

ITF partners NCRIP for training returnee migrants

In order to ensure the smooth return, readmission and reintegration of Nigerian migrants from Libya and other parts of the world that have been evacuated back to the country, the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) is set to enter into partnership with the National Commission for Refugees for Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCRIP) to equip the returning migrants with life skills for sustainable livelihood.

The Director General of the Industrial Training Fund, Sir Joseph Ari said the training will commence as soon as profiling and needs assessments of the returnees, which is currently on going is concluded.

Ari said the returnees will be trained using the existing initiatives and strategies by the ITF that are targeted at equipping the youth and indigent in Nigeria with skills for employability and entrepreneurship.

He listed the vehicles to be used to include: the National Skills Development Programme (NISDP), the Passion to Profession Programme (P2PP), the Technical Skills Development Project (TSDP), the Construction Skills Empowerment Programme CONSEP) as well as the Agri-preneurship.

He added that the Fund's three mobile workshops, which are equipped with modern facilities for training of Nigerians in Welding and Fabrication, Tailoring and Fashion Design, Air conditioning and Instrumentation will also be deployed for capacity development for the returnees just as the Fund's five Industrial Skills Training Centres located in Ikeja, Lokoja, Abuja, kano and Jos will also be used.

The DG asserted that equipping Nigerians with skills will not only discourage the mass migration and the attendant fallouts as many Nigerians particularly those that are vulnerable to the temptation of migrating will be discouraged if fully engaged.

In another development, in appreciation of soaring unemployment despite efforts of the Federal Government, the Fund is set to expand the number of its skills centres across the country in order to open up more opportunities for Nigerians willing to acquire skills.

To this end, the Fund will establish a new Industrial Skills Training Centre in Abia State.

Arising from a 3-day Retreat at the HBC Resort, Kuru, the Fund also resolved to establish a special Training Centre in Oil and Gas in Port Harcourt with emphasis on equipping Nigerians with skills in underwater welding, instrumentation and electronics.

The new Training Centres, which will be completed between 2019 and 2021, will bring the number of the Fund's Skills Training Centres to seven.

ITF, NMRC empowers 45 IDPS with housing construction skills

The Industrial Training Fund in collaboration with the Nigeria Mortgage Refinance Company (NMRC) has empowered 45 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) with technical skills in different aspects of housing construction work.

The skills are in masonry/tiling –plumbing as well as electrical installations.

The 45 beneficiaries, who currently reside at the IDP Camp in New Kuchingoro Abuja, yesterday graduated from a two-month NMRC sponsored vocational training programme facilitated by the Industrial Training Fund (ITF).

Qualified building professionals and experts were engaged to train the graduating IDPs.

NMRC also provided the graduates with relevant start-up tool kits in their respective fields of training to enable them to ply their new skills.

Speaking at the closing ceremony to mark the graduation of the IDPs, NMRC's Managing Director/Chief Executive, Professor Charles Inyangete noted that the training programme is part of NMRC's strategic community outreach program designed to impact lives and contribute to solving problems in the housing construction sector.

In his words: "Today is a day of delight for me. NMRC is proud to have initiated this program and happy to note that the first batch of beneficiaries have graduated. We believe that they are now empowered with the right skill set to work as experts and earn a decent living for themselves and their families. We also know that by this, we are helping to reduce the skill deficit in the housing sector. It is our plan to sustain this effort as our contribution to improving technical skills in the construction industry."

In her remarks at the event, the representative of the Director General/CEO, Industrial Training Fund, Mrs. Evelyn Irabor, Director/Head of Training, ITF commended NMRC for the initiative to empower IDPs. She said that the training has given the beneficiaries the capacity to constructively participate in the rebuilding of their communities which have been destroyed by the Boko Haram insurgency.

Dr. Chii Akporji, NMRC's Executive Director in charge of Policy, Strategy and Business Development and initiator of the programme expressed fulfilment that the two-pronged strategy of NMRC – to economically empower displaced persons and contribute to reducing the housing industry skill deficit – is now a reality. She restated NMRC's commitment to progressing the training and impacting more lives.

In his response on behalf of the beneficiaries, Mr. Enoch Yohanna, the Camp Secretary expressed gratitude to NMRC for coming to their aid after their displacement from their homes by the Boko Haram crisis.

ITF trained, equipped 11,100 youths nationwide with start-up pack –DG

THE Director-General of the Industrial Training Fund (ITF), Mr Joseph N. Ari, on Wednesday in Osogbo, Osun State capital said no fewer than 11,100 young Nigerians have been trained and equipped nationwide with working tools by the organisation under the National Industrial Skills Development Programme (NISDP).

He maintained that the development was parts of "ITF contribution to the federal government's policy of job and wealth creation, including poverty reduction by equipping as many youths as possible with skills for employability and entrepreneurship".

Ari, who spoke during the presentation ceremony of start-up packs to 300 beneficiaries of NISDP in Osun said Nigerians must strive to acquire hands-on skills, which he described as universal currency of the 21st century, stressing that "the trainees we are graduating today were trained for three months in tailoring and fashion design, welding and fabrication and plumbing and pipe-fitting".

According to the ITF boss, "the selection process for beneficiaries across all the local government was thorough and meticulous based on potential value added to the individual trainees and to the growth and development of Nigerian economy".

While explaining that the closing ceremony of NISDP and presentation of working tools to beneficiaries were staggered to hold in designated states in Nigeria, Ari posited that "since we commenced implementation of the programme, we have taken a step further from merely training and equipping the youth with knowledge and skills, to providing them with start-up packs to enable them to set up their businesses and hit the ground running".

"The decision to provide the packs was informed by our tracking and monitoring of trainees of earlier phases, which revealed that were supported with start-up packs, 90% of the trainees went on to be successful entrepreneurs or even employers of labour. Conversely, where they were not, they were not as successful", he remarked.

Continuing, Ari averred that “the start-up packs that are being distributed today should be viewed as our practical example and message to stakeholders, especially State Governors and other members of Organised Private Sector (OPS) that training without corresponding support will not lead to expected outcomes”.

In his remark, Osun State governor, Mr Rauf Aregbesola, who emphasised that the future of our nation depends on the youth underscored the need for Nigerians to embrace productivity, adding that “no society survive on dependence. Any unearned income is a rent and it is a curse.”

Describing work as “an engagement that enriches self and the society, the governor expressed the readiness of the state government to collaborate with the ITF in monitoring the beneficiaries, just as he tasked them not to succumb to any urge of selling their working tools.

Flour Mills subsidiary launches youth empowerment initiative with ITF in Calabar

Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc (FMN) Group, through one of its divisions, Niger Mills, Calabar, has initiated a youth capacity development training and empowerment programme in partnership with the Federal Government’s Industrial Training Fund (ITF).

This move according to the company is aimed at developing and empowering youths in Nigeria to realize their ambitions and contribute immensely to national development.

Speaking at a brief ceremony in Calabar, Cross River to unveil the first set of beneficiaries of the programme, the Company Secretary/ Director, Legal services, Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc, Joseph Umolu, in a statement, disclosed that the youth development programme is part of the company’s Corporate Social Responsibility projects and an ongoing community-based process to avail young people with the competencies and social skills required to become productive members of the society.

He disclosed further that, in addition to the skills acquisition training, each beneficiary will be paid a monthly stipend during the period of the training which is expected to last between six months and one year.

On his part, the General Manager, Niger Mills Calabar, Christiaan Rautenbach, said the company is committed towards improving the standard of living of the people in the environs where it operates.

He also stated that Nigeria Mill would continue to invest in projects that positively impact on our environment.

“At Niger Mills, we are passionate about improving and enriching the lives of our host communities. We are excited at the prospects of this training scheme, and will continue to invest in projects that positively impact on our environment.”

He disclosed that 14 people, who have a minimum academic qualification of the first school leaving certificate, were selected across 4 host communities in Calabar, as recipients for the first set of training in fashion designing, bakery and pastry, aluminium fabrication, plumbing and fitting, and welding.

He added: “We have also completed arrangements to provide each beneficiary, who successfully complete the training with the basic facilities to help them start up a small-scale business and become employers of labour themselves.”

FCTA, ITF to collaborate on skill development

In a bid to curtail the rate of unemployment in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and the country in general, FCT Minister Malam Muhammad Musa Bello has expressed the readiness of FCT Administration to collaborate with Industrial Training Fund (ITF) to inculcate necessary entrepreneurial and vocational skills in FCT youths.

The Minister gave this indication when the Director General and Chief Executive Officer of Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Sir Joseph Ari paid a him a courtesy call.

He said: “We are ready to partner with Industrial Training Fund to reduce unemployment in the Territory by ensuring that our youths acquire the necessary skills that would make them self-employed and employers of labour. This is especially very important now that there is so much influx of people from every part of the country into the Territory.”

Malam Bello, who was represented at the occasion by the FCT Permanent Secretary, Sir Chinyeaka Ohaa, lauded the enormous contributions of the ITF in repositioning the nation’s economy on the path of sustainable growth and development.

His words: “We know that Industrial Training Fund (ITF) is one of the foremost institutions that has helped Nigeria economy tremendously. In fact, your role is even more critical now that we are having unemployment issues.”

The Director-General and Chief Executive Office of Industrial Training Fund (ITF), Sir Joseph Ari, explained that given the position of FCT as the gateway of Nigeria, the Agency believed that partnership with FCT Administration, particularly in the area of skill

acquisition would assist immensely to achieve the dream of President Muhammadu Buhari of empowering young people with requisite skills.

“We are here to synergise with FCT Administration being the gateway of Nigeria to achieve the dream of President Muhammadu Buhari which is hinged on empowering people with skills in different areas, he explained.”

The Director-General further remarked that the Agency has keyed into the policy of Federal Government concerning ease of doing business and other international trends.

ITF trains 300 FCT youths, provides tools for business take off

The Industrial Training Fund (ITF) has trained 300 youths in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in welding and fabrication, plumbing, tailoring and fashion design and pipe fitting in another phase of National Industrial Skills Development Programme (NISDP).

Speaking at the graduation ceremony on Monday in Abuja, the Director General of ITF, Joseph Ari stated that the training “is in line with our mandate, and as our contribution to the Federal Government’s policy for job creation and poverty reduction, by equipping as many youths as possible with skills for employability and entrepreneurship.”

“Today’s event marks a watershed in our implementation of the NISDP as we have taken a step further from merely training and equipping youths with knowledge and technical skills, to also providing them with start-up packs to enable them set-up their businesses and hit the ground running.”

Ari stated further that, “this decision to provide the packs was informed by our tracking and monitoring of trainees of earlier phases, which revealed that where they were supported with start-up packs, 90% of our trainees went on to be successful entrepreneurs or even employers of labour.”

He said, “the start-up packs that are being distributed today should be viewed as our practical example and message to our stakeholders especially State Governors and another member of the Organized Private Sector (OPS) that training without corresponding support will not lead to expected outcomes.”

Ari cautioned the beneficiaries that, “the start-up packs are of high standard and therefore cost ITF several millions of naira to procure. Do not contemplate selling any of the items presented to you,” He charged them.

The DG solicited for the co-operation and assistance of stakeholders for the objectives of NISDP to fully be realized. “Our doors are therefore wide open for collaboration in any aspect of human capacity development and vocational education and training,” he stated.

Receiving the start-up packs on behalf of the trainees, the Minister for Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Mohammed Bello said:” we in the FCT are very happy with the ITF for giving jobs to youths in the territory.”

He urged the beneficiaries to make good use of the items given to them. ” Don’t think of selling the items given to you in order to make quick money, put your training to use and eventually you will make money” he cautioned them.

One of the beneficiaries, Yahaya Taofiq who is trained in welding and fabrication told our reporter that the training was intense and he has benefited enormously from the programme.