SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA Ph.D. CON, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE DURING THE 2025 CITIZENS BUDGET ENGAGEMENT AND LAUNCHING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ACROSS THE THREE SENATORIAL ZONES.

Protocol

I am deeply honored and in a joyful mood to be here with you today, to mark the commencement of the 2025 Katsina State Citizens Budget development activities. The occasion is also aimed to serve as a forum for other socio-economic and political engagements that will culminate into launching of the Community Development Programme (CDP). Your presence at this event, therefore, underscores the value we place on your voices and visions as it signifies a powerful testament to your commitment to our shared vision and future as a State.

As we take significant leap towards a more inclusive and effective governance, therefore, we are here to receive your inputs directly for consideration in the 2025 Budget, such that we move away from the traditional methods of budget formulation, where officials at the Centre design and allocate programmes and projects for you irrespective of whether they meet your socio-economic needs or not. This new approach ensures that your voices are heard and that resources are allocated where they will have the greatest impact. We have today heard your voices, and **in shah Allah** we shall make sure that they count to the best of our administration and financial capabilities.

Let me reassure you of my commitment to bringing governance closer to you, by ensuring that development projects are tailored to meet your needs. We shall empower you and make you active participants in the growth and progress of our State.

In our journey to actualizing this dream, security strategies for safeguarding your lives and property will remain our top priority. Thus, my administration is fully committed to improving safety in all its ramifications across the Katsina State.

Our efforts at tackling and solving the insecurity challenges in the State are open and clear to all. However, in spite of the glaring progress we are making my heart bleeds, in the face of the recurring banditry activities in the State, especially in the frontline Local Government Area Councils. But this is a fight to finish, because our gallant Security Watch Corps are working diligently with conventional security forces and community leaders in our resolve to address and resolve the security challenges for a safer environment within the State.

The next priority in the forthcoming year is focusing on agriculture and its value chain, where we shall make farmers to be the backbone of our economy through increased food production. We shall design projects and services aimed at providing real support to real farmers, enhancing their capabilities and boosting agricultural productivity. This includes investing in modern infrastructure, tools, training, and resources that will enable you all to thrive and contribute to our State's socio-economic development. This is in addition to increasing human capital

development and empowerment. We believe that, by equipping youths with the necessary agricultural skills and opportunities, we can unlock their potentials and drive sustainable growth in our communities. It is not just about immediate gains but building a foundation for long-term success and self-reliance.

Thus, looking ahead, the officials of Ministries of Agriculture and Budget and Economic Planning are here with you. They have listened to your demands and will make adequate provisions to meet our vision in this regard.

The Administration is also poised to enhancing and improving Healthcare and Education services; water supply and developing critical infrastructure. Access to quality education, healthcare, reliable water supplies and modern infrastructure, as you are aware, are fundamental to your well-being.

You have heard presentations on our performance in the 2024 Budget at the end of the second quarter. This has shown indicative progress over the budget performances in the previous years thereby signaling a pleasing performance at the end of year. The other presentations on State and Local Government projects have shown our modest landmarks in caring for the State. In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that, this year alone we have so far invested a total of **Ninety-five billion, thirty-two million, four hundred and eleven Naira, ninety-one kobo (95,032,300,411.91)** on capital projects across various parts

These projects include the construction of roads, building and rehabilitation of Schools, hospitals, including Comprehensive Health Centers (CHC) and Primary Health Care Centers (PHC). However, the presentations above are only synopses of our achievements. We have complied an accountability list of all our projects, and programmes, including services: by State, by Local governments and by polling units for display and presentation to the public. We have taken this decision as a clear mark of accountability and openness of our administration

We also provided fertilizers to support farmers and several palliatives to alleviate the hardships faced by our people, we acknowledged the impact of inflation and the struggles it brings. As such, we are ever ready to handle them head-on always. But, It is crucial that we work together to navigate these tough times, which is why we are launching the Community Development Project to empower local Communities and ensure that we emerge stronger from this difficult period.

The Community Development Project is another cornerstone of my administration's effort to bring governance closer to the people. This project is not just about allocating funds; it is about empowering you, the citizens of Katsina, to play active role in shaping your own future.

This project will involve giving communities resources and authority to execute development projects that you identify as crucial for your local areas and communities. By doing so, we ensure that development is not only targeted at, but also tailored to meet the specific needs of each community. This approach will help us achieve meaningful and lasting

improvements where they matter the most. It is a sure way of achieving value for money and a safe heaven for socio-economic prosperity.

Let us get ready to move forward as a State. I therefore, encourage you to engage actively with this project. Your ideas, feedback and participation are crucial to its success. Together we can ensure that our development efforts are effective and impactful.

Thank you for your dedication and contribution to the success of this engagement. Let us work together to build a brighter future for Katsina State.

Thank you very much in deed for being with us.