

## Column 12 – Tax Reform – Good for you, good for PNG

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Tax reform is essential for building opportunities for people in developing countries.

Why?

Because a working taxation system generates the money that government needs to provide the services and support for Papua New Guinea.

Business cannot grow without communications, roads and economic activity.

People cannot raise their families without healthcare, education and facilities.

These are things that your tax pays for!

An efficient tax system helps to build the nation's economy and that means jobs and a better future for all.

Also a fair and efficient tax system is one that will encourage businesses large and small.

It will not punish people for being successful nor will it tax one group in the community more because they are easy targets.

Also a modern tax system should be reasonable and transparent so people can see what is collected and where that money goes.

PNG is a nation of small business people – mostly in the informal sector.

With a good tax system and effective government programs we can grow these businesses but **we must all share the burden – people, business and government.**

With that growth comes financial independence – as people and as a nation – until we get to the stage where we can stand on our own feet – no longer reliant on foreign aid.

Importantly our tax system and the mix of taxes that we collect must take the best of our culture and kastom and become truly home grown. It must reflect the fact that we are a young growing and unique nation with all the promise and challenges that this brings.

We must also acknowledge that IRC, Customs and Treasury must be properly resourced to meet the challenges of a modern economy and to better serve the people.

Your Tax Review Committee has consulted widely – with Industry and business bodies, with small business, with government and in our regions.

There are very strong views about our tax system and that is as it should be.

There is still time to have your say in building a tax system that is built for PNG. Input from the grassroots from business and from Leaders and from across our nation is critical to our work.

Have your say on the future of PNG's Tax system - contact the Tax Review team on [info@taxreview.gov.pg](mailto:info@taxreview.gov.pg) or visit the website [www.taxreview.gov.pg](http://www.taxreview.gov.pg).