SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, PhD, CON, (THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE), AT THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NINE (9) BAKORI TOWNSHIP ROADS WITH SOLAR STREET LIGHTING, BAKORI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Protocols:

It is with profound gratitude to Almighty Allah (SWT) that I stand before you today at this ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of nine township roads in Bakori Local Government Area. I warmly welcome all our distinguished guests, traditional rulers, religious leaders, community representatives, party leaders, members of the State Executive Council, legislators, government officials, development partners, the management of Mothercat Limited, and the good people of Bakori who have gathered here to witness this important milestone.

Today marks another significant step in our administration's unwavering commitment to delivering quality infrastructure and improving the lives of our people. We are here to formally commence the construction of nine township roads covering a total length of 6.6 kilometres, complete with modern solar-powered street lighting, at a total contract sum of ₦6.1 billion. The project will be executed by Mothercat

Limited under the supervision of the Katsina State Ministry of Works, Housing and Transport.

Since assuming office, our administration has pursued an ambitious and comprehensive development agenda aimed at transforming Katsina State through strategic investments in infrastructure, education, healthcare, agriculture, water supply, security, youth empowerment, and economic development. We believe that sustainable development can only be achieved when government provides the enabling environment for businesses to thrive and communities to prosper.

In the road sector alone, our administration has initiated and completed numerous projects across the three senatorial zones of the state. We have undertaken the construction, rehabilitation, and upgrading of urban and rural roads to improve connectivity, facilitate the movement of goods and services, and open up new economic opportunities for our citizens.

Notable among these interventions are the ongoing urban renewal programmes in Katsina, Daura, and Funtua, as well as the construction and rehabilitation of strategic roads linking communities, markets, schools, hospitals, and agricultural production centres. These projects are designed to stimulate economic growth, reduce transportation costs, and improve the quality of life of our people.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the project we are launching today is particularly important because it addresses a longstanding need of the people of Bakori. For many years, residents have expressed concerns about the condition of roads within the township and the challenges associated with transportation, especially during the rainy season.

The construction of these nine roads will provide durable and modern road infrastructure that will significantly improve accessibility within the town. The accompanying solar street lighting will enhance security, support commercial activities during evening hours, and contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable urban environment.

Beyond the physical infrastructure, this project will have a direct impact on the local economy. It will create employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled workers, support local businesses, improve access to social amenities, and increase the value of residential and commercial properties within the project area.

Our administration remains committed to ensuring that every local government area benefits from government projects and programmes. Development must not be concentrated in a few locations; rather, it must reach every community across Katsina State. This philosophy guides our decision-making and project selection processes.

I wish to commend the Honourable Commissioner and staff of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Transport for their dedication and supervising this project. Their efforts continue to contribute significantly to the realization of our infrastructure development objectives.

I also wish to appreciate Mothercat Limited for partnering with the Katsina State Government in the execution of this important project. We expect the highest standards of quality, professionalism, and timely delivery. The people of Bakori deserve nothing less than infrastructure that will stand the test of time and serve future generations.

To the good people of Bakori, I urge you to continue supporting government initiatives and to cooperate fully with the contractor and supervising engineers throughout the construction period. The success of this project depends not only on government and the contractor but also on the support and ownership demonstrated by the host community.

As we break ground today, let us remember that infrastructure development is not an end in itself but a means to achieving broader social and economic transformation. Roads connect people to opportunities, facilitate trade, improve access to healthcare and education, and strengthen the bonds that unite our communities.

I assure the people of Bakori and indeed all citizens of Katsina State that our administration will continue to pursue

projects and programmes that improve livelihoods, create opportunities, and build a stronger foundation for sustainable development.

On behalf of the Government and people of Katsina State, I hereby perform the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the nine Bakori township roads with solar street lighting.

May Almighty Allah (SWT) bless this project, grant its successful completion, and continue to bless Bakori Local Government Area, Katsina State, and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thank you all for your attention.