you can't drive on that road constantly one week without visiting the workshop....there are no gutters on the roadside so when it rains then the water takes over the road. Sometimes the cars have to park and wait for some time before they can move. (NPP04, January 28, 2024)

Another participant stated that:

I think the MP can have a better relationship with the constituents if perhaps he looks at the roads in the district. There is this one government school at Afiarman and even see Amarmoley M/A school, the last time it rained heavily during school hours if not for God's intervention we would have recorded bad news, do you know that those gutters have been constructed for more than four

years and all are chocked and the erosion has been directed towards the school, so now if the clouds change small then the teachers want to close. So, I think all this results in anger from the constituents, which hinders the effectiveness of MPs and their constituents' relations. (NDC01, January 28, 2024)

Flowing from the above empirical evidence from the field, it is clear that good relations can exist between the MPs and their constituents if the MP make efforts to provide jobs, and good roads, and not engage in misaligned priorities while also the constituents try as much as possible not to burden the MP much with personal needs and support. However, these strategies as a means to ensure good relations come with its own challenges. This study argues that considering these strategies as a way to ensure effective relations between the MP and the constituents is not an end in itself but a means to supplement the other measures that have been used over the years by many scholars that have not produced the desired results.

#### **5.3.4. The Benefits of Good Relations between the Trobu Constituency MP and his Constituents in the Constituency**

This research question is to determine the benefit of good relations between the MP of Trobu Constituency and his constituents. With this question, the participants claimed that MPs' good relations with the electorates are essential for their re-election because it helps to ensure better representation in parliament and also will ensure development within the constituency.

One of the interviewees stated that:

I believe the MP and their constituent's interactions offer an opportunity for the MP to clarify certain issues and misinformation that can negatively



affect the MP's re-election. I think that, if the MP is seen as more engaged with and responsive to their constituents, it's more likely to earn their support at election time. I can give you an example of Hon. Boamah, he is among those MPs that, even if they decided not to contest again the constituents themselves will beg them to contest and even just recent elections the party executives within the constituency declared that no one should contest him. So, to me, this can serve as one of the benefits or important advantages for the MP to relate well with the constituents. (NPP01, January 28, 2024)

Another interviewee stated that:

I think it is important to note that, MP's good relations with their constituents allow for better representation in the constituency. Am saying this because, as a member of parliament if you regularly engage your constituents, it makes the MP stay informed about community needs and priorities. So going back to the House will help the MP better represent constituents' interests through legislation and advocacy. (NDC03, January 28, 2024)

Another interviewee claimed that:

I think if the MP developed strong relations with their constituents, it would foster trust and accountability within the constituency. The truth is in this world for someone to give his or her mandate to you it depends on the trust the person has for you, so as a member of parliament you must have good relations with your people so that when you ask them for something they can fully provide and support you. So, to me, if MPs develop the sense that they

are accountable to voter interest then they can be reelected at any given time.  
(NPP02, January 30, 2024)

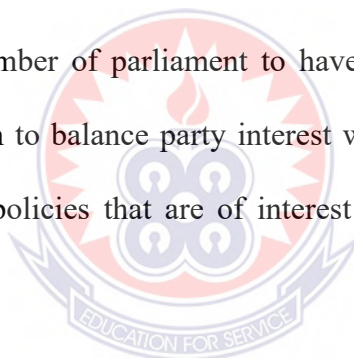
#### **5.4 Discussion of the Research Findings.**

The study set out to explore the relations between MPs and their constituents after giving them their mandate in the study area.

##### **5.4.1 Findings on How the Constituents Understand the Role of an MP.**

The first set of questions was asked to examine the understanding of the constituents on the role of their MP.

First, the study revealed that law-making, law amendment, and review are the basic functions of Members of Parliament. While the constituents are aware of these, they believe that, for the member of parliament to have a good relationship with them, there is the need for him to balance party interest with the interest of the people by rejecting some bills or policies that are of interest to the party but inimical to the citizens.



These findings are in line with that of Cain and Fiorina (2019) who noted that within the doctrine of separation of powers, parliament is entrusted with the law-making function. Parliament has the sole power to make or unmake laws to govern the entire nation. This finding supported that of Bowler (2018) who noted that law-making is considered to be the most important function of Parliament. The legislative function consists of passing bills and scrutinizing statutory instruments and deciding whether to annul them or allow them to take effect by the effluxion of time (Campbell & Cowley, 2018).

Moreover, the findings reveal that, personal services provided by the MP to the constituents can also ensure smooth and peaceful co-existence between them.

With the issue of constituency service, the findings were in line with that of John and Rosenblatt (2017) who noted that constituency service of MPs is an important task for MPs all over the world. For MPs, meeting this service can translate into votes and ultimate re-election. The finding further corroborates with that of Lindberg (2019) who noted that a larger proportion of Ghanaians report that their parliamentarians should execute constituency services to help support the electorate's needs to secure the MP's re-election. The finding also concurred with that of Arnold (2018) who noted that, constituency service is an important duty for politicians and is also critical for their re-election.

#### **5.4.2 Findings on Ways in which the MPs in the Trobu Constituency of Greater Accra Region of Ghana Relate to their Constituents.**

The study also found that good communication by the MP with his/her constituents can facilitate a peaceful existence. The study revealed that there is power in communication so the more the MP availed himself to the people the more unity prevailed within the constituency. Because even at the ward level within the constituency sometimes party members used to come here and ask for something bordering him/her and the moment you explain it well to them you see that they become satisfied and leave with peace.

Another interesting finding from the study was that in the near future the government should build offices throughout all the two hundred and seventy-five (275) constituencies in Ghana which should be backed by legislation that once every week each MP must be at the constituency to meet and interact with their people. Doing so will help the constituents and even the MP to understand the problems within the constituency as well as make efforts to address them.

It was also identified in the study that if the MPs partake or show up in any important community events like ‘festivals’ within the constituency it can add up to good relations among the constituents and their MPs.

The study again found that the MPs should adopt a dynamic approach where they can use social media platforms as tools to address or discuss the constituents’ problems and concerns so that even in the absence of the said MP in the constituency, they can still reach him/her.

This finding was in line with Akirav (2018) who noted that members of parliaments (MPs) can relate better with the electorate if they keep in touch with the people they represent via communication. This finding further supports that of Arnold (2018) who argued that securing re-election is the main goal of MPs and that good communication and interactions are important steps towards achieving this goal.

#### **5.4.3 Findings from the Challenges that Impede an Effective Relation between MPs and their Constituency Members.**

Firstly, it was established in the study that most MPs find it problematic to visit their constituencies because of the high demands and tasks imposed on them by individuals such as school fees, hospital bills, rent, feeding money etc. So, with these if you are a member of parliament and you do not have enough to give, you cannot visit your constituency and have good interactions with them. People expect an MP to be rich by all means therefore, once you become an MP it’s your core responsibility to cater for all the people within the constituency or become the problem solver for all their personal needs in life.

Secondly, the study revealed that there is no job or employment avenue within the constituency. The youth within this constituency are suffering from joblessness

whereby they even made some comparisons between their MP and that of Effutu and North Tongu MP. As a result, for the MP to bridge that gap to have peaceful co-existence with the constituents, he/she has to focus on ways of creating or providing jobs for the youth. This can also help in eradicating the practice whereby most people always ask their MP for financial help.

Again, it was identified in the study that this particular constituency is among those with worse road infrastructure in the Greater Accra Region which impedes the effective relationship between the MP and his constituents. A good road is one thing that ensures speedy growth or development of a place, everyone prefers staying at a place where there is access to transport, hospitals, schools, markets, etc.

This finding was in line with that of Dixit and John (2018) who noted that frequent personal demands from constituents hinder effective relationships between MPs and their constituents. The finding was in line with Davidson (2019) who noted that the practice of constituent relations involves communicating with constituents, learning about their concerns, and where appropriate, helping to solve those problems. The finding also concurred with that of Grant and Thomas (2018) who noted that MPs experience limited financial resources for addressing personal problems that will help in facilitating good relations with the people.

#### **5.4.4 Finding from the Benefits to the Constituency as a Result of Good Relations between the MP of Trobu Constituency and the Constituents.**

It was established in the study that constituency where the MP has good relations with the constituents, the MP always gets re-elected because he can interact well and listen to the people to ensure meaningful representation. Since the mandate is given by the people, good relations with them will always make him/her the number one choice of

the people to the extent that even if the MP is not willing to contest again the constituents sometimes plead with him to still contest.

The study again revealed that good relations between MPs and their constituents bring trust and accountability within the constituency. This is so because trust and accountability play important roles when it comes to constituents (voters) and their representatives. First, the voters trusted you before giving their mandate to you as is often said: “power emanates from the people”. Secondly, since the people give you such power, the MP must render an account to them. So, to achieve this, there must be good relations between the MP and the people to compel the MP to render such an account to the people as well as briefing them on the state of the constituency and its journey towards development.

The finding was in line with André and Martin (2019) who noted that the electorate expects that members of parliaments should keep in touch with the people they represent for the electorate to know the government effectively. The findings support that of Bailer and Ohmura (2018) who noted that MPs' good relations with their constituent creates favorable views of him/her to the voters, thus making his re-election easier. The finding also concurred with that of André and Depauw (2018) who noted that good relations with the constituents is achieved through communicating with constituents, learning about their concerns, and as much as possible and where appropriate, helping to solve their problems.

## CHAPTER SIX

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 6.1. Introduction

This chapter presents a summary of the major findings of the study. This study seeks to explore the relations between MPs and their constituents in Ghana, particularly in Trobu Constituency in the Greater Accra Region. This chapter focuses on the summary of the research findings, conclusions from the results, and finally the recommendations for further action.

#### 6.2 Summary of the Findings

The study attempted to explore the relations between the MP and constituency members in Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. The following research questions guided the study:

- i. What do the constituents understand on the role of Member of Parliament in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana?
- ii. In what ways do the MP in Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana relate to their constituents?
- iii. What are the challenges that impede effective relationship between MPs and their constituency members in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana?
- iv. What are the benefits of the MPs relations with the constituents to the constituency?

At the end of the study, the following findings were established:

### **The Constituent's Understanding of the Role of Member of Parliament in the Trobu Constituency of Greater Accra Region of Ghana.**

- i. The study revealed that the people of Trobu perceived the role of the MP to include law-making, amendment, and the power to reject bills, and therefore the members of parliament should always take into consideration the interest of their people to facilitate good relations among them.
- ii. It was also discovered that despite the peoples' understanding of law-making as the basic function of an MP, the ability of the MP to provide a personal benefit to the constituents in the form of clientelist support such as helping pay school fees, hospital bills, funeral donations, and other social and economic benefits can also ensure good relation for re-election.

### **Ways the MP in Trobu Constituency of Greater Accra Region of Ghana Relate to their Constituents**

- i. The study revealed that there is power in communication and so if the MP is able to communicate effectively with them on any issue confronting the constituency, then they can also guarantee good relations among them.
- ii. The study further discovered that the way forward for the nation is to get national offices in all the constituencies for the MPs so once a week they can meet their constituents there to have interactions or meetings with them to know their problems as their representative.
- iii. It was also identified in the study that if the MPs partake or show up in any important community events like festivals within the constituency it can add up to good relations among the constituents and their MPs.
- iv. The study further discovered that the MPs should adopt a vibrant approach where they will use social media platforms as a tool to address or discuss the



constituents' issues so that even in the absence of the said MP in the constituency, they can still reach him/her.

### **Challenges that Impede Effective Relations between the MPs and their Constituency Members in the Trobu Constituency of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana?**

- i. It was established in the study that most MPs find it problematic to visit their constituencies because of high demands and financial burdens imposed on them by individual constituents such as school fees, hospital bills, rent, feeding money etc. So, with these if you are a member of parliament and you do not have enough to give, you cannot visit your constituency and have good relations with them.
- ii. The study revealed that there is no job or employment avenue within the constituency. The youth within this constituency are suffering from jobs whereby they even made some comparisons between their MP and that of Effutu and North Tongu MP.
- iii. They also identified in the study that this particular constituency is recorded as one of the constituencies with bad roads in the Greater Accra Region which impede the effective relation of the MP and his constituents.

### **The Benefits of the MP of Trobu Constituency Relations with the Constituents to the Constituency.**

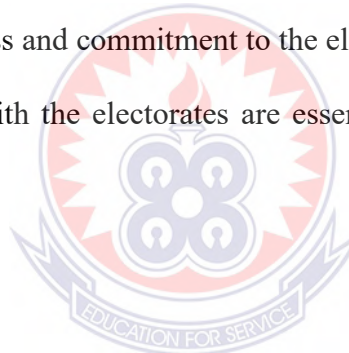
- i. The study demonstrated that in a constituency where the MP has good relations with the constituents, the MP is always rewarded with reelection because he is able to interact well and listen to the people to ensure meaningful representation.

- ii. The study again revealed that good relation between MPs and their constituents brings trust and accountability within the constituency.

### **6.3 Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the study, it is now possible to draw the following conclusions:

- i. Interviewees indicated that law-making function and constituency service were the constituent's understanding of the role of a Member of Parliament
- ii. The poorer socio-economic status of the constituents made it difficult for the MPs to relate with their constituency members
- iii. MPs communicating effectively with constituents demonstrates the MP's responsiveness and commitment to the electorates
- iv. MPs' relations with the electorates are essential for the parliamentarian's re-election.



### **6.4 Recommendations**

In light of the research findings, it is recommended that:

- i. Based on the results indicating that law-making function and constituency service were the constituent's understanding of the role of Member of Parliament, it is therefore recommended that NCCE should educate the electorate on the role performance of MPs
- ii. The study revealed that the poorer socio-economic status of the constituents made it difficult for the MPs to relate with their constituency members. It is therefore recommended that the government should always ensure the presence of MPs in their communities to ensure development.

- iii. From the study's findings, MPs communicating effectively with constituents demonstrates the MP's responsiveness and commitment to the constituents. It is therefore recommended that MPs should ensure fairness in their communication with the people to ensure equity in the MP's communication with the constituents.
- iv. Based on the results indicated, MPs' relations with the constituents are essential for the parliamentarian's re-election. It is therefore recommended that MPs should experience openness to the constituents to improve upon their chance for reelection.

### **6.5 Suggestions for Further Research**

The findings of the study suggest that further studies should investigate the following issues:

- The role of MPs in enhancing the growth of community participation in the central government
- Exploring the factors affecting the ability of parliamentarians to promote accountability in their efficient and effective service delivery.

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## LIST OF INTERVIEWEES

NPP Party Official 01: Interview, January 28, 2024.

NDC Party Official 01: Interview, January 28, 2024.

NPP Party Official 02: Interview, January 28, 2024.

NPP Party Official 03: Interview, January 30, 2024.

NDC Party Official 02: Interview, January 30, 2024.

NDC Party Official 03: Interview, January 30, 2024.

NPP Party Official 04: Interview, January 30, 2024.

NDC Party Official 05: Interview, January 30, 2024.

NPP Party Official 05: Interview, January 28, 2024.

NDC Party Official 04: Interview, January 28, 2024.

NPP Party Official 03: Interview, January 28, 2024.

NDC Party Official 03: Interview, January 30, 2024.

NPP Party Official 03: Interview, January 30, 2024.

NDC Party Official 02: Interview, January 28, 2024.

NDC Party Official 04: Interview, January 30, 2024.

NPP Party Official 04: Interview, January 28, 2024.

NDC Party Official 01: Interview, January 28, 2024.

NPP Party Official 01: Interview, January 28, 2024.

NDC Party Official 03: Interview, January 28, 2024.

NPP Party Official 02: Interview, January 30, 2024.

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A

#### SELECTED INTERVIEWEES

Dear Respondent,

I am carrying out a survey on *“Members of Parliament and their constituents Relations in the 8<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Ghana: An Insight from Trobu Constituency of Greater Accra Region of Ghana”*. It is against this background that you have been randomly selected to participate in the research as a participant. It would thus be very helpful if you would assist in the interview. You are required to provide the most appropriate answer in your opinion. This is for academic purposes and your responses will be kept confidential. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

.....

Brefo Samuel



## APPENDIX B

### INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR INTERVIEWEES

#### MPs AND THEIR CONSTITUENT'S RELATIONS IN THE 8<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT OF GHANA: AN INSIGHT OF TROBU CONSTITUENCY IN THE GREATER ACCRA REGION OF GHANA.

##### DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

1. Sex.....
2. How old are you? .....
3. Your position in the executive.....?
3. In what academic year are you.....?
5. In which year did you start the politics?



##### SECTION B

##### THE ROLE OF MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

6. How did the constituency get Member of Parliament?
7. What do you think are the roles of Member of Parliament?
8. Do you believe, MPs are able to service their constituent's well?
9. Do you think members of parliament are able to balance their parliamentary role with their constituency?

## **SECTION C**

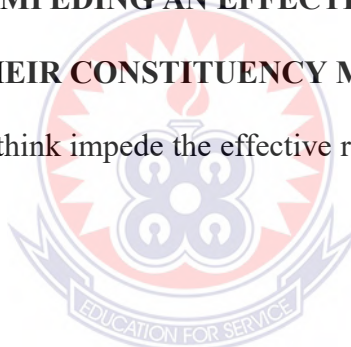
### **WAYS THE MPs RELATE TO THE CONSTITUENTS**

10. To what extent does the MPs relate to their constituent's after given he/she the mandate?
11. In what ways do the MPs use to relate the constituents?
12. In what ways do you think it is necessary for MPs to interact or relate with constituents members?

## **SECTION D**

### **THE CHALLENGES IMPEDING AN EFFECTIVE RELATION OF MPs AND THEIR CONSTITUENCY MEMBERS**

13. What factors do you think impede the effective relations of MPs to the constituent members?



## **SECTION E**

### **THE BENEFIT OF MPs RELATIONS WITH THE CONSTITUENTS**

14. What do you think are the benefit that the MPs gain if he/she relate well with the constituents?
15. What do you think are the benefit that the constituency will gain if they relate well with the MPs?