

**TEXT OF AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, OTUNBA RICHARD ADENIYI ADEBAYO, CON, THE HONOURABLE MINISTER, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND INVESTMENT (FMITI), DURING THE COMMISSIONING OF THE ITF LAGOS ISLAND AREA OFFICE COMPLEX ON THURSDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020, AT THE LAGOS ISLAND AREA OFFICE, IPONRI, LAGOS STATE.**

**PROTOCOL**

I am most grateful to God who has made it possible for me to witness the commissioning of the ITF Lagos Island Area Office Complex in Iponri, Lagos State, today.

First of all, I wish to acknowledge the presence of Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the Governor of Lagos State, who has made out time to be here today despite his tight schedules. His presence is proof of his commitment to the growth and development of Lagos State, which is evident in the transformation that has taken place in the state since he became the Governor.

I also want to especially commend the Director-General of the Industrial Training Fund (ITF), Sir Joseph N. Ari, KSM, KSS, for the good job he has been doing by piloting the affairs of the Fund in line with its mandate of equipping Nigerians with requisite skills for employability and entrepreneurship. Indeed, since becoming the DG, the activities of the ITF have been greatly felt across the nation through its various skills intervention programmes.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am aware that in the past three and half years, over 450,000 Nigerians have been trained and equipped with skills and empowered with start-up packs through ITF's skills intervention programmes.

Despite its achievements under the incumbent leadership, the management of the Fund realized that more would have been recorded with increased infrastructure that will enable easier access to its programmes by Nigerians.

It is against this background that the Fund commissioned a Mechatronics Workshop in Kano and the Katsina Area Office Complex. I believe that this commissioning would enhance better delivery of the Fund's mandate and is a pointer to the fact that the ITF Management is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that it plays a vital role in the fight against poverty and unemployment in Nigeria.

I am impressed by what the ITF is doing as the Federal Government's efforts to tackle poverty and unemployment cannot be achieved without skills acquisition for entrepreneurship and employability just as skills cannot be imparted without the necessary facilities which justifies this project that will be commissioned shortly and others that were commissioned last week.

It is my utmost prayer that the Complex to be commissioned today would be to the glory of God and for the benefit of the people of Lagos State and Nigerians.

Thank you for listening.