

Sudan opens honorary consulate in São Paulo

The office opened on Friday night. The honorary consul is the Brazilian of Arab descent Mohamed Zoghbi. Earlier, the Arab Chamber hosted a luncheon in honor of the Sudanese ambassador Mohamed Elsidig.

Alexandre Rocha*

São Paulo – An inauguration ceremony opened this Friday (14) night the honorary consulate of Sudan in São Paulo. The office is located at São Gualter Avenue, district of Alto de Pinheiros, in the west part of the city of São Paulo. “The consulate will work to improve bilateral relations,” said to ANBA, in the opening ceremony, Ahmed Yousif Mohamed, the Sudanese ambassador in Brasília.

The ambassador appointed as honorary consul the Brazilian of Arab descent Mohamed Zoghbi, who also occupies the post of president of the Federation of Muslim Associations in Brazil (FAMBRAS). “Zoghbi knows a great deal about trade and will give a boost to trade relations,” said Elsidig. “We are opening an honorary consulate also in Rio de Janeiro,” he added.

Alexandre Rocha/ANBA



Zoghbi will promote relations between São Paulo and Sudan

The new honorary consul works with halal certification of exported products from Brazil to Muslim countries. The goods produced according to Islamic traditions are designated halal.

“Our first mission will be to strengthen the ties between Sudan and the state of São Paulo. There are many options available for the exchanging in the culture, trade and technology areas,” said Zoghbi. He will also work to strengthen the ties between the government of Sudan and the state of São Paulo.

“In addition to this, we will take care of the Sudanese community living here,” Zoghbi pointed out. The Sudanese community in São Paulo has at least 110 families.

The president of the **Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce**, Rubens Hannun, attended the inauguration, alongside the vice president of International Affairs of the Chamber, Osmar Chohfi, the CEO of the organization, Michel Alaby, and the organization's manager of government relations, Tamer Mansour.

Also in attendance were the diplomats of Lebanon, Egypt, South Africa, Guinea, Russia, government representatives of the federal, state and local levels, and representatives from companies and other organizations of the private sector.

Tribute

Earlier, the Arab Chamber hosted a luncheon in tribute of the Sudanese ambassador, who is ending this term in Brazil. "I worked for two years and there was a great improvement in economic relations [between the two countries], especially in the agricultural area," pointed out Elsiddig.

He mentioned that many Brazilian business owners visited Sudan in this period and pointed out, for instance, that the trade of agricultural machinery improved a great deal. Brazil is also exporting bovine semen for artificial insemination to the Sudanese herd, and Elsiddig said that a Brazilian bovine genetics company is planning to open an office in the African country.

The ambassador said that the Arab Chamber was of great importance to his work. "The Chamber is one of the foundations of Brazil's relation with the Arab countries," he said. He mentioned, for instance, the yearly participation of the organization at the Khartoum International Fair, held in the Sudanese capital, which resulted in the visit of many Brazilian companies to the African nation. "The majority [of companies] went there through the Chamber," he said. "The organization was crucial to improve economic relations," he concluded.

***Translated by Sérgio Kakitani**

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