SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, Ph.D., CON, (THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE), AT THE FLAG-OFF CEREMONY FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF FREE MEDICARE COMMODITIES AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT UNDER PROJECT CURE TO HOSPITALS ACROSS KATSINA STATE

Protocols:

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

It gives me great pleasure to stand before you today as we officially flag-off the distribution of Free Medicare commodities and medical equipment under Project CURE to hospitals across Katsina State.

Today's event marks another important milestone in our administration's unwavering commitment to strengthening the healthcare system and improving access to quality healthcare for our people. It also reflects the strong partnership between the Katsina State Government and Project CURE in our shared commitment to saving lives and improving health outcomes.

The medicines and medical equipment being distributed today will strengthen service delivery in our

hospitals, improve the capacity of our healthcare facilities and provide our healthcare professionals with the tools they need to deliver quality care. More importantly, this intervention will ease the burden on vulnerable families who may not be able to afford the cost of treatment.

Our administration believes that every citizen deserves access to quality healthcare, regardless of financial status or place of residence. This conviction continues to guide our investments in the health sector.

In line with this commitment, we have increased funding for the Free Medicare Programme by **207 percent**, enabling more eligible residents to benefit from free healthcare services across the state.

We are also making strategic investments to strengthen the Drugs and Medical Supplies Agency. The Agency's liquid pharmaceutical production line has reached its final stage and, when commissioned, will support local production of essential medicines, improve availability and strengthen the Agency's sustainability.

Furthermore, we have expanded the Agency's logistics capacity through the provision of additional trucks to improve the last-mile distribution of medicines and

medical commodities. We have also funded the commencement of the Drug Revolving Fund Programme in the **361 upgraded Primary Healthcare Centres**, ensuring a sustainable supply of affordable, quality medicines within our communities.

To further strengthen the Agency, our administration has approved the recruitment of additional personnel to improve warehousing, pharmaceutical production, quality assurance, logistics and inventory management.

These initiatives form part of our broader healthcare reform agenda aimed at improving health infrastructure, strengthening the healthcare supply chain and ensuring that government investments translate into better healthcare services for our people.

I commend the management and staff of the Drugs and Medical Supplies Agency for their dedication and professionalism in ensuring that medicines and medical supplies reach the facilities where they are most needed.

I also express our sincere appreciation to Project CURE for its generosity and continued partnership with Katsina State. Your contribution will make a lasting

difference in the lives of our people, and we look forward to sustaining this valuable collaboration.

To all benefiting health facilities, I urge you to ensure that these medicines and equipment are properly managed and utilised strictly for their intended purposes. Our administration will continue to monitor their distribution and utilisation because government resources must always serve the people for whom they are intended.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, today's ceremony underscores our administration's determination to translate our healthcare vision into tangible results. It represents another important step towards ensuring that every resident of Katsina State can benefit from accessible, affordable and quality healthcare services. With the continued support of our partners and the unwavering commitment of our healthcare professionals, we will continue to build a health system that serves our people with excellence and compassion.

On this note, it is my honour and privilege to officially flag-off the distribution of Free Medicare commodities

and medical equipment under Project CURE to hospitals across Katsina State.

Thank you and May Almighty Allah bless Katsina State and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.