



Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

General Assembly of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association brings the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference to a close

The 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference has come to a close, following the annual General Assembly. This year marks the end of the term of President and Executive Committee Chairperson of the organisation Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and the Assembly has voted for a new President and Chairperson of the Executive Committee. The elected candidate was Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP from Cameroon.

The other two candidates for this position were Shirley M. Osborne, MLA, Speaker of the Parliament of Montserrat and Niki Rattle, Speaker of the Cook Islands. The voting was opened during the General Assembly and delegates voted in a two-hour slot. The nomination of the Speaker from the Cook Islands was put forward by the Speaker of the Parliament of Malta Anġlu Farrugia and seconded by David Carter, Speaker of New Zealand.

The General Assembly included a resumé of the activities which took place over the last year, as well as reports resulting from this year's conference. Speaker Anġlu Farrugia, in his capacity as Small Branches Chairperson, briefed the Assembly with the work done by Small Branches. He gave an overview of the progress made following the Small Branches Strategy meeting held in Valletta between 19 and 20 October 2017, which was presented to the Small Branches Conference held between 2-3 November in Bangladesh. He stated that the Strategic Plan was now before the Executive Committee and is expected to be approved in the forthcoming mid-year Committee meeting.

The General Assembly was also presented with a statement which called for urgent action from the international community to resolve the ongoing humanitarian crisis facing the Rohingyas community, as proposed by the Maltese branch and seconded by the majority of delegates during the opening session of the conference. The statement was accepted and adopted unanimously.

The delegation of the Maltese Parliament, which was led by Speaker Farrugia, included Members of Parliament Byron Camilleri, Alex Muscat and Ryan Callus.

Attachments: photo

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