SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, PhD, CON, (THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE), AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF 500 ARTISANS TRAINED BY THE FAMILY HOMES FUNDS IN COLLABORATION WITH KATSINA STATE GOVERNMENT, HELD AT PEOPLE'S SQUARE, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, KATSINA ON WEDNESDAY, 6TH MAY, 2026

PROTOCOLS:

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim.

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of fulfillment that I welcome you all to this important occasion—the graduation ceremony of 500 trained artisans under the collaboration between the Katsina State Government and Family Homes Funds.

Let me begin by expressing our profound gratitude to Almighty Allah (SWT) for granting us the opportunity to witness this significant milestone.

Today is not just a ceremony; it is a celebration of empowerment, dignity, and opportunity. It is a clear demonstration of what can be achieved when

government and development partners work together with a shared vision for the people.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, this initiative, which has trained 500 young men and women in critical construction trades masonry, carpentry, plumbing, electrical works, tiling, and painting speaks directly to one of the core priorities of our administration: equipping our people with practical skills that translate into sustainable livelihoods.

We recognize that skills development is central to economic growth and social stability. In a rapidly changing world, formal education alone is not sufficient. We must also invest in vocational and technical training that prepares our youth to be self-reliant, productive, and competitive.

To our partners at Family Homes Funds, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for your collaboration and commitment to human capital development in Katsina State. This partnership is a model of how targeted interventions can create real impact at the grassroots level.

To our graduates, today is not the end of your journey; it is the beginning. The certificate you receive today is a key, but it is your dedication, hard work, and continuous learning that will unlock the doors of opportunity. I charge you to:

i) Take pride in your skills: You have been trained in professions that are essential to human civilization. Never allow anyone to make you feel inferior because you work with your hands.
ii) Maintain the highest standards of professionalism: Your reputation will be built on the quality of your work. Always deliver excellence, meet your deadlines, and treat your clients with respect.
iii) Commit to continuous learning: Technology and techniques evolve. Stay updated with modern methods, new materials, and innovative practices in your field.
iv) Be entrepreneurs: Do not wait for employment. Create your own opportunities. Start small, but think big. Employ others as you grow.
v) Be mentors: As you succeed, remember to train others. Share your knowledge. Build the next generation of skilled artisans.

vi) Uphold integrity: In all your dealings, be honest, transparent, and accountable. Your character is your most valuable asset.

As a government, we remain committed to expanding opportunities like this across the State. We will continue to invest in skills acquisition, entrepreneurship, and job creation initiatives that empower our youth and reduce poverty.

We are also working to ensure that trained artisans are linked to opportunities whether through public projects, private sector engagement, or cooperative platforms so that these skills translate into real income and improved livelihoods.

This programme aligns with our broader development agenda of building a resilient economy driven by skilled human capital. It is through initiatives like this that we can unlock the full potential of our people.

I also call on the private sector and other development partners to take advantage of the pool of trained artisans being produced. There is a clear opportunity here to support local talent and strengthen our economy.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we celebrate today, let us remember that true development is measured not just by infrastructure, but by the number of lives we transform. Today, we have taken a meaningful step in that direction.

On this note, it is my honour and privilege to congratulate the 500 graduands and to formally declare this graduation ceremony a success.

Thank you and May Almighty Allah (SWT) continue to bless Katsina State and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.