

## **ITF ROLLS OUT LIST OF 2018 IMPLEMENTABLE PROGRAMMES –SIR ARI**

The Director-General of the Industrial Training Fund, Sir Joseph N. Ari has rolled out a list of implementable programmes for year 2018.

He disclosed this yesterday at a World Press Conference organized by the Fund for Journalists at the Kogi hall of the Transcorp Hilton Hotel in Abuja, to bring the Fund's stakeholders abreast of its activities and programmes.

The programmes, he said include the National Industrial Skills Development Programme (NISDP), Women Skills Empowerment Programme (WOSEP), Air-conditioning and Refrigeration, Designing and Garment Making, Skills Training and Empowerment Programme for the Physically Challenged (STEPP-C), Agri-prenuership and Training Programme Development on International Marketing.

Sir Ari said the programmes were as a result of the report of the ITF/UNIDO Skills Gap Assessment in Six Priority Areas of the Nigerian economy, as well as other in-house surveys. Reports of which revealed that, despite rising unemployment, numerous vacancies still existed in several sectors of the economy that could either not be filled by Nigerians because of lack of skills or were being filled by foreigners.

"In all, the programmes will train about 13,000 Nigerians in the 5-month period. The breakdown of Nigerians to be trained is as follows; 11,100 youths to be trained under the NISDP, 360 women under Women Skills Empowerment Programme, 75 youths in Air-conditioning and Refrigeration (Training on Wheels),50 youths in Designing and Garment Making (Training on Wheels).

Others include; 120 to be trained under the Skills Training and Empowerment Programme for the Physically Challenged People (STEPP-C), 150 persons to be trained under the Post-Harvest Techniques and Project Development programme, 150 persons to be trained in Aqua-Culture /Fish

Farming, 150 persons to be trained each in Manure Production, Crop Production and Poultry Farming” he said.

Sir Ari noted that apart from the NISDP that would be implemented in all the states including the FCT, the rest of the programmes will be shared among the states. However, the decision as to which state benefits from a particular programme, was based on the likelihood of participants to eke out sustainable livelihoods because of the needs of the state for such particular skills.

Sir Ari, lauded the vital role the media had played in driving the Fund to what it was today, this he said could not have been possible without the consistent sensitization of Nigerians by the media and thanked them for being such pillar of support over the years.

“With the number of Nigerians that are currently unemployed, the number of trainees we are commencing with, which is over 13,000 is like a drop of water in the ocean especially when weighed against the fact that training a country is more than training a company” he said.

He also noted that, tackling unemployment through skills acquisition cannot and should not be the responsibility of the ITF and other agencies of the Federal Government alone. The co-operation and collaboration of all State Governments, the Organized Private Sector (OPS), politicians and other stakeholders will be critical for a multiplier effect.

The ITF DG therefore called on state governments and other stakeholders to sponsor additional trainees. Such sponsorship he said will entail payment of monthly stipends to the trainees, payment of master craftsmen allowance and provision of additional start-up kits to trainees.

“The collaboration of the media is equally vital. As the most important vehicle for information dissemination, agenda setting and opinion moulding, it is your responsibility to sensitize Nigerians on the importance of the acquisition of technical skills” he said.



“It is equally your responsibility to ensure that Governments at all levels appreciate the critical place of skills acquisition in not just tackling unemployment but also developing their societies as a whole” he added.

He therefore thanked the press for honouring his invitation and hoped that they will use the media for the cause of developing the nation.

