

TEXT OF AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, OTUNBA RICHARD ADENIYI ADEBAYO, CON, THE HONOURABLE MINISTER, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND INVESTMENT (FMITI) AT THE COMMISSIONING OF THE ITF MODERN LIBRARY COMPLEX, CENTRAL STORE AT THE ITF HEADQUARTERS AND CLASSROOM BLOCK AT THE ITF STAFF SCHOOL ON FRIDAY, 28th FEBRUARY, 2020 IN JOS, PLATEAU STATE.

PROTOCOL

I am most delighted to be here in Jos for the official commissioning of the ITF Modern Library Complex, Central Store at the ITF Headquarters and a Classroom Block at the ITF Staff School.

Before I continue with my address, let me acknowledge the presence of His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Barr. Simon Bako Lalong, the Governor of Plateau State, who has made out time to grace this occasion despite his other official engagements.

May I also congratulate and commend the ITF Management for the giant strides they have recorded in the Fund since the assumption to office in 2016. I wish to particularly commend the DG, Sir Joseph N. Ari, KSM, KSS, under whose leadership the ITF has witnessed unprecedented growth, especially in the provision of the enabling facilities and infrastructure to ensure the achievement of the Fund's mandate.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, today's commissioning of three projects is another testament to the vision and leadership qualities of the DG. You may recall that

last week, the Fund commissioned a Mechatronics Workshop and Administrative Block at the Industrial Skills Training Centre (ISTC), Kano, and the Katsina Area Office Complex. Yesterday, we commissioned the Lagos Island Area Office Complex. Today, we will be commissioning the ITF Modern Library Complex, Central Store and the Block of Classrooms. Taken together, these projects paint a vivid vision and direction of the DG-his commitment to ensuring that ITF activities are brought closer to all the nooks and crannies of the country.

I am entirely in agreement with the vision of the ITF DG as I believe that the only way the policy objectives of the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR will be achieved is if all organisations strive to put in place the necessary infrastructure for the effective performance of their activities.

For institutions like the ITF, whose mandate lends themselves into the job creation efforts of the Federal Government, it is more so if Federal Government objectives will be fully realised.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is no longer news that a huge number of Nigerians are unemployed and in poverty. As a consequence of this, the country has witnessed a rise in insecurity and other social vices. In the face of the absence of white collar jobs, the only feasible alternative is for organisations like the ITF to ensure that their mandates are fully actualised.

It is for this reason that I am especially gratified about the modern library complex that will soon be commissioned. As a Learning and Development Institution, the need for modern library services cannot be over emphasised. As the saying goes

“knowledge is power”, the library, I believe, will enhance the staff of the Fund to effectively carry out the mandate of equipping Nigerians with requisite skills for employability and entrepreneurship.

Once again, I wish to congratulate the ITF Management for the provision of these facilities as they will go a long way in ensuring that the ITF continues to play a vital role in the achievement of the policies of the Federal Government.

I also wish to assure that the Federal Government will continue to put in place policies that will ensure that organisations like the ITF whose activities have direct impact on the life of Nigerians thrive.

In conclusion, I wish to leave us with this reminder: in all societies where organisations with similar mandates with ITF were used as vehicles for Job/wealth creation, the cooperation of stakeholders was required. It is in view of this that I call upon State Governments, Non Governmental Organisations, Organised Private Sector (OPS), Faith Based Organisations and Private Individuals to collaborate with the ITF to carry out its mandate.

Thank you for listening and may God bless us all.