



### The first question of Fatwa no. 20606

**Q 1:** I am a principal of a school compound at one of the villages subsequent to Al-Madinah Al-Munawarah, praise be to Allah. What I would like to clarify for your Eminence, is that people at this village are nomads, belonging to Arabian tribes, they are characterized by generosity and gallantry, thus, they always take the initiative to invite me to either lunch or dinner, and if I refuse, they send me the slaughtered animal to my house at the village and say that this is their duty towards my colleague teachers and myself. However, I am worried that this might be a sort of a bribe. It should be mentioned that whoever invites me either has children at the school, or works in driving the students, or even wants to get closer to me for my post as a principal. But on the other hand some do not have any interest.

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**Should I reject these invitations? For I find this matter very harassing.**

**A:** It is impermissible for an employee to accept presents or gratuities from any beneficiary, and the same applies to the school principal, for it is impermissible for him to accept the presents given by students or their parents, as all this falls under prohibited Ghulul (embezzling from booty). Moreover, it is authentically reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: [\(Gifts given to workers are Ghulul\)](#) This is because accepting them compromises inequity and involves unlawful rendering of services or favors.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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**Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee**