



ANNUAL REPORT OF BALOCHISTAN ASSEMBLY

(June 1, 2013 - May 31, 2014)



Free and Fair Election Network
www.fafen.org

List of Abbreviations

AM	Adjournment Motion
ANP	Awami National Party
BNP	Balochistan National Party
BNP-A	Balochistan National Party - Awami
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
FIA	Federal Investigation Agency
FC	Frontier Corps
IND	Independent Member
JUI-F	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam - Fazlur Rehman
MWM	Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen
NCHD	National Commission for Human Development
NP	National Party
PkMAP	Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz
PO	Point of Order
QoP	Question of Privilege
ZTBL	Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited

Executive Summary

The 10th Balochistan Assembly witnessed a prolific first parliamentary year with the passage of 21 treasury-backed bills, including landmark legislation on domestic violence, education and rehabilitation of victims of terrorism. The House adopted 59 resolutions mostly seeking improved governance and economic development in the province. Impressively, 97 percent of the legislators participated in the House proceedings.

The House managed to pass twice the number of bills compared to the previous year. However, following last year's precedence, none of the private members' bills were passed. Half of the bills passed this year were amendments to existing laws, while the remaining were new pieces of legislation.

Balochistan earned the distinction of being the first province to hold local government elections, in December 2013. To this end, the first amendment to the Local Government Act 2010 was passed in August 2013 to allow timely, party-based elections. The second local government amendment bill came after the elections were held, aiming to cater to a wider representation of the public by clubbing together the categories of peasants and workers and introducing a new category for professionals and/or social workers.

There was an improvement in how lawmakers represented their constituents' interests, as indicated by the fact that 83 resolutions appeared on the List of Business, as opposed to 11 during the previous year. The House adopted 59 resolutions, most (21) of which sought improved governance.

Lawmakers submitted 21 adjournment motions on the List of Business, of which nine were taken up for debate. To conduct executive oversight the members put forward 196 questions on the House agenda.

The year witnessed 10 sessions, completing the constitutional requirement to meet for 100 days during a parliamentary year. On average, 35 members were present at the outset of a sitting in the 65-member assembly, while 26 were seen at the time of adjournment. Two MPs on non-Muslim seats attended each sitting on average. Although more than half of the total members were present in a sitting on average, the quorum was not met on several occasions.

The Chief Minister and the Leader of the House attended 33 and 32 sittings respectively, both spending a little more than half of the total time on the floor during the year. The Chairman presided over 54 percent of the proceedings; the Deputy Speaker chaired 25 percent while the Panel of the Chairpersons presided over 13 percent of the proceedings. The remaining eight percent of the time was consumed in breaks.

INTRODUCTION

The Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) is a nationwide coalition of 42 civil society organizations working to strengthen all forms of democratic accountabilities in Pakistan.

Launched in 2008, the Parliament Watch (PW) 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 these representatives are fulfilling their responsibilities. Since there is a dearth of publicly accessible information about political decision-making processes, e.g. assembly deliberations, the PW is an effort to bridge this gap. This report aims to contribute towards creating a more informed citizenry and an increasingly responsible Parliament.

FAFEN observations of the Balochistan Assembly proceedings are recorded on a standardized form based on the objective rules of procedure.

This information is included in the PWP database maintained at the FAFEN Secretariat. The analysis is compiled in the form of daily fact-sheets and session-wise reports, which are disseminated to the general public, media, civil society organizations, legislators, political parties and other relevant organizations and institutions. The PW also produces thematic reports such as participation of women Members, role of minority etc.

This report is an analysis of the performance of the Balochistan Assembly during its first parliamentary year (June 2013 to May 30, 2014). During this period, 10 regular sessions were held.

The parliamentary leader of PkMAP attended 33 sittings, followed by leaders of PML (20) and PML-N (13) while the BNP leader attended only one sitting during the entire year. The members belonging to single member parties – ANP, BNP-A and MWM - attended 26, 21 and three sittings respectively.

Three questions of privilege were raised by the members and referred to the Standing Committees on Rules of Procedures and Privileges.

Lawmakers raised 318 POs that consumed 11 percent of each session on average. However, none of the points of order attracted the chair's formal ruling. Unless the chair gives a formal ruling on a point of order, it does not lead to any assembly output.

1.0 Assembly Output

This section gives the details of the Balochistan Assembly's output during the year. It provides an analysis of the nature, consideration and final status of bills tabled during the year along with reasons and objectives of bringing the said legislation on the floor of the House. Resolutions appearing on the List of Business are explained thematically to reflect lawmakers' interests in representing public issues. This section also covers amendments made to the Rules of Procedure.

1.1 Legislation

The Balochistan Assembly witnessed the passage of 21 treasury-backed bills, half (11) of which were amendments to existing laws. Last year the House had passed only nine bills.

Only one bill - The Balochistan Public Service Commission (Amendment) Bill 2014 - remained introduced and with the relevant standing committee till the end of the year. The standing committees were formed in January 2014. However, the membership was not notified by the House. The Balochistan Public Service Commission (Amendment) Bill 2014 was tabled to standardize the posts of the Commission's chairman and members serving on BPS-19 and BPS-20 by setting prerequisites for their appointment. The bill makes it obligatory for the appointment-holders to be graduates or preferably with postgraduate degrees and also seeks reduction in the tenure of the chairman and members to three years from the previous five-year term.

Maintaining the past tradition, the Private members did not submit a single bill during the entire year. However, they were active on other parliamentary interventions.

Table 1.1: List of Bills Passed by Balochistan Assembly

Bill
The Balochistan Finance Bill 2013
The Balochistan Service Tribunals (Amendment) Bill 2013
The Balochistan Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2013
The Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill 2013
The Balochistan Breast Feeding Protection and Nutrition for Infants and Young Children Bill 2014
The Balochistan Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2014
The Balochistan Introduction of Local Languages as Additional Subject at Primary Level Bill 2014
The Balochistan Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill 2014
The Compulsory Education Bill 2014
The Balochistan Food Authority Bill 2014
The Balochistan Sea Fisheries (Amendment) Bill 2014
The Balochistan Chief Minister and Provincial Ministers (Salaries, Allowances and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill 2014
The Balochistan Speaker and Deputy Speaker's (Salaries, Allowances and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill 2014
The Balochistan Assembly Members (Salaries, Allowances and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill 2014
The Balochistan Coastal Development Authority (Amendment) Bill 2014
The Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University (Amendment) Bill 2014
The Balochistan Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Bill 2014
The Balochistan Wild Life Protection, Preservation and Management Bill 2014
The Balochistan Hotels and Restaurants Bills 2014
The Balochistan Travel Agencies Bill 2014
The Balochistan Tourist Guide Bill 2014

A wider array of issues was addressed through legislation this year. Important pieces of legislation such as the amendments to the Local Government bill and the Compulsory Education bill were passed unanimously. The passage of the landmark pro-women legislation -- Balochistan Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Bill 2014 -- also took place through political consensus.

Details of Passed Bills¹

1. The Balochistan Finance Bill 2013

The bill was passed to change and revise taxes and fees in the province. The law authorizes provincial authorities to levy taxes on immovable property and collect Capital Value Tax (CVT) accordingly after legislating on the matter.

2. The Balochistan Service Tribunals (Amendment) Bill 2013

The bill makes amendments to the Balochistan Service Tribunals Act 1974 to provide for restructuring the composition of tribunals and the duties of members thereof. It prescribes the criteria for appointment of the tribunal members, whereby the chairman has to be a high court judge while the two other members should include a district judge (with three years of service) and a civil servant with a service of more than 10 years. These appointments are to be made for a single non-extendible term of three years. The Chairman will be vested with powers over administrative, disciplinary and financial matters of the tribunal.

3. The Balochistan Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2013

The bill was passed to hold local government elections and in response to the suggestion of the ECP to promulgate local government laws. The bill makes three amendments to sections 16, 25 and 30 of the parent Act. The first amendment slashes the timeline of holding elections between 90 and 120 days after ECP announcement of the date of election while the second permits party-based local council elections in the province. The third amendment seeks to defer the polls of vice chairman and chairman of local councils if clashing with by-elections of the National Assembly/Senate. Similarly, in the event of a local government seat becoming vacant within the time period of four months to the expiry of local bodies' term, the seat will be left vacant.

4. The Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill 2013

The bill provides for revising the appointment of the managing director and reconstitution of Board of the Authority. The managing director having the administrative, financial and management powers of the authority will be appointed by the government for three years, eligible for re-appointment for a term not exceeding six years. The bill exceeds the previous membership of the Board from eight members to 15, including a chairman and 14 members comprising managing director and others associated with ministries and civil society.

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

The bill seeks to promote breastfeeding and lays down the 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 an Infant Feeding Board headed by a chairman and 10 members including the Health Secretary, two MPAs, two pediatricians and gynecologists each and a member of the civil society appointed by the Health Department. The board will report violations of the law and recommend investigation while also focusing on capacity-building of 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.

6. The Balochistan Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2014

The bill amends sections 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 local

¹ The Provincial Assembly of Balochistan, (2014, March 4), Legislation. Retrieved from Balochistan Assembly Website: <http://www.pabalochistan.gov.pk/uploads/>

councils. Additionally, the previously separate categories of peasants and labourers were clubbed as one. By doing so, the said Act has given 33 percent seats to women and 5 percent each to non-Muslims, peasants and labourers, and professional and social workers. The amendments were approved by the provincial cabinet at its meeting held on January 9, 2014.

7. The Balochistan Introduction of Local Languages as Additional Subject at Primary Level Bill 2014

The bill provides for introducing local languages as an additional subject at primary schools. It invokes Article 251(3) of the Constitution that states that without prejudice to the status of the national language, a provincial assembly may recommend measures for teaching, promotion and use of a provincial language. Under the said bill it would be mandatory for the Balochistan government to provide textbooks in the prescribed languages for primary government and private schools as well as religious institutions.

8. The Balochistan Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill 2014

The bill lays 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 victims' families. For effective implementation of the Bill, the government would train authorized officials, commissioners, personnel of law enforcing agencies besides the Health, Communication and Works, and Livestock Departments. The provisions of the Bill would be applicable to all citizens regardless of their colour, cast, religion and gender.

The bill lists a schedule of minimum payments to victims of terrorism, allowing a minimum grant of Rs 1 million in case of a victims' death, Rs 500,000 for a "grievous injury" and Rs 100,000-500,000 in case the victims' residence or business is destroyed.

9. The Compulsory Education Bill 2014

The said bill is an undertaking to promote education in Balochistan following the Supreme Court directive to implement Article 25A of the Constitution which states that "the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children from the age of five to 16 years in such manner as may be determined by law."

10. The Balochistan Food Authority Bill 2014

The bill seeks to establish a food authority to protect public health and ensure quality food standards in the province. The authority would comprise a chairperson and 19 members. 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 additive etc." In addition, the bill allows the authority to appoint a food safety officer to sample or seize any food that appears to be in contravention of the bill. A person who sells, manufactures, stores or exports/imports any food in violation to the provisions of the bill shall be liable to imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and a fine which may extend to Rs2 million.

11. The Balochistan Sea Fisheries (Amendment) Bill 2014

The bill makes 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 violation rather than third time as was the case previously.

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

This bill provides for increasing the salaries, allowances and privileges of the Chief Minister and provincial ministers in the Balochistan Assembly to meet the cost of living and other expenses. The bill provided for the salary of the Chief Minister and the provincial ministers to be raised to Rs 100,000 (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 officials 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 seeks to increase the sumptuary allowances, telephone facilities and traveling allowances of the Chief Minister and the provincial ministers.

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

The bill seeks to increase the salary of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker from Rs 32,000 and Rs 27,000 per month to Rs 100,000 and Rs 90,000 respectively. It also increases the allowances and privileges of the key members to meet the cost of living and other expenses. 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 increases the sumptuary and traveling allowances of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

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

The bill provides for increasing the salaries, allowances and privileges of members of the Balochistan Assembly to meet the cost of living and other expenses. It provides for increase in the salaries of MPAs from Rs 20,000 to Rs 60,000 and also allows payment of Rs 500,000 annually as travel vouchers or cash to each member.

15. The Balochistan Coastal Development Authority (Amendment) Bill 2014

This bill aims to omit Section 16A of the Balochistan Coastal Development Authority Act 1998 to curb illegal fishing by non-local fishers. 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 outstation 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 after paying tax for stationing. Therefore to protect the fishing rights of the local fishermen, the bill removes the mentioned provision in the previous Act.

16. The Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University (Amendment) Bill 2014

This bill proposes 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 – an institution established under the said Act. The bill also provides for creating a post of pro-vice chancellor and states measures to strengthen the Senate in the university charter and make changes for smooth administrative functioning of the university.

17. The Balochistan Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Bill 2014

This bill paves way to institutionalize measures for prevention and protection of women and children from domestic violence. The provisions of the law give protection to vulnerable individuals from people they are related to through marriage, kinship, adoption, employment, domestic help or joint family members. It also defines different forms of domestic violence including physical, sexual and economic abuse, harassment, stalking as well as emotional and verbal abuse.

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

18. The Balochistan Wild Life Protection, Preservation and Management Bill, 2014

This bill has been passed to address the issue of degradation and depletion of wildlife species in the province. It aims for their preservation, protection and conservation by establishing a wildlife force for administrative management of endangered species by the government. The function of the force is to establish and manage wildlife parks, captive breeding facilities, aviaries, zoological gardens and other facilities covered under the Act. To implement similar functions through guidance on policy decisions, the Balochistan Council for Conservation of Wildlife will be established under the law, comprising of the Chief Minister as chairman and nine members as part of the council. The proposed law lays down the categorization of wild animals and endangered ones while conveying the only possible reason for killing animals to be self defence. Hunting of animals without observing the rules and regulations will be considered an offence against the State.

19. The Balochistan Tourist Guide Bill 2014

The bill aims to facilitate tourists by regulating and controlling the profession of tour guides. The tour guides will be provided license to practice according to the prescribed criteria and will be paid fixed wages by the provincial government.

20. The Balochistan Hotels and Restaurants Bills 2014

The bill aims to lay down measures for controlling and regulating the standards of service and amenities for tourists, hotels and restaurants in Balochistan. Under the proposed law, registration, classification and licenses will be issued for hotels established before the law as well as the ones opening up in the future.

21. The Balochistan Travel Agencies Bill 2014

In an attempt to develop the tourism department, the Balochistan government passed the bill to regulate the functions of travel agencies in the province. The bill provides for the constitution of a committee that will monitor the charges of travel agencies and license fees besides preparing a code of conduct and playing the role of an advisory to the government in matters related to the bill.

1.2 Resolutions

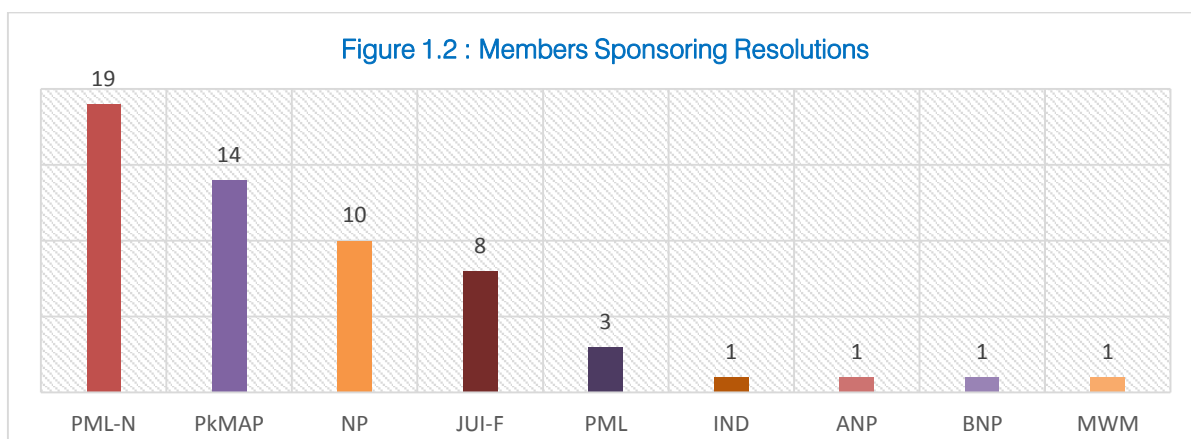
Through resolutions, the House expresses its opinion, makes recommendations, and conveys a message on an important matter of public concern. Resolutions may be moved by ministers or private members.

Lawmakers submitted 83 resolutions during the year – out of which 59 were adopted by the House. Male lawmakers tabled 50 resolutions - 29 of which were submitted individually. Four resolutions were tabled individually by female lawmakers. Additionally, 26 resolutions were jointly tabled by both male and female legislators.

Table 1.2: Details of Resolutions

Gender of Mover(s)	Adopted	Not Adopted	Total
All Female	2	1	3
All Male	17	4	21
Joint Male & Female	22	4	26
Single Female	2	2	4
Single Male	16	13	29
Total	59	24	83

Figure 1.2 depicts the number of members sponsoring resolutions during the year. The breakdown of MPAs submitting resolutions was somewhat in proportion to each party's strength. Of the 58 members sponsoring resolutions, 19 belonged to PML-N, followed by PkMAP (14), NP (10), PML (three) and one each of BNP, ANP and MWM besides an independent member. Among opposition members, eight legislators of JUI-F and one of ANP submitted resolutions during the year.

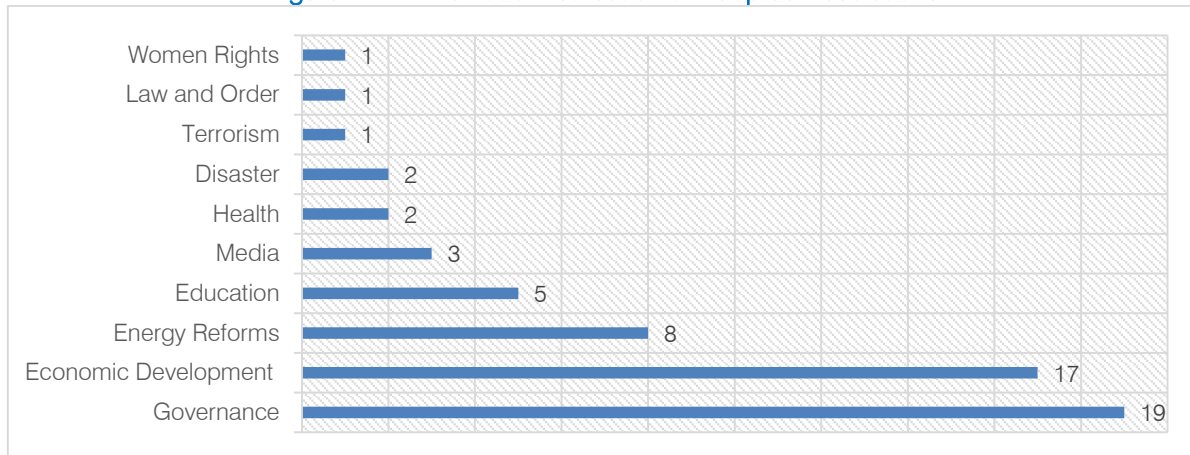


As many as 27 (25 male and two female) members shared their views on the resolutions. Ten NP members spoke on specific issues addressed through resolutions, followed by PkMAP (seven), JUI-F (five), PML-N (three) and two members of PML.

1.2.1 Details of Adopted Resolutions

This section gives the details of resolutions adopted during the year. Issues pertaining to governance were highlighted in 21 resolutions, followed by 17 resolutions on economic development. The House adopted six resolutions for reforms in the energy sector and five resolutions to improve the state of education in the province.

Figure 1.2.1: Thematic Distribution of Adopted Resolutions



a) Governance

As many as 19 resolutions dealt with issues of governance in the province. Through these resolutions, members shared their reservations about the federal government's neglect of Balochistan.

Four resolutions adopted by the Balochistan Assembly were sponsored by PkMAP legislators. These resolutions were regarding the issue of injustice towards Baloch landlords by Zarai Taraqati Bank (ZTBL) despite clearing all agricultural loans, and the issue of inductions of levies and police after the two departments have been merged.

With respect to Hajj, PkMAP lawmakers moved a resolution calling upon both provincial and federal governments to take necessary steps to include 60 percent of all Hajj applications from Balochistan in the government's Hajj scheme instead of diverting them to private travel companies. The party also called for restoring severed funds for the Prime Minister Scholarship Program to benefit the youth in the province.

Of the five resolutions sponsored by the NP members, one called upon the federal government to review its decision to close the NCHD program and stated that such a step has raised apprehensions among teachers and employees posted under the program. Other resolutions recommended changing the name of the Arabian Sea to Bahr-e-Baloch, computerization of birth certificates to stop misuse of Balochistan domicile by outsiders, publication of the Pakistan Associated Press in Balochi language and transferring PTCL employees to other provinces.

PML-N members sponsored two resolutions, one seeking restoration of Nasirabad district to its previous status of B-area so as to avoid merging levies forces with the police, and the other calling upon the government to bind Sindh to pay due amount for sharing water from Hub dam for its maintenance.

JUI-F sponsored resolutions included one against interest-based financial system in the province and another against irregular appointments made in Cadet College Killa Saifullah.

Six jointly-sponsored resolutions on governance were tabled during the year, including one demanding recommencement of stalled international flights to Balochistan in the wake of Hajj. The resolution was jointly moved by members of PkMAP, NP and PML-N. Members of JUI-F and ANP called for relief and

rehabilitation of victims of devastating earthquake that hit Awaran, causing hundreds of casualties and displacing many others.

Two joint resolutions on providing jobs to locals in the Reko Diq project and issuance of lifetime blue passports to officials hailing from Balochistan were also approved. The former resolution was sponsored by PML-N, NP and PML while the latter was tabled by PML, PkMAP, PML-N, JUI-F, an independent member and MWM lawmakers. Furthermore, members of PML-N and PkMAP aired their concerns over opium production in Killa Abdullah and also supported NP members on another resolution asking for the removal of FC and FIA checkpoints on the border areas of Chaman and Taftan.

b) Economic Development

Lawmakers called upon the government to address the bleak state of infrastructure and need for development projects in the province through 17 resolutions. JUI-F and PkMAP MPAs sponsored a resolution each to seek repair and expansion of the Zhob-DI Khan road. Similarly, PkMAP also submitted two more resolutions asking for extension of the Lahore-Multan motorway up to Quetta via Dera Ghazi Khan and Loralai, and construction of dams in various districts to meet water demands.

PkMAP legislators, who sponsored five resolutions individually, requested the government to address the deteriorating condition of the Quetta-Chaman road and direct the Mari Petroleum and Gas Company to lay down a gas pipeline to Quetta from the Zarghoon gas field through a safer and shorter area. They also called upon the provincial government to award the gas pipeline contract to a local company and give gas royalties to the local people. The party also raised demands to the federal government for providing provincial dues for sharing airspace for international flights and resuming railway stations in the province by fixing the railway network. Two PML-sponsored resolutions called for the construction of Mangi and Helak Dams, and awarding control of Quetta-DI Khan highway to the National Highway Authority.

Similarly PML-N members submitted two resolutions regarding the renovation of Quetta International Airport to provide similar facilities as given to other international airports and construction of a flood protection wall across the main drain of Dera Allah Yar city.

NP and PkMAP members jointly moved two resolutions urging the government to expand the Saryab Road and removal of speed breakers at major check points in the outskirts of Quetta. PML and PML-N MPAs requested the construction of sugar mills in Dera Allahyar, Sohbat Pur, Osta Muhammad and Dera Murad Jamali. Lawmakers from NP and PML-N called upon the federal government to link the M-8 Highway with the Bakhshapur Road, Sindh. Members of PML-N and NP recommended the provincial government to allocate 70 percent job quota for local people while permitting private companies, banks and companies to operate in the province, specifically in Hub district.

c) Energy Reforms

In the midst of the country-wide energy crisis, members sponsored two resolutions urging the government to address the issue of the uneven CNG price hike that has crippled economic activity in the province while demanding the federal government to allocate more funds for dams to store water in the face of acute water scarcity.

Lawmakers brought the issue of the energy shortage to the floor of the House through six resolutions. The resolutions were moved individually by PkMAP and JUI-F lawmakers and jointly by male members of NP and PML-N. Two other jointly-sponsored resolutions by PkMAP and NP members sought an increase in electricity production in Habibullah Coastal Power Company to generate 124 MW while requesting the federal government to restore the Lakhra Thermal Power Station.

d) Education

On resolutions dealing with education, a PML-N member pointed out the shortage of educational facilities in Chaman and urged the government to establish cadet colleges, polytechnic institutes and residential schools in the area. Similarly, PkMAP lawmakers called upon the provincial government to establish colleges in Dukki tehsil.

One of the resolutions sponsored by PML-N and PkMAP highlighted the need for agriculture universities in Sohbat Pur, Jaffarabad and Nasirabad. In addition, an Independent member along with a PML-N lawmaker proposed the establishment of medical colleges in Turbat, Loralai and Nasirabad, and the need for a university campus in Nasirabad.

e) Media

Two resolutions - one tabled individually by JUI-F and another jointly by PML-N and NP – expressed unity with journalists and condemned the attack on renowned journalist Hamid Mir in Karachi. Through another resolution, PkMAP lawmakers condemned the attack on journalist Raza Rumi in Lahore and expressed solidarity with media persons.

f) Health

Both male and female members belonging to NP sponsored a resolution to call upon the provincial government to address the issue of the shortage of doctors in the province. They asked for legislation that binds doctors passing their examination to serve in their respective districts for at least five years. In addition, a jointly-tabled resolution sponsored by NP, PkMAP and PML-N called upon the federal government to observe “Polio Day” in schools to raise awareness.

g) Disaster Management

PML-N members addressed their apprehensions of losses incurred due to torrential rains in Dukki through a resolution calling upon the government to provide financial assistance to the affectees. The government was also asked to take necessary measures to placate victims of rain and hailstorms that caused losses to lives and property in Lasbela and adjoining areas on May 16, 2014. The resolution was tabled jointly by members of PkMAP, PML-N, JUI-F and NP.

h) Other Issues (Terrorism, Law and Order, and Women Rights)

The attack on the All Saints Church in Peshawar was condemned in the House. The resolution was moved by PkMAP, NP and PML-N lawmakers who called upon the federation to arrest the culprits of this incident.

PkMAP members called upon the provincial government to contact the federal government to discourage the trend of land occupation by law enforcement agencies and payment of occupied land to actual owners on market rates. Additionally, the House unanimously adopted a jointly-sponsored resolution to establish a Women’s Parliamentary Caucus. It was jointly sponsored by lawmakers of PkMAP, PML-N, NP, JUI-F and PML.

1.2.2 Resolutions Not Adopted

A total of 24 resolutions were left unaddressed by the House. Nine of them dealt with governance issues, seven with development projects, two each on economic development and law and order and one each related to foreign affairs, democracy and political development, and education and health. A resolution submitted by male NP members on corruption in development schemes was not taken up.

1.3 Committee Reports

Although Rule 128 of the Rules of Procedures governing the Balochistan Assembly decrees the formation of standing committees “as soon as may be”, it does not give a timeframe for this purpose. The following standing committees were formed during the 7th session. With the exception of committees on Finance, Public Accounts, and House and Library, the membership for the rest of the standing committees was not notified during the parliamentary year.

Sr. No	Standing Committee
1	Standing Committee for Planning & Development
2	Standing Committee for Housing and Planning Roads and Buildings
3	Standing Committee for Information, Sports, Culture, Tourism, Archives Museum and Libraries.
4	Standing Committee for Social welfare, women development, Zakat, Ushur, Awqaf, minorities, and youth affairs
5	Standing Committee for Interior and tribal affairs prisons , provincial Disaster Management Authority
6	Standing Committee for Health and Population welfare,
7	Standing Committee for Education, Literacy, Informal and Education, High quality Education, presidential Programme, CDWA
8	Standing Committee for Local Government, Balochistan Development Authority, (BDA) Gwader Development Authority (GDA, BCDA, urban Planning and developments.
9	Standing Committee for Public Health Engineering Wasa, including Quetta Greater water supply project.
10	Standing Committee for Irrigation & energy, environment, forest, and wild life.
11	Standing Committee for Agriculture, Co-operative Society ,livestock, dairy Development fisheries, and food
12	Standing Committee for Revenue, Excise and Taxation, Board of Revenue, and Transport.
13	Standing Committee for Commerce and industries mining , mining Development , labor and main power
14	Standing Committee for S & GAD, inter provincial Co-ordination, Law and Parliamentary affairs Prosecution and Human rights

Seven reports pertained to audit of government accounts whereas two annual reports of Balochistan Public Service Commission 2012 were also presented to the House. A House Committee report was also presented along with the second biannual monitoring report on the National Finance Commission.

Table 1.3: Reports Presented During the Year

No.	Title
1.	Second biannual monitoring report on National Finance Commission - January to June 2012
2.	Balochistan Public Service Commission Annual Report 2012
3.	House and Library Committee Report
4.	Balochistan Public Service Commission Annual Report 2012
5.	Auditor General's reports for the year 2012-13
6.	Audit Report on the Accounts of Government of Balochistan 2010-11
7.	Audit Report on the Accounts Revenue Receipts of Government of Balochistan 2010-11
8.	Public Sector Audit Report of Government of Balochistan 2010-11
9.	Audit Report 2011-12 Accounts of Audit Government of Balochistan
10.	Audit Report 2011-12 Accounts of Revenue Government of Balochistan
11.	Audit Report for 2012-13 Accounts of Public Sector Enterprise Government of Balochistan

1.4 Amendments in Rules of Procedures

A member may propose amendment to the Rules of Procedures of the provincial assembly according to Rule 233 where the parliamentarians may give a seven-day notice of leave for such amendment. Seven proposals to amend the assembly Rules of Procedures were brought forward on the floor during the year.

The House approved a motion laid by a PML-N member to amend the Rules of Procedure. A motion to amend the Rules of Procedure tabled by the Provincial Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs was

presented before the House during the first sitting of the seventh session. The said motion sought to amend Rules 128, 129, 130, 163, 167 and 168 in Chapter XV of the Rules of Standing Committees

The amendment substitutes the entirety of Rule 128, providing for the formation of 15 standing committees instead of four to deal with various government departments. 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 six members will constitute the Select Committees on Government Assurances and House and Library as per amendments to Rule 167 and 168 respectively.

2.0 Representation, Responsiveness and Oversight

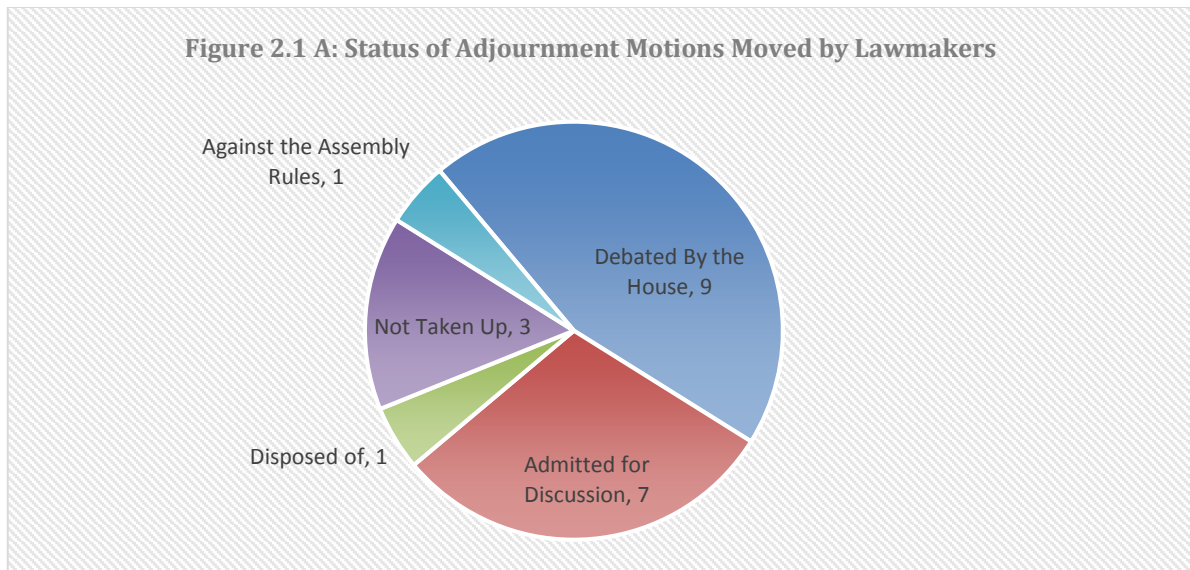
This section highlights the assembly's representation and responsiveness to issues of constituents through adjournment motions and the consequent deliberations on the floor of the House. It also covers the oversight of the executive through the question hour.

2.1 Adjournment Motions (AM)

According to Rules 70-77 of the Balochistan Assembly, the House can admit not more than one motion per sitting for adjournment of the House business for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of recent and urgent public importance, with the consent of the Speaker. A speech during the debate on an adjournment motion cannot exceed 15 minutes. However, the mover or the Minister concerned may speak for 30 minutes.

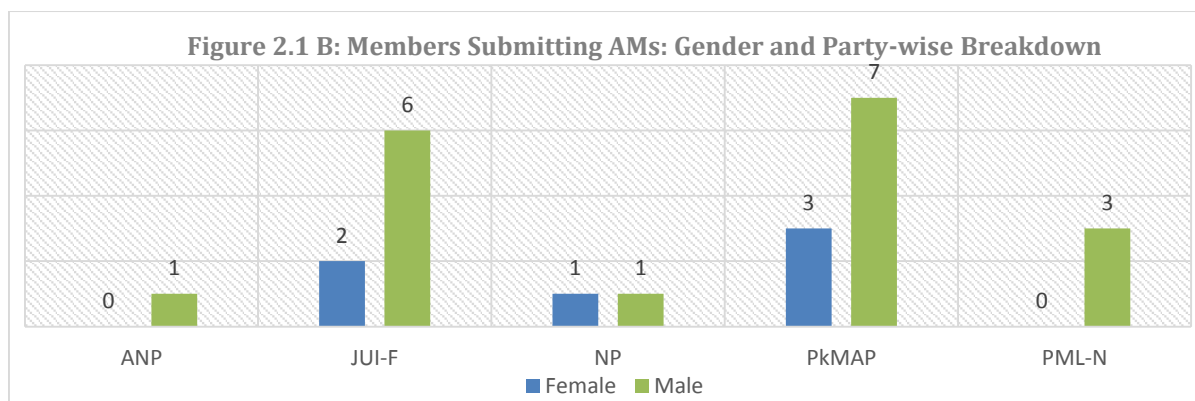
The legislators were far more responsive to their constituents' issues this year as they moved 21 adjournment motions compared to only three in the previous year. The House debated nine motions while seven were admitted for debate but not discussed due to shortage of time. Four motions were not taken up. Another motion, moved by a JUI-F member on multiple law and order violations in the province, was rejected for violating Rule 72 which bars discussion on multiple issues on a single adjournment motion.

Interestingly, the House violated Rule 72 when a PkMAP member's motion on the breach of his personal privilege by an FC official was admitted for discussion, despite the rule stating that a motion shall not relate to a matter of privilege.



Lawmakers raised the deteriorating condition of law and order in the province through 14 motions, followed by three motions on energy and power issues and two regarding health. On AMs related to law and order, members discussed the general state of security in the province including the discovery of mass graves, extrajudicial killings, kidnappings for ransom and cases of missing persons. The violation of the Durand Line by Afghan security forces and their indiscriminate firing resulting in the killing of eight people including two Levies officials was also discussed, while the attack on a funeral procession in Quetta killing 38 police officials in August 2013 was also debated.

The government's decision to raise petrol and electricity prices despite a decrease in international prices and increasing load shedding and water shortage in the province were also discussed by the lawmakers. On health-related AMs, the MPAs deliberated upon causes and necessary remedial measures to control the spread of cholera and hazards of ongoing cultivation of vegetables using contaminated water in the province. The motions not taken up or only admitted for discussion were all related to law and order and one on taking away electricity affairs of Lasbela from KESC due to its inefficient performance.



As many as 24 members – 18 male and six female - raised adjournment motions for debate either individually or jointly. PkMAP members submitted 10 AMs, followed by eight members of JUI-F, three of PML-N, two from NP and one member of ANP.

2.2 Question Hour

Question Hour is the first hour of the assembly business in a sitting wherein, subject to the provisions of the assembly rules, a member may ask a question for the purpose of obtaining information on a matter of public concern within the special cognizance of the minister to whom it is addressed.

The lawmakers put forward 196 starred questions (requiring oral replies) on the House agenda for Question Hour held in five sessions during the year.

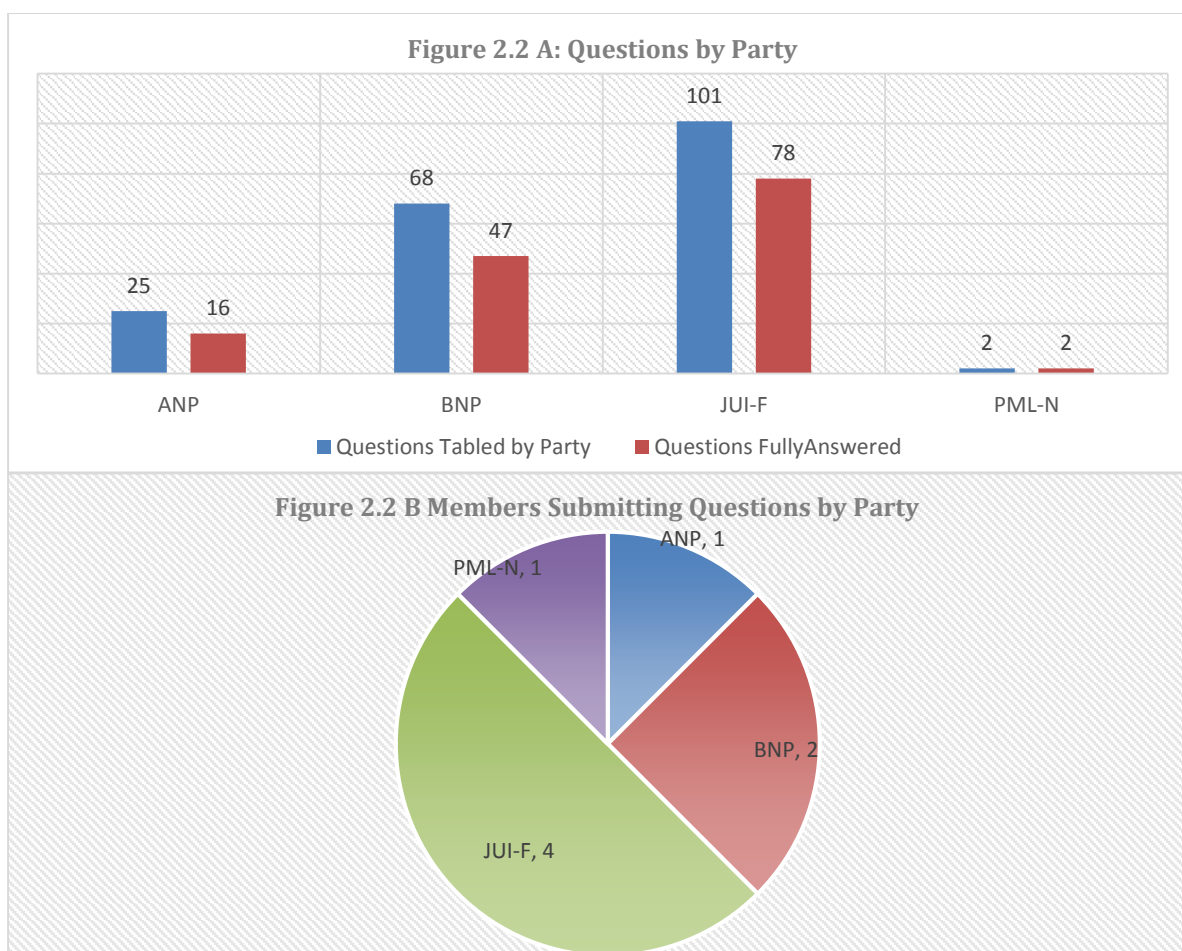
Only 61 starred questions (31 percent) were taken up and answered on the floor by the government. Of the remaining 135 questions not taken up, the government failed to answer 25 percent while the movers of remaining 75 percent questions had to suffice with only written responses. Lawmakers asked an additional eight supplementary questions to get further clarification.

Table 2.2 A: Details of the Question Put Forward

Session	Questions on Agenda	Taken Up on Floor	Not Taken Up	Supplementary Questions
6th	15	8	7	0
7th	75	20	55	0
8th	65	28	37	4
9th	22	2	20	0
10th	19	3	16	4
Total	196	61	135	8

Opposition benches were more active conducting oversight of the executive, with JUI-F and ANP members submitting 101 and 25 questions respectively. On the other hand, 68 questions were put forward by BNP, while members of the largest government party (PML-N) submitted only two questions.

Four out of eight JUI-F members tabled the questions, followed by two BNP members and a single member each of PML-N and ANP. All the questions were put forward by male members – seven on general seats and one on reserved seat for non-Muslims. Members belonging to PkMAP, NP, PML and those of single-member parties such as BNP-A and MWM did not ask any question during the year.



The greatest number of questions (20) was directed to the Ministry of Interior, followed by departments of Education (19), Planning and Development (18), Health (15), Services and General Administration (13), Irrigation (12), Labour and Manpower (11) and Agriculture and Cooperatives (10).

Lawmakers were less interested in matters pertaining to public welfare, disaster management, sports, culture and youth affairs as the relevant ministries received only one question each.

JUI-F members addressed most of their questions to the Ministries of Interior (14) and Planning and Development (13), while BNP and PML-N actively questioned the Services and General Administration Department. ANP put forward most of its questions to the Forest Department (five).

The respondents managed to furnish written responses to 143 (73 percent) unstarred questions while 53 (27 percent) received no-response. The ministries of Food and Forest and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority did not respond to any questions addressed to them. Similarly the Health Department was also less responsive as it did not provide answers to 11 out of 15 questions.

Table 2.2 B: Questions Directed to Each Ministry/Department

Ministry/Department	Fully Answered	No Response	Questions Received
Interior	16	4	20
Education	16	3	19
Planning and Development	18	-	18
Health	4	11	15
Services and General Administration	9	4	13
Irrigation	11	1	12
Labour and Manpower	10	1	11

Ministry/Department	Fully Answered	No Response	Questions Received
Agriculture and Cooperatives	4	6	10
Finance	8	-	8
Public Health Engineering	1	7	8
Communication and Works	6	1	7
Revenue Excise and Taxation	2	5	7
Livestock	3	3	6
Local Government	6	-	6
Balochistan Development Authority	1	3	4
Information And Broadcasting	4	-	4
Mines and Minerals Development	4	-	4
Transport	4	-	4
Energy	3	-	3
Industries	2	-	2
Prisons	2	-	2
Quetta Development Authority	2	-	2
Water and Sanitation Agency	1	1	2
Food	-	1	1
Forest	-	1	1
Information Technology	1	-	1
Law	1	-	1
Population Welfare	1	-	1
Provincial Disaster Management Authority	-	1	1
Social Welfare	1	-	1
Sports and Culture	1	-	1
Welfare and Youth Affairs	1	-	1
Total	143	53	196

3.0 Attendance, Duration, and Members' Participation

This section gives the details of the schedule and duration of sessions as well as the attendance, maintenance of quorum (1/4th of total membership) and participation of members. It also reviews the presence of key members – Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition, Speaker and Deputy Speaker – and the time they spent on the floor of the House.

3.1 Session Time

The Balochistan Assembly met in 10 sessions comprising 53 sittings in its first parliamentary year, thus completing the mandatory requirement of 100 days set by the Constitution² for provincial assemblies a day before the year's last session was prorogued. The House met for a period of 150 hours and 39 minutes, with each sitting starting with an average delay of 39 minutes. Prayer breaks consumed 11 hours and 39 minutes – eight percent of the total time during the year.

Table 3.1 A: Sessions' duration

Date	Session	Number of Sittings	Average Late Start		Total Time	
			Hours	Minutes	Hours	Minutes
1st June - 7th June 2013	1 st	3	1	0	8	26
20th June - 28th June 2013	2 nd	7	0	15	19	9
17th July 2013	3 rd	1	0	10	0	59
29th July - 30th July 2013	4 th	1	0	10	2	10
16th August - 30th August 2013	5 th	8	0	40	20	32
26th September - 9th October 2013	6 th	6	0	34	21	40
13th January - 1st February 2014	7 th	10	0	51	29	2
17th March 2014 - 31st March 2014	8 th	7	0	40	20	12
22nd April 2014 - 2nd May 2014	9 th	6	0	49	21	7
15th May 2014 - 22nd May 2014	10 th	4	0	40	7	22
Total	10	53	Average 39 minutes		150 hours and 39 minute	

The first session was called to conduct elections and oath-taking ceremony of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker. The election for the 12th President of Pakistan was held in the fourth session. The Annual Budget 2014-15 was approved in the second session which comprised seven sittings. The seventh session was the longest with 10 sittings, while the third session was the shortest comprising a single sitting that lasted for only 59 minutes.

The Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition attended 33 and 32 sittings respectively. Both spent a little more than half of the total time on floor of the House during the year. The Chairman presided over 54 percent of the proceedings while the Deputy Speaker chaired 25 percent of the time. The Panel of Chairpersons presided over 13 percent of the proceedings while the rest of the time - eight percent - was consumed in breaks.

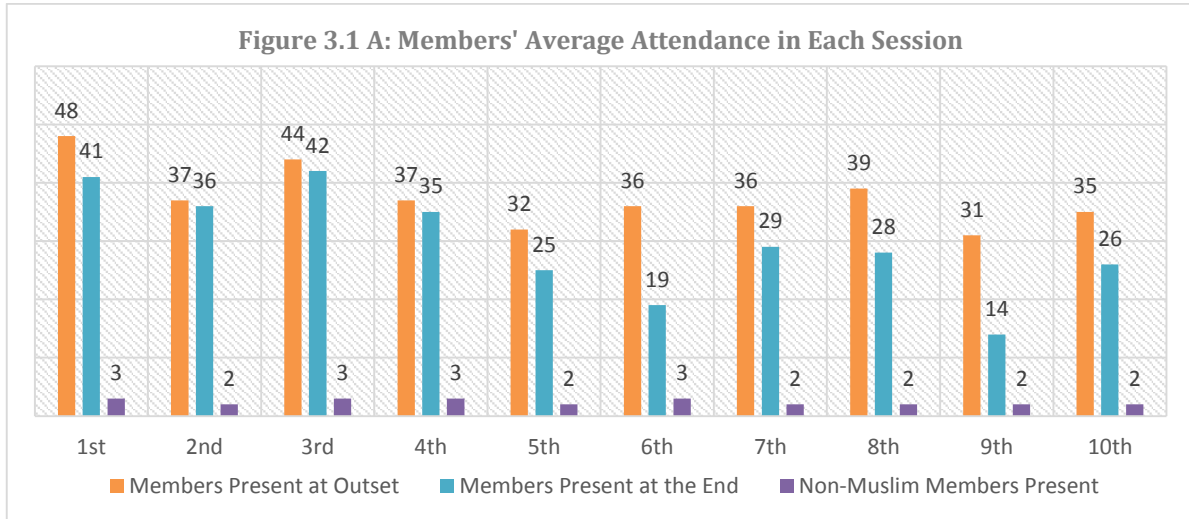
Table 3.1 B: Key Members' Time Spent in Assembly

No.	Key Members	Time Spent	Percentage
Presiding Time			
1	Speaker	81 hours and 44 minutes	54%
2	Deputy Speaker	37 hours and 13 minutes	25%
3	Panel of Chairpersons	20 hours and three minutes	13%
Key Members Attendance			
4	Chief Minister	88 hours and 18 minutes	59%
5	Leader of Opposition	78 hours and 46 minutes	52%

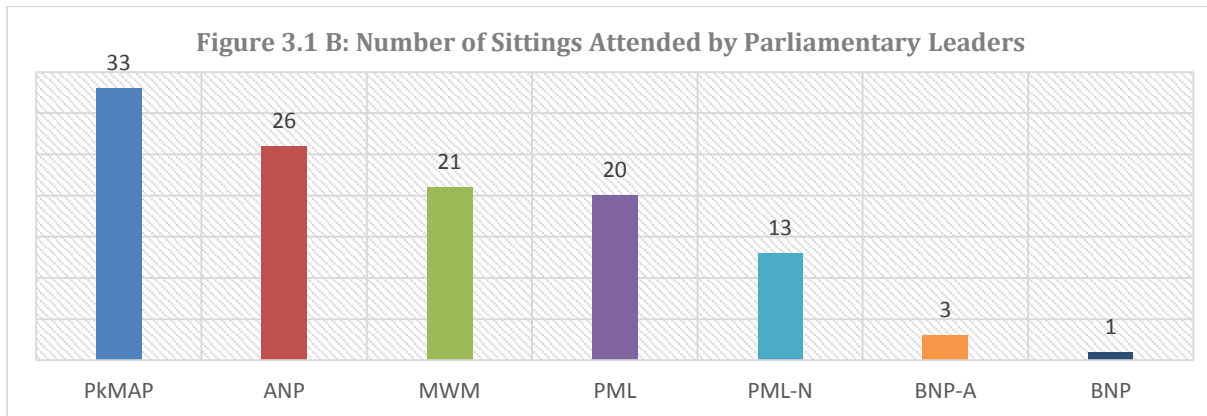
² The Constitution of Pakistan: Article 127 read with Article 54 says that the Provincial Assembly shall meet for not less than 100 working days in each year.

Since the Balochistan Assembly does not share lawmakers' attendance record with the public, FAFEN conducts a headcount of members at the outset and end of each sitting to gauge MPAs attendance.

On average, approximately half of the House was present in a sitting. As many as 35 MPAs (54 percent) were seen at the start of a sitting on average, while 26 (40 percent) were seen at the time of adjournment. On average two out of three non-Muslim members on reserved seats attended each sitting.



A lack of quorum was called on eight occasions by six members - four of them belonging to JUI-F and one each from ANP and PML-N. The speaker adjourned the sitting twice during the year upon lacking quorum while a count was made on two occasions. The chair resumed sittings on the rest of the occasions even though the MPAs pointed less than 17 members in the House.



Attendance of the parliamentary leaders of parties is vital as they provide guidance and leadership for their fellow party members. During the year, the PkMAP leader attended 33 sittings, followed by leaders of ANP (26), MWM (21), PML (20), PML-N (13) and BNP-A (3) while the BNP leader attended only one sitting.

3.2 Members' Participation

FAFEN classifies members' participation in three categories; members submitting agenda on the List of Business; those participating in the on-floor debates and MPAs taking part in both activities.

The members actively participated in the House this year, with 63 (97 percent) out of 65 MPAs taking part in the proceedings compared to 53 members in the preceding year. A shift in trends was witnessed as members were more interested in submitting as well as debating agenda as compared to participating

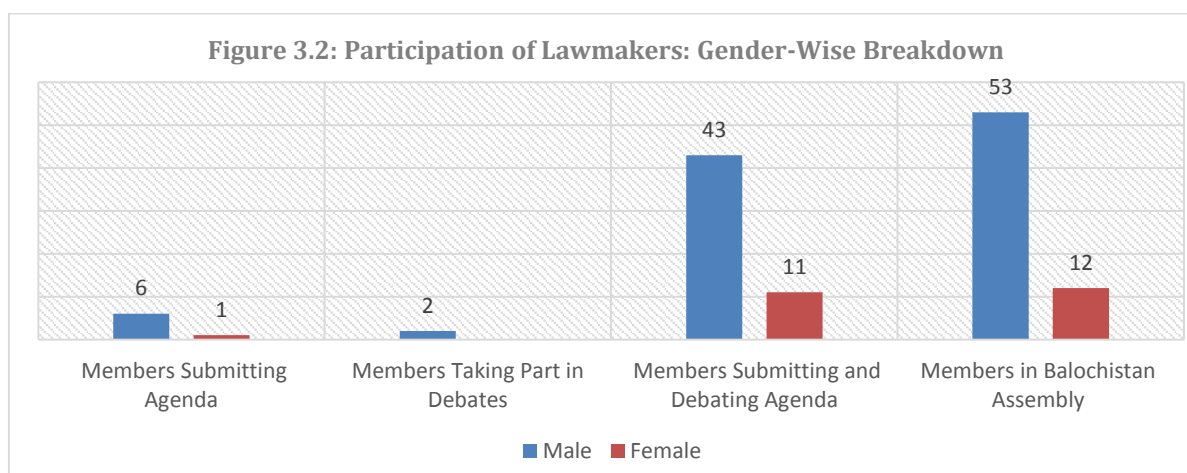
only in the debates during the previous year. Seven members submitted agenda items only; two participated in debates, while 54 took part in both activities.

Of the two non-participating members, one belonged to BNP-A while the other was from PML-N.

Table 3.2: Members' Participation in the Proceedings

No.	Party	Members Submitting Agenda Items	Members Taking Part in Debates	Members Participating in Both Activities	Percentage of Members Submitting Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Participating in Debates	Percentage of Members Participating in Both Activities	Members in Balochistan Assembly
1	PML-N	5	1	15	23%	5%	68%	22
2	PkMAP	1	-	13	7%	0%	93%	14
3	NP	1	1	9	9%	9%	82%	11
4	JUI-F	-	-	8	0%	0%	100%	8
5	PML	-	-	4	0%	0%	100%	4
6	BNP	-	-	2	0%	0%	100%	2
7	ANP	-	-	1	0%	0%	100%	1
8	MWM	-	-	1	0%	0%	100%	1
9	BNP-A	-	-	-	0%	0%	0%	1
Total		7	2	54	11%	3%	83%	65

Gender-wise, 51 out of 53 male and all the 12 female lawmakers participated in the assembly proceedings.



4.0 Order and Institutionalization

The maintenance of order and observance of rules is imperative in the effective functioning of a legislature. This section deals with lawmakers' efforts in pointing out violations of assembly rules on points of order, conduct of members and questions of privilege submitted by members. It also provides details of protests, walkouts and boycotts observed during the proceedings.

4.1 Points of Orders

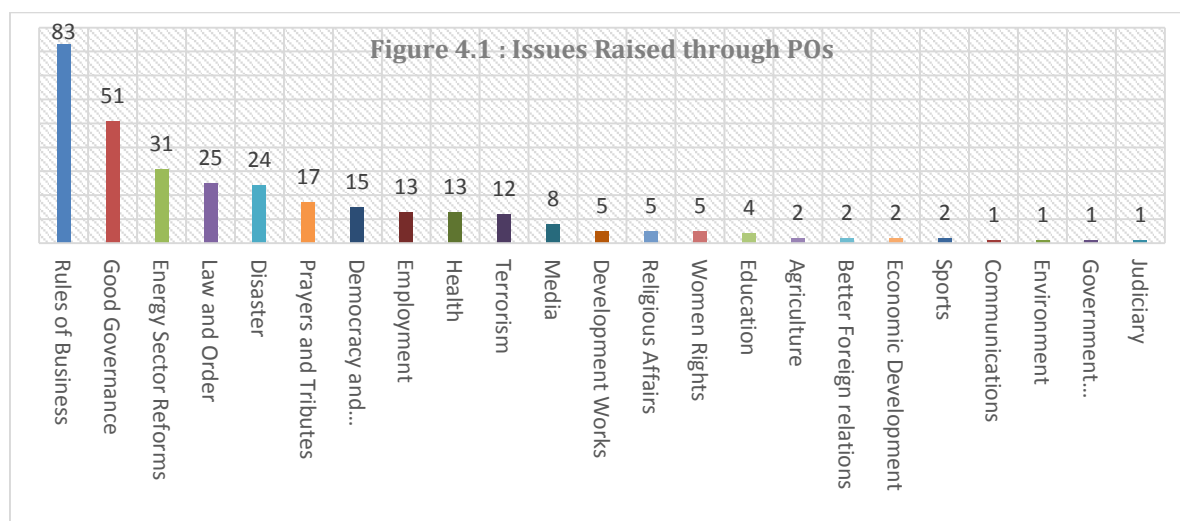
According to Rule 201 of the assembly, a point of order relates to the interpretation or enforcement of assembly rules or such articles of the Constitution as regulate the business of the assembly. However, members often use POs to raise various public matters to avoid inconvenience and hassle to raise those issues through other interventions.

As many as 48 lawmakers raised 318 POs consuming 17 hours and 13 minutes – 11 percent of each session on average. The single-sitting third session was almost entirely consumed by POs – 92 percent of the session time. The lower frequency of POs (one percent of the session's duration) in the second session can be attributed to the budget session, which occupied the attention of members.

Table 4.1 A: Points of Order Raised and Time Consumed

Session	Number of Sitzings	Points of Order Raised	Time Consumed (Minutes)	Percentage of Time
1st	3	6	16	3%
2nd	7	2	7	1%
3rd	1	7	54	92%
4th	1	21	9	7%
5th	8	52	238	19%
6th	6	59	184	14%
7th	10	63	180	10%
8th	7	37	128	11%
9th	6	34	102	8%
10th	4	37	115	26%
Total	53	318	1,033	11%

Lawmakers raised 323 issues through POs – 83 dealing with the rules of business and the rest highlighting public matters. Issues of good governance were raised through 51 POs, followed by issues of energy sector reforms (31); law and order (25); disaster (24); prayers and tributes (17); democracy and political development (15) and employment and health (13 each).



Party-wise, PkMAP members raised 86 issues through points of order, followed by JUI-F (78), NP (62), PML-N (55), ANP (21), PML (13) and MWM (seven) while only one issue was raised by an independent member.

As many as 39 male members raised 266 issues while nine female members brought 57 issues on the floor of the House through POs.

Table 4.1 B: Issues Raised by Members

Party	Issues Raised by Male Members	Issues raised by Female Members	Male Members Raising Issues	Female Members Raising Issues	Total Members	Total Issues
PkMAP	85	1	9	1	10	86
JUI-F	60	18	5	2	7	78
NP	37	25	8	2	10	62
PML-N	44	11	11	3	14	55
ANP	21	0	1	0	1	21
PML	11	2	3	1	4	13
MWM	7	0	1	0	1	7
IND	1	0	1	0	1	1
Total	266	57	39	9	48	323

4.2 Question of Privilege (QoP)

According to Rule 55, "A member may, with the consent of the Speaker, raise a question involving breach of privilege either of a member or of the assembly or of a committee thereof". A member is permitted to raise not more than one such question during a sitting.

Three questions of privilege were raised by members during the year and all of them were referred to the relevant committee. A PkMAP male member shared his grievance on an incident in which a mob attacked him and set his car on fire during a by-election. The other QoP, raised by a female PkMAP member, dealt with irregularities in Cadet College Killa Saifullah and threats made to the MPA by the Chairman of the college's Board of Directors. An ANP member submitted a privilege motion against MPAs of a political party for accusing him of violence on party workers in a press conference.

4.3 Conduct of the Members

Members sworn into the assemblies are required to comply with a certain standard of behavior on the floor of the House. According to the Rules of Procedures, some actions are prohibited, ranging from walking around during a sitting to making inflammatory speeches.

The range of violations committed by members was somewhat the same this year as the preceding year. The shortfalls in conduct observed more frequently on the floor included moving/walking around frequently, making noise, making running commentaries, using mobile phones in the House and eating/drinking during proceedings. However this year members were also seen interrupting proceedings on six occasions.

Table 4.3: List of Violations

No.	Violation	Frequency
1.	Making running commentaries	29
2.	Making noise	13
3.	Moving/walking around frequently	6
4.	Moving between the Speaker and a member who is speaking	6

No.	Violation	Frequency
5.	Interrupting proceedings	6
6.	Using Mobile Phones	2
7.	Eating or Drinking	1
Total		63

4.4 Protests/ Walkouts /Boycotts

On twelve occasions, the House proceedings were hampered due to instances of walkouts and boycotts that consumed four percent of the entire proceedings.

Two boycotts were observed during the year - one by a NP member and the other by the entire opposition. The NP member boycotted the proceedings to express agitation over load-shedding in Makran and Panjgur Divisions. The entire opposition accused the government of resorting to nepotism in transfer and posting policies during the seventh session and announced a boycott of the session, only to return to the assembly the next day.

A total of 10 walkouts were staged during the year - six of them were joint walkouts. Additionally, JUI-F members walked out on two occasions while PkMAP and PML-N members observed one walkout each.

Table 4.4: Protests/ Walkouts and or Boycott

No.	Party	Reason	Time (Minutes)	Walkout/ Boycott
1.	JUI-F NP	Insufficient allocation of development funds in comparison to non-development in the budget.	51	Walkout
2.	NP	Indecisiveness of the QESCO to resolve the issue of load shading in Makran and Panjgur Division	7	Boycott
3.	JUI-F	Not adopting a resolution which called for giving district status to far-flung areas of Balochistan	14	Walkout
4.	JUI-F	Disruption of government parties during a <i>fateha</i> prayer for a JU-IF member killed during a recent by-elections	37	Walkout
5.	JUI-F ANP	Not having a single agenda item on List of Business	24	Walkout
6.	PML-N	Against security forces' raid on one of their member's house	19	Walkout
7.	Entire Opposition	Alleging the government of resorting to nepotism in transfer and posting policies and accommodating recommendations of their opponents in development schemes at various constituencies	Entire Seventh Session	
8.	Entire Opposition	Reducing the tenure of Chairman Public Service Commission, Balochistan from five to three years	7	Walkout
9.	PML-N JUI-F MWM	For not being invited to the high level law and order meeting upon the arrival of the Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif	44	Walkout
10.	ANP JUI-F	Not releasing Public Sector Development Program funds to the MPAs.	5	Walkout
11.	NP PkMAP	Questioning the legality of Judicial Commission constituted to investigate the murder attempt on senior anchor Hamid Mir	69	Walkout
12.	PkMAP	Prolonged load shedding in the province	111	Walkout

Glossary

Adjournment Motion

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

Amendments

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.

Chamber

The place where the assembly meets to transact its business.

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.

Election

The process of choosing a representative by vote.

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.

Legislative Process

The processes by which bills are approved by assembly.

'List of Business'

The 'List of Business' includes the business scheduled for an assembly sitting. The 'List of Business' is called 'Orders of the Day' in the National Assembly. The lists of businesses are to be brought before the assembly for consideration and decision at its sitting on any day.

Member

A member of the assembly and for purposes of moving or opposing a bill, an amendment, a motion or a resolution, including a minister.

Member-in-Charge

In the case of Government Bill, a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary acting on behalf of the Government and in the case of a private Member's Bill, the Member who has introduced it or any other member authorized by him in writing to assume charge of the bill in his absence.

Minister

May refer to the Prime Minister, a Federal Minister or a Minister of State, or a Parliamentary Secretary in respect of any function delegated or entrusted to him by 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.

Proceedings

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

Quorum

Quorum is the minimum number of members of assembly necessary to conduct the business of the assembly. 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.

Standing Committee

A sub-unit of a Assembly established in a permanent fashion to aid the parent assembly in accomplishing its duties. A standing committee is granted jurisdiction over a particular area of legislation by the assembly.

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.

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.



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