SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALLAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, Ph.D, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE AT THE OFFICIAL FLAG OFF OF PHASE I DRY SEASON AGRICUTURAL INITIATIVE PROGRAMME IN REDINESS TO CREATE WEALTH AND INCREASE FOOD SECURITY IN KATSINA STATE ON WEDNESDAY, 27th DECEMBER, 2023

Protocol

Assalamu Alaikum

Let me begin by congratulating the beneficiaries of this phase of the programme. This occasion today confirmed that the state government readiness to revive the agricultural activities with all ramification in the state.

Since the inception of this administration, we have drawn road map for agricultural development through the several initiatives because farming is one of the most important and bedrock of economic growth in every society. Likewise, attaining food security and economic diversification will go a long way towards converting the menace of insecurity and creating more gainful employment to our teeming youth in the state.

Though, part of the state government development initiatives plan is to prepare crop and vegetable production, coupled with poultry production, fish farming, animal production and agro-business that have high demand of commercial production, processing and marketing of the products both within and outside the state. Therefore, I am happy that today in collaboration with our 34LGAS, we are bringing back the dry season farming to its former glory. This programme is one of many that will be implemented by our administration, as more initiatives will come in the near future, Insha Allah.

And, part of the items to be distributed includes:

1. Dry Season Inputs to 2,040 Farmers;

2. 204 Solar Water Pumps;

3. Drilling of 204 Tube Wells; and

4. Capacity Building & Extension Services to the benefitting farmers, among others.

Furthermore, I wish to commend the foresight of the Commissioners of Agriculture and Livestock, and that of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, and our 34 LGA Chairmen for this laudable

initiative that will no doubt increase most of agricultural production, thereby reducing poverty and create employment vis-a-vis increase the revenue base of the state and the country at large.

Finally, I have the pleasure to officially flag-off the distribution of the Agricultural Programme "Phase I for the Dry Season Initiative" across the 34LGAs in the state.

Thanks you.