

CPA Press Release

For immediate release, 6 February 2017

Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) visits CPA Isle of Man Branch at Tynwald and will bring CPA Roadshows to young people on the island

The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Mr Akbar Khan is visiting the Isle of Man Branch of the CPA and Tynwald, the Island's Parliament, for a two day visit.

During his visit to the Isle of Man, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will meet with the President of Tynwald, Hon. Stephen Rodan MLC and the Speaker of the House of Keys, Hon. Juan Watterson SHK, at the Legislative Buildings in Douglas before meeting with Members of the CPA Isle of Man Executive Committee and other Members of the Parliament. The Secretary-General will discuss the range of parliamentary strengthening programmes that the CPA offers, particularly for its small branches, and is developing to support the professional development of Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff.



The CPA is the only Commonwealth body that works to strengthen parliaments in its smaller branches, such as the Parliament of the Isle of Man, and the relationship between the Tynwald and the CPA is therefore key in providing a platform to develop good parliamentary practice to share with other similar legislatures across the Commonwealth.

The **Speaker of the House of Keys, the Hon Juan Watterson SHK** said: *"The Isle of Man Branch of the CPA is pleased to welcome the new Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan on his first visit to the Isle of Man. Tynwald's links with other parliaments through the CPA have never been more important than they are today. Education is a key theme of the CPA, whether for parliamentarians or linking communities. I am glad that Mr Khan, through his school roadshows, will help to convey this message to the Island's young people. He will also have the opportunity to attend a sitting, to meet Tynwald members and to see some of our interparliamentary work first-hand, thanks to the fact that his visit coincides with a visit from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly in Pakistan."*

The **Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Mr Akbar Khan** said: *"As the CPA reaches its 105th year, we are very excited about bringing the CPA Roadshow for young people to the Isle of Man for the first time and to engage with local students on the values that unite the Commonwealth. I am delighted to visit the Isle of Man Branch of the CPA and to talk about the important and innovative work they are undertaking."*

The CPA Secretary-General will visit four schools in the Isle of Man - Dhoon Primary School, St Ninian's High School, Castle Rushen High School, and King William's College - as part of the CPA Roadshows tour of the Commonwealth schools and universities. The CPA Roadshows provide an opportunity for young people to learn about the political values of the Commonwealth such as diversity, development and parliamentary democracy; to discuss issues of concern about the society in which they live; and to meet local Members of Parliament and Parliamentary staff and to find out about the work of the CPA.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

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With the Commonwealth's 53 member countries having a combined population of more than 2 billion, of which more than 60% are under 30 years of age, the CPA Roadshows aim to engage with young people and education establishments to promote parliamentary democracy and participation in political life.

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Notes to Editors

The **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)**, now in its 105th year with HM The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth as its Patron, exists to develop, promote and support Parliamentarians and their staff to identify benchmarks of good governance and to implement the enduring values of the Commonwealth.

The CPA is an international community of around 180 Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures working together to deepen the Commonwealth's commitment to the highest standards of democratic governance. Parliaments, their Members and officials learn from each other through CPA activities: Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences, Regional Conferences and other symposiums; Interparliamentary visits; Parliamentary Seminars and Workshops; Publications including *The Parliamentarian*, the Journal of Commonwealth Parliaments; and the Parliamentary Information and Reference Centre.

CPA Secretary-General

Mr Akbar Khan is the 7th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and he was appointed by the 61st General Assembly of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in October 2015, taking up his post in January 2016. The Secretary-General, was born in Guyana, South America before moving to the United Kingdom. Mr Khan is an honours graduate in both International Law and English Law and has worked as a Barrister-at-Law. After joining Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2003 as a legal adviser, he held several senior diplomatic positions. These include Head of the International Law Section at the British Embassy, The Hague representing British legal interests before the International Courts and United Nations Tribunals. This was followed by a period of special leave in which he served as the Director of Legal Affairs and Principal Legal Counsel to the Commonwealth Secretary-General at the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Visit www.cpahq.org for further information.

Images are available on request.

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