



HOUSE OF FEDERATION

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

124TH REQUISITIONED SESSION

February 10-12, 2016

Free and Fair Election Network
www.fafen.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 124th Session of the Senate witnessed heated debate between the treasury and opposition lawmakers on issues of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and economic policy of the government. Spanning over three sittings from February 10 to February 12, it was the first session requisitioned by the Opposition during 13th parliamentary year.

All three sittings started on time and each sitting, on average, lasted three hours and 12 minutes. According to FAFEN's observation, an average of 14 senators (13% of the total membership) were found present at the start and 41 (40%) at the adjournment of each sitting. The Prime Minister did not attend any sitting while the Leader of the House and the Opposition leader remained present for entire duration of the session.

The average maximum attendance of lawmakers gradually decreased with 82 lawmakers present in the first sitting, 76 in the second sitting and 63 in the last sitting.

The Chairman presided over the entire proceeding of the session and Deputy Chairman remained present in one sitting. The Senate adopted three separate resolutions to express grief on the demise of Intizar Hussain, former Deputy Chairman of Senate Malik Muhammad Ali Khan and playwright Fatima Surayya Bajja.

The Chair gave three rulings in the session; one to include the requisitioned agenda items on Orders of the Day in future, second on an adjournment Motion moved by Senator Taj Haider (December 22, 2015 in 122nd session) and third about non-convening the meeting of Council of Common Interest.

The Parliamentary Leaders of PML-N, PPPP, BNP-M, PML, PTI and JI attended all three sittings followed by two each by JUI-F, NP and MQM lawmakers and one each by PkMAP and ANP lawmakers. None of the sitting was attended by

Parliamentary Leaders of BNP-A and PML-F.

The House witnessed the presentation of seven reports of the standing committees on legislative proposals including the National University of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2015; the Domestic Workers (Employment Rights) Bill, 2015; the Pakistan Halal Authority Bill, 2015; the Electoral Rolls (Amendment) Bill, 2015; the Delimitation of Constituencies (Amendment) Bill, 2015; the National Accountability (Amendment) Bill, 2015 and the Publication of Laws of Pakistan Bill, 2015.

Four reports of standing committees about various starred questions, two reports on the breach of privilege and one on a calling attention notice were presented. The annual report of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan for Financial Year 2014-15 was also laid.

The House passed the Minimum Wages for Unskilled Workers (Amendment) Bill, 2015 while Private Power and Infrastructure Board (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015 was also presented. Lawmakers spoke six points of public importance that consumed 15 minutes of the proceeding

The House discussed a motion under Rule 218 sponsored by the Opposition Leader regarding crisis in PIA. Chairman Senate and 28 lawmakers – PPPP (7), PML-N (7), MQM (5), PTI, PKMAP and PML (2 each) and JUI-F, BNP-A, ANP (one each) – spoke on it for 218 minutes.

Jointly sponsored by 33 lawmakers of Opposition parties including PPPP, PML, BNP-A and PTI and also an Independent lawmaker, two various motions under Rule 218 were clubbed. The first motion was about non-transferring the benefits to masses after reduction in petroleum prices in International Markets while other was about burden on gas consumers. One of the sponsor of these clubbed motions Islam Uddin

Sheikh (PPPP) did not attend any sitting while thirty lawmakers – PPPP (8), PML-N (7), MQM (4), PTI (3), JUI-F, JI, PML, PkMAP, NP, BNP-M, ANP (one each) and an Independent lawmaker – spoke on them for 227 minutes.

The opposition members, who had requisitioned the 124th session criticized the government for mishandling PIA issue, non-transferring the benefits to masses after reduction in petroleum prices in International Markets and imposing new tax of total Rs. 101 billion on gas consumers including Gas Infrastructure Development Cess (GIDC). On the other hand, the treasury lawmakers defended the economic policy of the government.

The entire Opposition staged a walkout during the first sitting when the Leader of the House opposed the Opposition Leader who wanted to move a motion for suspension of rules and table resolution against the privatization of PIA.

1

SESSION DURATION, MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

This section deals with the session's duration, attendance and participation of Senators. It also reviews the presence of key members - the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition and the Parliamentary Leaders - and the time they spent on the floor of the House.

TOTAL SITTINGS

3

SESSION TIME

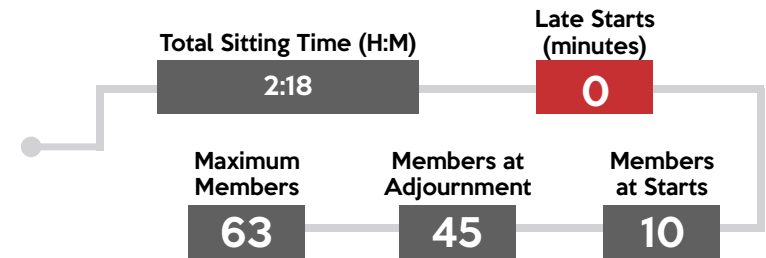
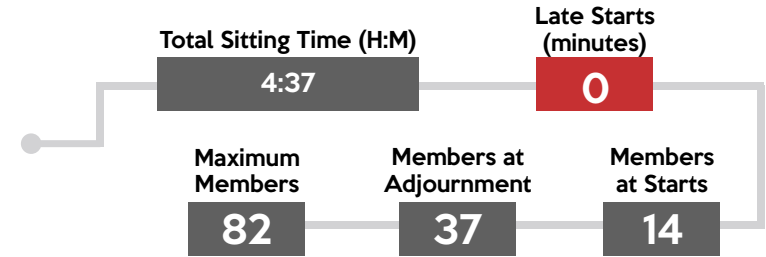
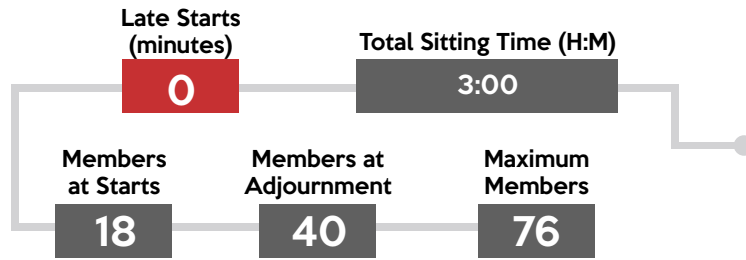
9h36m

AVERAGE SITTING TIME

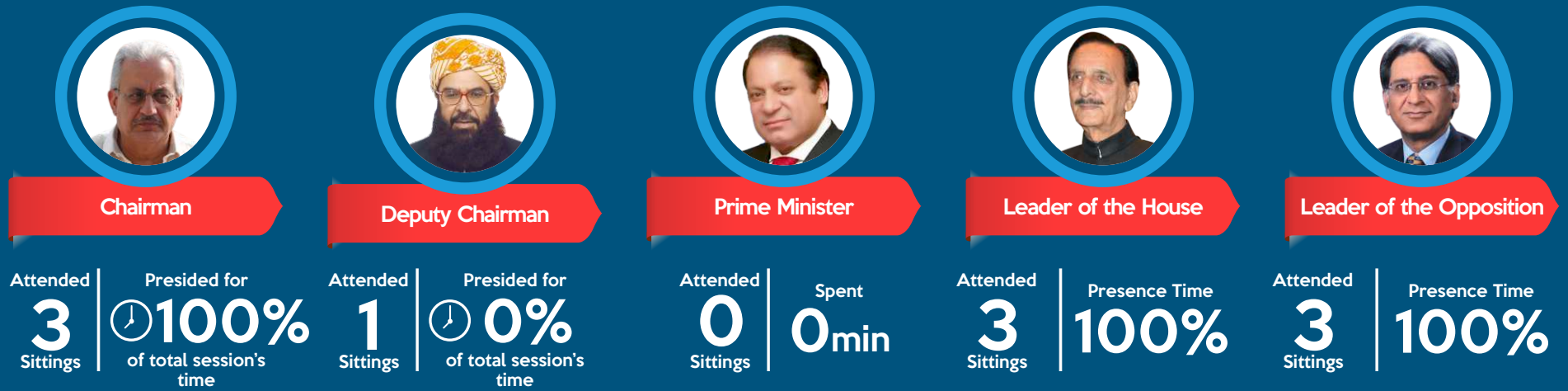
3h12m

SITTING DATE, DURATION AND ATTENDANCE

An average of 14 senators (13% of the total membership) were found present at the start and 41 (40%) at the adjournment of each sitting.



KEY MEMBERS ATTENDANCE



PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



Nauman Wazeer



Siraj ul Haq



Saeed Ghani



Mushahid Hussain



Jehanzeb Jamaldini



Iqbal Zafar Jhagra



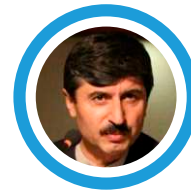
Hasil Bizenjo



Tahir Mashhadi



Talha Mehmud



Usman Kakar



Ilyas Bilour



Muzaffar Shah



Israr Ullah Zehri



2

REPRESENTATION, RESPONSIVENESS AND GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

This section highlights the efforts of legislators to represent the interests of their constituents through sharing their views during debate on various motions and matters of public importance on Orders of the Day.

MOTIONS UNDER
RULE 218

3

TIME CONSUMED

445

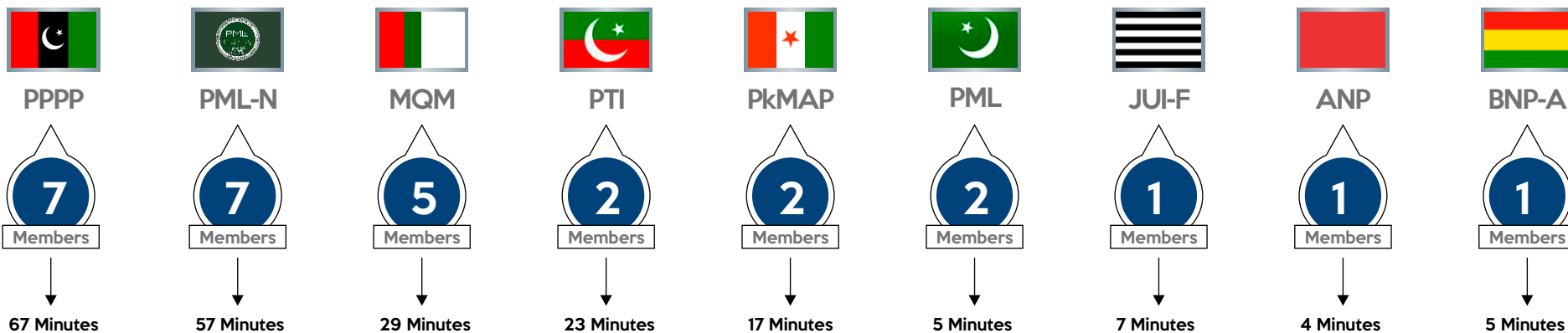
80% of Session Time

MOTIONS UNDER RULE 218

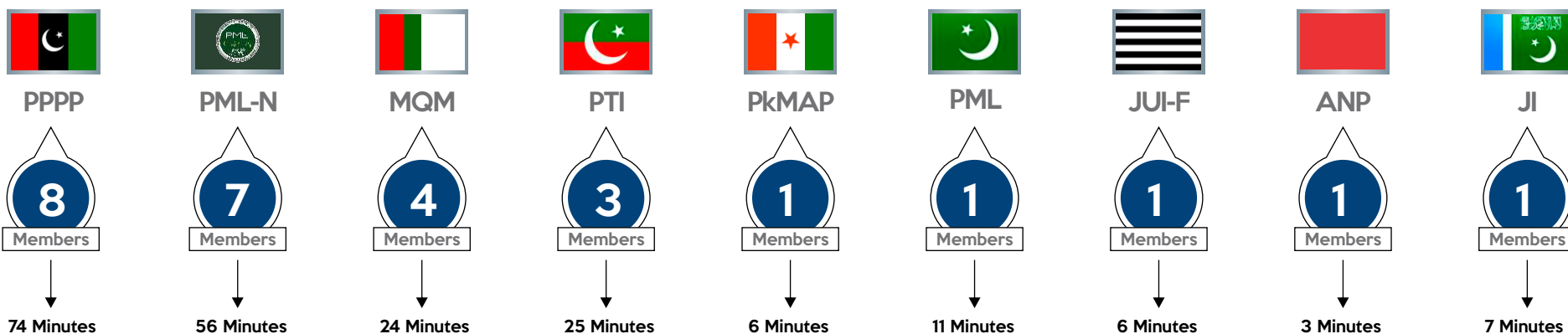
The House discussed a motion under Rule 218 sponsored by the Opposition Leader regarding crisis in PIA. Chairman Senate spoke on it for four minutes while 28 lawmakers – PPPP (7), PML-N (7), MQM (5), PTI, PKMAP and PML (2 each) and JUI-F, BNP-A, ANP (one each) – debated it for 214 minutes.

DEBATED MOTIONS

PRIVATIZATION OF PIA



Economic policy of the government





NP



5 Minutes



IND



5 Minutes



BNP-M



5 Minutes

Jointly sponsored by 33 lawmakers of Opposition parties including PPPP,PML, BNP-A and PTI and also an Independent lawmaker, two various motions under Rule 218 were clubbed. The first motion was about non-transferring the benefits to masses after reduction in petroleum prices in International Markets while other was about burden on gas consumers.



Absent sponsor of motions
Islam Uddin Sheikh (PPPP)

One of the common sponsor of these clubbed motions Islam Uddin Sheikh (PPPP) did not attend any sitting while thirty lawmakers – PPPP (8), PML-N (7), MQM (4), PTI (3), JUI-F, JI, PML, PkMAP, NP, BNP-M, ANP (one each) and an Independent lawmaker – spoke on them for 227 minutes.

PARLIAMENTARY OUTPUT

This section deals with the output of the Upper House in terms of legislation, ordinances, resolutions and standing committee reports appearing on the Orders of the Day during the session

REPORTS/PAPERS
ON AGENDA

15

RESOLUTIONS
ON AGENDA/
SUPPLEMENTARY

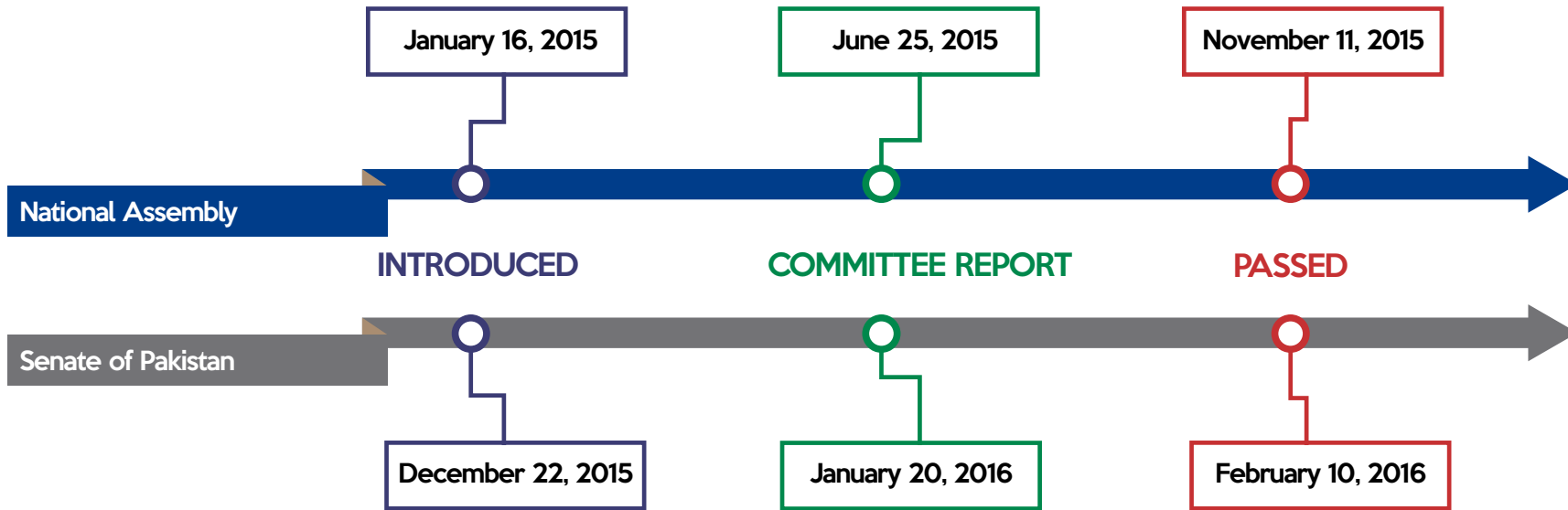
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BILLS/ORDIANANCES
ON AGENDA

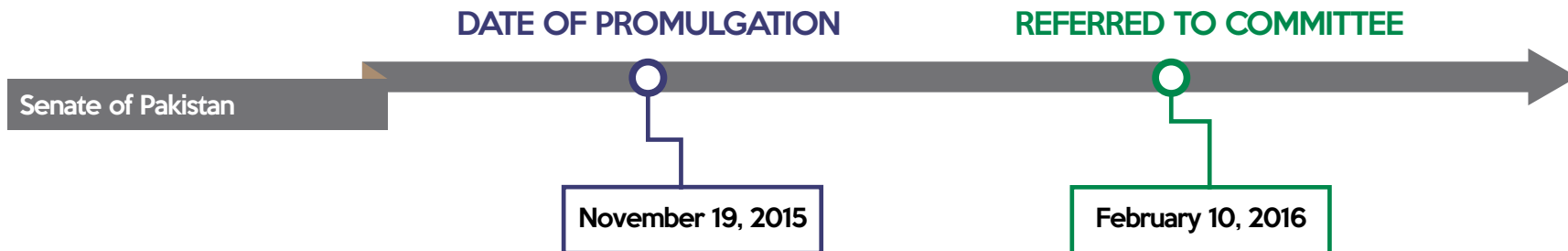
2

LEGISLATION

The Minimum Wages for Unskilled Workers (Amendment) Bill, 2015



The Private Power and Infrastructure Board (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015



RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

The Senate adopted three separate resolutions to express grief on the demise of Intezar Hussain, former Deputy Chairman of Senate Malik Muhammad Ali Khan and playwright Fatima Surayya Bajia.



Mushahid Hussain



Hidayat Ullah



Khushbakht Shujat

Senators Sponsoring Resolutions

REPORTS/PAPERS

The House witnessed the presentation of seven reports of the standing committees on legislative proposals including the National University of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2015; the Domestic Workers (Employment Rights) Bill, 2015; the Pakistan Halal Authority Bill, 2015; the Electoral Rolls (Amendment) Bill, 2015; the Delimitation of Constituencies (Amendment) Bill, 2015; the National Accountability (Amendment) Bill, 2015 and the Publication of Laws of Pakistan Bill, 2015.

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14

Presented

1

Laid

SENATORS ABSENT FROM ENTIRE SESSION



Zulfikar Ali Khan Khosa



Nighat Mirza



Zahida Khan



Ayesha Raza Farooq



Saud Majeed



Dr. Farogh Naseem



Syed Muzafar Hussain



Islamuddin Shaikh

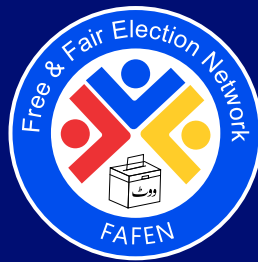


Shahi Syed

About FAFEN

- FAFEN is one of the most credible networks of civil society organizations working for strengthening citizens' voice and accountability in Pakistan since 2006.
- FAFEN has harnessed information technology for real-time monitoring, facilitation and technical backstopping of partners for effective and result-based program delivery.
- FAFEN is the only civil society group to have been invited by the Judicial Commission to present the evidence of illegalities and irregularities documented through the course of General Elections 2013 Observation. The systemic and procedural issues identified by FAFEN have been acknowledged by the commission in its detailed findings.
- FAFEN's recommendations for electoral reforms have contributed to the work of Parliamentary Committee for Electoral Reforms.
- FAFEN's advocacy for parliamentary transparency, accountability and reforms has shaped public discourse on parliamentary reforms. Improved citizens' access to parliamentary information including daily public release of parliamentarians' attendance records can be directly attributed to FAFEN's work.
- FAFEN deployed 18,000 and 40,000 non-partisan and trained observers for the systematic observation of general election 2008 and 2013, respectively, largest citizens' observation ever undertaken in Pakistan.
- FAFEN's evidence and recommendations for reforms have improved the quality of public and political discourse on elections, its issues and need for reforms. Leading political parties and media houses extensively use FAFEN's election findings and analysis to build a case for reforms.
- With around 14,500 followers on Twitter and around 65,000 on Facebook, FAFEN is considered one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.

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