SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, PhD, CON, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE, AT THE OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING OF THE TSAGERO SMALL TOWN WATER SUPPLY SCHEME, RIMI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, ON THURSDAY, 25TH JUNE, 2026

PROTOCOLS:

It gives me great pleasure to stand before you today on this important and historic occasion for the official commissioning of the Tsagero Small Town Water Supply Scheme in Rimi Local Government Area.

Today is not only a day of celebration for the people of Tsagero and its neighboring communities, but also a clear demonstration of our administration's commitment to improving the quality of life of our citizens through the provision of essential public services.

Access to clean and reliable water is not a privilege; it is a basic human necessity and a fundamental pillar of public

health, human dignity, economic productivity, and sustainable development.

The project we are commissioning today represents a significant step forward in our efforts to ensure that communities such as Tsagero have access to safe, sustainable, and adequate water supply services.

The facilities provided under this scheme are not merely physical structures; they are instruments of transformation. They will improve access to potable water for households, schools, healthcare facilities, and businesses. They will reduce the burden of water collection, particularly on women and children, improve sanitation and hygiene, strengthen public health outcomes, and support local economic activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, water supply development remains one of the highest priorities of our administration because of its direct impact on health,

education, gender equality, environmental sustainability, and economic growth.

When women and children spend less time searching for water, they gain more time for education, productive activities, and family life. When schools and healthcare facilities have reliable water supply, service delivery improves significantly. Communities with access to potable water are healthier, more productive, and more resilient.

This understanding has informed our decision to continue investing heavily in the water sector. In the current budget, water resources remain one of the priority sectors of government, with substantial allocations dedicated to improving water infrastructure and service delivery across the State. Additional investments are also being leveraged through development partners, including the World Bank-supported SURWASH and SPIN projects.

There are numerous ongoing interventions and reforms aimed at improving water supply services across Katsina State, including:

* Monthly provision of diesel and quarterly supply of water treatment chemicals to sustain water production and distribution.

* The ongoing multi-billion Naira Zobe Water Supply Project Phase 1B, which will significantly enhance water supply across several communities upon completion.

* Supply and installation of pumps, motors, and gate valves across operational districts.

* Construction of a new pump house at the Ajiwa Water Treatment Plant as part of the ongoing rehabilitation and upgrading of Ajiwa Dam facilities.

* Rehabilitation and upgrading of the Barhim Reservoir and associated infrastructure.

* Rehabilitation earth dams and associated infrastructure.

* Establishment of monitoring committees comprising officials of the State Water Board, district offices, and Local Government Councils to oversee water production, distribution, maintenance activities, utilization of diesel and chemicals, and overall accountability.

* Ongoing reforms aimed at automating Water Board operations, billing systems, customer management, and revenue collection to improve efficiency, transparency, and sustainability.

* Construction, rehabilitation, renovation, and expansion of water supply schemes across the State through the combined efforts of the Katsina State Water Board, STOWASSA, RUWASSA, SPIN and SURWASH.

As part of our commitment to expanding access to potable water in rural and semi-urban communities, this

administration awarded contracts for the construction of sixty six (66) Small Town Water Supply Schemes across various communities in Katsina State, including Katsina, Funtua, Baure, Kankara, Kafur, Daura, Charanchi, Batagarawa, Matazu, and Faskari Local Government Areas. Supply and installation of thirty thousand liters per hour water treatment plant, construction of 150 household sanitation facilities, ongoing construction of 500 household latrines.

I am pleased to inform you that thirty two (32) of these schemes have been completed and are either operational or ready for commissioning. This remarkable achievement demonstrates our administration's determination to address water supply challenges and improve the living conditions of our people.

We are not stopping here. More STOWASSA schemes will be constructed and expanded across the State to ensure

that every community has access to safe, reliable, and sustainable water services. Our goal is to leave behind a lasting legacy of improved water infrastructure that will serve present and future generations of Katsina State.

However, while government will continue to invest in water infrastructure, the sustainability of these facilities depends on proper management, routine maintenance, financial discipline, and community ownership.

I therefore call upon community leaders, water users, local administrators, and relevant institutions to work together in protecting and sustaining this investment. We must ensure responsible use of water and safeguard these facilities for the benefit of present and future generations.

To the people of Tsagero, this project belongs to you. Protect it. Support its management. Use it responsibly.

Let us all work together to ensure that it continues to serve the community effectively for many years to come.

I commend all individuals and institutions whose commitment and professionalism contributed to the successful execution of this project, particularly the Ministry of Water Resources, STOWASSA, the contractors, consultants, project supervisors, Local Government authorities, traditional institutions, community leaders, and other stakeholders for their invaluable support and cooperation throughout the implementation process.

Today, we are witnessing more than the commissioning of a water supply scheme. We are witnessing progress. We are witnessing development. We are witnessing partnership. Above all, we are witnessing our collective determination to improve the lives of our people and bring government closer to the grassroots.

With these remarks, and on behalf of the Government and the good people of Katsina State, I am pleased to formally commission the Tsagero Small Town Water Supply Scheme for public use.

May this project bring lasting benefits to the people of Tsagero and neighbouring communities.

May it improve health, dignity, and prosperity.

May Almighty Allah continue to bless Tsagero, Rimi Local Government Area, Katsina State, and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thank you all.

Jazakumullahu Khairan