

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

REVISED DRAFT AGENDA (24 July 2006)

Comments welcome from all Members, to Liam Laurence Smyth, Clerk of the Overseas Office, House of Commons, United Kingdom laurencesmythlc@parliament.uk preferably by 1 September 2006

**43RD GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2006
(Nigeria)**

Thursday 7 September 2006 Transcorp Hilton Abuja
9am and 2pm

- 1. Election of Chairman**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 4. Parliamentary developments in Nigeria** *presented by Mal. Umaru Sani, Clerk, Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria*
- 5. Topical issues from the regions**

As was suggested in the draft Agenda circulated in March 2006 and posted on the website, it is suggested that a Clerk from each region (for example, the Clerk on the Advisory Committee) will make a short presentation (maximum 10 minutes) on highlights of recent changes and procedures in their region over the past year.

Africa: Mr Alpheus Matlhaku, Clerk of the National Assembly, Botswana (tbc)

Asia: to be confirmed

India: Dr Yogendra Narain, Secretary General of the Rajya Sabha

Australia: to be confirmed

British Isles and Mediterranean: Ann Nelson, Director of Legal Services, Scottish Parliament (to be confirmed)

Canada: Ms Audrey O'Brien, Clerk of the House of Commons, Canada (tbc)

Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic: Mr Conrad Lewis, National Assembly of Belize (to be confirmed)

Pacific: to be confirmed

South-East Asia: to be confirmed

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 – colleagues are asked to e-mail laurencesmythc@parliament.uk before 1 September 2006, in order to allow the Chair to group problems for discussion.

Friday 8 September 2006

Abuja International Conference Centre

10 am and 2.30 pm

7. Debate on specific topics:

- (i) Office of Profit as a ground for disqualification for membership of Parliament. To be presented by Shri P D T Achary, Regional Secretary, India Region and the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha
- (ii) Disqualification of a Member of Rajya Sabha under article 103 of the Constitution of India. *To be presented by Dr Yogendra Narain, Clerk of the Rajya Sabha, India*
- (iii) The independence of Parliament from the Executive. *To be presented by Paul Bélisle, Clerk of the Senate of Canada*
- (iv) "A convenient and necessary elasticity of practice" – Parliamentary practice and parliamentary ritual. *To be presented by Dr Malcolm Jack, Clerk of Legislation, House of Commons, United Kingdom*
- (v) External Commissions on alleged corruption in Parliament: risks and benefits (title tbc). *To be presented by Peter McHugh, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Western Australia*

8. Review of the operation of the Society website. *To be introduced by Mr Eric Janse, Clerk Assistant and Director General, International and Interparliamentary Affairs Directorate, Parliament of Canada.*

Saturday 9 September 2006

Abuja International Conference Centre

2pm

9. Staff professional development –

Guest speaker: *Rick Stapenhurst (World Bank)* on newly published resources

Continuing professional development of parliamentary officers - the Australian experience *To be presented by Robyn McClelland, Clerk Assistant (Table), House of Representatives, Australia*

10. Briefing from CPA Headquarters *by Niall Johnston, Director of Programmes*
11. Report and Accounts of the Society for 2005
12. Proposals for the Agenda for the 44th General Meeting
13. Any Other Business

24 July 2006