



---

# Press Release

---

PR 172451

02.11.2017

## **PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

### *Speaker Anġlu Farrugia opens the 36<sup>th</sup> Small Branches Conference of the CPA in Dhaka, Bangladesh*

Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chairperson of the Small Branches of the CPA Anġlu Farrugia officially opened the 36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Small Branches, which is being organised as part of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference being held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, between 1 and 8 November 2017.

The Small Branches' Chairperson spoke to around 50 delegates hailing from 43 Parliamentary Associations (CPA). Speaker Farrugia explained that for the first time in its 106-year history, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) will seek to meet the unique developmental needs of its smallest legislatures through a newly devised 'CPA Small Branches Strategy'. Of the over 180 branches of the CPA, 43 branches are classified as 'small branches' which are defined as jurisdictions having a population below 500,000 people.

The smallest of the CPA's legislatures seek to meet the same expectations of service delivery as larger legislatures. In doing so, they recognise the importance of constant innovation in the face of fiscal and human resource constraints; they recognise the central role of parliament in meeting the challenges of combatting corruption; and the threats in the face of climate change to some of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable.

The new strategy will focus on key thematic areas and development activities with measurable outcomes; this will build parliamentary capacity for CPA Small Branches and create greater opportunities for the sharing of knowledge, parliamentary strengthening, and cooperation across the network.

The new CPA Small Branches Strategic Plan will be launched at the 36<sup>th</sup> CPA Small Branches Conference due to take place on 2 and 3 November 2017, ahead of the wider 63<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC).

The opening ceremony was also addressed by Mr Akbar Khan, CPA Secretary General, and by Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, President of the CPA, CPA Executive Committee Chairperson, and Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament.

Following the strategy meeting discussion, the conference will discuss a number of topics. These include 'Critical Mass: Small Jurisdictions and big problems – Logistics and Infrastructure challenges to meet small jurisdiction expectations to achieve the same service levels as larger ones';

**Attachments: none**

**Page: 1 of 2**

‘Parliamentary innovations in small jurisdictions in the face of financial and human resource challenges’; ‘the role of parliament in combating corruption’; and ‘the role of parliament on meeting the challenges of protecting territorial waters’.

The Maltese delegation at this conference, which is led by Speaker Farrugia, includes MPs Byron Camilleri, Alex Muscat and Ryan Callus. Byron Camilleri will participate as one of the discussion leaders of the first plenary session of the Small Branches Conference.