

The 50th Commonwealth Parliamentarians Association (CPA) African Region conference took place in Stonetown, Zanzibar, Tanzania from 1 to 5 September 2019. This regional conference includes the main conference relating to all CPA Africa matters, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Africa Region conference, as well as the conference for the Society of the clerks at the Table (SoCATT).

As the name indicates, the CWP relates to matters affecting women parliamentarians and women in general in the Africa region. SOCATT is the administrative body within the CPA and deals with matters affecting parliamentary administrations in the region.

The WCPP was represented at the main conference and the CWP by the Hon Speaker, Masizole Mngqasela and the Hon Deputy Speaker, Beverley Schäfer. Mr Royston Hindley, the Deputy Secretary, represented the WCPP at SOCATT.

During the deliberations of the conference, several matters of key importance to the Western Cape were discussed:

- Governance of CPA Africa matters received attention as it was felt that the appropriate governance measures were not being applied putting CPA Africa and all its member countries at risk;
- Xenophobic attacks against fellow Africans was expectedly prominent in the discussions of the conference;
- Empowering of women in public participation thus ensuring matters affecting women are on the agenda and considered in the law_ and policy making processes; and
- Enhanced use of technology in the parliamentary sector.

Once of the key accomplishments of the CWP conference was to commence the righting of the CWP African Region structures with the election of Hon Z Gimba from Tanzania and Hon J Bintu from Uganda as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively.