

**A STATEMENT BY VICE CHAIRMAN, GHANA-TURKEY
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION**

(HON. SULEMAN ADAMU SANID)

**TO CONGRATULATE THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF
TURKEY, H. E. RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN AND THE PEOPLE OF
TURKEY FOR A SUCCESSFUL ELECTION**

Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament, I am very grateful for the opportunity to make a statement extending our congratulation to the newly elected President of Turkey, H. E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the noble people of Turkey for a successful election and consolidation of democracy in their republic.

H. E. Erdogan was sworn into office on July 9, 2018 for a fresh 5-year mandate to continue the path of amazing economic and social transformation of the Turkish society.

This is his second term in office but under a new constitution and new political system which was accepted by the people through the 2017 referendum. H. E. Erdogan political astuteness will be tested in this second term when he has to navigate his way through a parliament that his ruling party, Justice & Development Party (AKP), do not command a majority of the seats having secured 294 out of the 600 seats.

Turkey has maintained a strong bilateral relations with many countries including Ghana. This relationship has resulted in great mutual economic benefits to both countries.

It is worth noting that Turkey as a nation adopted a policy of patriotism and socio-economic self-reliance right from its birth as a nation. This has been held on religiously by all successive governments. President Erdogan continued this policy and succeeded in turning Turkey into a global economic powerhouse. Turkey now has a considerable economic engagement and diplomacy with many countries especially African countries with the view of providing the required support to build their economies. Turkey is not only working with Ghana but a lot of African countries alike are all benefiting from Turkish economic diplomacy.

Mr. Speaker, as a matter of incontrovertible fact, Turkey is one of the few countries that has never taken a loan or accepted aid from any other sovereign country. Self-sufficiency and reliance is akin to pursuing economic development without recourse to aid and loans from external sources. As a long standing

partner, I'm convinced that Ghana can draw on useful lessons and inspiration from the Turkish experience in pursuit of our agenda of Ghana beyond aid. Drawing from the ingenuity, creativity, industry, the reawakened spirit of putting public and political accountability at the fore of public discourse, will take us to that destination.

Mr. Speaker, national pride and patriotism is at the core of Turkish life. A visit to any major city in Turkey confirms this fact. They hoist their national flag proudly around their buildings and along major streets always. I trust that with the political will being demonstrated by H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo and the enthusiasm of the citizenry, Ghana can emulate the Turkish example.

Mr. Speaker, democracy and rule of law are very important pillars for sustaining societal cohesion and harmony. Therefore, we need to encourage and command the progressive societies and countries that tread on this path. The people of Turkey deserves our profound applause and commendation.

To our colleagues in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, we say congratulation and well done for working hard to preserve democracy in your country.

On this note, Mr. Speaker, permit me to extend our congratulations to President Erdogan and the people of Turkey for their efforts at holding a peaceful and successful elections and wish them well in their quest to building a peaceful, harmonious and progressive country and world.

In Ghana, Turkey has a willing and progressive ally and we urge the two Governments to work assiduously to deepen the bond of friendship between us.

Most thankful, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity.