



GHANA CHURCH LEADERS CALL FOR AGENDA FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Christian Council of Ghana has launched the “Ghana we want” agenda campaign to encourage the country’s leaders to come up with a 50-year national development program, says Rev. Kwabena Opuni-Frimpong, General Secretary of the group.

“We have launched public awareness program just trying to engage government, engage civil society the need for us to have a long term planning for the development of our nation. It must be done, or else development remains firefighting; people come to office ...and they want to do something quickly just to give impression that they’ve done their bit. But we must have a national dream,” said Opuni-Frimpong.

“Africa must keep dreaming and work towards that rather than responding to political manifestoes. If we are able to have a national agenda, then the political parties [that] come to power will be responding to the destination we have all designed for ourselves as a people,” he added.

Opuni-Frimpong said the Christian Council of Ghana, a faith-based institution, wants the country to have a common dream. And to achieve the goal, the council plans to work with other faith-based institutions including Muslim leaders, traditional rulers, business organizations and all political parties.

“That is what we intend achieving, we must start from somewhere. We hope government will bring [everybody] together for us to make input a non-partisan kind of exercise, so that when we finish we can all own that indeed this is the Ghana we want,” said Opuni-Frimpong.

He said his organization has so far received encouraging responses from Ghanaians about establishing a national agenda.

Some Ghanaians are concerned that politicians will co-opt the Christian Council’s “Ghana we want” public awareness in their campaigns for the 2016 general election.

Opuni-Frimpong agreed that national issues are often politicized. He however said that’s the normal path in a democracy -- that all parties publicly debate the issue and that the parliament and president work together to create, and enact, a national vision.

“It’s been a very big challenge, but I believe we will get there,” said Opuni-Frimpong.

Clottey interview with Kwabena Opuni-Frimpong, General Secretary of the Christian Council of Ghana.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com>