



## FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR



### **SEVENTH SESSION**

Provincial Assembly of Balochistan

(January 13 - February 1, 2014)

Free and Fair Election Network  
[www.fafen.org](http://www.fafen.org)

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

### List of Abbreviations

ANP	Awami National Party
BNP	Balochistan National Party
BNP-A	Balochistan National Party (Awami)
IND	Independent Member
JUI-F	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (Fazal-ur-Rehman)
MWM	Majlis-e-Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan
NP	National Party
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
PKMAP	Pukhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party



This report is based on direct observation of proceedings of Provincial Assembly of Balochistan, conducted by CPD, a member organisation of FAFEN.

## 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.

### Amendment

A motion to amend an earlier motion before that earlier motion is put to the assembly for its decision.

### Assembly

National assembly or a provincial assembly

### Assent

Refers to the power of the Governor to assent the Bill passed by the assembly or return the same to the assembly for reconsideration.

### Chairperson

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

### Chair

The presiding officer at a meeting of the house or a committee.

### Committee

A parliamentary committee constituted under Rules of Procedure, comprising of various members of parliament.

### Constitution

Means the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973.

### 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.

### Leader-of-the-Opposition

"Leader of the Opposition" means a Member who, in the opinion of the Speaker, is the leader of the majority of opposition members for a certain time period.

### 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.

### Motion

A proposal made by a member or a minister relating to any matter, which may be discussed by the assembly and includes an amendment.

### Mover

The mover of a bill, a resolution, a motion or an amendment of a bill, a resolution or a motion and in the case of a government bill, a resolution, a motion or an amendment, a minister or a parliamentary secretary acting on behalf of the government.

### Opposition

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

### 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 Speaker.

### Private Member

A member who is not a minister or a parliamentary secretary.

### Private Member's Bill

A proposed law introduced by a private member.

### Quorum

Quorum is the minimum number of members of assembly necessary to conduct the business of the assembly. Under Article 55(2) of the Constitution 1/4th of the total membership of the assembly is required for quorum.

### 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.

### Speaker

The Speaker of the assembly, including the Deputy Speaker or any other member acting as the Chairperson on a particular sitting or number of sittings.

### Starred Question

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

### Sitting

A meeting of the assembly or that of a committee on a day.

### Table

The table of the house.

### Unstarred Question

"Unstarred Question" means a question for a written answer.



## Executive Summary

The Balochistan Assembly witnessed one of its most productive sessions as the House passed 13 Bills. Some of these Bills focused on improvement in governance, protection of human rights and increase in the perks and privileges of lawmakers. The House also adopted 14 resolutions primarily seeking better governance in the province. Lawmakers' interest in the proceedings was evident as 71% of the assembly's members contributed to the agenda on the List of Business and/or shared their views in the on-floor debates.

To ensure a wider representation from all strata of society in the local councils, the House amended the Local Government Act (2010) on the recommendation of the Local Government Department by clubbing together the categories of peasants and workers and introducing a new category of professionals/social workers. The Provincial Cabinet, in its meeting held on January 9, 2014, had approved all amendments to the said Act.

To provide for education and the protection of women's rights in the province, two women-centered bills; the Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University (Amendment) Bill, 2014, and the Balochistan Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Bill, 2014, were also passed by the assembly's.

In an attempt to promote breastfeeding and protection of public health by raising food standards, the Balochistan Breast Feeding Protection and Nutrition for Infants and Young Children Bill, 2014 and the Balochistan Food Authority Bill, 2014 were passed, respectively. Additionally, the House passed a Bill each for the introduction of local languages as additional subject at primary level, rehabilitation of victims of terrorism, and mandating free and compulsory education for children from the age of five to 16 years in primary and secondary levels.

The House passed three Bills aiming to increase the salaries, privileges and allowances of the Chief Minister, Provincial Ministers, Speaker, Deputy and MPAs to bring them at par with other assemblies on account of high cost of living, residential accommodation and transportation.

The Balochistan Sea Fisheries Ordinance 1971 stands amended as the House passed a Bill for this purpose to curb fish poaching in the province. The Balochistan Coastal Development Authority (Amendment) Act, 2014 was also passed to facilitate the above.

The session witnessed the delayed formation of Standing Committees on Revenue and Select Committee on Library (each comprising seven members) during the sixth sitting.

### Introduction

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 Parliament in order to hold those elected leaders accountable.

The Parliament Watch Project (PWP), launched in 2008, aims at generating objective and statistically-sound information about parliamentary performance to foster informed engagement between the constituents and their elected representatives. Universal access to information about national legislative processes is an essential component of democracy. A society cannot be truly democratic until constituents know about the person they are voting for, and whether or not the elected representatives are fulfilling their responsibilities. Since there is a dearth of publicly accessible information about the political decision-making processes, such as parliamentary deliberations, the PWP is an effort to bridge this gap. This report will be a contribution towards creating a more informed citizenry and an increasingly responsible parliament.

The PWP employs direct observation as one of the tools to evaluate parliamentary proceedings with the following indicators:

**Transparency:** Government's accountability requires transparency in decision-making and policy implementation. Transparency refers to the amount and quality of information available to the public as well as timely and clear information communicated within legislative bodies themselves. Inclusive and strong decisions can only be made when all legislators are well-informed about parliamentary proceedings.

**Participation:** Only the active and responsible participation of all the Members can make the business of parliament meaningful. The participation can be judged through various indicators like attendance of parliamentary leaders and other members and their active involvement in parliamentary discussion and activities.

**Responsiveness:** Parliament's responsiveness means Members' collective actions on the issues of public interests which are raised and discussed on the floor of the house through legislation, resolutions or any other agenda item. Responsiveness of government to the public is measured in terms of parliamentary oversight and effective implementation of policy decisions. Parliament's executive oversight function is mainly carried out through questions and parliamentary committees.

**Parliamentary Output:** Parliamentary output primarily comes in the form of legislation and resolutions. The quantity of such output is indicative of parliament's efficiency. The quality of output is equally important. Considering legislation on matters of national significance through careful debate and discussion is arguably a parliament's chief and most important function.

**Order and Institutionalization:** Order and institutionalization of members are important for an efficient and productive parliament. Order may be measured, for example, by the conduct of members and the chair's effective management of parliamentary business. Institutionalization refers to members' understanding and compliance with rules of procedure for parliamentary business.

An amendment to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Balochistan Assembly dealing with committees was presented before the House during the first sitting. The amendment provides for the formation of 14 Standing Committees (previously four). The amendment also reduces the members of each Standing Committee and the Select Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges to seven, and those of Select Committees on Government Assurances, and House and Library Committee, to five.

Additionally the National Finance Commission Report was presented before the House in the third sitting.

The House adopted 14 of 19 resolutions on the agenda while a joint resolution asking for blue (official) passports for members of provincial assembly was withdrawn. The resolutions adopted by the House were on governance in the province calling upon the government to address traffic, water and energy related issues in the province, ensure infrastructure development and protection from floods, issue official passports to MPAs and their spouses, payment of air service to Balochistan, establish agriculture university in Baloch districts, discourage law enforcing organizations' from land occupation, and take notice of irregular transfers in Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL).

Only seven lawmakers conducted government oversight by submitting 75 Starred Questions to various ministries/departments. Although all questions required written and verbal replies, only ten questions received answers on the floor while the movers of 51 starred questions were satisfied with written replies provided by the ministries. Relatively more questions were addressed to the Ministries of Interior (nine) and Planning and Development (eight).

Lawmakers tabled seven adjournment motions during the session - two were debated, four taken up but not discussed while one was deferred. The motions highlighted provincial issues including five on law and order issues while a single motion each on energy and power and governance.

Additionally, the House held a general discussion on promotion of education in the province. Twenty-three lawmakers shared their views in the debate – ten belonging to PkMAP followed by five members of JUI-F and four MPAs each of PML-N and NP. All three interventions – one general discussion on law and order and two adjournment motions - taken up for discussion, consumed nine hours and 51 minutes, 34% of the session's time.

While speaking on points of order (POs), lawmakers highlighted more issues regarding Business of the House (21), governance (15) and terrorism (seven). As points of order did not receive the Speaker's ruling generally they do not add to the assembly's output.

The entire opposition staged two protests once by boycotting the session during the sixth sitting, accusing the government of nepotism, only to rejoin the proceedings the same day. The entire opposition walked out the second time over reduction of the tenure of Chairman Public Service Commission, Balochistan. The Home Minister, backed by the JUI-F, MWM and PML-N MPAs, protested for not being invited to the law and order briefing during Prime Minister's visit to Quetta during the ninth sitting.

The House met in 10 sittings starting from January 13 till February 1, 2014 consuming about 29 hours. On average, a sitting lasted two hours and 56 minutes while remaining 51 minutes behind the schedule. The House took three prayer breaks that took 6% of the session.

Low attendance was observed and members generally left the proceedings sometime before the adjournment of a sitting. In the 65 member House, on average, a maximum 36 MPAs (55%) were observed at the beginning and 29 MPAs (45%) at the adjournment of the sittings. On average, two minority members also took part in the proceedings. The missing quorum was called only once by a female JUI-F lawmaker during the third sitting.

The Leader of the House and his counterpart the Leader of the Opposition were present during 64% of the proceedings. The former attended six sittings, while the latter eight. The Speaker chaired 59% of the session (17 hours and 23 minutes) while the Deputy Chairman 29% (eight hours and 28 minutes); the remaining time (5%) was chaired by member of Panel of Chairpersons.

Except for the parliamentary leaders of JUI-F and PkMAP all other party leaders in the House demonstrated poor attendance. The former attended all but two sittings while the latter was present in six sittings. The BNP and PML-N leaders, a BNP-A member (single member party) and the sole independent member abstained from the session.

FAFEN hopes this report will be a valuable contribution to creating both a more informed citizenry and an increasingly responsible legislative body. On the basis of its ongoing observation, FAFEN recommends:

1. Balochistan Assembly sittings should be open to citizen observers who apply for accreditation through a standardized process. FAFEN takes this opportunity to reiterate its request for permanent accreditation for observation of all assembly's proceedings.



2. The Secretariat should share records of actual time spent by the members in the assembly chamber. FAFEN has made repeated attempts to get the attendance document of the members but to no avail.
3. No vote should be allowed, especially on legislation, without a quorum. The issue of lack of quorum has persisted for a long time. As observed during the seventh session, members' attendance varies during a sitting, low at the beginning and the adjournment of the proceedings, leading to a lack of quorum. The Chair should ensure that quorum is maintained throughout the proceedings.
4. All ministers (or a designated representative of each ministry and the cabinet) must be required to be present during Question Hour at each relevant sitting. All questions must be responded to within a stipulated timeframe. Transcripts of all questions – including the ones that the secretariat finds inadmissible – and responses should be made available to the members and the public.
5. The assembly Secretariat should design a more achievable agenda for the Orders of the Day for both government and private members' days.
6. The exercise of using points of order – a tool primarily used to highlight a breach in assembly rules – to bring national, regional and local issues in the plenary should be curbed. Such issues should be raised through a motion to raise a “no point of order”.
7. Since several parliamentarians have been elected for the first time in the 10th Balochistan Assembly, they should be given proper orientation and training regarding their fundamental responsibilities, especially to their constituents as well as basic parliamentary procedures.
8. Although it is appreciated that women and minorities have a quota in the House, nevertheless, to make their appointment more representative and transparent they should be elected by the public. Currently, a political party has the discretion to nominate members on proportionately allocated reserved seats.

## 1.0 Parliamentary Output

Lawmaking is one of the most important functions of a legislature. This section evaluates the presentation, introduction, passage and subject-matter of legislation, and the details of resolutions and parliamentary reports tabled during the session.

### 1.1 Legislation

In comparison to previous sessions, the current session of the assembly remained most productive in terms of legislation as the House passed 13 of the 14 Bills on the agenda. Eight Bills sought amendments in existing laws while six were new pieces of legislation. The legislations focused more on provision of good governance, protection of citizens' rights and raising the perks and privileges of members of the provincial assembly.

Additionally, the Balochistan Public Service Commission (Amendment) Bill 2014 was introduced but not passed during the session.

Table 1.1: Bills

Sr. No.	Title	Status
1	The Balochistan Breast Feeding Protection and Nutrition for Infants and Young Children Bill, 2014	Passed
2	The Balochistan Local Government (Amendment) Bill, 2014	Passed
3	The Balochistan Introduction of Local Languages as Additional Subject at Primary Level Bill, 2014	Passed
4	The Balochistan Terrorism Victims and their Rehabilitation Bill, 2014	Passed
5	The Compulsory Education Bill, 2014	Passed
6	The Balochistan Food Authority Bill 2014	Passed
7	The Balochistan Sea Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2014	Passed
8	The Balochistan Chief Minister and Provincial Ministers (Salaries, Allowances and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 2014	Passed
9	The Balochistan Speaker and Deputy Speaker's Salaries, Allowances and Privileges (Amendment) Bill, 2014	Passed
10	The Balochistan Assembly Members Salaries, Allowances and Privileges (Amendment) Bill, 2014	Passed
11	The Balochistan Coastal Development Authority (Amendment) Act, 2014	Passed
12	The Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University (Amendment) Bill, 2014	Passed
13	The Balochistan Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Bill, 2014	Passed
14	The Balochistan Public Service Commission (Amendment) Bill 2014	Introduced

#### Details of Passed Bills

Depending on their subject and scope, the Bills are divided into three themes i.e. good governance, protection of rights, and parliamentary perks and privileges. Below are the details of legislation under their relevant themes.

##### 1.1.1 Good Governance

###### The Balochistan Local Government (Amendment) Bill, 2014

The Bill amended articles 2 and 12 of the Balochistan Local Government Act 2010 to provide for wider representation of the public by adding a category of professional and social workers in the local councils. Additionally, the previously separate categories of peasants and labourers were clubbed as one. By doing so, the said Act gave 33% seats to women and 5% seats to each of the three other categories of minorities, peasants and labourers, and professional and social workers. The amendments were approved by the Provincial Cabinet in its meeting held on 9th January, 2014.

###### The Balochistan Introduction of Local Languages as Additional Subject at Primary Level Bill, 2014

The Bill introduced an additional subject on local languages at primary level of education. It mentioned Article 251(3) of Constitution that states that without prejudice to the status of the national language, a provincial assembly may recommend measures for the teaching, promotion and use of a provincial language in addition to the national language.



Under the said Bill it would be mandatory for the Balochistan Government to provide text books for primary level (class V) in the prescribed languages in each district, in government and private schools as well as religious institutions.

#### The Compulsory Education Bill, 2014

The said Bill came after the Supreme Court's directive to implement Article-25A of the Constitution which states "the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen years in such manner as may be determined by law."<sup>1</sup> The Bill first came to the House as an Act in 2013.

#### The Balochistan Food Authority Bill, 2014

The Bill established Food Authority to protect public health and ensure food standards in the province. The authority would comprise of a chairperson and 19 members – seven secretaries of the relevant departments, three MPAs, two food scientists, one representative each of Chambers and Commerce and Industry, food industry and food operators, and two representatives each of farmers and consumers – among others.

In terms of powers and functions, the Authority shall "formulate standards, procedures, processes and guidelines in relation to any aspect of food including food business, labeling food, food additives". In addition, the Bill allows the Authority to appoint a food safety officer decreeing him the power to sample or seize any food which appears to be in contravention of this Bill. A person who sells/offers for sale or manufactures, stores or exports/imports any food which is in violation of the Bill shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and a fine which may extend to two million rupees.

#### The Balochistan Sea Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 2014

The Bill made the provisions of the Sea Fisheries Ordinance, 1971 stricter to curb illegal fishing in territorial waters of Balochistan. Sindh based trawlers often poach in Balochistan's waters with banned nets and also destroy the already laid nets of local fishermen. To curb this practice, this amendment allows the relevant authorities to seize a poacher's trawler at the first occurrence of the crime rather than the third time as had been the case previously. Before the amendment, the rule was more flexible for poachers as it allowed seizing a poaching trawler on repetition.

#### The Balochistan Coastal Development Authority (Amendment) Act, 2014

This Bill omitted the Section 16-A of the Balochistan Coastal Development Authority Act, 1998 to curb illegal fishing by non-local fishing community. The Balochistan Coastal Development Authority (BCDA), established under the above Act, was given the power to levy non-landing and extra non-landing fee on outstanding vessels including Sindh based trawlers. Due to the said provision, resentment developed in the local fishing community as the fishermen owning Sindh based trawlers started fishing illegally after paying tax for stationing. This Bill removed the mentioned section.

#### The Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University (Amendment) Bill, 2014

The said Bill proposed amendments in a previous Act which does not cater to the extension and establishment of new disciplines and growing number of students at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University (SBKW) University – an institution established under the said Act. The amendment created a post of Pro Vice Chancellor, strengthened the Senate in the University charter and made changes for smooth administrative functioning of the university.

#### The Balochistan Breast Feeding Protection and Nutrition for Infants and Young Children Bill 2014

The law seeks to promote breastfeeding and lays down code for the sale and marketing of formula milk, bottles, and teats, and to ensure safe and healthy diet for infants and young children by taking necessary measures. The Bill aims to establish Infant Feeding Board headed by a Chairman and 10 members including Secretary Health Department, two MPAs, two pediatricians and gynecologists (each) and a member of the civil society appointed by the Health Department.

The mentioned board will report violations of the law and recommend investigation while also focusing on capacity building of the healthcare providers, prepare and promote informative and educational literature on the subject of infant nutrition, and suggest policy measures to the government in this regard.

Furthermore it states in detail about the guiding principles for selling and labeling of formula milk, bottles, and teats, and in case of breach in these laws the board has the authority of cancelling the license of the selling company.

### 1.1.2 Protection of Rights

<sup>1</sup> <http://pakistanconstitutionlaw.com/article-25a-right-to-education/>



### The Balochistan Terrorism Victims and their Rehabilitation Bill 2014

The Bill addressed the problems of the citizens who are affected by terrorism and violence in the province. It laid down a mechanism to guide the provincial government in the prompt identification, financial aid, medical treatment and rehabilitation of victims of terrorism and compensation for the victims' families. For effective implementation of the Bill the government would train the authorized officials, commissioners, personnel of law enforcing agencies, the health, communication and works and livestock departments. The provisions of the Bill would be applicable to all citizens regardless of their color, cast, religion and gender.

The Bill also listed schedule of minimum payments to victims of terrorism allowing a minimum grant of Rs. one million in case of the victims' death, Rs. 500,000 for a "grievous injury", and Rs. 100,000-500,000 each in case the victims' residence or business establishment is destroyed.

### The Balochistan Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Bill, 2014

The Bill paved way to institutionalize measures for prevention and protection of women and children from domestic violence. The provisions of the law gave protection to the vulnerable individual/s (women, children, men) from people they are related to through marriage, kinship, adoption, employment, domestic help or joint family members. It also defined different forms of domestic violence for instance; physical, sexual and economic abuse, harassment, stalking as well as emotional and verbal abuse.

According to the clause 14 of the legislation, the protection committees would be constituted in every tehsil with five members each and protection officer as secretary. The committee will support the aggrieved person for relocation to safer area and legal aid, reporting against the accuser, filing application for protection order and maintaining official record of domestic violence incidents. The law also provides monetary relief to the affected person on the order of the court to be paid by the accused for the medical expenses, loss of earning and damage to the property.

#### 1.1.3 Parliamentary Perks and Privileges

##### The Balochistan Chief Minister and Provincial Ministers (Salaries, Allowances and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 2014

The Bill increased the salaries, allowances and privileges of Chief Minister and Provincial Ministers in the Balochistan Provincial Assembly to meet the present high cost of living and other daily expenses, residential accommodation and transportation.

The Bill provided for the salary of the Chief Minister and the Provincial Ministers to be raised to Rs. one *lakh* (previously Rs. 35,000) and Rs. 90,000 (previously Rs. 30,000) per month respectively. In addition, the electricity fuel and gas bills of the above mentioned would be borne by the government and they would draw full pay as leave allowance in case they take leave of absence for reasons of health or private affairs.

The Bill also increased the sumptuary allowances, telephone facilities and traveling allowances of the Chief Minister and the Provincial Ministers.

##### The Balochistan Speaker and Deputy Speaker's Salaries, Allowances and Privileges (Amendment) Bill, 2014

The Bill increased the salaries, allowances and privileges of Speaker and Deputy Speaker in the Balochistan Provincial Assembly to meet the present high cost of living and other daily expenses, residential accommodation and transportation.

The electricity fuel and gas bills of the above mentioned would be borne by the government and they would be entitled to free telephone facility while touring. The Bill also increased the sumptuary and traveling allowances of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

##### The Balochistan Assembly Members Salaries, Allowances and Privileges (Amendment) Bill, 2014

The Bill increased the salaries, allowances and privileges of members of Balochistan Provincial Assembly to meet the present high cost of living and other daily expenses, residential accommodation and transportation. The Bill provided for the increase in the salaries of the Balochistan Assembly members to Rs. 60,000 which was previously Rs. 20,000 and also allowed the payment of Rs. 500,000 annually as travel vouchers or cash per member.

The Bill made provisions for Rs. 50,000 per month as house rent, utility allowance (Rs. 20,000), telephone charges (Rs. 10,000) and a discretionary grant of rupees twelve *laks* per year.



## 1.2 Resolutions

The House expresses its opinion, makes recommendations, or conveys a message on important issues through resolutions. It can also commend, urge, or request action upon a situation under consideration by the government.

MPAs tabled nineteen resolutions – either singly or jointly – in the session, of which, 14 were adopted, four deferred and one introduced resolution was withdrawn. Four of the resolutions were tabled jointly by members of different parties e.g. PkMAP, NP, JUI-F, PML-N as well as Independents, while 15 were tabled by members of single party – PkMAP tabling seven, NP and PML three each and PML-N tabled two resolutions.

The focus of adopted resolutions was more on development of infrastructure and provision of basic facilities to the people of the province as many of them highlighted the dilapidated condition of communications, scarcity of gas in winters and electricity in summers, absence of Agriculture University, and lack of dams and flood protection walls.

Two resolutions pointed out increasing number of accidents due to heavy traffic on Quetta - D.I. Khan Highways and requested the House to deploy Traffic Highway Police for managing traffic rules and heavy traffic flow. The resolution also highlighted the need to repair Zhob to Darazinda road. Another resolution was about the Quetta to Chaman road on which work has been stopped since the last eight years causing traffic jams and inconvenience to the public. One of the resolutions raised the issue of Sibi Harnai and Bostan railway line damaged in a terrorist attack in Feb 2006 causing losses in millions to the national exchequer as Harnai has the biggest coal deposits, which were transported earlier through the said line.

Through three resolutions, water and flood related issues were brought before the House. The legislators called upon the federal government to ensure allocation of funds for construction of small dams for water storage and protection against floods, construction of flood protection walls around Dera Allah Yar, and Balochistan government calling upon Provincial Government of Sindh to pay money for not implementing the equal distribution of water agreement. The agreement provides equal share of water to the aforementioned provinces for drinking and irrigation from the Hub dam, however, the agreement has not been implemented by the later government from last many decades, and therefore, Balochistan is demanding the money of its water share.

Issues of low gas pressure in winters in various cities across Balochistan and lack of electric transmission lines were presented in the House through a resolution. The resolution requested to extend lines of gas and electric supply to the areas of Khuzdar and Loralai and approve the Chashma to Zhob electric transmission line. The House debated the resolution before adoption.

A resolution requested the provincial government to establish an agriculture university in the agrarian region of the province. Districts of Sohbatpur, Jaffarabad and Nasirabad although termed as agricultural districts in the province, provide cereal crops and cotton and do not have any university related to agriculture.

Resolutions on occupation of Baloch tribes' ancestral lands by law enforcing agencies without giving them any reparation, transfer of officials of Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) from Balochistan to other regions of the country by offering them golden hand-shake, the Associated Press of Pakistan generating publications in national and regional languages except Balochi language, and federal government not giving the air service charges to Balochistan of the flights passing through its land were also brought before the House. In all of the resolutions, the movers requested the authorities to take actions. Provision of official passports to all elected representatives and their spouses was demanded in one of the resolution.

Among four deferred resolution, three were moved singly by legislators of NP (one) and PML (two) where as one deferred resolution was moved jointly by members of NP and PML-N. The only jointly moved resolution among these called upon the federal government to increase seats of Balochistan province in National Assembly so that each district has its own representative as due to large area and scattered population in Balochistan, it becomes difficult for representatives to control faraway districts in their constituency. The other three resolutions called upon the federal government to direct Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for reinstating the tax exemptions given to locals of tribal areas in Balochistan, payment of fees of the students pursuing studies under Prime Minister Scholarship program and provision of electricity from Iran to avoid un-employment and setting electricity rates according to Iranian rates.

An introduced resolution, jointly tabled by legislators of PkMAP, MWM and JUI-F, was withdrawn later by the members so that it could be tabled again in the next sitting. The resolution was on the provision of official passport to MPAs for five years similar to the members of the National Assembly and Senate.

Table 1.2: Resolutions

Sr. No.	Resolutions	Party	Status
1.	The House should urge the federal government on increasing incidents of road accidents on Quetta to D.I. Khan Highway	PML	Adopted
2.	It is requested that the provincial government should inform the federal government that the construction of Quetta to D.I. Khan Highway to Zhob is much needed	PkMAP	Adopted
3.	The Associated Press of Pakistan make publications in different national and local languages except Balochi. The House calls upon the provincial government to request the federal government to direct the APP to publish in Balochi as well	NP	Adopted
4.	The House calls upon the provincial government to request the federal government to provide sufficient funds for the construction of dams in the province to ensure storage of flood water and overcome water shortage	PkMAP	Adopted
5.	During winter the gas pressure declines immensely in cities of the province. Similar situation is observed in the case of electric supply.	PkMAP	Adopted and debated
6.	The House empowers <i>Majlis-e-Shoora</i> under Article 144 of Constitution to make the necessary legislation for issuance of officials passport to members of provincial assembly and their spouses	PkMAP PML-N, JUI-F Ind, MWM	Adopted
7.	The House calls upon the provincial government to request the federal government that Sibi Harnai and Bostan railway line, damaged by terrorists, is causing loss of millions to national exchequer	PkMAP	Adopted
8.	The House calls upon the provincial government to request the federal government to complete the Quetta - Chaman road as soon as possible	PkMAP	Adopted
9.	The House calls upon the provincial government to make the Sindh government pay for water charges to Balochistan due to its lack of implementation of water sharing agreement on Hub dam	PML-N	Adopted
10.	The Balochistan province demands that the federal government gives the share of the air services to Balochistan for those airplanes who pass over the province's air space	PkMAP	Adopted
11.	Districts of Sohbatpur, Jaffarabad and Nasirabad are deprived of agriculture university causing resentment in the local population	PML-N PkMAP	Adopted
12.	The House calls upon the provincial government to urge the federal government to discourage the trend of land occupation by law enforcing agencies and ensure payment of occupied land to actual owners on market rates	PkMAP	Adopted
13.	The House calls upon the provincial government to ensure safety of Dera Allah Yar. It is requested that a flood protection wall should be constructed on its east, west and south along the road in the interest of public	PML-N	Adopted
14.	The House demands that the federal government should cancel transfer of 12 officials of the Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) from Balochistan to Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Kashmir	NP	Adopted
15.	The House requests the federal government to allocate a seat in National Assembly for every district of Balochistan due to its vast area and scattered population	NP PML-N	Deferred
16.	The House consults the federal government to direct FBR to reinstate the tax exemptions given to residents of tribal areas of Balochistan	PML	Deferred
17.	The House consults the federal government for the provision of electricity from Iran on cheap rates	NP	Deferred
18.	The House calls upon the provincial government to urge the federal government to ensure payment of fee for students enrolled under Prime Minister's scholarship program	PML	Deferred
19.	The House calls upon the provincial government to request the federal government for provision of official passports to MPAs similar to the members of the National Assembly and Senate	PkMAP MWM JUI-F	Withdrawn

### 1.3 Other Outputs

The formation of the Standing Committee of Revenue and the Select Committee of Library, also took place during the session. Additionally, Balochistan's Minister for Finance presented the National Finance Commission Report before the House during the third sitting of the session.



## 2.0 Representation, Responsiveness and Government Oversight

This section reviews legislators' efforts to represent the interests of their constituents by submitting and debating adjournment motions on matters of public importance on the assembly's List of Business. It also provides details of lawmakers conducting oversight by submitting questions to various government ministries/departments.

### 2.1 Adjournment Motions

Rule 70 of the rules of procedure of the Balochistan Assembly allows lawmakers to table a motion for an adjournment of the business of the assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of recent and urgent public importance with the consent of the Speaker. Notice of motion is to be given in writing not less than one hour before the commencement of a sitting in which it is proposed to be moved.

Lawmakers tabled seven adjournment motions during the session - five highlighting law and order while a single each on energy and power, and governance. Only two motions were debated, four taken up but not discussed while one was deferred. In addition to these motions, the House held a general discussion on promotion of education in the province which was dominated by PkMAP lawmakers (10 MPAs), followed by five members of JUI-F and four MPAs each of PML-N and NP. All three motions, taken up for discussion, consumed nine hours and 51 minutes of the session's time.

**Table 2.1: Adjournment Motions**

Sr. No.	Adjournment Motion	Party	Status
1.	On December 1, 2013 at 7pm, I was going to Kali Midadzai with my party workers for local body elections, the FC personnel stopped us and asked for our identification. I told them that I am a member of provincial assembly and they let us go. At 8pm while returning we noticed the FC personnel had blocked the entire road and they kept us in custody for 1.25 hours and misbehaved with us. This is a breach of my privilege as an elected member of the assembly. Public complaints have also been received about Col Yameen who is in-charge of the check post.	PkMAP	Taken Up
2.	A tribal and political leader Arbab Abdul Zahir Kasi was kidnapped from a busy market place in Quetta on Oct 23, 2013 which is a tragedy. This has caused a distress among people of Kasi tribe and province. On the other hand, political workers are facing insecurity due to a rise in cases of kidnapping for ransom.	ANP, JUI-F	Taken Up
3.	On Dec 21, 2013, the dead bodies of two minor girls Asia and Nazia aged 13 and 12 respectively were found in Kalat which were kidnapped earlier from Gohong on Dec 8, 2013. The administration has not taken the notice of this issue yet and no practical steps have been taken to arrest the culprits, which is causing great distress among public.	JUI-F	Taken Up
4.	Law and order situation	JUI-F	Debated
5.	Vegetables are being grown in contaminated water in Quetta city which is causing hepatitis and other diseases. Half the population of Quetta is suffering from hepatitis due to the mentioned reason. The government should take notice of the situation.	NP	Debated
6.	Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC) is handling all the affairs of electricity of District Lasbela. Due to its inefficient and poor management, people of District Lasbela are facing acute shortage of electricity. It is necessary to take all electricity affairs of District Lasbela from KESC and hand them over to WAPDA.	PML-N	Admitted for Discussion
7.	The House condemns the terror-related incident in Mastung on 21 <sup>st</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2014. It was reported that a powerful explosion ripped through a bus carrying Shia pilgrims in Balochistan's militancy-hit Mastung district killing 30 while injuring 40. On the next day six levies personnel died in firing.	JUI-F ANP	Deferred

A motion submitted by a female JUI-F lawmaker on law and order was debated for four hours and 31 minutes in the second sitting. Twenty-four legislators – five each of NP, PkMAP, JUI-F and PML-N, two (PML) and one each of ANP and MWM – debated the motion in both the second and third sitting.

A female NP lawmaker tabled an adjournment motion charging that vegetables are grown in contaminated water in Quetta causing hepatitis and other diseases. The mover shared her concern that the entire population of the city may

catch the diseases if the situation is not controlled. Seven legislators - PkMAP (four) and one each of PML-N, JUI-F and NP - participated in the debate for two hours.

The Chair admitted a PML-N sponsored motion for debate on poor management and inefficiency by Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC) in handling of electricity to the Lasbela District (Balochistan) causing acute problems to the local public. The said motion, calling for shifting all electricity affairs of the district from KESC to WAPDA, was not debated.

Three other motions were also taken up but not debated. They were on the alleged unlawful detention and misbehavior by Frontier Corps personnel with a PkMAP lawmaker and his fellow party workers on December 1, 2013; the kidnapping of a tribal - political leader Arbab Abdul Zahir Kasi from a populated market place in Quetta on Oct 23, 2013 (ANP and JUI-F sponsored); and administration's ignoring the case of kidnapping and subsequent killing of two minor girls Asia and Nazia aged 13 and 12, respectively, found in Kalat (sponsored by JUI-F female lawmaker).

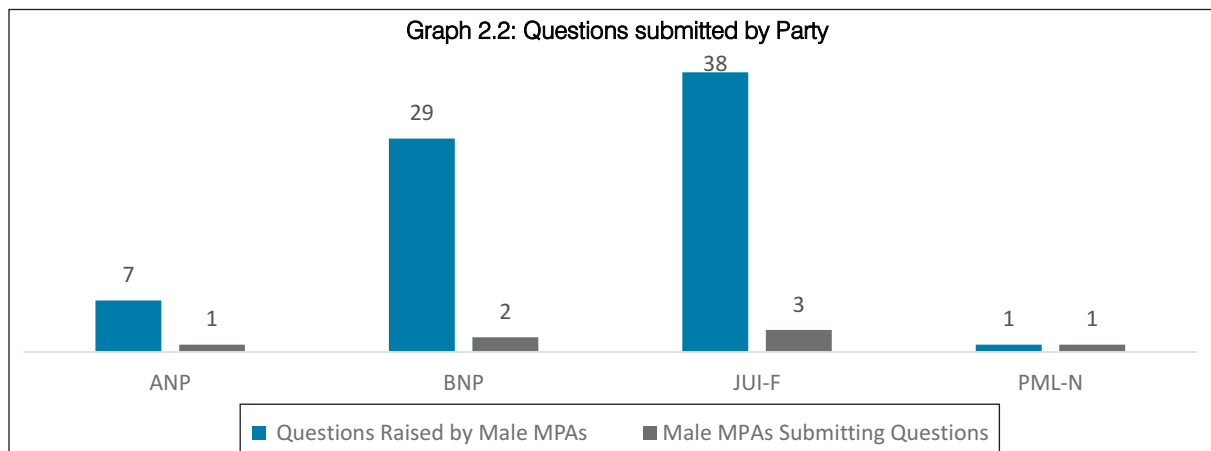
An adjournment motion tabled jointly by JUI-F and ANP lawmakers was deferred by the Speaker. The motion was on condemning the terror-related incident that took place in Mastung on 21st and 22nd of January, 2014. On the earlier day, a bomb explosion in a bus carrying Shia pilgrims in Balochistan's militancy-hit Mastung district killed 30 while leaving 40 injured; and the next day six levy personnel were killed when their convoy was ambushed by unknown assailants.

## 2.2 Question Hour

Question Hour is a parliamentary tool where by lawmakers conduct treasury's oversight by submitting questions on the agenda. A question addressed to a Minister must relate to the public affairs with which he is officially connected or a matter of administration for which he is responsible. Questions are categorized as starred or un-starred based on the requirement of oral and written answers, respectively. Not more than five starred questions and five un-starred questions from the same Member are placed on the list of questions for any one day<sup>2</sup>.

As many as 75 starred questions were submitted to 28 government ministries/departments. Although, all questions required written and verbal replies, only ten questions received answers from the relevant ministries on-floor while the movers of 51 starred questions had to suffice with written replies; 14 questions were not answered at all. The female lawmakers did not perform government oversight as all seven lawmakers submitting questions were male – three belonging to the opposition party JUI-F, followed by BNP (two MPs) and a single member each belonging to ANP and PML-N tabled questions.

In terms of party wise submission of questions the JUI-F lawmakers submitted 38 questions - more addressed to the Ministry of Interior and Planning and Development, followed by BNP (29 questions) addressing questions to nearly all government departments, ANP sponsored seven questions and only a single question was put up by a PML-N lawmaker.



Lawmakers' interest lay on the province's internal policies, security, administration, and development projects. More than half of the questions (57%, 43 questions) were addressed to seven ministries/departments. The Ministry of Interior received a maximum questions (nine); followed by Planning and Development (eight); Health, Irrigation, and Services

<sup>2</sup> Chapter VII, Questions: Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business of Balochistan Assembly  
<http://www.pabalochistan.gov.pk/index.php/rop/details/en/42>



and General Administration Department (six each); and Agriculture and Cooperatives, and Finance (four each).

**Table 2.2: Ministry-Wise Questions**

Ministry	Number of Questions
Interior	9
Planning and Development	8
Health	6
Irrigation	6
Services and General Administration Department	6
Agriculture and Cooperatives	4
Finance	4
Energy	3
Labour and Manpower	3
Local Government	3
Balochistan Development Authority	2
Communication and Works	2
Live Stock	2
Mines and Minerals Development	2
Transport	2
Industries	1
Information And Broadcasting	1
Information Technology	1
Law	1
Prisons	1
Provincial Disaster Management Authority	1
Public Health Engineering	1
Quetta Development Authority	1
Revenue Excise and Taxation	1
Social Welfare	1
Sports and Culture	1
WASA	1
Welfare and Youth Affairs	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

### 3.0 Amendment in Rules

An amendment to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 1974 tabled by the Provincial Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs was presented before the House during the first sitting. The said motion amends rules 128, 129, 130, 163, 167 and 168 in Chapter XV of the rules on standing committees<sup>3</sup>.

The amendment substitutes the entire Rule 128 providing for the formation of 14 Standing Committees whereas the said rule before the amendment allowed four Standing Committees to deal with various departments of the government. The members of each Standing Committee and the Select Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges have also been reduced from nine to seven under the amendments to Rule 129 and 163. Similarly five instead of previously six

<sup>3</sup> CHAPTER XV, COMMITTEES; Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business : <http://www.pabalochistan.gov.pk/index.php/rop/details/en/50>

members would constitute the Select Committees on Government Assurances, and House and Library as per amendments to Rule 167 and 168, respectively.

Rule 130 stating “a member shall not ordinarily be a member of more than one Standing Committee at the same time: provided that this rule shall not apply till the next general elections” has been removed.

## 4.0 Order and Institutionalization

This section reviews the points of order, questions of privileges and the instances of protests, walkouts or boycotts.

### 4.1 Points of Order

As per Rule 201 sub-rule (1) of the Balochistan Assembly, a point of order shall relate to the interpretation or enforcement of these rules or such articles of the constitution as regulate the business of the assembly and shall raise a question which is within the cognizance of the Speaker.

Points of order are to be raised only to point out any irregularity in the House proceedings however they are usually used by members to raise national and provincial issues, a violation of rules in itself. In the seventh session, 23 lawmakers – females (six), males (17) – raised 63 issues through the same number of points of order. Consuming three hours (10%) of the session's time, the members focused more on rules of business in the House as the matters related to it were raised 21 times, followed by issues of good governance (15), terrorism (seven) and four each on law and order, women rights and energy sectors reforms. Issues of national importance such as better foreign relations, democratic, political and economic development and education etc. were also spoken of through POs.

**Table 4.1: Number of Issues Raised through POs**

Sr. No.	Theme	Number of time issue was raised
1.	Rule of Business	21
2.	Good governance	15
3.	Terrorism	7
4.	Energy sector reforms	4
5.	Law and order	4
6.	Women rights	4
7.	Prayers and Tributes	2
8.	Better Foreign relations	1
9.	Democracy and Political Development	1
10.	Economic Development	1
11.	Education	1
12.	Environment	1
13.	Religious affairs	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>

Party-wise analysis shows that a higher number of issues were raised by JUI-F legislators as only four of them spoke on 19 issues through points of order, of which, six were on rules of business and four on good governance. Seven members of NP pointed out 14 issues, followed by five PML-N lawmakers raising 11 issues and three PkMAP MPAs with 12 issues. Two members of PML-Q raised the same number of issues while one member each of MWM and ANP raised three and two issues respectively.

### 4.2 Protests/walkouts/boycotts

In the seventh session, three walkouts and a boycott were recorded by legislators of the assembly. In the sixth sitting, the entire opposition boycotted over the governments' alleged involvement and nepotism in the policies relating to transfers and postings and in development schemes of various constituencies. Although the opposition announced to boycott the entire session, they joined back the next (seventh) sitting of the House.

In the eighth sitting, the entire opposition made a seven-minute walkout after expressing their reservations over shortening the tenure of Chairman of Public Service Commission, Balochistan, from five years to three years. The Home Minister of Balochistan recorded a 44-minutes walkout in the ninth sitting as he was not invited to law and order



briefing during Prime Minister's visit to Quetta. To show solidarity with Home Minister, legislators of JUI-F, PML-N and MWM also walked-out from the proceedings.

**Table 4.2: Protests, Boycotts and Walkouts**

Sitting No.	Party	Reason	Time (Minutes)	Protest/Walkout/ Boycott
6th	Entire Opposition	Alleging the provincial government of resorting to nepotism in transfers and protesting over accommodation of recommendations of their opponents in development schemes at various constituencies		Boycott
8th	Entire Opposition	Reservations over reducing the tenure of Chairman Public Service Commission, Balochistan, from five years to three years	7	Walkout
9th	Home Minister	Not being invited to law and order briefing during Prime Minister's visit to Quetta	44	Walkout
	JUI-F, MWM, PML-N			Walkout

## 5.0 Session Duration, Members' Attendance and Participation

This section deals with the duration the provincial assembly met during the session, attendance and participation of the legislators; and maintenance of quorum (1/4th of the total membership, 16 out of 65). It also reviews the presence of key members – the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Minister, Leader of the Opposition, and the parliamentary leaders along with the time they spent on the floor of the House.

After the passage of the 18th constitutional amendment a provincial assembly has to meet 100 days in a parliamentary year. Half way through its first parliamentary year, the Balochistan Assembly has met in seven sessions comprising 37 sittings<sup>4</sup>. The House will have to meet more frequently and for longer sessions (average five sittings so far) to meet the constitutional requirement of 63 more sittings.

### 5.1 Session Time and Attendance

The seventh session of Balochistan Assembly witnessed 10 sittings spanning from January 13th till February 1st. The House met for 29 hours and two minutes with an average sitting lasting for two hours and 54 minutes. All sittings started late with an average delay of 51 minutes whereas the sixth sitting was delayed the most (two hours and 31 minutes). The House took prayer breaks in the last three sittings consuming one hour and 46 minutes – 6% of the total session time.

The third sitting was the longest of all lasting five hours and 24 minutes while the fifth sitting met for 33 minutes only, remained the shortest.

**5.1 Session Time and Attendance**

Sr. No.	Day and Date	Sitting No.	Late Starts	Total Session Time	
				Hours	Minutes
1.	Monday, January 13	1st	49	2	1
2.	Wednesday, January 15	2nd	24	2	16
3.	Saturday, January 18	3rd	29	5	24
4.	Tuesday, January 21	4th	41	2	9
5.	Wednesday, January 22	5th	36	0	33
6.	Saturday, January 25	6th	151	2	44
7.	Tuesday, January 28	7th	47	3	18
8.	Wednesday, January 29	8th	50	5	16
9.	Friday, January 31	9th	37	2	45
10.	Saturday, February 1	10th	44	2	36
<b>Average 51 Minutes</b>				<b>29 Hours and two Minutes</b>	

<sup>4</sup>Assembly Tenure From 2013-till date: Balochistan Assembly Website  
<http://www.pabalochistan.gov.pk/index.php/business/ssns/en>



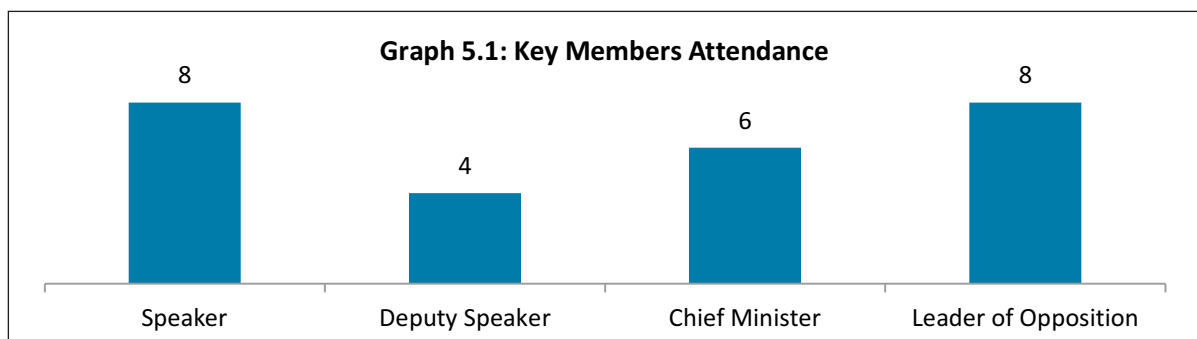
Active participation and attendance of members in the proceedings can make the business of the House meaningful. As the Balochistan Assembly Secretariat does not make public the attendance records of members, FAFEN observers conduct a headcount of legislators at the beginning and the end of each sitting to gauge their attendance.

In Balochistan Assembly, a 65 member House, on average a maximum of 36 members (55%) were present at the beginning and 29 (45%) at the adjournment of the sitting. Two minority members out of three were present on average during each sitting. A female member of JUI-F pointed out the missing quorum<sup>5</sup> during the third sitting which was found complete after counting of members.

**Table 5.2: Legislators' Attendance**

Sitting No.	Number of Members present at the Outset of the sitting	Number of Members at the End of the sitting	Maximum Members	Minority Members
1	40	36	40	2
2	43	39	43	2
3	32	20	32	2
4	28	25	28	2
5	25	25	25	2
6	34	28	34	1
7	37	25	37	2
8	40	25	40	2
9	41	30	41	2
10	41	36	41	2
<b>Average</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2</b>

Leader of the Opposition was present in eight sittings, while the Chief Minister attended six sittings. Both of them attended 64% of the session by remaining on the floor for about 19 hours. The Speaker chaired more than half (59%) of the session whereas the Deputy Speaker presided over 29% of the total session time. The Panel of Chairpersons briefly chaired the third sitting (5%) while the remaining session time was consumed by prayer breaks.



The attendance of all parliamentary leaders except JUI-F and PkMAP was low – the JUI-F leader attended eight sittings, followed by PkMAP leader (six sittings), three sittings by PML leader while the parliamentary leader of PML-N attended none. Among the single member parties the BNP-A member and an independent member remained away from the proceedings while those of ANP and MWM attended four and three sittings each.

## 5.2 Member's Participation

Members' participation is measured in three ways – lawmakers who submitted agenda on the List of Business, those who took part in the debates, and members who both take part in the on-floor deliberations and submitted agenda.

Lawmakers' demonstrated above average participation showing improvement from the previous (sixth) session's

<sup>5</sup> Rules and Business of the Balochistan Assembly states in the rule 195 (1) "if at any time during a sitting of the Assembly the attention of the Speaker is drawn to the fact that less than one-fourth of the total Membership of the Assembly is present, he shall suspend the meeting and order the bell to be rung for a period of five minutes and if after the said period there is still no quorum, he shall adjourn the Assembly for fifteen minutes".



performance. Seventy-one percent lawmakers (46 MPAs) took part in the seventh session's proceedings whereas 61% lawmakers (39 MPAs) had participated in the previous session. Fourteen members only submitted agenda, seven took part in debates; while 25 members both tabled as well as debated agenda.

Lawmakers belonging to the larger government parties, PML-N and PkMAP (22 and 14 lawmakers, respectively) were most active as 14 members of each party participated during the proceedings. A larger number of PML-N members solely submitted a larger portion of the agenda while a few of them took part in debates also, whereas the PkMAP lawmakers keenly took part in the deliberations and at the same time, a few of them submitted agenda items as well. Lawmakers belonging to NP (11 members) delivered a lukewarm performance by participating less in the House business.

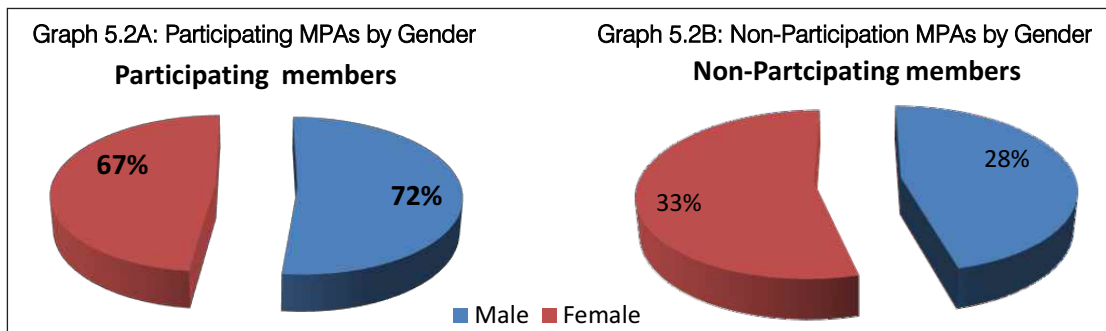
Seven JUI-F lawmakers participated by tabling and debating agenda. Two out of four PML lawmakers also participated while members belonging to single member parties (ANP, MWM) participated in the session in one way or the other. The sole independent member and BNP-A MPA did not attend the proceedings; however, the former tabled an agenda item.

**Table 5.2: Member's Participation**

Sr. No.	Political Party	Members Who Submitted Agenda Items	Members Who Took Part in Debates	Members Who Participated in Debates as well as Submitted Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Who Submitted Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Who Participated in Debates	Percentage of Members Who Submitted Agenda Items And Participated in Debates
1	ANP	0	0	1	0%	0%	100%
2	MWM	0	0	1	0%	0%	100%
3	BNP	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
4	BNP-A	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%
5	IND	1	0	0	100%	0%	0%
6	JUI-F	2	1	4	25%	13%	50%
7	NP	1	2	3	9%	18%	27%
8	PML-N	8	3	3	36%	14%	14%
9	PML	0	1	1	0%	25%	25%
10	PkMAP	2	0	12	14%	0%	86%
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>38%</b>

The participation of male members was slightly higher than their female counterparts as 77% (38 out of 53) took part in the House business in contrast to 67% (8 out of 12) of female legislators. Male members contributed to all of the above mentioned categories of participation; however more of them and their female counterparts participated by doing both – submitting as well as debating agenda.

There are 51 elected and 14 reserved seats - for minorities and women - in the Balochistan Assembly. Thirty seven MPAs elected on general seats while nine MPAs on reserved seats participated during the session. Elected members contributed in all categories of participation while the reserved members both tabled as well as debated agenda.



Disclaimer: The data cited in this report is based on direct observation of the Balochistan Assembly's proceedings during the 7th session. Every care has been taken to maintain accuracy. To intimate any errors and omissions, please contact House 145, St 37, F-10/1, Islamabad - 051-8466232





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## About FAFEN

Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) is a nationwide network of 42 Pakistani civil society organizations. It has been working since 2006 to strengthen democratic systems and promote active citizenship and is now governed by Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA). With its primary mandate to observe elections and seek reforms to improve the quality of elections, FAFEN managed unprecedented long-term voter education and election observation initiatives that got 20,000 Pakistani citizens from every district of the country directly involved in the general election process in 2007-08.

In 2013, FAFEN deployed more than 40,000 trained, non-partisan long- and short-term observers to monitor all phases of general election. FAFEN election observation has yielded valuable insights into the quality of the electoral process and enabled generation of critical recommendations for reforms in the constitutional, legal and procedural frameworks that govern elections in Pakistan.

In addition to its vibrant Electoral Oversight, Research and Reforms Program, FAFEN has developed innovative techniques to observe the functioning of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies in order to advocate for parliamentary reforms for a more accountable, transparent and responsive legislative governance. Under its Parliament Oversight, Research and Reforms Program, FAFEN directly observes and objectively reports on the proceedings of all elected Houses in Pakistan.

FAFEN mobilizes and facilitates citizens engagements with elected and public institutions across Pakistan as a prerequisite for strengthening democratic accountabilities as part of its Electoral Governance Oversight, Research and Reforms Program. These activities fit in with the core FAFEN's objective of promotion of active citizenry—a critical ingredient of a vibrant democratic system.