



24<sup>th</sup> National Assembly Session

# Attendance Report Card



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

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## Executive Summary

The 24<sup>th</sup> National Assembly Session was spread over 14 sittings. Out of a total of 339 members at the start of the session, 25 (7%) members did not show up in any of the 14 sittings. Nine of these members remained absent in all the sittings, one female member from PML-N was on leave throughout the session while the remaining 15 members applied for leaves for some sittings and remained absent in others. There were nine members of the National Assembly who showed up in only one sitting. Similarly, another nine lawmakers attended only two of the fourteen sittings during the session, remaining absent or on leave for the rest of 12 sittings.

More than one-fourth (92 of 339) of the members attended three to seven sittings, remaining absent or on leave during half of the session. The lawmakers' attendance record released by the National Assembly Secretariat shows that 32% (109) lawmakers attended more than half but less than 12 sittings of the last session. Additionally, 27 (8%) lawmakers missed two sittings.

There were 34 legislators who showed up in 13 sittings. These included 26 members elected on general seats and eight nominated on seats reserved for women. There were another 34 MNAs who attended all 14 sittings of the session including 20 members elected on general seats, 13 elected on seats reserved for women and one on reserved for non-Muslims.

Speaker of the National Assembly attended 11 sittings. The Deputy Speaker maintained a higher attendance, appearing in 13 sittings. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif attended only one sitting while the Opposition Leader, Syed Khurshid Shah, attended nine sittings, applied for leave in one sitting and remained absent in four.

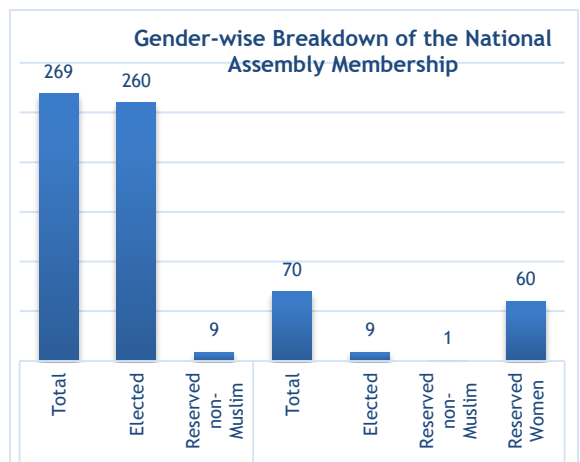
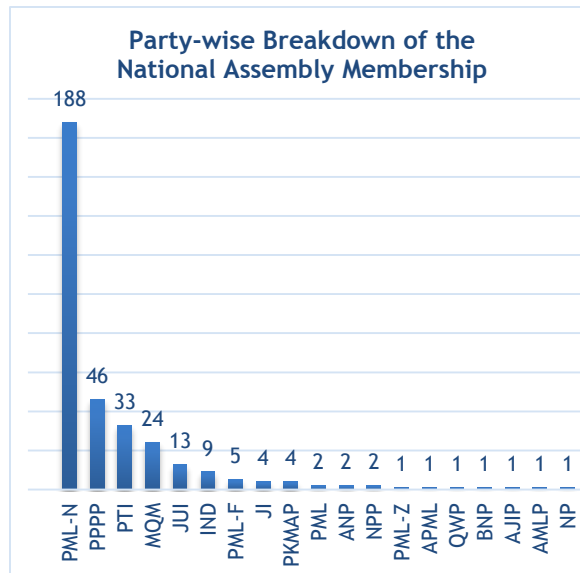
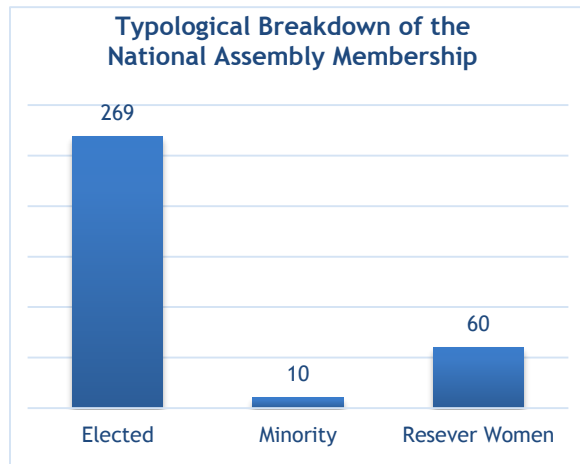
Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada was the most regular among cabinet members as he attended 13 of 14 sittings whereas the Federal Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources, Federal Minister of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development and Federal Minister of Commerce attended one sitting each.

## Introduction

Members of Parliament and all provincial assemblies are entrusted with public mandate. Plus, millions of rupees of public money are allocated for parliamentary sessions. Members of the elected assemblies are paid travel and daily allowances from national exchequer. There is dire need to bring in place the mechanisms by which transparency and accountability is ensured.

However, since the formation of the first constituent assembly in 1947, the attendance of its members has been kept private and never made public. Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) kept stressing the need for making public representatives' attendance public as a measure of increased parliamentary transparency and accountability. FAFEN even started headcount of the lawmakers as an alternative solution when its persistent efforts received no response from the concerned authorities. The attendance statistics based on headcount were made public through daily factsheets, session reports and annual reports of the respective elected houses. FAFEN continued to advocate the need for making the attendance record public through all its factsheets and reports. Other means of engagement such as formation of a parliamentary caucus, advocacy campaigns with incumbent Members of the Parliament and communication with parliament secretariat through letters and petitions were also employed.

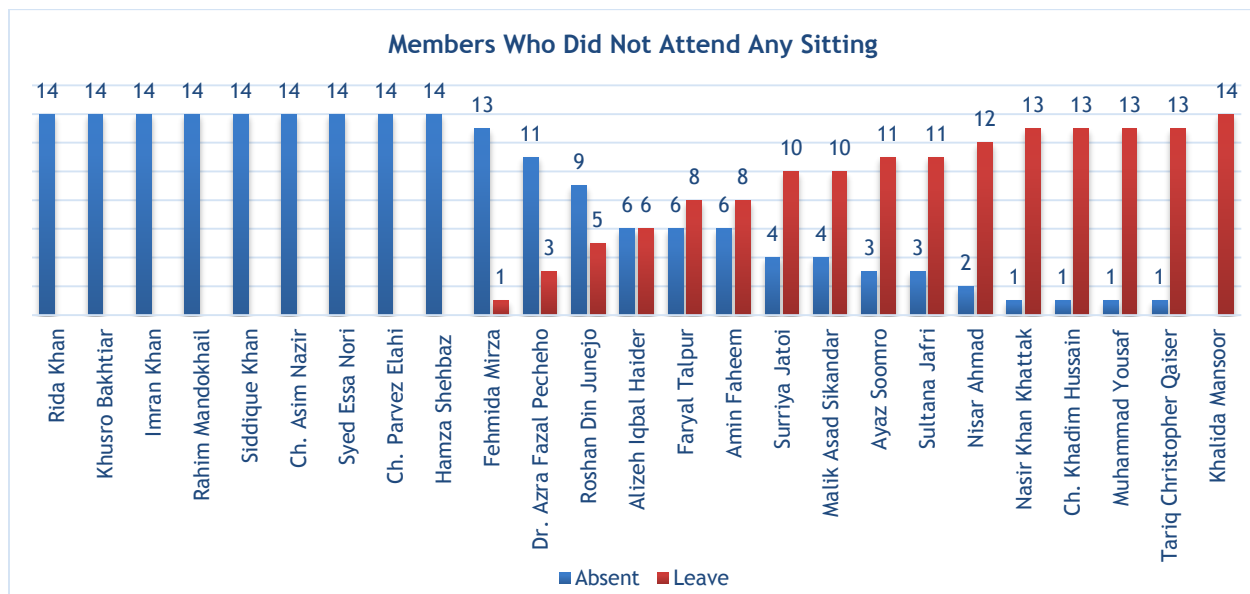
It was through these continuous efforts that the National Assembly Secretariat finally took up the issue of making members' attendance public and for the first time in the parliamentary history of Pakistan, lawmakers' attendance for the 23<sup>rd</sup> (budget) session of the National Assembly was made public through its website. Consequently, the attendance of 24<sup>th</sup> session was also disseminated by the Lower House of the Parliament and this report is based on the same.



## Overall Attendance

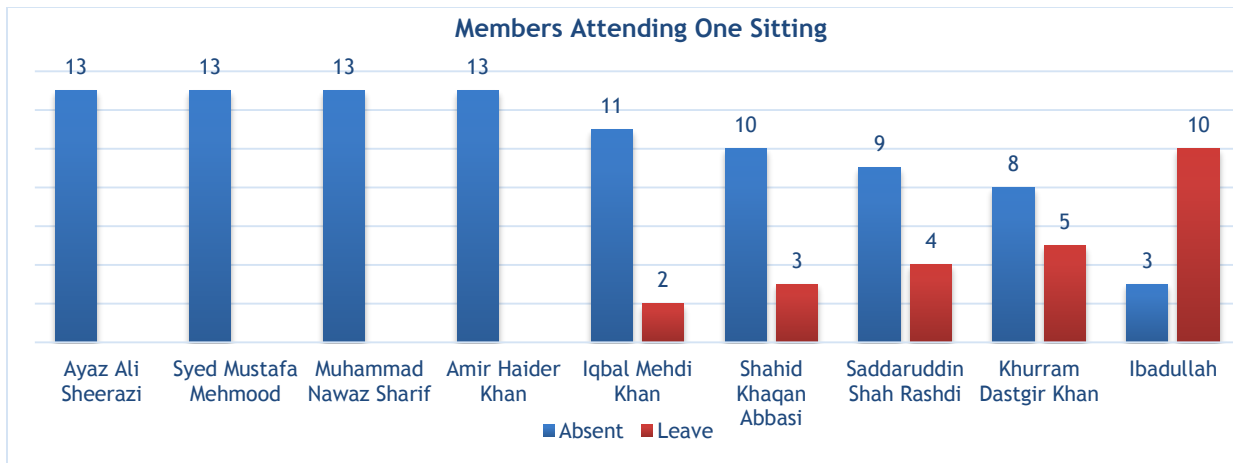
The 24<sup>th</sup> National Assembly Session was spread over 14 sittings. Out of the 339 total members at the start of the session, 25 (7%) members did not show up in any of the 14 sittings of the session. Nine of these members remained absent in all the sittings<sup>1</sup>, one member (Khalida Mansoor of PML-N) was on leave throughout the session while the remaining 15 members were on leave in some sittings and absent in others.

Of the 25 members who did not show up in any of the 14 sittings, nine each belonged to PML-N and PPPP, two were from PTI and one each from PkMAP, BNP, PML, MQM and JUI-F. These included PTI's parliamentary leader, Imran Khan and PML parliamentary leader, Ch. Parvez Elahi.

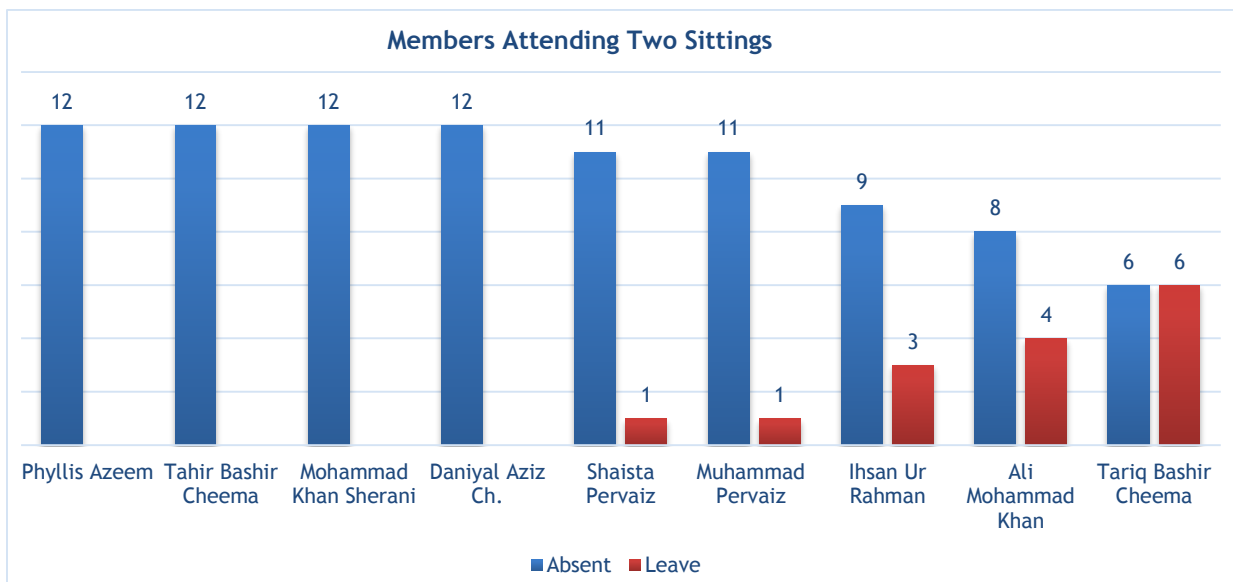


There were another nine members of the National Assembly who showed up in only one sitting. These included six lawmakers from the ruling PML-N - including the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who remained absent without leave in 13 sittings and appeared in one sitting - and one member each from PPPP, ANP and PML-F.

<sup>1</sup> Alizeh Iqbal Haider - a PPPP lawmaker on reserved seats for women, resigned during the 13<sup>th</sup> sitting. She did not appear in any of the session's sitting prior to her resignation therefore her attendance is marked 0%



Similarly, another nine lawmakers attended only two of the fourteen sittings of the session, remaining absent or on leave for the rest of 12 sittings. Five of these were from PML-N, two from PPPP and one each from PML and JUI-F.



More than one-fourth (92 of 339) of the members attended three to seven sittings, remaining absent or on leave during half of the session. Seventy-seven of these 92 members were elected on general seats, 13 were nominated on seats reserved for women while remaining two were on reserved seats for non-Muslims. Gender-wise, 75 of these members were male while 17 were female.

Party-wise, 55 of these members were from PML-N, 14 from PPPP, five from PTI, three each from MQM, PML-F and JUI-F and one each from APML, NPP, AJIP, NP and QWP whereas four of the members were independent.

The lawmakers' attendance data released by the National Assembly Secretariat shows that 32% (109) lawmakers attended more than half but less than 12 sittings of the last session. Of these, 91 were male and 18 were female. Type-wise, 87 of these lawmakers who attended between 8 to 11 sittings of the session were elected on general seats, 17 were on reserved seats for the women and five were on seats reserved for non-Muslims. The Federal Minister for Defense Production, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan and Federal Minister for Water & Power and Defense,

eight parliamentary secretaries, three ministers of state and the Speaker National Assembly were also among these lawmakers.

Additionally, 27 (8%) lawmakers missed two sittings each and appeared on the floor in as many as 12 sittings. Twenty-four of these 27 members were elected on general seats and two were nominated on seats reserved for women in addition to one member on seats reserved for non-Muslims. Gender-wise, 25 lawmakers attending 12 sittings were male and two were female. The Minister of State for Capital Administration and Development Division along with two parliamentary secretaries were among those who attended 12 sittings during the 24<sup>th</sup> session.

## Attendance Report Card

Name of Members	Party	Gender	Type	Absent	Leave	Present	Total
Muhammad Khan Daha	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Zahid Hamid Khan	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Shahab-ud-Din Khan	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Bismillah Khan	IND	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Shaikh Rohale Asghar	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Ch. Abid Raza	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Rana Zahid Hussain Khan	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Mehboob Alam	MQM	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Rasheed Ahmad Khan	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Aisha Syed	JI	Female	Reserve	2	0	12	14
Muhammad Moeen Wattoo	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Saeed Ahmad Khan Manais	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Usman Ibrahim	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Iftikhar Ahmad Cheema	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Syed Muhammad Ashiq Hussain	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Sher Akbar Khan	JI	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Abdul Majeed Khan Khanan Khel	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Siraj Muhammad Khan	PTI	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Mian Muhammad Farooq	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Syed Waseem Hussain	MQM	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Tahir Iqbal Ch.	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Sarzameen	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Dr. Tariq Fazal Ch.	PML-N	Male	Elected	2	0	12	14
Ramesh Lal	PPPP	Male	Minority	2	0	12	14
Gulzar Khan	PTI	Male	Elected	1	1	12	14
Mrs. Belum Hasnain	PPPP	Female	Reserve		2	12	14
Muhammad Jamal Ud Din	JUI	Male	Elected		2	12	14

There were another 34 legislators who showed up in 13 sittings; these included 26 members elected on general seats and eight nominated on seats reserved for women. Twenty-five such legislators were male and nine were female. Three parliamentary secretaries, Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination and the Deputy Speaker National Assembly were also among these lawmakers.

Name of Members	Party	Gender	Type	Absent	Leave	Present	Total
Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan	PML-N	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Ch. Nazeer Ahmad	PML-N	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Malik Ibrar Ahmed	PML-N	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Syed Sajid Mehdi	PML-N	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14



## Attendance Report Card

Name of Members	Party	Gender	Type	Absent	Leave	Present	Total
Muhammad Gohar Shah	JUI	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Rajab Ali Khan Baloch	PML-N	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Nazir Ahmed Bughio	PPPP	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Abdul Waseem	MQM	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Sardar Muhammad Arshad Khan Laghari	PML-N	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal	PML-N	Female	Elected	1	0	13	14
Muhammad Junaid Anwaar	PML-N	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui	MQM	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Murtaza Javed Abbasi	PML-N	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Mian Najibuddin Awaisi	PML-N	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Farhana Qamar	PML-N	Female	Reserve	1	0	13	14
Iqbal Muhammad Ali Khan	MQM	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Sufyan Yousuf	MQM	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Muhammad Muzammil Qureshi	MQM	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Syed Asif Hasnain	MQM	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Amra Khan	PML-N	Female	Reserve	1	0	13	14
Rana Shamim Ahmed Khan	PML-N	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Shaikh Salahuddin	MQM	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Syed Iftikhar Ul Hassan	PML-N	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Ch. Mahmood Bashir Virk	PML-N	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Ms Shagufta Jumani	PPPP	Female	Reserve	1	0	13	14
Shakila Luqman	PML-N	Female	Reserve	1	0	13	14
Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan	MQM	Female	Reserve	1	0	13	14
Mian Abdul Manan	PML-N	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Mussarat Ahmadzeb	PTI	Female	Reserve	1	0	13	14
Dr. Fouzia Hameed	MQM	Female	Reserve	1	0	13	14
Muhammad Rehan Hashmi	MQM	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Sajid Ahmed	MQM	Male	Elected	1	0	13	14
Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	1	13	14
Shahnaz Saleem Malik	PML-N	Female	Reserve	0	1	13	14

Finally, there were 34 Members of the National Assembly who attended all 14 sittings of the session; including 20 members elected on general seats, 13 nominated on seats reserved for women and one nominated on seats reserved for non-Muslims. Twenty of the members showing 100% attendance during the session were male and 14 were female. Three parliamentary secretaries, Minister of State for Communications and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs were among the members who did not skip any of the sittings.

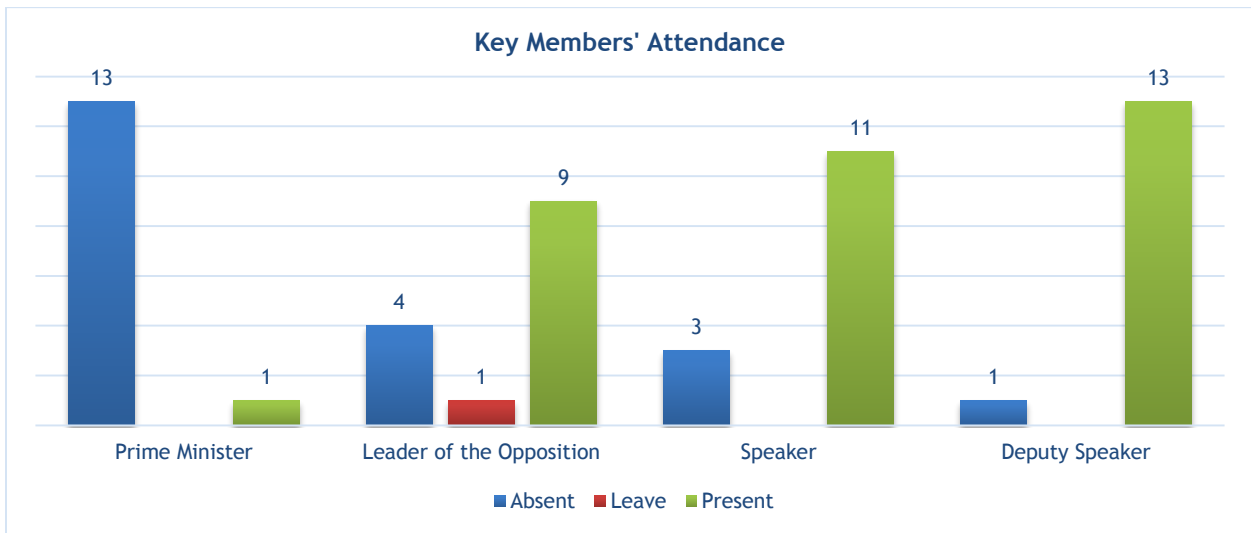
## Attendance Report Card

Name of Members	Party	Gender	Type	Absent	Leave	Present	Total
Tahira Aurangzeb	PML-N	Female	Reserve	0	0	14	14
Ch. Asad Ur Rehman	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Sheikh Aftab Ahmed	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Shamas-un-Nisa	PPPP	Female	Elected	0	0	14	14
Sheikh Muhammad Akram	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Seema Mohiuddin Jameeli	PML-N	Female	Reserve	0	0	14	14
Sardar Muhammad Amjad Farooq Khan Khosa	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Abdul Qadir Khan Wadan	PKMAP	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Kiran Haider	PML-N	Female	Reserve	0	0	14	14
Aftab Shahban Mirani	PPPP	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Rana Afzaal Hussain	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Abdul Hakeem Balouch	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Kiran Imran	PML-N	Female	Reserve	0	0	14	14
Abdul Sattar Bachani	PPPP	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Qamar Ud Din	JUI	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Mehar Ishtiaq Ahmad	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Parveen Masood Bhatti	PML-N	Female	Reserve	0	0	14	14
Begum Tahira Bukhari	PML-N	Female	Reserve	0	0	14	14
Khalil George	PML-N	Male	Minority	0	0	14	14
Mst. Naseema	PKMAP	Female	Reserve	0	0	14	14
Shaheen Shafiq	PML-N	Female	Reserve	0	0	14	14
Mian Muhammad Rasheed	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Shahida Akhtar Ali	JUI	Female	Reserve	0	0	14	14
Sardar Mumtaz Khan	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Muhammad Tallal Ch.	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Naeema Kishwar Khan	JUI	Female	Reserve	0	0	14	14
Mrs. Aliya Kamran	JUI	Female	Reserve	0	0	14	14
Waheed Alam Khan	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Ghulam Rasool Sahi	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Mrs. Shahida Rehmani	PPPP	Female	Reserve	0	0	14	14
Malik Abdul Ghaffar Dogar	PML-N	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Khwaja Ghulam Rasool Koreja	PPPP	Male	Elected	0	0	14	14
Mrs. Musarat Rafique Mahesar	PPPP	Female	Reserve	0	0	14	14

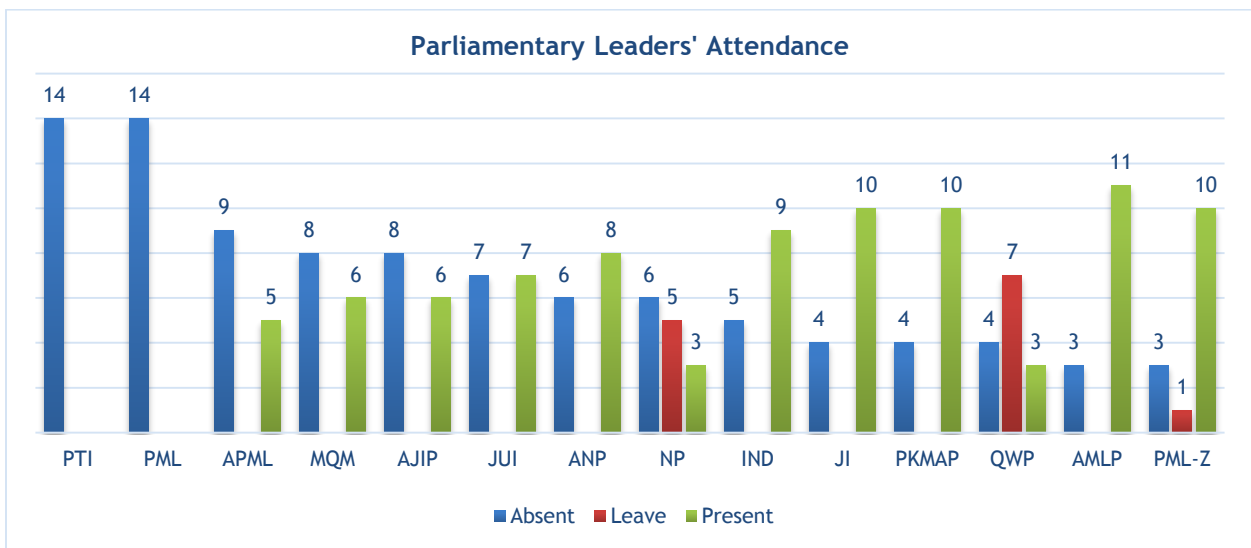
## Key Members' Attendance

Key members of the National Assembly include Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition and parliamentary leaders of all parties. Attendance of these members is significant as it reflects on the other members' attendance as well.

Speaker of the National Assembly attended 11 sittings and was absent without seeking leave in three others. The Deputy Speaker showed greater regularity as he attended 13 sittings. Leader of the House, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif showed up in only one sitting, remaining absent in 13 others whereas the Opposition Leader, Syed Khurshid Shah, attended nine sittings, applied for leave in one sitting and remained absent in four.



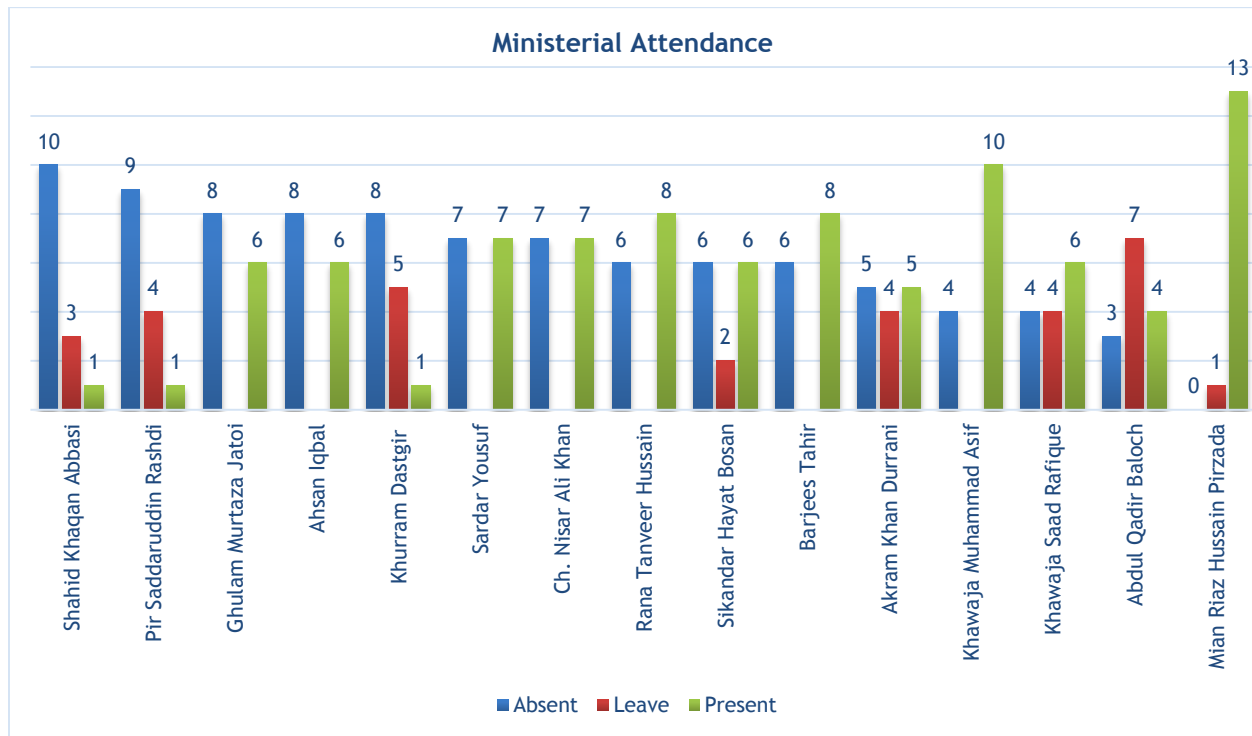
Parliamentary leaders of PTI and PML remained absent without leave in all 14 sittings. Awami Muslim League's leader Sheikh Rasheed was the most regular parliamentary leader attending 11 sittings. PkMAP leader Mehmood Khan Achakzai, JI leader Sahibzada Tariq Ullah and PML-Z leader Muhammad Ijaz ul Haq attended 10 sittings each.



## Ministerial Attendance

The incumbent cabinet comprises 19 ministers of which four are Senators and 15 are Members of the National Assembly (MNA). Attendance of the ministers who are members of Senate is only required when a question regarding their ministry is raised by any lawmaker in the Lower House. This section only covers the attendance of 15 ministers.

Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, the Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination was the most regular among cabinet members as he attended 13 of the 14 sittings whereas the Federal Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources, Federal Minister of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development and Federal Minister of Commerce attended one sitting each.



## Party-wise Attendance

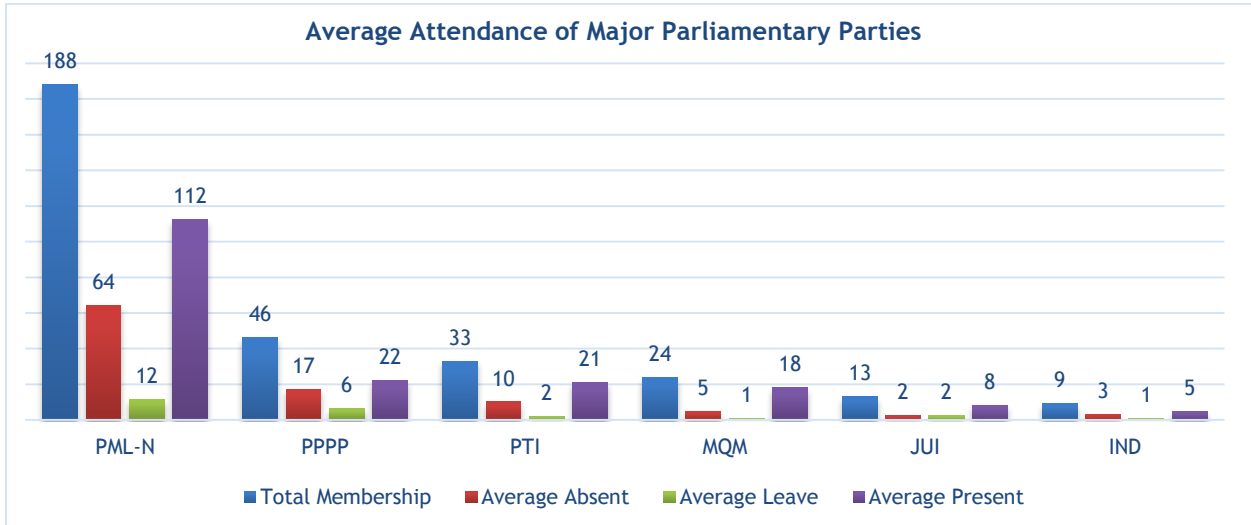
ECP website shows that there are 307 political parties registered in the country<sup>2</sup>, of which only 18 are represented in the National Assembly. PML-N holds majority in the House with 188 seats to its name while other major parliamentary parties include PPPP (46 seats), PTI (33 seats), MQM (24 seats) and JUI-F (13 seats). Additionally, there are nine independent members in the Lower House of the Parliament as well.

On average, 112 (60%) of the 188 PML-N members in the House attended each sitting, 64 (34%) remained absent while 12 (6%) requested leave of absence. Similarly, 22 (48%) of the 46 PPPP lawmakers, on average, remained present in each sitting, 17 (37%) were absent and six (13%) availed leave. PTI - the third largest parliamentary party by membership - took lead over the two larger

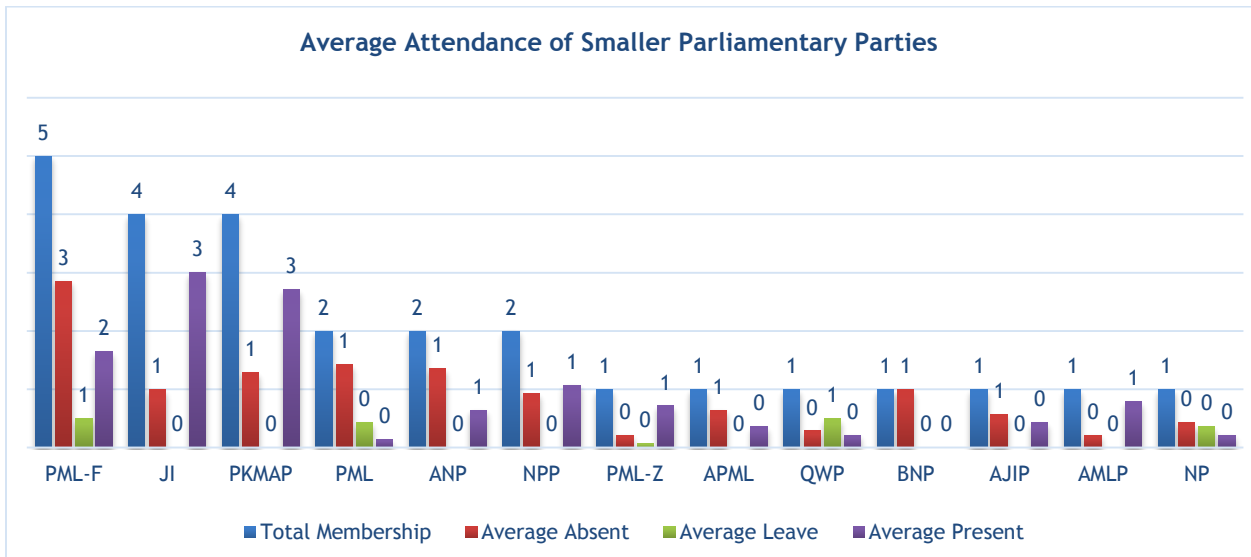
<sup>2</sup> <http://ecp.gov.pk/Misc/listofpp04082015.pdf>, retrieved on August 21, 2015.

political parties in terms of average presence as 21 (64%) of their 33 members attended each sitting, 10 (30%) were absent and two (96%) were on leave.

MQM took the lead among the larger parliamentary parties as 18 (75%) of the 24 lawmakers, on average, attended each sitting, five (21%) remained absent whereas one (4%) member was on leave in each sitting.



The parliamentary parties with less than 10 members in the House did not seem eager on attending House proceedings as their average attendance remained below 50% during the entire session.



## Gender-wise Attendance

Of the 70 female lawmakers in the National Assembly, 43 (61%) were present, on average, during each sitting, 21 (30%) were absent and six (9%) were on leave. Similarly, 156 (58%) of the 269 male members were present, on average, during each sitting, 94 (35%) were absent and 19 (7%) were on leave.

A deeper look into gendered data on attendance reveals that of the nine female elected members, one lawmaker each attended 14 and 13 sittings respectively, two attended six sittings, one attended five sittings while another female lawmaker attended four of the 14 sittings. The remaining three female elected lawmakers did not attend any sitting during the session. The average attendance for elected female lawmakers during the session remained around 50%. The only woman lawmaker on seats reserved for non-Muslims attended eight sittings, availing leave in five and remaining absent in one sitting.

Interestingly, female lawmakers on reserved seats for women showed a very low interest in attending House proceedings as their average attendance during the session was only 27%. There were five female lawmakers on reserved seats for women who did not attend any sitting while 12 others appeared in six or less sittings.

### Region-wise Attendance

Punjab has the largest representation in the National Assembly; among all other regions as 182 of the 339 existing members belong to Punjab, followed by Sindh with 75 members, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 42 members and Balochistan with 17 lawmakers. FATA is represented by 11 legislators while ICT has a two-member representation in the Lower House. There are 10 minority members as well.

Looking at the attendance stats through the regional lense, 108 (59%) of 182 lawmakers were present, on average, during each sitting, 64 (35%) were absent while 10 (6%) applied for leave. Similarly, 42 (56%) of the 75 Sindh lawmakers, 26 (62%) of 42 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa lawmakers and nine (53%) of the 17 legislators from Balochistan attended each sitting, on average. Both lawmakers from ICT and seven (64%) of the 11 legislators from FATA were also present throughout the session.