



**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation respecting
its participation at the International Executive Committee
Meeting (EXCO)**

**Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary
Association (CPA)**

**Port Louis, Mauritius
March 20 to 24, 2018**

Report

Ms. Alexandra Mendès M.P. attended the International Executive Committee (EXCO) meeting of CPA in Port Louis, Mauritius, on behalf of the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and as Vice-Chairperson of EXCO from March 21st – 23rd, 2018.

The **Members of the CPA Executive Committee** attending the meeting were:

CPA Officers and Co-ordinating Committee: Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP – CPA Chairperson (Cameroon); Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, MP - CPA Vice-President (Uganda); Ms. Alexandra Mendès MP - CPA Vice-Chairperson and Regional Representative for the Canada Region (Canada Federal); CPA Treasurer, Mrs Vicki Dunne, MLA (Australian Capital Territory); CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia MP (Malta).

Africa Region: Hon. Bernard Songa Sibalatani (Namibia); Hon. Lindiwe Maseko, MP (South Africa – alternate for Hon. Senator Eno Lafon Emma Veryelle, MP, Cameroon); Hon. Lazarous Chungu Bwalya, MP (Zambia); Hon. Osei Kyei Mensah Bonsu, MP (Ghana – alternate for Rt Hon. Arc Umar Buba Jibril, MP, Nigeria); Hon. Sephiri Motanyane, MP (Lesotho); Hon. Dr Makali Mulu, MP (Kenya).

Asia Region: Hon. Imran Ahmad MP (Bangladesh); Hon. Dr Fehmida Mirza, MNA (Pakistan); Hon Dr Lal Chand Ukrani, MPA (Sindh, Pakistan).

Australia Region: Hon. Russell Paul Wortley MLC (South Australia); Hon. John Ajaka, MLC (New South Wales); Hon Bruce Atkinson, MLC (Victoria).

British Islands & Mediterranean Region: Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods, MP (United Kingdom); Hon. Leona Roberts, MLA (Falkland Islands).

Canada Region: Hon. Jackson Lafferty, MLA (Northwest Territories); Hon. Jacques Chagnon, MLA (Quebec alternate for Nova Scotia).

Caribbean, Americas & Atlantic Region: Hon. Anthony Michael Perkins, MP (St Kitts and Nevis); Hon. Terry Harrigan, MLA (Anguilla – alternate for Hon. Leroy C. Rogers, MLA); Hon. Bridgid Annisette-George, MP (Trinidad and Tobago).

India Region: Hon. Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi, MP (India Union); Hon. Speaker Shri Kavinder Gupta, MLA (Jammu and Kashmir); Hon. Speaker Shri Hitendra Goswami, MLA (Assam).

Pacific Region: Mr Clayton Mitchell, MP (New Zealand); Mr Lanatai Victor Faafoi Tamapua (Samoa – alternate for Mr Nafotoa Talaimanu Ketu, MP); Hon. Simon Pentanu, MP (Bougainville).

South East Asia Region: Hon. Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee, MP (Malaysia); Hon. Datuk Wira Haji Othman Muhamad, MP (Malacca); Hon. Mr Zainal Sapari, MP (Singapore).

The National Assembly of Mauritius and CPA Mauritius Branch has hosted over 30 Commonwealth Speakers and Members of Parliament for the Mid-Year meetings of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) from March 20th to 24th 2018.

The CPA Executive Committee meetings took place just a few days after Mauritius, the island nation off the east coast of Africa, celebrated the 50th anniversary of its independence on March 12th. The country is also marking its 26th anniversary as a Republic. For the National Assembly of Mauritius, one of the CPA's active Branches in the Africa Region, hosting a large-scale international meeting demonstrates its commitment to parliamentary democracy and the work of the CPA. The National Assembly of Mauritius has recently benefitted from a CPA Technical Assistance Programme which resulted in the launch of a new Parliamentary Gender Caucus in the Assembly to promote gender equality and an inclusive Parliament.

Members of Parliament representing the nine regions of the CPA – *Africa; Asia; Australia; British Islands & Mediterranean; Canada; Caribbean, Americas & Atlantic; India; Pacific; and South East Asia* – attended the CPA Executive Committee, the governing body of the Association. The CPA meetings enable Commonwealth Parliamentarians to reach beyond their own Parliaments to contribute in a global setting to the development of best parliamentary practices and the most effective policies for parliamentary strengthening.

Hon. Mrs Santi Bai Hanoomanjee, Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius said: *“As a new member of the Commonwealth, our successive leaders have since independence been constantly inspired by the fundamental values of the Commonwealth and have on all occasions seized the opportunity to consolidate these values, namely, democracy, the democratic processes, the rule of law, the independence of the Judiciary, fundamental rights and gender parity. As an active member of the CPA, our parliamentary democracy nurtures these values and we are therefore proud to welcome the holding of this CPA Executive Committee Meeting in Mauritius.”*

The Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon chaired the meetings in Mauritius for the first time as Chairperson and said: *“This is my very first time to preside over the Mid-Year Executive Committee meeting of the CPA as Chairperson since I was elected as CPA Chairperson at the CPA General Assembly in Bangladesh last November. I would like, on behalf of Members of the CPA International Executive Committee, to take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Madam Speaker Hanoomanjee and CPA Mauritius Branch for hosting the meeting and for their unwavering support to the CPA.”*

The CPA Vice-President, Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda; CPA Vice-Chairperson, Hon. Alexandra Mendes, MP (Canada Federal); the CPA Treasurer, Mrs Vicki Dunne, MLA, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory; and the CPA Small Branches Chairperson, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Malta also attended the meetings along with the CPA Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan and staff from the CPA Headquarters Secretariat.

Ahead of the CPA Executive Committee Mid-Year meeting, students at the University of Mauritius were able to find out about the Commonwealth, parliament and democracy at a CPA Roadshow, organised by the National Assembly of Mauritius and the CPA. The CPA Roadshows provide an opportunity for young people to discuss issues of concern about their society and democracy, to meet Members of Parliament and Parliamentary staff and to find out more about the work of the CPA. The CPA Roadshow in Mauritius

was attended by Mrs Vicki Dunne, MLA, CPA Treasurer; Hon. Bridgid Annisette-George, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago; local Member of Parliament from Mauritius, Hon. V. V. Baloomoody, MP; and the CPA Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan. The CPA Secretary-General and members of the panel spoke about the importance of young people's engagement in politics and the panel answered students' questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Yasmin Ratansi, M.P.
Chair of the Canadian Branch of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
ACTIVITY	International Executive Committee Meeting (EXCO)
DESTINATION	Port Louis, Mauritius
DATES	March 20 to 24, 2018
DELEGATION	
SENATE	
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Ms. Alexandra Mendès, M.P.
STAFF	
TRANSPORTATION	\$61.06
ACCOMMODATION	\$0.00
HOSPITALITY	\$0.00
PER DIEMS	\$297.37
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$358.43

**Only expenses not reimbursed by the International Secretariat of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association are included.*