

## Harmful Tax Practices – Their Impact and What *You* Can Do

### The Issue

Taxes are what pay for schools, hospitals, water supplies, roads and other important social services. Yet governments across Africa have voluntarily forfeited *billions* of tax dollars to large corporations and multinational companies through tax treaties, tax incentives and tax exemptions. **Less taxes paid by companies means fewer hospital, fewer schools, and fewer paved roads for you.**

### Surely there must be a reason...?

The government argues that these tax treaties, incentives and exemptions are what attract businesses to African countries and that this will, in the long run, grow our economy. However, there is much evidence that says this assumption is incorrect.

Multiple studies show that tax incentives and exemptions are *rarely even considered* by large foreign companies. Good roads, reliable power supply and an educated workforce are ranked as much more important factors – and to improve these investment-attracting factors, we need the revenue from taxes.

### Can I Really Make a Difference?

Yes you can! The issue of foreign taxation is a controversial one, so governments *are* listening. Now is the perfect chance to let your opinion be heard; from March 25<sup>th</sup> – March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 finance ministers from across Africa are attending a development conference in Abuja.

**Send an SMS starting with TAXJUSTICE** that will be delivered to all African Union Finance Ministers and tell them, however you like, to stop harmful tax incentives. It takes only 30 seconds yet can make a difference that lasts for generations.

Send your SMS today using the following numbers:

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