



VINCENT ASSANFUL

Indigenous African Religion and the Politics of the Fourth Republic of Ghana, 1992-2012

Ghana's Fourth Republican Constitution made the country a secular state guaranteeing religious freedom to every Ghanaian. In the sphere of politics, religion has played an influential role in the fourth republican political campaigns. This is indicative of the strong hold religion has on the political lives and preferences of the people. This article assesses the position of religion under the fourth republic. Emphasis will be on the indigenous religion of the people and show how the religion has fared under the Presidencies of Jerry John Rawlings, John Agyekum Kuffour and John Evans Atta Mills. The paper discusses the role traditional rulers played in the march

towards the fourth republic. Their contributions in the drawing up of the constitution and ensuring free and fair elections in 1992. The paper will discuss each President and show how the indigenous religion fared under each. It seeks to establish why the indigenous religion has been relegated to the background. The paper will be qualitative one and will use as its main instrument content analysis of newspapers and communiqué issued by the Afrikania Mission, a Neo- African Traditional Religious group on the attitude of the state towards the indigenous African religion. The paper concludes that the indigenous religion should be made to remain part of the continuing dialogue in ensuring a sustained peace in the Fourth Republic.

Keywords: Indigenous African Religion, Politics, Fourth Republic, Constitution