SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE MALAM DIKKO UMAR RADDA Ph.D AT THE FLAG-OFF OF DISBURSEMENT OF GRANTS TO WOMAN AND GIRLS AFFECTED BY BANDITRY AND COVID-19 THROUGH ENTERPRENEURSHIP IN KATSINA STATE.

Protocol

Assalamu Alaikum

Let me begin this address by congratulating the beneficiaries of this Programme, this occasion today confirmed the readiness of this administration in woman empowerment which is the fundamental to ending extreme poverty and promoting resilient, democratic societies. When Women play an active role in civil society and politics, governments tend to be more open, responsive and transparent.

Women and girls are poised to be key drivers of progress and growth but they need to be empowered through equal rights and equal opportunities. They need to be prepared for a 21st century economy through connection to finance, technology and Agriculture. And they need to be valued as leaders, peace-builders, and breadwinners in their communities and societies.

If you can remember during BBC Governorship debate in January 2023, I have made a pledge that when elected as Governor of Katsina State we are going to fish out women and Girls that are affected by activities of Banditry to empower them to become self-reliant and liberating them in order to make them active players in our economic development process. This is a promise made and by the will of Allah (SWA) we are fulfilling the promise today.

In our effort to fulfill this promise, we have selected and trained 50 women from 11 frontline Local Government Areas of the State

namely: Sabuwa, Dandume, Faskari, Malumfashi, Funtua, Kankara, Kurfi, Batsari, Danmusa, Jibia and Bakori, making 550 Women and Girls which are going to be empowered with N150,000 each to invest in Agricultural Entrepreneurship. Similarly, we have also selected and trained 114 Women and Girls across the 34 Local Government areas of the State, those that their business affected by Covid-19 making it 3,876 numbers that were also be empowered with N100, 000 each in order for them to become self-reliant and employer of labor in their respective societies.

I wish to commend the effort of Commissioner of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Members House of Assembly and Local Government Chairmen for their unwavering commitment and support throughout the empowerment process, ranging from selection of the beneficiaries up to the successful completion of the training.

At this juncture of time I want to use this opportunity to advise the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the money giving to them in order to not only become self-reliant but to also become employers of labor in their societies.

Distinguished, ladies and Gentlemen in the name of Allah Almighty, I have the pleasure to officially flag-off the disbursement of the grant.

Thank You.