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FAFEN Parliament Monitor

34th Session

Provincial Assembly of Sindh
(29th February-22nd March, 2012)

Free and Fair Election Network

List of Abbreviations

ANP	Awami National Party
EDO	Executive District Officer
IBA	Institute of Business Administration
IND	Independent Member
MMAP	Mutihida Majlis-e-Amal Party
MQM	Muttahida Quami Movement
NPP	National Peoples Party
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PML(F-B)	Pakistan Muslim League (Forward-Block)
PO	Point of Order
PPPP	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians
PW	Parliament Watch
QoP	Question of Privilege



This report is based on direct observation of proceedings of Provincial Assembly of Sindh, conducted by **Pakistan Press Foundation**, a member organization of FAFEN.

Executive Summary

The Sindh Assembly passed five Government Bills during the 34th session, held from 29th February to 22nd March 2012. The session comprised 14 daily sittings and lasted 28 hours and 45 minutes. On average, each of these sittings lasted for an hour and 36 minutes, and started late by 85 minutes.

The five Bills – three new legislations and two amendments to existing laws – pertained to regularization of teachers based on performance, the powers of the Governor to increase tenures of current Ombudsmen, establishment of a medical institution at Sehwan, irrigation issues and awarding university status to the Indus Institute of Higher Education (IIHE).

In addition, the Habib University Bill 2012 (Government) and the Registration (Sindh Amendment) Bill 2012 (Private) were introduced and sent to their respective committees for further deliberations.

The House adopted ten Resolutions regarding the forced conversion of minorities in Sindh, Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy's Oscar win, commemoration of International Women's Day, condemnation of wall chalking and pasting posters about separate Muhajir province in Karachi, reduction of health inequities, extension in the submission date of correction and enrollment of voters' lists, commemoration of 23rd March and to welcome the fifth parliamentary year. Resolutions are a means for the House to express its opinion, make recommendations, convey a message, and commend, urge or request action on a situation under consideration by the Government.

FAFEN documents the participation by observing the number of Members who submitted Agenda on the Orders of the Day, those who took part in debates on the floor of the House, and those who did both. Five percent Members of the House brought Agenda items on the Orders of the Day, 31% took part in debates and 11% engaged in both. Members belonging to the MQM were most involved during this session as 61% participated in the proceedings, PPPP followed with 43% Members, PMLF (37%) and PML (30%), NPP two, while none of the ANP Members participated in any of the categories of participation. Out of a total 29 female Members, nearly three quarters took part in the session either by submitting Agenda, taking part in debates or both. A little over two fifths of their male counterparts did so as well, out of a total strength of 136.

During the session, Members used the opportunity to deliver long speeches on Points of Order to raise matters about their constituencies or other issues prevailing in the country. None of the Points of Order raised attracted the formal ruling of the Chair. According to the Rules of the Procedures, Points of Order are used to draw attention to perceived breaches in parliamentary discipline and/or procedure. However, during the 34th session, Members raised 114 Points of Order which consumed 12% (212 minutes) of the total session time. They were raised on various issues; the most number (21) was raised regarding the Business of the House, followed by elections, or more specifically, voters' lists (11), law and order (eight), and employment and minority affairs (six each). Members of the PPPP raised the most number of POs – 56 by male Members and 17 by female Members. Of the 11 POs raised about voters' lists, ten were raised by Members belonging to the PPPP. Similarly, five out of six POs raised regarding minority affairs were raised by PPPP Members. Women Legislators raised 31% of the total 116 POs, while men raised 69%.

Parliament Watch

An essential component of democracy is publicly accessible information about the political decision-making processes, such as parliamentary deliberations among elected representatives. Citizens must have information about whether, and how their representatives are performing in the Assembly in order to hold those elected leaders accountable.

The Parliament Watch (PW), an initiative of the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), aims to collect and publish information about the job performance of Members of the National Assembly (MNAs), Provincial Assemblies (MPAs) and Senate by observation of these directly elected representatives' actions. FAFEN intends to foster informed engagement between constituents and elected representatives in Pakistan by providing objective and statistically-sound information on parliamentary processes and decisions.

The methodology of the PW is to deploy trained observers to the National Assembly in order to monitor their performance using a detailed, standardized checklist and reporting forms covering all types of parliamentary business. The information gathered is measured against the neutral and objective framework of the rules of parliamentary procedure.

FAFEN's PW focuses on directly-observed parliamentary procedure in addition to parliamentary output. In other words, FAFEN's criteria for assessing parliamentary effectiveness are primarily process-oriented and secondarily results-oriented.

A way to carry out oversight of the executive is for Members to submit questions to be asked of Ministers/Ministries. This oversight is important for evaluating the performance of the executive. These questions can be responded to in oral (Starred questions) or written (Un-starred questions) form. The Question Hour takes place in the first hour of the sitting. A total of 185 Starred questions were put forward during Question Hour of the session, of which 68% (127) were asked by women and 31% (58) by men.

The seriousness of the Members in the discharge of their representative and legislative duties can be judged from their attendance and participation in the House. The Sindh Assembly does not make the attendance records of their Members public; FAFEN conducts a headcount at the beginning and end of each sitting. During the 34th session, on average, 39 Members were present at the outset and 63 at the end. The Speaker chaired eight sittings during the entire session and presided over 52% of the session time – as custodian of the House, the Speaker's attendance is crucial in the House to moderate debates and ensure order. The Deputy Speaker was present for 10 sittings and presided over 29% of the session time.

Two instances of walkouts were observed during the session, both by PMLF Members. A Member from the MQM protested for nine minutes against extortion, lawlessness and terrorism in Karachi.

1.0 Session Time and Members' Participation

This section of the report deals with the total session time, attendance and participation of Members, and maintenance of Quorum (at least 1/4th (41) of the total Membership). The participation of a Member is recorded when he/she takes part in the proceedings of the House, or submits an Agenda item. It also reviews the presence of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and parliamentary leaders.

1.1 Session Time

The 34th session of the Sindh Assembly, comprising 14 sittings, commenced on 29th February and ended on the 22nd March. All sittings were delayed by an average of 85 minutes.

The session lasted for 28 hours and 45 minutes. The first sitting was the longest (four hours) and the 10th sitting (15 minutes) the shortest.

Sitting No.	Day & Date	Late Starts	Hours	Minutes
1st	Wednesday, February 29	80	4	0
2nd	Thursday, March 01	90	1	35
3rd	Friday, March 02	80	0	25
4th	Monday, March 05	95	3	0
5th	Tuesday, March 06	80	3	20
6th	Thursday, March 08	80	3	15
7th	Friday, March 09	60	2	10
8th	Monday, March 12	70	1	55
9th	Tuesday, March 13	95	0	17
10th	Friday, March 16	90	0	15
11th	Monday, March 19	90	1	38
12th	Tuesday, March 20	90	3	13
13th	Wednesday, March 21	88	1	42
14th	Thursday, March 22	100	2	0
Total		Average delay 85 minutes	28 hours and 45 minutes	

1.2 Members' Participation

Participation has been classified into three categories – Parliamentarians who only submitted agenda item (s) on the Orders of Day; Legislators who did not submit any agenda item but took part in discussions and deliberations in the House, and Members who submitted Agenda items and also participated in debates.

Nearly half (48%) of the total 166 Members attended the session. Five percent Members of the House brought Agenda items on the Orders of the Day, 31% took part in debates and 11% engaged in both. Members belonging to the MQM were most involved during this session as 61% participated in the proceedings, PPPP followed with 43% Members, PMLF (37%) and PML (30%), NPP two and none of the ANP Members participated during the session.

Sr. No.	Party	Members Who Only Submitted Agenda Items	Members Who Took Part in Debates	Members Who Participated in Debates as well as Submitted Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Only Submitted Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Who Participated in Debates	Percentage of Members Who Submitted Agenda Items And Participated in Debates	Members in Assembly
1	ANP	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	2
2	MQM	7	14	10	14%	27%	20%	51
3	NPP	0	1	1	0%	33%	33%	3
4	PMLF	0	1	2	0%	13%	25%	8
5	PML	0	3	0	0%	30%	0%	10
6	PPPP	1	33	6	1%	36%	7%	92
Total		8	52	19	5%	31%	11%	166

Out of a total 30 female Members, nearly three quarters took part in the session either by submitting agenda, taking part in debates or both. A little over two fifths of their male counterparts did so as well, out of a total strength of 136.

1.3 Members' Attendance

The Sindh Assembly does not make the attendance records of Members public. FAFEN conducts a headcount at the start and end of each sitting. Members' attendance reflects their interest in the parliamentary proceedings.

Attendance of the Members remained low as, on an average, 39 Members (less than a quarter) were present at the outset and 63 (a little more than a third) at the end of each sitting. A maximum 94 Members were present during the 2nd sitting and a minimum 62 during the 6th sitting.

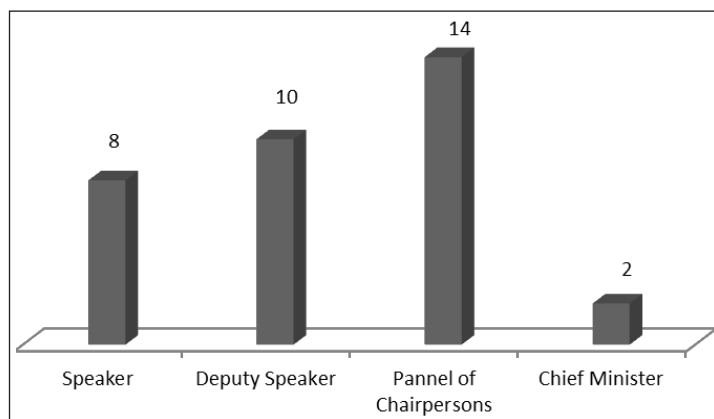
The Sindh Assembly has nine seats assigned for the religious minorities; on an average four minority Members attended the session.

Sitting No.	Members at the Outset	Members at the End	Minority Members
1st	37	47	5
2nd	51	75	4
3rd	22	65	2
4th	58	43	4
5th	14	48	5
6th	15	43	6
7th	20	71	5
8th	23	65	4
9th	52	66	4
10th	80	83	0
11th	33	78	5
12th	58	47	5
13th	47	70	5
14th	36	75	5
Average	39	63	4

1.4 Key Members' Attendance

Attendance in sittings is crucial for Members, especially those holding important positions (Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Chief Minister), to perform their legislative and representative roles.

The Chief Minister attended only two sittings and was present for only 40 minutes of the session time.



As custodian of the Assembly, the Speaker ensures that the proceedings are conducted according to the rules and

procedures of the House. Fifty two percent of the Assembly proceedings were chaired by the Speaker and 29% by the Deputy Speaker (who presides in the absence of the Speaker). The Panel of Chairpersons conducted 20% of the session.

The attendance of parliamentary leaders is vital and reflects on a party's participation during a session. Parliamentary leaders of PML (F-B) attended all but two sittings of the session, followed by MQM (11), PPPP (eight), PMLF (seven), PML (five) and NPP (four).

2.0 Representation, Responsiveness and Government Oversight

This section is concerned with government accountability, especially through questions submitted during the parliamentary Question Hour, and government Ministers' responsiveness to these questions. In this report, FAFEN observers monitored the Question Hour but did not observe the functioning of Parliamentary Committees, which are another important mechanism of the executive's oversight.

2.1 Questions and Responses

Question Hour is the most important 60-minute item of business in an Assembly's sitting that provides Members an opportunity for executive oversight. It gives parliamentary Members, especially those in the Opposition, the opportunity to question the Government or other Members on various topics, such as a Ministry's follow-up on a certain Resolution or implementation of a particular piece of legislation. Answers to Questions may be demanded in written or oral form, referred to as Un-starred or Starred questions respectively.

This section contains salient information on session-wide Question Hour proceedings, such as the number and nature of questions and Supplementary questions asked, etc. with regard to the executive's performance in various areas of intervention.

Not more than five Starred questions (requiring oral answer) and five Un-starred questions (requiring written answer) by the same Member are included in the list of questions for one day. As many as 83 Starred questions out of a total 185 raised during the session were taken up. When a Starred question has been answered any Member may ask such supplementary questions as may be necessary for the elucidation of the answer; 364 such questions were asked by Members of the House.

Sitting No.	Starred Questions	Starred Questions taken up	Supplementary Questions
1st	6	6	18
2nd	17	5	28
3rd	18	0	0
4th	18	7	30
5th	8	8	22
6th	15	14	50
7th	8	6	41
8th	20	14	34
9th	9	0	0
10th	9	0	0
11th	9	5	28
12th	28	5	27
13th	10	3	37
14th	10	10	31
Total	185	83	346

Male parliamentarians of PMLF and PPPP and female Members of NPP did not submit any questions for the Question Hour. Nearly 70% of the total Starred questions were raised by female Members and 31% by male Members, even though men outnumber women in the Assembly five to one. The Ministry of Fisheries received the maximum 36 questions, followed by

Transport (28), Services General Administration and Coordination (27), Revenue (17), Wildlife (15), Finance (20), Coal and Energy (10), Excise and Taxation (10), Jails (eight), Forest (five) and Tourism (three).

Sr. No.	Ministry	NPP		PPPP		MQM		PMLF		Total		Total
		Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
1	Anti-corruption	--	1	2	--	1	2	--	--	3	3	6
2	Coal and Energy	--	2	--	--	3	1	4	--	7	3	10
3	Excise and Taxation	--	--	2	--	5	--	3	--	10	0	10
4	Finance	--	5	5	--	7	2	1	--	13	7	20
5	Fisheries	--	4	4	--	10	4	14	--	28	8	36
6	Forest	--	1	--	--	--	--	4	--	4	1	5
7	Jails	--	--	1	--	2	1	4	--	7	1	8
8	Revenue	--	5	5	--	3	1	3	--	11	6	17
9	Services, General Administration and Coordination	--	15	3	--	9	--	--	--	12	15	27
10	Tourism	--	1	--	--	--	--	2	--	2	1	3
11	Transport	--	5	1	--	11	1	10	--	22	6	30
12	Wildlife	--	5	--	--	2	2	6	--	8	7	15
Total		--	44	23	--	53	14	51	--	127	58	185

Some predominant issues asked of the Ministry of Fisheries were about the renovation and rehabilitation of Karachi harbor, steps taken to improve the living standards of fishermen, decline in fish farming, shark species, and compensation to cyclone hit boat owners by the government etc.

The Ministry of Transport was asked about one way fare from Karachi to different district headquarters, route permits and their computerization for commercial vehicles, women's restrooms on bus stations in interior Sindh, and illegal possession of land by the Transport Department.

Questions pertaining to interdepartmental merger of workers in sugar mills in Thatta and Dadu, appointments of an advisor with the status of minister (which is prohibited by Article 123 of the constitution) and a senior minister (pertaining to which clauses have been deleted in the constitution), and establishment of Sindh House in Gwadar were asked of the Ministry of Services, General Administration and Coordination during the Question Hour.

3.0 Parliamentary Output

This section is concerned with legislation and Resolutions debated and decided during the legislative session.

3.1 Legislation

Considering legislation on matters of national significance through careful debate and discussion is arguably an assembly's chief and most important function. Legislation comes in the form of Government Bills, Private-Member Bills and Ordinances.

3.1.1 Bills

Seven Government Bills were brought on the List of Business of the Sindh Assembly, of which five were passed. The Sindh Irrigation (Amendment) Bill 2011 will enforce severe penalties on those responsible for encroachments on natural or artificial depression courses on government lands. This amendment was opposed by some Members of the Assembly suggesting a more effective implementation of the existing law to avoid unnecessary initiation of a legislative process.

The Syed Abdullah Shah Institute of Medical Sciences Bill 2012 was passed. It pertains to the construction of a medical hospital in Sehwan to provide medical assistance to adjoining rural areas and visitors to Lal Shahbaz Qalandar's shrine. In addition, this institute will provide basic and advance healthcare to patients requiring dialysis as well as those suffering from thalassemia.

Provincial Governors were accorded the power to increase the tenure of currently appointed Ombudsmen for another four years on the advice of the Chief Minister in the Establishment of the Office of Ombudsman for the Province of Sindh

(Amendment) Bill 2012. This was in the form of an amendment to the Ombudsman Act of 1991. Ombudsmen are intermediaries between the government, public sector agencies, and the citizens. They work for the protection of the rights of the people, ensuring adherence to the rule of law, diagnosing, redressing and rectifying any injustice done to a person through maladministration and suppressing corrupt practices.

The Sindh Regularization of Teachers Appointed on Contract Basis Bill 2012, presented by the Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, seeks to regulate an estimated 14,000 primary, junior and high school teachers, appointed on contract basis and selected on merit by the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Sukkar in 2008 and 2009; this Bill will make provisions to verify the teachers' selection and appointments.

The Indus University Bill 2011 was passed pertaining to the elevation of Indus Institute of Higher Education to the status of university during the ninth sitting. The Bill was passed unanimously, with suggestions by some Legislators for the institutionalization of a transparency mechanism to ensure merit, as well as the adoption of an anti-wealth-discrimination enrolment policy.

The Habib University Bill 2012 was introduced and sent to the relevant Standing Committee. The Registration (Sindh Amendment) Bill 2012 was introduced during the session. It was presented by a Private Member.

Sr. No.	Bills	Type of Bill	Bills Debated	Status		
				Introduced	Passed	Rejected/ Not Taken Up/ Deferred
1	The Sindh Irrigation (Amendment) Bill 2011	Government	Debated	--	Passed	--
2	The Habib University Bill 2012	Government	--	Introduced	--	--
3	The Syed Abdullah Shah Institute of Medical Sciences Bill 2012	Government	Debated	--	Passed	--
4	The Establishment of the Office of Ombudsman for the Province of Sindh (Amendment) Bill 2012	Government	Debated	--	Passed	--
5	The Sindh Regularization of Teachers appointed on Contract Basis Bill 2012	Government	Debated	--	Passed	--
6	The Indus University Bill 2011	Government	Debated	--	Passed	--
7	The Sindh Coal Bill 2012	Government	--	--	--	Deferred
8	The Registration (Sindh Amendment) Bill 2012	Private	--	Introduced	--	--

3.1.2 Ordinance

The Governor may, on the advice of the Chief Minister, promulgate an Ordinance when the Assembly is not in session and there is a situation which requires urgent action. It remains valid for three months and it is to be placed before the Assembly and deemed as a Bill introduced in the Assembly. Meanwhile, the Governor can also withdraw the Ordinance or Assembly can reject it through a Resolution.

An Ordinance pertaining to the regularization of the teachers appointed by Institute of Business Administration was introduced during the session. This Ordinance was issued by the Governor of Sindh in response to the protests for regularization of their services by 14000 pre-appointed teachers, in January. The Governor ensured through the Ordinance that the teachers would be offered permanent jobs on the basis of their qualifications and efficacy.

3.2 Resolutions

Through Resolutions, the House expresses its opinion, makes recommendations, or conveys a message on a definite and important issue. Through Resolutions, the House can also commend, urge, or request action upon a situation under consideration by the Government. Resolutions may be moved by Ministers or Private Members. This section contains information on the types and amount of Resolutions considered or adopted by the Assembly during the session.

In the Sindh Provincial Assembly a Member or a Minister may move a Resolution after giving three days notice of his intention to do so. Ten Resolutions were moved by Legislators on the Floor of the Assembly, and all of these were adopted.

Some important subjects covered in these Resolutions were forced conversions, Pakistan's first Oscar award, treatment of industrial waste water, health, and correction and enrollment of voters' lists.

Sitting No.	Resolution
1st	To formulate law under federal government's guidance against forced conversions of minorities.
1st	To congratulate Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy on winning Pakistan's first Oscar for her documentary.
5th	To take immediate measures for the treatment of industrial waste water to facilitate vegetable cultivation and other agricultural activities in Malir and other industrial zones.
6th	To commemorate International Women's Day
7th	To condemn the perpetrators behind incidents of wall chalking and posters, calling for <i>Muhajir</i> province, and to call on the government to expose the same.
7th	To recognize access to good health as the inalienable right of every individual under Article 38 of the constitution and to ask the government to ensure reduction of health issues at grass roots level.
12th	To pay tribute to the founder of the <i>Hur</i> movement, Pir Sibhat ullah Shah Rashdi, on his 69th death anniversary.
12th	To welcome the fifth year of the Parliament and to congratulate the President.
13th	To extend the deadline of correction and enrollment of names in voter lists for the general elections 2013 by a month.
14th	To mark 23rd March as a historic day for the people of Pakistan, to remember the spirit behind Pakistan's Resolution and to pay tribute to the leaders who offered sacrifices for an independent Pakistan

4.0 Order and Institutionalization

This section of the report deals with issues raised through Points of Order and the time consumed by them. It also reviews the Questions of Privileges, the instances of protests, walkouts or boycotts during the session.

4.1 Points of Order

A Point of Order is raised to address an apparent breach in the rules of parliamentary procedure while an Assembly's business is underway, and usually requests the Chair's ruling on the issue. This section looks at the Points of Order raised during the Assembly session and the decisions taken to resolve them.

Erroneous and irrelevant use of POs can take away from an Assembly's output. As many as 114 Points of Orders, an average of eight per sitting, were raised during the session consuming 12% (212 minutes) of the session time. Maximum time consumed by Points of Orders was (55 minutes) in 5th sitting with 26 POs raised, while no POs were raised during the 10th sitting.

Sitting No.	Points of Order	Time Consumed
1st	15	18
2nd	10	12
3rd	5	8
4th	15	30
5th	26	55
6th	2	2
7th	4	10
8th	12	30
9th	2	5
10th	0	0
11th	4	16
12th	7	11
13th	9	10
14th	3	5
Total	114 POs	212 minutes

Points of Order were raised on various issues; the most number of POs (21) was raised regarding the Business of the House, followed by elections, or more specifically, voters' lists (11), law and order (eight), and employment and minority affairs (six each). Members of the PPPP raised the most number of POs – 56 by male Members and 17 by female Members.

Of the 11 POs raised about voters' lists, ten were raised by Members belonging to the PPPP. Similarly, five out of six POs raised regarding minority affairs were raised by PPPP Members. Women Legislators raised 31% of the total 116 POs, while men raised 69%.

Issues	MQM		NPP		PML		PMLF		PPPP		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Agriculture	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Balochistan Related Issues	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Assassination of Benazir Bhutto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
BISP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Business of the House	1	3	-	3	-	-	1	-	2	11	21
Child Rights	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Civil Aviation Authority	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Communications	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3
Drinking Water	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Elections	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	11
Employment	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	3	6
Energy	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3
Extortion	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Flood Affectees	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Health	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Honor Killing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Issues of <i>KachiAbbadis</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
KESC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Kidnapping	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Lady Health Workers Protest	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Law and Order	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	8
Media	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Members Perks and Privileges	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	4
Miscellaneous Affairs	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	9
Minority Affairs	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6
New Province	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	4
Police	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Rescue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Road Accidents	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Sanitation	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sectarian Violence	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Senate Election	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Taxes	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Transparency	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Tribute to Poet Sheikh Ayaz	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Waheeda Shah Scandal	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Women Rights	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Total	6	18	0	3	3	2	10	1	17	56	116

4.3 Protests, Boycotts and Walkouts

The Sindh Assembly witnessed two walkouts, each staged by a PMLF Member on the grounds of a Privilege Motion not taken up by the Speaker and a motion to unseat the PMLF parliamentary leader. An MQM Member, during the 7th sitting, protested the extortion, lawlessness and terrorism in Karachi by vacating the Floor for nine minutes.

Sitting No	Party	Reason	Protest/Walkout/Boycott
4th	Single PMLF Member	Her privilege motion was not taken up	Walkout
7th	MQM	Against extortion, lawlessness and terrorism in Karachi	Protest
14th	PMLF	Against the motion to unseat their parliamentary leader	Walkout

Glossary

Adjournment Motion

A motion to adjourn the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of recent and urgent public importance.

Assembly

Provincial Assembly

Chairperson

In relation to a sitting, any person who is presiding at that sitting.

Chair

The Presiding Officer at a meeting of the House.

Deputy Speaker

When the office of Speaker is vacant or Speaker is absent or is unable to perform his functions due to any cause the Deputy Speaker acts as the Speaker of the House.

Legislation

The process of crafting law.

Member

A Member of the Assembly and for purposes of moving or opposing a Bill, an amendment, a motion or a Resolution, includes a Minister.

Minister

May refer to the Chief Minister a Provincial Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary in respect of any function delegated or entrusted to him by a Minister.

Opposition

The party or parties who do not belong to the governing party.

Orders of the Day

"Orders of the Day" means the list of business to be brought before the Assembly on any day.

Point of Order

Relates to the interpretation or enforcement of parliamentary rules of business or articles of the Constitution that regulate the business of the Assembly. The mover of a Point of Order raises a question which is within the cognizance of the Chair.

Private Member's Bill

A proposed law introduced by a Private Member.

Proceedings

The actions taken by the House or by a committee, the most important parts of the proceedings are the decisions that are taken.

Quorum

Quorum is the minimum number of Members of Assembly necessary to conduct the business of the Assembly.

Question Hour

A time fixed under the rules for asking and answering questions.

Resolution

A motion for the purpose of discussing and expressing an opinion on a matter of general public interest.

Starred question

A question that requires an oral answer in addition to a written reply.

Sitting

A meeting of the Assembly on a day.

Table

The Table of the House.

About FAFEN

Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), established in 2006, is a coalition of 42 leading civil society organizations, working to strengthen all forms of democratic accountabilities in Pakistan. Governed by Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA), FAFEN's key achievements are:

- Observed the public display of Pakistan's draft electoral rolls and conducted the country's first statistically-valid voters' list audit in 2007
- Deployed more than 18,829 trained, neutral Election Day observers nationwide to watch the February 18, 2008 polls and 264 long-term observers to monitor the pre-election process
- Fielded long-term observers nationwide and published 19 pre-election reports
- For the February 18, 2008, General Elections, FAFEN conducted 260 simultaneous Parallel Vote Tabulations (PVTs)- the largest effort in the world
- Conducted its first survey, Constituents Aspirations Survey, in December 2008 with a sample size of 3,124 respondents to get the description of the state of public opinion and also to get a deeper understanding of the values, attitudes and beliefs of people living in the constituencies
- Conducted mapping of organizations working for human rights within Pakistan
- Observed general elections at Gilgit-Baltistan in 2009 and by-elections in various constituencies of the Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2010
- Implemented a unique methodology to observe parliamentary proceedings under its Parliament Watch
- Monitors public institutions across Pakistan and issues monthly reports on the state and performance of educational, health and other local level institutions. In addition, monthly reports on prices, crimes, incidence of disease, caseload in lower courts and political and electoral violence are issued

FAFEN continues to implement robust programs in-between elections related to monitoring parliamentary affairs, connecting constituents to their elected representatives, monitoring the performance of public and elected institutions and advocating electoral and democratic reforms. FAFEN is also monitoring political and electoral violence, peace activities and promoting active citizenry through ongoing civic education activities across the country. FAFEN is currently implementing Supporting Transparency, Accountability and Electoral Processes in Pakistan in 200 National Assembly constituencies in 119 districts across Pakistan.

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