

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF BALOCHISTAN

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

7th SESSION

January 28 - February 1, 2019



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

BALUCHISTAN ASSEMBLY ADDRESSES 73% AGENDA DURING SEVENTH SESSION

Total
Sittings

5

Working
Days

5

Cumulative
Duration

15

Hours & 13 Minutes

Total
Break Time

53

Minutes

■ 54 Percent Lawmakers Participate in the Proceedings

ISLAMABAD, February 6, 2019: The Baluchistan Assembly addressed 73 percent of its scheduled agenda during seventh session that continued between January 28 and February 1, 2019, observes Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) in its Session Report.

The session's agenda comprised four resolutions, as many Calling Attention Notices (CANs), an Adjournment Motion and general discussions on natural resources and drought situation in the province.

Of 65 lawmakers, 35 (54 percent) including 31 men and four women contributed to the proceedings of the House by sponsoring various parliamentary interventions and/or contributing to the debate on them. The active lawmakers belonged to BAP and BNP (eight each), MMA (seven), PTI and ANP (three each), HDP (two) and PkMAP, JWP and BNP (one each) while a lawmaker was independent.

On the other hand, as many as 30 lawmakers including 23 men and seven women did not participate in the proceedings during the session. Of 30 non-participating members, 16 were from BAP, four each from MMA and PTI, two each from BNP and BNP-A and one each from PML-N and ANP.

No legislative business appeared before the House during the session while ministerial absence caused deferment of a Call Attention Notice as well as question hour during one sitting. The discussions on natural resources and drought situation consumed three hours and 59 minutes or 26 percent of the proceedings. As many as 26 lawmakers participated in the discussions.

Average
Sitting Delay

1

Hour & 11 Minutes

Members at Outset
(Average)

17

present

Members at End
(Average)

23

present

4

Resolutions
Adopted

1 Session, Duration and Attendance

The session comprised five sittings and spanned over as many working days. The cumulative duration of five sittings was 15 hours and 13 minutes including suspension period of 53 minutes. Each sitting started an hour and eleven minutes behind the scheduled time and lasted three hours and two minutes, on an average.

According to the headcount conducted by FAFEN observer, 26 percent (17) lawmakers, on an average, were present at the start and 35 percent (23) at the adjournment of each sitting.

The Speaker attended all five sittings and presided over the session for 12 hours and 52 minutes (90 percent of the proceedings' time) while the Deputy Speaker remained absent throughout the session. A Member of Panel of Chairpersons chaired the session for an hour and 28 minutes (ten percent of the proceedings' time).

The Leader of the House (Chief Minister) attended three sittings for four hours and 57 minutes (35 percent of the proceedings' time) while the Leader of the Opposition remained present in five sittings for 14 hours and 17 minutes (100 percent of the proceedings' time).

The parliamentary leaders of PkMAP attended all five sittings while the BNP-M, MMAP and HDP leaders were present in four sittings each. Moreover, the leaders of BAP and ANP attended three sittings each while leaders of BNP-A and JWP attended two out of five sittings during the session.

2 Assembly Output

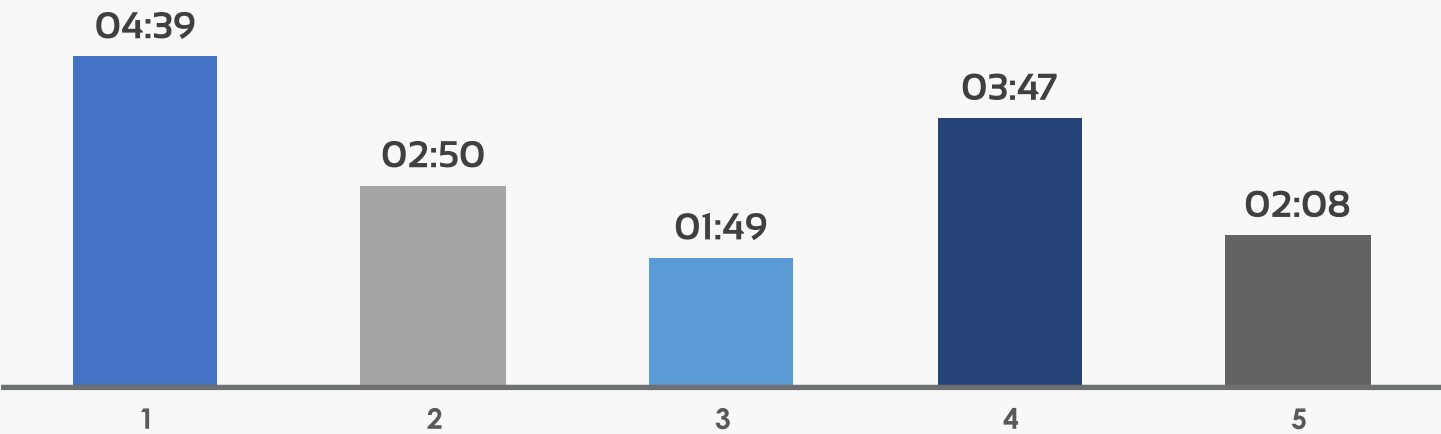
This section deals with the legislative business, resolutions, amendment to the rules, reports and documents presented before the House during the session.

2.1 Resolutions

The Assembly adopted four resolutions appearing on the agenda of the House during the reporting period. Of the adopted resolutions, one was initiated individually by a male lawmaker belonging to MMAP while three resolutions were jointly moved by male and female lawmakers belonging to different political parties in the House.

The adopted resolutions demanded the federal government to ensure action against those involved in Sahiwal incident as well as murder of Nageeb Ullah Mehsud, equip levies force on modern lines, announce special concession to domestic gas consumers in province and regularize the services of the teachers of the Community schools.

SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



Speaker



Deputy Speaker



Leader of the House

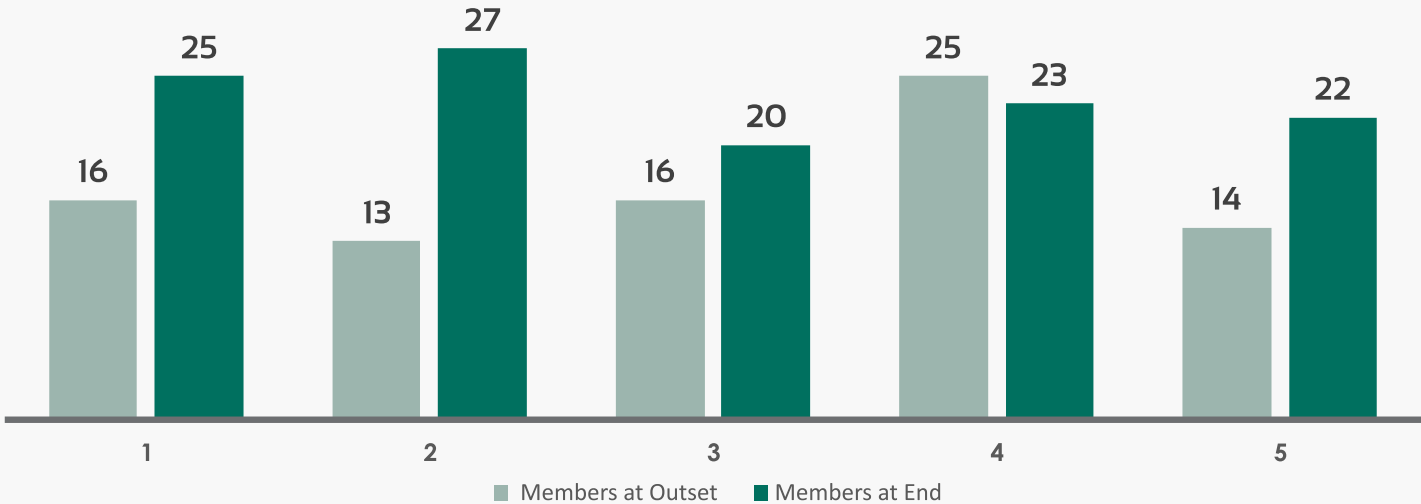


Leader of the Opposition



*Ten percent proceedings were chaired by a member of panel of presiding officer

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



NAIMATULLAH KHAN ZEHRI



5

PkMAP | attended



NASEER AHMED



4

BNP-M | attended



MALIK SIKANDAR



4

MMAP | attended



KHALIQ HAZARA



4

HDP | attended



ASGHAR KHAN ACHAKZAI



3

ANP | attended



JAM KAMAL



3

BAP | attended



ASADULLAH BALOCH



2

BNP-A | attended



GOHRAM BUGTI



2

JWP | attended

54

Starred Questions

26

Questions Taken Up

15

Questions Deferred

1

Adjournment Motion

3 Representation and Responsiveness

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.

3.1 Questions

According to the Rules 33 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Balochistan Assembly, the first hour of a sitting of the House except sittings on Saturday or Sunday, day fixed for elections of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Chief Minister or address by the Governor, is reserved for asking and answering of question by the members. However, the Assembly did not hold question hour during a government day of the session due to absence of the concerned minister.

Out of 54 Starred Questions, the House addressed 26 (48 percent) questions while leaving the remaining 26 (52 percent) unaddressed due to absence of the movers or the concerned ministers. Not a single supplementary question was asked by the lawmakers during question hour.

As many as 27 questions were sponsored by five BNP lawmakers, 15 questions by four MMAP lawmakers and 11 questions by a PkMAP lawmaker. A PTI legislator also sponsored one question.

The questions appearing on the list were addressed to 17 departments of the government and their break-up was as following:

Name of the Department	Number of Questions
Health	13
Services and General Administration	7
Agriculture	5
Irrigation	5
Sports and Culture	4
Livestock Development	4
Local Government	3
Finance	2
Hajj and Auqaf	2
Education	2
Energy	1
Social Welfare	1
Environment	1
Higher Education	1
Labour and Human Resource	1
Natural Disaster	1
Secondary Education	1
Total	54

4

Calling
Attention
Notices

3

CANs
Taken Up

36

Members
raising
Points of Order

35

Participating
Members

3.2 Calling Attention Notices

The House took up three out of four Call Attention Notices (CANs) appearing on the agenda which were sponsored by lawmakers belonging to MMAP and BNP.

The addressed CANs were related to missing record of B&R office in Washuk district, reinstatement of the employees of Communication and Construction Department and establishment of Custom House at Pak-Afghan border. Another CAN moved by BNP lawmaker regarding regularization of workers of Hub Industrial City was deferred due to absence of the concerned minister.

3.3 Adjournment Motions

The House admitted an Adjournment Motion (AM) moved by a PkMAP lawmaker for debate regarding accidents on highways due to reckless driving. However, the House did not proceed to the debate on it during the session while another AM sponsored by same mover regarding bomb blast in Loralai remained unaddressed.

3.4 General Discussion

The House debated two matters of public importance i.e. drafting a policy for mineral and natural resources in Pakistan and the drought issue in the province. The motions for holding general discussions were moved by the Leader of the Opposition. As many as 12 lawmakers took part in general discussion suggesting the government to draft policy for mineral and natural resources which consumed two hours and 14 minutes of the proceedings. In addition, 14 lawmakers participated in debate on drought issue in the province for an hour and 45 minutes. Moreover, the House did not discuss the establishment of medical colleges in Khuzdar and Loralai, energy crisis and unemployment in the province due to absence of the Chief Minister.

4 Order and Institutionalization

Order and institutionalization are important for an efficient and productive legislature. This section provides information about the members' Question of Privilege, Points of Order, Quorum and any instances of walkout, protest or boycott during the proceeding

4.1 Points of Order

Lawmakers raised 25 Points of Order (POs) during the session, consuming an hour and 52 minutes of the proceedings (12 percent of the session). The POs highlighted the issues concerning the House business, law and order, unemployment as well as governance.

No protest or walkout was observed during the session.

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 25,000 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
www.openparliament.pk
www.parliamentfiles.com



This report is based on direct observation of the proceedings of the National Assembly 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.