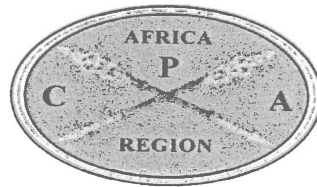


CPA AFRICA REGION



**CWP REPORT TO THE 49TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,
AUGUST 2018, GABORONE, BOTSWANA**

AUGUST 2018

1.0 INTRODUCTION

"Marriage, though often a beautiful thing, is not an achievement. It does not qualify one for public office," Mahere said in one of many spirited exchanges on twitter.

" We are fighting to have equal rights with our men because we have a right to take part in politics just as we had a right to play a big part in bringing peace, just as we had a right to bring Ebola down" Dr Nemata Majeks-Walker founder and first president of 50/50 Group in Sierra Leone.

Based on the above statement:-

- i) The words of Fadzayi Mahere, a young Zimbabwe Lawyer who contested in the July 2018 Zimbabwe election is an indication that the gender based prejudices are still rife amongst our societies regardless of the strides that have been made towards gender equality.
- ii) The same prejudices were experienced leading up to the Sierra Leone elections in April 2018. Sadly, such attitudes prevail in many of our societies to this day. As a result of these attitudes, women representation declined in Sierra Leone from 12.4 per cent in 2013 to 10 percent today.
- iii) It is these words of Mahere and the women activists of Sierra Leone that continue to remind us that our strategic objective of increasing women's representation in parliaments and legislatures remain relevant to this day. It require even more strategic interventions to ensure that we change the societal stereotypes that still believe that it is only men that have a right to take part in the public affairs of the country. It is for this reason that the gender agenda must remain

central in the work of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and not only a matter of the CWP.

2.0 REPORT ON CWP ACTIVITIES

At the last CWP Business Meeting held in Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria in October 2017 the following activities were identified as critical to be undertaken by CWP: -

2.1 Elections of the Chairperson (CPA international)

CWP Africa Region resolved at its last business meeting in Owerri to support the candidature of Hon. Emilia Lifaka for the position of Chairperson of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at International Level. We wish to thank our members led by the Patron of CWP for the spirited campaign that saw Hon. Lifaka elected to the position of Chairperson of the CPA International in Dhaka, Bangladesh during the Annual General Meeting in November 2017.

2.2 Mission to Countries due for Elections and Primaries in 2018

2.2.1 Sierra Leone and Nigeria, West Africa Sub Region

The CWP Business Meeting in Owerri resolved to send a mission to member's states that were going to have elections in 2018. Immediately after Owerri, the Secretariat sent communications to the two countries and followed up telephonically. Unfortunately no response was received and therefore the mission could not be undertaken.

2.2.2 Swaziland

The Secretariat communicated with the Parliament of eSwatini to identify a suitable date for the visit of the CWP

Steering Committee prior the elections. Confirmation of receipt of the communication was received, however no date was given for such a visit by the Parliament of eSwatini until it was dissolved.

2.3 International Women's Day

Almost all the CWP Organs in our various branches celebrated International Women's Day by undertaking various activities involving different stakeholders at a country level.

During the 74th Executive Committee Meeting held in March 2018 in Bayelsa State, Nigeria; the CWP Steering Committee was invited by the wife to the Governor Her Excellency Mrs Rachael Dickson to celebrate International Women Day with the women of **BAYELSA STATE, Nigeria.**

The Chairperson of the CWP Steering Committee participated in the women's rally and with the CPA EXCO Chairperson they visited a girl's school where members engaged with the students on women leadership.

2.4 Reports of Activities by Chapters

Following the 74th CPA Executive Committee Meeting in Bayelsa State, Nigeria in March 2018, communication was sent to all Chapters to provide reports of activities carried out during celebrations of the International Women's Day. Reports on CWP activities were received from Zambia, Rwanda and Zanzibar as follows:-

2.4.1 **Zambia**

The planned activities for Zambia Chapter in 2018 were reported as follows:

- (i) Developing a gender responsive Strategic Plan for 2018-2021.
- (ii) Schedule quarterly Executive Committee meetings.
- (iii) Schedule at least two (2) stakeholders coordination meetings.
- (iv) Hold the Annual Review and Planning Meeting
- (v) Resource mobilization through cooperating partners.

2.4.2 **Rwanda**

The Rwanda Chapter action plan was reported as follows:

- (i) Conduct one day consultative discussions for both Chambers of Parliament to sensitize parliamentarians on CWP and its activities (June – September 2018)
- (ii) Conduct and implement a field visit to local government (districts) to sensitize and train women to contribute to national and local development through their political, economic and social participation (June – September 2018 and December 2018 – March 2019)
- (iii) Conduct follow up to see how CWP principles are implemented by women at grassroot level (April – July 2019).

2.4.3 **Zanzibar**

Zanzibar has scheduled the launch of the CWP Chapter to take place between 22nd and 23rd September 2018 and has requested that the CWP and CPA (Africa Region) Executive

Committee Chairpersons attend and make presentations during the launch.

2.5 GENDER SENSITIZATION WORKSHOPS

Two successful workshops were held by the CWP during this current year. Firstly, In January 2018, KwaZulu-Natal Chapter hosted the Gender Sensitization Workshop on behalf of the CWP Africa Region. Secondly, Uganda Chapter hosted the CWP East Africa Sub-Regional Workshop in July 2018.

2.5.1 The Cwp Regional Sensitization Workshop, Kwazulu-Natal

CPA Kwa Zulu Natal Chapter hosted the Gender Sensitisation Workshop at Fairmont Zimbali Resort from 24 – 27 January 2018. The workshop was held under the theme “***Mechanisms to Strengthen Gender Equality***”. The theme was in line with Goal 5 of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, which is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

2.5.2 CWP East Africa Sub – Region, Kampala Uganda

East Africa Sub- Region hosted a sub-regional workshop in Kampala, Uganda from 21 – 26 July 2018 under the theme “***Mainstreaming Gender in Parliamentary Business***”.

Both workshops were successful and underscored the importance of such activities in order to empower women parliamentarians through the continuous engagement on how best we can advance women's issues in the legislatures and parliaments.

2.6 Commonwealth Women's Forum Summit 2018

The 2018 CWP Women's Forum Summit took place in London, United Kingdom during the Commonwealth Heads of State and Government Summit. The Forum reflected on a range of issues that are challenges facing women under the theme **"leave no one behind"**; the forum attracted women parliamentarians and women in the local government. The Chairperson of the CWP Africa Region participated in the panel on women in politics.

2.7 VISITS TO SUB-NATIONAL CHAPTERS

2.7.1 Gauteng

The Gauteng CWP Chapter invited the CWP Chairperson to address Women's organisation on how to empower and strategize to improve women's representation in the upcoming elections in 2019. The meeting also focused on how women leaders can manage the multiple roles they play in the society and at home. In response to a resolution of the CWP Africa Region, an e-Discussion Forum Project was established. This is an interactive site that will serve as a platform for women parliamentarians to engage in expert-facilitated dialogue on gender and human rights mainstreaming in parliamentary practices.

2.7.2 Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape Chapter hosted the CWP Dialogue on the 19 – 20 June 2018 at Maluti Civic Centre in Matatiele Local Municipality to raise Awareness on Women's rights under the **theme "Women at the centre of radical economic transformation"**. The objectives of the dialogue were:-

- Status of women representation in leadership across society;
- To facilitate the Increase of women representation in parliament, government, private sectors and churches;
- To interrogate the role of women in Africa Agenda 2063 to mainstream gender policy, planning, budgetary and programme implementation process.
- To mobilise active participation of women in government programmes.

The dialogue was graced by:-

- Premier of the Eastern Cape Legislature and the Members of the Executive Committee of the Legislature
- Speakers of all Provincial Legislatures
- Speakers of Municipalities
- House of Traditional Leaders
- Community

3.0 CONDOLENCES

3.1 Tribute to Hon. Winnie Nomzamo Madikizela-Mandela

In April 2018, the South Africa Chapter lost one of its member, Hon Nomzamo Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. Madikizela-Mandela was not only a member of parliament of South Africa, but was revered by many as a woman activist and leader during the struggle for freedom for South Africa. Her activism inspired many even in other member states. The Steering Committee sent a tribute to the family of this stalwart of our struggle for women's emancipation.

3.2 Tribute to Hon. Umar Buba Jibril CPA Regional Rep for West Africa

The Steering Committee sent a tribute to the family and the Parliament of Nigeria following the departure of Hon. Jibril who was the CPA Regional Representative for West Africa. He was an active member of the Association and supported the work of the CWP.

4.0 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

The Steering Committee has undertaken its statutory duties by holding its meetings to receive updates on the activities of its Chapters. In order to achieve its objectives, the Steering Committee during the East Africa workshop agreed to develop a plan of action with a detailed budget which will be tabled to the business meeting for approval. A Special Steering Committee meeting was held during the Gender Sensitization Workshop in Kampala to advance the work of the Chapters. Follow up on issues emanating from the Business Meeting held in Owerri has been addressed.

The Steering Committee noted that the CWP Chapters in Branches do not report their activities adequately. In most instances, the work of the multi-party women's caucuses is seen as separate and not forming part of the CWP work. Accordingly, this weakens the reporting function for the numerous work that is being undertaken by Chapters.

5.0 PREPARATION FOR THE CPA AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2018

5.1 Gender Paper

In preparation for the CPA Africa Regional Conference, the CWP Steering Committee proposed a gender topic for the conference to the CPA Executive Committee. **The topic is "Parliamentary agenda**

for combating human trafficking and modern day slavery in Africa and the promotion of human rights”.

5.2 Seminar on Women and Cybercrime

The host country Botswana in consultation with the CWP Steering Committee will present a two-hour seminar prior to the Business Meeting which will look at the impact of cybercrime on women.

5.3 Co-ordination of Sub-regions

As a follow up on the matter of sub-regional coordination as proposed by the East Africa Region in the last Business Meeting in Owerri, the secretariat presented a model for coordination which was adopted by the Steering Committee.

5.4 Proposed Plan of Action and Budget of Activities: August – December, 2018

The CWP Steering Committee Meeting held in Kampala, Uganda in July 2018 developed the detailed action plan and budget of activities August – December 2018 with Key Result Areas and its objectives as the guide for all activities of the chapters for consideration.

Key Result Area 1

Improved monitoring of Implementation of International and regional instruments relating to improved gender parity at national level.

Objective: to develop a database of relevant international and regional instruments and actively monitor the implementation of the instruments producing regular report for consumption.

Key Result Area 2

Reduction of Cultural and Religious Practices that are Harmful to Women

Objective: to advocate for legislation and programs against Child Marriages, Female Genital Mutilation etc.

Key Result Area 3

Development of a Mentorship Program for Women Parliamentarians, Legislators and Councilors.

Objective: to ensure newly elected women leaders can be mentored by those who have been there before so as to improve their effectiveness in their responsibility. A possible annual seminar for women parliamentarians, legislators, councilors and women students studying political science at university level can be held at National Level to share experiences on matters affecting women public representatives.

5.5 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In order to keep track on the implementation of the CWP decisions, the CWP will develop a monitoring and evaluation tool.

6.0 GENERAL ELECTIONS 2018/2019

6.1 Countries having Elections in the second half of 2018 are:

- Swaziland
- Rwanda
- Cameroon (Presidential)

6.2 Countries having Elections in 2019 are:

- Botswana
- Cameroon
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Mauritius

7.0 CONCLUSION

The term of office of our Patron and Chairperson of the Executive Committee (Africa Region), Hon. Lindiwe Maseko will come to an end at this conference. The Steering Committee wish to thank her for the leadership she has provided not only in the main body of the CPA, but also her wise counsel in the work of the CWP as the Patron. We have noted that during her tenure she has passionately ensured that the issue of the Status of the CPA is addressed. As a woman and gender activist in her own right she led the campaign for the election of Hon. Lifaka as the Chairperson, CPA International.

In advancing the work of the Association through engagements with the Speakers, she has always highlighted the importance of the support for the CWP. As the CWP we wish to thank her for this sterling leadership which confirms that women indeed are and can be leaders of their communities and their countries. **Siyabonga Maseko, Ngcamane!**

As we come to the end of our year, we are grateful of the strides we have made and are mindful of the challenges that remain ahead of us. The support of the CWP Chapters and Women Caucuses remain uneven in respective Branches. Some of the concerns relate to parliamentary

schedules which do not cater for women caucuses or CWP Chapters. Financial support for activities of women caucuses is non-existent or very limited where such is provided. Some CPA Branches do not support the work of the CWP Chapters and that limits their ability to function effectively.


Hon. Angela T Didiza, MP
CWP CHAIRPERSON, AFRICA REGION

August, 2018