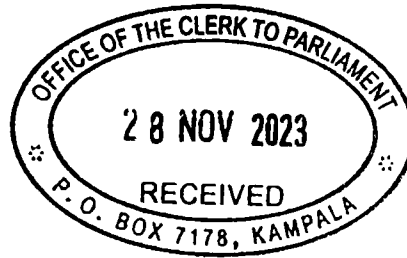


CSPOC 2024



**Statement by Hon. Abdu Katuntu (MP),
Chairperson, Coordination Committee to
Parliament on the preparations for the
hosting of the 27th Conference of Speakers
and Presiding Officers of the
Commonwealth (CSPOC)**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Abdu Katuntu" with a short horizontal line above the final "u".

24th November, 2023

**STATEMENT BY HON ABDU KATUNTU (MP), CHAIRPERSON
COORDINATION COMMITTEE TO PARLIAMENT ON THE
PREPARATIONS FOR THE HOSTING OF 27TH CONFERENCE OF
SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH**

27TH NOVEMBER 2023

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Rt. Hon Speaker,

The Parliament of Uganda will host the 27th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth from 3rd to 6th January, 2024 at Speke Resort Munyonyo.

Uganda was confirmed as the host of the conference at the last CSPOC in Canberra, Australia in January 2023 where Speaker Anita Annet Among was appointed as Chairperson of the Standing Committee.

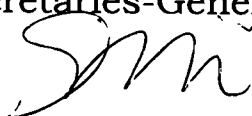
The official opening Ceremony is expected to take place on Friday, 5th January 2024 presided over by H. E the President of the Republic of Uganda.

2.0 BRIEF BACKGROUND ON CSPOC

CSPOC was created in 1969 as an initiative of the then Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, Lucien Lamoureux.

CSPOC membership is restricted to the Speakers and Presiding Officers of national parliaments of all independent sovereign states of the Commonwealth. It consists of 22 bicameral parliaments and 30 unicameral parliaments.

Currently, its membership consists of 74 Speakers and Presiding Officers of National Parliaments from 52 Commonwealth Countries. Up to 180 delegates attend a typical conference, including the Clerks and Secretaries-General as observers.



It operates on a two-year cycle, holding a conference of the full membership every two years, usually early in January, and a meeting of the Standing Committee at the same time, the intervening year.

The objectives of the conference are to:

- (i) Maintain, foster, and encourage impartiality and fairness on the part of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments;
- (ii) Promote knowledge and understanding of parliamentary democracy in its various forms; and
- (iii) Develop parliamentary institutions.

3.0 UPDATES ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE HOSTING OF 27TH CSPOC

Rt. Hon Speaker,

Under your guidance, preparations for hosting of the Conference has been on-going since January 2023. Only that the focus at the beginning was on the preparations for hosting the the 3rd Ordinary Session of the 6th Parliament of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) which was postponed to around April/May 2024.

Following the commitment to host this conference, a Coordination Committee chaired by me and consisting Hon. Mwine Mpaka and Hon. Kaberuka James was established to coordinate the preparations. In addition, Sub-committees consisting, Members of Parliament and Technical Staff were established to assist in the preparation of the various activities of the conference. These following:

- (i) Conference Management
- (ii) Conference Secretariat and Documentation
- (iii) IT Support
- (iv) Accommodation
- (v) Transport
- (vi) Media and Publicity
- (vii) Protocol
- (viii) Medical and First Aid
- (ix) Entertainment, Excursion and Tourism
- (x) Spouses and accompanying persons



- (xi) Gifts and Souvenirs
- (xii) Security and Accreditation

Following the establishment and constitution of Sub-committees, several meetings of the expended Coordination committee involving subcommittee chairpersons and secretaries and meetings with the various stakeholders in addition to the meetings of sub-committees have been held.

The entities represented in these meetings are: Civil Aviation Authority, Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), Directorate of Immigration and Citizenship Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, and Uganda Tourism Board and all security organisations i.e. SFC, UPF, and ISO.

Rt. Hon Speaker and Members, the Preparations are in advanced stages. All sub-committees continuously present their progress reports to the expanded coordination committee, which discuss them and provide guidance.

The agreed upon conference venue, Munyonyo Speke Resort and suitable hotels to accommodate the delegates were identified and communicated to the delegates. A link has been provided for members to book online.

The deadline for registration was extended from 16th November 2023 to 1st December, 2023. So far, 40 Speakers and Presiding Officers from 33 Countries have confirmed attendance and apparently profiling the lists for accreditation purposes.

The procurements especially for offices, plenary hall, breakaway session rooms and other requirements are ongoing.

The Standing Committee approved the topics for discussion at the Kampala Conference and they will include the following: -

- (1) Environment, Climate Change and the role of Parliament.
- (2) Diverse and Inclusive Parliaments (youth and gender sensitivity).



- (3) Security measures for parliamentarians and parliaments.
- (4) Health and wellbeing support in Parliaments and the role of Speakers and Presiding Officers.
- (5) A special session on Building consensus for Parliamentary Business: The Role of Speakers and Presiding Officers.

4.0 FUNDING

Budgets and Work plans from the all sub-committees were discussed and harmonised to avoid duplicity of activities and tasks. These were incorporated in the budget of the Parliamentary Commission for the current financial Year 2023/24.

5.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS

Rt. Hon Speaker and Honorable Members,

The country stands to benefit from this conference as the trickle down effects on the economy will be felt immediately and thereafter. The benefits to the country include;

- i. There will be private visits to the different attractions around Uganda and this will enhance the tourism potential and subsequently, increased income.
- ii. Speakers and Presiding officers will hold bilateral and multilateral meetings and these are expected to strengthen ties between the different parliaments around the Commonwealth.
- iii. In that regard, Parliament of Uganda will also foster cooperation with other parliaments which will create alliances and in the end strengthen diplomatic ties with those countries.
- iv. This conference is especially important to deepen Parliament diplomacy and augment Uganda's role in commonwealth Parliamentary collaborations, as well as present opportunities



to share experiences, expertise and knowledge on best practices.

- v. With the delegates, accompanying persons and other officials expected to grace the conference, presents opportunities to create business and entrepreneurial linkages to cement trade relations with the visiting delegations.
- vi. This high level event comes with increased tourism hits, and its attendant dividends for the small, medium and large scale investors across the tourism value chain.
- vii. CSPOC in general, enhances globalization which brings up opportunities for cooperation especially in areas of economics, public affairs, security and general parliamentary diplomacy.

Rt. Hon Speaker, I call upon all Members of Parliament to embrace the meeting and welcome the delegates in our usual warm way. When requested, kindly participate in the organisation for this meeting.

Rt. Hon Speaker and Honorable Colleagues,

I thank you for your attention.



Hon. Abdu Katuntu (MP)

CHAIRPERSON, COORDINATION COMMITTEE - PAP/CSPOC

ENDS