



The Parliamentarian

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CPA COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION

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Calendar of Forthcoming Events

Updated as at 4 July 2022

2022

July

5 to 7 July 2022

Empowering climate democracy: Workshop for Parliamentarians from Small Jurisdictions on the Multilateral Climate Negotiations (CPA Small Branches), New York, USA

14 to 15 July 2022

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Australia Regional Conference, Brisbane, Queensland

16 to 22 July 2022

58th CPA Canadian Regional Conference, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada

25 to 28 July 2022

CPA Post-Election Seminar, National Assembly of Zambia

28 July to 8 Aug 2022

Commonwealth Games, Birmingham, England, UK

August

12 August 2022

International Youth Day

20 to 26 August 2022

65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada including: 38th CPA Small Branches Conference; 7th triennial conference of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP); 65th CPA General Assembly; CPA Executive Committee; and the Society of Clerks at the Table (SoCATT).

September

15 September 2022

International Day of Democracy

October

TBC October 2022

45th CPA Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Regional Conference, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands

11 to 15 October 2022

145th IPU Assembly, Kigali, Rwanda

24 October 2022

United Nations Day

2023

January 2023

Conference of the Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC), Australia

5 to 9 March 2023

23rd Commonwealth Law Conference 2023, Goa, India

The CPA calendar fosters the exchange of events and activities between CPA Regions and Branches. For further information on any events, please contact the CPA Branch concerned or the CPA Headquarters Secretariat via hq.sec@cpahq.org or visit www.cpahq.org. CPA Branch Secretaries are asked to send notices of all events to the CPA Headquarters in advance of the publication deadline to ensure the calendar is accurate.

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- 52nd CPA Africa Regional Conference in Sierra Leone
- 70th anniversary of the Westminster Seminar
- UK Overseas Territories Speakers Conference
- SoCATT Africa Region Workshop in Rwanda
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Mr Jeffrey Hyland, Editor
The Parliamentarian,
Commonwealth Parliamentary
Association

SPORT AS A VEHICLE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE POWER OF SPORT

The 2022 Commonwealth Games, officially known as the XXII Commonwealth Games and commonly known as Birmingham 2022, will take place from 28 July to 8 August 2022 in Birmingham in the West Midlands region of England. The international multi-sport event brings together Commonwealth athletes, sports people, umpires, referees, judges, volunteers and a host of officials as well as civil society groups, Parliamentarians and the general public.

As well as developing individuals, sport and physical activity can help build stronger communities by bringing people together. Sport is widely seen as a way for people of different backgrounds to interact and integrate by taking part, volunteering and spectating. Sport is also a tool for peace and development.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) President, Thomas Bach, regularly emphasises that *"sport is not just physical activity; it promotes health and helps prevent, or even cure, the diseases of modern civilization. It also is an educational tool which fosters cognitive development; teaches social behaviour; and helps to integrate communities"*.

The United Nations (UN) has also long recognised the contribution of sport for development and peace, and in 2015, sport was officially recognised as an 'important enabler' of sustainable development and included in the UN's Agenda 2030.

This second issue of *The Parliamentarian* for 2022 explores the theme of: 'The Commonwealth and the power of sport' and asks how can Parliaments and Parliamentarians ensure that sport

has a lasting impact on communities? Several Sports Ministers and experts reflect on the impact of sports in their different communities across the Commonwealth.

The UK Minister for Sport, **Hon. Nigel Huddleston, MP** looks ahead to the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, while the Minister of Sports for Rwanda, **Hon. Munyangaju Aurore Mimoso** looks at how sport has played an important role in rebuilding the country.

New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Sport, **Hon. Grant Robertson, MP** explains the importance of sport and recreation to achieving wellbeing for all.

The Minister of Sport for Jamaica, **Hon. Olivia Grange, CD, MP** writes about how sport can be utilised for sustainable development.

The Queensland Sports Minister, **Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, MP** reflects on hosting the Commonwealth Games Gold Coast in 2018, the lasting impact of sport and the future development opportunities it brings.

The Chair of the UK Parliament's All-Party Group (APPG) on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, **Rt Hon. Karen Bradley, MP** looks at the global issue of human trafficking in sport.

The CEO of the Commonwealth Games Federation, **Katie Sadleir** also looks ahead to the Commonwealth Games Birmingham 2022 and examines the Commonwealth's role in sport.

Katamba Mohammed from the Parliament of Uganda writes about Uganda's parliamentary engagement in sport.

'Commonwealth Youth Voices' contributors from the CPA Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region also write about the impact of sport - **Danielle Walwyn** (Antigua and Barbuda) writes about investing in physical activity and sport for a healthier people and planet, while **Taahir Bulbulia** and **Racquel Griffith** (Barbados) look at sport as a viable sustainable development tool.

The CPA Secretary-General, **Stephen Twigg** in his *View* article for *The Parliamentarian* highlights the opportunities that the Commonwealth Games provide to enjoy sport, celebrate diversity and to reaffirm the importance of good quality health and education for everyone. The CPA Secretary-General also looks ahead to the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Canada and the forthcoming opportunities to bring the

"As well as developing individuals, sport and physical activity can help build stronger communities by bringing people together. Sport is widely seen as a way for people of different backgrounds to interact and integrate by taking part, volunteering and spectating. Sport is also a tool for peace and development."



Commonwealth together. The CPA Secretary-General attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2022 in Rwanda in June 2022 and reports of this week-long conference appear in this issue.

This issue of *The Parliamentarian* also examines a wide range of other topics and issues. The CPA Treasurer, **Hon. YB Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar bin Haji Mohd Akin** writes about the role of Parliament in the doctrine of the separation of powers: Enhancing transparency and accountability in Malaysia.

Hon. Theo Clarke, MP (United Kingdom) asks how the Commonwealth can lead by tackling deforestation to create a greener more prosperous future for our planet.

The challenges facing small Legislatures in the Commonwealth are examined in reflections from the former Greffier of the Jersey States Assembly, **Mark Egan**.

In this issue, two Members of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network write about women's leadership in the Commonwealth. CWP Asia Region representative, **Hon. Selima Ahmad, MP** writes about entrepreneurship, economic empowerment and political participation for women in Bangladesh, while the CWP Vice-Chairperson, **Hon. Valerie Woods, MP**, Speaker of the House of Representatives in the National Assembly of Belize, reflects on women's leadership and empowerment in the Caribbean following a regional workshop for women leaders. This issue also features reports from CWP activities for International Women's Day 2022 and workshops in Fiji, Belize and the UK.

The Secretary-General of the International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC), **Senator Sitara Ayaz** writes about the new organisation established in Pakistan to connect individual Parliamentarians.

One of our Commonwealth Youth Voices contributors, **Khaleel Kothdiwala** (Barbados) reflects on Republicanism in the Caribbean and asks if it is an evolving aspiration of statehood.

Dr Duncan Sutherland is a London-based historian originally from Saskatchewan, Canada and he writes in this issue about Commonwealth parliamentary maces and their symbolic use on coats of arms.

This issue of *The Parliamentarian* features a wide range



of news and reports from CPA and Commonwealth activities including: the Platinum Jubilee of the CPA Patron; the CPA Executive Committee Mid-Year meeting in Assam, India; 8th CPA India Regional Conference in Assam; 51st CPA British islands and Mediterranean (BIM) Regional Conference in Isle of Man; 52nd CPA Africa Regional Conference in Sierra Leone; 70th anniversary of the Westminster Seminar; UK Overseas Territories Speakers Conference; SoCATT Africa Region Workshop in Rwanda; CPA Post-Election Seminar in Guyana; and the first CPA Parliamentary Academy residency in New South Wales. This issue also includes news reports from activities in CPA Branches to mark Commonwealth Day 2022 including Cayman Islands, Nigeria, Namibia, New South Wales, Northern Ireland, Jamaica, Scotland and the UK.

The Parliamentary Report and Third Reading section in this issue includes parliamentary and legislative news from Canada Federal; British Columbia; Trinidad and Tobago; India; New Zealand; the United Kingdom; Uganda and Australia Federal. We also feature a book review by a Member of the Parliament of India, **Hon. Sujeet Kumar**, on a new book exploring the history of Hong Kong by Rup Narayan Das.

We look forward to hearing your feedback and comments on this issue of *The Parliamentarian*, on the issues affecting Parliamentarians across the Commonwealth and to receiving your future contributions to this publication.

Jeffrey Hyland
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Ahead the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) hosted by the CPA Canada Region in Halifax, Nova Scotia from 20 to 26 August 2022, the CPA Headquarters Secretariat are delighted to publish a supplementary magazine to this issue of *The Parliamentarian*. The Canada supplement features articles by Members of Parliament across the CPA Canada Region that examine many different areas of the political and cultural life of the country.



Secretary-General of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary
Association, Stephen Twigg

BRINGING THE COMMONWEALTH TOGETHER

In August 2022, the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) will meet in Halifax, Nova Scotia, hosted by the CPA Canada Region. This will be our first CPC for almost three years, and I know that CPA Branches across the Commonwealth are looking forward to the opportunity to come together at this important time. As part of the Conference, we will hold the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference, the CPA Small Branches Conference and a meeting of the Regional Champions for the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) network.

An important agenda item in Halifax will be the question of the CPA's legal status. I am determined to do all that I can to resolve this longstanding matter. I am in regular contact with officials from the United Kingdom Government about a legal route to the recognition of the CPA as an international, interparliamentary organisation and I am grateful to the work of CPA Branches and Regions on this, including those who raised the question of CPA Status with their Heads of Government or Foreign Ministers in the run-up to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Rwanda.

Since the 64th CPC in Kampala, Uganda, in 2019, the CPA Executive Committee has been looking at ways in which we can update the CPA Constitution so that we are ready for a new legal status. Several important proposals will be presented for consideration at the 65th CPA General Assembly meeting in Halifax. I will highlight three of them here:

- CPA's Small Branches play a vital role in our work and have led the way on issues like climate change and biodiversity. With population growth, the CPA Small Branches Steering Committee has recommended that the population threshold for CPA Small Branches should be raised to one million people to ensure that the network is inclusive. This will be on the agenda at the 65th CPA General Assembly this year.
- At the 64th CPC in Kampala, the CPA New Zealand Branch put forward proposals around gender representation within the CPA. The CPA Executive Committee has considered this and, at the 65th CPC, will propose changes to provide that, where practicable, at least one third of CPA Branch delegations to the General Assembly and at least one third of Regional Representatives on the CPA Executive Committee should be women.

- The creation of the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) network is an important development of the CPA's work. Proposals will be tabled in Halifax to ensure that CPwD is acknowledged in the CPA Constitution alongside the existing provisions for CWP and CPA Small Branches.

These three constitutional changes chime with the CPA's commitment to inclusion and diversity and they reflect key cross-cutting themes in our Strategic Plan (2022-2025).

Last month, I attended the 52nd CPA Africa Regional Conference in Sierra Leone. I am very grateful to Speaker Bundu and the CPA Sierra Leone Branch for hosting the Regional Conference and it was an excellent opportunity to have discussions with delegations from across Africa ahead of the CPC in Canada.

The CPA Executive Committee (ExCo) met in April 2022 in Assam, India. I would like to thank the Lok Sabha Speaker and the Speaker of the Assam Legislature as well as other colleagues in the CPA India Region and the CPA Assam Branch for their wonderful hospitality. This was the first 'in person' ExCo meeting since 2019 and was also the first to be conducted on a hybrid basis. This proved very successful with a mix of ExCo Members attending in person and virtually.

After the ExCo, I was pleased to stay in Assam for the 8th CPA India Regional Conference which was well-attended by the 31 State Legislatures and the Federal Parliament of India with excellent discussions including a focus on work with young people and ensuring that youth voices are heard.

In May 2022, the CPA held our first CPA Parliamentary Academy Residency hosted by the New South Wales Parliament in Sydney, Australia. I was delighted to take part and to meet the participants from a diverse range of CPA Branches. It went very well, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank the CPA New South Wales Branch, the Mentors and the participants. The second Residency will be held in Western Cape, South Africa, later this year.

Mutual learning lies at the heart of CPA's work and the CPA Parliamentary Academy is an exciting and innovative way of promoting learning and development. I encourage CPA members to take part in the online courses and, please do provide us with feedback.

I was also pleased to visit Canberra hosted by the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly. Whilst there, I joined an



online meeting of the CPA Small Branches Steering Committee and had various other meetings including with the CPA Australia Regional Secretary.

Thanks to everybody who made my visits to Canberra and Sydney such a success – in particular, the Clerks and other staff that I met and whose hard work ensured that the visits and CPA Parliamentary Academy Residency went so well.

This summer, the city of Birmingham, will host the 2022 Commonwealth Games and this edition of *The Parliamentarian* features several articles on the importance of sport in the Commonwealth. The motto of Birmingham 2022 is 'Games For Everyone' with a focus on bringing people together and celebrating inclusion and diversity. This is always a powerful message, but it is especially resonant as the people of the Commonwealth face the many challenges arising from the impact of the COVID pandemic.

Sport can bring people together at all levels – locally, nationally and internationally. The pandemic has brought into sharp focus the importance of health care and health systems. It has highlighted once again the impact of inequalities both within and between countries and it has disrupted education for children and young people across the world.

The Commonwealth Games provide a welcome opportunity to enjoy sport, celebrate diversity and to reaffirm the importance of good quality health and education for everyone. I wish all participants a successful and enjoyable Birmingham 2022.

At the end of July, I will have completed two years as CPA Secretary-General. It is a privilege to serve in this role and I am grateful to all those with whom I work. It has been a pleasure to visit a range of CPA Branches and Regions over the past year as travel restrictions have eased. I hope to visit many more over the next two years.

As we approach the 65th CPC in Halifax, it is an opportune moment for me to express my gratitude to all those who serve the CPA at all levels. I would like to thank, in particular, those members of our CPA Executive Committee who will complete their terms of office in Halifax, including our CWP Chairperson, Hon. Shandana Gulzar Khan (Pakistan) and our Treasurer, Hon. Shamsul Iskandar (Malaysia) – you can read an article by the outgoing CPA Treasurer on page 104. I wish them both well for the future.

I look forward to seeing many of the readers of *The Parliamentarian* at the 65th CPC in Halifax.

CPA PHOTO GALLERY



Right: The Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, Rt Hon. Nelly B. K. Mutti, MP met with the CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg to discuss the ongoing CPA parliamentary strengthening work for the Parliament of Zambia and its MPs and parliamentary staff. The Speaker was visiting the United Kingdom to attend the Commonwealth Day celebrations and the 70th Westminster Seminar.



Above left: The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg and the Acting CPA Chairperson, Hon. Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP (United Kingdom) met with the Canadian High Commissioner to the UK, H.E. Ralph Goodale at Canada House in London to discuss the forthcoming 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference due to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia later this year.



Centre left: The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg met with Hon. Jonathan O'Dea, MP, the Speaker of the New South Wales Parliament, at the CPA Headquarters Secretariat. At the meeting, they were joined by Achilles Tsaltas, President of the Democracy and Culture Foundation.

Bottom left: The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg met with Rt Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in London, UK. They discussed the

importance of inter-parliamentary collaboration with the Speaker highlighting a new, Nigerian-led parliamentary initiative, the Conference of Speakers of African Parliaments (COSAP), as an example of Parliaments working together to foster good governance. The Speaker also met with fellow Commonwealth Speaker, Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the Speaker of the UK House of Commons, as well as taking part in a Chatham House event to discuss the role of the National Assembly in strengthening state-society relations.



Above: The Majority Leader of the National Assembly of Kenya, Hon. Dr Amos Kimunya, EGH, MP, his colleague Hon. Dr Wilson Kogo, MP, and the outgoing Clerk of the National Assembly, Michael Sialai, met with the CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg at the CPA Headquarters Secretariat in London. At the meeting, they discussed capacity building opportunities for Members and staff in the Parliament of Kenya and recent CPA activities in the CPA Africa Region.



YB Datuk Seri Shamsul
Iskandar bin Haji Mohd Akin,
CPA Treasurer and Chair of
CPA Malaysia Branch

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN THE DOCTRINE OF THE SEPARATION OF POWERS: ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN MALAYSIA

The continuing tussle between the Executive and the Legislative branches in major democratic countries has made this topic relevant. The strengthening of Executive powers worldwide, rendered the need to revisit the role of Parliament. Parliament, as a check and balance mechanism, is a catalyst to enhance the transparency and accountability of the Government.

The doctrine of separation of powers has its origin in the idea of constitutionalism, which is purported to limit the power of the Government. Against the backdrop of absolute monarchy rule in the 17th century, the philosophers were grappling with how to limit the power of the Government. The English political philosopher John Locke thought this could be done by dividing state power. In his *Two Treatises of Government*, published in 1690, he advocated separating the Legislative power from the Executive power to prevent the Government from becoming arbitrary and oppressive.

The French philosopher Montesquieu further developed Locke's proposition and evolved into the now classic formulation of the doctrine of the separation of powers. In his *De L'esprit des Lois (On The Spirit of the Laws)*, he posited that in every Government, there are three sorts of power: the Legislative; the Executive in respect of things dependent on the law of nations; and the Executive regarding matters that depend on the civil law. If "*the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty; because apprehensions may arise, lest the same monarch or senate should enact tyrannical laws, to execute them in a tyrannical manner.*"

Montesquieu's theory divided or separated all the state power into three branches, each with its responsibility and sphere

of operations. In doing so, one can ensure that power is not centralised in any one of these branches of Government, thus preventing all power from being centralised or concentrated in one person or entity. Over the next few decades, it is argued that *On The Spirit of the Laws* would become an essential reference work for revolutionaries in France and particularly in America, looking for new government models to replace those of the *ancient regime*!

As inheritors of the Westminster system, Commonwealth Parliaments did not strictly confine themselves to the exercise of their function as the US Congress, favouring a partial separation of powers with the Executive. It is from the Parliament that a Government or Executive is formed. Despite a partial separation whose functions sometimes overlap with those of the Executive, parliamentary democracy's system is a system that works to avoid the trap of populism and political extremism and one that achieves a self-adjusting balance between left and right.

Therefore, the principle of separation of powers cannot simply mean the acceptance of functional separation of functions to good constitutional governance, but it requires content. The Commonwealth Latimer House Principles is a work commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretariat and is a good reference source for Commonwealth Parliaments. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) was a partner in the establishment of the Commonwealth Latimer House Principles together with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association (CMJA), the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and the Commonwealth Legal Education Association.

The Commonwealth Latimer House Principles states that the separation of powers doctrine protects the citizen's liberty by preventing the concentration of power and the pursuant abuse of power by any one branch. The separation doctrine, as embodied in the Commonwealth Latimer House Principles, requires each branch of Government to restrain the exercise of authority to its sphere to avoid infringing on the legitimate discharge of constitutional functions by the other branches. And these Principles acknowledged that no system could operate with a total and absolute separation of governmental authority in which the branches of government function in complete isolation from one another. Instead, the principles speak about the balance of power

"Therefore, the principle of separation of powers cannot simply mean the acceptance of functional separation of functions to good constitutional governance, but it requires content. The Commonwealth Latimer House Principles is a good reference source for Commonwealth Parliaments."



to ensure that it is maintained, and each branch must keep a check on the others to prevent abuses.

As the democratic system becomes progressive, the business of governing becomes more sophisticated, and of the authoritarian tendency of the Executive, the question is how do we ensure that Parliament plays its role in checking the Executive's powers and makes the Government fully accountable, curbs corruption, and protects the interest of the people. The concept of the separation of powers has to be properly understood and positioned to minimise the risk of misunderstanding; this is where the parliamentary reform can play a role. To embark on a reform of the Legislature, we need to know the real functions of a modern-day Parliament in a holistic manner of parliamentary functions, such as making and amending laws, as well as scrutinising the work of the Executive branch.

Malaysian Experience

The reform initiative of the Malaysia Parliament took place as early as 2005. The detailed aspects of parliamentary reform in Malaysia to consider are the background and context of the Malaysian Parliament and the dynamic political process.

Malaysia is a country that practices a parliamentary democracy with constitutional monarchy. The Federal Constitution is the highest law of the land. His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong is the Head of the Federation. The Federal Constitution adopts the term "authority" when referring to the Executive and the Federal Legislature but defines the Judiciary in terms of "power." In the case of the legislative "authority," namely Parliament, the Federal Constitution addresses the exercise of "legislative power," which is expressly stated as the "power" of Parliament "to make laws" and to be exercised by Bills passed by both Houses, those are the House of Representatives and the Senate, and assented to by His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. Parliament has been granted the independence to regulate its procedure and privileges whereby the validity of any proceedings in the House shall not be questioned in any court.

In line with the reform initiative, the Malaysian Parliament experienced a progressive reform in 2018, where an Opposition MP was appointed to lead the influential Public Accounts Committee. It also established new Special Select Committees in the areas of new Bills, national budgets, rights and gender equality, major public appointments, and federal-state relations that will be essential in monitoring and scrutinising the Government's affairs and conduct. Currently, there are ten Special Select Committees in the House of Representatives and two Special Select Committees in the Senate to ensure effective checks and balances on the Executive branch.

On 13 September 2020, the ruling party and the Opposition (PH) signed a historic memorandum of understanding (MoU) dubbed the Political Transformation and Stability MoU. The MoU, outlines six key areas that both political blocs will cooperate on. The six key areas in the MoU include enhancing the COVID-19 plan, administrative transformation, parliamentary reform and the independence of the judiciary. Hence it is a better time to push for institutional reform, particularly parliamentary

reform, as agreed under the MoU.

The Malaysian Government is now drafting a Parliamentary Commission Bill to give more independence to parliamentary institutions with the parliamentary budget and their staff. The MoU is believed to be the beginning of a healthier bipartisanship in Malaysian politics, towards a more mature policy-oriented parliamentary democracy. It also signals that political goals and outcomes can be achieved through healthy policy competition and negotiation.

Freedom of speech is arguably the most critical parliamentary privilege; for a democracy to function properly, Members of Parliament must be free to raise any matter and should not be deterred by fear of criminal or civil liability. This parliamentary privilege needs to be protected at all costs as it forms an integral part of our constitutional arrangements.

However, freedom of expression alone would not be sufficient. As part of the strategy to strengthen the role of Parliament, there are other key areas that Parliament needs to pay attention to, such as the rules on Ministers' Question Time, the appointment of Opposition MPs as a Chairperson to important Committees, the role of a Parliamentary Select Committee and the importance of having a parliamentary service independent of the civil service.

After the historic victory of the Pakatan Harapan (PH) coalition in the 2018 General Election, the PH Government then had tabled a motion for all Members of Parliament to declare their assets. By doing this, the Government was hopeful it could address the issue of conflict of interest, whether actual or perceived, to enhance transparency, accountability and public confidence in Members of Parliament.

The Malaysian Parliament has also initiated an All-Political Parties Parliamentary Group (APPG) to encourage interaction between Members of Parliament and individuals and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and to improve public understanding, appreciation and participation in parliamentary-related matters.

The novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell is a classic which explores the human mind when it comes to power, corruption and control. In his book, Orwell indirectly proposes that power given to the Government will ultimately become corrupt, and they will attempt to force all to conform to their one standard. It is my ardent hope, as Members of Parliament and in true Montesquieu spirit, we must ensure that Parliament fulfills its effective function as a defender against these forces of power.



CPA CELEBRATES THE PLATINUM JUBILEE OF ITS PATRON

The CPA joined Commonwealth and international organisations in celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of the CPA Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and paid tribute to her remarkable achievements over 70 years. Queen Elizabeth II has supported the organisation since her accession to the throne in 1952 and later became the Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in 1989, when the role was first established along with that of Vice-Patron. 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.

The Queen has enjoyed a close relationship with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association over the years and has visited almost every Parliament in the Commonwealth during her long reign. 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. As CPA Patron, The Queen opened the 46th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in 2000 in London, UK and she keeps in regular contact with Parliaments across the Commonwealth, especially in those jurisdictions where she is the head of state. The Queen recently congratulated the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association on its 110th anniversary in 2021 and, as CPA Patron, her letter of congratulations was included in the newly published CPA book showcasing photographs of over 180 Parliament buildings around the Commonwealth and giving an insight into their varied histories.

The following Motion in relation to the Platinum Jubilee of the CPA Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was agreed by the CPA Executive Committee at their Mid-Year meeting on 10 April 2022 on behalf of the Association: *"The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association extends our sincere congratulations on behalf of our membership of 180 Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures to the CPA Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee and this historic milestone of her 70 years of service to the Commonwealth."* The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg added: *"On behalf of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the entire CPA membership, we offer our congratulations to our Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee. As CPA Patron, Her Majesty is a tireless supporter of the work of Commonwealth Parliaments and Parliamentarians."*



FOCUS ON DELIVERING IMPACTFUL SCRUTINY IN PARLIAMENTS AT 51ST CPA BIM REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN THE ISLE OF MAN

Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean (BIM) Region attended the 51st CPA BIM Regional Conference, hosted by the Parliament of the Isle of Man (Tynwald), from 24 to 25 March 2022. The event focused on 'Impactful Scrutiny' and more than 40 Parliamentarians and officials from Scotland, Wales, Guernsey, Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar, Cyprus and the United Kingdom participated in a series of workshops around the main theme. Sessions explored topics such as preparing new Members to scrutinise government decisions, delegated powers during COVID-19, the effective scrutiny of climate actions and diversity in Legislatures. Throughout, delegates acknowledged that scrutiny remained a core function in their role as a Parliamentarian and valued the ability to share experiences with one another from their respective jurisdictions.

Delegates were welcomed by the Joint President of the CPA Isle of Man Branch and CPA Small Branches Vice-Chair, Hon. Juan Watterson SHK, the Speaker of the House of Keys who said: "It's been a pleasure for Tynwald to host the BIM Regional Conference on the sunny Isle of Man. The CPA is at its best when people are learning from each other, sharing ideas and solving mutual problems. Over an intensive two days, we have looked at scrutiny in



Image copyright Tynwald.

our jurisdictions with a critical eye, and covered themes from public finance to climate change. In the margins, there were discussions on diversity, health provision, COVID handling and the complexity of virtual meetings. It has been an intensive two days, and I hope our delegates have had as much learning, sharing and fun as we have."

Delegates also elected Rt Hon. Maria Miller MP (UK), as the new Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) BIM Regional Representative and Chair of the CWP BIM Region Steering Committee.

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FOCUS ON GENDER EQUALITY, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING AS CPA DELEGATION VISIT PAKISTAN

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg visited the Parliament of Pakistan and CPA Pakistan Branch in March 2022. The CPA delegation, including the Acting CPA Chairperson, Hon. Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP (UK), met with the then Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Hon. Asad Qaiser, MNA to discuss the ongoing support and professional development opportunities that the CPA provides to Parliamentarians across the CPA Asia Region, as well as the importance of Pakistan within the Commonwealth.

During the visit to Pakistan, the CPA delegation joined the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network, Hon. Shandana Gulzar Khan, MNA (Pakistan) at an International Women's Day event in Islamabad, hosted by the SDGs Secretariat of the National Assembly of Pakistan. Turn to page 156 to read about the activities that took place.

The CPA also has a strong focus on youth engagement and so the CPA delegation undertook several educational visits coordinated by the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) and spoke to students about the Commonwealth, the CPA and the role of Pakistan in regional and global politics during a meeting with students at Beaconhouse school in Islamabad. Subsequently, the CPA delegation visited the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) to speak to students at a seminar on youth and Parliament. The CPA delegation attended a parliamentary dialogue with the Pakistan Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) to discuss anti-radicalisation and peace building.

The CPA delegation met with the CPA Asia Regional Champion for the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities, Hon. Zill-e Huma, MNA to discuss the recent disability audit at the Parliament of Pakistan as well as progress on SDG10 on reducing inequalities.

Towards the end of the visit to Pakistan, the CPA delegation were also received by the President of Pakistan, His Excellency Arif Alvi.



GUYANESE PARLIAMENTARIANS GATHER EXPERTISE FROM ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH AT CPA SEMINAR

Members of the Parliament of Guyana have taken part in a professional development seminar delivered by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) from 10 to 11 May 2022. Members discussed best practice with colleagues and experts across the Commonwealth in a wide range of sessions designed to examine the core elements of democratic governance. Topics covered included the Committee system, outreach and access, and technological innovation for Parliaments, with Members and Clerks from twelve Commonwealth Parliaments sharing their experience to support inter-parliamentary learning and continual professional growth in the Parliament of Guyana. A Member and Clerk from the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia in Canada attended in-person as part of a twinning programme with the Parliament of Guyana, whilst other experts gave their presentations via video link.

The programme was attended by leaders from the Parliament. At the Opening Ceremony, remarks were delivered by the Prime Minister of Guyana, Hon. Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark A. Phillips, MSS, MP; the Speaker of the National Assembly of Guyana, Hon. Manzoor Nadir, MP; the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Lenox Shuman, MP; and Hon. Vincent Henry MP, an Opposition Member. Several inter-parliamentary organisations, including ParlAmericas and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), also provided support to the programme to offer examples of best practice from Parliaments around the world. The Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Hon. Bridgid Annisette-George, Vice-President of ParlAmericas, and Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary-General, gave their insights into parliamentary processes and experts from different organisations led sessions throughout the programme.

At the Closing Ceremony, Hon. Manzoor Nadir MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Guyana, said: "I want to express our appreciation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for this programme. Every day has brought new knowledge, and I look forward to seeing how everyone in the 12th Parliament [of Guyana] can work with the novel ideas we have heard and seen to put them into practice." Reflecting on the seminar, Hon. Lenox R. Shuman MP, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Guyana, added: "The last two days have been very enriching, very enlightening. Workshops like these help us to better represent the people. I would like to extend the sincere appreciation of the 12th Parliament [of Guyana] for the support of the CPA through this process."

Members of the National Assembly of Suriname also joined parts of the programme, a unique cross-border parliamentary partnership which marked the first time that a non-Commonwealth Caribbean country has joined a CPA seminar.





COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION HOSTS FIRST EVER HYBRID CPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN ASSAM, INDIA

Members of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) joined the Mid-Year Meeting in Guwahati, Assam, India to discuss governance issues. The two-day meeting, hosted by the Assam Legislative Assembly, the CPA Assam State Branch and the CPA India Region, took place from 9 to 10 April 2022. After four fully virtual CPA Executive Committee meetings since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was hosted in a hybrid format for the first time with Speakers and Members of Parliament from across the Commonwealth joining both in-person and via video link. This was the first opportunity for CPA Executive Committee Members to convene in-person for over two years.

The CPA Executive Committee meeting was opened by the Chairperson of the CPA India Region, Hon. Om Birla MP, Speaker of the Lok Sabha of India, who said: *"On behalf of the people of India and on behalf of the Parliament of India, I welcome you all. It is a matter of pride that the CPA Executive Committee meeting is being organised in India for the first time. The CPA is a forum through which we are able to share our innovations, experiences and best practices. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's role in giving new dimensions to parliamentary democracy is commendable. India holds a special place among democracies. Equipped with a strong democratic structure from Gram Panchayat to Parliament, democracy is integral to our lifestyle."*

The Chief Minister of Assam, Hon. Himanta Biswa Sarm, welcomed parliamentary colleagues from around the Commonwealth to the State of Assam, saying: *"I feel immensely proud that CPA Assam State Branch has the historic opportunity to host this landmark event at the Assam Legislative Assembly. Assam is delighted and proud to have you all amongst us."*

The Acting Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, Hon. Ian Liddell-Grainger MP (UK) and the CPA Secretary-General Stephen Twigg thanked the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly for hosting the meeting. The CPA Executive Committee consists of 36 Members representing the nine regions of the CPA: Africa, Asia, Australia, British Islands and Mediterranean, Canada, Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic, India, Pacific and South-East Asia.



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM THE CPA INDIA REGION FOCUS ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AT 8TH CPA INDIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN ASSAM

Elected representatives from the 31 State Legislatures and the Federal Parliament of India convened for the 8th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Regional Conference in Guwahati, Assam, India from 11 to 13 April 2022. Hosted by the Assam Legislative Assembly and the CPA Assam State Branch on behalf of the CPA India Region, the Regional Conference brought together Commonwealth Parliamentarians to share their experiences of parliamentary democracy with a special focus on youth engagement.

The Chairperson of the CPA India Region, Hon. Om Birla MP, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha of India officially opened the Regional Conference and spoke to delegates of India as the largest functioning democracy in the world, adding that democracy in India runs from village to central level, giving a direct voice for the people. The Speaker of Lok Sabha also stressed the need for more sensitive and active efforts by Legislatures for the welfare of marginalised sections of society. He also addressed the main theme of the Regional Conference and said that youth has always had a special contribution in bringing about a comprehensive change in India as youth have been the main drivers of socio-economic change and active participation in democracy.

The opening ceremony of the Regional Conference was also attended by the Chief Minister of Assam, Hon. Himanta Biswa Sarm; the Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly, Hon. Biswajit Daimary MLA; and the Leader of the Opposition in Assam, Hon.



Debabrata Saikia MLA as well as the Acting CPA Chairperson, Hon. Ian Liddell-Grainger MP and the CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg. The Regional Conference focused on strategies for empowering India's large youth population. Approximately 600 million Indians - more than half of the country's population - are aged under 25 and delegates explored opportunities to mainstream youth perspectives throughout the decision-making process.

At the closing ceremony, the Governor of Assam, Professor Jagdish Mukhi noted that the CPA India Regional Conference and the recent CPA Executive Committee both took place during the 85th anniversary of the Assam Legislative Assembly.

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FIRST 'IN-PERSON' CPA PARLIAMENTARY ACADEMY RESIDENCY PROGRAMME HELD IN NEW SOUTH WALES



The first CPA Parliamentary Academy residency programme has been held in Australia for 34 Commonwealth Parliamentarians. The CPA programme examined how MPs can be better performing legislators and scrutineers and provided an extension of the CPA Parliamentary Academy, the CPA's portfolio of online courses specifically for Parliamentarians and parliamentary officials. The inaugural CPA Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Programme was hosted by the Parliament of New South Wales from 22 to 26 May 2022 and attended by MPs from a wide range of Commonwealth jurisdictions including Anguilla; Australian Capital Territory; Bangladesh; Belize, New South Wales; Niue; Pakistan; Saint Lucia; Selangor (Malaysia); Sri Lanka; Tanzania; Queensland; Western Australia; and Western Cape (South Africa). Participants

were mentored throughout the programme by current and alumni Parliamentarians and Clerks from across the CPA Australia Region including: From New South Wales, the current Deputy Speaker, Hon. Leslie Williams MP; former Member and CPA Vice-Chairperson, Hon. John Ajaka; and former Clerk, Mr Russell Grove; From Western Australia, current Member, Hon. Kate Doust MLC; From the Australia Federal Parliament, former Member, Hon. Kevin Andrews. The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg spoke at the opening and said: *"This residency programme is an initiative of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, an organisation created to foster deeper connections between Commonwealth Parliaments as well as to create opportunities for Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to share knowledge."* The residency programme in New South Wales began with a traditional 'Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony' performed by a Marrawarra and Barkindji man, Brendan Kerin, from the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council.

The CPA Parliamentary Academy will be expanding further in 2022 with new online courses aimed specifically at Speakers and Presiding Officers and Members of the CPA's various networks including courses on climate change in small jurisdictions; developing effective women's parliamentary caucuses; accessibility of Commonwealth Parliaments to Persons with Disabilities; and Parliaments' role in the Sustainable Development Goals. A second Residency programme will also be held later this year. For further information about the CPA Parliamentary Academy courses please email hq.sec@cpahq.org.

CPA SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITS THREE CPA BRANCHES IN AUSTRALIA

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg has visited three CPA Branches in the CPA Australia Region to discuss parliamentary strengthening and support for Members. The CPA Secretary-General began at the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory in Canberra where he met with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Joy Burch MLA, Members and parliamentary staff before joining the Acting CPA Small Branches Chairperson at a virtual meeting of the CPA Small Branches Steering Committee.

At the Federal Parliament of Australia, the CPA Secretary-General met with Claessa Surtees, the Clerk of the Australian House of Representatives and the CPA Australia Federal Branch Secretary to discuss professional development support for Members and parliamentary staff followed by a meeting with the Director of the International and Parliamentary Relations Office and the CPA Australia Regional Secretary, Alex Cullum. While in the Australian capital city, the CPA Secretary-General also met with The Australia Institute's Climate and Energy Program to discuss the range of work being done to strengthen parliamentary engagement in the climate sphere and its importance as a thematic priority in the CPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

At the Parliament of New South Wales in Sydney, the CPA Secretary-General spoke at a 'Thought Leadership Breakfast' for Members of Parliament in which he provided personal reflections on leadership, ethics and interactions with politics as well as the global work of the CPA and its opportunities for supporting Parliamentarians to be active in their roles. The CPA Secretary-General was received by the Joint CPA New South Wales Branch Presidents – the President of the Legislative Council, Hon. Matthew Mason-Cox MLC and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP – to discuss the CPA's work with the New South Wales Branch and ongoing projects in Australia. This was followed by a meeting at Parliament House in Sydney with the CPA New South Wales Branch Secretary and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Ms Helen Minnican, and the CPA New South Wales Branch Assistant Secretary and Clerk of the Parliaments, Mr David Blunt. The CPA Secretary-General also met with Hon. Sonia Hornery MP, the New South Wales representative on the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Australia Steering Committee to discuss the Region's support for international initiatives to increase the numbers of women in Parliament. Finally, the CPA Secretary-General was received by the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency Hon. Margaret Beazley AC QC at Government House in Sydney to discuss the role of the CPA and the Commonwealth in the Australian State.



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIANS MEET IN SIERRA LEONE TO DISCUSS BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY AT THE 52ND CPA AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Commonwealth Parliamentarians from across Africa have met in Freetown, Sierra Leone from 1 to 9 June 2022 to attend the 52nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Regional Conference on the theme of 'The role of African Parliaments in building an inclusive society to counter growing insecurity in Africa', with a view to explore and share ideas and perspectives on how to strengthen democracy in Africa.

At the official opening ceremony, the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, His Excellency Julius Maada Wonie Bio gave the keynote address and said to Parliamentarians: *"I must add that the strengths of our democracies in the Commonwealth have endured, thanks to the role of Parliaments. You debate, modify, adopt and pass legislation on policies, positions and visions. You are tasked with voicing diverse views and approving the aspirations of citizens. That is no mean task."*

The CPA Africa Region President (2022) and the Speaker of the Parliament of Sierra Leone, Rt Hon. Dr Abass Chernor Bundu MP also welcomed delegates to



the Regional Conference which brought together almost 300 delegates from Branches across the CPA Africa Region - from both national and sub-national Parliaments. The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg attended the Regional Conference to reiterate the CPA's commitment to the CPA Africa Region and the importance of securing a new legal status for the CPA as an international inter-parliamentary organisation. During the Regional Conference, the Speaker of the Parliament of Malawi, Rt Hon. Catherine Gotani Hara was elected as the Chairperson of the CPA Africa Region Executive Committee in succession to the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Rt Hon. Justin Muturi.

The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Africa Region was represented by Hon. Kayanga Baroda MP (Uganda) who called for greater focus on gender inclusion and women's participation in political, social, economic and development processes in the Africa Region. The CWP Africa Region also convened for a Regional Steering Committee meeting and a gender-sensitisation workshop. The CWP Business Meeting also saw the election of the Speaker of Zambia, Hon. Ms. Nelly Mutti to the position of CWP Africa Vice-Chairperson.

The African Region of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT) in Commonwealth Parliaments also held its Annual General Meeting in the margins of the Regional Conference. The CPA Africa Region is one of nine CPA Regions across the Commonwealth, and it comprises 63 national and subnational Legislatures. The CPA Africa Regional Secretariat is based in the Parliament of Tanzania.

CPA AFRICA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD IN GHANA

The Vice-President of Ghana, Dr Mahamudu Bawumia urged African Parliaments to find new ways of doing business that focus on a collective approach as he gave the keynote address at the opening of the 82nd CPA Africa Region Executive Committee meeting in Accra on 8 March 2022. The meeting is held twice a year to plan the regional activities of the CPA and to discuss issues of concern to Members. The First Deputy Speaker of the Ghana Parliament, Hon. Joe Osei-Owusu, representing the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Alban Bagbin, called on political parties to put in place measures to increase the numbers of women in Parliament.

The CPA Africa Region President and the Speaker of the Parliament of Sierra Leone, Hon. Dr Abass Bundu said the CPA would continue to work to promote parliamentary democracy in member countries and help to sustain the democratic gains that have been made. The CPA Africa Region, comprising of 63 national and sub-national Legislatures, provides Parliamentarians with the opportunity to discuss issues and build consensus on areas of common interest to deepen parliamentary democracy, good governance and promote human development.



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AFRICAN SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT MEET IN NIGERIA TO DISCUSS ENHANCING POST-COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The first Conference of Speakers and Heads of African Parliaments (CoSAP) was held in Abuja, Nigeria from 9 to 10 May 2022 on the theme of 'Enhancing Africa's Post-COVID economic recovery through parliamentary leadership'. The conference was initiated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the CPA Africa Region President (2021), Rt Hon. Rep. Femi Gbajabiamila MP. It was attended by Speakers of Parliaments across Africa including Ethiopia, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Cameroon, Senegal, Malawi, Algeria and South Africa.



At the official opening ceremony, the Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Prof Yemi Osinbajo, delivered the keynote address stressing the importance of the institution of Parliament in promoting democracy and fostering economic development.

The Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Mr Jarvis Matiya also spoke at the conference to outline the Commonwealth's shared values of development, democracy and gender equality as well as the CPA's work across the Region. The Conference of Speakers and Heads of African Parliaments (CoSAP) is a new body that aims to facilitate improved deliberation, collaboration and cooperation between the Speakers and Heads of Parliaments and National Assemblies across Africa to foster the unity of the continent.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CLERKS MEET FOR SOCATT AFRICA REGION WORKSHOP IN RWANDA

Parliamentary Clerks from the CPA Africa Region's Society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT) have met in Rwanda. The Clerk of the Rwanda Chamber of Deputies, Amb. Jeanine Kambanda, who is also the Chairperson of the SoCATT Africa Region, officially launched the first Steering Committee meeting for 2022 which also reviewed the SoCATT Africa 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. In her opening remarks, the SoCATT Africa Chairperson recognised how the hard work of SoCATT members to fulfil their parliamentary responsibilities and also noted that the new strategic plan would help SoCATT Africa to have a long-term tool that will boost its activities. Clerks also discussed the 2022 SoCATT Africa Annual General Meeting which took place in the margins of the 52nd CPA Africa Regional Conference in Freetown, Sierra Leone in June 2022. The Society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT) Africa Region provides a network for the sharing of best parliamentary practice amongst the Commonwealth Legislatures in the region and its members include a wide range of jurisdictions across the CPA Africa Region including Ghana, Uganda, South Africa, Eswatini, Namibia and Kenya.



AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY PRESS NETWORK URGES AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS TO CREATE PRESS GALLERIES TO MARK WORLD PRESS DAY

To mark World Press Day 2022, the African Parliamentary Press Network (APPN) called for a more collaborative relationship between Parliaments and the media to further support democracy and media freedoms. The day, which is celebrated annually on 3 May by the United Nations and UNESCO, also provided an opportunity to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedoms around the world and acts as a reminder of the need to commit to media freedoms.

"A fruitful collaboration between Parliament and the media, would be further enhanced when various Parliaments on the continent are urged to encourage their parliamentary reporters to form press corps or press galleries as was recently demonstrated by The Gambian National Assembly," said Olu Ibekwe, Chairman of the Steering Committee of the APPN, a network of parliamentary journalists in 24 countries on the African continent.

CPA BALOCHISTAN BRANCH VISIT OLDEST PARLIAMENT IN THE COMMONWEALTH DURING STUDY VISIT TO THE ISLE OF MAN

Members of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly have visited the Parliament of the Isle of Man at Tynwald to see best practice in the parliamentary process. The short study programme focused on procedure and practice with an emphasis on good governance in the legislative process.

The visiting delegation also visited the CPA Scotland Branch at The Scottish Parliament to see parliamentary practices in the devolved Legislature.



COMMONWEALTH SPEAKERS ATTEND FIRST EVER COMMONS AND OVERSEAS TERRITORIES SPEAKERS' CONFERENCE

At the first ever Commons and Overseas Territories Speakers' Conference 2022 (COTSC 2022), supported by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Commonwealth Speakers and representatives attended from Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, St Helena, Turks and Caicos and Gibraltar as well as the United Kingdom. A wide range of topics were discussed at the three-day conference in London, UK including security and climate change, with a focus on how the British Overseas Territories can get their voices heard in the UK Parliament. Attendees at the conference were also received by HRH The Prince of Wales at a special lunch at Clarence House. The CPA UK Joint Branch President and the Speaker of the UK House of Commons, Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP said: *"It was an honour to welcome to the House of Commons, Speakers and representatives from the Overseas Territories. It is so important to me that during my term as Speaker we engage with and learn from all of the Overseas Territories. From my perspective, the Overseas Territories have been overlooked for too long, yet many of the decisions we make here in the UK have a huge impact on their futures."*



Image credit: UK Parliament/Jessica Taylor

The UK Speaker aims to use his Speakership to give a voice to the 14 British Overseas Territories, which are located from the Pitcairn Islands in the Southern Pacific Ocean to the British Indian Ocean Territory almost 10,000 miles away.

Commonwealth Speakers attending the conference held at the UK Parliament included: Hon. Barbara Webster-Bourne, Speaker of the Anguilla House of Assembly; Hon. Dennis P. Lister JP, MP, Speaker of the House of Assembly of Bermuda; Hon. Dr W. McKeever Bush, JP, MP, Speaker of the Cayman Islands Parliament; Hon. Charliena White, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Montserrat; Hon. Cyril Gunnell, Speaker of the St Helena Legislative Council; Hon. Gordon Burton, Speaker of the House of Assembly of Turks and Caicos Islands; Hon. Steven E. Linares, Minister for Housing, Employment, Youth and Sport from Gibraltar. They were joined by Parliamentary Clerks and representatives from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

UK SPEAKER VISITS THE FALKLAND ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The CPA UK Joint Branch President, Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the UK House of Commons has addressed the Falkland Island Legislative Assembly during a visit to the British Overseas Territory in May 2022. The UK Speaker was welcomed by his counterpart, CPA Falkland Islands Branch President, Hon. Keith Biles, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. It was the second visit by Sir Lindsay Hoyle – but the first ever by a Speaker of the UK House of Commons. The visit marked the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Falkland Islands from Argentine forces in 1982 and the Speaker laid a wreath at the armed forces memorial on the islands. During the visit, the UK Speaker was accompanied by the UK Government Minister for the British Overseas Territories, Hon. Amanda Milling MP and together they met with the Governor of the Falkland Islands, His Excellency Nigel Phillips CBE.



70TH WESTMINSTER SEMINAR EXPLORES EVOLVING PARLIAMENTS

Commonwealth Parliamentarians from 23 Legislatures were welcomed to the UK Parliament from 14 to 18 March 2022 with a further 22 Legislatures joining online for the first hybrid Westminster Seminar. With an overall theme of 'Evolving Parliaments', the five-day programme organised by the CPA UK Branch featured topics such as procedural adaptations during the COVID-19 pandemic, environmental sustainability and the role of technology in our democracies.

The Joint CPA UK Branch President and Speaker of the UK House of Commons, Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP welcomed delegates for the 70th anniversary of the Westminster Seminar, one of the longest running seminars in the Association.



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WESTERN CAPE PARLIAMENT DELEGATION MEET WITH CPA SECRETARY-GENERAL DURING VISIT TO THE CPA UK, SCOTLAND AND WALES BRANCHES



The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg met with a visiting delegation from the CPA Western Cape Branch. The Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, Hon. Masizole Mngasela MPP and the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Beverley Schäfer MPP together with two Members - Hon. Gillion Bosman, MPP and Hon. Nomi Nkondlo, MPP - and officials from the Parliament met with the CPA Secretary-General and staff from the CPA Headquarters during a visit to the UK Parliament. They discussed the ongoing training opportunities for Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff across the CPA Africa Region as well as the forthcoming 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Canada.

The Western Cape delegation were visiting the UK Parliament on a parliamentary exchange mission that also included meeting with Members of the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Senedd in Edinburgh and Cardiff respectively.

The Western Cape delegation were welcomed at the Senedd Cymru by CPA Wales President and Presiding Officer, Rt Hon. Elin Jones MS; Deputy Presiding Officer, Rt Hon. David

Rees MS and Director for Senedd Business, Siwan Davies. The Speaker of Western Cape and the Presiding Officer of Wales signed a Memorandum of Intention (MoU) between the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and the Senedd Cymru to co-operate, exchange best practice and strengthen relationship between the two institutions. At the Scottish Parliament, the Western Cape delegation met with the CPA Scotland Branch President and Presiding Officer, Rt Hon. Alison Johnstone MSP as well as Miles Briggs, MSP and Paul McLennan, MSP to discuss petitions and voting systems, risk management, new ways of working and training for Members of Parliament.

Finally, the Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and the delegation from the CPA Western Cape Branch were received by the CPA UK Joint Branch President and the Speaker of the UK House of Commons, Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP at the Speaker's House.

CPA FREE STATE BRANCH LAUNCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA



The Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa and CPA Africa Regional Representative on the CPA Executive Committee, Hon. Lechesa Tsenoli, MP spoke at the launch of the CPA Free State Branch at the

Free State Legislature on 25 May 2022.

The launch was welcomed by the Speaker of the Free State Legislature, Hon. Zanele Sifuba who said: *"The launch of the CPA Free State Branch will help us to build a strong Parliament and provide us with a structure to access the collective knowledge of the Association. Progress in this regard will strengthen democracy across the Commonwealth and support regional integration in South Africa."*

The event also featured a video message from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg who spoke of the key role of CPA Branches in the CPA Africa Region in the progress and governance of the Association.

HOW CAN LEGISLATORS USE DATA TO BETTER REPRESENT CITIZENS?

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data's Inclusive Data Charter (IDC) co-hosted a virtual roundtable discussion on inclusive data which explored the need for high quality, inclusive data to assist legislators in their day-to-day duties.

Drawing on the experience of Parliamentarians, statisticians and civil society leaders from sub-Saharan Africa, the discussion brought interested stakeholders together to discuss what inclusive data means and how it can be better used to represent the needs of all groups of people. Panellists included the CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg; Global Partnership CEO, Claire Melamed; Hon. Sylvester Matthew Tetteh MP (Ghana).





CPA DELEGATION PROVIDES A PARLIAMENTARY VOICE AT CHOGM 2022 IN RWANDA

Commonwealth Parliamentarians – including Presidents, Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers – from 54 countries attended the 2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, Rwanda. The 26th meeting, which took place from 20 to 25 June 2022, was the first meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government since 2018, as a result of disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. At the opening ceremony delegates heard from HRH The Prince of Wales; the new Commonwealth Chair-In-Office and President of Rwanda, H.E. Paul Kagame; the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland, QC; and outgoing Chair-In-Office and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Rt Hon. Boris Johnson, MP.

Ahead of the main meeting of Heads of Government, the CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg addressed Commonwealth Foreign Ministers at a roundtable event, raising the issue of CPA status. The CPA Secretary-General also held a number of bilateral meetings with key stakeholders, spoke at different events and visited the Parliament of Rwanda during his visit to Kigali. Read about his visit to Rwanda on page 115.

In the final communiqué issued by Commonwealth Heads of Government, the updated CPA Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures were noted alongside a commitment to fully implement the Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles on the

Three Branches of Government. Particular focus was given to climate change and its affects on the smallest jurisdictions in the world – many of them in the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth also admitted Gabon and Togo as its 55th and 56th members respectively.

The week-long programme of high-level side events, Ministers' meetings and forums – the Commonwealth Youth Forum, the Commonwealth Women's Forum, the Commonwealth Business Forum, and the Commonwealth People's Forum – were held in the lead-up to CHOGM 2022.

The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network played a prominent role in the Commonwealth Women's Forum (CWF). The Forum sought to demonstrate the value of including women as transformational actors who bring diversity into governance processes across political, public and private spheres.

At a session on Women in Leadership: Beyond the Numbers, which explored what meaningful leadership looks like and the benefits of having more women in positions of leadership, panellist Hon. Shandana Gulzar Khan, CWP Chairperson, said, *"it's not about fighting, it is about securing what already belongs to us"*.

Elsewhere at the CWF, the CPA Secretary-General spoke at an event on the importance of accountability for gender equality, and Hon. Regina Esparon, Member of the Seychelles National Assembly, represented the CWP at a session on gender and climate change.



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REFLECTIONS ON CHOGM 2022 BY THE CPA SECRETARY-GENERAL

Kigali 2022 brought together the Commonwealth family for the first CHOGM since London 2018. It was a busy and vibrant week as participants addressed some of the big challenges facing the global community in the light of the COVID pandemic.

The Communique published at the end of CHOGM was comprehensive in addressing these challenges, including the reaffirmation of the Commonwealth's support for the CPA's Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures. The Benchmarks play a vital role in CPA's work and it is very welcome that they feature in the Communique.

At our last CPA Executive Committee meeting in Assam, India, and at the CPA Africa Regional Conference in Freetown, Sierra Leone, it was agreed that CHOGM provided a good opportunity to raise the important issue of the CPA's legal status. On the final day in Kigali, I spoke to Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers, as part of the Associated Organisations' Roundtable, and I set out the importance of the CPA gaining recognition as an international, interparliamentary organisation. I am immensely grateful to the Government of The Seychelles for their active involvement in raising the issue of CPA Status with the United Kingdom Government during CHOGM and to the Seychelles Parliament for bringing this to their Government's attention.

Whilst in Kigali, we visited the Rwanda Parliament where we were hosted by the Speaker and met with members of the Women's Parliamentary Forum and others. We had an excellent discussion with a particular focus on Rwanda's exemplary record on women's representation in Parliament.

The CPA helped organise two of the panel sessions at the Commonwealth Women's Forum. We were joined by our outgoing CWP Chairperson, Hon. Shandana Gulzar Khan, who spoke about women's leadership and by Hon. Regina Esparon, from The Seychelles, who spoke about women and climate change. In both sessions, there was a strong sense of urgency about the need for us all to do more to promote women's equality and to tackle climate change.

I spoke at a panel event, as part of the Women's Forum, which explored the importance of accountability for gender equality. One of the other panellists was Steve Letsike from South Africa who is Chairperson of the Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN). She spoke powerfully about the challenges faced by LGBTI people in many Commonwealth countries. I was pleased to have the opportunity, whilst in Kigali, to meet with members of TCEN.

I paid a visit to the Kigali Genocide Memorial which is always a powerful and emotional experience as we remember the 1994 Rwanda Genocide and learn about efforts since then to promote justice, reconciliation and peace.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Baroness Patricia Scotland on her reappointment as the Commonwealth Secretary-General. I look forward to continuing to work closely with her and the wider Commonwealth Secretariat on our shared priorities including the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Commonwealth Latimer House Principles and human rights.

Finally, two new members have now joined the Commonwealth – Gabon and Togo. I hope that both countries' Parliaments will join, and become active in, the CPA.

THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES AND THE POWER OF SPORT

The CEO of the Commonwealth Games Federation looks ahead to the Commonwealth Games Birmingham 2022.

The Commonwealth Games are now 92 years old and perhaps the most vivid event to display the positive impact that sport makes throughout the 72 nations and territories that make up the Commonwealth. As the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), we often refer to our Commonwealth Sport Movement. This consists of our wider membership, who work collaboratively to harness the exceptional power of sport as a force for good. We believe sport has the power to bring us together, reconcile our differences and inspire us to change our lives for the better. It is sport that underpins our values of humanity, equality and destiny. It also sits at the centre of our vision which states: **Through sport, we create peaceful, sustainable and prosperous communities across the Commonwealth.**

We are seeing this vision manifest itself in the lead up to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, most notably through the Queen's Baton Relay. This has been an essential part of the Commonwealth Games for more than 60 years and since launching in 1958, it has become the longest Relay of its kind in the world. The 16th Queen's Baton Relay is now underway, and the Baton is travelling to all 72 Commonwealth nations and territories, before concluding at Birmingham 2022. As is tradition, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth, placed a message inside the Baton and this will be read out at the Opening Ceremony of Birmingham 2022 on 28 July. The Queen's Baton Relay was launched from Buckingham Palace on 7 October 2021. In total, the Baton will undertake a 294-day journey, travelling through Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, the Caribbean and the Americas, covering approximately 90,000 miles. It marks the final countdown to Birmingham 2022 and provides hope, harmony and cooperation across the Commonwealth at a time when it is needed most.

Amongst our membership, who have hosted the Baton with pride and honour, there are some of the world's largest and smallest countries, from India, with over 1.2 billion people to Nauru with a population of just 10,000. Our combined population of 2.4 billion represents a third of the world's total population. More than 60% of Commonwealth citizens are under the age of 30, which highlights why we must always be looking towards the future, and aspiring to use sport as a vehicle to support the ambitions of young people.

The Commonwealth Charter brings together the values and aspirations which unite our diverse membership, outlining our joint commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law, to promote peace and prosperity and to improve the lives of all peoples of the Commonwealth. No matter the person's race or religion, sexual orientation or gender identification, all people of the modern Commonwealth should be treated equally. These principles are shared across Commonwealth organisations, and we are honoured to work in partnership to build a better future for our citizens around the world.

As the Commonwealth Sport Movement, we have real collective strengths and a proud history. The Commonwealth Games spans 21 Games and six Youth Games. We trace the origins of our event back to 1930 in Hamilton, Canada. It was on 16 August 1930 in Hamilton, that the Opening Ceremony of the first ever Commonwealth Games - then known as the British Empire Games - took place at the Civic Stadium. Hamilton 1930 was the brainchild of Melville Marks Robinson, better known as Bobby, and I am sure he would be so proud of where we are today. Bobby had the vision and courage to dare to host the first Games at the onset of the Great Depression and at a time of significant global uncertainty and social discourse. There are so many parallels that we could draw with the world we live in today. Hamilton 1930 was the first major sporting event to use volunteers, the first to provide travel grants for athletes and the first to have an Athletes' Village in a multi-sport event. It was also the first sporting event to have medal ceremonies for athletes on a tiered podium. What a legacy!

There is a lesser-known story from the inaugural Commonwealth Games in Hamilton, and one that should serve as a source of pride for our Movement based on the values we hold today. The story concerns Ray Lewis – an extremely talented 19-year-old runner who missed out on his home Games. Ray would go on to become the first Canadian-born black Commonwealth and Olympic medallist. However, he faced considerable racism at the time and wasn't selected for the Hamilton 1930 Games by the coach of the Canadian athletics team. Bobby Robinson, our innovative founder, subsequently withdrew sponsorship of the athletics team in solidarity with Ray when the coach refused



Katie Sadleir is the Commonwealth Games Federation Chief Executive Officer. She joined the CGF from World Rugby, where she was General Manager. A Commonwealth Games medallist and an Olympian, Katie has a wealth of experience as both an athlete and sports administrator. She represented New Zealand in synchronised swimming at the Los Angeles 1984 Olympic Games and the Edinburgh 1986 Commonwealth Games, winning bronze in the later event. She served as the Assistant Chef de Mission New Zealand at the Victoria 1994 Commonwealth Games and has attended six editions of the Games. Katie led the establishment of the New Zealand Academy of Sport network in the late 1990s before becoming General Manager of Sport and Recreation New Zealand (now Sport New Zealand) from 2000-2006. She has held directorships and senior leadership positions with a number of organisations.



Left: The President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, Dame Louise Martin hands the Baton to Her Majesty The Queen at the start of the 16th Queen's Baton Relay. The Baton is travelling to all 72 Commonwealth nations and territories, before concluding at Birmingham 2022.

that Birmingham 2022 will see the roll-out of our Athlete Advocacy Guiding Principles for competitors at the Commonwealth Games, to help strengthen the athlete voice across Commonwealth Sport.

This demonstrates a clear intent from the CGF to support athletes who wish to positively advocate for important issues, in line with the CGF's vision and values. We believe Commonwealth athletes are inspirational leaders, agents of change, advocates for integrity and ambassadors for respect, impartiality, and non-discrimination. It is the belief of the CGF that athlete advocacy and activism humanises, rather than politicises, sport. Our guiding principles seek to encourage tolerance and understanding. Advocacy at its best is clear, positive, meaningful and most importantly respectful of others.

As we look ahead, we believe that there are real and substantial opportunities that lie ahead for the CGF. Commonwealth Sport can respond to important global, regional and local trends and issues by mobilising active citizens, nurturing social inclusivity and embracing resilience through better mental wellbeing for all. It can also support contextual journeys of reconciliation and empowerment and connect the Commonwealth and its global diaspora through inspirational storytelling, advocacy campaigns and calls to action. By using digital platforms, the Movement can better connect, integrate and promote the voice and inspiration of athletes with the impactful work of our members and harness the ambitions and achievements of host cities.

We are delighted that earlier this year, the CGF was able to confirm that the 2026 Commonwealth Games will be hosted by the State of Victoria in Australia. In what will be a first ever predominantly regional Commonwealth Games, Victoria 2026 will be staged in March 2026 across multiple cities and regional hubs including Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Gippsland. The Opening Ceremony will take place at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground. The approach will showcase the best of what the State has to offer and ensure a uniquely Victorian experience for the athletes and spectators. In Victoria, we believe we have found the perfect partner for the next stage of our journey.

As we look towards this exciting future, our goal is to realise our collective impact. We want to respect, protect, promote and empower Commonwealth athletes and citizens as the core beneficiaries of our programmes and initiatives. We want to include and connect the voices of young people and affected groups. We want to use the power of sport to promote human rights, uphold the highest standards of integrity and transparency and nurture long-term sustainable development in all that we do.

Through our updated Human Rights Policy Statement, we aim to mobilise and leverage the potential of the entire Commonwealth Sport Movement to protect, respect, remedy and promote the human rights of athletes, citizens and communities across the Commonwealth who are involved with or impacted by our events, actions, programmes and activities. All of this underpins our firm belief in the power of sport to change a life and the power of communities to change the world.

to back down. Lewis used the snub as motivation for a successful career which earned him the nickname 'Rapid Ray'. *"Every time I lined up at the blocks, I thought of the people who wanted me to fail"*, he said. He went on to win bronze in the relay at the 1932 Olympics and eventually silver in the relay at the Commonwealth Games in London in 1934. We should all be inspired by Bobby's and Ray's values and principles. 92 years on, we must continue to use all our platforms to encourage athletes, coaches, officials, sponsors, administrators and fans to inspire, to educate, to stand for what they believe in.

As the Commonwealth Games Federation, we share a common language, but remain globally and culturally diverse and so can be a respectful space for open and honest conversations, debate and dialogue. In many ways, our significant but manageable scale, bringing together one third of the world's population, allows us to be dynamic and agile. This underpins our impact as a socially-inclined Movement, fully committed to equality and human rights and aligned to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. We use our platform for inclusivity (across para-sport, gender, regions and marginalised groups); but most of all, a platform for inspiring athletes, and their performances, stories, causes and actions.

This will be illustrated at Birmingham 2022, where there will be 11 days of spectacular sport. Over 4,500 of the Commonwealth's finest athletes will compete across 19 sports, in what will be the largest event ever to be staged in the West Midlands region. We are set to see more para sports than ever before, a first ever carbon-neutral Commonwealth Games and more medals for women than men, which is a first for a major multi-sport event. In addition to this, we are proud

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2022 COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN BIRMINGHAM WITH THE UK SPORTS MINISTER

Sport has the power to change people's lives. It has the power to have a unique, positive impact on communities and the power to unite people with shared magical moments that live long in the memory. And it is that power we aim to harness once more at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Our venues are complete, the stage is set and soon over 4,500 athletes from across the Commonwealth will make their way to the UK for an incredible 11 days of sport.

Backed by over £778 million of public funding, Birmingham 2022 represents the biggest investment in a sporting event in the UK since the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is already playing a vital role in helping us level up the West Midlands and it will bring the UK and the Commonwealth together this summer.

In the UK we are incredibly proud of our track record of hosting major sporting events in recent years. From two fantastic past Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002 and Glasgow in 2014 to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and global sporting events in football, athletics, rugby and cricket. Each of these events touched people's lives, brought strong legacies for communities and showed the world the very best of Britain.

We support these events because we passionately believe in the transformative impact on major sporting events of the places and communities that host them. We saw it with Manchester in 2002, London in 2012, and we'll see it again with Birmingham in 2022.

Since being appointed as the UK Sports Minister in 2020, I've made it a mission to support Birmingham in its ambition to deliver the 'Games for everyone'. I want the profile of these Games and the legacy they will build to be felt for generations to come. We've invested almost £600 million from central government, with further support from public funders such as Sport England, which is providing £35 million to give people greater opportunities to get active. We want every person, no matter what their background or where they're from, to have the chance to access the benefits of sport and physical activity.

These Commonwealth Games are made by Birmingham for the world. Home to over 180 nationalities, and sitting at the heart of the UK, Birmingham is a symbol of Commonwealth connectivity. This is a wonderful opportunity to champion the rich cultural heritage of the

West Midlands to a global audience of 1.5 billion people and show why it is such a fantastic place to live, work, visit and invest in.

A £24 million economic legacy programme - supported by funding from central and local government - is demonstrating the vast economic potential here on our shores, and leveraging the profile of this landmark international event to drive inbound tourism, trade and inward investment.

The first of its kind to be attached to a Commonwealth Games, we want everyone to benefit from this ambitious programme, at home and overseas. Steeped in history of innovation and entrepreneurship, the West Midlands stands as a proud gateway to some of the world's major trading hubs this year and we're delighted to be demonstrating the powerful bilateral advantage that unifies so many Commonwealth markets, from Canada to Singapore and Australia to India.

We'll take this one step further this summer as the business and tourism programme's centrepiece, a nine-day, international trade and investment summit comes to Birmingham, alongside the next installment of the Commonwealth Business Forum. And we extend the invitation to you all as we invite international investors and policy makers to join us to deepen economic relationships across eight areas of strategic importance for the country and the Commonwealth, from digital infrastructure to sustainable development. And to ensure those economic benefits are felt at home, the Games have made £350 million of contracts available to British-backed companies, with over 75% going to regional firms. It's a huge economic legacy that will support an estimated 35,000 jobs and apprenticeship placements and 14,000 volunteering positions as we level up access to skills and opportunities right across the West Midlands and the UK.

Since October last year, the Queen's Baton Relay has been touring through 72 nations and territories, bringing communities together and reflecting the West Midlands' rich Commonwealth heritage back to the world. From trips to some of the world's great cities to visits to the world's smallest islands, this epic Relay has celebrated the deep bonds of friendship that our nations share.

Starting off last October, this Relay has been like no other, travelling round the world in the midst of a global pandemic. And the whole team at Birmingham, the Commonwealth Games Federation and Commonwealth Games Associations overseas have engineered a



Hon. Nigel Huddleston, MP is the UK Member of Parliament for Mid Worcestershire, and has been an MP continuously since 7 May 2015. He currently holds the UK Government post of Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) and is the UK Minister for Sport, Tourism, Heritage and Civil Society. He was previously a local councillor and worked in the technology and travel industries.

image credit: shutterstock, 215906437/JAV4



phenomenal international tour with so many unforgettable moments, despite these unprecedented circumstances.

It was fantastic to have the Baton in London to celebrate the historic Platinum Jubilee Weekend as we championed the people, communities and landmarks that make our capital city one of the finest in the world. We watch with pride as it now travels onwards, across the UK from coast to coast for the final hurdles of its journey.

Set to visit 180 cities, towns and villages over 29 days, this tour will span 2,500 miles, from the depths of Nottingham's historic cave network, to the heights of Blackpool's iconic Tower Ballroom. This will be an unforgettable journey, taking in some of the nation's best-loved landmarks, celebrating our local heroes, and connecting communities through exceptional, free to access cultural moments.

Launched from Buckingham Palace by Her Majesty The Queen, the Relay has demonstrated the spirit of friendship that is central to the Commonwealth Sport Movement, championing the collective vision and shared values of humanity, equality and destiny on an international stage. Those threads have been woven into the rich fabric of Birmingham 2022 - a Games which are set to break records before a medal is even won.

They will be the fastest - delivered in four and a half years rather than the usual seven. They will be the most sustainable Commonwealth Games ever. And they will be the most inclusive - delivering the biggest ever para sport programme, and featuring more women's medals than men's for the first time ever.

Above: An aerial view of the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham, one of the main venues for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

And that's not all. In the year the Commonwealth Games Federation launches the Commonwealth Sport Pride Network, Birmingham 2022 is set to deliver one of the largest Pride programmes attached to a Commonwealth Games, as we stand with our international partners to positively champion LGBT+ inclusion.

It was recently at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali that the UK Prime Minister announced £2.8 million of funding to support the Government's international work on LGBT+ rights, in another move that will champion inclusion across the Commonwealth.

I also hope that these Games will bring the spirit of the Commonwealth Sport Movement to a new generation in 2022. We'll be on the edge of our seats as some of the Commonwealth's greatest stars, from sprinting star Dina Asher-Smith to Olympic medallist and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, perform in front of packed crowds in stunning venues.

We saw people come out in their millions for Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee this summer, and we can't wait to see them come out once more for this major highlight in the sporting calendar. It truly will be the Games for Everyone.

RWANDA'S REBUILDING JOURNEY THROUGH SPORTS

Rwanda's Minister of Sports looks at how sport has played an important role in rebuilding the country.

It's been 28 years since the Genocide against the Tutsi was put to an end. A lengthy and challenging reconstruction process followed and has been efficiently implemented with the participation of Rwandans across all walks of life. Sport has proven to be one of the key instruments in the rebuilding of the destroyed social layer in Rwanda. Sport has played an important role in rebuilding the social cohesion, reconciliation and citizen mobilization towards peace building.

During the years that followed the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, communities across the country have been able to reunite and live back together due to sports events that were organised such as football games. It has to be understood that sport has the power to unite and bring together a community behind a team, a club in a given game. We have testimonies of survivors who, during the genocide, were spared by their killers just because they knew them as fellow fans in a given sport (football, volleyball...) or as players they related to in their preferred teams. The reconciliation process also considered the power of sport in rebuilding this social cohesion and to date it has had positive results.

In Rwanda, we have learned to be optimistic, motivated and determined. In Rwanda, sport has become a good channel through which different ideas, programs for peace and good governance have been channeled. Social programs have been developed throughout the country and have been playing a social cohesion and peace building role. Among these programs some renowned ones to mention are the Umurenge (Sector) Kagame Cup, Amashuri (Schools) Kagame Cup, Genocide Memorial Tournament, and in addition, 'Car Free Days' in all Districts are helping the Government of Rwanda to mobilize people around social development programs.

At an international level, having sports competitions like the CECAFA Kagame Cup has helped people from East African countries to feel like brothers and sisters. The opportunity for Rwanda to host different regional and international events is a chance to testify to the unity produced by sports men and women.

In 2018, Sports and Culture were approved as two of the country's development sectors. This confirmed the importance given by Rwanda's leadership to the power of sport in the country's social and

economic development. The 2020-2030 approved National Sports Development Policy has been geared towards achieving both social and economic objectives. This dynamic brings together the use of sport for social cohesion and peace building across the communities but also the call for sport to undergo a change of mindset into a business oriented sector towards its professionalisation.

The Government of Rwanda is attracting foreign private sector stakeholders to invest in sport infrastructures and to set up a conducive environment to attract international sporting events and foreign investment in the sports sector in Rwanda.

Sport has played a role in health promotion

We no longer consider sport as a mere hobby or leisure activity. Sport is considered as one of the means to fight non-communicable disease. As we have encouraged the practice of mass sports countrywide, Rwandans have taken the lead in making it part of their way of life. As a matter of fact, in all Districts of the country starting with the City of Kigali, mass sports are practiced as a prevention method against non-communicable diseases and as a means to achieving healthy living. Rwandan Districts take advantage of car free days and organise mass testing of non-communicable diseases to participants during car free days.

Referring to the results and data from the Ministry of Health, these initiatives are having a positive impact. This compels us in charge of the sector to come up with more social related activities that not just bring citizens and communities together but build a sporting culture among Rwandans as a way to live healthily.

We have seen the increased popularity and endorsement of social sports activities such as car free day programs across the country from District level down to sector level. We are introducing a monthly Kigali Night Run; so many initiatives from citizens are now increasing, we have been seeing an increase in amateur cycling and hiking especially led by youths and attended by elderly citizens.

Local and international NGOs have increased their interventions in the sports sector and as development partners, their programs provide added value and support to national programs and increase



Hon. Munyangaju Aurore Mimosa is the current Minister of Sports of the Republic of Rwanda. Prior to her appointment, she was the Chief Executive Officer of SONARWA Life Insurance. She also served as the Chief Executive Officer of African Alliance, an investment banking group operating in Africa. She has a vast experience in the banking industry especially in Treasury management operations, trade finance and institutional banking. She holds a Master's degree in Business Administration, Project Management from Maastricht School of Management in The Netherlands. In her young years, she took an interest in sports and played volleyball and basketball which she still practices to date as a hobby.

citizen participation while at the same time promoting healthy lifestyles.

Sport as the tool of international relations

Sport is growing and placing itself as one of the key ingredients of our country's diplomacy. Sport diplomacy is a promising soft power tool to strengthen Rwanda's position in the international arena to accelerate its development. We strongly believe that sport is a resource capable of enhancing Rwanda's attractiveness on the international scene while contributing to the socio-economic development of the country.

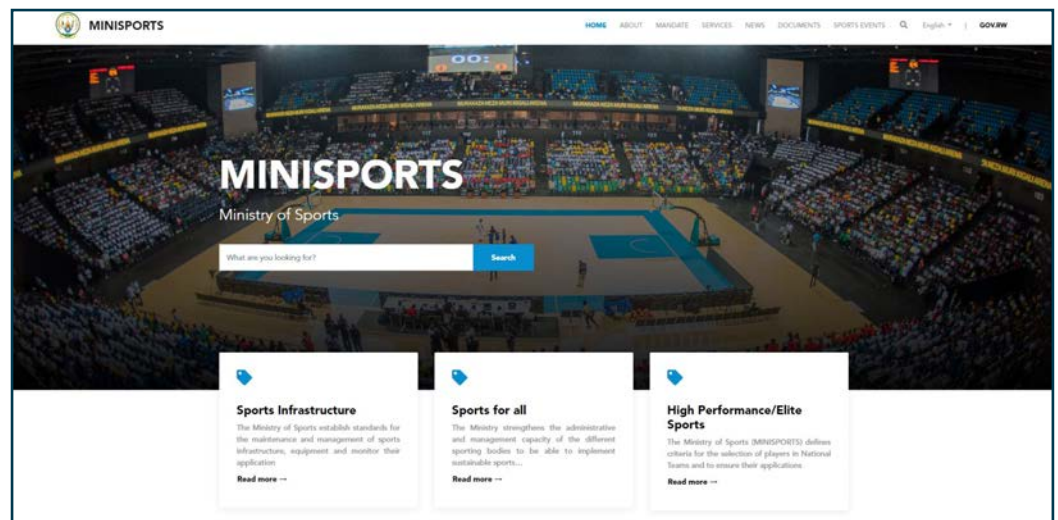
Under this approach, we aim to leverage existing and future frameworks of cooperation in the sports sector to foster international cooperation projects, responding to challenges that hinder the effective development of sport in Rwanda. Hence, we are committed to exploiting the economic potential of the sports industry including through diplomatic activity, advocating for the organisation and hosting of international sporting events in Rwanda. This has shown a considerable potential especially when referring to the events that have been hosted as of recently at the Kigali Arena during the COVID-19 world lockdown. The trust that has been given to Rwanda by International Sport Federations for the safe and professional hosting and organisation of their games, for instance the BAL (1st edition), the FIBA AFROBASKET 2021 Senior Men' National Teams Competition, the CAVB Nations Men and Women Championships, the Rubavu Beach Volleyball Star 2 Championships among others.

The hosting of events on the international stage brings recognition, gains and support to the country. Rwanda is hosting the Commonwealth Heads of State and Government Meetings (CHOGM) in June 2022 which will be followed at the end of July by the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. For Rwanda as the new Commonwealth Chair-in-Office, we will certainly look at how we can play our role in promoting the use of sport as a vehicle for development and peacebuilding across the Commonwealth.

One of the priority areas of our national transformational development strategy is to establish Rwanda as a globally competitive knowledge-based economy; and among the key strategic interventions is to leverage on sport as an integral component of social, economic and human development and a necessary underpinning to health and well-being. It has to be understood that when integrated into the broader framework of development goals, priorities, programs and activities, sport can address basic needs and advance sustainable human and social development.

Sports for economic growth

The development of sport is becoming not only a focus on practice or exercising but it is also linked to various sectors of social development, diplomacy and economic growth from the business



generated across the sporting events to the products created in sports. It has been proven that the development of any sport is done through partnerships and investment, made possible by sports organisations and the private sector through business or related companies.

The sports industry has become a multi-billion-dollar industry which fosters innovation and trade, and boosts foreign exchange earnings. Staging sporting events, whether at grassroots, national or international levels, can enrich the social and cultural fabric of communities, making them more attractive locations for investors and tourists.

The Commonwealth should also not be left behind in pitching in this very lucrative approach for sports investment. Investments can bring along job creation for our youth and create opportunities for start-ups to bloom and grow. Staging sporting events can enrich the social and cultural fabric of communities, making them more attractive locations for investors and tourists. Rwanda, and all the Commonwealth nations, should see and seize the opportunities in the sector and plan to establish the conducive environment for foreign and local investments in sport.

Conclusion

In today's global society, sport is a major contributor to the economic and social development of all peoples. And of course, sport also contributes immensely to the social and emotional excitement of a society, which is mostly what makes a population's wellbeing and happiness. Sport has long been considered as a valuable tool for fostering communication and building links between communities and generations.

Rwanda recognises sport as one of the pillars of social transformation and development. It is our mandate as Rwanda, as the Commonwealth to ensure that sport is promoted in all corners of society, unbiased by gender, age or physical capacity; and to create the conducive environment to allow business-led investments in the sector that will unveil the existing and long ignored potential of our youth.

THE WELLBEING OF OUR PEOPLE: ACHIEVING WELLBEING OUTCOMES THROUGH SPORT AND RECREATION IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Sport for Aotearoa New Zealand explains the importance of sport and recreation to achieving wellbeing for all.

Introduction

We know that sport and physical activity can play a vital role in enhancing individual and collective wellbeing. This is clear not just from a physical health perspective, but also in terms of mental wellbeing and strengthening communities.

This article illustrates the strategic approach taken by Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa (Sport NZ) to deliver on the Government of New Zealand's intended wellbeing outcomes, including the provision of equitable access to sport and physical activity. The introduction of the 'Wellbeing Budget' in Aotearoa New Zealand, in 2019, and the tools developed to measure wellbeing outcomes at a population level were an important shift in government policy. They provide context for changes to the ways in which sport and physical activity are delivered, and the outcomes we as a country seek to achieve.

The introduction of the 'Wellbeing Budget' represented a significant change in the way government investment decisions are made in Aotearoa New Zealand

The traditional way that governments measure success and progress is through gross domestic product (GDP). In Aotearoa New Zealand, prior to 2019, we were performing well according to our GDP measures. However, GDP, while being a useful and consistent measure of economic activity, did not reflect our performance in relation to matters that our society really values. We were experiencing a decline in child welfare outcomes, employment rates, the quality of our housing, and other important measures that relate to wellbeing. Many nations have begun exploring ways to measure societal development beyond GDP, but Aotearoa New Zealand led the way when we introduced the 2019 'Wellbeing Budget', deciding to invest our annual budget in ways that would improve the population's overall wellbeing. Specifically, in a departure from traditional budgets, which measured fiscal outcomes, the 2019 'Wellbeing Budget' introduced measurements for a much broader range of wellbeing and societal outcomes.

This change was enabled by the New Zealand's Treasury development of the Living Standards Framework (LSF), which

provides tools to measure current and future wellbeing outcomes for New Zealanders. The LSF provides a framework to understand the drivers of wellbeing and to consider the broader impacts of government policies in a systematic and evidenced way.

The LSF was originally comprised of two core components for measuring population wellbeing. These have since been further developed, with the latest iteration of the LSF framework introducing three levels of factors that make a contribution to wellbeing:

- our individual and collective wellbeing – this level measures resources and aspects of our lives that are important for the wellbeing of individuals, families, whānau and communities;
- our institutions and governance – this level measures the contribution political, economic, social and cultural institutions make towards safeguarding and building our national wealth and supporting the wellbeing of our people and communities; and
- the overall wealth of Aotearoa New Zealand – this level measures aspects of wealth not fully captured in the system of national accounts, such as human capability and the natural environment.

The introduction of this wellbeing approach prompted all Government departments and crown agencies when developing any new objectives and policies, to consider how the work aligns with the three framework levels set out by the LSF.

It also required government departments to look at where there are opportunities to collaborate when putting forward new initiatives. This was further supported in 2020 by the passing of the *Public Service Act 2020* (the Act). The aim of the Act is to encourage a more adaptive and collaborative public service, and to get stronger recognition of the role of the public service in supporting the partnership between Māori and the Crown under the Treaty of Waitangi (te Tiriti o Waitangi).

COVID-19 further showed how agencies can collaborate to solve complex challenges facing New Zealanders. However, it also highlighted how divergent government agencies are more generally in their work, and the value of taking a more collaborative approach. A more collaborative and cohesive public service is needed to



Hon. Grant Robertson, MP is the Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand and the Minister of Finance, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Racing. Elected to the Parliament of New Zealand as MP for Wellington Central in 2008, he previously worked at the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the United Nations in New York, working on global environment and development issues. He has a strong focus on social justice and equality.

Image credit: shutterstock_393522933



address complex issues that span across multiple agencies. This approach better supports the provision of wraparound services based on New Zealanders' needs, and avoids disjointed services created by agency mandates.

Aotearoa New Zealand's government departments are therefore encouraged to collaborate and work together where possible around the promotion of wellbeing. An example of the implementation of this collaborative approach has been work undertaken to identify how we can use sport, play and active recreation as part of our efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of New Zealanders.

Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa has revised its strategic approach to give effect to the new wellbeing framework

Research shows that participation in physical activity can contribute to improved outcomes in several wellbeing indicators identified in the LSF, including health, social connection, subjective wellbeing and cultural identity.

Sport NZ Ihi Aotearoa (Sport NZ) responded to the change in government policy by remapping its own policy to align with the framework. This culminated in the development of the 2020-2032 Sport NZ Outcomes Framework, which outlines how sport and physical activity initiatives can contribute to current and future population wellbeing. The Sport NZ framework has been a key strategic tool for integrating wellbeing into policy across multiple government departments. The cross-agency Healthy Active Learning initiative provides a good example of this.

Healthy Active Learning – an example of a successful cross agency collaboration for wellbeing outcomes

In the 2019 Wellbeing Budget we invested NZ\$47.6 million over four years in a Healthy Active Learning (HAL) initiative. The initiative supports schools and early learning settings to improve child and youth wellbeing through healthy eating and drinking, and quality physical activity. HAL is voluntary to join and was provided to a pilot group of schools with no expenditure required from the schools. Sport NZ leads the workforce component of the initiative to support teachers and school leaders to integrate a more holistic approach to physical activity and nutrition into their health and physical education planning, across the school setting.

This initiative involves three lead agencies running separate but related components:

- **Ministry of Health** – Nutrition toolkits and health promotion staff to support healthy food and water-only (and plain milk) environments in early learning settings, primary and secondary schools and kura (Māori medium schools).
- **Ministry of Education** – Resources to support all primary, intermediate, and secondary schools and kura to enhance the understanding, planning and delivery of Health and Physical Education (HPE) and Hauora curriculum, and physical activity.
- **Sport New Zealand** – a physical activity workforce to support 800 primary and intermediate schools and kura to create healthy and active learning environments, and better connections to their local communities.

CASE STUDY FROM NEW ZEALAND: HEALTHY ACTIVE LEARNING IN PRACTICE

Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti, the regional Ministry of Education office, and regional Public Health Unit are working closely in partnership on a collaborative approach to implementing HAL (In this region HAL is called Manawakura (precious breath of wellbeing) as this name is more relevant to the participants in the region).

After only 12 months, the programme is having a positive impact on tamariki (children), whānau (family), schools and their wider communities due to:

- the well-established relationships and strong community connections that have been developed.
- the localised approach that has been developed to meet the specific needs of the local people and community.
- the holistic approach that the programme is using to focus on the development of wellbeing.

The HAL programme is providing an entry point for broader discussions with families:

- for example, one parent contacted the dietician who was part of the programme seeking advice around good kai (food) for mums as part of an 8-week wero (challenge) for a small group of mums from Kaiti School.
- the dietician created an 8-week challenge with a difference and designed challenges to empower women to love the body they are in, and to improve all areas of their health and wellbeing.

Other changes include parents and caregivers:

- helping with the school garden
- asking for more resources to support positive change
- reaching out to teachers and staff for more information
- thinking more about what kai (food) they have in their cupboards
- asking more questions about what good kai is
- sharing stories of hunting and fishing.

The initiative has been successful at providing positive wellbeing outcomes for rangatahi (young people), which we anticipate will continue into the future. The case study above provides an example of the positive impacts of this initiative in the Gisborne/Tairāwhiti region on the East Coast of New Zealand's North Island.

Sport NZ has also undertaken significant work to promote equitable access to physical activity and sport

As Parliamentarians, it is our role to ensure equitable access to physical activity and sport for all members of our population. To

support the accessibility of sport, Sport NZ has specifically undertaken work to address inequalities with traditionally marginalised groups.

Engagement with tangata whenua (indigenous people of the land) has been undertaken to honour te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi) and the partnership approach it requires in addressing inequality between Māori and the Crown. Based on this engagement, a twin outcomes framework has been established, Te Pākē o Ihi Aotearoa (the Sport NZ Māori Outcomes Framework), which sits beside the Sport NZ Outcomes Framework to ensure sport and physical activity in Aotearoa New Zealand is delivered in a bicultural way.

Sport NZ have also developed strategies for Women and Girls in Sport, and are working to address Diversity and Inclusion inequities. Everyone should be able to participate in sport regardless of their age, gender, disability, cultural or religious background, or sexual orientation.

Sport NZ are seeing a huge change through their Women and Girls in Sport Strategy. The strategy strives to achieve equity for all women and girls as well as seeking to understand and address the multiple barriers women and girls can face.

There are three main priority areas in the strategy: leadership, participation, and value and visibility. With the strategy aiming to ensure that all women and girls, in all roles, are visible, feel positive about the contribution they make, and value being involved and participating in all levels of sport and recreation.

Sport NZ has been taking an active approach, supporting its partners to make organisational change and driving initiatives that encourage women into leadership roles, with one initiative ensuring that Boards have equal gender representation. The promotion of women's sport is evidenced by Aotearoa New Zealand's hosting of international sporting competitions, including the 2022 Women's Cricket World Cup, the Women's Rugby World Cup 2022, and in 2023, the FIFA Women's World Cup (which we are co-hosting with Australia).

As part of the Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, Sport NZ helps Regional Sport Trusts, which deliver sport regionally across Aotearoa New Zealand, and other sporting organisations (for example, Cricket New Zealand) in developing their inclusion policies. We encourage these organisations to introduce policies that make their sport or organisation as welcoming and accessible as possible.

We are moving in the right direction on matters of diversity and inclusion, and striving to reach those who have previously missed out on quality experiences of sport or recreation. While we have been seeing a lot of positive change, further work still needs to be done.

Conclusion

To achieve the wellbeing goals that we have set in Aotearoa New Zealand, we need to take a systems-based approach that has an intergenerational lens and measures success in a sophisticated way. Sport and physical activity have the ability to play a vital role in supporting this approach. The wellbeing of our people, in both a physical and mental sense, will be strengthened as we find ways to integrate this into our entire economic and social programme.

SPORT AS A VEHICLE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: JAMAICA'S SPORTS SUCCESSES

The Minister of Sport for Jamaica writes about how sport can be utilised for sustainable development.

Whenever our sports stars take the stage internationally, and even locally, all of Jamaica stands still. Transfixed to the electronic boards in town squares or glued to the nearest television screen. We stand united, a powerhouse.

Sports have the power to break barriers and transcend boundaries. Sports can reduce conflict, build character, increase access to educational and economic opportunities as well as build leadership skills for men, women and Para athletes. The Government of Jamaica has established a National Development Plan, 'Vision 2030 Jamaica' for which sport is considered a 'strategic priority'. The aim is to develop and heighten the local and community components of sports, and to enhance and enrich the national contribution of sport. In particular, increased attention will be paid to:

- Broadening opportunities for participation in recreational and competitive sports for persons of all age groups;
- Increasing facilities for sporting events at the national, community and school levels;
- Increasing the number of trained coaches, administrators and other personnel;
- Strengthening the institutions for sport education and administration; and
- Establishment of appropriate and effective policies, legislation and regulations to promote sport participation.

(Vision 2030 Jamaica, P.1)

As Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, I am the chief facilitator of sports in Jamaica. My Ministry is charged with developing and safeguarding sports through its sporting agencies, the Institute of Sports (INSPTS), Independence Park Limited, the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission (JADCO) and the Sports Development Foundation (SDF).

INSPTS is responsible for promoting and developing sports at the grassroots level and each year holds numerous local, regional

and national competitions, across many sporting disciplines, for primary school and high school students island-wide.

For instance, the INSPTS National Primary Schools Championships provides a track and field platform with a view to identifying talent at the earliest possible stage and channelling athletes through a structured programme for national and international representation. The championships have proven to be a fantastic development arena for many of our athletes, some of whom are now world-beaters. These include Shelly Ann Fraser-Pryce, Melanie Walker, Warren Weir, Kerron Stewart, Jazeel Murphy, Ramone McKenzie, Javon Francis, Raheem Chambers, Christopher Taylor, Briana Lustan, Boughwgjie Ekumie and Yourie Lawrence.

The Institute of Sports has engaged more than one thousand young people at its grassroots summer camps across the island and is also introducing ice hockey in collaboration with the Jamaica Ice Hockey Federation. The current programme has seen the recent introduction of chess, golf and surfing to inner-city youths.

INSPTS has also conducted a talent search and recruited 35 boys for its Cricket Incubator programme. The Cricket Incubator has shown promise and we will now extend it through a partnership involving INSPTS, the SDF, the Ministry of Education and Youth, and the Jamaica Cricket Association.

Under the partnership, students will be exposed to batting, bowling and catching during the first three years of primary school. After which, leading into high school, they will focus on other techniques and playing matches. Through the SDF, the government will invest J\$15M in 120 schools under this initiative through which the Jamaica Cricket Association will be able to spot and nurture talent for the national programme.

In addition to facilitating programmes to nurture talent and enable our young athletes to pursue their passions, infrastructure is key. In this regard, the Sports Development Foundation spent more than



Hon. Olivia Grange, CD, MP is the Jamaica Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport. Elected as the Member Parliament for St Catherine Central in 1997, she was appointed as the Minister in 2007. She has had a long career as a cultural activist, working at the grassroots level in developing and managing talent in Jamaica's creative and cultural industries, particularly the music industry. She is committed to the promotion of youth and women's affairs with a particular focus on job creation and improved health care. In 2015, she was awarded the Order of Distinction, in the rank of Commander (CD), for her contribution to the Jamaican music industry, cultural development and public service.



Above: Yohan Blake of Jamaica competes in the men's 100m heats during the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games at the Carrara Stadium in Australia.

J\$117M in the last financial year to provide 20 playing surfaces in schools and communities.

Among the legacy projects being spearheaded under the Jamaica 60 banner in celebration of our Diamond Jubilee this year, is the redevelopment of the National Stadium, to be completed over a period, which will include covering the bleachers, removing the cycle track, installing more comfortable seating, establishing a new stand, new concession areas and facilities for holding meetings and conferences.

The Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission has the duty to, among other things, direct Jamaica's anti-doping in sports programme which includes the testing of athletes, the collection of samples and the management of test results — all in keeping with international standards. JADCO has been made stronger by improving its core infrastructure including firewalls, servers, testing facilities and its human capacity. In recent years, Jamaica's reputation in anti-doping in sport has been excellent and must be maintained and built upon.

My Ministry, through the Sport Division, has also created national initiatives to assist our athletes, sporting communities and help develop the sport sector.

Key among these was the establishment of the Jamaica Athletes Insurance Plan which provides health and life insurance to all athletes representing Jamaica. We recently improved the Plan, now enabling

athletes to access unlimited Psychological/Psychiatric services as well as Dietitian/Podiatrist/Chiropractor, massage therapy, athletic therapy and speech therapy, among others. Currently, approximately 1,600 athletes are enrolled on the plan, representing almost all sporting disciplines in Jamaica.

During the pandemic, the Government of Jamaica set aside J\$40M in a support package for creatives and athletes who were negatively impacted. The Ministry also hosted a mental health forum which led to 48 coaches and 73 athletes being trained in mental health resilience. As a follow-up to our mental health forum and our funding of a mental health and wellness course at the GC Foster College of Physical Education and Sport, we are moving to establish a Mental Health Toolkit for use by athletes, coaches and other support personnel. The Toolkit will be launched later this year at a conference on Safeguarding Children in Sport. Additionally, in partnership with Fight for Peace Jamaica, we have trained 90 officers from national sports federations and government sports agencies in Psychological First Aid.

The Ministry is also in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat to develop a National Result Framework and Monitoring Evaluation System aimed at measuring the contribution of sport to national development.

The Government of Jamaica continues to employ a joined up approach, with Ministries, Agencies and Departments working together to create synergies.

For instance, the Ministry of Education has created Edu-Sport, a programme that utilises domino, chess and other mathematics

“Importantly, with sustainable development comes the increase and successful participation of women in sports. As the Minister responsible for both Sport and Gender in Jamaica, it is very gratifying to see so many young women using sport not only to become great athletes but also to obtain higher education, become entrepreneurs and leaders in their communities.”

concepts, retention, problem solving in sport, to help children with their academics and uses sports to provide life tools such as interpersonal skills, teamwork, discipline, time management and conflict resolution.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health and Wellness started ‘Jamaica Moves’, an island wide initiative promoting healthy lifestyles for Jamaicans. During the pandemic, Jamaica Moves televised its programming for children and adults forced to remain at home.

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, through the Social Development Commission, works across the 775 communities in Jamaica to spearhead its Community Sports programme, which aims to bring communities together and foster unity at the local level.

The Jamaica Boxing Association, through its ‘Gloves over Guns initiative’ and its involvement in the international programme, ‘Fight for Peace’ utilises boxing to teach young people to resolve conflicts without violence.

In some communities, we also see an increase in the number of sport activities linked to mentoring programmes and homework support. Hosting of major local and international sports competitions is also important. These initiatives allow for the stimulation and building of the community economy in many ways, including exchange of cultural practices and building of networks.

We know that sport has always played a critical role in the Caribbean in nation building, also as a means to mobilise people around common issues at the community, national and regional levels. Sport contributes significantly to GDP and has a multiplier effect on direct and indirect employment, health and well-being as well as an important social impact from increased participation.

Sport for economic development is one of the key indicators for Jamaica’s National Development Plan through sport tourism, sport manufacturing, sport intellectual property, sponsorship, health and well-being and educational advancement, among other areas.

Jamaica continues to make strides in sports and the Government recognises the value of sports and the importance of expanding on investment and maintenance of sport physical infrastructure in

communities. The Sport Development Foundation has been the major player in this process.

Importantly, with sustainable development comes the increase and successful participation of women in sports. As the Minister responsible for both Sport and Gender in Jamaica, it is very gratifying to see so many young women using sport not only to become great athletes but also to obtain higher education, become entrepreneurs and leaders in their communities.

The increased success of Jamaican athletes is enabling the country to reach its National Development Goals. In fact, my Ministry, along with some of our major universities, have all had MoUs with other countries willing to send their athletes to train in Jamaica, among them, China and India.

Parliamentarians set the stage and ensure the safe participation by all in sport. Meanwhile, Jamaica’s athletes repeatedly show that if given the opportunity they can achieve great success personally and professionally.

As we wish all our athletes well in the upcoming athletics World Championships and the Commonwealth Games, I want to highlight some of the extraordinary achievements by Jamaican athletes over the last year.

Elaine Thompson-Herah created history several times during the year. She won the 100 and 200 metres at the Tokyo Games to become the first woman to win the sprint double at separate Olympic Games following her outstanding performances at Rio 2016. She won the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year award — the first Jamaican to do so; and is the fastest woman alive.

Elaine, Shelly-Ann Frazer-Pryce and Sherica Jackson made a clean sweep of the medals in the 100 metres in Tokyo; and all helped Jamaica win gold in the 4x100 metres relay.

Hansle Parchment became the Olympic sprint hurdles champion as Jamaica ended the Tokyo Games with four gold, one silver and four bronze medals.

Team Jamaica finished with 11 medals and a world record at the World Under 20 Championships in Kenya. We wish them well in the next Under 20 World Championships this August in Colombia.

Fraser McConnell drove into history, becoming the first Jamaican to claim a supercar victory in the Rally X Nordic Championship.

Out of a field of 10,000 Sara Misir was one of the top four Formula Women drivers to earn a spot on the DTO Motorsport Team that will compete in the GT Cup Championships.

Just recently in Sweden, young Alex Powell became the first Jamaican and first person from the Caribbean to win an FIA karting race.

Whether at annual Sports Days, observed by schools island wide or when our athletes compete on the national and international stage, the sense of pride and unity that sports emit, draws us together. Their success is our success.

In keeping with the theme for Jamaica 60, ‘Re-igniting a Nation for Greatness’, sport like all other sectors is reignited. The Government of Jamaica recognises the important role sports play in civil society and will continue to invest in and create policy and safe spaces to embolden our athletes for success and our citizens towards peace and unity.

THE LASTING LEGACY OF THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN QUEENSLAND AND BEYOND

Ahead of the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham, the Queensland Sports Minister reflects on hosting the Commonwealth Games Gold Coast in 2018, the lasting impact of sport and the future development opportunities it brings.

Many countries are making significant strides to economic and health recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We know the world still faces ongoing challenges to COVID-19 recovery and other global events, and that's what makes the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games such an important event.

For 54 Commonwealth countries and 18 territories, the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games represent a post-COVID opportunity to unite the Commonwealth on sport's level playing field. The Commonwealth's diverse collection of nations make up 30% of the global population and feature different faiths, ethnicities, languages, cultures and traditions. Birmingham's 2022 Commonwealth Games will bring participating nations together as family in the spirit of goodwill and understanding, as they have every four years since 1930, when Canada hosted the first British Empire Games in Hamilton, Ontario.

Queensland is honoured to have hosted the Commonwealth Games twice. The first was the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games and the second was GC2018 on the Gold Coast. Although held 36 years apart, Queensland's Commonwealth Games have been transformational for both host cities and the State. Years before the 1982 Commonwealth Games, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane at the time surprised many contemporaries with a frank assessment of the Queensland capital as 'The Boring City', a sleepy town of no more than one million residents. In the decades since, as the city has embraced many international influences, much has changed in Brisbane, and in Australia.

The opening ceremony of the 1982 Commonwealth Games is widely accepted among Queenslanders as the moment Brisbane began its journey from big country town to world city. History remembers Brisbane's Commonwealth Games for Matilda, the 13-metre-high winking kangaroo that was the 1982 Games' official mascot. However, Brisbane's Commonwealth Games legacy runs

far deeper through the region's DNA as the agent of change that fast-tracked the transformational sporting, transport and cultural infrastructure that a growing Queensland capital, and aspiring world city, needed.

The Commonwealth Games legacy has driven two important upgrades of South East Queensland's urban rail network. The first stage of the network's Commonwealth Games-inspired electrification opened in 1979, with three further sections of line energised by 1982 and matched by a 60% surge in passenger patronage. Queensland-built electric train sets that had debuted among great fanfare in 1979 were withdrawn from service when New Generation Rollingstock joined the urban network fleet just before the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

The QEII Stadium was the main stadium and opening ceremony venue for the Commonwealth Games in 1982. Now known as the Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre, the venue's Commonwealth Games legacy lives on as the State's premier training hub for athletes of all ages, the headquarters of the Queensland Academy of Sport, and a popular entertainment space for touring international musicians.

The legacy of Brisbane's 1982 Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village has been converted to student accommodation for the neighbouring Griffith University. The Sleeman Centre, incorporating the Brisbane Aquatic Centre and the Chandler Indoor Sport Centre, was built for the 1982 Commonwealth Games. The Anna Meares Velodrome - named in honour of the Queensland-born, Commonwealth and Olympic gold medal-winning track cyclist - was added to The Sleeman Centre in late 2016. The Velodrome and The Sleeman Centre's Commonwealth Games legacy infrastructure will host Olympic gymnastics, cycling, diving, water polo, artistic swimming, and Paralympic wheelchair basketball and cycling competitions at Brisbane's 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, MP is the State Member for Sandgate on Brisbane's northern bayside and Queensland's Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Sport Engagement. He served in previous Queensland Governments as the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining, Minister for Transport and the 2018 Commonwealth Games, and Minister for Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs. He was elected to the Queensland Parliament in 2015 and previously served as a Member of Parliament from 2006 until 2012.



Brisbane's renowned Aquatic Centre where Australian swimmers and divers won 34 Commonwealth Games medals in 1982, has added enormous water ramps to create a year-round training facility for elite aerobics and moguls skiers at the Geoff Henke Olympic Winter Training Centre. The ramps' first elite training sessions included athletes who would compete at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games.

A year after the 1982 Closing Ceremony, the Commonwealth Games' legacy helped deliver another transformative world event for Queensland. In 1983, the Bureau International des Expositions awarded Brisbane hosting rights to the 1988 World Exposition, or World Expo 88. Opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, World Expo 88 was a significant celebration and international tourism event during Australia's Bicentennial year. As a Commonwealth Games legacy, World Expo 88 would make its own mark on Brisbane as the catalyst for the redevelopment of its inner-city riverside site into the subtropical South Bank Parklands and cultural precinct.

Gold Coast 2018 was the first Commonwealth Games held in a regional city. The former CEO of the Commonwealth Games Federation, David Grevemberg described GC2018 as a demonstration of how far the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth Games have come. From inception, the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games focused on eleven days of

elite sporting competition and the delivery of a legacy to benefit the communities of the Gold Coast and Queensland for years to come. The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games supported more than 30,000 jobs and economic growth. The Queensland Government's delivery of the 2018 Commonwealth Games included investment in a lasting public transport infrastructure legacy for the State's second largest city with the duplication of heavy rail and construction of stage two of the G:link light rail system to connect with South East Queensland's train network. Around 930,000 passengers every month now use G:link, which has its genesis in the need for an efficient transport option for Commonwealth Games spectators to move from their hotel accommodation to Gold Coast and Brisbane competition venues.

In preparation for GC2018, eleven venues across the Gold Coast and Queensland were built or upgraded and successfully designed to attract major post-Games sporting events. More than 100 national and international events have been secured for 2018 Commonwealth Games legacy venues.

The post-Games report found the Queensland Government's AU\$1.5 billion Commonwealth Games infrastructure investment generated over AU\$2.5 in State Domestic Product, including AU\$1.8 billion on the Gold Coast. GC2018 brought 1.1 million visitors to Queensland and the Gold Coast who contributed over AU\$1.1



Above: The Carrara Stadium in Queensland was the venue for the opening and closing ceremonies plus the athletics for the 2018 Commonwealth Games Gold Coast which resulted in the stadium being upgraded to a temporary seating capacity of 35,000, which was dismantled after the Games and restored back to 25,000.

billion in spectator spending. More than 1.5 billion people watched the Commonwealth Games' international broadcast with images of the State's many iconic visitor attractions confirming Queensland's reputation as a world-class destination. In the four years after the Games, Queensland's exports and direct foreign investment have grown by an estimated AU\$840 million, even with the constraints of COVID-19 and the pandemic's disruption of global supply chains.

GC2018 was the first Commonwealth Games with a Reconciliation Action Plan to deliver legacy outcomes for Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Tangible outcomes from the Reconciliation Action Plan delivered AU\$14 million in contracts and revenue for Indigenous businesses, employment, training and the development of authentic First Nations cultural experiences for GC2018 visitors. Genuine Indigenous cultural experiences are now highly sought-after by international and domestic visitors to

Queensland and are critical to the post-pandemic recovery of the State's international tourism industry.

GC2018 was the first major international multi-sport event with an equal number of medal events for men and women. Community participation in sport also increased. The Gold Coast Marathon held five months after the Games attracted 60,000 competitors, up 13% on the previous year. 'Learn to Swim' enrolments at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre grew by 300%.

Another component of the Queensland Government's 2018 Commonwealth Games Legacy Program continues to concentrate on building active, engaged and inclusive communities. We know active Queenslanders are healthy Queenslanders. More Queenslanders get involved in organised active recreation when we support grassroots sporting and community clubs to grow by investing in programs and minor infrastructure. According to the post-Commonwealth Games report, GC2018 inspired more than 200,000 people to lead more active and healthier lifestyles.

We like to think GC2018 set a new legacy benchmark for the future Commonwealth Games host cities and regions. Gold Coast 2018 featured an inclusive, integrated program to take Para sport representation to a completely new level. More Para athletes competed on the Gold Coast than any other Commonwealth Games with an increase of 45% on the Glasgow 2014 Games to

300 participants who contested 38 medal events across seven sports. Not only did GC2018 boost Para sport medals by almost three quarters, 2018 was also the first Commonwealth Games to include a wheelchair marathon in the competition event line-up.

Inspirational Australian Para-athlete Kurt Fearnley etched his name in Commonwealth Games history by becoming the inaugural men's gold medal winner for the T54 wheelchair marathon in one hour, 30 minutes and 25 seconds. It's terrific to see Birmingham 2022 move the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games legacy up a gear to create the largest Para sport program in Games' history with eight sports including 3x3 wheelchair basketball.

The success of the 2018 Games and our commitment to legacy certainly put Brisbane and Queensland in a good position for a successful 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games bid. The decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to adopt the 'Olympic Agenda 2020' complements Queensland's legacy focused approach to major sporting events. Under the IOC's 'new norm', Queensland has committed to using existing infrastructure, including venues built or upgraded for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, to ensure the Olympic and Paralympic Games are cost-effective and sustainable. Of the venues earmarked for the Brisbane 2032 Games, 84% are either existing or temporary to reduce the cost of delivering the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The 2032 Games aren't limited to Brisbane, Olympic competition events will be held on the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville and Cairns to ensure the Games' economic benefits and jobs are spread throughout regional Queensland. Queensland's Games will create 91,600 jobs with a AU\$4.6 billion boost in trade and tourism.

In addition to the world's best athletes, Queensland's iconic tourism destinations and visitor experiences will be beamed around the planet to an audience of 5 billion spectators. Like the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the Games everyone can be part of, whether that's as an athlete, a Games volunteer, a spectator, or a Queensland business benefiting from our Games' buy local procurement strategy.

One of the Queensland Government initiatives developed for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games could also inspire future Commonwealth Games beyond the West Midlands. We've launched Australia's biggest ever talent search to find, nurture and develop up to 400 podium-ready, elite Queensland athletes with the drive to win medals on home soil in 2032. Our 'You For



Image credit: Commonwealth Games Federation

2032' campaign aims to increase Queensland's representation on Australia's national teams competing in Paris and Los Angeles, as well as the 2026 Victoria Commonwealth Games, on the runway to Brisbane 2032. After a record medal haul in Tokyo last year, Queensland athletes will be very competitive in Birmingham and formidable at the 2026 Commonwealth Games as Queenslanders seize every moment of our transformative golden decade of sporting opportunity.

The Commonwealth Games' predecessor, the British Empire Games, were created as a means of increasing goodwill and common understanding between the United Kingdom and the countries of the British Commonwealth of Nations and territories. In the 92 years since the inaugural British Empire Games, this spirit of goodwill and understanding remains the central tenant of the Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth Games unite a unique family of nations, brought together through their common history, and strengthened through sport.

The Gold Coast, Queensland and Australia look forward passing the Commonwealth Games baton to Birmingham in July 2022 to continue the Games' great tradition of unity through sport and lasting legacy. Best wishes for the success of the Commonwealth Games biggest sporting program yet.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SPORT: THE SHADOWY REALITY HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

The Chair of the UK APPG on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery looks at the global issue of human trafficking in sport.

As the Commonwealth Games approaches, we are likely to hear about issues that often come to the fore around mega-sporting events, namely, human trafficking. Sadly, we are familiar with reports of human trafficking resulting in forced labour and sexual exploitation. While these atrocities must be investigated and tackled, we do not often talk about a type of human trafficking that can begin well in advance of these sporting events – human trafficking within sport and through sport itself.

In January of this year, I discussed with CPA UK about my role as a Parliamentarian concerned with issues of human trafficking. I discussed ways in which I have raised awareness of the topic of modern slavery both within the UK Parliament and with our friends and allies overseas. I spoke about the important distinction between human trafficking and smuggling, and I suggested analysing human trafficking as a financial crime, to offer a newer framework with which to tackle the issue. I also stated that I was keen to use the 2022 Commonwealth Games as an opportunity to have a discussion on the issue of sports trafficking, and CPA UK's recent Roundtable Discussion on Sport Trafficking delivered just that.

The Roundtable was an opportunity for Parliamentarians, academic experts, advocates, sports organisers, and industry stakeholders to share vital knowledge that empowers participants to address sport trafficking issues ahead of mega-sporting events. The CPA UK Branch had recently concluded a joint endeavour with Mission 89, one of the most impactful players in tackling sports trafficking, to produce resources¹ for Parliamentarians, border officials, and the general public. Their resources also provide practical, actionable suggestions on how to spot and prevent sports trafficking within their respective roles.

One clear take-away from the Roundtable was that the issue of sports trafficking is a complicated topic, often misunderstood and conflated with other forms of human trafficking. This is why it is even more important of an issue to raise.

How does human trafficking in sport happen?

Human trafficking can happen to professional or aspiring athletes training for opportunities to secure sports contracts. A human trafficker may approach an athlete with the promise of a fair chance at competing for contracts with well-known sports clubs. To secure the opportunity, however, the trafficker will demand a large sum of money.

During CPA UK's Roundtable, Dr Erkut Sogut highlighted that the extended family of the player, community, or even village could contribute funds to make this sporting opportunity a reality. Typically, sums of US\$3,000 - US\$10,000 are exchanged for the sporting opportunity, and it is not uncommon for families and communities to pool their resources and take out loans to meet this demand.²

After the financial exchange is made, the victim may be taken to several sports trials with sports clubs in foreign countries, which can seem convincing to an athlete who is determined to secure a career in sport. During this process, the athlete may be forced to compete for those sports contracts in meagre conditions. Their 'training' may be exhaustive and their accommodation in poor condition.³ With little thought for the safety and wellbeing of the athletes themselves, they face a grim forked road ahead: they will either stay in exploitive contracts which favours their trafficker; or they will be abandoned and are forced to live in precarity.⁴ If the athlete remains in the hope of securing a genuine contract to work with a sports club, they will be trapped in a cycle of exploitation.

If the athlete is abandoned by their trafficker, or they run away as soon as they realise their precarity, they are left to navigate getting to safety in a foreign country with no money and documentation. Although much attention has been given to trafficking within football⁵, this can technically happen within any sporting discipline.

What is human trafficking through sport? What is the difference?

A key difference between human trafficking in and through sport comes down to what happens to the victim once they are transported



Rt Hon. Karen Bradley, MP is a Member of the UK Parliament representing the constituency of Staffordshire Moorlands since May 2010 and is a Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery. She has held several Ministerial positions including Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (2018 – 2019); Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (2016 – 2018); and Parliamentary Under-Secretary Home Office (2014 – 2016). She has been Chair of the House of Commons Procedure Committee since 2020.

to the foreign country or place of the supposed opportunity. An athlete who is trafficked through sport may find themselves pushed into forced labour and/or sexual exploitation as soon as they arrive to their destination. This may look like labour in farms, around toxic chemicals in factories, and/or domestic labour. The aspiring athlete was promised the opportunity for a sports contract, but instead has found themselves entangled in a web of forced labour, with their money and documents confiscated.

What about human trafficking around sport?

Human trafficking around sport can happen in parallel to human trafficking through and within sport itself. Traffickers approach people who are willing to work in the industries around sporting events, such as construction, retail, food, and hospitality.

Victims of human trafficking around sport are promised opportunities to work abroad in the hotels, shops, and construction sites that are normally expected to flourish during sporting events. Once again, the victim's personal documentation and money are confiscated by traffickers.

Why is this particularly concerning?

Victims of human trafficking find themselves in a world that is hostile and complicated. Firstly, a victim may not be aware they are being trafficked, and so genuinely believes in the so-called opportunity promised by the trafficker. They may also think their experiences are part of the process of securing a sporting opportunity.⁶ When they are arrested, they may deny being a victim of trafficking.

Secondly, a victim of sports trafficking may not be perceived as such by law enforcement. Without a passport or other form of personal identification, victims of trafficking are often arrested

“Human trafficking around sport can happen in parallel to human trafficking through and within sport itself. Traffickers approach people who are willing to work in the industries around sporting events, such as construction, retail, food, and hospitality.”



Above: Rt Hon. Karen Bradley MP, Co-Chair of the APPG on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery opens discussions at a CPA UK roundtable on sports trafficking held at the UK Parliament ahead of the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

as illegal immigrants, and are dealt with as if they had committed an immigration crime. During the CPA UK Roundtable Discussion on Sport Trafficking, Dr James Esson observed that in the case of West African victims of football trafficking *“Black male bodies are associated with illegal immigration, not human trafficking.”*⁷ Unfortunately, this leaves open the possibility that even if a victim is aware of their predicament, they may be refused help, or even punished, if they seek it.

Thirdly, when the victim willingly accompanies their trafficker in pursuit of the false opportunity, the lines between forced transportation and voluntary migration is blurred.⁸ Moreover, experts⁹ have pointed out that if the victim remains with the trafficker, *“there is ambiguity around whether exploitation has occurred if the player is abandoned upon arrival”*. Ambiguity brings with it a sense of complicity on the part of the victim¹⁰, which can muddy the waters when prosecuting a sports trafficker. If brought before a court, a prosecutor may choose to use the language pertaining to a case of rape, false imprisonment, child kidnapping, or another charge that the jury is more likely to understand, rather than address the situation as sport trafficking.

During the CPA UK Roundtable Discussion on Sports Trafficking, Lerina Bright, CEO of Mission 89, remarked that *“you’re more likely to get struck by lightning than you are to be convicted of trafficking through sports.”*

What now?

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, and so raising awareness and understanding of sport trafficking is vital. During CPA UK's Select Committee Hearing Exercise on the issues of Human Trafficking through Sport, Dr Serhat Yilmaz put forward that in addition to better regulation of those putting themselves forward as sports agents, targeted education campaigns aimed at the players, their parents, and sports agents can be effective in equipping athletes in protecting themselves from trafficking.

However, as Dr James Esson pointed out in the Roundtable Discussion, players may still take the risk. While education remains vital, it is false to assume that players will not take the risk simply because they were informed that the risk exists. Those vulnerable to trafficking through sport are viewing the opportunity presented by the so-called sports agent from a landscape of socio-economic inequality that leaves them wanting to travel abroad for a fair chance at improving their standard of living. The pressure builds as one remembers it is not just the athlete, but also the family and even community, that has a stake in this opportunity.

It is clear that there is much work needed on improving professional and practical understandings of what sports trafficking is. In order to begin addressing this, key players such as Parliamentarians, business leaders, border officials, and families must have the real-world understanding of how sports trafficking can look like to them, and what they can practically do to prevent it. CPA UK's resources¹¹ helps us to address sports trafficking. With multi-stakeholder participation, and a collaborative outlook, we can disrupt, and expectantly stop, the rules of this cruel game played by human traffickers.

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New report on 'Actions to Prevent Human Trafficking Through Sport'

The CPA UK Branch have published a new report on actions to prevent human trafficking in sport following a series of workshops with Commonwealth Parliamentarians and key stakeholders.

CPA UK, in partnership with Mission 89, delivered the workshops on human trafficking through sport ahead of the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Participants included border officials, High Commissioners, academics, and other stakeholders who shared actions and techniques to address and tackle human trafficking through sport. The final report details vital information shared by participants who provided their professional and academic expertise. The report can be downloaded at www.uk-cpa.org.





THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES: UGANDA'S PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT IN SPORT

Sport, bringing people together.

Uganda will next month field one of its biggest teams at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, having secured commitment from the Government of Uganda for its financial support.

During a sitting of the Parliament of Uganda on 3 May 2022, the Minister of State for Sports, Hon. Hamson Obua, told Members that *"I want to state on record that funding to the sport subsector of the Republic of Uganda relies entirely on funding from the Government... the country is organising to participate."*

The 54 countries of the Commonwealth work towards shared goals of prosperity, democracy, human rights protection, peace, good governance and other tenets. Uganda first appeared at the Commonwealth Games in 1954, almost ten years before the country's independence in 1962 when it joined the Commonwealth as an independent country.

The July 2022 event will be the fifteenth time that Uganda fields athletes at the Games, a period in which the country has collected 53 medals including over a dozen gold. The East African country has also hosted various international meetings of the Commonwealth over the years including the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in November 2007. Queen Elizabeth II, the Head of the Commonwealth, together with Prince Phillip and Prince Charles were in Kampala on that occasion.

Even when the country was suspended from the Commonwealth over human rights abuses in the 1970s, Uganda continued to field teams at the Commonwealth Games, standing out in boxing and athletics.

Participating in the Commonwealth Games and indeed other international sporting events brings immense benefits to individual athletes, teams and countries. It helps forge unity, leads to peace and keeps youth busy and engaged.

Sport and participating in international sporting events helps athletes and countries build long term relations. Amateur athletes

participating at the Commonwealth have met, trained and competed against top level athletes and later, riding on their performance gone ahead to turn professional and have had a huge impact in their communities.

Badru Hassan Zziwa, a sports journalist of over 30 years' experience, says Uganda's athletes Stephen Kiprotich and Joshua Cheptegei could probably not have won gold at the Olympics if they had not started their journey in other events including the Commonwealth Games. *"After excelling in the Commonwealth Games, boxers like Ayub Kalule (gold, Christchurch, 1974) and Mustafa Wasajja (gold, All Africa Boxing Championship, Kampala; 1975, Berlin Invitational Boxing Championship) turned professional,"* said Zziwa. Zziwa adds that some of these people are very rich, getting a government salary and contributing to their communities.

Cheptegei, the current 5,000 metre Olympics champion, is currently building a high altitude training centre in his home area in Bukwo, in eastern part of the country. Here, he employs and contributes to the community.

"This comes with several professionals including coaches, physiotherapists, nutritionists," said Dr Ronald Rukare, the President of the Uganda Olympics Committee (UOC). The UOC is also charged with the Commonwealth Games in the country.

Politics and Sports

In Uganda, two boxing Commonwealth champions joined politics several years after the games. One of them, Godfrey Nyakana, who won gold in Auckland in 1990, held a top-level position at the local level of politics in the city of Kampala. Although not successful, Justin Jjuuko another Auckland boxing champion stood for elective politics in another area in the Central Region of the country.

Uganda had the following medals at its last outing at the Commonwealth Games held in Gold Coast in 2018: Cheptegei (gold, 5,000m/10,000m); Stella Chesang (gold, 10,000m); Solomon Munyo (silver, marathon); Mercyline Chelangat (bronze, 10,000m) and Mr Juma Miir (bronze, boxing).

Dorcus Inzikuru and Boniface Kiprop (Melbourne), Moses Kipsiro (Delhi and Glasgow) won gold and upon return to the country attracted huge crowds as they drove from the international airport to the city centre of Kampala before being hosted at the Parliament of Uganda where motions were moved to recognise their achievements. This has now become a practice.

In the motions held in Parliament, usually moved by the Minister in charge of Sports, Members of Parliament collectively congratulate the medalists together with the entire team fielded at the event.

"Participating in the Commonwealth Games and indeed other international sporting events brings immense benefits to individual athletes, teams and countries. It helps forge unity, leads to peace and keeps youth busy and engaged."

Katamba Mohammed is the Principal Information Officer at the Parliament of Uganda.

Similarly, the Parliament of Uganda has urged *“the private sector to continue its support and contribution to the sustainable development of sports generally and athletics specifically, in supplement to Government (public) appropriations towards sports by establishing and contributing to a specific sports vote.”*

Having been in Gold Coast, Australia for the 2018 Commonwealth Games and seeing the facilities in the country compared to the ones available for competitors’ training in Uganda, Hon. Hamson Obua, MP, and now Minister in charge of Sports, envisaged a bright future for sports in the country. *“Investing in sports, in my opinion, is not a choice in this millennium but it must be an imperative obligation on the side of Government and all of us stakeholders such that we groom, mentor and nurture the young talents from across the country to ensure that our sportsmen and women continue excelling in all these sporting disciplines, globally, continentally, regionally and nationally,”* said Obua.

Following the Commonwealth Games in Australia, Team Uganda, having finished with its best medal collection in almost 40 years, the Parliament of Uganda collectively congratulated the team and individual medallists for the remarkable performance. In the motion, the Parliament of Uganda urged the *“Government to fast-track the completion of the Teryet High Altitude Training Centre and other sport facilities in the country generally.”*

Ugandan Member of Parliament, Hon. Anita Among, who was also in Gold Coast, was a seconder of the motion and appealed to the Government to develop interest in and increase funding dedicated to sports. *“Looking at the performance of these young people, it brings a lot to us in this House. Athletics bring a lot of unity in the country. Athletics brings togetherness of the people of Uganda and that is one reason we should invest in sports,”* she said [on 24 April 2018]. Hon. Anita Among is now the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda.

Legislators of the various political parties, together with independents, joined together to set up the Parliamentary Sports Club. Here, along with staff in Parliament, the team engages in various activities including football and athletics in locally organised tournaments, one-off events and regional parliamentary competitions.

Dr Ronald Rukare said that sport galvanises and brings together people of and from different areas and backgrounds. He said that Ugandans always support the Ugandan team when it travels out for competitions. He also said that the country used the event of hosting the Queen’s Baton Relay in November 2021 to highlight the ideals of the Commonwealth, including the issues of refugees, inclusion and climate change.

In the same vein, the Uganda Olympics Committee (UOC) engages schools and communities in different activities to highlight the ideals of the Commonwealth. Further the UOC has started or gotten involved in various development projects including: Right to Play, Game Connect and Golden Boot – intended to develop various skills.

Participating in international sporting events, national teams and individual participants are beamed to a global audience through extensive media coverage. *“Through media coverage there is amplification of both the country and what we are doing to a global stage eventually contributing to tourism,”* Rukare said.

Julius Acon is the Member of Parliament for Otuke, a constituency in Northern Uganda. Before joining national politics in 2016, he was



Above: Left to right: Beatrice Ayikoru, the Chief de Mission of Uganda’s delegation to the Commonwealth Games 2018 Gold Coast, and medalists Joshua Cheptegei, (double gold), Solomon Mutai (silver) and Juma Miiro (bronze) sit in the public gallery at the Parliament of Uganda during a special sitting to honour the Commonwealth Games Team Uganda.

an international athlete, having participated in both the Olympics (Atlanta, 1996; and Sydney, 2000) and the Commonwealth Games (Victoria, 1994; and Manchester, 2002). From his participation in international athletics and friends made, Acon set up the Acon Uganda Children’s Fund through which he secures donations to improve the lives of the communities in his home area following devastating periods of war.

In Parliament, Acon joins his colleagues in inter-parliamentary regional games. Growing up in poverty and rising to great heights in athletics and politics, Acon sets an example to be followed by youngsters not only in Northern Uganda but also from the rest of the country.

In widely referred to quotes, former South African President, Nelson Mandela, said: *“Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination.”*

No one doubts the power of sport in changing lives, improving communities and development, as shown in the ongoing engagement of Parliamentarians and citizens in Uganda in sport.

Below: The Commonwealth Games Team Uganda pictured with Members of the Parliament of Uganda on the stairs of the Parliament Building following their successes at the Commonwealth Games 2018 Gold Coast.



COMMONWEALTH YOUTH VOICES: INVESTING IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT FOR A HEALTHIER PEOPLE AND PLANET: THE CARIBBEAN EXPERIENCE

More than a quarter of the world's adult population are insufficiently active, meaning that 1.4 billion adults are not meeting the World Health Organization's (WHO) physical activity guidelines. The physical inactivity epidemic is occurring simultaneously with a non-communicable diseases (NCDs) epidemic, climate crisis, broken food system and many other challenges threatening human and planetary health. It is my hope, as a young person from a small island developing state (SIDS), Antigua and Barbuda, that our world's leaders use an integrated and multisectoral, multi stakeholder approach to tackle these issues.

As we approach this year's Commonwealth Games, it is not only an opportunity for us to celebrate sport but reflect on how sport and physical activity can be leveraged to bring us closer to achieving the United Nations (UN) sustainable development goals (SDGs). The spirit of The Games should also encourage us to consider how we can make physical activity opportunities more accessible for all.

Physical activity “is good for hearts, bodies and minds” (World Health Organization).

Regular bouts of physical activity can prevent and help to manage common NCDs such as heart disease, type-2 diabetes and cancers which are responsible for nearly three quarters of deaths worldwide, and the majority of deaths in SIDS (according to World Health Organization data). Physical activity is also known to reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety and enhance thinking, learning and overall well being. Sport has been harnessed to solve deep-rooted, societal challenges and has been highlighted as a key strategy to building back healthier and more resilient societies post COVID-19 pandemic (United Nations). Yet, investments to support everyday sport and physical activity globally are insufficient.

The global NCD crisis is costing us, but physical activity can help.

Continued underinvestment in the fight against NCDs has been estimated at US\$47 trillion in lost gross domestic product globally from 2011 to 2025 (Bloom et al.). The NCD issue has been on

Commonwealth Leaders' agendas for some time. In 2011, the leaders met under the theme, '*NCDs: A priority for the Commonwealth*'. They welcomed a political declaration, agreed upon at the UN, to act on NCDs, and presented an intervention highlighting the need to tackle the burden of NCDs and consider youth and gender when developing targeted interventions. This call was revisited over 10 years later during this year's edition of the Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting, '*The Road to COVID-19 Recovery: Lessons Learnt for Building Health System Resilience to Advance UHC and Global Health Security in the Commonwealth*'.

Climate-related disasters and COVID-19 have worsened the NCD epidemic by disrupting care among other challenges; this epidemic requires urgent attention and investment. Physical activity can be part of solving the NCD crisis. Physical Activity interventions encompass some of WHO's Best Buys for tackling NCDs. They include investing in public education and awareness campaigns, physical activity counselling within the primary health care system, promoting physical activity through sport clubs, increasing opportunities for active transportation through investment in accessible sidewalks, green spaces, bike lanes, and strategies to support active workplaces and schools.

Let us put all of this into perspective.

One in three Jamaicans has hypertension, one in two is overweight or living with obesity, and one in eight has diabetes (Jamaica Ministry of Health and Wellness).

- “*Estimates have shown that the economic impact of NCDs in Jamaica, including mental-health conditions, will lead to a lost output of US\$17.2 billion over the next 15 years,*” said Hon. Christopher Tufton, Ministry of Health and Wellness Jamaica at the country's NCD Programme Review Conference 2021.

Jamaica's reality is similar to many counties that are struggling to cope with the exorbitant NCD rates and the social and economic fallout.

At the recent World Health Assembly, Dr Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie, Jamaica's Chief Medical Officer (CMO), indicated the



Danielle Walwyn is a physical activity advocate, from the twin-island state of Antigua and Barbuda, who is passionate about shaping healthy environments where it is easy to make the healthy choice. She has executed physical activity research in Antigua and consulted on the development of local, school-based health promotion interventions. Her passion led her to her current role as Advocacy Officer of the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) and coordinator of HCCs youth arm where she supports civil society and youth-driven action to address childhood obesity in the Caribbean. As a visiting faculty for the American University of Antigua's Global Health Track, Danielle sensitizes future physicians to the role of physical activity in protecting global health.

Image credit: Commonwealth Games Federation



Ministry's desire to ramp up their response to NCD prevention. One of their plans is to level up *Jamaica Moves*, a national programme that promotes physical activity as well as healthy eating and lifestyle across settings including communities, schools and workplaces. During the pandemic, *Jamaica Moves* brought physical activity to Jamaicans' screens and radios to support mental and physical health. The population has been sensitized and opportunities to be active are more accessible. This national movement utilises a number of the WHO Best Buy recommendations; it embraces the power of physical activity as a key component to a comprehensive health intervention. Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago and soon-to-be Antigua and Barbuda have also adopted the initiative.

The future of physical activity and sport is linked to climate.

Extreme heat, high sea levels, heavy rains and other climate-fuelled disasters have disrupted and will continue to disrupt sport and physical activity globally unless action is taken.

- "Planet earth is sick. It's a health crisis and obviously that is a crisis for sport" said Dr James Hospedales, Founder of Earth Medic Earth Nurse at The Global Youth Network on Sports for Climate Action 2021.

Small island developing states (SIDS) are particularly vulnerable to these disasters despite contributing the least to climate change. Sports were halted and sporting facilities were ravaged by the passing of Hurricane Maria in SIDS Dominica and Barbuda in 2017 and 2018, respectively. Beaches are being eroded in SIDS, and across the globe, affecting elite and recreational physical activity

and sport. Some tennis players withdrew from the 2020 Australian Open due to poor air quality caused by wildfires. It is projected that by 2050, almost one fourth of England's football league stadiums will be partially or totally flooded (UN, 2022).

The climate crisis has the potential to eradicate some sports, but unsustainable practices in sport have also contributed to climate change. According to the Rapid Transition Alliance's report, the global sport sector contributes the same level of emissions as a medium-sized country (Goltblatt, 2020). Transportation to and from events, the construction and use of various sporting venues, the supply chains for sport-related equipment and even game-day activities all contribute to this enormous footprint. The UN Climate Change, Sports for Climate Action initiative aims to support and guide sports actors in achieving global climate change goals.

Several global actors, like the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and this year's Commonwealth Games, are participants of the initiative and have taken steps to address their footprint. The IOC, for example, has developed a sustainability strategy and aims to reduce its direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030. The 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham plan to initiate a Carbon Neutral Legacy. These efforts can serve as inspiration for other sport agencies to challenge the norm and onboard climate mitigation strategies. The Games provide a powerful platform to garner a groundswell of support from fans and beyond to demand climate action; the future of sport depends on it.

Beyond the sports stadium, efforts to make physical activity more accessible within the communities are a win-win for people and the planet.

Sustainable cities are active cities (World Health Organisation). However, the urban design of many existing communities paired with high dependency on motorised transport can make it difficult to implement the WHO BEST Buys and other guidance outlined in the WHO Active technical package. Both encourage key stakeholders to implement policies to support sustainable urban design, safe, well-maintained infrastructure, and open spaces that provide equitable access to places for walking, cycling and other physical activities.

Growing longitudinal evidence shows that well connected, higher-density, walkable, mixed-use neighbourhoods might reduce the risk of obesity, type-2 diabetes, and hypertension (Giles-Corti et al.). Simulation research predicts that increased and equitable access to active transportation and recreational opportunities in high-income, middle-income, and low-income cities will improve local air quality, and climate change mitigation; these outcomes are more likely when combined with bold policies to reduce car dependency (Giles-Corti et al.).

The Lancet Global Health series, 'Urban design, transport and health' has created policy and spatial indicators for urban design and transport features in 25 cities on six continents to evaluate their intervention successes and guide improvement. This guidance can help key stakeholders shape a healthier, active city and contribute to the integrated and multisectoral, multi stakeholder approach needed to make a difference.

“One of the key strategies to tackling physical inactivity is to transform our approach to cater to those who are least active to ensure equal opportunities for all, especially girls, Indigenous peoples, persons living with disabilities, migrants, and refugees. No one should be left behind.”

- “Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives” (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).

Physical activity and sport have the power to address the issue of inequality.

One of the key strategies to tackling physical inactivity is to transform our approach to cater to those who are least active to ensure equal opportunities for all, especially girls, Indigenous peoples, persons living with disabilities, migrants, and refugees. No one should be left behind.

How can this be done? The General Conference of UNESCO's International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport recognises that “the practice of physical education, physical activity and sport is a fundamental right for all”, (UNESCO) not just elite athletes. This rights-based framework makes it easy to justify why all efforts should be made to ensure that physical activity opportunities are widely available and promoted for all, especially in settings, like schools, where healthy behaviours can be instilled.

The WHO (2022) recommends using the following to promote physical activity in school: quality physical education, activity travel to and from school, active before and after school programmes, recess, active classrooms, and inclusive approaches to physical activity. Sufficient, sustainable investment needs to be made to support infrastructure, equipment, curriculum revisions and human resources to fulfill these recommendations that are known to improve access to physical activity opportunities.

The latter WHO recommendation that promotes inclusiveness is critical beyond the classroom doors.

All physical activity interventions should be community-informed and tailored to address exclusionary factors such as cultural context, age, gender, abilities, and socio-economic considerations. Efforts to build back from COVID-19 present an opportunity to recenter our efforts

within sport and physical activity on not just equality but equity. For example, efforts should be made to ensure that sport and physical activity catered to girls, women and those living with disabilities continue to receive significant investment to create opportunities, address unique barriers and improve health outcomes.

This year's Commonwealth Games promises steps towards this as it is being promoted as, “a level playing field for men and women with a fully integrated para-sports programme, and a huge emphasis on the Commonwealth's youth” (Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games). The Games and similar events have the potential to address some exclusionary factors. My hope is that participating countries and organisations partner where possible to carry this message back to their communities and across borders to ensure that physical activity does become an opportunity for all globally and no one is left behind.

It becomes clear that efforts to support sport and physical activity can make seismic shifts in human and planetary wellbeing when an integrated approach is applied. The 2022 Commonwealth Games should be used as an opportunity to celebrate sport and spark action outside the sports stadium to ensure that the everyday person is granted opportunities to move without barriers. Beyond this, it is also an opportunity to continue to assess how the power of sport and physical inactivity can be integrated into existing frameworks to address the SDGs and world crises. There is a lot to be won by a fight for increased physical activity, but efforts cannot be indifferent to other world crises - the fights have to be fought in unison.

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COMMONWEALTH YOUTH VOICES: THE POWER OF SPORT: SPORT AS A VIABLE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TOOL: VIEW FROM BARBADOS

The universal call to action by the United Nations to achieve social, economic and environmental sustainability is a call that the countries of the Commonwealth seek to answer. Comprising of developed and developing countries, the Commonwealth is progressing in prioritising development, opportunities, equality, peace, and prosperity for all 2.5 billion people within its grouping. A part of the Commonwealth's mandate is to *'harness the power of sport to bring people together'* and to *'advocate for the use of sport as a vehicle for development and peacebuilding'*. This article seeks to delve deeper into the power of sport by analysing how sport can be a viable, sustainable development tool, especially in achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sport has the power to alleviate poverty through its fundraising initiatives and its provision of equal opportunities for employment and social mobility. 'No Poverty' is SDG 1 because poverty has remained one of the most significant global challenges. Sport is a multi-billion-dollar industry with great popularity and an extensive reach, making it a viable tool when used strategically. Although poverty alleviation will take more than a one-sector or one-industry approach, sport has proven to be a valuable contributor to this fight.

With sports organisations worldwide removing barriers to sports participation, opportunities for employment in the sports industry continue to expand. Several professional athletes have used sports as a way of upward social mobility and have invested in their countries and organisations to assist in poverty alleviation. The Usain Bolt Foundation is an organisation that *'creates opportunities through education and cultural development for positive change'*. As a professional athlete and one of the greatest sprinters of all time, Bolt understands the need for a cross-sector approach to alleviating poverty in Jamaica. By providing youth with more opportunities that will lead to various career options, Bolt's foundation seeks to alleviate poverty sustainably. Through millions in donations to Jamaican schools in the form of refurbishments, school supplies, computer equipment, and sports sponsorships, *"Bolt's donations increase educational opportunities and offer underprivileged Jamaican students a chance to do more and achieve more. Bolt's charity, a*

result of his Olympic success, reduces poverty in his home country" ('How Olympic Success Reduces Poverty').

Although being a professional athlete often takes the spotlight in terms of sports careers, there is an abundance of employment opportunities in the sports industry that support poverty reduction. Jobs on and off the field are also increasing and include jobs as a trainer, coach, umpire, sports nutritionist, sports announcer, and sports agent, to name a few. Additionally, universities worldwide have diversified their offerings, providing sporting degrees in various areas. They have seen the benefits of a rapidly developing sporting industry and thus adequately prepare students to grasp these opportunities. These expanded educational offerings assist in providing quality education and the provision of jobs that aid in alleviating poverty, supporting the achievement of SDG 1 'No Poverty', SDG 4 'Quality Education' and SDG 8 'Decent Work and Economic Growth'.

Sport also has the power to positively impact people's health and well-being through mental, physical, and social benefits. The health and well-being of our people are critical if we are to transform as a Commonwealth. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines health as *"a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity"*. If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it is that mental, physical and social well-being are equally crucial to achieving good health; if one of these aspects suffers, the others subsequently suffer.

When considering the benefits of sport and its role in achieving SDG 3 of 'Good Health and Well-being', it is essential to note that participating in sport reduces the contraction of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and prevents obesity. The statistics for NCDs in the world are high and projected to increase. The World Health Organisation reported that NCDs kill 41 million people each year, equivalent to 71% of deaths globally. The decline in physical activity is a critical contributor to *"the global obesity epidemic, and in turn, to rising rates of chronic diseases everywhere"*. If the world's countries are to meet SDG 3, then physical activity needs to increase drastically, and national, practical solutions need to be implemented.



Taahir Bulbulia is a youth leader from Barbados. He has a passion for sports and is an advocate for sport development in Barbados and throughout the Caribbean region. In 2021, Taahir was recognised for his work in sport and youth development when he was nominated for the Commonwealth Youth Award along with 20 youth leaders. He has served in various capacities as a Youth Ambassador for Barbados. Co-Authored by **Racquel Griffith**, a copywriter and editor from Barbados and the CEO of Cubyss Communications, where she works closely with government organisations, newspaper companies, NGOs, academics and creative writers.

In Barbados, we are faced with a severe health crisis; one out of every three children is overweight or obese, and 80% of our deaths are associated with NCDs annually. The government spends millions of dollars fighting NCDs every year, and it continues to be one of the biggest threats to the lives of many Barbadians and our country's economy.

As a small island developing state (SIDS), this poses a significant challenge to our government; we are often constrained by a limited workforce, limited revenue and a crippling healthcare system. Sports and physical activity provide a suitable solution to solving this health crisis. There is a definite need for more creative activities to encourage people to become active and participate in sports. There is also a growing need for more 'Get into Sports Campaigns' to improve peoples' overall health.

Mauritius is one Commonwealth country that has launched a campaign to empower its people to live a healthy lifestyle. The national strategy called 'Active Mauritius' promotes *"community participation in organised sport and physical activity"*, *"social integration of socially diverse groups"*, and health benefits that improve lives, work, and individual and collective well-being. This strategy focuses not only on the physical benefits of sport but also on the social and mental benefits.

Sport is inclusive and gives a sense of belonging, especially to people in communities that may feel isolated. Intrinsic to participation in sports is learning valuable, transferable skills such as teamwork, dedication, resilience, strength, perseverance, and critical thinking. As a result of this sense of belonging and these valuable skills,

"Sport is inclusive and gives a sense of belonging, especially to people in communities that may feel isolated. Intrinsic to participation in sports is learning valuable, transferable skills such as teamwork, dedication, resilience, strength, perseverance, and critical thinking."



sports are often noted in a wide range of literature for their ability to decrease anxiety, stress and depression. The body-mind connection is undeniably apparent when the relationship between sport and mental health is analysed. Within 'Active Mauritius' are programmes suitable for all ages, from young kids to the elderly. There are multiple benefits of such a national policy: it can change the mindsets of citizens, reduce obesity, reduce a population's contraction of NCDs, relieve the burden on health services, and empower a nation of people to be healthy and active. These benefits can lead to a better nation overall, and this is undoubtedly a model that can be mirrored throughout the Commonwealth.

Additionally, sport has the power to support climate action by raising awareness of sustainable options and sustainable management of natural resources. SDG 13's call for climate action indicates climate change's negative impact on every country worldwide, which will increase if nations do not commit to combatting climate change. The Commonwealth comprises 32 of the world's 42 small states. These states have not contributed largely to climate change yet face much of its effects; *"Many small states, especially SIDS [Small Island Developing States], have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to climate change. With populations centred largely in coastal zones, they are vulnerable to sea level rises and extreme weather events; these environmental vulnerabilities combine with a particular set of social and economic factors to make small states some of the world's most affected by climate change"*.

As much as they can join in climate action, small states depend heavily on bigger states' climate action to make real, impactful change. The Prime Minister of Barbados, Hon. Mia Mottley MP spoke

to world leaders at COP 26, urging them to *"try harder because our people... need our actions now, not next year... not in the next decade,"* emphasising the urgent need for global climate action.

Athletes, comprising 50 Olympians and Paralympians, also strongly appealed to world leaders at COP 26 to commit to climate action, calling it *'the race we need to win'*. Because sport has a broad reach and great popularity, awareness campaigns on climate change and appeals for climate action can be implemented at national, regional and international levels. Organising strategic campaigns to educate people and prompt behavioural changes can be initiated through events, products, infrastructure, services, and the words and actions of famous sportspersons.

In recent years, many athletes have committed to the climate fight and have been encouraging others to do the same. These include sportspersons like Kenyan marathon runner Eliud Kipchoge, Indian cricketer Virat Kohli, British tennis player Andy Murray, and Canadian Olympian Seyi Smith. Some sportspersons also form a collaborative approach to activism, such as the Royal Challengers Bangalore. The Indian Premier League (IPL) team *"donned green jerseys in their IPL 2022 match... at the Wankhede Stadium"* on 8 May, a tradition they have maintained since 2011 to raise awareness for a greener, more sustainable world.

In terms of infrastructure, sustainable stadiums are transforming how sport contributes to climate action. The new Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, England, is a prime example of one of the most sustainable stadiums in the world. According to Belardinelli, of the stadium's highlights is its *'100% certified renewable energy use and zero emissions of scope'*. The Tottenham club is considered *"the greenest club in the Premier League, and they are demonstrating it with the work they are doing both on the training ground and on the stadium."*

We as the Commonwealth, therefore, must begin to work hand in hand against climate change. No one nation or organisation can find the solution. Governments, the private sector, NGOs, sporting federations, and our athletes must take charge and take the initiative to achieve SDG 13 of Climate Action for the sustainability of our collective future.

If we cooperate, we can use sport to alleviate poverty, promote good health, and contribute to climate action. Sport can reach billions of people from different countries and backgrounds, making it an influential and viable tool for sustainable development. By sharing ideas and implementing national policy, people will cultivate an environmentally conscious mindset and a healthy lifestyle. Now more than ever, we understand the importance of working together to protect the most vulnerable in our society. Now more than ever, our people need us. Now more than ever, we must be creative and innovative in our approaches. And now more than ever, we must unite; just as 11 players unite on a football team to win, we must unite as a Commonwealth and as a people to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

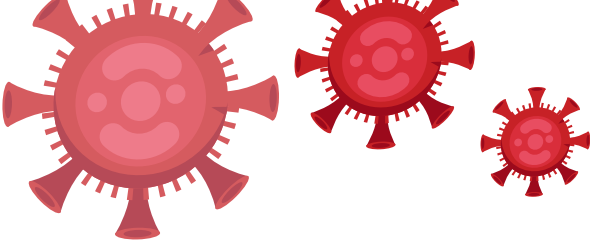


Above: The Prime Minister of Barbados, Hon. Mia Mottley MP spoke to world leaders at COP 26, urging them to *"try harder because our people... need our actions now, not next year... not in the next decade,"* emphasising the urgent need for global climate action.

Nelson Mandela once said, *"Sport has the power to change the world and unite people in a way little else does."* Sports can be the foundation of our transformation in the Commonwealth as we aim to create a better future. We must commit to strategic action and partnerships to better the entire Commonwealth.

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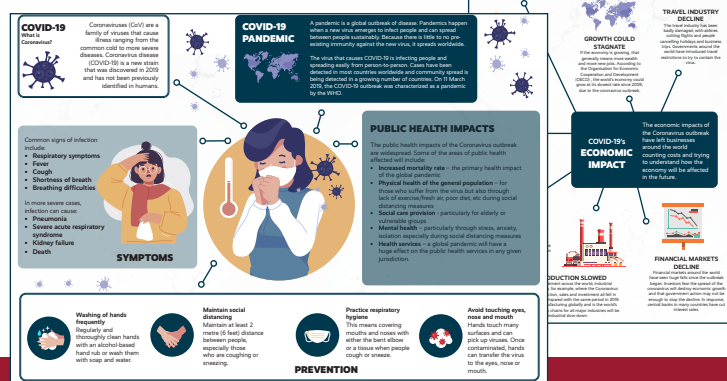
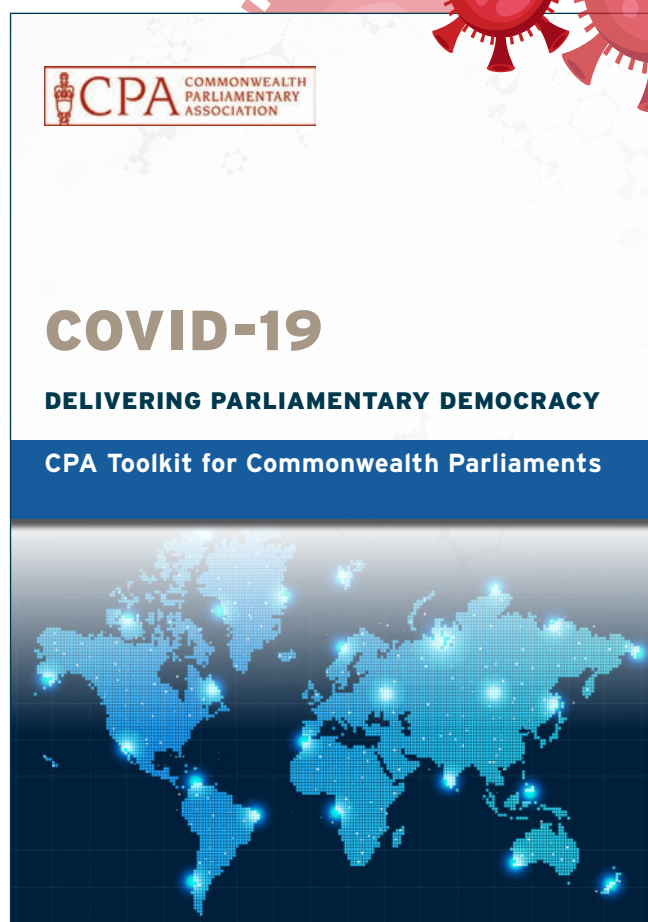
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CPA TOOLKIT FOR COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTS ON THE **COVID-19** **PANDEMIC** AND DELIVERING PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

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The outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and its spread to at least 180 countries has consequently plunged many Parliaments and Legislatures across the world into a state of emergency. Commonwealth Parliaments and Parliamentarians are grappling with many different issues both to implement the emergency health measures during this global pandemic while at the same time looking at new ways to conduct debates, scrutinise and pass legislation, hold parliamentary committees and question the actions of their governments.

THE 'CPA TOOLKIT FOR COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTS AND LEGISLATURES ON THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PANDEMIC AND DELIVERING PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY' provides various measures and recommendations that can be adopted by both Parliaments and Parliamentarians in order to continue to deliver on the Legislatures' role of scrutinising legislation and delivering democracy during a global pandemic.

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SBL's ePARLIAMENT SOLUTION DIGITALISES, TRANSFORMS AND REINVENTS PARLIAMENTS ACROSS THE GLOBE

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Despite these many benefits, some countries have yet to embrace digital technology within governance due to perceived financial, cultural and infrastructure-related constraints. Instead they continue to depend on manual, paper-based legacy systems and processes. This traditional approach has been fundamentally challenged during the Coronavirus pandemic, when remote access to critical information has become more important than ever. Furthermore, as democracies evolve and strengthen, increased demands from citizens for transparency, accountability, accessibility and sustainability will press the case for an end-to-end digital transformation solution which efficiently embeds information and communication technology into the workflows of the legislative institutions.

SBL's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Gopakumar Pillai, states *"eParliament© is our groundbreaking initiative that aims to create far-reaching impacts in the legislative process by incorporating digital technology in the functioning of legislative establishments. SBL is committed to the vision of accelerated digital transformation in the legislative process for efficient governance. Our eParliament solution improves the operational efficiency of legislative bodies, strengthens the democratic process, and eliminates paper and related consumables thus bringing measurable environmental benefits to governance."*

Current challenges in paper-based legislative processes

Typically, manual parliamentary proceedings can be cumbersome and time-consuming with limited visibility of the operations or workflows. Stakeholders encounter many difficulties in accessing the right information at the right time due to the lack of a centralised repository and a reliable retrieval system. As a result, citizens are unable to fully comprehend the legislative processes. The constraints on the smooth flow of information also impact the quality of decision-making and reduce the transparency and accountability of various stakeholders.



A paper-based legislative system also brings with it very significant operational expenses in the form of overhead costs, printing expenses, transportation and storage costs. These can all be avoided. In addition, there are operational implications: paper files are susceptible to loss or damage and hence require Parliaments to implement costly measures to ensure document safety and preservation. Simultaneously, a paper-based system relies on stringent but sometimes porous measures for information security – measures which a digital alternative like eParliament renders redundant.

Current legislative systems require the physical presence of Members of Parliament when participating in the process and do not lend themselves to remote operations, especially in situations like the current pandemic. Furthermore, when Members are required to attend each session in person it can incur significant travel and hotel expenses.

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eParliament promotes transparent, effective, and accessible law-making bodies. Being user-friendly and intuitive, those Parliamentarians who perhaps don't regard themselves as tech-savvy can also adapt to the platform and use it to perform their day-to-day tasks. Core eParliament modules like eBooks and Questions Processing are easy to use and provide seamless accessibility from any device.

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"SBL's commitment and technical competence has been its hallmark in delivering the e-Vidhan solution comprising of Web (MVC), Windows (WCF), and Mobile (Android) applications." - Secretary, HP Vidhan Sabha.

- Implementation of India's first National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the Nagaland Legislative Assembly

"As an implementation partner, SBL displayed exemplary professionalism and commitment throughout the project, and did a commendable job in reengineering NeVA to meet the needs of Nagaland Assembly." – Commissioner & Secretary, Nagaland Legislative Assembly

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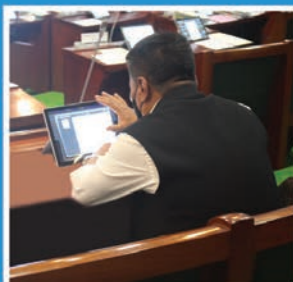
By combining seamless connectivity and interactive virtual technology, eParliament supports the remote functioning of Parliaments and uninterrupted operations even during pandemics.

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Benefits of eParliament at a glance

- Eliminates paper usage, physical document archiving and the printing of consumables, thereby reducing operational expenses and space.
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- Helps introduce efficient workflows by eliminating redundant processes.
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- Provides uninterrupted access and functionality with Parliamentarians able to join from any location and participate in the daily house proceedings remotely.
- Better control and monitoring of day-to-day operations.
- Provides multiple secure layers for improved security.
- Allows documents to be shared and downloaded securely over the internet.
- Improves online submission of legislative data.
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- Online file movement eliminates inherent issues related to the traditional paper-based file management.
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HOW THE COMMONWEALTH CAN LEAD BY TACKLING DEFORESTATION TO CREATE A GREENER MORE PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR OUR PLANET

For over seven decades, the Commonwealth has united countries around the world under the shared values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Just as that spirit of unity and cooperation has been used to protect the rights and dignity of people around the globe, today we must direct that energy towards another crisis: protecting our planet's biodiversity and reversing the impact of climate change.

Commonwealth nations have some of the world's most biodiverse landscapes. The deep rainforests of Guyana, open savannahs of Kenya, the vast Great Barrier Reef in Australia are just a fraction of the ecological treasures held throughout the Commonwealth. Therefore, the Commonwealth is uniquely placed for its nations to work together to combat climate change.

A key challenge faced by many Commonwealth nations is the threat of deforestation. The need for raw materials, such as timber and agricultural products like palm oil, is one of the primary drivers for deforestation and the scale of the problem cannot be understated. Between 2015-2020, over a million hectares of forest were destroyed worldwide. Approximately 2,400 trees every minute. Which is why I was pleased to co-sponsor the Food Labelling (Environmental Sustainability) Bill in the UK Parliament, which urges food manufacturers to label products to indicate the environmental sustainability of their origins. This aims to help consumers in Britain make more informed choices about the sustainability of the products they buy, thus helping to reduce deforestation globally.

On the ground, the impact of deforestation can be seen first-hand in the Okavango Upper Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA) – a protected area encompassing Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Although not as widely reported as the deforestation occurring in places like Brazil or Indonesia, deforestation in the KAZA region is driven by many of the same factors, such as agricultural use and charcoal production. Unsustainable use of these landscapes has been a disaster for

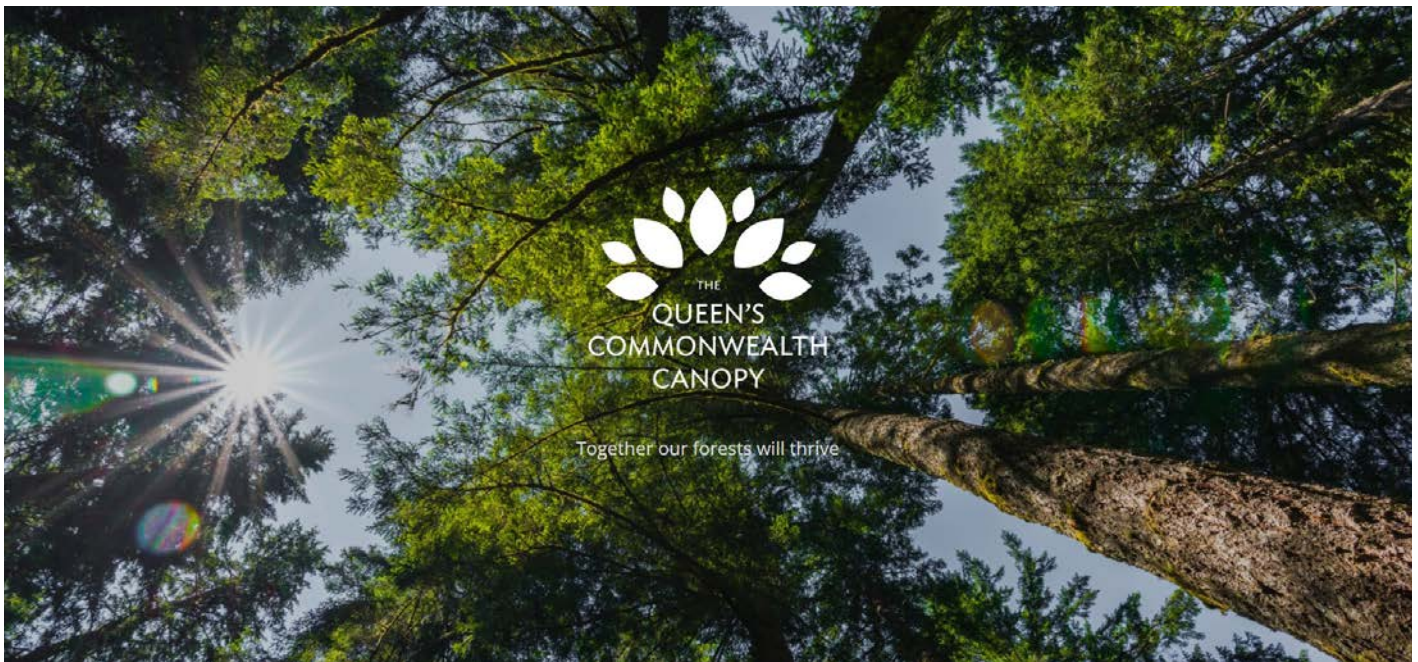
the wildlife in the region, which contains some of Africa's largest populations of endangered species, including elephants, rhinos, lions and hippos. The impact of this destruction does not end here. Indigenous people who make up the rich cultural landscape of the Zambezi region have stewarded these forests, not only relying on them for food and shelter but also for protection from environmental hazards like flooding. This is not limited to the KAZA region, nor those living a traditional lifestyle. Globally, some estimates suggest that over 90% of those in extreme poverty rely on forests to survive. The wanton destruction of the earth's forests puts the lives of the world's most vulnerable at direct risk.

Which is why as Chair of the International Development Select Committee's Subcommittee on the Work of the Independent Commission for Aid Impact at the UK Parliament, I recently held an inquiry on International Climate Finance and how UK aid is used for halting deforestation and preventing irreversible biodiversity loss. At our oral evidence session with Lord Goldsmith, the UK Minister for the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), I asked the Minister how the UK Government sees the role of tackling deforestation and protecting biodiversity in relation to reducing poverty. I was pleased to hear the Minister say that the UK Government is now actively looking for nature-based solutions when planning Official Development Assistance (ODA) funded projects.

One should also remember that the effects of deforestation endanger lives in the UK and across the Commonwealth by encouraging climate change. The processes behind this threat are simple. We all learn as children that trees absorb carbon and release oxygen. The world's forests are therefore the world's carbon bank, their presence is a critical safeguard against rising global temperatures. As forests are eliminated, that protection lessens, and the effects of climate change continue to compound. I was therefore pleased to attend COP 26 in Glasgow last autumn and to



Hon. Theo Clarke, MP was elected as a Member of the UK Parliament for Stafford in 2019. She has a keen interest in foreign affairs, international development and global trade and amongst her many roles, she is the UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Kenya, a member of the Women & Equalities Select Committee and the International Development Select Committee, and she is also the Chair of the Select Committee's subcommittee on the work of the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI). She is a member of the CPA UK Branch's Executive Committee. Previously, she was an entrepreneur and founded the Coalition for Global Prosperity.



Above: The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy www.queenscommonwealthcanopy.org – a foggy morning in Nyungwe National Forest in Rwanda. Photo by Marie-Marthe Gagnon.

meet with the COP President, Rt Hon. Alok Sharma MP, to discuss tackling deforestation across the globe. I welcome that world leaders at this UK-hosted Summit pledged to end unsustainable deforestation by 2030. This was an important step that focused on the effects of global deforestation from a systemic level, addressing the driving factors often born out of demand in Europe and North America. It called for transformative action to promote sustainable agriculture without the destructive side effects. By declaring action on deforestation during a climate summit, leaders put a clear focus on the role forests play in reducing global carbon emissions. Nature Based Solutions to climate change are a powerful tool in addressing rising global temperatures.

Nature Based Solutions begin with the understanding that biodiversity loss is predicated on a range of complex and interlocking factors. Efforts to combat deforestation must be holistic and take on board the multifaceted nature of the problem. Since

“Commonwealth nations have some of the world’s most biodiverse landscapes. The deep rainforests of Guyana, open savannahs of Kenya, the vast Great Barrier Reef in Australia are just a fraction of the ecological treasures held throughout the Commonwealth. Therefore, the Commonwealth is uniquely placed for its nations to work together to combat climate change.”

becoming the UK Member of Parliament for Stafford in the West Midlands, I have been working to protect our local environment, as well as dealing with the problems associated with climate change. I held a debate in the UK Parliament on tackling flooding in Staffordshire and I recently visited the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust’s Wolseley Centre to see the work they are undertaking to reduce the impact of flooding as well as improving our biodiversity and environment in Staffordshire.

As the UK Prime Minister’s Trade Envoy to Kenya, I have seen first-hand the positive impact of restoring landscapes in the fight against climate change. The coasts of Kenya have historically been home to large mangrove forests. These forests were the lifeblood of a vibrant local ecology, the endless channels and streams provided ideal habitat for diverse fish species to spawn their young. In turn, coastal communities relied on these forests for food and protection from coastal flooding. The decline of these forests made communities vulnerable to environmental hazards, it also removed a critical piece of their livelihood by collapsing the fish stocks that relied on the mangroves for the early stages of their life cycle. The lack of economic opportunity in turn contributed to further environmental issues. I welcome that the Kenyan government and concerned NGOs are restoring the mangroves, fish stocks are rebounding and biodiversity is being restored. But the benefits don’t end there. Mangrove forests are also one of the best sequesters of carbon in the natural world, capturing carbon more efficiently than terrestrial forests.

Pursuing Nature Based Solutions is, in essence, allowing nature to do what nature does best, to heal, restore and revitalise the earth for future generations to enjoy. It is a critical tool in the fight against global deforestation and climate change. Recognising this, as Chair of the UK Parliament’s All-Party Parliamentary Group on



TACKLING DEFORESTATION TO CREATE A GREENER PLANET

International Conservation, I helped facilitate and draft the signing of the Declaration of Glasgow, committing to expand the use of Nature Based Solutions to climate change. This Declaration was signed by Parliamentarians from more than ten countries, many of whom are Commonwealth member states such as Kenya, Botswana, Malawi and Saint Lucia. The Declaration of Glasgow showed the value of cooperation and collaboration between nations who share common values and interests. Through the Commonwealth, this effect can be scaled up to enormous heights, especially in the fight against global deforestation.

A key project that is already underway to try and restore our forests is the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) which was launched in 2015 with the goal of uniting protected forestry areas across the Commonwealth in one unbroken line. Protected areas range from the small botanical gardens of Singapore to the vast expanses of the Great Bear Rainforest on the Pacific coast of Canada. I have also been pleased to contribute to this initiative by marking The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and *planting a tree for the Jubilee* with children from Flash Lee Community Primary School in my Stafford constituency. This tree forms part of The Queen's Green Canopy increasing the number of trees and restoring Britain's forests. I encourage everyone reading this to consider planting a tree this year not only to honour The Queen as the Head of the Commonwealth but also create a greener more positive future for our planet.

Through this Canopy, Commonwealth countries and territories have demonstrated their collective ability to work together to protect the world's forests. It also highlights the Commonwealth's network, its ability to share knowledge and best practice, underscoring its capacity to unite member states and territories

towards common goals that benefit all of humanity. This meaningful step to end the scourge of global deforestation, will create a lasting legacy for Her Majesty The Queen and become a testament for cross-Commonwealth efforts to protect critical ecosystems and landscapes.

After the devastating global impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) this year is an opportunity for us to take the next big leap in the fight against global deforestation. I welcome the UK Government's recent announcement of a £100 million Biodiverse Landscapes Fund which will aim to reduce poverty, protect, and restore biodiversity and lessen the impact of climate change in six environmentally critical landscapes across the globe, including the important KAZA region. It is vital that as Global Britain we support efforts to tackle deforestation both in the UK and throughout the Commonwealth.

Global deforestation is a crisis that affects us all. Its wide ranging, negative effects on biodiversity, climate change and environmental disasters cannot be understated. As leaders in our communities we must advocate for an end of unsustainable deforestation. We must urge our governments to work to remove unsustainable timber from our supply chains and agricultural products. We must also encourage companies to invest in projects that restore nature instead of destroying it. The CHOGM meeting in Kigali presents a rare opportunity to do just that. By supporting Nature Based Solutions and harnessing the vast expertise represented across the Commonwealth, leaders in Kigali can show the world that the Commonwealth can lead in protecting the planet and future generations from environmental catastrophe.





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THE CHALLENGES FACING SMALL LEGISLATURES IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Reflections from the former Greffier of the Jersey States Assembly

At the end of April, Jersey's Legislature, the States Assembly, held its last full sitting of the current parliamentary term, ahead of elections due on 22 June 2022. It was also my last sitting as Greffier of the States – the Clerk of the Legislature – after over six years in post. Endings offer an opportunity to look back, but this article is not an account of how the States Assembly has evolved since 2015, a period of rapid change in many respects. Instead, I wish to draw on the 18 years I spent working as a Clerk in the UK House of Commons prior to 2015, to reflect on the similarities and differences between large and small Legislatures and what those differences mean for the CPA.

Coming from Westminster, whenever I hear the word 'Parliament' I see the famous green benches, a Minister at the Dispatch Box, the Table, and the Speaker's Chair. Every feature of the Chamber drips with history and symbolism, befitting an ancient institution which has stood at the heart of national, and sometimes international, politics for centuries. Many other Legislatures were consciously designed to resemble the UK Parliament, both in terms of their physical infrastructure and the framework of rules within which they operate. Jersey's Assembly was not the product of the British Empire, it evolved independently from at least the fifteenth century, but the similarities with Westminster are striking.

Let's begin with the accommodation set aside for the States Assembly. Rather like Westminster, the Assembly can be found in a rabbit warren of a building with certain rooms designated as parliamentary precincts, over which the Presiding Officer (known as the President of the States and also the Bailiff in Jersey) has jurisdiction. A former Government Chief Executive was recently banned from entering a room close to the Chamber after complaints from Members. The Chamber itself is dominated by the Presiding Officer's seat, in front of which the Greffier (the Clerk) and his/her deputy sit at a table which is much the same as the one in Westminster. Members have individual seats, unlike in London, but there are the same strict rules about addressing the Assembly from one place and not moving around or infringing other Members' personal space. On the first floor of the Chamber is a public gallery and seating for the press.

The procedural rules are also similar, perhaps unsurprisingly as the Standing Orders were first codified in the 1960s by a Commons Clerk. Legislation is considered in a series of stages which will look



The Jersey States Assembly building in St Helier.

familiar to anyone used to the Westminster system. Amendments are considered in roughly the same way as in the UK House of Lords. A visiting Parliamentarian from the UK, Canada or Australia would recognise the rules of debate, even if some of the detail, such as Jersey's noticeably weaker *sub judice* rule, might catch their eye. The rules on the submission of questions are virtually identical to those in the UK: Jersey's system of scrutiny Committees is also modelled on the UK.



Mark Egan was Greffier of the States of Jersey (Clerk of Jersey's Legislature) from 2015 to 2022 and previously worked in the UK House of Commons. He is now working with Commonwealth governments and Legislatures on governance issues and can be contacted at marksanddancer@googlemail.com.



THE CHALLENGES FACING SMALL LEGISLATURES IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Roles and responsibilities within the States Assembly may also strike the observer as being similar to those seen in large Legislatures. There are Ministers and junior Ministers; scrutiny Chairs and Opposition Party Members; and a Presiding Officer and a deputy.

The differences between large and small Legislatures might seem to come down to two factors: the number of elected Members and local culture. A study in Jersey in 2013 concluded that the States Assembly needed at least 42 Members in order to discharge the full range of parliamentary functions – including both Ministerial and scrutiny roles. This conclusion assumes that all of the Members are fit and well and want to take up formal roles in the Legislature: my experience suggests that the actual minimum is a little higher. When a Legislature is smaller, the number of Ministerial and scrutiny roles must be reduced. In many cases, scrutiny is disproportionately affected.

Even with 49 Members, the Jersey States Assembly could not replicate aspects of the larger Westminster system. Scrutiny Committees are much smaller than in London and have broader remits. While some Ministers have one or two busy Assistant Ministers, others effectively operate on their own. Visitors notice the speed with which the Assembly passes legislation, which is largely because legislation is not remitted to a Committee for line-by-line scrutiny, another consequence of a small membership.

Other differences reflect local quirks. The UK House of Commons starts each day with the Speaker's procession and the cry 'Hat's off, Strangers!'. In Jersey, each sitting starts with a roll call and prayers, in French, and sometimes a dispute about a Member's reason for absence. French and the local language, *Jerriais*, can be spoken in the Chamber, usually sparking complaints from Members who speak neither. The Island's Lieutenant Governor (the official representative of the Crown) has a seat in the Assembly, next to the Presiding Officer, and by convention is permitted to speak twice, at their first meeting and their last.

It can be tempting to think that these differences are relatively superficial and hide the fact that the majority of Commonwealth Legislatures operate on similar lines to the 'Westminster model'. However, to think in these terms would be mistaken. The similarities between Legislatures often obscure more than they illuminate. Careful attention should be paid to the differences between Legislatures as they reflect important differences in political cultures.

Going back to Jersey, the most obvious physical difference between the States Chamber and the UK House of Commons (other than their size) is that the Jersey Members sit in a hemicycle, with the different classes of Member (Senators, Constables and Deputies) occupying different spaces in the room. Members cannot necessarily sit with political allies, and Ministers do not all sit together, as there are strict rules about how seating is allocated. The hierarchy of Members is no accident, it is based on the ancient concept of bringing together the three estates (land, church and law) to advise the Bailiff (also the Island's Chief Justice) on questions of civil government. The hemicycle was a new feature when the Chamber was designed in the 1880s. Before that, Members sat in the Royal Court, in spaces reserved for the different classes of Member of the time. Guernsey's Legislature still meets in their Royal Court. However, the hemicycle accommodates and encourages the Island's consensual political culture, which tends to steer clear of outright political conflict in search of compromise. This is a far cry from Westminster, where the design of the Chamber recognises

and encourages conflict and where the concept of a loyal Opposition, constantly challenging Ministers in the interest of good governance, goes back to the early nineteenth century.

Jersey has a weak system of party politics. Only five Members were elected to the current Assembly on a party ticket and, although new parties have since emerged, no party is standing sufficient candidates at the recent election to come close to forming a government. Last year, the Assembly published a fascinating study by the Centre for Small States¹ on how its rules and procedures might need to adapt to reflect party politics. The report is available on the Jersey States Assembly website² (www.gov.je). A striking conclusion of this work was that party systems in small jurisdictions are often weak, transient, or reflect personalities rather than ideology. Applying rules which work for party politics in countries with long traditions of competition between stable parties will not necessarily work in small jurisdictions.

Members in large jurisdictions are invariably very busy and often have to look after the interests of enormous constituencies, far, far bigger than Jersey. However, politicians in small jurisdictions also must deal with difficult casework and master complex legislation and policy problems. They often do so without staff support and, certainly in the case of Jersey, without party whips to advise on how to vote or an active civil society, providing arguments for and against the issues coming up for debate. Providing appropriate resourcing and pastoral support for politicians in small jurisdictions is a difficult issue which needs to be urgently addressed.

Finally, parliamentary ethics can look very different in small places when compared to large jurisdictions. In Jersey there is enormous emphasis on which pieces of land Members might have an interest in, reflecting the importance of land use in a small island. At the same time, the implications of making comprehensive declarations of interest in a small society where 'everyone knows everyone' are different from the situation in bigger places. Balancing privacy, particularly of family members, and appropriate management of conflicts of interest is complex, as I know well from the time it took to complete reform of Jersey's rules on the registration and declaration of interests earlier this year.

The CPA is to be commended for its work in invigorating the CPA Small Branches network, emphasising the importance of benchmarking and creating the CPA Parliamentary Academy, to help smaller Legislatures strengthen and become more effective. This work is essential to defend and promote democratic politics across the globe. Recognising the specific challenges of smaller jurisdictions and the importance of understanding the relationship between political culture and how Parliaments work is crucial. I would also like to put a word in for my former colleagues running small Legislatures, who often do so on a shoestring budget and with small teams. Inevitably, Clerks must focus first on the day-to-day, week-to-week running of their Legislature. How can they find time and mental energy to rewrite Codes of Conduct or Standing Orders or legislation on privilege? Again, the CPA is doing some good work in this area, but I think there is a lot more to do.

References:

¹ Centre for Small States - www.centreforsmallstates.com

² R.165-2021 How might Standing Orders of the States of Jersey respond to the formation of political parties? - <https://statesassembly.gov.je/assemblyreports/2021/r.165-2021.pdf>



ENTREPRENEURSHIP: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION FOR WOMEN IN BANGLADESH

"Women's economic empowerment relates to the enhancement of women's capacity for strategic choice and agency in the sphere of the economy and to the possibilities this opens up for change in other spheres of their lives" (Kabeer 2009: 7). According to the World Bank Group (2019), women's economic empowerment plays a role in poverty reduction as women invest their earnings for their children and their community. Pacific Community (2017) identified two dimensions of economic empowerment: resources and agency. It defines resources as tangible and intangible assets, including skills, networks, knowledge, expertise and social capital. Here, agency is defined as the changes of people's perception to women and in women's actions.

Women's economic empowerment is also important for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Women's economic empowerment means access to income and assets while it is also important that women should have control over these as well. Entrepreneurship is a strategic way to earn empowerment which eventually leads to more women's participation in all spheres. Notably this can result in participation in Parliament.

Women's entrepreneurship is a daunting task. There are various constraints in enabling the up-gradation of skills and enhancement for higher productivity. These constraints include poor access to markets, information, technology and finance, poor linkages and networks with support services and an unfavorable policy and regulatory environment. Many social and operational constraints continue to restrict women from starting and running economic enterprises. Apart from the family and social challenges against the mobility of women, operational challenges such as lack of access to capital, lack of training facilities for skills development, lack of business services, lack of business data, complex banking procedures and collateral requirements, etc. continue to critically limit women's progress. A large number of women work in the informal sector, but the real value of their participation and contribution is not recognised in society.

Women's economic empowerment in Bangladesh

Many women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh attend different international trade exhibitions to promote their products in a bid to export their products to different countries. Most of the exports that women entrepreneurs achieve are carried out through their own initiatives. Women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh also attend different trade exhibitions organised by several states of India. The project named 'Promoting Women Entrepreneurship through Improving Regional Cooperation' conducted by the Bangladesh Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI) was aimed at enhancing the regional cooperation on cross border trading facilities.

In Bangladesh, women have now become more aware of their socio-economic rights than before. They are venturing into areas to seize the opportunities for them. They have gained the courage to break barriers and enter the workforce as entrepreneurs and workers - a scenario that was hard to imagine in the past. As a result, they have earned more respect in the family and in society, and also gained self-confidence and economic independence. As a whole, women are now contributing much to the growth of the economy, the generation of employment opportunities and the enhancement of productivity of the country.

Previously, women entrepreneurs were participating more in sectors that were traditionally dominated by women such as handicraft, apparels, boutiques, food and beverage, beauty parlours, tailoring, household or family trade etc. The situation is improving slowly; today, women are also in occupations which were previously solely controlled by men. Women are now seen also as owners and managers of cold storages, shipping lines, advertising firms, travel agencies, interior decoration enterprises, engineering workshops and even garment industries. The Bangladesh Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI) is the first women's Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh working for women's socio-economic empowerment. BWCCI promotes a women-friendly business environment and encourages women's participation in the private sector as entrepreneurs.



Hon. Selima Ahmad, MP was elected to the 11th Parliament of Bangladesh in 2019. An entrepreneur and business leader, Selima Ahmad has been working for more than 35 years developing women's entrepreneurial talents and organising financial and marketing resources to catalyze the growth of successful women-owned businesses. She is the President and founder of the Bangladesh Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI), which has so far provided entrepreneurship development training and product marketing aids to more than 50,000 women entrepreneurs. She is also the CPA Asia Region representative on the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Steering Committee.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION FOR WOMEN

Women's participation in economic activities through entrepreneurship has been rapidly growing in Bangladesh. Women are more frequently joining various cottage, micro, small and medium sized enterprises (CMSMEs). At the same time, they are faced with confronting challenges within a male-dominated environment. Women's entrepreneurship is not only a source of income generation, but also a path to achieving self-reliance. Women entrepreneurs contribute to the socio-economic development of the country, as well as take on increasing leadership roles in economic and social life.

Benefits of women's economic empowerment

Women's economic empowerment is central to realizing women's rights and gender equality. It also includes women's ability to participate equally in existing markets, their access to and control over productive resources, access to decent work, control over their own time, lives and bodies and increased voice, agency and meaningful participation in economic decision-making at all levels from the household to international institutions. It is well established that a wide range of legal impediments in countries' domestic laws have prevented women from achieving full economic empowerment, which in turn has negative macro-economic implications. In many countries, laws often reflect and perpetuate gender norms that limit women's economic participation, and removal of these impediments through legal reform has been shown to be an effective method to catalyze greater participation of women in the economy - along with the related macro-economic benefits. Once legal barriers are removed and provisions for more equal treatment under the law are embedded, the law can also be employed as a powerful tool to incentivize women to pursue equal opportunities, change mindsets regarding the role of women, and hold institutions and individuals accountable for achieving results. Accordingly, it is imperative for countries to focus on eliminating existing legal impediments and designing appropriate incentives to increase women's participation in the economy.

Increasing women's and girl's educational attainment contributes to women's economic empowerment and more inclusive economic growth. Women's economic equality is good for business. Companies greatly benefit from increasing employment and leadership opportunities for women, which is shown to increase organisational

effectiveness and growth. It is estimated that companies with three or more women in senior management functions score higher in all dimensions of organisational performance.

E-commerce is one of the most promising opportunities for women's economic empowerment in Bangladesh. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of the digital economy as women entrepreneurs increasingly relied on digital tools and platforms to continue their business operations during lockdowns and restrictions throughout the public health crisis. In 2020, BWCCI implemented a policy advocacy initiative focused on women's economic empowerment in business to participate fully in the digital economy. BWCCI systematically collected information through desk research, stakeholder workshops, questionnaires, interviews, and focus group discussions to identify the specific challenges women entrepreneurs face when seeking to engage in the digital economy and identify key policy recommendations that address these challenges.

Women in leadership roles

Data on women in national Parliament positions worldwide as of 1 September 2021 show that there are 26 women serving as Heads of State and/or Government in 24 countries. At the current rate, gender equality in the highest positions of power will not be reached for another 130 years. Just ten countries have a woman Head of State, and 13 countries have a woman Head of Government. Only 21% of Government Ministers were women, with only 14 countries having achieved 50% or more women in Cabinets. With an annual increase of just 0.52 percentage points, gender parity in Ministerial positions will not be achieved before 2077. The five most commonly held portfolios by women Ministers are: Family/children/youth/elderly/disabled; followed by social affairs; Environment/natural resources/energy; Employment/labour/vocational training, and Women affairs/gender equality.

Only 25% of all national Parliamentarians are women, up from 11% in 1995. Only four countries have 50% or more women in Parliament in single or lower houses: Rwanda with 61%, Cuba with 53%, Bolivia with 53%, and the United Arab Emirates with 50%. A further 19 countries have reached or surpassed 40%, including nine countries in Europe, five in Latin America and the Caribbean, four in Africa, and one in the Pacific. More than two-thirds of these countries have applied gender quotas - either legislated candidate quotas or reserved seats - opening space for women's political participation in national Parliaments.

Globally, there are 27 states in which women account for less than 10% of Parliamentarians in single or lower houses, including four single/lower chambers with no women at all. At the current rate of progress, gender parity in national legislative bodies will not be achieved before 2063. In Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and Northern America, women hold more than 30% of parliamentary seats. In Northern Africa and Western Asia and Oceania, there are less than 17% women in national Parliaments. Women's representation is the lowest in the Pacific Island States as women hold 6% of seats, and they are not represented in Parliaments in three countries.

Data from 133 countries shows that women constitute 2.18 million (36%) of elected members in local deliberative bodies. Only two countries have reached 50%, and an additional 18 countries have more than 40% women in local government. Regional variations

“Increasing women's and girl's educational attainment contributes to women's economic empowerment and more inclusive economic growth. Women's economic equality is good for business. Companies greatly benefit from increasing employment and leadership opportunities for women, which is shown to increase organisational effectiveness and growth.”



are also noted for women's representation in local deliberative bodies, as of January 2020: Central and Southern Asia, 41%; Europe and Northern America, 35%; Oceania, 32%; Sub-Saharan Africa, 29%; Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, 25%; Latin America and the Caribbean, 25%; Western Asia and Northern Africa, 18 %.

Balanced political participation and power-sharing between women and men in decision-making is the internationally agreed target set in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Most countries in the world have not achieved gender balance, and few have set or met ambitious targets for gender parity (50–50). There is established and growing evidence that women's leadership in political decision-making processes improves them. For example, research on panchayats (local councils) in India discovered that the number of drinking water projects in areas with women-led councils was 62% higher than in those with men-led councils. In Norway, a direct causal relationship between the presence of women in municipal councils and childcare coverage was found. Women demonstrate political leadership by working across party lines through parliamentary women's caucuses - even in the most politically combative environments - and by championing issues of gender equality, such as the elimination of gender-based violence, parental leave and childcare, pensions, gender-equality laws, and electoral reform.

In Bangladesh, how to raise the numbers of women in representative organisations such as Parliament and other significant political grounds is still an area yet to be explored. In Bangladesh, as somewhere else in the constituency, gender disparity is severely rooted in the whole arrangement. Since 1991, Prime Ministers and Leaders of the Opposition Party in the Jatiya Sangsad (the Parliament of Bangladesh) are woman. The People's Republic of Bangladesh affirms that women shall have equal rights to those of men in every domain of the national and community life. Women's representation in the national Parliament is currently 19.71%. The current Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition Party and the Speaker of the national Parliament are women. A number of women mayors have also been elected. The Bangladesh Government amplified the quantity of reserved seats in Parliament for women from 45 to 50 by the Constitutional 15th Amendment on 30 June 2011. The popular party's strategy, which contains promises to confirm to a third of reserved seats in Parliament through the direct election of women. After the 2014 elections, there are 69 women Parliamentarians of which 50 are from the reserved seats and 19 have been directly elected.

The 11th Parliament contains the highest number of women Parliamentarians ever in the parliamentary history of Bangladesh (22 women contestants). Among them, 19 are from the ruling Awami League, two from Jatiya Party (JaPa), and

one from Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD). Out of the 22, only two are new Members - Shahin Akhter from Cox's Bazar 4 and Selima Ahmad from Comilla 2 - while the rest were also lawmakers in the 10th Parliament.

Some prominent people won victory in 11th parliamentary election including: the Prime Minister, H.E. Sheikh Hasina; the Speaker, Hon. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury; JaPa Leader Hon. Rowshan Ershad; and Deputy Leader of the House, Hon. Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury.

Among the major parties, the Awami League nominated only 19 women among its 258 candidates for the upcoming polls, while its coalition partner, Jatiya Party, nominated only two out of 173; and its partner Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal only one. BNP, along with the 20-Party Alliance and Jatiya Oikya Front, nominated only 16 female candidates for 300 seats.

The current lawmakers on the list include: the Agriculture Minister, Hon. Begum Matia Chowdhury; the State Minister for Public Administration, Hon. Ismat Ara Sadique; and the State Minister for Women's and Children's Affairs, Hon. Meher Afroze Chumki. Several former Ministers including Hon. Sahara Khatun; Hon. Dipu Moni; and Hon. Begum Monnuzan Sufian are also in the list of 11th parliamentary election winners. For the 11th general election, the parties had earlier nominated only a handful of women while fielding more than 1,800 candidates.

Conclusion

Increasing women's participation in leadership and decision making has proven to be good for economic and social development. Studies have found that longer exposure to women's political representation increases women's overall labour force participation, the share of public employment opportunities allocated to women, and women's access to public amenities, such as roads and health services. Increasing the numbers of women into the economic arena will lead to more women's participation in politics.

Below: The Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament, Hon. Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury MP was also the Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee from 2014 to 2017.





REFLECTIONS ON WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

Over three days in Barbados from 25 to 27 April 2022, women from various Parliaments in the Caribbean, as well as members of civil society, gathered to look at women's leadership and social transformation in the Caribbean. Funded by the Australian Government and organised through the collaboration of the Commonwealth Secretariat, UN Women and Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWIL), the workshop followed a previous meeting in 2018 which looked at gender equality and barriers to women's political leadership.

Having been restricted mostly to virtual seminars, workshops and webinars over the past 2 years because of the COVID-19 pandemic and to now meet persons whom for the most part have been interacting virtually was in itself a welcomed opportunity. The workshop offered the space to share experiences and discuss the issues of women's participation and leadership especially given the many examples of women's leadership in managing the pandemic, the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and the slight increase in women's political participation with the results of elections held across the Caribbean during the pandemic.

While there has been some progress in the CPA Caribbean, Atlantic and the Americas Region, with increased representation of women in Parliament and at decision making levels of governance, it is acknowledged there is still much more that needs to be done as women remain underrepresented. Amidst this backdrop, the workshop provided the space for focused discussions and sharing of experiences on good governance and transformational leadership, political and parliamentary work, gender equality in parliamentary processes and functions, engaging men as allies, and creating international and intra-regional partnerships.

One of the practical recommendations that stood out was the call and request by Parliamentarians present for gender sensitization training for MPs/Senators and practical examples of gender responsiveness and gender budgeting; such as looking at legislation and national budgets that have gone through that gender responsive lens. It is so easy to be caught in the use of terminology and buzz words without truly understanding what it looks like in action and in implementation. Participants were also reminded that

following elections that bring in new Parliamentarians, this must be an ongoing process.

Another highlight was appreciating the panelists' descriptions of transformational leadership. CIWIL's Dr Rosina Wiltshire's description of leadership in a circle and not from the top of a pyramid resonated. The emphasis is on the inclusiveness of transformational leadership; therefore, ordinary human beings whose approach or way of management results in extraordinary outcomes which tend to have long lasting impact.

The workshop was engaging because it allowed for frank discussions about real experiences. There is no 'one size fits all' approach in getting more women involved at the decision making level; however, it does require identifying the issues or the barriers, identifying the legislators and Government Members who are interested in seeing the change and being change agents, working with those identified in getting the buy-in and support and producing the outcomes no matter how small and working together on those that are more medium to long term. As a participant engaged in the various discussions, I was reminded that success is not only about the final result, but it is also about the journey of incremental wins and lessons learnt along the way that ultimately helps in shaping the future we want.

The workshop had participants not only looking at barriers that come with the embedded patriarchy that exist in many of the Parliaments and of which many were identified; instead, participants looked at practical solutions that could be worked on notwithstanding the barriers in their respective Parliaments. These included, but were not limited to, the establishment of multi-party women caucuses, education and socialization of the issues, effective resourced gender desks in Government Ministries, establishing and cultivating networks and strategic partnerships, practical quotas that could be implemented in the political contexts of each Parliament, sharing of women leadership experiences and realities, and encouraging more women to get involved in leadership in their respective communities.

The youth leaders' perspective was also considered in the discussion of women's transformational leadership. It was refreshing



Hon. Valerie Woods is the Speaker of the House of Representatives in the National Assembly of Belize and the Vice-Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP). She has served as Speaker since December 2020. She has a Master's degree from George Washington University in Washington D.C, USA as was previously the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism. She also represents the CWP network on the Editorial Advisory Board for *The Parliamentarian*.



“Transformational leadership which is people focused and addresses the deficit of trust that has emerged over the years in the traditional systems of governance starts with reflecting on what each individual leader can do better. If women remain underrepresented in decision making institutions of our countries, we will not effectively address the challenges before us in good governance and development of our region.”

to hear from youth leaders in the Caribbean on the amazing work they are engaged in at the community level. Our young leaders must be engaged in governance discussions. Issues of transparency, prioritising needs at the grassroots level and having access to

spaces that the workshop provided to engage with young leaders were cited as critical to youth empowerment to effect change.

The workshop was timely and much needed as the region and the world grapples with the multiple increasing crises at hand: the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing climate disasters of which the Caribbean region is at the frontline and the resulting climate justice required, the rising costs of fuel and food security challenges brought on by the Ukraine war.

Transformational leadership which is people focused and addresses the deficit of trust that has emerged over the years in the traditional systems of governance starts with reflecting on what each individual leader can do better. If women remain underrepresented in decision making institutions of our countries, we will not effectively address the challenges before us in good governance and development of our region.

Women's participation and representation are critical factors in finding solutions to the issues. Opportunities such as these workshops on women's empowerment and political leadership provide the space to further build capacity and knowledge sharing and increase the awareness that are necessary to encourage more women to get involved, stay the course, and remain engaged.

CARIBBEAN WOMEN LEADERS FROM PARLIAMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY SHARE LEADERSHIP LESSONS AT REGIONAL WORKSHOP

A three-day 'Workshop on Leadership for Good Governance and Social Transformation in the Caribbean' was jointly convened by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL), UN Women and the Australian Government from 25 to 27 April 2022 in Barbados.

The Workshop brought together nearly 60 experienced and aspirant leaders and Parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth Caribbean, the majority of whom were women.

Transformational leadership, gender equality and gender justice, good governance and partnership building were the core themes of the conference, with key objectives being to improve the understanding of good governance, gender-sensitive and gender-responsive Parliaments and to identify opportunities to promote gender equality and women's transformational leadership in good governance.

The Vice-Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network, Hon. Valerie Woods MP, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Belize, chaired the opening discussion, speaking alongside fellow Commonwealth MP, Hon. Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade from St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Opening the session, the CWP Vice-Chair said: *“We start with a call to action - the clock is ticking. It is the value of both men and women to contribute to leadership and governance. It is not one against the other. It is not a competition. We all recognise that it is not us alone that will combat the crises ahead. We can be ‘historical’ when we join and shout together.”*

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland QC added via video message: *“While Caribbean countries have made considerable progress in improving the representation of women at all levels of decision-making, we can all do more to ensure that the lives of women and girls are improved in a meaningful way. By combining our collective resources to create greater gender-responsive political participation, we are championing human rights and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.”*

The workshop also provided an opportunity for development of skills and capacities of women politicians to effectively drive gender equality through their participation in parliamentary processes and to share good practices and lessons learnt on advancing women's Parliamentary leadership across the Commonwealth Caribbean.





COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIANS CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022 WITH EVENT IN PAKISTAN

To mark International Women's Day 2022, Parliaments and Parliamentarians across the Commonwealth celebrated women's achievements and joined the global #BreakTheBias and 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow' campaigns. The CPA Acting Chairperson, Hon. Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP (UK) and the CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg joined the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network, Hon. Shandana Gulzar Khan, MNA, at an International Women's Day event in Islamabad, hosted by the SDGs Secretariat of the National Assembly of Pakistan.

The event marked the launch a year of activity on UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG5) - Empowering Women and Girls - and celebrated the historical, cultural and political achievements of women. The then Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Hon. Asad Qaiser, MNA and Hon. Riaz Fatyana, MNA, Convener of the National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, also gave remarks at the event, which saw women and organisations working towards gender equality share their stories and experiences with Parliamentarians from the National Assembly of Pakistan.

Reflecting on International Women's Day 2022, the CWP Chairperson said: *"The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network is working to build 'gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow'. From training Parliamentarians on the links between gender and climate change, to providing Parliaments with tools and strategies for tackling financial inequity, sexism and harassment, the CWP has continued to work hard during COVID-19 to institutionalise gender sensitive policymaking, including our next goals: gender sensitive budgets and free-trade agreements. We aim to make Parliament that hallowed space where women can work, represent and lead without fear. On behalf of women in Parliament everywhere across the Commonwealth, I wish everyone a happy International Women's Day."*

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg, added: *"On International Women's Day 2022, the CPA celebrates the contribution of women to parliamentary democracy in the Commonwealth. We remain committed to promoting women's full and equal participation in decision-making and supporting women to be effective political leaders. Through the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network, we will continue to grow our community of women Parliamentarians, bringing together women leaders to share knowledge and drive progress on gender equality in Parliament."*



SEYCHELLES WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

The National Assembly of Seychelles joined with the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network for International Women's Day 2022 with an address by the Chairperson of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) in the National Assembly, Hon. Regina Esparon. In her address, Hon. Regina Esparon stressed the importance of education for women especially on environmental issues and aspects of climate change to give greater participation in the fight against climate change. The WPC Chair also highlighted the empowering role of women in Seychelles and urged every woman to empower each other positively to reinforce their goals. The Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles, Hon. Roger Mancienne also presented awards to two former women Members - Noline Sophola and Jany Letourdie who both served in the 6th and 7th National Assembly - in recognition of their work dedicated to the Caucus and the National Assembly and their ongoing support for women in the wider community.



FALKLAND ISLANDS MARKS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022 WITH A FOCUS ON GENDER STEREOTYPES



Two Members of the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly – Hon. Leona Roberts MLA and Hon. Teslyn Barkman MLA – participated in a series of International Women's Day events on the theme of 'Breaking the Bias'. Three women from different professions – commercial pilot MariLou Delignieres, Police Constable Gemma Webb and RAF Squadron Leader Kerry Shardlow – spoke to a group of school pupils and girl guides to discuss gender stereotypes and to understand the views of the next generation in the Islands. An exhibition of work from the Infant and Junior school was on display as well as a slideshow of inspirational Falkland Islands women identified with the help of the 'Dark Room' a popular photography Facebook page.



CWP IN FIJI AIM TO MENTOR ASPIRING WOMEN LEADERS

The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Fiji Group held a workshop for aspiring women leaders in Suva, Nadi and Labasa. Women Members of Parliament came together under the CWP Fiji Group to work together towards parliamentary democracy and to empower women in Fiji. This was the first ever workshop organised by the CWP Fiji Group to target women who may be interested or intend to participate in the political arena as well as those actively planning to run for election to Parliament. The workshop was made possible through the support of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network as well as the Tai A Kiwa Programme at the Parliament of New Zealand.



BELIZE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHES WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS CAUCUS



Women Parliamentarians in the National Assembly of Belize have agreed to the establishment of a new Women Parliamentarians Caucus. The proposal received overwhelming support by women Parliamentarians of both the House of Representatives and the Senate who committed to establishing a formal structure of the caucus as well as engaging with the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network and with ParlAmericas for technical assistance and expertise.

Many Commonwealth Parliaments feature a Women Parliamentarians Caucus as a space for women Parliamentarians from different political parties to unite in

solidarity in championing and promoting women empowerment, advocating for policy and legislative priorities for women, strengthening women's voices in Parliaments, encouraging gender perspectives in the day-to-day operations of the Parliament, and raising awareness of the importance of gender equality and inclusion. The Speaker of the House of Representatives of Belize and the CWP Vice-Chairperson, Hon. Valerie Woods stated: "Given the fact that this is the first time we have so many women in Parliament, it is timely that Belize considers this establishment as has occurred in other Parliaments in our region. There are common objectives, despite differences in political affiliations or views, that a bipartisan, bi-cameral caucus can rally around and support. While the establishment of such caucuses is almost often led by women, it does not exclude the engagement of the men in Parliament. On the contrary, the support by male colleagues in Parliament is critical to address gender equality issues." In November 2021, a team from the CPA Headquarters Secretariat visited Belize to provide technical assistance for parliamentary strengthening including the facilitation of a one-day workshop with Women Parliamentarians of the National Assembly of Belize and key civil society stakeholders.

CWP BIM REGION LAUNCHES NEW REPORT ASSESSING EQUALITY AND INCLUSION THE REGION'S PARLIAMENTS

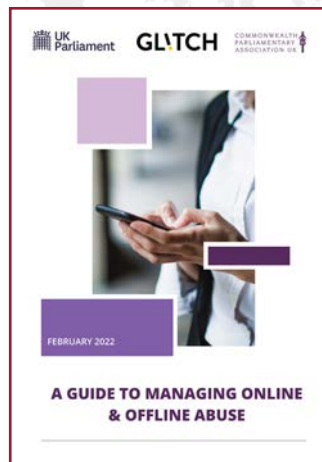


The CWP British Islands and Mediterranean Region launched a new report addressing equality of participation and representation within the region's Parliaments. The report documents the current state of play regarding gender-sensitive practices in institutions across the region, particularly in light of responses to COVID-19.

The report's author, Dr Jessica C. Smith (University of Southampton) mapped out institutional governance with

regard to equality of participation and women's representation in leadership positions. The report draws on the 2020 Gender Sensitising Parliaments Checklist published by the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network to make short- and medium-term recommendations about best practice going forward.

COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE UK LAUNCH NEW GUIDE TO EQUIP WOMEN MPs IN MANAGING ONLINE AND OFFLINE ABUSE



In the lead up to International Women's Day 2022, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians in the CPA UK Branch published a new guide for women MPs on managing online and offline abuse. Research has demonstrated that women Parliamentarians are disproportionately targeted by violent means of stifling their political participation, and disproportionately suffer the consequences as a result. From online harassment and misogyny

to physical violence on the campaign trail, women Parliamentarians across the Commonwealth are often at risk while simply doing their jobs. This new guide is part of a project funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office through the CPA UK Branch to strengthen democracy, oversight and sustainability in the Commonwealth. To download a copy please visit www.uk-cpa.org.

For more images of CPA activities and events please visit www.cpa.org



CONNECTING INDIVIDUAL PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION

The International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC) is a new organisation established in Pakistan to connect individual Parliamentarians.

In the 21st century, the world has become unpredictable and challenging. Global challenges encompass economic, political or social crises. Such social crises bring forward global issues that strongly affect many citizens in exercising their rights and freedoms.

The role of Parliaments, and in particular Members of Parliament, has become central to addressing and resolving geographical, political, regional and continental divides.

Senator Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, the Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan has crystallized his vision of bringing together Parliamentarians of different countries to conceptualize, strategize and implement ideas of peace, prosperity and development in the world through cooperation; mutual understanding; sharing, and exchange of ideas as well as experiences.

On 29 August 2019, the Senate of Pakistan passed a resolution, giving reality to the vision of the Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, and the International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) came into being. The establishment of the IPC aims to address the prevailing global 'governance gap' by mainstream Parliamentarians from around the world and to bring regional rights into international and regional governance and diplomacy mediums.

The IPC endeavors to engage a worldwide network of individual Members of Parliament across all countries, who voluntarily and passionately aim to work in unison to promote parliamentary dialogue by working on six thematic areas defined by the IPC:

1. Climate Change and Food Security.
2. Human Rights.
3. Peace, Security, Conflict Resolution and Interfaith Harmony.
4. Trade, Investment and Developmental Cooperation.
5. Health Research, Standardization, Quality Control and Human Development.
6. Monitoring and Observation of Elections in the World.

These thematic areas are operated under their respective committees. Cooperation, synergy and strategies are developed across all Parliaments in order to achieving a prosperous and

peaceful world through effective, independent interaction among Parliamentarians. The organisation aims to reach out and unite nearly 56,000 Parliamentarians worldwide under IPC's platform.

Currently headed by the current President of the IPC, Senator Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, the IPC also has two Vice-Presidents, the first from the Republic of Djibouti, H.E Mr Muhammad Ali Houmed, who is also the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Djibouti, and the second Vice-President is from the Azerbaijani Republic, H.E Ms Sahiba Gafarova, who is also the Chair of the Milli Majlis (National Assembly) of Azerbaijan.

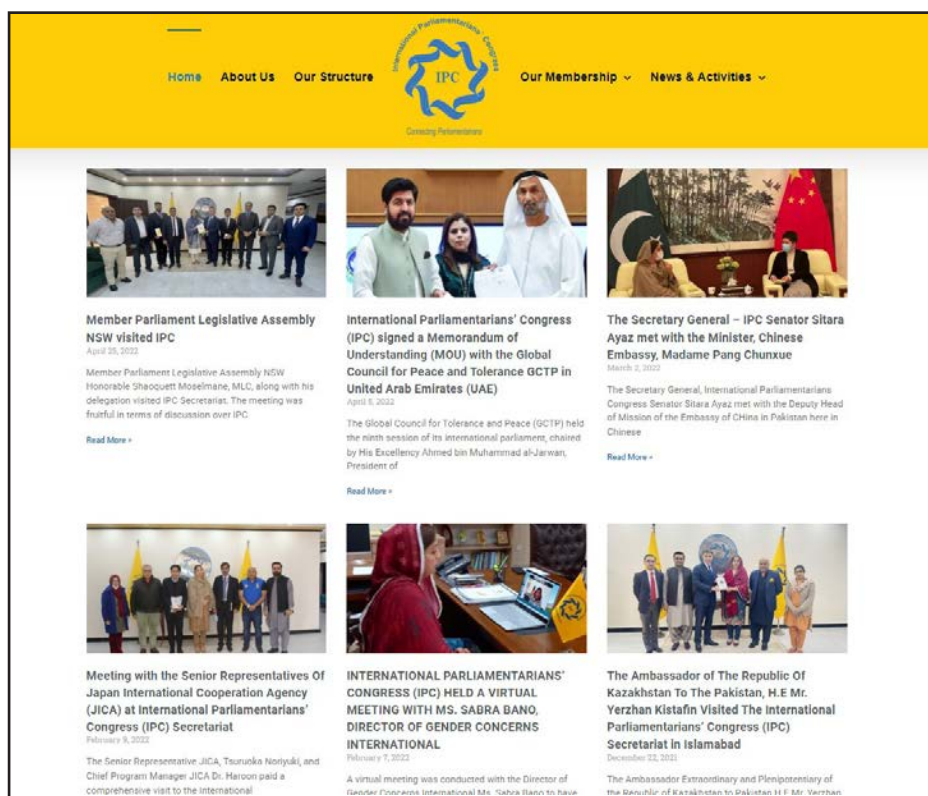
Soon after the establishment of the IPC, the global pandemic hit all nations of the world. It was difficult for IPC activities to spread its voice to Parliamentarians across the globe. With the support of our pioneer Members, the IPC was able to gather initial memberships of nearly 90 Members from 21 developed countries which is a great achievement especially such a number in a short span of time.

One additional mandate of the IPC is to monitor and observe elections held in different countries, to assess the process of free, fair and transparent elections. We monitor the electioneering process under guidance from the individual country's electoral procedures. The IPC has received accreditation from the United Kingdom to observe their parliamentary elections and a delegation from the IPC visited the UK and observed the elections in 2019. In 2020, the IPC was recognised by the Government of Jordan and received accreditation to observe the Jordanian parliamentary elections. Later in 2021, the IPC went to the Netherlands to observe the parliamentary elections there, after being recognised as an international observer by the Government of the Netherlands. Recently, the IPC received recognition from Colombia to observe the first round of their Presidential elections in 2022.

After every mission, the IPC publishes an Election Observation report, following approval from the government of the respective country. For example, the report on the Netherlands elections was recognised and accredited in the Parliament of the Netherlands,



Senator Sitara Ayaz is the Secretary-General of the International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC) and a member of the Board of the Governor of Aurat Foundation. She is a former Minister in the Government of Pakistan.



which is one of the great experiences for the IPC as it is a newly established organisation. The report of the observation mission to Colombia is under review.

The IPC aims to promote collaboration, dialogue and research on policy matters amongst Parliamentarians globally and international organisations for better outreach, benefiting each other from best practice from the respective member countries. IPC is reaching out to multiple international organisations – like the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) - to work together and to strengthen its working capacity. The IPC has recently been recognised by the African Parliamentary Union (APU), a continental interparliamentary organisation set up in Abidjan on 13 February 1976 to promote the unity of action among parliamentary institutions of all African States.



In the 76th session of the APU Executive Committee, the IPC was honoured with the status of an 'International Observer'.

The plenary of the IPC for the year 2022 involves extensive work on climate change. The IPC has formed a strong connection in Africa and would like to reach out to other regions, focusing on this area. The IPC is strengthening its relations by going into partnership with organisations to unite voices on a single platform and this will involve many Parliamentarians of several different countries to raise their voices and implement action plans against many global issues.

Current IPC partnerships involve:

- **Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS)** - An exclusive and independent, first-of-its-kind research and capacity-building facility for Parliamentarians from the Parliament of Pakistan.
- **The Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)** - the world's largest international organisation in the field of election management, fosters efficiency and effectiveness in conducting free, fair, transparent and participative elections

worldwide.

- **The Global Council for Tolerance and Peace (GCTP)** – An international platform in Malta with a mission to work on spreading the culture of tolerance and peace to address the issues of contemporary world peace and noble human objectives, through its different components such as the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace and its General Assembly.
- **The Arab Parliament** - A legislative body of the Arab League that exercises its competencies to enhance joint Arab action and achieves economic integration, social solidarity, and sustainable development. Its vision involves achieving excellence and leadership and consolidating the principles of shura, democracy and human rights for the Arab peoples.
- **The Truth International (TTI)** - publishes a fortnightly magazine that covers various aspects of political, social and economic background and trends.

The International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) is keen to work in its thematic areas and welcomes membership from Parliamentarians across the world to strengthen its platform and to further work in collaboration with international organisations and individuals.

To find out more information about the IPC visit www.ipcongress.org.

Left: The International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to work together on multiple key thematic areas including humanitarian law and climate change.



COMMONWEALTH YOUTH VOICES: REPUBLICANISM IN THE CARIBBEAN: AN EVOLVING ASPIRATION OF STATEHOOD - A VIEW FROM BARBADOS

Perhaps one of the most persistent issues in the conversation around constitutional reform in the Caribbean is that of republicanism. For those who support the move, it is seen as the ultimate assertion of sovereignty, while for many others, there is palpable indifference. What is undeniable though is that the thrust of republicanism, given new life since Barbados' transition from a Realm to a Republic last November, evidences a deep desire on the part of many in the region to see constitutional reform, recognising that though the Commonwealth Caribbean are relatively young, independent states with fairly 'new' constitutions, those documents addressed the issues of an entirely different time and were often created by a very exclusive group of persons with little popular input.

In understanding how republicanism fits into this evolving need to reinterpret Caribbean statehood, this article will address the general conceptual contours of republicanism, the case for republicanism in the region through the lens of identity, the contemporary ambivalence towards it as well as the challenges faced in attempting to constitutionalise republicanism.

The concept of Republicanism

As with many concepts in political science and philosophy, republicanism – and what constitutes and is encompassed by it – has been the source of centuries of academic debate, on which voluminous books have been written, and so to essay a definition is far beyond the scope of this short article and indeed this author's competence.

However, for our purpose, we can understand republicanism to be a form of government which vests sovereignty in the people "*as a constituent whole*", which they exercise through democratically elected representatives (McIntosh 123). On this conception, republicanism is indivisible from liberalism as well as representative democracy. In our understanding of republic then, no single person or group can enjoy sovereignty over their countrymen by right or force, but a person or group may temporarily be endowed with

the power to exercise the people's collective sovereignty but only with their consent and within pre-determined limits – often a constitution. The *sine qua non* of the republican state is freedom from domination, meaning that neither an individual nor the state is capable of arbitrarily interfering with a citizen's choices (Pettit 272). Impliedly, then, the rule of law and the separation of powers are critical elements.

Reflecting the fact that over time, the republic came to be seen in opposition to the monarchy, the traditional conception of republicanism in the Caribbean has been consumed by this question, given the region's history of colonisation (a classic form of Pettit's domination) and later independence with the retention of the monarch as head of state. Therefore, the defining, or at least essential, characteristic of the republican state in the Caribbean has traditionally been understood to be that the head of state is styled as President and is a citizen of that state (McIntosh 115).

Identity and the Caribbean Republic

It must be emphasised from the outset that the thrust towards republicanism is not characterized by animosity towards Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Indeed, many West Indians confess a profound respect for The Queen's commitment to duty and unwavering dedication to country. This is best summed up in the sentiment of Barbados' National Hero, cricketing legend Sir Garfield Sobers, who, when asked about his response to the country's republican transition, told *The Daily Telegraph* that Her Majesty was "*very highly appreciated here*" and went further to say that it would be "*a sad day for a lot of us*" (Hardy). Those who support republicanism then do so not out of personal animus.

Instead, many individuals and groups in the Caribbean posit philosophical and practical reasons in support of republican transition. Perhaps, the most pre-eminent argument advanced centres around the notion of identity, and the completion of a process started at independence, although Barbadian Pan-



Khaleel Kothdiwala is a member of the Constitution Review Commission in Barbados and an undergraduate law student at the University of the West Indies. He has an active interest in the law, politics and youth and social development, and is a columnist for Barbados' leading daily newspaper, the *Nation*, and a member of the Youth Policy Coordinating Committee. Khaleel was designated to sit in the Senate of Barbados, contingent on the passage of a constitutional amendment to lower the age of eligibility to sit in Parliament to 18, the voting age. The amendment was not successful. He is committed to the enfranchisement of young people and marginalised groups.



Africanist and attorney, David Comissiong, goes back further, emphasising republicanism as the completion of emancipation (155). Indeed, the Constitutional Commission of Trinidad and Tobago, in recommending that Trinidad replace the monarchical system with a republic in 1976, suggested that this was simply an emphatic expression of independence, which “*must involve the creation of indigenous symbols of nationhood*” (55).

However, to understand the paramount importance of this requires a brief survey of the region’s history. The Caribbean in many respects arose as an ‘artificial’ civilisation, as the rest of the ‘New World’, unlike any which existed before it. The contemporary inhabitants of the region descend from diverse peoples who were thrown together in a tiny space and who came from disparate places, for different reasons and by vastly different methods. The people of the Caribbean therefore were arrivants who reinvented the structures of their identity far from their origins, and in common with people of substantially different identities (Predmas 818-819). West Indians therefore are confronted with the constant need to negotiate complex identities, which are deeply anchored in and have grown out of the colonial experience.

The Wooding Commission identified one such outgrowth as ‘external dependence’ which had become a fundamental part of the Caribbean identity, as a colonised civilization. Republicanism, then, is viewed as crucial in reworking that identity into one characterised by self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

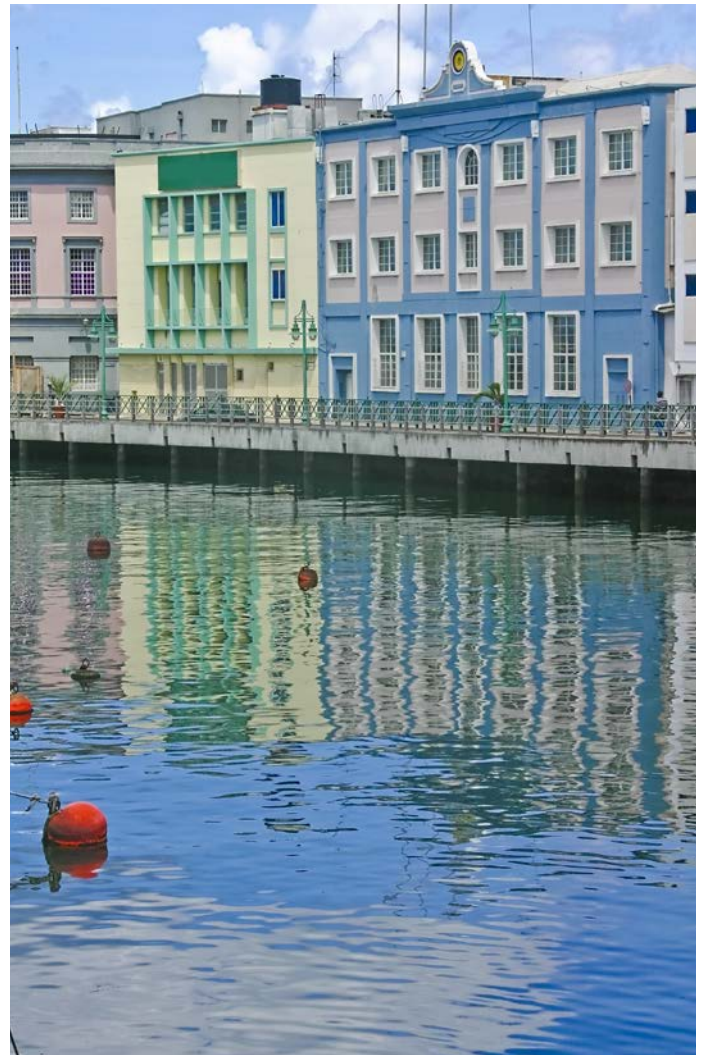
Equally important is the reflective function of national symbols as representative of identity. As aforementioned, the head of state is the pinnacle of the state who, theoretically, personifies that state, and so citizens must be able to look to the holder of that highest office and see someone with whom they can identify and in whom they can see the best manifestation of themselves. The vast majority of the countries of the world, including the United Kingdom, enjoy this privilege for they have an indigenous head of state.

The ambivalence toward Republicanism

In an attempt to present the other side of this question, Grenville Phillips, the leader of a small political party in Barbados, graciously acquiesced to a request for an interview with this writer. Phillips is well-placed to give an alternative perspective, as he applied to the Barbadian courts in October 2021 to restrain the government from proceeding with the republican transition without “*consent from the people*”. The High Court ruled in favour of the government and Phillips intends to appeal.

From the outset, though, Phillips sought to make clear that he was not diametrically opposed to the concept of republicanism, but instead believed that it ought to be a status reserved for “*mature countries*”. For Phillips, the metric of maturity is two-fold.

Firstly, a nation must enjoy economic sustainability, which enables them to “*pay their way in the world*”. If republicanism is truly the higher manifestation of independence, then such a nation must be able to be financially secure enough to be able to avoid dependency upon others. Phillips contended that a suitable yardstick to measure this is the ratio of debt-to-GDP so that until the region can attain sustainable debt ratios of around 40%, republicanism should not be considered.



Secondly, any nation hoping to ascend to republican status ought also to have the capacity to defend its territorial integrity and citizens. Phillips considered that retaining the link to the British sovereign functioned as a kind of defence insurance which ensured the region’s protection. He argued that because the sovereign is also the head of the British armed forces, which has an ample supply of nuclear warheads at its disposal, the deterrent effect of monarchical status was profound and unable to be replicated by republican arrangements. He posited that prior to any republican transition, a defence assurance pact ought to have been settled with a country or alliance with similar commitment to democratic values, such as the UK or NATO.

Interestingly, Phillips find common cause with several of the members of Belize’s Political Reform Commission, which considered the republican question at length, and was unable to make a recommendation. It was felt that the retention of The Queen was desirable, given the border dispute with Guatemala, as it would serve as an effective deterrent to Guatemala and better guarantee UK intervention if conflict broke out (Political Reform Commission, Belize 7.8).



REPUBLICANISM IN THE CARIBBEAN: AN EVOLVING ASPIRATION OF STATEHOOD

The upward trendline of Republicanism

Nonetheless, since Independence, popular support has seemed to grow, anecdotally, for republicanism in the region, generally. Unfortunately, there is a paucity of empirical polling on the issue. However, a detailed study conducted by researchers at the University of the West Indies, in collaboration with the Institute of the Americas at University College London found that a slight plurality of respondents (35%) supported Barbados becoming a republic against 16% who felt the monarchical status should remain (Blunt). Notably however, just under 50% of respondents expressed either an indifference to, an unawareness of, or a disinterest in whether Barbados became a republic or remained a monarchy (Blunt). On the other hand, just over 50% of respondents felt that Barbados should have a Barbadian Head of State, while only 12% supported the retention of The Queen as Head of State (Blunt).

The challenges of Constitutionalising Republicanism

Despite this popular support and the consistent recommendations of the majority of the Constitution Review Commission empaneled in the region, perhaps the most formidable barriers which remain to the achievement of republicanism in most territories lie in the restrictive mechanisms which virtually inhibit constitutional change, in particular the referenda requirements.

According to the alteration sections of their respective Constitutions, a supermajority in Parliament, and a two-thirds majority in a referendum are required to effect republican status in Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The Bahamas, Jamaica and Saint Lucia require a simple majority in a referendum. Belize is the only country which is not yet a republic which does not have a constitutional requirement of a referendum, but as discussed afore there are localised reasons for hesitance in that country.

The practical effect of these referenda requirements is the maintenance of the status quo position. The question of republicanism, among others, was put to the voters of Saint Vincent in 2009, but only 43% voted for the proposed changes, short of even a simple majority, far less the two-thirds required. In Grenada's 2016 referendum, one reform proposal was to provide for public officials to swear allegiance to the state, rather than The Queen, but this too was rejected (O'Brien 509). This may be explained by reference to the fact that referenda in the region have consistently been the victim of the insertion of extraneous issues into the debate and have even been used by opposition parties as referenda on the government's performance, rather than the issue at hand. Therefore, as Caribbean jurist and statesman, Sir Fred Phillips, recognised to attain republicanism throughout the region will require a rare thing in the world today: complete and wholesale bipartisanship (Phillips 336). In an increasingly polarized world that is a tall order.

Beyond Republicanism

As a final note, the push for republicanism cannot be the sum total of this constitutional moment but must be seen as but one stop along a longer journey of indigenizing the *grundnorm* of our states: our Constitutions. That foremost Caribbean intellectual, Simeon McIntosh, wrote extensively about the "authorial origins" of those documents, which stemmed not from extensive popular

consultation with the masses, but mostly private consultations between local political elites and the Colonial Office (McIntosh 53; Jamaica Civil Society Coalition and the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities 21).

Embossing our imprimatur on our Constitutions, though, must go even beyond formal repatriation, but must seek to settle finally the critical issues which challenge us. We must boldly confront the contemporary issues produced by Westminster-model constitutions, particularly the excessive power of the Executive and especially the Prime Minister (Robinson et al. 505). The citizens of the Caribbean must also direct their attention to the Bill of Rights and must address the classes of persons, about whom the constitutions are conspicuously silent in the furtherance of their rights, notably women and children.

The point, then, is that the work of modern Caribbean constitutional reform can only start at republicanism. If they are to truly assert their will to take full control of molding their statehood, then the people of the Caribbean must confront the tough questions, for the work of sustaining a heterogenous civilization is not facile but is the urgent and imperative task of those who inhabit it.

Disclaimer: The views expressed herein are the writer's alone and do not represent the opinions, deliberations or recommendations of the Constitution Review Commission of Barbados, or any other body with which the writer is affiliated.

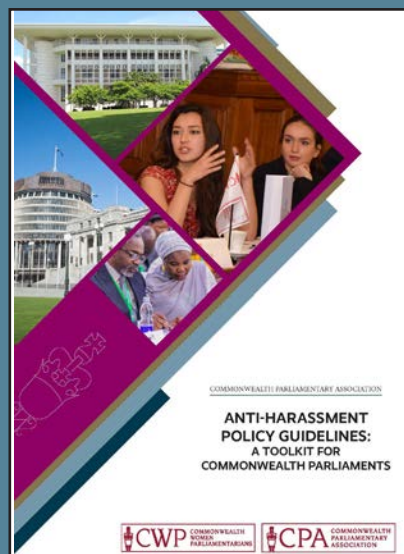
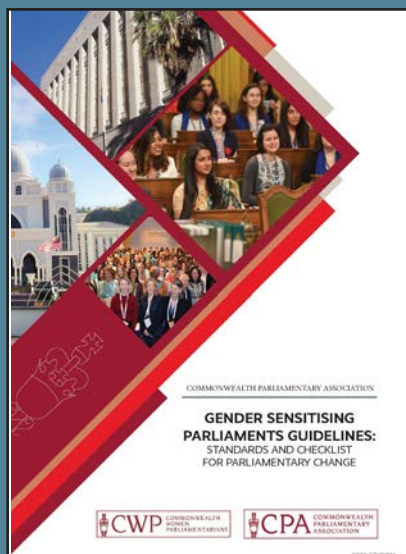
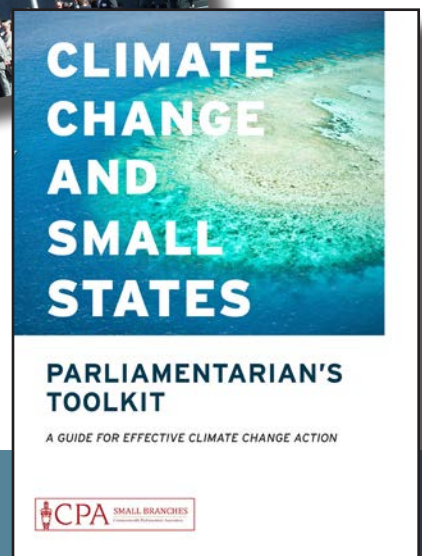
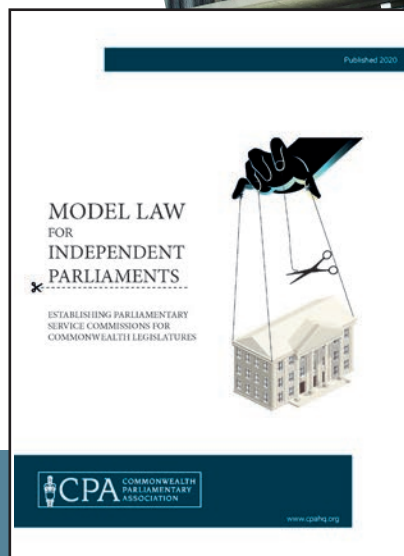
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COMMONWEALTH DAY IN THE CPA'S 180 PARLIAMENTS AND LEGISLATURES

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) celebrated Commonwealth Day 2022 across its nine Regions and over 180 Parliaments and Legislatures on the theme of 'Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming' which offered opportunities for the people, Parliaments, governments and institutions of the Commonwealth to connect and work together at many levels through far-reaching and deep-rooted networks of friendship and goodwill.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth and Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, released her Commonwealth Day message in which she spoke of the diversity of the people and countries that make up the Commonwealth and its ability to deliver a common future for all. The Queen was represented by HRH The Prince of Wales at the multi-faith Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey where he joined Members of the Royal Family, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, representatives of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, High Commissioners, dignitaries and over 600 schoolchildren.

The CPA Secretary-General, Stephen Twigg said: *"Delivering a common future is a powerful message as we seek to learn the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the citizens and institutions of the Commonwealth. The pandemic has reminded us that we live in an inter-connected world community in which we have a shared responsibility to address common challenges. As we celebrate the CPA Patron's seventy years of service to the Commonwealth, there will be a particular focus this year on the important role of service in communities across the Commonwealth. During the pandemic, we have been reminded of the invaluable contribution made by all those working in the health and care sectors as well as other key workers and volunteers who have ensured that communities and families have been supported."*

Commonwealth Day is celebrated annually on the second Monday of March with CPA Branches hosting a wide range of in-person and virtual events.



COMMONWEALTH DAY CELEBRATIONS AT UK PARLIAMENT JOINED BY SPEAKERS FROM SAINT LUCIA AND THE BAHAMAS

On Commonwealth Day 2022, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Stephen Twigg attended the flag raising of the Commonwealth flag at a special ceremony held at the UK Parliament by the Joint CPA UK Branch President and the Speaker of the UK House of Commons, Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP. The Speaker of the House of Assembly of Saint Lucia, Hon. Claudius Francis and the Speaker of the House of Assembly of The Bahamas, Hon. Patricia Deveaux both joined the ceremony along with representatives of Commonwealth organisations in the UK, Commonwealth High Commissioners and British Overseas Territories representatives. The Fijian Mini Choir entertained the guests.

The ceremony was followed by the opening of special exhibition of historic photographs from 1934 commissioned by the UK Parliamentary Press Gallery depicting many historic Parliament buildings in Commonwealth countries displayed alongside modern photographs from today's Commonwealth members.

CPA SCOTLAND BRANCH SECURE COMMONWEALTH DAY MOTION

At the Scottish Parliament, Hon. Sarah Boyack MSP secured cross-party support for her motion on Commonwealth Day 2022 which was debated and signed by Members across the Parliament. The motion recognised *"the work of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association over the last 12 months, mainly through virtual meetings, in discussing a range of issues, including the response to COVID-19, encouraging greater diversity in Parliaments and the climate emergency; considers that these will be key themes across 2022, as will the work of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities networks."*

CPA JAMAICA BRANCH MARKS COMMONWEALTH DAY IN 60TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The CPA Jamaica Branch and the Parliament of Jamaica joined with other Commonwealth jurisdictions in celebrating Commonwealth Day 2022 under the theme of 'Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating and Transforming'. The celebrations were held in a year that holds special significance for Jamaica as it marks the sixtieth year of independence and so the Commonwealth Day event was dubbed 'Commonwealth Kaleidoscope: Jamaica at 60 in the Commonwealth'. This virtual activity allowed the Parliament to explore Jamaica's membership in the Commonwealth as well as issues such as intra-Commonwealth trade, climate change, technology, youth development, education and governance.

The CPA Jamaica Branch Secretary and the Clerk to the Houses, Ms Valrie Curtis welcomed the virtual audience as the event was streamed by the Public Broadcasting Corporation of Jamaica on its YouTube channel and Facebook page. The Joint CPA Jamaica Branch President and the Speaker of the House, Hon. Marisa Dalrymple-Philibert MP and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Mark Golding MP also spoke to participants.

CPA CAYMAN ISLANDS HOLD YOUTH PARLIAMENT TO MARK COMMONWEALTH DAY

Image credit: Cayman Islands Government



The CPA Cayman Islands Branch and the Parliament of the Cayman Islands marked Commonwealth Day 2022 by hosting their annual Commonwealth Youth Parliament. Twenty-four young women and men demonstrated their credentials as contenders for future leaders in the Cayman Islands when they took part in a series of debates in the parliamentary chamber.

The 15th Commonwealth Youth Parliament was opened by the Governor of the Cayman Islands, H.E. Martyn Roper and youth participants also heard from Hon. Andre Ebanks (representing the Premier); the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. W. McKeever Bush; the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Roy McTaggart; the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Katherine Ebanks-Wilks; and the Clerk

of the Parliament, Ms Zena Merren-Chin. The day of debates focused on a Government Bill titled The Sexual Harassment Bill, 2022, which passed following the debate, and a Private Member's Motion seeking restrictions on the high cost of housing and the implementation of a land and housing purchase licence for non-Caymanians, which did not pass. Youth participants spent time before the Commonwealth Day event, at home, in school and at the Parliament, preparing for the debates and learning about parliamentary procedures.

CPA NIGERIA FOCUSES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

At a special event for Commonwealth Day 2022 held by the CPA Nigeria Branch at the National Assembly of Nigeria in Abuja, students were encouraged to fully equip themselves with the relevant skills in artificial intelligence and social media for their futures. The Speaker of the Nigeria House of Representatives and CPA Nigeria Branch President, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila MP was represented by Hon. Yusuf Buba, Chairperson of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs who spoke to over sixty students from the Command Day Secondary School, the Federal Government Girls Secondary School and the Government Secondary School (Tudun Wada) about using their creative energy to positively impact their environment. The Clerk to the National Assembly, Mr Amos Ojo introduced students to the CPA ideals of democracy, good governance and human rights and said: *"As young people are the supreme target for this year's Commonwealth Day celebration, it affords me the wonderful opportunity to direct my attention entirely on them. The future belongs to you, and you must begin to consciously work to secure it. Through your creative energy and youthfulness, you can become an active player in addressing identified challenges."*

CPA NAMIBIA BRANCH HOST COMMONWEALTH DAY EVENT FOR HIGH COMMISSIONS



The CPA Namibia Branch and the Parliament of Namibia hosted a Commonwealth Day 2022 event with Commonwealth High Commissions from 10 jurisdictions. The event

was hosted the Joint CPA Namibia Branch President and Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Peter Katjavivi MP and included cultural performances and a display of traditional cuisine from the different Commonwealth countries as Members of Parliament, parliamentary staff, High Commissioners, local school children and invited guests visited the different stalls.

CPA NEW SOUTH WALES FLIES THE FLAGS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

On Commonwealth Day 2022, the CPA New South Wales Branch held a celebration event at Parliament House attended by the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency Hon. Margaret Beazley AC QC, and members of the Commonwealth Day Council. The heritage building of the Parliament of New South Wales was decorated with the flags of the 54 nations of the Commonwealth.



CPA NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH MARK COMMONWEALTH DAY 2022 WITH TREE PLANTING AND DANCE

Commonwealth Day 2022 was marked by the CPA Northern Ireland Branch with a tree planting ceremony at the Stormont Parliament Buildings that saw a silver birch tree planted to mark the Platinum Jubilee of the CPA Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The tree planting also supported the Queen's Green Canopy, a unique tree planting initiative across the Commonwealth.

The Chair of the CPA Northern Ireland Branch, Hon. William Humphry MLA opened the event and Hon. Robbie Butler MLA spoke on behalf of the Assembly Commission. Representatives from Sinn Féin, Alliance and SDLP also attended the event. Members of the Assembly also enjoyed musical and dance performances from the South Asian Dance Academy and the Campbell College Pipes and Drums.



Image credit: Northern Ireland Assembly



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY MACES AND THEIR SYMBOLIC USE ON COATS OF ARMS

Throughout the Commonwealth the legislative mace is possibly the most recognisable symbol of member countries' shared parliamentary heritage and traditions. Such is its familiarity that the mace has been the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's emblem since its foundation. However, it is perhaps not widely known that maces have also been used on personal coats of arms adopted by Parliamentarians, particularly Speakers of Parliament, for over two hundred years. This article will highlight a selection of these armorial bearings from various countries, roughly chronologically, and explore the symbolism of the arms and the stories of the maces.

Some historical background might first be useful. Heraldry developed in twelfth-century Europe and served to enable identification in battle, with unique designs used on shields and the cloth surcoats worn over combatants' armour. Subsequently coats of arms were adopted by civilians and corporate bodies, and acquired more meaning and ornamentation as their purpose became primarily decorative. They can be inherited, or bestowed upon persons of good standing, but as personal property cannot be adopted by anyone sharing a particular surname (contrary to popular belief). In parts of the Commonwealth heraldry is regulated through England's College of Arms, Scotland's Court of the Lord Lyon, the South African Bureau of Heraldry or the Canadian Heraldic Authority.¹

Like heraldry, maces were initially used in warfare. In 1415, MPs in England successfully requested that the King assign one of his mace-bearing bodyguards, called Serjeants-at-Arms, to attend upon the House of Commons. Eventually his mace became larger and more ornate as its defensive function evolved into a ceremonial one, although even ceremonial maces have sometimes been mistreated. Oliver Cromwell had the Commons' mace destroyed and its present one dates from after the monarchy's restoration in 1660. While technically an emblem of royal authority it became commonly regarded as symbolising the institution of the House itself, or the office of Speaker.² This was demonstrated throughout the nineteenth century by the inclusion of small maces on the coats of arms of a few former British Speakers.

In the later twentieth century the mace featured more conspicuously on multiple Speakers' arms, beginning with William Shepherd Morrison. At Westminster, new Speakers lacking arms typically apply for them but Queen Elizabeth's accession soon after Morrison's election in late

1951 added urgency, as the state coach he would ride to the coronation required decorating with them. Granted in 1953, these arms (Fig. 1) show the mace flanked by two gannets, evoking Scotland's Western Isles where his parents were born and he first stood for Parliament. The crest is a Viking ship referencing the Morrison clan's purported Norse royal origins. Puns are common in heraldry and his motto means 'The Lord is my Shepherd' in Scots Gaelic, his first language. Along with other former Speakers' arms, these are displayed in Speaker's House at Westminster. After retiring in 1959 he was created Viscount Dunrossil and became Governor-General of Australia. However after only one year he died in office and was buried in Canberra, where the road to Government House was renamed Dunrossil Drive.³

Many Commonwealth maces resemble that of the British House of Commons, with the addition of national arms or symbols, or motifs representing local industries. Others are more distinctive, particularly the mace of the Fijian Parliament. Its ceremonial role dates from 1871 when Fiji's only King Ratu Seru Cakobau established a Westminster-style Parliament (assisted by its Speaker, a former MLA from Victoria) and donated his principal war club for use as the mace. Formerly wielded in bloody battles, the mace was decorated by a Sydney silversmith with the Fijian crown, ferns, doves and olive branches to signify its peaceful new use.⁴ Upon Fiji's cession to Britain in 1874 Cakobau offered it to Queen Victoria but subsequently George V agreed to suggestions that it should be returned. In 1932 it was first carried into the Legislative Council by an elderly chief who was related to Cakobau and had lived during his reign.⁵

This unique mace appears crossed with a torch on the arms assigned in 1967 to Sir Maurice Scott, Speaker of Fiji's Legislative Council between 1958 and 1966 (Fig. 2). Scott's arms additionally have scales of justice for his legal career, into which he followed his father and grandfather. The gold eagle symbolises the Royal Air Force, where he was a decorated pilot (his Distinguished Flying Cross medal hangs below the arms, on the right). In its beak the eagle holds an orange signifying his wife's Dutch nationality (Scott was also Dutch honorary consul in Fiji) while the rose and thistle reflect his own ancestry. His motto 'Tabu Soro', or 'Never surrender', was a common salutation from his well-wishers which became a soubriquet.⁶

While Fiji's original Parliament was short-lived, Bermuda's House of Assembly is the Commonwealth's second-oldest Legislature



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although it lacked a mace for most of its history. The Assembly was established in 1620 but reportedly lost its mace at an early date. After the institution marked its tercentenary in 1920, Members commissioned a replacement from Crown Jeweller Garrard & Co. It resembles the British House of Commons' mace but is differentiated by Bermuda's coat of arms and great seal, the date '1620' and monogram 'JR' (for King James I), and Easter lilies, formerly a significant export.⁷

In 1974 this mace was included on arms conferred upon former Speaker, Sir Jeffrey Astwood (Fig. 3).⁸ Astwood held multiple Ministerial portfolios in the 1950s before becoming Deputy Speaker, then Speaker from 1968 until 1972. On his shield, two columns of green stars are thought to represent stands of trees as a pun on his surname and perhaps also recall the important tree-planting efforts he led as Agriculture Minister and in retirement.⁹ His crest shows a boar holding the House of Assembly's mace. Bermuda's abundant boars were so important to early settlers that one appeared on crest of the arms granted in 1635 to the Somers Isles Company, which administered the islands.¹⁰

Arms were also granted to Astwood's contemporary in Australia, Sir William Aston.¹¹ As Speaker of the House of Representatives between 1967 and 1972 he convened and chaired the first annual conference of Australian Presiding Officers in 1968. His arms (Fig. 4) include a crest with Australia's Commonwealth star (symbolising federation) and coloured roundels signifying certain hobbies and interests: swimming, golf, surfing, cricket and surf life-saving, an issue he raised in Parliament. The blue shield with a red and white cross mirrors the arms of New South Wales but instead of sheaves and fleeces, it features swords and gold roundels. These recall Aston's service in the war and his business career, as a milliner.¹² On the cross, the House of Representatives' mace commemorates his Speakership.

This mace had its origins in the gathering of twenty-eight Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers for the opening of the new British House of Commons chamber in 1950. At a reception Aston's predecessor Archie Cameron informed King George VI that a mace was needed and misunderstood the King's reply as an offer to provide one. Nonetheless the Commonwealth Relations Office strongly supported the UK Parliament donating a mace, as recent similar gifts to other Parliaments had fostered goodwill.¹³ Garrard crafted a near-replica of the House of Commons' mace but incorporated Australian elements, including rams' heads, fruit bunches and wheat representing major industries.¹⁴ Silversmith Dan Spencer had previously worked on parliamentary maces for Sri Lanka (then called Ceylon), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia, while Garrard's only Australian employee contributed to this one. Mary Harkness, who worked there as a secretary while travelling in Britain, was delighted to participate by soldering one or two points.¹⁵

“Throughout the Commonwealth the legislative mace is possibly the most recognisable symbol of member countries’ shared parliamentary heritage and traditions. Such is its familiarity that the mace has been the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association’s emblem since its foundation.”



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY MACES AND THEIR SYMBOLIC USE



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

After receiving this gift in 1951, Australian MPs returned the gilded wooden mace which Victoria's Legislative Assembly had loaned them fifty years before. The Assembly's present mace was made locally in 1901, following the notorious theft of its predecessor a decade earlier, and is inscribed with former Speakers' names.¹⁶ It appears on the arms granted in 1976 to Sir Edgar Tanner, Deputy Speaker from 1970 until 1973 (Fig. 5). Below the mace is a torch commemorating his prominent role in the Olympic movement, particularly in securing the 1956 Olympics for Melbourne. A senior sports administrator, Tanner was also active in the Commonwealth Games movement. On his crest, the kangaroo echoes the crest of Victoria's state arms, while the coronet, serpent and arrows are historic symbols of the de Ponsonbys, his wife's family. The sword possibly acknowledges his wartime military service. Tanner's motto is based on a favourite saying, by nineteenth-century Australian poet and politician Adam Lindsay Gordon: 'Life is mostly froth and bubble, Two things stand like stone. Kindness in another's trouble, Courage in your own.'¹⁷

In addition to featuring particular Legislatures' maces, coats of arms can display non-specific ones, such as on those granted in 1978 to Sir Allen Lewis of Saint Lucia. Lewis participated in municipal, colonial and federal politics, where he was the first President of the West Indies Senate from 1958 to 1959. After a series of judicial appointments he served as Saint Lucia's last Governor (1974-79) and first Governor General (1979-80, 1982-87). The parrot on his crest (Fig. 6) is the endemic *Amazona versicolor*, Saint Lucia's national bird which also features on the country's arms.¹⁸ The shield has two scales of justice, for his legal and judicial career which included sitting as first Chief Justice of what is now the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. Lewis was long involved with education and his role as Chancellor of the University of the West Indies is signified by the open book, with his initials 'A' and 'L' highlighted on the pages.¹⁹ In the shield's centre is a mace.

Like Sir Allen Lewis, another Vice-Regal figure in this survey is Jeanne Sauvé, the first woman to become Canada's Speaker of the House of Commons (1980-84) and Governor General (1984-90). Originally Jeanne Benoît, in 1985 she received arms with the gold eagle and the colours blue and gold traditionally used by the Benoîts in heraldry (Fig. 7).²⁰ To commemorate her historic appointments the shield depicts a crown and the Canadian House of Commons' mace. This is modelled on its British prototype but has some characteristic embellishments, including beavers and maple leaves. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London presented it in 1917 after the original was lost in a fire which destroyed the Parliament building.²¹

Sauvé's crest of a dove embodies the aspiration for peace – a theme of her Vice-Regal mandate – while does were considered suitable supporters as deer are common across Canada. Maple leaves and the fleur-de-lys are recognisable symbols of Canada and Sauvé's French heritage. Although the two doe supporters provide a feminine look, the use of a crest is exceptional for women in English heraldry as crests originally adorned medieval helmets and are consequently deemed masculine. However Sauvé was permitted this distinction as the representative of the Queen (whose arms appear on a shield) and Canada's Commander-in-Chief.²² In 1988 she also became head of the newly-established Canadian Heraldic Authority which granted her new, slightly different Canadian arms.

The Authority made an especially interesting grant in 2012 to the Canadian Association of Sergeants-at-Arms. Their shield (Fig. 8) depicts a non-specific mace on a maple leaf of green and red, the colours of lower and upper houses in the Commonwealth.²³ Red and green leaves form the heraldic 'mantling' around the helmet, representing the cloth which hung behind a knight's helmet. Appropriately for Sergeants-at-Arms, the owl embodies watchfulness and the supporters are animals with protective qualities: the black bear which guards her cubs, and the muskox which joins a defensive line or circle against predators. Standing on a snowy landscape with fifteen grass clusters (for the fifteen federal, provincial and territorial chambers), the supporters hold Canada's oldest and newest maces.²⁴

The oldest mace, that of the Senate of Canada, incorporates parts of the mace made for the Legislative Council of Lower Canada (now Québec) in 1793. It was refurbished sometime around 1840 and has survived a remarkable four fires in its history.²⁵ The Nunavut Legislative Assembly's mace was created in 1999 by six indigenous artists using materials from the vast northern territory, including a narwhal tusk for the shaft. Granite, marble and lapis lazuli seals adorn the shaft and four silver loons join wings to form the crown.²⁶ The Association's motto meaning 'We uphold peace, order and good government' not only describes the Sergeants-at-Arms' role but echoes



a well-known phrase from the *Constitution Act, 1867* which established the Dominion of Canada.

Finally, another coat of arms featuring conventional and non-traditional maces is that of Sir Don McKinnon, the Commonwealth Secretary-General from 2000 until 2008. Conferred in 2014, the shield (Fig. 9) has a crossed sword and baton, the rank insignia his father wore as a Major-General, between silver fern fronds. Three waves evoke the oceans across which his ancestors migrated to New Zealand and which the Commonwealth spans. Below this, the Southern Cross has multiple meanings, with the stars alluding to McKinnon and his four siblings and his own five children. On the crest, Auckland's and New Zealand's official flora encircle two emblems. These are the ship's hull which his great-great-grandfather John Plimmer, 'the Father of Wellington', used as a store in Wellington harbour and the McKinnon clan badge of a boar's head. The clan motto 'Fortune favours the bold' is presented below in Māori.²⁷



Fig. 8

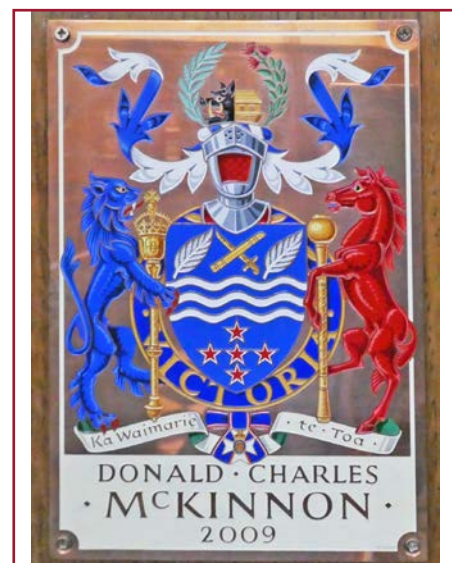


Fig. 9

One supporter is a lion carrying the mace of New Zealand's House of Representatives, where McKinnon sat for twenty-one years and was Foreign Affairs Minister. The mace was donated in 1909 by the then-Prime Minister and his Cabinet, replacing one lost when the Parliament building burned down. It resembles its British precursor but includes distinguishing details like 'N.Z.' and a Southern Cross. The horse, reflecting McKinnon's background in agriculture and enthusiasm for riding, holds the Commonwealth mace. This was commissioned from goldsmith Gerald Benney by the Royal Anniversary Trust for Queen Elizabeth's Ruby Jubilee in 1992. Topped with a ruby and made of gold from several Commonwealth countries, its spiral shaft incorporates the enamelled flags of member states.²⁸ It is carried before the Queen as Head of the Commonwealth at such events as the annual Commonwealth Day service at Westminster Abbey.

Parliamentary maces, heraldry and the Westminster system itself are all of medieval origin. Yet these non-traditional mace designs, and heraldry's use of local languages, flora and fauna, illustrate how historic practices can adapt and reflect some of the Commonwealth's diversity. For centuries heraldry has created richly meaningful artistic records of people's achievements. Having evolved into symbols of democracy, parliamentary maces provide a valuable device for commemorating through heraldry the lives and careers of Commonwealth Parliamentarians.

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¹ Heraldry has its own specialised terminology but this article will use everyday language to be more accessible.

² Peter Thorne, *The Royal Mace in the House of Commons* (1990), pp.15, 18, 24, 37-8.

³ Email from Viscount Dunrossil (2021).

⁴ 'The King of Fiji and his war club', *Edinburgh Evening News* (10 September 1873); A.B. Brewster, *King of the Cannibal Isles* (1937), pp.62-4, 206, 210. The peace dove still appears on Fiji's arms and flag.

⁵ 'A Gift from the King', *The Times*, 21 November 1932; '152 Years on: The Mace of Parliament', <https://www.fijitimes.com/152-years-on-the-mace-of-parliament/>, accessed on 25 March 2022.

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⁷ 'The New Mace', *The Royal Gazette and Colonist Daily* (2 November 1921).

⁸ Illustration from College of Arms MS Grants 136, p.89. Reproduced by permission of the Kings, Heralds and Pursuivants of the College of Arms.

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¹⁰ Jean Kennedy, *350 Years of Bermuda's Parliament* (1970); A.C. Fox-Davies, *The Book of Public Arms* (1915), p.78.

¹¹ Illustration from College of Arms MS Grants 140, p.41. Reproduced by permission of the Kings, Heralds and Pursuivants of the College of Arms.

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¹³ Percivale Liesching to R.R. Sedgewick, 15 November 1950, DO 35/3349, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey.

¹⁴ 'Description of a mace proposed for presentation to the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia by the United Kingdom Parliament', letter from Garrard & Co to Commonwealth Relations Office, 30 March 1951, DO 35/3349, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey.

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¹⁶ Raymond Wright, *A People's Counsel: A History of the Parliament of Victoria 1856-1990* (1990), pp.50, 104, 107, 188.

¹⁷ Email from Mr Ted Tanner (2022).

¹⁸ Illustration from College of Arms MS Grants 140, p.317. Reproduced by permission of the Kings, Heralds and Pursuivants of the College of Arms.

¹⁹ 'Sir Allen Montgomery Lewis', <https://www.eccourts.org/brief-history-of-the-court/sir-allen-montgomery-lewis/>, accessed on 12 April 2022.

²⁰ Illustration from College of Arms MS Grants 149, p.109. Reproduced by permission of the Kings, Heralds and Pursuivants of the College of Arms.

²¹ Corinna A.W. Pike and Christopher McCreery, *Canadian Symbols of Authority: Maces, Chains, and Rods of Office* (2011), pp.120-3.

²² Conrad Swan, 'The Armorial Bearings of H.E. The Right Honourable Jeanne Sauvé', *Heraldry in Canada* (December 1986), 5-6. Unusually her arms appeared on a shield (rather than women's traditional diamond-shaped 'lozenge') and included a helmet, although the helmet is omitted from this illustration.

²³ Image Copyright Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada represented by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, 2012. Reproduced by Permission of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, 2022.

²⁴ Arms of the Canadian Association of Sergeants-at-Arms (2012), Public Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada. <https://www.gg.ca/en/heraldry/public-register/project/2306>.

²⁵ Pike and McCreery, pp.101-7.

²⁶ Ibid, pp.210-7.

²⁷ Emails from Sir Don McKinnon and Mr Philip O'Shea, New Zealand Herald Extraordinary (2021).

²⁸ '40 years celebrated in gold and rubies', *Commonwealth Currents* (April/May 1992), 1-2.



COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATIVE NEWS

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PING-PONG AND PROROGATION AT THE UK PARLIAMENT

Parliamentary Report by Simon Keal, Parliament of the United Kingdom.

The end of the 2021-22 parliamentary session in the UK Parliament saw a congested timetable as the UK Government sought to get several major Bills onto the statute book. These included the Elections Bill, the Health and Care Bill, the Nationality and Borders Bill, and the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. Ultimately all these Bills were passed in the final week of the session, though not before a number of cases of ‘ping-pong’, with Bills being returned from the House of Commons to the House of Lords and back again as the two Houses maintained disagreements on amendments to each Bill.

The Elections Bill was the final Bill to complete the ‘ping-pong’ process on 27 April 2022. Among a range of other provisions, this Bill, for the first time, introduced a mandatory requirement for voter identification at UK elections, and had required the independent Electoral Commission to have regard to a Government ‘Strategy and Policy Statement’, which some had seen as threatening the Commission’s

independence. Ultimately the final two House of Lords amendments – one by Lord Judge to assert that the Electoral Commission “*is not bound by*” the Strategy and Policy Statement, and one by Lord Rennard to expand the range of acceptable identification at elections to include polling cards, which are issued to all voters – were both defeated, respectively by 202 votes to 181 and 208 votes to 150. This cleared the path for the Bill to achieve Royal Assent the evening before prorogation which came the following day, Thursday 28 April 2022.

NEW PARLIAMENTARY SESSION AND THE QUEEN’S SPEECH

The new parliamentary session at the UK Parliament began with the annual ceremony of the State Opening of Parliament on 10 May 2022, at which the UK Government sets out its priorities for the coming legislative session. Owing to ill health, Her Majesty The Queen was not in attendance to deliver The Queen’s Speech for the first time since 1963. Her son, HRH The Prince of Wales, heir to the

throne, gave the speech in her place and attended the State Opening of Parliament with HRH The Duke of Cambridge, with both members of the Royal Family acting as Counsellors of State. The monarch can appoint ‘Counsellors of State’ via Letters Patent who can act in pairs on behalf of the Sovereign. By law, Counsellors of State usually include the Sovereign’s spouse and the next four people in the line of succession who are over the age of 21 (except the heir to the throne who only needs to be 18).

Key commitments in The Queen’s Speech included a Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, changing the devolution of powers to local authorities and reforming the planning system; a Transport Bill to establish a new state-run agency to regulate rail services, to be named Great British Railways; an Online Safety Bill, intended to improve regulation of internet content; and a ‘Brexit’ Freedoms Bill, giving Ministers new powers to overhaul laws which were transferred to domestic law after the UK left the European Union.



Image credit: UK Parliament



VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE UK PRIME MINISTER

On 25 May 2022, a report of an internal inquiry into parties held at the UK Prime Minister's residence and offices at 10 Downing Street during periods of enforced COVID-19 social restrictions was published. The report, produced by senior civil servant Sue Gray, had followed the conclusion of a Metropolitan Police investigation into whether any of the parties had breached laws in force at the time. The police ultimately issued a total of 126 'fixed penalty notices' (FPNs) – small fines for law-breaking – including the Prime Minister, Rt Hon. Boris Johnson, MP, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon. Rishi Sunak, MP. The subsequent report from Sue Gray concluded that *"Many of these events should not have been allowed to happen ... the senior leadership at the centre, both political and official, must bear responsibility for this culture."*

Responding to the report in a Statement to the House of Commons on 25 May 2022, the Prime Minister said that *"I want to begin by renewing my apology to the House and to the whole country"* for the lunchtime gathering for which he was issued an FPN, and that *"Sue Gray's report has emphasised that it is up to the political leadership in No10 to take the ultimate responsibility, and of course I do."* He added that *"I have been as surprised and disappointed as anyone else in this House as the revelations unfolded"* concerning events at which he was not present, and said that he was particularly concerned by reports of the poor treatment of cleaning and security staff. He added, however, that owing to the introduction of new protocols for staff to report concerns, and the introduction of a new senior staff team at 10 Downing Street, *"I am confident, with the changes and new structures that are now in place, that we are humbled by the experience, and we have learned our lesson."*

Responding, the Leader of the Opposition, Rt Hon. Sir Keir Starmer, MP, said that *"you cannot be a lawmaker and a lawbreaker, and it is time to pack his bags. Only then can the Government function again."* The Leader of the Opposition is himself under investigation by Durham police over an election campaign event that was reported to have breached pandemic restrictions in place at the time, and has

declared he will step down if issued with a fixed penalty notice.

The publication of the report led to more Conservative MPs submitting letters of no confidence in the Prime Minister. The letters are received by Sir Graham Brady, MP, who chairs the Conservative Private Members' Committee, informally known as the 1922 Committee. This Committee represents all backbench Conservative MPs and meets to coordinate and discuss their views separately from the party's frontbench Ministerial team. If 15% of Conservative MPs submit a letter of no confidence to

the Chair, a formal vote of confidence is held in the Conservative Party Leader. On 6 June 2022, Sir Graham announced that the threshold had been met and that a vote of Conservative MPs would be held later the same day. The Prime Minister ultimately won the vote by 211 votes to 148. Under existing Conservative Party rules, the Leader is not required to face another vote for at least one year, though there has been speculation that the rule might be changed if dissatisfaction among Conservative MPs remains in the coming months.





HOUSE OF LORDS RETURNS TO VOTING IN-PERSON

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK Parliament's second chamber, the House of Lords, had utilised a system of voting whereby secure votes were cast via electronic devices. It was agreed in 2021 that Members of the Lords would return to voting in division lobbies using a new system of 'pass readers'. This would avoid the requirement for names to be recorded in the lobbies by Parliamentary Clerks, with votes being recorded instead by Members tapping their parliamentary pass against electronic readers located in the lobbies. The implementation of the system had been delayed but was ultimately scheduled to coincide with the start of the new parliamentary session.

The first use of the pass-reader system – and therefore the first House of Lords division to take place in the division lobbies since March 2020 – took place on 7 June 2022, following the moving of a motion of regret by the Earl of Clancarty against the *Immigration (Restrictions on Employment and Residential Accommodation) (Prescribed Requirements and Codes of Practice) and Licensing Act 2003* (Personal and Premises Licences) (Forms), etc., Regulations 2022. The motion expressed regret that the Regulations “do not provide an option of a physical proof of status; do not heed the recommendations of the report from the 2018 beta assessment of the Home Office’s ‘prove your right to work’ scheme; and have been introduced without being subject to an impact assessment.” On pressing the motion to a division, there were recorded 159 votes in favour and 95 votes against, resulting in a Government defeat.

This ‘regret motion’ is commonly used in the House of Lords as a vehicle for Members to express criticism of secondary legislation without seeking to oppose its passage outright. Members also retain the right to vote down secondary legislation altogether (although it is rarely exercised), but not to amend it.

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS AND LOCAL ELECTIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN

On 5 May 2022, elections were held for the Northern Ireland Assembly, the devolved Legislature for Northern Ireland to which its devolved Executive Government is accountable. Under provisions in the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, a peace deal signed in 1998, Northern Ireland elects Members to its Assembly under a proportional Single Transferable Vote system and the Executive is run according to ‘power sharing’ principles, by which parties elected to the Assembly are automatically allocated posts in the Executive depending on the number of seats in the Assembly they win. The intent is to avoid a situation of majority rule by a single community. The original Northern Ireland Parliament, which existed from 1921 from 1972, had had a consistent majority of unionists (the community which supports the maintenance of Northern Ireland in the United Kingdom), while nationalists (who support the reunification of the province with the remainder of Ireland) had been excluded from power and representation in government.

The Executive is jointly led by a First Minister and a Deputy First Minister, who have equal powers and comprise one Member of a unionist party and one from a nationalist party. Since the creation of the Assembly in 1998, the largest party had always been from the unionist community; first the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) and more recently the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). This changed for the first time at the 2022 election, with the Irish republican party Sinn Féin winning 29% of the vote and 27 seats. The DUP came second with 21% of the vote and 25 seats, while the cross-community Alliance Party finished third for the first time, with 13.5% of the vote and 17 seats. Since the election, no Executive has been formed as the DUP has refused to nominate Ministers; its leader, Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, MP, said the party would not do so until the UK Government took “decisive action” on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland (commonly known as the Northern Ireland Protocol). The protocol is provision in the UK’s withdrawal agreement with the European Union which enables Northern Ireland to maintain a closer trading relationship with the EU, but

which also by extension imposes some controls on trade between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, sometimes referred to as a “border in the Irish sea”.

If the leading party from either the unionist or the nationalist community refuses to participate in the Executive, it is legally unable to function, though smaller parties have the right to refuse to take part in the Government and may go into opposition. The UK Government has recently introduced legislation to unilaterally override aspects of the Northern Ireland protocol on the basis that it lacks unionist support and therefore threatens the stability of the province. However, some critics have argued that in seeking to amend the protocol in this manner the UK Government is breaking an international agreement and thus breaching international law. The immediate future of the Northern Ireland Executive is therefore unclear.

Local council elections also took place in parts of England and across Scotland and Wales on 5 May 2022, during the parliamentary prorogation period. Following a sustained period of negative coverage for the Conservative Party, they were expected to fare poorly in the elections, and ultimately lost a total of 485 seats, including several local authorities to opposition parties or to ‘No Overall Control’ (meaning that no single party has a majority on the authority).

Notably, the City of Westminster Council, covering much of central London, was won by the Labour Party from the Conservatives for the first time in its history, and Labour also gained the South-West London borough of Wandsworth, which had been Conservative-held since 1978. These losses were noted as examples of the Conservatives’ falling popularity in London in particular, although the Labour Party generally fared less strongly outside the capital. The Liberal Democrats and the Green Party both enjoyed successes, gaining 224 and 87 seats respectively, while the Labour Party made a net gain of 108 seats.



PARLIAMENTARY NEWS FROM FEDERAL PARLIAMENT OF CANADA

Parliamentary Report by Gabrielle de Billy Brown, Parliament of Canada.

USE OF EMERGENCIES ACT

During the month of February 2022, the work of the Parliament of Canada was impacted by an ongoing series of protest regarding the public health measures in place to fight COVID-19. To put an end to the protests, the Government of Canada declared, on 14 February 2022, a public order emergency under the *Emergencies Act*.

According to the *Emergencies Act*, a public order emergency must be confirmed by a vote in both Chambers of Parliament within seven days of its declaration. While the House of Commons voted a motion in favour on 21 February 2022, the public order emergency was revoked by the government the following day and the Senate of Canada never recorded a vote on the motion.

The Act states that *"the exercise of powers and the performance of duties and functions pursuant to a declaration of emergency shall be reviewed by a committee of both Houses of Parliament."* Therefore, the Special Joint Committee on the Declaration of Emergency was created on 3 March 2022 to review the events that occurred, and the decisions made under the declaration.

The Special Joint Committee is composed of 11 Members and is co-chaired by one Senator, Hon. Gwen Boniface, and two Members of Parliament, Rhéal Éloi Fortin, MP and Matthew Green, MP. The Committee's study is ongoing: as of 6 June 2022, the Committee has held eight meetings and heard testimony from various government departments and agencies as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

CONTINUED RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Speaker of the House of Commons, Hon. Anthony Rota, MP, announced on 10 March 2022 changes to the preventative measures regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in place on the House of Commons precinct. Visitor access to the public gallery and to Committee meetings were restored on 25 April 2022, while guided tours resumed on 20 May 2022. However, measures regarding mask wearing remain in place until 23 June 2022.

In addition, the Board of Internal Economy confirmed that Committee travel could begin again as of 1 April 2022. The Joint Interparliamentary Council announced it would lift the moratorium on international travel and incoming delegations on the same date.

The Senate of Canada, via the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration, announced on 25 March 2022 that some preventative measures were also lifted. While mask wearing remains a requirement in common spaces, they may be removed at workstations. Visitors are now admitted, though proof of vaccination against COVID-19 must still be presented.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA AND THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

On 22 March 2022, the Liberal Party of Canada and the New Democratic Party announced a supply and confidence agreement between the two parties which is valid until the rise of Parliament in June 2025. This agreement means that the New Democratic Party will support the Liberal Party on confidence and budgetary matters and in exchange will participate in regular briefings with public servants and Ministers on policy matters. The two parties also agreed on seven shared priorities for the duration of the agreement, which include improvement of the healthcare system, tackling the climate crisis and a fairer tax system.

CHANGES IN THE SENATE

On 14 March 2022, Hon. Mary Jane McCallum, who represents the province of



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Manitoba, left the Independent Senators Group to sit as unaffiliated. She had been a member of the group since 2018.

On 17 March 2022, Hon. Diane Griffin retired after 8 years in the Senate. She represented the province of Prince Edward Island. At the time of her retirement, she was a member of the Canadian Senators Group.

On 6 May 2022, Hon. Terry M. Mercer retired after representing the province of Nova Scotia for 19 years in the Senate. At the time of his retirement, he was a member of the Progressive Senate Group.

As of 6 June 2022, the standings in the Senate were: Independent Senators Group 41, Conservative Party 16, Progressive Senate Group 13, Canadian Senators Group 12 and non-affiliated 7. Sixteen seats were vacant.

CHANGE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

On 27 May 2022, Sven Spengemann, MP announced his resignation from the House of Commons to accept a position at the United Nations. He had been representing the constituency of Mississauga-Lakeshore in Ontario since the 2015 general election. As of 6 June 2022, a by-election has not yet been announced to find his successor.

CHANGE IN PARTY LEADERSHIP

As mentioned in the previous edition of *The Parliamentarian*, Hon. Erin O'Toole has stepped down as Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada. The leadership contest is underway for his successor and the election will take place on 10 September 2022. Of the six candidates who will be on the ballot, three are current Members of Parliament: Scott Aitchison, MP, Leslyn Lewis, MP and Hon. Pierre Poilievre, MP. In addition, former Québec Premier and former MP, Hon. Jean Charest, is also in the running. Hon. Candice Bergen, MP remains interim Leader until the new Leader is chosen.

LEGISLATION

The Minister of Public Safety, Hon. Marco Mendicino, MP introduced *Bill C-21: An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)* on 30 May 2022. Among other things, the Bill intends to control the purchase and sale of handguns and to implement a buy-back program for the government to recuperate banned assault weapons.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

On 15 March 2022, His Excellency Volodymyr Zelensky, the President of

Ukraine, addressed Parliamentarians by video in the House of Commons chamber. On that day, Senators and Members of Parliament gathered to listen to President Zelensky's pleas for additional assistance from Canada. This was the first joint address by a distinguish visitor since 2017, when Malala Yousafzai addressed Parliamentarians.

NOMINATIONS

On 1 June 2022, Rt Hon. Justin Trudeau named Hon. Stéphane Dion as Canada's Ambassador to France. Mr Dion is also the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the European Union and Europe. Mr Dion was a Member of Parliament from 1996 until 2017.

REHABILITATION OF THE PEACE TOWER CARILLON

On 18 February 2022, the historic Peace Tower Carillon sang its last recital for the foreseeable future due to the rehabilitation of the Parliament of Canada's Center Block. There is no fixed end-date for the renovations and the Carillon will remain quiet for their duration. It sits atop the Peace Tower and has been a fixture of Parliament Hill since 1927, when it was inaugurated in the first live coast-to-coast radio broadcast in Canada.



THIRD READING REPORT

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Third Reading Report by Lisa Hill, Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

THIRD READING REPORT

Anti-Racism Data Act, 2022

The first of its kind in Canada and introduced on 2 May 2022, Bill 24, Anti-Racism Data Act, is designed to enable the provincial government to collect, use and publish disaggregated race-based data in order to identify, assess and address service gaps and barriers faced by racialized people and to help ensure that the design and delivery of government programs and services is fair and equitable.

The Act was developed in cooperation with and included input from Indigenous leadership, as well as leaders and individuals representing racialized communities. As one of the first priorities under the Act, government will distribute a voluntary survey to randomly selected households in November 2022 and release an initial data set based on survey results in 2023 which will include information such as ethnic origin, ancestry, faith, ability, and gender identity. Data from the survey will also be cross-referenced with existing government statistics to better gauge where gaps and barriers in the delivery of core government services exist. The data will also be used to develop data directives and data standards which are expected to be released in 2023.

Hon. David Eby, QC, Attorney-General and Minister Responsible for Housing, noted that the Act will allow for race-based data collection to ensure that government programs and services are meeting the needs of all British Columbians. Through

its provisions for data collection, the Act will aim to address barriers and ensure that racialized individuals have equitable access to government programs and services and feel safe getting the support they may require. The Act also includes provisions to ensure consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples and racialized communities on data initiatives that impact them directly. A provincial Anti-Racism Data Committee will be created to ensure that there is ongoing input and consultation with relevant stakeholders on how the data will be collected and used.

To ensure appropriate protections are in place, the Act outlines data directives and guidelines for Government Ministries to follow that support culturally safe collection, use and disclosure of statistical or disaggregated data. The Attorney-General noted the contributions and support of racialized community members and leaders, as well as Indigenous leaders, who participated in consultations and provided input to develop the Act, as well as the leadership of the Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives, Rachna Singh, MLA.

During the Second Reading debate, Teresa Wat, MLA, Official Opposition Critic for Multiculturalism, spoke in favour of the Bill and stated that British Columbians from racialized communities experience discrimination on a regular basis. Ms Wat also highlighted the prevalence of systemic racism toward Indigenous peoples in BC's health care system as outlined in the 2020 report entitled *In Plain Sight*. In addition, she acknowledged the impact

of the BC Human Rights Commissioner's 2020 report *Disaggregated demographic data collection in British Columbia: The grandmother perspective*, which highlighted the ongoing socio-economic and human rights challenges of racialized communities in BC and helped form the basis for the legislation. While Ms Wat acknowledged the importance of the Act, she cautioned that it would expand the scope of data and personal information that government will have the ability to collect, link, store and disclose and highlighted the need to recognise the intergenerational trauma associated with the collection of race-based data. To address this, she noted that government must ensure that the legislation and its associated data initiatives are carried out with the utmost cultural sensitivity for the communities that will be impacted and involved.

During the Committee of the Whole debate, Ms Wat asked for clarification regarding a number of definitions included in the Act and asked the Attorney-General to clarify which public bodies will be governed by the legislation. The Attorney-General indicated that all Government Ministries will fall under the purview of the Act. He noted that there are approximately 3,000 public bodies in BC that could also fall under the Act and that he will engage with community organisations to determine a prioritised and phased approach to include various public bodies outside of core government. In response to questions from Ms Wat regarding how personal information will be protected and



Third Reading Report by Vinay Kumar Mohan, Parliament of India.

THIRD READING REPORT

The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022

The Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920 was enacted to authorise the taking of measurements and photographs of convicts and other persons. The term 'measurements' used in the Act was limited to allow for the taking of finger impressions and footprint impressions of limited category of convicted and non-convicted persons and photographs on the order of a Magistrate. Now 'measurement' techniques being used in advanced countries are giving credible and reliable results and are recognised the world over. *The Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920* did not provide for taking these new body measurements as many of the techniques and technologies had not been developed at that point of time. Therefore, a need was felt for expanding the scope and ambit of the measurements as it will help in unique identification of a person involved in any crime.

The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022, *inter-alia*, sought:

- (i) to define 'measurements' to include finger-impressions, palm-print and foot-print impressions, photographs, iris and retina scan, physical, biological samples and their analysis, etc;
- (ii) to empower the National Crime Records Bureau of India to collect, store and preserve the records of measurements and for sharing, dissemination, destruction and disposal of such records;
- (iii) to empower a Magistrate to direct any person to give their measurements;
- (iv) to empower the police or a prison officer to take the measurements of any person who resists or refuses to give their measurements; and
- (v) repeal *The Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920*.

Debate

There were detailed deliberations on the Bill in the Parliament of India.

how consent will be provided by individuals, the Attorney-General indicated that the protection of personal information, including provisions for consent and data sharing, will be similar to the requirements outlined in the province's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

During her remarks made during the Second Reading debate, Rachna Singh, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives, noted that community advocates have indicated for many years that individuals from racialized or Indigenous communities do not receive the same level of service, treatment or experience as other British Columbians when accessing government services due to systemic racism. She also spoke about the importance of aligning the consultations undertaken to draft the legislation with the provisions outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to ensure fulsome opportunities for discussion and input with Indigenous leaders and individuals, including an online survey that was translated into 14 different languages. Ms Singh stressed the importance of minimising community harm as the work outlined in the legislation is carried out and how the Anti-Racism Data Committee will need to provide oversight and advice regarding how the data is collected, used and shared.

A Member of the Third Party, Adam Olsen, MLA, spoke favourably of the Bill and expressed his hope that it will help to improve access to government services for all British Columbians no matter what their background, language or culture. Mr Olsen spoke about his own experience and that of his family and community as an Indigenous person from Coast Salish territory and noted that quite often data that was collected by government was not used to help Indigenous individuals and communities, but rather was used to marginalise them. He highlighted the fulsome consultation process undertaken to develop the legislation and how the process aligned with the provisions in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. He raised concerns about the 30-day notification timeframe outlined in section 6 of the Act which stipulates that written notice must be provided to the applicable Indigenous governing entity before the development of a data initiative that could affect the Indigenous community in question. Mr Olsen indicated that Indigenous organisations are being flooded with a substantial number of requests for a variety of reasons and that a 30-day timeline is not sufficient to ensure a response or any other actions that may be required from these organisations.

The *Anti-Racism Data Act, 2022* passed its Third Reading on Monday 9 May 2022.

Members opposing the Bill reasoned that:

- (i) the definition of 'measurements' is very wide, ambiguous and nebulous and gives sweeping rights to authorities encroaching upon the fundamental rights of persons;
- (ii) the Bill is against the Fundamental Right to Privacy of a citizen. It can be misused or targeted against individuals. The Bill is so broad that it does not satisfy the two-fold check of necessity and proportionality;
- (iii) the dangerous aspect of this law is the grouping of those booked under preventive detention. So before doing anything, a person may be grouped with those arrested for serious offences;
- (iv) the Bill violates the right to be forgotten and violates the rights of prisoners;
- (v) this Bill would give extra-constitutional power to the police and Magistrates;
- (vi) the Bill gives room for misinterpretation and misuse and is like a double-edged weapon which anybody can use against their opponents;
- (vii) safeguards against malicious misuse or distortion of data have not been provided.

Views of Members of Parliament proffered in favour included:

- (i) the Bill will not only pave the way for higher conviction rate, but also help in curbing criminals and crime;
- (ii) right to privacy must be respected, but it is not absolute;
- (iii) the Bill provides the necessary statutory backing for the agencies to go ahead with investigation. Adoption of modern techniques is needed in this area, and it will deter serious offenders from committing heinous crimes and will also help in solving cases faster;
- (iv) the police can use multiple measurements to identify criminals and thus conviction rate can be increased;
- (v) the Bill will ensure that perpetrators of the crimes are brought to justice.



The Parliament of India.

Some of the suggestions to mitigate against misuse of the legislation included: (i) the Bill should not be used for political witch-hunt and DNA profiling which is a sensitive thing. It should only be used purely for serious crimes and for counter-terrorism purposes. Also, it must be ensured that the data being collected must not be misused;

(ii) emphasis should be made on capacity building, including experts in forensics at the police station level itself so that the police are better-equipped;

(iii) ensuring the integrity of data as well as maintaining safe custody. New age solutions like the block chain technology should be introduced.

Replying to the debate on the Bill, the Minister-in-charge of the Bill, **Shri Amit Shah** stated, *inter-alia*, that this Bill has not been brought for misuse against any person, neither is there room for misuse of data. As far as the question of human rights is concerned, it applies both ways and the human rights of victims also must be ensured. This Bill has been brought with the only intention to increase the rate of conviction using new technologies available today.

The Minister also insisted that use of up-to-date technology in the criminal justice system cannot be delayed anymore with a view to make this country safe, punish the guilty and make the internal security of the country impenetrable.

The Bill which was introduced on 28 March 2022 was passed by Lok Sabha on 4 April 2022 and by Rajya Sabha on 6 April 2022. The Bill, as passed by both Houses, received the assent of the President of India on 18 April 2022.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2022; and The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022

Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution of India empowered the President of India to specify the castes and tribes which shall be deemed as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in relation to a specific State or Union Territory. Accordingly, various Constitution Orders were issued by the President after the commencement of the Constitution of India specifying the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in relation to the States and Union Territories of India.

The aforesaid articles also empower the Parliament of India to subsequently modify these lists by including in or excluding from these lists any caste, race, tribe or tribal community. These lists were issued by the President of India in respect of certain castes and tribes which remained cut off from the mainstream due to social or geographical isolation. The purpose was to bring them into the mainstream with a view to ameliorate their socio-political and

economic conditions by providing them certain exclusive benefits like reservation in educational institutions, government jobs and also certain monetary benefits.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2022, introduced in Rajya Sabha on 7 February 2022, sought to transfer *Bhogta* community from the list of Scheduled Castes in relation to the State of Jharkhand to the list of Scheduled Tribes of that State. The Bill also sought to include, *inter-alia*, *Tamaria* and *Puran* communities in the lists of Scheduled Tribes in respect of the State of Jharkhand.

Likewise, the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022, introduced in Lok Sabha on 7 February 2022, sought to include '*Darlong*' Community in the State of Tripura as a sub-tribe of existing tribe '*Kuki*'.

Debate

Both the Bills were debated in the Parliament of India extensively and received support from all sections. Although discussed separately, debate on these Bills centered on nearly the same points, which included:

(i) Inclusion of more communities in these lists alone is not enough. More funds are also required to be allocated in proportion to their population and the implementation aspect of schemes for people belonging to these castes/tribes is also to be looked after;



LEGISLATIVE NEWS FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PARLIAMENT

Parliamentary Report by Paras Ramoutar, Freelance Journalist based at the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago.

- (ii) There is a need to run awareness programmes about Government schemes and benefits extended to these castes/tribes, not only by the Government but also by the society at large;
- (iii) a comprehensive study should be done to include deprived castes and tribes in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lists.
- (iv) Efforts should be made to impart education to these groups in their mother tongue and their traditions, folk music, dances, etc. should be preserved.
- (v) Socio-economic literacy of the tribals must be given emphasis.

Replying to the debate on both the Bills, the Minister-in-charge of the Bill, **Shri Arjun Munda** assured the House that the Government of India is committed to the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and regular steps are being taken to remove the anomalies. He also assured the House that there shall be no shortage of funds for the schemes, programmes being implemented and chalked out for their upliftment.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was passed by Rajya Sabha on 30 March 2022 and by Lok Sabha on 5 April 2022. The Bill received the assent of the President of India on 8 April 2022.

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was passed by Lok Sabha on 28 March 2022 and by Rajya Sabha on 6 April 2022. The Bill was assented to by the President of India on 18 April 2022.

CABINET RESHUFFLE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

In a surprise move, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, **Hon. Dr Keith Rowley** has appointed **Reginald Armour**, former President of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT), as the new Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs. Mr Armour succeeds **Faris Al-Rawi** who was moved to become Minister of Local Government and Rural Development.

Other recent appointment included: **Penelope Beckles** as Minister of Planning and Development; **Camille Robinson-Regis** as Minister of Housing and Urban Development; **Kazim Hosein** as Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries; **Nigel de Freitas** as Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries; and **Dr Muhammad Ibrahim** as the Deputy President of the Senate.

PROPERTY TAX TO FUND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECTS

Newly-appointed Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, **Faris Al-Rawi** has promised that the establishment of a renewed Property Tax will be used to fund all Local Government projects. The Minister was speaking on the Local Government Reform Bill 2020 in the House of Representatives that was debated on 23 March 2022. *"Property tax in Local Government is something critical to life as the money that come Property Tax will go into a Statutory Fund"*, he said.

The revenue will be used to construct and maintain local roads, something that local government is 80% responsible, as well as to maintain drains, local health, garbage collection, recreational grounds and parks, cemeteries, tourism sites and government schools.

Opposition Member, **Khadijah Ameen**, herself a former local government representative, pointed out that the Bill was aimed to implement the Property Tax.

Opposition Member, **Vandana Mohit** said some areas for improvement must include a plan for an equitable formula for funding and financing in corporations, advice on how staffing positions will be filled as there is no hiring freeze in effect, and the need for a timeline for the implementation of such proposals.

NEW SYSTEM FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government representatives will be made full-time with increased remuneration in Trinidad

according to the Minister of Finance, **Colm Imbert** speaking in the House of Representatives on the Miscellaneous Provisions (Local Government Reform) Bill 2020 on 23 March 2022. The Minister said that better pay for local government representatives would attract better people to the service, as some councillors had no other means of survival and had to survive on the small remuneration that they receive.

Opposition Member, **Rudranath Indarsingh** noted that he had no confidence in the government to digitise local government, given recent failures to implement digital vaccination cards, and that local government councillors had queried the Minister's statement that the positions would be full-time.

Opposition Member, **Saddam Hosein** spoke of three concerns with the Bill including not enough protection given to local government representatives, not enough being done for the municipal police and too much control being allocated to the Ministry of Finance.

DRAFT PLAN ON VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS

The Acting Minister of Education, **Lisa Morris Julien** has told the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago that the Ministry of Education is preparing a plan to deal with violence in schools entitled 'National School Infraction Rubric'. The plan will be shared with various stakeholders before it goes to Cabinet for final approval. The Minister was replying to a question in Parliament from Opposition Member, **Rudy Indarsingh**, as to what measures are being taken to combat the growing incidents of violence in the school system.

The Minister added: *"To this end, the Ministry has collected and analysed data on school indiscipline and violence, and has identified schools of focus for targeted intervention, that is, schools with the highest rates of violence, as well as those exhibiting the following characteristics: high percentage of Form 1 students who scored under 30% in the SEA assessment, high levels of indiscipline, high levels of absenteeism, and low levels of CSEC achievement."* She added that the Ministry has also collaborated with following agencies on the plan: National Security, Youth Development and National Service, Gender and Child Affairs, Community Police, Social Development, Tobago House of Assembly, Sport and Community Development.



PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TRINIDAD PARLIAMENT PASSES CANNABIS CONTROL BILL

After a long hiatus, the Trinidad and Tobago Parliament has passed the Cannabis Control Bill. The Bill's passage followed the House approval of a motion to adopt the findings of the Joint Select Committee. Several MPs spoke on the Bill including Dr Lackram Bodoë, Shamfa Cudjoe, David Lee, Foster Cummings and Michelle Benjamin.

In presenting the Bill, the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Faris Al-Rawi, pointed out that Trinidad and Tobago can now follow several countries to legally manage the cultivation of marijuana for medicinal purposes. The Minister was speaking on a motion to adopt the report of the Joint Select Committee on the use of Cannabis Control Bill 2020 in the House of Representatives. The Minister said that the Government was proposing the careful management and the lawful exploitation of cannabis cultivation and production under licence. Citing data compiled by the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago, the Minister said that another benefit of marijuana decriminalisation would be a significant drop in the number of drug cases being brought before the courts.

FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS MID-YEAR REVIEW

Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Finance, Colm Imbert has presented the country's mid-term review of the economy in which the country has achieved a surplus of TT\$1.5 billion at the end of April 2022. The Minister told Parliament on 14 May 2022 that this surplus was achieved instead of the projected TT\$5.7 billion.

The Minister explained that the Government had to borrow *"large sums of money to keep people employed, support the health sector, acquire COVID-19 vaccines, provide relief to vulnerable people, and initiate a local stimulus to help the economy recover from the effects of the pandemic."* He continued: *"This caused the public debt to climb from TT\$104.7 billion at the end of 2019 to TT\$130.6 billion at the end of 2021. The Government's fiscal stimulus, increased oil and natural gas prices owing to increased global demand as COVID-19 restrictions were eased across the world and further increases in those prices as a result of the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, was the first bit of good news for Trinidad and Tobago."*

There was an increase in government revenue for the first six months of the year in receipt of taxes, incomes and profits, taxes on goods and services, taxes from international trade, increases in the unemployment fund and green fund revenue.

The Minister said several government agencies will benefit from the increases in revenue such as the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) and the Telecommunications Services of TT (TSTT), with a focus on road repairs and upgrades, and increased wages to trade union employees.

SENATE DEBATES SEVERING TIES WITH PRIVY COUNCIL

A proposal has been raised in the Senate of Trinidad and Tobago (Upper House) to sever ties with the Privy Council as the final Appellate Court. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC) is the court of final appeal for several countries and territories in the Commonwealth including Trinidad and Tobago. The motion from Independent Senator Anthony Viera called on the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to relinquish ties with the JCPC and instead replace it with the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). The Senator contended that Trinidad and Tobago was bound under a 2001 CARICOM treaty to work with the CCJ and that it would improve affordability, relevance and 'an increased access to justice' citing several other CARICOM countries who had also left the JCPC.

Newly appointed Attorney-General, Senator Reginald Armour hailed the motion by Senator Viera to alter Trinidad and Tobago's 1976 Republican Constitution, in favour of the CCJ.

In rebutting Senator's Viera proposal, Senator Wade Mark said this move

would be a threat to democracy and the independence of the lower courts. He called for a national referendum on the proposal, which would need to be validated by a 75% majority result.

Independent Senator Hazel Thompson, who seconded the motion, also pointed out that it was time for Trinidad and Tobago to break with its colonial past.

TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT TO PAY PUBLIC SERVANTS ELECTRONICALLY

The Minister of Finance, Colm Imbert has announced that public servants will have the option to be paid electronically, with an estimate that between 60,000 to 70,000 workers will be eligible. The Minister told the Senate during a debate on the Bills of Exchange Amendment Act that this initiative will take effect shortly. *"Within the next month or so, the Government will be moving towards a process of making payments to members of the Civil Service and other services, electronically, but will only become possible on receipt of their bank account numbers following discussions with the trade unions."*

Opposition Senator Wade Mark said that the Bill was 15 years too late, adding that the legislation has to be seen in the context of the state being tardy in the modernisation of its own public sector payment system which remains largely manual.

Independent Senator Anthony Viera, in his contribution, noted that even though the trend internationally and locally, was towards cashless transactions, cheques remained an important business tool for those who were not fully on board with digital payments, and that cheques also served as a back-up against cyber fraud and cyber-attacks.





PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA PAYS TRIBUTE TO LATE SPEAKER

Parliamentary Report by Mohammed Katamba, Parliament of Uganda.

Tributes have been paid to the late Speaker of the Uganda Parliament, Rt Hon. Jacob Oulanyah who passed away in a US medical facility on 20 March 2022, nine months into his term as Speaker, the third highest position in Uganda. Oulanyah was elected as Speaker in May 2021 and had only presided over 24 sittings. Previously, he was the Deputy Speaker of the Uganda Parliament for ten years and advocated for the current Parliament to be different and focus on the issues that affect the people.

"I propose that we have that debate where Members will come and speak their lungs out with conviction and commitment, remembering the people who sent them here to speak about those things that matter to them and not some imaginary stuff," he said on 24 August 2021, three months into his election as Speaker of Parliament.

In and out of Parliament, Oulanyah served in several capacities and was the Chairperson of the Northern Region, Central Executive Committee of the National Resistance Movement; was a UN Special Envoy to the Uganda Peace Talks between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army, and participated in drafting the Juba Peace Agreements in 2006. Born on 23 March 1965, Oulanyah, began his education journey in his home area, and later went to the capital Kampala, joining Makerere University where he served as Speaker of the University Students' Guild. He went on to open up private law practice as well as lecturing at the Law Development Centre before being first elected to Parliament in 2001.

Upon the announcement of his passing by the President of Uganda, tributes started coming in from Legislatures, international legislative groupings and individuals, including the East African Legislative Assembly, the Tanzania based assembly bringing together the countries of the East African Community.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association said that he was a great supporter of the Commonwealth and the CPA, particularly during the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Uganda in 2019.

At 9.00 am on 5 April 2022, amidst celebration and dance by a cultural troupe from his home area in Northern Uganda,

the body of Jacob Oulanyah was brought into the Parliament of Uganda's precincts, where he spent much of the last 20 years as a Member of Parliament.

This time, the House was convening in a special sitting to honour Oulanyah, also the former Member of Parliament for Omoro County, in northern part of the country.

The motion for a Resolution of Parliament to pay tribute to Oulanyah was moved by the Vice-President of Uganda, Hon. Jessica Alupo and seconded by the Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business, Hon. Robinah Nabbanja and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Hon. Mathias Mpuuga.

Government Ministers and Members lined up to pay tribute to their former leader, now lying before them. In turns, they described him as a leader, a mentor and a friend. The CPA Africa Region Chairperson, Hon. Justin Muturi, EGH, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya attended the State Funeral.

The new Speaker of the Uganda Parliament, Rt Hon. Anita Among, previously the Deputy Speaker, said Oulanyah was a great leader, a researcher and an advocate for peace and unity in Uganda, and was an advocate of Ubuntu or humanity. *"He believed that everybody should be treated fairly and equitably,"* she said. *"The whole nation is joining us in this special session as we pay tribute to a gallant son of Uganda, a leader, mentor, friend and brother to most of us."* She

promised that one way in which Parliament of Uganda will honour his legacy will be by accomplishing his vision of achieving evidence-based debate in the House and having a people-centred Parliament.

The Vice-President, Hon. Jessica Alupo, said that Oulanyah was a key figure in the northern region, offering political leadership and monitoring to the post-conflict and recovery process in the region. *"[He] was passionate about propelling his community from subsistence survival to the money economy ... his focus was on improving education standards, healthcare, boosting agriculture and achieving socio-economic transformation for our people in Omoro County and the rest of Uganda,"* she said.

The Leader of the Opposition said that Parliament has *"lost an encyclopedia of parliamentary procedure when many of our first-time Members of Parliament needed guidance from him to understand and master the ways and methods of Parliament."*

Jacob Oulanyah was accorded a state funeral and was buried in his home village, in Lalogi subcounty, in Omoro district, Uganda on 8 April 2022.

Below: Tributes to the late Speaker Jacob Oulanyah took place at the Parliament of Uganda. His coffin is pictured leaving the Parliament Building in Kampala.



Image credit: Department of Communication and Public Affairs, Parliament of Uganda.



THIRD READING REPORT

Te Pire mō te Hararei Tūmatanui o te Kāhui o Matariki/Te Kāhui o Matariki Public Holiday Bill

Te Pire mō te Hararei Tūmatanui o te Kāhui o Matariki/Te Kāhui o Matariki Public Holiday Bill passed its Third Reading on 7 April 2022 in the Parliament of New Zealand. The Bill creates an annual public holiday to acknowledge the start of the Māori new year, which begins when the Matariki star cluster appears in the sky, usually around the middle of June. The Bill sets future dates for the public holiday, following the maramataka (Māori lunar calendar). This is the fifth Bill to be written in both English and te reo Māori.

Kiritapu Allan, MP (Labour), the Government Member in charge of the Bill, discussed the background to the legislation, which was part of the Labour Party's 2020 manifesto. She outlined three customs surrounding Matariki: "firstly, to remember those who have passed since the last rising of Matariki in the previous year; secondly, to celebrate the day with gatherings and giving thanks for our blessings; and, thirdly, to look forward to the blessings you can carry forward into the new year." She explained that the Bill was unique because it drew on mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge), and the knowledge of Māori astronomers, physicists, and navigators who made up the Matariki Advisory Group. She stated that: "This Bill would not be being tabled if it had not been for the Matariki Advisory Group. It has been our good fortune to have the guidance of these esteemed Māori experts... I overflow with tributes to these great leaders."

Scott Simpson, MP (National), drew attention to the financial implications of the Bill, stating that: "We humbly suggest that at a time of economic concern - some would say crisis - when there is a well-accepted, now, cost of living crisis, and the squeezed middle of New Zealand society is being squeezed even harder, the Government should be careful in the way that it is administering and stewarding New Zealanders' hard-earned taxpayer dollars." Chris Baillie, MP (ACT), was also concerned about the potential cost of the public holiday and added that: "ACT believes if the Government wants to

indulge in another holiday, it needs to identify a holiday to be removed from the calendar." Kelvin Davis, MP (Labour), countered that: "The hospitality and the tourism industries were actually asking for more three-day weekends, because they know that when there are three-day weekends, people do travel around the country, they do spend, and it does grow the economy."

Teana Tuiono, MP (Green), drew attention to regional variations, saying that: "If we look at our family in Taranaki at the base of the barren mountain, they follow the star Rigel, and for our relations in Ngāi Tahu, they also follow Rigel. It is a different practice in the North because each region is different. Therefore, this means we are able to strengthen our regional identities, our rural identities."

Debbie Ngarewa-Packer, MP (Te Paati Māori), said: "This should be only the first step. We should see this moment in time as an opportunity to reindigenise the way we live in Aotearoa. We have seen a recent widespread restoration in the use and understanding of maramataka. Now we should affirm our maramataka as the foundation for the way we do things: holidays, calendars, ways of working, ways of how we look after each other ... The Gregorian calendar has no such relevance for all of us at all. Shifting away from that just makes sense."

The Bill passed its Third Reading with 77 votes to 43, and received the Royal Assent on 11 April 2022.

Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill

The Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill was read a third time on 15 February 2022 in the Parliament of New Zealand. The Bill amends the *Human Rights Act 1993* to prohibit conversion practices, which are practices which seek to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. The explanatory note to the Bill highlights that research emphasises that conversion practices do not work and can contribute to issues such as low self-esteem, depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts and attempts.

The Bill started life as a Member's Bill introduced by Marja Lubeck, MP (Labour) in 2018, after she accepted a petition of 20,000 signatures calling for conversion therapy to be banned. Labour introduced it as a Government Bill in 2021, delivering a 2020 election pledge. Lubeck noted: "So-called conversion therapy is not only just something that doesn't work; it's actually shown to be incredibly harmful ... Trying to convert someone by making them believe that, due to their sexuality or gender identity, there is something wrong with them





that requires changing can cause severe adverse mental health effects.”

A highly controversial Bill, the Justice Committee received a record-breaking amount of submissions, with over 100,000 written submissions from members of the public both for and against the Bill. The Committee invited those who had made unique submissions to give evidence in person, and held a total of 18 oral evidence sessions.

Some Members raised concerns that the Bill would curtail freedom of expression, including the right of parents to talk to their children openly about sexuality and gender. During the Committee stage, Hon. Michael Woodhouse, MP (National) expressed that: *“We all condemn conversion practices unequivocally ... I came to this House with just one bottom line ... and that was that any legislative change that undermined Kiwis’ freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and freedom to worship whatever deity they deem was a line that I wouldn’t cross.”*

Nicole McKee, MP (ACT) sought to amend the Bill to explicitly state that: *“any conversation between a child and their parent or guardian would not be considered a conversion practice.”*

However, the Minister of Justice, Hon. Kris Faafoi, MP (Labour) reported the Justice Committee had recommended technical amendments to protect freedom of expression, saying: *“The Committee has clarified that a conversion practice can be a ‘practice, sustained effort, or treatment’.”* He explained: *“We have deliberately designed this piece of legislation to make sure that it is only the serious cases that will ever make their way to a court room.”*, therefore parents would not be criminalised for discussing sexual orientation and gender identity with their children.

At the First Reading, Māori MPs including Tāmami Coffey, MP (Labour) and Dr Elizabeth Kerekere, MP (Green) linked conversion therapy practices to Aotearoa New Zealand’s colonial history. Rawiri Waititi, MP (Te Paati Māori) acknowledged he has *“a lot to learn from our takatāpui [LGBTIQ] community as a straight man. Their experience is not my experience ... It was colonisation and the imposition of European ideas around gender and sexuality that started criminalising and oppressing people for being who they are.”*

At the First Reading, all parties voted for the Bill, except the National Party who unanimously opposed it. At the Second Reading, the National Party split their vote 26 to 7; all other parties voted unanimously in favour. The Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill Third Reading was passed by a split party vote, 112 to 8, receiving the Royal Assent on 18 February 2022. Labour’s rainbow caucus Chair Shanan Halbert, MP (Labour) noted the date’s significance: *“February is when we celebrate Pride in Aotearoa.”*

Contraception, Sterilisation, and Abortion (Safe Areas) Amendment Bill

In March 2022, the Contraception, Sterilisation, and Abortion (Safe Areas) Amendment Bill passed its Third Reading in the Parliament of New Zealand after a personal vote, meaning Members were able to make personal votes rather than voting along party lines.

The Bill began as a Member’s Bill introduced by Louisa Wall, MP (Labour). The Bill amends the original 1977 Contraception, Sterilisation, and Abortion Act by delineating safe areas of up to 150 metres around specific abortion facilities to protect practitioners and patients from protest behaviour that could cause emotional distress. An Abortion Legislation Bill had been introduced in 2019 to decriminalise abortion. Clauses in the 2019 Bill provided for safe areas, but after what Radio New Zealand called “a confused vote in Parliament” these clauses were rendered redundant. Wall’s Member’s Bill aimed to rectify this and provide for safe areas outside abortion facilities.

Wall opened the Third Reading debate by reflecting that in February 2021, when Hon. David Parker, MP, Attorney-General (Labour) had alerted the House to a provision in the Bill which contradicted the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990: *“...essentially the Attorney-General said that the use of word ‘communicate’ was overly broad.”* Wall described how the legislation had been changed to address the Attorney-General’s concern: *“I guess my focus on him making that declaration was that it should satisfy this House that this legislation has now reached a very fine balance in upholding both those: the right to freedom of expression and*

the justifications on the limitation of that expression.”

David Seymour, MP (ACT New Zealand) also spoke in support of the Bill and reflected on the Attorney-General’s concerns: *“[the Health Committee] listened, and what they achieved - they said, ‘We’re going to listen to the Attorney-General. We’re going to take the word ‘communicate’ out.’ And so our big concern about a Government banning communication, even communication that I personally don’t like - that has been resolved by the Select Committee changing this Bill.”*

Simon O’Connor, MP (National) was one of few Members of his party and of the wider House who spoke in opposition to the Bill. He argued that the Bill did not go far enough to allow freedom of speech within safe areas: *“We’re talking about ideas which are seen as harmful, opinions which we don’t like, and it doesn’t matter if it’s increasing safe spaces because, of course, as I put before, what’s the next safe space that is required to protect another group from ideas, again, or opinions that they don’t wish to hear? We’ve had laws passed through this House which, effectively, criminalise conversations.”*

Chris Penk, MP (National) also spoke in opposition: *“It is pretty serious stuff and as a Parliament we should take very seriously the impinging of liberty in such areas, and I don’t believe that we should legislate as lightly as it seems we are about to act in this space, bearing in mind, you know, different rights and balances that need to be struck in those areas.”*

Jan Logie, MP (Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand) spoke in favour of the Bill and countered that it did not remove the right to freedom of expression: *“[Individuals] can absolutely continue to oppose abortion - they can just do it 150 metres away so that they do not impinge on the rights of the patient accessing healthcare. That, to me, is an absolutely essential part of the work that we are doing, which is to protect that right and balance the right of freedom of expression, and protest, and assembly for others.”*

On 16 March 2022, the Bill passed its Third Reading, with 108 votes in favour and 12 votes opposed. The Bill received the Royal Assent on 18 March 2022.



PROROGATION OF THE 46TH PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Report by Fleur Hall, Parliament of Australia.

DISSOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE HOUSE AND HALF OF THE SENATE

The 46th Parliament of Australia was prorogued at 9.29am on Monday 11 April 2022 and the Australian House of Representatives was dissolved at 9.30am on the same day. A general election for the House of Representatives and half of the Australian Senate was held on Saturday 21 May 2022.

The incumbent Liberal/National Coalition, led by the Prime Minister, Hon. Scott Morrison, MP, was defeated, winning 58 seats of the 151 seats in the House.

The Australian Labor Party, led by Hon. Anthony Albanese, MP, won 77 seats: enough to form a majority government, in addition to providing a Speaker who, under the Australian Constitution, only has a casting vote in the event that votes on a question are equal. The 47th Parliament will feature a much larger crossbench in the House, comprising 16 Members, up from six in the 46th Parliament.

Notably, independent female candidates running on platforms of action on climate change and the establishment of a federal integrity commission were successful in several historically safe metropolitan Liberal seats, examples include:

- Kooyong, in Melbourne (Dr Monique Ryan defeated the Treasurer, Hon. Josh Frydenberg, MP).
- Goldstein, in Melbourne (Ms Zoe Daniel defeated Assistant Minister to the Minister for Industry, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Hon. Tim Wilson, MP).
- North Sydney (Ms Kylea Tink defeated Mr Trent Zimmerman, MP).
- Wentworth, in Sydney (Ms Allegra Spender defeated Mr Dave Sharma, MP).
- Mackellar, in Sydney (Dr Sophie Scamps defeated Mr Jason Falinski, MP).
- Curtin, in Perth (Ms Kate Chaney defeated Ms Celia Hammond, MP).

Labor lost the seat of Fowler in western Sydney to independent Ms Dai Le, who was successful against Labor's high-profile replacement for retiring Member, Mr Chris Hayes, MP, former Senator Hon. Kristina Keneally.

The Australian Greens gained three new seats in Brisbane:

- Brisbane: Mr Stephen Bates defeated the Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management, Hon. Trevor Evans, MP (Liberal National Party of Queensland).
- Ryan: Ms Elizabeth Watson-Brown defeated Mr Julian Simmons, MP (Liberal National Party of Queensland).
- Griffith: Mr Max Chandler-Mather defeated Ms Terri Butler, MP (Australian Labor Party).

These Members join the leader of the Australian Greens, Mr Adam Bandt, MP who retained the seat of Melbourne.

Labor gained eight new seats nationally and was particularly successful in Western Australia. In Hasluck, Ms Tania Lawrence defeated the Minister for Indigenous Australians, Hon. Ken Wyatt, AM MP and in Tangney, Mr Sam Lim defeated the Minister for the Public Service, Hon. Ben Morton, MP. In the seats of Pearce and Swan, Labor candidates Ms Tracey Roberts and Ms Zaneta Mascarenhas were successful against the Liberal Party's replacements for retiring Members, Hon. Christian Porter, MP and Hon. Steve Irons, MP.

Conceding defeat late in the evening, the outgoing Australian Prime Minister said: *"I always believed in Australians and*

The Australian Federal Parliament in Canberra.





their judgement and I've always been prepared to accept their verdicts and tonight they have delivered their verdict and I congratulate Anthony Albanese and the Labor Party and I wish him and his government all the very best." He said it had been a *"difficult night for Liberals and Nationals around the country"* before thanking his family, his party and the electorate of Cook for their support.

In his speech, Mr Albanese thanked the outgoing Prime Minister for his service to Australia and said that he was *"humbled by this victory."* He told supporters that *"it says a lot about our great country that a son of a single mum who was a disability pensioner, who grew up in public housing ... can stand before you tonight as Australia's Prime Minister."* Mr Albanese said the two principles that would guide his government are that *"no one [is] left behind because we should always look after the disadvantaged and the vulnerable. But also [that] no one held back, because we should always support aspiration and opportunity."*

Mr Albanese was sworn in as Australia's 31st Prime Minister on Monday 23 May 2022, together with an interim Ministry comprising Hon. Richard Marles, MP, Hon. Jim Chalmers, MP, Senator Hon. Penny Wong and Senator Hon. Katy Gallagher, to enable the new Prime Minister to attend the Quad Leaders' summit in Tokyo the next day. Those Ministers were re-sworn on 1 June, when the remainder of the Ministry was sworn in. The Ministry comprises a record number of women in Cabinet and in the outer Ministry, as well as Australia's first Ministers of Muslim faith, Hon. Dr Anne Aly, MP and Hon. Ed Husic, MP. Hon. Linda Burney, MP is the first Indigenous woman to become the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

Following the election defeat, Mr Morrison said he would step down as Leader of the Liberal Party and on 30 May 2022, Hon. Peter Dutton, MP and Hon. Sussan Ley, MP (who replaces Hon. Josh Frydenberg, MP) were elected unopposed as Leader and Deputy Leader respectively. In a party room meeting of the Nationals, Hon. David Littleproud, MP was elected Leader, defeating incumbent Leader, Hon. Barnaby Joyce, MP and former Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Hon. Darren Chester, MP. Senator Perin Davey was elected as Deputy Leader.

In the Senate, 40 of the 76 seats are being decided at this election, with a total of 421 candidates running. At the time of writing, the Liberal/National Coalition has 31 total seats, Labor has 26, the Greens have 12, Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party has two, Jacquie Lambie Network has two and David Pocock (Independent) has one seat. Two seats remain in doubt. To pass legislation in the Senate, Labor will need the support of the Greens and an additional crossbench Senator, or the support of one or more Coalition parties.

The Australian Government has announced that the first sitting of the 47th Parliament of Australia will occur on Tuesday 26 July 2022.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

On 31 March 2022, His Excellency Mr Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine, addressed the Australian House of Representatives by video link. Senators, together with the President of the Senate, Senator Hon. Slade Brockman, attended the House as guests for the address. There have been fifteen previous addresses by a foreign head of state or government to a meeting of the House and this was the first to have occurred by video link.

The Speaker, Hon. Andrew Wallace, MP, the Prime Minister, Hon. Scott Morrison, MP and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Anthony Albanese, MP, made welcoming remarks. Appearing by video link on screens located next to the Speaker and around the Chamber, President Zelenskyy gave an address about the situation in Ukraine. At the conclusion of his address, the Speaker, on behalf of the House, expressed thanks to President Zelenskyy, saying: *"Today, you have added to our understanding with your powerful words about your experiences, the experiences of your people and the tragic situation in your country."*

BUDGET NIGHT 2022

Budget Night occurred earlier than usual this year, on 29 March 2022, when the Treasurer, Hon. Josh Frydenberg, MP presented the main Appropriation Bill and made the annual Budget speech. The Budget debate resumed two days later, when the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Anthony Albanese, MP, made his speech in reply. Because of the dissolution of the House, before the general election, there

would have been insufficient time for the main Appropriations Bills to pass into the law by 30 June. Consequently, Supply Bills were passed by the House and the Senate and assented to on 1 April 2022. These provide interim funds to cover normal government and parliamentary activity for the first five months of 2022-23. It is expected that the Mr Albanese's government will present a new Budget before the end of the year.

DEATH OF SENATOR KIMBERLEY KITCHING, SENATOR FOR VICTORIA

On 28 March 2022, the President of the Australian Senate, Senator Hon. Slade Brockman, informed the Senate of the death, on 10 March, of a serving Senator for Victoria, Senator Kimberley Kitching (Australian Labor Party).

Senator Hon. Penny Wong, moving the condolence motion for Senator Kitching, observed that: *'Senator Kitching was a Parliamentarian who worked across the political spectrum, relentlessly pursuing what she believed was right. She believed in democracy and its values, including human rights. She worked to shine a light on abuses and corruption around the world and led the charge in this Parliament for an Australian Magnitsky Sanctions Act.'*

Senator Wong said that Senator Kitching's work had been internationally acknowledged through her receipt of the Sergei Magnitsky Human Rights Award. A further forty Senators made contributions throughout the day, culminating with the President, who added his sincere condolences to Senator Kitching's family and friends. At the conclusion of the President's remarks, all Senators present joined in a moment of silence and the motion was agreed. On the motion of Senator Hon. Simon Birmingham, the Senate adjourned as a mark of respect.

The following day, in the House of Representatives, a condolence motion was moved by the Prime Minister, Hon. Scott Morrison, MP. Describing the Senator as *"a fair, diligent, hardworking Parliamentarian"* the Prime Minister said, *"in this Parliament alone, Senator Kitching put on notice almost 12,000 questions; probing, testing, challenging, upholding the truest traditions and respect for the Westminster system."*

At the conclusion of contributions, Members of Parliament rose in their places in silence as a mark of respect. The motion



was referred to the Federation Chamber, where further contributions were made, before being returned to the House and agreed to.

PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS FROM THE CPA AUSTRALIA REGION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA STATE ELECTION

The general election for South Australia was held on 19 March 2022. The incumbent Liberal Government, led by the Premier, Hon. Steven Marshall, MP, was defeated after just one term in government, becoming the first Australian state or territory government to lose an election since the pandemic began. The Australian Labor Party, led by Hon. Peter Malinauskas, MP won 27 of the 47 seats in the House of Assembly to form a majority government.

Mr Malinauskas acknowledged the *“significant contribution”* and service to South Australia of the outgoing Premier, saying the latter’s concession call *“was utterly generous, gracious and it was done with the class that we have become incredibly familiar with.”* Mr Malinauskas thanked South Australians, saying that he was cognisant of the *“significance of the privilege and the size of the responsibility”* that had been conferred on him.

Mr Malinauskas was sworn in as South Australia’s 47th Premier on 21 March 2022. Hon. Susan Close, MP was sworn in as Deputy Premier and Hon. Stephen Mullighan, MP as the state’s new Treasurer.

Hon. David Speirs, MP was elected Leader of the Liberal party on 18 April, following the resignation of Mr Marshall, and Hon. John Gardner, MP was elected Deputy Leader.

NEW PREMIER OF TASMANIA

On 4 April 2022, Hon. Peter Gutwein, MP (Liberal Party), announced he would be retiring as Premier and Member for Bass, eleven months after his government was returned for a third term following a general election.

At a press conference, Mr Gutwein said that it had been *“an honour and a privilege to serve as the state’s 46th Premier.”* Acknowledging the challenges of navigating the state through the pandemic over the previous two years, Mr Gutwein said:

“During this time I’ve quite rightly focused on everyone else’s family I now want to spend some time focusing on my own.”

On 8 April 2022, Hon. Jeremy Rockliff, MP, who had served as Deputy Premier since 2014, was elected unopposed as Leader and was sworn in as Premier. Hon. Michael Ferguson, MP was sworn in Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Mr Rockliff thanked his predecessor for his service, describing him as a *“committed and inspiring leader”*, and said that he intended to *“lead a government with heart.”*

NEW CHIEF MINISTER OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

While delivering the Northern Territory’s Budget on 10 May 2022, Hon. Michael Gunner, MLA (Territory Labor) announced that he would be resigning as Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, a position he had held for nearly six years. Mr Gunner told the Legislative Assembly that the birth, two weeks prior, of his second child had confirmed that *“my head and my heart are no longer here, they are at home.”* Mr Gunner said that *“there is a never a perfect time to step back, to walk away, to give others a go, but for me and for my family this feels like the right time.”*

On 13 May 2022, Hon. Natasha Fyles, MLA, was sworn in as Chief Minister following a Labor caucus meeting in which she was confirmed as Leader. Ms Fyles said her elevation was *“a bit of a shock, but it’s an absolute privilege.”* Deputy Chief Minister Hon. Nicole Mansion, MLA retained her position in the subsequent Cabinet reshuffle. Ms Fyles thanked Mr Gunner, who continues to serve, on the backbench, as the Member for Fannie Bay, and expressed her gratitude that the government could *“continue to count on his experience and advice.”*

NEW GOVERNOR OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCED

On 4 April 2022, the Premier of Western Australia, Hon. Mark McGowan, MP, announced that Commissioner of Police, Chris Dawson will be the state’s 34th Governor. Commissioner Dawson, who has led the WA police force since 2017, including overseeing the state’s strict border and travel restrictions during the pandemic, will be sworn-in in July. He will replace Hon. Kim Beazley, AC, who has served in the role since May 2018.



The Legislative Assembly of Northern Territory in Darwin.



THIRD READING REPORT

Mitochondrial Donation Law Reform (Maeve's Law) Bill 2021

This Bill was introduced in the Australian House of Representatives on 24 March 2021. It passed the Australian Senate on 30 March 2022 and received royal assent on 1 April 2022.

The Bill amends the:

- *Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2002, Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002* and *Research Involving Human Embryos Regulations 2017* to allow for the use of permitted mitochondrial donation techniques under a specified mitochondrial donation licence for the purposes of certain research and training, and in clinical settings.
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982, Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2002, Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002, Research Involving Human Embryos Regulations 2017* and the *Therapeutic Goods (Excluded Goods) Determination 2018* to make consequential and technical amendments.

The Minister for Health and Aged Care, Hon. Greg Hunt, MP (Liberal Party of Australia) told the House that each year in Australia, 56 children are born with a severe form of mitochondrial disease, and that the Bill had been named in honour of one such child from his electorate, five-year-old Maeve Hood.

The Minister said that the Bill “*outlines a carefully staged pathway*” to make mitochondrial donation legal in Australia and would “*allow women to have a biological child in a way that minimises the risk of transmission of the insidious effects of mitochondrial disease, a disease for which there is no known cure ... and that leaves children suffering from seizures, fatigue, multiple organ failure and heart problems - in severe cases, even premature death.*”

The Minister told the House that the government had “*looked to the experience of the UK*”, where mitochondrial donation has been legal since 2015, and that the Bill also been shaped by inquiries of the Senate References Committee on

Community Affairs. The Minister said that the Bill had “*significant support ... from clinicians, scientists, families, advocacy groups and the broader community.*”

The Minister advised that the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, the party room and the Opposition had agreed to endorse a rare conscience vote: “*I believe it's a moment of great honour and integrity for this Parliament and a moment of unification where people can differ, but free of rancour.*”

The Member for Macarthur, Dr Mike Freeland, MP (Australian Labor Party) dedicated his speech to a young patient of his, Gabriella, who had died of the disease aged three, declaring he had “*no hesitation*” in supporting the Bill. Dr Freeland said that mitochondrial transfer “*provides parents with hope [and] gives people the chance of having a child with their own nuclear genetic make-up who will survive and be healthy.*” Dr Freeland acknowledged that some Members “*have concerns based on their own ethical beliefs*” but told the House that the Bill is “*above all about providing a choice to families ... which could lead them to conceiving a healthy, happy child.*” Dr Freeland also thanked the Minister: “*He's a decent man, and his passion for the patient experience is demonstrated through his resolve to bring forward Maeve's Law, which may not have been easy.*”

The Member for Robertson, Mrs Lucy Wicks, MP (Liberal Party of Australia), told the House that the Bill “*establishes a regulatory framework which allows different types of mitochondrial donation techniques for clinical use under a clinical trial licence for human reproduction.*” She described both techniques:

- Maternal spindle transfer, which “*involves removing the maternal spindle of both the prospective mother's egg and the mitochondrial donor's egg prior to fertilisation. The maternal spindle which has been removed from the mother's egg is then placed into the mitochondrial donor egg, which is then fertilised to form a zygote and then an embryo. The egg cell of the prospective mother, which no longer contains any nuclear DNA, is discarded.*”

- Pronuclear transfer, which “*requires fertilisation of both the prospective mother's egg and the mitochondrial donor's egg, using the father's sperm to produce two zygotes. It's at this stage that the pronuclear transfer occurs. The two pronuclei are removed from the zygote produced from the egg cell of the prospective mother and placed into the zygote which is produced from the egg cell of the mitochondrial donor. Following this, the zygote which is produced from the egg cell of the prospective mother, and which no longer contains any nuclear DNA, is discarded.*”

Mrs Wicks said that, as person of faith, she could not support pronuclear transfer, and would support amendments to remove this from the Bill, explaining that her concerns “*relate specifically to the creation of a zygote with the specific intention that it will later be destroyed.*” Mrs Wicks also described how she had grappled with “*difficult decisions*” while undergoing IVF thirteen years ago, through which she “*realised the deeply personal aspect of legislation and techniques like this.*”

The Member for Fowler, Mr Chris Hayes, MP (Australian Labor Party), told the House maternal spindle transfer is a technique he could “*conceptually support, as it seems to follow a pathway for women ... to have a [healthy] child without the needless destruction of human embryos, and only sees the discarding of an unfertilised egg.*”

However, for Mr Hayes, pronuclear transfer was “*a bridge too far*”. Explaining his position, Mr Hayes said: “*I do not believe it is proper or ethical to create and then destroy human life, albeit embryonic human life, even if it is the intention for alleviating, ultimately, the suffering of another.*”

Speaking in strong support of the Bill was the Member for Higgins, Dr Katie Allen, MP, who said that a diagnosis of mitochondrial disease “*is completely devastating ... the conversation you have as a paediatrician is the hardest conversation you can have ... it will profoundly change the lives of these people sitting in your room ... not just the life of that child, but the lives of their siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins - everybody.*”



THIRD READING REPORT

AUSTRALIA

Dr Allen acknowledged the “many wonderful people who have taken this grief and converted it into a drive to provide hope for others”, saying that mitochondrial donation will “allow women whose mitochondria would predispose their potential children to mitochondrial disease to have a biological child who does not inherit that predisposition.”

She also said reports in the media that “mitochondrial donation is ‘three-parent IVF’ ... are not accurate ... and unfair.” Dr Allen explained: “Children born using this technology still have only two biological parents: a mother and a father. That is because these children will inherit their characteristics and personality traits from their biological parents through their nuclear DNA - the egg yolk of the fertilised egg. A female donor involved in the mitochondrial donation process only provides healthy mitochondria - only the batteries of the cell. While mitochondrial donation techniques result in change to the genome, they do not involve gene editing of either the nuclear DNA or mitochondrial DNA, which has been expressly prohibited by this Bill.”

Dr Allen concluded by imploring Members, before exercising their conscience vote, to “put yourself in the shoes of parent who has a child who suffers from mitochondrial disease or ... a parent who’s tragically lost a child prematurely to this disease. Often we find, as doctors, that people have one view until it happens to them or their family members.”

The Member for Mayo, Ms Rebekah Sharkie, MP (Centre Alliance) told the House that the “hope that Members ... who are undecided ... will vote for this Bill” had motivated her to speak about her family, which she said she normally keeps “quite private.” Ms Sharkie said her grandson Liam, born in 2020, had been diagnosed with phosphoglycerate kinase deficiency, which is “incredibly rare and sits within the mitochondrial disease area.” She said: “My grandson’s muscles are wasting away. His organs are compromised ... MRIs show a thickening of the skull, and his brain has signs of white matter next to the grey matter. That is brain atrophy. It’s a bit like dementia for babies. Because of this genetic condition, Liam’s mum has

been told she should not have any more children.” Ms Sharkie concluded: “My heart hurts for Maeve and for Liam and for all the other children suffering.”

In his contribution, the Member for Berowra, Mr Julian Leaser, MP (Liberal Party of Australia), having sought the advice of Rabbi Gad Krebs of Masada Synagogue, “an Orthodox rabbi and a great scholar”, said that the Bill should be “broadly supported.” Mr Leaser informed the House that “the perspective of Orthodox Judaism on mitochondrial donation, as is the perspective on IVF and egg donation more broadly, is that there is no particular prohibition in Orthodox Judaism in relation to the use of these technologies.”

During consideration in detail of the Bill, the Minister, Mr Hunt, moved seventeen government amendments which were agreed to on the voices. During debate on the government amendments, Hon. Kevin Andrews MP (Liberal Party of Australia) said that the two amendments that banned sex selection and inserted “a proper system of reporting” addressed some of his “serious reservations” about the Bill. Mr Andrews then moved an amendment which was





disagreed to on the voices, followed by a further set to remove techniques *“which result in the destruction of the embryo.”* The House divided on this set of amendments, which were disagreed to 92:29. The Bill, as amended, was agreed to and read a third time.

In the Senate, Senator Jordon Steele-John (Australian Greens) expressed support for the Bill, saying: *“It is clear from the evidence that has been presented to the multiple inquiries ... that this is a devastating, life-threatening disease.”* Senator Hon. Katy Gallagher (Australian Labor Party) agreed, calling the Bill *“a reform that can bring hope and relief to many.”* She said: *“It marks one of those moments where this place can have a clear and significant impact on the personal lives of some Australian families.”*

Senator Deborah O'Neill (Australian Labor Party) acknowledged *“the advocacy of young Maeve Hood and her family”* and their *“grace and candour.”* She continued: *“But we are Legislators, and we need to think about what this Bill will do and establish and the broadest good and the least harm that we can manage.”* For

Senator O'Neill, the Bill was *“not worth the scale of the risk”*. She argued that *“the techniques ... will have long-term, irreversible and unknown consequences for the germ line of those born following the treatment.”* She added that she was *“deeply troubled by the production of genetic material, the building blocks of life, to be casually discarded as by-products of a process.”*

Senator O'Neill explained her position in terms of her lifelong Catholicism. *“I acknowledge that it's not just through the language of faith that people come to a moral and ethical disposition, but the language of my faith and the teachings of my faith have significantly informed my views about the sanctity of life.”*

Senator Hon. Matthew Canavan (The Nationals), also disagreeing with the Bill, cited concerns about the potential to use *“the same techniques approved in this Bill to tackle other diseases or afflictions, or even, ultimately, to look at more heritable traits around attributes of height, strength and other things.”* During the Committee of the Whole, both he and Senator O'Neill moved amendments, all of which were

disagreed to. The Bill was agreed to and reported without amendment, and read a third time.

The Prime Minister, Hon. Scott Morrison, MP in a statement on indulgence shortly after the Bill was read a third time in the House, thanked Members for the *“very mature, compassionate, considered and reasoned”* way in which debate was conducted. The Leader of the Government in the Senate, Senator Hon. Simon Birmingham similarly thanked Senators *“for the various thoughtful, heartfelt contributions that have been made from different perspectives around the Chamber.”* The tone of the debate across the Parliament was perhaps best summed up the long-serving Member for Menzies, Hon. Kevin Andrews, MP, who said: *“this debate has been conducted with civility and decorum ... I recognise and respect that there are a range of views, each informed by a desire to respond in the best possible way to the circumstances.”*

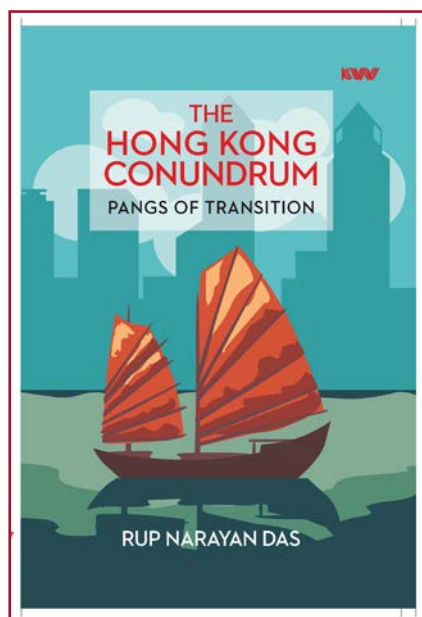


The Parliamentarian: Book Review

‘The Hong Kong Conundrum: Pangs of Transition’, by Rup Narayan Das

(KW Publishers, New Delhi, 2022)

Review by Hon. Sujeet Kumar, Member of the Rajya Sabha, Parliament of India.



The erstwhile British colony of Hong Kong, which reverted back to China on 1 July 1997, after 99 years of British rule, shared a robust relationship with Britain and the Commonwealth through various organisations including the Hong Kong Legislative Council’s membership of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and participation in the Commonwealth Games (1934 to 1994). Hong Kong had also hosted CPA and Commonwealth events on different occasions.

Ever since the establishment of the colonial administration in Hong Kong, the territory’s governance had resonated in the portals of the British Parliament and continues to echo the territory’s conditions even today. The book under review ‘The Hong Kong Conundrum: Pangs of Transition’, written by Mr Rup Narayan Das, a former senior officer of the Indian Parliament and a distinguished China scholar of India, very succinctly captures the history, politics, economy and the pangs of transition of Hong Kong in a very dispassionate and objective manner.

The book is divided into nine chapters that seamlessly compresses Hong Kong’s transformation from what the then British Foreign Secretary, Lord Palmerston called a ‘barren island’ to one of the world’s leading financial and commercial hubs under the tutelage of benign British rule to the Chinese rule, and the subsequent developments casting a shadow on its resilience. The first chapter of the book recapitulates how the opium trade in imperial China precipitated the opium war resulting in the signing of the treaty of Nanjing (1842) which ceded Hong Kong in perpetuity to Great Britain. The author notes in the book how the consumption and import of tea impelled the British East India Company to indulge in the illicit opium trade leading to the outbreak of the opium war. Tea was unknown in England when the East India Company was given its Charter in 1600, but later in the 17th century, small quantities were imported from India. In 1664, the Company gave King Charles II two pounds of tea as curiosity, but soon the new drink became so popular that its consumption in England increased exponentially. An Act of Parliament ordered the Company to always keep one year’s supply in stock. It was against this backdrop that opium emerged as the single most important item of export to offset the import of large quantities of tea from China as the major reason for friction between Britain and Imperial China.

The second chapter elucidates the evolution of colonial administration in Hong Kong. Its founding Governor, Sir Henry Pottinger declared that the island would become ‘a vast emporium of commerce and wealth’. While creating a congenial and conducive environment for the promotion of trade and commerce, the interest of ethnic Chinese was kept in mind. The colonial government in Hong Kong was a minimalist government with the objective to maintain law and order so as to promote trade and

commerce. The third chapter ‘Rise of Hong Kong as a Commercial and Trading Centre’ analyses Hong Kong’s emergence as an entrepot, manufacturing centre, financial hub, service center, and also presents the bilateral trade between mainland China and Hong Kong, the role of China in Hong Kong’s modernisation, China-Taiwan trade via Hong Kong, Hong Kong’s investment in China and China’s investment in Hong Kong.

In the fourth chapter, ‘The Joint Declaration, Basic Law, and One Country, Two Systems’, the author reconstructs the protracted negotiation between Great Britain and China with regard to the reversion of Hong Kong to China, the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, the mini-constitution of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The Basic Law bestows defence and foreign affairs, the touchstone of sovereignty with the People’s Republic of China. As a symbolic mark of its autonomous status, it provides that HKSAR may use a regional flag and a regional emblem, apart from displaying the national flag and national emblem of China. Only Article 5 of the Basic Law stipulates that the system and policies shall not be practiced in HKSAR and previous

“Ever since the establishment of the colonial administration in Hong Kong, the territory’s governance had resonated in the portals of the British Parliament and continues to echo the territory’s conditions even today.”



capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years.

In the fifth chapter, Das discusses 'Political Participation and democratisation' in Hong Kong which was intensified in the run-up to the negotiation and ahead of the handover of the territory to China, including the democratic reform package envisaged and implemented by the last Governor, Chris Patten in October 1992. Earlier, a high-powered delegation from the UK Parliament visited Hong Kong in 1989 and recommended that the Hong Kong government guarantee Hong Kong's autonomy and stability within the terms of the Joint Declaration.

A special feature of the book is 'The Nationality Issue and Hong Kong Indians' in which the author notes the contributions of ethnic Indians to the growth and development of Hong Kong and the justification for their right of abode in the United Kingdom. In the seventh chapter,

as the title suggests, Das discusses, 'The Pangs of Transition' in the post-hand-over period in Hong Kong. In the penultimate chapter, the author dissects the 'Congenital Irreconcilability' of the two divergent political systems. A postscript is added in the ninth chapter.

The importance of the book is summed up by Professor Sumit Ganguly, distinguished Professor of Political Science and Tagore Chair in Indian Culture and Civilisation at Indiana University, in the endorsement of the book where he observes that 'this is a carefully-researched, extremely topical and deftly argued account of the evolution of Hong Kong from the British colonial era to the present day'.

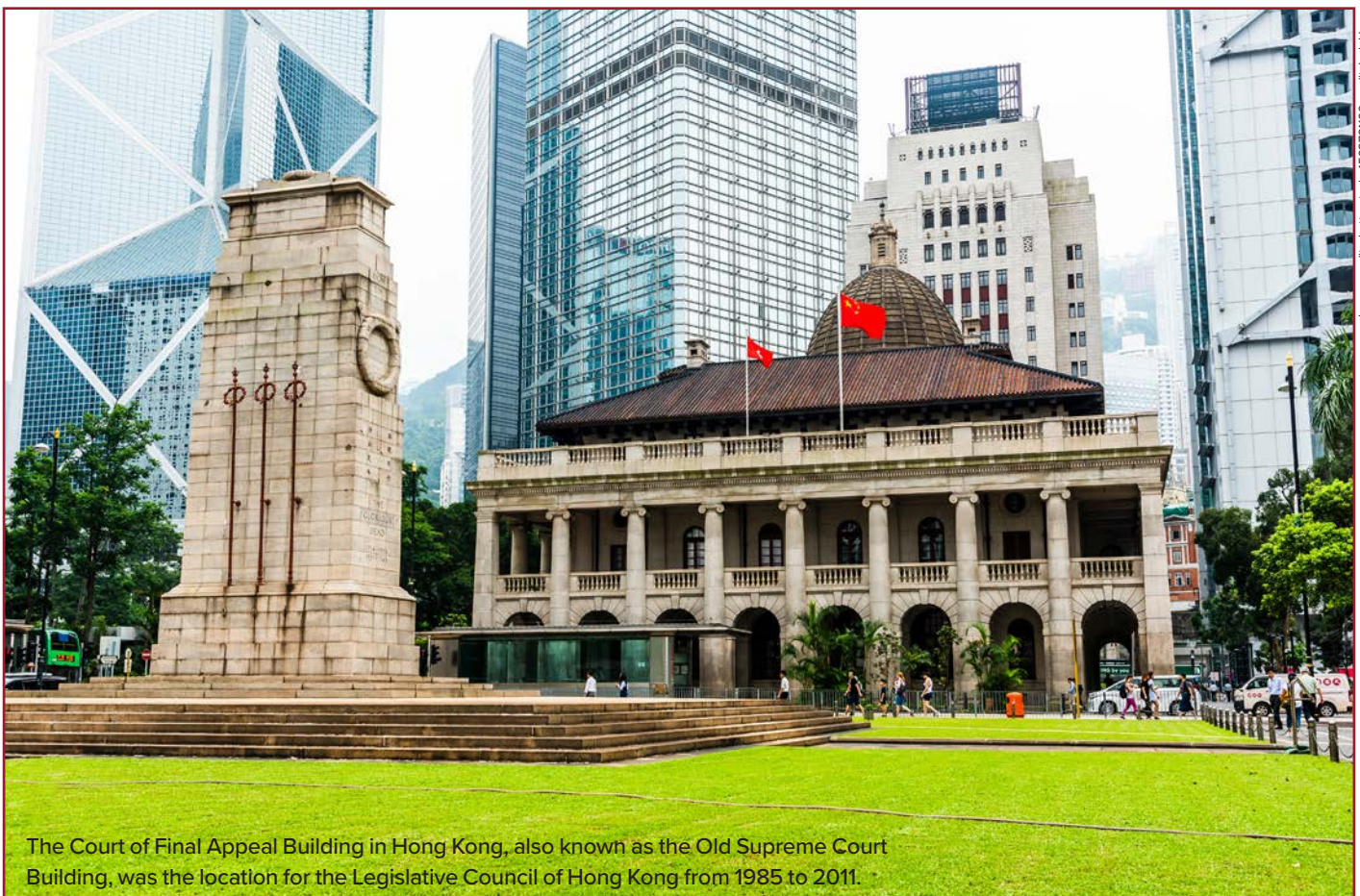
Hon. Sujeet Kumar is a Member of the Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of the Parliament of India representing his state of Odisha. He earlier served as the Advisor, in the rank of Chief Secretary, to the Government of Odisha and as

the Special Secretary of Odisha State Planning Board. He is an engineer turned lawyer, and he is currently practicing law at the Odisha High Court and the Supreme Court of India. He founded LexMantra LLP (www.lexmantra.net), a boutique law firm.

Previously, he worked at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Geneva, Switzerland; for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP); and for Infosys Technologies Ltd. in India. He was an Asia Pacific Leadership Fellow (APLP) at the East West Centre, Hawaii (2009).

He studied for the mid-career Master in Public Administration (MPA) at the prestigious Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University. He also has an MBA degree from Said Business School, University of Oxford, having the distinction of receiving the inaugural Skoll Scholarship for Social Entrepreneurship. He also holds two Bachelor degrees from India: Bachelor of Engineering (BE) and Bachelor of Laws (LLB).

His interest areas are geo-politics, technology and the interface of law and development.



The Court of Final Appeal Building in Hong Kong, also known as the Old Supreme Court Building, was the location for the Legislative Council of Hong Kong from 1985 to 2011.

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