

SUNDAY

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■ IDPS take over Keana South Primary School in Keana LGA, Nasarawa State.

Investigation:

Under Govt School Feeding Programme, Pupils Eat Rotten Fish, Stale Bread

The Federal Government has spent about N65 billion on the National Home Grown School Feeding (NHGSF) programme, yet enrollment has dropped in some schools, while pupils eat in unhygienic environments. This investigation, which covers the North Central states of Nigeria, also reveals that pupils are fed rotten fish and stale bread.

By **Terkula Igidi**

The programme, conceived to beat the scandalous out-of-school children's figure, which stands at over 10 million, improve pupils' nutrition

and health, as well as improve agricultural production and create jobs, has failed to achieve most of these objectives.

"I don't enjoy the food cooked by the other vendor because she does not put enough ingredients in her

food," said Nafisa Idris, a Primary 3 pupil of Local Education Authority (LEA) Primary School, Matandi, Magama Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State, when asked about her feelings on the free meals the Federal Government pays

cooks to serve in schools.

The vendor who serves food to Nafisa's class, Zuwaira Danjuma, however, said she had never received complaints from the pupils nor the teachers. She said she was allocated 117 pupils to feed, but when our

reporter counted the entire pupils in Early Child Education (ECE) class and Primary 3, they were just 53 for the day.

A Primary 2 pupil at the school, Abbas Aminu, also complained

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