**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, PhD, CON, (THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE), AT THE WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY THE NUTRITION SOCIETY OF NIGERIA (NSN), KATSINA STATE CHAPTER, HELD AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE COMMISSION, KATSINA, ON 24TH JUNE, 2026**

PROTOCOLS:

It gives me great pleasure to join you at this important workshop organized by the Katsina State Chapter of the Nutrition Society of Nigeria. I commend the leadership and members of the Society for their unwavering commitment to advancing the nutrition agenda and contributing to the development of evidence-based solutions aimed at improving the health and well-being of our people.

This gathering is both timely and strategic, considering the growing recognition that nutrition is not merely a health issue but a critical determinant of human capital development, economic productivity, educational attainment and social progress.

Malnutrition remains one of the most pressing public health challenges confronting many developing societies. Its consequences extend beyond individual health outcomes, affecting household incomes, educational

performance, workforce productivity and overall economic development. Therefore, addressing malnutrition is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic investment in the future prosperity of our State.

Since the inception of our administration, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to improving the health and welfare of our citizens in line with our development blueprint, "Building Your Future." Recognizing that a healthy population is fundamental to sustainable development, we have continued to make substantial investments across the health sector to strengthen healthcare infrastructure, improve access to quality services and enhance health outcomes across the State.

In pursuit of these objectives, our administration has undertaken the following major interventions:

1. We have upgraded and revitalized 268 Primary Healthcare Centers across the State at a total cost of ₦26,743,718,993.79. The intervention included comprehensive renovation works, provision of tricycle ambulances, supply of essential medical equipment, and improvement of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities to create an enabling environment for effective healthcare delivery.

2. In furtherance of our vision to ensure equitable access to quality healthcare services, adequate budgetary provisions have been made in the 2026 fiscal year to facilitate the upgrade of the remaining Primary Healthcare Centers, with the ultimate goal of establishing a fully functional Level II Primary Healthcare Facility in each of the 361 political wards of Katsina State.
3. Understanding the critical role of efficient medical supply chains in healthcare delivery, we have strengthened the Katsina State Drugs and Medical Supplies Management Agency to improve transparency, accountability, efficiency and access to quality essential medicines across public health facilities.
4. Beyond infrastructure development, our administration recognizes the strong relationship between nutrition and health outcomes. Consequently, we have committed over ₦3 Billion towards the implementation of nutrition-sensitive interventions targeted at women, children and vulnerable populations across the State.
5. To further strengthen institutional coordination and governance of nutrition programmes, we established

and funded the State Committee on Nutrition with the sum of ₦1.7 Billion.

6. We have also established 60 additional Out-Patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) Centers and 9 Stabilization Centers across the State to provide treatment and support for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition.
7. Furthermore, the State Government released ₦700 Million as counterpart funding under the Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria (ANRiN) Project 2.0, reaffirming our commitment to reducing malnutrition and improving child survival.
8. As part of our efforts to address food insecurity and support vulnerable households, the State Government distributed over 90,000 bags of food commodities to vulnerable citizens across the State.
9. Most recently, we distributed improved seedlings, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs to farmers in preparation for the current rainy season farming activities, aimed at boosting food production, improving household nutrition and strengthening food security.
10. Beyond primary healthcare, our administration has recorded significant achievements in secondary

healthcare through the Katsina State Hospitals Services Management Board.

11. Within the last two years, a total of 724 healthcare professionals, including medical doctors, nurses, pharmacists, laboratory scientists and other allied health personnel, have been recruited and deployed to improve service delivery in our General and Specialist Hospitals.
12. We have upgraded six Comprehensive Health Centers to General Hospital status, expanded access to advanced diagnostic and therapeutic services, supported postgraduate medical training and enhanced welfare packages for healthcare personnel, including National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) health workers.
13. In addition, approval has been granted for the payment of ₦950,961,961.08 as allowances to Katsina State medical students studying in various institutions within Nigeria and abroad between 2023 and date. This intervention reflects our determination to invest in the future healthcare workforce of the State.

Ladies and Gentlemen, while these achievements are commendable, we recognize that infrastructure and funding alone cannot eliminate malnutrition. Sustainable

progress requires behavioural change, community ownership, effective coordination and evidence-based interventions.

The theme and objectives of this workshop therefore resonate strongly with the priorities of our administration. As nutrition professionals, researchers and practitioners, you possess the technical expertise required to guide policy formulation and programme implementation. As Government, we remain committed to creating the enabling environment necessary for such interventions to succeed.

I urge participants to use this workshop as a platform for developing practical, innovative and culturally appropriate solutions capable of translating nutrition policies into measurable outcomes at the grassroots level.

We must continue to promote exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life, encourage appropriate complementary feeding practices, improve maternal nutrition, strengthen nutrition education and leverage locally available food resources to achieve balanced diets for our families.

Katsina State is blessed with vast agricultural potential and abundant indigenous food resources. Through

proper nutrition education and behavioural change communication, we can empower our communities to utilize these resources effectively in combating malnutrition.

I wish to particularly call upon the Nutrition Society of Nigeria to continue supporting Government through research, advocacy, capacity building and public enlightenment campaigns aimed at improving nutrition outcomes across the State.

To our development partners, we deeply appreciate your continued technical and financial support. Your partnership has contributed significantly to the progress recorded thus far. I assure you that this administration remains committed to transparency, accountability and prudent utilization of resources entrusted to us.

To our traditional and religious leaders, your influence within our communities remains invaluable. I urge you to continue championing issues relating to maternal health, child nutrition, hygiene, sanitation and healthy living within your respective domains.

As I conclude, let me reaffirm that the fight against malnutrition remains a key priority of this administration. We regard nutrition as a critical component of our

human capital development strategy and an essential pillar of our broader development agenda.

We shall carefully study and implement actionable recommendations emerging from this workshop as we continue to build a healthier, more productive and prosperous Katsina State.

Together, let us renew our commitment to ensuring that every child in Katsina State has the opportunity to grow, learn and thrive to their fullest potential.

May Almighty Allah continue to bless Katsina State and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thank you and God bless.