Donor efforts on women candidates applauded

By PORENI UMAU

OUTSPOKEN Bougainvillean woman leader Francesca Semoso has saluted the efforts of foreign donors in trying to conduct workshops for women candidates in PNG to help prepare them for parliament.

However, Ms Semoso said that the donors who were conducting workshops for all women candidates in the three regions - Southern, Highlands and Momase - in Port Moresby and also another in Lae should come out and state clearly if they would be there for the intending women candidates during campaign and polling periods.

"You cannot just come and empower me with the workshops and leave me like you came..."

FRANCESCA SEMOSO
Port Moresby

She said that it was one thing to come and empower women in PNG to try and help them to get into parliament by conducting workshops, but they should know that the women candidates were still hampered by two issues.

She said that these issues include lack of funding support for women candidates during campaigns and lack of interest from political parties in endorsing them.

Ms Semoso said that the efforts to empower the intending women candidates through workshops was welcomed but queried if the donors were going to help fund each of these women candidates for their campaigns and also help find political parties for them to be endorsed.

She said that empowerment was good, but queried the next step after the workshop.

"You cannot just come and empower me with the workshops and leave me like you came," she said.

She said that everyone knew that the donors wanted to go down in PNG politics history by being contributors of women into parliament but questioned if they would help fund the women candidates and be there for them all the way or just leave them alone after the workshops.

Ms Semoso said that it was not a problem for women who were ‘go getters’ and did not wait for funding or political parties but was speaking for those who lacked both support.