INAUGURAL SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALLAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, PhD, CON, GWAGWAREN KATSINA, DURING THE INAUGURATION OF THE COMMUNITY LEVEL COMMITTEES (CLCs) UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CDP) ON THE 18TH DECEMBER, 2024, AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE COMMISSION HALL, KATSINA PROTOCOL

Protocol.

Today marks a significant milestone in our administration's journey towards building a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous Katsina State. It is with immense pride that I stand before you to inaugurate the Community Level Committees (CLCs) under the Community Development Programme (CDP). This initiative is a testament to our commitment to empowering grassroots communities, fostering unity, and ensuring sustainable development for all. Objectives of the Inauguration.

This inauguration serves several key purposes:

1. Establishing Functional Committees: Today, we formally empower the Community Level Committees in all wards, providing them with the tools and mandate to drive grassroots development effectively.

2. Raising Community Awareness: It is vital that all stakeholders understand the roles and responsibilities of the CLCs in advancing development and addressing the needs of our communities.

3. Promoting Local Ownership: Sustainable development can only be achieved when the people it serves take pride in and ownership of the projects and initiatives that benefit them.

4. Fostering Public Engagement: This event introduces the CLC members to their communities, recognizing their service and dedication to representing the interests of their people.

5. Preparing for Implementation: The inauguration lays a strong foundation for the smooth execution of the Community Development Programme, ensuring clarity, unity, and commitment among all stakeholders.

The Community Development Programme (CDP) is designed to bring transformative changes to our state. The objectives of this program are:

1. Enhance Social Cohesion and Unity: This objective can be measured through the number of inter-community

dialogue sessions held and the percentage of community members participating in projects, among other indicators.

2. Improve Access to Basic Services: Progress can be assessed by identifying increases in healthcare access rates in underserved areas and improvements in school enrollment and retention rates.

3. Economic Empowerment: This can be measured by the number of small businesses supported and participants trained in vocational skills.

4. Strengthen Social Support Systems: Success in this area can be determined by identifying the number of mental health service beneficiaries and the beneficiaries of social safety net programs. 5. Promote Gender Equality: Progress can be seen through increased women's representation in leadership roles and the implementation of genderspecific programs.

6. Increase Governance Participation: This can be evaluated by the number of community members engaged in decision-making processes and the training sessions conducted for governance advocacy.

7. Enhance Infrastructure: Achievements include the completion of infrastructure projects and accessibility improvements in public facilities.

8. Address Social Inequities: Success can be measured by the targeted interventions for marginalized groups and the completion and action on monitoring reports.

9. Promote Peace building: This can be tracked through the number of conflicts resolved through mediation and the implementation of peace education programs.

10.Environmental Sustainability: Progress is evident through the adoption of sustainable practices in agriculture and the implementation of climate adaptation projects.

To the newly inaugurated members of the Community Level Committees, you carry a great responsibility as the bridge between government and the grassroots. Your commitment, integrity, and dedication will be critical in ensuring the success of this program. I urge you to work inclusively and transparently, upholding the trust placed in you by your communities.

To our traditional rulers, civil society partners, and other stakeholders, your roles are equally vital. Through

collaboration, monitoring, and support, we can collectively guarantee the effective implementation of the CDP.

As we embark on this journey, let us remember that the targeted achievement outlined are not just metrics but reflections of real, tangible improvements in the lives of our citizens. From a child gaining access to quality education to a community resolving disputes peacefully, every achievement under this program will be a step towards the Katsina State we envision.

This inauguration is not merely a ceremony but a pledge, a pledge to empower our people, strengthen our communities, and build a state where development is inclusive, people-driven, and sustainable. Together, we can achieve this vision.

I now declare the Community Level Committees officially inaugurated.

Thank you, and may Allah bless Katsina State.