



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (PRESS & PR)**

***Press Release***

**ICPC, EDUCATION MINISTRY TO COLLABORATE ON UNITY SCHOOLS  
INVESTIGATION**

Following the report of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, (ICPC) that the sum of N2.67 billion released to the 104 Unity Colleges during the COVID-19 lockdown for meal subsidies found its way into individual accounts, Education Minister, Adamu Adamu, has ordered a full-scale investigation into the matter.

In response to queries issued by the Federal Ministry of Education, the Principals explained that payments on meal subsidies to Unity Colleges on the Government Integrated Financial Management Information System, (GIFMIS) platform is designed to accommodate individual officers of those colleges who are officially recognized to receive such payments and disburse same to food vendors.

This followed difficulties encountered by farmers, local food vendors and market women who do not have Tax Identification Numbers (TIN), PENCOM and other requirements to access the payment platform.

The Principals also explained that payments made during the lockdown period had to do with debts owed food vendors even before COVID 19, some of which are still pending, adding that these debts arose from irregular and inadequate budgetary allocations and releases over the years.

The investigation is to establish the veracity of the claims to ensure that there is no diversion of public funds or misappropriation of same.

To this end, the Ministry in line with the Minister's directive is to collaborate effectively with officials of the ICPC to unearth the facts as well as find a lasting solution to the payment system for meal subsidies that will ensure accountability and transparency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Bem Goong'.

**Ben Bem Goong**

Director, Press and Public Relations

6<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

A handwritten number in black ink, appearing to be a phone number: 08070587668.