



NEWS RELEASE

56th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference Nairobi, Kenya, 10 – 19 September, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Kenya’s Grand Coalition will greet more than 700 Commonwealth Parliamentarians in September when President H.E. Hon. Mwai Kibaki, CGH, MP, and Prime Minister Hon. Raila Odinga, MP, address the 56th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Nairobi.

The addresses by the two Leaders, who joined in a coalition parliamentary government to end the turbulent aftermath of the 2007 general election in which they were both presidential candidates, will be among the highlights of the meeting as MPs and senior parliamentary officials from 175 national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments and Legislatures in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) meet in September. The President will formally open the conference and the Prime Minister will close it, reflecting the co-operative parliamentary approach to bridge Kenya’s political divide which has marked their coalition.

Conference sessions, which will be chaired by the 2010 President of the CPA, Hon. Kenneth Marende, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly, will include a discussion led by senior Kenyan MPs on “The Role of Parliament in Peace Building”, especially in ending post-election violence. Other key global issues will also be discussed around the theme “Parliament and Development in the 21st Century: Thus Far and Beyond”.

Parliamentarians from about 30 Commonwealth micro-jurisdictions will also meet at the 30th Small Branches Conference. The full agendas for both conferences are attached. Women MPs will hold a one-day conference to examine the status of women in 2010.

During the meetings, the “Little Acorns Project” will provide computers and internet access to a selection of Kenyan communities and schools to improve their access to the global information network. The Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, Hon. Dato’ Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal, MP, Malaysia’s Minister of Rural and Regional Development, will present the hardware and software in a joint project between the CPA, Malaysian petroleum company PETRONAS and other donors.

Other major addresses will include assessments of global issues facing Parliamentarians by CPA Secretary-General Dr William F. Shija and Commonwealth Secretary-General H.E. Kamallesh Sharma. Briefings from such intergovernmental agencies as the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank Institute will also be featured.

The Parliament of the Commonwealth’s newest member country, Rwanda, will join the CPA during the Nairobi meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CPA, PLEASE CONTACT:

Dr William F. Shija, Secretary-General
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretariat
Suite 700, Westminster House, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA, United Kingdom
Phone: 44-20-7799-1460 Email: hq.sec@cpahq.org Fax: 44-20-7222-6073

**56th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
Nairobi, Kenya
10-19 September 2010**

**Parliament and Development in the 21st Century:
Thus Far and Beyond**

Opening Plenary

Addresses by CPA Secretary-General and the Commonwealth Secretary-General

Workshops

- A. The Role of Parliament in Peace Building: The Case of Kenya in Addressing Post-Election Violence in 2008.
- B. The Role of Parliamentarians in Natural Disaster Management
- C. Energy and Environment: Achieving Sustainable Development
- D. Parliament, Accountability and the Role of Internet Governance in Strengthening Oversight
- E. The Role of Parliamentarians in Facilitating Grassroots Projects
- F. The Role of Parliamentarians in the Protection of Migrant Workers
- G. The Global Water and Food Crisis
- H. How prepared is the Commonwealth for the Emerging New World Economic Order?

Final Plenary

Commonwealth Initiatives in Handling Migration Issues

**30th Small Branches Conference
Nairobi, Kenya
11-12 September 2010**

1st Plenary Session

Energy and Environment: Achieving Sustainable Development

2nd Plenary Session

The Effect of “Political” Corruption in Small States

3rd Plenary Session

The Challenges of Sovereignty in Small States

4th Plenary Session

Parliament and Accountability – Strengthening Oversight in Small Parliaments