

Report on the Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Programme

Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom – 15 -21 October 2023

Councillor Rosemary J Bargo – St Helena Island

Other Attendees:

Hon. Shellya Rogers-Webster – Anguilla, Hon. Alex H Browne – Antigua & Barbuda, Hon. Senator Clement Antonio – Antigua & Barbuda, Hon Peter John Cain MLA – Australian Capital Territory, Hon Speaker Katherine Ebanks-Wilks MP- Cayman Islands, Hon Aristos Damianou MP – Cyprus, Hon Tamika Y Davies MP – Jamaica, Hon Dave H Browne MP-Jamaica, Hon Michael W Maina MP-Kenya, Hon Senator Wakili H Siegel-Kenya, Hon Ebbie Mathanda MP Mr J-Malawi, Hon Horace Chipuwa-Malawi, Hon Eve Borg Bonello MP – Malta, Hon Carmelo Abela MP-Malta, Mr Mark Turner, MLA-Northern Territory, Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua MP- NSWales, Mr Jason Yat-Sen Li MP – NS Wales, Braedon Clark MLA – Nova Scotia, Shri. Kesridevsinh Jhala MP-Raja Sabha, India, Senator Hon.Alvina Reynolds-Saint Lucia, Smt. SangeetaYadaw MP – Raja Sabha, India, Hon Amie N Moriba MP- Sierre Leone, Hon Alice K Sandy Sierre Leone, Hon Abdillahi A Mohamed, Somalia, Hon Samanpriya Hereth, Sri Lanka, Hon Udayana Kirindigoda, Sri Lanka, Hon Luke Edmunds, Tasmania & Ms Cassie Rowe, MLA-Western Australia.

Mentors:

Hon Liam McArthur MSP, Deputy Presiding Officer-Scotland, Hon Sarah Boyack MSP, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero-Scotland, Hon Martin Whitfield MSP, Member of Scottish Parliament, Hon Ruth Maguire MSP, Member of Scottish Parliament, Neil Stewart, Senior Clerk in the Chamber Office, Scotland, Hon Senator Alincia T H Williams Grant, President of the Senate-Antigua & Barbados, Stephen Twigg, CPA Secretary General, Marshall Tisdale Programmes Administrator, Matthew Salik Head of Programmes & Lydia Buchanan, Dep Head of Programmes-Bilateral Engagement.

Day One – 16 October – Study Day and Acclimatisation

I arrived late afternoon on the 16th October due to a week delay in the flight travelling from St Helena to Joburg, hence I only had time to register and join the group for the Welcome Reception, which gave us all a chance to mingle and introduce ourselves.

Day Two – 17 October – Setting the Scene

Personal Goal Settings: This session gave us an opportunity to set our personal goals, I focused on building my confidence in Public Speaking and in the Legislative Process and Effective Scrutiny

Mentoring Sessions – Gave us an opportunity to breakout in small groups to discuss the current key areas around a number of topics, one of the key areas was the Cost of Living Situation in which all shared similar concerns no matter the size or resources of each country. We learnt about each other's domestic approaches and heard from experts on techniques and tips to help within our own personal development.

Parliamentarians & Parliament & Characteristics of a Good Parliamentarian

This session highlights the relationship between parliamentarians and the institution of Parliament and it clearly highlights the need for Parliamentarians to be adequately supported to enable them to

carry out their duties to the best of their ability, I believe St Helena is one of the only parliaments that does not have the support/resources available to enable an effective Parliament and Parliamentarians.

We closed the session with a tour of the Scottish Parliament.

Day Three – 18 October - Legislative Process

I thoroughly enjoyed this session where we had an opportunity to take part and observe in a mock parliamentary debate, the question prepared for debate is: *“That the Alcohol (minimum pricing) (Scotland) Bill 2023 be now read a second time.”*

For homework the night before, we had to study the relevant standing orders of Scotland and the Bill.

I was on the team that opposed the bill, therefore we all had to take our turn to speak to the bill, this was an enlightening experience for me hearing from everyone for and against the bill and it made me realized that we are all speaking the same tongue here, we are all identifying similar issues in our countries and we are faced with these issues worldwide.

We were observed by the following:

- a) Delivery of the speech (body Language, speech, confidence, eye contact, volume, timing, passive and active.
- b) Content of the Speech (structure, key points, themes, emotive, power of threes, catchphrases, visual, evidence, etc.)
- c) Impact (persuasive, passion, argument etc.)

Day 4 – 19 October – Outreach & Representation

Day 4 gave us the opportunity to examine the representative function of a Parliamentarian and how it highlights the importance of building effective relationships with our constituents, fellow parliamentarians, public sector and the media, to gain the support we need to achieve real and sustainable change.

We completed the day with a field trip to the Sorted Projects they are an Edinburgh-based rehabilitation centre that provides a safe and peaceful space for people managing recovery from substance abuse and mental health issues, they operate out of a Canal Boat called Panacea on the Union Canal. It was a wonderful experience getting first-hand information on substance abuse and their views on the Alcohol Minimum Pricing Bill.

From our field trip we had a wonderful tour of the Palace of Holyroodhouse, where the King lives when he visits Scotland.

Day 5 – 20 October, Scrutiny Accountability & Oversight

This was one I was looking forward to, as a member of Select Committee 1 here on St Helena we have just completed our very first Scrutiny and I was extremely keen to learn more on scrutiny to help me within my role here on St Helena.

For the Committee Exercise, we broke out into two groups to conduct a committee hearing with witnesses on the Minimum Alcohol Pricing Bill, we all got to question real life experts from the original passing of the bill. Once again everyone’s questions were not out of the ordinary reflecting once again no matter how big or small or how wealthy or poor a country we all face the same issues.

It was pleasing to see that we were regarded by the witnesses as the best group in their eyes as we delivered a calmer, professional approach and our questioning were of great relevance.

We ended the course with our closing observations of the course, myself, I found it extremely beneficial for the development of my role going forward. We were all awarded the certificates at the end.

I would like to take this opportunity for thanking the CPA Parliamentary Academy for giving me the opportunity to attend this Course and for St Helena in providing these opportunities to allow us to develop our roles as parliamentarians.

I departed Scotland Saturday 21st October to London.

I would like to also like to thank Kedell Worboys for arranging my visit to experience a Prime Ministers Question Time at first hand as a guest of the Hon. Speaker Sir Lyndsay Hoyle, which was a brilliant experience, but I have to say it seems much more chaotic than watching on TV, also thank you Kedell for arranging a meet and greet with Helen Hayward of the Commonwealth Women's Parliamentary Group.

Once again Mr. Speaker and my Colleagues thank you for giving me this opportunity.