

To All Media Houses

27 September 2024

Bloemfontein: The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) annual conference is a significant conference where parliamentarians from across Commonwealth nations gather to discuss a range of global parliamentary and political issues. This platform is crucial in exchanging ideas, shaping policy, and strengthening parliamentary practices across member countries.

South Africa as a sub-region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association provides consolidated Secretariat Services to its entire delegation. This approach is determined through an alphabetical rotational basis, through which 2024 calendar year sees the Free State Legislature providing such services to the delegation. Crucial to state that provision of the services is limited to two calendar events, being the Africa Region AGM and the CPC AGM.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretariat (CPA) Africa Region Tanzania Branch will host the Plenary Session of the 53rd Annual General Conference in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from the 29th September to the 7th October 2024.

Under the theme: Engage, Empower and Sustain

The Sub-regional delegation, Free State Branch will be led by the Hon. Nolitha Ndungane, the Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Legislature. Our high-level delegation will also include the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Rural, Economic Development, Small Business, Sports, Arts, and Culture, Hon. Zama Sigwebela and the Deputy Chief Whip of the Free State Legislature, Hon. Nthabiseng Garekoe.

The Conference will discuss several key topics streamlined into Workshop format. The topics were structured in such a way where there will be a mover and seconder to motions presented by countries or branches, so as to enable the smooth running of proceedings.

The CPA Africa Region 53rd Conference will be held at the Gran Melia Hotel which will provide the Conference plenary and workshops. The venue boasts a spectacular view over the Mount Meru which holds great memories of the imposition of German rule on Mount Meru that fundamentally challenged the Meru and Arusha peoples' social, political, and economic practices and beliefs. The Meru actively participated in the liberation movement and were among the closest comrades of Julius Nyerere. It is widely acknowledged that Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere is recognised as a torch-bearer for the South African Liberation, having provided political, material and moral support until the achievement of our independence.

The South African Commonwealth Parliamentary Delegation is led by the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Hon. Refilwe Mtshweni and comprise of Members and Officials across the South African Legislative Sector (Parliament, NCOP and Provincial Legislatures).

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