

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

[www.societyofclerks.org](http://www.societyofclerks.org)

**45th GENERAL MEETING, AUGUST 2008  
(Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)**

**AGENDA 11 – for discussion: comments please to Liam Laurence Smyth  
[laurencesmythlc@parliament.uk](mailto:laurencesmythlc@parliament.uk)**

## **DAY ONE: Thursday 7 August Morning**

- 1. Election of Chairman**
- 2. Self-introductions**
- 3. Apologies for Absence**
- 4. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 5. Parliamentary developments (and topical issues) in Malaysia** *presented by Mrs Roosme bt Hamzah, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Malaysia*
- 6. Family Group Photograph**  
[At the end of the morning session, a group photograph to be taken.]
- 7. Topical issues from the regions**

A Clerk from each region (nominated by the region) will make a short presentation (maximum 10 minutes) on recent changes and procedures in their region since September 2007—

Deaths, resignations and appointments of Society members  
General elections and new Speakers or Presiding Officers  
Major constitutional changes  
Significant cases touching on parliamentary privilege  
Important procedural innovations  
Interesting developments in parliamentary corporate governance

Africa: *Doris Mwinga (Zambia) - tbc*

Asia: - *tbc*

Australia: *Ian Harris (House of Representatives, Australia) - tbc*

British Isles and Mediterranean: *Ken Hughes (Scotland)*

Canada: *Craig James (British Columbia)*

Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic: *Conrad Lewis (Belize) - tbc*

India: *P D T Achary, Lok Sabha, India*

Pacific: *Charlene Malele (Samoa) - tbc*

South East Asia: *Bernard Dalinting (Sabah)*

- 8. Surgery on recent problems**

Advice from colleagues on how other legislatures have handled recent or current problems which have occurred since September 2007:

Members of the Society are asked to e-mail [laurencesmythlc@parliament.uk](mailto:laurencesmythlc@parliament.uk) indicating subject for discussion (max 100 words)

Subjects to date:

“Suspension of Question Hour” – To be presented by V. K. Agnihotri, Secretary General of Rajya Sabha, India

## **DAY ONE: Thursday 7 August Afternoon**

### **Tour of Parliament**

## **DAY TWO: Friday 8 August (Morning)**

### **9. Debate on specific topics in Workshops:**

#### Workshop A: parliamentary privilege, procedure and practice

Three or four papers to be presented orally (max 30 minutes each) followed by group discussion:

“The Speaker’s Participation in Debate: Recent changes in New South Wales” – To be presented by Russell Grove, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, New South Wales

“Parliamentary privilege” – To be presented by Brendan Keith, Clerk of the Judicial Office, House of Lords

“Parliamentary Privilege, Procedure and Practice” – To be presented by P D T Achary, Lok Sabha, India

#### Workshop B: parliamentary administration and management

Two papers to be presented orally (max 30 minutes each) followed by group discussion: for example, control of parliament’s own budget and spending

“Relations with the public” - To be presented by Robert Wilson, Principal Clerk of Select Committees, House of Commons, UK

“Report on Preliminary Findings of a Questionnaire on Parliamentary Governance” - To be presented by Paul Bélisle, Clerk of the Senate, Canada

“Provision of Computer Equipment to Members of Rajya Sabha – A Study in Systems Improvement” - To be presented by V. K Agnihotri, Secretary General of Rajya Sabha, India

## **DAY TWO: Friday 8 August (Afternoon)**

**Continue debate in workshops (if required)**

**Resume full Meeting**

## **DAY THREE: Saturday 9 August (Afternoon)**

- 10. Briefing from CPA Headquarters**  
*Briefing for Society of Clerks-at-the-Table in Commonwealth Parliaments from Dr William F. Shija, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, or his representative.*
- 11. Staff Professional Development**  
World Bank Institute Professional Development Program for Parliamentary Staff: *Update from World Bank Institute*  
  
“Professional development of procedural staff at the House of Commons of Canada” – To be presented by Eric Janse, Clerk Assistant, House of Commons, Canada.
- 12. “The Table”**  
Feedback from readers and authors.
- 13. Website update**  
Report and feedback on [www.societyofclerks.org](http://www.societyofclerks.org)
- 14. Report and Accounts of the Society for 2007**
- 15. Proposals for the Agenda for the 46th General Meeting**  
Arusha, Tanzania 2009.
- 16. Any Other Business**