**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, PHD, CON, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE AT THE EMPOWERMENT OF 5100 VULNERABLE WOMEN FROM THE 34 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF THE STATE WITH COMPLETE STARTER PACKAGES FOR NOODLE MAKING BUSINESS ON TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER, 2024**

PROTOCALS

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude to Almighty Allah (SWT) who in his infinite wisdom and mercy spares our lives to flag-off the empowerment of 5100 Vulnerable Women from across the 34 Local Government Areas of the State with complete starter packages for Noodle Making Business.

Let me start my speech by telling you what Women Empowerment means; it is about recognizing their inherent worth, abilities and potential. Women empowerment is not just important for women but for men as well. As long as men don't understand the importance of women in our society and their active participation, society and the wold will not progress. Women are equally important when it comes to education, employment and participation in decision-making processes.

Permit to state categorically that connecting women with financial resources can help them

meet their basic needs and start or grow businesses. When women do have right to access, own and use resources, they can invest in themselves by improving their well-being education, staring a business or exercising agency over their income to build a society that works for them. For example, in many contexts women's economic empowerment reduces gender-based violence, increases political and social participation and leadership.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the present administration is deeply committed to empowering women and making a tangible

difference in the lives of vulnerable communities across the State. Through various initiatives and programmes, we have embarked on a mission to uplift individual and families, providing them with essential resources and support to break free from the cycle of poverty.

Let me use this opportunity to thank all stakeholders especially traditional and religious institutions, youths' organizations, women groups, and all those concerned with development of the State, your contribution in this regard is highly appreciated. We will

continue to involve all actors in the business of developing the State.

I want also thank the Honourable Commissioner Ministry of Women Affairs, Hajiya Hadiza Yar'adua for the commitment and hard work right from the day she assumed office as the Commissioner.

I wish to enjoin beneficiaries to make judicious and efficient utilization of the package and to put all efforts in consolidating the various laudable projects and programmes initiated and implemented by the present Administration.

I wish all of you safe trip back to your respective destinations. Long live Katsina State and long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.