

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF BALOCHISTAN

# FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

## 18<sup>th</sup> SESSION

December 17 - December 26, 2019



**FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK**

[www.fafen.org](http://www.fafen.org) | [www.openparliament.pk](http://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           |
| PO    | Point of Order                     |

Total  
Sittings

04

Working  
Days

10

Cumulative  
Duration

14

Hours &amp; 42 Minutes

Longest  
Sitting2<sup>nd</sup>Five hours and  
ten minutes

# BALUCHISTAN ASSEMBLY WITNESSES LOW INTEREST OF LAWMAKERS DURING 18TH SESSION

The 18th session of the Balochistan Assembly witnessed low attendance and less interest of the lawmakers in the parliamentary proceedings as three out of four sittings were adjourned due to lack of quorum without addressing most of the scheduled agenda, observes the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN)

The session, comprising four sittings, started on December 17, 2019 and concluded on December 26, 2019. On average, each sitting started an hour and six minutes behind the scheduled time and lasted three hours and 40 minutes.

FAFEN conducts a headcount of members at the commencement and adjournment of each sitting and also documents the actual time spent by the legislators, including the Chief Minister, Opposition Leader, Speaker and Deputy Speaker. According to FAFEN's observation, the lawmakers' attendance remained low throughout the session – with an average of 14 (21%) members present at the commencement and eight (12%) at the adjournment of each sitting. The Chief Minister was present in three sittings and attended 34% of the proceedings, while the Leader of the Opposition attended four sittings and remained present during entire proceedings. The speaker was present in one sitting and presided over 25% of the session's time while the Deputy Speaker remained present in two sittings and chaired 39% percent of the proceedings. The Members of the Panel of Chairpersons presided over 18% of the proceedings. Moreover, the parliamentary leaders of ANP and PkMAP attended all four sittings while the parliamentary leaders of BAP, HDP, MMA and BNP-M attended three sittings. The parliamentary leaders of PTI, JWP and BNP-A did not attend any sitting of the session.

The regular as well as supplementary agenda of the House during 18th session comprised eight resolutions, four Call Attention Notices (CANs), one private motion, two adjournment motions and 54 starred questions. All four CANs were answered, seven resolutions were adopted and one was deferred while none of the adjournment motion was taken up.

Total  
Break Time

2

hours and 38 minutes

Average  
Delay

1

Hour &amp; six Minutes

Members at Outset  
(Average)

14

present

Members at End  
(Average)

8

## 1 Session Duration and Attendance

The 18th session of Balochistan Assembly comprising four sittings commenced on December 17, 2019 and prorogued on December 26, 2019. The low attendance of the lawmakers was marked during the session as an average of 14 lawmakers (21%) were observed to be present at the start and eight members (12%) at the end of each sitting. Two minority members in the House attended all four sittings.

The cumulative duration of all four sittings was fourteen hours and 42 minutes. Each sitting, on average, started an hour and six minutes behind the scheduled time and lasted three hours and 40 minutes. The Speaker attended only one sitting and presided over 25 percent of the session's time. The Deputy Speaker, on the other hand, remained present in two sittings and chaired 39 percent of the proceedings. The Members of the Panel of Chairpersons presided over 18 percent of the proceedings while remaining 18 percent of the session's time was consumed in breaks.

The Leader of the House remained present in three sittings and attended 34 percent of the session's time, while the Opposition Leader was present in all four sittings and attended entire proceedings. The parliamentary leaders of ANP and PkMAP attended all four sittings while the parliamentary leaders of BAP, HDP, MMA and BNP-M attended three sittings. The parliamentary leaders of PTI, JWP and BNP-A did not attend any sitting of 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.

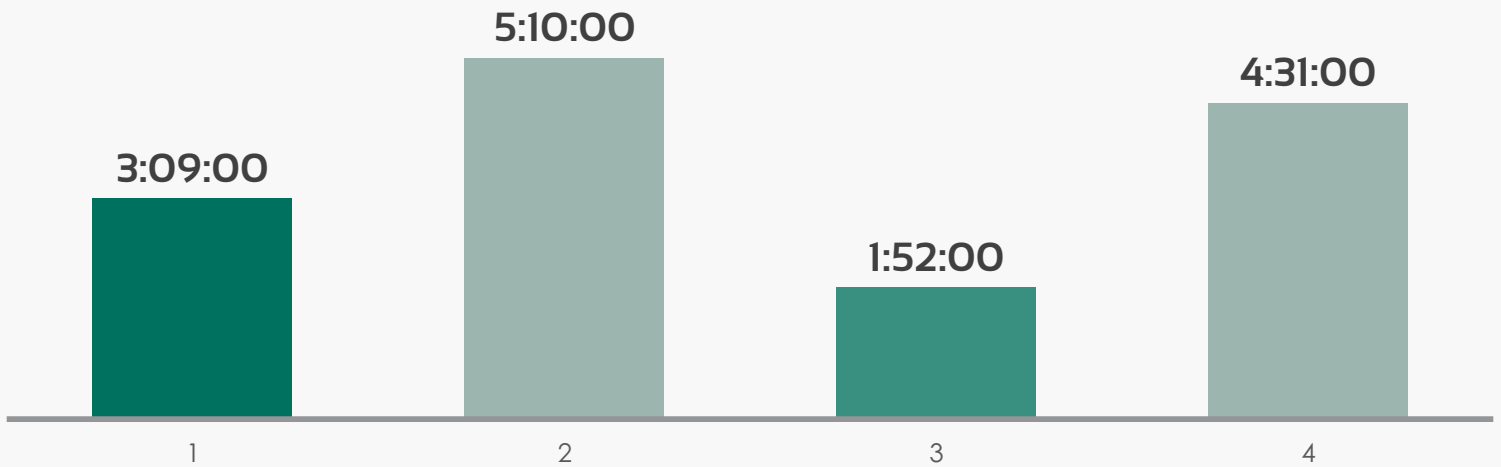
### 2.1 Legislation

No legislative proposal appeared on the agenda during the session. Neither government, nor a private member proposed any kind of legislation.

### 2.2 Resolutions

The Provincial Assembly adopted seven out of eight resolutions appearing on the agenda related to various issues of governance while one resolution was deferred.

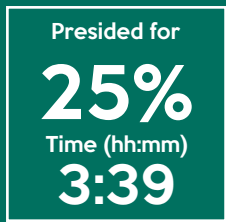
## SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



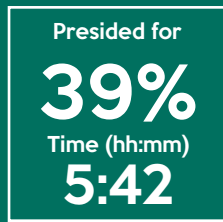
## KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



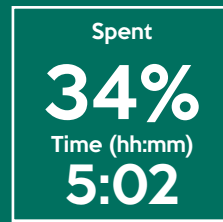
Speaker



Deputy Speaker



Leader of the House

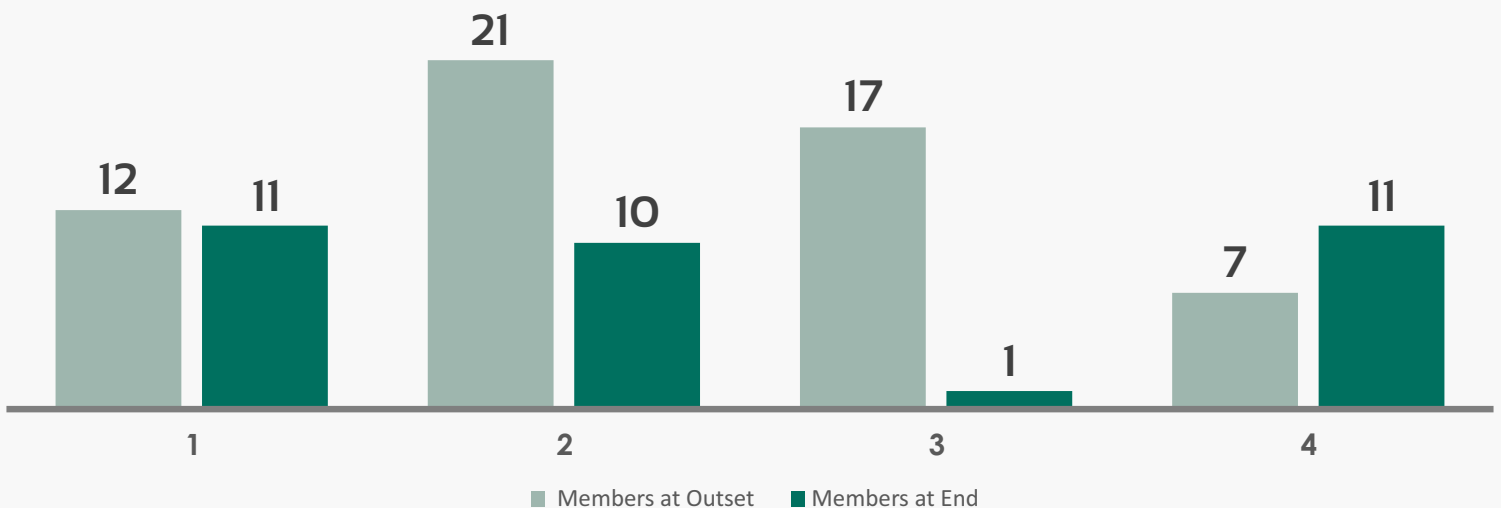


Leader of the Opposition



\*18 percent proceedings were chaired by a member of panel of presiding officer

## MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



# PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



**ASGHAR KHAN ACHAKZAI**



ANP

**4**

attended



**NASRULLAH KHAN BAREACH**



PkMAP

**4**

attended



**NASEER AHMED**



BNP-M

**3**

attended



**KHALIQ HAZARA**



HDP

**3**

attended



**GOHRAN BUGTI**



JWP

**0**

attended



**SARDAR YAR M. RIND**



PTI

**0**

attended

Resolutions  
Adopted

7

Private  
Motion

1

Calling Attention  
Notices

4

Questions

54

Besides a government resolution, lawmakers individually sponsored five private resolutions while two resolutions were jointly sponsored during the reporting period. Two of these resolutions condemned desecration of Holy Quran in Norway and India's anti-Muslim law while others demanded to restore students' unions at educational institutions of province, decrease prices of edibles, expand NADRA Centre in Pishin, provide all facilities to Gawadar Port, resolve traders' problems and develop road infrastructure in Sariab.

Those sponsoring resolutions included four lawmakers of BNP followed by three lawmakers of MMAP, two of BAP and one each of PkMAP and BNP-A.

## 2.3 Reports and Papers

A total of nine reports were part of the agenda during the session of which only one was presented. Standing Committee on Balochistan Development Authority (BDA) and Urban Planning, & Development presented report on the Balochistan Housing & Citizen planning Bill, 2019. Six reports related to Standing Committee on Finance and one report each of Standing Committee on Irrigation and Information were not presented in the House.

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

The House took up 24 (44 percent) starred questions for verbal answers during the proceedings while the remaining 30 (55 percent) were left unaddressed due to absence of their movers or the concerned ministers. In addition, the lawmakers asked 31 supplementary questions as well for further elucidation of the government's replies on starred questions.

Questions Taken Up

24

Questions Not Taken Up

30

Questions Supplementary

31

Points of Order

38

| Ministries/Departments   | Starred Questions |
|--|-------------------|
| Home & Tribal Affairs, PDMA  | 9                 |
| Communication, Works and Agriculture & Cooperatives                                      | 19                |
| Transportation, Inter-Provincial Coordination and Local Government and Rural Development | 10                |
| Public Health Engineering, Social Welfare & Non-Formal Education and Food                | 16                |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>54</b>         |

### 3.2 Call Attention Notices

The government responded to four CANs appearing on agenda during the session. Two CANs each were sponsored by PkMAP and BNP lawmakers which sought government response about termination of nutrition program, cancellation of a tender under Quetta Development Package, result of exams conducted against posts of teachers and allocation of fund for construction of cancer hospital.

### 3.3 Adjournment Motion

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 PkMAP and BNP submitted two adjournment motions seeking debate on matters of urgent public importance. The House did not take up these motions regarding incidents of road accidents on main highways in Quetta and payment of land acquired by the government in the province.

### 3.4 Private Motion

The last half an hour of any sitting of Balochistan Assembly is utilized as “Zero Hour” and any member may give a notice to Secretary for a matter of public importance to be taken up in the Zero Hour. Only one motion under Rule-101 was moved by a BNP lawmaker which was not considered by the House.



Protests

2

Identification of  
Lack of  
Quorum

3

### 3.5 General Debates in the House

The House conducted debate on various parliamentary interventions during the 18th session of Balochistan Assembly which included adopted resolutions and a CAN. As many as 16 lawmakers participated in debates on them consuming two hours and 52 minutes of the session's 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 38 Points of Order (POs) during the session consuming three hours and 41 minutes of the proceedings. They discussed matters related to parliamentary business, politics, health, governance, economy, law and order and foreign policy.

### 4.2 Walkout/Protest

The opposition lawmakers staged protests on two occasions during the proceedings consuming an hour and 21 minute of the session's time. These protests were against the controversial statement of a BAP lawmaker during his speech on floor of the House and non-provision of basic facilities to residents of Gwadar.

### 4.3 Quorum

Quorum was questioned on three occasions in the House during the session. The lawmakers belonging to BNP identified the lack of quorum twice while it was pointed out by an MMAP lawmaker on an occasion. Quorum was not found complete on all three occasions and the sittings had to be adjourned.

## 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](http://www.fafen.org)  
[www.openparliament.pk](http://www.openparliament.pk)  
[www.parliamentfiles.com](http://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.*