

Society of Clerks-at-the-Table in Commonwealth Parliaments

DRAFT AGENDA 42nd GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2005

***Wednesday 7 September 2005
9am and 2pm***

1. Election of Chairman
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Parliamentary developments in Fiji *presented by Mrs Mary Chapman, Secretary-General to Parliament*
5. Topical issues in member Parliaments
It is hoped that a Clerk from each House will make a short presentation (maximum 3 minutes) on recent changes and procedures.
6. Recent problems
Discussion of problems which have occurred over the past year and exchange of experience on how colleagues have dealt with similar problems.

***Thursday 8 September 2005
9am and 2pm***

- 6 (cont). Conclusion of consideration of recent problems
7. Debate on specific topics:
 - (i) The effect of a minority government on the Canadian House of Commons' practices and procedures. *To be presented by Eric Janse, Principal Clerk and Director General (International and Interparliamentary Affairs) of the House of Commons, Canada*
 - (ii) The manner in which the live coverage of parliamentary proceedings by the electronic media has, on the one hand, influenced the performance of Members on the floor of the House and, on the other, impacted public perceptions about the role and image of the Parliament as also of the parliamentarians. *To be presented by Dr Yogendra Narain, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha*
 - (iii) Process and oversight of a financial budget in South Africa. *To be presented by Mr Linda Mwale, Secretary to the Legislature, Mpumalanga, South Africa*
 - (iv) Value of public participation in legislative and other processes. *To be presented by Russell Grove, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, New South Wales*

- (v) The upkeep of parliamentary buildings. *To be presented by Peter Bennison, Deputy Clerk of the House of Assembly, Tasmania*
 - (vi) Better time management in the Legislatures: Role of the Presiding Officers. *To be presented by Mrs Shirley Lewis, Clerk to the Houses of Parliament, Jamaica*
8. Debate on the future structure, aims and strategy of the Society and on 'e-clerks' and a website. *To be introduced by Dr David McNeil, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Alberta, Canada, and Mr Eric Janse, Principal Clerk and Director General (International and Interparliamentary Affairs) of the House of Commons, Canada*

Friday 9 September 2005
2pm

8. (cont.) Conclusion of the debate on the future structure, aims and strategy of the Society
9. Presentation by Mr Rick Stapenhurst from the World Bank Institute on its professional development programme. The CPA's Director of Programmes, Mr Niall Johnston, will also be present
10. Report and Accounts of the Society for 2004
11. Role and Status of Clerks (Questionnaire)
12. Proposals for the Agenda for the 43rd General Meeting
13. Any Other Business