



Journal of the Parliaments of the Commonwealth Vol. XCII 2011: Issue Two ISSN 0031-2282

Issued by the Secretariat of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Suite 700, Westminster House, 7 Millbank, London SMP3JA United Kingdom Tel: (+44-20) 7799-1460 Fax: (+44-20) 7222-6073 Email: hq.sec@cpahq.org www.cpahq.org

Publisher:

Dr William F. Shija

Secretary-General

Editor:

Andrew Imlach

Director of Communications and Research

Assistant Editor:

Lisa Leaño

#### Front cover

Women holding National Identity Cards to cast their votes at a polling station in Karachi, Pakistan Image: Shutterstock®

Printed in: England by Warners Midlands, PLC; New Delhi by Jainco Art India, and Singapore by Times Printers Private Limited

## COMMENT

#### Inside Issues

A Development Milestone - 100 years of parliamentary democracy

Page 92

View from the Chair Continuing the work of the CPA

Page 94

View from the CWP

Making a difference for women: Governments, unions and the plight of domestic workers

Page 96

View from the Secretary-General Minorities in Democracy

Page 98

## MAIN ARTICLES

Bangladesh's return to democratic governance

Hon. Md Abdul Hamid, MP

Page 102

The Commonwealth at the crossroads: The eminent persons group and the future

Hon. Michael Kirby, AC, CMG

Page 106

Parliament and the political system in Rwanda

H.E. Rose Mukantabana

Page 112

Women Parliamentarians get together to make a difference in Pakistan

Dr Nafisa Shah, MNA.

Page 116

The bluffers guide to auditing: The quick guide to being an armchair auditor

Mr Juan Watterson, MHK.

Page 118

Parliaments and conflict Page 122

Parliament, aid effectiveness and conflict prevention: Concluding statement Page 128

Strengthening trust between Parliaments and the people: The role of information and communication technologies (ICT) Dr V.K. Agnihotri

Page 132

Entrepreneurial spirit shadows Trinidad and Tobago government's new economic thinking

Mr Paras Ramoutar

Page 138





## **NEWS**

#### Introducing Sri Lanka's new parliamentary council

Mr Neil Iddawala

Page 142

# Public petitions: a case study of New South Wales

Dr Gareth Griffith Page 144

## Celebrating 125 Years of Québec's Legislative building

Mr James Macnutt, QC

Page 152

#### Right of Recall: a welcome step

Shri Satish Kumar Page 156

#### **Parliamentary** news:

Sri Lanka, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, India and New Zealand.

Page 159

## **PROFILE**

### Profile on United Kingdom:

Supplement included as an insert with this issue.

#### Annual subscription

(four issues)

UK:

£34 post free. Worldwide: £36 surface post

£42 airmail

#### Price per issue

UK: £12

Worldwide: £13 surface post

£14 airmail

Opinions and comments expressed in articles and reviews published in The Parliamentarian are those of the individual contributors and should not be attributed to the Secretariat of the Association.



Promoting sustainable forest management