

**SPEECH BY PRESIDENT OF UGANDA NATIONAL CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (UNCCI)**

**AT THE**

**TURKISH PRESENTATION JUNE 10, 2019**

**VENUE: UNCCI SECRETARIAT**

**H.E. Fikret Kerem ALP Ambassador of Turkey in the Republic of  
Uganda,**

**Board Members,**

**Distinguished Members of the Business Community present,**

**Management & Staff,**

**All Protocol Observed.**

I take this opportunity to welcome Your Excellency Ambassador of Turkey in Uganda for honoring our invitation and all of you who have taken time off your busy schedules

Let me take this opportunity also to thank the Government of Turkey through the Embassy of Turkey in Uganda continued willingness to support Uganda and the entire Business community in various sectors in terms of technological advancement and value addition initiatives which can be achieved if we work together and with appropriate technology to promote enhancement of trade and investment in our country.

Indeed you have come at the right time and with the right solution as you may be aware the Government current efforts are centered on value addition.

Uganda National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UNCCI) considers Turkey among the priority key partners of Uganda in Trade and Investment.

Cognizant to this, we therefore need to utilize this meeting to have realization of feasible projects as an outcome.

I am very sure this meeting will offered an opportunity to both countries to derive maximum benefits from the major Trade and Investment priority areas available.

We also expect this meeting to strengthen and increase trade volumes between Uganda and Turkey.

I am pleased to inform you that there are a number of areas for investment in businesses related to local oil & gas content, tourism, agro-processing, mineral exploration, education, medical, construction, irrigation, energy, ICT communication, to mention a few. Henceforth today's interventions are just starting point to stimulate more business.

We may wish to remind you that Uganda is centrally located within the East African Community, with good fertile soils, weather, temperatures to mention a few.

The relationship between Turkey and East Africa can be traced as far back 1900 during the extensive Exploration trade at the East African Coast along the Indian Ocean.

There after there has been a lot of Trade between Turkey and Africa most especially with the east African Countries Uganda inclusive

It's through this kind of trading period that Chambers of Commerce were established.

Hence Establishment of Uganda National Chamber of commerce in 1933 after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World war and incorporated in 1978 as a legal Entity

The coming of the NRM Government in 1986 ushered in a new dispensation of Free trade under a liberalized system and under this arrangement a lot of countries have increased trade with Uganda, Turkey being one of them.

Today Turkey is one of the major Trading partners of Uganda and East Africa at large

**We also note that,** Turkish Embassy in Kampala was established on April 21, 2010 and the Uganda Embassy in Ankara was established in July 2011,“. Since then, there has been exchange of high level visits between the two countries including government ministers, business leaders and investors.

In 2012, the Turkish-Ugandan Business Council was established, following the signing of an agreement between Turkey’s Foreign Economic Relations Board, the Unions of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey and Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry

## **EXPORTS.**

Exports in Uganda decreased to 307.64 USD Million in April from 604.41 USD Million in March of 2019. Exports in Uganda averaged 134.33 USD Million from 1993 until 2019, reaching an all-time high of 604.41 USD Million in March of 2019.

## **IMPORTS**

Imports in Uganda decreased to 776.24 USD Million in April from 874.58 USD Million in March of 2019. Imports in Uganda averaged 289.04 USD Million from 1993 until 2019, reaching an all-time high of 874.58 USD Million in March of 2019.

All these makes it the best option as a partner of our sisters and brothers of the Turkey in doing business.

On behalf of UNCCI, I therefore reiterate and re-affirm our commitment to work together with the Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Turkey and all other key stakeholders to encourage joint ventures, and collaborations with

a view of strengthening backward and forward linkages between our two sister states in the areas of trade and investment.

Once again, I thank all of you.

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY.**