

POLI 444

ELECTORAL POLITICS AND DEMOCRACY IN GHANA

SESSION 10 : THE 2000 & 2004 PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLAIMENTARY ELECTIONS

Lecturer: Mr. Alex K. D. Frempong

Contact Information: akdfrempong@ug.edu.gh / kaadupong2002@yahoo.co.uk



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

College of Education

School of Continuing and Distance Education

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*Lecturers: Dr. S Atindanbila /Mr. Muhammad
Amin Jibril*

SESSION OVERVIEW

After studying the first two elections in the Fourth Republic (1992 & 1996) we turn in this session to the next two (2000 & 2004) the former which led to the first alternation in power in Ghana's electoral history and the latter which retained the incumbent party for a second term. For each of them we shall explore the context, issues, contesting parties, the outcomes and post-election politics.

READING MATERIALS

- Frempong, A.K. D (2012) *Electoral Politics in Ghana's Fourth Republic in the Context of Post-Cold War Africa*, Accra: Yames Press Ltd
- Frempong, A. K. D (2017) *Elections in Ghana (1951-2016)*, Tema: Digibooks Ghana Ltd.
- Ayee, J. R. A, ed. (2001) *Deepening Democracy in Ghana: The Politics of the 2000 Elections*, Vols. 1 & 2, Accra: Freedom Publications
- Boafo-Arthur, K. ed. (2006) *Voting for Democracy in Ghana: The 2004 Elections in Perspective*, Vols. 1 & 2, Accra: Freedom Publications

TOPIC 1

THE 2000 PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS



BACKGROUND TO THE 2000 ELECTIONS

After the 1996 elections and ahead of the 2000 elections the two major parties took some decisions that would influence the outcome and the first alternation in power. **For the ruling NDC:**

- Rawlings' 1996 re-election meant that he was constitutionally barred from contesting again in 2000, but fears about him lifting the two-term limit persisted.
- Perhaps to allay those fears President Rawlings at a party rally at Agona Swedru (Central Region) in June 1998 declared his wish for his new Vice President John Mills to become the party's next presidential candidate. This became known as the 'Swedru Declaration' and had serious impact on the succession in the NDC and its performance in the 2000 elections
- Opponents within the party saw the declaration as an attempt by Rawlings to select a docile successor through whom he could have his third term. Others saw the declaration as undemocratic and formed a Reform Movement demanding internal democracy. The group, led by Goosie Tanoh, later broke away to form a new party, the National Reform Party (NRP), which would contest the 2000 elections. Some stalwarts in the party like Foreign Minister Obed Asamoah and Defence Minister Mahama Iddrisu, who had an eye on the flagbearer slot saw it as the second time the new comer, John Mills, had outwitted them. All these factors caused serious confusion and division in the NDC and at the parliamentary level several aspirants would contest as independent protesters

THE 2000 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: THE CONTESTING PARTIES

Seven parties contested the 2000 presidential election:

- The ruling NDC expectedly confirmed Vice President Mills as its presidential candidate and after a long search the running mate slot went for Martin Amidu, the Deputy Attorney General
- The NPP had Kufuor for a second bid and he too after a circuitous effort, chose a party benefactor from the Northern Region, Aliu Mahama
- The PNC too retained Edward Mahama who nominated Bernard B. Ntim, from Kwahu as his running mate
- The PCP which had assumed its traditional name Convention People's Party (CPP), nominated, George Hagan, a university professor who went for veteran Ibrahim Mahama, one of the contenders for the flagbearer, as running mate.
- The NDC breakaway, NRP nominated Goosie Tanoh as presidential candidate with Cletus Kosiba as running mate
- The GCPP made its presidential debut with its founder Dan Lartey as its flagbearer and Edward Ladzaglah as running mate
- The United Ghana Movement (UGM) a chip off NPP had Charles Werko-Brobby as presidential candidate and Adotey Addo as running mate

THE 2000 ELECTIONS: POST-ELECTION POLITICS (CONT'D)

- Former NPP chairman, Peter Ala Adjetey was elected Speaker of Parliament, with former Second Deputy Speaker Frederick Blay (CPP, Ellembelle) becoming the First Deputy and swapping positions with ex-First Deputy Ken Dzirasa (NDC, South Tongu) as Second Deputy
- There were other changes in the parliamentary leadership. Ex-Minority Leader, J. H. Mensah (NPP, Sunyani East) became the new Majority Leader with Owusu Ankomah (NPP, Sekondi) as Deputy majority Leader in place of Gladys Asmah (NPP, Takoradi) appointed Women & Children Affairs Minister
- A third term NDC MP, Alban Bagbin (Nadawli West) was appointed the new Minority Leader with another third term I. K. Adjei-Mensah (NDC, Tchimman South) as Deputy Minority Leader

TOPIC TWO

- **THE 2004 PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS**



THE 2004 ELECTIONS: ACCOUNTING FOR THE OUTCOME

For the Presidential Election, the following factors accounted for the relative performance of the contesting parties

- The **NPP** retained part of the initial goodwill from the people four years before. The party could also point to its successes in terms of economic stability, freedom, security and rising international image. Also as a party in power, the NPP had access to national resources and exploited its incumbency to organize a more well-resourced campaign than in 2000. There was also the general perception that the NPP should be given a second term like the NDC. However, the NPP appeared complacent by projecting it could win 75% of the presidential vote
- The **NDC** contested as a party out of power for the first time and had lost the previous access to state resources and other advantages of incumbency. Again several of its members were facing court trials. However the biggest problem was the pro- & anti-Rawlings division in the party. Under the circumstances, the NDC performed relatively well winning the same percentage as in the first round in 2000 and retaining the four regions it had won in 2000

THE 2004 ELECTIONS: POST-ELECTIONS POLITICS (CONT'D)

- Felix Owusu-Adjapong (NPP, Akim Swedru), appointed Majority Leader in 2003 retained his position with his deputy Abraham Ossei-Aidooh (NPP, Tema West)
- Alban Bagbin (NDC, Nadawli West) was retained as Minority Leader with Edward Doe Adjaho (NDC, Avenor) as the new Deputy in place of Adjei-Mensah who did not return
- Kufuor's second term however would be overshadowed by a fierce battle to replace him as the party's presidential candidate in 2008 which would see the resignation of eight ministers
- On its part after surviving another breakaway, the Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) in 2006, would grow increasingly united towards 2008

