

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

www.societyofclerks.org

46th GENERAL MEETING, 2 to 6 October 2009
(Arusha, Tanzania)

DRAFT AGENDA

Arrival

Saturday 3 October

Pre-Conference Tour

Sunday 4 October

Morning:

11 am

- 1. Election of Chairman**
- 2. Self-introductions**
- 3. Apologies for Absence**
- 4. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 5. Parliamentary developments (and topical issues) in Tanzania** *presented by Dr Thomas Kashililah, Clerk, National Assembly, Tanzania*
- 6. 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 in their region since August 2008—
 - 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

Regional Members of SOCATT Advisory Committee:

Africa: - *tbc*

Asia: -*tbc*

Australia: *Russell Grove (New South Wales)*

British Isles and Mediterranean: *Paul Grice (Scotland)*

Canada: *David McNeil (Alberta)*

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

India: *P D T Achary (Lok Sabha, India)*
Pacific: - *tbc*
South East Asia: *Bernard Dalinting (Sabah)*

7. Open advice session on recent problems: Requests for advice from colleagues on how to handle recent or current problems which have arisen since August 2008: Society Members are asked to e-mail huttonbm@parliament.uk indicating subject for discussion (max 100 words) by end of June 2009.

- V K Aghnihotri, Rajya Sahba, India, proposes to raise Time Management during Short Duration Discussion

8. Family Group Photograph

[At the end of the morning session, a group photograph to be taken.]

Buffet lunch at the Corridor Springs Hotel

2.30 pm

9. Workshop A: parliamentary privilege, procedure and practice:

- V K Aghnihotri, Rajya Sahba, India: Government legislation: From listing to Presidential assent*
- Michael De La Haye, States General, Jersey: Application of privilege to Members' papers
- Malcolm Jack, House of Commons, UK: Recent privilege developments at Westminster*

5 pm Close

Monday 5 October

9 am

10. Attend CPA General Assembly with delegates

2 pm (at the AICC)

11. Workshop B: parliamentary administration and management:

- Ian Harris, House of Representatives, Australia: The Role of the Clerk of the House
- Members' expenses: Papers from:
 1. Paul Grice, Scottish Parliament
 2. Russell Grove, Legislative Assembly, New South Wales, Australia
 3. David McNeil, Legislative Assembly, Alberta, Canada

At about 4 pm

12. Briefing from CPA Headquarters.

13. Staff Professional Development:

- World Bank Institute update: Mitchell O'Brien, Parliamentary Strengthening Program
 - P D T Achary, Lok Sabha, India: Capacity building and human resource management
 - Discussion of uses of CPA Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures: can they be used as a framework for capacity building and staff development? Is there scope for a similar exercise to devise a model parliamentary staffing structure?
- 14. "The Table":** Feedback from readers and authors.
- Making Parliamentary History available: intervention by Peter McHugh, Legislative Assembly, Western Australia
- 15. Website update:** Report and feedback on www.societyofclerks.org
- 16. Report and Accounts of the Society for 2008:** Changes to Rules
- 17. Proposals for the Agenda for the 47th General Meeting (Nairobi)**
- 18. Any Other Business**

Tuesday 6 October

Departure