



# The CPST Connect

The Center for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST)-Connect.

Issue

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Tel: +254 20 210 2540 | Email:cpst@parliament.go.ke



The Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons Greg Fergus P.C. M.P (center-seated) signs the visitor's book upon arrival at CPST earlier this month. From L to R, The Executive Director CPST Prof Nyokabi Kamau, Hon Patrick Makau (Partly hidden), Hon Faith Gitau, CPST Board Chair Hon Rachel Ameso, PSC Vice chairperson, Hon Joyce Korir and Hon Mishi Mboko (Right).

## HIGHLIGHTS

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## CPST hosts Canadian Speaker, roots for collaboration with the House of Commons

The Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) Board Chairperson has expressed the Centre's interest in exploring areas of collaboration and exchange of best parliamentary practices with the Canada's House of Commons, in a move geared towards enhancing the capacity of Members of Parliament and Parliamentary staff.

Speaking when she led Board Members in receiving the Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons Rt. Hon. Gregory Fergus on April 4, Hon. Ameso noted that strong and cordial ties with the Canadian parliament are **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CPST

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings as we relaunch our revamped, bigger, bolder and better, Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) monthly bulletin; “\_Connect\_” which is aimed at fostering collaboration, communication and knowledge sharing for our esteemed institution.

At CPST, we recognize the vital role that parliamentary studies and training play in strengthening democratic institutions and promoting good governance. Through our collective efforts, we strive to empower members **CONTINUED ON PAGE 7** ▶

► ► **FROM PAGE 1** crucial for bolstering global democracy, good governance, peace, and security.

“We would appreciate a structured process of engagement with the House of Commons for our Members whenever they attend the annual McGill parliamentary programme”, she told the delegation.

She further called for the Canadian Government’s intervention in making visa issuance for legislators and staff attending those programs easier, noting that hurdles towards visa processing had at times stood in the way of effective planning for the program.

“We would be glad if the process of visa issuance can be made easier. Last year the visas were issued just a few days to the travel which makes it very difficult to plan”, she noted.

Speaker Fergus was in the country for a four-day visit to the Parliament of Kenya, where he held talks with the Speaker of the National Assembly the Rt. Hon. Moses Wetang’ula and other Members of the National Assembly leadership.

The CPST intends to formally collaborate with the Parliamentary Centre in Ottawa Canada

through the Africa Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) to implement the ILGRP project which aims at ensuring that both houses of Parliament through Parliamentary Service Commission of Kenya implement policies that are gender responsive.

Some notable projects that the CPST and the CPC have undertaken include: staff training programs, curriculum development, continuous capacity building programs such as the annual training of trainers (ToT) and joint benchmark visits that enrich both institutions.

While assuring the CPST of the Canada’s willingness to collaborate with the Centre, Speaker Fergus acknowledged that indeed there is a lot that both Parliaments can learn from each other.

To navigate the issues of gender responsiveness, Speaker Fergus invited the CPST Board Members to always ask the question “Who is not at the table,” arguing that it is one of the ways to include everyone.

Accompanying Fergus was Christopher Thornley, the Canadian High Commissioner, his



CPST Board Members led by the Chairperson Hon. Rachel Ameso (5th from left) pose for a photo with the Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons Hon. Greg Fergus P.C. (middle)



CPST Board Members led by the Chairperson Hon. Rachel Ameso (5th from left) pose for a photo with the Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons Hon. Greg Fergus P.C. (middle)

Deputy, Richard Cannings (MP), Arielle Kayabaga, and Alexiand Brunelle-Duceppe (MP).

The delegation also got an opportunity to visit the ongoing construction of the new CPST Complex in Karen.

Present during this visit was Parliamentary Service Commission Vice-chair, Sen. Joyce Korir, CPST Board Members Hon. Faith Gitau, Hon. Mishi Mboko, Hon. Patrick Makau, the Director General, Parliamentary Joint Services, Mr. Clement Nyandiere, the National Assembly Deputy Clerk, Mrs. Serah Kioko and the Executive Director CPST, Prof Nyokabi Kamau.



CPST Board Chairperson Hon. Rachel Ameso (left) gifts a hat to the Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons Hon. Greg Fergus P.C. (right)

## Strengthening Legislative skills: County Assembly of Kisumu Trained on Parliamentary Practice and Procedures.

**T**he CPST in line with its workplan, responded to a request by the County Assembly of Kisumu and mounted a training program on Parliamentary Practices and Procedures between the 25th to the 28th March, 2024. The program attracted 65 participants including the Speaker Hon. Elisha Jack Oraro, the Deputy Speaker, Assembly leadership and Members of the Assembly.

The training was facilitated by experienced legislative practitioners including serving officers in the National Assembly and the Senate. The CPST also included a former parliamentary leader the Hon. Samuel L. Poghisio EGH, who highlighted experiences and practices that made legislatures strong oversight institutions. Noting that the understanding of Parliamentary Practices and Procedure as a vital ingredient in building an effective Assembly. The Executive Director CPST, Prof. Nyokabi Kamau EBS, reiterated the importance of change management and life after politics. She further emphasized on the importance of members “having a soul” in their

work and placing the needs of the people who elected them before self. The CPST is committed to fostering meaningful partnerships in the area of legislative support and capacity building with the county assembly of Kisumu to drive positive change and create impactful solutions for our communities.

The Speaker of the Assembly recognized the centrality of the CPST in building the capacity of legislatures more so the County Assemblies. He urged the CPST to continue designing capacity building programs that will respond to current challenges in the legislatures.



The Speaker of the County Assembly of Kisumu Hon Elisha Jack Oraro (4th left seated), and the Members of the County Assembly of Kisumu pose for a photo after a three-day training facilitated by the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) on Parliamentary Practice and Procedures. They were joined by the Executive Director CPST Prof Nyokabi Kamau (5th right seated).

## CPST Board retreats to review Centre's Strategic Plan

The CPST Board led by the Chairperson Hon. Rachel Ameso retreated between the 11th – 14th April, 2024 to review on the strategic direction of the CPST.



From M to R; The Chairperson CPST Board, Hon Rachel Ameso, Hon Mishi Mboko, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly Mrs Serah Kioko, Clerk of the Senate Mr Jeremiah Nyegenye. From M to L; Vice Chairperson CPST Board Sen. Joyce Korir, Hon Faith Gitau, Executive Director CPST Prof Nyokabi Kamau, Director AFC CPST Dr. George Wakah.

Every discussion and decision made during this retreat will play a great role into the direction that CPST will take. The Executive Director CPST, Prof Nyokabi Kamau, extends her gratitude to the dedicated board members for their commitment and passion towards the success of the institution. During the retreat, the Board deliberated on various

matters including the CPST Strategic Operational Plan 2023-2030, which gives the implementation focus by the CPST against the PSC Strategic Plan 2019 – 2030. They further deliberated on the Proposed CPST Fellowship program which once implemented will be critical in knowledge management and promoting the ideals of parliamentary democracy.

### UPCOMING COURSES

| CODE   | COURSE  | DATES   | TARGET  | VENUE             | COORDINATOR   |
|--|---|---|---|-------------------|---|
| <b>COUNTY ASSEMBLY STAFF</b>                       |   |   |   |                   |   |
| CPST/CCI/<br>CA/600/5/24                           | Protocol and Events Management in the Legislature                 | 13 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup><br>May, 2024 | Public Relations and Protocol Officers.               | Naivasha          | <b>Mr. Ahmed Muktar</b><br>Ahmed.muktar@parliament.go.ke<br>+254722168389     |
| CPST/ LPM /<br>CA/200/5/24                         | Managing Legislative Committees                                   | 20 <sup>th</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup><br>May 2024  | Clerk Assistants                                      | CPST              | <b>Mr. Peter Muchira</b><br>Peter.muchira@parliament.go.ke<br>+254716634667   |
| <b>REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS</b> |   |   |   |                   |   |
| CPST/ LPM /<br>RP/200/5/24                         | Monitoring and Evaluation for Oversight by Legislative Committees | 1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>May, 2024    | Members of Legislature                                | CPST              | <b>Mr. Peter Muchira</b><br>Peter.muchira@parliament.go.ke<br>+254716634667   |
| CPST/CCI/<br>RP/600/5/24                           | Contemporary Issues in Safety and Security for Legislatures       | 13 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup><br>May, 2024   | Security and Serjeant at arms of regional parliaments | CPST ,<br>Nairobi | <b>Mr. Hudson Mwakili</b><br>Hudson.mwakili@parliament.go.ke<br>+254724738183 |

## Milestone: CPST to Collaborate with National Assembly in developing curriculum for legislative reporting



The Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (mid-seated) Mrs Serah Kioko and the members of the Kenya Parliamentary Joint Association pose for a photo at the Kenya School of Government earlier this year during a training organized and facilitated by the CPST.

**T**he Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training will collaborate with the National Assembly in developing a curriculum for bolstering legislative training. The curriculum will guide the annual training for the members of the Kenya Parliamentary Journalists' Association, which is meant to enhance the quality of reporting of the National Assembly activities.

This development emerged from a resolution arrived at, during two series of trainings conducting by the National Assembly in collaboration with the Centre in February, 2024. During the program, a total of 65 KPJA Members and 10 Media Relations Officers were trained and certified by the CPST upon completion of the two-day program.

The objective of the training was to equip members of the KPJA on areas of; leadership offices in parliamentary Service, lawmaking procedures and processes in parliament, the role of parliament in the budget making process and the integrity and ethical issues affecting journalists' work covering parliament.

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly Mrs. Serah Kioko officially opened the two training sessions hosted at the Kenya School of Government in Lower Kabete, Kiambu County. According to Mrs. Kioko, the annual training will address the need for the journalists to constantly refresh their knowledge of the operations of Parliament, so as to maintain accuracy in their reportage.

Through the collaboration, journalists participating in the program are set to gain from comprehensive insights into legislative procedures, budget formulation, and ethical standards.

While addressing the Members of the Kenya Parliamentary Journalists' Association (KPJA) Mrs. Kioko reaffirmed Parliament's unwavering support for journalists, highlighting the training initiative as a concrete step forward following resolutions made in discussions between National Assembly Leadership and Editors during their annual engagement in September 2023.

She further gave a commitment of the overall support to the freedom of the media and media coverage in the National Assembly, noting the importance of such capacity building activities. On her part, the Executive Director CPST, Prof. Nyokabi Kamau also assured of her commitment to continue supporting parliamentary stakeholders in their capacity building needs and gave an undertaking of the expertise of

the CPST in developing future programs for the KPJA. The training curriculum when developed, is set to cover the Standing Orders, House Rules, Access to Information during the law-making process, Functions

of the National Assembly, Budget Making Process, Media Industry Standards on Ethics among other relevant topics.



The Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, Mrs. Serah Kioko (centre), the Executive Director of the CPST Prof. Nyokabi Kamau (second right), Deputy Director, Public Communications and Media, Mr. Japhet Muthomi (right), the Chairperson of KPJA, Mr. Duncan Khaemba (third right) and KPJA Officials, Mr. Boniface Mwongera (left) and Ms. Kamuche Menza (second left) pose for a photo on the sidelines of the KPJA 4 days training.

## MESSAGE FROM THE ED, CPST CONTINUED

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and staff of parliament, county assemblies and other stakeholders with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to excel in their roles and uphold the principles of democracy.

This publication serves as a conduit to fulfill this mission by providing valuable insights and updates.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to each member of the CPST team for your dedication, professionalism, and passion for parliamentary excellence. We have the opportunity to make a meaningful impact in advancing parliamentary democracy and governance both locally and globally.

## ABOUT THE CPST

The Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) was established by the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) in December, 2008 and legalized by the publication of the Parliamentary Service Regulations, 2011 in the Kenya Gazette, Subsidiary Legislation and Legal Notice No.95 of July 22, 2011; and as amended by Legal Notice No.20 of 2016 that expanded its mandate to include capacity building for County Assemblies.

Further, the establishment of the CPST is anchored in the law under Section 34 of the Parliamentary Service Act, 2019.

The core mandate of the CPST is to build capacity of staff and Members of Parliaments, County Assemblies and other interested stakeholders. The overall Strategic Goal of the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (the CPST) is to be a one-stop specialized resource Centre for the training and capacity development of both the Members and staff of Parliament (including regional Parliaments) and County Assemblies; and any other interested stakeholders who want to have an appreciable understanding of parliamentary affairs.



## CENTRE FOR PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

Mukoma Road Off Magadi Road  
P. O. Box 41842 - 00100 NAIROBI, Kenya

Tel: +254 20 210 2540  
Email: cpst@parliament.go.ke

<http://www.parliament.go.ke/CPST>  
X @thecpst  
[facebook.com/TheCPST](https://www.facebook.com/TheCPST)