

Development Issues Management in Representative-Constituents Communication Relationship: A Study of Edo State House of Assembly

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Abstract

This study examined the communication relationship between members of Edo State House of Assembly and their constituents in terms of how development issues are managed for the benefits of the constituents. The objectives of the study are to ascertain the frequency of communication and patterns of information flow between members of Edo State House of Assembly and their constituents; identify the development issues involved in the flow of communication between members of the Edo State House of Assembly and their constituencies and how they are managed; and to find out the level of constituents' participation in development bills and community projects. The study was anchored on Equity and Relational Maintenance Theory. The mixed research design was used to generate data from a sample of 400 respondents purposively chosen from a population of 1,242,353 people. The result of the study showed that there is poor communication flow between the members of Edo State House of Assembly and their constituents. There is more of upward communication than downward communication. Infrastructural development and human empowerment remain the top most critical development issues between the representatives and their constituents. Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that Representatives should make their constituency consultation on important issues all inclusive in order to reduce cases of political leaders hijacking the process to their benefit.

Keywords: Development, Issues Management, Representative, Constituents, Communication, Relationship, Legislature