

## GOVERNOR LALONG COMMENDS ITF FOR FLOATING WOSEP

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Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong has commended the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) for initiating the Women Skills Empowerment Programme (WOSEP) as a measure to empower vulnerable and unemployed women.

Governor Lalong, who was represented by the Director-General, Plateau State Medium Enterprise Development Agency (PLASMEDA), Mr. Haggai Gutap gave the commendation at the official flag-off of the WOSEP for Plateau State organized by the ITF, which held at the Women Multi-purpose Centre, Jos.

He stated that the programme was apt as the State under his leadership was desirous of engaging youth and women on the Plateau with life skills for empowerment and self-sufficiency.

According to him "government has a lot of programmes for women and youth and will utilize the ITF in delivering on this very important task. ITF has been a great partner in progress hence the need for continuous patronage of its programmes".

The Governor urged the beneficiaries of the programme to count themselves lucky for the opportunity, adding that they should show commitment and be dedicated in learning their chosen trades. He also assured the beneficiaries that the State Government would monitor their performances throughout the duration of the programme.

Earlier in an address, the Director-General of ITF, Sir Joseph Ari represented by Mr. Chris Adikwu, said the main objective of the WOSEP was to equip vulnerable women with requisite skills for setting up and managing small

scale businesses as well as provide them with employable skills that will assist them in the world of work.

He said the programme, which commenced late May, 2017 with 18 States which form the first phase and will be trained for 3 months in dominant trades and crafts leading to a total of 380 beneficiaries.

The DG further disclosed that "the Asian Tigers would not have become technical giants today, if they had failed to place skills acquisition on the front burner of their National Development Plans, commending the efforts of the Plateau State Government for the full sponsorship of additional 36 women in the state.

He stressed that ITF would continue to do more for the Nigerian economy in aspects leading to job and wealth creation and economic diversification.

The event was attended by representatives of the State Head of Service, Commissioner for Women Affairs among other important dignitaries.

