

# **PERSPECTIVES OF NPP EXECUTIVES ON A RUNNING MATE**

**A SURVEY REPORT**

**Danquah Institute**

Accra



**PERSPECTIVES OF NPP  
EXECUTIVES ON A RUNNING MATE  
: A SURVEY REPORT**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### *Key Findings*

- It came out of the survey that party executives at all levels prefer a male as a running mate.
- Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh is the most suitable candidate, in the opinion of the respondents, to partner Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia.
- Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum and Hon. Dr. Henry Kwabena Kokofu emerged as the next two most popular candidate, after Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, for the Veep slot.
- The party executives believe that the running mate should a grassroot person, should be resourceful and must a party faithful- good track record of having served the party well.
- In addition, the running mate must have a humble and approachable personality able to work with all the party leadership, both old and new. He/ she must be a good listener and must have an objective and impartial approach to dealing with issues.
- Above all the opinion expressed is that for win in 2024, the NPP running mate must be able to work with and understand the Flagbearer at all times.
- They believe a choice for a good running mate will influence the outcome of the 2024 election.
- The party executives indicated that there was a lot of positive sentiment from voters on the regional tour of the flagbearer.

## TABLE OF CONTENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	ii
<i>Background</i> .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
<i>Key Findings</i> .....	ii
<i>Recommendation</i> .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
TABLE OF CONTENT.....	iii
LIST OF TABLES .....	iv
LIST OF FIGURES.....	iv
LIST OF ABBREVIATION.....	v
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION .....	1
<i>Background</i> .....	1
<i>Methodology</i> .....	1
CHAPTER TWO: RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS .....	3
<i>Age distribution among the executives</i> .....	3
<i>Gender distribution?</i> .....	3
<i>Preferred region of the running mate</i> .....	5
<i>Which of the following do you prefer as a running mate?</i> .....	6
<i>Between Hon. Dr. Yaw Aduwum and Hon. Dr. Opoku Prempeh, who will you choose?</i> .....	7
<i>Preference for others, besides Hon. Dr. Opoku Prempeh and Hon. Dr. Yaw Aduwum</i> .....	8
<i>Willingness to work with Flagbearer Choice</i> .....	9
<i>Should the person be a professor</i> .....	10
<i>Willingness to work with Hon. Dr. Opoku Prempeh and Hon. Dr. Yaw Aduwum</i> .....	11
<i>Can the NPP win the 2024 General Elections</i> .....	12
<i>Will the choice of a running mate help win the election?</i> .....	13
<i>What do you think of the Flagbearer's regional visit?</i> .....	14
<i>Did flagbearer's message resonate with the people?</i> .....	15
<i>Characteristics of the Running mate</i> .....	16
CHAPTER THREE: CONCLUSION.....	17

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Region of Candidate amongst national, regional, constituency and polling station executives .....	5
Figure 2: In the absence of Dr. Opoku Prempeh and Dr. Yaw Adutwum, who would you have chosen as a running mate? By region.....	8
Figure 3: Preferred characteristics of the running mate .....	16

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Data distribution (age) of respondents .....	3
Figure 2: Who do you prefer, male or female as the running mate? .....	4
Figure 3: Who do you prefer, male or female as the running mate? .....	6
Figure 4: Who do you prefer, Dr. Mathew Opoku Prempeh or Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, as the running mate? .....	7
Figure 5: Are you ready to work with the flagbearer even if your preferred candidate is not selected? .....	9
Figure 6: Should the running mate be a professor? .....	10
Figure 7: Are you ready to work with either Dr. Mathew Opoku Prempeh or Dr. Yaw Adutwum as a running mate? .....	11
Figure 8: Do you believe that NPP can win the December 2024 general elections? .....	12
Figure 9: believe that the choice of a good running mate has anything to do with the final outcome of the 2024 general elections? .....	13
Figure 10: What is your thought on the recent regional tour by the flagbearer of the party? .....	14
Figure 11: Who do you prefer, male or female as the running mate? .....	15

## LIST OF ABBREVIATION

NDC	National Democratic Congress
NPP	New Patriotic Party

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### *Background*

Undoubtedly, December 2024 contest is a two-horse race between Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia and the former President John Dramani Mahama. The choice of a good running mates, to a large extent, would add value to the electoral fortunes of the flagbearers. The opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) officially outdoored its presidential running mate, Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, for the 2024 December general elections on the 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2024. Since that day, political connoisseurs have been asking questions about the most qualified individual to partner Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia for the December contest.

It is was in line with this that a national survey was conducted during the second week of June to identify from the executives of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), who in their opinion is most suitable party member to partner the flagbearer. In additions focus group discussions were carried out amongst party faithful on their perceptions of what constitutes a good running mate. Many have advised that the running mate should be a Christian and an Akan, preferably from the Ashanti Region. The argument is a selection of a running mate from the region would consolidate the gains made in the 2020 presidential elections.

In the last few months, several names have come out in the Ghanaian media as potential running mates for the flagbearer. The main purpose of the study was therefore to reach out to the party executives to seek their opinions on the most suitable candidate among these names in the media. A mixed approach was used to obtain data for the study:

- Phone interviews
- Face-to-face interviews (key informant)
- Focus group discussions

### *Methodology*

A hybrid technique (virtual and face-to-face interviews) was used to conduct a nationwide survey involving 1,569 respondents. Telephone interviews were conducted for all national, regional, and the majority of constituency executives. A field team conducted face to face interviews by engaging a sample of polling station executives in assigned constituencies. In the process, between 10 and 20 polling station executives from 91 constituencies across the 16 regions were engaged.

A semi-structured interview guide was designed for the nationwide survey to guide interviewers during the interviews with the party executives. Ten individuals were recruited to conduct the telephone interviews were also recruited to conduct the face-to-face interviews in the assigned constituencies. The field team conducted the interviews with the polling station executives whereas the team based in the office conducted the interviews involving the national, regional and constituency executives.

Another team conducted focus group discussions amongst party faithful in each regional capital across the 16 regions of the country on the preferred characteristics of the running mate.

An instrument was designed, reviewed and programmed using CsPro to allow for electronic transmission of the data throughout the data collection process from Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

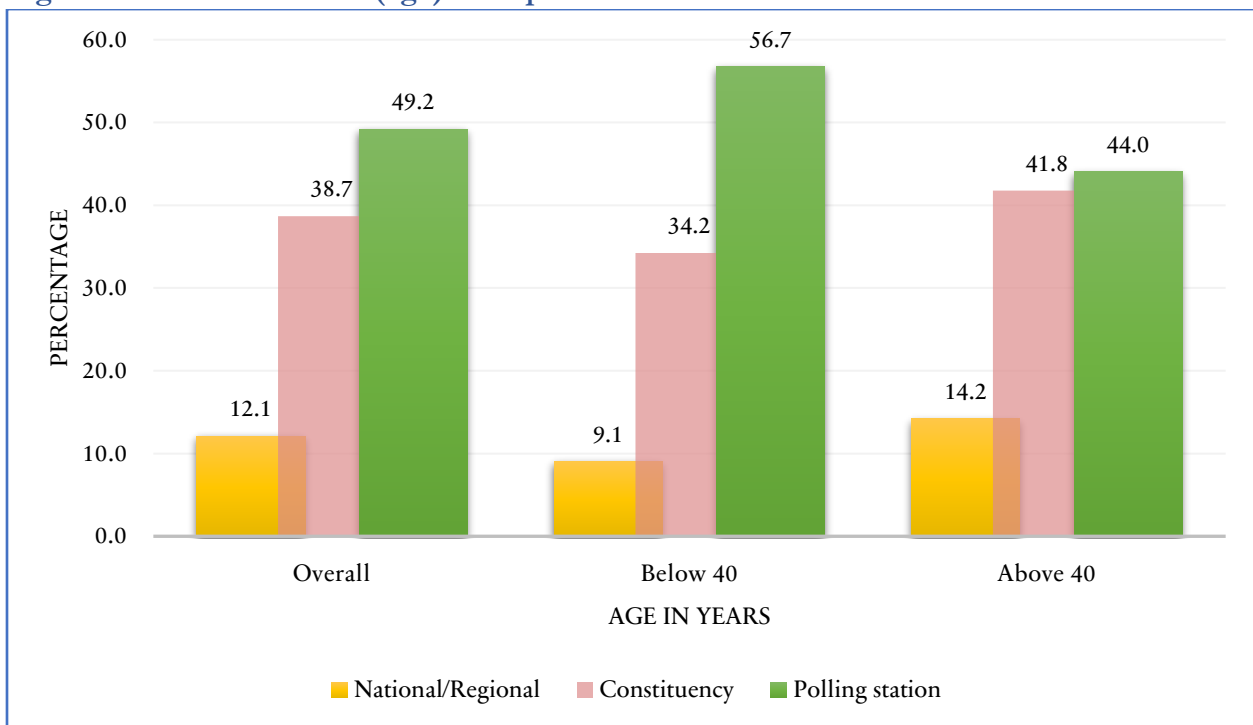


## CHAPTER TWO: RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### *Age distribution among the executives*

About half (49.2%) of the respondents were polling station executives, 40% constituency executives with the remaining being regional and national executives of the party. The respondents at the polling stations were mostly youthful below 40 years. On the hand, those at the constituency and national levels interviewed were mostly above 40 years (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Data distribution (age) of respondents**



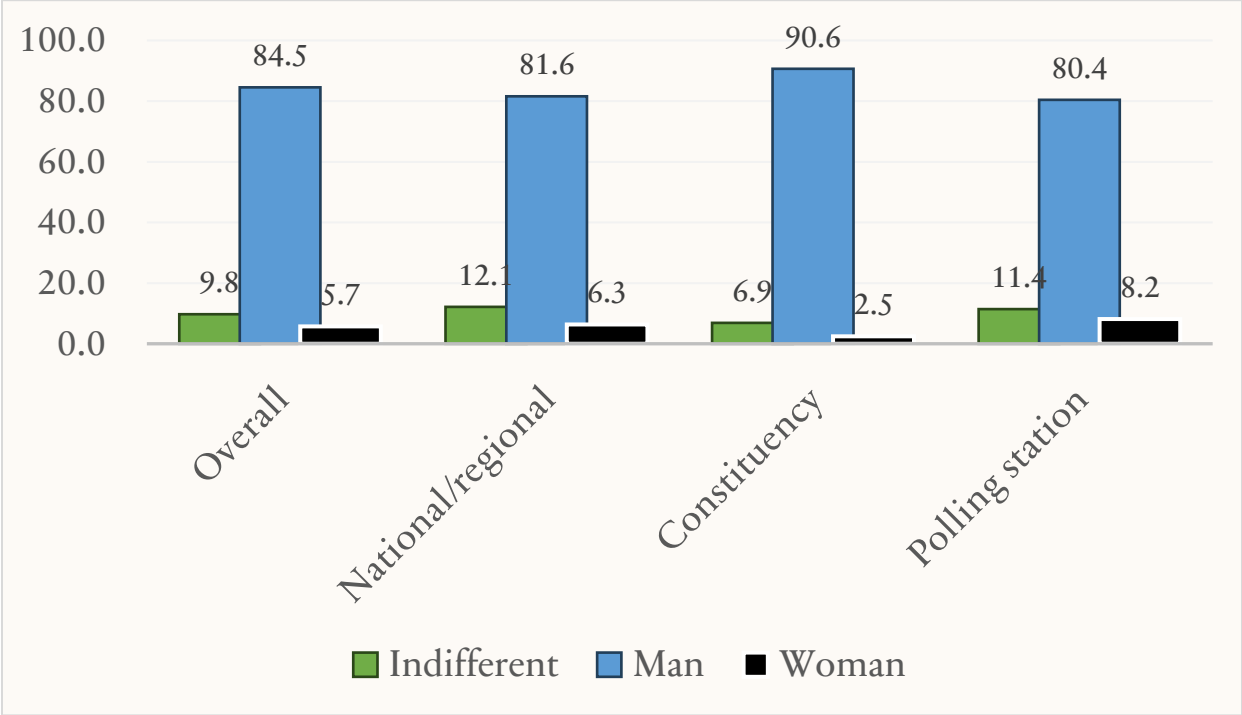
*Source: Field data, June 2024*

### *Gender distribution?*

An overwhelming majority of respondents preferred the running mate to be a male. At the constituency level, 9 out of 10 constituency executives responded that their preference for a running mate should be a male with 2.5% preferring a female as a running mate and 6.9 % responding to be indifferent as to who gets to be the running mate. Overall (national, regional, constituency and polling station), 84.5% of the respondents preferred the choice of running mate to be a male with 5.7% preferring a woman as the running mate and a little under 10% being indifferent.

National and regional executives responded in favour of male to be selected as the running mate with a little over 6% preferring a woman as the choice for running mate. About 12.1% of the regional and national executives were indifferent as to the choice of a male or female being the running mate. The choice of a woman as the running mate resounded more with the polling station executives compared to the other executives, however this figure was under 10% (8.2%). About 80.4% of the polling station executives still prefer a male to be the running mate (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Who do you prefer, male or female as the running mate?**



Source: Field data, June 2024

### ***Preferred region of the running mate***

Majority of respondents (83.9%) prefer a running mate from the Ashanti Region. Executives at the national, regional, constituency and polling station mostly preferred a running mate from the from Ashanti Region (see Table 1)

**Table 1: Region of Candidate amongst national, regional, constituency and polling station executives**

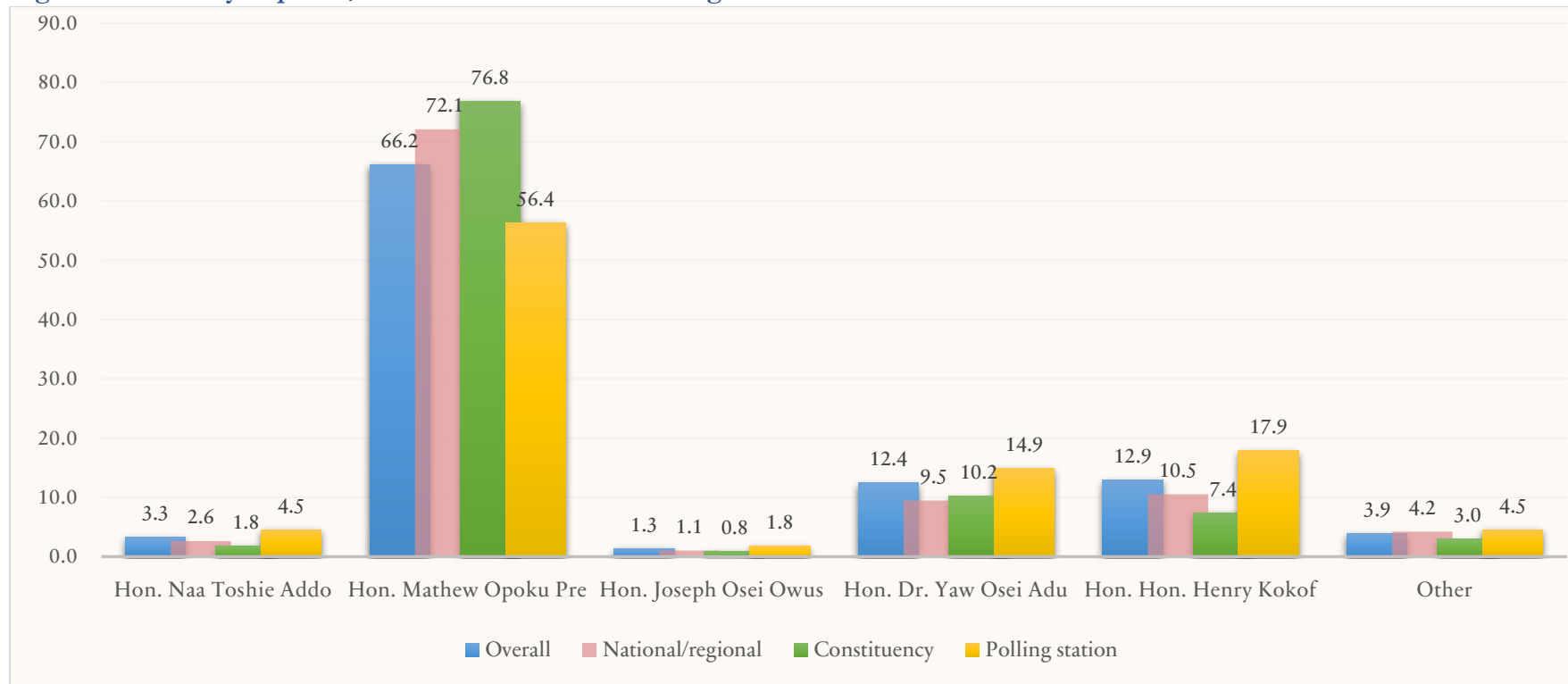
Region	Overall	National/regional	Constituency	Polling station
Indifferent	8.4	9.5	8.9	7.8
<b>Ashanti</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>87.0</b>	<b>80.8</b>
Greater Accra	1.7	0.5	1.7	1.9
Central	2.2	1.6	0.8	3.5
Upper East	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.5
North	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.7
Oti	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Volta	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.0
Eastern	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.5
Bono	1.3	2.1	0.7	1.6
Bono East	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Ahafo	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Western	0.6	0.0	0.3	1.0
Western North	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3

*Source: Field data, June 2024*

***Which of the following do you prefer as a running mate?***

About 2 out of every 3 of the respondents (66.2%) indicated their preference for Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh as the running mate for the December 2024 presidential contest. He was followed by Hon. Henry Kwabena Kokofu (12.9%) and Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum (12,4%) in that order. The popularity of Hon. Opoku Prempeh cuts across all the executives at the polling stations, through to the national levels (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Who do you prefer, male or female as the running mate?**

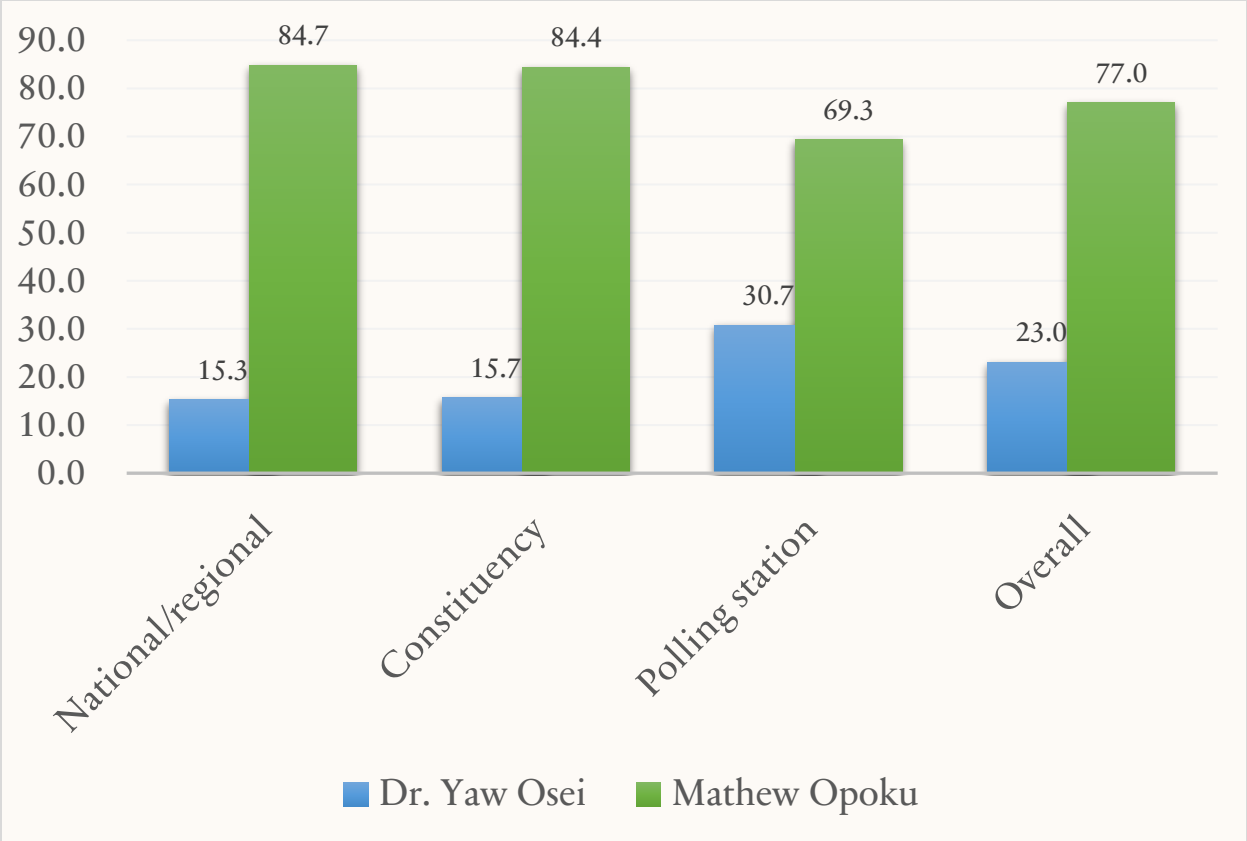


*Source: Field data, June 2024*

***Between Hon. Dr. Yaw Adutwum and Hon. Dr. Opoku Prempeh, who will you choose?***

Across all levels, delegates prefer Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh (77%) to Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum (23%). Three out of every four of the national and regional executives indicated preference for Hon. Dr. Opoku Prempeh to be the running mate (see Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Who do you prefer, Dr. Mathew Opoku Prempeh or Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, as the running mate?**



Source: Field data, June 2024

***Preference for others, besides Hon. Dr. Opoku Prempeh and Hon. Dr. Yaw Aduwtwum***

In the absence of Hon. Dr. Opoku Prempeh and Hon. Dr. Yaw Adutwum, Hon. Henry Kwabena Kokofu would have been the most preferred candidate (60.4%). He is followed by followed by Hon. Naa Toshie Addo (15.2%) and Hon. Joseph Osei Owusu (6.3%) in that order (see Table 2).

**Figure 2: In the absence of Dr. Opoku Prempeh and Dr. Yaw Adutwum, who would you have chosen as a running mate? By region**

<b>Region</b>	Hon. Toshie Addo	Hon. J Osei Owusu	Hon. Kokofu	Other	Overall
Western	5.9	0.0	10.8	21.3	11.3
Central	7.8	4.8	3.9	6.6	5.1
Greater Accra	31.4	33.3	6.9	9.8	12.8
Volta	17.7	4.8	1.5	1.6	4.2
Eastern	5.9	4.8	17.2	14.8	14.3
Ashanti	7.8	28.6	25.6	9.8	20.2
Western North	2.0	0.0	3.5	3.3	3.0
Ahafo	0.0	0.0	1.0	8.2	2.1
Bono	0.0	14.3	5.4	6.6	5.4
Bono East	2.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.6
Oti	2.0	0.0	5.4	1.6	3.9
Northern	2.0	0.0	6.9	1.6	4.8
Savannah	0.0	4.8	3.9	3.3	3.3
North East	11.8	0.0	1.5	6.6	3.9
Upper East	2.0	0.0	3.0	1.6	2.4
Upper West	2.0	4.8	3.0	3.3	3.0

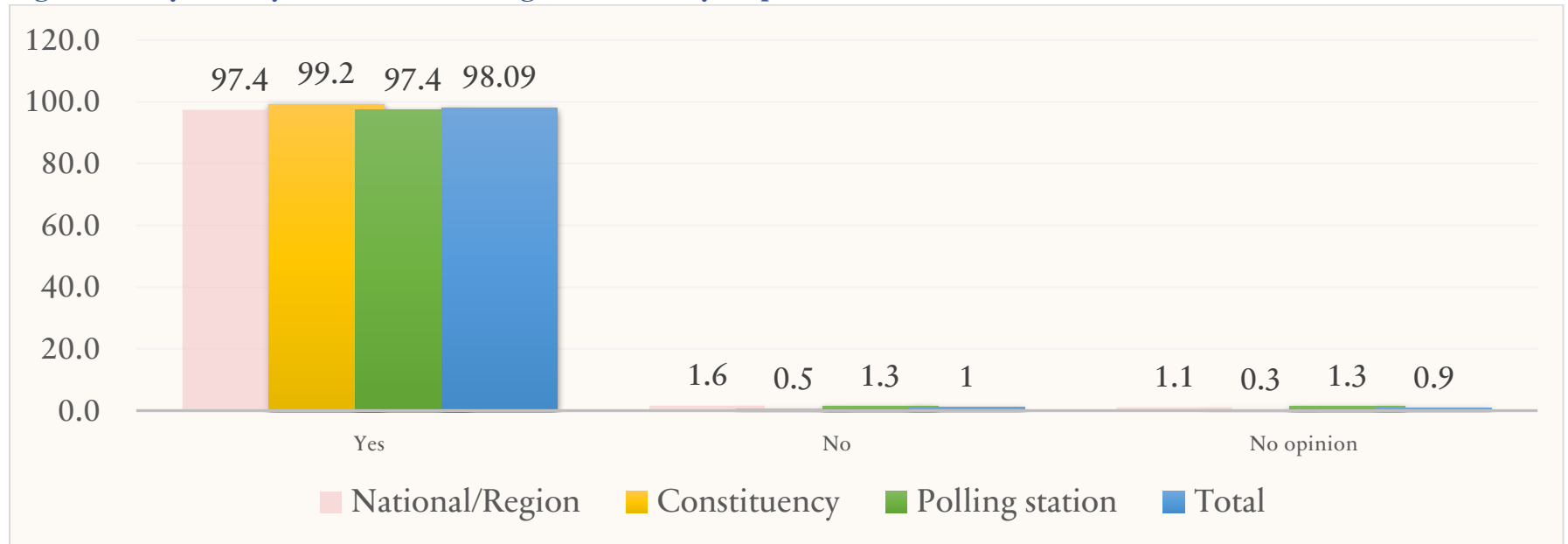
*Source: Field data, June 2024*

***Willingness to work with Flagbearer Choice***

Overwhelming proportion of the respondents (98.1%) mentioned they were willing to work with the flagbearer’s choice of running mate irrespective of their personal choice for the running mate. At the constituency level, almost all the respondents (99.2%) responded that they were willing to work with the flagbearer’s choice of candidate for the running mate (see Figure 5).

However, a deeper analysis of the reasons for this response indicates that respondents also insist that any choice the Flagbearer should make, must be someone who is able to work with all part executives, old or new. If the running mate is humble, approachable fair and objective, party executives are willing to work with the person.

**Figure 5: Are you ready to work with the flagbearer even if your preferred candidate is not selected?**

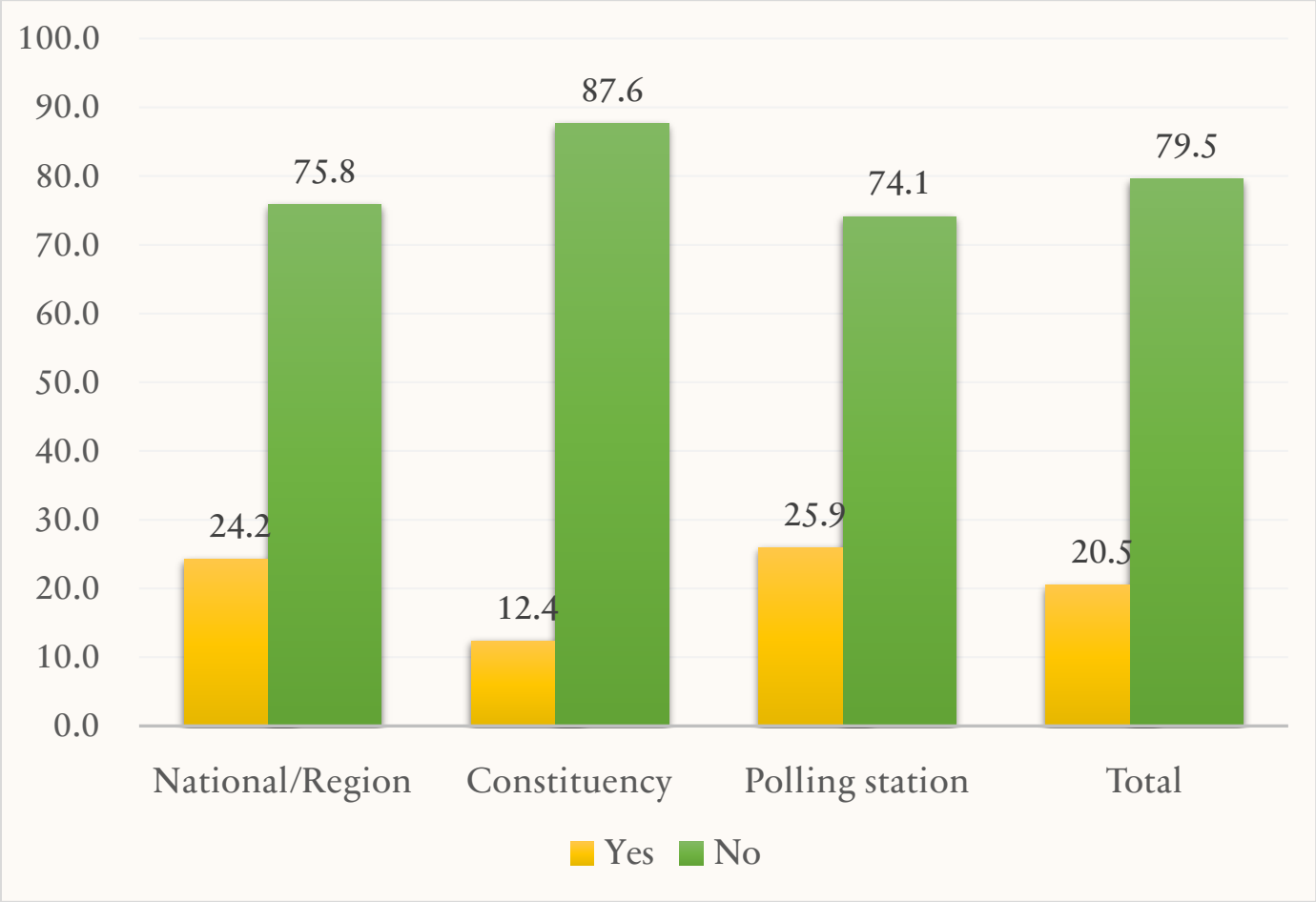


Source: Field data, June 2024

***Should the person be a professor***

About 8 out of every 10 of the respondents (79.5%) disagreed that the running mate should be a professor. At the national and regional level, 75.8% disagreed that the running mate should be a professor with percentage rising to 87.6% at the constituency level (see Figure 6). This negates any idea that party executives perceive the title of the opposition party’s running mate as an advantage.

**Figure 6: Should the running mate be a professor?**



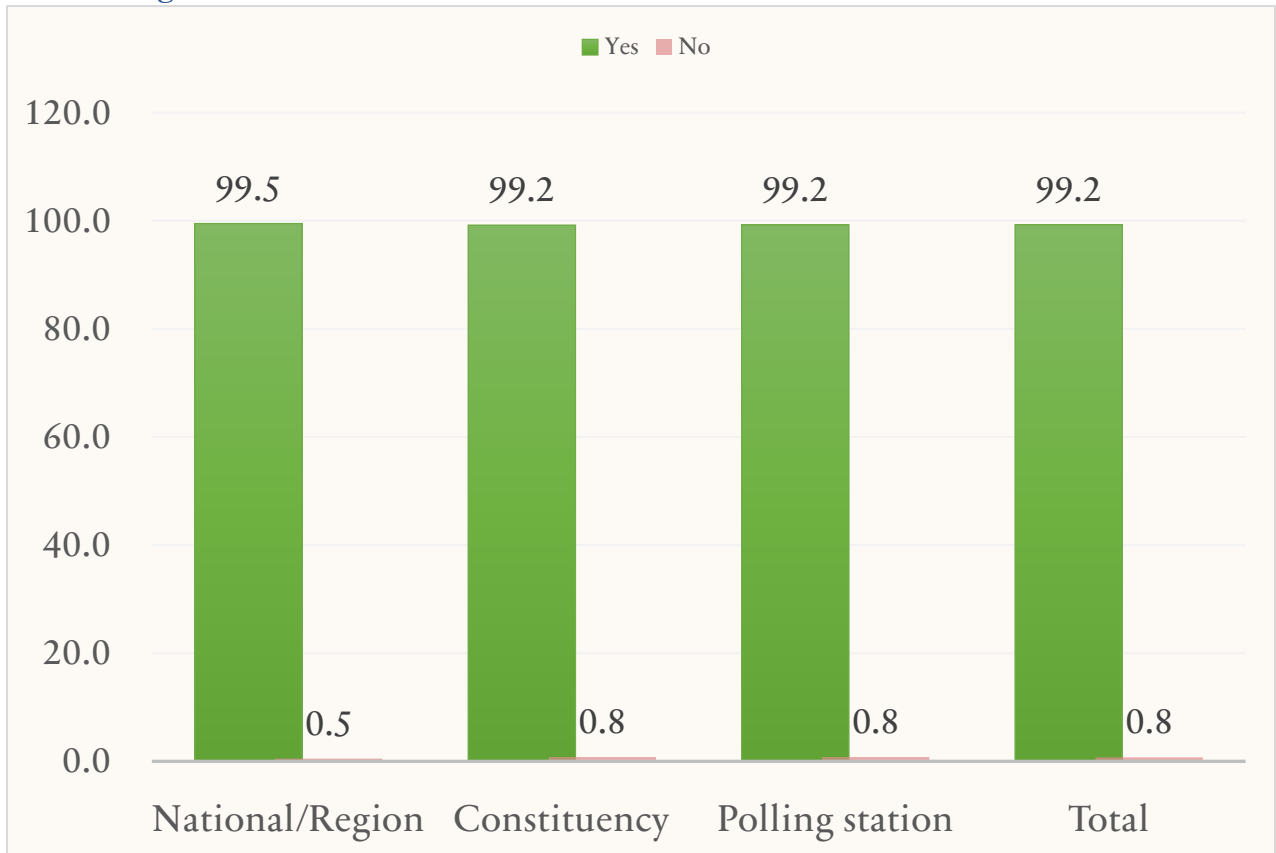
*Source: Field data, June 2024*



***Willingness to work with Hon. Dr. Opoku Prempeh and Hon. Dr. Yaw Adutwum***

Nearly all respondents (99.2%) expressed the willingness to work with either Hon. Mathew Opoku Prempeh or Hon. Yaw Osei Adutwum. This number was slightly higher at the national and regional levels (99.5%) (see Figure 7).

**Figure 7: Are you ready to work with either Dr. Mathew Opoku Prempeh or Dr. Yaw Adutwum as a running mate?**

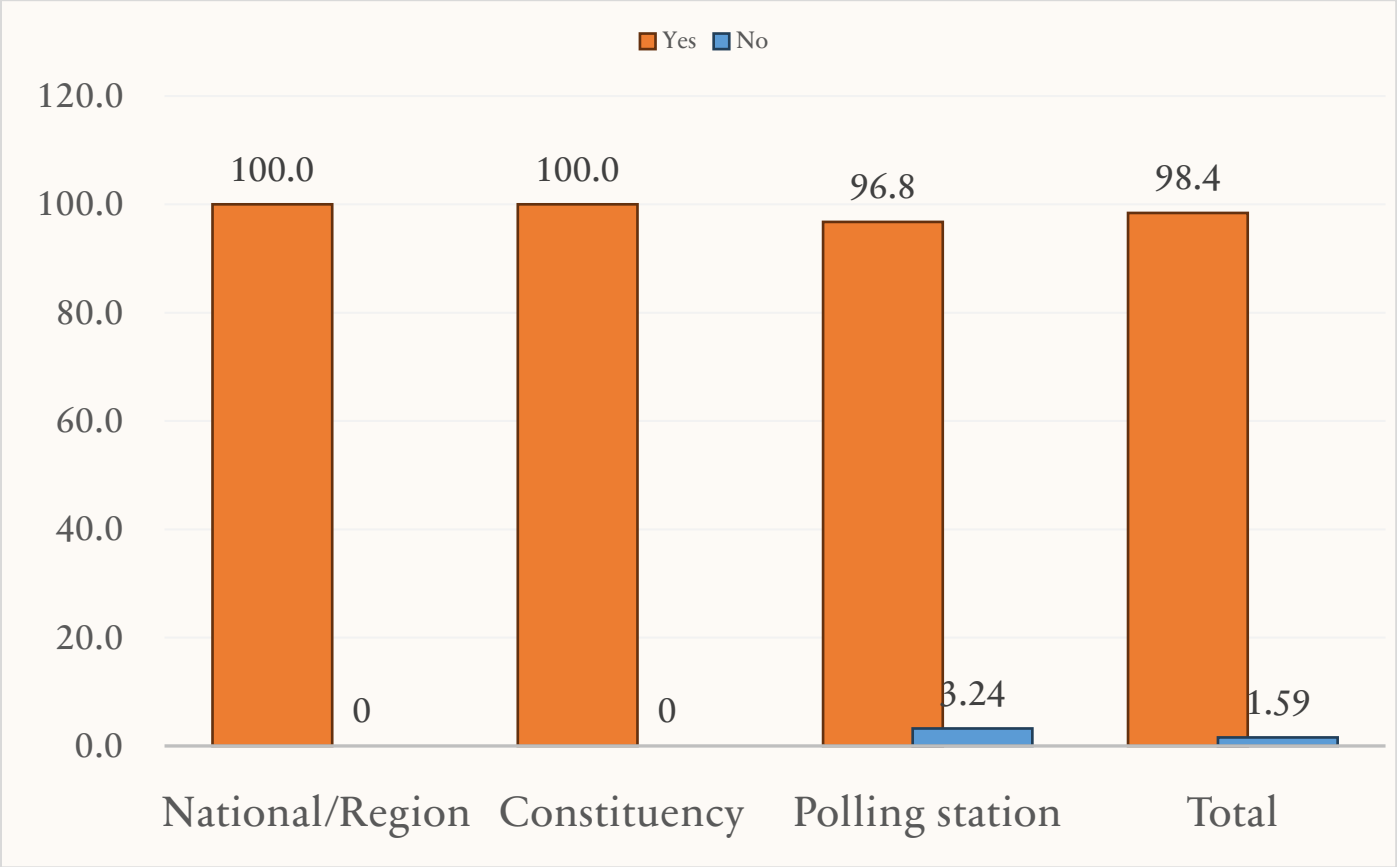


*Source: Field data, June 2024*

**Can the NPP win the 2024 General Elections**

Nearly all respondents (98.4%) believed that the NPP can win the 2024 general elections. However, a considerable proportion (3.24%) of the respondents at the polling station level do not have the hope that NPP would win the 2024 general elections (Table 8).

**Figure 8: Do you believe that NPP can win the December 2024 general elections?**



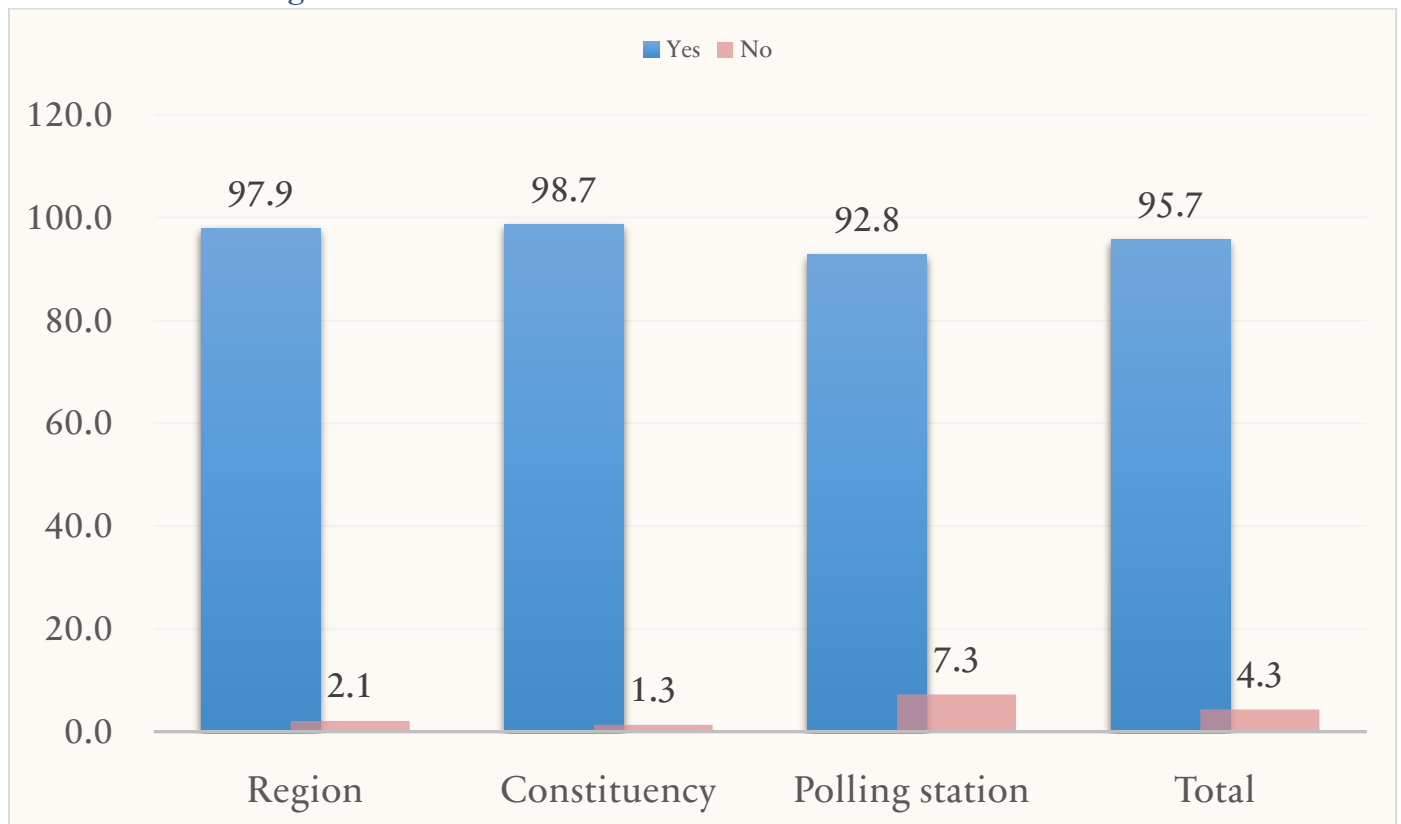
Source: Field data, June 2024

***Will the choice of a running mate help win the election?***

Nearly all respondents (95.7%) agreed that the choice of the right person as running mate can help the NPP win election 2024. This response was same across all the levels of the executives (see Figure 9). Again, respondents are emphatic on the fact that the choice of the running mate is what matters.

The study finds that specific characteristics for the running mate are mentioned by party executives as necessary for the party to win the elections. In their opinion the running mate must be humble and ready to listen. The running mate must be approachable and ready to work with all. This especially important given the history of 2008 when certain divisions did not allow the party to secure victory.

**Figure 9: believe that the choice of a good running mate has anything to do with the final outcome of the 2024 general elections?**

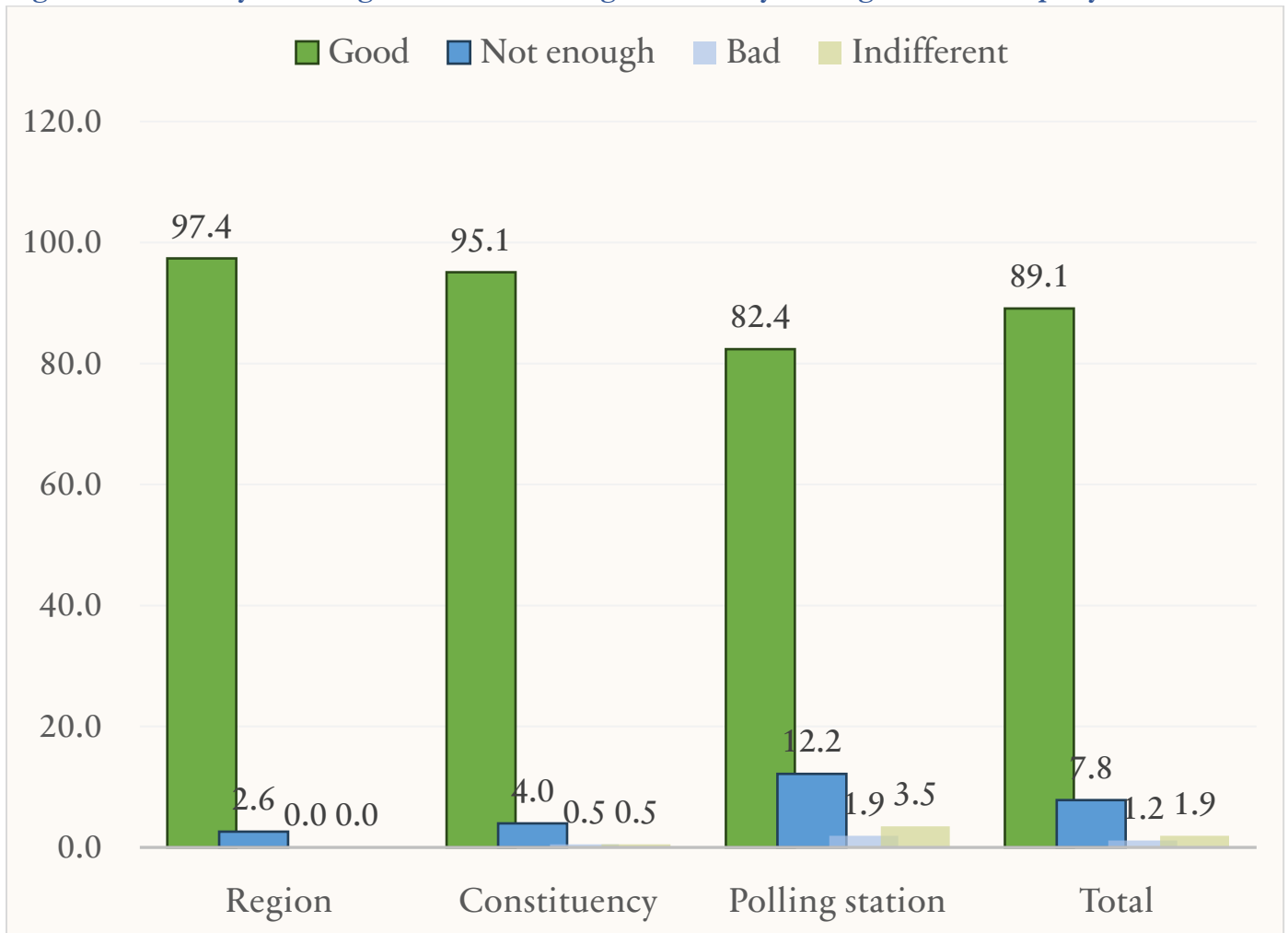


*Source: Field data, June 2024*

**What do you think of the Flagbearer's regional visit?**

About 9 in every 10 of the respondents (89.1%) agreed that activities organised during the Flagbearer's regional tour was good. Higher proportions are observed at the regional (97.4%) and constituency (95.1%) levels (see Figure 10).

**Figure 10: What is your thought on the recent regional tour by the flagbearer of the party?**

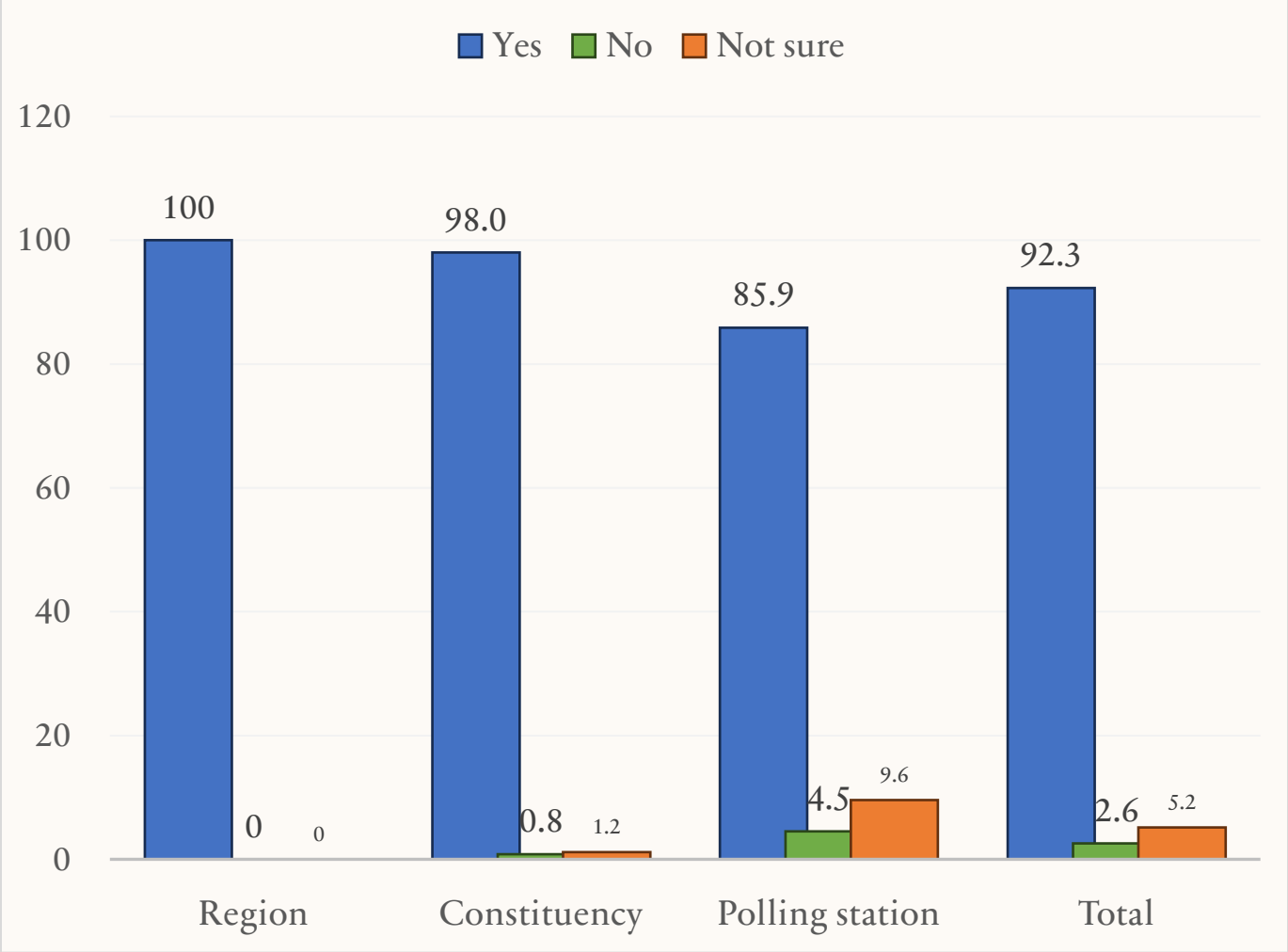


Source: Field data, June 2024

***Did flagbearer’s message resonate with the people?***

All regional and constituency executives agreed that the Flagbearer’s message resonated well with the people during his regional tour. This proportion was lower among the polling station executives (85.9%) [see figure 11]

**Figure 11: Who do you prefer, male or female as the running mate?**



*Source: Field data, June 2024*

***Characteristics of the Running mate***

Respondents indicated that the running mate should be someone who is a grassroots person and is resourceful. This proportion was much higher at the national/ regional (61.1% & 64.2%) and constituency levels (74.1% & 70.4%). Further, they indicated that the running mate should have a track record with the party or should have served the party long enough in various capacities (see Table 3). Party executives also indicate that given the fierceness of the 2024 contest, it is important that the running mate has a strong character and can defend the party. In the same vein the person has to be one who is guarded in their utterances, polite, respectful and portrays a humble demeanor. This they believe will be more appealing to the electorate. Whoever becomes the running mate must be committed to adhering to this to ensure that empathy replace apathy for the NPP.

**Figure 3: Preferred characteristics of the running mate**

	<b>Overall</b>	<b>National/regional</b>	<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Polling station</b>
Looks	7.0	11.6	11.9	1.9
Grassroot member	<b>52.3</b>	61.1	74.1	33.0
Professional	30.1	39.5	51.2	11.1
Youthful	30.7	41.1	57.3	7.3
Resourceful	<b>43.0</b>	64.2	70.4	16.2
Party track record/ long service	<b>45.6</b>	50.5	65.9	28.4
Religion	16.4	20.0	32.0	3.4
Humble	45.5	58.4	68.9	24.0
Generous and kind	41.6	43.2	61.0	26.0
Friendly/ approachable	29.5	33.2	52.2	10.8
Aggressive	12.0	14.2	19.4	5.6
Other	1.5	2.6	0.2	2.2

*Source: Field data, June 2024*

### CHAPTER THREE: CONCLUSION

The party executives, across all levels – regional/national, constituency and polling stations – are positive that the party would win the 2024 General Elections. The rate falls a bit at the polling station level and this should be noted.

The study finds that almost across all levels, Hon. Mathew Opoku Prempeh is the preferred choice for running mate. Interestingly, nearly all respondents again indicated that they will be willing to work with the flagbearer's choice even if their preferred choice is not considered.

Party executives across all levels believe that the running mate should be a male selected from the Ashanti Region. The individual should also be resourceful, a grassroots person and should have also served the party for a reasonable period of time. The individual must be humble, approachable and generous. The individual should be objective and transparent in their dealings with all within and outside the party.

**Focus group discussions amongst party faithful discussed that the running mate should possess some specific personal characteristics to make our party more popular. This is deemed a necessary condition for the NPP to win the 2024 election. This is especially because in the 2024 election, the party is working to break the 8-year tradition that has characterised the current democratic dispensation. This means the running mate must be guarded in his/her utterances both to the party and in public. The person must not be seen as arrogant and uncaring. The person must show deep respect and be sensitive to public opinion.**

In addition, the person must be open to work with the old and existing leadership of the party especially the sitting President and members of parliament at all times. The running mate position does not connote a position higher than any of these existing positions.

The study therefore strongly advises that whoever is chosen as the running mate is advised to seriously consider these very important views outlined by party faithful, some of which were reechoed by party executives as necessary for the party to win the 2024 elections