AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, PhD, CON THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE, AT THE OCCASION OF 2026 MAYDAY CELEBRATION HELD AT MUHAMMADU DIKKO STADIUM KATSINA ON 1ST MAY, 2026.

PROTOCOL:

Let me start by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Almighty Allah (S.W.A) for keeping us healthy and alive to witness this day again. This is the third time I am celebrating the May Day with Workers as Governor of Katsina State.

I am delighted to join you today, on this auspicious occasion of Workers' Day, celebrated annually on the 1st of May, to honor the resilience, dedication, and invaluable contributions of our hardworking workers.

This day provides an opportunity to reflect on our collective progress and renew our commitment to improving the welfare of our workforce, the backbone of governance and development.

Since the inception of this administration in May 2023, we have remained resolute in our commitment to improving the welfare

of Civil Servants, enhancing service delivery, and ensuring that our teeming workers retire with dignity and pride.

Despite prevailing economic challenges across the nation, our Government has taken deliberate and strategic steps to prioritize the well-being of our workforce.

I stand before you with a heart full of gratitude and a vision for a brighter future for all the hardworking people of Katsina State. Today, as we celebrate the contributions of workers to our society, I wish to reaffirm the government's unwavering commitment to the welfare and well-being of our workforce and the entire citizenry.

The theme of this years May Day is ***"Insecurity, Poverty-Bane of Decent Work"*** which to me is a call to action. It is a reminder that in the midst of challenges; unity, hard work, commitment and collective resolve remain the bedrock of our progress.

I must therefore extend my heartfelt gratitude to every worker in our farms, schools, hospitals, offices, markets, and

industries. Your sweat waters the fields of our prosperity; your dedication builds the foundations of our future.

Today, we honour and celebrate with you, even though we gather at a time when the weight of socio economic challenges press heavily; Inflation and security issues which nobody can deny, have tested our resilience. These realities are undeniable, and we acknowledge them with sincerity and share our path forward.

Before now, there were frustrations of delayed retirement benefits, inadequate infrastructure, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and restrictions of citizens' contribution which were narrowed under the weight of uncertainty because of insecurity. However, our resolve to address such challenges is not only helping us to be united, but also assisting us to be greater with commitment to reclaim and revitalized the situation.

I want to assure the entire people of Katsina state that with your continued support and cooperation the present administration will continue to be responsive through investing in practical positive solutions.

Distinguished invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, the Government has launched an expanded support to cultivate more farm lands for both dry and rainy season farming by pioneering large-scale agricultural interventions, including the procurement and distribution of 400 Tractors and training of youths to support the state's agro-industrial transformation. We have subsidized inputs, distributed thousands of solar-powered irrigation pumps, created access to markets to ensure that our state feeds itself and contributes to national food security. We intend to desilt and rehabilitate some of our existing irrigation dams in order to boost irrigation farming activities.

In recognition of the fact that education is the bedrock of every development, this administration decided to introduce and construct three "model smart schools" in Radda, Jikamshi and Dumurkul to offer free and quality education to rural and underprivileged children. The key initiatives include reinforcing safety through the Safe Schools Policy.

To support our determination in these directions aimed at bridging all gaps, the present administration had approved the recruitment of 2,158 teachers across the state out of which 1,500 will be posted to our primary schools while the remaining 658 will be posted to government secondary schools.

The present administration has come up with a new policy where excellence is recognized, celebrated and rewarded. All the best students that graduated from Umaru Musa Yar'adua University were recognized and offered automatic employments from 2019 to 2025. The same applied to the best Students that graduated from Isa Kaita College of Education Dutsin-ma and recently the Institute of Technology and Management. These create avenues where the best hands are injected in the workforce of the State.

We have recently flagged off a landmark women empowerment program targeting 14,450 women entrepreneurs across the state. The program was intended to support women engaged in various economic activities,

including trading, agriculture, tailoring, food processing, petty commodity businesses, etc., many of whom play critical roles in sustaining household incomes and local economies.

In addition, the State Government had launched a youth empowerment program titled 'Building your future; a youth development and empowerment program through which we disbursed N252 million to over 1,000 young entrepreneurs in the state. The initiative represents a strategic move to eliminate youth idleness and restiveness in the state and this we shall continue to recapitalize for successful beneficiaries who show serious commitment to their businesses."

Despite prevailing economic challenges across the nation, the present administration has taken deliberate and strategic steps to prioritize the well-being of our workforce.

One of our cardinal achievements is the sustained and prompt payment of salaries, pensions, and allowances. I am pleased to state that every worker in Katsina State receives his or her salary on or before the 25th of every month without interruption.

We have also implemented improved remuneration for critical sectors, including the new salary and entry point for Medical Doctors and enhanced hazard allowances for health workers, recognizing their vital role in safeguarding public health.

Accordingly, upon assumption of office, we inherited a significant backlog of gratuities and death benefits dating from 2019.

I am pleased to announce that this administration approved and released the sum of **₦45.89 billion** for the payment of these entitlements to 14,560No. beneficiaries across the State, Local Governments, and Local Education Authorities.

This effort reflects our unwavering commitment to honouring those who have served our State diligently.

It is also important to mention at this juncture, that the present administration has recently employed so many personnel across critical sectors. These includes:

- Employment of 1,020No. Health workers under the State Primary Healthcare Agency (SPHCA),

- Employment of 724No. Human Resources for Health under the Hospital Services Management Board (HSMB),
- Employment of 179No. First-class graduates from Umaru Musa Yar'adua University;
- Employment of 17No. best graduating students from IKCOE, Dutsin-Ma and
- 18No best graduating students from KSIT&M.

We recognize that a productive workforce is a well-trained workforce. To this end, we have recently sponsored over 2,019No. Civil Servants within a period of 2 years (2025- 2026) for short-term training programmes locally and internationally, alongside many other officers sponsored for long-term training, including overseas programmes.

In addition, an approval was granted recently for disbursement of second batch of the refurbishing loan to about **1,182No.** beneficiaries across the State MDAs to refurbish their vehicles and houses.

We believe that hard work deserves recognition. In this regard, the present administration rewarded outstanding Civil Servants

with vehicles and cash prizes, i.e **Peugeot 206 cars and ₦2 million each** to the best-performing officers in 2024 & 2025. This initiative was designed to motivate excellence and dedication within the service.

Similarly, prompt promotion remains a cornerstone of our policy. From January to December 2025, a total of **3,814 officers** were promoted to different grade levels across the Ministries, Agencies, Departments and Agencies.

Let me at this juncture reiterate our commitment to transparency, accountability, and good governance which are the pillars on which this administration stand. Indeed, we are, and shall remain committed to upholding the highest standards of governance, to ensure that public resources are utilized efficiently and effectively for the benefit of all citizens. We will continue to engage with the people, listen to their concerns, and work together to build a greater and prosperous Katsina State.

I therefore call upon all workers and the entire people of Katsina State to actively participate in the development and

progress of our dear State. Your contributions, ideas, and feedback are invaluable in shaping policies and programs that benefit everyone. Let us work together to build a stronger, more resilient Katsina State where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

As we celebrate this year's May Day today, let us work together to reshape our future; a future where every worker labours with hope, and where government serves with humility and vigour. Let us renew our commitment to building a better future for the present and future generations. Let our hands build, our voices unite, and our hearts persevere. Together, we can overcome challenges, achieve our goals, and create a more prosperous and inclusive society for all. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and continued support.

I wish all of you a safe rip back to your respective destinations. Once again, happy May Day to all the workers and citizens of Katsina State.

Long live the esteemed workers of Katsina State, Long live our dear Katsina State and Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.