

Business and Investment Opportunities in Afghanistan

5 December 2019, DEİK, İstanbul

Minister of Finance of Afghanistan Dr. Mohammad Humayon Qayoumi, (Kayumi)

Honorable Diplomatic Mission Representatives,

Dear Representatives of Institutions and Business Communities,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to welcome you all, on behalf of the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEİK), at the Afghanistan Business and Investment Meeting organized by the Turkey-Afghanistan Business Council.

I would like to start my speech with an Afghani proverb: **“Dil ba dil ra dara.”**, which means, **“There is telepathy between hearts.”** These words are perfectly true when it comes to the hearts of the Turkish and Afghani nations.

Friendly relations between Turkey and Afghanistan, which developed based on mutual respect and good neighborliness, has been evident between these two close nations for many years.

I would like to remind you that Afghanistan was the first country to recognize the Ankara Government in 1921 and the Afghan flag was raised

by the founder of the Republic of Turkey Mustafa Kemal Atatürk during the opening ceremony of the Afghan Embassy in Ankara.

Our cordial friendship has also positively affected our economic relations. But, unfortunately our bilateral trade volume with Afghanistan in the last 5 years is around 150 million \$ which I believe, we need to improve these numbers too much further.

Particularly there is a great variety of potentials in the sectors of construction, contracting, energy and security services in the country. In this regard, I would like to invite the Turkish business representatives to take part in projects in these sectors.

Now, I would like to express 2 points which may help to develop our bilateral relations with Afghanistan:

- Eliminating the problems experienced by business representatives in accessing true information, on time.
- Security is another important issue to conduct stable business. As we all know, two countries are of experience in dealing with security challenges. So, I believe that we can create together more suitable business environment for our business people.

Honorable Minister,

Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEİK) is a business platform that has been continuing its activities on a voluntary basis for 34 years. In order to increase investment and trade between countries, we

continue our work with the understanding of “**trade diplomacy**”. We have 146 business councils all over the world.

Our Turkey - Afghanistan Business Council was founded in 2002 carrying on its activities under the leadership of Süleyman Ciliv in order to increase trade and investment between our two countries. Furthermore, our Business Council continues its activities in cooperation with the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI).

I would like to finish my speech with a Turkish saying: “**It takes two hands to make a sound.**” We need each other to make a sound. I hope that we will improve our fellowship, trade and investment relations.

Finally, I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Minister, diplomatic mission representatives from both Turkey and Afghanistan, all the business leaders and all those, whose support has made this event possible.

Thank you for your attention.

Nail OLPAK

President of DEİK