ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, PhD, CON, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE, AT THE ONE-DAY CAPACITY BUILDING FOR KATSINA STATE EXPORTERS ON NON-OIL EXPORT, HELD AT MUNAJ EVENT CENTRE, ON TUESDAY, 14TH JANUARY, 2025

Protocols

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to this one-day capacity-building workshop for exporters in Katsina State, focused on enhancing our non-oil export potential. This event is a critical part of our ongoing efforts to position Katsina State as a key player in the Nigeria's and global non-oil export market. I thank all the stakeholders, partners, and participants who have contributed to making this event a reality.

Our administration has been deliberate in laying a foundation for sustainable development through robust public sector reforms. These include the establishment of the Fiscal Responsibility Commission, the implementation of an Executive Order on Public Service Reform, and the

introduction of merit-based appointments and promotional examinations for civil servants. We have also launched the contributory pension scheme and initiated a merit award program for outstanding civil servants. These measures aim to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in governance.

In addition to the various improvements of Government projects recorded during this administration, agriculture remains the backbone of our economic policy, consequently, government has committed significant resources to support farmers and promote industrialization. We have:

- Distributed agricultural inputs and assets to farmers across the State.
- Established Irrigation Development Authority and supported irrigation activities with dry season inputs, solar water pumps, and capacity building.
- Embarked on pasture land development and intended to construct many small earth dams in key locations across the state.

- Supported the cotton value chain by providing improved seeds to over 2,000 farmers.
- Distributed improved seeds at a 50% subsidy to over 350,000 farmers and initiated ongoing distribution of power tillers, solar water pumps, and livestock to boost agricultural productivity.

Furthermore, education is pivotal to our development agenda. Under the AGILE program, we have commenced the construction of 75 new secondary schools. Grants have been disbursed to 115 secondary schools, while huge investment has been made in primary school infrastructure under the BESDA program. We have paid examination fees for WAEC, NECO, NBAIS, and NABTEB, as well as settle outstanding liabilities for NECO fees. Scholarships and conditional cash transfers have also been provided to a number of beneficiaries, ensuring access to quality education for all.

Our government has taken bold steps to empower MSMEs and stimulate economic growth. We have:

- Established the Katsina State Enterprise Development Agency and revitalized the MSME Council.
- Expansion of access to finance through strategic partnerships which includes the unprecedented securing of a N5 billion matching fund with the Bank of Industry (BOI) – a historic first in the state's eight-year relationship with BOI. Additionally, a N500 million manage funds to the Sterling Bank of Nigeria, alongside a N542 million UNDP collaboration focused on conflict affected areas.
- Created specialized common facility centers to support various sectors, including fashion, food processing, and ICT.

Similarly, in the health sector, we have prioritized infrastructure upgrades, medical equipment acquisition, and personnel training. Our investments include a state-of-the-art dialysis center, scholarships for medical students, and the implementation of Electronic Medical Records (EMR). Through the Katsina State Contributory Health Management Agency, over 264,000 beneficiaries have been

enrolled in health programs, reflecting our commitment to accessible and quality healthcare.

Infrastructure remains a cornerstone of our development agenda. Key road dualization projects and urban renewal efforts have been initiated to improve connectivity and economic activities across the state. Additionally, the Katsina State Geographic Information Service (KATGIS) has modernized land administration, enabling the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy within 60 days.

To enhance our investment climate, we have:

- Established a PPP unit with comprehensive policies to de-risk private investments.
- Abolished charges for fiber optic deployment to attract telecom companies.
- Created a Small Claims Court to expedite commercial dispute resolution.
- Formalized policies to guide investors, including the Katsina State Industrial and Trade Policy, Digital Economy Policy, and Climate Change Policy.

This capacity-building workshop underscores our commitment to diversifying the state's economy. By leveraging our strengths in agriculture, minerals, livestock, and textiles, we aim to unlock the state's export potential. This initiative is designed to:

- Facilitate collaboration among key stakeholders.
- Engage with regulatory agencies to address export challenges.
- Highlight key export opportunities in Katsina State.
- Provide actionable recommendations to boost export volume and value.

As we declare this workshop open, I urge all participants to take full advantage of this opportunity to learn, network, and collaborate. Together, we can build a vibrant export economy that creates jobs, generates wealth, and positions Katsina State as a leader in non-oil exports.

Thank you, and I wish you a productive session.

God bless Katsina State.

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

- The Rt Hon Speaker, KTHA
- The Commissioner of police, KTs Command
- The Comptroller Nigerian Immigration Service
- The Comptroller Nigerian Customs Service, Katsina Area Command
- YE ~~the~~ Col. Abdulmumini Aminu Rtd
- Members of the State Executive Council here present
- The Coordinator Export Promotion Council, North West Regional office
- The State Coordinator Nigerian Export promotion Council
- The MD/CEO Easy sales Export
- Other Resource persons
- Investors, Invited Guests - - -

KATSINA STATE INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY (KIPA)