

ITF EMPOWERS 310 EBONYI INDIGENES WITH START-UP PACKS

The Director-General of the Industrial Training Fund (ITF), has asserted that it is through skills acquisition that a nation can become industrialized.

He made this assertion during the closing ceremony of the 2018 National Industrial Skills Development Programme (NISDP) which took at the Women Development Centre in Abakaliki recently.

The Director-General who was represented at the ceremony by a Deputy Director and Head, Manufacturing Division, of the Technical Vocational and Skills Department, Mr. James Oluwasemire, said that over 11,000 Nigerians have been trained under the 7th phase of the NISDP.

He said the phase has trained Nigerians in various trades such as welding and Fabrication, Plumbing and Pipe-fitting, Tailoring, Aluminium, Tilling, Plaster of Paris (PoP) among others.

He also said that, monitoring and evaluation of earlier graduands indicated that where training occurred without accompanying empowerment tools, the result becomes less impactful.

This made ITF empower all beneficiaries of its skills acquisition programmes with start-up packs he said.

The DG added that further surveys have revealed that in all cases where the trainees were provided with the start-up, over 90 percent earned reasonable livelihood as entrepreneurs.

Ari stated that the Fund's provision of start-up packs to trainees is to stem President Muhammadu Buhari's Policy of job creation.

He urged beneficiaries to utilize the opportunities provided by the ITF skills acquisition programmes, use their start-up packs for self sustenance and contribute to the nation's economic growth.

Earlier in her welcome address, the Area Manager Abakaliki Office, Mrs. Ifeyinwa Osagie, noted that the NISDP is one of the flagship programmes

of the ITF, used to accelerate acquisition of technical, vocational and entrepreneurship skills.

She said the beneficiaries of Ebonyi successfully passed through a three month intensive skills acquisition programme in the areas of Catering and Events Management, Aluminium Fabrication and Installation well as tiling and PoP.

ITF interest in youths she said, was due to the fact that the median age of the Nigerian population is 17.9 years which means that the country has a preponderance of youths population.

The Area Manager urged the beneficiaries to reciprocate the ITF gesture by using the start-up packs to commence their own business immediately and contribute to societal upliftment added that the office will from time to time visit them to monitor their progress.

The Commissioner for Human Capital Development and Monitoring, Mr. Uchenna Orji, represented by Mr. Chris Obaji, commended the ITF for complementing the state government efforts to empower its citizens and called on other Agencies to emulate the ITF.

Responding, one of the graduands, Miss Nkechinyere Aloh, who spoke on behalf of the beneficiaries, thanked the ITF and promised that the equipment will be judiciously utilized and also be used to train others.