

Speaker bids farewell to the CPA Africa Region "Farewell Speech by outgoing President of CPA Africa Region"

15 November 2011, Kigali Rwanda

Having assumed the Presidency of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Africa region in July 2010 in Mbombela, South Africa during the 41st Annual CPA Africa Regional Conference honourable SW Lubisi handed over the reins to the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Rwanda Rt. Hon Ms. Rose Mukantabama at the conclusion of the conference held on the in the beautiful city of Kigali on the 17th of June 2011

Find the Address by the Speaker:

Madam President, Distinguished delegates

The world has changed; we are no longer servants of our colonial masters but we are partners in the common struggle to defeat the legacy of slavery, colonialism and neo-colonialism. We have departed from our dark colonial past and occupied our rightful place in the global village. At this day in age our sovereignty is unquestionable.

Whilst we have found our liberty, we equally find ourselves at a point in destiny where we need each other more than before because none of us can achieve all that which we desire alone but together we can completely eradicate the torment of our past.

We are no longer an Anglophone organisation but an international community of parliamentarians brought together by our common goal to deepen democracy, development and good governance in the world.

For those of us who have achieved change we have refused to harbour ourselves in the glory and progress of our states but extended a hand of help and courage to those of us who live in the darkness of oppression and suffering for the instability of our neighbours is a thorn in our flesh.

Madam President, Distinguished delegates

The World has changed; our women are no longer spectators while men destroy the world with unjust wars and greed. They are no longer secondary citizens of the world but equal partners in the execution of the task of development and the improvement of the lives of our people. They are agents for change. It is certainly a different world.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has come of age. It's certainly a profoundly different organisation than it was when it was established a century ago. Yet we find ourselves at a moment in time where we say we need more changes in the CPA for change alone is not our destiny but a route to our destiny.

Our goal to transform the CPA is justified. We are ambassadors of a better Africa and the world. It is a matter that we must pursue beyond the 57th London Conference of the CPA International.

Madam President, Distinguished delegates

It is an honour to me to hand over the baton of leadership to the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Republic of Rwanda Rt. Hon. Rose Mukantabama most significantly because this leadership is taken by a woman of your calibre. Your track record speaks for itself and is unquestionable. I congratulate you Madam President and wish you all the best during your tenure of office.

I wish to thank the Regional Executive Committee, Speakers from Branches and Sub-National Branches, Presiding Officers, Members of the Association, Parliamentary Clerks and Secretaries and Parliamentary staff for the support you have given to me in the discharge of my duty as President of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Africa Region.

We further extend our appreciation to the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of CPA Hon. MJ Mahlangu who unfortunately could not be with us due pressing urgent matters at home; who has been a pillar of strength and source of courage to all of us in the Executive Committee.

I wish to congratulate Honourable Request Mutanga on his election as Regional Treasurer of the CPA Africa Region and hope that he will perform his task with diligence as we move forward.