

**TEXT OF AN ADDRESS BY MR. BABAJIDE SANWO-OLU,  
THE GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE DURING THE  
COMMISSIONING CEREMONY OF THE LAGOS ISLAND  
AREA OFFICE COMPLEX ON THURSDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
2020, AT THE LAGOS ISLAND AREA OFFICE, FUNSHO  
WILLIAMS AVENUE, IPONRI, LAGOS STATE.**

**PROTOCOL**

It is with great delight and a deep sense of gratitude that I welcome you all to Lagos State, the industrial hub of Nigeria and the nation's Centre of Excellence for the commissioning ceremony of the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Lagos Island Area Office Complex.

I wish to welcome in our midst, one of our own and the special guest of honour, His Excellency, Otunba Richard Adeniyi Adebayo, CON, the Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment. Your Excellency Sir, you are welcome to Lagos State.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, as you may be aware, Lagos state under my administration in the past one year has amongst other infrastructural developments witnessed a tremendous beautification and aesthetic restoration. The commissioning of the beautiful Lagos Island Area Office edifice by the ITF as part of efforts to expand access to its services in the state, not only adds aesthetic beauty to the state but also aligns with my administration's policy goals.

I have been briefed that besides the Lagos Island office, the ITF has six other offices and an Industrial Skills Training Centre

(ISTC), situated at various locations within the state to ease access to its services. I dare boast that no other state in the federation has been granted this kind of privilege.

At this juncture, permit me to congratulate and appreciate the Management of the ITF under Sir Joseph Ari for its huge successes in human capacity development and its tremendous efforts at tackling unemployment and poverty in our country Nigeria through the implementation of numerous skills empowerment programmes that have benefitted Nigerians across the country including the citizens of Lagos state. Barely a week ago, Lagos State witnessed the graduation/closing ceremony of one of such programmes, the 2019 National Industrial Skills Development programme (NISDP), that trained and empowered over 300 youths in the state and over 11,000 Nigerians nationwide with skills and start-up packs to start up their businesses.

Apart from the NISDP, Lagos state has also benefitted from other skills intervention programmes by the ITF including the Passion to Profession Programme (P2PP), the Construction Skills Empowerment Programme (CONSEP), the Women Skills Empowerment Programme (WOSEP) and the Skills Training Empowerment Programme for the Physically Challenged (STEPP-C).

As a Government, we deeply appreciate these tremendous efforts at skills empowerment in the state and we will continue to collaborate with the ITF in all its programmes and activities and as much as possible, strive to provide the enabling environment

to ensure that all the Fund's facilities and programmes thrive in the state.

I seize the opportunity to call on other state governments, the Organised Private Sector (OPS), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Faith-Based Organisations, stakeholders and other well-meaning Nigerians to collaborate with the ITF in efforts at tackling unemployment and poverty as well as job and wealth creation, so that together we can rid the country of the rising criminality that are rampant in our society today.

Once again, I want to express our deep appreciation to the Industrial Training Fund for providing us this facility. We are indeed very grateful to the ITF.

On a final note, I wish to once again, thank His Excellency, Otunba Richard Adeniyi Adebayo, CON and other distinguished guests and I pray that you enjoy your stay here.

Thank you for listening and may God bless us all.