



# Haluk Agca The Turkish Ambassador Spoke To The National Saturday Partnership With Turkey Would Benefit South Sudan

The country stands to gain a lot by partnering with Turkey, Haluk Agca the Turkish Ambassador to South Sudan said. He spoke yesterday to Odongo Odoyo and Robert Nyawanda of the National Saturday at the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Juba. Haluk said among the many areas the country would benefit included infrastructure building, education, tourism, capacity building, and health services among others. He downplayed the difficulties faced by the country saying, though

the situation looked dire all that was needed was the belief and tenacity to carry on, giving up on the South Sudanese dream he said was not an option as many other countries face similar problems. He was enthusiastic about the first World Humanitarian Summit scheduled for Istanbul next month. (pics by Chol Anei)

In an exclusive interview the National Saturday brings to you the One on One with the Turkish Ambassador Haluk Agca.

• **National team: What do you think of South Sudan?**

Haluk Agca: South Sudan is a young country; they have never had a state in history before, all this difficulties should be considered normal, you face a lot of difficulties and hardships to build your country. Building the country does not only mean independence, you have to establish your institutions and build your infrastructure, in all areas of life and that is not an easy job, that is why you have a lot of difficulties. The country is very rich, not only in oil but also natural gas, gold, silver, copper, iron, uranium, platinum all sorts of minerals, plus rich forests and the nature is beautiful. South Sudanese are proud of their country and that's important this makes a good character. I believe you have a bright future but for the time being you have to suffer, you should not give up, continue the struggle. If you think you do not have a future you will lose your future if you think you have a future then you will have one.

• **National Team: We are interested to know about Turkey and their foreign policy, how do you inter relate with South Sudan?**

Haluk: As far as bilateral relationships between Turkey and south Sudan, we are one of the first countries who recognized the independence of the Republic of South Sudan, when we understood South Sudan would be an independent country, we established a consult as soon as you declared your independence we changed that into an embassy, so we have been here for a long time. You may ask why we are here. We are not part of Troika or African Union although we are candidate member of the European Union so we are not involved in the peace process in Addis Ababa. We are here because we need friends and we want good relations with South Sudan since like many countries we need support of our friends in international platforms like the United Nations. Your

country also needs to be constructed from almost zero point and Turkish is second in the construction area worldwide. Turkish construction companies can construct anything, roads, power plants, buildings, airports, bridges, rail roads, ports etc, we are second after China and the United States is third. We can compete against any construction company; we are the fastest, do a decent job and the prices are lower compared to our competitors. We are also sufficient in food industry we are self reliant, we are among the few countries that feed huge parts of the world, and our products are in markets in Europe.

• **National Team: You mentioned you have been here long; you must have been involved in the support of the struggle for independence?**

Haluk: You are right but at the moment China, United States, African Union, IGAD are more engaged with the peace process.

• **National Team: In terms of agricultural technology, what can you offer so that South Sudan can also be self reliant like Turkey and what other areas do you think the country can focus on?**

Haluk: We can have joint ventures with South Sudan companies and businessmen for example. We produce agricultural machinery all sorts of machinery and export. Turkey is also number six in Europe for all sorts of trucks, cars, buses. In truck and bus production we are very efficient. You have

a great tourism potential in this country, we can have joint companies, partnerships in tourism and can also give training to your citizens, and we have so many schools training cooks and all those personal and skilled man power. Turkey provides first rate good quality service: no one can compete with us in tourism. In 2014 our revenues from the tourism sector was 29.5 billion dollars, we are the sixth most visited country in the world 39.8 million that is three times your population visited Turkey in 2014 alone, Istanbul is the ninth tourist destination city in the world, in 2012 11.9 visited Istanbul alone. We also have health tourism we have very good hospitals at almost half the cost in other countries. By investing in tourism you create lots of jobs, we have cooks, cleaners, waiters, drivers, so many people if you want to provide employment faster focus on tourism.

• **National Team: So would Turkey focus on developing tourism in this country?**

Haluk: it is important for us and Tourism will be important to Turkey, we have more than 1 million beds in hotels, we aim to increase this number, there is a reason Turkey airline was selected the best airline for five years, it contributes to the development of world tourism, we have the most destinations compared to any other airline in the world. Training and education is the secret behind all this, this makes the difference, and we can offer this.

• **National Team: Do you have any major investment in South Sudan at the moment?**

Haluk: we have cooperation, we are about to send SSTV second group for training in Turkey and the Turkish government takes care of the expenses, about 10 or 15 people will benefit. We can also provide training if we receive a request, we have never received a request from South Sudan saying for example can you give us training in a certain area, they have never said, mostly we decide, or when I meet an official a project or idea comes up. We can also cooperate in the area of education we have 189 universities. Every year we grant scholarships to South Sudanese citizens for university education last year we granted 31 but only 29 went, normally we grant between 20 and 30.

• **National Team: On the world human rights summit, what do you think the world and South Sudan will gain from this major event?**

Haluk: International organizations including NGO's and countries are extending their helping hand to the South Sudanese who suffered from such disasters, of course international humanitarian assistance provided for the Republic of South Sudan is not enough, I understand that from the UN agencies statement reports, they always say that humanitarian assistance is not enough. Most countries are assisting individually and organizations are also helping but if we can coordinate all these assistances, then the international humanitarian assistance will meet the nations needs, certainly we cannot single out South Sudan, a lot of countries like South Sudan are in trouble, you are not the country in the worst situation, everybody will perceive their problems to be bigger this is natural, the international community will get together and talk about what they can do to operate and be more efficient, that is why this is important. And South Sudan delegation is expected.

