



## Monitoring elections in the Maldives



Former Mauritian President H.E. Cassam Uteem writes of his experience as leader of the election expert team in the islands during and after the tsunami.

JOURNAL OF  
THE PARLIAMENTS  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH  
VOL. LXXXVI  
2005/Issue Two  
ISSN 0031-2282

Issued by the Secretariat  
of the Commonwealth  
Parliamentary Association,  
Suite 700, Westminster  
House, 7 Millbank,  
London SW1P 3JA,  
United Kingdom  
Tel.: (+44-20) 7799-1460  
Fax: (+44-20) 7222-6073  
E-mail: [hq.sec@cpahq.org](mailto:hq.sec@cpahq.org)  
Website: [www.cpahq.org](http://www.cpahq.org)

Editor:  
ANDREW IMLACH  
Director of Information  
Services  
Assistant Editor:  
Nicolas Bouchet

Front cover:  
Sitting in the ruins of the  
Anambra Legislature.

## 131 Inside Issues

## 133 President's Welcome

### Main Articles

- 135 **The electoral process in the tsunami-affected Maldives archipelago**  
H.E. Cassam Uteem, *former President, Mauritius*

- 139 **How New Zealand meets regional challenges**  
Hon. Phil Goff, MP, *Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand*

- 143 **Defence scrutiny: An exclusive preserve of the executive?**  
Rt Hon. Bruce George, MP, *Chairman of the House of Commons Defence Committee, United Kingdom*

- 146 **Burning down and looting democracy in Anambra state**  
Hon. Michael Chike Balonwu, MLA, *Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Anambra*

- 149 **For a fresh start between Legislatures and the people**  
Lord Puttnam of Queensgate, *United Kingdom*



**Taking an interest in defence**  
A senior committee Chairman in the United Kingdom House of Commons explains how Parliament is increasingly shaping a greater scrutiny role for itself in a new area.

- 153 **British Columbia gives teachers a taste of parliamentary life**  
Hon. Claude Richmond, MLA, *Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, British Columbia*

- 156 **Kano state blends secular and religious law**  
Hon. Balarabe S. Gani, MLA, *Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Kano*

- 159 **International policy dialogues and parliamentary activism**  
Mr Steven Langdon, *Director of the Africa Programme, Parliamentary Centre, Canada*