SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALAM DIKKO UMAR RADDA, PhD, CON (THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE) AT THE INDUCTION AND ORIENTATION CEREMONY OF 1,020 NEWLY RECRUITED FRONTLINE HEALTH CARE WORKERS FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES HELD ON 12TH FEBRUARY 2026 AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE COMMISSION CONFERENCE HALL

Protocol:

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this important occasion the induction and orientation ceremony of 1,020 newly recruited frontline health care workers for Primary Health Care facilities across our dear state.

Today marks another significant milestone in our collective efforts to reposition the health sector and strengthen Primary Health Care as the foundation of our health system. This ceremony is not only about welcoming new staff into public service; it is about reaffirming our commitment to accessible, equitable and quality healthcare for all the people of Katsina State.

To our new recruits, I say heartfelt congratulations. You have been selected through a rigorous and transparent process to become frontline soldiers in our mission to deliver quality, accessible and affordable healthcare to our people, especially those in our rural communities. Your role is not just a job; it is a sacred trust from the people of Katsina State

Our administration, from its inception, recognized that a healthy populace is the bedrock of any meaningful development. We, therefore, took a deliberate decision to prioritize health with Primary Health Care as our flagship priority.

1. In line with this vision, our government has upgraded 268 Primary Health Care facilities across the State at a total cost of **Twenty Six Billion Seven Hundred and Forty three Million Seven Hundred and Eighteen Thousand nine hundred and ninety three Thousand seventy nine Kobo (N26,743,718,993.79)**, This comprehensive upgrade includes renovation, provision of tricycle ambulance, provision of basic equipment and improvement in water and sanitation facilities

to ensure you have a conducive environment to support effective healthcare delivery. Furthermore, we have made adequate budgetary provision to upgrade and revitalize the remaining PHCs in the year 2026 to have a fully functional level 2 PHC facilities in all the 361wards of the state.

2. Understanding that a strong system is greater than the sum of its parts, we have strengthened the State Drug and Medical Supplies Agency to improve transparency, efficiency and access to essential medicines across all health facilities in the state

3. Beyond infrastructure and drugs, we are investing in the human condition. My administration has released over **Three Billion Naira (N3,000,000,000)** to implement nutrition-sensitive interventions targeted at women, children, and vulnerable populations, recognizing the strong link between nutrition, survival and overall health outcomes.

4. Beyond Primary Health Care, our administration has recorded notable achievements in secondary healthcare through the Katsina State Hospital Services Management

Board. Over the last two years, Seven Hundred and twenty-four (724) health professionals including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, laboratory scientists and other allied health workers have been recruited and deployed to strengthen service delivery in our general and specialist hospitals.

We have upgraded six Comprehensive Health Centers to General Hospitals, introduced advanced diagnostic and therapeutic services, supported postgraduate medical training, improved welfare packages for medical doctors and NYSC health personnel and granted approval of **N950,961,961.08** for the payment of Medical Students their Allowances from various Universities within the Country and Abroad from the years 2023 to date. These interventions are deliberate steps aimed at building a resilient and self-sustaining health system for our State

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

The recruitment of these 1,020 health care workers was conducted transparently and strictly on merit. I am proud to state clearly that this process was concluded without any form

of political interference. More than 75 percent of those recruited today are individuals who have already been serving Katsina State diligently as casual health workers. By this action, we are not only strengthening our health workforce but also rewarding loyalty, experience and years of dedicated service to our communities.

I wish to specially appreciate the Recruitment Committee, under the able chairmanship of Alhaji Lawal Rufa'i Safana, My Special Adviser on Local Government inspectorate, for conducting a credible, transparent and fair recruitment exercise. Your commitment and integrity have reinforced public confidence in government processes.

Our commitment to strengthening the health workforce does not end here. In line with our Health Sector Development Plan, the State Government is planning to recruit additional health care workers for Primary Health Care facilities. Furthermore, we are taking steps to replace 1000 adhoc staff to ensure job security, improved morale and better service delivery across the State.

To the newly inducted health care workers, you are joining a profession that demands competence, compassion, discipline and integrity. You are the first point of contact for our citizens within the health system and your conduct, attitude and dedication will determine the confidence our people place in public healthcare. I urge you to serve with professionalism, respect the dignity of every patient and always uphold the ethics of your noble profession.

The Government of Katsina State will continue to invest in your training, welfare, and working conditions. In return, we expect dedication, accountability and unwavering commitment to service.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that health is not an expense but an investment in human capital, productivity and the future of Katsina State. Together, we will continue to build a stronger, healthier and more prosperous Katsina State.

I congratulate you once again and wish you a successful and fulfilling career in service to our people.

Thank you and Wassalamu Alaikum