

Title: “A look at Dangme Community Parliamentary voting pattern: A comparative review of elections Held in the various constituencies and what is likely to Happen in 2016 between NDC and NPP in the Dangme Constituency”

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ABSTRACT

Aim:“If water stays too long in a bottle it stinks”-Shai-Osudoku CPP Parliamentary candidate said. Others have said, they have eaten Banku for too long and therefore they have to try Pizza also. I decided to conduct this research as a postdoctoral work after my PhD in alternative medicine for Dangme media limited publishers of the monthly Dangme newspaper. There are various meanings and calls for change of Parlimenatry candidates in the Dangme land come December 2016. Are these calls something to be manifested? Can the Dangme people reject the NDC come December 2016?

The Dangme land is for the National Democratic Party (NDC) but is the NDC for the good people of the Dangme land who have supported them faithfully not to talk of loyalty to the party for so many years. The people have started murmuring in the various constituencies as I toured the various constituecies in the course of my Dangme project aiming to redeem the Dangme land and bring it into national focus for discussion.

So special attention and developmental issues should be addressed. Most constituencies I toured some communities lack portable water, basic health needs, unempolymnt rates are very high, chieftiancy crisis with political undertones spiced the entire Dangme land et al . Most of the constituents believe they want to try a new thing , hence I have decided to conduct this research to assess the likelihood of what could happen come December 2016.

Method: First, An extensive tour of each of the eight(8) constituencies in the Dangme land was conducted with the **Dangme News** team from Dodowa, a community based newspaper circulating in the entire Dangme land. The paper is a montly publication widely read and circulated. We interviewed a sizeable number of people in these constituencies to find out their preffered parlimentary candidate and why they think the candidate is the best to lead them.

Secondly, An extenive research was conducted using search engines with parlimentary elections in each constituency in the Dangme land since 1996-2012 to asses the figures based on the interviews was conducted to see if they could be a surprise package in the Dangme land for the NDC as it is the stronghold of the Party and the Dangme people.

Result: After careful examination, 5(Five) of the sevent(7) constituencies in the Dangme appear very shaky for the National Democratic Party in the Dangme land. These are Sege, Ningongon, Upper Manya, Yilo, and Shai-Osudoku constituencies if the constituents maintain their stances to try a new thing and also from the figures from the previous elections held.

Conclusion:

Ever since I realized the mass potential of our lives, I've sub-consciously carried a mission to change the Dangme land. I have also thought that NDC would forever rule the Dangme land but from my extensive research I have to rethink now. Their quest to either dominate the area could meet a strong setback either this year or 2020 and after. The Dangme constiteuncies are likely to turn into a swing soon during parlimentatry elections because of certain factors.

Key words:*Shaky seats, NDC, NPP, Dangme Constiteuncies, Parlimentary elections, 5(five) constituencies*

Introduction.

The Dangmes are made up of seven tribes located in the Greater Accra and eastern region . The Dangme constituencies are located in these areas. We speak Dangme and we are Dangmes but with different dialects.

As I tour the Dangme land , I have seen strong desire by our people to change the voting pattern to make their parliamentary candidate not to take them for granted. This desire in the Dangme land all sound very brave and noble and grand. But is it possible? Is it really possible for the Dangme people to change the voting pattern, to make marked differences so that people hail them and shower them with praise?

Yes and no. From the resaerch the five (5) constueincies can have theirs now. The New Patrotic Party can wrestle some of these five come December or close the gap in the numbers in these constituencies to send a strong warning to the NDC for what is likely to happen to them in subsequent elections in the Dangme land.

Discussion

The Dangme community has seen only four(4) female candidates since 1996(**fig 1**) between the NDC and NPP. The NPP has presented more women than the NDC(**fig 1, fig 3**). The NDC presented a total of 33 candidates since 1996 against NPP 32(**fig 2**) and won all the seats in the Dangme land. Two seats are winnable by the NPP in 2016(**fig 4**) and the other three are also likely to be won(**fig 5**) . In this discussion I have grouped the shaky seats into two main categories; winnable meaning the NPP has higher chance of winning it and likely winnable meaning the NPP has to add some efforts to wrestle it.

The 5(five) Shaky seat for the NDC in this year election are:

1. Sege Constituency
2. Ningo-Prampram
3. Yilo
4. Upper Manya
5. Shai-Osudoku

1. The Case of Sege Constituency

Divine Aggorhom has proven to be a force to reckon with on the ticket of the NPP(**fig 7**)come December 2016 and he is set to win on his third appearance(**fig 8**)due to his previous performance.

The NDC parliamentary candidate now has a big task to contend with as Divine currently judging from his 2012 performance compared to any of the NPP candidate in the Dangme constituency has high chances of winning the seat this time around if the NDC candidate did not rise up. The people are currently ready to change gear come December 2016. Divine currently needs 3,119 votes to unseat the NDC candidate. Meaning the NDC candidate's votes would reduce to 13,792 to enable him sail through which is achievable judging from his performance in 2012 as against 2008 as a novice which the difference in 2008 was about 12,695(**Tab 7**)

1. The Case of Shai-Osudoku constituency

As of 2015, before the demise of the late NDC parliamentary candidate Desmond William Ocloo, the constituency was not part of the shaky seat partly because the NPP numbers were not encouraging (**Tab 1, 2, 4, 5**). But after his death it has become one. The major key thing influencing the project is tribal sentiment. Now the NPP has positioned itself as they have presented an indigen alongside the PPP. Gloria Akuffo was the only candidate on the ticket of the NPP could have won the seat (**Tab 3**) but she refused to bounce back after her first attempt.

The people of Shai traditional area have complained that they want somebody who is a local person from Shai to lead them because most of the time the people who led the NPP are from Osoduku and basically are not resident from the constituency. The NDC in the constituency is not a homogenous party as we used to know, it has become a heterogeneous party. There are big cracks in the party after the demise of the late Desmond William Ocloo and the subsequent election of her wife who is also not an indigene of the place.

Her opponent Dr. Kpessa-Whyte team are still aggrieved and have vowed not to show love to her by voting against her. They have not made any attempt to solve the rift. Currently some members of Kpessa's team have started campaigning openly for the NPP.

The woman compounded her woes by allegedly calling Kpessa "an evil" person publicly which didn't go well with his team members and they have vowed to show her the exit door. "I can't work with Kpessa he is evil" she is reported to have said on Joy fm news.

Kpessa had close to 4,000 votes in the primary and these members also have relatives and loved ones who were not able to vote. The NPP only needs additional 6,000 votes to add to their previous 6,991 in the year 2012 under the auspices of Hon. Daniel Dugan which people say he really didn't live up to expectation. Dugan had no world bank in the constituency but the current candidate Oyortey is likely to

sweep the votes from Kordiebe to Doryumu which would go along way to unseat the NDC to be able to win the seat.

In this case, the NDC 18,089 secured in 2012(**Tab 5**) has to reduce and would be affected by the loss of the 6,000 votes which now in the constituency is not a major problem because of the current situation. There is a great plot to make the woman either unpopular or let her lose the election. some opinion leaders are not in support of a woman to lead them in the constituency. Interesting times ahead.

2. The Case of Ningo- Prampram

Another interesting Shaky seat for the NDC come December in this constituency. The NPP performed poorly in this constituency(**Tab 14, 15, 16, 17**) until the emergence of Sylvester Tetteh in 2012 to save the NPP (**fig 9, Tab 18, fig 10**)

The people of Old Ningo or Great Ningo as they call it are very angry because they alleged Hon. Enoch Teye Mensah neglected the development of Ningo and focused extensively in the development of Prampram. It is believed he hails from there. The people of Old Ningo have complained of poor road networks et al. Another conflict that exists is that the people are calling for new district assembly also there. They think the Prampram one should have been sited at Old Ningo and not Prampram.

“Great Ningo would not bow to Prampram” they said.

These made the people to introduce Sam George from Ningo to challenge Hon. E.T.Mensah and eventually won and this shocked the political airwaves but after his election some comments and posture of his have made the people to rethink. However, E.T .Mensah also said according to myjoyonline.com April 16, 2016, that there was ‘no election’ in the constituency

Some sections of the people in Shai-Osudoku have also said they would campaign against him in his constituency for supporting Dr. Kpessa –Whyte and fuelling Machomen in the constituency to aid Kpessa's bid.

Currently, some disgruntled members of Hon. E.T.Mensah are also not in support of his bid and his counter attacks and peaceful negotiations not reached could go against him as the NPP man Sylvester Tetteh known as Sly needs just 4,056 votes to add to his previous 17,122(**Tab 18, fig 9, fig10**) votes which he obtained in 2012.

In this case the NDC 21, 178(**Tab 18**) votes obtained by E.T. Mensah would reduce to 17, 122 for him to win for the first time. This is achievable as he being a new entrant in 2012 was able to pull 17,122 votes as against his predecessor Abed Tawiah Okorno who polled 6,196 for the NPP in 2008(**Tab 17**). Sly was able to add 10,926 votes. A huge achievement meaning he is marketable and NDC has a great task to do to avert any danger.

The woes of Sam George further compounded with his own traditional area chiefs the Ningo Traditional Council where he is at loggerheads with the Acting President of the Council, Nene Kanor Attiapah(III) where he called him a 'lawless leader' in public(ghanapolitics.com, April, 26, 2016). Some of the traditional leaders have said that they would upset Sam George's campaign(Kasapafmonline.com, April, 25, 2016)

Recently a group by name the Traditional NDC Members of the Ningo Prampram Constituency have issued a press release saying the constituency has no parliamentary candidate(ghanapolitics.com, jul, 12, 2016)

Sly is getting the favour from his people also he is from Ningo but Prampram is still the base of the NDC .

“There is no NPP Office in Prampram, we don’t know where it is located if you are still looking for it then go to Ningo” Some Taxi Drivers said at Prampram when we asked of NPP Office.

Recently the National Tribute investigative team reported exclusively that National Democratic Congress (NDC) even before the December 7 general elections, has lost the seat to the opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP).

“There is massive evidence in the constituency that the woeful failure of the Parliamentary Candidate to cut down his egos and "tie the knot" with his contender and one Micheal Tetteh Kwetey who is known as 'the darling boy' of both traditional areas, the Ningo and the Prampram, he is deliberately handing over the seat to the New Patriotic Party candidate, Sylvester Tetteh”. The paper reported.

The paper also said that some branch executives have issued a stern warning to the National Executives of the party to deal with a petition they addressed to them over Sam George's candidature, failure of which they have threatened to proceed to court.

According to the paper, over two hundred supporters of the PC in the constituency declared to vote skirt and blouse in the forthcoming general elections by voting for President John Dramani Mahama and Sylvester Tetteh, the New Patriotic Party (NPP) parliamentary candidate for the area.

The paper further said that the defectors explained their decision is premised on some antics being exhibited by Sam George in the constituency which they consider is not good for the image of the party in the future as they fear that the President might also lose in the area.

Sam George seems to have angered some members of his own party in Prampram and its environs who are eager to ensure that he loses the December 7 polls.

The defectors include over 50 branch members from Afienea, Dawhenya, Abbey-Kope, Mobole, and Mataheko, in the Ningo-Prampram Constituency.

They were of the view that the manner in which Sam George is misusing the name of the President to deceive people in the area is alarming, and they think this can be a big blow for the party.

Leader of the defectors, Marmah Mantey Francis, who was also a campaign coordinator for Sam George, pointed out that "Sam George is not helping the party's image in the area since he won the primaries.

He noted that Sam George does not respect the elderly, including chiefs. He is disturbed by such a behaviour which he believes, will aggravate the anti Sam George influence.

According to him, in as much as they are NDC members, they will love someone with good manners such as Sylvester Tetteh to lead Ningo-Prampram since he has respect for everyone and he has not exhibited any bad habits that warrant any negative against him since he declared his intention to represent the area in parliament. The paper revealed.

Sly on the other hand is also suffering from internal wrangling with his Chairman as our research team uncovered in the constituency. This Could be a great disasters for him if not addressed well as the election draws closer.

3. The Case of Upper Manya

Another strong constituency for the NDC(**Tab 19, 20**)until Gustav came in (**Tab 21**) to improve on the vote in 2004. However, his performance declined in 2008 (**Tab 22**). In 2012, a new candidate took over to increase the vote again(**Tab 23**)

Currently the constituency is interesting in Asesewa area, the NPP candidate Joseph Tetteh affectionately called 'JoeTee' has become the darling boy of the people especially in the villages where he has provided some interventions to the farming communities, such as providing cutlasses, bore holes, paying school fees to the needy etc. he is always in touch with his people and his presence is always felt in the constituency at funeral grounds everywhere. I have decided to call him the 'Darling boy' of his people.

The NDC candidate Hon. Jeff Kavianu is also having some challenges with his own party faithfuls after the primaries where some people believed there was a foul play that enabled him to win the primaries. Some have resorted to writing letters to the leaders and others calling for a new primaries in the constituency.

Tribal sentiment is one key issue on the card here also as they have started saying the NDC candidate is an ewe and they now want their own Dangme person to lead them.

“The election is a one touch victory for the NPP candidate , we are even happy that the NDC still chose Jeff as their candidate and we want it like this” one NPP executive said at Asessewa.

At Asessewa market it was about argument on who is likely to win the parliamentary election and more are in favour of the NPP man.

The NPP needs 7,020 to win the seat from the NDC. The NPP has fielded a new candidate who is doing very well in the constituency who can manage this additional 7,020 votes to add to his predecessor's votes of 8,904 in 2012 (**Tab 23**). The NDC in 2012 obtained 15,924 (**Tab 23**) under Jeff but with the happenings in the constituency between Jeff and his opponent who still rejected the NDC primaries result it is a big problem in the constituency.

4. The Case of Yilo Krobo

After 1996 (**Tab 29**) Yilo NPP numbers have also improved (**Tab. 30, 31, 32, 33**) Lawyer Amoanteng the NDC candidate would have to battle it with Francis Djetse Appertey the NPP candidate who is known as "Showman" in the constituency. He is seen everywhere like the Upper Manya 'Joetee'. The battle is a must watch in the constituency.

Appertey would have to cough additional 12,074 votes to add to his predecessor's vote of 14,510 (**Tab 33**) he obtained in 2012 as against the NDC candidate votes of 26,584 (**tab 33**). In this case the NPP must poll these voters from the NDC camp to reduce their numbers drastically so that the NDC candidate now gets 14,510 in 2016. But with his constant touch with the people especially in the villages he has become the darling boy of the people with some major interventions he has put in place in assisting the people in the constituency.

The Yilo NPP executives are united, he is on a good footing with his Party Chairman and the others who contested the primary with him. Magnus Kofi Amoateng has a big task ahead to be able to retain the seat.

Winable seat for the NPP in 2016

1. Sege – because of candidate’s previous performance
2. Ningo-Prampram- because of candidate’s previous performance

Likely Winable with little efforts in 2016

1. Yilo- because of the candidate being a new entrant, situations on the ground and the figures already available.
2. Shai-Osudoku- because of the candidate being a new entrant, situations on the ground and the figures already available
3. Upper Manya- because of the candidate being a new entrant, situations on the ground and the figures already available

Difficult to be won in 2016

1. Ada- Because candidate works in the constituency and the figures big for NPP to close the gap
2. Lower Manya- Hon. Terlabi is a force against the NPP candidate to reckon with.

Ada& Lower Manya Constituency: NPP Needs Extraordinary candidate to win .

Ada and Lower Manya Constituency are one of the seven constituencies that would need extraordinary candidates and extraordinary works from the NPP candidates and the constituency executives to be able to either make a difference in the voting pattern or cause a change and win the seat. Though Lower Manya throughout the Dangme land the NPP numbers are very encouraging yet cannot produce any result **(Tab 24,25,26,27,28)**

In Ada, the honorable woman, Comfort Doyoe Cudjoe Ghansah of the NDC is a force to reckon with . She has gradually won the heart of the people with some of her interventions in the Communities. She is very active on social media using the platform to showcase interventions going on in the constituency. It would take a miracle to unseat her. Ada appears to be too strong for the NPP(**Tab10,11,12,13**) as the NPP even failed to contest in 1996(**Tab 9, fig 6**)

In Lower Manya, though some are complaining about Hon. Terlabi, he would still go through because the NPP needs a very active candidate and major social intervention by their candidate to be able to convince the people. Others are also of the view that the NPP candidate is not really active and portrays some kind of I don't care attitude and also not ready to invest into the campaign

I don't think it's possible to change the voting pattern now in these two constituencies because of several factors there. You see, there are differences between changing the voting pattern or trend in the Dangme constituencies, and making a difference in the voting pattern in the dangme land, which is important to recognize because I believe you can do one but you can't do the other in these three areas. The figures of the election held previously are huge and the NPP parliamentary candidate should also be active. What the NPP candidate needed to do now is either to use the Star fish metaphor to address it. Let me explain with a famous story which you might have heard already but if not then read on.

How these two constituencies can use the Starfish Story

There's a story of a man throwing starfishes into the sea, which I'll do my best to remind you of.

An elderly man was walking along the beach, admiring the beautiful view. As he walked, he noticed that a large group of starfishes had

been washed ashore by the receding tide, and they were struggling to get back to the water. The man was saddened by this turn of events, but accepted that there was nothing he could do to change anything.

The man walked on, continuing to notice the large numbers of helpless starfishes, until he saw another man in the distance standing at the water's edge amongst the starfishes. Curious, the elderly man walked over to him, wondering what he was up to.

As he got closer, the elderly man could see that the younger man was picking up starfishes, one by one, and throwing them back out into the sea. Astonished, the elderly man got close enough for the other man to hear him, and then he called out.

“Hey! What on earth are you doing?”

The younger man turned to him and smiled, then turned back to the sea, still continuing his duty of picking up and throwing starfishes.

“I’m helping these starfishes get back into the ocean.”

The elderly man couldn’t believe it, why was this man wasting his time throwing starfishes back? There were thousands of them here, it would take him days! He voiced his thoughts.

“Why are you throwing them back? There’s thousands of them here, it’ll take you forever! How can you possibly hope to make a difference to these starfishes?”

Remaining calm, the younger man continued his duty without looking at the elderly man. Just as he threw another starfish back into the ocean, he replied.

“I made a difference to that one.”

The moral of the story sums up my point about wanting to make a difference in the voting trend by the NPP candidates in these areas if only they want and not seeing themselves as orphans. If you see yourselves as orphan, others sees you as such and no one wants to

do that investment. They can make a difference to individuals, even to groups of people. A rare few of us may even influence whole communities and societies. But to change the voting pattern and go into the favor of NPP now is impossible, outright? To throw thousands of starfishes into the ocean single-handedly? I'm afraid this isn't possible. They must be looking at improving their votes or increasing the number in the constituency and one day they would get there as my research portrays.

Why isn't this possible? Part of it is because of the nature of the people and other factors right now – there are funds available to the NDC candidates and the marketability of the party and the perceived mind the people have in effect today, and they have made significant and important strides towards solving the constituencies voting ailments. But, no matter how much more work they achieve, I fear that the ailments will still exist. There will still be problems. Remove a corrupt leading group, and another one springs up in its place. Lift up a third-world country from poverty, and another one falls back into it. Save a species from being hunted, and the hunters find another species to kill.

But there's another, bigger reason. The other reason why changing the voting pattern in these areas to go in favor of the NPP now isn't possible, and I believe this is the main reason, Parliamentary candidate and the constituents need to change themselves first or they have finally realized they need change and developments like the shaky ones I used in this research.

This is the defining element of change – change begins within.

We Can Only Change Ourselves

Do you remember the Mother Teresa quote? It goes something like this:

“If everyone only cleaned their own doorstep, the whole world would be clean.”

What does this say to you? To me, it says that we can only change ourselves, and our first priority should be changing our ways and beliefs, cleaning our own doorsteps. If you believe you are an orphan constituency, you will remain an orphan constituency. Change your mindset simple and the people will follow!

How can I lead others if I can't lead myself? How can others trust me, or I trust others, if I first can't trust myself? How can I love others if I can't love myself? All these require change within to achieve.

The NPP challenge in the Dangme Land.

The difference between the NPP and the NDC is that, the NDC has no boundaries but NPP has boundaries. I have not heard any one mentioning orphan constituency in the Dangme constituency but I have heard the NPP executives mentioning orphan constituencies in the Dangme land.

"The party considers our constituency as an orphan one so they don't pay much attention let alone invest or support us" one constituency NPP chairman lamented their ordeal with the party hierarchy

"The NDC tries everything possible to improve on their votes in every constituency that they think they are not doing well, but the NPP considers these constituencies as orphan ones so they sit down and do nothing practically to even improve or let alone try to win the seat". One also complained.

This is the problem in the Dangme land NPP. The executive and the people fold their arms because they themselves have given up because they have considered themselves as orphans. because they have considered themselves losers of the race already. If you are going to war and your leader concedes defeat then what will the others do? Nothing, absolutely!

They need unity as I say, it's not the constituency or the people that needs to change, it's you rather.

If you change the people within the constituency, the constituency then changes as a result – it's not the other way round.

“Be the change you want to see in the world” – Mahatma Gandhi.
So , I say.

Over the months and years I've made some changes in my life, and it has made my surrounding environment a much better place to live in. I believe this is testament to the thinking I've offered in this research article, and I believe you can do the same with your own lives.

The NPP must practice practical forgiveness in most of the Dangme constituencies before they can move on. Most of the constituencies in the Dangme constituencies still have their Chairmen and the Candidate still at loggerheads. Some of their candidates are suffering even to campaign because of lack of funds.

Statetment of the Problem

The NPP has never won any pralimentary seat in the Dangme community since 1992. Some have also said that irrespective of whoever contest on the ticket of the NDC being it 'goat' or not once there is the NDC flag automatically wins the seat. Is it true?

Can they do it this year or they still would have to wait ? Most Dangmes believe that the NDC has ruled them for 23umpressive years and politics is like finding cure for cancer, it is not luxury, it is human needs so no one should use this need for personal gains.

Some also believe that the lack of change in their parlimenatry candidate and voting on the same train is the major setback of

development in the Dangme land and because of that the NDC members of parliament have taken them for granted. Some believe that making the Dangme land a swing one would go along way to change the face of the Dangme land.

Some also say that ethnicity matters in Ghanaian elections far more than socioeconomic variables but now the Dangme people are saying they are looking for development irrespective of the political party who their indigen contest on. Are they really saying the truth? Are they looking for develoment? Are they not receiving the development they desire from the NDC? What is the Dangme land problem when electiosn are concerned? Some have also said that the umbrella is the only hope for the Dangme community because in the olden days there were myths that if NPP wins the elephant would come out from the forest to kill them so most of them in the villages still have that mentality. Is that mentality also changing or it has changed now?

Can the NPP also help the Dangme people if they vote for their parliamentary candidate come December 7, 2016.

Research Coverage

The resaerch covers strictly the seven Dangme Constituencies as the Dangmes are made up of seven tribes.

Purpose of the Study

The study was conducted to assess the NPP's chances in the Dangme communities as they have never won any seat in the Dangme land. The indegenes have started calling for change in everywhere the **Dangme News team** tour in the Dangme land. They murmured and appeared to be aggrieved with their NDC parliamentary candidate and they are saying they would try the NPP candidate this time. Some have also said that they have eaten Banku for far too long and they have to try Pizza also. So the research was conducted to assess the

figures in the previous elections conducted especially from 2012 and what is likely to happen in 2016 with what they are saying on the ground in the Dangme communities.

Research Questions

Is the NDC the only hope for the Dangme communities?

Would the elephant also kill the Dangme people if they vote for the NPP?

Is changing their NDC parliamentary candidates will also pave way for development?

If water stays too long in a bottle does it really stink?

Have they eaten the Banku for far too long and there is the need for Pizza?

Are the Dangme people really looking for a change?

Has the NDC disappointed the Dangme people?

Can the NPP parliamentary candidate if voted for, develop the Dangme land?

Should the Dangme communities consider a swing ?

Have they really been voting for 'goats' as their members of parliament on the ticket of the NDC?

Significance of the Study.

The research has really exposed me to the political terrain in the Dangme constituencies and what can be done for both NPP and NDC in the Dangme communities to either win or lose their seat.

The research has also paved the way for what needs to be done especially for the NPP to either win a seat in the Dangme community in the future.

The research has also exposed my knowledge in the political terrain in the Dangme land.

It has also paved the way for me in dealing with the Dangme people and how to win their hearts in terms of politics in the near future.

The research has provided a clue for all parliamentary candidates of the NDC in the Dangme area for the need to wake up if they either want to maintain or lose their seats.

The research has also paved the way for the NPP parliamentary candidate on what they have to do to either win the seat or improve on their numbers

The research has also provided areas considered shaky for the NDC in December 2016.

Scope and Limitation of the study

The research is strictly conducted for the Dangme communities

The research relied on the electorates views and perception on what is happening in their various constituencies.

The research is strictly on the Dangme communities parliamentary election trend and what is likely to happen in December 7, 2016.

The research also relied on figures in the past parliamentary elections held especially using figures in 2012, the differences in the numbers between NDC and NPP and what is likely to happen.

The research was conducted as an observational study to assess what is ahead of the NDC and NPP parliamentary candidates come December, 7, 2016.

The research did not include the presidential election in Dangme communities.

Literature Review

One major factor I realized that has accounted for the NPP fortune in the Dangme constituencies is the Party not really marketed well to be attractive to the people. Our forefathers are used to referring the former president Jerry John Rawlings as the white man so they believed it is only a white man that can save their community. Our grandparents still believed that and when you are even taking them to the polling station to cast their votes, they would even challenge you that if you refused to allow them to place their thumb on the umbrella they would curse you. But now it seems the Dangme people are gradually changing with extensive education in the communities. Any political party that would consider a GaDangme candidate from 2020 as a flagbearer or Vice President position stands a good position to win their heart forever as how Rawlings had won their heart.

Fundamentally, elections in many developed countries across the world are usually based on competing ideas by competing interest groups. Most Dangme constituencies such as Yilo and others can boast of scholars and well educated people there. These assertions cannot be boasted of Shai-Osudoku even those scholars don't see the need for coming back to help in development before considering future political position so eventually when they arrive the people also show them the exit door.

Others have pressure groups which is also missing in Shai-Osudoku. These interest groups then organize and galvanize support in terms of voters and votes in an election to favour their interest or persuasions. These competing ideas could be in economic development, social protection and other mitigating policies to cushion the poor and the vulnerable in society, access to credit and

other business opportunities and good governance. These among others occupy the minds of politicians and candidates competing in an election.

Elections in many parts of the world have been fiercely contested by political parties and actors that are involved in it. The recent NDC primaries held in Shai-Osudoku, Upper Manya and Ningo Prampram are not without issues which is still affecting the constituencies. All because the people believed that they have been letdown by their Members of Parliament.

The reasons behind their decisions to contest for political power are wide and varied and can be viewed from different perspective depending on where you stand. In a similar vain, the decision to vote for a particular political party or candidate in an election also posits varied answers depending upon where one stands and views issues in global, national and local politics.

The factors that influence a voter's decision in an election differ from country to country. The indices surrounding the elections, the specific issues that are channelled out for political campaigning by the various parties and their messages, resources both human and capital all have an influential role in an election.

It is my considered opinion that, in electoral politics, the role of interest groups, pressure groups or civil society has a way of influencing electoral outcomes to suit one party or the other based on their interest and persuasions.

In the Dangme land, organized social groups such as market Women , the aged and other youth groups are very influential during election period and candidates had to lobby support and direct their campaigns towards these interest groups in various Dangme constituencies for their votes.

Research Methodology

Firstly, The research involves Dangme New team travelling to all the seven Dangme constituency as part of our effort to bring the Dangme community into the political limelight for future developmental agenda and discussion on the Dangme land.

Views of the electorate in each of the constituencies was sought in the coming parliamentary elections on who they would vote for as their Member of Parliament.

We also look at each of the parties structures especially unity in the constituencies and how it is likely to affect each candidate.

We also look at the developmental interventions each candidate has done in the constituencies.

Secondly, extensive research using online search engines was used to conduct the literature review, summarizing the body of evidence of the electoral results conducted in the Dangme constituencies from 1996-2012 to assess the trend and the figures difference to see if it can make any difference with what the electorates are also saying in the constituencies with keywords, parliamentary results in each of the Dangme constituencies.

Research Type

This was only conducted as an observational study to find out what is the likelihood of happening in 2016 in the Dangme communities

Data Representation And Analysis

Data analysis consists of examining, categorizing, tabulating or otherwise recombining the evidence, to address the initial propositions of the study. Data obtained was processed using tables

from 1992 to 2012 from each constituencies. Analysis was carried out using figures difference of parliamentary election held in a particular election year for assesment upon which findings and conclusion were drawn.

Table of Parliamentary Election Held in the Dangme Constituencies from 1996-2012

Tab 1. Shai-Osudoku 1996

Michael AfediGizo	NDC	14,814	65.80%	
Kwame Tetteh-korlyAgban	NPP	2,319	10.30%	
John AwukuDziwornu	CPP	1,108	4.90%	

Tab 2. 2000

Tab 3. 2004

Michael AfediGizo	NDC	10,562	50.60%	
Eric Abraham Nartey	NRP	4,844	23.20%	
AdjowerhNortey M. Teye	NPP	4,439	21.30%	
John AwukuDziwornu	CPP	785	3.80%	
Richard Agyemang	UGM	236	1.10%	
David TettehAssumeng	NDC	13,510	63.40%	
Gloria AfuaAkuffo	NPP	7,386	34.70%	
Elias Nomo Tetteh	CPP	293	1.40%	
Rex Isaac Kofi Addae	PNC	106	0.50%	

Tab 4.2008

David TettehAssumeng	NDC	14,725	65.60%	
Daniel Christian Dugan	NPP	5,565	24.79%	
Emmanuel MarteyTetteh	CPP	1,876	8.36%	
Albert Nartey	PNC	280	1.25%	

Tab 5. 2012

David TettehAssumeng	NDC	18,089	58.99%	
Daniel Christian Dugan	NPP	6,991	22.80%	
Emmanuel MarteyTetteh	PPP	5,069	16.53%	
Solomon NarhDorh	CPP	517	1.69%	

SEGE Constituency**Tab 6. 2004**

Alfred W. GbordzorAbayateye	NDC	9,286	54.90%	
Wing CmdrSogbodjor Nelson (rtd)	CPP	4,791	28.30%	
AkrofiAdzoteyeLawer	NPP	2,830	16.70%	

Tab 7.2008

Alfred W. GbordzorAbayateye	NDC	16,538	79.55%	
Divine OtooAgorhom	NPP	3,843	18.48%	
Victoria KorkorKpodo	CPP	409	1.97%	
Joshua Pupilampu	PNC	N/A	N/A	

Tab 8.2012

Otuteye Christian Corleytey	NDC	13,792	55.75%	
Divine OtooAgorhom	NPP	10,673	43.15%	
John TettehKitcher	PPP	179	0.72%	
Johannes NmonloteyKirkfield	CPP	59	0.24%	
Tettey Frank Korblah	NDP	34	0.14%	

Ada Constituency

Tab 9.1996

Amos LawerhBuertey	NDC	24,317	57.70%	
Apetorgbor Albert Adinortey	Ind	4,466	10.60%	
Patrick Nelson Sogbodjor	CPP	4,002	9.50%	

Tab 10. 2000

Amos LawerhBuertey	NDC	13,317	54.70%	
Wg Cdr.(rt) Patrick N. Sogbodj	CPP	9,688	39.80%	
Lorraine C. TekpekieDameh	NPP	965	4.00%	
HamiduKorley	PNC	157	0.60%	
Emmanuel AhumaOkoso T.	NRP	127	0.50%	
Doku Mabel Mamle	UGM	110	0.50%	

Tab 11. 2004

Alex NarhTetty-enyo	NDC	15,039	75.50%	
Kabutey Caesar	NPP	3,787	19.00%	
Richard OfotsuApronti	CPP	1,092	5.50%	

Tab 12. 2008

Alex NarhTetty-enyo	NDC	16,538	79.55%	
Kofi Plahar	NPP	3,843	18.48%	
Gordon ChiateyAmenya	CPP	409	1.97%	

Tab 13.2012

Comfort DoyoeCudjoeGhansah	NDC	19,749	72.92%	
Emmanuel TettehKabu	Ind	5,298	19.56%	
Betty AtsupeGorleku-quarshie	NPP	1,824	6.73%	

Leslie TettehPlahar	CPP	136	0.50%	
William NarhSappor	PPP	76	0.28%	

Ningo-Prampram Constituency

Tab 14. 1996

Enoch TeyeMensah	NDC	15,677	56.10%	
Desmond Nene Quaynor	NPP	1,569	5.60%	
Gwendolyn Sara Addo	Ind	1,537	5.50%	

Tab 15.2000

Enoch TeyeMensah	NDC	12,206	78.00%	
Gwendolyn Sarah Addo	NRP	1,463	9.40%	
Joseph GbliNuete	NPP	1,068	6.80%	
Jonathan TeyeNartey Jnr.	CPP	693	4.40%	
Benjamin Bernard Martey	UGM	215	1.40%	

Tab 16.2004

Enoch TeyeMensah	NDC	17,179	71.70%	
Samuel CarbooMartey	NPP	6,782	28.30%	

Tab 17.2008

Enoch TeyeMensah	NDC	18,339	71.47%	
Abed TawiahOkorno	NPP	6,196	24.15%	
Christian CharteyZuttah	Ind	639	2.49%	
AbdulaiNiiMartey	CPP	487	1.90%	

Tab 18.2012

Enoch TeyeMensah	NDC	21,178	54.06%	
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Sylvester Tetteh	NPP	17,122	43.71%	
Casmire Ni OkineMensh	PPP	447	1.14%	
Frederick MarmahMartey	CPP	429	1.10%	
Michael Kwetey	NDP	N/A	N/A	

Upper Manya Constituency

Tab 19. 1996

Solomon TetteyTerkper	NDC	15,390	43.30%	
Emmanuel AnsahNartey	Ind	4,827	13.60%	
Charles KwesiNarh	NCP	3,173	8.90%	
Joe Sam	NPP	2,644	7.40%	
Martin AdamaOkai	PNC	587	1.70%	

Tab 20.2000

Stephen KwaoAmoanor	NDC	11,795	60.90%	
Joe Sam	NPP	3,151	16.30%	
Narh Charles Kwesi	NRP	2,631	13.60%	
Terkper Solomon Tettey	CPP	1,090	5.60%	
Martin AdamaOkai	PNC	452	2.30%	
TeyeKwadjo Francis	UGM	261	1.30%	

Tab 21.2004

Stephen KwaoAmoanor	NDC	15,764	60.90%	
Gustav Jonathan Narh- Dometey	NPP	9,912	38.30%	
RansfordNarteyMatey	PNC	225	0.90%	

Tab 22.2008

Stephen KwaoAmoanor	NDC	14,398	66.87%	
Gustav Jonathan Narh- Dometey	NPP	6,639	30.84%	
Tei Gideon Kpabitey	PNC	315	1.46%	
Francis TeyeKwadjo	CPP	178	0.83%	

Tab 23.2012

Jeff Kavianu	NDC	15,924	60.19%	
Moses TettehBerimah	NPP	8,904	33.65%	
Djembi John Lawer	Ind	1,297	4.90%	
Fred TeyeTetteh	PPP	166	0.63%	
Rudolf NarhYohuno	CPP	105	0.40%	
Ayer Theophilus	GFP	37	0.14%	
Nicholas Tetteh	NDP	25	0.09%	

Lower Manya constituency**Tab 24.1996**

Michael NyaunuTeye	NDC	24,763	59.50%	
Kodjiku Lawrence Kpabitey	NPP	5,718	13.70%	
Robert KwesiNartey	PNC	482	1.20%	
Samuel Terlabie	CPP	N/A	N/A	
John TettehAkerter	EGLE	N/A	N/A	

Tab 25. 2000

Michael NyaunuTeye	NDC	13,876	53.00%	
Henry DemaNarh	NPP	9,291	35.50%	
Gabriel NaterApafloAccam	CPP	1,600	6.10%	
Thomas NarhBatsa	NRP	1,062	4.10%	
Robert NarteyKwesi	PNC	361	1.40%	

Tab 26. 2004

Michael NyaunuTeye	NDC	18,571	52.70%	
MrsDifieAgyarkoKusi	NPP	15,228	43.20%	

AnimAmartey Francis Cecil	Ind	704	2.00%	
Emmanuel Kwame AdjeiOkrah	CPP	286	0.80%	
Robert NarteyKwesi	PNC	238	0.70%	
Cecilia KosiAkuerter	EGLE	221	0.60%	

Tab 27. 2008

Michael NyaunuTeye	NDC	19,497	55.92%	
Emmanuel KwabenaAgyarko	NPP	14,800	42.45%	
Foster Emmanuel Okley	CPP	283	0.81%	
Peter TeyeBatsa	PNC	229	0.66%	
Abraham TeyeLarkotey	DFP	58	0.17%	

Tab 28. 2012

Ebenezer OkletyTerlabi	NDC	24,367	53.02%	
DedoAgyarkoKusi	NPP	16,181	35.21%	
Hon. Michael TeyeNyaunu	Ind	3,658	7.96%	
Joshua TettehNarh	PPP	1,488	3.24%	
Atter Joseph Korley	GCPP	131	0.29%	
Foster Emmanuel Okley	CPP	92	0.20%	
Peter TeyeBatsa	PNC	40	0.09%	

YiloKrobo constituency**Tab 29. 1996**

Daniel Tekpertey	NDC	22,688	49.40%	
Priscilla Esther Mensa Nee Krob	EGLE	6,482	14.10%	
Abayah Victor Kwabla	NPP	5,894	2.80%	
Lovelace Emmanuel Odonkor	CPP	N/A	N/A	

Tab 30. 2000

Daniel Tekpertey	NDC	13,960	49.10%	
Christian Kofi Tettey	NPP	9,264	32.60%	
Jonas TettehNumo	NRP	3,425	12.00%	
Dominic Tetteh Kofi	CPP	1,112	3.90%	

Hassan KwekuCarboo	PNC	482	1.70%	
Joseph KwekuAyerteye	UGM	213	0.70%	

Tab 31. 2004

Christian Kofi Tettey	NPP	13605	37.4
Francis OpaiTetteh	CPP	1728	4.7
Ms Esther Korboe	EGLE	369	1
Raymond Tawiah	NDC	20685	56.8

Tab 32. 2008

Raymond Tawiah	NDC	18,345	52.53%	
Christian Kofi Tettey	NPP	13,658	39.11%	
Francis OpaiTetteh	CPP	2,598	7.44%	
Terkpetey Fred Kwasi	PNC	325	0.93%	

Tab 33. 2012

Magnus Kofi Amoatey	NDC	26,584	61.49%	
Christian Kofi Tettey	NPP	14,510	33.56%	
Adamtey Ebenezer Jones Dendenden	NDP	981	2.27%	
Nenebi Daniel Gerald Tettey-akomey	Ind	539	1.25%	
Patrick Addo Newman	PPP	444	1.03%	
Asem Ebenezer Tetteh	CPP	176	0.41%	

Fig. 1

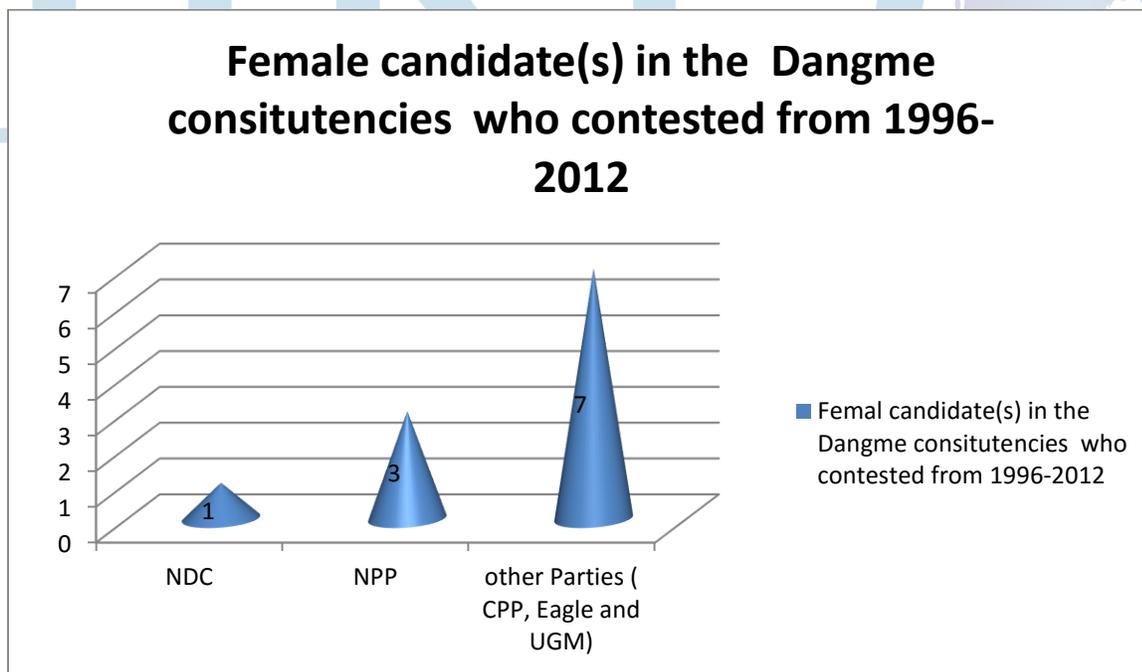


Fig 2

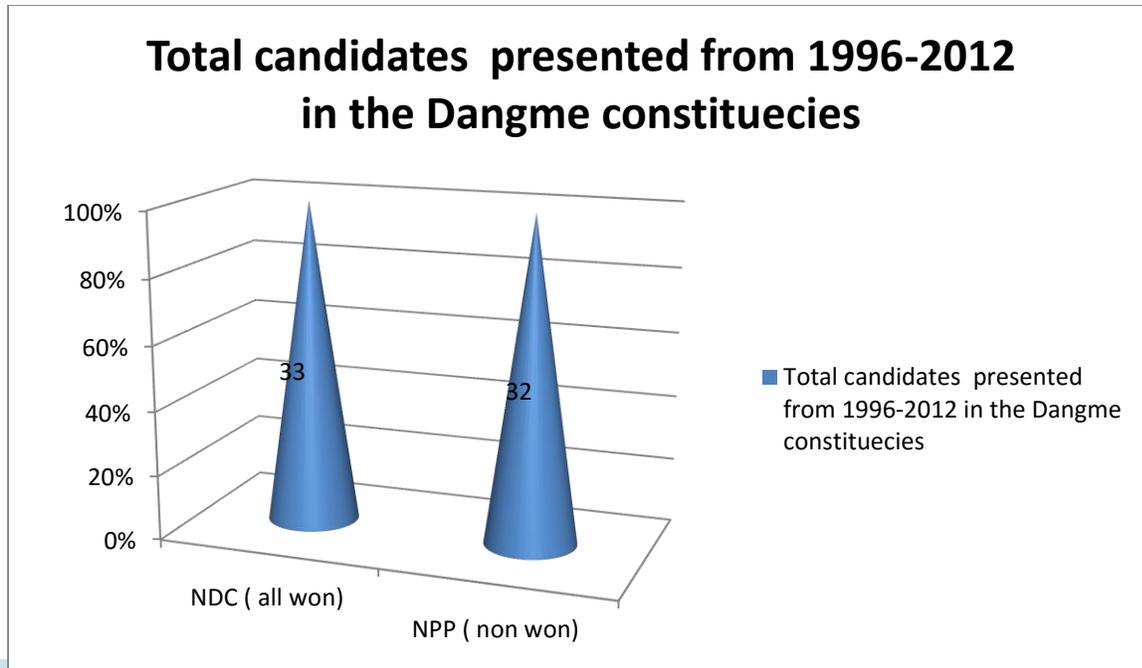


Fig 3

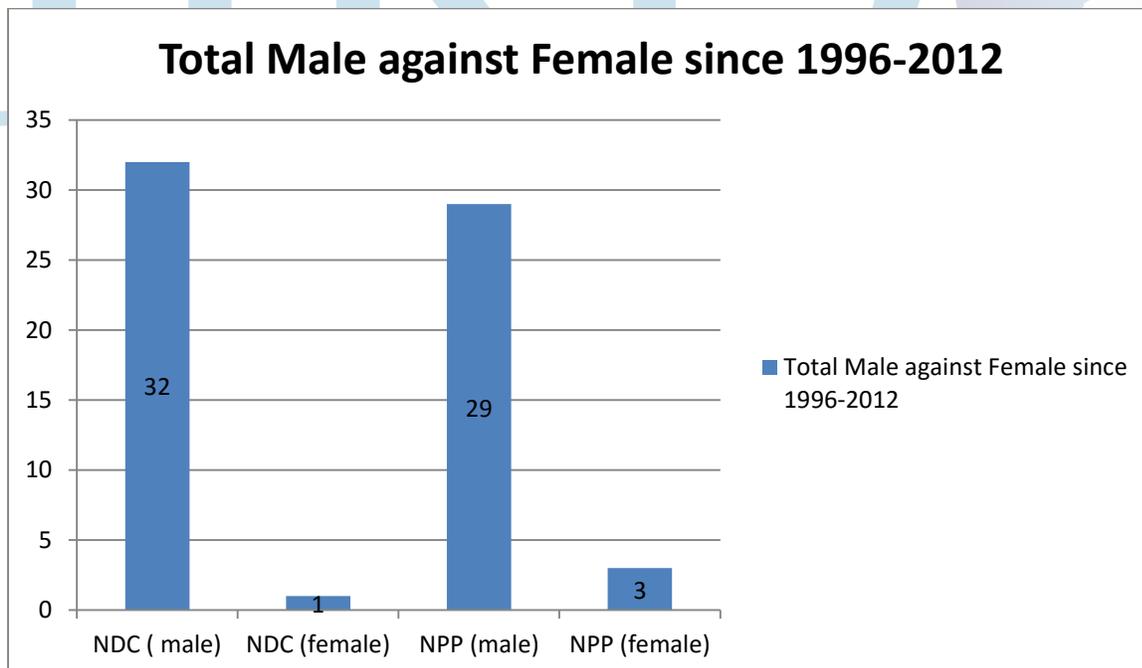


Fig 4

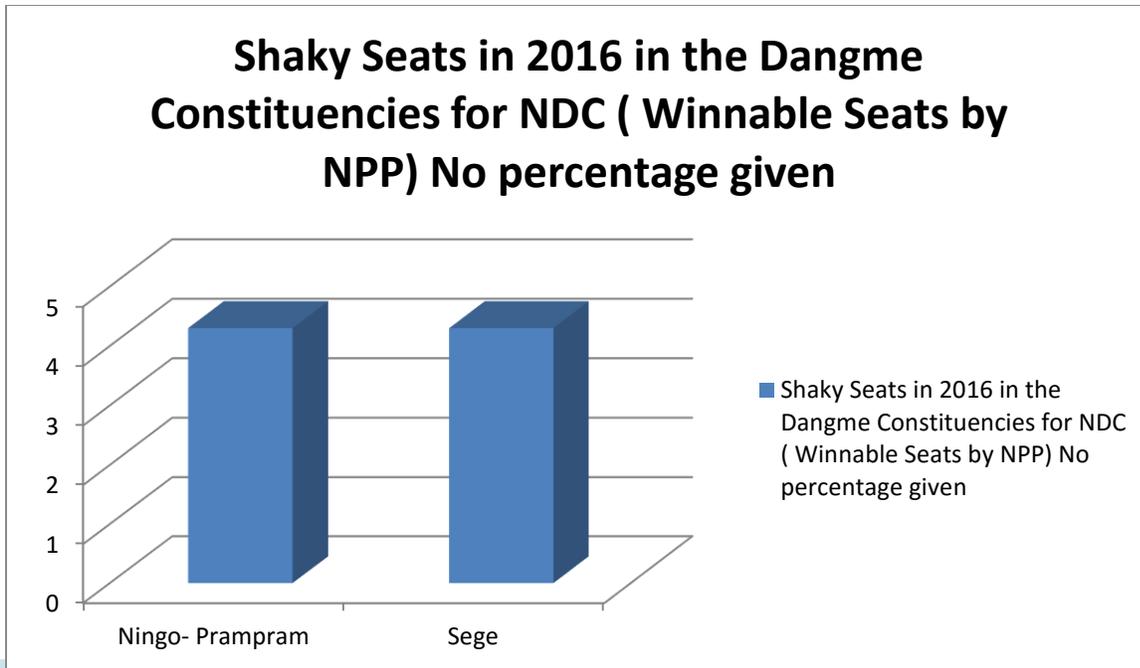


Fig 5

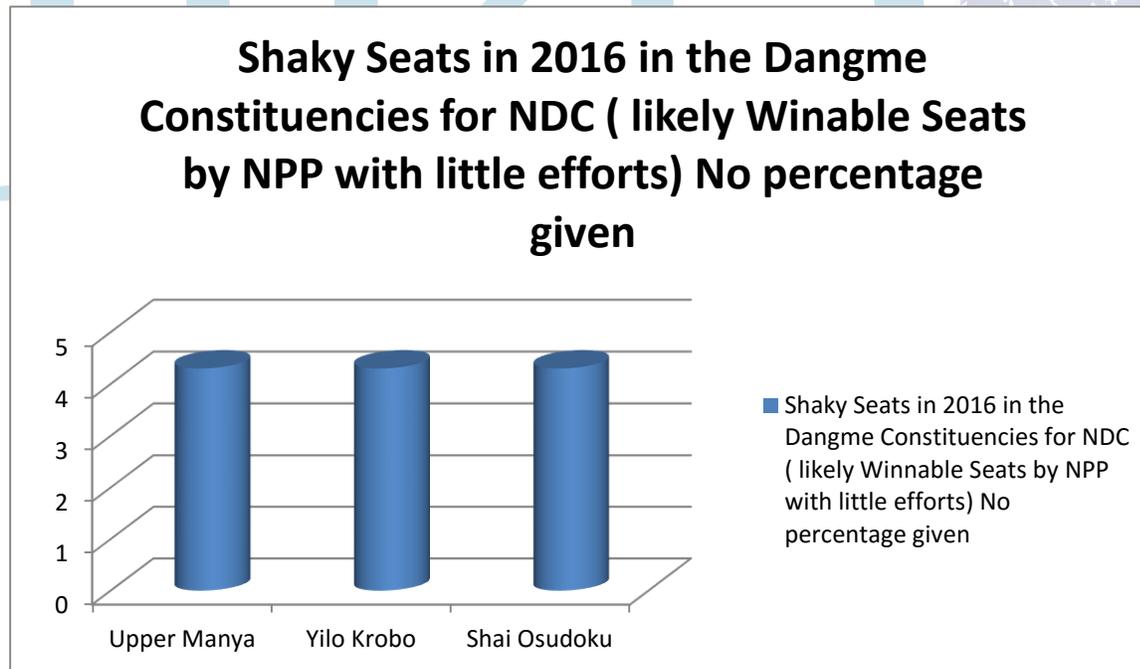


fig 6

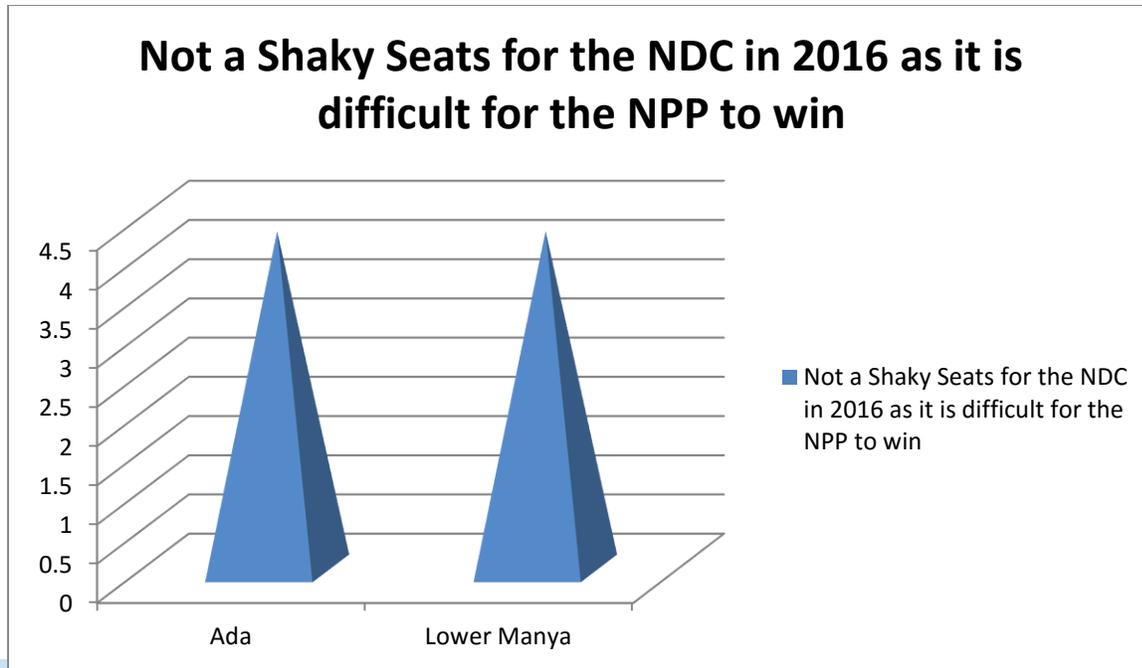


Fig 7

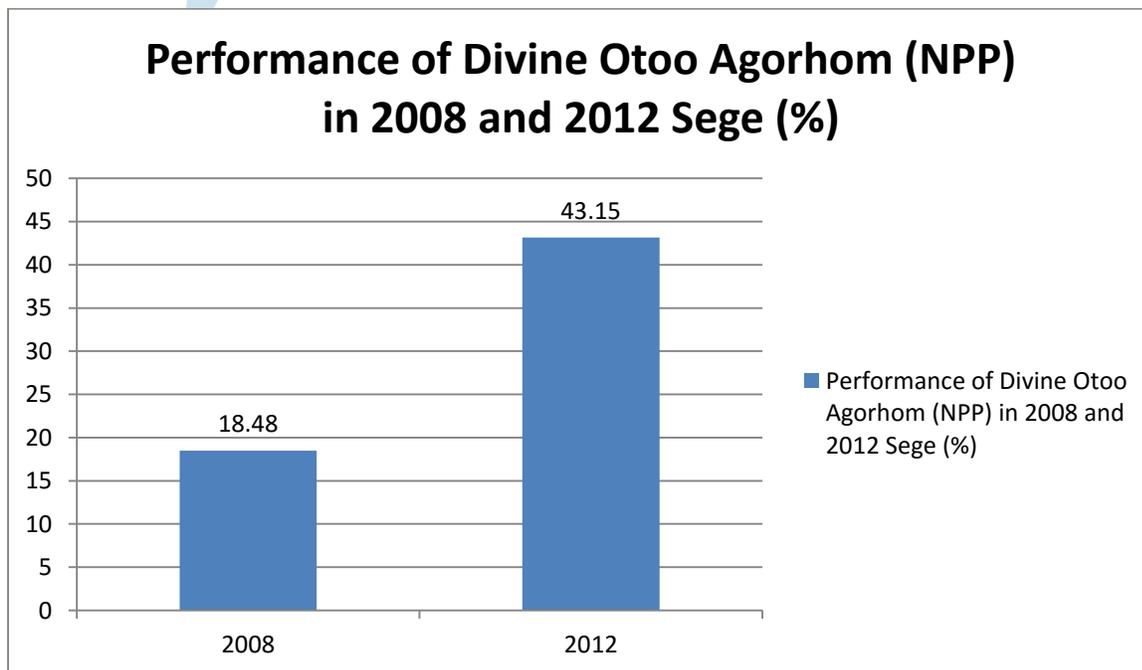


Fig 8

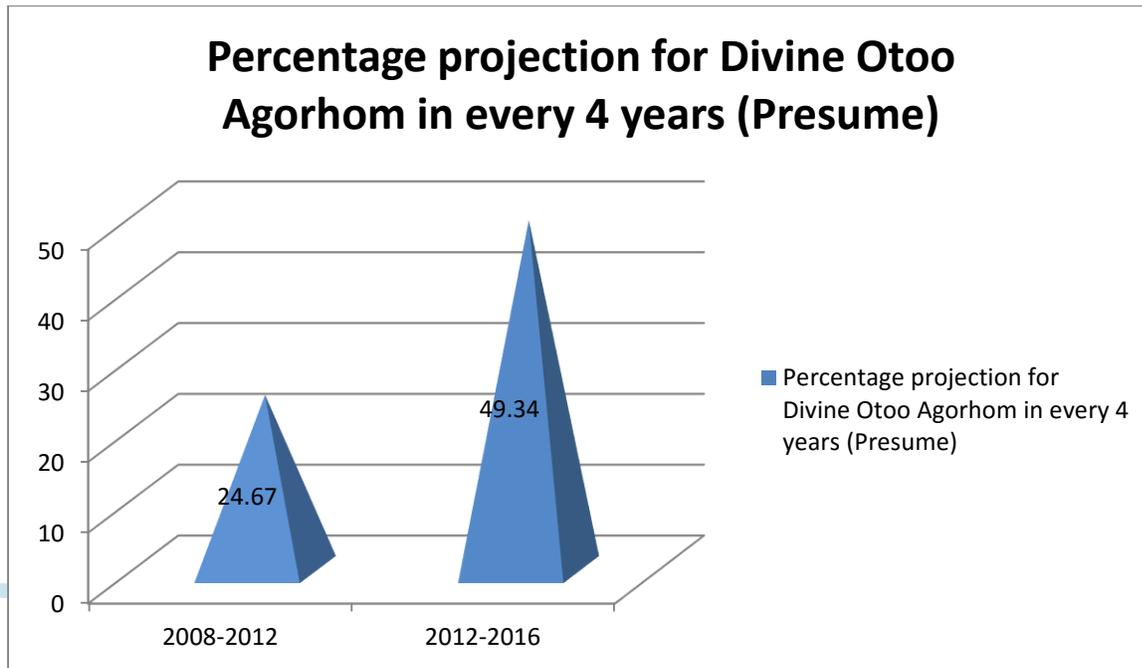


Fig 9

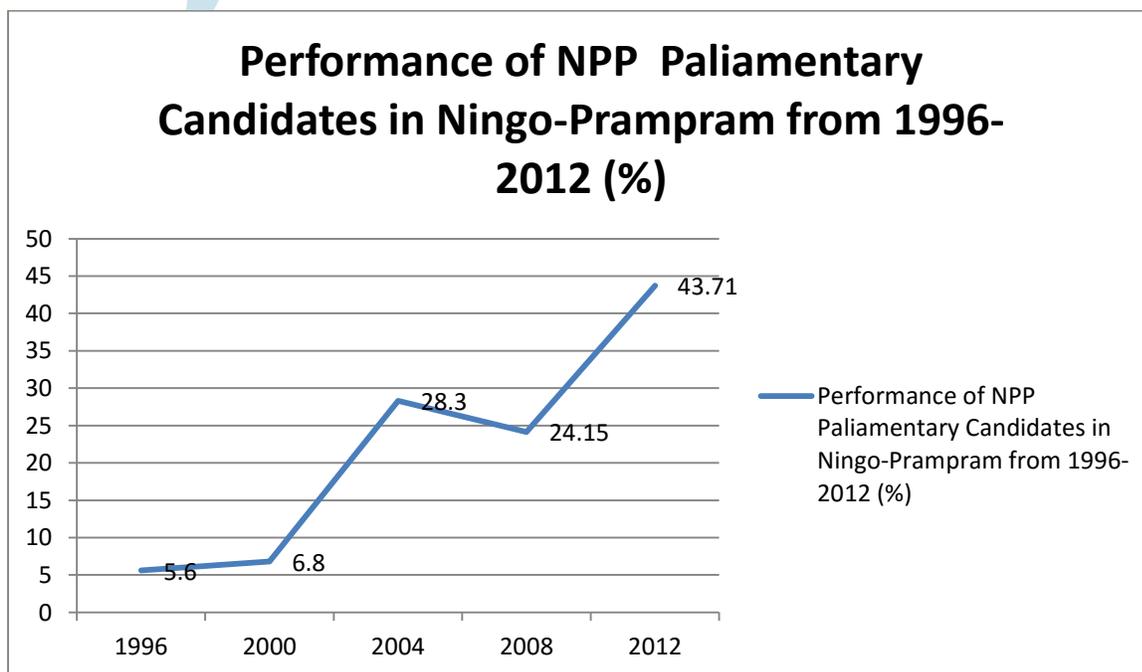
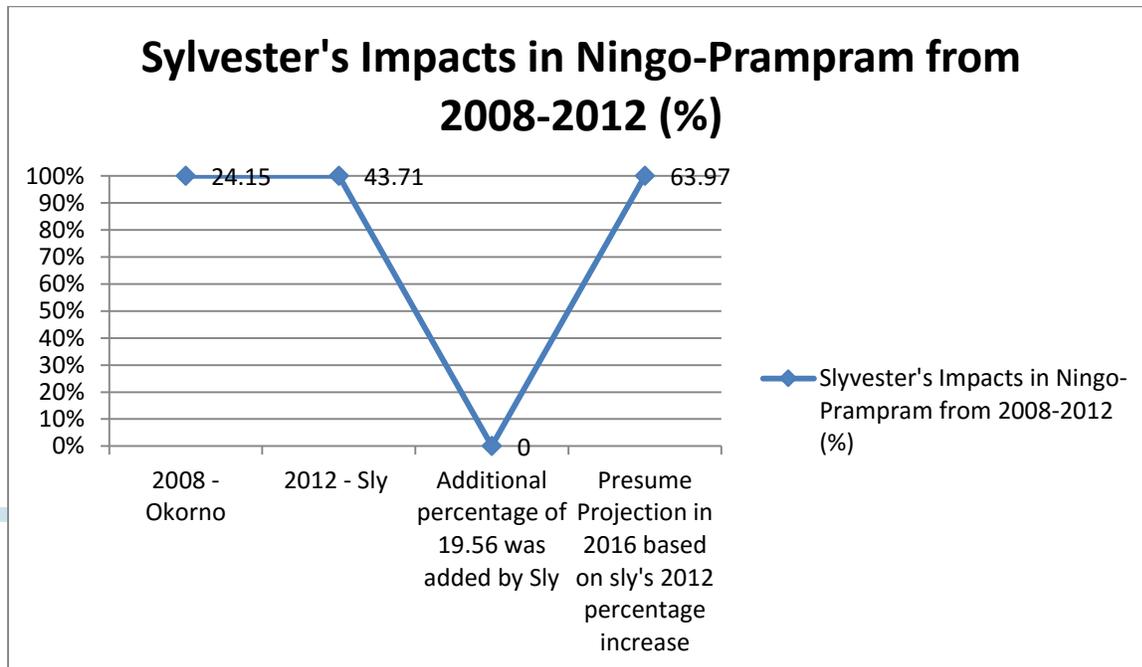


Fig10

Findings of the Study.

The NDC members of parliament numbers keep on decreasing in most of the Dangme land.

The resarch also proved that 5 constituencies are really a shaky one with two seat winneable(fig meaning the percenatge of NPP winning these seats are very high as I proposed 90% now. These are Sege and Ningo Prampram. The other three Yilo Krobo, Upper Manya and Shai-Osudoku are aslo likley of winnable if the NPP candidate improve their weight.

The NPP is likley to set a first straight record of securing a seat in the Dangme land come December 2016 which would go along way to help them in the election

The Dangme people are now looking for developmental minded Members of Parliament and not political parties anymore.

Conclusion:

The Dangme land is gradually changing their attitude towards the NDC and lots of factors are accounting for this. The NDC numbers keeps on decreasing in every election as the NPP keeps on improving in their Parliamentary bid. The country Ghana and political analyst show watch out for the Dangme constituencies come December 2016. These five Constituencies are very Shaky for the NDC and are likely winnable

Recommendations

Though the constituents are looking for change, the NPP candidates should work very hard. They should improve on their internal wrangling in some of the constituencies especially in NingoPrampram, Lower Manya and Shai-Osudoku.

Shai -Osudoku NDC candidate can only maintain the seat if she is able act as a leader in the constituency or alternatively unless the President visit the constituency to campaign and ask the constituent to forgive each other. The Dangme land is a must watch constituency in 2016.

Political parties should also consider a GaDangme person as a flagbearer or a Vice President position after 2016 general election as a party that does it would win their heart forever.

Funding

Funding was provided by Dangme media limited publishers of Dangme Newspaper to conduct the research in the Dangme land.

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