



FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR



FOURTH SESSION

Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
(September 10-18, 2013)

Free and Fair Election Network
www.fafen.org

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

List of Abbreviations

ANP	Awami National Party
APML	All Pakistan Muslim League
AJIP	Awami Jamhuri Ittehad Pakistan
IND	Independent Member
JIP	Jamaat- e- Islami Pakistan
JUI-F	Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (Fazal-ur-Rehman)
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League(Nawaz)
PPPP	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians



This report is based on direct observation of proceedings of Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, conducted by **PAIMAN Alumni Trust**, a member organization of FAFEN.



Executive summary

The fourth session of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly witnessed the introduction of a bill on right to information, providing for setting up a powerful Information Commission and protecting the whistleblowers against legal, administrative or employment related sanction for releasing information on wrongdoing. The House also unanimously adopted a resolution to condemn the suicide attacks on a church in Peshawar.

Promulgated as an ordinance on August 13, 2013 by the provincial government, it was introduced in the House during the first sitting of the session. However in the fifth sitting the government introduced the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Bill 2013 as a 12-member Special Committee with six members each from the treasury and the opposition benches was formed on September 10, 2013 to debate the legislation. The committee was to present its report on the bill within a month.

The House also passed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Arms Bill 2013 to regulate the process of getting license for the manufacturing, ownership, sale and repairs of arms. Amending the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Ombudsman Act 2010, the Chief Minister, instead of the Governor, has been authorized to appoint the provincial ombudsman.

The House passed two bills on explosives; one aiming for establishing an Inspectorate of Explosives to regulate the manufacture, possession, use, sale and transportation of explosives in the province and the other seeking death or imprisonment for life for any person who unlawfully and maliciously uses explosive substance to endanger life or property.

The session lasting seven sittings from 10- 18 September 2013 met for 22 hours and 56 minutes. On average, each sitting lasted three hours and 17 minutes.

Since the assembly secretariat does not make the members' attendance record public, FAFEN observer conducts a headcount of legislators at the beginning, at the end and the time when maximum members are present in each sitting. On average, 33 MPAs were present at the start, 49 at the end and 70 at the time of maximum attendance.

The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker presided over the 30% and 35% of the session's time respectively. The remaining time was consumed by six breaks of five hours and 56 minutes – 35% of the session time.

The House adopted three of the four resolutions tabled during the session. During the first sitting, the House

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.

unanimously passed a resolution to condemn the suicide attacks on Kohati Gate Church in Peshawar, and asked the provincial government to take practical steps for protecting the minorities. It also called upon the federal government to initiate the process of talks to address the decade-old issue of terrorism. The resolution moved by the Minister for Law was backed by all the parties in the House - PML-N, JUI-F, ANP, PPPP, QWP-S, and JIP. Another resolution calling upon the federal government to telecast Aazan five times a day on all TV channels in the country was also adopted.

Fourteen out of 15 calling attention notices on the agenda were taken up. Four notices highlighted issues regarding education, two on real estate and employment and a single calling attention notice each was about natural calamities, sale of substandard goods, health, communications, law enforcing agencies, and the acid and crime bill. The House took up a calling attention notice by a JUI-F legislator on the errors in textbooks.

Five adjournment motions on dengue virus outbreak, rehabilitation of drug addicts, sale of non-registered SIMs, poor result of Frontier Education Foundation colleges and traffic problems caused by trucks parked on a road in Mansehra were taken up by the House.

Members spoke on 10 points of order consuming 34 minutes of the proceedings. All opposition parties staged three walkouts during the session.

1.0 Session Time and Attendance

This section deals with duration of the assembly met, the attendance of members, their participation and maintenance of quorum – at least 1/4th (31) of the total membership. It also reviews the presence of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Minister, Leader of the Opposition and parliamentary leaders.

1.1 Time and Duration

The session spread over seven sittings from September 10 till 18, 2013 met for 22 hours and 56 minutes. On average, all sittings were delayed by 48 minutes and lasted three hours and 17 minutes. The second sitting, delayed by an hour and five minutes, was the shortest lasting 57 minutes while the four hours and 16 minutes seventh sitting was the longest.

The House observed six breaks during the session, consuming five hours and 56 minutes – 35% of the session's time.

Table 1.1

Sr. No.	Day and Date	Sitting No.	Late Starts	Hours	Minutes
1	Tuesday, September 10, 2013	1st	30	3	0
2	Wednesday, September 11, 2013	2nd	65	0	57
3	Thursday, September 12, 2013	3rd	50	4	12
4	Friday, September 13, 2013	4th	32	2	40
5	Monday, September 16, 2013	5th	54	3	41
6	Tuesday, September 17, 2013	6th	62	4	10
7	Wednesday, September 18, 2013	7th	44	4	16
Total			Average delay 48 minutes	22 hours and 56 minutes	

1.2 Members' Attendance

As the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly secretariat does not share the members' attendance record with the public, FAFEN observer conducts a headcount of MPAs at the beginning, of the end and at the time of maximum attendance during a sitting.

On average, a little more than half of the House strength (70 of the total 124) were present during the proceedings at a point of maximum attendance. Though in each sitting the attendance of members was low in the beginning, there were more legislators attending the proceedings by the end.

On average, 33 MPAs were recorded at the start and 49 at the adjournment of a sitting.

The quorum was missing during the fifth and the seventh sittings. A JUI-F legislator pointed out lack of quorum during the seventh sitting. The Chair directed the assembly bells to be rung for five minutes and the proceedings resumed afterwards when the quorum was found complete.



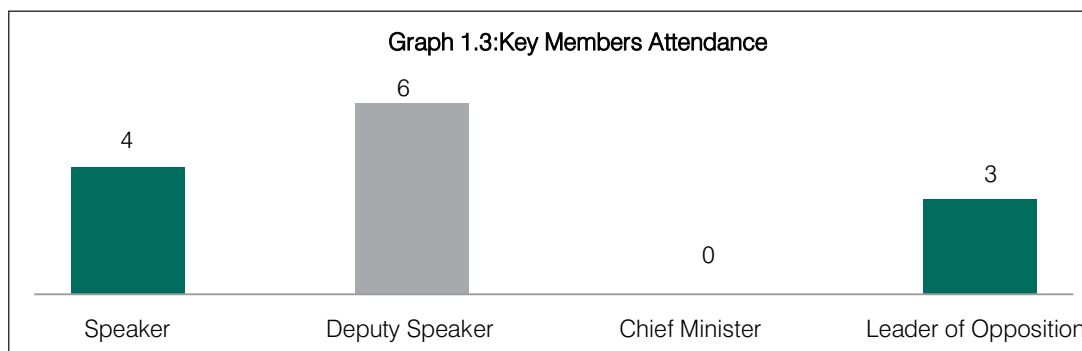
Table 1.2

Sitting No.	Members at the outset	Members at the end	Maximum members present	Minority members present
1st	42	46	73	2
2nd	37	71	71	2
3rd	35	42	74	2
4th	31	49	64	1
5th	26	57	69	3
6th	34	34	69	3
7th	25	44	69	3
Average	33	49	70	2

1.3 Key Members' Attendance

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

The Speaker chaired 30% of the session during four sittings, while the Deputy Speaker presided over 35% of the proceedings. The remaining time (35%) was consumed by six breaks. The Chief Minister did not attend any of the sittings as the Leader of the Opposition was present during three sittings, attending nine percent of the proceedings.



2.0 Representation, Responsiveness and Government Oversight

This section reviews the members' efforts to represent the interests of constituents through adjournment motions and calling attention notices.

2.1 Calling Attention Notices

A member may call the attention of a minister to any matter of urgent public importance and the minister may make a brief statement or ask for time to make a statement at a later hour or date.¹

Fifteen calling attention notices on the agenda were taken up. Four notices highlighted issues regarding education, two on real estate and employment and a single calling attention notice each was about natural calamities, sale of substandard goods, health, communications, law enforcing agencies, and the acid and crime bill. The House took up a notice by a JUI-F legislator on the errors in textbooks.

A calling attention notice on sacking of 700 employees of the Ministry of Labor and Welfare without notification was deferred to the next session.

All calling attention notices were tabled individually by legislators. The PML-N lawmakers tabled four calling attention notices, followed by JUI-F and ANP (three each), JIP and PPPP (two) and a notice was tabled by a PTI lawmaker.

¹ Chapter X-A, Rule 52-A of The Rules and Procedures of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly

Table 2.1: Calling Attention Notices

Sitting No.	Issues	Party	Status
1st	The damages caused by rains in district Mansehra	PML-N	Taken Up
1st	The government urged to purchase land at market prices	ANP	Taken Up
3rd	Fines should be increased to punish shopkeepers selling low quality and substandard goods	JUI-F	Taken Up
3rd	Students of the University of Education and Technology, Kohat, not getting degrees	ANP	Taken Up
4th	Lack of doctors and facilities in Malakand hospitals	PTI	Taken Up
4th	879 posts of grade 16 and above vacant in educational department according to AJJ newspaper	JIP	Taken Up
5th	Withdrawal of daycare facility in King Folks School No 1, which is under supervision of KPK Workers Welfare Institute. The provincial government is requested to look into the matter and restore the facility of daycare	JUI-F	Taken Up
5th	The bypass road from Langra Hawaiiian to Abbottabad Dhamtor was approved in ADP 2012-2013. But after the budget approval, the secretary communication and development excluded this development project from ADP	PML-N	Taken Up
6th	The police head office is far from the main road in Madyan, causing inconvenience for the local public	ANP	Taken Up
6th	There are mistakes in the textbooks of KPK Text Board. The table of two in the Math's textbook of class 2 is totally wrong. This table had been taught in schools from the last two years but this mistake has not been corrected. Similarly there are mistakes in the every chapter of Gender Science for class 7th. Due to this negligence, people prefer to admit their children in Private Schools instead of government Schools	JUI-F	Taken Up
6th	570 employees of the Population Welfare Department inducted by the government in February 2012 still awaiting their salaries	PPPP	Taken Up
7th	The Standing Committee decided to facilitate the government employees on paying their installments for the housing scheme in Jalozia. However the structure of installment has been changed, which is unjust. The Standing Committee is requested to revise/readjust the installment to help the government employees build their homes	JIP	Taken Up
7th	The status of the bill on acid and burn crime, reportedly with laying with the law department, is still unknown	PML-N	Taken Up
7th	Secretary labor welfare has made 700 employees redundant without any notification	PPPP	Deferred
7th	The University of Engineering and Technology is charging advance fee of four semesters while the other universities in the province charge only one semester fee in advance	PML-N	Taken Up

2.2 Adjournment Motion

According to Rule 69 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly rules of procedure, "a motion for an adjournment of the business of the assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance may be made with the consent of the Speaker".

Five of the seven adjournments motions on dengue outbreak in Swat, rehabilitation of drug addicts, sale of non-registered SIMs, poor results of Frontier Education Foundation colleges and traffic problems caused by 65 trucks parked on a road in district Mansehra were taken up. Two of these five adjournment motions were moved PML-N legislators, and one each by the members of the ANP, JIP and JUI-F.

However the House failed to debate the issue of spread of dengue in Swat despite admitting adjournment motions on it. The adjournment motion by a PPPP legislator on this issue lapsed because of the minister's absence. Though the motion on the same issue by a PML-N legislator was admitted for detailed debate, it was left unaddressed.


Table 2.2: Adjournment Motions

Sitting No.	Issue	Party	Status
1st	The provincial government's slow response to spread of dengue virus in Swat	PPPP	Lapsed
3rd	Addicts using bridges and overheads as shelter. We need to rehabilitate them and give them the required treatment	PML-N	Taken Up
4th	Dengue virus has been spread in Swat district. 70 patients have been admitted in hospitals. Whereas no availability of medicines, mosquito repellents, nets and other medical facilities have been provided. To address this emergency situation, the government should provide medical facilities immediately. Further there is need for spray in the area	PML-N	Admitted for Discussion
5th	The previous government had banned the non-registered SIM cards. However for the last three months, no follow-up action has been taken. Now SIM cards are being sold in village without registration. It leads to terrorism and many other crimes. The government should take steps against illegal SIM cards	ANP	Taken Up
5th	Students of FEF degree colleges pay high fees but do not produce good results. This is the evidence of teachers' incompetency. Despite bad results, there are two holidays in this college whereas in other colleges there is only one holiday on Sunday. The provincial government should take notice of this issue. There should be one holiday and improve the standard of education in the colleges	JIP	Taken Up
7th	Dengue virus has been spread in Swat district. 70 patients have been admitted in hospitals. Whereas no availability of medicines, mosquito repellents, nets and other medical facilities have been provided. To address this emergency situation, the government should provide medical facilities immediately. Further there is need for spray in the area.	PML-N	Not Taken Up
7th	65 trucks loaded with logs are standing and creating problems at Batal in Mansera	JUI-F	Debated by the House

3.0 Parliamentary Output

This section is concerned with the bills introduced and passed and the resolutions debated during the 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.

During the session, the House approved four government bills while the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Ordinance promulgated by the provincial government on August 10, 2013 was laid before the House.

The bill on right to information provides for setting up a powerful Information Commission and protecting the whistleblowers against any "legal, administrative or employment related sanction...for releasing information on wrongdoing..."

Promulgated as an ordinance, it was introduced in the House during the first sitting of the session. However during the fifth sitting the government introduced the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Bill 2013 as a 12-member Special Committee with six members each from the treasury and the opposition benches was formed on September 10, 2013 to debate the legislation. The committee was to present its report on the bill within a month.

The right to information legislation gives the proposed Information Commission powers of a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 to summon witnesses, requiring public bodies to produce documents, and inspect premises of public bodies. Headed by a retired high court judge, the commission will also have power to impose fines on officials obstructing any activity undertaken under the access to information law.

Some of the commission's functions, according to the bill, include making rules and setting minimum standards for the public bodies on how to manage their records, designate categories of information subject to proactive disclosures, compile a user-friendly handbook in Urdu and English describing in easily comprehensible form on how to make a request on access to information and also compile a comprehensive annual report both on describing its own activities and providing an overview of the activities undertaken by all public bodies to implement the law.

Table 3.1

Sr. No	Bills	Status	
		Introduced	Passed
1	The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Arms Bill 2013	-	✓
2	The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Explosives Bill 2013	-	✓
3	The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Explosive Substance Bill 2013	-	✓
4	The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2013	-	✓
5	The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Bill 2013	✓	-

3.1.1 Passed Bills

a) *The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Explosives Bill 2013*

The bill aims to regulate the manufacture, possession, use, sale and transportation of explosives in the province. It also provides for establishing an Inspectorate of Explosives which will make rules regarding licenses for making, possessing, use, sale and transportation of explosives.

b) *The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Arms Bill 2013*

The bill defines the terms “arms, ammunition and cannon” while binding the public to get a license for the manufacturing, ownership, sale and repairs of weapons. The bill also details penalties in case of any violations of its provisions.

c) *The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Explosive Substance Bill 2013*

Apart from defining the explosive substance, the bill's section 3 says any person who unlawfully and maliciously uses explosive substance to endanger life or cause injury will be punishable with death or imprisonment for life.

d) *The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2013*

The bill seeks amendments to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Ombudsman Act 2010 to authorize the Chief Minister to appoint the provincial ombudsman instead of the Governor. According to amendment in section 4 of the act, the provincial ombudsman will be appointed for three years, with provision of one-year extension. However there will be no further second time extension.

3.2 Resolutions

Through resolutions, the House expresses its opinion, make recommendations, or convey a message on a definite and important issue. The House can also commend, urge, or request action upon a situation under consideration by the government.

The House adopted three of the four resolutions tabled during the session. During the first sitting, the House unanimously passed a resolution to condemn the suicide attacks on Kohati Gate Church in Peshawar, and asked the provincial government to take practical steps for protecting the minorities. It also called upon the federal government to initiate the process of talks to address the decade-old issue of terrorism. The resolution moved by the Minister for Law was backed by all the parties in the House - PML-N, JUI-F, ANP, PPPP, QWP-S, and JIP.

A resolution calling for telecasting Aazan five times a day on all TV channels was adopted.

A resolution moved by a PML-N member over minorities' quota in educational institutions and employment sector was put off till the next session.

Table 3.2

Sitting No.	Resolutions	Party	Status
1st	This provincial assembly condemns the cruel and heart rending suicide attacks on the Kohati Gate Church on September 22, 2013. The targeting of the minorities is a blow to the ideology of Pakistan. This House expresses complete sympathy and cooperation with the Christian brothers and the heirs of martyrs of the suicide attacks. We call upon the provincial government to ensure protection of the minorities and their institutions. Additionally the provincial government should take practical steps to combat terrorism. At the same time this House salutes the citizens of Peshawar for their courage. We call upon the federal government that in the light of the rules/decisions finalized at the All Parties Conference, steps should be taken to initiate the process of talks so that the decade-old war in the name of terror should end and there should be peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the rest of Pakistan.	ANP PTI PML-N JUI-F QWP-S JIP PPPP	Adopted



Sitting No.	Resolutions	Party	Status
3rd	It is requested to the federal government to ensure that Aazan should be telecast on all official and private television channels for five times	JUI-F	Adopted
	Maidain grid station in Swat district was destroyed during floods in 2010. But the repairing has not been started yet. Additionally, three years back Khoza khela as WAPDA division and Madain as sub-division were approved, which is also not implemented till date. It is requested to Federal govt. to repair and restore the Madain grid station in the Swat district on urgent basis. Also provide assurance to implement the approval of Khoza khela as WAPDA division and Madain as sub-division	ANP	Adopted
7th	There is no quota system for minorities in the medical, engineering and other colleges of the province. The provincial government should allocate 5% quota for minorities in medical, engineering and other colleges. Whereas one percent job quota allocated for the minorities should be increased to 5%	PML-N	Kept Pending

4.0 Order and Institutionalization

This section 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 under way, and usually requests the Chair's ruling on the issue. However the members mostly speak on points of order on issues than to point out any breach in the business of the House.

During the fourth session, the legislators spoke on various issues including business of the house, education, development schemes etc. on ten points of order.

Table 4.1

Sitting No.	Points of Order	Time Consumed (Mins)
1st	0	0
2nd	1	1
3rd	1	1
4th	1	4
5th	3	9
6th	2	13
7th	2	6
Total	10	34

4.2 Questions of Privilege

In the fourth session, lawmakers of PPPP, JUI-F and PML-N submitted three privilege motions individually. A PPPP legislator moved a motion on violation of the government restriction on the free use of guesthouses by government members. The mover withdrew the motion after the matter was debated in the House.

A JUI-F legislator's privilege motion on the misbehavior of a District Education Officer was sent to the relevant committee. On a motion moved by a PML-N member against misbehavior of secretary Municipal and Development Rural KPK, the Minister for Local Government assured the House of looking into the matter.

Table 4.2

Sitting No.	Issue	Party	Status
1st	Violation of a government restriction on the free use of guest houses by government members	PPPP	Withdrawn by Mover
4th	DEO has dealt with him rudely	JUI-F	Refer to Privilege Committee
6th	On 13 September 2013, I went to the office of Secretary (Municipal & development rural KPK) for an important case discussion. I requested him about the case but he badly response and stated that I am not bound to consider the request of any MPA or members of Assembly. And he said MPA request is not important for me. A bitter conversation was carried out between us. The dealing of Secretary Municipal was so harsh & Rude. It hurt my privilege so the issue should be passed to Committee after the discussion	PML-N	Taken Up

4.3 Protests, Boycotts and Walkouts

The House observed three walkouts consuming 23 minutes of the session's time. A 16-minute walkout was against the government overlooking opposition candidates while appointing the head of District Fund Allocating Authority.

An ANP legislator walked out when the Speaker did not allow him to speak and the opposition members left the House over the issue of discrimination in allocating funds.

Table 4.3: Protests and Walkouts

Party	Reason	Time (Mins)	Walkouts
All Opposition	Against the government omitting the opposition's candidates in appointing the chairman of a district fund allocating authority	16	Walkout
	The chair did not allow an ANP MPA to speak	1	Walkout
All Opposition	As two female MPAs from PML-N and JUI-F pointed out discrimination over allocation of funds	6	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.

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.



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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 include:

- Observed the public display of Pakistan's 2007 draft electoral rolls and conducted the country's first statistically-valid voters' list audit
- Deployed 18,829 trained, neutral Election Day observers nationwide to monitor the February 18, 2008, General Elections
- Fielded 264 long-term observers nationwide and published 19 pre-election reports
- Conducted 260 simultaneous Parallel Vote Tabulations (PVTs)- the largest PVT effort in the world
- Conducted a Constituent Aspirations Survey in December 2008 with 3,124 respondents regarding attitudes and beliefs of people living in the constituencies
- Observed Gilgit-Baltistan 2009 General Elections and 2010-2012 By-Elections in various constituencies of the Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Implements a unique methodology to observe and report on legislative proceedings and performance under a Parliament Watch Project
- Monitors public institutions across Pakistan and issues monthly reports on the state and performance of educational, health and other local institutions as well as reports on prices, crimes, incidence of disease, caseload in lower courts, and political and electoral violence

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 and promoting active citizenship through ongoing civic education activities across the country. FAFEN is currently implementing Supporting Transparency, Accountability and Electoral Processes (STAEP) in 200 National Assembly constituencies in 119 districts across Pakistan.