



Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022

Commonwealth Parliamentary tributes to the CPA Patron



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Visits to Commonwealth Parliaments by the CPA Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



Northwest Territories



Nova Scotia



South Australia



Canada



Scotland



Alberta



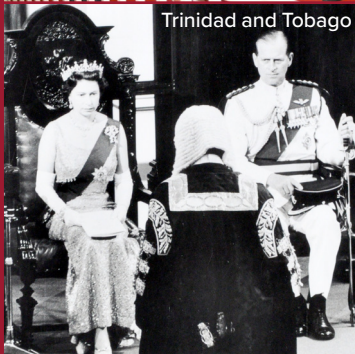
Singapore



Tasmania



United Kingdom



Trinidad and Tobago



Jersey



New Zealand



Fiji

"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong." - Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 21 April 1947

On her 21st birthday, Princess Elizabeth during a tour of South Africa made a speech that was broadcast on the radio from Cape Town, in which the Princess dedicated her life to the service of the Commonwealth. From her ascension to the throne in 1952 to travelling the world as Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty The Queen's 96 years were marked by her 70 years of service to the Crown and Commonwealth, and her commitment to her beloved family.



Parliamentary tributes to the Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022)



Parliamentary tributes to the CPA Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Across the Commonwealth, Parliaments and Parliamentarians paid tribute to the CPA Patron.
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The Queen and the CPA

The enduring relationship between Queen Elizabeth II and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association plus the memories of a former CPA Secretary-General.
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The Queen and the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth Secretary-General paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II and her life of service to the Commonwealth.
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The Queen's CPA Coronation Luncheon

From the CPA archives, a unique insight into a special event held by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association early in Queen Elizabeth II's reign to mark the Coronation in 1953.
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The Queen and Parliament

Remembering Queen Elizabeth II's visit to the Parliament of Uganda.
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PARLIAMENTARY TRIBUTES TO THE CPA PATRON, HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

It was with deep sadness that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) learnt of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the CPA Patron and Head of the Commonwealth. Queen Elizabeth II supported the organisation from her accession to the throne in 1952 and she later became the Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in 1989. Since the sad news, tributes to Her Majesty The Queen have been made by Parliamentarians on behalf of Parliaments and Legislatures throughout the Commonwealth, reflecting the breadth and depth of respect and affection in which she was held and paying tribute to her extraordinary contribution to the development of the modern Commonwealth.

In this special supplement to *The Parliamentarian*, we publish a selection of extracts from official and parliamentary tributes to the CPA Patron from across the Commonwealth.

CPA Officers and Officials

CPA President and the Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana, Rt Hon. Alban S. K. Bagbin, MP said:

On behalf of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and in my personal capacity, I extend my condolences to King Charles III and the Royal Family, the United Kingdom and Commonwealth of Nations on the sad occasion of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Head of the Commonwealth, on Thursday 8th September 2022 at Balmoral Castle, Scotland.

Her Majesty was admired worldwide as a powerhouse in diplomacy by serving as a true role model for inclusive governance and international relations. She has been the steady hand behind the sustenance of the Commonwealth all these decades. For her poise, impact on the Commonwealth, and savoir-faire, Queen Elizabeth II was admired by all. She had unalloyed love for, and dedication to the welfare of her people.

King Charles III and the Royal Family are in our thoughts and prayers and the CPA stands in solidarity with them during these difficult times.

The Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, Hon. Ian Liddell-Grainger MP (United Kingdom) said:

On behalf of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the entire CPA membership, we are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As CPA Patron, Her Majesty was a tireless supporter of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the work of Commonwealth Parliaments and Parliamentarians in promoting democracy.

The Vice-Chairperson of the CPA International Executive Committee, Hon. Osei-Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu, MP (Ghana) said:

The London Bridge is down. Queen Elizabeth II is gone. The Commonwealth certainly is left mourning and wavering. She has held high the flag of the United Kingdom. She has held firmly the unity of the Commonwealth. She came to Ghana in 1961 and left an indelible footprint. The Queen has seen it all in the United Kingdom. The longest monarch to have reigned.

She presided over the independence of most of the Commonwealth countries beginning from the mid-1950s. The aura of peace and tranquillity that Her Majesty wore, the exemplary leadership that The Queen bore, engendered deference which combined to hold the Commonwealth of Nations together.

Queen Elizabeth II has come, she has seen and has indeed conquered. Her transition, unquestionably, marks the end of an era. May God, her Creator, give Queen Elizabeth II eternal rest whilst providing comfort to the family and sustaining the bond within the Commonwealth. Fare thee well quintuply quintessential Queen!

The Chairperson of the CPA Small Branches network and the Speaker of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly, Ms Joy Burch, MLA said:

It is with deep sadness that I wish to pay my respects and offer condolences to the Royal Family, citizens of the UK, and all Commonwealth Parliaments and their citizens, on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. On behalf of the fifty-two Small Branches of the CPA, I wish to pay my respects and thank Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for her remarkable service and the indelible legacy she has left behind.

The Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) network, Hon. Laura Kanushu, MP (Uganda) said:

On behalf of the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities network, I would like to send our deepest condolences to the



Above: The Chairperson of the CPA Small Branches network, Joy Burch, MLA signs the book of condolence for Queen Elizabeth II at the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory.



Above: The Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia, Hon. Professor Peter H. Katjavivi MP signs the book of condolence for Queen Elizabeth II at the British High Commission in Windhoek.

people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth for the death of Her Majesty The Queen. She will be remembered for advancing the rights of persons with disabilities.

The Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network, Hon. Dr Zainab Gimba, MP (Nigeria) said:

The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network joins the Commonwealth family and the global community to mourn the demise of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the CPA Patron and Head of the Commonwealth. As Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty was the moral thread that held together the over 2 billion Commonwealth citizens. Her voice was a stabilising force in global affairs as she enjoyed the endearment of people from across the world.

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg said:

I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of the CPA Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and join the many tributes from Parliamentarians across the Commonwealth. As Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty recognised the importance of the organisation's core values and aspirations expressed through the Commonwealth Charter, which she signed in 2013, including democracy, human rights and peace. The Queen was also a strong advocate for the young people of the Commonwealth.

CPA Africa Region

Parliament of The Gambia

Extract from the statement from the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Fabakary Tombong Jatta:

It is with humility that this Assembly join all Parliaments of the Commonwealth to pay tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to eulogise in memory and deed, the life of an extraordinary public servant. The late Queen Elizabeth II will be remembered for her sense of humour, charisma, and statesmanship in the global governance structure, most particularly in the Commonwealth, for

which we are part of as a nation and a Parliament. She was a citizen and an outstanding leader of the world throughout her reign.

Parliament of Kenya

Statement by Hon. Moses Wetang'ula E.G.H MP, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya:

As members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association fraternity, we recognise her immense contribution in the promotion of the Commonwealth ideals and in enhancing relations among the people, across the world. Throughout her long reign, she remained a paragon of devoted service and steadfast duty. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Parliament of Malawi

Rt Hon. Catherine Gotani Hara MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Malawi and Chairperson of the CPA Africa Region Executive Committee:

I have received with deep sadness the news of the passing on of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth and Patron of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) since 1989. Her Majesty worked tirelessly to champion the cause and objectives of the CPA. For 70 years, she was a dependable voice and staunch advocate of human rights, good governance and equality across the Commonwealth and beyond. Her enduring messages during the annual gathering of Parliamentarians will forever remain a source of inspiration to all of us.

The CPA Africa Region will cherish her enduring legacy by ensuring that Parliaments in the Region uphold parliamentary democracy in line with our constitution and the best of our traditions. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Parliament of Namibia

Statement by Hon. Professor Peter H. Katjavivi MP, Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia:

It is indeed with a deep sense of sadness that we learned about the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who will always be remembered for her gentle touch of leadership. She remained committed to serving not only her country, but also the Commonwealth and she did so with absolute dignity and grace. We will always remember her care for nature, being people centred and accessible, as well as her excellent leadership qualities. These leadership abilities have seen her traverse all corners of the globe in executing responsibilities as the Head of the Commonwealth. She has ably guided the Commonwealth through easy and difficult times. Above all these, she maintained an honourable, down to earth family life as a mother and grandmother.

I had the honour of meeting her twice during her reign. Firstly, during her visit to Namibia soon after our independence in 1991 when I had the privilege of introducing my late wife, Rosemary Jane Katjavivi to The Queen. My second interaction was at Buckingham Palace when I was amongst a group of Commonwealth envoys mobilising financial support during the Diamond Jubilee for youth development programmes as well as promoting avoidable



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY TRIBUTES TO THE CPA PATRON



Above: The Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nigeria, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila signs the book of condolence for Queen Elizabeth II at the British High Commission in Abuja.

blindness within the Commonwealth. May the soul of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II rest in eternal peace.

National Assembly of Nigeria

Statement by Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nigeria:

During a condolence visit to the UK High Commissioner in Nigeria, the Speaker of Nigeria House of Representatives signed the condolence book stating: 'Her Majesty served till the end. May she rest in peace. To King Charles III, I say God bless the King!'

National Assembly of Seychelles

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Roger Mancienne said:

Queen Elizabeth is a figure of importance to our institution in her role as Head of the Commonwealth and Patron of its Parliamentary Association, alongside her role as Head of State of the United Kingdom. We recognise the cardinal role she played in international affairs through her long reign, during which she has become a familiar figure in many countries including our own.

The Queen symbolized the values and aspirations of Parliaments in the Commonwealth organisation which has been steadfast in the promotion of peace, democracy and human rights. Our Assembly joins the numerous bodies throughout the world in paying tribute to a figure representing the shared interest of Parliaments everywhere.

Parliament of South Africa

The President of South Africa, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa said:

'Her Majesty was an extraordinary and world-renowned public figure who lived a remarkable life. Her life and legacy will be fondly remembered by many around the world. The Queen's commitment and dedication during her 70 years on the throne remains a noble and virtuous example to the entire world.' The President met The Queen at the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting which was held in London where they spent some time looking at letters that former President Nelson Mandela sent to Queen

Elizabeth II, reminiscing about the great statesman that Her Majesty respected enormously.

Parliament of Tanzania

Statement by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, Hon. Dr Tulia Ackson, MP:

On behalf of the Parliament of Tanzania, I extend my deepest condolences to the Royal Family, the House of Commons, the House of Lords, and the people of the United Kingdom on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As Head of the Commonwealth, we acknowledge her great contribution in the promotion of the ideals of the Commonwealth.

Parliament of Uganda

Statement from the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Rt Hon. Anita Annet Among, MP:

On behalf of Parliament of Uganda, I send my deepest condolences to the Royal Family, the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the people of the United Kingdom upon the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As members of the Commonwealth, we acknowledge her immense contribution on fostering links and relations around the world. May her soul find eternal rest.

Parliament of Zambia

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, Rt Hon. Nelly B. K. Mutti, MP

visited the residence of the British High Commissioner to sign the late Queen's book of condolence and described her as an inspirational woman who devoted her life to service, serving the people of Great Britain and the Commonwealth.

'We need to celebrate Her Majesty's life as she has been a great inspiration to a lot of women, including myself as the First Female Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia as we continue to look to her great achievements and good deeds.'

CPA Asia Region

Parliament of Bangladesh

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, offered her

"heartfelt and deep sympathies" in relation to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on behalf of the people and Parliament of Bangladesh. She also "offered her deep condolences and expressed her sorrow at the death of Queen Elizabeth II."

People's Majlis of The Maldives

Statement by the Speaker of the People's Majlis of the Maldives, Hon. Mohammed Nasheed:

With The Queen's passing, we have lost the world's, perhaps history's, strongest matriarchic. Her ability to reach out to people, regardless of their colour or creed, was second to none. Which explains why she will be mourned across the world, including in The Maldives.



Image: Parliament of Australia



The Parliament of Australia in Canberra is lit up in tribute to Queen Elizabeth II.

National Assembly of Pakistan

Statement by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Hon. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, MNA:

The Speaker stated that Pakistan would always remember The Queen for her tireless efforts to promote peace between Pakistan and India through amicable resolution of all issues. He recalled the day when she addressed the joint sitting of Pakistan's Parliament back in 1997 and expressed her strong desire to see a peaceful region by addressing all causes of concern.

Her Majesty's visits to Pakistan back in 1961 and then in 1997 to mark 50 years of the independence of Pakistan, not only reflected her affection and love for the country and its inhabitants but also echoed her strong desire to consolidate bilateral relations with Pakistan. In recognition of Her Majesty's innumerable contributions towards strengthening and betterment of Pakistan, she was conferred with the highest civilian award of Pakistan-Nishan-i-Pakistan.

Parliament of Sri Lanka

The Parliament of Sri Lanka observed two minutes in the Chamber to pay homage to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Under the chairmanship of the Speaker, Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, tributes were proposed by the Prime Minister, Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena at the beginning of the parliamentary session. Following this, the Chief Opposition Whip, Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, MP also made a statement and expressed the condolences of the opposition to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

CPA Australia Region

Parliament of Australia

Joint statement by the Presiding Officers: President of the Senate, Senator Hon. Sue Lines and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Milton Dick, MP.

Her Majesty has travelled much of Australia's journey with us. She was monarch and Australia's head of State for 70 of the nation's 121

years of federation. Queen Elizabeth II has been inextricably linked with Australia's Parliament. Her grandfather, George V, opened Australia's first Parliament in 1901 in the Exhibition Buildings in Melbourne when he was Duke of York. Then her father, King George VI, along with her mother opened the provisional Parliament House in Canberra as Duke and Duchess of York on 9 May 1927.

To the day, 61 years later – on 9 May 1988, Her Majesty The Queen opened the new Parliament House. The Queen formally opened sittings of Parliament three times; in 1954 the year following her coronation, in 1974 and 1977. She also visited Parliament House, both provisional and new, eight times. Most recently, in 2011, Queen Elizabeth II attended a reception in the Great Hall as part of a tour which ended with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth.

In Her Majesty's speeches during those visits, she often expressed faith and optimism in Australia, its people and its democracy. She spoke of the special bond she felt with Australians who she said, in 2006, had creative energy leavened by generous warmth and humour with a proud record of defending freedom and democracy.

Her Majesty's commitment to the Commonwealth, and its commitment to democracy, was a constant throughout her reign. That commitment to parliamentary democracy is a foundation stone of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association which brings together more than 180 Legislatures, including Australia.

Parliament of New South Wales

Joint statement by the Presiding Officers, CPA Vice-President and President of the Legislative Council, Hon. Matthew Mason-Cox, MLC and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Jonathan O'Dea, MP:

The people of New South Wales feel her loss deeply. Her Late Majesty served the Commonwealth and this State selflessly for 70 years, with wisdom and integrity as she bore witness to the changes of the world. The Parliament of New South Wales has a special affinity with Her Late Majesty. On 4 February 1954, thousands of people lined the streets of Sydney to greet Queen Elizabeth as she became the first British sovereign to open an Australian Parliament.



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY TRIBUTES TO THE CPA PATRON

Queen Elizabeth II continued to have a strong connection to New South Wales throughout her reign, visiting the State and its people on 12 occasions. On 20 February 1992, Her Late Majesty opened the 50th Parliament of New South Wales and unveiled an oil portrait to commemorate the 40th anniversary of her reign. Her portrait remains hanging in the Fountain Court of our Parliament.

Queen Elizabeth II has been a faithful and shining light to her subjects. She offered support to communities throughout New South Wales in times of drought, flood, fire and a pandemic.

Legislative Assembly of Northern Territory

The Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Hon. Natasha Fyles, MLA issued a statement:

Even before her accession to the throne, the then Princess Elizabeth had dedicated her life to the service of the Commonwealth. Her Majesty's exceptionally long reign began on 6 February 1952 following the sudden death of her father King George VI, just before her 26th birthday. She was a remarkable woman and had an extraordinary life, impacting positively on the lives of millions of people.

The Queen loved Australia, and she loved the Northern Territory. Her multiple visits to the Territory meant she understood our strong cultural bonds and our connection to our land. Very few Territorians know a world without Her Majesty in it. She will be greatly missed.

Parliament of Queensland

The Parliament of Queensland released a statement outlining the visits that Queen Elizabeth II made to Brisbane, including:

- In 1954, The Queen became the first reigning monarch to visit Australia with her husband Prince Phillip. During this tour, she visited the Queensland Parliament on 9 March for a State reception at Parliament House, and the following day for a parliamentary luncheon.
- On 13 April 1970, The Queen attended a Parliament House garden party.
- On 8 October 1982, she unveiled the Parliament House restoration plaque, while in Brisbane for the Commonwealth Games.
- On 24 October 2011, The Queen attended a reception for emergency service personnel, volunteers, and those affected by natural disasters during the summer of 2010-2011.

Parliament of South Australia

Statement from the Presiding Officers: President of the Legislative Council, Hon. Terry Stephens, MLC and the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Hon. Dan Cregan, MP:

The Parliament of South Australia joins with others to mourn the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and extends the Parliament's sincere condolences to the Royal Family. We recognise the Royal Family's loss, and acknowledge that this loss will be felt by South Australians and people across the world.

Her late Majesty is linked to our Parliament through our Westminster traditions, and her visit to the Parliament of South

Australia in March 1954 to open a session of the 34th Parliament. Her late Majesty will be remembered for her 70 years of outstanding service to the Commonwealth and to our State.

Parliament of Tasmania

During a condolence motion in the Legislative Assembly of Tasmania, Hon. Jeremy Rockliff, Premier of Tasmania said:

As Head of the Commonwealth, the Queen played an important, symbolic and unifying role, reinforcing the links by which the Commonwealth joins people together across the globe. Over the course of her reign, the Commonwealth grew from just seven nations to 56, representing more than 2.5 billion people, more than a third of the world's population.

During her reign, The Queen undertook more than 200 visits to Commonwealth countries, making many return visits over the years. Her Majesty holds a particularly special place in the hearts of Tasmanians as the first reigning monarch to visit our beautiful island home. During her reign she returned a further six times.

Her Majesty led a long life, well lived; a life of selfless service and absolute devotion to duty. She is an example to us all. May she rest in peace.

Parliament of Victoria

Joint statement by the Presiding Officers: President of the Legislative Council, Hon. Nazih Elasmr, OAM, MLC and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Maree Edwards, MP:

We mourn and are deeply saddened by the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty will be remembered for a lifetime of dedicated service and will long be admired for honouring throughout her reign the commitment she made to the people of the Commonwealth. We are grateful for all that Her Majesty achieved during a remarkable life. On behalf of the Victorian Parliament, we offer our sincere condolences to the Royal Family, recognising that their loss is also felt by so many people here in Victoria and across the world. In remembrance, the flags on Parliament House are being flown at half-mast.

Parliament of Western Australia

Joint Statement from the Presiding Officers: President of the Legislative Council, Hon. Alanna Clohesy, MLC and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Michelle Roberts, MLA:

We are saddened by the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. On behalf of the Parliament of Western Australia, we convey our deepest sympathy and condolences to the Royal Family. We will always remember and give thanks for Her Majesty's remarkable life dedicated to service and duty to the people of the Commonwealth. Flags at Parliament House are being flown at half-mast during the official mourning period in remembrance and recognition of the loss felt by so many people in Western Australia and across the world.



CPA British Islands & Mediterranean Region

Parliament of the United Kingdom

Statement from the Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP:

For all of us, The Queen has been a constant presence in our lives – as familiar as a member of the family, yet one who has exercised a calm and steadying influence over our country. Most of us have never known a time when she was not there. Her death is not only a tragedy for the Royal family, but a terrible loss for us all.

During her 70 years on the throne – and even before that, as a teenager, reassuring and engaging with children and families disrupted by the Second World War – she has given our lives a sense of equilibrium. While her reign has been marked by dramatic changes in the world, Her Majesty has maintained her unwavering devotion to the UK, the British Overseas Territories and the Commonwealth of Nations - and her gentle authority and sound reason have been felt throughout.

She has travelled the world extensively, modernised the Royal family, and is credited with inventing the royal 'walkabout', which enabled her to meet people from all walks of life during her visits. As Head of State, she has provided advice and the benefit of long experience to 15 UK Prime Ministers during her reign – and met more than a quarter of all the American Presidents in the history of the US.

Statement from the Lord Speaker, Rt Hon. Lord McFall of Alcluith:

For 70 years she has been a loyal and steadfast presence in the national life of the United Kingdom. Her integrity, unique record of public service, deep sense of faith and commitment to her role have ensured that she will be regarded as a supreme example of a constitutional Monarch. Her vital relationship with our Chamber, where the three elements of Parliament come together during the State Opening, ensures that she will be forever remembered and cherished by the House of Lords.

Parliament of Cyprus

The President of the House of Representatives, Hon. Annita Demetriou, MP said:

Throughout her long reign, Queen Elizabeth II served the people of the UK with unwavering commitment and will always be remembered for her strong sense of duty in carrying out her crucial role. As the UK and indeed the world underwent momentous transformations through the decades, Queen Elizabeth II always served as a constant of strength and perseverance for her people. Furthermore, as Head of the Commonwealth she was the figurehead of a diverse and

vibrant mosaic of nations bound together by shared values and aspirations.

The passing away of Queen Elizabeth II is a great loss for the UK and the Commonwealth of Nations, especially in today's turbulent times, when moderation and wisdom are needed more than ever.

Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly

Statement by Roger Spink MLA, Chair of the Legislative Assembly:

On behalf of the people of the Falkland Islands, we wish to express our heartfelt sympathies to the Royal Family at this sorrowful time. We have a deep and lasting affection for Her Majesty The Queen, who on her twenty-first birthday declared 'that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service. Her Majesty did devote her life to the service of her country and the Falkland Islands were devoted to The Queen engaging with many of her celebrations.

As Head of the Commonwealth Her Majesty has supported our Islands through many major events, including the invasion and subsequent Liberation of the Islands. The loss of The Queen will be felt deeply throughout our community, she will never be forgotten.

Parliament of Gibraltar

An extract of the statement from the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Hon. Fabian Picardo, KC, MP:

The death of Queen Elizabeth II has been a dreadful blow for all British people and for the people of all Her Realms and in the Commonwealth. The whole of Gibraltar is under a cloud of sorrow today. We are united in mourning.

She was our Queen. Gibraltar was her Rock. And She was ours. As She had said of Her own husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, She was our strength and stay. Our Rock in hard times. And in all Her time on the throne, Her Majesty was consistently known to have cared deeply for Her people in Gibraltar. We cherished Her visit in 1954. A visit that left an indelible mark on our small, then emerging, nation and carved between our Sovereign and the Gibraltarians a



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special relationship without equal. In its own way, Her visit cast the die for the years ahead of us in a way that has served to define us and further cement our loyalty to the Crown.

States of Guernsey and the States of Alderney

Official condolence message from The Bailiwick:

We, the Lieutenant-Governor and the Bailiff of Guernsey, the Deputy Bailiff, the Royal Court and the States of Guernsey, the President and the States of Alderney, the Seigneur and the Chief Pleas of Sark, and all the people of this Bailiwick with humble duty beg leave to offer to His Majesty The King and His family our respectful and sincerest sympathy on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, whose long and loyal reign stands as an inspiration to us all. Her Majesty will always be remembered with great affection across our islands, which she visited on six memorable occasions.

Tynwald (Parliament of the Isle of Man)

Joint Statement from the President of Tynwald and of the Legislative Council, Hon. Laurence Skelly, MLC and the Speaker of the House of Keys, Hon. Juan Watterson, SHK:

Her Majesty The Queen first visited the Isle of Man on 9th August 1955, just two years after her Coronation. During the visit, Her Majesty attended a special sitting of Tynwald Court where she expressed a hope that one day, she would preside over the Tynwald Ceremony at St John's. This hope was realised during her third visit to the Island for the celebration of the Millennium of Tynwald in 1979, and again in 2003. Her Majesty also visited the Island in August 1989. On each visit she was accompanied by her devoted husband, Prince Philip, and the Royal couple were welcomed wholeheartedly by the people of the Isle of Man. Her Majesty The Queen gave unstintingly devoted public service to her country and the Commonwealth, and she made many genuine and lasting connections with the people of this Island during her lifetime.

States Assembly of Jersey

Statement by the Bailiff (Speaker) and acting Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Timothy Le Cocq:

I know that islanders will be deeply saddened, as am I, at the news from Buckingham Palace of the death of Her Majesty The Queen. It is almost impossible to overstate her importance in the life of the nation and all her dominions in the 70 years of Her reign. She has been an example of duty discharged and promises kept, and she has worked tirelessly over the decades for the wellbeing of all her peoples and of the Commonwealth.

There will be time in the days and weeks to come, to reflect on all of that but today we can only feel the sadness, of the loss of a person who has been a constant presence in our lives, and who is held in this island in such great esteem and affection.

Parliament of Malta

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Angelo Farrugia, MP on his behalf and on behalf of the House of Representatives of Malta, expresses deep sentiments of grief at the news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II who, during the long number of years as Head of the Commonwealth, always enjoyed the respect of the Maltese people.

Northern Ireland Assembly

Statement from the Speaker of the Assembly, Hon. Alex Maskey, MLA:

Queen Elizabeth came to be recognised internationally for her personal dignity and her commitment to her public duty, qualities which served her well through her long reign when so much has changed in the world. Indeed, since her official visit to Parliament Buildings in 1953, our own society is radically different, politically, economically and socially.

This is of course a particularly sorrowful time for those with a British and unionist identity, especially coming so soon after the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. However, Queen Elizabeth was also respected and held in high regard by many in our wider society, particularly given the significant leadership she contributed to making political progress here. Her passing will therefore be mourned by many across the whole community in the days to come.

The Scottish Parliament

The Scottish Parliament Presiding Officer, Rt Hon. Alison Johnstone, MSP said:

The Queen was an extraordinary woman, who led an extraordinary life of service. From the day that this Parliament was established in 1999, Her Majesty showed her unwavering support for the institution and the time and importance she gave to that relationship is hugely appreciated.

Left: The Senedd (Welsh Parliament) building pays tribute to Queen Elizabeth II in Cardiff.



Image: Senedd (Welsh Parliament)



Image: Parliament of Canada



Left: The Parliament of Canada in Ottawa is lit up in tribute to Queen Elizabeth II.

CPA Canada Region

Parliament of Canada

Statement by the Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, Hon. Anthony Rota, MP:

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada. Throughout her long reign, The Queen served Canada and the Commonwealth with great dedication and distinction. From her first royal tour in 1951, prior to her accession to the Throne, to her most recent royal tour, in 2010, Her Majesty The Queen observed and shared in the development of modern-day Canada. The Queen truly realized the pledge she made on her 21st birthday: 'My whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family, to which we all belong.'

Statement by the Speaker of the Senate of Canada, Hon. George J. Furey, KC:

It is with extraordinary sadness that I learned of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Throughout her historic reign of seventy years, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had an unwavering devotion to the people of Canada and the Commonwealth. Following the death of her father, Her Majesty was crowned in Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953. Her Majesty The Queen completed twenty-two official tours of Canada since her accession to the Throne and has twice delivered a Speech from the Throne in the Senate Chamber. On these occasions, Her Majesty benefited from the support of her husband, The Duke of Edinburgh, who also displayed a deep commitment to Canada in his lifetime. Although Her extraordinary reign has now ended, it will continue to instil and inspire the values of public service, selflessness, and quiet dignity for generations to come.

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Statement by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, Hon. Nathan Cooper, MLA:

Along with millions of people around the world today, I was saddened to learn about the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. My thoughts are also with all countries of the Commonwealth whom Her Majesty faithfully served throughout her remarkable reign. A beloved sovereign and a respected figure among leaders the world over, Queen Elizabeth II was a symbol of our nation's historical and continuing connection to the British monarchy and also of the role of the constitutional monarchy in Canada.

During her life Queen Elizabeth II visited Alberta six times. Her first visit to the province was in 1951, when she was Princess Elizabeth. Her most recent visit was during Alberta's centennial year in 2005 when Her Majesty addressed the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in the Chamber, becoming the first reigning monarch to do so.

The Parliament will have an opportunity to consider a Motion of Condolence and reflect on the life of this much loved and much respected Monarch whose enduring bond with Scotland and the Scottish people will long be remembered.

Legislative Council of St Helena

The Speaker of the Legislative Council of St Helena, Hon. Cyril Gunnell, MLC said:

We express our heartfelt condolences for the great loss of our beloved monarch. As proud members of the British family, we feel a strong connection to The Queen. Her loss will be keenly felt throughout St Helena and by members of our Legislative Council. The St Helena community remember with enormous fondness when The Queen visited St Helena as a Princess, alongside her father King George VI in 1947.

Senedd (Welsh Parliament)

A statement from the Llywydd (Speaker), Rt Hon. Elin Jones, MS:

Queen Elizabeth II served the United Kingdom with a dignity that endeared her to millions around the world. She reigned during a time that has seen great constitutional and social change in our country. She attended every Senedd opening ceremony since its inception, reflecting her recognition of this Parliament's contribution to Welsh life. The Queen will be remembered for her lifelong commitment to public service, including championing many charities and organisations in Wales. The Senedd sends its condolences to her family.



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY TRIBUTES TO THE CPA PATRON



Above: The flag is flown at half mast at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in tribute to Queen Elizabeth II.

Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

Statement by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Hon. Raj Chouhan, MLA:

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada. Few people in the world were as respected and admired as our late Sovereign. Her Late Majesty's selfless devotion and dedication to our country and the Commonwealth over her 70-year reign was evident and truly historic. Canadians held Her Late Majesty in the highest esteem, and join countless people around the world in mourning her passing.

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

Statement by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, Hon. Myrna Driedger, MLA:

It was with a heavy heart that we learned today of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty touched the lives of so many Manitobans over her seven decades of service, and for that she will never be forgotten. Few who are alive today can remember a world in which she was not Queen, and her presence in our lives shall remain profound and immeasurable. Her example of a life dedicated to service and leadership shall be a beacon for all. May Her Majesty rest in peace. Long live the King.

Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick

Statement from the Premier, Hon. Blaine Higgs, MLA:

During her many years as our country's head of state, Canadians welcomed her into their hearts. During her reign she forged a close and lasting relationship with our country and our province. She visited Canada and New Brunswick several times during which the

high regard in which New Brunswickers held her was obvious. She was a symbol of strength and resolve, a guiding light in turbulent times, and a figure of stability. Throughout her reign, the Queen was the embodiment of selfless duty and service, and over 70 years she undertook her journey with a steadfast commitment to the Commonwealth and its people.

House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador

Statement from the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Hon. Derek Bennett, MHA:

At this time, I would like to pay tribute to her memory and honour the service she gave to people throughout the Commonwealth nations during her 70 years on the throne. I also take this opportunity to reflect on Her Majesty's importance to the province of Newfoundland and Labrador and time spent here, from her first visit in November 1951 – at the time, Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh – when she visited on behalf of her ailing father; to her most recent visit in June 1997, during the momentous occasion of the 500th anniversary of John Cabot's arrival.

During each of Her Majesty's visits to Newfoundland and Labrador, there was always great fanfare and excitement in the towns and communities she visited. Our Legislature remembers fondly The Queen's visit to the House of Assembly Chamber in June 1997, during which time she signed the official guest book and greeted employees of the House of Assembly who had gathered to mark the momentous and historic occasion.

Legislative Assembly of Northwest Territories

Statement by the Speaker of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, Hon. Frederick Blake Jr., MLA:

Queen Elizabeth II was Canada's longest reigning Sovereign and the first to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking the 70th anniversary of her accession to the Throne on 6 February 2022. Queen Elizabeth II and the late Prince Philip took time to visit the Northwest Territories twice and were warmly welcomed on each occasion. In 1970, they travelled to multiple communities across the Northwest Territories. In 1994, The Queen visited Yellowknife where she dedicated the Legislature building in which we so proudly do our work today. In her speech from the Speaker's Chair, she remarked, *"You have your differences, linguistic, cultural or geographical. May these differences long remain, but may they never be cause for intolerance, or give rise to acrimony."* In this way, Her Majesty demonstrated her understanding and support for consensus government in the Northwest Territories. She was a pillar of leadership and stability for this country, and this is an enormous loss.

Nova Scotia Legislature

The Premier of Nova Scotia, Hon. Tim Houston, MLA spoke about The Queen's deep interest in Canada and its residents, as well as her five visits to Nova Scotia, with the last one being in 2010.

'Over the coming days, people throughout our province and the entire world will be coming together to remember The Queen's



lifetime of service and dedication to so many worthy causes. She truly lived the pledge she offered in 1947 when she said, 'My whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service.'

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Statement from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, Hon. Tony Akoak, MLA:

Earlier this year, Nunavummiut celebrated together in recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which marked seven decades of extraordinary service to the peoples of the Commonwealth. Today, we are united in grief at the news of the passing of Her Majesty. On behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly, I express our profound sorrow.

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Statement by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Hon. Ted Arnott, MPP:

The citizens of our province and our country are mourning the loss of not only their Queen, but the loss of a remarkable individual who devoted her life to serving her people. Her Majesty carried out public duties with dignity and passion for over seven decades – an extraordinary achievement, and one which we will always reflect on with gratitude and respect.

The Queen was no stranger to Queen's Park and Ontario's Legislative Building. Her Majesty made her first trip here while still Princess in 1951 just months prior to her accession to the throne. In subsequent visits to these grounds in 1973, 1984, and 2010, The Queen was greeted by thousands of well-wishers who came here in vast numbers to see her. During Her Majesty's final visit here in 2010, she unveiled a permanent legacy to this site by dedicating a plaque describing the history of this park and marking the 150th anniversary of its founding as a public space by her great grandfather, the future King Edward VII, in 1860.

Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island

Statement from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Colin LaVie, MLA:

In common with our fellow subjects in all parts of the Commonwealth, we are mourning this loss. Tributes to her deep sense of duty and loyalty are being offered from people around the world with whom we are joined in sorrow. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II began her reign in 1952 and is the longest sitting Monarch in British history. I believe that most people would agree that Her Majesty devoted her life to public service as she promised in her 21st birthday speech.

The Legislative Assembly sends its sincere and deepest sympathies to the Royal Family during the days and weeks ahead. When the House again meets, a Resolution of Sympathy will be offered by the House to express our heartfelt condolences.

National Assembly of Québec:

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the **President of the National Assembly, Hon. François Paradis**, announced the

immediate lowering of the Québec flag on the central tower of the Parliament Building until the day of the funeral.

The President of the National Assembly would like to offer, on behalf of the latter, his most sincere condolences to the members of the Royal Family and to the entire British population. It is recalled that it was on 6 February 1952, that Elizabeth II acceded to the British throne. She then became the Queen of England and the Head of the Commonwealth, of which Canada was a part.

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Statement from the Legislative Assembly:

The Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan joins the people of Canada, the Commonwealth, and the world in mourning the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We offer our condolences to the Royal Family on their deep loss.

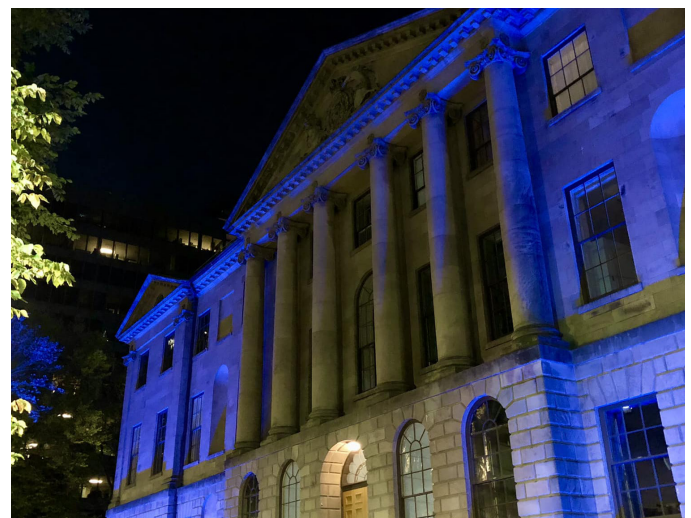
Legislative Assembly of Yukon

Statement from the Commissioner of Yukon, Angélique Bernard:

Her Majesty was greatly loved by all Her Yukoners who recall with great joy her historic visit to our territory in July 1959 when she visited with the Duke of Edinburgh. Her service to Canada and the Commonwealth will always remain a testament to her solemn dedication to serving her peoples around the globe with dignity, grace, and humility. She demonstrated it was possible for women to hold important positions while raising a family. She was a model for many women, young and old.

During her lifetime, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was a witness to the history of Canada. She has seen our country grow and mature while remaining true to its history, its distinctive character, and its values. She had an enduring and deeply rooted connection with Canadians. Her genuine affection for our country and its people extended beyond her role as a sovereign. Canadians recognize this heartfelt kinship and have reciprocated with great fondness and admiration. We share with the other peoples of the Commonwealth the profound sorrow at her passing.

Below: The Nova Scotia Legislature in Halifax is lit up in tribute to Queen Elizabeth II.





COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY TRIBUTES TO THE CPA PATRON

CPA Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region

Anguilla House of Assembly

Statement from the Premier of Anguilla, Hon. Ellis L. Webster, MD:

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Her Majesty The Queen. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the British Royal Family. As the longest serving monarch in the United Kingdom's history, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's reign has been marked by her overwhelming sense of service, strength of character and personal warmth to everyone who had the honour of meeting her.

Her Majesty's touch was felt throughout the Commonwealth and Anguilla as an Overseas Territory was honoured by her visit. The world has lost a champion of peace and stability. Today, we the people of Anguilla join with the citizens of the UK and millions around the world in mourning the loss of an extraordinary monarch, an influential leader, and an inspirational person.

Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda

Statement by the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Hon. Gaston Browne, MP:

The Prime Minister notes that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth reigned for seven decades, winning the respect and high regard from every corner of the world. Her Majesty's leadership of the Commonwealth of Nations has been superb, joining the hands of the English-speaking states across continents and regions. 'Her Majesty's life personified the simplest of qualities – tolerance and decency. Her ability to inspire and unite has been one of the many remarkable features of her life which we all admire.'

Parliament of The Bahamas

Statement from the Governor-General of The Bahamas, His Excellency Hon. Sir Cornelius A. Smith, ON, GCMG:

On behalf of the Government and People of The Bahamas, I express my deep sadness on learning of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I recall Her Majesty's several visits to The Bahamas at which time she was joyfully received by our people. I invite all Bahamians to join in prayer for the repose of the soul of Her Majesty, and for the bereaved members of the Royal Family.

Parliament of Barbados

Extract from statement by the President of Barbados, Her Excellency Dame Sandra Mason:

Just under one year ago, Barbados took the decision to complete the course of Independence by breaking constitutional ties with the British monarchy and establishing the world's newest republic. Significant as that decision was, given the place Barbados has held in the British Empire for centuries, it did not in the least diminish the friendship between our two nations or, indeed, with Buckingham Palace. The presence of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales at that ceremony signified the depth and warmth of those bonds.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will always hold a special place in our hearts and we in Barbados will always treasure the memories of her visits to the island, in particular on 19 February 1975 when



Above: The Prime Minister of Barbados, Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, SC, MP signs the book of condolence for Queen Elizabeth II at the British High Commission in Bridgetown.

she knighted our first National Hero the Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers on the Garrison Savannah.

So today, as we acknowledge the passing of Britain's longest serving monarch, we pay respect to this most treasured and valued world figure. Her Majesty The Queen will come to be recognised as one of the most iconic global leaders in the post-World War II era. This high regard with which she was held is a testament to the quality of her reign.

National Assembly of Belize

Statement by Speaker of the National Assembly of Belize, Hon. Valerie Woods, MP:

On behalf of the Members of the House of Representatives in the National Assembly of Belize, I extend our condolences to the Speaker and the Members of the House of Commons and the people of the United Kingdom and the Royal family on the passing of The Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her life of faithful service, over her seven decades on the throne, demonstrated her dedication and commitment to service to the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth.

Parliament of Bermuda

At a special sitting of the Parliament of Bermuda, Members paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II.

The President of the Senate of Bermuda, Senator Hon. Joan E. Dillas-Wright recalled being a school pupil waving a flag to greet the Queen on her first visit to Bermuda in 1953.

The Speaker of the House of Assembly, Hon. Dennis Lister, JP, MP reflected on a life of 'incomparable duty' and he noted that The Queen had a life of privilege but also held certain core ideals. He recalled that it was just a couple of months ago that he spent time with the now King Charles III in the UK and the then-Prince had noted how proud the Speaker must be to have his son sit in Parliament with him, where Dennis Lister III is also an MP.



Parliament of the Cayman Islands

The Speaker of the Cayman Islands Parliament, Hon. Dr W. McKeeva Bush, MP, JP said:

"We have all seen over the past days that her passing has caused great gloom to many who have known or met her. The grief is unbelievable, unbearable at this time but her passing also brings extraordinary solidarity across nations and we feel collectively a sense of loss and deep sadness. It is at this juncture that we more fully value what she represented and stood for. She has left a remarkable spirit of reconciliation and harmony that at this time is felt with particular poignancy."

Parliament of Dominica

The Prime Minister of Dominica, Hon. Dr Roosevelt Skerrit stated:

"Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II inspired respect around the world and conducted the affairs of the Commonwealth with grace and dignity for 70 years. Her passing marks a profound loss for the Commonwealth of Nations and the world."

Parliament of Grenada

The Prime Minister of Grenada, Hon. Dickon Mitchell said:

I am sincerely saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty's steady leadership helped to unite people and countries from around the globe in common cause, and for this, Queen Elizabeth II will always be remembered. We mourn her passing and will continue to honour her legacy.

Parliament of Guyana

The President of Guyana, Dr Mohammed Irfaan Ali said that Guyanese people will always remember Her Majesty's visits to the country. "I join all Guyanese in expressing our profound and deepest sorrow at the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Her passing marks the end of an era in the history of the British Monarchy, the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth of Nations. Queen Elizabeth's place in history is assured and her legacy is intact. Her long and impactful reign has helped to shape the post-World War II world. Her Majesty has been a source of stability for her country. She will be long remembered for her sterling leadership of the Commonwealth of Nations."

Parliament of Jamaica

Statement by Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Marisa Dalrymple-Philibert, MP:

It is with deep sadness this afternoon that the House of Representatives of Jamaica learnt of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the 8th September this month. For sure it is the people of Jamaica held Queen Elizabeth II in high regard. For us, The Queen was the embodiment of fortitude, dignity and grace. Her Majesty demonstrated the importance of being diligent in duty and in service to all people. We will remember The Queen's life-long support for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, of which

this Parliament is a part. I extend heartfelt sympathy to the members of the Royal Family on the passing of one who has truly made such a significant contribution to the fabric of modern world history.

Montserrat Legislature

A statement on behalf of the Montserrat Legislature said:

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II served with quiet dignity and integrity for 70 years. Her influence and service will forever be remembered. The Montserrat Legislative Assembly joins with the rest of the world in celebrating a life well lived and in extending our sincerest condolences to her family and to the people of the United Kingdom.

Parliament of St Lucia

The Speaker of the House of Assembly, Hon. Claudius J. Francis, MP:

There can be little dispute that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II left an indelible mark on the entire Commonwealth and even beyond. I have, myself, known only her as Monarch.

Parliament of St Kitts and Nevis

Statement from the Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis, Hon. Dr Terrance Drew:

The Government and People of the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis join with Governments and People around the world to mourn the passing and to celebrate the life, service and legacy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her reign was marked by dignity, duty, quiet faith and piety. We offer payers to the Royal Family, Government and People of the UK and those who love her.

Parliament of St Vincent and the Grenadines

The Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Hon. Dr Ralph Gonsalves expressed his condolences on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Describing Queen Elizabeth II as a 'woman of dignity', he said that she had a long reign and was a 'Head of State who kept stability for the British in the United Kingdom and who, as head of the Commonwealth, made important contributions to the advancement of democracy and the decolonization of former British colonies'.

Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, Hon. Bridgid Annisette-George, MP paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II whose reign, she said, was characterised by unwavering dedication and service to her people. The Speaker noted that she became a symbol of leadership for women when she first inherited the Crown. "*The restraints on her role, which demanded abstinence from political commentary and any perceptions of political bias, however, did not prevent her from making statements in support of women's equality and bolstering these statements by her actions. Who can forget when Her Majesty chauffeured another Monarch on her Scottish estate? Or her statement in 2011 at the Commonwealth*



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY TRIBUTES TO THE CPA PATRON

Summit in Australia encouraging societies 'to find ways to allow girls and women to play their full part.'

The Speaker also reflected on The Queen's visit to Trinidad and Tobago in 1966 when she, herself, was among the gleeful school children assembled along the streets of Port-of-Spain proudly waving the national flag in welcoming her.

Turks and Caicos Legislature

An extract from the statement of the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands, His Excellency Nigel John Dakin, CMG:

Her late Majesty epitomised the notion of service. It is hard for me to express my own personal sorrow at her passing let alone capture, properly, the thoughts of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands. She was a truly great Monarch, the longest serving we have ever had. Hers was a remarkable reign sat against over 1,000 years of monarchy.

Virgin Islands Legislature

Statement from the Governor of the British Virgin Islands, H.E. John Rankin, CMG:

I know the people of the British Virgin Islands will be deeply saddened by this news and will join me in a period of mourning for Her Majesty The Queen. Our thoughts are with the Royal Family at this difficult time. Her Majesty gave exemplary and loyal service throughout her life. She was a friend to the British Virgin Islands visiting twice, in 1966 arriving on the Royal Yacht Britannia which was anchored in Road Harbour, and returning again in 1977 when she laid the foundation stone for a new wing of Peebles Hospital. We will remember her with great fondness and respect.

CPA India Region

Parliament of India

The Prime Minister of India, Hon. Shri Narendra Modi, MP paid his condolences after the demise of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II:

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be remembered as a stalwart of our times. She provided inspiring leadership to her nation and people. She personified dignity and decency in public life. Pained by her demise. My thoughts are with her family and people of UK in this sad hour.

I had memorable meetings with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during my UK visits in 2015 and 2018. I will never forget her warmth and kindness. During one of the meetings she showed me the handkerchief Mahatma Gandhi gifted her on her wedding. I will always cherish that gesture.

CPA Pacific Region

Parliament of Cook Islands

The Prime Minister, Hon. Mark Brown acknowledged with 'great sadness' the passing of 'Our Queen and the Head of State of the Cook Islands'.

'All her people of the Cook Islands will mourn the passing of our Queen and will miss her greatly. I am sure that I share with all of our people the deep admiration and respect that we held for our Queen. Her Majesty leaves behind an enormous legacy of dedicated service to her subjects including ourselves, around the world. As the world changed around her, she endured and provided the strength and constancy for her people. And while her country may have lost a Queen, the world has lost a truly towering figure.'

The Clerk of Parliament, Tangata Vainerere also announced that a recently renovated Committee room and library in Parliament will be named the Queen Elizabeth Gallery, in honour of Queen Elizabeth II.

Parliament of Fiji

The Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Frank Bainimarama, MP issued a statement saying 'Fijian hearts are heavy this morning as we bid farewell to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We will always treasure the joy of her visits to Fiji along with every moment that her grace, courage, and wisdom were a comfort and inspiration to our people, even a world away.'

Parliament of New Zealand

Statement by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt Hon. Adrian Rurawhe, MP:

On behalf of the Office of Speaker and New Zealand House of Representatives, I express my condolences and deepest sympathies to the Royal Family. When the Queen was crowned in 1953, New Zealand was a very different place, and while our nation has changed immensely over the past 70 years she has been a constant guide for our Parliament and our people.

I acknowledge all her Majesty has done for our country during her reign. Of particular note is her acknowledgement of efforts to resolve historical grievances between Māori and the Crown, such as when she delivered a personal apology from the British Crown to the Tainui people in 1995.

For many New Zealanders, including myself, Queen Elizabeth II is the only Sovereign we have ever known. She will be commemorated and remembered as kotuku - the white heron - in recognition of the reverence many New Zealanders have for her.

Parliament of Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, Hon. James Marape said that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was "the anchor of our Commonwealth" and fondly known as "Mama Queen because she was the matriarch of our country as much as she was to her family and Sovereign realms."

"In reflection of the life she lived, the exemplary performance of duties as the head of the state of Papua New Guinea, it is in this connection that we all gather here this morning to acknowledge her passing and to acknowledge and witness the ascension of the throne of King Charles III."



Image: Parliament of Fiji.



Above: The Speaker of the Parliament of Fiji, H. E. Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, MP signs the book of condolence for Queen Elizabeth II at the British High Commission in Suva.

Parliament of Samoa

The Head of State of Samoa - Afioga i le Ao Mamalu o le Malo, Tuimaleali'ifano Va'aletoa Sualauvi II expressed on behalf of the government and the people of Samoa, deepest condolences to His Majesty King Charles III for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Afioga i le Ao Mamalu stated that 'Her Majesty's reign represented strength, stability and inspired leadership, and in a rapidly changing world and challenges, Her Majesty's selfless service was a constant point of wisdom and courage for the people of Samoa. Her Majesty will be warmly remembered for her dedication, unwavering support and immeasurable contribution to the development and advancement of the people of Samoa, the Pacific region, and the Commonwealth family alike.'

Parliament of The Solomon Islands

The Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, Hon. Manasseh Sogavare conveyed heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family and the Government and People of the United Kingdom on the demise of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II describing the news of the passing 'as a very sad and solemn day for Solomon Islands, for countries of the Commonwealth and the world'. The Prime Minister also called on citizens to pray for the leaders and people of all Commonwealth countries who are united in grief and sadness yet held together with the knowledge that the late Head of State had served her country, her Realm, and her people in the Realm for 70 years.

Parliament of Tonga

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Lord Fakafanua and the Chief Clerk, Gloria Pole'o signed the book of condolence for Queen Elizabeth II at the British High Commission's Office in Nuku'alofa and 'conveyed the deepest condolences of the Legislative Assembly of Tonga to His Majesty King Charles III, the Royal Family and the people of the United Kingdom on the loss of their Sovereign, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.'

Condolence letters were sent to the Speaker of the UK House of Lords and to the Speaker of the UK House of Commons conveying the Legislative Assembly's profound sympathies and sincere appreciation for Her Majesty's decades of strong and steady leadership, not only in the United Kingdom but also throughout the Commonwealth, in which Tonga remains a proud member.

Parliament of Vanuatu

Statement by the Clerk of the Parliament of the Republic of Vanuatu, Raymond K. Manuake:

We are deeply saddened to learn of the death of the CPA Patron and join the many tributes from Parliamentarians across the Commonwealth. As Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty recognised the importance of the organisation's core values and aspirations expressed through the Commonwealth Charter, which she signed in 2013, including democracy, human rights and peace. The Queen was also a strong advocate for the young people of the Commonwealth.

CPA South-East Asia Region

Parliament of Malaysia

On behalf of the CPA Malaysia Branch and the Parliament of Malaysia, **Hon. Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin, Chairperson of CPA Malaysia Branch:**

It is with huge sadness that I write to express my deeply condolences at the news of the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. On behalf of CPA Malaysia and on my personal behalf, please give my words of sincere sympathy and support to the members of the Royal Family and all the people of Great Britain.

Parliament of Singapore

Extract of a statement by the Leader of the House, Minister Indraneel Rajah:

Her Late Majesty was not only Queen of the United Kingdom but also the Head of the Commonwealth, a family of 56 nations across the globe, of which Singapore is a proud member. Queen Elizabeth had a unique role in Singapore's history. She was Queen during Singapore's transition from a crown colony to an independent state, including when the fledgling legislature that would eventually become this Parliament was born.

However, beyond duty and public service, Queen Elizabeth was also loved because of her personal touch, and the warmth, sincerity and graciousness that she displayed to people from all walks of life. She was charming, witty and disarming, with an intrinsic ability to put someone immediately at ease. I can personally attest to these attributes, having had the privilege of meeting her as Singapore's representative at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in 2002, the year of her Golden Jubilee.



THE QUEEN AND THE CPA

This editorial looks back at Queen Elizabeth II's role as the Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and her long relationship with the CPA over 70 years.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was the Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, one of over 600 Patronages that she had as sovereign as well as Head of the Commonwealth.

The Queen enjoyed a close relationship with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association over the years and visited almost every Parliament in the Commonwealth during her long reign. Founded in 1911, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is a membership of 180 Commonwealth Parliaments at national, state, provincial and territorial level with around 17,000 Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff across nine Regions and 53 countries.

Queen Elizabeth II supported the organisation since her accession to the throne in 1952 and one of her earliest meetings with the Association was in 1953 when The Queen attended a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Coronation luncheon in Westminster Hall attended by representatives of many Commonwealth Parliaments (see page 19 to read more).

In 1961, when the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference became an annual event, the conference was held in the United Kingdom. Queen Elizabeth II came to Westminster Hall to open what was then the 7th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and said to delegates: *"This gathering shows the diversity of people's, creeds and cultures within the Commonwealth. Each having an equal place within our organisation of nations. In the wide association, which is the Commonwealth, we must all try to cultivate the virtues of tolerance and understanding, to recognise each other's qualities, and to respect each other's feelings. In this modern age, the strength and unity of the Commonwealth family does not lie in bonds forged by formal instruments, nor in common ancestry, nor in pursuing the same political line. It springs from the knowledge that we all share a lively concern for individual freedom and all the machinery which makes this possible."*

Queen Elizabeth II kept in regular contact with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and in 1984, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother represented The Queen on a visit to delegates at the 30th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference which was being hosted by the Parliament of Tynwald in the Isle of Man.

"In this modern age, the strength and unity of the Commonwealth family does not lie in bonds forged by formal instruments, nor in common ancestry, nor in pursuing the same political line. It springs from the knowledge that we all share a lively concern for individual freedom and all the machinery which makes this possible."

- HM Queen Elizabeth II



Above: Queen Elizabeth II came to Westminster Hall to open the 7th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in 1961.

In 1986, The Queen returned to the historic Westminster Hall to open the 32nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference being hosted by the Parliament of the United Kingdom that year as well as marking the 75th anniversary of the Association. In her opening remarks, Queen Elizabeth II urged Members to appreciate the commonality which bound together both individual Parliamentarians and the Parliaments of the Commonwealth as she said: *"All too often the divisions between nations are given more significance than the things which unite them. Differences in wealth are often stark; political allegiances often pull in opposing directions. This makes it all the more important to cherish the links which we do have. Our common language, our shared history and our common parliamentary tradition give the Commonwealth its unique quality as a friendly family of nations. From friendship springs understanding between individuals and thence between governments. From the family relationship comes the capacity to disagree without breaking up. The more the members get to know about each other, the more they can help to reduce the tensions which threaten all peoples."*

In 1989, Queen Elizabeth II became the Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The CPA General Assembly of that year in Barbados approved the motion that expressed *'its great appreciation for her deep and abiding interest and concern in the peoples and countries of the Commonwealth'*. As Head of the Commonwealth, The Queen was recognised as *'an exceptional person with a deep and abiding interest in the affairs of each member nation'*.

At the same time, the role of CPA Vice-Patron was first established with the tradition that the CPA Vice-Patron is usually the



head of state or head of government of the CPA Branch who will host the next Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

It was as CPA Patron that The Queen opened the 46th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in 2000 in London and she continued to keep in regular contact with Parliaments across the Commonwealth, especially in those jurisdictions where she was the head of state. The CPA Patron's message became a regular feature of recent CPA annual conferences and her letter to the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was delivered in Halifax, Canada a few weeks before her passing.

In 2021, The Queen congratulated the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association on its 110th anniversary and, as CPA Patron, her letter of congratulations was included in a published CPA book showcasing photographs of over 180 Parliament buildings around the Commonwealth and giving an insight into their varied histories.

At the Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, the CPA Executive Committee extended congratulations on behalf of the CPA's



In 2000, Queen Elizabeth II opened the 46th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

Images: CPA archives.

membership to the CPA Patron to mark the historic milestone and her 70 years of service to the Commonwealth.

Recollections about the CPA Patron, Queen Elizabeth II
By Hon. Arthur Donahoe, 4th CPA Secretary-General (1992 to 2001) and Speaker of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly (1981–1991)

My first memory of the late Queen Elizabeth II dates back to 1951 when, as Princess Elizabeth, she and Prince Philip visited my home city of Halifax, Nova Scotia as part of a cross-Canada tour. The Royal couple were formally welcomed on the steps of City Hall by my father, a city Alderman, on behalf of the city and the people of Halifax. At age eleven, I was among a choir of hundreds of school children who sang 'The Skye Boat Song' and 'Will Ye No Come Back Again' in the presence of the royal couple at an outdoor ceremonial gathering. And come back again, Her Majesty often did, making Canada her most-visited Commonwealth country with over twenty visits.

About thirty years later, as the Speaker of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, I travelled to London to meet The Queen at Buckingham Palace as she signed a picture portrait of herself and Prince Philip. This beautiful picture was later formally unveiled and is on display to this day in the chamber of the House of Assembly.

When I served as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association from 1992 until the end of 2001, I met Queen Elizabeth II, who was by then the Patron of the CPA, on numerous occasions, particularly each year on Commonwealth Day, when she attended receptions at Marlborough House, hosted by the Commonwealth Secretary-General. In our exchanges she displayed keen interest in the work of the CPA in advancing democratic principles across the countries and jurisdictions of the Commonwealth.

In 2000, the Parliament of the United Kingdom and CPA UK Branch hosted the 46th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in London, an event which gave rise to my most vivid recollection of this most remarkable woman. Prior to one of the conference meetings, it was my duty to introduce about twenty-five Members of the CPA Executive Committee, all from different CPA Branches in the Commonwealth, to our Patron. I was awestruck as she conversed briefly, but knowledgeably, and in a totally non-partisan way, with each of them about current political developments in their home countries. Her affection for the Commonwealth was vividly on display on this occasion as it was throughout her long life.

Queen Elizabeth II's entire life was marked by her high intelligence, unflinching grace and charm and unparalleled devotion to duty. To make a gender change to Shakespeare's immortal words - "We will not see her like again". Rest in Peace, Your Majesty.



Above: The CPA Patron meets with Officers of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at the 46th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. From left to right: CPA Treasurer, Hon. Bowen Wells, MP (United Kingdom); CPA Vice-Chairperson, Hon. Bob Speller, MP (Canada Federal); CPA President and CPA UK Branch Joint President, Rt Hon. Betty Boothroyd, MP, Speaker of the UK House of Commons; CPA Chairperson, Hon. Pius Msekwa, MP (Tanzania); CPA Patron, HM Queen Elizabeth II; HRH The Duke of Edinburgh; CPA Secretary-General, Hon. Arthur Donahoe; CPA Vice-President, Senator Hon. Margaret Reid, President of the Australian Senate; CPA UK Branch Joint President, Rt Hon. Lord Irvine of Lairg, Lord Chancellor.



THE QUEEN AND THE COMMONWEALTH

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland, KC, paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II and her life of service to the Commonwealth.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. [John 14:27]

It is with the greatest sorrow and sadness that we mourn the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. After a long life of faith, duty and service, a great light has gone out.

Her Majesty was an extraordinary person, who lived an extraordinary life: a constant presence and example for each of us, guiding and serving us all for as long as any of us can remember.

Throughout her reign, and seven decades of extraordinary change and challenge, Her Majesty was the epitome of duty, stability, wisdom and grace.

Her Majesty loved the Commonwealth, and the Commonwealth loved her. During her reign she travelled more than any monarch in history, visiting every part of our family of nations. Between 1971 and 2018, she missed only one Heads of Government Meeting. Her devotion to duty was only matched by her skill as Head of the Commonwealth of Nations, always a generous host and consummate diplomat.

In Her Majesty's final Commonwealth Day message, she described our family of nations as "a modern, vibrant and connected Commonwealth that combines a wealth of history and tradition with the great social, cultural and technological advances of our time. That the Commonwealth stands ever taller is a credit to all who have been involved."

The growth and vibrancy of our modern Commonwealth is a credit to her and testament to her dedication, wisdom and leadership.

In 1947, before she ascended to the throne, she stated that "My whole life, whether it be long or short, will be devoted in service."

Her Majesty honoured that promise.

"Her Majesty loved the Commonwealth, and the Commonwealth loved her. During her reign she travelled more than any monarch in history, visiting every part of our family of nations ... The growth and vibrancy of our modern Commonwealth is a credit to her and testament to her dedication, wisdom and leadership."



Image: Commonwealth Secretariat

Above: Queen Elizabeth II opened the Commonwealth Hub at the Commonwealth Secretariat at Marlborough House in 2016.

In 1953 Her Majesty defined our family of nations as one which "bears no resemblance to the empires of the past. It is an entirely new conception, built on the highest qualities of the spirit of man: friendship, loyalty and the desire for freedom and peace. To that new conception of an equal partnership of nations and races I shall give myself heart and soul every day of my life."

Her Majesty's vision for the Commonwealth at the beginning of her reign has been fulfilled, fuelled by her dedication and commitment. Inspired by her life of duty and service, the responsibility to ensure her vision endures is one we all now share.

As the sixth Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, I will always be grateful for her warmth and kindness to me. Our interactions were a delight, and it was wonderful to see her passion and animation whenever discussing anything relating to the Commonwealth. Her long years of interaction and partnership with generations of world leaders and their people, particularly the young, gave her extraordinary insight, which brought ever-more life and meaning to her service.

I will miss her greatly, the Commonwealth will miss her greatly, and the world will miss her greatly. We will never see her like again.

On behalf of the Nations and Citizens of the Commonwealth I express our profound sadness at her passing, our admiration for all that she was, and our enduring gratitude for all that she gave us. We send our prayers, love and heartfelt condolences to the entire Royal Family

Hers was a life of service which will echo through the ages. We will be forever grateful.

With thanks to the Commonwealth Secretariat for permission to publish this article.



FROM THE CPA ARCHIVES

The CPA Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, attended a special event held by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association early in her reign to mark the Coronation in 1953.

Six days before her Coronation, on 27 May 1953, Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, attended a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Luncheon in Westminster Hall at the UK Parliament. The Luncheon was held so that the many visiting Speakers and Members of Parliament could meet The Queen while they were in London to attend the Coronation and the various associated ceremonies.

The official luncheon followed an event held by the then Empire Parliamentary Association in 1937, also in Westminster Hall, for the Coronation of The Queen's father, King George VI.

The 1953 Coronation Luncheon was attended by over 750 guests, mainly Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association with 300 attendees from Commonwealth Parliaments outside of the United Kingdom. Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association attended from a number of CPA Branches including Australia (with a representative from South Australia also attending), Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Canada (including a Provincial representative from Manitoba), Pakistan, Malta, Kenya, Ghana, Bermuda, Barbados and Malaysia.

The Chairman of the General Council, Rt Hon. Harold Holt, MP from Australia greeted The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, together with the CPA Secretary-General, Sir Howard d'Egville.

It was noted that the menu for the Coronation Luncheon represented the CPA's membership across the Commonwealth with lamb from the CPA New Zealand Branch, pineapples from the CPA Sri Lanka Branch (then Ceylon), maple syrup from the CPA Canada Branch, wines from the CPA Australia and CPA South Africa Branches, coffee from the CPA Kenya Branch, and finally, the cigars from the CPA Jamaica Branch.

Speeches were given by the Chairman of the General Council, Rt Hon. Harold Holt, MP (Australia) and the Vice-Chairman of the General Council, Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, KBE, MP (Sri Lanka).

The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Vice-President of the CPA UK Branch, Rt Hon. Sir Winston Churchill, MP spoke

Images: CPA archives



Above: A photograph published in the 1953 commemorative book shows Queen Elizabeth II addressing Members of Parliament at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Luncheon in Westminster Hall.

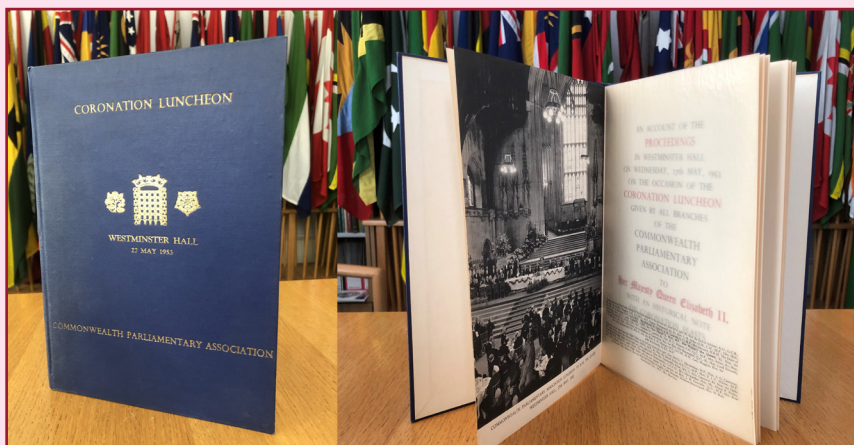
of his service to The Queen's great-grandfather, grandfather and father over successive generations and of the links between the Crown and Parliament.

The Prime Minister of Canada and Vice-President of the CPA Canada Branch, Rt Hon. Louis S. St Laurent, QC, MP spoke of the unifying forces that bring together the Parliaments of the Commonwealth and the key role that the sovereign plays.

The Queen replied saying: *"On the eve of his own Coronation, sixteen years ago, my dear father also met in Westminster Hall those who represent the Legislatures of the Commonwealth. I am indeed glad to follow his example. It is a stirring thought that all these Legislatures are descended from the assembly which first met under this roof nearly seven centuries ago. We stand here in the Palace of Westminster, which is the home of the Mother of Parliaments.*

Of the many ties linking this family of nations not the least is that system of Parliamentary government which is common to us all. To this great Association I offer my best wishes for the success of their coming deliberations. I hope that all of you whose homes are overseas will have a very happy and enjoyable stay in this country."

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REMEMBERING QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S VISIT TO THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

By Mohammed Katamba, staff of Parliament of Uganda.

Probably the entire world, but more so the people of the Commonwealth were saddened by the passing of one of the longest serving monarchs in history, Queen Elizabeth II, which occurred on 8th September 2022.

The Queen visited the Parliament of Uganda, which she addressed ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November 2007. She was in the company of her husband, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and several UK government officials. As is the norm, The Queen addressed the Parliament of Uganda as part of her state visit to the country ahead of her official opening of the CHOGM, which was held at the Victoria Lakeside Commonwealth Resort, which, before and thereafter, has hosted several high profile local and international events.

Wherever she went, The Queen's visits were preceded with excitement and years of preparation. It was not any different in Kampala, where city streets and buildings were refurbished, repainted and streets washed. In Parliament, various Committees were set up to organise different aspects of the state visit. The face of the main Parliament building, constructed and completed at independence, was cleaned in preparation for the royal guests.

The length of the speeches by the President and the Speaker had to be agreed ahead of time and the Presiding Officer, then Speaker Hon. Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi allowed free seating, which was only by invitation to Members. Only selected staff were allowed into the Parliament building that day. A few of us waited in a second-floor office watching the arrival of The Queen and Prince Philip and introductions made to the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, the Prime Minister, Professor Apolo Nsibambi, and the Leader of the Opposition, Professor Ogenga Latigo.

In the foyer, The Queen signed the visitors' book, and she also planted a commemorative tree in the Parliament gardens, located next to the Parliament's main gates.

In her speech to Parliament, The Queen acknowledged the government's challenges which at the time included efforts to peacefully resolve the conflict in northern Uganda. "For Uganda, the deliberations and decisions of this House,



Images: Parliament of Uganda.

together with your respect for the rule of law, have had and will continue to have an essential bearing on the country's success in addressing many serious challenges," The Queen said. *"The United Kingdom is actively committed to supporting Uganda's efforts to deepen its democracy. Uganda's regional role is also widely appreciated. In particular, the contribution made to peacekeeping operations in Somalia has been a tribute to the courage and professionalism of Uganda's armed forces,"* she continued.

The Queen said that, together with her husband, she had many fond memories of their first visit to Uganda in 1954 when she opened the Owen Falls Dam in eastern Uganda, and that the country had made considerable advances in spite of periods of adversity. *"I expect that what has helped sustain modern Uganda is the attribute that was so evident in 1954, and again today, in the generous manner we have been welcomed; the great warmth and friendliness of its people. We are delighted to be here once more,"* she said.

The special sitting in the Parliament of Uganda was also addressed by the President, Yoweri Museveni, who took the guests and Members through Uganda's legislative journey since the days before independence up until 2007. The President also talked about the composition of Parliament, which included direct constituencies and special interest groups of women, workers, youth, persons with disabilities and the army. All these categories still have representation in the Parliament of Uganda today.

"The Constitution also provides for devolution of powers to 80 local governments at district level and 13 municipalities. As if that is not enough, there are 1,026 sub-counties that are the lowest local government and planning units," said President Museveni adding that *"Leadership at all these levels is elected by universal adult suffrage. Ours therefore is a massive democratic exercise. I am, therefore, most pleased, Your Majesty, to accompany you to this august House."*

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022, the Parliament of Uganda held a special sitting and passed a motion to pay tribute to the late Queen describing her as *'unifier, a great leader; and a role model of peace building and reconciliation'*.





The Queen visits the Scottish Parliament in 2016.



Inspecting a guard of honour outside the Queensland Parliament in 1954.



Meeting Canadians at Queen's Park in Toronto after a visit to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 2010.

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