

# Ministry Plans Second Operational Year

The Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE) has held a two-day planning retreat as the ministry approaches the start of its second operational year.

Management Staff alongside external facilitators and stakeholders in the education sector converged at the conference hall of Occasions Resort in the outskirt of Freetown in Lakka on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019, in the wake of impressive milestones recorded during its first year (May 2018 – April 2019).

The retreat reviews the first year (successes and challenges/gaps) and maps out the way forward for the second year.

The 2019 plan of the ministry perfectly aligns with the National Development Plan (NDP), the president's policy pronouncements at the opening of parliament and the new direction manifesto promises.

At the opening session, the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Professor Aiah Gbakima disclosed that the retreat was meant to highlight ministry milestones, identify gaps and set up the 2019 road map in line with the new direction agenda.

He said the ministry's primary focus for the year is on skills training, noting that the new education trend should be relevant to the job market.

He pointed out the need for radical reforms in the education sector to ascertain quality education.

The Deputy Minister Dr. Turad Senesie stressed on the need for proper planning and effective implementation of government policies and programs.

He also spoke of transitional challenges between the Basic and Senior Secondary Ministry and the new Technical and Higher Education Ministry.

The two days retreat generated the 2019 Work Plan for the Ministry, which clearly captures policies and activities for the year to enhance quality higher and technical education.