NEW CHAIRPERSON OF THE CPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTED AT THE 63rd CPC
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Chairperson elected at the 63rd CPA General Assembly

Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon has been elected as the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) International Executive Committee at the 63rd CPA General Assembly. The new Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) International Executive Committee was elected for a three-year term at the General Assembly that took place in Dhaka, Bangladesh as part of the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The new Chairperson succeeds the outgoing CPA President and Chairperson of the CPA International Executive Committee, Hon. Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh.

Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP, entered the National Assembly of Cameroon in 2002, following a 21-year career as a civil servant and has been the Deputy Speaker since 2009. Hon. Lifaka has been a member of the Committee on Finance and the Budget, Constitutional Law and the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms as well as Vice-President of the Association of African Female Ministers and Parliamentarians. Hon. Lifaka has been regularly engaged in the CPA since 2007, attending regional and international meetings and held the position of Vice-Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee from 2016-2017 and Alternate President of the CPA during the hosting of the 60th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Cameroon.

The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Mr Akbar Khan said, "I congratulate Hon. Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP, the outgoing CPA Chairperson for the important achievements she has made during her term in office. On behalf of the entire CPA membership, we are incredibly grateful to her for her leadership over the past three years. I very much look forward to working with Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP, from Cameroon, the new CPA Chairperson during the next three years and wish her all the very best in this important role to build on the achievements of her predecessor!"

Under CPA election rules only the branch delegates to the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference are entitled to vote in the election of a new CPA Chairperson. There were three candidates for the position: Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP [Cameroon]; Hon. Shirley M. Osborne, M.A [Monsterrat]; Hon. Niki Rattle [Cook Islands].

A Brief Talk with Kazi Nabil Ahmed, MP

Kazi Nabil Ahmed, MP is a Member of Parliament of Bangladesh. He is representing Jessore-3 from the Bangladesh Awami League.

How successfully do you think Hon’ble Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP has completed her term as the Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee?

Hon’ble Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP has completed her term as the Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee for 3 years very well. During her term she has taken Bangladesh to a new peak of deference through her work. She has started many new programs in the CPA such as Masterclasses, learning programs, CPA lecture and many other programs that have benefited both Bangladesh and the CPA.

Now that a new Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee has been elected, how do you think this will play out and what expectations can Bangladesh have from her?

The new Chairperson is from Cameroon, Hon’ble Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP. Because she is also the Vice Chairperson of CPA Executive Committee, she has an added advantage of having good knowledge of the work and challenges of the CPA. We expect that the way CPA has been conducted so far, she will continue to take CPA to greater heights. In her Declaration of Intent, she wanted to do a lot of good work for the CPA and its member countries. Bangladesh will support her in her activities and vice versa as we do have other Bangladesh members in the CPA Executive Committee.

There was a first-time inclusion of a youth roundtable at this year’s CPA. What are your thoughts on that?

The youth roundtable has also been conducted very nicely. I believe that the recommendations given there are all very relevant to the present condition of the world. It is very important to include youth into politics since they are the future of this world. Thus, we need more representation of the youth in the process of governance. The recommendations given on more youth participation into politics and governance was very constructive. With such endeavors, I believe CPA will be more successful in the future.
Cameroon Lights up the 63rd CPC with Jubilant Celebrations

Amazing celebrations were seen at the Bangabandhu International Convention Center (BIACC) as the delegates, representatives and supporters of the new Chairperson, Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka stormed into BIACC’s Hall of Fame with an eclectic victory anthem. The anthem energized and spread joy throughout the entire room, and sent vibes of victory even before the polls took place. Many delegates and Members of Parliament from the Africa regions stood united for the new former Vice-Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Representatives from South Africa, Nigeria and other African countries were seen joining the jubilant celebrations that spread happiness virally throughout the venue.
In a Conversation with Hon. Mian Tariq Mehmood, MPA

Hon. Mian Tariq Mehmood, MPA is the Member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly of Pakistan. He is also the Regional Representative for the CPA Asia Region and Member of the CPA Executive Committee (2014-2017). In this interview he talks about his experience and recommendations in 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Hello Sir! How are you? Please tell us something about your experience in Bangladesh.

I am fine and very happy to be here in Bangladesh. I am extremely fascinated with the hospitality this country is providing me. We appreciate the government and the people for their relentless effort to make everything smooth and perfect.

Today the new Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee has been elected. Please share your thoughts on this.

We are happy with the election. Hon’ble Emilia Manjow Lifaia is the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon and a very well-spoken person. I feel she will be with us in every development process we adopt.

How do you see the prospects of Pakistan being heard and adopted in the CPCs?

CPA (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association) looks after all its member countries in terms of development and legislation. It is a hub of democracy which shows its concerns for every region of every country. For the last three years, our Chairperson, Dr. Shun Sharmi Chaudhury, MP has taken great care of us. Her assistance and recommendation helped our country to prosper at national and international levels. Pakistan always presents its concerns in the discussions amongst the meetings of the regional delegates. Considering each parliament’s different position on different concerns, our recommendations get acknowledged.

Did you propose any special recommendations for your country in the 63rd CPC?

CPCs are being arranged in different countries now. Through this we get the chance to talk about different issues. We make connections and reciprocate knowledge here. This year we talked about issues like Muslims’ condition in Myanmar, tolerance and sensitiveness. We hope to see a better solution to this problem.

Tell us your thoughts on the youth roundtable at 63rd CPC?

The best part of having youth roundtables is that university students get a chance to talk about legislation and decision-making. They get enlightened and we get fresh ideas out of this. Pakistan is a democratic country and we appreciate youth engagement in policy development. We welcome youths in the coming CPCs.

Do you have any special message for the participants of the 63rd CPC?

I have been a member of Executive Committee for the last three years. I appreciate big conferences like the CPCs, because they welcome unity, co-operation, youth engagement and transparent legislation. The best part of them is that we get to learn and share the good works of each country. We share ideas and receive benefits from each other. This platform gives us the opportunity to make networks and communication. We are looking forward to the upcoming conferences of the future.

Know Bangladesh

Agriculture: Economic Growth through Prosperous Harvest

The expansion of agriculture has accelerated the economic growth of Bangladesh. Our country is highly reliable on agro-based and pre-agricultural production. A large number of people living in the rural areas are engaged in agriculture. Since 2009, our government has been introducing newer schemes and opportunities for our farmers to improve the harvest. The developed structure of our agriculture and its procedure have ensured proper application of the workforce and has brought an end to the foreign dependency on food. In the last couple of years this sector has achieved an annual growth rate of 3.9 percent. The government has provided all possible support to the farmers to sustain their achievements in the agriculture sector. Agricultural input assistance cards have been introduced for the farmers which has been praised highly both at home and abroad. 24,000 crore worth of financial assistance in agriculture has been provided by our government for facilitation. 144 crore agriculture input assistance cards have been distributed among needy farmers. In 35 districts, the government has arranged to supply tractors, power tillers, harvesters and other agricultural equipment at 25 percent subsidized prices. The government also provided a total of around Tk. 23,000 crore as agriculture subsidy for the development of agriculture sector in the past four fiscal years. Our government has made it possible to introduce digital facilities for farmers. Now farmers can open bank accounts at only 10 Taka. In one of the coastal areas (Amot), the government has established a community rural radio center to serve different agriculture-related queries. Ten ICT Labs have been introduced. 15 multimedia e-books have been prepared for farmers. Government has introduced call centers for the farmers which contain query sections related to agriculture named “Krishi Call Centers”. Here, around 40 thousand farmers enquire regularly. More than 70 thousand farmers are receiving agriculture related information through SMS service. Agriculture based “Bangla” website has been launched in the tenure of this government. Our government has dedicated all possible efforts to meet the increasing demand of food by emphasizing on national demand. Highly productive hybrid rice seeds and vegetable seeds are being exported globally. The food reserve has increased from 13,000,000 tons in 2008 to 20,000,000 tons in 2013. The government has also been successful in forming and implementing a revolutionized food policy in Bangladesh. This is very important time in Bangladesh’s history, because the ever-sizable agricultural sector is seeing substantial development and is sure to show more improvement over the upcoming years.