The build-up to CHOGM 2018: CPA Update e-newsletter April 2018
The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has seen a busy first quarter of 2018 in the run-up to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018 in the UK.

The first Commonwealth Parliamentarians Forum took place at the UK Parliament looking ahead to CHOGM and the issues for discussion; Commonwealth Day 2018 was celebrated in London and across the Commonwealth; the 9th Commonwealth Youth Parliament took place in Jersey; CPA Post-Election Seminars took place in Kenya and St Helena; and the CPA Executive Committee Mid-Year meeting was hosted in Mauritius.

This edition of the CPA’s e-newsletter highlights these and other CPA events and activities between January and March 2018. Images of these events can be accessed at the CPA’s Flickr website - click here.

If you have any CPA news or events to feature in future e-newsletters please email communications@cpahq.org.

Focus on a common future for young people as Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) celebrates Commonwealth Day ahead of CHOGM 2018
Commonwealth Day 2018 was marked by the CPA both in London and across the CPA Regions and Branches. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth and Patron of the CPA attended the largest multi-faith celebration in Westminster Abbey with Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP, Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee (Cameroon) and Mr Akbar Khan, CPA Secretary-General. Also attending the service were young people from across the Commonwealth who were attending the CPA Commonwealth Day Youth Programme in London on the theme of ‘Towards a Common Future’. The young people represented the following CPA Branches: Pakistan; Sri Lanka; New South Wales; Falkland Islands; Gibraltar; Isle of Man; Malta; United Kingdom; Wales; Jersey; Cayman Islands; Bermuda; Montserrat;
CPA UPDATE: April 2018

Trinidad and Tobago; Kerala, India; New Zealand. Reports of these activities will feature in the next issue of The Parliamentarian.

On Commonwealth Day 2018, the Secretary-General of the CPA, Mr Akbar Khan released a video message to CPA Branches - please click here to view the video.

Please click here to read the full Commonwealth Day news story.

CPA News

CPA Chairperson emphasises vital role that Parliamentarians can play at 2018 CHOGM

The Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP addressed Parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth about the vital role that they can play in the 2018 CHOGM and beyond. The CPA Chairperson urged Commonwealth Parliamentarians to work together to effect change and said: “We are all fingers of the same hand in the Commonwealth. I urge each and every one of us to work to strengthen our collective vision and never cease in our relentless efforts to keep growing and impacting positive change. The road might be rough and the journey long. But I can guarantee you, as long as we walk that road together, we will push and even surpass our limits.” The CPA Chairperson spoke at the opening session of the inaugural Commonwealth Parliamentarians’ Forum, held in London, UK from 26 February to 1 March 2018, and attended by over 80 Parliamentarians from 25 countries across the Commonwealth. Please click here to read the full CPA news story.

Mauritius hosts Commonwealth Parliamentarians as island nation celebrates 50th anniversary of independence

The National Assembly of Mauritius and CPA Mauritius Branch has hosted over 30 Commonwealth Speakers and Members of Parliament for the Mid-Year meetings of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) from 20 to 24 March 2018. The CPA Executive Committee meetings took place just a few days after Mauritius, the island nation off the east coast of Africa, celebrated the 50th anniversary of its independence on 12 March.

Please click here to read the full CPA news story.
CPA Roadshow for university students at University of Mauritius

Ahead of the CPA Executive Committee Mid-Year meetings, students at the University of Mauritius were able to find out about the Commonwealth, parliament and democracy at a CPA Roadshow, organised by the National Assembly of Mauritius and the CPA. The CPA Roadshow in Mauritius was attended by Mrs Vicki Dunne, MLA, CPA Treasurer; Hon. Bridgid Annisette-George, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago; local Member of Parliament from Mauritius, Hon. V. V. Baloomoody, MP; and the CPA Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan. The CPA Secretary-General and members of the panel spoke about the importance of young people’s engagement in politics and the panel answered students’ questions.

Click here for more information about the CPA Roadshows.

Chairperson builds new three-year strategy for CPA as she launches CPA Roadshow for young people in Cameroon with CPA Secretary-General

The CPA Chairperson, Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP spoke of her new three-year strategy as she welcomed the CPA Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan to Cameroon on his first official visit since the Chairperson was elected. During the working visit in January 2018, the CPA Chairperson, who is also the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon welcomed the Secretary-General to the Parliament of Cameroon to meet with Members of the CPA Cameroon Branch.

The CPA Chairperson and the CPA Secretary-General then travelled to Buea, the capital of the Southwest region of Cameroon and one of the English-speaking regions of the country to launch the CPA Roadshows for Young People in Cameroon with over 200 students aged 12-18.

Please click here to read the full CPA news story.

9th Commonwealth Youth Parliament

9th Commonwealth Youth Parliament inspires future young leaders from across the Commonwealth

Commonwealth youth delegates aged 18 to 29 met for the 9th Commonwealth Youth Parliament (CYP) from 25 February to 1 March 2018, hosted by the Jersey States Assembly in St Helier, Jersey. The 49 delegates at the 9th CYP came from fifteen countries, ranging from the largest (India) to the smallest (Niue), and from 35 CPA Branches across eight CPA Regions. The five days of the Commonwealth Youth Parliament provided a key development opportunity for young people from the Commonwealth with ambitions of public office and introduced these potential young Parliamentarians to the fundamentals
behind the processes of Parliament. Youth delegate, Elsie Harry (St Kitts and Nevis) said: “From taking part in this Commonwealth Youth Parliament, I’ve learnt that the challenges that different regions face are specifically related to their geographical situation and historical context and within the Commonwealth we always have to bear this in mind when making decisions.”

Please click here for the full CPA news story.

New ceremonial mace presented to the Commonwealth Youth Parliament

A new ceremonial mace for the Commonwealth Youth Parliament (CYP) was inaugurated at the 9th CYP in Jersey. The new mace was presented to the Commonwealth Youth Parliament by youth delegate, Artour Sogomonian from Canada on behalf of the former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Hon. Linda Reid, MLA, who hosted the 8th CYP in 2016. The new CYP ceremonial mace was held by the States Assembly of Jersey and CPA Jersey Branch as they hosted the 9th CYP and it was then passed onto the Parliament of India (Lok Sabha) on behalf of the CPA India Region as the future hosts of the 10th CYP.

Please click here for the full CPA news story.

CPA Programmes Update

CPA Post-Election Seminar: Kenya Seminar strengthens knowledge of parliamentary procedure for Kenyan MPs

Newly elected and returning Members of the National Assembly of Kenya have strengthened their knowledge of parliamentary practice and procedure at the Post-Election Seminar held jointly with the CPA in Mombasa, Kenya, from 4 to 8 March 2018.

The CPA Post-Election Seminar focused on the theme of ‘Sharing our experiences to enhance good governance and continually safeguard the welfare of the nation’ which enabled recently elected Parliamentarians to gain a broader understanding of the principles of parliamentary democracy in other Commonwealth jurisdictions and strengthen their skillsets. Kenya is one of the largest legislatures in the CPA’s membership and over 200 delegates participated in the seminar, which was addressed by Hon. Justin B. N. Muturi, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya and the CPA Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan.

Please click here to read the full CPA news story.
CPA UPDATE: April 2018

CPA Post-Election Seminar: St Helena Seminar embeds good governance and democracy in one of the smallest and remotest legislatures in the Commonwealth

The CPA has helped to strengthen parliamentary practice and procedure for the St Helena Legislature following their elections last year with a CPA Post-Election Seminar for newly elected Members from 20 to 27 January 2018. One of the remotest legislatures in the CPA’s membership of over 180 Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures, the St Helena Legislature is in the British Overseas Territory located on a small island in the Atlantic Ocean with a population of just 4,500 people.

The CPA is the only Commonwealth body that works to strengthen territorial assemblies and legislatures such as the St Helena Legislative Council as well as working with national, state and provincial legislatures. The CPA Post-Election Seminar saw Members of St Helena Legislature provided with an excellent opportunity to ask questions about parliamentary practice and procedure in other Commonwealth jurisdictions. Following the CPA Post-Election Seminar, the CPA Roadshow for Young People was launched with over 300 students at Prince Andrew School in St Helena as part of the CPA Roadshows tour of Commonwealth schools and universities.

Please click here to read the full CPA news story.

Parliamentary staff training programme in Kenya builds skills for Commonwealth Parliaments

Parliamentary staff from 15 Commonwealth Parliaments have undertaken a staff development programme in Kenya which was organised by the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) and the Parliament of Kenya.

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Rt Hon. Justin Muturi, MP opened the seminar and described the training as an empowering tool for staff who play a crucial role in Parliament. He said: “This training will help improve the skills and knowledge of the senior staff and will help the National Assembly play its role better.” The following CPA Branches were represented at the training (funded through the CPA Headquarters Secretariat): Australia; Fiji; Gujarat; Jersey; New Zealand; Northern Ireland; Pakistan; Kwazulu-Natal; Mpumalanga; North West Province (South Africa); Trinidad and Tobago; and Zambia. In addition, three further Branches attended the programme (not-CPA funded): Tanzania, Kenya and Guyana.

Please click here to read the full CPA news story.
**CPA Regional Conferences**

**Renewed focus on sustainable development goals and re-commitment to the independence of the legislature at 6th CPA India Regional Conference**

Over 100 Commonwealth Parliamentarians from across India renewed their focus on Parliament’s role in the sustainable development agenda at the 6th CPA India Regional Conference held in Patna, Bihar from 16 to 19 February 2018.

The Chairperson of the CPA India Region and Speaker of the Lok Sabha, India Parliament, Hon. Sumitra Mahajan, MP reaffirmed the independence of the legislature and stressed the importance of good relations with the judiciary by saying: “In a parliamentary democracy, the legislative assembly plays a vital role…. the judiciary and the executive are equally important. They are the pillars of democracy and a balance between them is of high importance. Neither can be ignored.”

The new Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP addressed Members at conference and said that Parliamentarians must be part of the sustainable development agenda as they can play a vital role in its implementation. She also expressed her delight that her first official overseas conference as the new Chairperson since her election was in the CPA India Region. The CPA Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan also attended the conference during his first official visit to India together with Speakers and Members of Parliament from the national Parliament of India (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) and thirty-one state and provincial legislatures across India and from Uganda and Australia.

[Please click here to read the full CPA news story.](#)

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**Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) news**

**Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians highlight gender equality and women’s representation in Parliaments to mark International Women’s Day 2018**

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) marked International Women’s Day 2018 by launching a new video highlighting gender equality and increasing women’s representation in Parliaments. The video also highlights the importance of reaching the Commonwealth target of 30% female representation in Commonwealth legislatures and the vital role of networks such as the CWP to achieve change. International Women’s Day (8th March) is the global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. To view the new video please [click here](#). A longer version can be found by [clicking here](#). Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians across the nine CPA regions celebrated International Women’s Day 2018 with different events and activities and reports will feature in the next issue of *The Parliamentarian*. 

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**The CPA Bihar Branch President and the Hon. Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, MP welcomes the Chairperson of the CPA India Region and Speaker of the Lok Sabha, India Parliament, Hon. Sumitra Mahajan, MP to the India Regional Conference.**

**Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Steering Committee feature in the new CWP video.**
Visitors to the CPA Headquarters Secretariat and CPA meetings, January to March 2018

CPA Chairperson meets UK Commonwealth Minister ahead of CHOGM 2018

CPA Chairperson, Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP (Cameroon) and the CPA Secretary-General Mr Akbar Khan met Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, UK Minister for the Commonwealth and the UN at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Prime Minister’s Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict to discuss parliamentary strengthening in the Commonwealth ahead of the CHOGM/Commonwealth Summit 2018.

CPA Chairperson’s first visit to CPA

The CPA Chairperson, Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon, visited the CPA Headquarters Secretariat on her first official visit to the UK since her election to meet with CPA staff and to receive briefings on current and future projects.

Cayman Islands Speaker visits CPA

The Speaker of the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly, Hon. W. McKeeva Bush visited the CPA Headquarters Secretariat to discuss the CPA’s parliamentary strengthening work in the Caribbean region, parliamentary staff training opportunities and youth engagement in democracy.
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly Members visit CPA

Members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly in Pakistan visited the CPA to discuss parliamentary strengthening opportunities in their region and in Pakistan.

CPA Chairperson meets UK Africa Minister

CPA Chairperson, Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP (Cameroon) and the CPA Secretary-General Mr Akbar Khan met with Hon. Harriett Baldwin, MP, UK Minister for Africa at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. They also met with Sir Iain MacLeod, Legal Advisor to the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

India journalists meet CPA Secretary-General

A group of journalists from India met with the CPA Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan at the CPA Headquarters Secretariat ahead of the CHOGM 2018. The visit was organised by the British High Commission in New Delhi and the Commonwealth Journalists Association.
Commonwealth Parliamentary clerks visit the CPA

Parliamentary clerks from different Commonwealth Parliaments attending a Professional Development Programme at the UK Parliament visited the CPA Headquarters Secretariat to hear about the work of the CPA in parliamentary development. The clerks were from New Zealand; Québec, Canada; Tasmania, Australia; Swaziland; and Kenya.


The Parliamentarian is the quarterly Journal of Commonwealth Parliaments published by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and features articles and news written by Members of Parliament, parliamentary staff and global experts across the Commonwealth about international issues.

TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE: AHEAD OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING 2018

This issue of The Parliamentarian looks ahead to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018 and Commonwealth Summit in the United Kingdom with a wide range of articles from Parliamentarians and Commonwealth organisations including the Commonwealth Secretary-General; the UK Minister for the Commonwealth; Commonwealth Foundation; Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council; Association of Commonwealth Universities; Commonwealth Journalists Association; Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Also, ahead of the Commonwealth Games 2018 on the Gold Coast, we hear from the Commonwealth Games Federation on the developmental role that sport can play in the modern Commonwealth.

We also feature a number of different topics in this issue of The Parliamentarian including the difficult problems of modern slavery and how the authorities in Wales have been tackling this global issue; the CPA Technical Assistance Programme that has benefitted the Members and parliamentary staff in Fiji and has increased parliamentary capacity and awareness; the Talanoa Dialogue and the next steps for the global community following the Paris COP21; and an interesting insight into the whips system in the India Parliament.

The latest issue of The Parliamentarian is available through CPA Branch Secretaries or by subscription. Email editor@cpahq.org if you have not received your copy or wish to purchase a print copy. Digital issues and archived editions are available via the CPA website - please click here for previous issues.

Further information can also be found at www.cphaq.org/cphaq/parliamentariancurrentissue