SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, PhD, CON, AT THE GROUNDBREKING CEREMONY OF FUNTUA URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS

PROTOCOLS

I stand before you today with immense pride and gratitude as we gather to mark a significant milestone in the development of our beloved Funtua and Katsina State at large. This ground-breaking ceremony for the Funtua Urban Renewal Projects, comprising the Dualization of Sokoto Road spanning **5.95** kilometres at the cost of **12.8** billion naira with a completion period of **18** months, the reconstruction and dualization of the Funtua-Katsina Road spanning **3.9** kilometres at the contract sum of **5.8** billion naira with a completion period of **12** months, and the rehabilitation and

upgrading of Tsohowar Kasuwa Road spanning **1.2** kilometres at the contract sum of **637** million naira with a completion period of **6** months, marks the beginning of a transformative journey that will enhance the infrastructure and economic vibrancy of our communities. All the roads are asphaltic wearing course on carriageway with the provision of Solar Powered street lightings.

As your Governor, I have always believed that infrastructure is the backbone of progress. Today, we are again laying the foundation for a robust urban infrastructure that will not only improve connectivity but also facilitate trade, enhance the ease of doing business, and ultimately elevate the quality of life for our citizens.

These projects are not just about building roads; they represent our commitment to creating an environment that fosters economic growth and development. The dualization of Sokoto Road will significantly reduce travel time and improve safety for commuters, thereby promoting the free flow of goods and services within and beyond our borders. Meanwhile, the reconstruction of the Funtua-Katsina Road will enhance access to our capital, facilitating better interactions between our people and the central government.

Moreover, the rehabilitation and upgrading of Tsohowar Kasuwa Road will ensure that our traders have the necessary infrastructure to thrive, thus reinforcing our administration's commitment to supporting local businesses and creating job

opportunities. We recognize that the vibrancy of our local economies is paramount to the prosperity of our state.

I would like to take this moment to express my deepest gratitude to all our partners and stakeholders who have made today's event possible. Your support and collaboration are invaluable as we strive to bring these projects to fruition.

To the people of Funtua and Katsina State at large, I urge you to see these developments as a call to collective responsibility. It is essential that we protect and maintain these infrastructures once they are completed. Let us embrace a culture of ownership, pride, and care for our public amenities.

As we embark on this journey, let us remember that our aspirations are not limited to infrastructural

development but also include social cohesion, environmental sustainability, and the overall well-being of our citizens. I am confident that the successful execution of these projects will serve as a catalyst for further developments across our state.

In conclusion, today's ground-breaking is not just an event; it is a promise of a brighter future for all of us. Together, let us work hand in hand to ensure that Katsina State rises to new heights.

Thank you all for being here today. May Allah bless our endeavours and guide us towards success.

Long live Katsina State

Long live Nigeria.