

Greece and Kenya in bilateral talks to foster commercial cooperation



Greek Delegation meeting with the KNCCI – July 2016 .From the left : Eng. Kosta Kioleoglou R.M.D Africa Plantation Capital , Sophia Tsamicha Director of The ministry of Greek Foreign Affairs, Mr. Laban Onditi Rao, Vice Chairman of the National Chamber of Commerce , H.E Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece Mr. Dimitris Mardas, Mrs Vicky Padazopoulou Honorary Consul of Kenya in Greece

By Correspondent

Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece Mr. Dimitris Mardas, responsible for international economic relations, led a delegation of 14 Greek companies to Kenya, July 17 to July 20, with the objective of fostering the commercial cooperation and business ties between Greece and Kenya. The three day visit, marked the third business delegation of Greek companies to visit Kenya in the last three years.

The Greek delegation came in Kenya to meet with Ministries and explore the potential of increasing the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries. Mr. Mardas' decision to visit Kenya was in recognition of the country's

potential for successful business ventures and market opportunities.

The delegation of Greek companies represented various industries (real estate, agriculture, refreshments, construction, publications, lifts, baked goods and clothes) some of which are already established in Kenya with Africa Plantation Capital operating in the agroforestry sector, Kleemann, Anipsotiki, Thermocool in the construction and Seagull in the transportation while others are keen to invest soon in different sectors of the economy (Viochalko, Biofresh, Rogan, ADK.).

In 2013 and 2014, business forums

had taken place in Nairobi. Likewise, a Kenyan business delegation had visited Greece in November 2013. This visit comes at a time of significant increase in bilateral trade between Greece and Kenya which proves the mutual benefits, further developing their commercial relations.

On Monday 18 July, Mr. Mardas leading the Greek delegation of businessman met with Ms. Fatuma Hirsi Mohamed, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism. At the top of the meeting's agenda was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism between Greece and Kenya that is currently being drafted.

On Tuesday July the 19th Mr. Mardas also had a fruitful meeting with Mr. Laban Onditi Rao, Vice Chairman of the National Chamber of Commerce. Later on in the day, a meeting was held with Ms. Phyllis Kandie, Cabinet Secretary for East African Affairs, Labor and Social Protection who had visited Greece in November of 2013 in order to participate in the Hellas Kenya Business Forum. On the same day, Mr. Mardas also held a meeting with Dr. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs during which they spoke about the various ways to improve the bilateral relations between Greece and Kenya as well as the possibility of a return visit of Kenya companies to Greece.

Lastly, the Greek delegation met with Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary of Land and Physical Planning. One of the main topics during this meeting was the benefits of cooperation in the blue economy of Kenya and energy sector which was of a big interest for several of the Greek companies who participated in the meeting as Greece and Greek companies have a large experience on this sector being one of the leading countries in the world in shipping and blue economy projects.