

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF BALOCHISTAN

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

14th SESSION

June 19 - June 27, 2019



FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK

www.fafen.org | www.openparliament.pk

ABBREVIATIONS

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

Total
Sittings

06

Working
Days

09

Cumulative
Duration

26

Hours & 56 Minutes

Total
Break Time

6

Hours & 46 Minutes

BALUCHISTAN ASSEMBLY: 43% LAWMAKERS ABSTAIN FROM BUDGET DEBATE

- Leader of House attends all six sittings
- Four walkouts witnessed during session

ISLAMABAD, June 29, 2019: The Provincial Assembly of Balochistan witnessed low interest of lawmakers, especially those belonging to the government, during the Budget Session, observes Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) in its session report.

As many as 28 members (43%) did not participate in the debate held on the Money Bill between June 19 and June 27, 2019. Majority of such lawmakers belonged to the treasury benches (21 lawmakers or 32%) while those belonging to the main opposition parties remained 11 percent or seven lawmakers.

The budget session began with the introduction of the Finance Bill, 2019 and the presentation of Annual and Supplementary Budgets on June 19, 2019. The House commenced discussion two days after the budget speech that continued for four sittings. During the session, 128 Demands for Grants were approved while all cut motions were rejected. Finally, the provincial government managed to pass the Finance Bill 2019 on June 27.

As many as 37 out of 65 lawmakers (57%) took part in the deliberations while the remaining 28 (43%) legislators did not participate in the fiscal discussion. The lawmakers spent 15 hours and 28 minutes (57% of session's duration) on the general discussion as well as on the debate on Demands for Grants, Finance Bill and the Supplementary Budget.

Among 37 members taking part in budget discussion, four (11%) were females who consumed 34 minutes of the proceedings' time while the remaining 33 (89%) male lawmakers discussed it for 14 hours and 54 minutes. Among the participating female lawmakers, two each were from BAP and BNP while male lawmakers belonged to BAP (11), MMA (9), BNP (4), ANP (3), BNP-A (2), HDP, JWP, PkMAP and PTI (one each).

Meanwhile, 28 members did not take part in the budget debate, among them seven were female and 21 male lawmakers. The

Average
Sitting Delay

1

hour & 38 minutes

Members at Outset
(Average)

25

present

Members at End
(Average)

26

present

Maximum
Member

52

non-participating female lawmakers belonged to BAP & MMA (two each) and ANP, BNP, PTI (one each) while nine male members from BAP, five from PTI, three from BNP and one each from BNP-A, HDP, PML-N and an Independent lawmaker did not participate in the budget debate.

The six sittings budget (14th) session started on June 19, 2019 and prorogued on June 27, 2019. Twenty-six hours and 56 minutes long session started with an average delay of an hour and 38 minutes, while each sitting lasted four hours and 29 minutes, on average. Twenty-five (38%) members, on average, were present at the outset and 26 (40%) at the time of adjournment of the sitting.

The Leader of the House (Chief Minister) attended nearly 88% of the proceedings (23 hours and 41 minutes) and was present in all six sittings. The Leader of the Opposition, on the other hand, attended five sittings and was present in the House for 67% of the session's time (17 hours and 55 minutes).

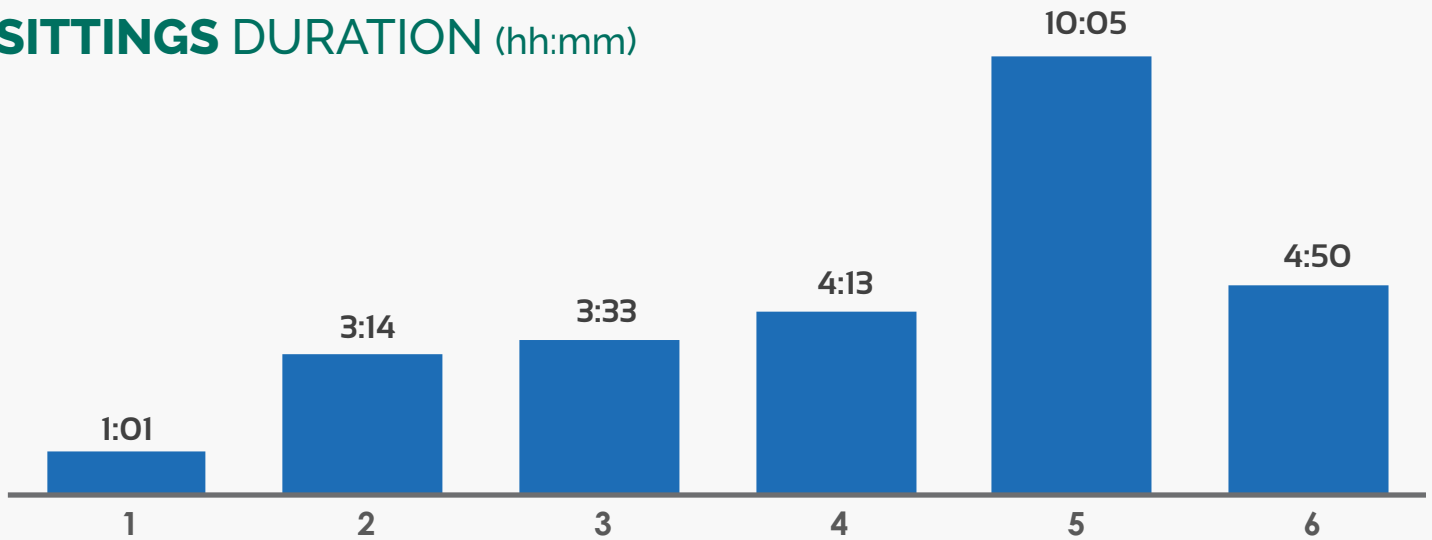
The Speaker attended one sitting and chaired 8% of the session's time, the Deputy Speaker was present in all sittings and presided over 69% of the proceedings, while two percent of the proceedings' time was chaired by a member of panel of chairpersons. Twenty-five percent (six hours and 46 minutes) of the total session's time was consumed in breaks.

The Parliamentary Leaders of BAP, ANP and PkMAP attended all sittings of the session followed by JWP, BNP-A, MMA (five each), HDP (four) and BNP-M (three). The Parliamentary Leader of PTI did not attend any of the sitting.

Four walkouts were carried out by the opposition lawmakers during the session for a total of 60 minutes. The walkouts were held against the lawmakers' reservations over the Money Bill, Demands for Grants and 'unjustified' allocation of funds for various departments as well as criticism on JUI-F leader for 'misusing' social media account.

Twenty-two lawmakers spoke on Points of Order during the session, consuming two hours and 22 minutes of the proceedings. Though reserved for matters related to the rules, the lawmakers used the POs to talk about various other issues as well.

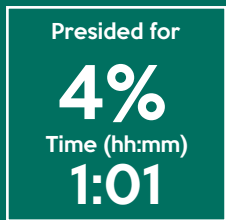
SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



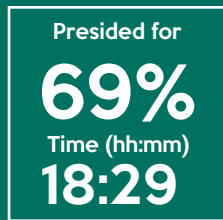
KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



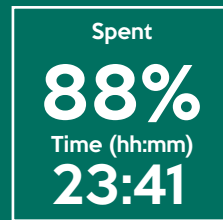
Speaker



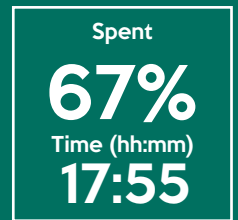
Deputy Speaker



Leader of the House

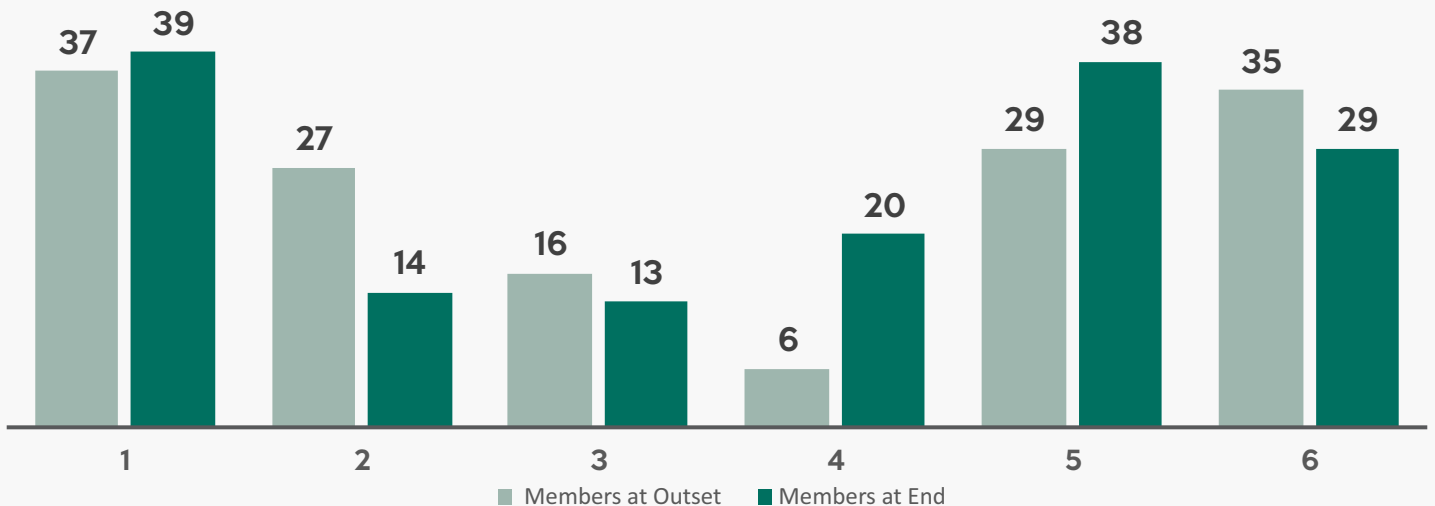


Leader of the Opposition



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

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



NASRULLAH KHAN BAREACH



6

PkMAP | attended



JAM KAMAL



6

BAP | attended



ASGHAR KHAN ACHAKZAI



6

ANP | attended



GOHRAM BUGTI



5

JWP | attended



MALIK SIKANDAR



5

MMAP | attended



KHALIQ HAZARA



4

HDP | attended



NASEER AHMED



3

BNP-M | attended



SARDAR YAR M. RIND



0

PTI | attended

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 25,000 followers on Twitter and around 144,000 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
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.