SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE, ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION, MAY 27TH, 2025

Distinguished Guests, Dear Parents and Guardians, Our Beloved Children, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

Today, we gather with hearts full of hope and gratitude as we celebrate National Children's Day—a day set aside to honor the beauty, potential, and rights of every Nigerian child.

Children are not only the leaders of tomorrow; they are the treasures of today. Their laughter, dreams, and innocence remind us of the values we must protect and the future we must build. This day is a powerful reminder of our collective responsibility to provide children with the right environment to grow, learn, and thrive.

Children are the carriers of the futures of all nations. They embody the collective hopes and visions of humanity. Therefore, it is fitting that we dedicate a day to celebrate children. In our increasingly globalized world, where inclusivity and equity are more essential than ever, this celebration takes on even greater significance.

In Nigeria, children are regarded across all cultures and religions as a precious gift and a symbol of the future. It is the collective responsibility of all communities to safeguard these torchbearers of tomorrow by creating a safer world for them through peace, poverty eradication, and universal access to education.

This year's celebration is not just symbolic; it is a powerful call to action. It serves as a reminder that the well-being, education, and empowerment of every Nigerian child—whether boy or girl, from the city or the village—must remain at the heart of our national development agenda.

In Katsina State, we have embraced this call.

However, we recognize that this is just the beginning. No child should be denied an education because of gender, poverty, conflict, or location. We remain

committed to removing these barriers, one by one, until every child in Katsina—and indeed all of Nigeria—can learn, grow, and thrive in peace and dignity.

Since assuming office, our administration has achieved remarkable milestones in child education, health, and welfare. Through the Girl Education Development Initiative, over 104,000 girls across 255 secondary schools have benefitted from conditional cash transfers and essential learning materials, helping to reduce dropout rates and boost enrollment.

In healthcare, over 2.2 million children were immunized during a statewide measles vaccination campaign, and N200 million was invested in the UNICEF Nutrition Program to support malnourished children.

To empower the next generation with practical skills, our administration trained 2,000 students in bag production and vocational skills. We also ensured the full payment of WAEC, NECO, NABTEB, and NBAIS exam fees for all secondary school students, demonstrating our dedication to academic excellence.

To our dear children:

You are our pride and our future.

We celebrate your energy, curiosity, laughter, and strength. We believe in you, and we work every day to build a world where your dreams can come true.

I would like to express my gratitude to all stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and community leaders, for their unwavering commitment to promoting the welfare of our children.

May Almighty Allah continue to guide and bless our children and grant us the wisdom to serve them with sincerity and compassion.

Happy Children's Day.

Thank you. God bless you all. God bless Katsina State. God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria