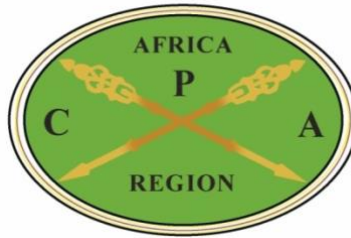


CPA AFRICA REGION



**REMARKS BY HON. JUSTIN B.N MUTURI, E.G.H, MP, CHAIRPERSON OF
CPA AFRICA REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SPEAKER OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, DURING THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 50TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION (CPA)**

**AFRICA REGION CONFERENCE ON 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2019.
AT MADINAT AL BAHR, ZANZIBAR**

MAIN THEME

***E-PARLIAMENT: 'SEAMLESS PLATFORM FOR FACILITATING
DEMOCRACY'***

**CPA SECRETARIAT
SEPTEMBER, 2019**

**Your Excellency Hon. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein
President of Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar;**

**Rt. Hon. Job Yustino Ndugai, MP,
Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of United Republic
of Tanzania and Chairperson of the Commonwealth Speakers and
Presiding Officers Conference of Africa Region;**

**Rt. Hon. Zubeir Ali Maulid, MP,
Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives and Host Speaker;**

**Rt. Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga, MP,
President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and
Speaker of the parliament of Uganda;**

**Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, MP,
Chairperson of the CPA International Executive Committee and
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon;**

**Rt. Hon. Shandana Gulzar Khan,
Representing Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan;**

Hon. Speakers/Presidents of CPA Member Parliaments;

Distinguished Delegates and observers present;

Members of the SoCATT;

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to be with you here today, and I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to you all.

On behalf of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Africa Region and on my own behalf, I express sincere gratitude to you, Your Excellency for making time out of your many commitments to come and officiate this important conference.

I wish to note that the hospitality of the people of Zanzibar is a model of admiration which we all appreciate.

Let me also thank all the guests from other regions for dedicating their time to be with us here today. I say ***Karibuni sana***.

Your Excellency and Distinguished Guests

Our aim has always been to ensure that the enduring values of the Commonwealth are maintained by having Conferences like this one where we share experiences, ideas and good practices on the cross cutting issues that affect the people that we represent.

To realize the objective, mission and vision as stipulated in our Constitution, we have continued to build capacity of our members so that they can enhance their work and become pro-active parliamentarians at the fore-front of innovation.

Therefore, it is for this reason that we aptly themed our conference **“E-PARLIAMENT - SEAMLESS PLATFORM FOR FACILITATING DEMOCRACY”**.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests

We must acknowledge that there has been tremendous advancement in digital technology with formal conversations now taking place in the social media space, and governments embracing e-technology in the delivery of services thus embracing paperless forms of operations. As parliaments, we can only ignore these developments at our own peril.

While voicing the needs and aspirations of the people that we represent, we must adopt to this mode of communication and delivery of services even as we facilitate democracy and promotion of good governance.

It is therefore my hope that this conference will provide a platform for us to share ideas and deliberate on how our various legislatures can

adopt best practices particularly on the issue of information sharing and dissemination through the latest forms of technology.

Your Excellency

Since I took office in August last year, we have continued with the good work of our predecessors and initiated a number of progressive reforms. These include and are not limited to the following: -

1. Amendment of the Regional Constitution

We realized that the existing electoral system was against the spirit of the Region and had the potential of creating divisions.

We therefore proposed that the Constitution be amended by introducing a roster where leadership of the region and sub-regions will be rotational.

2. Commonwealth Investment Company Limited

Some of you may be aware of the parable of the talents in the Bible where three servants were each given a talent; while others doubled their talent one of them buried his.

Your Excellency, we do not want to be like the third servant who buried his talent.

We have come up with an investment plan; **to build a five-star hotel in Dodoma.**

We are grateful to the Government of Tanzania for facilitating our acquisition of the piece of land upon which we hope to develop the hotel, and particularly thank my brother **Rt. Hon. Job Ndugai, MP and Speaker of the parliament of Tanzania** who took it upon himself to ensure that the land acquisition process was seamless and successful.

Your Excellency, we hope to get your approval to proceed in this endeavor.

Your Excellency and Distinguished Guests

Allow me to applaud our Regional Secretary, **Mr. Stephen Kagaigai** for his concerted efforts and vision to steer the Association to the next

level; particularly on the cost cutting measures he has instituted and Project Planning skills exhibited thus far.

Our commitment as the leadership is to make sure that CPA Africa Region continues to be at the forefront, to achieve great milestones and in the next generations, the evidence of what we achieved will be clear for all to celebrate.

Distinguished Guests

Engaging the Youth has been one of this organization's agenda. The youth are tired of hearing empty rhetoric; they think we do not listen to their grievances. Through Youth Parliament they have been able to air their views on a number of issues.

We hold the Youth Parliamentary forum each year where young people from different parts of Africa meet and exchange ideas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, MP and** Speaker of Parliament of Uganda for hosting the 4th CPA Africa Region Youth Parliament last year. We plan to have another Youth Parliament later this year.

The success of this Conference and indeed the achievement of objectives and strategic plan of CPA Africa Region could not have been achieved without the great support from the Parliament of Tanzania; indeed, Tanzania always volunteered to host various committee meetings and other important regional engagements.

In Conclusion Your Excellency and Distinguished Guests

Allow me to thank **Rt. Hon. Zubeir Maulid**, Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives for hosting us and facilitating this Conference.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable stay in Zanzibar.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR PLEASURE TO WELCOME HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR, DR. ALI MOHAMED SHEIN TO GIVE HIS REMARKS AND OFFICIALLY OPEN THIS 50th CONFERENCE!