

AusAID supports Ugandan Parliament training program



Merina Barungi participated in the first training module.

The Australian-based Legislative Leadership and Governance Group is partnering with the Parliament of Uganda to deliver a series of AusAID-funded

training modules to Members of Parliament (MPs) and parliamentary officers. The first two training modules – ‘Improving Performances of Officers at the Table’ and ‘Effective Parliamentary Committees’ – ran in late October and early November.

The modules are part of the AusAID Parliament of Uganda Training Program, delivered through the AAPF. This one-year program aims to improve the effectiveness of the Ugandan Government’s legislative function and strengthen the Parliament’s oversight of the Executive. By doing so, the program seeks to support the Ugandan Government’s bid to improve democracy and the rule of law – the ultimate goal is to raise the country’s income levels and living standards.

Professor Peter Loney, Director of the Legislative Leadership and Governance Group within the Alfred Deakin Research Institute at Deakin University in Australia, coordinated the first two-day module at the Parliament of Uganda in Kampala from 29 to 30 October. The workshop trained 21 table officers on parliamentary practices and procedures. They focused particularly

on parliamentary questions, amendments, points of order and record keeping.

From 4 to 5 November, Carlo Carli – a former member of the Victorian Parliament in Australia – led the second module for 43 MPs on conducting parliamentary committees. The courses covered the role of parliamentary committees, including their functions, powers and how they contribute to good governance; and responsibilities of parliamentary committee Chairs, members and support staff.

Both modules received positive feedback from participants. Merina Barungi, an assistant clerk who attended the first training module, said the facilitators were “experienced and knowledgeable” and the course content was “very relevant” to participants’ needs. She said the interactive sessions allowed participants to apply the lessons learnt.

The remaining four modules will cover: financial scrutiny; parliamentary leadership for women; research and reporting; and communicating with the electorate and media.