SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, (MALLAM DIKKO UMAR RADDAH Ph.D., CON) THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE ON THE OCCASION OF FLAG-OFF OF DISTRIBUTION OF GOATS REARING INITIATIVES HELD AT DANNAKOLA FARM CENTRE, DAURA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA ON MONDAY; 17TH FEBRUARY 2025

Protocol

Assalamu Aalaikum,

Today we gathered here with a collective sense of purpose and profound anticipation, as we officially flag-off the Goat Rearing Initiative programme. This moment marks not only a significant milestone in our agricultural journey but also a transformative step towards achieving our vision of making Katsina State, a leading hub for livestock production in the northern region and across our great country.

2. I have always believed that our strength lies in our ability to harness the vast agricultural potential that our state has to offer. The Goat Rearing Initiatives is a vital part of our broader strategy to boost livestock farming, enhance food security and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for our farmers.

3. In recent years we have made substantial stride in our livestock sector. The vision we laid out since assuming into office was clear to elevate Katsina State into a power house of livestock production that will not only satisfy local needs but also significantly contribute to our national market. We understand that livestock farming is not merely an economic activity it is a means of livelihood for many families, a way of preserving our culture, and a source of food security for our communities.

4. The Goat Rearing Initiatives is designed to empower local farmers especially women groups by providing them with the resources, training and support their need to rear goats successfully. We are also committed to implementing best practices in livestock breading, multiplication and genetic improvement. By focusing on these key areas, we aim to enhance the quality of our livestock, increase productivity and improve overall health and well-being of our goats.

5. Moreover, we will implement training programmes for our farmers, equipping them with skills necessary to engage in effective breading practices. This programme will cover essential aspect such as animal nutrition, health management

and sustainable farming techniques. Our goal is to create a knowledgeable and skill workforce that can drive livestock sector forward, ensuring that we remain competitive and resilient in the face of challenges.

6. In addition to the bolstering goat production, this initiative will lead to job creation and economic diversification within our rural communities by posting entrepreneurship in livestock farming, we will create platform for local markets to strive a move that aligns with our vision for economic self-sufficiency.

7. As we embark on the journey, I assure you that the present administration will remain steadfast in our commitment to support our farmers in every possible way. We will not only invest in infrastructure but also provide access to affordable financing to facilitate the growth of goat rearing business.

8. Ladies and gentlemen, this programme has earmarked about 40,000 (Fourty Thousand) herds of goats for distribution to successful beneficiaries. The beneficiaries were drawn from the 361 political wards across the state with each ward having 10 women and 1 large scale farmer. The selection process was done through the Local Government and Ward Development Committees. Each beneficiary from the women

groups will be given 4 herds of goats (1 male and 3 female), and 1 large scale farmer from each ward would also be given 50 herds of goats. It is to be noted here that repayment is to be done in kind by returning equal number of animals given to a beneficiary after a given period of time.

9. Equally, this year, the Government is establishing a Goat Farm at Ladanawa in Rimi Local Government Area for the purpose of genetic improvement for higher milk, meat, hide and manure. The Ladanawa Goat Farm will also serve as multiplier for goat production, breading, animal husbandry and advisory services as well as training centre.

10. To all the beneficiaries and farmers present today, I urge you to seize this opportunity with both hands. The mere act of rearing goats can be transformative allowing to become self-sufficient and ultimately uplift your families and communities. Together we can push our state to the forefront of livestock production, improving not only the economic landscape but also the social fabric of our communities.

11. In conclusion, let us march forward united in purpose and fill with optimism. The Goat Rearing Initiative Programme is a

beacon of hope for our agricultural sector, and I am excited to witness the remarkable transformation it will bring.

12. Thank you for your unwavering commitment, hard work and determination. Let us ensure that Katsina State becomes synonymous with excellent in livestock production, not just in Nigeria, but beyond.

13. Together we will thrive, thank you and God bless.