

Everybody pays taxes!

“It’s your money so make sure it gets used properly.”

1. What is tax?

- *Tax is money collected by the government. This poster shows that government gets tax in different ways.*
- a) If we get a monthly salary for being a teacher, or working in a company some of the salary is kept by the government as income tax.
- b) Big companies pay tax on their profits.
- c) Almost every time we buy or sell something we are paying tax to the government. For example when we buy something at the trade store... we are paying the gst tax. If something costs 1 kina then 15 toea goes to the government. (In fact the big companies in Moresby and Lae pay the tax but include it in the price that the trade store owner pays.)
- d) Even when you go buy truck to a market and sell kau kau you are paying tax, because you pay a market fee (some of which goes to the government in taxes) and you would also be helping pay the tax on the fuel for the truck when you pay the driver.

5. What is the government supposed to do with the taxes?

- *The Government should provide for services like schools, roads, health services. Taxes are your contribution to the government for your needs.*
- *The district Support grant is paid for with YOUR taxes.*
- *If any new things such as new roads are paid for with YOUR taxes but taxes are also needed to pay for maintaining the services we have.*
- *If taxes are not being spent properly- the taxes might even be used to bribe voters!*

6. Can I ask my MP how my tax is being used?

- *Yes! It is your legal right to find how your money is being spent. Questioning your leader on the use of taxes keeps them accountable. Good leaders will be very happy to be asked questions like this as they will respect that you have a right to goods and services as a TAXPAYER.*

7. Remember it’s good to pay taxes – but we must be sure they are being used properly. Vote for an MP who will make sure that our taxes are being used properly.

- *Make sure you put YOUR TAXES in the hands of someone we can trust by voting for the best leader. Remember that the best candidate may NOT be from your clan!*

Now show poster

- Point and read out the text in the pictures
- Emphasize that there are several types of taxes and that EVERYONE pays taxes!
- Point to the speech bubbles next to the people’s heads and read out what each is saying
- Now ask them what they conclude from the poster

SUMMARY

1. Taxes are our contributions to the Government to provide for the things we need.
2. Vote wisely! Remember, you live with the decision you make in just 5 seconds for the next 5 years!