

Taxes And The Plight Of The Poor

THE Minister of Finance raised the issue of an increase in the current income tax. He said that, in doing so, the government will avoid borrowing money from other countries.

My concern is that the Minister does not seem too concerned about the plight of Namibians who are already suffering under the current tax system.

Namibian workers are on strike demanding salary increments to cope with the ever increasing cost of living. The unemployed masses need jobs before they can pay the statutory taxes. Overtaxing us is exploitation. One gets

the impression that the government is unconcerned with the suffering of its people. A more cynical person would say that the government is deriving pleasure from the suffering of its people.

Are we on a downward spiral? With the increasing taxes, salary increments in any case do not always mean more money in one's pocket. The Minister said last year that the money would come back to the people at the end of that year. Well, I for one have not seen any kind of return.

CONCERNED CITIZEN, WINDHOEK