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CPA Small Branches Workshop 2026 to convene in the Maldives

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), in collaboration with the People's Majlis, will host the CPA Small Branches Workshop 2026 in Malé, Maldives, from 27 to 29 April 2026 at Hotel Jen Malé.

Held under the theme “Strong and Independent Parliaments in Small Jurisdictions,” the workshop will bring together Speakers and Members of Parliament from Commonwealth small states, alongside parliamentary officials, resource persons, and governance experts drawn from across the wider Commonwealth. The high-level participants include Hon. Valerie Woods, Speaker of the National Assembly of Belize and Small Branches Chairperson; Hon. Auupau Mulipola Aloitafua Mulipola, Speaker of the House of the Legislative Assembly of Samoa; Hon. Pearlina McGaw-Lumsden, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the Cayman Islands; Senator Deale Lee, Deputy President of the Senate of Saint Lucia and Justice Murdu Fernand, Justice of Sri Lanka.

The Maldives delegation will be led by Hon. Ahmed Nazim, MP, Deputy Speaker of the People's Majlis. Hon. Ahmed Nazim is the CPA Asia Regional Representative. The Maldives also currently serves as the Chair of the CPA Asia Region.

The workshop is a key capacity-building initiative aimed at strengthening the effectiveness, resilience, and independence of parliaments operating in small states. It will focus on enhancing core pillars of democratic governance including institutional performance, reinforcing the separation of powers, and improving oversight and accountability mechanisms.

Participants will engage in a dynamic programme featuring expert-led sessions, peer-to-peer exchanges, case studies, and practical exercises. Key topics of the workshop include the Latimer House Principles, the role of independent oversight institutions, and strengthening Public Accounts Committees. The programme is designed to equip delegates with practical tools and strategies that can be adapted within their own parliamentary contexts.

Established to support jurisdictions with populations under one million, this workshop organized by CPA Small Branches Network underscores the importance of collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and innovation in addressing the unique challenges faced by smaller legislatures.



-2-

The workshop is supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation, alongside leading public finance experts.

By hosting this workshop, the Maldives reinforces its commitment to democratic governance and its active role within the Commonwealth parliamentary community, while contributing to global efforts to build strong, independent, and accountable parliaments.



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