

## Quotable Quotes

Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself-*Leo Tolstoy*

# LEAP Is A Waste Of National Resources!- IMANI

**Story By Moses Kobla AKPALU**  
Mr. Franklin Cudjoe, Executive Director of the IMANI Center for Policy and Education has stated that the proposed Livelihood Empowerment Programme (LEAP) by the government of Ghana is a waste of scarce national resources.

Mr. Franklin Cudjoe said this when he addressed a press conference at his office at Lapaz in Accra during the launch of the 2008 International Property Rights Index which was compiled by a non governmental organization called call the Property Right Alliance.

According to Mr. Cudjoe the International Property Index is supposed to measure the level of property right protection in 150 countries that have been covered in this year's index.

He said that property right itself is the midwife of any economy's development. Property right is when one has a exclusive usage of a resource and the services generated from the resource is exclusive to the owner as well as the owner have the right to divert, sell or loan it. Property right can be divided into three sections which are the legal, the

physical property right that is ownership of landed property and the intellectual property right as in the ownership of works of arts like inventions etc.

He said that all these three sections are graded on the scale of 10 which means that if a country scores high it means that country respects the property rights of its citizens.

Mr. Cudjoe said that Ghana was not captured in the report because there no data on property individual property right. He said that the property index is important because when people own property it can be used for anything valuable.

He however said that it is worthless for people to own property without appropriate document because then the property cannot be used to secure loans or for investment pur-

poses. He said that the idea of the launching of the property index means that in every civilized society people's property rights are respected, be it intellectual or tangible. He said that that in itself enables a country to develop and allows freedom to engage in voluntary and useful exercises that border on personal and economic development.

Mr Cudjoe pointed out that instituting property right will allow people to know where their freedom begins and ends. It also applies to those in the business world especially the informal sector. He also spoke about how long it takes for one to register a business or over 100 days to file tax returns. He said if it takes more than 200 days to register a business that itself is an indictment on property right.