

Govt releases GH¢195.5m for SHS feeding, Primetime arrears

BY CLIFF EKUFUL

THE government has released an amount of GH¢186million to cover for feeding under the free Senior High School for this year.

Similarly, it has also released GH¢9.5 million to Primetime Limited, the organisers of the National Science and Mathematics Quiz (NSMQ), to clear all outstanding arrears owed them.

The amount covers monies owed Primetime from 2023 to date and pave the way for this year's competition to take place.

The Minister of Education, Haruna Iddrisu, disclosed this when he addressed the Conference of Heads of Assisted Secondary Schools (CHASS) in Sunyani in the Bono Region yesterday.

According to the Minister, the payments, especially that of Primetime was part of the

government's commitment to sustaining the prestigious academic competition and ensuring its continued growth.

As part of recent developments, the number of participating schools in the NSMQ has been expanded from 124 to 177, indicating a significant increase in national interest and institutional involvement.

Despite the payment, CHASS has raised concerns regarding participation in the upcoming 2025 edition of the competition.

In a letter dated October 3, 2025 and addressed to the Managing Director of Primetime Limited, CHASS stated that due to the government's delay in releasing operational funds to schools, Senior High Schools (SHS) would not be able to take part in the launch and balloting process.

"CHASS regrets to inform you that schools would not be able to participate in the balloting and subsequently, the Quiz competition due to non-availability of

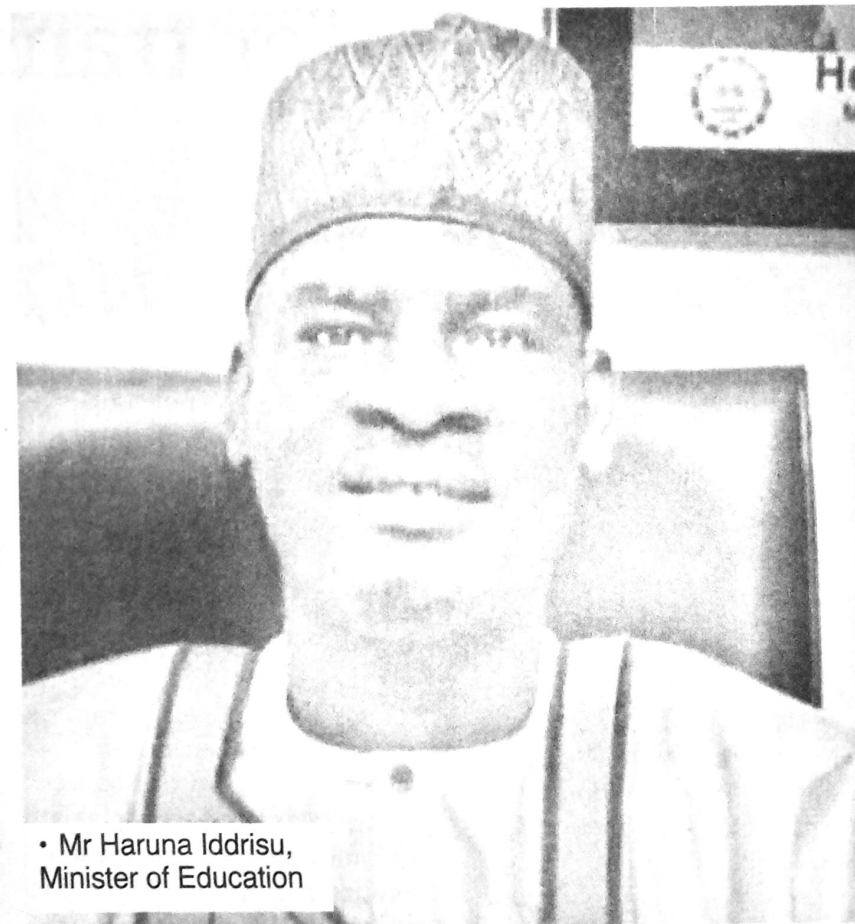
funds to schools to mobilise and organise their students to take part," the letter, signed by CHASS National Secretary, Baro Primus, stated.

The letter, which was copied to the Director-General of the Ghana Education Service, the President of CHASS, and all Regional CHASS Chairmen, expressed regret for any inconvenience caused and thanked Primetime Limited for its understanding.

However, CHASS noted that it remains open to revisiting its decision.

"We want to assure the organisers that, as soon as government releases funds for that purpose, CHASS will review its position and communicate to you accordingly," the statement added.

It remains unclear whether the GH¢9.5 million released would directly affect the schools' ability to participate, as CHASS maintains that schools are currently unable to mobilise their students without separate funding.



• Mr Haruna Iddrisu,
Minister of Education