



National Assembly of Belize

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Members of Parliament attend CPA Parliamentary Academy residency programme in South Africa to build professional development skills for Commonwealth Parliamentarians

Honourable Luis Balona and **Senator Elena Smith** have joined over thirty Commonwealth Parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's (CPA) membership in attending the inaugural ***Advanced Professional Development and Skills-Building Residency Course***, being held in **Cape Town, South Africa** from the **24th to 28th October 2022**.

This CPA programme will examine how Members of Parliament can enhance their soft skills on topics ranging from leadership and strategic thinking to communications and team management. Over five days, the delegates will develop universal skills that are applicable both in Parliaments and in many different spheres.

Delegates will be mentored throughout the programme by current Parliamentarians and Clerks from across the CPA's membership, including Speakers and Presiding Officers from South Africa (Western Cape and Kwa-Zulu Natal) and Canada (Alberta) as well as experts in professional development.

The programme is being co-hosted by the CPA Headquarters Secretariat and the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, and the participating parliaments are from: Belize; Gambia; Gauteng; Ghana; Jersey; Limpopo; Malawi; New South Wales; Pakistan; Queensland; Sri Lanka; Uganda; Western Australia; Western Cape; and Zambia.

The meeting and travel expenses for Honourable Balona and Senator Smith were made possible through the support of CPA and the Parliament of Cape Town, South Africa. They are to return to Belize on Monday, 31st October 2022.

The CPA programme provides an extension of the CPA Parliamentary Academy, the CPA's portfolio of online courses, training, and resources specifically for Parliamentarians and parliamentary officials. For more information about the CPA Parliamentary Academy visit www.cpahq.org or email hq.sec@cpahq.org.

26th October 2022

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