

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF PUNJAB

# FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

**21st Session**

May 8 - May 12, 2020



**FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK**

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# ABBREVIATIONS

CANs	CALL ATTENTION NOTICES
PML	PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE
PML-N	PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE (NAWAZ)
PPPP	PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY PARLIAMENTARIANS
PRHP	PAKISTAN RAH-E-HAQ PARTY
PTI	PAKISTAN TEHREEK-E-INSAF
POs	POINTS OF ORDER

Total  
Sittings

3

Total Session's  
Time

5

Hours, 29 Minutes

Breaks/Suspension

0

Minute

Members at the  
outset

25

## PUNJAB ASSEMBLY MEETS TO DISCUSS STRATEGY AGAINST COVID-19, ADDRESSES 27% AGENDA

The Provincial Assembly of Punjab met after a gap of around two months to discuss strategy of provincial government against coronavirus and addressed 27 percent of its scheduled business during 21<sup>st</sup> session, observes Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) in its session report.

The session comprising three sittings convened on the requisition of the Opposition amid strict Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) introduced by the assembly secretariat to fight the COVID-19. Each sitting, on an average, lasted an hour and 49 minutes. An average of 25 (7%) lawmakers were present at the outset and 18 (5%) lawmakers at the adjournment of each sitting. The Leader of the House (Chief Minister) did not attend any of the sitting while the Leader of the Opposition was present in third sitting continued for an hour and 20 minutes (24% of the session's time).

The regular as well as supplementary agenda of the House during 21<sup>st</sup> session comprised ten legislative proposals including seven ordinances, five resolutions, two Call Attention Notices (CANs), an adjournment motion and 78 starred questions. The House overall transacted 27% agenda while lawmakers spoke on 31 Points of Order (POs) during the session.

### 1 Session, Duration and Attendance

The 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Punjab Assembly, comprising three sittings, continued between May 8, 2020 and May 12, 2020. The cumulative duration of the session was five hours and 29 minutes. Each sitting, on an average, continued nearly for an hour and 49 minutes. The Speaker was present in two sittings and chaired the proceedings for two hours and 36 minutes (47 percent of the session's time). The Deputy Speaker did not attend any of the sitting while a Member of Panel of Chairpersons presided over the proceedings for two hour and 53 minutes (53 percent of session's time).

The Leader of the House (Chief Minister) did not attend any of the sitting while the Leader of the Opposition was present in one sitting. According to headcounts conducted by FAFEN, an average of 25 (7%) lawmakers were present at the outset and 18 (5%) at the adjournment of each sitting. The parliamentary leader of PPPP and PRHP attended three and two sittings respectively while PML leader did not attend any of the sitting.

Members at the End

18

Ordinances Laid

7

Govt. Bills Passed

2

Private Member's Bill Passed

1

## 2 Assembly Output

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

### 2.1 Legislation

A total of 10 legislative proposals including seven ordinances, one private and two government bills were brought before the House during 21st session. The House passed three bills including a private member's bill while seven other ordinances were also laid in the House.

The Provincial Minister for Law laid all ordinances during the first sitting which were the Punjab Infectious Diseases (Prevention and Control) Ordinance, 2020; the Punjab Local Government (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020; the Punjab Village Panchayats and Neighbourhood Councils (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020; the Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020; the Punjab Prevention of Hoarding Ordinance, 2020; the Punjab Private Educational Institutions (Promotion and Regulation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 and the Code of Civil Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

Two government bills including the Code of Criminal Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020 and the Punjab Village Panchayats and Neighbourhood Councils (Amendment) Bill, 2020 were passed by the House. Sponsored by a PML lawmaker, the House also passed the Green International University Bill, 2020.

Details of the bills passed in the House were as follows:

#### 2.1.1 Passed Government Bills

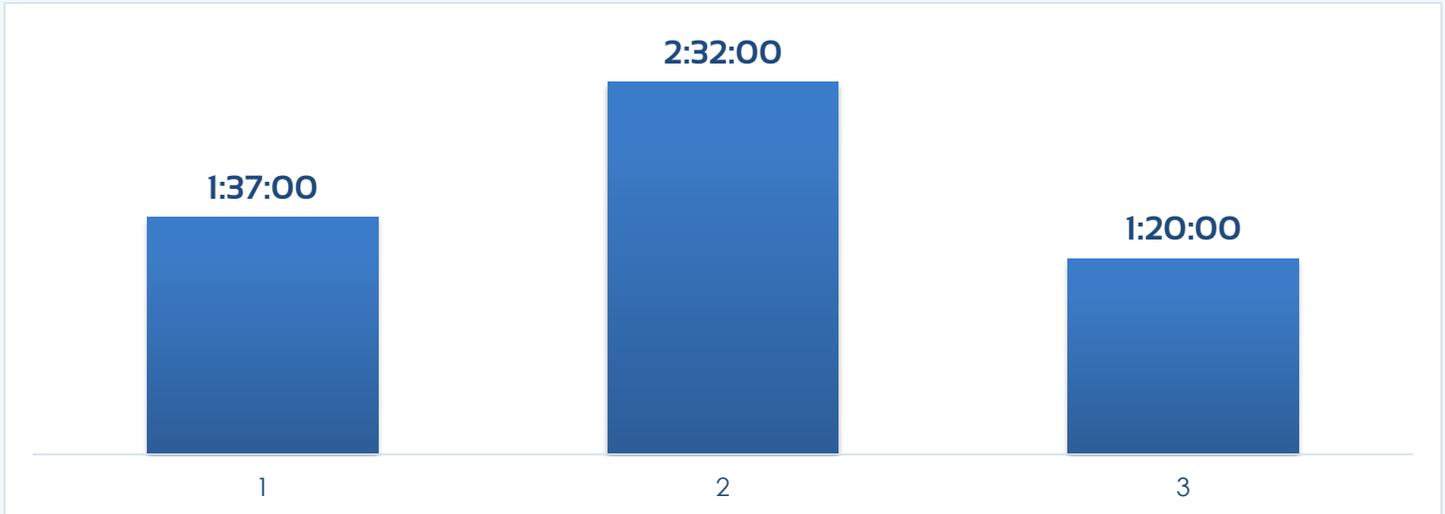
##### 1. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020

The bill aims at introducing amendment in the section 14A of the existing law the code of Criminal Procedure 1898 (V of 1898). The government looks at quick and speedy enforcement of certain local and special laws in Punjab and this bill suggests revised jurisdiction of special magistrates to implement these laws.

##### 2. The Punjab Village Panchayats and Neighbourhood Councils (Amendment) Bill, 2020

The bill aims to amend the existing the Punjab Village Panchayats and Neighbourhood Council Act, 2019. An amendment in the section 21 of the existing law has been proposed to correct a grammatical error. Amendments have been introduced in the first schedule of the existing Act that defines the population and number of neighborhoods in the various cities and towns. The objective is to revise the population limits of the neighborhoods or increase number of neighborhoods in the metropolitan cities Lahore, Gujranwala and Multan.

## SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



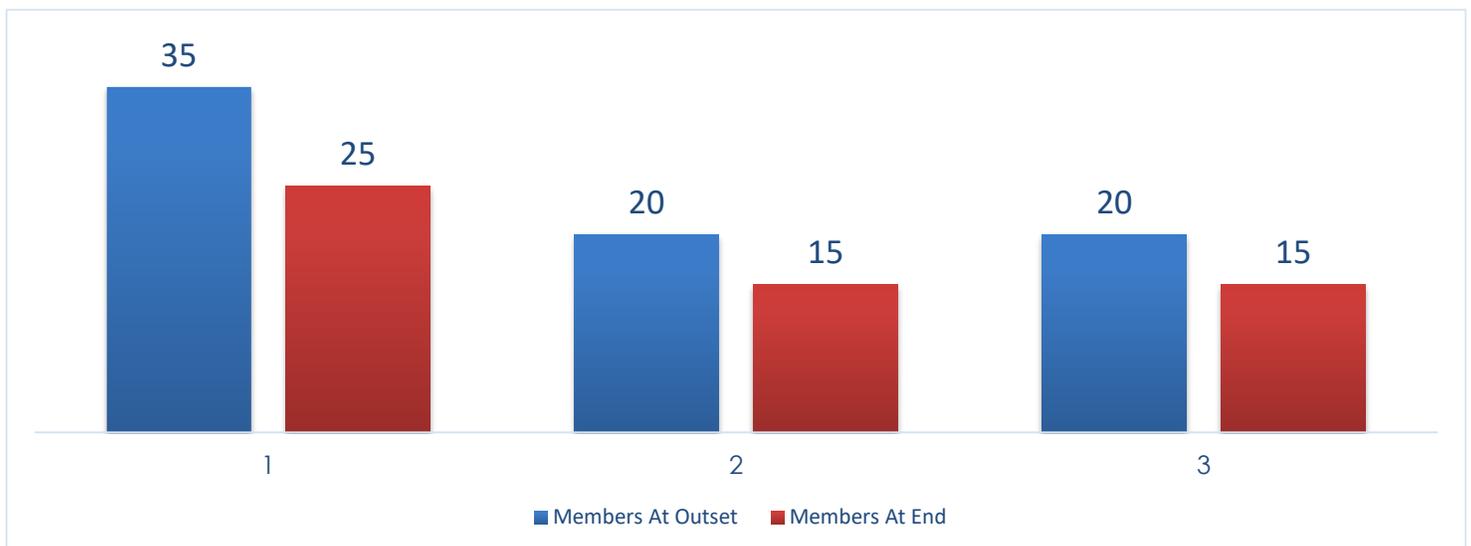
## KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



## PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



## MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



Total Resolutions

5

Resolutions Passed

2

Resolutions Deferred

2

Resolution withdrawn

1

The amendment in `serial 1' of the first schedule revises the population size of a neighborhood as per last available census of Metropolitan Corporation Lahore from " between thirty thousand and forty-five thousand" to " between fifteen thousand to twenty two thousand" while maximum permitted neighbor hoods have been increased from 280 to 475. Likewise, the amendment in `serial 3' of the first schedule suggests to increase the number of permitted neighbor hoods from 105 to 115 in Metropolitan Corporation Gujranwala. Another amendment in `serial 4' of the first schedule suggests to increase the number of permitted neighbor hoods from 95 to 105 in Metropolitan Corporation Multan.

### 2.1.2 Passed Private Member's Bill

#### 1. The Green International University Bill, 2020

It aims to establish Green International University in the private sector with its campus located at Lahore. The university will provide instruction and training in faculties of Science and Technology; Law and Shriah; Social Sciences and Management Studies; Languages, Arts and Humanities; Pharmaceutical Sciences; Medicine and Allied Health Sciences; Engineering and Information Technology and etc.

### 2.2 Resolutions

Sponsored by a PTI lawmaker, the House passed a resolution to express sorrow over the sad demise of former parliamentarian Raja Ashfaq Sarwar. A PML lawmaker also tabled a resolution about firm belief of Muslims on finality of prophethood which was also adopted by the House.

A PML-N lawmaker withdrew his resolution about ensuring stress-free procedure for the payment of wheat to the agriculturists following the government' assurance to look into the matter. Two other resolutions about group insurance of government employees and installation of water filtration plants in PP-185 were deferred.

3

### Representation, Responsiveness and Government Oversight

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

According to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Punjab Assembly, the first hour of a sitting of the House is reserved for asking and answering of question by the members. The rules require the government to answer a starred question orally as well as in writing while the un-starred questions are to be replied only in writing.

Questions

78

Taken up Questions

12

Supplementary Questions

23

Call Attention Notices

2

### 3.1 Questions

The lawmakers asked as many as 78 starred questions from three different ministries/departments of the government during the session. The House took up 12 (15 percent) starred questions for verbal answers during the proceedings while the remaining 66 (85 percent) were left unaddressed due to absence of their movers or the concerned ministers and time constraint. In addition, lawmakers asked 23 supplementary questions for further elucidation of the government's replies on starred questions.

The ministry/department wise break-up of starred questions raised during the session is as following:

<b>Ministries-Answer Wise Starred Questions</b>	
<i>Primary and Secondary Healthcare</i>	31
<i>Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education</i>	28
<i>Food</i>	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>

### 3.2 Calling Attention Notices

A lawmaker can call the attention of a minister/department's head for any matter involving law and order situation or a definite matter of urgent public importance, by submitting one calling attention notice per sitting

Sponsored by two PML-N lawmakers separately, the House deferred two CANs related to murder in Lahore and a robbery incident in Gujranwala.

### 3.3 Adjournment Motions

The Assembly may adjourn its regular proceedings to debate any definite and urgent matter of public importance raised through adjournment motions (AMs). Following the discussion, the House may refer the contents of debated AM to the provincial cabinet for its consideration through a substantive motion.

The Chair deferred an Adjournment Motion (AM) of a PPPP lawmaker which was regarding violation of Supreme Court Judgment by private educational institutions about their fee structures.

### 3.4 General Discussion:

The House discussed the proposals about upcoming budget and strategy of the government to contain coronavirus pandemic. A total of 13 lawmakers – PTI (6), PML-N (5), PPPP and PRHP (one each) – participated in debate consuming two hours and 32 minutes (46% of the session's time).

Adjournment Motion

1

Points of Orders

31

## 2 Order and Institutionalization

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

### 4.1 Points of Order

Lawmakers spoke on 31 Points of Order (POs) during the session consuming 38 minutes (12%) of the proceedings.

### 4.2 Walkout/Protest or Quorum

No incident of walkout/protest or identification of lack of quorum was reported during 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](http://www.fafen.org)  
[www.openparliament.pk](http://www.openparliament.pk)  
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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.*