

2006 CIFP Ghana Parliamentary Leadership Survey – Report

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Methodology

The 2006 CIFP Ghana Parliamentary Leadership Survey was conducted on 25-26 November 2006 in Accra, Ghana. 65 survey instruments were distributed in person to Ghana's Parliamentary leadership, whose members were attending a budgetary workshop. 23 surveys were completed and returned, representing roughly one third of the House leadership. All surveys were filled out anonymously and voluntarily.

The purpose of the survey was to explore flows of information in, within, and out of Parliament, as well as certain areas of performance, including oversight and knowledge. Questions were presented in ranking, rating, and personal opinion formats.

Survey results were compiled by the researcher.

Findings – Information

- *MPs do not exploit the media a great deal to inform their constituents of Parliament's activities.*
- *MPs are heavily reliant on the media for information about the activities of other institutions.*
- *MPs do not feel exceptionally well informed about the activities of other institutions; the military in particular appears to be something of an unknown.*
- *Majority MPs tend to rely on their caucus for information more than do opposition members*

Information – from Parliament to constituents

- 91% of survey participants said they share information with constituents in personal meetings at least once a month.
- 14% of participants said they used press releases at least once a month; 14% also cited newspaper columns. 2 out of 23 participants identified radio as a tool they used monthly to keep constituents informed.

Information – from the executive to Parliament

- On a scale of 1-5, with one being low, survey respondents assigned an average value of 3.6 to Parliament's state of being informed about the activities of the executive. This is higher than either of the other two branches examined by this survey.
- 57% of participants cited the media as their primary source of information about the activities of the executive. When broken down by party, only 38% of government members said the media was their number one source, compared with 71% of opposition members.
- Nearly three times as many government MPs as opposition MPs cited other members of their caucus as their primary source of information about the executive.
- Committee reports were the first choice for information about the executive for 35% of the house leadership; this was roughly equal across party lines.

Information – from the judiciary to Parliament

- On a scale of 1-5, with one being low, survey respondents assigned an average value of 3.1 to Parliament's state of being informed about the activities of the judiciary.
- 61% MPs said the media was their primary source of information about the judiciary, relative to only 26% each for other caucus members and committee reports.
- Three times as many opposition MPs as majority MPs stated that committee reports were their number one source for information about the judiciary.
- Twice as many government MPs as opposition MPs claimed fellow caucus members as their first source of information about the judiciary.

Information – from the military to Parliament

- On a scale of 1-5, with one being low, survey respondents assigned an average value of 2.3 to Parliament's state of being informed about the activities of the military. This is the lowest of the three branches examined by this survey.

- Three quarters of all MPs stated that the media is their best source of information about the activities of Parliament, a higher level of reliance than was found for any other branch of government.
- As in the other areas examined, majority MPs tend to rely on their fellow caucus members for information more than do opposition Members. Also as in other areas, the reverse is true for committee reports.

Information – the budget

- MPs' responses indicate that on average MPs read somewhere between one quarter and one half of the annual budget document
- Out of five, MPs assigned a score of 3.1 to the annual budget document for being written and organised in an easy to understand way.

Findings – Performance

- *Oversight of other institutions is weak; opposition members are more critical than majority MPs*
- *Legislation is viewed as Parliament's main priority, while oversight is second.*
- *There is a significant gap between MPs' understandings of the purpose and processes of the Millennium Challenge Account.*
- *The Parliamentary Service appears to be challenged in its research abilities, and slower than most MPs would like.*

Performance – Parliament & accountability

- There are significant gaps between how the house leadership assessed Parliament's constitutional ability to hold the executive to account for its actions, and how they rated Parliament's performance in this regard.
- Opposition MPs were considerably more critical of Parliament's constitutional abilities and its actual performance in ensuring executive accountability than were majority MPs.
- The same patterns as are identified above held true in the house leadership's assessment of Parliament in relation to judicial and military accountability, although in a less pronounced fashion.
- In actually holding other institutions to account, on a scale of 1-5 with 1 low, MPs gave Parliament average performance scores of 2.8 for the executive, 2.4 for the judiciary, and 2.1 for the military, suggesting some weakness in Parliament's oversight practices.
- When asked what they thought Parliament's top three tasks are, nearly half selected 'oversight' as their second choice, while the same number thought it was Parliament's third priority. Only 2 MPs did not have oversight as one of their three choices, but none made it their first selection. In rating the Parliament's general oversight performance of MPs assigned an average score of 2.4 out of five.

Performance – Parliament and legislation

- Legislation was picked by all but two MPs as Parliament's first purpose; these same MPs assigned it a performance rating of 3.6 out of five in this area, considerably higher than the score they gave oversight.

Performance – Parliament and the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)

- MPs indicated that somewhat more than half of their colleagues are ‘very knowledgeable’ about the purpose of the MCA.
- Survey respondents suggested that less than half of MPs are ‘very knowledgeable’ about the process by which MCA funds are being dispersed. There was a marked party divide on this issue, with governing MPs making a more generous assessment of the situation than the opposition.
- The house leadership indicated that Parliament was inadequately involved in the planning and implementation of the MCA.
- MPs’ responses suggest that Parliament is not able to ensure due diligence in MCA fund disbursement; there was a distinctive party divide on this issue, with government MPs more confident than those in the opposition that Parliament can ensure due diligence.

Performance – the Parliamentary Service (PS)

- MPs gave relatively good reviews of the PS’s understanding of Parliamentary procedure and ability to carry out administrative task, assigning respective performance scores of 3.5 and 3.4 out of five.
- The house leadership was less positive about the PS’s research performance and speed of service, giving scores, respectively, of 2.5 and 2.7.

Survey results

The table below contains coded averaged responses from the 2006 CIFP Ghana Parliamentary Leadership Survey

	Total	Government	Opposition
To what extent can you move items onto Parliaments agenda? (1-5, 1 is low)	3.5	3	3.8
Constituency awareness activities undertaken once a month or more			
<i>Press releases</i>	14%	13%	14%
<i>Newspaper columns</i>	14%	25%	7%
<i>Constituent meetings</i>	91%	88%	93%
<i>Email bulletins</i>	0%	0%	0%
<i>Newsletters</i>	0%	0%	0%
<i>Other</i>	27%	0%	43%
Where do you (MPs) get information about the executive branch?			
<i>Media (first choice)</i>	57%	38%	71%
<i>Media (second choice)</i>	22%	38%	14%
<i>Media (third choice)</i>	4%	13%	0%
<i>Media (fourth choice)</i>	0%	0%	0%
<i>Media Total</i>	83%	88%	86%
<i>Caucus (first choice)</i>	22%	38%	14%
<i>Caucus (second choice)</i>	17%	13%	21%
<i>Caucus (third choice)</i>	17%	13%	21%
<i>Caucus (fourth choice)</i>	4%	13%	0%
<i>Caucus Total</i>	61%	75%	57%
<i>Committee Reports (first choice)</i>	35%	38%	36%

<i>Committee Reports (second choice)</i>	22%	25%	21%
<i>Committee Reports (third choice)</i>	22%	25%	21%
<i>Committee Reports (fourth choice)</i>	0%	0%	0%
<i>Committee Reports Total</i>	78%	88%	79%
Where do you (MPs) get information about the judicial branch?			
<i>Media (first choice)</i>	61%	63%	64%
<i>Media (second choice)</i>	17%	13%	21%
<i>Media (third choice)</i>	4%	13%	0%
<i>Media (fourth choice)</i>	0%	0%	0%
<i>Media Total</i>	83%	88%	86%
<i>Caucus (first choice)</i>	26%	38%	21%
<i>Caucus (second choice)</i>	13%	25%	7%
<i>Caucus (third choice)</i>	22%	13%	29%
<i>Caucus (fourth choice)</i>	4%	13%	0%
<i>Caucus Total</i>	65%	88%	57%
<i>Committee Reports (first choice)</i>	26%	13%	36%
<i>Committee Reports (second choice)</i>	22%	38%	14%
<i>Committee Reports (third choice)</i>	13%	25%	7%
<i>Committee Reports (fourth choice)</i>	4%	0%	7%
<i>Committee Reports Total</i>	65%	75%	64%
Where do you (MPs) get information about the military?			
<i>Media (first choice)</i>	74%	88%	71%
<i>Media (second choice)</i>	9%	0%	14%
<i>Media (third choice)</i>	0%	0%	0%
<i>Media (fourth choice)</i>	0%	0%	0%
<i>Media Total</i>	83%	88%	86%
<i>Caucus (first choice)</i>	9%	0%	14%
<i>Caucus (second choice)</i>	17%	25%	14%
<i>Caucus (third choice)</i>	22%	25%	21%
<i>Caucus (fourth choice)</i>	4%	13%	0%
<i>Caucus Total</i>	52%	63%	50%
<i>Committee Reports (first choice)</i>	22%	13%	29%
<i>Committee Reports (second choice)</i>	26%	50%	14%
<i>Committee Reports (third choice)</i>	17%	25%	14%
<i>Committee Reports (fourth choice)</i>	0%	0%	0%
<i>Committee Reports Total</i>	65%	88%	57%
Media – All institutions	64%	63%	69%
Caucus– All institutions	19%	25%	17%
Committee Reports– All institutions	28%	21%	33%
How well is Parliament informed about the activities of the: (1-5, 1 is low)			
<i>Executive</i>	3.6	3.8	3.5
<i>Judiciary</i>	3.1	2.9	3.2
<i>Military</i>	2.3	2.3	2.2
How well does the Constitution empower Parliament to hold accountable the: (1-5, 1 is low)			
<i>Executive</i>	3.7	4.1	3.4

<i>Judiciary</i>	3.0	3.0	2.9
<i>Military</i>	2.8	3.0	2.6
How successfully does Parliament hold accountable the: (1-5, 1 is low)			
<i>Executive</i>	2.8	3.5	2.3
<i>Judiciary</i>	2.4	2.9	2.0
<i>Military</i>	2.1	2.0	1.9
What % of MPs on your (MPs) committees are 'very knowledgeable' about the subject material? (1=0-25%, 2=25-50%, 3=50-75%, 4=75-100%)	2.8	2.9	2.7
What % of MPs NOT on your (MPs) committees are 'very knowledgeable' about committee subject material? (1=0-25%, 2=25-50%, 3=50-75%, 4=75-100%)	2.2	2.0	2.3
As an MP, how would you rate the level of Parliament's: (1-5, 1 is insufficient, 3 is balanced, 5 is excessive)			
<i>Involvement in the development of the MCA?</i>	1.9	1.9	1.9
<i>Involvement in the administration of the MCA?</i>	1.9	1.7	1.9
<i>Ability to ensure due diligence in the disbursement of MCA funds?</i>	1.9	2.2	1.8
What % of MPs are 'very knowledgeable' about MCA fund disbursement process? (1=0-25%, 2=25-50%, 3=50-75%, 4=75-100%)	1.8	2.4	1.5
What % of MPs are 'very knowledgeable' about the purpose of the MCA? (1=0-25%, 2=25-50%, 3=50-75%, 4=75-100%)	2.4	2.7	2.3
What % of the annual budget document do you read in detail? (1=0-25%, 2=25-50%, 3=50-75%, 4=75-100%)	2.5	2.6	2.5
Relative to other MPs, how much of the budget do you read? (1=much more, 2=more, 3=same, 4=less, 5=much less)	2.6	2.8	2.5
To what extent is the budget arranged and worded to be easy to understand? (1-5, 1 is low)	3.1	3.6	2.7
To what extent does the Parliamentary Service: (1-5, 1 is low)			
<i>Respond promptly to requests?</i>	2.7	2.6	2.9
<i>Understand Parliament's procedural rules?</i>	3.5	3.5	3.4
<i>Perform administrative services?</i>	3.4	3.6	3.4
<i>Perform research services?</i>	2.5	2.3	2.6