



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT
(FIFTH SESSION)

Approved
Dagah
Hon. Farah
13/08/2026

NA. L&P.2026/COMM (096)

Thursday, 13th August 2026

PAPER LAID

Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following **Paper** on the Table of the House, today
Thursday, 13th August 2026: -

REPORT OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF
TÜRKIYE BY THE MEMBERS OF THE KENYA - TÜRKIYE
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP ON 20TH TO 24TH
OCTOBER 2025.

(CHAIRPERSON, THE KENYA-TÜRKIYE PARLIAMENTARY
FRIENDSHIP GROUP)

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THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
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TABLED BY:	HON. YUSUF HADJI ADAN CHAIR, KENYA-TURKITE FG.
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Approved
H. Masai
Hon. Farah

13TH PARLIAMENT - FIFTH SESSION
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**REPORT OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
BY THE MEMBERS OF THE KENYA- TÜRKİYE PARLIAMENTARY
FRIENDSHIP GROUP ON 20TH TO 24TH OCTOBER 2025**

The Clerk's Chambers
P. O. Box 41842-00100
Main Parliament Buildings
Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: +254202848000, ext. 3300
Email: cna@parliament.go.ke
Website: www.parliament.go.ke/the-national-assembly

'For the Welfare of Society and the Just Government of the People'

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- ADF: Antalya Diplomacy Forum
- AGOA: African Growth and Opportunity Act
- AKP: Justice and Development Party
- ASAL: Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
- AU: African Union
- CBC: Competency-Based Curriculum
- CBS: Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear
- DEİK: Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye
- DEM: Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party
- DICA: Defense Industry Cooperation Agreement
- DTA: Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement
- EGH: Elder of the Order of the Golden Heart
- EPA: Economic Partnership Agreement
- EPZ: Export Processing Zone
- EU: European Union
- FDI: Foreign Direct Investment
- FETÖ: Fetullah Terrorist Organization
- GNAT: Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (TBMM in Turkish)
- IDEF: International Defense Industry Fair
- IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority on Development
- JEC: Joint Economic Commission
- KNCCI: Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- LAPSET: Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor
- MAARIF: Turkish Maarif Foundation
- MHP: Nationalist Movement Party
- MP: Member of Parliament
- NGO: Non-Governmental Organization
- PFG: Parliamentary Friendship Group
- PKK: Kurdistan Workers' Party
- PPP: Public-Private Partnership
- PR: Proportional Representation
- STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- TBMM: Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi (Grand National Assembly of Türkiye)
- TİKA: Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency
- UHC: Universal Health Coverage
- UN: United Nations
- YSK: Supreme Election Council
- YTB: Türkiye Scholarships Programme

PREFACE

Honourable Speaker,

The Kenya-Türkiye Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) was established in the National Assembly of Kenya in 2009 during the Tenth Parliament. Comprising twenty-six (26) Members of Parliament, the PFG embodies Kenya's proactive parliamentary diplomacy in nurturing strategic ties with the Republic of Türkiye across diplomacy, economy, culture, and security.

Against this backdrop, the PFG, led by Hon. (Dr.) Adan Keynan, CBS, MP, undertook an official visit to the Republic of Türkiye from 20th to 24th October 2025, hosted primarily in Ankara and Istanbul. The delegation comprised:

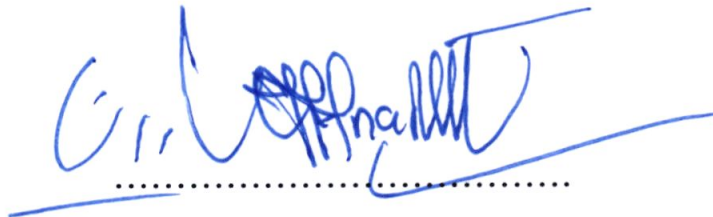
1. Hon. (Dr.) Adan Keynan, CBS, MP – Chairperson and Leader of Delegation
2. Hon. Patrick Simiyu Barasa, MP
3. Hon. Paulata Korere, MP
4. Hon. David Kiplagat, MP
5. Hon. Umut Kheir Kassim, MP
6. Ms. Perpetual Muiga – Delegation Secretary

The delegation held high-level audiences with the Chairman and Members of the Türkiye-Kenya Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group, Deputies of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (GNAT), the Deputy Minister for Culture and Tourism, and the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

These engagements underscored the transformative potential of parliamentary diplomacy in elevating Kenya-Türkiye relations into a multifaceted strategic partnership aligned with Kenya's Vision 2030 and Big Four Agenda. Despite a trade imbalance (USD 296 million in 2023, with a 90% deficit on Kenya's side), the visit highlighted pathways to USD 1 billion bilateral trade by 2030 through textiles, agro-processing, and renewables, accelerated via the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the 4th Joint Economic Commission (JEC) in 2026. Security collaboration emerged as a cornerstone, with shared resolve against Al-Shabaab and FETÖ through intelligence sharing, DICA-enabled defense technology transfers, and Türkiye's maritime support, exemplified by 2009 speedboat donations that strengthened Kenya's LAPSSET corridor and Horn of Africa stability under joint AU frameworks.

Education and culture proved vital connective tissue: Türkiye's 170 annual scholarships have produced over 1,000 Kenyan alums, while the MAARIF Foundation's transition of FETÖ-linked schools aligns with Kenya's Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC). Visits to Anıtkabir, Dolmabahçe, and Topkapi Palaces illuminated shared Ottoman-Swahili heritage, enriching people-to-people ties and tourism prospects. Türkiye's development support via TIKA, exceeding USD 100 million, in roads, railways, airports, health, agriculture, and water projects in ASAL regions, has affirmed its role as a reliable non-traditional partner.

Delays in ratifying key agreements remain a critical bottleneck. Swift parliamentary action is required to unlock FDI, generate over 100,000 manufacturing jobs, and position Türkiye as Kenya's strategic Eurasian gateway delivering mutual prosperity, one million job opportunities, and enhanced multilateral engagement on food security, peacekeeping, and regional stability. On behalf of the delegation, I extend sincere gratitude to the Honourable Speaker for your visionary leadership and unwavering support, and to the Clerk of the National Assembly for your diligent facilitation and logistical excellence, both of which were instrumental in ensuring the success of this official visit and the advancement of the Kenya–Türkiye Parliamentary Friendship Group.



Hon. (Dr.) Adan Keynan, CBS, MP

CHAIRMAN, KENYA-TURKEY PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP &
LEADER OF THE DELEGATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Honourable Speaker,

The official visit of the Kenya-Türkiye Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) to the Republic of Türkiye from 20th to 24th October 2025 marked a significant milestone in bilateral relations, reinforcing over 55 years of diplomatic engagement since 1968. Led by Hon. (Dr.) Adan Keynan, CBS, MP, the delegation engaged with key Turkish parliamentary and governmental counterparts, cultural sites, and business leaders to advance parliamentary diplomacy.

Key outcomes include strengthened commitments to ratify the 2023 Defense Industry Cooperation Agreement (DICA), elevate bilateral trade to USD 1 billion by 2030, and expand Turkish investments in Kenyan textiles, renewables, and agro-processing. The visit highlighted Türkiye's role as a strategic partner in security, development, and regional stability, aligning with Kenya's Vision 2030 and Big Four Agenda.

This report provides a comprehensive account of the programme, historical context, bilateral achievements, and actionable recommendations for the National Assembly's consideration. Implementation of these proposals will foster mutual prosperity, job creation (targeting 1 million opportunities), and a stable Horn of Africa.

INTRODUCTION

1. Overview of the Visit

The Kenya-Türkiye Parliamentary Friendship Group, comprising 26 Members of Parliament, embodies Kenya's proactive approach to parliamentary diplomacy. Established to nurture ties between the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Türkiye, the group facilitates dialogue on shared interests in diplomacy, economy, culture, and security. The official visit from 20th to 24th October 2025, hosted primarily in Ankara and Istanbul, was a deliberate effort to operationalize these ties.

Timed strategically post the Türkiye-Africa Business Forum (16th to 17th October 2025), the visit built on recent milestones, such as Kenya's repatriation of FETÖ-linked individuals (October 2024) and the 4th Antalya Diplomacy Forum (April 2025). By engaging the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (GNAT) and ministerial counterparts, the delegation advocated for Kenyan priorities: increased FDI in manufacturing, defense technology transfers, and cultural exchanges. This report chronicles these engagements, underscoring their alignment with Kenya's multi-polar foreign policy.

The visit's success is measured not only by immediate outcomes but also by its potential to catalyze long-term collaboration. With bilateral trade at USD 296 million (2023) and Turkish investments exceeding USD 50 million, the partnership offers Kenya a gateway to Eurasian markets and

non-traditional development aid. As presented to the National Assembly, this report urges swift action on recommendations to harness these opportunities for sustainable growth.

2. The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (GNAT): Structure and Composition

The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (GNAT), known in Turkish as Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi (TBMM), is the unicameral legislative body of the Turkish Republic. Established on April 23, 1920, in Ankara during the Turkish War of Independence, the GNAT played a pivotal role in the transition from the Ottoman Empire to a modern republic, serving as the provisional government under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Today, it remains the sole legislative body, embodying national sovereignty as enshrined in Article 7 of the 1982 Constitution (amended in 2017).

The GNAT comprises 600 deputies (Members of Parliament), an increase from 550 following the 2017 constitutional referendum that shifted Türkiye to a presidential system. Deputies represent 87 electoral districts, corresponding to Türkiye's 81 provinces, with larger urban centers like Istanbul (divided into three districts) and Ankara (three districts) allocated additional seats to reflect population densities (Istanbul: 98 seats; Ankara: 36 seats). As of the 28th Legislative Term (commencing June, 2 2023 post-elections), the composition reflects a diverse political spectrum: the Justice and Development Party (AKP) holds 268 seats, the Republican People's Party (CHP) 169, the Peoples' Equality and

Democracy Party (DEM) 61, and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) 50, with smaller parties and independents filling the remainder. Women constitute approximately 18% of members (108 deputies), a figure that, while improved from prior terms, underscores ongoing efforts to achieve gender parity. The average age of deputies is around 50, with representation from professionals, academics, and former civil servants.

The GNAT's structure includes 20 standing committees (e.g., Foreign Affairs, Defense and Education), ad hoc inquiry commissions, and the Turkish Grand National Assembly Speaker (currently Numan Kurtulmuş, elected June 2023). Parliamentary groups require at least 20 members to form, enabling caucuses for legislative negotiation. Immunities protect deputies from arrest (except in flagrante delicto) and afford freedom of speech, fostering robust debate. Minutes are translated into Arabic, Russian, English, and French, facilitating international engagement, though Kurdish translations remain absent despite advocacy. This composition ensures balanced representation, with deputies expected to advocate nationally rather than by constituency, contrasting with some Westminster models.

For Kenyan parliamentarians, the GNAT's evolution from independence to a modern legislature offers lessons in resilience and adaptation. Its committee system mirrors Kenya's, providing avenues for twinning (e.g., Foreign Affairs Committees) to enhance bilateral oversight.

3. Type of Parliament and Government in Türkiye

The GNAT operates as a unicameral parliament, a configuration solidified by the 1982 Constitution and reinforced by the 2017 amendments, which abolished the bicameral structure under the 1961 Constitution (which featured a 450-member National Assembly and a 150-member Senate). Unicameralism streamlines law-making, with the GNAT holding exclusive powers to enact, amend, or repeal legislation; approve budgets; ratify treaties; declare war; and oversee the executive through no-confidence votes (though limited post-2017). Legislative sessions run annually from 1 October to 30 September. Extraordinary sessions may be called by the President or by one-fifth of the deputies.

Türkiye's government is a presidential republic, a hybrid system blending parliamentary traditions with executive dominance. The 2017 referendum empowered the President (currently Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, re-elected 2023) as head of state and government, eliminating the Prime Minister role and vesting executive authority in the Presidency. The President appoints ministers (non-deputies since 2018), issues decrees with force of law (subject to GNAT veto), and can dissolve the Assembly for snap elections (as in 2018 and 2023). This model contrasts with Kenya's semi-presidential model, where the President leads the executive but Parliament retains stronger oversight via bicameral checks. The Council of Ministers, Cabinet-level, reports to the President rather than to the GNAT, marking a shift away from pure parliamentarism.

This presidential-parliamentary framework has implications for bilateral ties: the GNAT's Foreign Affairs Committee, chaired by figures like Hon. Fuat Oktay, drives diplomatic agendas, while presidential initiatives (e.g., Erdoğan's 2016 Kenya visit) complement parliamentary efforts. For Kenya, emulating Türkiye's executive efficiency in infrastructure delivery while safeguarding legislative independence could inform reforms.

4. Electoral System in Türkiye

Türkiye employs a party-list proportional representation (PR) system using the D'Hondt method for GNAT elections, held every five years or earlier via presidential decree. The May 14, 2023, general elections, which ushered in the 28th Term, saw 87% voter turnout among 64 million eligible citizens, with universal adult suffrage (age 18+) and passive registration tied to national ID. A 7% national threshold applies to parties seeking seats, favoring larger coalitions like the People's Alliance (AKP-MHP). Districts vary in size (e.g., Istanbul has 98 seats), ensuring proportionality while allowing local flavors.

Elections are administered by the Supreme Election Council (YSK), an independent body, with provisions for by-elections if vacancies exceed 5% due to resignation or death. Post-2017, the President is directly elected concurrently, requiring 50%+1 for victory or runoffs. Restrictions bar extremists, military personnel, and civil servants from running for office without resigning. Voter secrecy and diaspora voting (5 million

abroad) enhance inclusivity, though criticisms persist on media bias and HDP/DEM suppressions.

Comparatively, Türkiye's PR contrasts Kenya's mixed-member system (party primaries), offering insights for electoral reforms to boost proportionality and reduce "wasted votes." The delegation discussed these during GNAT meetings, exploring observer exchanges for Kenya's 2027 polls.

In comparison, Türkiye's proportional representation (PR) electoral system stands in stark contrast to Kenya's mixed-member framework, which integrates voting in single-member constituencies with party nomination allocations to achieve a degree of proportionality. This comparative analysis yields valuable insights for prospective electoral reforms in Kenya, particularly for enhancing overall representational equity and mitigating the problem of "wasted votes" that often plagues single-constituency-dominant systems. During sessions at the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (GNAT), the delegation delved into these differences through in-depth discussions and examined opportunities for mutual election observer exchanges ahead of Kenya's 2027 general polls.

5. Relevance to Kenyan Parliamentary Diplomacy

This visit exemplifies Kenya's "Look East" policy, positioning Türkiye as a bridge to Afro-Eurasian partnerships. By engaging the GNAT, a body forged in adversity like Kenya's post-colonial Assembly, the delegation fostered mutual learning. As Kenya navigates devolution, Türkiye's

unicameral efficiency and presidential collaborations provide benchmarks. The report thus serves as a blueprint for the National Assembly to deepen ties, urging committees (e.g., Defense and Foreign Affairs) to prioritize the identified action points.

6. OBJECTIVES OF THE VISIT

The visit pursued multifaceted objectives to elevate Kenya-Türkiye relations:

1. **Strengthen Diplomatic Ties:** Through high-level dialogues, reaffirm 55 years of partnership.
2. **Enhance Economic Cooperation:** Identify USD 1 billion trade pathways, focusing on textiles, agro-processing, and renewables via JEC mechanisms.
3. **Foster Cultural and Educational Exchanges:** Promote scholarships (170 annually) and heritage links to build people-to-people bonds.
4. **Advance Security Collaboration:** Push for DICA ratification and counter-terrorism synergy against Al-Shabaab and FETÖ.
5. **Formulate Recommendations:** Deliver actionable strategies for the National Assembly endorsement that ensure sustainable mutual benefits.

These goals, rooted in Kenya's Big Four Agenda, positioned the visit as a catalyst for inclusive growth.

7. DELEGATION COMPOSITION

The delegation comprised:

1. Hon. (Dr.) Adan Keynan, CBS, MP – Chairperson
2. Hon. Patrick Simiyu Barasa, MP
3. Hon. Paulata Korere, MP
4. Hon. David Kiplagat, MP
5. Hon. Umul Kheir Kassim, MP
6. Ms. Perpetual Muiga – Delegation Secretary

The delegation represented diverse regions and expertise, ensuring comprehensive advocacy.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF KENYA-TÜRKİYE RELATIONS

8. Informal Ties and Early Diplomatic Engagements

Kenya-Türkiye relations date back to the 16th century, when Ottoman traders engaged Swahili Coastal ports like Mombasa, exchanging spices, ivory, and textiles. These informal links laid the foundations for cultural syncretism, evident in Kiswahili loanwords and shared Islamic heritage. Formal diplomacy began after Kenya's independence in 1963 when Türkiye established its Nairobi Embassy in 1968, facilitating technical aid in agriculture amid Kenya's Harambee self-reliance drive.

From Kenya's perspective, early ties helped counter colonial legacies, bringing in Turkish expertise in irrigation and road construction. The 1970s saw initial agreements on consular matters, evolving into a framework for mutual recognition.

9. Post-Independence Developments

The 1990s accelerated momentum, with Kenya viewing Türkiye as a gateway to Central Asia. President Daniel Arap Moi's 1996 visit to the UN-Habitat Conference in Istanbul marked the first high-level exchange, focusing on urban planning. Türkiye's 2005 Africa Opening Initiative prioritized Kenya as East Africa's hub, leading to the 2012 opening of Kenya's Ankara Embassy, concurrently accredited to Bulgaria, Georgia, North Macedonia, and Romania.

This era aligned with Kenya's Vision 2030, leveraging Turkish firms for infrastructure development. Bilateral agreements proliferated, covering trade, health, and culture.

10. High-Level Visits and Milestones

Pivotal visits include President Abdullah Gül's 2009 Sub-Saharan debut in Nairobi, the signing of 10 pacts, and the inauguration of direct flights.

A delegation from the National Assembly of Kenya, led by the then Speaker, Hon. Kenneth Marende, EGH, and accompanied by, among others, Hon. (Dr.) Adan Keynan, CBS, MP, visited the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye from 28 February to 5 March 2011. The visit culminated in the launch of the Kenya–Türkiye Parliamentary Friendship Group and championed the opening of the Kenya Embassy in Ankara, Türkiye.

H.E. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta's 2014 state visit reciprocated, opening the Ankara Embassy and advancing the Big Four precursors. President Erdoğan's 2016 trip, amid global refugee crises, pledged USD 100 million in TIKA aid for Kenyan arid zones.

His Excellency, Hon. (Dr.) William Ruto, EGH, ongoing engagements, including the 2025 Antalya Forum, sustain this trajectory, emphasizing manufacturing and green energy.

11. Evolution of Parliamentary Diplomacy

Parliamentary ties formalized via the Kenya-Türkiye PFG (2010s), mirroring GNAT's inter-parliamentary groups. Exchanges have reviewed JEC sessions, with the upcoming 4th (2026) poised for breakthroughs. This visit, amid 2025's 55th anniversary, cements the Parliamentary Friendship Group's role in complementing executive diplomacy.

PROGRAMME AND DETAILED ENGAGEMENTS

Ceremonial and Parliamentary Sessions

12. Visit to Atatürk's Mausoleum

The delegation's day commenced with a poignant visit to Anıtkabir, Atatürk's mausoleum, completed in 1953 on a hill overlooking the city he reshaped as Türkiye's capital. The site's museum exhibit on the War of Independence inspired reflections on parliamentary resilience, with delegates noting GNAT's 1920 founding as akin to Kenya's 1963 Assembly. This resonance set a tone of mutual inspiration, underscoring how historical reverence fuels contemporary partnerships.

Escorted by a Turkish honor guard, the delegation laid wreaths at the sarcophagus and stood in silence. This custom, established shortly after Atatürk died in 1938, has welcomed countless world leaders. For Kenyans, it carries a deeper resonance, mirroring our own pilgrimages to Mzee Jomo Kenyatta's mausoleum in Nairobi, where the founding father's legacy as "the Burning Spear" of independence is eternally honored. Both men, emerging from the ashes of empire, forged secular republics from diverse peoples, noting that H.E. Atatürk abolished the caliphate in 1924 to separate mosque and state, while H.E. Mzee Jomo Kenyatta navigated post-colonial Kenya's tribal mosaic toward unity under the Harambee philosophy.

Delegates drew explicit parallels between Atatürk's radical secularism, enshrined in the 1924 constitution that banned religious symbols in public office, and Kenya's own constitutional safeguards for multi-ethnic harmony, adopted in 2010 amid fears of sectarian division. One Kenyan parliamentarian noted how Atatürk's 1934 suffrage law, granting women full political rights a decade before many European nations, echoed Kenyatta's push for gender equity in the 1960s, despite resistance from traditional elders. These exchanges revealed not mere courtesy but a genuine search for governance models: Türkiye's ability to maintain Muslim-majority secularism offered Kenya insights into balancing faith, ethnicity, and nationhood in an increasingly polarized world.

Inside Anıtkabir's museum, the delegation paused before panoramic dioramas of the 1919–1923 War of Independence, where ragtag Ottoman remnants defied Allied occupation to birth the Republic. The exhibit chronicling the Grand National Assembly's (GNAT) founding on April 23, 1920, in a modest Ankara brick building amid wartime chaos struck a chord with Kenya's own legislative birth pangs. Delegates recalled June 1, 1963, when the colonial Legislative Council morphed into an independent National Assembly under Kenyatta's speakership, while Mau Mau veterans still nursed wounds from the violence during the State of Emergency. Both parliaments, born in defiance, had weathered coups, suspensions, and restorations, GNAT surviving Atatürk's death and multiparty turbulence; Kenya's Assembly enduring Moi-era repression before the 2010 rebirth. A Turkish guide's anecdote about deputies debating land reform by lantern light in 1920 prompted laughter and recognition Kenya's 1963 "million-acre scheme" had unfolded under similar pressure to redistribute colonial estates.

This immersion in revolutionary memory set an electric tone for the bilateral meetings that followed at the GNAT complex. Historical reverence was no mere prologue; it became the subtext for negotiating trade corridors, geothermal partnerships, and counter-terrorism intelligence sharing. As the Kenyan delegation noted after the tour, Anıtkabir had transformed abstract diplomatic protocols into a lived continuum, two post-colonial legislatures, separated by geography yet bound by the conviction that nations are built not on bloodlines but on bold, inclusive visions.

13. Meeting with Members of the Türkiye-Kenya Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group

In GNAT's Public Relations Building Hall No. 8, Hon. İsmail Güneş, MP (Uşak Constituency and Chairman), hosted the Kenyan delegation.

During the meeting, Hon. İsmail Güneş, MP (Uşak), Chairman, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage with their Kenyan counterparts, noting the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the Republic of Türkiye and the Republic of Kenya. The delegation conveyed warm greetings and reaffirmed Türkiye's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations across various sectors of mutual interest.

In the meeting, the Chairman (Türkiye-Kenya PFG) was accompanied by four Members of Parliament. The Members in attendance emphasized the importance their government attaches to deepening bilateral relations with Kenya and to increasing trade, investment, and people-to-people exchanges between the two nations.

During the interactive meeting, participants deliberated on the following key areas:

a. Bilateral Relations and Trade Cooperation

The projects implemented by Turkish companies in Kenya have significantly advanced bilateral relations. However, Hon. İsmail noted that the overall

trade volume remains below the desired level, with a reported value of USD 286.2 million in 2023 and USD 176.8 million as of August 2024.

The delegation encouraged greater cooperation in trade and investment, noting that Kenya could benefit from Türkiye's globally recognized companies' competitive, high-quality services, particularly in the construction sector.

The deputies welcomed the resumption of Turkish Airlines flights to Mombasa and commended the airline's continued contribution to Kenya's tourism sector through regular flights to Nairobi.

b. Trade and Investment Framework

The Chairman, Hon. İsmail, underscored the need to strengthen the contractual and legal frameworks that support trade and investment between the two countries. It was noted that Türkiye has been closely following the Free Trade and Investment Facilitation Agreements signed between Kenya and other partners, particularly the European Union. The conclusion of similar agreements between Kenya and Türkiye was identified as a significant step towards expanding bilateral trade and investment.

The delegation further noted that finalizing the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTA) would substantially enhance trade and investment relations. However, progress on this agreement has been constrained by Kenya's insistence on basing country terms on its domestic laws rather than on internationally accepted definitions. It was reported that Kenya had

recently rejected Türkiye's proposal to remove the country definition clause from the agreement entirely.

The engagement candidly addressed trade imbalances, noting Kenya's paltry USD 23.7M exports (tea, coffee) against USD 272M imports (machinery). Proposals to remedy this included a Joint Textile EPZ, harnessing EPA for EU access, creating 100,000 jobs. Investments (USD 50M+) in construction were praised, with calls to expand renewables to USD 1B in trade.

c. Pending Agreements and Legal Instruments

The Members of the GNAT highlighted the importance of expediting the ratification and entry into force of several key agreements already signed between the two countries. These include:

- The Agreement on the Mutual Protection of Investments.
- The Agreement on Financial and Technical Cooperation.
- The Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Health.
- The Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Press, Youth, and Sports.
- The Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Education.

The delegation expressed concern that the Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Investments, signed in 2014, had yet to enter into force, describing this delay as a shortcoming. It was emphasized that completing the ratification process in Kenya would be mutually beneficial and would contribute positively to the trade and investment relationship between the two countries.

d. Defense and Security Cooperation.

The meeting also discussed cooperation in the defense and security sectors. It was recalled that the Defense Industrial Cooperation Agreement (DICA), signed in 2023, provides a robust legal framework for expanding defense industry collaboration. The Turkish side highlighted that Türkiye's defense products are internationally recognized and proven effective in operational contexts.

It was further emphasized that the prompt conclusion and signing of the Defense Cooperation Agreement, which is ready for signature, would be mutually beneficial and would help advance security cooperation. The report noted that a formal letter from Türkiye's Ministry of National Defense, inviting its Kenyan counterpart to visit Türkiye, was delivered on 7 October 2024.

e. Security and Counterterrorism (FETÖ)

The meeting was informed that the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETÖ) is recognized as a terrorist group that attempted an armed coup against democracy, the constitutional order, and the will of the Turkish people. It was emphasized that FETÖ's presence, in any form, constitutes a serious threat to all countries where it operates. The Turkish representatives expressed their hope for close cooperation with Kenya in addressing this shared security concern.

14. Luncheon Hosted by Hon. İsmail Güneş

At the GNAT 100th Anniversary Garden Restaurant VIP Hall, cuisine bridged cultures, sparking talks on 170 annual scholarships (1,000+ alumni). Yunus Emre Institute expansions and MAARIF transitions for FETÖ schools were endorsed, balancing security with rights.

Informal bonds strengthened, with toasts to 55 years of friendship and invitations for reciprocal visits.

15. Audience with Hon. Fuat Oktay, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye

The delegation was warmly received by Hon. Fuat Oktay, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, in a cordial and productive meeting held at the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye.

Key highlights of the discussions included:

- a) **Advancement of Bilateral Parliamentary Cooperation** - Hon. Oktay strongly supported the expeditious ratification of the Defence Industry Cooperation Agreement (DICA) between Kenya and Türkiye. He recalled Türkiye's earlier solidarity with Kenya, notably the donation of high-speed patrol boats in 2009 to combat piracy off the Somali coast. Building on this foundation, both sides agreed to prioritize Kenya's acquisition of Bayraktar TB2 armed drones as a critical tool in the ongoing fight against Al-Shabaab terrorism.

- b) **Regional Peace and Security** - The Chairman commended Kenya's leading role within IGAD and its mediation efforts in the Horn of Africa, particularly in facilitating dialogue between Ethiopia and Somalia, as well as supporting peace processes in Sudan. The two sides explored the establishment of a Joint Parliamentary Taskforce to enhance coordination on African Union peacekeeping missions and regional stability initiatives.
- c) **Counter-Terrorism and Security Cooperation** Hon. Oktay commended Kenya's decisive action in 2024 to designate FETÖ as a terrorist organization and facilitate the repatriation of its members, describing the move as a significant milestone in deepening mutual trust and security collaboration between the two nations.
- d) **Türkiye's Development Assistance and Humanitarian Support to Kenya** The meeting acknowledged Türkiye's longstanding role as one of the world's leading hosts of refugees and its generous support to Kenya across multiple sectors, including: education, infrastructure, health, agriculture, water resources and humanitarian Aid.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the growing strategic partnership and committed to translating the discussions into concrete outcomes through accelerated parliamentary oversight and legislative action.

The audience concluded with an exchange of gifts and a reaffirmation of the strong historical ties and shared commitment to peace, security, and sustainable development between the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Türkiye.

Ministerial Audiences

16. Audience with H.E. Serdar Çam, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism

The delegation's visit to Türkiye underscores Kenya's commitment to fostering robust bilateral relations, with particular emphasis on tourism as a pillar of economic and cultural exchange. Discussions highlighted opportunities for collaboration in trade, investment, security, and sustainable development, while addressing regional humanitarian concerns. Key focus areas included renewable energy initiatives and public-private partnerships (PPPs) to enhance tourism infrastructure and promote eco-friendly practices. The delegation appreciates Türkiye's expertise in these domains and seeks to leverage them for mutual benefit, aligning with Kenya's goals for a resilient and adaptive future.

a. Overview of Bilateral Relations

The delegation's engagements centered on strengthening Türkiye-Kenya relations across critical sectors, including trade, investment, and security. A strong emphasis was placed on renewable energy and public-private partnerships as drivers of sustainable growth. Discussions also extended to regional issues, including the situations in Somalia and Palestine, with commitments to humanitarian aid,

stability, and peacebuilding. Education, technology, and health emerged as priority areas for deepened cooperation, offering avenues to build people-to-people ties. Notably, Kenya's ambition to achieve a 25% renewable energy target was referenced, drawing on Türkiye's proven experience in green energy solutions to inform collaborative projects that could support tourism through eco-tourism developments and energy-efficient infrastructure.

b. National Identity, Achievements, and Adaptation to Change

The importance of cultural relations and the preservation of the national language was underscored as foundational to bilateral ties, promoting mutual understanding and cultural tourism. National achievements were highlighted, including advancements in railway development inspired by models such as those in Germany, which could inform joint infrastructure projects beneficial to tourism connectivity. The delegation stressed the need for resilience, preparedness, and a willingness to adapt to global changes, enabling both nations to navigate evolving challenges while capitalizing on shared opportunities in sustainable tourism.

c. Trade, Investment, and Legal Frameworks

Signed agreements between Kenya and Türkiye have now entered into force, providing a solid legal framework to catalyze trade and investment. These instruments will unlock the full trade potential between the two nations, facilitating smoother economic interactions. In the context of tourism, these agreements open the

door to investments in hospitality and cultural heritage sites, as well as joint marketing initiatives, to attract visitors from both regions.

d. **Defense Industry and Security Cooperation**

The defense industry was identified as a key area for enhanced cooperation, with products serving as signature assets in bilateral relations. Mechanisms for addressing security threats, including those disguised as terrorist activities, were discussed to ensure safe environments for tourism. Stable security frameworks are essential for promoting Kenya and Türkiye as secure destinations, encouraging tourist inflows, and protecting shared interests in regional stability.

e. **Humanitarian Support for Somalia and Palestine**

Since 2011, Türkiye's multi-faceted engagement in Somalia has included development assistance and health initiatives, contributing to overall stability. Support for addressing the Palestinian issue was also affirmed, with discussions at the UN General Assembly focusing on a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire in Gaza. Notably, the ceasefire proposal does not impose obligations on the Palestinian side, and the ultimate resolution is the establishment of an independent, integrated Palestinian state. These humanitarian efforts align with broader peace goals, indirectly bolstering tourism by fostering regional security and enabling cross-border cultural exchanges.

f. Tourism, Renewable Energy, and Public-Private Partnerships

A 3-year plan for tourism and development cooperation was launched, marking a significant milestone in our partnership. Geothermal energy was pinpointed as a prime area for collaboration, leveraging Türkiye's renowned expertise to support Kenya's renewable energy ambitions. Global support for green hydrogen production, particularly from the EU in Namibia and Kenya, was highlighted as a model for similar initiatives. With renewable energies currently accounting for 25% of Kenya's energy mix and ambitions for expansion, these efforts present opportunities for PPPs in sustainable tourism projects, such as eco-resorts, green transportation, and energy-efficient attractions. The delegation proposes exploring joint ventures that integrate renewable technologies to enhance Türkiye-Kenya tourism corridors.

(v) Education, Talent Development, and Social Initiatives

Civil society engagement in Somalia and Kenya was emphasized, with a focus on harnessing existing talent through education rather than creating new elites. Initiatives like MAARIF were noted for using education to develop and showcase talent, contributing to national improvement and social cohesion. Civil society's role in promoting stability in Somalia, alongside broader societal efforts, supports educational exchanges and talent mobility that can enrich tourism by developing skilled workforces in hospitality and cultural sectors.

Recommendations and Next Steps

The delegation recommends prioritizing the implementation of the 3-year tourism plan, with immediate focus on renewable energy-integrated PPPs. Joint working groups should be established to explore geothermal and green hydrogen projects tailored to tourism needs. Further, cultural and educational exchanges should be expanded to build lasting ties.

We look forward to continued dialogue with the Deputy Minister for Tourism and Ministry officials to advance these initiatives for the prosperity of both nations.

17. Audience with H.E. Nuh Yılmaz, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

The delegation held a productive meeting with His Excellency Nuh Yılmaz, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye. During the audience, H.E. Yılmaz reaffirmed the longstanding diplomatic ties, noting that embassies had been established in 1968 and further strengthened in 2012. He reviewed key high-level visits, including that of former President Gül in 2009, and extended an invitation for President Ruto to visit in 2026. The Deputy Minister highlighted the upcoming Antalya Diplomacy Forum in 2025 and emphasized the importance of ties with the United Nations.

H.E. Yılmaz explained that lessons from the Black Sea Grain Initiative had informed collaborative agro-ventures aimed at reducing losses in Kenya's agricultural exports.

Among other issues discussed during the meeting were:

(i) Diplomatic Relations and High-Level Engagements

It was noted that relations between Kenya and Türkiye had been cordial since 1968, with Ambassador Subutay Yüksel in Nairobi and Ambassador Antony Muchiri in Ankara serving as key anchors for bilateral ties. High-level visits, ranging from President Moi's in 1996 to President Erdoğan's in 2016, along with over 20 signed pacts, were said to underscore the depth of the relationship. The Ankara Embassy was reported to champion Kenya's Big Four Agenda while supporting approximately 5,000 Kenyans residing in Türkiye.

(ii) Economic and Trade Relations: Current Status and Growth Trajectory

The meeting was informed that trade in 2023 had reached USD 296 million, with Kenya recording a 90% deficit. Kenya's exports were primarily tea, valued at USD 10 million, while imports from Türkiye included machinery valued at more than USD 100 million. The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye (DEİK) Council were targeting diversification. It was projected that the 2025 EPA would create leverage for textiles, amid uncertainties with the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), prompting a pivot towards Turkish hubs.

(iii) **Investment Landscape and Opportunities**

The Deputy Minister highlighted that Turkish foreign direct investment (FDI) in Kenya was reported at USD 50 million, with construction projects totaling USD 377 million. Sectors such as retail (e.g., LC Waikiki) and furniture were thriving, while opportunities in renewables and mining were beckoning. Kenya's ranking as the third-easiest place to do business in sub-Saharan Africa was said to attract potential inflows of USD 500 million.

(iv) **Education and Scholarships: Building Human Capital**

During the meeting, H.E. Nuh Yılmaz elaborated that Türkiye had been offering 170 fully funded scholarships each year through the Türkiye Scholarships (YTB) programme, prioritising disciplines in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to foster specialised expertise. He noted that this sustained initiative had produced more than 1,000 Kenyan alumni, many of whom were now contributing to national development in both public and private sectors. The Deputy Minister further explained that the ongoing transition of educational institutions to the MAARIF Foundation was significantly elevating standards of instruction, curriculum relevance, and infrastructure quality. He emphasised that strengthened vocational training partnerships were deliberately aligned with Kenya's Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), ensuring that technical skills acquired abroad directly supported the country's bottom-up economic transformation agenda and enhanced graduates' employability upon return.

Security, Defense, and Development Cooperation

(v) Military and Security Cooperation: Counter-Terrorism Synergies

H.E. Nuh Yılmaz explained that the Defense Industry Cooperation Agreement (DICA), signed in 2023, facilitated joint work on drones between the two countries. In addition, the speedboats supplied by Türkiye in 2009 helped Kenya combat piracy along its coast. The Deputy Minister stressed that common security threats from terrorist groups like Al-Shabaab and FETÖ were encouraging both nations to share intelligence more actively.

(vi) Defense Industry Collaboration

Visits to the International Defense Industry Fair (IDEF) paved the way for technology transfers, and ratification of agreements was urged to enhance security for the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor.

(vii) Development Assistance through TIKA and NGOs

The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and NGOs had provided over USD 100 million in assistance for water and health projects. Initiatives like the Embu-Meru fruit projects were feeding 98 schools, while organisations such as MAARIF and the Turkish Red Crescent were supporting refugees.

(viii) Peace and Security in the Horn of Africa

Türkiye's mediation efforts in Somaliland and Sudan complemented Kenya's initiatives, and joint African Union (AU) proposals were proposed to enhance regional stability.

(ix) **Multilateral and Regional Cooperation**

- Türkiye-Africa Partnership and the Antalya Diplomacy Forum

The theme of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF) in 2025 was said to have resonated strongly and the Prime Cabinet Secretary's, Hon. Musalia Mudavadi's participation had deepened dialogue.

- **Addressing Global Challenges: The Black Sea Grain Initiative**

The 2022–2023 pact was credited with stabilizing global food supplies, drawing parallels for potential African grain corridors.

Key Issues Noted During the Meetings

The delegation's discussions during the visit highlighted several critical issues affecting bilateral relations, with implications for economic growth, security, and sustainable development. These matters were addressed in the spirit of cooperation, emphasizing how resolutions could enhance tourism ties, such as through safer travel environments, joint investment in eco-tourism infrastructure, and cultural exchanges that promote both nations as attractive destinations. The following subsections outline the key challenges and proposed pathways forward.

a. The FETÖ Challenge and Kenya's Response

The ongoing challenge posed by the FETÖ (Fetullah Terrorist Organization) network was a focal point of dialogue, highlighting the need for coordinated action to safeguard national security and educational integrity. In 2024, Kenya undertook repatriation measures involving individuals associated with FETÖ, actions that elicited a range

of international responses, some commending Kenya for bolstering counterterrorism efforts, while others raised concerns about procedural aspects. These steps were defended by Kenyan authorities as necessary for regional stability, aligning with Türkiye's longstanding designation of FETÖ as a terrorist entity following the 2016 coup attempt.

A significant aspect of Kenya's response involves the progressive handover of FETÖ-linked educational institutions to the Turkish MAARIF Foundation, an initiative targeted for full completion by 2026. The MAARIF Foundation, established by Türkiye to oversee international education programs, has already assumed control of numerous schools globally, ensuring they contribute positively to host countries' development agendas. In Kenya, this transition aims to realign these institutions with national priorities, fostering educational collaborations that could extend to tourism-related training programs, such as hospitality and cultural heritage management. The delegation views this as an opportunity to strengthen bilateral trust, mitigate security risks that could deter tourists, and promote joint initiatives in education for sustainable tourism workforce development.

b. Joint Economic Commission: Pathways Forward

To propel economic ties to new heights, the delegation proposed convening the fourth session of the Kenya-Türkiye Joint Economic Commission (JEC) in 2026. This meeting would serve as a strategic platform to develop a comprehensive roadmap to elevate bilateral trade

volumes to USD 1 billion, building on historical commitments and recent momentum in trade relations. Although trade has grown steadily tripling over the past decade the current figures underscore the untapped potential in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services.

The JEC's agenda could prioritize investments in infrastructure, renewable energy, and public-private partnerships, with direct benefits for tourism. For instance, enhanced trade could facilitate Turkish investments in Kenyan tourism infrastructure, such as resorts and transportation networks, while Kenyan agricultural exports could support Türkiye's hospitality industry. Drawing on successful models in Türkiye's partnerships with other nations, such as recent agreements with Jordan aimed at similar trade expansions, the delegation envisions actionable steps, including tariff reductions, business forums, and joint ventures. Achieving the USD 1 billion milestone would not only boost economic resilience but also create synergies in tourism promotion, encouraging cross-border visitor flows and collaborative marketing campaigns to highlight shared cultural and natural attractions.

c. Terrorism and Regional Stability

Discussions on terrorism underscored the shared commitment to regional stability, with Türkiye's extensive experiences in combating groups like the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) and FETÖ providing valuable insights for Kenya's strategies against Al-Shabaab. Türkiye's multifaceted counterterrorism approach encompassing military, intelligence, and soft-

power elements has been instrumental in addressing threats both domestically and abroad, including through international forums like the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum. These lessons are particularly relevant to Kenya's efforts in the Horn of Africa, where Al-Shabaab's activities pose risks to security and economic activities, including tourism.

Türkiye's engagement in Somalia, such as military training programs for Somali forces and contributions to stability operations, exemplifies practical cooperation that could extend to Kenya. By sharing best practices in intelligence sharing, border management, and community resilience-building, both nations can enhance defenses against extremist groups. This collaboration is vital for tourism, as improved security would reassure international travelers, enabling the promotion of safe safari experiences in Kenya and historical sites in Türkiye. The delegation advocates for joint training exercises and information exchanges to fortify these efforts, ultimately contributing to a stable environment conducive to increased bilateral tourism and investment.

d. Achievements and Opportunities

Sectoral Breakdown: Trade, Investment, and Beyond

A tabular summary was provided as follows:

Sector	Achievements	Opportunities
1. Trade	USD 296M (2023)	USD 1B by 2030; EPZ
2. Investment	USD 50M+	Renewables FDI

Sector	Achievements	Opportunities
3. Defense	DICA; Speedboats	Drones/training
4. Development	TIKA USD 100M	UHC/vocational
5. Education	170 scholarships	STEM exchanges
6. Security	Counter-terror synergy	Horn Taskforce

e. Strategic Alignment with Kenya's Vision 2030

Partnerships were aligned with advancing manufacturing (creating 100,000 jobs), universal health coverage, and food security under Kenya's Vision 2030.

18. Courtesy Call to the Kenya Embassy in Ankara

The delegation paid a courtesy call to the Kenyan Mission in Ankara.

During the courtesy call to the Kenyan Mission in Ankara on 22 October 2025, the delegation, led by Hon. (Dr.) Adan Keynan, CBS, MP, paid solemn tribute to the late former Prime Minister, Hon. Eng. Raila Amolo Odinga, EGH, who had passed away on 15 October 2025. The group signed the condolence book, expressing profound grief over the loss of a towering figure in Kenyan politics, whose legacy of advocacy for democracy and Pan-Africanism continues to inspire bilateral partnerships, such as those with Türkiye.

This poignant moment set a reflective tone for the subsequent meeting, where Hon. (Dr.) Adan Keynan recalled his visits to the Republic of

Türkiye in February 2011, which led to the opening of the mission's offices in Ankara.

The discussion between the delegation and the officers in the mission underscored the mission's role in fostering diplomatic resilience.

The meeting delved into the multifaceted work of the Kenyan Embassy in Ankara and its consular services, which extend accreditation to Georgia, Romania, Bulgaria, and North Macedonia, thereby amplifying Kenya's diplomatic footprint in Eurasia. Embassy officers outlined their proactive role in providing consular assistance to over 2,000 Kenyans in Türkiye, including visa facilitation, emergency aid, and cultural events. Emphasis was placed on the consulate's contributions to diaspora empowerment through innovative programs that connect Kenyan professionals and businesses with Turkish counterparts, addressing challenges such as labor rights and investment hurdles while advancing Kenya's foreign policy objectives of inclusive growth and sustainable development. These insights reinforced the delegation's appreciation for the mission's tireless advocacy in nurturing people-to-people ties.

Key issues in trade and agreement ratification dominated the latter part of the discussions, with embassy officers reporting that bilateral trade volume was approximately USD 270 million in 2024, skewed heavily toward Turkish exports, such as machinery and textiles, while Kenya's imports to Türkiye focused on agricultural products. The delegation explored pathways to balance this through the Joint Economic Commission, aligned with Türkiye's ambitious target to elevate Africa-

wide trade to USD 40 billion in 2025. It advocated for increased Kenyan exports in agro-processing and renewable energy. On ratification, progress was noted on the Defence Industry Cooperation Agreement (DICA), signed in 2023, with calls to expedite parliamentary approval to unlock joint ventures in security equipment and training, complementing broader defence cooperation frameworks at advanced stages of negotiation. These exchanges yielded commitments for follow-up actions to harness economic synergies and fortify mutual security interests.

Cultural Immersion

19. Visit to the Dolmabahçe Palace, Naval Museum, Ihlamur Pavilions

Dolmabahçe's opulence mirrored Ottoman-Kenyan trade, with naval exhibits linking to 2009 donations. Ihlamur evoked shared pavilion architecture in Lamu.

A tour guide led the delegation through the breathtaking halls of Dolmabahçe Palace, where he described its lavish opulence, featuring the world's largest Bohemian crystal chandelier, weighing 4.5 tonnes, hand-painted ceilings, and floors inlaid with rare woods, as a powerful symbol of Türkiye's historical prosperity and global reach. He explained that this grandeur directly mirrored the robust Ottoman-era trade networks that once linked the East African coast, including Kenyan ports, to Istanbul, facilitating the exchange of ivory, spices, and enslaved people in earlier centuries. The delegation noted that today, this legacy of connectivity had evolved into a modern bilateral trade relationship valued at nearly

USD 300 million annually, with Kenyan agricultural exports like tea and cut flowers finding eager markets in Türkiye. At the same time, Turkish consumer goods and machinery supported Kenya's industrial growth. He emphasised that Dolmabahçe's splendor was not merely aesthetic but a testament to enduring economic ambition, inspiring both nations to target USD 1 billion in trade by 2030 through diversified partnerships and the upcoming Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

At the adjacent Naval Museum housed within Dolmabahçe's grounds, the tour guide highlighted a collection of imperial caiques ornate ceremonial boats used by Ottoman sultans and detailed scale models of 19th-century warships, drawing a direct connection to Türkiye's contemporary maritime support for Kenya. It was further recalled that in 2009, Türkiye had donated several high-speed patrol boats to the Kenyan Navy, vessels that had since played a critical role in anti-piracy operations off the Somali coast and in securing the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor. The guide pointed out that these historic exhibits underscored Türkiye's long-standing naval prowess, which has now translated into practical defense cooperation under the 2023 Defense Industry Cooperation Agreement (DICA).

The delegation then proceeded to the serene İhlamur Pavilions, nestled in a wooded valley, where the tour guide drew parallels between the pavilion's airy, lattice-framed architecture and the traditional Swahili stone pavilions of Lamu Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site. He

observed that both designs prioritized natural ventilation, shaded communal spaces, and intricate wood carvings reflecting a shared cultural emphasis on hospitality and social interaction along historic Indian Ocean trade routes. The tour guide noted that Ihlamur, once a retreat for Ottoman royalty, now served as a venue for diplomatic dialogue, much like Lamu's waterfront gatherings had historically hosted merchants from Arabia, India, and the Ottoman Empire. He stressed that preserving such architectural harmony was vital for cultural diplomacy, fostering mutual respect and people-to-people ties that complemented formal agreements in education and vocational training.

The tour guide concluded that these three sites, the Dolmabahçe Palace, the Naval Museum, and the Ihlamur Pavilions held profound significance beyond their beauty. They represented a continuum of partnership: economic ambition rooted in shared history, security cooperation anchored in maritime heritage, and cultural synergy that strengthened bilateral trust. He affirmed that visiting these landmarks reinforced Kenya's strategic alignment with Türkiye under Vision 2030, particularly in manufacturing, food security, and regional peace initiatives. The delegation expressed confidence that these symbolic connections would inspire deeper collaboration, from student exchanges under the Türkiye Scholarships programme to joint infrastructure projects, ensuring that the opulence of the past illuminated a prosperous, cooperative future for both nations.

20. Visit to the Topkapi Palace

The visit to Topkapi Palace provided the Kenya-Türkiye Parliamentary Friendship Group with an insight into the historical intersections between the Ottoman Empire and East Africa, including Kenya. Dating back to the 16th century, the Ottoman Empire played a pivotal role in supporting Muslim sultanates along the Swahili coast against Portuguese colonial incursions, fostering trade networks across the Indian Ocean and Red Sea that enriched coastal Kenyan communities with goods, ideas, and cultural exchanges. As the administrative heart of the Ottoman sultans for nearly four centuries, Topkapi Palace symbolizes this era of diplomatic alliances and economic ties, which indirectly bolstered resistance to European dominance in the region. For Kenya, this legacy underscores shared narratives of sovereignty and cultural resilience, aligning with contemporary efforts to honor pre-colonial histories amid bilateral relations that trace back to these early interactions.

In the context of modern Kenya-Türkiye relations, Topkapi Palace holds cultural and symbolic significance as a bridge for people-to-people connections, particularly given Kenya's vibrant Muslim heritage along its coast. The palace's role as a repository of Islamic artifacts and Ottoman governance models resonates with Kenya's Big Four Agenda, emphasizing inclusive growth through education and cultural exchanges, such as Türkiye's annual scholarships. By exploring this site, the delegation highlighted opportunities to deepen mutual understanding, drawing parallels between Ottoman administrative innovations and Kenya's

parliamentary diplomacy. This visit reinforces over 55 years of ties, positioning cultural heritage as a foundation for enhanced cooperation in areas like security and trade, while celebrating shared Islamic influences that continue to shape Kenyan society.

During the tour, the delegation observed the opulent architecture and expansive courtyards of Topkapi Palace, including the Imperial Council Chamber, where Ottoman decisions once influenced global affairs, and the Imperial Treasury, which displayed priceless jewels and artifacts that evoked the empire's vast reach. They noted the Holy Relics Room, housing sacred Islamic items that underscored cultural affinities with Kenya's Muslim communities, as well as the manicured gardens and pavilions offering serene views of the Bosphorus. The group reflected on the palace's historical kitchens and weapons displays, drawing insights into Ottoman administrative efficiency and military prowess, which sparked discussions on parallels with contemporary bilateral security collaborations.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

21. Key Observations

Based on the engagements, historical context, and discussions during the visit, the following key observations were noted:

1. **Bilateral Trade Imbalance and Potential:** Bilateral trade stands at USD 296 million (2023), with Kenya facing a significant deficit (90%). However, there is untapped potential in sectors like textiles, agro-processing, and renewables, which could elevate trade to USD 1 billion by 2030 through targeted agreements and investments.
2. **Security and Counter-Terrorism Synergies:** Shared threats from groups such as Al-Shabaab and FETÖ underscore the need for enhanced intelligence sharing and defense collaboration. Türkiye's experience in counter-terrorism offers valuable lessons for Kenya, particularly in the Horn of Africa region.
3. **Educational and Cultural Exchanges:** Türkiye's provision of 170 annual scholarships and the transition to MAARIF schools demonstrate a strong commitment to human capital development. These initiatives align well with Kenya's CBC and Vision 2030, but require monitoring to ensure educational integrity and the protection of rights.
4. **Infrastructure and Development Aid:** TIKA's contributions exceeding USD 100 million in water, health, roads, railways, airport management, and agriculture projects underscore Türkiye's role as a reliable partner. Opportunities exist for scaling these in ASAL regions for climate resilience.

5. **Parliamentary and Diplomatic Alignment:** The GNAT's structure and electoral system provide benchmarks for Kenya's reforms, including proportionality and efficiency. The visit reinforced parliamentary diplomacy as a complement to executive efforts, with potential for committee twinning.
6. **Regional Stability and Humanitarian Efforts:** Türkiye's mediation in Somalia, Sudan, and Palestine complements Kenya's IGAD and AU roles. Joint initiatives could enhance peacekeeping and stability, thereby indirectly supporting economic corridors such as LAPSET.
7. **Investment and Legal Frameworks:** Delays in ratifying agreements (e.g., DICA, DTA) hinder progress. Expedited processes could unlock FDI in manufacturing and create 100,000+ jobs, aligning with Kenya's Big Four Agenda.
8. **Cultural and Historical Ties:** Visits to historical sites such as Anıtkabir, Dolmabahçe, and Topkapi revealed shared legacies of Ottoman-Swahili interactions, laying the foundation for people-to-people bonds and tourism promotion.

These observations emphasize the strategic value of the partnership, with opportunities for mutual growth amid global challenges.

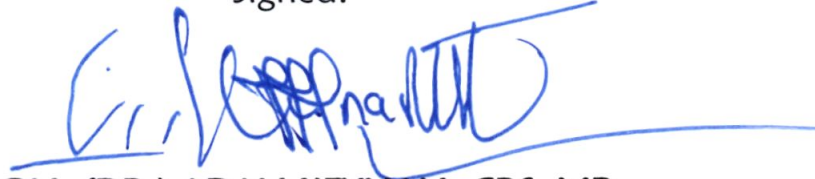
21. Key Recommendations

- a) **Ratification of Key Agreements:** - The National Assembly is to ratify the 2023 DICA by Q1 2026, enabling drone acquisitions and training to fortify border security, to diversify partnerships, reduce Western dependencies, and safeguard economic corridors like LAPSET. Oversight via the Departmental Committee on Defense, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations will ensure accountability.
- b) **Economic and Trade Initiatives** Convene the 4th JEC in 2026 with a USD 1B trade roadmap, including export quotas and deficit-reduction groups. This leverages EPA to add value to agriculture, aligning with the Big Four manufacturing goals.
- c) **Investment and Development Projects:** Establish a Joint Textile EPZ by 2027, attracting Turkish expertise for 100,000 jobs. Scale TIKa to USD 150M for ASAL solar/water projects, prioritizing Turkana and Garissa for climate resilience.
- d) **Parliamentary and Cultural Exchanges:** Launch annual exchanges from 2026, twinning committees, and youth parliaments. Fund cultural centers and festivals to amplify soft power.
- e) **Security and Counter-Terrorism Measures** Form a Joint Taskforce for Horn intel-sharing; complete MAARIF handovers by 2026 with audits to balance security and rights.

CONCLUSION

This visit transformed friendship into a strategy, poised for parliamentary diplomacy, job creation and regional peace. The National Assembly's endorsement will propel this win-win alliance.

Signed:



HON. (DR.) ADAN KEYNAN, CBS, MP
CHAIRMAN, KENYA-TÜRKİYE PFG

ANNEXES

Annex A: List of Bilateral Agreements

1. Trade & Economic Cooperation (2004)
2. Agreement on the Mutual Protection of Investments (2014)
3. Agreement on Financial and Technical Cooperation
4. Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Health
5. Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Press, Youth, and Sports
6. Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Education
7. Defense Industry Cooperation Agreement (DICA, 2023) (Additional agreements include those on consular matters, double taxation avoidance, and defense cooperation, pending ratification.)

Annex B: Trade Statistics (2019–2025)

Year	Exports (USD M)	Imports (USD M)
2019	20.5	200
2020	18.2	210
2021	22.1	240
2022	25.3	260
2023	23.7	272
2024 (as of August)	15.8	161
2025 (Projected)	30.0	300