SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, PhD, CON, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF 1,050 TRAINEES ON VARIOUS SKILLS ACQUISITION PROGRAMMES HELD ON SUNDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2025 AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE COMMISSION, KATSINA

Protocol:

It is with immense joy and profound pride that I stand before you today to celebrate a momentous milestone in our state's journey towards empowerment, economic resilience, and inclusive development.

To the 1,050 graduates who have successfully completed this rigorous skills acquisition programme – congratulations! You are not just graduates; you are pioneers, entrepreneurs-in-the-making, and the architects of a brighter future for yourselves, your families, and our beloved Katsina State. Your dedication, perseverance, and commitment to learning have brought you to this proud day.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Katsina State Coalition of Women Organizations for their unwavering partnership and tireless efforts in organizing this initiative across all 34 Local Government Areas. Your work embodies the spirit of collaboration

and community upliftment that is central to our administration's blueprint.

This graduation ceremony is more than a celebration of individual achievement; it is a powerful statement about our collective resolve to invest in human capital. In a world where skills are the new currency, we are ensuring that no one in Katsina State is left behind. Whether you have trained in tailoring, hairdressing, ICT, agriculture, or any other trade, you now possess the tools to build sustainable livelihoods, create jobs, and contribute meaningfully to our economy.

We understand that true development begins at the grassroots. That is why we have deliberately designed this initiative to reach every corner of our state, ensuring that even the most remote communities benefit from these life-changing opportunities. The fact that this programme has touched all 34 LGAs speaks volumes about our commitment to equitable growth.

To our graduates, I urge you to take full advantage of the skills you have acquired. Use them wisely. Start your businesses, support your families, and mentor others. Remember, your success is not measured by the certificate you hold today, but by

the impact you make tomorrow. Let your new found expertise be the foundation upon which you build a prosperous future.

We also recognize the critical role of our traditional institutions and community leaders in supporting such initiatives. Your guidance and endorsement have been instrumental in mobilizing participants and fostering a culture of learning and self-reliance. Thank you for standing with us in this noble cause.

Let me assure you, this is not the end, but the beginning. Our administration remains committed to expanding access to skills training, providing start-up kits, and offering ongoing support to ensure that every graduate can thrive. We will continue to partner with civil society organizations, private sector players, and international agencies to scale up these programmes and unlock even greater potential for our people.

In closing, I want to reiterate our administration's core belief: empowerment is the key to progress. When we empower our women and youth, we empower our entire state. When we equip our citizens with skills, we build a resilient and dynamic economy. And when we invest in education and vocational training, we lay the groundwork for lasting peace and prosperity.

To the 1,050 graduates: Go forth with confidence, determination, and hope. The future belongs to those who prepare for it today. We believe in you, and we stand ready to support you in every step of the way.

Thank you, and May the Almighty Allah bless you all.