Speaker of the Indian Parliament Mrs Meira Kumar and her delegation with the King.
SPEAKER IN SD

BY MBONGISENI NDZIMANDZE

MBABANE – Swaziland is hosting the Executive Committee Meetings of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) where a number of high profile global parliamentarians are participating.

The meeting began on Saturday and is expected to continue to Thursday. Among those in attendance is Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar who was welcomed by Lobamba Lomdzala MP Marwick Khumalo.

CPA India Region consists of Members of State Legislative Assemblies in India. Smt. Meira Kumar is the Chairperson of the CPA India Region Branch.

The Executive Committee of CPA consists mainly of the officers of CPA and the representatives from each regional branch. The agenda of the Executive Committee meetings consists of reviewing the organisational aspects and functioning of CPA and planning the activities to be undertaken by CPA in the next few years. The subjects to be discussed at the next CPA Conference (assembly of the delegate parliamentarians from member countries) and in the Workshops to be held in Kenya in 2010, are among the matters to be discussed in the Executive Committee Meetings. Perspectives of the different regions of CPA, the Small Island Countries and women parliamentarians will be brought to bear on the selection of subjects and discussions on fostering greater participation of parliamentarians as well as legislators from all commonwealth countries.

Honourable Speaker’s visit to Swaziland assumes importance in the context of the fact that though Swazi Ministers have been visiting India from time to time, there has been no high level visit from India in the recent past.

According to news wire services during her visit, the Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar is expected to call on His Majesty King Mswati III. Honourable Speaker Lok Sabha is expected to convey assurances of India’s highest regard for him and to consolidate the five decades of friendship between Swaziland and India. She will share developmental experiences as part of institutional linkages.

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Lobamba Lomdzala MP Marwick Khumalo welcomes Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar on her arrival at the Matsapha airport.

ABOUT THE CPA

● The CPA is an association of Parliamentarians from the Commonwealth countries which aims at promoting the advancement of parliamentary democracy by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance.

● It works in the fields of democratic elections, human rights, gender sensitising (through the Committee of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians) and promoting awareness of parliamentary democracy among the youth.

● Active CPA Branches, grouped in Regional Branches, now exist in nearly 175 national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments and Legislatures, with a total membership of about 17 000 Parliamentarians.
MBABANE- His Majesty King Mswati III has urged all Commonwealth member states to ensure that peace is maintained within their countries.

The king said this when bidding farewell to members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) on Wednesday evening. He highlighted the significance of presence of the global Torch of Peace in Swaziland recently.

His Majesty noted that peace underpins the development of any nation. “We need to maintain the peace of our nations and avoid things that will disrupt peace as individual members of the Commonwealth,” he said.

“Health problems hinder economic growth and we need to have programmes in place to ensure the health of our people,” added His Majesty King Mswati III.

Moreover, the king said a wealthy nation is a healthy nation. “A wealthy nation is a healthy nation,” added His Majesty.

He further urged the CPA members to come and invest in Swaziland, saying that they would be assisted by all means possible.