



# National Assembly of Belize

## Office of the Clerk

P.O. Box 139, Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize Central America

Tel. (+501) 822-2141/2142 or 2144

E-mail: [ClerkNA@bna.gov.bz](mailto:ClerkNA@bna.gov.bz)

[www.nationalassembly.gov.bz](http://www.nationalassembly.gov.bz)

---

REF: NA/17/25 (19)

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Members of Parliament Attend the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Bridgetown, Barbados**

**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025** – A delegation from the National Assembly of Belize is making significant strides in advancing parliamentary excellence at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (68th CPC) in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 5<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> October 2025. The delegation comprises of the Honourable Carolyn Trench-Sandiford, President of the Senate, accompanied by Senator the Honourable Janelle Chanona, Chairperson of the Women’s Parliamentary Caucus, and Mrs. Clarita Pech, Clerk to the National Assembly.

Hosted by the Parliament of Barbados and the CPA Barbados Branch, the 68th CPC has convened representatives from nearly 180 Parliaments and Legislatures across the Commonwealth under the theme "*The Commonwealth: A Global Partner.*" The conference provides a key platform for parliamentarians and parliamentary officials to exchange ideas and best practices aimed at strengthening democratic governance, institutional resilience, and international cooperation.

The Belize delegation has played an active leadership role throughout the conference. During the 41st Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Small Branches Conference, which took place on the 7th and 8th October, Senator Chanona served as rapporteur for the session on "*Navigating Challenges, Exploring Priorities – A World Café Dialogue,*" which explored strategies for addressing emerging issues and priorities facing modern parliaments. Clerk Pech, also served as rapporteur for the session on "*Work-Life Balance, Professional Development and Mental Health for Parliamentarians,*" which focused on supporting the well-being and professional growth of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff.

In addition to their participation in the Small Branches Conference, the Belize delegation also attended the 9th Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference, which provided a forum to discuss gender equality and women’s leadership in parliamentary democracy, an engagement of particular relevance given Senator Chanona’s role as Chairperson of the Belize Women’s Parliamentary Caucus.

The delegation also participated in the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Network meeting, which addressed strategies to promote inclusivity and accessibility within parliamentary institutions across the Commonwealth.

Furthermore, Clerk Pech, as a Member of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table (SoCATT), attended the SoCATT meeting held in conjunction with the conference, while Madam President Trench-Sandiford and Senator Chanona attended the CPA General Assembly.

Belize’s participation in the 68th CPC underscores the National Assembly’s continued commitment to engaging in international parliamentary dialogue and strengthening its institutional capacity through collaboration, knowledge exchange, and professional development. The knowledge and insights gained from this conference will contribute to

ongoing efforts to enhance the effectiveness and responsiveness of Belize's parliamentary institution.

Travel expenses for the delegation is being covered by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and supported by the Government of Belize. The delegates are scheduled to return to Belize on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

---

For more information about the CPA and the 68<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, please visit <https://www.cpahq.org/68-cpc/>.

---END---

