

IHO Leonardo on 25th September 2018.



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**REPORT OF THE 49TH COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARIANS ASSOCIATION (CPA), CPA
AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN
GABORONE, BOTSWANA
FROM 13TH -22ND AUGUST, 2018**

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EAC Headquarters' Complex,
EALA Wing, 2nd Floor,
Arusha, Tanzania

August, 2018

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OF KENYA
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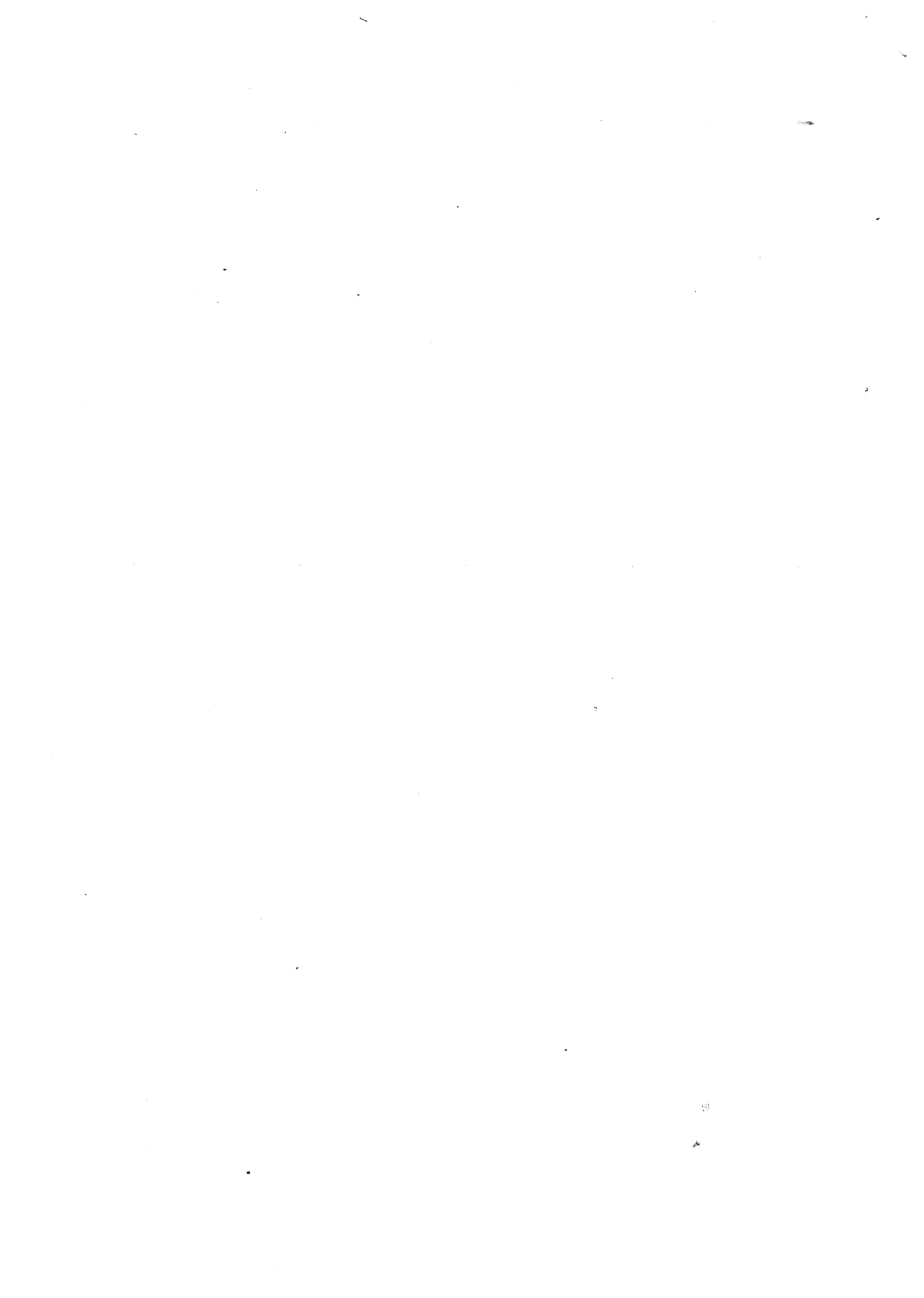


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BACK TO OFFICE REPORT OF THE CPA AFRICA REGION CONFERENCE

Introduction

1. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Botswana hosted the 149th CPA Africa Region Conference from 13th – 22nd August, 2018 at the Gaborone International Convention Centre (GICC). The Conference theme titled: "*The Role of African Parliaments in Fostering National and Regional Security*" brought together about 450 delegates from the 180 Branches¹
2. The CPA Africa Region is part of the CPA International Organisation² composed of African countries that were formally under British rule with limited exceptions. The CPA Africa Region is divided into nine (9) regions. The Africa Region comprises of 18-member states namely Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.
3. Some of the aforementioned countries are also members of other regional bodies such as Pan African Parliament (PAP), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Southern Africa Development Community-Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and Economic Community of West Africa States - Parliamentary Forum (ECOWAS-PF). It is an organisation whose membership includes National Parliaments, Provincial, State or Territorial legislatures of member countries of the Commonwealth on the continent of Africa who, irrespective of gender, race or religion, are committed to:
 - (i) Respect for Human Rights and Freedoms and the pursuit of the ideals of democracy and good governance.
 - (ii) Building understanding and unity between countries of the Region and the Continent.
 - (iii) Promoting the interests/perspectives of Africa into the Commonwealth and beyond.

1. A Branch needs to be a legislative body, at national, state or provincial Parliaments, or Legislatures of dependent territories. The Presiding Officers of Legislative Chambers are normally the Branch Presidents, while the Leaders of the Parliamentary parties are Vice-Presidents. The Clerk or Secretary-General of the Legislature usually acts as the Secretary of the Branch. Every Branch is autonomous and the affairs of most Branches are managed by an Executive Committee, elected annually by Members and usually representative of all main parties or groups. Many Branches require their Members to pay an annual subscription and permit Members to apply for associate status on ceasing to belong to the Legislature.

2. CPA Branches are currently grouped geographically into nine Commonwealth Regions for representation on the CPA Executive Committee and for the organisation of regional conferences and seminars on parliamentary practice and procedure. The Regions of the CPA are: Africa, Asia, Australia, British Islands and Mediterranean (BIM), Canada, Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic (CAA), India, Pacific, South-East Asia.

4. Following the invitation to the Conference by Ms. Gladys K. T. Kokorwe, PH., (MP), Speaker of the National Assembly – Botswana and President of CPA Africa Region, the Rt. Hon. Martin Ngoga, Speaker of EALA nominated Hon. Dr. Anne Itto Leonardo to represent him to the August Conference. The EALA Delegation was in Gaborone, Botswana from 16th – 22nd August, 2018 and consisted of:

- (i) Hon. Dr. Anne Itto Leonardo, representing Speaker EALA
- (ii) Mr. Charles N. Kadonya, Principal Clerk representing Clerk EALA

Objective:

3. The aims and objectives of the CPA Africa Region are to:
- (i) promote the interests/perspectives of Africa into the Commonwealth and beyond;
 - (ii) promote knowledge and education concerning the Constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural systems of member countries in the Region and beyond;
 - (iii) promote and maintain gender equality and emancipation of women;
 - (iv) promote respect for Human Rights and Freedoms; and
 - (v) pursue the ideals of democracy and good governance.
4. The CPA Africa Region pursues its aims and objectives by:
- (i) arranging Regional Conferences which, as far as possible, are held annually and in such countries as the Annual Conference may determine in response to invitations received from Branches in the Region or otherwise;
 - (ii) arranging study groups, meetings, seminars, conferences, sporting and cultural events on a regional or inter-regional basis;
 - (iii) providing assistance or facilities for the exchange of visits between members of Branches individually or in groups to enable them as parliamentarians to exchange views and inform themselves of matters of common interest within the Region;
 - (iv) the publication of journals, newsletters, pamphlets, reports of conferences, seminars, discussions and visits and other papers relevant to the aims and objectives of the Region;
 - (v) maintaining, at the regional Headquarters, information and reports on the activities of the Branches in the Region such as branch membership, Annual Conferences, meetings and any other parliamentary activities and disseminating the same to the Headquarters Secretariat of the Association, other Regional Secretariats and Branches within the Region;

- (vi) inviting, at its discretion and on such conditions as it may decide, other organizations or persons to address it or participate in any of its activities; and
- a. undertaking such projects as may enhance the realization of the aims and objectives of the region and for this purpose to raise necessary finances for the implementation of the same.

The 49th CPA Africa Regional Conference:

Official opening

5. The CPA Africa Regional Conference was officially opened by the Vice-President of the Republic of Botswana, Mr. Slumber Tsogwane who said: *"An effective parliament is an important element of a vibrant democracy and good governance, all of which are desired principles of the Commonwealth as enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter. It is the principle of the CPA that stronger democracies, and greater capacity to deliver the benefits that people expect: such as employment opportunities, empowerment of women, food security, health care, education, rural development, brighter future for children and the protection of the environment."*

Opening Ceremony Statements and Speeches

6. The opening ceremony heard speeches delivered by Chairperson of the CPA Africa Region, Hon. Lindiwe M. Maseko, MP (South Africa); and the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Africa Region, Hon. Angela Thoko Didiza, MP (South Africa). The Chairperson of the CPA International Executive Committee, Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP (Cameroon) gave an address at the opening ceremony of the 49th CPA African Regional Conference on behalf of the wider CPA membership when she updated the membership on the work of the CPA Headquarters and ongoing programmes.
7. The CPA International Vice President, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, MP, Speaker of Parliament of Uganda also attended the CPA Africa Regional Conference and highlighted the Uganda Parliament hosting of the forthcoming Commonwealth International Conference in 2019.

CPA Africa Regional Conference Themes

9. The CPA Africa Regional Conference was held under the main theme of: "*The role of African Parliaments in fostering national and regional security*". Conference workshops were held on several themes and topics including:
- (i) A Parliamentary Agenda for combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery in Africa and the promotion of human rights (*gender topic*);
 - (ii) Understanding the nexus between climate change and incidence of farmers/herdsmen conflicts in Africa (*Social, Health, Education and Environment topic*);
 - (iii) A legislative framework of vigilante groups, private security and military companies in Africa: country experience (*Political topic*);
 - (iv) Resolution of the fourth CPA Africa Region Youth Parliament (*Youth topic*);
 - (v) Food security and sustainable growth: the role of agricultural revolution in triggering economic development in Africa (*Economy topic*);
 - (vi) Conference delegates also heard the resolutions of the Fourth CPA Africa Region Youth Parliament, presented by youth delegates, which had been held in April 2018 in Uganda under the theme "*Securing a better future for Africa: Role of Youth*".

Other Events and Meetings

13. The CPA Africa Regional Conference included a number of events and meetings including:
- (i) Meetings of the CPA Africa Regional Executive Committee
 - (ii) Meetings of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Steering Committee chaired by the CWP Africa Regional Chair, Hon. Angela Thoko Didiza, MP (South Africa)
 - (iii) The Society-of-Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT) Africa Steering Committee meetings chaired by Advocate Eric Phindela, Chairperson of SoCATT Africa Region

Lessons Learnt

14. The East African Legislative Assembly needs to appreciate that the National Parliaments, Provincial, State or Territorial legislatures of member countries of the Commonwealth on the continent of Africa including members of other regional bodies such as Pan African Parliament (PAP), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Southern Africa Development Community-Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and Economic Community of West Africa States - Parliamentary Forum (ECOWAS-PF) are at different stages of integration which makes it imperative for us to benefit from one another through peer learning as a way of building national and or regional capacities as a basis for a sound and viable continental integration.
15. To this effect, the achievements registered by the 149th CPA Africa Region Conference held in Gaborone, Botswana under the theme titled: "*the role of African Parliaments in fostering national and regional security*", provide us (EALA) with a learning experience in terms of best practices that can be emulated in our region.
16. On the other hand, the delegation also shared the achievements so far made by EALA as a regional parliament with full legislative mandate whose laws take precedent over similar national laws in the agreed areas of cooperation. This notwithstanding, there are still many challenges we have to overcome as we strive to further strengthen our National and or Regional Parliaments, Provincial, State or Territorial legislatures of member countries of the Commonwealth on the continent of Africa. Hence, the need for the Assembly to continue sending delegations to the CPA Conferences.

Conclusion

17. At the conclusion of the 49th CPA Africa Regional Conference in Botswana, Rt. Hon. Justin B. Muturi, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Kenya was elected as the new Chairperson of the CPA Africa Region in succession of Hon. Lindiwe M. Maseko, MP (South Africa). The new CPA Africa Chairperson was nominated by the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Zambia, Hon. Catherine Namugala, MP and was seconded by Hon. Kabiru Mijinyowa, MP, Speaker of Adamawa Region in Nigeria.