SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA PH.D, CON, EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE AT THE DAURA GANI DURBAR HELD ON SUNDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 2025 AT DAURA

Protocol:

It is with immense pride, deep cultural reverence, and a heart full of joy that I stand before you today in the historic city of Daura the cradle of Hausa civilization and the spiritual heart of our great nation to join in celebrating the grand Gani Durbar, a festival that embodies the soul of our heritage, the strength of our unity, and the glory of our shared identity.

Your Royal Highness, Emir of Daura, I salute your wisdom, your leadership, and your unwavering commitment to preserving the rich traditions that bind us as a people. The Gani Durbar is not merely a display of horsemanship and pageantry, it is a living testament to our history, faith, and resilience. It is a moment when past and present converge, when ancestors are remembered, and when the future is blessed with hope and dignity.

As the Executive Governor of Katsina State, I am not only a political leader, I am also a son of this land, a proud descendant of the Hausa-Fulani people whose roots run deep in the soil of Daura. To be here today, surrounded by the thunder of hooves, the rhythm of the drums, and the majestic sight of our horsemen in full regalia, fills me with profound gratitude and a renewed sense of purpose.

Daura is more than a town. It is a symbol of origin. It is where Bayajidda slew the serpent, where the Hausa Bakwai began, and where Islamic scholarship and governance took root in our land. For centuries, Daura has stood as a beacon of learning, justice, and peace. The Emirate system, which you, Your Royal Highness, so nobly uphold, has been a pillar of stability, moral authority, and social cohesion.

Today, as we witness the procession of the district heads, the cavalry, the drummers, and the flag bearers, we are reminded that our culture is not a relic of the past, it is a compass for the future. It teaches us discipline, respect for authority, humility in leadership, and love for community.

In recent times, our state and nation have faced challenges security threats, economic hardship, and social divisions. But here in Daura, today, we see something far greater: unity in diversity, peace in motion, and strength in tradition.

Let this Durbar be a reminder to every son and daughter of Katsina: we are one people. Whether from Daura, Kankara, Funtua, Malumfashi, or Zango, we share the same blood, the same values, and the same destiny. No crisis is too great when we stand together.

I call on all our youth to draw inspiration from this occasion. Let the courage of the horsemen inspire you to stand firm for truth. Let the loyalty of the palace guards teach you to serve your community. Let the wisdom of the Emir guide you to choose the path of peace over violence.

To our security agencies: as you watch this grand display, remember that your duty is to protect this heritage, to safeguard our people, and to ensure that festivals like Gani Durbar continue for generations without fear or interruption.

My administration recognizes that true development is not only measured by roads and buildings, but by the preservation

of our identity. That is why we are investing in cultural tourism, restoring historical sites, and promoting traditional festivals like this one as national treasures.

We have commenced the rehabilitation of key historical landmarks in Daura, including the Bayajidda's Well Complex and the Ancient City Walls. We are also working to develop Daura into a cultural and pilgrimage tourism hub, creating jobs and opportunities for our people.

Furthermore, we are collaborating with the Emirate Council to digitize oral histories, train young historians, and integrate cultural education into our school curriculum. Our past must not be forgotten, it must be taught, celebrated, and protected.

Your Royal Highness, your leadership has been a source of stability and inspiration. In moments of crisis, you have been a voice of calm. In times of celebration, you have been a symbol of dignity. You represent the best of what traditional leadership should be: firm in principle, kind in heart, and unshakable in faith.

On behalf of the Government and people of Katsina State, I renew our pledge of support to the Emirate Council of Daura. We

will continue to work with you to promote peace, resolve conflicts, and uplift the lives of your subjects.

As the sun sets on this magnificent Durbar, let us carry its spirit with us the spirit of unity, pride, and resilience. Let us return to our homes, our villages, and our towns with renewed hope and determination to build a Katsina that honors its past while boldly embracing the future.

May Almighty Allah preserve our beloved Emir, protect our state, and grant peace to our nation.

Happy Gani Durbar to you all!

Long live Daura Emirate!

Long live Katsina State!

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Thank you, and may God bless you.