

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

12th SESSION

April 25 - May 3, 2019



FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK

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ABBREVIATIONS

ANP	Awami National Party
BNP	Balochistan National Party
BNP-A	Balochistan National Party (Awami)
BAP	Balochistan Awami Party
CAN	Call Attention Notice
MMAP	Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan
PkMAP	Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Isnaf
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
PO	Point of Order
AM	Adjournment Motion

Total
Sittings

4

Working
Days

9

Cumulative
Duration

11

Hours & 16 Minutes

Total
Break Time

2

Hours & 13 Minutes

Balochistan Assembly Leaves 68% Agenda Unaddressed during 12th Session

■ 25 Percent Lawmakers participated in the proceedings

The Provincial Assembly of Balochistan did not address 68 percent of its scheduled agenda during 12th session that continued from April 25 to May 3, 2019, observes Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) in its Session Report.

The four-sitting session's agenda comprised seven resolutions, five reports, three Calling Attention Notice, as many Adjournment Motions and a bill. The House addressed only two resolutions, as many CANs and AMs. The remaining five resolutions, as many reports, a bill, a CAN and an AM remained unaddressed.

The session witnessed a low attendance at the commencement and adjournment of the sittings as an average 12 (20 percent) lawmakers were present at the outset and 22 (36 percent) at the adjournment of each sitting on average. The points of order raised by the lawmakers consumed 23 percent of the proceedings.

Of 65 lawmakers, 16 (25 percent) including 13 men and three women contributed to the proceedings of the House by sponsoring various parliamentary interventions and/or contributing to the debate on them. The active lawmakers belonged to BAP (five), BNP-M (three), PTI, MMAP and BNP (two each) and PkMAP and HDP (one each).

1 Session, Duration and Attendance

The session comprised four sittings and spanned over nine working days. The cumulative duration of four sittings was 11 hours and 16 minutes including a period of two hours and 13 minutes when the proceedings remained suspended. Each sitting started an hour and 15 minutes behind the scheduled time and lasted two hours and 49 minutes, on an average. According to the headcount conducted by FAFEN observers, an average 20 percent (12) lawmakers were present at the start and an average 36 percent (22) at the adjournment of each sitting. On average, two out of three lawmakers belonging to minorities attended each sitting during the session.

The Speaker did not attend any of the sitting during the session while the Deputy Speaker attended three sittings and presided over the session for six hours and 24 minutes (57 percent proceedings). The remaining four hours and 52 minutes (43 percent proceedings) were presided over by a member of Panel of Chairpersons.

Average Sitting Delay

5

Hour & One Minute

Members at Outset (Average)

12

present

Members at End (Average)

22

present

2

Resolutions Adopted

The Leader of the House (Chief Minister) attended two sittings for two hours and 54 minutes (26 percent proceedings) while the Leader of the Opposition was present in three sittings for 10 hours and 42 minutes (95 percent proceedings). The parliamentary leaders of BNP-M, MMAP and PkMAP attended three sittings each while the HDP, BAP and PTI leaders were present for two sitting each. Moreover, the leaders of JWP and ANP attended one each out of four sittings during the session.

2 Assembly Output

This section deals with the legislative business, resolutions, amendment to the rules, reports and documents presented before the House during the session.

2.1 Resolutions

The House adopted two out of seven resolutions appearing on its agenda during the reporting period. An HDP-sponsored resolution condemned the incident of terrorism in Hazarganji area of Quetta on April 12, 2018 while a BNP-M sponsored resolution recommended the government to take special measures at provincial level to facilitate Persons with Disabilities. Another four resolutions sponsored individually by MMAP (two), BNP (one) and PKMAP (one) lawmakers and a resolution jointly sponsored by lawmakers belonging to opposition parties remained unaddressed.



■ Adopted ■ Not Taken Up

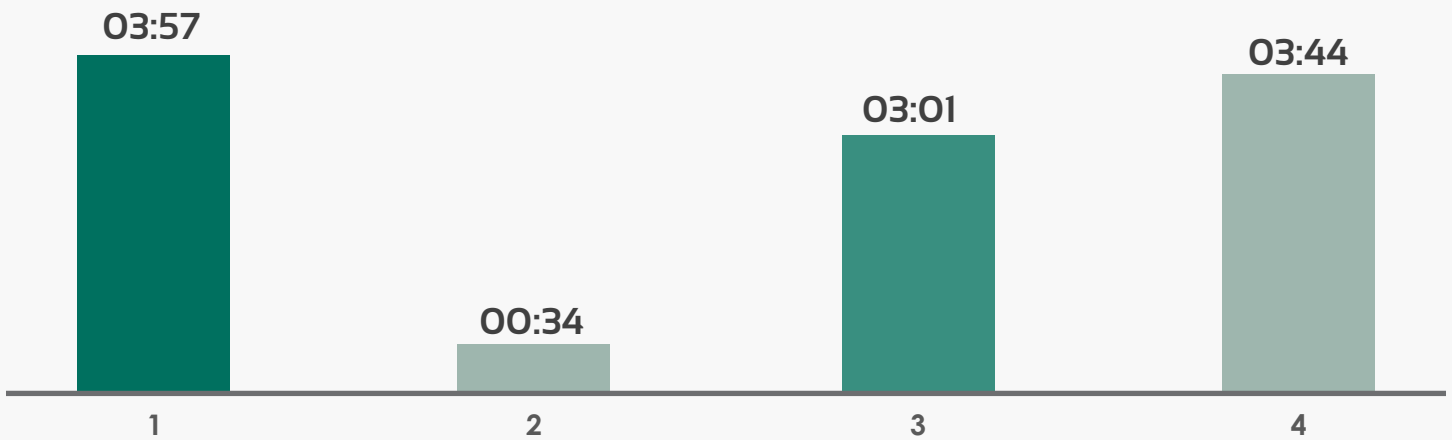
2.2 Legislation

The legislative business of the House included only one government bill titled the Balochistan Education Foundation (Amendment) Bill, 2019. However, the House deferred the bill for a later sitting.

2.3 Reports

The House did not address the two standing committee reports and three statutory reports of the National Finance Commission that appeared on List of the Business during the reporting period.

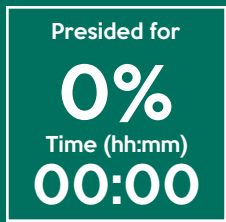
SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



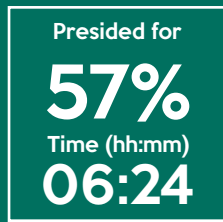
KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



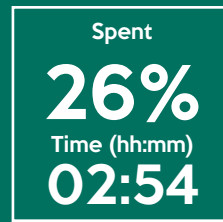
Speaker



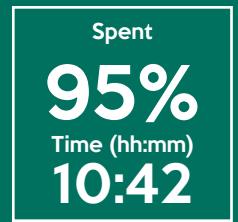
Deputy Speaker



Leader of the House

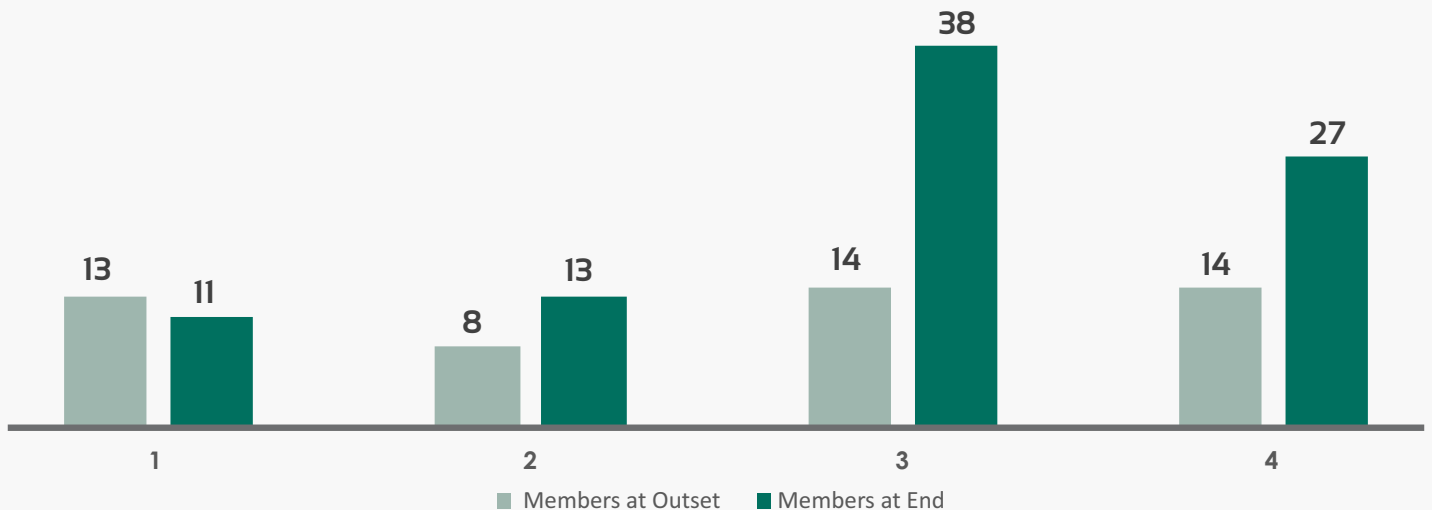


Leader of the Opposition



*47 percent proceedings were chaired by a member of panel of presiding officer

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



NASRULLAH KHAN BAREACH



PkMAP

3

attended



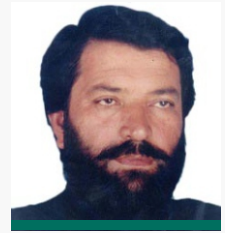
NASEER AHMED



BNP-M

3

attended



MALIK SIKANDAR



MMAP

3

attended



JAM KAMAL



BAP

2

attended



SARDAR YAR MUHAMMAD RIND



PTI

2

attended



KHALIQ HAZARA



HDP

2

attended



ASGHAR KHAN ACHAKZAI



ANP

1

attended



GOHRAM BUGTI



JWP

1

attended

38

Starred
Questions

29

Questions
Taken Up

9

Questions
Deferred

3

Adjournment
Motion

3 Representation and Responsiveness

This section gives statistical as well as qualitative overview of legislator's interventions in the House – Calling Attention Notices (CANs), Questions, Adjournment Motions (AM) or any other motions – for the oversight of government and to articulate issues of public interest and importance.

3.1 Questions

According to the Rules 33 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Balochistan Assembly, the first hour of regular weekday sittings of the House is reserved for asking and answering question by the members. However, the House had to suspend the Question Hour proceedings during one of the four regular sittings due to absence of the concerned government minister.

Out of 38 Starred Questions listed for answers, the House took up 29 (76 percent) questions for verbal answers during the Question Hour while the remaining nine (24 percent) were not addressed due to absence of the movers or the concerned ministers. The lawmakers also asked 46 supplementary questions during the question hour.

3.2 Call Attention Notices

The government responded to two Call Attention Notices (CANs) appearing on agenda during the session. Sponsored by BNP and PkMAP lawmakers, these CANs sought government's response on the distribution of relief goods among drought victims in Districts Bolan and Kachi and non-provision of scholarships to the needy students. A CAN sponsored by BNP lawmaker regarding upcoming budget of the province was left unaddressed.

3.3 Adjournment Motion

The House admitted two Adjournment Motions (AMs), moved by PkMAP and HDP lawmakers, for discussing the law and order situation in the province. However, the House did not proceed to the debate on these motions during the session. An AM, jointly sponsored by lawmakers belonging to BNP, PkMAP and MMAP seeking a debate on the government's decision to demolish residential buildings in Quetta remained unaddressed.

3

Calling
Attention
Notices

2

CANs
Taken Up

23

Members
raising
Points of Order

16

Participating
Members

4 Order and Institutionalization

Order and institutionalization are important for an efficient and productive legislature. This section provides information about the members' Question of Privilege, Points of Order, Quorum and any instances of walkout, protest or boycott during the proceeding

4.1 Points of Order

As many as 23 lawmakers raised Points of Order (POs) during the session, consuming two hours and 36 minutes (or 23 percent) of the proceedings. These POs highlighted the issues concerning the House business, law and order, Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) and distribution of funds among districts.

4.2 Quorum

The House witnessed three instances of identification of quorum during two out of four sitting of the session. The lawmakers belonging to MMAP, BNP-M and PkMAP highlighted the lack of quorum. On two of these instances, the quorum was completed on the headcount while once the proceedings had to be suspended for 15 minutes and then adjourned due to the lack of quorum.

4.3 Protest and Walkout

The session recorded only a single incident of walkout by a MMAP lawmaker against the unsatisfactory reply by the Provincial Minister for Health to a matter raised by him through a Point of Order. However, he joined the proceedings after seven minutes.

ABOUT FAFEN

- FAFEN is one of the most credible networks among civil society organizations working to strengthen 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 finalization of the Elections Act, 2017 and helped improve the quality of public and political discourse on elections. Leading political parties and media houses extensively use FAFEN's election findings and analysis to build upon the cases for 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 around 18,000, 40,000 and 20,000 non-partisan and trained observers for the systematic observation of the General Elections 2008, 2013 and 2018, respectively.
- With more than 25,000 followers on Twitter and around 143,000 on Facebook, FAFEN is considered to be one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.

Free and Fair Election Network

www.fafen.org
www.openparliament.pk
www.parliamentfiles.com



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.