

# April 23

## NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND CHILDREN'S DAY



April 23 is a very special day on which the foundations of the Republic of Türkiye were laid and the national will was established as the governing authority. With the opening of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye on April 23, 1920, the principle "Sovereignty unconditionally belongs to the nation" was put into practice, and the Turkish people officially gained the right to determine their own future.

What makes this meaningful day even more special is that Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the Founder of the Republic of Türkiye, declared April 23 as the first and only national holiday in the world dedicated to children. Atatürk regarded children not only as the future of the country, but also as the most valuable members of today's society, and attached great importance to raising them as modern, free thinking, and responsible individuals.

Atatürk's trust in children is one of the clearest reflections of his foresight. For those who will build a country's future are the children who are raised today with love, knowledge, and hope. April 23 is a symbol of this belief and responsibility. National Sovereignty and Children's Day is the strongest expression of our independence, our democracy, and the value placed on children. This special day symbolizes both our respect for the past and our confidence in the future.



*"Little ladies and little gentlemen! You are all the roses, the stars, and the light of prosperity of the future. It is you who will truly illuminate our nation."*

**MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATÜRK**