

VISUALISING GHANA'S 2020 ELECTION (SKIRT & BLOUSE VOTING)

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Many Ghanaians will agree with me that the 2020 election was not the problem-filled-long-queue election that we've had in times past. The voting process was smooth and convenient. Personally, I spent less than 5 minutes at the polling station. The current EC Chairperson, Madam Jean Adukwai Mensa and her team deserve to be applauded for the good work done!

Out of curiosity, I made a map using GIS to visualise the election results. It's interesting to see that out of the 275 constituencies in Ghana, NPP & NDC won 169 seats and 106 seats respectively in the 2016 election. Last year (2020), NPP won 137 seats and NDC 135 seats according to the data on the Peace FM online election website as at 10/12/2020, 10:00am. This data reflects the votes of 273 out of 275 constituencies. The difference is staggering and a clear case of "Skirt and Blouse" voting. See Image 1 below. "Skirt & Blouse" voting refers to the practice of supporting a presidential candidate from one party and a member of parliament from another. The term is most commonly used in Ghana but has also been reported in a number of other countries." (Oxford Reference, 2021)

I wonder what accounts for the difference? Do the people favor the president elect of the NPP party than his MPs? What did NDC do differently to gain 47 new seats and lose 17 seats to NPP? What did the NPP government not do better to gain 17 seats and lose 48? What can both parties do differently going forward? What caused people to vote for the Presidential candidate of NPP and not their parliamentary candidates?

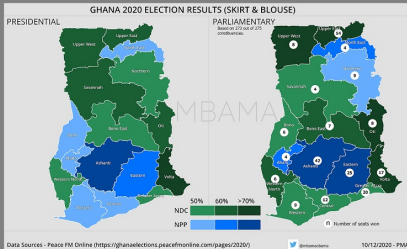


Image 1: This image shows that even though the majority of Ghanaians voted for the NPP Presidential candidates, they did not vote for the parties parliamentary candidate but rather the opposition party, NDC.

NB: At the time of this analysis (10th December, 2020), 2 parliamentary seats were in contention and 1 seat was for an Independent Candidate. Since then, the results stand as follows:

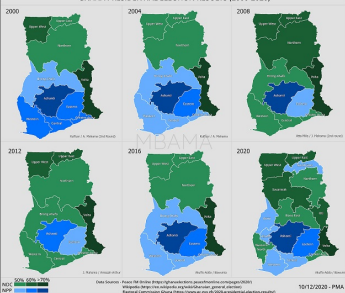
NPP = 137 seats

NDC = 137 seats

Independent candidate = 1

The Speaker of Parliament is from the opposing party NDC, the first deputy speaker, NPP and the second deputy speaker, an independent candidate! How will a President rule a nation, when his opposition almost has as much power in Parliament as him? We all wait as a country to see.

GHANA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS (2000-2020)



Also, I compared the presidential election results from 2000 till now. The map above shows some regions such as Brong-Ahafo, Western and Central swinging between the two parties. Whereas the choices of Ashanti, Eastern, Upper East, Upper West and Volta remain constant.

If you ask me, I think Ghanaians are becoming more and more conscious of who they vote for. It is no longer merely about a party they like but about how their vote - which gives the politicians power - translates into development and growth in their communities. I can't wait for the 2024 elections!

Reference

Oxford Reference - Skirt and Blouse Voting. <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780191828836.001.0001/acref-9780191828836-e-307>. 12/03/2021.