



CPA Wales Branch Activity Report

Inward Visit of South African Parliament, 22 January 2008

At the request of CPA UK Branch a one-day programme was provided for a delegation of 6 Members and 3 officials from the South African Parliament.

Led by the Hon Mildred Oliphant MP, Chairperson of the House of Provinces the delegation comprised three National Assembly Members and three Members of the House of Provinces.

A copy of the programme including full details of the delegation and their itinerary is attached.

The delegation met the Deputy Presiding Officer on arrival offered coffee and received a tour of the Senedd.

The Branch hosted a buffet lunch for the delegation in the Members Tearoom. Present at lunch were Branch Members Janet Ryder, Lesley Griffiths, Mike German, John Griffiths and Claire Clancy as Branch Secretary.

The lunch provided an opportunity for informal round table discussions. Discussions focussed mainly on changing relations between provincial and national parliaments comparing and contrasting devolution in the UK with devolution in South Africa, both UK having been through recent periods of constitutional reform.

At lunch gifts were exchanged. The delegation was presented with an engraved crystal glass and the Branch received a silver ornamental map of Africa.

The programme after lunch commenced with an opportunity to observe questions the First Minister from the public gallery. This generated a number of questions on comparative practice and procedure and also on how the positive and negative influences of ICT provision on Members' conduct in the chamber.

The delegation then met with the First Minister. This was much appreciated by the delegates who were able to develop some of the themes discussed during lunch and also to gain an insight into the First Minister's perspective on Wales' experience of devolution.

The day concluded with a brief tour of the Millennium Stadium delivered by Gerry Toms the Stadium Manager. The group saw the new turf being laid and reflect on sporting links between South Africa and Wales.

CPA Secretariat
22 January 2007