SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR, HIS EXCELLENCY THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, PHD, CON, AT THE 2ND CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, DAURA, ON 26TH APRIL 2025.

Protocols.

With profound honour and a deep sense of privilege, I stand before you today as the Special Guest of Honour at this illustrious 2nd Graduation Ceremony of the Federal Polytechnic, Daura. This institution has become a beacon of hope and a crucible for nurturing the talents and aspirations of our youth.

Today signifies a pivotal milestone in the lives of these remarkable graduates, and I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each of you on this extraordinary achievement. As you revel in this momentous occasion, I implore you to reflect on the

paramount importance of technical and vocational education in our ever-evolving global landscape.

In a world where poverty remains a significant challenge, particularly in developing nations, we must recognize the transformative power of vocational and technical education in breaking the cycle of poverty. By equipping individuals with the requisite skills and knowledge to enter the workforce, vocational and technical education serves as a catalyst for economic empowerment and social mobility. It is not merely an educational pathway but a lifeline that can elevate communities and foster sustainable development.

One critical advantage of vocational and technical education is its emphasis on practical, hands-on learning that directly aligns with the exigencies of industries and businesses. This targeted approach ensures that individuals are

prepared for the demands of the job market and empowered to contribute meaningfully to economic growth and development. The integration of theoretical knowledge with practical application cultivates a workforce that is both competent and adaptable.

The present administration unequivocally recognized the critical role of technical and vocational education in combating the state's escalating unemployment rates and youth restiveness. In response to this pressing issue, the government has pledged an unwavering commitment to advancing technical and vocational education as a strategic priority.

Significant strides are being taken to revamp and modernize the Katsina Youth Craft Village and 10 additional skills acquisition Centres across the State. These initiatives are not merely reactive but

proactive measures designed to equip our youth with practical, efficient, and industry-relevant training in various vocational and technical fields. By investing in these infrastructures, we are investing in the future of our youth and the economic vitality of our State.

Furthermore, the Government remains steadfast in supporting Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic, ensuring that this esteemed institution plays a pivotal role in promoting and sustaining vocational and technical education in the state. By investing in educational institutions and initiatives, the present administration lays a solid foundation for empowering the youth with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in today's competitive job market.

In the broader context of educational development, our administration has embarked on the construction and rehabilitation of numerous

Schools, recruited thousands of dedicated teaching professionals, and resolved the longstanding backlog of bursary awards for tertiary institutions from 2021. Additionally, we have secured a permanent site for the newly established Federal University of Health Sciences in Funtua, a testament to our unwavering commitment to advancing higher education in our state.

As we progress, our government remains resolutely dedicated to providing unwavering support and resources to all federal tertiary institutions within the state, including the esteemed Federal Polytechnic, Daura. We are committed to fostering an environment that nurtures academic excellence, innovation, and holistic development.

To the graduating students, I impart these final words of counsel: wholeheartedly embrace the principles of technical and vocational education,

cultivate your innovative spirit, and endeavour to make a positive impact within your communities. Your accomplishments today are not merely the culmination of years of hard work; they are the prologue to a future brimming with promise and potential.

As you embark on this new chapter of your life, remember that the skills you have acquired are not just tools for personal advancement but instruments for societal transformation. Strive to be the architects of change in your communities, and let your journey be marked by integrity, resilience, and a commitment to excellence.

Thank you, and once again, congratulations to the graduating class! May your journey be filled with success, fulfilment, and the unwavering pursuit of your dreams.