

PARENTS SHOULD ENCOURAGE WARDS ON ACQUISITION OF HANDS-ON SKILLS- SIR ARI

The Director-General of the Industrial Training Fund (ITF), Sir Joseph N. Ari has tasked parents and guardians to encourage their wards on the acquisition of hands-on skills in order to stem increasing level of unemployment amongst youths in Nigeria.

The DG made the call during the closing ceremony of the Passion to Profession Programme (P2PP) in Pankshin, Plateau State recently.

Sir Ari, who was represented by the Director, Technical Vocational Skills Training Development Department, Mrs Lami Dakwak, added that parents and guardians must play their roles in encouraging their wards to see hands-on skills as a source of livelihood, adding that "hands-on skills is not a preserve for the never-do-wells".

"As the leading human capacity development institution, we are determined to take our place at the forefront of the fight against the twin evils of poverty and unemployment using the skills acquisition vehicle", the DG said.

In line with this, He averred that "over 450,000 Nigerians have benefitted from ITF's skills acquisition programmes implemented under the reviewed vision, that commenced in October 2016, among which is the Passion to Profession Programme (P2PP). The P2PP is a skills empowerment programme where training is taken to the doorstep of the trainees using the Fund's state-of-the-art Mobile Training Vans".

He also listed other programmes under the reviewed vision to include the National Industrial Skills Development Programme (NISDP), the Women Skills Empowerment Programme (WOSEP), the Construction Skills Empowerment Programme (CONSEP), the Agri-Preneurship Programme, and the Skills Training Empowerment Programme for the Physically Challenged (STEPP-C).

Also speaking at the ceremony, the wife of the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Mrs Regina Bako Lalong, commended the efforts of the Industrial Training Fund for ensuring that Plateau youths are empowered with skills for sustainability.

She further added that beyond the empowerment of the youths with skills, the ITF has contributed in no small measure towards the upliftment of the living conditions of its immediate communities and the educational sector in the state through its corporate social responsibility programmes.

She thanked the Director-General and assured of the commitment of the Plateau State Government under the leadership of her husband, to support the skills acquisition programmes of the ITF.

In his opening remarks, the Area Manager of Jos Area Office, Mr Sarpiya Posat stated that the Passion to Profession Programme is intended to equip and provide beneficiaries with skills in the art of Pattern Drafting and Garment Making as well as sewing machine operations.

The Area Manager, who was represented by Mrs Felicitas Ofodile, Head, Revenue and Inspectorate of the Jos Area Office, said that in the last two months, 30 persons drawn from the local government areas within the Plateau Central Senatorial Zone were trained intensively under the P2PP.

Speaking on behalf of the graduands, Gabriella Jacob appreciated the ITF for giving them the golden opportunity to acquire this life-changing skill and promised they will contribute their quota to the economic growth of Nigeria.

Highlight of the programme was the presentation of Industrial sewing machines and other start-up kits to all 30 beneficiaries of the programme.