SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, PhD, CON EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE AT THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF THE 1MW MINI-HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECT AT DANJA DAM

DANJA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, KATSINA STATE.

13th December, 2025.

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim.

Protocol.

It is with immense pride, profound gratitude, and a deep sense of purpose that I stand before you today to break ground for the 1MW Mini-Hydroelectric Power Project at Danja Dam. This moment represents far more than the commencement of construction; it signifies the beginning of a new chapter in the history of our rural communities—one where energy becomes a driver of prosperity, empowerment, and long-term development for the hardworking people of Danja and neighbouring settlements.

Today, we are laying the foundation for a project that will transform this dam from a simple water reservoir into a powerful engine of growth. It will bring stable electricity to communities that have waited for decades. It will energize farms that depend on irrigation. It will support families, schools, health centres, small businesses, and local enterprises that form the backbone of rural life. This initiative is a practical demonstration of our administration's commitment to diversifying the energy mix of Katsina State, expanding rural electrification, and strengthening energy security in a way that touches the lives of ordinary citizens.

This project is the first in what will become a network of small-hydro installations across our major dams—Zobe, Jibia, Sabke, Ajiwa, and others—ensuring that our natural water assets are used not only for agriculture, but also for clean, affordable, and renewable electricity generation. For us, power is not just an economic necessity; it is the foundation of dignity for our people. Without reliable energy, our farms cannot scale, our small industries cannot grow, our youths cannot thrive, and our rural communities cannot unlock the prosperity they deserve.

The 1MW mini-hydro plant here in Danja will provide affordable and continuous electricity to support farmers in irrigating their fields, operating milling and processing equipment, preserving their produce, and reducing post-harvest losses. It will power homes, schools, mosques, clinics, and local shops, giving

families lighting at night, helping students study, enabling health workers to provide care, and allowing businesses to operate more efficiently. It will improve security in our rural areas, support economic activity, and restore confidence in the potential of our communities. It will also stand as a model for future replication across the State, showing how clean-water infrastructure can be paired with clean-energy generation to improve livelihoods and reduce poverty.

This project is being implemented through a joint partnership between the Katsina State Government, Oceans Énergie, and the French Treasury. This collaboration reflects our growing international partnerships and the confidence global development institutions increasingly place in the direction and credibility of our administration. The initiative also reinforces Katsina's emerging leadership in renewable energy—solar, wind, hydro, and clean gas—under the Electricity Act 2023, which has empowered States to craft their own energy future.

This hydro project complements the major renewable energy programmes we are implementing across Katsina State. We are deploying over 10MW of solar and battery storage systems across universities, hospitals, waterworks, and critical public facilities. We are hybridizing Nigeria's first and only wind farm—the 10MW Lambar Rimi Wind Farm—with an additional 10MW of solar to make it more reliable and commercially viable. We are constructing the State's first LNG/CNG gas hub to enhance clean transport and affordable power. We are establishing Nigeria's first Ministry of Power, Renewable Energy and Energy Security to coordinate our long-term energy vision. We are empowering thousands of small businesses across rural communities through solar systems. And with today's groundbreaking ceremony, we are adding hydropower to this integrated mix, ensuring that our energy future is diversified, resilient, and sustainable.

For the good people of Danja, this project is more than an engineering design; it is a gateway to transformation. It will expand farmlands, improve yields, and strengthen agricultural value chains. It will support agro-processing, storage, and income growth for households. It will reduce dependence on diesel generators that consume resources and pollute the environment. It will improve learning conditions for children, reduce medical risks for patients, and enhance the daily lives of families who have long lived without reliable power. It will strengthen local security through better lighting, more economic opportunities, and increased community activity.

To ensure the full success of this development, I call upon the Danja community to take ownership of the project, protect the infrastructure, support the engineers on site, and maintain vigilance throughout implementation and operation. This

project belongs to this community and to future generations; it is an asset that must be safeguarded, nurtured, and sustained.

I extend profound appreciation to the Department of Power and Energy, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Rural Electrification Board, the Danja Local Government Council, our development partners, and the engineers and technical experts whose tireless efforts have made this milestone possible.

In Katsina State, we are not simply waiting for the future—we are shaping it with deliberate action, courageous vision, and the grace of Almighty Allah. Today's groundbreaking ceremony is a testament to what partnership, determination, and community support can achieve. By Allah's guidance, this 1MW Danja Mini-Hydro Project will stand as a beacon of progress, a catalyst for agricultural transformation, and a symbol of hope for rural communities across Katsina State.

Thank you for being part of this historic day. May Allah bless Danja, bless Katsina State, and bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Malam Dikko Umaru Radda, PhD, CON
Executive Governor
Katsina State Government