

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF BALOCHISTAN

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR 5th SESSION

December 15 – December 31, 2018



FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK

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ABBREVIATIONS

ANP	Awami National Party
BNP	Balochistan National Party
BNP-A	Balochistan National Party (Awami)
BAP	Balochistan Awami Party
CAN	Call Attention Notice
MMA	Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal
PkMAP	Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Isnaf
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
PO	Point of Order
AM	Adjournment Motion

Balochistan Assembly Addresses Entire Agenda during 5th Session

Total
Sittings

7

Working
Days

13

Cumulative
Duration

19

Hours & 19 Minutes

Average
Sitting Delay

1

Hour & Two Minutes

■ 68 percent lawmakers contribute to the Assembly Business

The Provincial Assembly of Balochistan addressed its entire scheduled agenda during its fifth session that continued between December 15 and December 31, 2018, observes FAFEN in its Session Report of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan.

The session's agenda comprised 12 resolutions, four Calling Attention Notices (CANs), two legislative proposals, three Adjournment Motions and two statutory reports. Of 65 lawmakers, 44 (68 %) contributed to the proceedings of the House by sponsoring various parliamentary interventions or debate on them.

Moreover, 44 lawmakers – 39 male and five female – participated in the debates held on various agenda items taken up during the House proceedings. Of 39 male lawmakers, 14 belonged to BAP, eight each to BNP and MMA, two to BNP-A, and one each to PkMAP, PML-N and PTI, while one was independent. Of five female lawmakers participating in the debates, three were from BAP and one each from BNP and ANP.

1. Session Duration and Attendance

The session comprised seven sittings and spanned over 17 working days. The cumulative duration of seven sittings was 19 hours and 19 minutes while each sitting started an hour and two minutes behind the scheduled time and lasted for two hours and 46 minutes, on an average. The headcounts conducted by FAFEN observer suggest that 29 percent lawmakers, on an average, were present at the start and 34 percent at the adjournment of each sitting.

The Speaker attended two sittings and presided over the proceedings for four

hours and one minute (21 percent of the session) while the Deputy Speaker attended six sitting and chaired the proceedings for 14 hours and 35 minutes (75 percent of the session). A Member of Panel of Chairpersons chaired the proceedings for 43 minutes (four percent of the session).

The Leader of the House (Chief Minister) attended three sittings during the session for seven hours and 54 minutes (41% of the proceedings time) while the Leader of the Opposition remained present in six sittings for 17 hours and 58 minutes (93% of the proceedings time).

The parliamentary leaders of PkMAP and BNP-M attended all seven sittings while the MMA and BNP-A leaders were present in six and four sittings respectively. Moreover, the leaders of BAP and ANP attended three sittings each.

2. Assembly Output

This section deals with the legislative business, resolutions, amendment to the rules, reports and documents presented before the House during the session.

I. Legislation

The legislative business of fifth session comprised two government bills, both of which were approved by the House. A brief description of these bills is following:

The Balochistan Revenue Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2018

This bill aims at removing typographical errors and irregularities in placement of legal provisions and incorporate the amendments made by sister provincial revenue authorities in their relevant Acts.

Members at Outset
(Average)

19
present

Members at End
(Average)

22
present

Maximum Members
(Average)

32

Starred
Questions

29

The Balochistan Sales Tax on Services (Amendment) Bill, 2018

Details not received from Observer.

II. Resolutions

The Assembly adopted 11 resolutions including a supplementary resolution and 10 regular resolutions. Moreover, a resolution was withdrawn while another was kept deferred throughout the session. Among the adopted resolutions, two resolutions were initiated by the government while two were jointly sponsored by treasury and opposition lawmakers while seven were sponsored by private members belonging to BNP, ANP, MMAP, PKMAP and an independent lawmaker.

The adopted resolutions recommended the reinstatement of the media workers fired from their jobs, establishment of a committee to look into the reportedly unfair distribution of funds under CPEC, taking provincial assembly into confidence over CPEC agreements, sharing details of loans borrowed from Saudi Arabia, taking action against overloaded and over-speeding vehicles on National Highways, ensuring fair distribution by Sui-Southern Gas Pipelines Limited, increasing the upper age limit to apply for government jobs, constitution of a committee to make Provincial Assembly of Balochistan an E-Assembly, establishment of a laboratory to check the faulty meters, providing gas to Aghburg area of Quetta and writing-off the electricity arrears of Makran Division.

Out of 11 resolutions adopted by the House, eight were addressed to the federal government while remaining three were addressed to the provincial government of Balochistan.

The House deferred a resolution urging the Federal Government to handover the control of universities located in Balochistan to the provincial government. Another resolution about congratulating the federal government over response to US allegations about minorities' rights in Pakistan was withdrawn by the mover.

III. Reports

The government presented the Audit Report of the Auditor General of

Balochistan 2017-18 and the Performance of Auditor General of Pakistan for Audit Report on Quetta Water Supply and Environmental Development Project.

3. Representation, Responsiveness and Government Oversight

This section gives statistical as well as qualitative overview of legislator's interventions in the House – Calling Attention Notices (CANs), Questions, Adjournment Motions (AM) or any other motions – for the oversight of government and to articulate issues of public interest and importance.

I. Questions

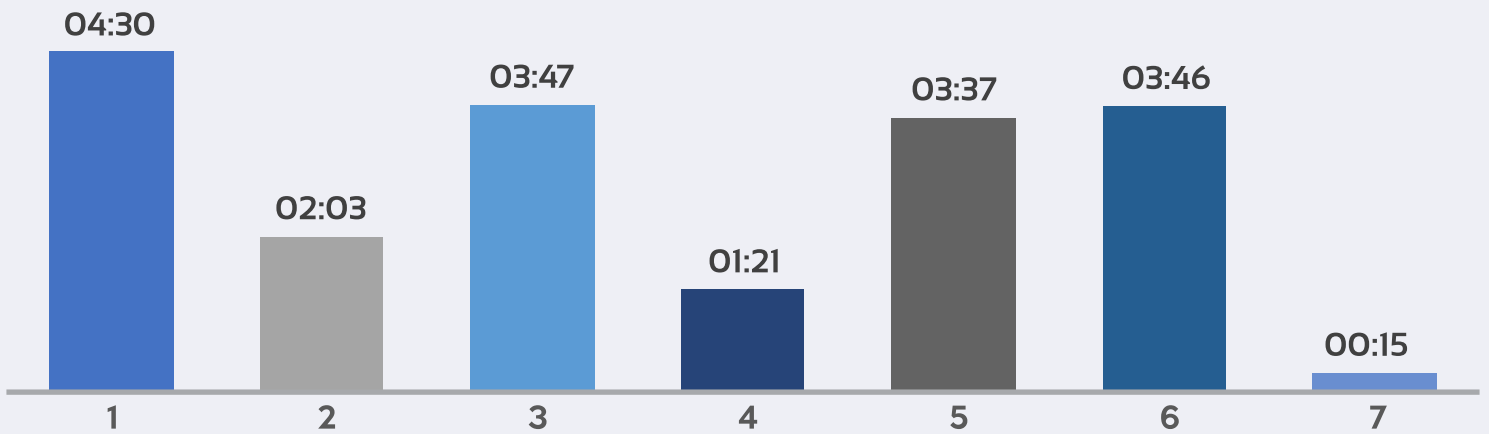
According to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Balochistan Assembly, the first hour of a sitting of the House except on private members' day, is reserved for asking and answering of question by the members. However, the Assembly did not hold question hour during the two government days of the session due to delay on part of the relevant ministries in submitting replies of the questions.

Out of 29 Starred Questions, the House addressed 18 (62%) questions while leaving the remaining 11 (38%) unaddressed due to absence of the movers or the concerned ministers. In addition, the lawmakers asked 16 supplementary questions.

As many as 16 questions were sponsored by two BNP lawmakers, eight questions by a PKMAP lawmaker while three MMA legislators sponsored five questions. None of the question was sponsored by any female lawmaker. The questions appearing on the list were addressed to ten departments of the government and their break-up was as following:

Sr.	Ministries/Departments	Questions
1.	Planning and Development	6
2.	Livestock	5
3.	Education	5
4.	Irrigation and Power	4
5.	Interior	2
6.	Finance	2
7.	Social Welfare	2
8.	Natural Disaster	1
9.	BCDA	1
10.	Environment	1

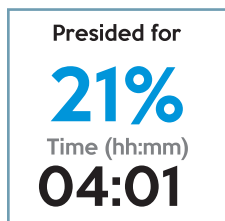
SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



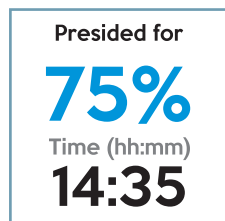
KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



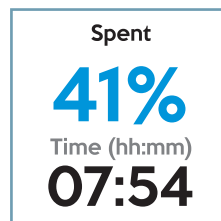
Speaker



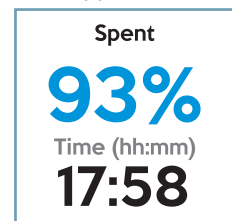
Deputy Speaker



Leader of the House

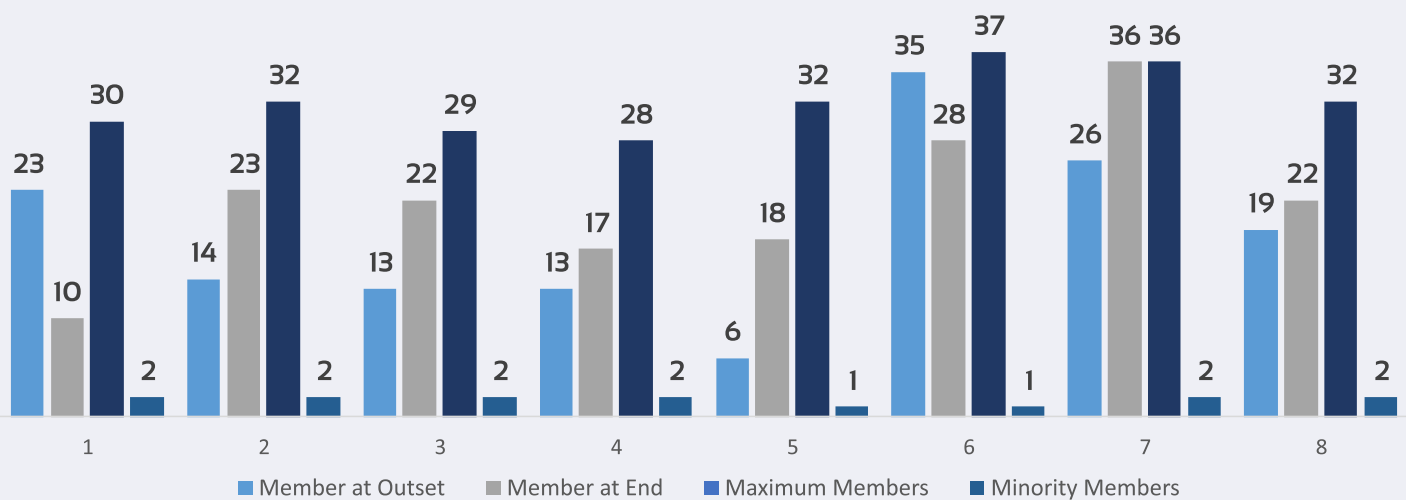


Leader of the Opposition



*Four 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



NAIMATULLAH KHAN ZEHRI



PkMAP

7

attended



NASEER AHMED



BNP-M

7

attended



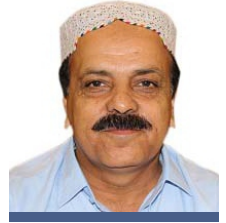
MALIK SIKANDAR



MMAP

6

attended



ASADULLAH BALOCH



BNP-A

4

attended



ASGHAR KHAN ACHAKZAI



ANP

3

attended



JAM KAMAL



BAP

3

attended

3

Adjournment Motions

2

Government Bill Passed

13

Resolutions

2

Reports

II. Call Attention Notices

The House took up three out of four Call Attention Notices (CANs) appearing on the agenda. The addressed CANs highlighted the issues concerning the discontinuation of electricity supply to Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) schemes, vacant posts of watchmen in Public Health Engineering Department, and details of the Development Projects started by the incumbent Provincial Government. The remaining CAN about removal of 55 Employees of Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation from their jobs remained unaddressed due to absence of the concerned minister.

Lawmakers belonging to BNP-M raised two CANs while two other CANs were sponsored by PkMAP lawmakers.

III. Adjournment Motion

The House debated three Adjournment Motions (AMs) during the session concerning abduction of neurosurgeon Dr. Ibrahim Khalil in Quetta, delay in payment of student scholarships amount by the provincial government and drought situation in the province. The first two AMs were responded to by Home Minister while third was answered by Provincial Minister for Information.

IV. Zero Hour

The House spent two hours and 49 minutes (15 percent of the proceedings) on discussing matters of public importance during the Zero Hour. These discussions highlighted the matters regarding drought situation in the province, the absence of service structure for the employees of Engineering Department, the problems faced by Gwadar fishermen and delay in payment of compensation to the earthquake affectees in district Washuk by the Pakistan Disaster Management authority.

A total of 16 lawmakers – BAP (5), BNP (4), MMA (3), ANP (2), BNP-A and PkMAP (1) – participated in the debate during zero hour.

4. Order and Institutionalization

Order and institutionalization are important for an efficient and

productive legislature. This section provides information about Points of Order, Questions of Privilege, Quorum and any instances of walkout, protest or boycott during the proceeding.

I. Motions

Moved by BAP lawmakers, the House adopted two motions seeking to set up a Minority Caucus in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan and declare the Assembly's hall as polling station for the Senate polls to be held on January 14, 2019.

II. Points of Order

Lawmakers spoke on 34 Points of Order (POs) during the session, consuming three hours and 36 minutes of the proceedings (19 percent of the session). The issues related to the House business, law and order, health, and power as well as governance matters were amongst main issues discussed through POs.

III. Walkout

The opposition lawmakers staged a walkout from the proceedings during fourth sitting for ten minutes against the consideration of the Balochistan Revenue Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2018 without its review by the relevant standing committee.

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
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