

In the Post Courier today (13/08/2014) on page 22 (business news), there was an advert on Tax Reform. It talks about how a better taxation system can benefit the country through better health care, education and infrastructure through the collection of tax. I am an IT specialist and have very shallow knowledge of economics or business other than the very basic stuff. Therefore cannot give a good technical feedback but I have concerns that I'd like to raise, which will give you an idea of where the primary issues are:

I am one of those who pay taxes and I pay K450.00 every pay day without fail to the government. Yet I do not receive any better service. My children attend a church-run school and I pay K12000.00 for their school fees and on top of that, I have to assist the school in other ways in order to ensure the school is well-equipped to deliver a better education. I prefer this school because discipline, Christian principles and well-thought curriculum is provided compared to the government run schools. There is no government hand in this school. How does that justify a faithful tax-payer? I want the government to subsidise school fees for my children at this school like they do for the public schools. Some people do not pay-tax and yet benefit from the free-education, where is the fairness?

I also pay hefty medical fees when my four children are sick or are up for their annual medical reviews at private hospitals because as working parents, we have to get timely treatment with proper medical service in a hygienic environment in order to go back to work so we can provide for our family and of course, pay tax, the public health system is always failing. Again, where is the hand of the Government for the K450.00 I pay fortnightly? Can there be better machineries and medical practitioners and a clean hospital environment in all suburbs where tax-payers live? Can the medical facilities be accessible when needed and a timely response to patients be made? Aren't the tax payers contributing to the salaries of the doctors and nurses who are half the time not at work??

I also live in a rented accommodation and with the value of real-estate agents being unrealistic, a medium class Papua New Guinean cannot afford a decent home, I am dreaming of that day that I will buy myself a house. I am not sure on how I can go about in benefiting from the K200 million housing project that the government has initiated, there is no awareness on the procedures in obtaining this loan so far. I am a faithful tax payer and am wondering if this service will benefit a private sector class person, like me, who has made it possible for the Government to have plenty money for all these initiatives.

I prefer fresh vegetables from the highlands and the islands and mainland of PNG, in Port Moresby, they are sold in Gordons Market (mainly). This place is such a filth and petty crimes is unavoidable. When can I be given a better place that is free from criminals and dirt and filth to freely buy my local food stuff that is much healthier. My children although Papua New Guineans have never been taken to Gordons market or any market within NCD because they are filthy and unhygienic and with expensive medical bills, who would want to take the health risk... this is a sad fact that is true?? Prices of goods in shopping centres are only affordable by those high-class wage earners (about 10% of the working population). A middle class wage earner like me who make up the majority of the working class population cannot afford a decent meal after paying our tax to the government who cannot subsidise the cost of these goods and services. I do not think this is FAIR at all.

PMV services are even worse when it is a primary means of commuting to work in PNG and it is the tax-payers that use this facility that has never improved. The list of these things will go on. SO HOW CAN THE TAX WE PAID OVER TIME assist tax-payers like me?

I Hope the TAX REFORMS COMMITTEE can see my side of complain and address it with better reforms in place. The government must pay for my children's school fees next year, this is a very basic right the government is advocating and I am paying tax to assist in that area and I want that service to be given to my children, too!!

Why are the non-tax payers benefiting in things that are made possible by a tax-payer while the tax-payer misses out, can there be some justice in there?

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