

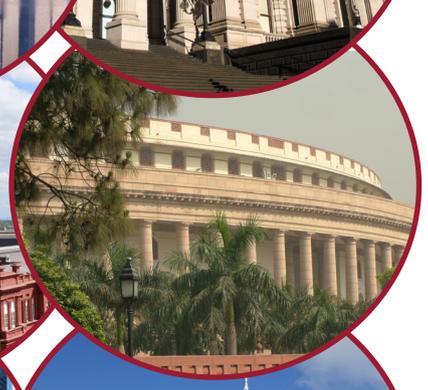
CPA

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110



1911-2021



PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Celebrating 110 years of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

www.cpahq.org

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WINDSOR CASTLE

Mr Stephen Twigg,
Secretary-General,
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

On the One Hundred and Tenth Anniversary of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, I congratulate all those
who have been involved in the production of this book, published to
mark the founding of the organisation.

I was pleased to learn that this publication features all one
hundred and eighty Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures in the
Association's membership, detailing their histories and information
regarding their Parliament buildings and chambers.

As your Patron, I send my best wishes to all those associated
with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for a most
memorable and successful anniversary year.

ELIZABETH R.

July 2021.

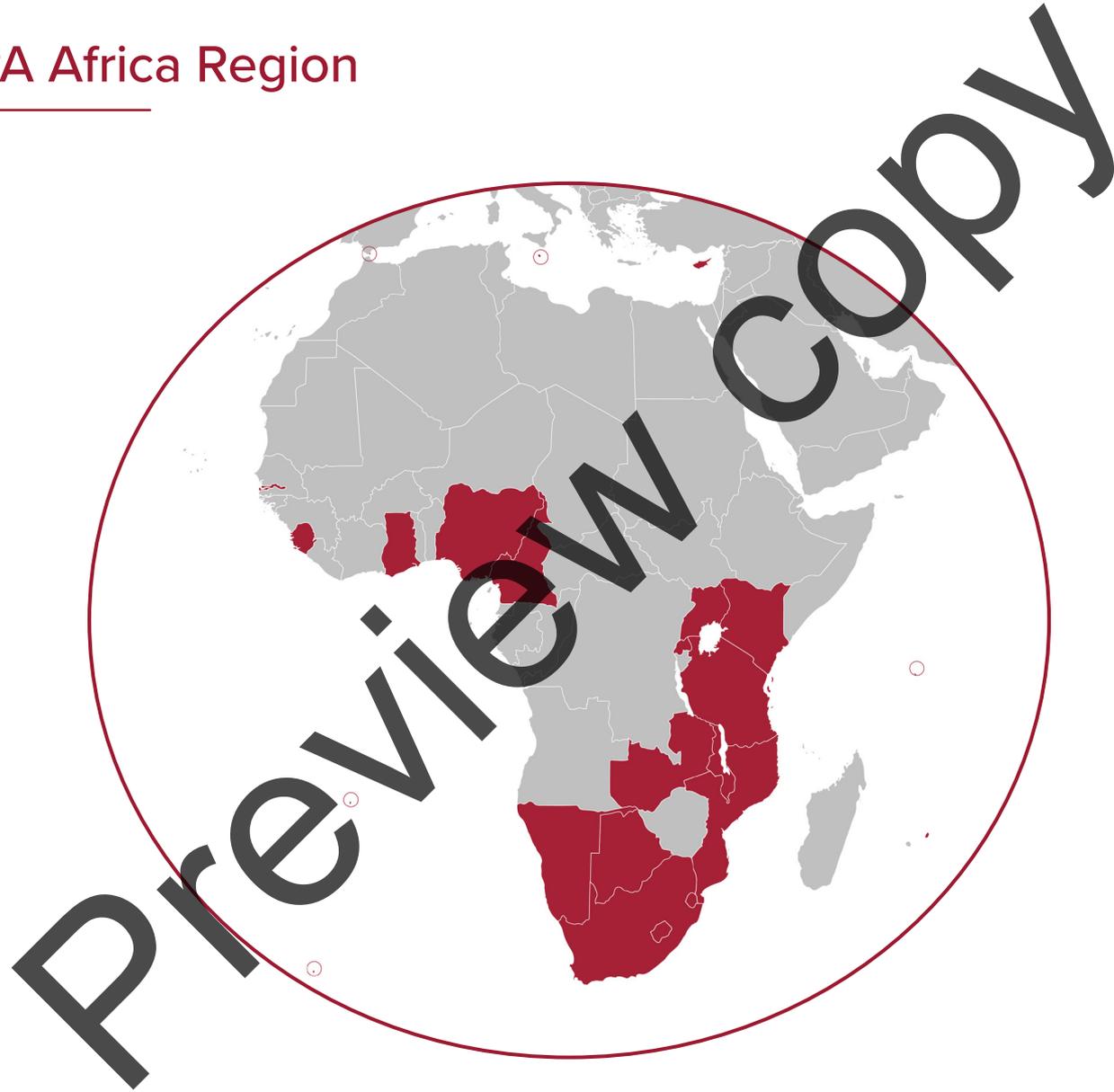


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CPA Africa Region





Kenya

The Parliament of Kenya is the bicameral Legislature of the country. The lower house, the National Assembly, is the main legislative body of Kenya. It has a total of 349 Members of Parliament – of these, 290 Members are elected from each single-member constituency, 47 women Members are elected from single-member counties as part of gender quotas, and 12 Members of Parliament are nominated representatives (including military appointments). Elected members serve a five-year term. The Speaker of the National Assembly is also an ex-officio Member.





The National Assembly was created in 1963 and was preceded by the Legislative Council of Kenya (LegCo) between 1907 and 1963. It was modelled on the Westminster system which began as a nominated institution and evolved into an electable Legislature with universal suffrage.

The upper house, the Senate of Kenya, is made up of a total of 67 Senators - 47 Senators elected from single-member counties, 16 women Senators, 2 Senators each – male and female – representing youth and persons with disabilities. The Speaker of the Senate is also an ex-officio Senator. The Senate was first established in 1963 but it was later abolished in 1966 and was re-established in 2010.

Kenya joined the Commonwealth on 12 December 1963 and the CPA Kenya Branch was formed the following year in 1964.

Parliament Building

The Parliament of Kenya is located in Nairobi, the national capital. The current Parliament building was constructed in 1954 with further extensions to the building in 1964. The older part of the building features a large clock tower, similar to the Houses of Parliament at Westminster. The building's foundation stone, which had been recovered from the ruins of the UK Parliament after a 1941 air raid, was presented to the Kenyan Parliament as a symbol of the two countries' close relations.

The main entrance has a large wooden arch and there is a large network of buildings providing offices for Members and parliamentary staff. There is also a courtyard in the centre of the building and the surrounding areas have green, open spaces. The main Chamber is laid out in an adversarial design with Government and Opposition Members facing one another and the Speaker's seat raised on a platform. There is also a balcony floor for guests and the media.

Website: www.parliament.go.ke

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CPA Asia Region





Bangladesh

The Parliament of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (also known as *Jatiyo Sangsad* and the *House of the Nation* in English) is the main legislative body of the country.

A unicameral Legislature, the Parliament of Bangladesh is made up of 350 Members of Parliament. From this membership, 300 Members are elected from 300 single member constituencies via the first-past-the-post system with the additional 50 seats specifically reserved for women Parliamentarians who are elected via proportional representation. Each term of Parliament is five years.





Previously the Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh was established on 10 April 1972 to prepare a democratic constitution and served as the country's first Parliament as an independent nation. The Assembly approved the constitution on 4 November 1972, with the first elections to the Parliament of Bangladesh taking place in 1973.

Unlike many Westminster model-based Parliaments, in Bangladesh there is no provision for a Head of State and the President, who holds a ceremonial position, is elected by the Parliament.

Bangladesh joined the Commonwealth in 1972 following independence and the CPA Bangladesh Branch was formed in 1973.

Parliament Building

The Parliament of Bangladesh sits at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, in the capital city of Dhaka. Designed by American architect, Louis Kahn, construction of the Parliament building began in 1961 and had its inauguration in 1982. It is among one of the largest legislative complexes in the world, encompassing a total area of approximately 215 acres. The Parliament building itself consists of nine individual blocks of which one block is significantly raised. The building received the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 1989.

The Parliament building contains three major components: the Main Plaza, the South Plaza and the Presidential Plaza. The Main Plaza houses the Parliament Chamber, which can hold up to 354 Members during Parliamentary sessions. The estate also includes a Members' hostel, residences for parliamentary staff, two large green lawns and a lake on three sides of the main building.

Website: www.parliament.gov.bd

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CPA Australia Region





Australia - Queensland

The Parliament of Queensland is the unicameral Legislature of the state of Queensland in northern Australia. As provided under the Constitution of Queensland, the Parliament consists of the Monarch of Australia, represented by the Governor of Queensland, and the Legislative Assembly.

The Parliament of Queensland was founded on 22 May 1860, less than a year after Queensland was created in June 1859. It has been the only unicameral State Legislature in Australia since the upper chamber, the Legislative Council of Queensland, was abolished in 1922 (although the two Territorial Legislatures in Australia are also unicameral).

The Queensland Legislative Assembly has 93 Members who represent single electorates across the state, with elections held once every four years. The number of Members was increased in 2016 from 89 to 93 as well as changing the parliamentary terms from unfixed three-year terms to fixed four-year terms.

The CPA Queensland Branch was established in 1925.

Parliament Building

The Legislative Assembly of Queensland is located at Parliament House in the state capital, Brisbane. Parliament House is located on the corner of George Street and





Alice Street at Gardens Point in the city's central business district (CBD), next to the Queensland University of Technology and City Botanic Gardens.

The first meeting of the Parliament of Queensland took place on 22 May 1860 in the former convict barracks on Queen Street in Brisbane,

however the building was not considered a suitable long-term meeting place. An Australia-wide design competition was held for the new Parliament building and, after several other designs were rejected, plans by Charles Tiffin, the Queensland Colonial Architect, were selected. The building was started in 1864, first occupied in 1868, and finally completed

25 years later in 1889. It is characterised by solid colonnades which keep the building cool in summer, some impressive timber work which was produced from local Queensland timbers, and a notable interior. The building was one of the first Parliament Houses in Australia to be electrified.

The Parliamentary Annexe was completed in 1979 and is a brutalist extension to the Parliament buildings which provides accommodation for Members. The Annexe is linked to Parliament House, forming a square that has become known as Speaker's Green which is used for ceremonial purposes. The Annexe was refurbished in 2000.

Website: www.parliament.qld.gov.au



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CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region





Malta

The Parliament of Malta is a unicameral legislative body with an elected House of Representatives. The House operates under a set of rules which have been modelled on the British House of Commons' general rules of procedure, that have been tailored to suit the needs of a much smaller Parliament and incorporate Maltese tradition and structures.

The House of Representatives of Malta has 67 Members of Parliament who are elected for one legislative term of five years through the single transferable vote system. The Presiding Officer is the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

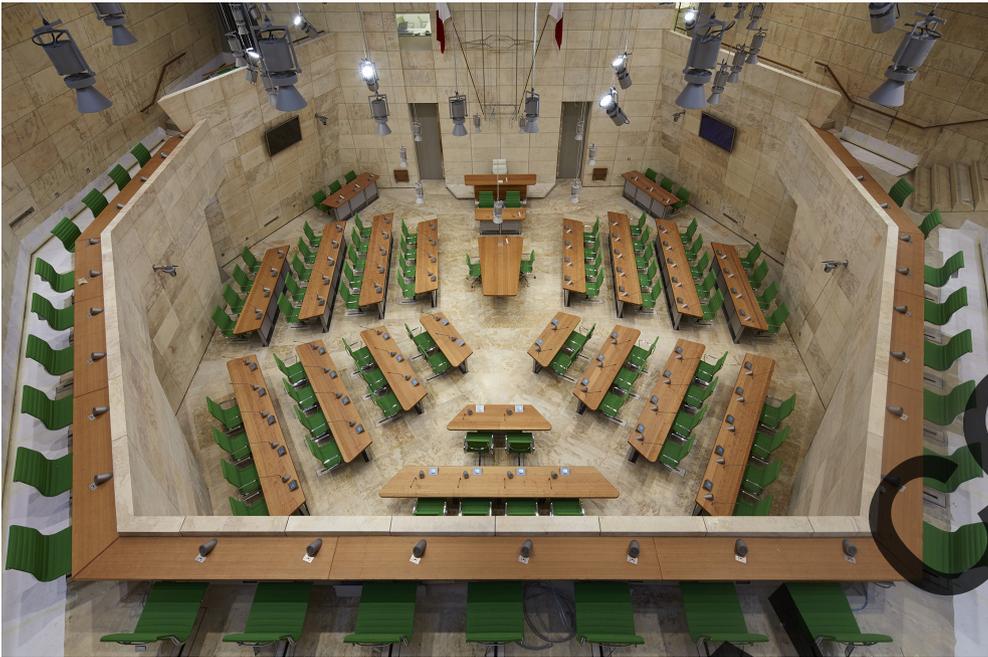
Malta obtained independence from the UK in 1964 and became a Republic in 1974. Between 1921 and 1933, the Parliament was bicameral, consisting of a Senate as well as a Legislative Assembly.

In 1964, Malta joined the Commonwealth following independence. The CPA Malta Branch has seen various changes, originally formed in 1925 and reformed in its modern-day iteration in 1987.

Parliament Building

From 1921 and 2015, the Parliament of Malta met in the 16th century Grandmaster's Palace in Valetta, where Members sat first in the Tapestry Hall and then in the former armoury.

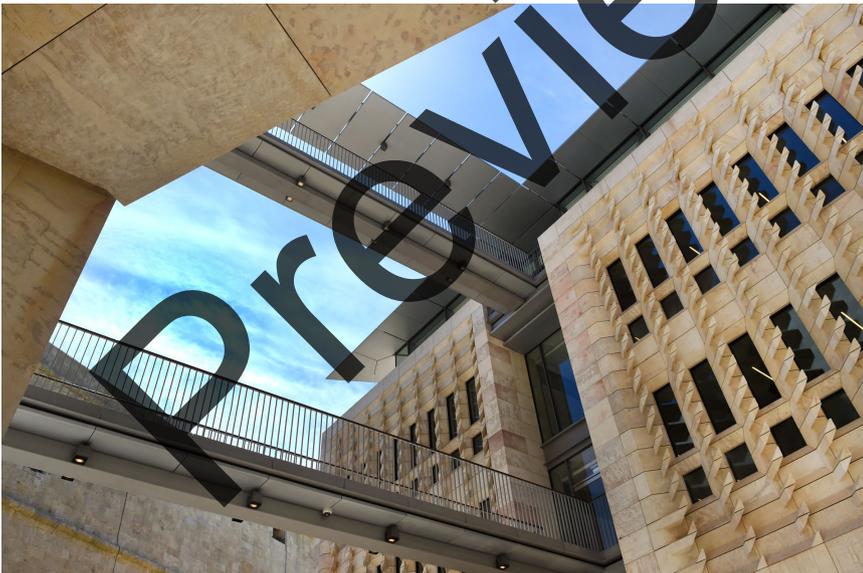




In 2009, Renzo Piano, the Italian architect responsible for buildings including Paris's Centre Georges Pompidou, The Shard in London and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, started redesigning Valletta's city gate. This included the construction of a new Parliament building, as well as the conversion

of the ruins of the opera house opposite into an open-air theatre.

Parliament House, as it is now known, is built in an ultramodern style, with a façade consisting of thousands of stone panels, creating a honeycomb effect that represents the linguistic root of the country's name (*Melite/Melita* which means honey). The building opened in May 2015.



The modern structure consists of two limestone buildings, supported by stilts and joined together by several bridges. The House of Representatives convenes in the northern block in a striking 22m-diameter stone-lined octagonal chamber. The whole complex is environmentally friendly with zero-emissions and 600 square metres of photovoltaic panels on the building's rooftops which generate most of the energy required to heat the building in winter and cool it in summer.

Website: www.parlament.mt

Preview copy



CPA Canada Region





Canada - Québec

The National Assembly of Québec is the unicameral Legislative body of the Province of Québec in Canada. Legislators are called MNAs (Members of the National Assembly; in French: *Députés*). The Head of State is represented by the Lieutenant-Governor of Québec and the National Assembly comprises the Legislature of Québec, which operates in a fashion similar to those of other Westminster-style parliamentary systems within the CPA's membership.





The National Assembly has 125 Members who are elected via the first-past-the-post system from single-Member districts every four years.

The National Assembly was previously the lower house of Québec's Legislature and was then called the Legislative Assembly of Quebec which existed since 1867. In 1968, the upper house, the Legislative Council, was abolished and the remaining House was renamed. The office of President of the National Assembly is equivalent to the role of Speaker in other Commonwealth Legislatures. The CPA Québec Branch was formed on 1 January 1933.

Parliament Building

The Parliament building of the National Assembly of Québec was constructed between 1877 and 1886. The building was designed by Eugène-Étienne Taché and is a monument to the history of Québec and French America. It features the Second Empire architectural style that was popular for prestigious buildings both in Europe (especially in France where the style originated) and the United States during the latter part of the 19th century. This unique structure was recognised as a Québec national historic monument in 1985.

Its architecture and rich façade illustrate the words engraved above the main entrance, '*Je me souviens*' (I remember), which later became Québec's motto. The building's symmetrical layout with a tall clock tower in the middle is typical of legislative institutions of British heritage, however the architectural style is believed to be unique among Parliament buildings found in other Canadian provincial capitals. The large main Chamber that houses the National Assembly is often known as '*le salon bleu*' (the blue hall) because of the predominance of the colour on the walls.

Many species of trees, shrubs and plants representative of the wide variety of flora native to Québec can be observed when walking around the gardens surrounding the Parliament building.

Website: www.assnat.qc.ca

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CPA Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region





Grenada

The Parliament of Grenada is the bicameral Legislative body of Grenada. The Parliament comprises the Governor-General, who represents the Crown, and two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The powers of the Senate and the House of Representatives are constitutionally equal except that financial legislation may not be introduced in the Senate.

All 13 Senators are appointed by the Governor-General, on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. There are 16 Members of the House of Representatives, 15 directly elected Members to represent single-seat constituencies for five-year terms and a Speaker of the House.

The Parliament of Grenada was established in 1974 when Grenada became an independent country. Grenada also joined the Commonwealth in 1974, although the CPA Grenada Branch was formed in 1946.

Parliament Building

The new Parliament building in St George's, Grenada is the home of the Parliament of Grenada. It was built to replace York House, the previous



Information source: Parliament website and Wikipedia. Images: Parliament of Grenada.



Parliament building, which was destroyed by Hurricane Ivan in 2004. York House was purchased in 1801 as a government building and was the location for the House of Representatives, the Senate and the Supreme Court of Grenada until 2004. The late 18th-century building was a fine example of early Georgian architecture.

Between 2004 and 2018, the Parliament of Grenada convened at the Grenada Trade Centre. A new Parliament building was opened on 21 June 2018 at a new location on Mount Wheldale, overlooking the city of St George's and its harbour. The new building was co-financed by the Governments of Mexico and the United Arab Emirates. Grenadian company, COCOA Architecture designed the building.

The new Parliament building in Grenada features a parliamentary chamber that is said to be designed in the shape of a nutmeg pod (the national spice of the island), and it provides seating for the 28 Members of both Houses of Parliament (the Senate and the House of



Representatives) plus nearly 200 'stranger' seats for members of the public to view proceedings as well as offices for staff, the Prime Minister and the Presiding Officers. The building was also designed using the latest climate control technology and with environmental concerns in mind.

Website: <https://gov.gd/hop>

Preview copy



CPA India Region





India - West Bengal

The Legislative Assembly of West Bengal is the unicameral Legislature of the Indian state of West Bengal. The Legislative Assembly comprises 294 Members, who are directly elected for terms of five years.

The history of the Legislature of West Bengal dates back to 1862 when a 12 Member Legislative Council for the Bengal Presidency was established by the Indian Councils Act, 1861. Members were nominated by the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, until 1892 when the Legislative Council was increased to 20 Members, with seven elected. The number of Members of the Legislative Council increased over the years until there were 125 in 1919.

In 1935, under the provisions of the *Government of India Act 1935*, two chambers of the Bengal Legislature were established as the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly. The new Legislative Assembly comprised 250 Members for five-year terms, while the revised Legislative Council had a membership of not less than 63 and not more than 65 Members.

In 1947 with the creation of West Bengal, the Legislative Assembly was reconstituted with





90 Members plus two nominated Members from the Anglo-Indian community, while the Legislative Council of Bengal was abolished.

In 1952, the Constitution of India again provided for a bicameral Legislature for West Bengal and the Legislative Council of West

Bengal was established with 51 Members. The number of Members in the Legislative Assembly was increased to 240 including two nominated Members from the Anglo-Indian community.

However, in 1969, a resolution was passed by the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal for the abolition of the Legislative Council. Subsequently, the Parliament of India passed the *West Bengal Legislative Council (Abolition) Act, 1969* abolishing the Legislative Council with effect from 1 August 1969.

The CPA West Bengal Branch was formed in 1952.

Parliament Building

The Legislative Assembly of West Bengal is located in Kolkata (Calcutta), the capital of the state. The foundation stone of the present Legislative building was laid on 9th July 1928 by Sir Francis Stanley Jackson, the then Governor of Bengal. The Chief Architect was Mr J. Greaves and construction work was undertaken by Martin and Company, Calcutta over a period of two years and seven months. The architecture of the building shows a mixture of both Eastern and Western influences and the building design from above is in the shape of the letter 'H' in the English alphabet.

Website: www.wbassembly.gov.in



Information source: Parliament website and Wikipedia. Images: Legislative Assembly of West Bengal.

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CPA Pacific Region





Papua New Guinea

One of the most culturally diverse countries in the world, Papua New Guinea has a parliamentary, multi-party system. The National Parliament of Papua New Guinea is a unicameral Legislature, and it was created in 1964 as the House of Assembly of Papua and New Guinea. In 1975 when Papua New Guinea became independent, the Legislature was renamed.

The Parliament consists of 111 Members in total, 89 of whom are elected from single-member constituencies and 22 Governors who are elected to represent provincial electorates. All Members serve five-year terms. Since independence, all governments have been formed by a coalition of parties because no single party has won enough seats to form a government alone.

The Governor-General of Papua New Guinea represents the Crown and unlike most other Commonwealth Realms, the Governor-General is nominated by the country's Parliament.

The CPA Papua New Guinea Branch was established in 1952 and Papua New Guinea joined the Commonwealth in 1975 following independence.

Parliament Building

The original House of Assembly building was located in downtown Port Moresby and had previously





been used as a hospital. It has since been demolished, with plans to build a Political History Museum as part of the redevelopment of the site.

The current Parliament building of Papua New Guinea is a product of two 'Parliament House Design Competitions' of the 1970s. The building was officially

opened by HRH The Prince of Wales on 8 August 1984. Designed by Australian architect Cecil Hogan, it was constructed from local concrete, mosaic tiles made at the National Arts School and locally sourced timber beams. A unique and iconic structure, the Parliament building was designed to reflect the traditional architecture of Papua New Guinea. It is decorated with traditional carvings and artwork representative of the rich heritage of the hundreds of tribes that are now joined together as one people and one nation in the country.

Inside, the interior is covered in native rosewood and filled with a wide range of contemporary national artworks. The main Chamber is a lofty space that blends old and new aesthetic traditions and features many carvings, including on the Speaker's Chair whose design has been derived from indigenous motifs.

The Parliament's mace was presented by the Commonwealth of Australia Government at the opening of the First House of Assembly on 8 June 1964. It is made of silver and is heavily plated with pure gold. Encased within the head is a polished stone ball symbolic of a stone war club – a traditional weapon in many parts of Papua New Guinea.

Website: www.parliament.gov.pg

Preview copy



CPA South-East Asia Region





Singapore

The Parliament of Singapore is the unicameral Legislature of the Republic of Singapore. The Parliament currently has 104 Members of Parliament including 93 elected Members, 2 Non-constituency Members of Parliament (NCMPs) and 2 Nominated Members of Parliament (NMPs). Members are elected through a first-past-the-post election system for five-year terms and the Presiding Officer is a Speaker of Parliament.

The Parliament of Singapore follows a Westminster-style system of parliamentary democracy. Singapore became a British Crown Colony in 1867 with an appointed Legislative Council that administered the territory. In 1948, the first Legislative Council election took place, however only British nationals could vote.

Constitutional reform in Singapore took place in 1953 with the establishment of the Legislative Assembly of Singapore, two years later. Further election reforms extended the franchise. Upon the independence of Singapore in 1965, the Legislative Assembly was renamed as the Parliament of Singapore. Parliamentary sittings are open to the public and the proceedings may be conducted in English, Mandarin, Malay and Tamil.

The CPA Singapore Branch was created on 1 January 1949.

Parliament Building

The Parliament of Singapore convened at the Old Parliament



Below: The present Parliament House against the backdrop of Singapore's city skyline.



House between 1955 and 1999, before moving into a newly constructed Parliament House on 6 September 1999.

Built in 1827, the Old Parliament House is one of the oldest government buildings in Singapore.

The building was originally a private mansion designed in the Palladian style, and it was used as Singapore's first courthouse. It later became the seat of the Legislative Council of Singapore in 1955, however, as the number of parliamentary seats increased it then became too small to house the Legislature. Old Parliament House is now a performance venue called the Arts House.

The present Parliament House of Singapore is located on a part of the High Street that was renamed Parliament Place and was completed in 1999. Three items from the old Chamber were moved to the new Chamber: the Parliamentary Mace, the Table of the House and the Speaker's Chair. Parliament House occupies an area of 2.2 hectares with the main building covering 19,795 square metres. It comprises three blocks (Chamber Block, Front Block and Public Block) and a restored colonial building that was built in 1864, which once housed the Attorney-General's Chambers. Parliament House was designed by the former Public Works Department. The grey historic building features a terracotta roof that contrasts with the modern high-rise buildings that surround it.

Below: The parliamentary mace of the Parliament of Singapore.



Information source: Parliament website and Wikipedia.
Images: Parliament of Singapore.

The Parliament's coat of arms is mounted on a granite wall in the ceremonial entrance hall, bordered by two sweeping staircases on either side leading to the main Chamber. A landscaped garden with a fountain pond, gazebo and plants surrounds the buildings.

Website: www.parliament.gov.sg



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