KEYNOTE ADDRESS DELIVERD BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALLAM DIKKO UMAR RADDA, PhD, CON THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE AT THE 2025 TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATION

PROTOCOL

I am highly delighted to be part of this auspicious occasion making the 2025 world teachers' day celebration. This annual event provides us with a unique opportunity to pause, reflect and appreciate the invaluable role teachers play in shaping our society and securing the feature of our dear Katsina state.

Education remains the cornerstone of our administration, and from inception, my government has accorded it the highest priority. We are fully convinced that sustainable development, social cohesion, economic growth and national progress can only be achieved through a sound and functional education system driven by dedicated, competent, and motivated teachers.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is a universally acknowledge truth that no nation can rise above the

quality and standard of its teachers. Teachers are the bedrock upon which human capital development is built. They are the architects of character, discipline, innovation and leadership. Recognizing this reality, our administration has consistently placed teachers at the heart of our educational reforms and policies.

In line with our commitment to strengthening the teaching workforce, I am pleased to remind this gathering that over 7,000 qualified teachers were recruited in the last recruitment exercise to address shortages across primary and secondary schools in the state. Furthermore, plans are already at an advanced stage to recruit additional teachers this year, to further improve student teacher ratios and enhance effective learning delivery across the state.

Our resolve to reposition education is further demonstrated in our fiscal commitment. In the 2026 budget, a greater percentage has been allocated to education sector, reflecting our determination to improve infrastructure, teacher welfare, learning materials and overall service delivery within the system.

Ladies and gentlemen, infrastructure development remains a critical component of our education agenda.

To this end, my administration has approved the construction of 70 additional new secondary schools across the state. This intervention is aimed at expanding access, reducing congestion, and ensuring that every child, regardless of location, has access quality secondary education. And in addition to this the state is embarking of massive infrastructure rehabilitation this year, to ensure a conducive teaching and learning environment, in addition to provision of teaching and learning materials across our schools.

Equally important is teacher capacity development. We recognize that education is dynamic and that teachers must continuously upgrade their skills to meet the emerging global standard. In this regards, the government has concluded plans to establish teachers' development centre in each of the three senatorial zones of Katsina state. Those centres will serve as hubs for continuous professional development, retraining, mentoring and skills enhancement for our teachers.

Distinguished teachers, your dedication, resilience, and sacrifices do not go unnoticed. This celebration is not only a global observance but also reaffirmation of our administration's respect, appreciation, and commitment to improving your welfare and working conditions. We

will continue to engage constructively with teachers union and stakeholders to address challenges and sustain reforms in the sector.

As I conclude, let me assure you that my government remains steadfast in its resolve to transform education in Katsina state. Together, with your cooperation, professionalism and commitment, we shall build a strong, inclusive, and future – ready education system that will serve generations to come.

Once again, I congratulate all teachers on this year's World Teachers' Day celebration. I urge you to remain steadfast, patriotic and committed to the noble duty of shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you and God Bless Katsina State.