KEYNOTE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA PhD AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF 12TH DAURA DOMESTIC TRADE FAIR ON THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER, 2024

Protocols

It is with great sense of gratitude to the Almighty Allah SWT and extreme pleasure to be at today's event, the Opening Ceremony of the Daura Domestic Trade Fair. Today is an important date for us to show our support for the organizers of this fair, ***Katsina Aliyos Consultancy Trade Fair Promoter Cooperative Society Limited*** for successfully organizing this all important domestic trade fair.

The Daura Domestic Trade Fair will complement the government's efforts in exposing the opportunity to unlock the investment potentials of the State with a view to attracting investments from world class investors within and outside the Country. This is therefore to place it on record that Katsina State is ever ready to welcome any investor to partner with it and other indigenous investors in the State which is prided as a '***Home of Heritage and Hospitality***' and also a home for investment opportunities in agriculture, solid minerals and services industries.

The theme of this year's event: ***"Harnessing the Agricultural Potentials, Trade and Investments for Economic Empowerment Under His Excellency,***

Governor Malam Umar Diko Radda Administration to People of Katsina State", is chosen at the right time when the State Government is bowed in boosting the economy of the Micro, Small and Meium Enterprises through a number of empowerments. To achieve this, a number of measures have been put in place, which include creating and empowering some agencies and departments such as KASEDA, KIPA to complement the efforts of the existing MDAs.

Furthermore, the theme is very relevant to our policy and activities on agricultural development for sustainable growth in the various value chains. To achieve these goals, Katsina State is partnering with other Federal Government agencies for developing its resources in accordance with its competitive advantage.

In specific terms, Katsina State has distributed fertilizer to farmers at the subsidized rate for the rainy season in the State. In the same vain and in our commitment for boosting trade and commerce in Katsina State, our government has successfully initiated and conducted a sensitization workshop on cross-border trades at two border towns of Magama Jibia and Mai'aduwa. The 2nd phase is expected to cover other border towns of Dankama, Zango and Babban Mutum.

On the industrial sector, our government is resolute in taking the necessary steps to strengthen the established industries with the necessary patronage as well as assisting others on the drawing board to be established. As

I speak to you, efforts for the establishment of Daura Tannery and Kankia Metal Works all in Daura Senatorial Zone have reached appreciable level with the identification of investors, site clearing, infrastructural requirement auditing and other necessary procedural inducements. In addition many industrial ventures shall be pursued in partnership with the organized private sector and investors from the international investing community.

Distinguished invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, this Domestic Trade Fair gives me great hope that our State has good friends for its journey toward industrialization and commercial activities. In this regard, I wish to welcome the private sector participation in our starling efforts to invigorate the socio-economic development of our dear State. This is therefore an offer for you to take advantage of the programmes instituted by our government for the achievement of the industrial and commercial objectives of the State. Such measures include a friendly commercial and industrial policy regimes aimed at providing level platform for the private sector to be in the driver's seat anchoring economic development activities. At the same time, the State Government has introduced additional number of programmes that have been contributing immensely to the development of commercial activities, like the Ease of Doing Business etc.

To achieve the many outlined programmes for commercial and industrial development, the public sector is well sensitized to be passionate, responsive and ready to attend to investor's enquiries at all times beginning with

the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism and the Parastatals under its supervision, notably, the Katsina State Investment and Property Development Company Limited (KIPDECO) and the State Investment Promotion Agency (KIPA).

I therefore, again, have the singular honour and privilege to invite prospective investors to Katsina State, the Home of Heritage and Hospitality and also the Home of unlimited investment opportunities. Once again, I wish to congratulate and commend the organizers of this fair. Our hope and prayers are for continued wisdom, courage and unflinching ability to continue organizing this event commendably.

Finally, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my fervent wish and hope that the fair will provide good platform for business – to – business, business – to – investors, business – to – public interactions that would open up investment opportunities for all participants. I wish to thank our friends and partners and all those who came from far and near in order to be with us in this moment of joy and renewed commitment to our commercial and industrial objectives and wish everyone safe journey back to your respective destinations.

May God bless you all.

Thank you