

Kenya to start taxing mobile transactions

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The Kenyan government has announced plans to implement a 10% tax on mobile money payments, including those made via M-Pesa.

According to The Next Web, the tax is part of a plan to cover the nearly US\$300-million needed for pay rises after a recent strike by state-employed teachers, lecturers and doctors.

There are around 17-million registered M-Pesa accounts, handling over two-million transactions a day. Although most of the amounts being moved are relatively small, sheer volume should mean that the government gets some decent revenue from the tax.

As The Next Web notes however, it doesn't look like the mobile operators were kept in the loop with the new tax.

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