SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MAL. DIKKO UMARU RADDA Ph.D., CON (EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE), AT THE FLAG-OFF CEREMONY FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF 5,100 VULNERABLE WOMEN WITH STARTER PACKAGES FOR NOODLE-MAKING BUSINESS

Distinguished Guests,

Honorable Commissioner for Women Affairs,

Respected Traditional and Religious Leaders,

Our Women Beneficiaries,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that stand before you today as we gather to flag-off a significant initiative aimed at empowering 5,100 vulnerable women across the 34 local government areas of Katsina State. This empowerment programme, which provides complete starter packages for noodle-making businesses, is part of our broader strategy to uplift our women and contribute meaningfully to their economic independence.

Today marks another milestone in our administration's unwavering commitment to the development of women. We firmly believe that when women are empowered, communities thrive, families are strengthened, and the state prospers. The women of Katsina State are resilient, hardworking, and resourceful, and it is our duty to provide them with the tools they need to achieve their full potential.

The noodle-making business has been carefully selected for its viability and potential to provide sustainable income. With the increasing demand for fast and affordable food options, we are confident that this initiative will create employment opportunities, not only for the direct beneficiaries but also for others in their communities who may be engaged in different stages of the value chain.

This initiative is not just about providing starter packages; it is about ensuring that these women have the support, skills, and resources to succeed. The Ministry of Women Affairs, under the capable leadership of Hajia Hadiza Abubakar Yar'Adua, has worked tirelessly to ensure that every woman benefiting from this program receives adequate training, mentorship, and ongoing guidance.

Our administration is deeply committed to improving the livelihoods of our people. This empowerment program aligns with our broader objectives of reducing poverty, improving food security, and fostering entrepreneurship. By focusing on vulnerable women, we aim to lift families out of poverty, as we know that when a woman earns, her family and children directly benefit.

To our beneficiaries, I urge you to embrace this opportunity with dedication and determination. This starter package is a stepping stone towards building your own business, and with hard work and persistence, the sky is the limit. The government has provided you with the necessary tools, and it is now up to you to make the most of it.

In conclusion, I would like to express my profound appreciation to the Ministry of Women Affairs and all stakeholders who have worked tirelessly to make this program a reality. I also thank our traditional and religious leaders for their continuous support in fostering peace and unity in our communities.

Let us continue to work together for the progress and prosperity of Katsina State. By empowering our women, we are ensuring a brighter future for all.

Thank you, and May Almighty Allah bless the works of our hands and continue to guide us on the path of progress.

Thank you.