

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF BALOCHISTAN

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR 20th SESSION

February 18 - February 27, 2020



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

Cumulative
Duration

14

Hours & 37 Minutes

Longest
Sitting1stFour Hours &
22 MinutesTotal
Break Time

2

Hours & 28 Minutes

BALUCHISTAN ASSEMBLY ADDRESSES ONE-FOURTH AGENDA DURING 20TH SESSION

■ Session Prorogued after Quorum Pointed Out by Food Minister

The Provincial Assembly of Balochistan addressed 25 percent of the scheduled business during 20th session that commenced on February 18, 2020 and continued until February 27, 2020, observes Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) in its session report.

Low attendance of the lawmakers was noticed during all four sittings as on average 13 lawmakers (20%) were observed to be present at the start and 11 members (17%) at the end of each sitting. Two minority members attended all sittings. Cumulative time of the four sittings of the session was 14 hours and 37 minutes, while each sitting, on average, started an hour and 21 minutes behind the schedule and lasted three hours and 39 minutes. Lack of quorum was pointed out by the Provincial Minister for Food that led to the prorogation of the session on February 27, 2020.

The Leader of the House remained present in three sittings and attended 16 percent of the session's time, while the Opposition Leader was present in three sittings and attended 21 percent of the proceedings.

The regular as well as supplementary agenda of the House during 20th session comprised eight resolutions, three Call Attention Notices (CANs), two Adjournment Motions and 48 starred questions. All three CANs were answered, two Adjournment Motion were taken up and five resolutions were adopted while 44 starred questions remained unaddressed.

Lawmakers spoke on 29 Points of Order (POs) during the session, consuming an hour and 46 minutes of the proceedings. Three out of six statutory reports were presented while two reports of Standing Committees were not presented.

Two minority lawmakers walked out of the House for 13 minutes during first sitting of the session against the alleged discrimination

Average
Sitting Delay

1

Hour, 21 Minutes

Members at Outset
(Average)

13

present

Members at End
(Average)

11

present

Resolutions
Adopted

5

by the government in distribution of funds among MPAs. The quorum was pointed out on three occasions and A BAP lawmaker pointed out quorum at 1215 hours which was found complete upon counting. However, it was pointed out again by the Provincial Minister for Food at 1325 hours which led to the suspension of the proceedings for 51 minutes and subsequently prorogation of the session at 1433 hours.

1 Session Duration and Attendance

The 20th session of Balochistan Assembly spanning over four sittings commenced on February 18, 2020 and was prorogued on February 27, 2020. The low attendance of the lawmakers was marked during the session as an average of 13 lawmakers (20%) were observed to be present at the start and 11 members (17%) percent at the end of each sitting. Two minority members attended all four sittings.

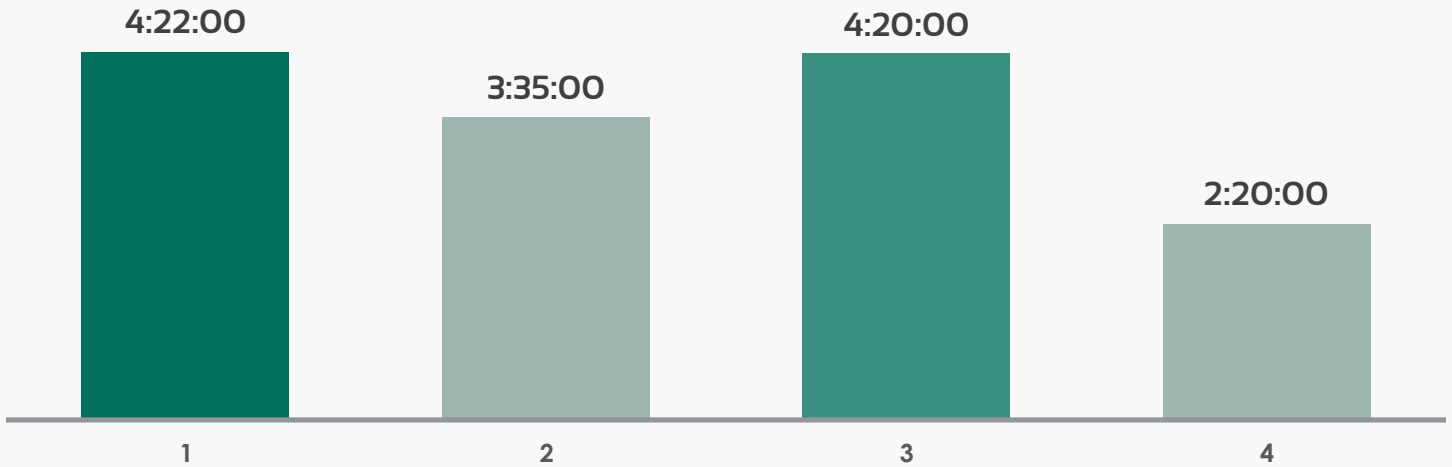
The cumulative duration of all four sittings was 14 hours and 37 minutes. Each sitting, on average, started an hour and 21 minutes behind the schedule and lasted for three hours and 39 minutes. The Speaker was present in three sittings and presided over 28 percent of the session's time while the Deputy Speaker attended three sittings and chaired 42 percent of the proceedings. The Members of the Panel of Chairpersons presided over 13 percent of the proceedings.

The proceedings remained suspended for two hours and 28 minutes due to prayer breaks and lack of quorum. The Leaders of the House and the Opposition remained present in three sittings for 16 percent and 21 percent of the proceedings' time respectively. The parliamentary leader of BNP-M attended all four sittings while the leaders of BAP, BNP-A, MMAP and PkMAP attended three sittings. The parliamentary leaders of ANP, PTI and HDP attended only one sitting while the parliamentary leader of JWP did not attend any of the sitting.

2 Assembly Output

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

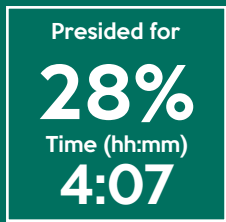
SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



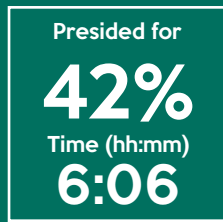
KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



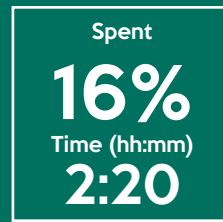
Speaker



Deputy Speaker



Leader of the House

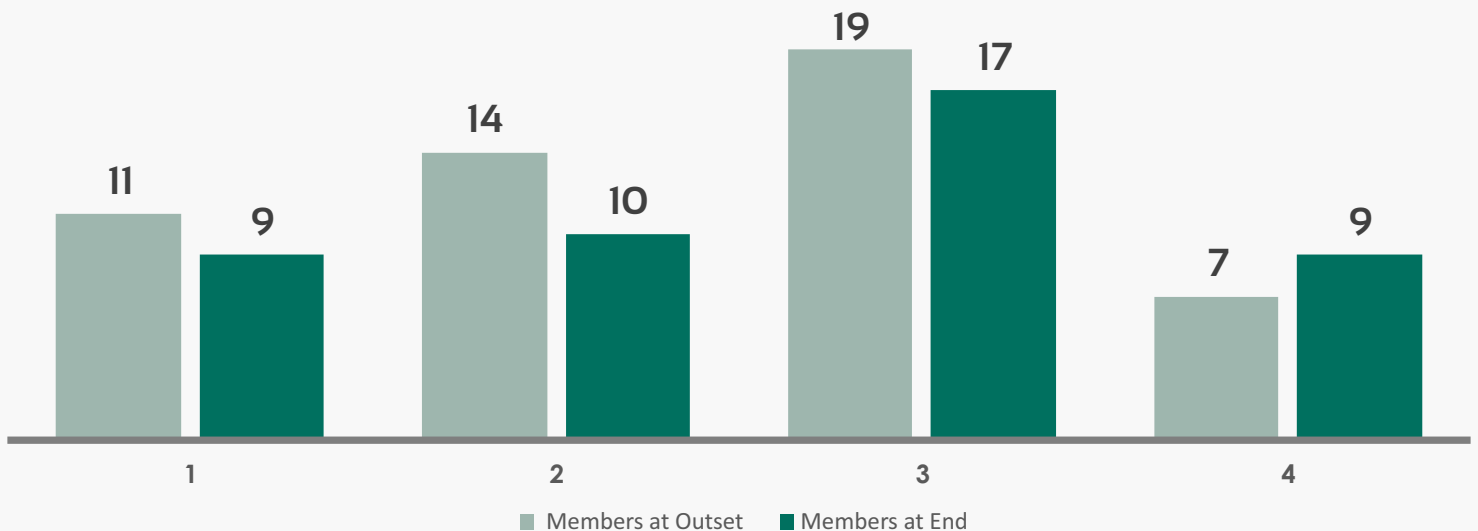


Leader of the Opposition



*13 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

3

attended



SARDAR YAR M. RIND



PTI

1

attended



KHALIQ HAZARA



HDP

1

attended



ASGHAR KHAN ACHAKZAI



ANP

1

attended



GOHRAM BUGTI



JWP

0

attended

Reports

08

Adjournment
Motions

02

Calling Attention
Notices

03

Questions

48

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 four out of seven resolutions appearing on the agenda which demanded the government to overcome unemployment issue, provide basic facilities in housing societies, construct two lane road between Mastung and Quetta and introduce proper religious words in textbooks.

The House also adopted a supplementary resolution to express solidarity with people of Iran and China over casualties caused by outspread of the coronavirus. Three unaddressed resolutions were about establishing technical colleges at level of union councils, initiate development work in Saryab region and stretching railway line in Zoab.

All these resolutions were sponsored by lawmakers belonging to BNP-M, BNP-A, PTI, PkMAP and MMAP.

2.3 Reports and Papers

A total of eight reports were part of the agenda during the session. Three statutory reports were presented while as many reports were not presented. Two other reports of Standing Committees on Irrigation, Energy and Environment and Information, Sports and Culture 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 (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 sittings of the House is reserved for asking and answering questions by the members.

Questions
Taken Up

04

Questions
Not Taken Up

44

Questions
Supplementary

06

Points of
Order

29

The House took up four out of 48 starred questions for verbal answers during the proceedings while the remaining 44 questions were left unaddressed due to absence of their movers or the concerned ministers. In addition, the lawmakers asked six supplementary questions as well for further elucidation of the government's replies on starred questions.

Ministries/Departments	Questions
Health	10
Public Health Engineering	9
Home	7
Agriculture	6
Livestock & Dairy Development	6
Local Government	3
Services and General Administration	3
Transport	3
Industries & Commerce	1
Total	48

Six lawmakers belonging to BNP asked 15 questions, five MMAP lawmakers asked 22 questions while one PkMAP MPA asked 11 questions as well.

3.2 Calling Attention Notices

The government responded to three Calling Attention Notices (CANs) and all these notices were sponsored by BNP-M lawmakers. These CANs highlighted the issues related to employees and students of Bolan Medical College Quetta, payments against the land acquired for extension of roads and treatment facilities against cancer.

3.3 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 PkMAP and BNP submitted two Adjournment Motions seeking discussions on matters of urgent public importance. Both Adjournment Motions were taken up in the House which were about incident of bomb blast in Quetta city

Walkout

01

Quorum

03

and government strategy to avoid the spread of Corona Virus in Pakistan. Twenty-six lawmakers debated these motions for a total of six hours and ten minutes.

3.4 General Debates in the House

The House conducted debate on various parliamentary interventions other than adjournment motions which included resolutions and Calling Attention Notices. Eleven lawmakers participated in debate on them for a total of 50 minutes.

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 29 Points of Order (POs) during the session, consuming an hour and 46 minutes of the proceedings. They discussed the issues related to house business, unemployment, downsizing in media houses, minority, corruption in government departments, merit and suffering of devotees at Pak-Afghan border.

4.2 Walkout/Protest

Two minority lawmakers walked out of the House for 13 minutes during first sitting of the session against the alleged discrimination by the government in distribution of funds among MPAs.

4.3 Quorum

Quorum was questioned three times in the House during the session. An MMAP lawmaker pointed out quorum during second sitting but the Chair ignored it. A BAP lawmaker pointed out quorum in 4th sitting which was found complete upon counting. However, it was pointed out again by the Provincial Minister for Food in the same sitting which led to the suspension of the proceedings for 51 minutes and subsequently prorogation of 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.