

ITF DG CHARGES JOURNALISTS ON SAFETY

The Director General of the Industrial Training Fund (ITF), Sir Joseph Ari has described the Journalism profession as a risky profession where decisions are made out of a sense of duty, professionalism or sometimes a mix of both.

Sir Joseph Ari who was speaking as Guest Speaker at the Memorial Lecture and Fund Raising ceremony for an ICT centre organized by the Plateau State chapter of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) at Eliel Centre, Rayfield, Jos also said the sense of survival should be uppermost even as Journalists confront the risks posed in the course of their responsibilities.

He decried the infiltration of the profession by commercially-inclined quacks masquerading as Journalists which he said makes a mockery of the constitutionally assigned role of the media. He added that inspite of all the threats, Journalists should not be discouraged” as the people of the nation Nigeria look up to us to provide the quality of information and reportage that will spur our leaders to make a difference not only in the immediate but in the long-term for the benefit of all.

The ITF DG, himself a two-time Chief Press Secretary to two Plateau State Governors, however challenged news organizations to also have a responsibility to support their Journalists on commissioned assignments just as he tasked the Journalists and their media house to evolve a culture of risk assessment before undertaking any assignment as according to him, “news events can be extremely unpredictable.”

He recalled the role of Journalists in the struggle for Nigeria’s independence and the country’s return to democratic form of government as been the selfless services the media had to make, gradually and painstakingly rising

above fear, harassment and intimidation to ensure that Nigeria joins the ranks of democratic nations.

Earlier in a welcome address, the Chairman of the Plateau State chapter of NUJ, Mr. Yakubu Taddy said the event was to commemorate the death of eight Journalists in an accident ten years ago saying even though it's painful to remember their exit, it is the best way to remember them.

Taddy said the Union has neither silver nor gold to give to the families of the deceased but 'will honour them through the launch of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Centre that is been launched today'.

The event which had Governor Simon Lalong represented by Commissioner for Special Duties, Mr. Hitler Dadi also had in attendance, the Commissioner for Information, Plateau State, Honourable Nazeef Mohammed, representative of the Emir of Wase and a host of other dignitaries and veteran Journalists including Nde Gideon Barde.

