

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

4th SESSION

January 9 - May 18, 2019



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ABBREVIATIONS

GDA	Grand Democratic Alliance
MMA	Muttahida Majlis - e - Amal Pakistan
MQMP	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
TLP	Tehreek - e - Labbaik Pakistan
PO	Point of Order
AM	Adjournment Motion
CAN	Call Attention Notice

Total
Sittings

49

Cumulative
Duration

138

Hours & 59 Minutes

Longest Sitting

44thTotal
Break Time

3

Hours & 8 Minutes

Sindh Assembly Transacts 56 Percent Agenda during 4th Session

■ 51 lawmakers remain inactive during the proceedings

The Provincial Assembly of Sindh transacted 56 percent of its scheduled business during 49-sitting fourth session that continued between January 9, 2019 and May 18, 2019. The House passed 11 government bills and held pre-budget debate consuming 16 percent of the proceedings. Almost each sitting of the session witnessed protest during the proceedings by treasury and opposition lawmakers who exchanged heated arguments while debating various parliamentary interventions. The proceedings remained suspended for three hours and eight minutes (two percent) due to the prayer breaks and lack of quorum.

The regular agenda brought before the House during fourth session comprised 15 government bills and three private members' bills, 64 resolutions, 149 Call Attention Notices (CANs), 15 reports of House committees, ten amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 24 private motions and 10 Questions of Privilege.

Of 168 lawmakers, 117 (70 percent) including 88 men and 29 women actively participated in the proceedings of the House by sponsoring various parliamentary interventions and/or contributing in the debates. The active lawmakers belonged to PPPP (60), PTI (26), MQM (17), GDA (11), TLP (two) and one from MMA.

On the other hand, as many as 51 (30 percent) participants did not contribute in the proceedings throughout the session. The lawmakers who did not participate in the proceedings belonged to PPPP (39), MQM and PTI (four each), GDA (three) while one from TLP.

The House proceedings commenced with an average delay of an hour and 26 minutes in each sitting while none of the sitting started on its scheduled time. The maximum delay of three hours and 30 minutes was witnessed during 32nd sitting. The shortest sitting during the session i.e. 33rd sitting, continued for one minute, whereas the longest sitting i.e. 44th sitting, continued for ten hours and 14 minutes.

The question of quorum surfaced on two occasions during the session but it was found complete on headcounts. The Speaker himself pointed out quorum twice and adjourned the sittings due to lack of quorum.

Average
Sitting Delay

1

Hour & 26 Minute

Members at Outset
(Average)

34

present

Members at End
(Average)

38

present

64

Resolutions

1 Session, Duration and Attendance

The fourth session of the Sindh Assembly comprised 49 sittings held between January 9, 2019 and May 18, 2019. Cumulatively, the House assembled for 142 hours and four minutes while proceedings remained suspended for three hours and eight minutes due to prayer break and lack of quorum. Each sitting, on an average commenced an hour and 26 minutes behind the scheduled time and continued for nearly for two hours and 54 minutes on average. The Speaker presided over the proceedings for 92 hours and two minutes (66 percent of the session) during 48 sittings; the Deputy Speaker remaining present in 49 sittings and chaired the proceedings for 46 hours and 57 minutes (34 percent of the session). The Leader of the House (Chief Minister) attended 17 sitting and remained present in the House for 37 hours and 47 minutes (27 percent of the proceedings) while the Leader of the Opposition was present in 39 sittings for 81 hours and four minutes (58 percent of the proceedings). According to headcounts conducted by FAFEN, an average of 56 (34 percent) lawmakers were present at the outset and 62 (37 percent) at the adjournment of each sitting. The parliamentary leaders of PPP (44), TLP (39), MMAP (37), PTI (32), MQMP (28) and GDA (13).

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 Legislation

The House passed 11 government bills, referred five bills to relevant committees while two bills were not taken up.

2.1.1 Government Bills Passed

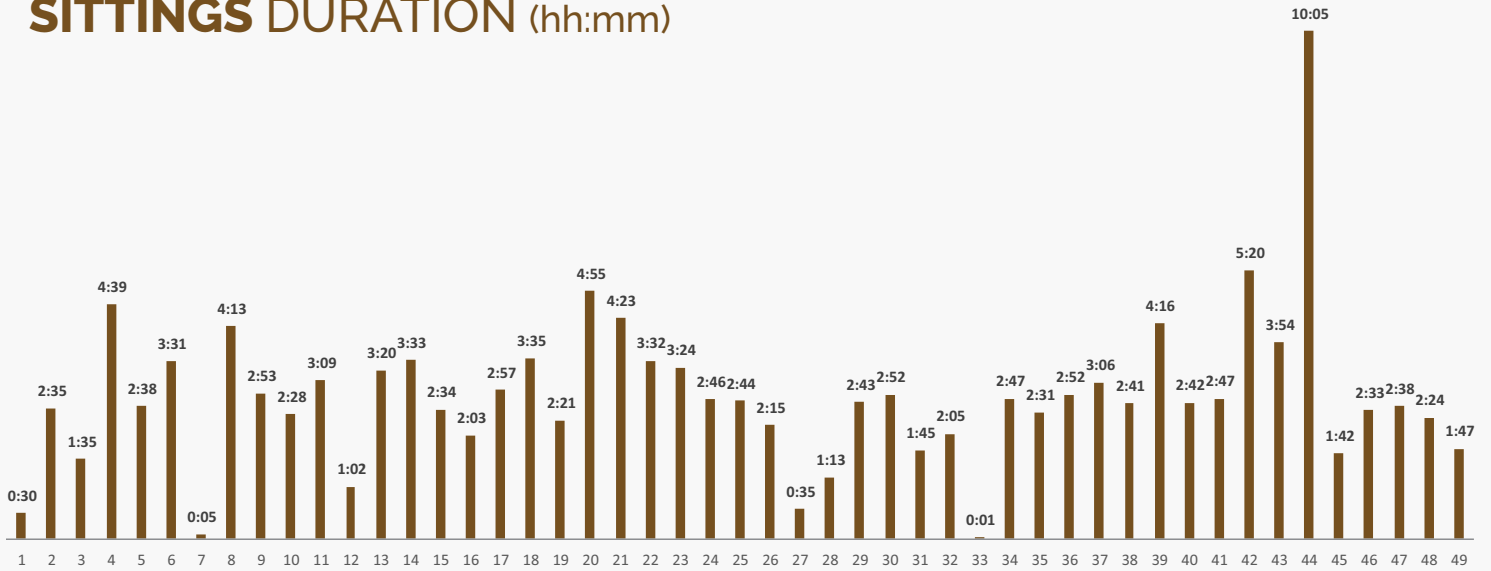
1. The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2018

The bill aims to formally incorporate an Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) system to settle civil and commercial law matters out of court and to lessen the burden on the province's regular judicial system.

2. The Sindh Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Bill, 2018

The bill aims to provide for the establishment of an Institute known as the Sindh Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (SICVD) which will undertake state-of-the-art treatment for heart related diseases. However, the SICVD will run all the satellite facilities and chest pain units of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVDs) which was ordered by the Supreme Court to be transferred to the federal government.

SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



Speaker

Presided for
66%
 Time (hh:mm)
92:02



Deputy Speaker

Presided for
34%
 Time (hh:mm)
46:57



Leader of the House

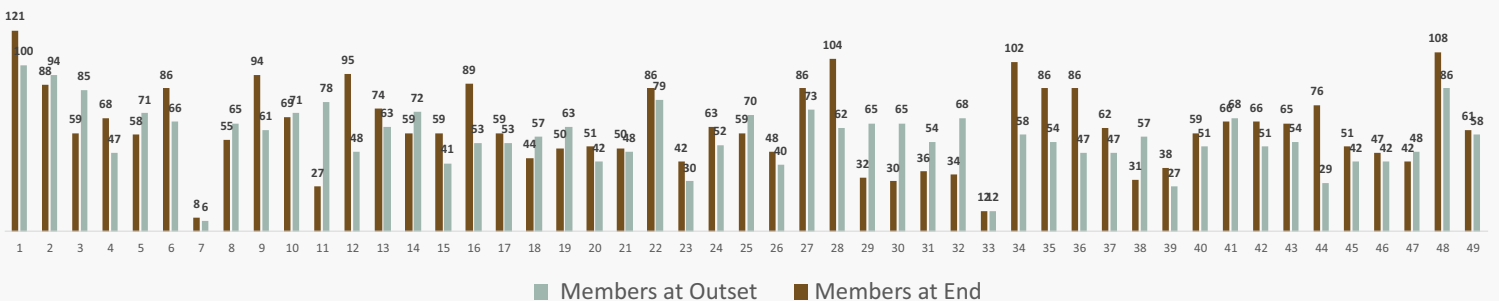
Spent
27%
 Time (hh:mm)
37:47



Leader of the Opposition

Spent
58%
 Time (hh:mm)
81:04

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



MUKESH KUMAR CHAWLA



PPP

45

attended



MUHAMMAD QASIM



TLP

40

attended



SYED ABDUL RASHEED



MMA

38

attended



HALEEM ADIL SHEIKH



PTI

33

attended



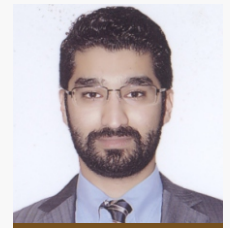
KANWAR NAVEED JAMEEL



MQMP

29

attended



HUSNAIN ALI MIRZA



GDA

13

attended

18

Bills

11

Government Bills Passed

5

Bills Referred to Committee

3

Bills Not Taken Up

3. The Sindh Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Bill, 2018

The bill states that the Sindh Zakat Council shall constitute a District Zakat and Ushr Committee in each Revenue District of the province.

4. The Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Institute of Trauma at Karachi Bill, 2018

The bill aims at establishing an Institute known as the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Institute of Trauma in Karachi. It will administer and control all trauma centres established by the government throughout the province and to provide treatment and acquire latest physical facilities necessary for carrying out investigation and treatment of various diseases and injuries in the field of Orthopaedic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Traumatology and Vascular Surgery.

5. The Sindh Local Government (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The bill empowers the elected local government councils to remove the mayor and district chairperson by simple majority.

6. The Sindh Institute of Child Health and Neonatology Bill, 2018

The bill aims to establish an Institute known as the Sindh Institute of Child Health and Neonatology in Karachi. It will exercise supervision and overall control over the Institute as well as its branches in the province and to undertake treatment and acquire latest physical facilities necessary for carrying out investigation and treatment of various diseases and injuries in the field of pediatrics and neonatology in the Institute and its branches.

7. The Sindh Injured Persons Compulsory Medical Treatment (Amal Umer) Bill, 2019

The bill aims to make provisions for medical aid and treatment of injured persons in an emergency in order to save his or her life and protect his or her health.

8. The Sindh Local Government (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019

The bill aims to amend the Sindh Local Government Act 2013 and states that Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman, Vice Chairman or a Member of a Council may resign his or her office by tendering resignation in writing under his or her hand to the "Chief Executive of the Council" instead of the "Council" of which he or she is the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman, Vice Chairman or a Member. It further states that the "Chief Executive of the Council" not Council shall forward copies of the resignation to the Election Commission and to the Secretary Local Government and not the government.

3

Private Members'
Bills

15

Government
Bills

10

Amendments
to Rules

24

Private
Motions**9. The Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

The bill aims to amend the composition of the Board established to run the Authority. According to the bill, the Chief Minister would appoint Vice-Chancellor of the Authority while he may appoint Minister or Advisor or Special Assistant and two Members of the Provincial Assembly in the Board as recommended by the Speaker.

10. The Sindh Prisons and Correctional Facilities Bill, 2019

The bill aims to transform the prisons in Sindh into correctional facilities in order to grant opportunities to the jail inmates to participate in a reformation process to become responsible members of the society, once they are set free.

11. The Sindh (Repeal of The Police Act, 1861 and Revival of Police Order, 2002) Bill, 2019

The bill aims to revive the Police Order 2002 in Sindh and empowers the provincial government to regain administrative control of the police force that was earlier wrested from it in the light of court orders. This bill proposes several other structural changes in the police department and asks for establishing public safety commissions at district and provincial levels.

2.1.2 Government Bills Referred to the Committees:**1. The Sindh Public Finance Administration Bill, 2019**

The bill aims to ensure efficient and transparent management of the Provincial Consolidated Fund as well as Public Account of the Province and proper accountability of all transactions.

2. The Abdul Majid Bhurgri Institute of Language Engineering Bill, 2019

The bill aims to establish an institute for development and advancement of Sindhi language engineering known as Abdul Majid Bhurgri Institute of Language Engineering to bring Sindhi language at par with the national and international languages.

3. The Aror University of Art, Architecture, Design and Heritages, Sukkur, Bill, 2019

The bill aims to establish the Aror University of Art, Architecture Design and Heritage in Sukkur which will award Graduate and Post Graduate degrees in the field of art, architecture, design, heritages and other relevant academic fields.

14

Reports

93

CANs
Taken Up

122

Members
raising
Points of Order

51

Adjournment
Motions

2.1.3 Private Members' Bills Referred to the Committees:

1.The Sindh Water Management (Amendment) Bill, 2018

This bill aims to give representation to women in Area Water Boards, Farmers' Organizations, Watercourse Associations and Regulatory Authority of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Protection having experience in relevant field.

2.The Control of Narcotic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2018

The bill aims to term methamphetamine or Ice/chalk/crystal as narcotic substances and award same punishment over its use as defined in law for the use of other narcotics substance.

2.1.4 Bills Not Taken Up:

A government bill – the Sindh Evacuee Trust Properties (Management and Disposal) Bill, 2019 – was not taken up by the House while a Private Member's bill – the Sindh Advisors (Appointments, Powers, Functions, Salaries, Allowances and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 2019 – could also not been addressed.

2.2 Reports

The Select Committee presented a total of seven reports in the House during the session on various legislative proposals. These report were on the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2018; the Sindh Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Bill, 2018; the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Institute of Trauma at Karachi Bill, 2018; the Sindh Institute of Child Health and Neonatology Bill, 2018; the Sindh Injured Persons Compulsory Medical Treatment (Amal Umer) Bill, 2019; the Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the Sindh (Repeal Of The Police Act, 1861 And Revival Of Police Order, 2002) Bill, 2019. The House granted extension to the Select Committee for presenting its report on the Sindh Prisoner and Correctional Facilities Bill, 2019

Moreover, Minister for Excise and Taxation presented the Budget Execution reports for three quarters from April 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. He also presented four audit reports about the Sindh Government Appropriation Accounts for the year 2016-17, 2017-18 and on accounts of Provincial Zakat Fund 2016-17 and Public Sector Enterprises 2017-18. All these reports were forwarded to the Public Accounts Committee for further review.

149

Calling
Attention
Notices

10

QoPs

7

QoPs
Taken Up

3

QoPs
Not Taken Up

2.3 Private Motions

A total of 24 private motions appeared on the agenda during the session but none of them was taken up. Thirteen motions were sponsored by male lawmakers belonging to PTI, GDA and MQMP while remaining 11 by female lawmakers from PPPP, MQM, GDA and PTI.

These motions were mainly related to health, governance, law and order and infrastructure development but the House failed to address any of them.

2.4 Resolutions

The government and private members moved 64 resolutions during the session. The House adopted 28 of these resolutions and rejected one. Most of the adopted resolutions (25 or 86 percent) were not included in the List of Business and were moved as supplementary agenda. The remaining 35 resolutions were not addressed during the session.

As many as six adopted resolutions were on the subject of terrorism and condemned various terrorist attacks including the assassination of former parliamentarian Syed Ali Raza Abdi, attack on a PTI lawmaker, blast in Quetta, killings in Ormara, attacks in Sri Lanka and violations of Pakistan airspace by Indians jets.

Through three resolutions on political issues, the House condemned the statement of Prime Minister Imran Khan about making statement in favor of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, MQM Convener's statement about division of Sindh, and alleged politically-motivated accountability drive. Moreover, the House adopted two resolutions on foreign affairs condemning the Indian allegations against Pakistan and praising Pakistan Air Force's response to Indian strikes in Pakistan.

The House passed a number of customary resolutions marking International Women's Day, World Press Freedom Day, completion of 80 years of the Assembly, 176th death anniversary of colonial-era Sindhi freedom fighter Hosh Muhammad Sheedi, birthday of Hazrat Fatima and inauguration of Thar Coal Project. The House also condoled over the death of a medical student in a crossfire incident in Karachi and a minor child due to wrong injection. The House also demanded, through a resolution, official passports for its members, their spouses and children.

In addition to these, the House passed nine resolutions in which six resolutions recommending the federal government to reduce Hajj fares, bring down the property valuation rates, provide natural gas to Sindh province on province, unpaid dues to employees of Pakistan Steel Mill, releasing of media houses dues and price hike in petroleum and Gas while three resolutions recommending the Provincial government to launching awareness campaign regarding controlling of population ,releasing of prisoners on semi payroll at the death of relatives and implementation of Form-B of the Sindh educational institutions .

244

Questions

168

Questions
Taken Up

74

Questions
Not Taken Up

2

Questions
Deferred

The House did not address 35 resolutions including 33 private resolutions making recommendations to the government on education, governance, and social issues.

2.5 Adjournment Motions

The Assembly may adjourn its regular proceedings to debate any definite and urgent matter of public importance raised through an Adjournment Motions. Following the discussion, the House may refer the contents of debated Adjournment Motion to the provincial cabinet for its consideration through a substantive motion. The lawmakers belonging to treasury and opposition parties submitted 34 Adjournment Motions seeking discussions on matters of urgent public importance ranging from overbilling by power companies to governance and political issues. The House debated only four of these motions while one was admitted for discussion but the discussion never took place. The debated motions highlighted the issues concerning delay in the National Finance Commission (NFC) award, matters concerning distribution of water among provinces, Karachi's Circular Railway, bad governance in Karachi, and alleged rollback of Eighteenth Constitutional Amendment. All of these motions except the one on bad governance in provincial capital were initiated by the lawmakers belonging to the treasury party PPPP.

As many as five AMs, moved by opposition lawmakers belonging to PTI and GDA, were rejected by the House while as many were withdrawn by their movers. The remaining 18 AMs were either dropped due to absence of the concerned lawmaker or were not addressed at all.

As many as 19 lawmakers, 10 belonging to PPPP, four to PTI, two each to MQMP and GDA and one to MMAP used AMs to perform their representative duties. The lawmakers belonging to PPPP moved 17 AMs, PTI nine, MQMP four, GDA three and MMAP one.

2.6 Amendments to Rules of Procedure

The Assembly's Rules of Procedure can be amended with a majority vote on a motion initiated by any member of the House. As many as seven lawmakers, five belonging to PTI and one each to PPPP and MQMP, initiated the motions proposing amendments to the Rules but none of these motions were taken up during the proceedings.

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.

122

Points of Order

4

MoPI

730

Supplementary Questions

3.1 Call Attention Notices

The House took up 93 out of 149 Call Attention Notices (CANs) appearing on the agenda. These notices were individually or jointly sponsored by lawmakers belonging to PTI, GDA, MQMP, PPPP, TLP and MMA. These CANs were mostly related to education, law and order, governance, service delivery, infrastructure development and economic issues.

Name of Ministry	Number of responded CANs
Local Government	35
parliamentary Affairs	17
Culture Tourism Antique ,Education	11
Energy	8
Health	5
Minority Affairs	3
Transport Mass transit	3
CM	1
Environment and Climate Change	1
Information Technology	1
Mines	1
Minister for Parliamentary Affairs	1
Revenue	1
Work and Services	1

3.2 Questions

The first hour of each regular sitting of the Assembly, except those held on holidays, is reserved for asking questions from the ministers on public affairs relating to them. The Assembly held Question Hours on 40 out of 49 sittings. A total of 244 starred questions were asked during these sittings. The House took up 168 out of these questions for verbal answers during the proceedings. The remaining questions were not orally replied due to lack of quorum, absence of movers or shortage of time.

Out of 164 lawmakers, only 13 including seven of PTI, three of MQM, two of GDA and one of PPPP exercised their right to ask questions from the government. The lawmakers belonging to GDA asked 148 questions, PTI 73 questions, MQMP 13 questions and PPPP one question. Among 13 lawmakers actively raising questions during the session, six were women who cumulatively asked one third or 81 questions.

These questions were addressed to 26 provincial government departments. The department of Irrigation received the highest number of questions i.e. 26 during the session and was followed by the departments of Livestock and Fisheries, and Prisons which received 20 questions each. Below is a list of the ministries with the number of questions addressed to them.

40

Protest

12

Walk Outs

4

Members raising Points of Order

Name of Department	Number of Questions
Irrigation	26
Livestock and Fisheries	20
Prisons	20
Forest and Wildlife	16
Culture, Tourism and Antiquities	16
Agriculture, Supply and Prices	12
Revenue and Relief	11
Energy	11
Health	11
Law	10
Education	9
Transport and Mass Transit	8
<i>Auqaf, Zakat and Ushr</i>	7
Labour and Human Resource	7
Excise and Taxation	6
Local Government	6
<i>Katchi Abadis</i>	5
Minorities Affairs	5
Finance	5
Women Development	4
Information, Science and Technology	4
Works and Services	4
Environment, Climate Change and Costal Development	4
Cooperative	4
Population welfare	3
Housing and Works	1

3.3 Questions of Privilege

The lawmakers raised nine Questions of Privilege during the session of which only one was referred to a Select Committee for its consideration and recommendation. The referred QoP highlighted the alleged use of derogatory remarks by the Leader of the Opposition in the House against the members. Of the remaining, four QoP were withdrawn by the movers while one was rejected by the Chair and three were left unaddressed.

3.4 Matter of Public Importance

The Houses discussed four matter of public importance during the session which consumed an hour and six minutes. These matters were about death of five children due to poisonous food in Karachi, outbreak of HIV cases in Sindh, shortage of gas and non-payment of dues to the province by the federal government.

4 Order and Institutionalization

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

4

Quorum

4.1 Points of Order

Lawmakers spoke on 122 Points of Order (POs) during the session consuming seven hours and 18 minutes of the proceedings (19 percent of the session's time). They highlighted the issues related to the House business, politics, law and order as well as governance.

4.2 Quorum

The lawmaker belonging to PTI identified the lack of quorum for two times during the proceedings but quorum was found complete on headcounts while Speaker himself pointed out quorum twice and adjourned the sittings due to lack of quorum.

4.3 Protest and Walkout

The House witnessed 51 instances of protest and walkout during the session by the opposition and government lawmakers. These protests or walkout were mainly against the refusal of the Chair to give them floor to speak on various parliamentary interventions. Lawmakers protested during the proceedings for a total of seven hours and 51 minutes while exchange of barbs and fists between treasury and opposition lawmakers was also witnessed during the second last sitting.

ABOUT FAFEN

- FAFEN is one of the most credible networks among civil society organizations working to strengthen 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 finalization of the Elections Act, 2017 and helped improve the quality of public and political discourse on elections. Leading political parties and media houses extensively use FAFEN's election findings and analysis to build upon the cases for 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 around 18,000, 40,000 and 20,000 non-partisan and trained observers for the systematic observation of the General Elections 2008, 2013 and 2018, respectively.
- With more than 25,000 followers on Twitter and around 143,000 on Facebook, FAFEN is considered to be one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.

Free and Fair Election Network

www.fafen.org
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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.