

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

38th SESSION

December 14 - December 20, 2016



FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK

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ABBREVIATIONS

AJIP	Awami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan
ANP	Awami National Party
APML	All Pakistan Muslim League
AMLPP	Awami Muslim League Pakistan
BISP	Benazir Income Support Program
BNP	Balochistan National Party
CANs	Calling Attention Notices
CDA	Capital Development Authority
FATA	The Federally Administered Tribal Areas
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IND	Independent Member
JI	Jamaat-e-Islami
JUI-F	Jamiat-e-Ulema-Islam (Fazlur Rehman)
MQM	Muttahida Qaumi Movement
MUR	Motion under Rule
NP	National Party
NPP	National Peoples Party
PKMAP	Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PML-F	Pakistan Muslim League (Functional)
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
PML-Z	Pakistan Muslim League (Zia-ul-Haq Shaheed)
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
QWP-S	Qaumi Watan Party (Sherpao)

Treasury-Opposition Confrontation Mars National Assembly Agenda

Total
Sittings

5

Working
Days

7

Cumulative
Duration

11

Hours & 19 Minutes

Suspensions

84

Minutes

- PM, Leaders of PTI, MQM, JUI-F, PML and 70 other Lawmakers Remain Absent during Entire Session
- None of the Sittings Could Commence on Scheduled Time

The National Assembly could not address its scheduled business during 38th session that ended on December 20, 2016. The five-sitting session had three government bills and heavy Private Members' business on its agenda but the House did not take up any agenda item appearing on Orders of the Day. The Question Hour was also held only twice during the entire session. However, the government presented two unscheduled committee reports that includes the Second Interim Report of Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms.

The lawmakers exploited Points of Order to discuss various political issues. These discussions, which mostly related to Panama Leaks Issue, consumed nearly half of the proceedings (48%) time. The absence of Leader of the House (Prime Minister) and parliamentary leader of PTI was also highlighted during the debates. The lack of quorum disrupted the proceedings twice leading to adjournment of sitting once and an hour's suspension on second occasion. According to official attendance records published on the website of the National Assembly, as many as 75 lawmakers, including the Prime Minister and the parliamentary leaders of PTI, MQM, JUI-F and PML did not attend any sitting of the session. On average, each sitting was attended by 186 (55%) lawmakers.

According to FAFEN headcounts, on average, 79 (23%) lawmakers were present at the outset and 92 (27%) at the adjournment of each sitting.

Duration and Attendance

The National Assembly held five sittings during its 38th session that began on December 14 and ended on December 20, 2016. Each sitting, on average, continued for nearly two hours and 15 minutes while the cumulative duration of five sittings was 11 hours and 19 minutes. The proceedings remained suspended for an hour and 24 minutes due to prayer break or lack of quorum. As compared to previous session, the average sitting duration witnessed a decrease of 38 minutes. None of the sittings could commence on its scheduled time. Each sitting, on average, started an hour and eight minutes behind the schedule while the average delay during the previous session was only eight minutes. Two sittings of the session were delayed for more than two hours while the minimum delay was of 18 minutes.

The Prime Minister did not attend any sitting of the session. It is continuously third session of the Lower House that Prime Minister has not been attending. The Leader of the Opposition was present during three out of five sittings

Average Delay
per Sitting

1

Hour & 8 Minutes

Members at
Outset (Average)

79

Members at
End (Average)

92

Maximum
Members
(Average)

186

and attended 56% of the proceedings (six hours and 17 minutes). The Speaker attended all five sittings and presided over 84% of the proceedings (nine hours and 33 minutes) while the Deputy Speaker was present in four sittings and chaired three percent of the proceedings (22 minutes). The remaining of the session's duration was consumed in suspensions. The parliamentary leaders of JI, PPPP, APML, AMLP and AJIP attended all sittings while those of JUI-F, MQM, PML and PTI remained absent throughout the session. As many as 97 lawmakers, including 42 of PML-N, 17 of PTI, 14 of PPPP, eight of JUI-F, seven of MQM and three of JI were marked present in every sitting. On the other hand, 75 lawmakers – 44 PML-N, 13 PPPP, five MQM, four each of PTI and PML-F, two of PML and one each of JUI-F, PkMAP and Independents – did not attend any sitting of the session.

Legislation

The National Assembly did not address its legislative agenda items during 38th session. There appeared three Government and 16 Private Members' bills on Orders of the Day but none of them was taken up by the House.

Resolutions

The National Assembly did not adopt any resolution during the reporting session. Five Private Members' resolutions had come on the agenda but the House did not take up any of them.

Committee Reports

The Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms presented its Second Interim Report before the National Assembly during the reporting session. The report included the draft of the Election Bill, 2017, which is a unified version of the election laws of Pakistan. Moreover, the Standing Committee on Climate Change also presented its report on the Pakistan Climate Change Bill 2016 (a government bill introduced during last session). Both of these reports were not included on the Orders of the Day and were presented during

last sitting (December 20, 2016) after taking special permission from the House to transact government business on Private Members' Day.

In addition to the above reports, seven Standing Committees Reports and two Statutory Reports were also part of the scheduled business but were not taken up by the House.

Motions under Rule 259

Five Motions under Rule 259 and a Motion of Thanks to the President were part of the Assembly's agenda for 38th session. However, the House did not address any of these motions.

Calling Attention Notices

The Assembly did not take up any of the two Calling Attention Notices which appeared five times on the Orders of the Day. Through these CANs, the PML-N lawmakers sought explanation on unavailability of life saving drugs and a PTI lawmaker drew government's attention towards favoritism shown by Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) in Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Questions

The National Assembly held the Question Hour during two out of five sittings of the reporting session. Among the remaining three sittings, one was reserved for Private Member's business and twice the House suspended regular agenda, including Question Hour. As many as 196 Questions – 139 Starred and 57 Unstarred – were listed for answers during the session. The Rules of Procedure require the executive to answer a Starred Question orally as well as in writing while the Unstarred Questions are to be replied only in writing. However, only 18 Starred Questions were taken up for oral answers. The lawmakers asked 23 supplementary questions for further elucidation of the Starred Questions. Moreover, the government did not submit written answers to 60 questions – 32 Starred and 28 Unstarred.

PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



Sahibzada Tariqullah



JI

5
attended



Syed Naveed Gamar



PPPP

5
attended



Iftikhar Uddin



APML

5
attended



Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed



AMLP

5
attended



Engr. Usman Khan Tarakai



AJIP

5
attended



Mahmood Khan Achakzai



PkMAP

4
attended



Muhammad Ijaz-ul-Haq



PML-Z

4
attended



Aftab Ahmed Sherpao



QWP-S

3
attended



Ghulam Ahmed Bilour



ANP

2
attended



Sayed Essa Nori



BNP

2
attended



Sardar Kamal Bangulzai



NP

1
attended

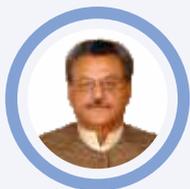


Saddar-ud-Din Rashidi



PML-F

1
attended



Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi



NPP

1
attended

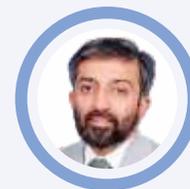


Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman



JUI-F

0
attended



Dr. M. Farooq Sattar



MQM

0
attended

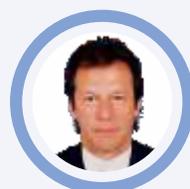


Ch. Pervez Ellahi



PML

0
attended



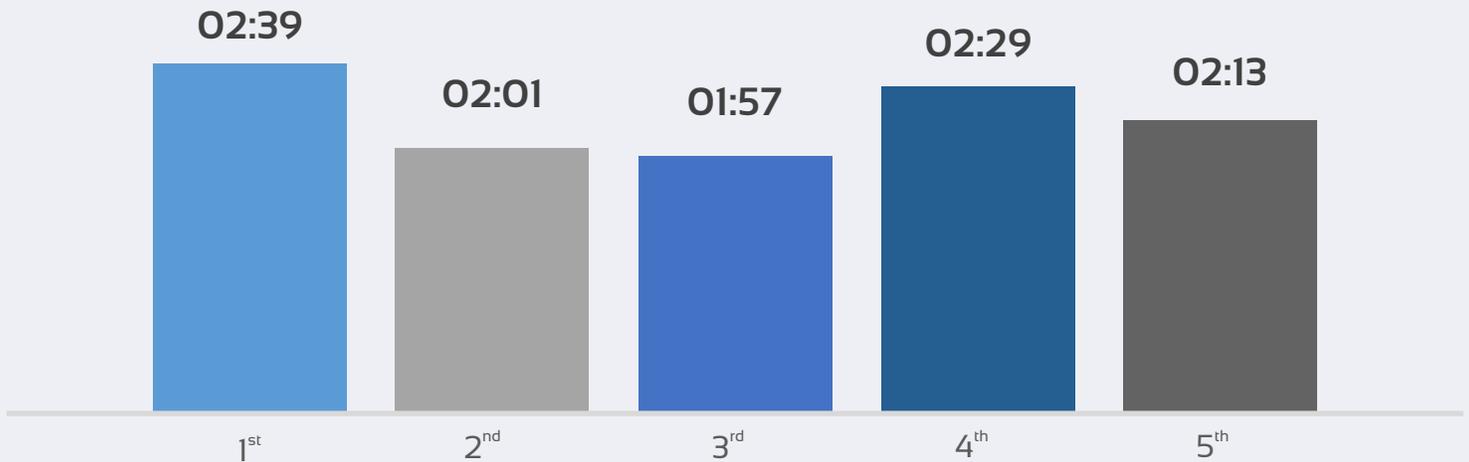
Imran Khan



PTI

0
attended

SITTING DURATION (hh:mm)



KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



Speaker

Attended **5** Sittings | Presided over **84%** Proceedings



Deputy Speaker

Attended **4** Sittings | Presided over **3%** Proceedings



Prime Minister

Attended **0** Sittings | Spent **0%** time in the House

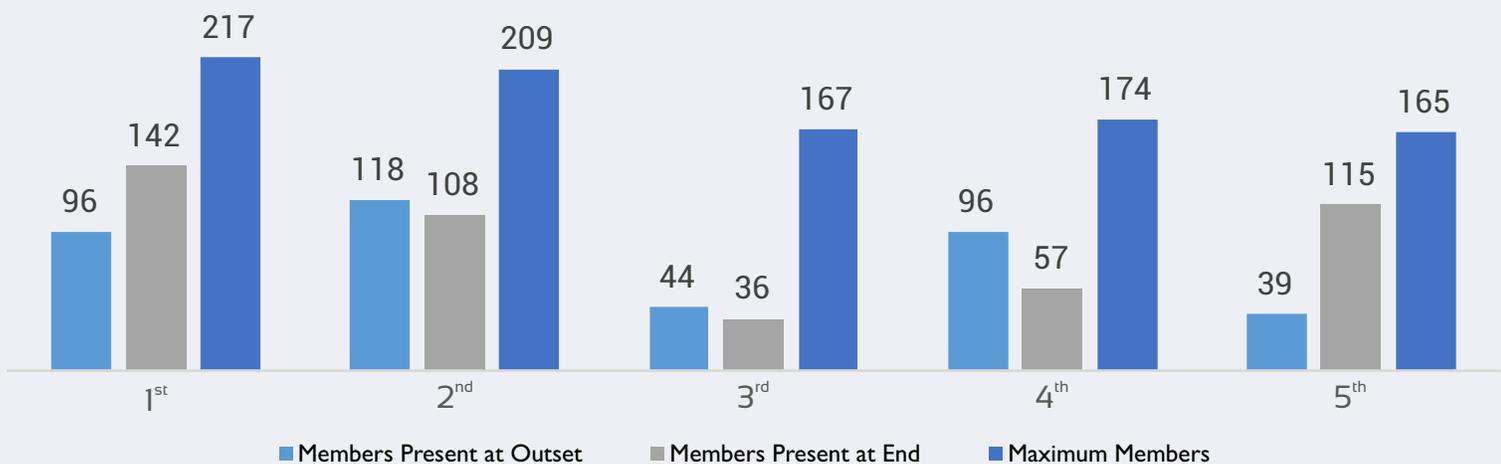


Leader of the Opposition

Attended **3** Sittings | Spent **56%** time in the House

*Two percent duration of proceedings was consumed in prayer breaks.

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



2

Committee
Reports
Presented

196

Questions
Asked

33

Points of
Order

The Questions were addressed to 29 government ministries and departments. The Capital Administration and Development Division received highest number of Questions (27) followed by Ministry of Water and Power (19).

Points of Order

Nearly half of session (48%) was consumed by speeches on Points of Order. The lawmakers raised 33 Points of Order consuming five hours and 29 minutes of the proceedings. Most of the speeches on POs were concerned with investigations of Panama Leaks' revelations and other political developments.

Quorum

The PTI lawmakers identified quorum twice during the session. Once, the identification led to adjournment of the sitting while on the other occasion, the proceedings had to be suspended for an hour waiting for required number of lawmakers (one-fourth of total membership) to be completed.

Protests

The treasury and opposition's protests against each other disrupted the proceedings of the National Assembly during four out of five sittings. Lawmakers belonging to ruling PML-N and opposition PTI chanted slogans against each other during first, fourth and fifth sittings while the entire opposition except JI staged a walkout during third sitting when a member of PTI was not allowed to speak on a Point of Order.

This report is based on direct observation of the proceedings of the National Assembly conducted by Free and Fair Election Network. Every effort has been made to keep this report, which deals with on-floor performance of the Members, accurate and comprehensive. Errors and omissions are excepted.

ABOUT FAFEN

- FAFEN is one of the most credible networks of civil society organizations working for strengthening citizens' voice and accountability in Pakistan since 2006.
- FAFEN has harnessed information technology for real-time monitoring, facilitation and technical backstopping of partners for effective and result-based program delivery.
- FAFEN is the only civil society group to have been invited by the Judicial Commission to present the evidence of illegalities and irregularities documented through the course of General Elections 2013 Observation. The systemic and procedural issues identified by FAFEN have been acknowledged by the commission in its detailed findings.
- FAFEN's recommendations for electoral reforms have contributed to the work of Parliamentary Committee for Electoral Reforms.
- FAFEN's advocacy for parliamentary transparency, accountability and reforms has shaped public discourse on parliamentary reforms. Improved citizens' access to parliamentary information including daily public release of parliamentarians' attendance records can be directly attributed to FAFEN's work.
- FAFEN deployed 18,000 and 40,000 non-partisan and trained observers for the systematic observation of general election 2008 and 2013, respectively, largest citizens' observation ever undertaken in Pakistan.
- FAFEN's evidence and recommendations for reforms have improved the quality of public and political discourse on elections, its issues and need for reforms. Leading political parties and media houses extensively use FAFEN's election findings and analysis to build a case for reforms.
- With more than 17,300 followers on Twitter and around 72,000 on Facebook, FAFEN is considered one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.

Free and Fair Election Network
www.fafen.org

