



**REMARKS BY LT GEN (RTD) JOHNSON MOGOA K. ONDIEKI, CBS, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO TURKEY DURING THE 24TH EXECUTIVE SEMINAR OF THE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS OF KENYA (ICPAK) ON 26TH TO 29TH NOVEMBER, 2019 AT THE HILTON ISTANBUL BOMONTI HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE, ISTANBUL – TURKEY**

**THEME: IN PURSUIT OF HOLISTIC GROWTH AND STABILITY**

---



***The Chairman of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya***

***Members of the Institute***

***Distinguished Delegates***

***Ladies and gentlemen***

***Good morning/afternoon!***



I take this opportunity to welcome you all to this city of Istanbul, Turkey, a world-renowned city with vast attractions and beauty. My name is Lt Gen (Rtd) Johnson Mogo K. Ondieki, CBS, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to Turkey.

I am greatly honoured to be invited today as one of the guest speakers during this very important annual event of **the 24th Executive Seminar of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK)**.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***



Kenya and Turkey enjoy cordial relations which have stood the test of time since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1968 when Turkey opened and maintained a resident Ambassador in Nairobi to date. Kenya opened its Embassy in Ankara in July 2012 and the two countries have been working closely to strengthen the existing relation while striving to enhance it to higher levels.

Turkey will continue to be an important and long-standing partner-state to Kenya.



Kenya and Turkey have signed several Cooperation Agreements and MoU's since the early 2000. During the State Visit to Turkey in April 2014 by the President of the Republic of Kenya H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, several Agreements and MoU's in the fields of security, trade, energy, mining, financial and technical cooperation were signed. Additionally, in June, 2016 during the visit to Kenya by the Turkish President H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a number of MOUs were signed covering the sectors of water and irrigation and cooperation between the Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) and KEBS.

The two countries have initiated several other cooperation pacts that are aimed at reducing risks and increasing trade



and investment opportunities between the two countries. A proposed Defense Agreement and Framework Agreement on Defense Industry Cooperation between the Government of Kenya and the Government of Turkey is under consideration. Similarly, an Agreement on Double taxation is on the final stage of conclusion while the MoU on Higher Education is on progress. Turkey has provided scholarships every year to individual Kenyan students to pursue higher education in Turkey.

The number of scholarships offered to Kenyan students in 2018 reached 41 and overall, approximately four hundred Kenyans have benefited from the Turkish Scholarship.



**Distinguished *Guests Ladies and Gentlemen,***

The investment environment in Kenya is ripe and there is greater craving for public and private investments with each passing day. The Big Four Agenda, one of the government priority programmes have opened up huge opportunities for both Kenyan and the Turkish investors. There is increased opening for Kenya products coming to Turkey as well as Turkish Technology and Machinery going to Kenya.

Kenya considers Turkey as a leading emerging development partner and Turkish presence in Kenya has been felt through direct FDI and Public Private Partnership.



Bilateral trade volume between the two countries has increased. In 2018, the overall trade volume between the two countries surpassed **200 million USD**. Kenya's exports to Turkey which mainly include agricultural products such as tea, coffee, spices, fruits, cut flowers, textile fibers, raw materials for dye and paints, raw hide and related products earned Kenya **USD 24.8 Million** (Ksh 2,489,722,908) in 2018. Turkey's major exports to Kenya on the other hand which include coal bitumen, petroleum products, transportation machinery, textile fibers, fertilizers, machinery, steel, rubber, and plastic products earned **USD 194.2 Million** (Ksh 19,415,797,193) during the same year. The Balance of trade





is however still in favor of Turkey and the two countries are exploring ways of bridging the gap.

Turkish Airlines, which started operating commercial flights to Kenya on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009, has contributed significantly towards the increase in bilateral interactions between the two countries in many aspects. The airline operates a daily direct flight between Istanbul and Nairobi with Mombasa being a supplemental point.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***



The 24<sup>th</sup> Executive Summit is happening today at an opportune time when the world is seeking directions on how to effectively achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and many other goals amid scarcity of financial resources both at country level and globally. As such, prudent financial management is core.

As we all know, Kenya has made reasonable strides since independence to achieve its national goals. The attainment of Kenya's aspirations as espoused in its various development plans including the Vision 2030, Medium Term Development Plans and the Big Four Agenda requires diligence in resource use. Globally, the World Bank has prioritized twin goals that



nations should focus on: **reducing extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity.**

To meaningfully address these national and global goals, a strong financial management is critical in paving the way for more accountable and transparent institutions. Additionally, enhanced public financial management (PFM) is essential in delivering sustainable and high-quality public services, as well as minimizing ill practices.

I am convinced that the very important role played by the Accountants and Executive members of the organization will put Kenya in the global on the right path. I am also certain



that this conference will offer the right platform for honing the right skills, capacities and professionalism in prompting socio-economic well-being of Kenya and the world at large.

In conclusion, I would like to urge you all to continue enriching own self and raising professional standards domestically and internationally while exploring opportunities to strengthen the Institution globally. Turkey is one such place with open opportunities to share best practices and exchange ideas while establishing partnerships.



With these remarks, I wish you successful discussions and a wonderful stay in Istanbul. I also hope that you will find time within your schedule to explore the beautiful sceneries and rich history of Turkey which Istanbul offers. I thank you for your kind attention.

**Lt Gen (Rtd) Johnson Mogo K. Ondieki, CBS**  
**AMBASSADOR**