HOUSE OF FEDERATION

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

282nd SESSION

September 18 - October 10, 2018

FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK

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ABBREVIATIONS

ANP	Awami National Party
BNP	Balochistan National Party
CANs	Calling Attention Notices
IND	Independent Member
MQMP	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
BAP	Balochistan Awami Party

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Total Sittings

11

Working Days

23

Cumulative Duration

32

Hours & 29 Minutes

Total Break Time

1

Hour & six Minutes

Senate Addresses Three Quarters Agenda during 282nd session

The Upper House of Parliament addressed almost three quarters of its scheduled business during its 282nd session and consumed almost 20 percent of the proceedings in debating the supplementary budget for the year 2018-19.

The agenda for 11-sitting session, held between September 18 to October 10, 2018, comprised of 83 interventions, of which 61 (73%) were addressed during the proceedings, 21 (25%) left unaddressed and one dropped due to absence of the relevant lawmaker.

The House debated the Finance Supplementary (Amendment) Bill, 2018 for six hours and 39 minutes (21% of the proceedings). As many as 40 lawmakers participated in the discussion.

The Leader of Opposition and the Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs concluded the discussion on the supplementary budget. Their speeches consumed 19 minutes of the proceedings. The House forwarded 27 recommendations to the National Assembly on this bill.

The cumulative duration of the proceedings was 32 hours and 29 minutes including the period of an hour and six minutes (three percent of the duration) that was consumed in prayer breaks or suspension of the proceedings. On an average, each sitting commenced with an average delay of only one minute and lasted for two hours and 57 minutes with 13% lawmakers present at the start and 17% at the end. According to official attendance records, an average 65 (63%) members including two minority lawmakers were present during each sitting .

The Chairman presided over 91 percent of the proceedings while a member of Panel of Presiding Officers chaired the remaining nine percent proceedings. The Deputy Chairman attended only one sitting and did not preside the House proceedings during the session. The Leader of the House attended all sittings and remained present in the House for 87% of the cumulative duration. The Leader of the Opposition was present in 10 sittings for 59% of the proceedings. The Prime Minister did not attend any of the sitting.

Among parliamentary leaders, the leader of PML-N was present in nine sittings and was followed by leaders of PTI (8), PkMAP, PPPP and BNP-M (7 each), ANP (6), NP (5), JUI-F and JI (four each) and BAP, MQM and PML-F (two each).

The session's legislative agenda comprised 15 bills including three government and 12 private members' bills. The House passed two government bills while one was referred to the relevant standing committee for review. The private members' bills, submitted by two PPPP and an independent lawmaker, remained unaddressed during the session.

Passed Bills

The West Pakistan Juvenile Smoking (Repeal) Bill, 2018

The bill aims to repeal the West Pakistan Juvenile Smoking Ordinance, 1959 on the recommendation of the Law and Justice Commission. The law had become redundant after enactment of the Prohibition of Smoking and Protection of Non-Smokers Health Ordinance, 2002.

The West Pakistan Prohibition of Smoking in Cinema Houses (Repeal) Bill, 2018

The bill aims to repeal the West Pakistan Prohibition of Smoking in Cinema Houses Ordinance, 1959 on the recommendation of the Law and Justice Commission. The law had become redundant after enactment of the Prohibition of Smoking and Protection of Non-Smokers Health Ordinance, 2002.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Average Sitting Delay

15

Minutes

Members at Outset (Average)

14

present

Members at End (Average)

18

present

Starred Questions

54

Bill Referred to Committee

The Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill, 2018

The bill aims to include the e provisions relating to offences of blasphemy and pornography in the ambit of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2017.

The private members bills appearing on Orders of the Day included the State Bank of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2018; the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (Amendment of Article 130); the Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) (Amendment) Bill, 2018; the Banking Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2018; the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2018] (Amendment of Article 11); the SBP Banking Services Corporation (Repeal) Bill, 2018; the Maternity and Paternity Leave Bill, 2018; the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (Amendment of Fourth Schedule); the Ratification of Foreign Agreements by Parliament Bill, 2018; the Exit from Pakistan (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2018; the Day Care Centres Bill, 2018 and the Trained Paramedical Staff Facility Bill, 2018.

Four private members' resolutions – one each sponsored by PML-N, JI, PPPP and PTI lawmakers – appeared on the agenda during the session but were taken up by the House. These resolutions suggested to control pollution in the industrial areas of Islamabad; implement the minimum wages announced for labourers/workers in the Budget, 2018-19; continue name of newly constructed Islamabad International Airport as Benazir Bhutto International Airport and up-grade Cricket Stadium in Abbottabad.

A total of six adjournment motions appeared on the agenda of which four were ruled out by the Chair, one was admitted for discussion while another was dropped due to absence of the relevant lawmaker. Of these motions, four were sponsored by an MQM lawmaker, one was jointly sponsored by two PML-N and a JUI-F lawmaker and one by a PML-N and an NP lawmaker. The House did not hold debate on an adjournment motion sponsored by an MQM lawmaker regarding excessive use and sale of antibiotics at Medical Stores causing life threats to general public. It was admitted in the previous session for discussion.

The House took up 11 out of 13 Calling Attention Notices (CANs) appearing on the agenda while remaining two notices were deferred on the request of the movers. As many as three of these CANs were addressed to Ministry of Interior, two to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and one each to ministries of Federal Education & Professional Training, , Establishment Division, Communications, Aviation Division, National History & Literary Heritage, Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, Parliamentary Affairs, Planning, Development & Reforms and Water Resources.

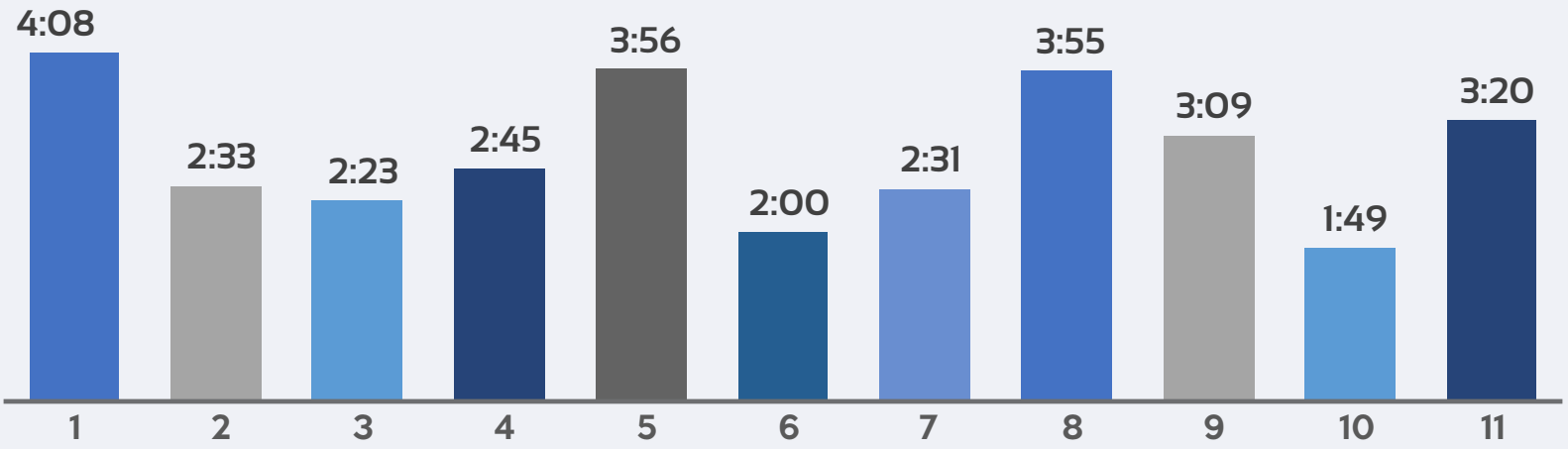
As many as four CANs were sponsored by two NP lawmakers, three by two PTI lawmakers, three by two PML-N lawmakers, and one each by lawmakers belonging to MQM and PkMAP. Moreover, a PML-N lawmaker and an independent member jointly sponsored a notice.

These CANs highlighted the issues relating to forcible acquisition of land in Islamabad; problems of overseas Pakistani in Kuwait; report of UNDP declaring Balochistan as the poorest province; charging fees of summer vacation by private schools; lack of basic facilities at new Islamabad International Airport; vacant posts against quota of Balochistan; delay in establishment of Faiz Ahmed Faiz Library; statement of Prime Minister to grant of nationality to the refugees in Pakistan; anti-encroachment operation at Karachi Company Islamabad; voting rights to the overseas Pakistanis and non-regularization and termination of services of 2,000 employees working in NHA for the last twenty years, cancellation of Coalition Support Fund by USA and non-payment of compensation by the Federal Government to the affectees of upstream of the river as a result of storing floodwater in the Mirani Dam

The House passed a motion under Rule 263 enabling the Committee on Delegated Legislation to constitute more than one sub-committee.

Moreover, the Senate Standing

SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

Chairman

Presided for	Time (hh:mm)
91%	29:34

Deputy Chairman

Presided for	Time (hh:mm)
0%	00:00

Prime Minister

Spent	Time (hh:mm)
0%	00:00

Leader of the House

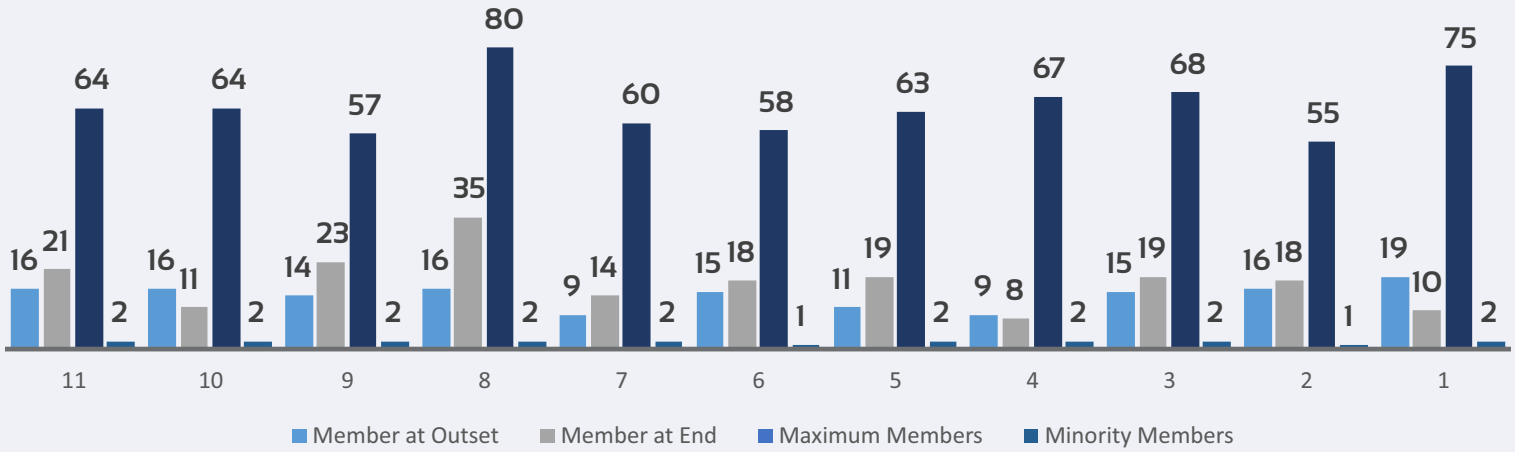
Spent	Time (hh:mm)
87%	28:22

Leader of the Opposition

Spent	Time (hh:mm)
59%	19:09

*Six percent proceedings were chaired by a member of panel of presiding officer and three percent duration was consumed in prayer breaks and suspension.

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE

MUSHAHID ULLAH KHAN

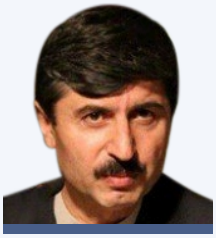
PML-N | 9 attended

M. AZAM KHAN SWATI

PTI | 8 attended

JEHNZEB JAMALDINI

BNP-M | 7 attended



USMAN KAKAR

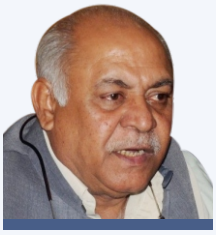
PkMAP | 7 attended

SIKANDAR MANDHRO

PPPP | 7 attended

SITARA AYAZ

ANP | 6 attended



HASIL BIZENJO

NP | 5 attended

M. ALI KHAN SAIF

MQM | 5 attended

TALHA MEHMUD

JUI-F | 4 attended

SIRAJ UL HAQ

JI | 4 attended

MUZAFFAR SHAH

PML-F | 2 attended

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

6

Adjournment Motions

Government Bill Passed

4

Resolutions

10

Reports

Committees presented ten reports on various issues referred to them by the House. Moreover, the House also granted extension to 10 committees for presentation of their reports. The House adopted three committee reports regarding Circular Debt, monitoring and inquiry report on the General Elections, 2018 and final report on conduct of free, fair and transparent Elections.

The private members' agenda included four motions under Rule 218 – one each sponsored by PPPP, NP, PML-N and PTI lawmakers. The House did not take up these motions which had sought discussion on trade deficit of the country, performance of Ministry of Religious Affairs, violations of human rights in Indian Occupied Kashmir and the Tax Amnesty Scheme announced by the last Government.

The lawmakers spoke on Points of Public Importance at 68 instances during the proceedings consuming six hours and eight minutes of the session. As many as 16 lawmakers raised as many Points of Order consuming 35 minutes of the proceedings.

Minister of State for Interior responded to three issues of Public Importance regarding registration of false FIR against an election candidate who contested election against the Chief Minister Punjab, delay in payment of salaries and pension to the personnel of Levies and Khasadar Force and posting of junior officers on key positions. The Chair deferred the ministerial response on two issues on request of the members who had raised them.

The House held Question Hours in three out of eleven sittings during the session. Of the remaining eight sittings, three were private members' days when question hour is not required under the House rules while five days were reserved for discussion on supplementary budget and their regular business was suspended.

The House took up 26 out of 54 starred questions listed for answers during the session. The lawmakers asked 59 supplementary questions as well to clarify the government's responses on starred questions. The Chair referred two questions to the relevant committees.

A total of 18 lawmakers including four women belonging to eight political parties, and independents exercised their right to question. As many as five of these lawmakers belonged to PTI, three to PML-N, two each to PPPP, MQM and JI, one each to PkMAP, NP and JUI-F and one independent.

PML-N lawmakers asked 15 questions followed by PTI (10), MQM (9), PPPP (6), JI (3) , JUI-F (3) ,PkMAP (2) and NP (1). An Independents lawmaker also asked five questions.

The House witnessed seven incidents of walkouts from the proceedings. The opposition lawmakers walked out on six occasions staying away from proceedings for a total of 43 minutes in protest against alleged physical torture on a political leader in Balochistan; absence of Federal Minister for Finance during debate on Supplementary Budget; unavailability of information to the House regarding visit of IMF delegation, non-apology by Minister for Information over his remarks against a Senator and remarks of a treasury lawmaker about the Opposition Senators. Moreover, a PPPP lawmaker staged a solo token walkout against the absence of Minister for Finance during the budget speeches.

The lawmakers belonging to PkMAP, PML-N, PPPP and NP pointed out the lack of quorum on four instances during the session. The quorum was actually found incomplete on three instances leading to the immediate adjournment of the sitting. However, on one instance, the Chair ignored the identification of lack of quorum.

This report is based on direct observation of the proceedings of the Senate conducted by Free and Fair Election Network. Every effort has been made to keep this report, which deals with on-floor performance of the Members, accurate and comprehensive. Errors and omissions are excepted.

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 more than 23,700 followers on Twitter and around 144,000 on Facebook, FAFEN is considered one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.

Free and Fair Election Network
www.fafen.org