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Belize Participates in Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Programme

- Friday, 16th October 2026 - The National Assembly of Belize participated in the Advanced Parliamentary Development Residency Programme (Practice & Procedure) for Members, hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) through its Parliamentary Academy. The programme was held in St. Peter Port, Guernsey, from 12th - 16th October 2026.

Senator Brittney Galvez attended the programme as a participant. The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Honourable Valerie Woods, participated as one of three Caribbean parliamentarians invited to serve as mentors in the one week residency programme. The invitation recognised her years of her active parliamentary experience as a Senator and as Speaker of the House of Representatives, her role as Chair of the CPA Small Branches Network and former Vice Chair of the CPA Women's Parliamentary Network.

Delivered in partnership with the States of Deliberation of Guernsey, the five-day programme aimed to strengthen Members' performance as legislators, representatives and scrutineers. It followed a mentoring and coaching approach, through which participants identified practical solutions to the challenges they face, using simulations, role-play, one-to-one discussions and group exercises.

The programme covered the characteristics of a good parliamentarian, the legislative process, a chamber debate, outreach, education and advocacy, and media and social media. It also covered scrutiny and oversight in the Chamber and in committees, and it included a parliamentary questioning masterclass and a committee exercise. Participants also took part in a field visit to the neighbouring island of Sark and its legislative assembly, the newest small parliament member of the CPA.

The CPA Parliamentary Academy was established in 2021 to provide professional development for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff across the Commonwealth. Its residency programmes complement its online courses with face-to-face learning at a more advanced level. Since 2022, more than 200 parliamentarians from over 35 national and subnational jurisdictions have taken part in the Academy's residency programmes.

Belize's participation provided an opportunity to strengthen the capacity of its parliamentarians and to build a network of peers across the Commonwealth. It also allowed Belize to exchange knowledge and practices that support the continued strengthening and modernisation of the National Assembly.

The delegation is scheduled to return on 18th October 2026. Belize's participation was facilitated by the CPA Headquarters Secretariat.

Manuel Grant
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