

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF BALOCHISTAN

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

17th SESSION

November 12 - November 21, 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
PO	Point of Order

Total
Sittings

04

Working
Days

10

Cumulative
Duration

11

Hours & 25 Minutes

Total
Break Time

2

Hours & Seven Minutes

BALUCHISTAN ASSEMBLY ADDRESSES ENTIRE AGENDA DURING 17TH SESSION

■ 31 percent lawmakers contribute to the Assembly Business

The Provincial Assembly of Balochistan addressed entire scheduled agenda during its 17th session that continued between November 12 and November 21, 2019, observes Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) in its Session Report.

The session's agenda comprised ten resolutions, four legislative proposals, four Calling Attention Notices (CANs), two adjournment motions and three standing committees' reports on as many bills and three statutory reports.

Of 65 lawmakers, 20 (31%) lawmakers – 19 male and one female – participated in the debates held on various agenda items taken up during the House proceedings. Of 20 participating lawmakers, seven belonged to BAP, five to BNP-M, three to MMAP, two to HDP and one each to PkMAP, ANP and BNP-A

1 Session Duration and Attendance

The session comprised four sittings and spanned over ten working days. The cumulative duration of four sittings was 11 hours and 25 minutes while each sitting started 48 minutes behind the scheduled time and lasted two hours and 51 minutes, on an average. According to the headcount conducted by FAFEN observer, 15 percent lawmakers, on an average, were present at the start and 20 percent at the adjournment of each sitting.

The Speaker remained absent throughout the session while the Deputy Speaker attended all four sittings and presided over the proceedings for eight hours and 21 minute (73 percent of the session). A Member of Panel of Chairpersons chaired rest of the proceedings for 57 minutes (eight percent of the session) while remaining 19 percent of the session's time was consumed in breaks.

The Leader of the House (Chief Minister) attended one out of four

Average
Sitting Delay

48

minutes

Members at Outset
(Average)

10

present

Members at End
(Average)

13

present

Maximum
Members

31

sittings during the session for 33 minutes (five percent of the proceedings' time) while the Leader of the Opposition remained present in two sittings for six hours and 51 minutes (60% of the proceedings' time).

The parliamentary leaders of PkMAP, BNP-M and BNP-A attended all four sittings while the MMA, PTI and BAP leaders were present in two sittings respectively. Moreover, the leaders of ANP and HDP attended one sitting each. The parliamentary leader of JWP remained absent throughout the 17th 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.

I. Legislation

The legislative business of seventeenth session comprised four government bills, three of which were approved by the House while a government bill titled the Balochistan Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced. A brief description of passed bills is following:

I. The Balochistan Health Care Commission Bill, 2019

This bill aims to establish Balochistan Health Care Commission in order to improve the quality of health care services and check activities of quacks. The Commission shall perform under Health Department and to be comprised of nine member of which seven will be nominated on the recommendations of Search Committee.

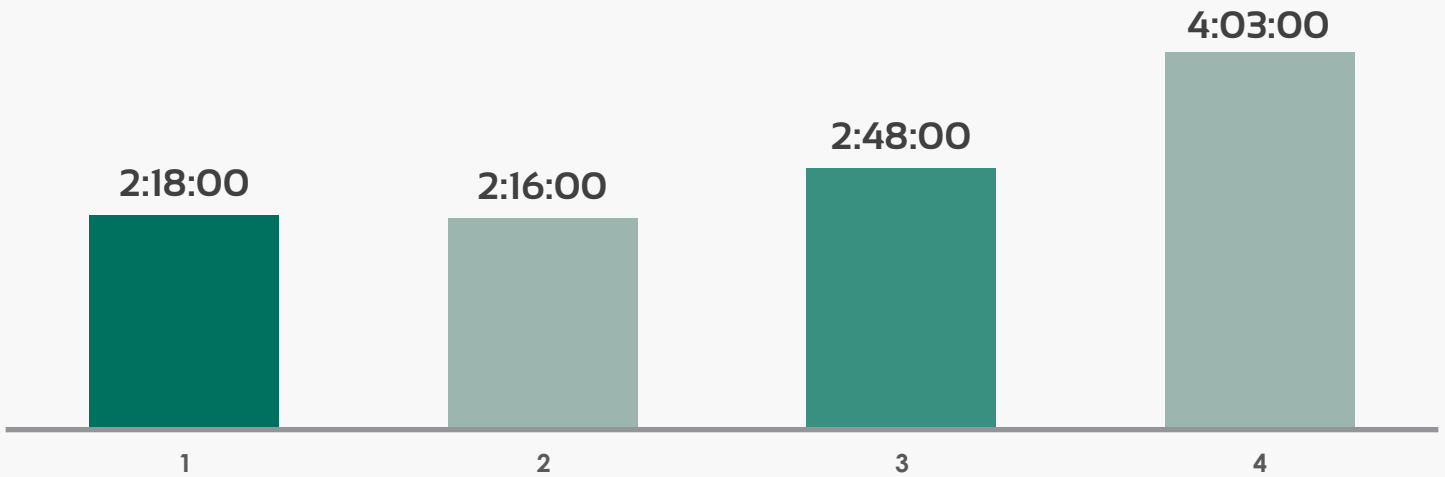
II. The Code of Civil Procedure (Balochistan Amendment) Bill, 2019

The bill proposes 19 amendments in the Code of Civil procedure, Act 1980 including revision of the penalty and punishments under various criminal offences.

III. The Balochistan Chief Minister and Provincial Ministers (Salaries, Allowances, and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The bill suggests amendments in the Balochistan Chief Minister and Provincial Ministers (Salaries, Allowances, and Privileges) Act, 1975. It allows the Chief Minister to use an aircraft or helicopter for

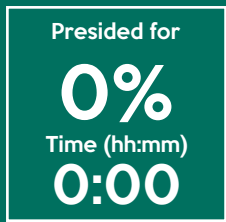
SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



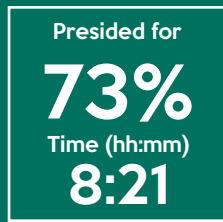
KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



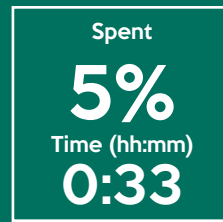
Speaker



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



BNP-M

4

attended



NASRULLAH KHAN BAREACH



PKMAP

4

attended



SARDAR YAR M. RIND



PTI

2

attended



KHALIQ HAZARA



HDP

1

attended



ASGHAR KHAN ACHAKZAI



ANP

1

attended



GOHRAM BUGTI



JWP

0

attended

Government
Bills

04

Passed
Bills

03

Resolutions
Adopted

05

Introduced
Bill

01

official purposes on government's expense. Similarly, he may hire an aircraft or helicopter from open market or requisitions it from Pakistan Air Force or Federal Government for official use on government's expense. Moreover, the CM may allow a Minister or any official to use an aircraft or helicopter of government for official use on government expense.

II. Resolutions

The Assembly adopted seven resolutions appearing on its regular agenda during the session. Moreover, three resolution were taken up but deferred due to absence of their movers. Among the adopted resolutions, one resolution was initiated by the government, three were jointly sponsored by treasury and opposition lawmakers and another three were sponsored by private members.

The adopted resolutions recommended to resolve the issue of low pressure of natural gas during winter season in Ziarat; abolish Pakistan Medical Commission Ordinance, 2019 and restore Pakistan Medical and Dental Council; implement child protection laws; constitute High Court Circuit Bench in Kharan Division, take measures for road safety to avoid accidents on National Highways, set up medical college for Rakhshan and Naseerabad Divisions and abolish buildings constructed illegally in Samungli, Quetta.

Out of seven resolutions adopted by the House, four were addressed to the Federal Government while remaining three were addressed to the provincial government of Balochistan.

The House deferred three resolutions that urged the government to restart the Bostan to Zohab Railway Line, reactivate Passport office in Wask and provide gas to residents of Zirat Karas and Qilla Saif Ullah.

III. Reports

The government presented six reports including three reports of the standing committees' on legislative proposals, two periodical reports on the performance of government departments and one report on the implementation status of National Finance Commission (NFC) Award.

Resolutions
Adopted

07

Reports

06

Calling Attention
Notice

04

Questions

43

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.

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 one government day of the session due to delay on part of the relevant ministries in submitting replies of the questions.

Out of 43 Starred Questions, the House addressed 18 (42%) questions while leaving the remaining 25 (58%) questions unaddressed due to absence of the movers or the concerned ministers. In addition, the lawmakers asked 22 supplementary questions.

II. Call Attention Notices

The House took up four Call Attention Notices (CANs) appearing on the agenda. The addressed CANs highlighted the issues about allocation of funds for construction of a road in district Khuzdar, appointment of medical staff at newly established BHU in Quetta, initiating campaign on importance of Reko Diq and award of a development project to a banned construction company.

Lawmakers belonging to BNP raised three CANs while one was sponsored by a PkMAP lawmaker.

III. Adjournment Motion

The House debated two Adjournment Motions (AMs) during the session about abduction of a student for ransom in District Qilla Abdullah and low pressure of gas in Quetta. The first AM was responded to by the Home Minister while second was answered by Provincial Minister for Revenue.

Supplementary
Questions

43

Time Consumed in
Debate on
Parliamentary
Interventions

3

Hours & 17 Minutes

Points of
Order

26

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 lawmaker, the House adopted a motion under Rule 180 to draft Rules of Procedures for functioning of Provincial Women Parliamentary Caucus.

II. Points of Order

Lawmakers spoke on 26 Points of Order (POs) during the session, consuming an hour and 26 minutes of the proceedings (15 percent of the session). The matters related to the House Business, law and order, health, energy as well as governance were discussed through POs.

III. Protest, Walkout and Pointing of Quorum

There was no incident of protest, walkout or pointing of quorum during the entire 17th 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.