

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF BALOCHISTAN

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

15th SESSION

August 3 - August 10, 2019



FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK

www.fafen.org | www.openparliament.pk

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

Total
Sittings

04

Working
Days

08

Cumulative
Duration

12

Hours & 9 Minutes

Total
Break Time

32

Minutes

BALUCHISTAN PA ADOPTS FIVE RESOLUTIONS, LEAVES 25 PERCENT QUESTIONS UNADDRESSED

- Opposition Stages Walkout against Hasty Legislation
- Debate on Reko Diq Case and Law and Order Held

The Provincial Assembly of Balochistan passed three government bills and adopted five resolutions during 15th session comprising four sittings that continued between August 3, 2019 to August 10, 2019, observes Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) in its session report.

On an average, 19 (29%) members were present at the outset and 18 (28%) at the end of each sitting. The cumulative duration of all four sittings was 12 hours and nine minutes. Each sitting, on average, started an hour and eight minutes behind the scheduled time and lasted three hours and two minutes.

The Speaker did not attend any of the four sittings of the session while Deputy Speaker was present in all sittings and presided over 67 percent of the session's time. The Leader of the House remained present in two sittings and attended 35 percent of the session's time, while the Opposition Leader attended all four sittings and attended 79 percent of the proceedings.

The regular as well as supplementary agenda of the House during 15th session comprised seven government bills and as many resolutions, three Adjournment Motions and ten reports of Standing Committees. The House passed three bills and adopted five resolutions while three Adjournment Motions were also taken up.

Lawmakers spoke on 28 Points of Order (POs) during the session consuming two hours and 26 minutes of the proceedings. They discussed the issues related to house business, unemployment, water scarcity, doctor's strike, role of law enforcement agencies and governance.

The entire opposition walked out of the proceedings for 15 minutes against the attitude of the Chair who allowed to move motions for

Average
Sitting Delay

1

hour & 8 minutes

Members at Outset
(Average)

19

present

Members at End
(Average)

18

present

Maximum
Members

30

passage of government bills without referring them to the concerned standing committees. A lawmaker pointed out quorum on an occasion during the fourth sitting but the Chair ignored it.

1 Session Duration and Attendance

The 15th session of Balochistan Assembly spanning over four sittings commenced on August 3, 2019 and prorogued on August 10, 2019. On an average, 19 (29%) members were observed to be present at the start and 18 (28%) at the end of each sitting. Two minority members, on an average, attended all four sittings.

The cumulative duration of all four sittings was 12 hours and nine minutes. Each sitting, on an average, started an hour and eight minutes behind the scheduled time and lasted three hours and two minutes. The Speaker did not attend any of the four sittings while Deputy Speaker was present in all sittings and presided over 67 percent of the session's time. The Members of the Panel of Chairpersons presided over 29 percent of the proceedings while four percent of the session's time was consumed in a break and suspension of the proceedings.

The Leader of the House remained present in two sittings and attended 35 percent of the session's time, while the Opposition Leader attended all four sittings and attended 79 percent of the proceedings. The parliamentary leaders of MMAP, BNP-M and PkMAP attended all four sittings. The leaders of BAP, BNP-A and JWP attended two sittings each while the parliamentary leaders of ANP and HDP did not attend any of the sitting.

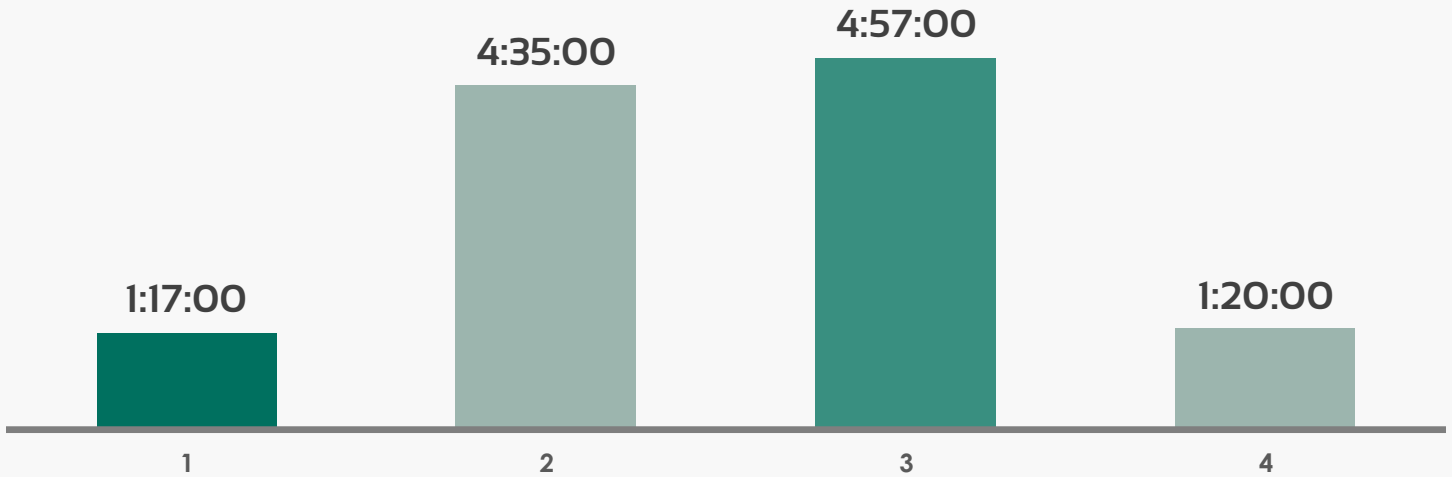
2 Assembly Output

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 Provincial Assembly passed three government bills which were the Balochistan Essential Education Services Bill, 2019; the Limitation (Balochistan Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the Balochistan Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2019. Four other government bills introduced in the House were the Balochistan Education

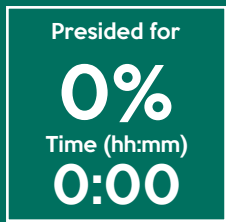
SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



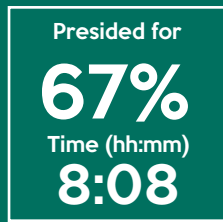
KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



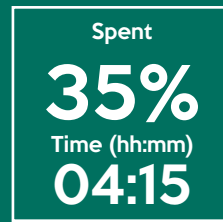
Speaker



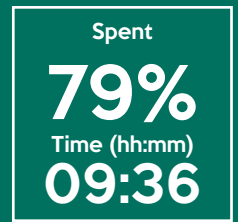
Deputy Speaker



Leader of the House

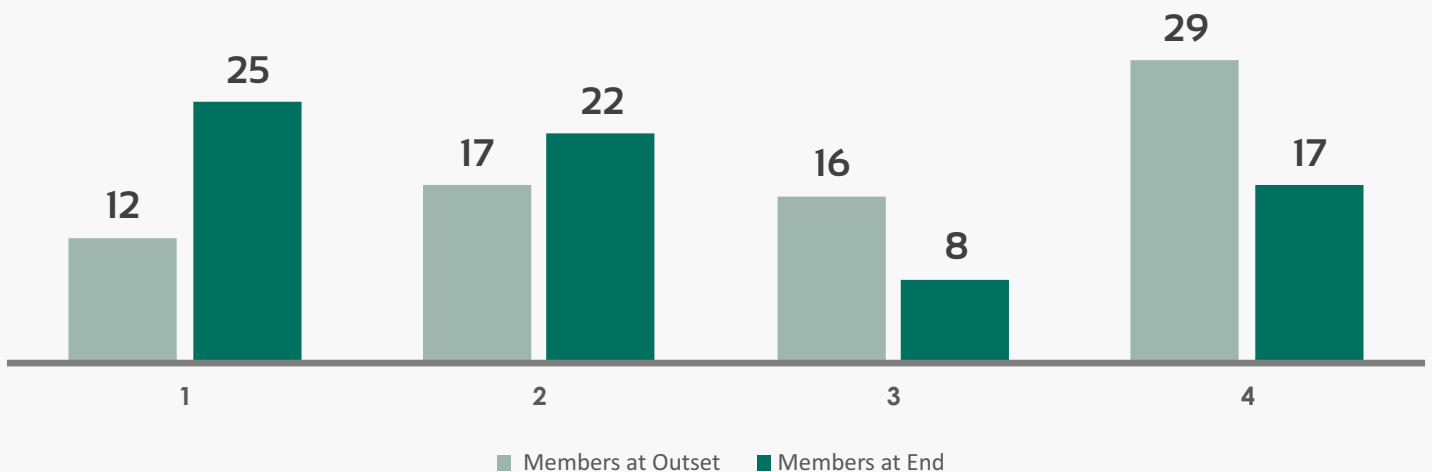


Leader of the Opposition



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

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



NASEER AHMED

 | **4**
BNP-M | attended



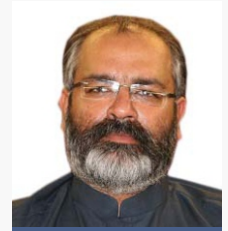
NASRULLAH KHAN BAREACH

 | **4**
PKMAP | attended



SARDAR YAR M. RIND

 | **2**
PTI | attended



GOHRAM BUGTI

 | **2**
JWP | attended



KHALIQ HAZARA

 | **0**
HDP | attended



ASGHAR KHAN ACHAKZAI

 | **0**
ANP | attended

Total
Bills

07

Government Bills
Passed

03

Resolutions
Adopted

05

Standing
Committee Reports

10

Foundation (Amendment) Bill, 2019; the Balochistan Private Educational Institutions Registration and Regulatory Bill, 201; the Balochistan Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education Bill, 2019 and the Balochistan Health Care Commission Bill, 2019.

2.2 Resolutions

The Provincial Assembly adopted five out of seven resolutions appearing on agenda pertaining to various issues of governance while two resolutions were deferred.

Lawmakers individually sponsored five private resolutions while one resolution was jointly sponsored resolution and other was moved by a lawmaker from government benches. The resolutions adopted by the House condemned elimination of special status to IHK by the Indian government and demanded to issue official passport to Members of the House, construct highway from Mashkel to Nok Kundi, take steps to curb child labor and provide financial assistance to the farmers after loss to their crops.

Six lawmakers belonging to BNP-M, MMAP, PkMAP and BAP sponsored as many while one was sponsored by BAP and MMAP lawmakers.

2.3 Reports and Papers

Two reports each of the Standing Committees on Social Welfare and Agriculture were presented. Meanwhile three statutory reports and as many reports on National Finance Commission were presented in the House. The House adopted on report each presented by Standing Committees on Social Welfare and Agriculture.

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

As per Rule 33 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Balochistan Assembly, the first hour of regular weekday

Starred
Questions

16

Adjournment
Motions

03

Total
Debates

06

Point of
Orders

28

sittings of the House is reserved for asking and answering questions by the members.

The lawmakers asked as many as 16 starred questions. The House took up 12 (75 percent) starred questions for verbal answers during the proceedings while the remaining four (25 percent) were left unaddressed due to absence of their movers or the concerned ministers. In addition, the lawmakers asked 22 supplementary questions as well for further elucidation of the government's replies on starred questions.

3.2 Adjournment Motions

The Assembly may adjourn its regular proceedings to debate any definite and urgent matter of public importance raised through an Adjournment Motion. 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 PkMAP and BNP submitted three Adjournment Motions seeking discussions on matters of urgent public importance. All three were taken up in the House which were about prevailing law and order situation and stance of the Federal government on Reko diq case and penalty to Pakistan in it by the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Dispute.

3.3 General Debates in the House

The House conducted debate on various parliamentary interventions during the 15th session of Balochistan Assembly which included resolutions and adjournment motions. Seventeen lawmakers participated in these debates consuming five hours of the proceedings' time.

4 Order and Institutionalization

Order and Institutionalization is important for an efficient and productive legislature. This section provides information about Points of Order, quorum and any instances of walkout during the proceedings.

4.1 Points of Order

Lawmakers spoke on 28 POs during the session consuming two

Walkout

01

hours and 26 minutes of the proceedings. They discussed issues related to house business, unemployment, water scarcity, doctor's strike, role of law enforcement agencies and governance.

4.2 Walkout/Protest

The entire opposition walked out of the proceedings for 15 minutes against the attitude of the Chair who allowed to move motions for passage of government bills without referring them to the concerned standing committees. A lawmaker pointed out quorum on an occasion during the fourth sitting but the Chair ignored it.

4.3 Quorum

A lawmaker pointed out quorum on an occasion during the fourth sitting of the session but the Chair ignored it and did not direct for counting.

Quorum

01

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.