

Protection of Property Rights, a Challenge in Ghana- Cudjoe

The protection of Physical Property Rights has been identified as a big challenge in Ghana. This is said to be evidenced by the numerous decade-long land litigations pending before the law courts in the country.

Executive Director of Imani Centre for Policy and Education made this observation when he launched this year's report on International Property

Rights in Ghana. Urging stakeholders to take steps to formalise property ownership in the country.

He said Property rights, being exclusive rights over the use of resources have legal, physical and intellectual components.

He said for the legal aspects to be effective authorities need to create the right legal and judicial environment making it possible for people to protect their properties and go about their businesses without fear.

This legal environment, also, he said must make it possible to own physical property, whether landed or other without any inhibition.

He added that work that people do with their own ideas whether music, artefacts or poetic must also be protected for the initiators. This, he said would encourage creativity and hard work among the people.

Mr. Cudjoe lamented the problem people go through in Ghana when registering property or business, explaining that any country that respects property rights tends to well in economic development.

He said if the rights of indigenous

businesses were respected Ghana could raise more money for development than the total cash US committed to the country in the Millennium Challenge Accounts.

Explaining why Ghana was not captured in the International Property Rights Index Mr. Cudjoe said it was due to the lack of appropriate data emanating from the World bank on property ownership in Ghana and assured that as the Property Rights Alliance was going to send field officers to work in each country they are represented in, there would be primary data on each country and so dependence on the World Bank for data would be a thing of the past

In the index, Finland chalked the first position scoring 8.6 in the international Rights Index. They were followed by Norway, Denmark Netherlands and Germany with 8.3 apiece.

Bangladesh came bottom with 1.7 on the index while the highest score by an African country is 6.0, and was by Mauritius, while Botswana and Tunisia followed with 5.9 apiece. The least African score was 3.1 by Zimbabwe..

