



64th CPC Speech

CPA Chairperson's opening address

Address by **HON. EMILIA MONJOWA LIFAKA, MP**
CPA CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CAMEROON

At the **64TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE**
Theme: *Adaption, Engagement and Evolution of Parliaments in a rapidly changing Commonwealth*

Commonwealth Resort Munyonyo
26th September 2019

- *Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda and Vice-Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association*
- *Rt Hon. President of the 64th CPC and Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda*
- *Honourable Speakers and Presiding Officers*
- *Honourable Members of Government*
- *The CWP President*
- *The CWP Chairperson*
- *Members of the Diplomatic Corps*
- *Heads of Delegations, Delegates and dear colleagues*
- *Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen*

'Hujambo!'

Good Morning!

It is for me a great joy and honour to address these eminent personalities, delegates and participants assembled here in Kampala, Uganda, land of agriculture, land of the Equator and land of the great lake, for the opening ceremony of the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

Before I proceed, permit me to use this opportunity to convey to Your Excellency Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and Vice-Patron of the CPA, on behalf of the entire CPA family, our sincere thanks and gratitude for taking time off your busy schedule to be personally present here today alongside the eminent personalities accompanying you to officiate in the official Opening Ceremony of the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference taking place in Kampala, Uganda. Your presence here today, Your Excellency, is proof to your commitment to the core values of the CPA.

Mr President, let me on behalf of all of us gathered here today tell you about some of the things that have taken place since we arrived in this beautiful city of Kampala.

- Mr President, we have been very well taken care of.
- Mr President, the logistical arrangements which was put in place to give this event the grandeur it deserves has been exceptional.
- Mr President, your country is beautiful, your people are very hospitable, and
- Mr President, Speaker Kadaga has been a wonderful host under your guidance.



- Your Excellency, my colleagues have asked me to tell you thank you. Sometime in the past people usually said: 'I came, I saw and I conquer.' But today, we, the CPA delegates, are saying 'we came, we saw and we are going to be Honorary Ambassadors of Uganda when we go back to our respective Regions and, why not, Branches.'
- We thank you once more for agreeing to host this 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Kampala.

With your permission, Your Excellency, permit me to say thank you to this great Ugandan woman called Rebecca Kadaga, from whom many of us have drawn inspiration. When she entered the room, she did not close the door behind her, she left it wide open for many of us to come in. We have entered and there is still more space for women.

Her strength and willingness to do so much come undoubtedly from your encouragements and the good will of your Government to encourage women and young girls to be at the forefront of decision making in your country. We all know that cannot be any meaningful development without the involvement of women.

Speaker Kadaga, I wish to thank you for being an inspiration to the younger generation of aspiring female politicians and also thank you and your team for being there since we arrived.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are delighted to be here and do request that you join me to say congratulations to the Government and Parliament of Uganda for this excellent organization.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen.

For those who are attending this event for their very first time, may I briefly say that the CPA, which was founded in 1911, comprises some 180 national and sub-national Branches and seeks to promote the advancement of parliamentary democracy by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance. The CPA connects, develops, promotes and supports Parliamentarians and their staff to identify benchmarks of good governance and the implementation of the enduring values of the Commonwealth.

CPA activities focus on the Commonwealth's commitment to its fundamental political values, including - just and honest government, the alleviation of poverty, fundamental human rights, international peace and order, global economic development, the rule of law, equal rights and representation for all citizens of both genders, the separation of powers among the three branches of government and the right to participate in free and democratic political process.

You must have noted from our detailed programme that this conference is placed under the theme '*Adaption, engagement and evolution of Parliaments in a rapidly changing Commonwealth*'. The conference will also address other topical issues in workshops notably: climate change: achievements, challenges and efficacy of Parliaments intervention; innovation in Parliament; the impact of science and technology on how Parliament works today; the role of Parliament in facilitating persons with disabilities as electors, candidates and legislators; strategies to deal with youth unemployment; innovation in Parliament and the possible effects of the United Kingdom's 'Brexit' on Small Branches; fostering a culture of respect, fairness and dignity: sexual harassment has no place in Legislatures; among others.

You will agree with me that the provision of appropriate solutions to the aforementioned issues will significantly contribute to solving some of the world's most challenging problems.



This conference is therefore of the utmost importance as the world is anxiously waiting for its outcome. May I urge delegates and participants to make significant and constructive inputs that will meet our expectations and take the CPA and the entire world forward.

On this note, I once more thank His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, for coming to open this conference and wish participants fruitful deliberations.

- Long live the Republic of Uganda!
- Long live the CPA!
- Long live the Commonwealth of Nations!

Thank you for your kind attention.

ENDS

Information about the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) can be found at the official conference website www.cpc2019.org and for further updates please visit the CPA website www.cpahq.org/cpahq/cpc2019.

Social Media: Twitter #64CPC2019 @CPA_Secretariat | Facebook.com/CPAHQ | Online www.cpahq.org
Images available at www.cpahq.org/cpahq/flickr

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Notes to Editors:

64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, 22-29 September 2019, Kampala, Uganda #64CPC2019

The **Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference** is the annual conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). The **64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference** will take place in Kampala, Uganda hosted by the CPA Uganda Branch and the Parliament of Uganda. For further information visit www.cpahq.org/cpahq/cpc2019.

The **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association** (CPA) exists to develop, promote and support Parliamentarians and their staff to identify benchmarks of good governance and to implement the enduring values of the Commonwealth. The CPA is an international community of around 180 Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures working together to deepen the Commonwealth's commitment to the highest standards of democratic governance. Visit www.cpahq.org.

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