

## **ITF TO ESTABLISH AUTOMOTIVE PARTS MANUFACTURING AND TRAINING CENTRES**

The Industrial Training Fund has concluded arrangements to establish three National Automotive Parts Manufacturing and Training Centres across the country, Acting Director-General, Mr Dickson Onuoha has said.

The Centres will be established in Badagry in Lagos State, Aba in Abia State and Kano in Kano State.

Mr. Onuoha who disclosed this during a press briefing in Abuja said that apart from conserving foreign exchange expended on the importation of auto parts thus boosting the nation's economy, the initiative will also serve as an avenue for employment.

He said as part of further efforts to create jobs through technical skills acquisition and drive the Federal Government economic diversification agenda, which he said cannot be realized without commitment from organizations like the ITF, Mr Onuoha revealed that the Fund has entered into negotiations with the United Nation's Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) for the establishment of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) stressing that the Councils will aid in improving skills and occupational standards.

To ensure Nigerians have access to skills training, the Ag. Director-General disclosed that the Fund had procured 3 mobile vans in various occupational areas including Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Instrumentation and Process Control, Fashion Designing and electrical Electronics.

He said that the vans, which have been equipped with up-to-date equipment needed to train youths and upgrade the skills of those already on the job, will also open up opportunity for those seeking to acquire needed skills.

Mr Onouha added that the Technical Skills Development Project (TSDP), which the ITF is implementing in collaboration with the Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA) is being reviewed to put the project on the better pedestal to effectively contribute to President Buhari's agenda on job creation and youth empowerment just as the Fund is set to roll out the 5<sup>th</sup> phase of the National Industrial Skills Development Programme (NISDP) in 18 States of the Federation and Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

He noted that the NISDP which is the hard skills component of the Nigeria Industrial Revolution Plan and the National Enterprises Development Programme started 3 years ago and has trained over 74 thousand Nigerian youths adding that under the 5<sup>th</sup> phase, youths in 18 states and the FCT will be equipped with skills in 38 trade and craft areas.