

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN/CEO OF THE NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NCC), DR. AMINU MAIDA AT THE COURTESY VISIT BY HIS EXCELLENCY, GOVERNOR DIKKO UMAR RADDA PHD. TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NCC ON THE 25TH OF JANUARY, 2024

(Protocols)

Your Excellency, the Executive Governor of Katsina State, Dr. Dikko Umaru Radda, Ph.D

Commissioners and DG's Present

EC-SM

EC-TS

Directors Present

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted and profoundly honored to receive my older brother, friend, and compatriot in the person of the Executive Governor of my state, Katsina State, His Excellency, Mal. Dikko Umar Radda who has honored me today with his presence at the Nigerian Communications Commission. This visit is a testament to your commitment to your constituents, as well as to the growth and development of Katsina State.

Your Excellency, your presence here today further attests to your collaborative spirit, which over the past eight (8) months has seen you forge strong, beneficial and innovation-driven relationships between the government of Katsina State and various stakeholders. This courtesy visit is evidence of this mutual character that we both share: that is, the spirit of collaboration and partnership in advancing our collective vision for a digitally inclusive and prosperous Nigeria.

Today's visit provides me the Nigerian Communication Commission a collective platform to express our commendation for your forward-thinking and innovation-friendly leadership that brought about the visionary decision to waive the Right of Way (RoW) charges in Katsina State.

Your Excellency, as we collectively work towards achieving the 70% broadband penetration target of the National Broadband Plan by 2025, your commitment to removing obstacles, such as RoW charges, has proven to be a catalyst for our success.

This landmark decision exemplifies your commitment to accelerating the deployment of broadband infrastructure and fostering a robust digital economy within the state. By waiving the Right of Way charges, you have facilitated the rapid expansion of telecom infrastructure, enabling citizens in Katsina State to access high-speed internet, digital services, and participate fully in the digital economy. The importance of this gesture cannot be overstated, particularly in the context of President Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda.

Mr President's agenda, which is aptly captured by the Honorable Minister of Communication, Innovation and Digital Economy, Dr Bosun Tijani's Strategic Vision, places a strong emphasis on leveraging digital technologies to drive economic growth, enhance public service delivery, and create a more inclusive society. Your Excellency's forward-thinking approach aligns with this agenda, and we applaud your dedication to ensuring that the benefits of the digital revolution reaches every corner of Katsina State.

At the NCC, we recognize the pivotal role that broadband connectivity plays in achieving our national broadband targets. Through various programmes and interventions, the Commission looks to ensure that Nigeria realizes its 70% broadband penetration target by 2025 as enshrined in the National Broadband Plan, as well as extend communication services to unserved and underserved areas.

As you may be aware, Your Excellency, the Honourable Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy recently announced the establishment of a National Broadband Alliance (NBBA) , in recognition of the imperatives of broadband for economic development. The Alliance seeks to bring together key stakeholders from public and private sectors, as well as civil society, to collaboratively develop sustainable business models for driving the adoption and consumption of internet in key critical public institutions, such as schools, hospitals, government offices, libraries and markets, across the nation to drive Return of Investment for national fibre roll-out.

It is not surprising that Katsina State is among the states that have been chosen for the first phase targeted by the National Broadband Alliance. I would want to assume that this choice was courtesy the investment-friendly policies and initiatives of the State.

The NCC, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, is also implementing strategic interventions to ensure the seamless rollout of fibre connectivity. Through concerted efforts, we aim

to bridge the digital divide, create jobs, and enhance the overall socio-economic well-being of our citizens.

Your Excellency, I want to use this opportunity to reaffirm the Commission's unwavering commitment to supporting Katsina State's digital transformation journey. You have my assurance that our doors are always open to you and your colleagues in the Nigerian Governor's Forum. Together, we can harness the power of technology to create a brighter and more connected future for our people.

Once again, thank you for your leadership and dedication to advancing Nigeria's digital agenda, particularly in Katsina State. We look forward to deepening our collaboration for the benefit of all Nigerians.

Thank you.

Dr. Aminu Maida

Executive Vice Chairman/ Chief Executive Officer