

NISDP WILL BE RESTRUCTURED FOR GREATER EFFECTIVENESS-DG

The National Industrial Skills Development Programme (NISDP) is set to restructure to make it more effective, ITF Director-General, Mr Dickson Onuoha has said.

One critical aspect that will be considered in the restructuring process is the issue of certification. To this end, the ITF has entered into discussion with the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) so that certificates issued to graduates of the Scheme, which the hard skills component of the NISDP will be more recognized.

The Director-General who was addressing the opening ceremony convened for Area Managers, Training Managers, and Head of Trainings at the Centre for Excellence, Bukuru Jos, reiterated the commitment of the Fund to implementing the 5th phase of the programme across the 36 States of the Federation including the FCT.

He disclosed that the ITF has so far trained 75 000 youths on NISDP platform for job creation, property reduction and the Federal Government's desire to diversify, the economy.

Mr Onuoha said that effective implementation of the NISDP will not only bring the ITF to limelight, assist to build skills required for industrialization and economic diversification, but also place the ITF in a position to benefit from the Federal Government intervention fund.

He charged the Area Managers to be committed, re-double their efforts, and be creative, noting that ITF can only move forward through everybody's collective efforts. He advised staff to shy away from sharp practices and rumor mongering and warned that henceforth "any staff caught in this act, will face the appropriate sanction".

The Ag D.G further highlighted some of the incumbent Management's achievements so far, including Improvement on existing Management –

labour relationship, payment of reimbursement to companies, revival of the national Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and approval of staff development.

He also cited decentralization of accounting system to fast track activities at the Area Offices/ Training Centres, improved relationship with Fund's critical stakeholders, continuation of the collaboration with Institute of Cement Company for training of 350 artisans in the construction industry.

He also disclosed the focus of the Management was; skills training for job creation through expansion of ITF infrastructure on job matching –to match skills investments to training providers, introduction of graduates-reskilling programme for Engineering and Technology graduates, skills training for IDPs to hasten the process of integration into society, and establishment of Sector Skills Counsels (SSC) in Nigeria, among others.

In his remark, the Director Technical Vocational Skills Training Department, Engr Mike Afadi, advised the Area Managers to discourage the mindsets of trainees who were pushing money instead of the skills, adding that ITF will only provide the starter pack after graduation and Bank of Industry (BOI) will support the trainees with loans to start their businesses.