SPEECH BY MALLAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, PH.D., EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE, AT THE FLAG-OFF CEREMONY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 129KM ROADS SPOT IMPROVEMENT AND 201 LINEAR METER CROSS DRAINAGE STRUCTURES UNDER THE RURAL ACCESS AND AGRICULTURAL MARKETING PROJECT (RAAMP)

Distinguished Guests,
Members of the State House of Assembly,
Honorable Commissioners,
Traditional Rulers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of commitment to the development of our beloved Katsina State that I stand before you today. We gather here to mark a significant milestone in our journey towards enhancing the infrastructure of our state, the flag-off ceremony for the construction of 129 kilometers of rural roads spot improvement and 201 linear meter cross drainage structures as the second batch of roads to benefit from the project after the completion of construction of the demonstration at Danja-Bazanga –Nahuce (24.5km road) at Danja Local Government Araea of the state under the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP).

First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone present here, especially our partners in development, community leaders, and stakeholders who have continuously supported our vision for a prosperous Katsina State.

The importance of good road infrastructure cannot be overstated. Roads are the lifelines of any economy; they facilitate trade, improve access to markets, enhance the delivery of essential services, and contribute significantly to the overall quality of life. In our rural areas, where agriculture forms the backbone of our economy, efficient rural road networks are crucial for the transportation of farm produce to markets which will curtail post-harvest loss, thereby boosting the agricultural sector and improving the livelihoods of our farmers.

The RAAMP initiative aligns perfectly with our administration's commitment to improving rural infrastructure. Today, we embark on the construction of 129 kilometers of rural roads that will undergo spot improvement, ensuring that the most critical and impassable sections are addressed. This strategic approach will not only enhance connectivity but also ensure that our resources are utilized efficiently for maximum impact.

In addition to road improvements, the construction of 201 linear meters of cross drainage structures is a critical component of this project. These structures will mitigate the challenges posed by seasonal flooding, ensuring that our rural roads remain passable throughout the year and that our communities are not cut off during the rainy season. This intervention will significantly reduce travel time, lower transportation costs, and improve access to schools, healthcare facilities, and other essential services.

As we flag off this project, I want to emphasize our administration's unwavering dedication to transparency, accountability, and quality. We have put in place robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure that the construction work meets the highest standards. I urge the contractors

and all involved parties to adhere to the project specifications and timelines, as the successful completion of this project is critical to the development of our rural communities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Federal Government and our international partners for their support and collaboration in making RAAMP a reality. Their contributions and shared commitment to improving rural access and agricultural marketing are invaluable.

To the people of Katsina State, I extend my deepest appreciation for your patience and support. Your resilience and hard work inspire us every day to strive for a better and more prosperous Katsina. This project is a testament to our collective efforts and determination to build a state where everyone can thrive.

In conclusion, let us seize this moment as a pivotal step towards transforming our rural infrastructure. Let us work together to ensure the successful execution of this project, knowing that it will bring lasting benefits to our communities and pave the way for a brighter future.

Thank you all, and may Almighty Allah bless Katsina State and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Mallam Dikko Ummaru Radda, Ph.D. Executive Governor of Katsina State