

## **YOU’VE PERFORMED EXCELLENTLY, SENATE COMMITTEE CHAIR COMMENDS ITF DG**

The Chairman Senate Committee on Industries, Dr. Sam Egwu has commended the Director General of the Industrial Training Fund, Sir Joseph N. Ari for turning around the fortunes of the organization within his short period in office.

Dr. Egwu especially lauded the on-going renovation of the Fund’s headquarters describing the premises as one of the best the Committee has visited.

“Your premises is one of the best. We have visited some corporate headquarters of the government agencies under our supervision and I want to say none made this particular standard. The cleanliness and serenity reminded me of when we went to Kenya”, he said.

The Senator made these observations when he led members of the committee on an oversight function to the Fund recently.

He said that the purpose of their visit was to confirm the level of the implementation of the 2016 budget approved by the National Assembly, adding that the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate was committed to making beneficial appropriations for the betterment and growth of the economy and to ensure full implementation of capital projects.

Earlier in his welcome address, the ITF DG lamented the poor funding of the Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) citing it as major impediment to proper administration of the scheme.

The DG said that the ITF was vested with the management of the Scheme but inadequate funding by the Federal Government had made the administration difficult, a situation he blamed on consistent under-appropriation for the scheme.

He said, “appropriations for allowances of supervisors and students have not reflected such exponential increases leading to a situation where ITF is owing billions as unpaid SIWES supervisory and students allowances”.

He appealed to the committee to assist in alleviating this problem in order avert rampant picketing and harassment of the ITF staff across the country.

He also identified non-compliance to the enabling Act of the Fund by the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and the collapse of companies due to the Nation's economic downturn as factors that have severely impacted on the revenue profile of the Fund.