SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MALAM DIKKO UMARU RADDA, PHD, CON (THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE) AT THE UNVEILING OF KATSINA, DAURA, AND FUNTUA MASTER PLANS 2025 – 2040

Protocol:

Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh…

It is with a deep sense of gratitude and fulfillment that I stand before you today for the official unveiling of the new Katsina, Daura, and Funtua Master Plans 2025 – 2040.

The last comprehensive masterplans for Katsina, Daura, and Funtua were developed in the year 1978 and designed to operate for only twenty-five years. While there were attempts to review these plans in the past, those efforts remained incomplete until now, despite the fact that we live in an era of rapid population growth, economic aspirations, and the imperative for orderly development.

This milestone represents a cornerstone of our administration's broader Urban Revitalization Project – a comprehensive initiative designed to unlock and optimize the full potential of our communities. By modernizing and updating master plans for our major cities, we aim to create aesthetically pleasing, economically vibrant, and

functionally efficient environment that serve both our urban and rural citizens.

When we assumed office in 2023, we met rapidly growing urban centres strained by population pressure, unplanned expansion, inadequate infrastructure, and the lingering effects of insecurity. Yet, under the "Building Your Future" agenda, we have refused to accept the status quo. Following our determination change our realities of yesterday, we now begin to see the manifestation of our resilience. Peace is returning to our land, investor confidence is rising, and our people are beginning to see tangible dividends of democracy.

Today marks another bold step in that journey. These masterplans — prepared through rigorous stakeholder consultations, expert analysis, and a deep understanding of our unique context — will guide the physical, economic, and social transformation of our three largest urban centres for the next fifteen years and beyond.

Let me be clear: these masterplans are not meant to gather dust on shelves. Implementation begins immediately. We have already commenced urban renewal works across these cities, invested heavily in road networks, drainage systems, and land administration reforms, and we have aligned our budgeting priorities to support this vision. The 2026 budget of over ₦897 billion

We have now created a process where *Mai-unguwa* must report any land transaction and new development within a Planning Area under their jurisdiction to relevant authorities. Land vendors are also now required to register with relevant authorities and must report every land transaction that they are involved.

To everyone that is here today, and all our citizens elsewhere: let me assure you that we made these decisions to secure your future — ensuring your children inherit well-planned communities with access to roads, water, schools, markets, and green spaces, not chaos and conflict over our land.

I will like to reaffirm to our traditional institution that we will continue to work hand-in-hand with you. Your wisdom and moral authority remain indispensable to the success of these plans.

I will also like to assure our development partners, private sector investors, and international friends — Katsina is open for business. These masterplans provide clarity, predictability, and opportunity. Come partner with us.

Finally, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning, our consultants, and all individuals and institutions involved in this meticulous work. Your dedication and expertise have made this achievement possible.

As you witnessed a short while ago, I have appended my signature on the **Katsina State Urban Planning Areas Order**. This Executive Order is the legal backbone that will turn those visionary plans into enforceable reality by empowering the relevant authorities to designate, regulate, and manage planning areas effectively. Key highlights of the Order include:

Designation of Planning areas in three clusters:

i. **Katsina Metropolitan Planning Area** — comprising the whole of Katsina LGA, some parts of Batagarawa LGA, Kaita LGA, Rimi LGA and Jibia LGA, and contiguous urban extensions (this is the core focus for the Katsina Master Plan).

ii. **Daura Town Planning Area** — comprising the whole of Daura LGA, and some parts of Mai'adua LGA and Sandamu LGA (this is the core focus for the Daura Master Plan).

iii. **Funtua Town Planning Area** — comprising the whole of Funtua LGA, some parts Bakori LGA, and Dandume LGA (this is the core focus for the Funtua Master Plan).

We are also involving the traditional institutions and land vendors in the process of development control and land registration.

— the largest in our history — reflects our determination to translate plans into concrete actions.

So, make no mistake, these masterplan documents are far more than technical drawings or policy papers. They represent our collective promise to build a modern, orderly, prosperous, and inclusive communities — where our children and grandchildren will thrive in well-planned cities that honour our rich heritage while embracing the opportunities of the future.

Our past experience with regards to the implementation of masterplans teaches us that lack of proper implementation mechanism results in creation of slumps across our cities, recurrent flood disasters, advancing desertification, and overcrowded neighbourhoods that breed insecurity and facilitate the spread of communicable diseases.

Therefore, we are taking bold steps today by institutionalising a clear framework to guide the implementation of these masterplans. We have already laid strong foundations by preparing the Katsina, Daura, and Funtua Masterplans 2025–2040 – documents that have already been gazetted by the Government Printers.

We have revitalised the Urban and Regional Planning Board with cutting-edge development control machineries worth over ₦700 million, We have also invested in modern infrastructure to automate land administration process.

To the good people of Katsina, Daura, Funtua, and indeed every corner of our state: this is your future we are building. Your input shaped these documents, and your participation will bring them to life.

Together, let us translate this vision into reality — creating an organized, inclusive, and thriving Katsina that honours our heritage while confidently embracing the promise of tomorrow.

Thank you.

May God bless Katsina State,

May God bless The Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.