

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY
PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYİP ERDOĞAN**

**On the Opening of the 4th Legislative Year of the 28th Term of the
Grand National Assembly of Türkiye**

(October 1, 2025)

My Dear Nation,

Mr. Speaker,

Distinguished Members of Parliament,

I greet you with heartfelt feelings and warmest regards at the opening of the 28th Term of the 4th Legislative Year of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye.

At the outset, I would like to acknowledge the deep excitement and unique pride felt by our founders 105 years ago. We experience the same feelings every year during the opening of the legislative year.

As the first President elected directly by the people, I too share that excitement here at this rostrum which serves as the voice of the people. I am deeply honored to share in your pride.

I hope that the new legislative year will bring good tidings for the members of parliament, our country, nation and all of humanity.

I salute with gratitude the memory of all members of parliament who served their country and nation with great dedication under this noble roof since its establishment.

I salute with utmost respect the cherished memories of Ali Şükrü Bey, Adnan Menderes, Hasan Polatkan, and Fatin Rüştü Zorlu, whose lives were taken even as they tried to remain loyal to their duties.

The 3rd Legislative Year of the 28th Term, which began on October 1, 2024, and ended on July 21, 2025, witnessed a busy work schedule during a period of historic developments in our country, region and the world.

Our Assembly represented the will of our nation in the best way possible through its legislative activities, committees and parliamentary diplomacy.

For this reason, I would like to express my gratitude to all members of this Veteran Assembly and staff working under this roof on behalf of myself, my country, and the nation.

Similarly, I would like to express my gratitude, regardless of political party affiliation, to each member of parliament who will contribute to legislative activities by

making proposals,

proposing motions,

expressing constructive criticism,

making valuable assessments,

and by contributing to the quality of politics through their views and ideas over the next 10 months.

I wholeheartedly believe that the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, the seat of national sovereignty, will continue to work with the same spirit, determination and, of course, the same dedication in its fourth and subsequent legislative years.

As always, we work for the welfare and peace of our nation and country as we serve this noble nation through service and achievements.

We strive to ensure that the Republic of Türkiye, of which we are proud to be citizens, remains peaceful, successful and victorious forever.

We work tirelessly, day and night, to transform the potential of the Turkish Century into reality.

This effort is not the duty of the ruling party and alliance alone.

It is also the primary duty of each member of parliament who is currently serving in the Grand National Assembly and representing the will of our nation.

I would like to draw your attention one point in particular:

In serving our nation and country, we are all one, we are together.

On the path to a great and powerful Türkiye, we are all one, we are together.

In defending the rights of our nation, we are all one, we are together.

In elevating our democracy, for which we have made many sacrifices, we are all one, we are together.

In preserving and defending our homeland, flag, sacred values and Republic, we are all one, together.

You see... We had united our fate when the sound of cannons were heard from Polatlı; nothing has changed today.

Even though we compete in different political groups, it is our responsibility to the nation and in our national interest to meet on common ground on matters concerning Türkiye.

I would like to repeat that we welcome everyone who "PUT TÜRKİYE ABOVE ALL ELSE "

I wish for the New Legislative Year to be a productive, fruitful and successful one, where the will of our beloved nation strongly manifests itself in an orderly and harmonious manner based on respect, tolerance and conciliation.

I pray for the success of members of parliament who perform the noble duty of representing our nation, the political parties and everyone working in various departments of our Assembly.

Mr. Speaker,

Esteemed Members of Parliament,

Celebrating its 105th anniversary this year, the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye represents the will that successfully led the National Struggle and established our Republic.

Many critical decisions during the most difficult days of the War of Independence were taken under this very roof which served as the headquarters of our struggle for the future.

The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye is, indeed, a Veteran Assembly.

The Assembly has been the embodiment of the national will, guided by the principle that "SOVEREIGNTY BELONGS UNCONDITIONALLY TO THE PEOPLE."

The Grand Assembly is also the center of our democracy, serving as Türkiye's broadest social consultation mechanism.

While crowning the national struggle with victory and securing our nation's independence, the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye has also guided our struggle for development and democratization for 105 years.

I wish to emphasize a fact once again today:

For the past 105 years, the countless gains achieved by our nation in the field of rights and freedoms, guided by the principle of "the sovereignty of national will," has been underpinned by the signature, labor, sweat and unwavering struggle of the distinguished members of the Grand National Assembly.

On the night of July 15, despite the sonic booms of fighter jets and the bombs raining down on its roof, our Assembly fearlessly defended the trust of the nation and was honored with the title of "veteran" for the second time.

This noble institution, which made history by resisting major powers during the War of Independence, repelled the July 15 coup attempt with courage befitting its stature, proudly earning itself a special place among the world's parliaments.

I have no doubt that all members of parliament here, who today fulfill their duty of representing the nation under this roof with honor, dignity and a great sense of responsibility, will always keep the spirit of July 15 alive.

On this occasion, I salute the memory of all martyrs and veterans who sacrificed their lives for our independence and future during the first raids in Malazgirt, the Conquest of Istanbul, the War of Independence and the epic struggle on July 15.

May they rest in heaven, in peace and in light.

I am also pleased to express with great pride and satisfaction that:

The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, which derives its legitimacy directly from our nation, has always stood on the side of justice, the righteous and the oppressed.

The strongest response to the genocide perpetrated by the Israeli administration in Gaza and other parts of Palestine for two years, and to the state terrorism it has unleashed in the region, has come from these seats representing 86 million citizens.

Our Assembly, which has been the voice of our nation's conscience with its uncompromising stance against the mass killings in Gaza, has made its mark with seven joint statements it has issued.

In particular, the "Resolution on the Genocide Committed by Israel Against the Palestinian People," adopted by the General Assembly on August 29, sent a very strong message to those who turn a blind eye to oppression and bury themselves in a pit of indifference.

The work carried out by the Parliamentary Group in Solidarity with Palestine is another successful effort by the Parliament in the context of Gaza and Palestinian diplomacy.

In short, this noble institution has passed the Gaza test with great success, in a manner befitting our history and national character.

I sincerely thank our political parties and esteemed members of parliament who have shown solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine.

May Allah bless you.

Esteemed Members of Parliament...

We, too, have been the loud voice of the Palestinian cause on every platform, including at the 80th General Assembly of the United Nations last week.

We have maintained our dignified stance in the strongest way possible against the smear campaigns targeting us, our government and country.

We stand by the brave sons of Gaza as they heroically resist the occupying forces attacking their land with the world's most modern weapons.

We delivered over 102,000 tons of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

We completely cut off trade with Israel 1.5 years ago.

We intervened in the Genocide Case filed at the International Court of Justice.

We engaged in countless diplomatic, legal and economic steps, too many to fully list here. Praise be to Allah, we stood firmly by our Gazan brothers and sisters.

Our brothers and sisters in Gaza are the closest witness to Türkiye's efforts.

The people of Palestine are fully aware of the things we have been doing for them and the selfless efforts we have been showing.

Unfortunately, we regret to see that our country and government have been the target of unfair and unwarranted criticism from circles whose record on this issue is far from impressive.

Neither we nor our friends who walk this path with us became acquainted with the Palestinian cause two years ago like some others; we have dedicated our lives to this cause.

Allah willing, we will continue to fearlessly defend the rights of Palestine and our first qibla, Al-Quds Al-Sharif, until our last breath.

I have no doubt whatsoever that, Allah willing, history will inscribe the Republic of Türkiye in golden letters as the conscience of its age because of our determined stance in Gaza.

I would also like to specifically note that stopping the bloodshed in Gaza was at the top of our agenda at our meeting with President Trump.

We made proposals, explained ways out of this issue and clearly outlined what is needed for a lasting peace.

We believe that while there are no winners in a war, there are no losers in a just peace.

Our Palestinian brothers and sisters are the nation most deserving of peace and tranquility in the world for their honorable struggle.

It is first the duty of the Islamic world and then of the international community to bring the lasting peace that they deserve to the Palestinian people.

Gaza has had enough of bloodshed, tears and destruction.

This shame must come to an end immediately.

We do not want to see another innocent person torn from life, another child starve to death or another bomb fall on Gaza.

Türkiye will continue to work with all its strength for this cause.

Our struggle will continue, Allah willing, until an independent and sovereign Palestinian State is established with territorial integrity and East al-Quds as its capital based on the 1967 borders.

Despite all the suffering and the innocent blood that has been shed, we remain hopeful.

Just as we were blessed to see Syria regain its freedom after 14 years of darkness, I wholeheartedly believe that, with Allah's will, we will see peace, stability and security prevail "from the river to the sea" in a beautiful future.

We send our messages of solidarity to our Gazan and Palestinian brothers and sisters from here. I strongly emphasize that Türkiye, which has always been by their side, will continue to remain by their side.

Mr. Speaker,

Distinguished Members of Parliament,

At this very time last year, at the beginning of the new legislative term, I stood at this podium and emphasized the importance of internal unity. I expressed my hope that our Parliament, with both the ruling party and the opposition, would work in harmony, alliance, compromise, and mutual respect, setting an example for society.

On the same day, Mr. Devlet Bahçeli, Chairman of the Nationalist Movement Party, shared his visionary thoughts on building "Türkiye free of terrorism" with the ruling party and the opposition, both through his kind

attitude in the General Assembly and by means of his statements outside the Assembly.

Over the past year, historic steps have been taken, and significant progress has been made towards our goal of ending terrorism in Türkiye.

On this occasion, I would like to express my gratitude once again, on behalf of my country and my nation, to Mr. Devlet Bahçeli, one of the architects of our ideal of “Türkiye free of terrorism”, for his vast political experience, knowledge, and determination.

Similarly, I would like to express my gratitude to the DEM Party delegation and administration, who have made important contributions to ridding Türkiye of terrorism through their constructive stance and efforts over the past year.

I also salute the memory of Sırrı Süreyya Önder, Member of Parliament for Istanbul, who worked tirelessly until his last breath to break down the wall of terrorism and ensure that peace and brotherhood prevailed in every corner of our country.

Over the past year, the terrorist organization has stopped its attacks, announced its dissolution, and burned its weapons in a symbolic ceremony.

The scourge of terrorism, which has caused tens of thousands of deaths and \$2 trillion in economic losses since 1984, has thus come to an end.

We are aware that the process is extremely sensitive, but we have been positive from the very beginning and are making efforts to remain positive.

From here, from the podium of the Assembly, I would like to reiterate the following.

The Republic of Türkiye does not bow down, submit or compromise before any worldly power, and it never negotiates its sovereignty.

In this regard, if any of our citizens have doubts due to the provocations of some opposition parties, let them all rest assured.

In particular, the honorable families of our martyrs and veterans should know that neither we as the government, nor our partner in the People's Alliance, the Nationalist Movement Party, nor this Grand Assembly will allow any step to be taken that would cast a shadow over their sacred memories.

Our goal is to end terrorism and strengthen brotherhood.

We take our steps solely and exclusively toward this goal.

The most important center for our ideal of ending terrorism in Türkiye is undoubtedly here, in the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye.

Under the roof of the Assembly, the "National Solidarity, Brotherhood, and Democracy Commission" has begun its work with representatives from most of our political parties and has held 12 meetings so far.

When the Commission completes its work, we will undoubtedly have very important data at our disposal.

The next step will be to implement the proposals put forward by the Commission through consultation and consensus.

It is important that Türkiye's local, national, solution-oriented political parties take on the burden of such a vital issue, work together in the same Commission, talk, listen to each other with respect, and consult with each other.

This is an exceptional achievement that increases our hopes for our country's democracy.

This Commission has also demonstrated that solutions cannot be achieved through weapons, and that fists cannot be clenched in reconciliation.

Everything can be discussed, debated and consulted within a framework of respect.

The fact that the Commission meets and consults on every issue with openness and sincerity is undoubtedly beneficial to Türkiye, not detrimental.

The National Solidarity, Brotherhood and Democracy Commission has demonstrated this maturity and has been the best proof that Türkiye has also achieved this maturity.

On this occasion, I would like to thank the esteemed members and staff of the Commission and wish them success in their future sessions.

Distinguished Members of Parliament...

Türkiye will preserve this climate of peace and security in the strongest way possible.

When 86 million people in Türkiye are united, we can mobilize our energy not for the fight against terrorism, but for prosperity.

Allah willing, success achieved in every field will be consolidated and strengthened in Türkiye when it is free of terrorism, creating opportunities for new initiatives.

In this context, I think it is particularly important to emphasize that the steps we take on issues closely related to Türkiye's security must be considered separately from the climate of peace and brotherhood that has been created.

Türkiye is not only the homeland of the Kurds within Türkiye, but also the greatest, most sincere and most reliable protector and brother of the Kurds outside Türkiye's borders; it is the first refuge they turn to in times of need.

This has been the case for centuries, and it remains so today and will be the same tomorrow; Allah willing, it will never change.

We will never allow our Kurdish brothers and sisters beyond our borders to face pressure from certain terrorist organizations and be exploited by countries and centers that are hostile to Turks, Kurds, Arabs, and Muslims in general.

From the very beginning, we have strongly supported Syria's territorial integrity.

Today, we stand firmly against any plans to divide Syria.

We have engaged all channels of diplomacy, both to ensure Syria's territorial integrity and to prevent any terrorist formations beyond our borders.

We patiently, sincerely and prudently continue to use these channels.

If diplomatic initiatives remain unanswered, Türkiye's position and policy are clear.

Türkiye will not allow "Déjà vu" in Syria.

This principled stance is not against the Syrian people or our Kurdish brothers and sisters in Syria, but rather in their favor; it is a stance aimed at ridding our region of the scourge of terrorism.

Let me emphasize once again:

Turkish, Kurdish, Arab, Sunni, Shia, Alevi, Nusayri...

Regardless of ethnic origin, language, religion or sect, we are headed towards a shared future.

On this journey, our eternal and everlasting brotherhood, Allah willing, has the power to overcome any obstacle.

When we act with sound judgment and approach matters with a vision for future nourished by a thousand years of shared history, we will solve every problem and foil every scheme.

When we unite with each other like bricks in a wall, the issues in the region will be resolved one by one, and the region will achieve lasting peace.

However, if we allow intermediaries to broker between us, our region will be filled with blood, tears and oppression.

Turks, Kurds and Arabs fought shoulder to shoulder in the armies of Sultan Alparslan, Saladin, and Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror to achieve victories.

Turks, Kurds and Arabs defended Islamic lands heroically together at Gallipoli.

Allah willing, tomorrow and forever, the Turkish, Kurdish and Arab Alliance will jointly ensure and consolidate peace, harmony, development and prosperity in the region.

We believe this with all our hearts.

Mr. Speaker,

Esteemed Members of our Veteran Assembly,

We continue to heal the wounds of the February 6 earthquakes that deeply affected all 86 million people.

Although we cannot bring back the lives that were lost, whom we solemnly remember, we have managed to erase the traces of the disaster.

Construction activities in the 11 provinces affected by the earthquake continue at full speed.

Currently, tens of thousands of architects, engineers and workers are working day and night at 3,481 construction sites.

On September 6, we handed over the keys to the 304,000th home in Malatya to our brothers and sisters who were entitled to them.

Allah willing, we will draw the lots for the 350,000th home next month.

We are working tirelessly to deliver a total of 453,000 independent units to families by the end of the year.

I wish our citizens who moved into their new home, peace of mind, health and well-being at home.

Similarly, I wish prosperity in business to our brothers and sisters who have been affected by disasters and who were delivered new workplaces.

The reconstruction process which is conducted with a spirit of total mobilization, is not limited to housing and businesses.

We cherish the legacy of our ancestors and make every effort to preserve them in their original form.

To date, we have spent 3.6 trillion Turkish Lira, or approximately 90 billion dollars, in public funds for the region affected by the earthquake.

At this point, I would like to share some data about our economy with you...

Esteemed Members of Parliament,

Our priority is to permanently resolve the issue of high living costs for our people.

In August, we reached an important milestone by seeing the lowest inflation in the last 45 months.

We aim to bring inflation below 30 percent by the end of this year and below 20 percent in 2026.

We aim to reduce our budget deficit as a percentage of national income to 3.6% this year and 3.5% in 2026.

We are also doing very well on the export side, praise be to Allah.

In August, our exports exceeded \$269 billion on an annual basis.

Despite high levels of gold imports, our foreign trade balance has improved rapidly.

We expect to close 2025 with a current account deficit of only 1.4 percent of national income.

We have also achieved significant gains in terms of access to external resources.

Access to financing has become easier for both the banking sector and the real sector, and costs have fallen significantly.

Our foreign debt-to-GDP ratio has fallen to its lowest level in 14 years.

On the other hand, we also achieved historic success in terms of reserve adequacy.

The gross reserves of the Central Bank reached \$179 billion.

Thanks to our program, our risk premium and borrowing costs have also declined; confidence in the Turkish lira is starting to grow day by day.

Despite global economic uncertainties and low growth rates among our trading partners, the Turkish economy continued to grow.

In the first half of 2025, our annual growth rate was 3.6 percent, and our national income approached \$1.5 trillion on an annualized basis.

On the production front, added value increased in all sectors except the agricultural sector, which contracted due to frost damage.

Our manufacturing industry performed at its highest level in the last 12 quarters.

While the balance between consumption and investment was maintained, extremely positive developments were also seen on the employment front.

Our unemployment rate has remained in single digits for exactly 28 months.

We saw another positive development, another record level, in tourism.

In the first six months of 2025, we broke an all-time record for the first six months of revenue with \$25.8 billion.

We are steadily progressing toward achieving \$64 billion in tourism revenue by the end of 2025.

The same success story can be seen in healthcare, education, transportation, industry and especially in the defense industry.

Türkiye has made significant strides in all these areas in a short period of time by outdoing itself.

Allah willing, we will continue to accelerate the strong momentum we have achieved.

Finally, I would like to briefly touch upon our structural reform agenda.

The year 2026 will be a year of reform for the Turkish economy.

We are initiating a major transformation in all areas of our economy, including industry, technology, agriculture and energy.

We will also implement measures to increase fiscal discipline in local governments, further strengthening transparency, accountability and efficiency in the public sector.

I hope that these efforts will be beneficial for our country, nation and economy.

Mr. Speaker,

Esteemed Members of Parliament,

We are all here, thanks to the appreciation and support of the tens of millions who turn the ballot boxes into a celebration of our democracy in every election.

There is only one source of legitimacy in Türkiye, and that is the will of our beloved nation.

Our motto since entering politics has been: "the source of legitimacy is the nation". Therefore, we worked hard for the sovereignty of the nation.

Throughout our political life spanning almost half a century, the legitimacy of our actions stemmed from the mandate and will that have been expressed at the ballot box.

In this country, even though sovereignty belonged to the people on paper, it was dominated by capital, the media, and the ruling elite for some time.

The ghost of tutelage hung over the national will for years.

We took sovereignty from the privileged few and handed it over to its rightful owner, the people.

For this, we truly worked very hard, fought very hard, and paid a very heavy price, weathering many a storm.

But in the end, we established the sovereignty of the people's will in Türkiye.

I say this once again today, clearly and unequivocally:

There is no place in Türkiye for privileges that do not derive their power from the people, and there can never be.

In Türkiye, in politics, in law, in the economy, in public life, in social and daily life, there is no place for privileges that are not based on the will of the people, and there can never be.

The source of sovereignty is the will of the people; the people exercise this will through the elected President in the Executive Branch and through members of parliament in the Legislative Branch.

These artificial debates, which certain opposition actors bring up periodically, especially to cover up certain scandals that have come to light, are disrespectful to the will of our nation as expressed in the May 14-28 elections; they constitute a grave disrespect to the nation itself.

Our nation has granted us a five-year mandate in the Presidency and to you in Parliament.

We will, Allah willing, exercise this mandate which we received from our beloved nation at the ballot box to the fullest and most productive extent possible.

We will continue to build the Turkish Century with the fast and effective decision-making and implementation capabilities provided by the Presidential Government System.

The sensitivity demonstrated by you, our esteemed members of the legislative body, will give us, the executive branch, strength and morale in our efforts.

I wholeheartedly believe that you will support our desire to crown the great progress made over the past 23 years with a new constitution that befits the Turkish Century and is not too restrictive for Türkiye.

I want the Grand National Assembly and our brothers and sisters watching us on their screens to know this:

We are striving to enhance Türkiye's capabilities, potential, wealth and volume even further.

We are mobilizing Türkiye's resources for Türkiye's needs, for the 86 million citizens of this country, for the youth and our future.

We see everyone who thinks, produces and works for Türkiye as our companions in this struggle.

We are delighted to work together toward the same goal with anyone who works, strives, speaks out or engages in politics for this nation.

But we will show no mercy whatsoever to those who infringe upon the rights of orphans, the homeless, workers, farmers, retirees, merchants, industrialists or artisans.

We are determined to maintain our uncompromising stance on this matter.

May Allah help and protect us.

I hope that the 4th Legislative Year of the 28th Term will bring good tidings.

I wish all mighty Allah to grant all esteemed members of parliament success in their work during this new legislative year.

I extend my warm regards and respect to all of you.

Best wishes...