SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, Ph.D, CON (THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE), ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL MSMES DAY CELEBRATION AT MUHAMMADU DIKKO STADIUM ON THURSDAY; 26th JUNE, 2025.

Protocols:

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuhu.

It is a great honor to join you today in celebration of the International Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Day 2025, a globally recognized event that underscores the importance of small businesses as the bedrock of inclusive growth, job creation, and sustainable development.

All over the world, MSMEs constitute over 90% of businesses, and in Nigeria, they contribute significantly to our GDP and employment. However, beyond these statistics are real people artisans, traders, agri-processors, tailors, welders, techpreneurs who wake up every morning with the courage to innovate, create and contribute meaningfully to our economy. These are the heroes we celebrate today.

When we came into office, we made a firm commitment to reposition Katsina State as a hub for entrepreneurial excellence. We recognized early that without empowering our people economically especially our youth and women we cannot truly transform society. That commitment led to the strengthening of the Katsina State Enterprise Development Agency (KASEDA) and the development of an ecosystem that supports the birth, survival, and growth of enterprises.

Today, I am proud to say that our administration has made strategic and people-focused investments in enterprise development. We have expanded access to training, improved enterprise infrastructure, and introduced innovative policy support systems to help our people start and grow their businesses.

We initiated state-wide entrepreneurship outreach programs targeting rural and semi-urban communities. These initiatives ensured that even in our remotest villages, people were not left behind. Thousands of our youths and women were trained in trades that have not only made them self-reliant but turned them into employers of labor.

Recognizing the importance of finance to business survival, we rolled out structured interventions to provide micro and small business loans at no interest, with flexible repayment terms. We worked with local cooperatives and finances institutions to ensure that these funds reached genuine entrepreneurs, not political beneficiaries.

We also invested in market linkages and value-chain development, especially in key sectors such as agriculture, leatherworks, fashion, and local crafts. By organizing local exhibitions and facilitating participation in regional and national trade fairs, we created platforms where our entrepreneurs could access wider markets, forge partnerships, and attract investment.

One of the most groundbreaking initiatives we are proud of is the establishment of the KASEDA Digital Academy, which we are officially launching today. This Academy is designed to future-proof our MSMEs by equipping them with essential skills in digital marketing, e-commerce, business development, and financial literacy. It will serve as a one-stop platform for innovation, learning, and enterprise transformation, especially for our young and tech-savvy entrepreneurs.

We understand that no economy can thrive in isolation. That's why Katsina State has forged partnerships with national development finance institutions like the Bank of Industry, Sterling Bank as well as global partners in the MSME space. These partnerships are already unlocking access to finance, technology, and capacity-building opportunities for our people.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am excited to announce today that over 200 MSME vendors who participated in this year's MSME Fair and Clinic are receiving ₦50,000 in business support from the state government. This is more than a token of appreciation it is a strategic stimulus to support their enterprises and reaffirm our commitment to inclusive economic growth. In addition, all vendors will undergo a two-days capacity development program, focused on business sustainability, innovation, and customer service.

To the youth of Katsina, let me say this: you are not forgotten. Our administration sees your energy, your potential, and your hunger for opportunity. Through ongoing reforms, we are creating a Katsina where your dreams will not only be valid but achievable.

To our women entrepreneurs: you are the pillars of resilience in our communities. We will continue to support you through targeted interventions that prioritize your access to finance, training, and markets. As we commemorate this day, I wish to charge all stakeholders government agencies, financial institutions, business associations, and the private sector to continue working together in building a stronger MSME ecosystem. Let us align our efforts to remove the barriers that hinder the growth of small businesses be it access to finance, regulatory bottlenecks, or infrastructure gaps.

In conclusion, I wish to express my gratitude to the leadership and staff of KASEDA, our development partners, and all entrepreneurs present here today. Your determination, creativity, and courage give us hope for a more prosperous Katsina. Together, let us build a future where no one is too small to succeed, and every small business is given the chance to grow.

Happy International MSMEs Day 2025
God bless the entrepreneurs of Katsina State.
God bless Katsina State.
God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thank you and Wassalam.