

Attendance of the CPA Parliamentary Academy: Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Programme for MPs

Date: 22 to 28 September 2024

Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Introduction

From September 22 to 28, 2024, I had the privilege of attending the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Parliamentary Academy's Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Programme for MPs. Hosted in Malaysia, this program brought together parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth to enhance their parliamentary skills and deepen their understanding of governance, legislative processes, and effective representation.

The Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Programme is only open to Members of Parliament who have completed at least the Induction for New Parliamentarians online course. Priority places are given to those who have completed the CPA Parliamentary Professional Development Certificate.

Before attending the course, I committed to completing the 5 CPA online courses (49 study modules) required to obtain a CPA Parliamentary Professional Development Certificate. I am happy to say that I managed to get my certificate before attending the programme. The five courses are:

- 1. Introduction for New Parliamentarians**
- 2. Legislative Process**
- 3. Representation, Advocacy and Education**
- 4. Scrutiny, Accountability and Oversight**
- 5. Advanced Course – Speaker and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth**

The Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Course is a five-day programme designed to enable Members to be better-performing legislators, representatives and scrutineers.

The Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Programme is based on a mentoring and coaching approach. Participants identify practical solutions to their challenges and hone their skills at a higher level through simulations, role-play, one-to-one discussions, group activities, and exercises.

From the start of the programme, it is highlighted that the programme is based on an intensive schedule, and participants must commit to the entire programme and engage in all agenda items. Therefore, proposed registrants must be fully aware of the agenda and timetable.

The Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Programme is only open to Members of Parliament who have completed at least the Induction for New Parliamentarians online course. Priority places are given to those who have completed the CPA Parliamentary Professional Development Certificate.

This course is intended to complement the online courses within the CPA Parliamentary Academy.

ADVANCED PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENT RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
22-28 SEPTEMBER 2024

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the CPA Headquarters Secretariat will be continuing its third round of CPA Parliamentary Academy residency programmes in 2024. We are delighted to be working with the Parliament of Malaysia in the delivery of the **Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Programme to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia between 22-28 September 2024** (inclusive of arrival and departure dates).

I therefore take this opportunity to invite CPA Branches to nominate up to **two Members of Parliament** to attend this programme.

As you may know, the [CPA Parliamentary Academy](#) was established in 2021, and comprises online courses, and externally delivered training for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from across the Commonwealth. The residency courses are intended to complement the online courses, providing face-to-face interactive learning and knowledge-sharing at a more advanced level.

Please kindly follow the application procedure as outlined in the invitation and submit your Branch's nomination by **FRIDAY 2 AUGUST 2024**.

The Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Course is a five-day programme designed to enable Members to be better performing legislators, representatives and scrutineers. Based on a mentoring and coaching approach, participants will identify practical solutions to the challenges they face and hone their skills at a higher level through simulations, role-play, one-to-one discussions, group activities and exercises.

It is important to highlight that the programme will be an intensive schedule and participants must be prepared to commit to the full programme and engage in all agenda items. It is therefore essential that proposed registrants are fully aware of the agenda and timetable.

The Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Programme is only open to Members of Parliament who have completed at least the Induction for New Parliamentarians online course, with priority places given to those who have completed the CPA Parliamentary Professional Development Certificate.

Since 2022, over 100 parliamentarians from over 25 national and subnational jurisdictions participated in the residency programmes. All participants demonstrated an increased understanding of programme topics and a number of participants have since been promoted to ministerial positions demonstrating the efficacy of our programme format. We very much hope to continue our record of success with the 2024 cohort.

Please contact Matthew Salik, Head of Programmes (academy@cpahq.org) should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Twigg
Secretary-General, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The CPA is an accredited member of the Continuing Professional Development Certification Service since 2021, and its online CPA Parliamentary Academy courses are fully accredited.



**Page one of the Official Invitation is a letter introducing the programme from
Stephen Twigg**

There were 29 Participants from across the Commonwealth, the participants were mentored throughout the programme by current and alums Parliamentarians and Clerks from across the Commonwealth, including:

Hon. Gervais Henrie, MP, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Seychelles.

Hon. Kate Doust, MLC from Western Australia.

Hon. Carmelo Abela, MP from Malta.

Kasthuri Patto is a former member of parliament in Malaysia.

Programme Overview

The program's five-day schedule was structured around key themes essential to parliamentary work:

1. **Study and Acclimatization (Day 1):** An opportunity to review course materials, followed by an orientation tour of the Malaysian Parliament.
2. **Setting the Scene (Day 2):** Sessions focused on goal setting, the role of parliamentarians, and the characteristics of effective legislators.
3. **Legislative Process (Day 3):** Detailed insights into legislative scrutiny, debating, and teamwork.
4. **Outreach and Representation (Day 4):** Exploration of parliamentarians' roles in community engagement, media strategies, and ethics.
5. **Scrutiny, Accountability, and Oversight (Day 5):** Focus on committee work, questioning techniques, and oversight mechanisms.

Please see Annex 1 for a diagram of the daily schedule.

Key Highlights

Day 1: Study and Orientation

The program commenced with an in-depth study session, allowing participants to familiarise themselves with the resource materials. This was followed by a guided tour of the Malaysian Parliament, which provided insights into its structure and security protocols. The day concluded with a formal welcome reception hosted by the Malaysian Parliament.

Day 2: Setting the Scene

The sessions emphasised the importance of personal goal-setting and self-reflection. A key highlight was the interactive discussion on the characteristics of effective parliamentarians, where participants shared experiences and strategies for overcoming challenges in their respective legislative contexts. The World Café mentoring session facilitated small-group discussions on diverse topics, promoting peer learning.

Day 3: Legislative Process

The focus on legislative scrutiny was invaluable. A masterclass on speech and presentation skills helped refine my public speaking techniques, while the Chamber Debate exercise provided practical experience in analysing and debating a legislative bill. This hands-on activity honed my teamwork and negotiation skills.

Day 4: Outreach and Representation

This day explored the representative role of parliamentarians and the importance of engaging with constituents through traditional and digital media. Developing a communications strategy to address a key issue was a particularly engaging session. The discussions on ethics and integrity reinforced the importance of maintaining high moral standards in parliamentary work.

Day 5: Scrutiny and Accountability

The final day focused on committee work, an area critical to parliamentary oversight. The Questioning Masterclass provided practical guidance on drafting and asking effective questions, while the Committee Exercise simulated real-world scenarios, enabling participants to practice scrutiny and develop actionable recommendations.

Reflections and Learnings

Attending the residency program was an enriching experience that broadened my understanding of parliamentary practices and enhanced my professional skills. Key takeaways include:

1. **Importance of Goal Setting:** Establishing clear objectives is vital for personal growth and legislative effectiveness.
2. **Legislative Scrutiny:** Effective bill scrutiny requires critical analysis, teamwork, and a deep understanding of legislative processes.
3. **Engagement with Constituents:** Leveraging traditional and digital media is essential for effective communication and advocacy.
4. **Ethical Leadership:** Upholding integrity and ethics is fundamental to maintaining public trust and achieving sustainable change.
5. **Committee Work:** Collaborative committee approaches can lead to impactful recommendations and improved accountability.

Conclusion

The CPA Parliamentary Academy's Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Programme was a transformative experience that has significantly enhanced my capabilities as a parliamentarian. I am committed to applying the skills and knowledge gained to serve my constituents more effectively and to contribute meaningfully to the legislative processes in Saint Helena. Thank the CPA for organising this exceptional program and the Parliament of Malaysia for their generous hospitality.

Annex 1

3. PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Day 0 - Sunday 22 September 2024	Day 1 - Monday 23 September 2024	Day 2 - Tuesday 24 September 2024	Day 3 - Wednesday 25 September 2024	Day 4 - Thursday 26 September 2024	Day 5 - Friday 27 September 2024	Day 6 - Saturday 28 September 2024
Official Arrival Day	Study Day and Acclimatisation	Housekeeping & Intros	The Legislative Process	Outreach, Education & Advocacy	Scrutiny and Oversight in the Chamber and Committees	Official Departure Day
		Inspirational Presentation				
		Personal Goal Setting				
		Mentoring Session	The Legislative Process cont.	Media and Social Media	Questioning Masterclass	
		Characteristics of a Good Parliamentarian	Chamber Debate	Field Visit	Committee Exercise	
		Parliamentarians and Parliament			Feedback and Closing	
	Welcome Reception					

Photos





