**FAFEN Daily Factsheet: Sitting No.3 Session No.107 of the Senate**

**Senate Concludes Debate on Political Situation**

Opposition Stages Walkout Against Ministers’ Absence

ISLAMABAD, August 12, 2014: The Senate concluded debate on the imposition of Article 245 in the Federal Capital Territory and the emerging political situation in the country during 3rd sitting of the 107th session on Tuesday, says Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) in its Daily Factsheet.

Nine Senators- PPPP (6), ANP, PML-N and BNP-A (one each)- took part in the debate for two hours and one minute, following a commenced motion under rule 218.

Chairman, Standing Committee on Defence presented report (No.10) of the Committee before the House.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs laid the annual reports of the National Economic Council for the Financial Year 2012-13 and the Observance and Implementation of the Principles of Policy in relation to the affairs of the Federation for the year 2011-2012.

The entire opposition, including the MQM, walked out of the sitting over the absence of relevant ministers to answer their questions. Following their walkout, the Chairman suspended the proceedings for 30 minutes and the sitting resumed after 35 minutes when the ministers came to the House.

Following are some key observations of the House proceedings:

**Members’ Participation in House Proceedings**

* The Senate met for three hours and 38 minutes.
* The sitting started at 1103 hours against the scheduled time of 1030 hours, witnessing a delay of 33 minutes.
* The Chairman presided over the sitting for an hour and 37 minutes while the rest of the proceedings were chaired by a member of panel of chairpersons.
* The Leader of the House attended the sitting for an hour and 46 minutes while the Leader of the Opposition was present for an hour and 40 minutes.
* Sixteen senators were present at the outset, seven at the adjournment while a maximum of 32 at one point during the proceedings.
* The parliamentary leaders of PPPP, PkMAP, ANP and PML-N attended the sitting.
* Two minority members attended the sitting.
* Three members applied for leave.

**Output**

* Chairman, Standing Committee on Defence presented report (No.10) of the Committee before the House.
* Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs laid the annual reports of the National Economic Council for the Financial Year 2012-13 and the Observance and Implementation of the Principles of Policy in relation to the affairs of the Federation for the year 2011-2012.

**Representation and Responsiveness**

* The debate on a commenced motion under rule 218 regarding imposition of Article 245 in the Federal Capital Territory and the emerging political situation was concluded.
* Nine Senators- PPPP (6), ANP, PML-N and BNP-A (one each)- participated in the debate for two hours and one minute. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs winded up the debate.
* Of 34 starred questions on the agenda, the House took up eight questions. Senators asked 22 supplementary questions.

**Order and Institutionalization**

* The entire opposition, including the MQM, walked out of the sitting over the absence of relevant ministers to answer their questions. Following their walkout, the Chairman suspended the proceedings for 30 minutes and the sitting resumed after 35 minutes when the relevant ministers came to the House.

**Transparency**

* ‘Orders of the Day’ was available to the legislators, observers and others.
* Information on senators’ attendance was not available to the observers and the public.

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