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Thursday, October 15, 2015

Labor's promise to restore aid to NGOs disappointing and insufficient: ActionAid

16 OCTOBER 2015: Labor's announcement this morning that it will restore \$30 million dollars' worth of aid to Australian international NGOs if it wins the next election are nothing to be celebrated, ActionAid Australia said this morning.

"\$30 million in the face of 11.2 billion dollar cuts is entirely insufficient," ActionAid Australia's Executive Director, Archie Law, said this morning.

"Tanya Plibersek is throwing Australian NGOs breadcrumbs in an effort to appease us, and has failed to articulate how Labor plans to respond effectively to the global issues that are impacting people living in poverty, such as climate change and growing inequality. \$30 million worth of aid programs delivered by Australian aid organisations will do little to address these issues.

"Let's not forget that the recent trend of cutting the aid budget was initiated by Labor in 2012.

"What we need is a commitment from both the Government and the Opposition that they will fund and administer an aid program that effectively eradicates poverty by responding to the issues that currently drive it, including climate change and inequality.

"Our aid program must not exist to secure Australia's national interests, which Ms Plibersek is using to justify the measly commitment she has made this morning, but to ensure poverty reduction internationally. In order to do this, both parties must commit to prioritising the world's poorest regions in Australia's aid program – including Africa.

"We're calling on both the Government and the Opposition to commit to restoring aid to 0.5% of GDP, and to take action on climate change – by committing to effective emissions targets and to climate finance. Anything less will not suffice."

ENDS

Editors' notes

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