



Ghana: Leonora Proposes Election Fund

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The coordinator of the national governance programme, Mrs. Leonora Kyeremanteng, has proposed that as a nation, there was the need to set up an election fund so that it would be included in the year-to-year budget of the country.

She said as a country, we have gone a long way but for the sake of sovereignty, it was not good enough that for every election, we depend on donor support.

Mrs. Kyeremanteng said this in an interview with The Chronicle in Accra yesterday after the 17th Speakers' Breakfast Forum.

She noted that even though as a country we had financial constraints, elections were the first leg of democracy and it is not good enough for sovereignty and consolidation.

She added that the national governance programme supported coordination of donor funding towards elections and sometimes, it is a very difficult process trying to get money out of donors to conduct our own elections.

She advised that every effort be made and started early enough to ensure that we saved money over a four-year period, year after year.

"After this election, I will expect that in the next budget, we put away money and the next year, repeat the same thing so that by the fourth year, when we must have elections, we must have accumulated sufficient funds to be able to conduct elections as a nation and say that we have gone a long way with our democracy."

Mrs. Kyeremanteng, disclosed that the funding of this year's election was 40% donor funding and 60% state funding, which she said showed that we had really shifted to donor funding.

She said in democratic principles, a fourth constitution really pertains to consolidation. "Every where in the world, if you are able to have a fourth constitution, it is really a bench mark and seen as consolidation."

She again stressed that if the election fund was set up, we could support our elections and even the political parties so that we sufficiently educate the people and hold a decent electioneering campaign.

She said when South Africa was going to have its fourth elections, donors wanted to support it but they put their foot down and said they would support it with their own resources.