

Report of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Wales Branch)

Inward Visit of Lesotho Senate HIV/AIDS Committee 8-15 March 2008



Report of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Wales Branch) Visit to Lesotho, 29 September – 6 October

A delegation of two members and an official from the Lesotho Senate's Committee on HIV/AIDS visited at the invitation of the CPA Wales Branch from 8-17 March 2008. The visit was initiated at the suggestion of Dyfan Jones the UN Development Programme's Adviser to the Committee with whom the Branch had co-operated previously on links with the Lesotho Parliament.



The Honourable Senators Mr Lerotholi Denis Seeiso and Ms Mofumahali 'Mantoetse L. Peete, Members of the HIV/AIDS Committee.

The delegation spent the working week at the Assembly. The content of the programme was co-ordinated between Peter Kellam of the Branch Secretariat and John Grimes of the Assembly's Committee Service. The programme concentrated on different aspects of committee work, building on experience gained from a training seminar on the same subject delivered to MPs and staff in Lesotho in September 2007.

CPA Wales Branch Members offering their support to the programme comprised Janet Ryder, Jeff Cuthbert, Michael German, David Melding and Lesley Griffiths.



Michael German AM German, Toby Mason of the BBC Wales News Team at the Assembly and John Grimes with the Lesotho delegation at the BBC Studio in Tŷ Hywel.

The Wales Branch acknowledges those who contributed to the programme from outside the Assembly:

- John Griffiths AM Welsh Assembly Government Deputy Minister for Skills for meeting the delegation;
- Dr Tony Jewell Chief Medical Officer and Dr Jane Ludlow Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Welsh Assembly Government for their explanation of HIV/AIDS policy in Wales and the potential for maintaining health links between Lesotho and Wales within the context of the Wales for Africa Framework ;
- Dr Carl Clowes, Honorary Consul to Lesotho and President of Dolen Cymru;
- Cathrin Daniel, Sarah Jones, Wayne Crocker and the staff of Dolen Cymru for hospitality offered over the opening weekend and during the programme;
- Prof Hugh Pennington, Chair of the South Wales E.Coli Public Enquiry for his contribution on the conduct of public enquiries;
- James Verity and David Metcalfe of the Wales Audit Office who offered further insights into the work of the Auditor Office and the Audit Committee;
- Toby Mason and staff at the BBC's Assembly office for their guided tour and explanation of the work of the BBC at the Assembly;
- Theatr Fforwm Cymru who provided a forum theatre performance at the end of a week long workshop at the Assembly working with young people and exploring attitudes towards HIV/AIDS;
- Dr Alex and Mrs Mary Kellam for hospitality extended to the delegation over the closing weekend.

A copy of the final programme is included with this report for reference.

The costs of travel and accommodation were met from within Lesotho. The CPA Wales Branch supported hospitality and local transportation costs associated with the programme.



Michael German AM German, Toby Mason of the BBC Wales News Team at the Assembly and John Grimes with the Lesotho delegation at the BBC Studio in Tŷ Hywel.

Review

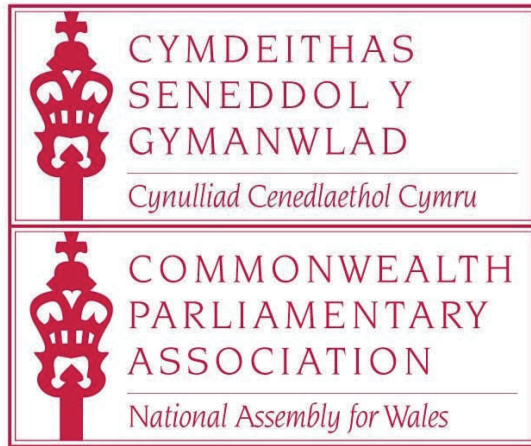
A debrief session was conducted with the delegation on the final working day of the programme. The initial impression was that the programme had been informative and beneficial. Substantive matters arising comprised:

- The possibility of a mutual exchange of information on the opening working day of future programmes – both sides could provide an overview of and updates from their respective parliaments.
- The sessions with the BBC and Professor Pennington inserted at short notice into the programme when a gap occurred were both very beneficial. The session with the BBC is one that other delegations to the Assembly might benefit from.
- If the HIV/AIDS Committee were to send Members to visit Wales again, the emphasis of any such programme might switch to covering aspects of practical delivery of HIV/AIDS services in Wales.

Secretariat CPA Wales Branch



Watching an address by Jaqueline Wilson, Commonwealth Secretariat Director of Governance on Commonwealth Day.



Programme of Arrangements
Lesotho Parliament HIV/AIDS Committee
Training Attachment

8-17 March 2008

Delegation:

The Honourable Ms Mofumahali 'Mantoetse L. Peete MP – Member of the Senate HIV & AIDS Select Committee

The Honourable Mr Lerotholi Denis Seeiso MP – Member of the Senate HIV & AIDS Select Committee
Ntsitsa Thamae – Clerk of the Senate HIV & AIDS Select Committee

Programme Co-ordinators:

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Dyfan Jones
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Saturday 8 March

1600 Delegation arrive Cardiff International Airport on Flight KL1063 from Amsterdam.

Met at hotel by Peter Kellam, Head of National Assembly for Wales European and International Team.

Check in to Hotel:

St Hilary Lodge
150 Cathedral Road
Cardiff, CF11 9JB

Tel: +44 (0)29 2034 0303

Sunday 9 March

1400 Picked up from hotel by Sarah Jones, Development Co-ordinator for Dolen Cymru. Drive through the Cynon Valley to the Brecon Beacons, followed by coffee in Brecon.

Evening Free

Monday 10 March

0930 Met at Senedd reception by Peter Kellam, Secretariat CPA Wales Branch.

Coffee in the Senedd with Peter Kellam and John Grimes. Introductions and basic housekeeping arrangements. Oriol.

Introduction to Wales and the Assembly: general background briefing by Peter Kellam followed by guided tour of the Senedd. Cwrt Room 5.

1245-1345 Introduction to the Assembly continues over working sandwich lunch hosted by Claire Clancy Chief Executive and Clerk to the Assembly. Joined by

Dianne Bevan, Chief Operating Officer
Mair Parry Jones and Iolo Roberts, Parliamentary Translation and Reporting
Sian Wilkins, Anna Daniel and Kath McDonald, Legislation and Chamber Services
John Grimes, Committee Service. Harbourmaster's Room, Pierhead.

1400 - 1630 Introduction to Committees by John Grimes and Michael German OBE AM. Aims and Objectives of Committees. Presentation and discussion. Cwrt Room 5.

1900 Met at hotel by John Grimes.

1930 Informal supper hosted by CPA Wales Branch. Present:
Janet Ryder AM, Branch Chair
Jeff Cuthbert AM, Member of Branch Executive Committee
John Grimes, Branch Secretariat.

Tuesday 11 March

- 0915 Met in Tŷ Hywel reception by John Grimes.
- 0930-1200 Practical Aspects of Committees. Procedural matters presentation and discussion with John Grimes and Mike German AM. Cwrt Room 5.
- 1215–1330 Join in with Commonwealth Day celebrations in the Senedd. Assembly Members have been invited to join a buffet lunch in the Oriel with school groups from across Wales exhibiting on the theme 'The Environment – Our Future' Oriel.
- 1300 Meeting with Dr. Carl Clowes, Honorary Consul of Lesotho and President of Dolen Cymru.
- Possible opportunity for interviews with Assembly Press Lobby.
- 1400 Observe Plenary meeting: Questions to the First Minister. John Grimes to accompany. Gallery.
- 1500-1615 Preparation for Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee. Briefing and discussion with Steve George, Committee Clerk. Joined (Plenary Business permitting) by Jonathan Morgan AM, Committee Chair. Meeting Room B, 4th Floor Tŷ Hywel.
- 1630 Observe Commonwealth Day Debate from the Gallery. Gallery.
- 1745 Commonwealth Day reception. This will be held immediately after Plenary. Cwrt.

Wednesday 12 March

- 1030-1130 Visit to BBC suite, Ty Hywel 4th Floor
- 1230 -1300 Meeting with John Griffiths AM, Deputy Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Dining Room 2, Ty Hywel
- 1300 Meeting with Dr Tony Jewell, Chief Medical Officer and Dr Jane Ludlow Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Public Health and Professions Department, Welsh Assembly Government. Dining Room 2, Tŷ Hywel.
- 1400 Observe plenary meeting / opportunity for debrief within group. Gallery.

Thursday 13 March

0930-1100 Preparation for shadowing of Audit Committee meeting. To include discussions with:

Prof Hugh Pennington, E.Coli Enquiry
David Melding AM, Committee Chair (1100hrs.)
James Verity and David Metcalfe, Wales Audit Office.

Meeting Room B, 4th Floor Ty Hywel.

1230-1330 Lunch hosted by CPA Wales Branch. Members' Tearoom.

Lesley Griffiths AM

1330-1630 Shadow Audit Committee meeting.

Presentation on E.Coli Enquiry.

Evening Own arrangements.

Friday 14 March

Morning Observe performance by Theatr Fforwm Cymru in the Neuadd.

Lunchtime Debrief with John Grimes and Peter Kellam. Cwrt Room 5.

Afternoon Depart.

Evening Supper hosted by Dr Alex and Mrs Mary Kellam. Llandaff.

Saturday 15 March Free Day (Wales v France at Rugby).

Sunday 16 March

Morning Attend 1045 Eucharist, Llandaff Cathedral.

Visit to the Museum of Welsh Life, St Fagans.

Monday 17 March Departure for Cardiff International Airport at 3.30am.