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ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY NOW!

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**CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT:
Youth, Women, and PWDs Shortchanged by the Failure to
Adopt Proportional Representation.**

The Economic Fighters League has studied the report of the Constitutional Review Committee with seriousness and a deep sense of responsibility to the future of Ghana. We acknowledge the time and effort made by both the CRC and all the parties who made proposals during the review process....

While the report acknowledges many of the failures of our political system and proposes some valuable reforms, it ultimately retreats from the one reform capable of structurally correcting exclusion in our democracy, that would stand as a bedrock on which the purpose of said reforms would be established: Proportional Representation.

Ghana's democratic crisis is not merely about overconcentration of presidential power or inefficient governance. At its core, it is a crisis of representation. Millions of Ghanaians vote, yet remain unrepresented. Whole sections of society - youth, women, and people living with disabilities (PWDs) - participate in elections but are systematically locked out of decision making. This is not accidental. It is the direct outcome of a First-Past-the-Post system that rewards money, entrenched party machines, and patronage networks, while punishing new entrants, minority voices, and non-elite candidates.

For this reason we must assert that while the CRC has correctly acknowledged that exclusion exists, in seeking to mitigate the situation the recommendations do not go far enough. We can not speak of inclusion, diversity, and participation without rectifying the structural injustices that prevent them. The exclusion at the core of our ailing democracy, and a system that seeks to eliminate these injustices must form the foundation of any reform.

The CRC warns against what it terms a 'choiceless democracy' - a system in which citizens periodically change leaders through elections, yet experience little or no change in material or political outcomes. However, by retaining a winner-takes-all electoral architecture, the Committee preserves the very conditions that produce such a democracy. Without Proportional Representation, elections may remain competitive,

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but they will continue to be structurally exclusionary, offering the illusion of choice without the substance of representation.

Most concerning is the CRC's recommendation that the question of Proportional Representation be deferred to a future 'independent study'. A constitutional review exists precisely to resolve foundational democratic questions - not to outsource and defer them to later inquiry. The exclusion produced by our electoral system is neither hypothetical nor untested; it is lived, documented, and repeatedly affirmed by decades of elections under the First-Past-the-Post regime. To defer Proportional Representation to further study is postponement. And postponement, within the context of structural exclusion, is itself a decision. A denial of representation.

In a nation of youth who form the majority of the population, where women are chronically underrepresented, and where PWDs remain politically invisible, we can not begin to hope to see a real shift if we can not address the fundamental truths of our exclusion.

For the Youth, symbolic gestures such as lowering the presidential age limit do little to dismantle the barriers that keep them out of Parliament and real power. Without Proportional Representation, youth politics will remain trapped behind high nomination fees, winner-takes-all elections, and party hierarchies dominated by incumbency and money.

For Women, decades of advocacy towards affirmative action have produced little systemic change. The Affirmative Action Bill has been passed, and yet women remain woefully underrepresented in governance. Yet across the world, Proportional Representation has proven to be a most effective mechanism for guaranteeing women fair representation without tokenism. By failing to anchor Proportional Representation in the Constitution, we leave women's political future at the mercy of goodwill rather than justice.

For Persons Living with Disabilities, the exclusion is even more severe. A majoritarian electoral system demands territorial dominance, something structurally inaccessible to PWDs whose constituencies are dispersed. Proportional Representation would allow their political support to translate into representation. Its absence guarantees continued invisibility.

It is important to note the contradiction, lest we find ourselves committing to reforms that, without the bedrock of inclusion

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that is Proportional Representation, will merely rearrange the elites, while failing to truly redistribute power to the people.

It must be stated unequivocally that Inclusion is not a social favour. It is a constitutional obligation. A democracy that does not reflect its people cannot claim legitimacy. Without Proportional Representation, all other reforms risk reproducing the same exclusions.

It is for the reasons stated above that the Economic Fighters League finds the CRC recommendations regarding Proportional Representation to be profoundly inadequate. The committee has been bold in many recommendations yet appears to hesitate on the one that must underpin the whole.

The question before Ghana is no longer whether Proportional Representation is desirable, but whether our Constitution will continue to tolerate structural exclusion.

The Economic Fighters League therefore calls on Parliament, civil society, organised labour, and the people of Ghana - especially the Youth, Women, and Persons Living with Disabilities - to demand the constitutional entrenchment of Proportional Representation as part of the ongoing amendment process.

This is not a call for pilot programmes, policy experiments, or further studies. It is a call for a clear constitutional choice. Representation must no longer depend on goodwill, party hierarchy, or financial power, but on the democratic will of the people.

A Constitution that claims to leave no one behind must be written to include everyone.

The time for structural inclusion is now.

Proportional Representation - constitutionally entrenched - now.

Until we are all free.

Revolutionary Regards,

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