

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

2nd SESSION

September 17 – September 30, 2018



FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK

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ABBREVIATIONS

GDA	Grand Democratic Alliance
MMA	Muttahida Majlis - e - Amal
MQM	Muttahida Qaumi Movement
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
TLP	Tehreek - e - Labbaik Pakistan

Sindh Assembly: 56% Lawmakers Take Part in Budget Discussion

Total
Sittings

8

Working
Days

8

Cumulative
Duration

46

Hours & 36 Minutes

Total
Break Time

2

Hour & 49 Minutes

ISLAMABAD, October 1, 2018: As many as 93 out of 165 (56%) sitting lawmakers participated in the general discussion on budget 2018-19 held during the second session of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, observes Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) in its Session Report.

The House met for 46 hours and 36 minutes cumulatively during eight sittings held between September 17, 2018 and September 30, 2018. Of this cumulative duration, two hours and 50 minutes were lost in suspension of proceedings due to prayer breaks. Each sitting started 56 minutes behind its scheduled time and continued for five hours and 49 minutes, on average. Every sitting had an average 63 (38%) lawmakers present at the commencement 80 (48%) lawmakers at the adjournment. Moreover, an average five out of nine minority lawmakers were present in every sitting. The Leader of the House attended nearly 47% of the proceedings (21 hours 44 minutes) and was present in five out of eight sittings. The Leader of the Opposition, notified on September 24, 2018, attended four sittings. The Speaker was present in every sitting and presided over 66% proceedings (30 hours and 46 minutes) while the Deputy Speaker attended seven sittings and presided over 28% proceedings (13 hours). The parliamentary leaders of the parties represented in the House were nominated during the session.

During the first sitting, the Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolio of Finance, presented the

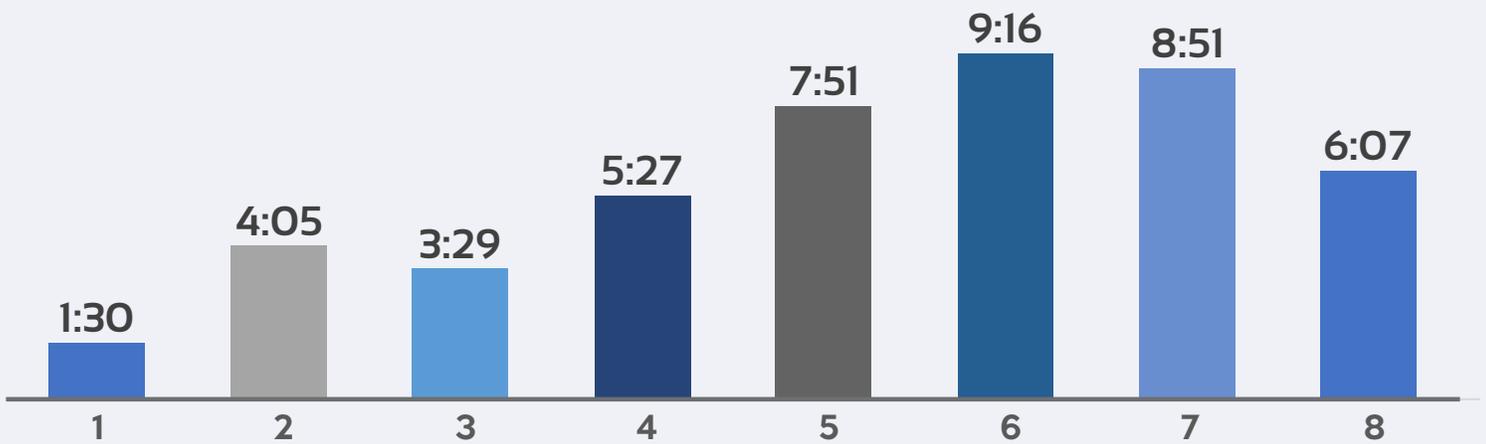
provincial budget of total outlay PKR 1144.5 billion for the remaining nine months of ongoing financial year 2018-19. His budget speech consumed for 56 minutes of the proceedings. It was the first budget of the current Assembly elected in July 2018 and is eleventh consecutive budget by PPPP which is ruling the province since 2008.

The general discussion on the budget continued for 35 hours and 25 minutes (79% of the session's total duration). Nearly half of this duration (51% or 18 hours and 10 minutes) was allocated to the lawmakers belonging to treasury party PPPP while PTI lawmakers got 24% (eight hours and 38 minutes), MQM lawmakers 14% (four hours and 59 minutes), GDA lawmakers nine percent (three hours and 19 minutes) and TLP lawmakers one percent (19 minutes) of the discussion's total duration. The male lawmakers were allocated 84% time (29 hours 43 minutes) and the female lawmakers 16% time (five hours and 42 minutes).

Of the 93 lawmakers who took part in the budget debate, 74 (55% of the total male membership i.e. 134) were men and 19 (61% of the total female membership i.e. 31) were women. Remaining 72 lawmakers included 60 men and 12 women. Out of 19 women, 12 belonged to PPPP, three to MQM, two to PTI and one to TLP. Of 74 male lawmakers, 33 belonged to PPPP, 17 to PTI, 13 to MQM, 10 to GDA and one to TLP.

Following the conclusion of the general discussion during last sitting, the House voted on and

SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



Speaker



Deputy Speaker



Chief Minister



Leader of the Opposition



MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



Average Sitting Delay

56
Minutes

Members at Outset
(Average)

63
present

Members at End
(Average)

80
present

Minority Members
(Average)

05
present

approved 153 Demands for Grants while rejecting the opposition's Cut Motions. Of 113 Cut Motions, the House rejected 39 with the majority vote while 20 were not taken up due to absence of the movers. The remaining 54 cut motions were withdrawn by the Leader of Opposition.

The opposition lawmakers staged ten protests and three walkouts during the session. The lawmakers belonging to PTI, GDA and MQM walked out over treasury lawmakers' remarks against leaders of the opposition parties and the refusal by the Chair to allow opposition lawmakers to speak during the proceedings. Moreover, TLP lawmakers staged a walkout against blasphemous caricatures' competition in Netherlands. The lawmakers also recorded their protested by raising slogans during the proceedings on ten occasions. These protests were instigated by treasury lawmakers' remarks and the Chair's decisions on points of order. The lawmakers spoke on 17 points of order during the session consuming 44 minutes.

This Session report is based on direct observation of the Sindh Assembly proceedings conducted by Pakistan Press Foundation, a member organization of FAFEN. 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.

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