

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

CPA Small Branches

2019/2020 Annual Review



About the CPA

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) connects, develops, promotes and supports parliamentarians and their staff to identify benchmarks of good governance and the implementation of the enduring values of the Commonwealth. The CPA collaborates with parliaments and other organisations, including the intergovernmental community, to achieve its statement of purpose. It brings parliamentarians and parliamentary staff together to exchange ideas among themselves and with experts in various fields, to identify benchmarks of good practices and new policy options they can adopt or adapt in the governance of their societies. www.cpahq.org

© Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Published April 2020.

All rights reserved. This publication may be reproduced, stored, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photography, recording or otherwise provided it is used only for educational purposes and is not for resale, and provided full acknowledgement is given to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as the original publisher. Rights are not extended for the reproduction of any photography or design not owned by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as contained in this publication.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication are the responsibility of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Headquarters Secretariat and should not be attributed to any parliament or member of the Association.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
CPA Headquarters Secretariat, Richmond House
Houses of Parliament, London SW1A 0AA, United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7799 1460 | Email: hq.sec@cpahq.org
Online: www.cpahq.org | Twitter @CPA_Secretariat | Facebook.com/CPAHQ

CONTENTS

PAGES

Message from the CPA Small Branches Chairperson	2
CPA Small Branches Steering Committee 2019-2020	3
About the CPA Small Branches Network	4
37 th CPA Small Branches Conference in Uganda	6-10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPA Small Branches focus on the unique challenges affecting the smallest Legislatures across the Commonwealth New CPA Small Branches Chairperson elected CPA Small Branches Conference Workshop Outcomes CPA Small Branches Workshop on 'Brexit' at 64th CPC 	
CPA Small Branches Activities in 2019	11-21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPA Post-Election Seminar in Grenada CPA Small Branches celebrate Commonwealth Day 2019 48th CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference in Guernsey Launch of International Humanitarian Law for Commonwealth Parliamentarians CPA Chairperson visits Malta CPA St Lucia undertakes assessment against CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures CPA Tasmania and Samoa cement their twinning partnership Election successes of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians recognised in Bermuda Parliamentarians in Bermuda strengthen parliamentary democracy at CPA seminar CPA Gibraltar hold 'Brexit' seminar to highlight the Commonwealth's role Gibraltar Minister for Equality on International Women's Day Jersey hosts international network of female Parliamentarians Tynwald hosts inaugural CPA Crown Dependencies Network event in the Isle of Man Good governance and the positive role of youth highlighted on CPA visit to Belize Falklands Islands Member at CPA Headquarters Newly elected CPA Small Branches Chairperson highlights issues affecting small states at 38th CPA Australia and Pacific Regional Conference CPA Small Branches to feature in new research project in Canada CPA Tasmania Deputy Clerk at CPA Headquarters in London 	
CPA Small Branches – Publications and Resources	22

MESSAGE FROM THE CPA SMALL BRANCHES CHAIRPERSON

Kia Orana, Greetings.

I am delighted to present my first annual review for the CPA Small Branches and here, we can reflect on some of the years' successes and refocus ourselves to meet future challenges. As I write this, our world is facing a global pandemic and we are all doing our part to protect our citizens. At this time, it is important we stay connected, share knowledge, and support each other, especially those in small and fragile democracies.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) has a respected history of supporting small Parliaments and Legislatures in the Commonwealth. The CPA is the only parliamentary strengthening body in the world which includes devolved, territorial, state and provincial Parliaments and Legislatures, which are often also CPA Small Branches. The CPA Small Branches network has gone from strength to strength with the delivery of a range of programmes for CPA Small Branches focused on various thematic areas.

In 2019, CPA Small Branches engaged in a wide range of activities to promote parliamentary development and cooperation. CPA Small Branches have held CPA Post-Election Seminars with the CPA Headquarters Secretariat providing Members with enhanced understanding of parliamentary systems and democratic processes in other Commonwealth jurisdictions. Delegates from the CPA Small Branches attended the 37th CPA Small Branches Conference in Kampala, Uganda, ahead of the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, CPA seminars and CPA Regional Conferences. CPA Small Branches held many events, in particular events designed to better include young people in their democracies, for example celebrating Commonwealth Day.

This year also saw a renewed focus on climate change and as we know, this is one of the most urgent challenges facing smaller jurisdictions. There are a range of interconnected issues including: disaster preparedness and response, food and water security, and health. The role of Parliamentarians and the global implications



CPA Small Branches Chairperson (2019-2022)
Hon. Niki Rattle, Speaker of the
Parliament of the Cook Islands

of climate change and its unique impact on the smallest nations and territories in the world is a key focus of our network and we will continue to highlight the role of legislators in combatting climate change and support Parliamentarians to further pursue these goals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the delegates from the CPA Small Branches who elected me as the second CPA Small Branches Chairperson in September 2019. I will build on the work that was started by the previous CPA Small Branches Chairperson, outlined in the CPA Small Branches Strategic Plan, our future work will strengthen the network and support the overall direction for a stronger, more visible and impactful CPA where progress made is measurable according to a clear strategic framework with tangible outcomes.

I look forward to further interaction with Members of the CPA Small Branches network in 2020/2021. It is important that we work with the wider CPA, particularly the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, and the Membership with the support and input of every Member of the CPA Small Branches network as well as the wider CPA membership and the international parliamentary community to build on the successes highlighted in this annual review.

Meitaki Ma'ata, Thank you all.

CPA SMALL BRANCHES STEERING COMMITTEE 2019-2020

CPA SMALL BRANCHES CHAIRPERSON

Hon. Niki Rattle
Speaker of the Parliament of
the Cook Islands
(2019-2022)

AFRICA REGION

Hon. Gervais Henrie, MNA
Seychelles
(2019-2021)

AUSTRALIA REGION

Hon. Joy Burch, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative
Assembly
Australian Capital Territory
(2019-2021)

BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Deputy Lyndon Trott
Guernsey
(2019-2020)

CANADA REGION

Hon. Nils Clarke, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative
Assembly, Yukon
(2019-2022)

CARIBBEAN, AMERICAS AND ATLANTIC REGION

Hon. W. McKeever Bush, OBE,
JP, Speaker of the Legislative
Assembly, Cayman Islands
(2019-2020)

*Also: Vice-Chairperson of the
CPA Small Branches 2019-2020*

PACIFIC REGION

Hon. Tofa Nafaitoa Talaimanu
Keti, MP
Samoa
(2019-2022)

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Hon. Dato' Haji Hamdan bin
Bahari
Perlis
(2019-2020)

*Information correct as provided to the
CPA Headquarters at December 2019.*

CPA Small Branches Steering Committee meets for the first time

In the margins of the 37th CPA Small Branches Conference in Kampala, Uganda in September 2019, the initial cohort of the CPA Small Branches Steering Committee met for the first time. The CPA Small Branches Steering Committee comprises the CPA Small Branches Chairperson and seven Commonwealth Parliamentarians who represent the seven Regions of the CPA with Small Branches: Africa; Australia; British Isles and the Mediterranean; Canada; Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic; Pacific; and South-East Asia.



The CPA Small Branches Steering Committee will act as champions of the CPA Small Branches Strategic Plan and its Work Programme both within their Region and the wider Association. It is envisaged that the CPA Small Branches Steering Committee will come together twice a year, once virtually via webcast earlier in the year and once face-to-face in the margins of the CPA Small Branches Conference, usually held later in the year.

ABOUT THE CPA SMALL BRANCHES NETWORK

Since 1981, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) has held an annual Small Branches Conference for Members from more than 30 jurisdictions with populations of 500,000 and less. This Conference provides a platform for Members to discuss political problems and the operation of democratic systems in some of the world's smallest jurisdictions. The annual Small Branches Conference is always held in the margins of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The timing of this Conference also enables these small jurisdictions to discuss matters of relevance to them with larger Branches. It is the only global forum which provides this opportunity.

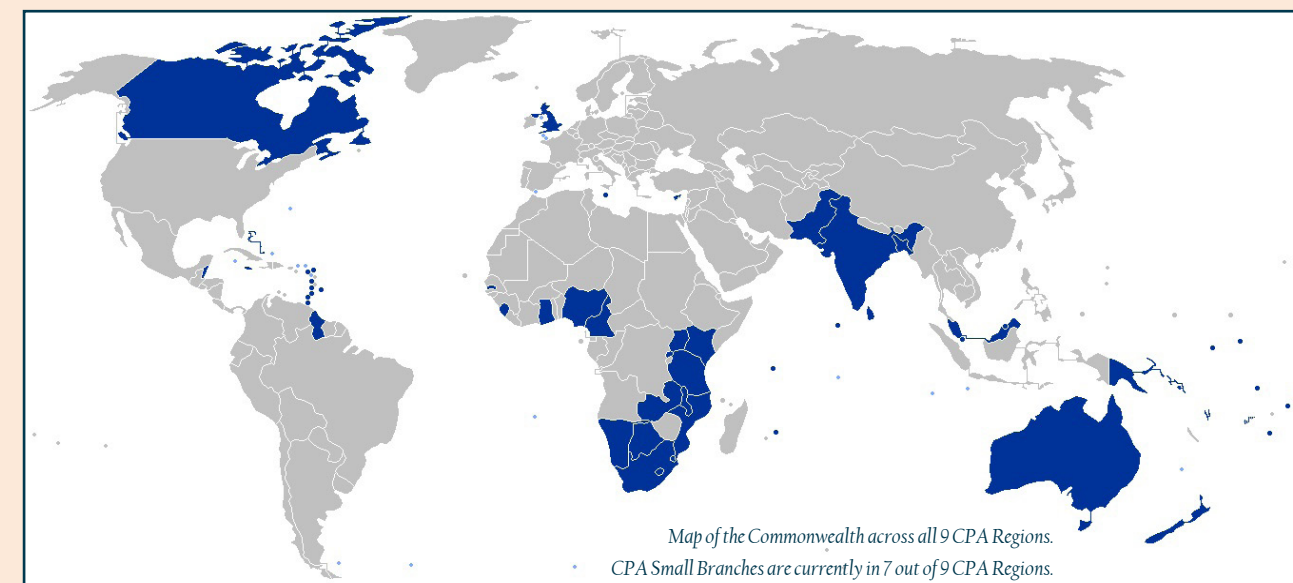
In addition, the CPA has delivered a number of programmes for Small Branches over the years. Examples of these include the Small Branches Committee Workshop which took place in Douglas, Isle of Man as well as the recently developed CPA Fundamentals Programme on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure for Small Branches offered in partnership with McGill University.

The CPA Executive Committee recommended the establishment of the post of CPA Small Branches Chairperson. It was agreed that the CPA Small Branches Chairperson would be an Officer of the Association, would sit on the CPA Executive Committee and would represent the needs of Small Branches on the CPA Executive Committee. In 2016, the first CPA Small Branches Chairperson was elected. The CPA Small Branches Chairperson gives a voice to CPA Small Branches within the wider Association and is responsible for developing strategies to build the capacity of these jurisdictions.

The smallest of the CPA's legislatures seek to meet the same expectations of service delivery as larger legislatures and in doing so, they recognise the importance of constantly innovating in the face of fiscal and human resource constraints; they also recognise the central role of Parliament in meeting the challenges of combatting corruption; and the threats in the face of climate change to some of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable.

CPA Small Branches Network

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) has since 1981 held CPA Small Branches Conferences for Members from more than 30 jurisdictions with populations of up to a current ceiling of 500,000 people. Members discuss political issues and the operation of democratic systems in some of the world's smallest jurisdictions.



AUSTRALIA

- Australian Capital Territory
- Northern Territory
- Tasmania*

AFRICA

- Seychelles

BRITISH ISLES AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

- Alderney
- Falkland Islands
- Gibraltar
- Guernsey
- Isle of Man
- Jersey
- Malta
- St Helena

CANADA

- Northwest Territories
- Nunavut
- Prince Edward Island
- Yukon

CARIBBEAN, AMERICAS AND THE ATLANTIC

- Anguilla
- Antigua & Barbuda
- The Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bermuda
- British Virgin Islands
- Cayman Islands
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Montserrat
- St Kitts & Nevis
- Nevis Island
- St Lucia
- St Vincent & the Grenadines
- Turks & Caicos Islands

PACIFIC

- Bougainville
- Cook Islands
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- Niue
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands*
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

SOUTH EAST ASIA

- Perlis

CPA Small Branches listed as at December 2019.

*Tasmania and Solomon Islands will cease to be CPA Small Branches in October 2020 as they exceed the population threshold.

CPA SMALL BRANCHES - 37th CPA SMALL BRANCHES CONFERENCE

Commonwealth Parliamentarians from CPA Small Branches focus on the unique challenges affecting the smallest Legislatures across the Commonwealth at 37th annual CPA Small Branches Conference



With the increased logistical, financial and infrastructure demands facing small jurisdictions in the Commonwealth, Parliamentarians met to examine the unique challenges they face. The 37th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Small Branches Conference was held in Kampala, Uganda in September 2019 with Members of Parliaments and Legislatures from CPA Small Branches attending the conference. The conference discussed strategies to meet the unique developmental needs of the CPA's smallest Legislatures through key thematic seminars and development activities that will build parliamentary capacity for CPA Small Branches and create greater opportunities for the sharing of knowledge, parliamentary strengthening and cooperation across the network.

The CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Angelo Farrugia, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Malta said at the opening of the Small Branches Conference: *"The CPA Small Branches Conference will help to build capacities for the small Parliaments and Legislatures of the Commonwealth and create greater and more constant opportunities for the sharing of knowledge and cooperation across the CPA network. The CPA Small Branches need to come together to address their common difficulties, common strengths and their shared experiences."*

During his three-year term as the CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Angelo Farrugia has highlighted the importance of tackling climate change for the 53 Commonwealth countries, especially its 31 small and developing states which are often the least polluting but the first casualties of climate change and delegates

had the opportunity to discuss a newly developed CPA handbook on climate change during the CPA Small Branches Conference.

The Chairperson of the CPA International Executive Committee, Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon said: *"The CPA works with the Small Branches in all the regions and we extend full cooperation in strengthening parliamentary democracy. The CPA's priorities include supporting all of our Small Branches in meeting their challenges. The smallest of the CPA's Legislatures seek to meet the same expectations of service delivery as larger Legislatures and in doing so, they recognise the importance of constantly innovating in the face of fiscal and human resource constraints; and the threats in the face of climate change to some of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable."*

"The CPA Small Branches Conference will help to build capacities for the small Parliaments and Legislatures of the Commonwealth and create greater and more constant opportunities for the sharing of knowledge and cooperation across the CPA network."

The 37th CPA Small Branches Conference took place as part of the wider 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Kampala, Uganda from 22 to 29 September 2019.

CPA SMALL BRANCHES - 37th CPA SMALL BRANCHES CONFERENCE

Newly elected CPA Small Branches Chairperson speaks of the pressing need of small Legislatures within the Commonwealth to come together to address common difficulties and strengths and share experiences of their Parliaments

The newly elected Chairperson of the CPA Small Branches, Hon. Niki Rattle, Speaker of the Parliament of the Cook Islands has pledged that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) would have a strengthened and renewed focus on assisting Small Branches and their Parliaments and Legislatures.

The Members of the CPA attending the 37th CPA Small Branches Conference in September 2019 elected the Speaker of the Cook Islands as the new Chairperson of Small Branches for a three-year term. The role of Chairperson of Small Branches is an Officer role within the CPA's governance structure and the new incumbent will sit on the CPA International Executive Committee to bring a voice for Small Branches to the governing body of the CPA.

In her acceptance remarks, Hon. Niki Rattle expressed her gratitude to the Members of the CPA Small Branches, who have shown great trust in electing her as their Chairperson. She spoke about the pressing need of small Legislatures within the Commonwealth to come together, within their 'smallness' to address common difficulties and strengths and share experiences of their Parliaments or Legislative Assemblies. As small states in the Commonwealth, among other small countries, the CPA Small Branches have learnt to appreciate their strengths while being flexible enough to be able to work with other larger Parliaments and to be influential.

Hon. Niki Rattle was appointed as the Cook Islands' Speaker and CPA Cook Islands Branch President in 2012; being reappointed in 2014 and 2018. She is an extremely active Parliamentarian and former CPA Executive Committee Representative for the CPA Pacific Region. A registered nurse, she was the first Pacific Chairperson of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and she is highly regarded internationally for her skills of conciliation, strategic leadership and advocacy. She was an eminent member of the International Federation Election Committee, and she is known for her contribution to rules of procedures and ethics. Confronted with complex procedural issues, she pushed for enhanced legislative and financial scrutiny and development of the Parliament. She is an advocate for economic, social, and political empowerment in Small Island and Developing States (SIDS) and is committed



to fostering strong, connected Legislatures. She is passionate about community, prevention of violence, women's leadership, health and disaster-risk reduction.

The outgoing CPA Small Branches Chairperson is Hon. Angelo Farrugia, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Malta who has held the office from 2016 until 2019. Hon. Angelo Farrugia has worked tirelessly in promoting the CPA Small Branches within the wider CPA network and establishing a CPA Small Branches strategic plan which has given increased focus to the work of the CPA in areas such as climate change which severely impacts on the smallest jurisdictions in the Commonwealth.

Under CPA election rules only delegates from CPA Small Branches to the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference could take part in the vote to elect a new CPA Small Branches Chairperson. There were two candidates for the position of CPA Small Branches Chairperson: Hon. Niki Rattle, Speaker of the Cook Islands Parliament; and Hon. Juan Watterson, SHK, Speaker of the House of Keys at the Parliament of the Isle of Man (Tynwald). The election of the new Chairperson of Small Branches took place at the 37th CPA Small Branches Conference held in Kampala, Uganda as part of the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

37th CPA SMALL BRANCHES CONFERENCE – WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Conference Theme: *‘Adaption, engagement, and evolution of Parliaments in a rapidly changing Commonwealth’*

Small Branches Session 1: How do Commonwealth countries (CPA Small Branches in particular), that all ostensibly base their Parliamentary procedures and practices on the Westminster model, implement culturally appropriate measures including institutional design?

“

This session focused on discussions around how Commonwealth countries, including small state jurisdictions that base their parliamentary procedures and practices on the Westminster model, implement culturally appropriate measures including institutional design. Delegates were informed that many countries across the world adopted the Westminster model as former colonies. After gaining independence, they negotiated with the United Kingdom through constitution seminars to bring harmony through flexible procedures and institutions that suited their unique cultural and historical realities. Indeed, it is the cultural adaptability of Westminster model that has shaped its success across the Commonwealth.

”



Session 1 recommendations:

- Each Parliament should take advantage of Westminster flexible procedures to apply changes that actually work in modern times, suiting cultural and historical realities.
- CPA Small Branches shall develop Legislatures that fit their contexts and look to the experience of other Small Branches for examples of good practice.

Small Branches Session 2: Innovation in Parliament – The possible effects of United Kingdom’s ‘Brexit’ on CPA Small Branches

“

Delegates heard that the implications of ‘Brexit’ are far reaching. However, CPA Small Branches have a good chance of dealing with the consequences of ‘Brexit’ by working together through sharing knowledge and extending networks to get their voices and message across clearly. Small states are not powerless if they work together.

”



Session 2 recommendations:

- CPA Small Branches, especially sub-nationals, should effectively participate in decision making to ensure that they have input in policies that will directly affect them.
- CPA Small Branches should extend their networks for sharing information and best practice to better tackle major common challenges such as ‘Brexit’ and climate change.
- Legislatures must recalibrate their relations with the United Kingdom. Although risks and uncertainties predominate, the opportunities ‘Brexit’ will present must not be undermined.

37th CPA SMALL BRANCHES CONFERENCE – WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Small Branches Session 3: What professional development and training is required to develop focused and talented Parliamentarians?

“

This workshop session examined the different professional development and training models available to develop focused and talented Parliamentarians. The mentoring session saw Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff given the opportunity to meet different experts in the field of parliamentary training.

”



Session 3 recommendations:

- Parliamentarians from CPA Small Branches are actively encouraged to seek professional development and training outside their jurisdictions in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding.
- CPA Small Branch capacity can be built by giving MPs the knowledge and skills required. Branches should encourage MPs to attend the CPA-McGill University Professional Development Programme.
- Parliaments shall encourage political parties to employ candidate selections that include talented, substantive prospects, embracing the importance of gender balance, and encouraging sensitivity and diversity.

Small Branches Session 4: Climate change and the possible effects on CPA Small Branch economies and development

“

CPA Small Branches suffer the effects of climate change the most, even as the effects are caused by the developed states culminated into a failure to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. They must take collective action so that their voices are heard *vis-a-vis* climate change and its after-effects, which have caused great threats to the quality of life, loss of life, property and revenue. Parliamentarians have to raise citizens’ awareness and develop appropriate policies in order to address the adverse effects of climate change.

”



Session 4 recommendations:

- Parliament must foster dialogue which leads to mechanisms for building resilience of Small Island States adapting to climate change, which adversely affect our GDP.
- Parliamentarians have a critical role in raising awareness of climate change, while developing appropriate policies and legislation to protect the environment and human rights.
- Parliaments should participate in initiatives and programmes by United Nations bodies that facilitate mitigation and adaption policies, climate finance and technology in Small Island States.

The CPA Small Branches also nominated a conference workshop at the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Uganda attended by delegates from all CPA Branches:

Workshop F (Small Branches Topic): Innovation in Parliament – The possible effects of United Kingdom's 'Brexit' on CPA Small Branches

“

This workshop focused how small Parliaments can benefit and learn from the ramifications and strengthen the workings of their Legislatures. Members encouraged Commonwealth countries and CPA Branches to support both the United Kingdom in the process of exiting the European Union and other Commonwealth jurisdictions affected by the changes.

”



Workshop F recommendations:

- Parliaments should consider the interaction between procedural rules and statute law, and how far flexible approaches to procedure allows for adaptation to unexpected political circumstances.
- Parliamentary scrutiny and oversight by all United Kingdom Legislatures should play a key role in the development of the United Kingdom's international relations after 'Brexit'.
- It is essential that Parliament acts early, considers all possible outcomes and puts in place the necessary legislation whilst ensuring the allocation of adequate resources.
- To support the United Kingdom through their democratic 'Brexit' process and establish long-term and sustainable Free Trade Agreements with individual Commonwealth countries.
- Reflecting the concerns of some of the CPA Small Branches on which 'Brexit' has had a profound effect, such Branches must be involved in substantive discussions with the United Kingdom on their international relations.

CPA SMALL BRANCHES - CPA ACTIVITIES IN 2019

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association helps to embed good governance at Post-Election Seminar in Grenada

The CPA has helped to strengthen parliamentary practice and procedure with a CPA Post-Election Seminar for the newly elected Members of the Parliament of Grenada, held in St George's from 9 to 10 January 2019. The CPA Post-Election Seminar gave Members of the House of Representatives, as well as Members of the Senate of Grenada, an excellent opportunity to develop their skills and gain a better understanding of the parliamentary system and democratic processes in other Commonwealth jurisdictions, particularly from the CPA Caribbean Region. Transparent, free and fair elections were held in Grenada on 13 March 2018 with a turnout of almost 74% to elect the new Members, which demonstrated the island's commitment to the democratic ideals enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter.



Hon. Michael Pierre, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Grenada and Hon. Chester A. A. Humphrey, President of the Senate, both gave opening remarks and chaired sessions throughout the two-day seminar. Hon. Chester A. A. Humphrey explained that despite only one political party being represented in the House of Representatives (or lower house), that there are many active voices within the Parliament through the Senate (upper house). He said: *"Grenada provides a unique experiment in parliamentary democracy and this seminar provides Members with an opportunity to become more effective in promoting democratic principles and good governance. Members will become more confident and better able to discharge their parliamentary and constituency responsibilities."*

The Parliament of Grenada is one of the smallest Legislatures in the CPA's membership of over 180 Commonwealth Parliaments and it is located on a small island with a population of 107,000 people. The CPA is the only Commonwealth body that works to strengthen small Legislatures as well as working with larger national, state and provincial legislatures.

At the opening of the CPA Post-Election Seminar, Rt Hon. Dr Keith Mitchell, MP, Prime Minister of Grenada highlighted that he first became a Parliamentarian in 1984 and encouraged the newly elected and appointed Parliamentarians to sharpen their skills. He said: *"Our role and function as Parliamentarians is not one to be taken lightly. It is a noble calling to be able to serve our country at this level and it is important that we properly equip ourselves to do the best job possible. For those of us who are seasoned politicians, it is important that from time to time, we take advantage of opportunities to sharpen our skills and broaden our knowledge base. For our newly elected Parliamentarians, especially those with the advantage of youth, this seminar provides an invaluable opportunity to get better acquainted with parliamentary procedures and expectations. I must express my appreciation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for initiating this important Post-Election Seminar. It is almost a decade since Grenada would have benefitted from such an initiative. It is timely, it is fitting, and we are immensely grateful."*

Regional experts attended the seminar to share their knowledge and experience with Members of the Grenada Parliament. Senator Hon. Alincia Williams-Grant, President of the Senate of Antigua and Barbuda presented on the separation of powers between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary and on the impact of parliamentary privilege on Members. Ms. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel, Senior Clerk and CPA Branch Secretary at the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago demonstrated her extensive knowledge with contributions on the Parliamentary Committee system and parliamentary procedures.

The Grenada House of Representatives also has one of the highest representations for women Members in the Commonwealth following the recent election (second in the Commonwealth at 46.7% women Members) and the CPA Post-Election Seminar session on 'Women in Parliament' generated a lively discussion amongst Members on gender equality.

CPA SMALL BRANCHES - CPA ACTIVITIES IN 2019

CPA Small Branches celebrate Commonwealth Day 2019

A number of CPA Small Branches across the network of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association celebrated Commonwealth Day 2019 both in London at the CPA Headquarters Secretariat and across the CPA's Regions. Commonwealth Day has been celebrated around the Commonwealth on the second Monday in March every year since the 1970s.

Young people from the Falkland Islands; Gibraltar; Isle of Man; Jersey; Malta; St Helena; Cayman Islands; and Turks and Caicos attended the CPA Commonwealth Day Youth Programme on the theme of 'A Connected Commonwealth' in London. The young participants also attended the Commonwealth Day service in Westminster Abbey attended by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth and Patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and they met Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP, Chairperson of the CPA International Executive Committee (Cameroon) and the CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Angelo Farrugia, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Malta.

In addition, CPA Small Branches across the network of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association marked Commonwealth Day 2019 in many different ways.

The CPA Cayman Islands Branch continued their tradition of holding its annual Youth Parliament to celebrate Commonwealth Day and in 2019, the 12th Cayman Islands Youth Parliament was held. Young people from high schools and colleges attended the Youth Parliament in the chamber of the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands where they held debates on a number



of motions before the House. Hon. Barbara Conolly, MLA, Ministry of Education representative gave the introductory remarks and noted that the Cayman Islands Youth Parliament had its highest ever turnout – 27 youth representatives – with 16 members of the delegation being young women. Young women at the Youth Parliament also held many of the leadership positions including Premier, Speaker of the House, Deputy Speaker and Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Hon. Barbara Conolly, MLA said: *"As we strive for gender equality in the world, let us commend these young women in the roles they have chosen in this debate. They are entering an exciting period of history where the world expects balance. We notice its absence and celebrate its presence."*

Cayman Islands student Shanell Martinez, as the Speaker of the Youth Parliament, presided over the debate on the floor of the Legislative Assembly where the young people discussed limiting the use of single-use plastics and plastic bags and the need for implementation



of a juvenile detention and youth rehabilitation centre for the Cayman Islands.

The CPA Malta Branch celebrated Commonwealth Day 2019 with school students visiting Parliament. Malta's Foreign Affairs Minister, Hon. Carmelo Abela, MP and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Angelo Farrugia, MP co-hosted a Commonwealth quiz for secondary school students at the House of Representatives as part of the Commonwealth Day 2019 celebrations held around the Commonwealth on 11 March 2019. Around fifty students from St Thomas More College sitting in the main chamber of the Parliament of Malta then participated in a quiz about the Commonwealth and Malta's contribution to this international organisation.

The CPA Northern Territory Branch also celebrated Commonwealth Day 2019 with a schools' outreach programme and during the first three weeks of March, the Main Hall of Parliament House, Darwin, Northern Territory was once again adorned with the flags of the 53 nations of the Commonwealth. Each year, the Department of the Legislative Assembly of Northern Territory's Parliamentary Education Service coordinates a programme with Government House to celebrate Commonwealth Day. At Parliament House, students learnt about the history of the Commonwealth and the shared values of the member countries. Students completed a 'passport' booklet by answering questions with the aid of information posters and they also learnt about the theme of each year's Commonwealth Day and of the role of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Over the course of the programme, 459 students from eight different schools from the Darwin, Palmerston and rural areas participated.

The CPA St Helena Branch focused on youth, telecommunications and the environment for Commonwealth Day 2019. Events to mark Commonwealth Day 2019 in St Helena on Monday 11 March took place at the newly opened St Helena Airport with over 200 people present, the majority of whom were school children. A working group of five CPA St Helena Branch Members opted to host the events at the airport to demonstrate how the physical connections with the Commonwealth have improved since air access to the island became possible in 2016; this was in line with this year's Commonwealth Day theme of 'A Connected Commonwealth'.



The event commenced at the main terminal building with a welcome speech by Hon. Kylie Hercules, MLC, who is in her twenties and the youngest member of the St Helena Legislative Council. Prior to the raising of the Commonwealth flag by the newly elected Speaker of the Legislative Council and President of the CPA St Helena Branch, Hon. John Cranfield, the Vice-President of the Prince Andrew School Student Council read the Commonwealth Affirmation.

Mrs Tara Pelembe, the Deputy Director of the South Atlantic Environment Research Institute spoke about the connected Commonwealth through the environment and the fact that other environmentalists and experts were visiting the Island to attend an Environmental Conference, with conference participants from many Commonwealth places such as Canada, Ascension Island, the South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Falkland Islands and the UK also attending the Commonwealth Day event to help demonstrate St Helena's connections with other Commonwealth countries through environmental activities.

Hon Mark Pollard, Member of the Falkland Islands Assembly, who was visiting St Helena to participate in the South Atlantic Environment Conference, made the concluding remarks at the end of a very busy programme.



CPA SMALL BRANCHES - CPA ACTIVITIES IN 2019

Commonwealth Parliamentarians examine the impact of 'fake news' and media freedoms in the Commonwealth at 48th CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference in Guernsey

Over forty Parliamentarians from more than thirteen Commonwealth countries and territories met in Guernsey to discuss the impact of 'fake news' and the media challenges for Parliamentarians and democracy. The 48th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference, was hosted by CPA Small Branch, the States of Guernsey, from 19 to 22 May 2019 in St Peter Port. Parliamentarians discussed the impact 'fake news' and digital disinformation on media freedoms in the Commonwealth and the importance of quality journalism in the reporting of Parliamentary proceedings and elections.

Parliamentarians were welcomed by Deputy Lyndon Trott, Chair of the CPA Guernsey Branch who said: *"We are very excited to have so many high-quality speakers with us in Guernsey and we are also pleased that as well as delegates from the CPA BIM Region, we have a large number of observers from other parts of the Commonwealth. It's a very relevant topic and I think our Guernsey meeting will showcase what is best about the CPA."* The CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Angelo Farrugia, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Malta also attended the regional conference.



Guest speakers at the regional conference included Dr Victoria Nash, Senior Policy Fellow and Deputy Director of the Oxford Internet Institute at Oxford University; Rita Payne, Journalist and President Emeritus, Commonwealth Journalists Association; Professor Dr Horst Risse, Secretary-General of the German Bundestag; Victoria Schofield, Historian and Contributor to The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs; and Doug Wills, Managing Editor of The Evening Standard and The Independent. Other topics discussed included 'No-platforming' which is the practice of preventing someone from discussing their ideas by refusing them a platform either physically at an event or online via a website or social media.

CPA Small Branches Chairperson launches new handbook with British Red Cross on International Humanitarian Law for Commonwealth Parliamentarians and Parliaments

The CPA Small Branches Chairperson officially launched a new online digital resource, the **Handbook on International Humanitarian Law for Commonwealth Parliamentarians** to complement the CPA's parliamentary strengthening work and to enhance the performance of Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff across the Commonwealth. The CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Angelo Farrugia, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Malta launched the new publication in the margins of the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Uganda.

The CPA Small Branches Chairperson said: *"Parliamentarians play a significant role in working with the Executive and others to promote International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and to ensure its effective implementation. This requires Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to be well-informed. This handbook*

has been specifically designed by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in partnership with the British Red Cross to help achieve this goal, taking into account the specific legal traditions and practices, and values, of Commonwealth countries."

To access the International Humanitarian Law Handbook for Commonwealth Parliamentarians please visit www.cpahq.org/cpahq/IHLhandbook.



Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Chairperson commends the work of the CPA Small Branches network during a visit to Malta

The Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Executive Committee, Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon commended the work of the CPA Small Branches network during a visit to the Parliament of Malta from 13 to 16 May 2019. The CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Angelo Farrugia, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta welcomed the CPA Chairperson to the Parliament of Malta.

The CPA Small Branches Chairperson briefed the CPA Chairperson on the various activities carried out by the CPA Small Branches network, the development of the Small Branches Steering Committee, the preparation of the climate change toolkit for CPA Small Branches and the outcomes of the CPA Small Branches Workshops. The CPA Small Branches Chairperson also referred to the establishment of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC) and the updating of the CPA Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures, which he chaired. The Deputy Speaker of the Malta House of Representatives, Hon. Claudette Buttigieg, MP and Ray Scicluna, Clerk of the House, were also present.



The CPA Chairperson was received by the President of the Republic of Malta, His Excellency George Vella at The Palace, Valletta. The CPA Chairperson also met with the Maltese Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, Hon. Carmelo Abela, MP to discuss strategies to add value to communities through a more sustainable, prosperous, fair and safe future for the Commonwealth.

CPA St Lucia Branch undertakes assessment against CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) St Lucia Branch and Parliament of St Lucia has undertaken a CPA assessment as part of the CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures to assess parliamentary excellence and achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 16. CPA Consultant, Meenakshi Dhar met with the Speaker of the St Lucia House of Assembly, Hon. Andy Daniel, MP; the President of the Senate of St Lucia and Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) representative for the CPA Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic Region, Hon. Jeannine Michele Giraudy-McIntyre; the Prime Minister of St Lucia, Hon. Allen Michael Chastanet, MP; the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Philip J Pierre, MP as well as current and former Speakers and Members of Parliament and the St Lucia Youth Council to discuss legislation, oversight, representation, the autonomy of Parliament and the budget-making process with particular reference to the CPA Small Branches.



The CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures www.cpahq.org/cpahq/benchmarks assess parliamentary excellence and are being part-funded through the Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D).

CPA SMALL BRANCHES - CPA ACTIVITIES IN 2019

Two CPA Small Branches, Tasmania and Samoa, cement their twinning partnership at clock unveiling in new Parliament Building

The CPA Tasmania Branch and Parliament of Tasmania have presented the CPA Samoa Branch and the Legislative Assembly of Samoa with a specially commissioned clock made from Huon pine to commemorate the opening of the new \$25 million Maota Fono (Parliament Building) jointly funded by the Governments of Australia and Samoa earlier this year. The new clock was installed on the wall of the main chamber above the entrance into the new Maota Fono and was unveiled by the Speaker of the House of Assembly of the Parliament of Tasmania, Hon. Sue Hickey, MP and the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Dr Sa'ilele Malielegaoi during a visit to Samoa in August 2019. Cabinet Ministers and Members of the Parliament of Samoa witnessed the unveiling of the clock and the Speaker of Tasmania was accompanied by the President of the Tasmania Legislative Council, Hon. Craig Farrell, MLC. The clock unveiling ceremony also included the presentation of graduation certificates to Samoan Parliamentary staff who work with the Office of the Clerk, who have recently completed the University of Tasmania's Parliamentary Law Practice and Procedure Graduate Certificate Course.

The Speaker of the House of Assembly thanked the Legislative Assembly for the invitation to present the clock and noted that the new Maota Fono recognised and reflected the rich culture and tradition of Samoa as well as being a place for debate and law making. The President of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Tasmania said: *"Our gift is a clock made from Huon pine and it has been designed to fit in with your new building. Huon pine is a timber that is native to our home state, Tasmania. It is one of Australia's oldest lived species. While the clock itself will count the seconds, minutes and hours, the timber represents the relationship between our two islands. The timber is well known for its rich gold colour and strength; making it one of the most desirable furniture timbers."*



The President said he hoped the gift will nurture the relationship between the two Parliaments, allowing it to *"grow and be as strong and long lasting as the precious natural timber that the clock is made of."*

The Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Dr. Sa'ilele Malielegaoi thanked the Parliament of Tasmania for the gift and said the twinning relationship between the two Parliaments commenced in 2007 and was an initiative of the CPA. The Prime Minister said: *"Through this arrangement Samoa has benefited immensely through several initiatives such as the reciprocal visits by Members of Parliament of the two Parliaments. This process has also seen some of those Samoa Members participate as observers as part of those proceedings in the chambers and the Committee work in Parliament of Tasmania."*

In 2007, the CPA established the CPA Australia-Pacific twinning programme to foster greater cooperation and support between Parliaments from the CPA Australia Region and CPA Pacific Region. Under this programme, the CPA Tasmania and CPA Samoa Branches committed to work actively towards developing support between the two Parliaments including regular staff exchanges and training activities that promote parliamentary development.

Election successes of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians recognised in Bermuda

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) from the CPA Bermuda, Montserrat and Trinidad & Tobago Branches together with staff from the CPA Headquarters Secretariat gathered in the margins of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Parliamentary Strengthening Seminar in Bermuda in May 2019 to recognise that the Parliament of Bermuda now has 25% women Members of Parliament following its most recent elections, up from 19.4% in previous elections.



Parliamentarians in Bermuda aim to strengthen parliamentary democracy at Commonwealth Parliamentary Association seminar

The CPA has helped strengthen parliamentary practice and procedure for Members of the Parliament of Bermuda with a CPA Parliamentary Strengthening Seminar from 1 to 2 May 2019. The CPA seminar in Hamilton, Bermuda was held to enable current and recently elected Parliamentarians to gain a broader understanding of the principles of parliamentary democracy across the Commonwealth and to strengthen their skillsets.

The Parliament of Bermuda is made up of thirty-six elected Members in the House of Assembly and eleven appointed Senators in the Senate. It is located on a small island archipelago with a population of around 64,000 people that is a self-governing British Overseas Territory. Bermuda last held transparent, free and fair elections in 2017 with a 73% voter turnout which demonstrated the island's commitment to the democratic ideals enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter.

The CPA Bermuda Branch is one of the smallest legislatures in the CPA's membership of over 180 Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures. The CPA is the only Commonwealth body that works to strengthen small territorial legislatures in the British Overseas Territories like Bermuda as well as working with larger national, state and provincial legislatures. The CPA Parliamentary Strengthening Seminar gave Members of the Parliament of Bermuda an excellent opportunity to learn about parliamentary practice and procedure and to gain a better understanding of the parliamentary system and democratic processes in other Commonwealth jurisdictions. The seminar was opened by Hon. Dennis Lister, JP, MP, Speaker of the Bermuda House of Assembly; Hon. Senator Mrs Kathy Lynn Simmons, JP, Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs of Bermuda; and the CPA Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan.

Hon. Dennis Lister, JP, MP, Speaker of the Bermuda House of Assembly and CPA Bermuda Branch President said at the opening of the seminar: *"This CPA Parliamentary Strengthening Seminar is an example of the many benefits that are available to Parliaments within the Commonwealth. It's the mandate of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to develop, promote and support Parliamentarians and their staff*



to identify benchmarks of good governance. We must continue to evolve a modern democracy so when future Parliamentarians look back at this time, they can clearly see the improvements we are making today."

The Members of the Parliament of Bermuda heard from experts from across the Commonwealth at the CPA Parliamentary Strengthening Seminar including: the CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Angelo Farrugia, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta; Hon. Shirley Osborne, MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Montserrat; Mrs Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel, Clerk of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago and CPA Branch Secretary; and Mr Paul Belisle, former Clerk of the Senate of Canada; as well as local Members and officials from Bermuda.

Members attended workshop sessions on a wide variety of topics including: *the Separation of Power and the relationship between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary; Administration and Financing of Parliament; Parliament, Democracy and Civil Society; the role of Members of Parliament, Senators and Backbenchers; Practice and Procedure in the House; Parliamentary Committees; Ethics and Accountability of Members of the Legislature; and Parliament and Social Media: Is it a menace or benefit for Democracy and Parliament?*

CPA SMALL BRANCHES - CPA ACTIVITIES IN 2019

CPA Gibraltar Branch hold 'Brexit' seminar to highlight the Commonwealth's role

The CPA Gibraltar Branch held a seminar titled '*Changing times: Brexit, the Commonwealth and opportunities for Gibraltar*' in March 2019. The seminar was hosted by the Government of Gibraltar and the Royal Commonwealth Society and was led by Hon. Dr Joseph Garcia, MP, Deputy Chief Minister of Gibraltar. Commenting on the seminar, Dr Garcia said: *"Gibraltar is proud of its association with the different organisations of the Commonwealth. We share the same values, we share the same traditions and the same outlook across a number of areas. The principles of democracy, of self-determination, and the defence of human rights are important to us all. The policy of the Government is to increase our level of engagement with the Commonwealth and this seminar is part of that approach."* Gibraltar is a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation, participates in the Commonwealth Games, the Commonwealth Youth Parliament, the Commonwealth Local Government Association, the Commonwealth Youth Forum, Women's Forum and People's Forum and has also joined the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council.

The CPA has a unique position in working with Parliaments and Legislatures at the national, state,



provincial and territorial level such as the Parliament of Gibraltar. In such challenging circumstances as Brexit, the CPA offers its membership the opportunity to share best practices through its peer-to-peer learning network to find common solutions to global problems.

The seminar panel also included the CPA Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan; Lord Marland, Chairman of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council; Hon. Alexander Downer, AC, former Australian Foreign Minister and Australian High Commissioner to the UK; and Jared Peralta, Gibraltar representative at the Commonwealth Youth Forum.

Gibraltar Minister for Equality tells students to never limit themselves because of gender on International Women's Day as she announces student art competition winners will become national postage stamps to raise awareness

The Gibraltar Minister for Equality, Hon. Samantha Sacramento, MP told students to never limit themselves because of their gender on International Women's Day 2019. The Minister, who has also represented Gibraltar at the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) British Islands and Mediterranean Region, was speaking at Westside School in Gibraltar to announce the winning entries for the Ministry for Equality's International Women Day Art for secondary educational institutions. The winning entries from Westside School, Bayside School and Gibraltar College will also feature on local stamps.

Hon. Samantha Sacramento, MP encouraged the students to take any opportunities and to thrive to be the 'best' that they can be. She said: *"My message to boys is the same as my message to girls, because we are the Ministry for Equality and we want to make sure all of you here have an equal playing field. I want students*



to be the next generation to be the pioneers of change. Change cultural issues, change social norms, push those boundaries, don't get left behind and have no limits and certainly have no limits because of your gender."

The Minister for Equality spoke at the event alongside the Gibraltar Minister for Education, Dr John Cortes who spoke of the importance of equal education for all students.

Jersey hosts international network of female Parliamentarians

CPA Small Branch, Jersey, held the 6th annual British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 September 2019. The event was held in Jersey as part of celebrations to mark the Island's 100-year anniversary since the first women were able to vote. The overriding theme of the event was '*The next 100 years*', looking at how female politicians can ensure diversity and equality in Commonwealth Parliaments. The CWP regional conference explored ways to ensure the voices of women are heard over the next century, especially within the political arena. In addition, attendees had the opportunity to share their experiences of being a woman in politics; and discuss specific topics regarding diversity in representation, women in technology and how to build a sustainable political future.

A play titled '*The Unforgotten Figures*' was produced especially for the conference's opening ceremony and, as a result, is due to be adapted and toured in other BIMR jurisdictions. The play brought together six women from various points in Jersey's history who were key players in developing equality for women.



Deputy Jess Perchard, who is the CWP Jersey Branch representative, said: *"I was keen for Jersey to host this year's conference during the year of our Island's suffrage centenary celebrations. In July, my fellow female States Members and I pledged to keep fighting for equal rights and opportunities for all – not just women – and that is exactly what this year's conference addressed. Women have come a long way over the past 100 years, but they and minority groups still have a long way to go to achieve equality in the political sphere. I hope that this conference produced measurable plans and objectives so that we can achieve true equality within the next century."*

Tynwald hosts inaugural CPA Crown Dependencies Network event in the Isle of Man

Members of the CPA Branches and the Parliaments of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man gathered at the Legislative Buildings in Douglas, Isle of Man on 17 September 2019 for the inaugural CPA Crown Dependencies Network event. Held under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the inaugural event is part of a new network, designed to bring together Parliamentarians from the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey to share their experiences and to discuss matters of common concern.

Five States Deputies and one officer from each of the States of Jersey and Guernsey travelled to the Isle of Man for the event. Six Members of the Tynwald (Isle of Man) attended. The delegates also met with Hon. Steve Rodan, MLC, President of Tynwald and President of the Legislative Council and Hon. Juan Watterson, SHK, Speaker of the House of Keys – both Members are Joint CPA Isle of Man Branch Presidents.

During the three-day programme, the delegates were shown around the Legislative Buildings in Douglas and attended meetings with Members and officers responsible for various public services on topics of particular interest to them. The programme also included a plenary meeting during which the three delegations will debate how the Legislatures of the Crown Dependencies can work better together.



CPA SMALL BRANCHES - CPA ACTIVITIES IN 2019

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association highlights good governance in Parliament and the positive role of youth engagement in the Commonwealth on a visit to Belize

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has highlighted the advances made in establishing good governance and parliamentary democracy by the National Assembly of Belize during a six-day visit to the CPA Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic Region from 4 to 9 May 2019. The CPA was welcomed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Belize, Hon. Laura Tucker-Longworth; and President of the Senate, Senator Hon. Lee Mark Chang before attending a series of parliamentary meetings to discuss the CPA's programmes for the upskilling of Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff and new developments in parliamentary strengthening in the Caribbean Region and in the wider Commonwealth.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of Belize, Hon. Laura Tucker-Longworth said: *"I am delighted to welcome the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to Belize. We are working together to focus on the need for the Parliament to modernize and evolve to suit these modern times. The support of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the benchmarking exercise against international standards, developed through the CPA, has been invaluable to us."*

The CPA highlighted the positive role of youth engagement in democracy and stressed the importance of gender equality in Parliament at a series of CPA Roadshows for young people aged 11 to 18 at four schools in the capital, Belize City - Anglican Cathedral College (ACC); Edward P. Yorke High School; St Catherine Academy; and Wesley College. The CPA Secretary-General was accompanied on the CPA Roadshows by the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Belize, Hon. Laura Tucker-Longworth and the Clerk of Parliament, Mr Eddie Webster who spoke to students about the work of the National Assembly of Belize.



The National Assembly of Belize is also engaging with the CPA Headquarters Secretariat in undertaking a self-assessment against the updated CPA Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures. The CPA is currently implementing activities to encourage Commonwealth Parliaments to strive and uphold a high standard of parliamentary performance and the utilization of the CPA Benchmarks as a tool to provide Parliaments across the Commonwealth with assistance to strengthen their capacity to adhere to good governance principles.

This is part of a wider project, the Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D), which is being led by Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) working with partners including the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the CPA UK Branch and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF). The Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy was launched during the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London, UK and the programme will work with Commonwealth Parliaments including Belize.

Falklands Islands Member at CPA Headquarters in London

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) welcomed Hon. Leona Roberts, MLA from the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly to the CPA Headquarters Secretariat in London, UK. The Falkland Islands MLA is a Member of the CPA International Executive Committee representing the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region. Hon. Leona Roberts met with the Acting CPA Secretary-General, Mr Jarvis Matiya together with staff from the CPA Headquarters Secretariat in London, UK to hear about CPA's programmes and new developments in parliamentary strengthening in the Commonwealth and in particular, to attend the income diversification working group meeting.



Newly elected CPA Small Branches Chairperson highlights issues affecting small states at CPA Australia and Pacific Regional Conference

The newly elected CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Niki Rattle, Speaker of the Parliament of the Cook Islands highlighted issues affecting small states at the three-day 38th CPA Australia and Pacific Regional Conference, which was hosted by the CPA South Australia Branch and Parliament of South Australia in Adelaide from 18 to 21 November 2019.

Regional Conference presentations included the CPA Small Branches Chairperson on service delivery for urban and rural areas with particular reference to the smallest jurisdictions of the CPA and the Sustainable Development Goals; South Australian Minister, Hon. Stephan Knoll, MP on the challenges of maintaining transport and infrastructure for urban areas; and Ms Sandra Nelson, MP (Northern Territory) on the challenges of protecting cultural identities and indigenous communities in urban areas. Delegates also visited development projects in



Adelaide to see the government's and local enterprises' activities in addressing the challenges of urbanisation.

In the margins of the Regional Conference, the CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Niki Rattle also chaired a meeting of CPA Small Branches from the CPA Pacific, Australia, Caribbean and British Islands & Mediterranean Regions to update Members on the network and to discuss forthcoming activities. Around 40 Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff attended the Regional Conference from 20 CPA Branches across the CPA membership. The CPA Small Branches attending included: Australian Capital Territory; Bougainville; Cook Islands; Kiribati; Nauru; Niue; Northern Territory; Samoa; Tonga; and Tuvalu. Members also attended the Regional Conference as Observers from the British Virgin Islands, Jersey and Gibraltar.



CPA Small Branches to feature in new research project in Canada

Representatives of the SSHRC working group – including the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Headquarters Secretariat – looking at research and best practice in financial oversight in MENA and small states met at McGill University in Canada in October 2019 to discuss planning for the research project. The Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funded project will benefit the CPA Small Branches network.



CPA Tasmania Deputy Clerk at CPA Headquarters in London

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association welcomed Catherine Vickers, Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Council at the Parliament of Tasmania to the CPA Headquarters Secretariat in London, UK to meet with Acting Secretary-General, Jarvis Matiya to discuss CPA programmes and activities in the CPA Australia Region and wider CPA network.

CPA SMALL BRANCHES – PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES



The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has published a number of booklets, leaflets and guides relating to the CPA Small Branches which are available from the CPA Headquarters Secretariat direct. The CPA Small Branches Strategic Plan 2018-2020 is available both in print and online versions.

There are also downloads, information, links and research about the activities of the CPA Small Branches published on the CPA website www.cpahq.org with a specific section for the CPA Small Branches at www.cpahq.org/cpahq/smallbranches.

The Parliamentarian, the Journal of Commonwealth Parliaments, published news and reports from the activities of the CPA Small Branches and the CPA Small Branches Chairperson writes a regular column in the publication

specifically related to issues affecting CPA Small Branches.

To view the latest issue and archived issues of *The Parliamentarian* please visit www.cpahq.org/cpahq/parliamentarian.

Please contact the CPA Headquarters Secretariat hq.sec@cpahq.org for more information or to receive any copies of publications about the CPA Small Branches.

CPA SMALL BRANCHES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The CPA Headquarters Secretariat regularly posts on social media channels about the activities of the CPA Small Branches network.

Twitter @CPA_Secretariat
Facebook.com/CPAHQ
CPA YouTube - www.cpahq.org/cpahq/youtube
Flickr - www.cpahq.org/cpahq/flickr.





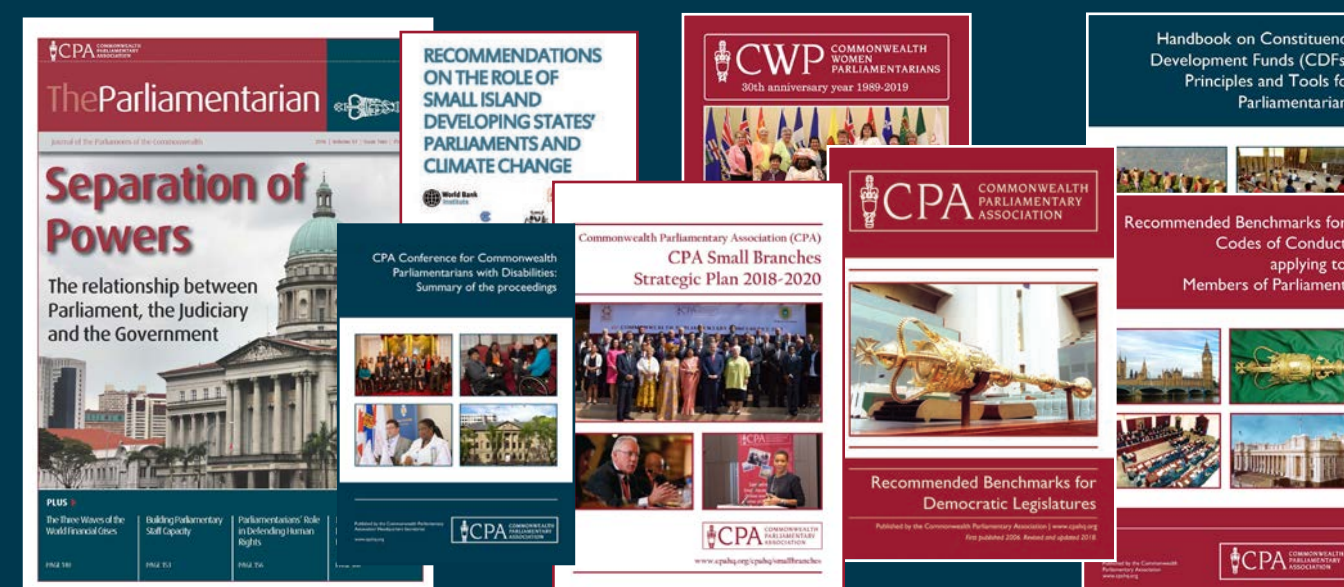
Published by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
Registered Charity Number 263147

Publication edited and designed by CPA Headquarters Secretariat editor@cpahq.org
Photography credits: CPA Headquarters Secretariat/CPA Branches and Parliaments/Shutterstock images.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
CPA Headquarters Secretariat
Richmond House, Houses of Parliament
London SW1A 0AA
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7799 1460
Email: hq.sec@cpahq.org
Website: www.cpahq.org

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association | CPA Publications and *The Parliamentary*



The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) has a wide range of books, publications and leaflets available for Members of Parliament and Parliamentary staff on a wide range of topics and themes. *The Parliamentary*, the Journal of Commonwealth Parliaments, is also available to all CPA Branches and by subscription. For more information please contact the CPA Headquarters Secretariat on: Tel: +44 (0)20 7799 1460 or email: hq.sec@cpahq.org. You can also visit the CPA website to download publications and leaflets: www.cpahq.org

CPA Small Branches

This annual review for the CPA Small Branches was produced by the CPA Headquarters Secretariat. To feedback on this annual review or to send news items for inclusion in future reports please email communications@cpahq.org.

Image credits: CPA Headquarters Secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

CWP website: www.cpahq.org/cpahq/smallbranches



CPA website: www.cpahq.org/cpahq/smallbranches

Published April 2020.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

CPA Headquarters Secretariat

Richmond House, Houses of Parliament

London SW1A 0AA, United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7799 1460 | Email: hq.sec@cpahq.org

Online: www.cpahq.org | Twitter @CPA_Secretariat | Facebook.com/CPAHQ