



FAFEN Parliament Monitor

Senate
of Pakistan
78th and 79th
Sessions

(February 17 - March 9, 2012)

Free and Fair Election Network

www.fafen.org

Abbreviations

ANP	Awami National Party
JIP	Jamat-e-Islami Pakistan
JUI	Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam
JUIF	Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam (Fazal-ur-Rehman)
IND	Independent Member
MMAP	Mutihida Majlis-e-Amal Party
NRO	National Reconciliation Ordinance
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PMLN	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
MQM	Mutihida Qaumi Movement
PPPP	Pakistan People's Party (Parliamentarians)
PPPS	Pakistan People's Party (Sherpao)
PW	Parliament Watch
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
PO	Point of Order
QoP	Question of Privilege



This report is based on direct observation of the Senate proceedings conducted by CPDI-Pakistan, a member organization of FAFEN.

Executive Summary

During the 78th and 79th sessions of the Senate between February 17 and March 9, 2012, several Bills pertaining to transparency and democracy in electoral processes, economy, human rights, domestic violence and industrial relations, were passed. Two of these Bills were amendments to the existing constitution and laws.

A highlight of the 79th session was the approval of new rules for the Upper House. The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, which replace the rules approved in 1988, have introduced significant changes like making ministers' presence in the House mandatory during the Question Hour and abolishing discretionary powers of Chairman to appoint the Leader of Opposition. Similarly the new rules also introduce the Prime Minister's Question Hour.

Questions asked from relevant ministries/ministers during Question Hour are an effective tool to evaluate the executive's performance as well as to conduct its oversight. However, no Question Hour was held during the 78th session, whereas all Question Hours scheduled in the 79th session were either suspended or dispensed with.

The 78th session passed the 20th amendment to the constitution, providing legal cover to all by-elections conducted by the Election Commission during an interim period, as well as laying down procedures for filling relevant caretaker posts in the provincial and national assemblies when they are outgoing or stand dissolved. On the other hand, the 79th session saw an amendment being made to the Delimitation of Constituencies Bill, establishing geographical limits of constituencies for elections to the national and provincial assemblies after every census.

The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill for the safety of women and children in homes, and according protection to them from any physical, psychological and verbal abuse within homes as well as from extension of such abuse at workplaces etc. was passed during the 78th session. Also passed was the Industrial Relations Bill during the 79th session. It consolidates and rationalizes the formation of trade unions, improves and regulates relations between employers and workers in the Islamabad Capital Territory and in trans-provincial establishments and industry. Both these Bills were presented by Private Members (Members of Senate who do not hold any government or ministerial office).

Another Bill passed during the 79th session, was the Special Economic Zone Bill, to attract investment (especially foreign) by designating special zones where proactive and liberal economic policies would be implemented to meet the challenges of global competitiveness. The facilitation of increased foreign trade through this Bill has great potential for quality enhancement and creativity of domestic businesses.

Two days after the Upper House unanimously adopted a Resolution to condemn forced disappearances, during the 79th session it also passed a bill for setting up a commission on human rights. It empowers the proposed commission to "visit any jail or any other institution or place" under the government

Parliament Watch

An essential component of democracy is publicly accessible information about the political decision-making processes, such as parliamentary deliberations among elected representatives. Citizens must have information about whether, and how their representatives are performing in the Assembly in order to hold those elected leaders accountable.

The Parliament Watch (PW), an initiative of the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), aims to collect and publish information about the job performance of Members of the National Assembly (MNAs), Provincial Assemblies (MPAs) and Senate by observation of these directly elected representatives' actions. FAFEN intends to foster informed engagement between constituents and elected representatives in Pakistan by providing objective and statistically-sound information on parliamentary processes and decisions.

The methodology of the PW is to deploy trained observers to the National Assembly in order to monitor their performance using a detailed, standardized checklist and reporting forms covering all types of parliamentary business. The information gathered is measured against the neutral and objective framework of the rules of parliamentary procedure.

FAFEN's PW focuses on directly-observed parliamentary procedure in addition to parliamentary output. In other words, FAFEN's criteria for assessing parliamentary effectiveness are primarily process-oriented and secondarily results-oriented.

control "where convicts, under-trial prisoners or other persons are lodged or detained" for ascertaining "whether the provisions of the jail Manual and other applicable laws relating to the inmates are being complied with."

Also adopted were two other Resolutions in this session – one condemning the burning of the Quran by US troops at the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan and the other relating to the suicide attacks on political meetings in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A third one – condolences at the death of a fellow senator - was adopted during the 78th session.

During the same session, there was a walkout led by an ANP Member, protesting false media reports pertaining to supposed arrest warrants issued by Interpol for an unnamed Senator from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. All Members of the Opposition and some from the Coalition left the House for three minutes. Similarly, a 15-minute protest was staged by Senators belonging to the JUJIF, PMLN and ANP as well as the Independent Members against US drone attacks.

There were 38 Points of Orders raised during both sessions which consumed 10% of the total time of 993-minutes. POs can be raised in case of a perceived breach in the proceedings of the House but are often misused to make speeches and rejoinders. Despite the erroneous use of POs, they still reflect the priorities of the Senators regarding the people they represent and issues of national importance. Among other subjects, the Parliamentarians spoke about agriculture, law and order, the National Reconciliation Ordinance, petroleum prices, rehabilitation and reconstruction etc.

All sittings of both sessions were delayed, on average, by 57 minutes. The average time of each sitting was 166 minutes. A maximum of 45 Members were present during each sitting, well above the 1/4th of the total Membership required to maintain Quorum. The Senators' mandate of representing the people, discussing issues of national importance and passing necessary legislation can only be fulfilled if they are present in the House.

The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Panel of Chairpersons, the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition were present in all sittings. The Chairman presided over for 77% of the total duration of both sessions, and the Deputy Chairman for 23% of the time.

1.0 Session Time and Senators' Participation

This section of the report deals with duration for which the Senate met for the sessions. The attendance of Senators, their participation and maintenance of Quorum – at least 1/4th (31) of the total Membership is also discussed in detail. The participation of a Senator is recorded when he or she takes part in the proceedings of the House, or submits an Agenda item. It also reviews the presence of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition and the parliamentary leaders.

1.1 Session Time

Each sitting in both the 78th and 79th sessions of the Senate started late, on average, by 57 minutes. The House met for an average of 166 minutes in each of these sittings. The overall duration of both sessions was 993 minutes, which includes 93 minutes worth of prayer breaks. A 13 minute long prayer break was held in the 1st sitting of 78th session, 32 minutes in 2nd sitting of 78th session and 48 minutes in 1st sitting of 79th session. The second sitting of the 78th session was the longest, lasting three hours and 48 minutes, while the first sitting of the same session was the shortest, lasting for an hour and 41 minutes.

Session	Sitting No	Date	Late Starts (Minutes)	Sitting Duration	
				Hours	Minutes
78th	1st	Friday, February 17, 2012	49	1	41
78th	2nd	Monday, February 20, 2012	112	3	48
79th	1st	Tuesday, March 06, 2012	50	3	30
79th	2nd	Wednesday, March 07, 2012	45	2	5
79th	3rd	Thursday, March 08, 2012	52	3	18
79th	4th	Friday, March 09, 2012	34	2	11
Total			Average 57 minutes	16 hours and 33 minutes	

1.2 Senators' Attendance

Senators can effectively and adequately fulfill their mandate of representing the people, discuss issues of national importance and pass necessary legislation if they are present in the House. However, the Senate does not make public the attendance records of Members. FAFEN conducts a headcount at the start and end of each sitting.

The average number of Senators present at the beginning of each sitting of both sessions was 19, and 36 at the end. On average, a maximum of 45 Senators were present during each of these sittings.

Session	Sitting No.	Senators at the outset	Senators at the end	Maximum Members
78th	1st	8	31	42
78th	2nd	22	70	77
79th	1st	18	38	32
79th	2nd	26	30	32
79th	3rd	26	18	42
79th	4th	12	26	46
Average		19	36	45

1.3 Key Members' Attendance

Attendance is crucial for Senators, especially those holding key positions (Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition), to perform their legislative roles.

The Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition were present in all sittings of both sessions. The Chairman presided over 77% of the total duration of both sessions, and the Deputy Chairman for 23% of the time.

1.4 Party Leaders' Attendance

The six sittings of both sessions were attended by parliamentary leaders of the MQM, PKMAP, NP, PMLN, ANP and JI. Leaders of the PML attended four sittings, those of the BNPA three while two sittings each were attended by PPPS and JWP and one by PMLF.

1.5 Members' Participation

Participation has been classified into three categories – parliamentarians who only submitted Agenda item(s) on the Orders of Day; Legislators who did not submit any Agenda item but took part in discussions in the House, and

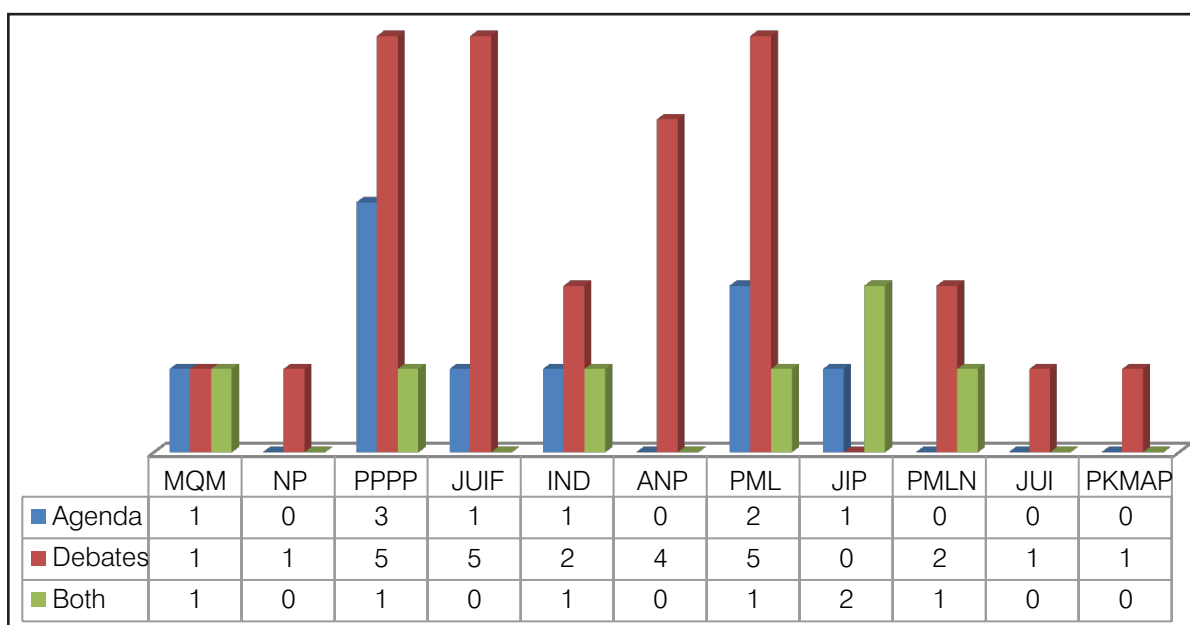
Senators who submitted Agenda items and also participated in debates.

Only nine Senators tabled Agenda items in both sessions – three belonging to the PPPP, two representing the PML, and one each from the MQM, JUIF and JIP, as well as one Independent Member. Six of these Senators were male and three female.

Twenty seven Senators in both sessions took part in debates only; among them, 23 were male and four female. These included five Members each of the PPPP, JUIF and PML, two representing PMLN and as many Independents, and one Member each of the MQM, NP, and PMLN. The seven Senators, who tabled Agenda items and took part in debates as well, were all male – two belonging to JIP, one each to MQM, PPPP, PMLN and PML while one was an Independent Member.

Hence, while the proportion of Members who participated in the sessions in any of the three ways varied in terms of party affiliation, it was almost similar in terms of gender – 43% of male Members and 41% of female Members participating in the sittings. However, a bigger proportion (18%) of female Members presented Agenda items than their male counterparts (7%). The female Members either presented Agenda items or took part in debates, but no instance of them doing both was recorded during the two sessions.

No Senator belonging to the PPPS, PMLF, BNPA and JWP participated in the 78th and 79th sessions but all those representing JIP, JUI and PKMAP participated in both. Despite being the party with the most Members in the Senate (27), only a third of the Senators belonging to the PPPP participated in the two sessions.



Gender	Senators who only submitted Agenda items	Senators who took part in debates	Senators who submitted Agenda items and participated in debates	Total participating Senators	Total Senators in Senate
Male	6	23	7	36	83
Female	3	4	0	7	17
Total	9	27	7	43	100

2.0 Parliamentary Outputs

The information in this section relates to Legislation and Resolutions debated and decided during the legislative session.

2.1 Legislation

Considering Legislation on matters of national significance through careful debate and discussion is arguably and the Senate's most vital function. Legislation comes in the form of Government Bills, Private Member Bills and Ordinances.

2.1.1 Government Bills

Four Government Bills were passed during both sessions. The Bills aim at ensuring transparency and democracy in electoral processes, economy, and human rights.

The 20th amendment to the constitution, passed during the 78th session, guarantees transparency and ensures democratic processes by providing legal cover to all by-elections conducted by the Election Commission. It also

lays down procedure for filling relevant caretaker posts in provincial and national assemblies when they are outgoing or stand dissolved.

During the 79th session, another amendment relevant to electoral processes was made to the Delimitation of Constituencies Bill, establishing geographical limits of constituencies for elections to the national and provincial assemblies after every census.

The Special Economic Zones Bill was passed to attract investment (especially foreign) by designating special zones where proactive and liberal economic policies would be implemented to meet the challenges of global competitiveness. The National Commission for Human Rights Bill was also passed during the last sitting of the 79th session.

Session	Sitting	Government Bills passed by the House
78th	2nd	The Constitution (Twentieth Amendment) Bill 2012
79th	3rd	The Delimitation of Constituencies Amendment Bill 2011
79th	3rd	The Special Economic Zones Bill 2011
79th	4th	The National Commission for Human Rights Bill 2012

2.1.2 Private Members Bills

Private Members presented Bills pertaining to domestic violence and industrial relations, both of which were passed - The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill and the Industrial Relations Bill - during the 78th and 79th sessions respectively. The first one provides legislation to ensure safety of women and children in homes, and accord protection to them from any physical, psychological and verbal abuse within homes as well as from extension of such abuse at workplaces etc. The second Bill consolidates and rationalizes the formation of trade unions, and improves and regulates relations between employers and workers in the Islamabad Capital Territory and in trans-provincial establishments and industry.

Of the remaining four Bills presented by Private Members, three were amendments to the constitution. Two of these pertaining to the federation and state (Article 1) - procedure for passage of Bills (Article 239), and criminal proceedings against a President, Governor, Prime Minister, Federal Minister, Minister of State, Chief Minister and Provincial Minister while in office (248) - were not taken up. The Bill for amendments to Articles 9 and 10, related to security, and safeguards as to arrest and detention respectively, was introduced and sent to the Standing Committee.

Session	Sitting	Private Bills on the Orders of the Day	Status			
			Debated	Introduced	Passed	Rejected/Not Taken Up/Deferred
78th	2nd	The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2010 (Amendment of Article 248)	-	-	-	✓
78th	2nd	The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2010 (Amendment of Articles 1 and 239)	-	-	-	✓
78th	2nd	The Victims of Natural Calamities (Rehabilitation and Financial Assistance) Bill, 2010	-	-	-	✓
78th	2nd	The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2012	✓	-	✓	-
78th	2nd	The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2012 (Amendment of Articles 9 and 10)	-	Introduced and sent to the Standing Committee	-	-
78th	2nd	The Industrial Relations Bill, 2012	-	Introduced and sent to the Standing Committee	-	-
79th	2nd	The Industrial Relations Bill, 2012	✓	-	✓	-

2.1.3 Standing Committees' Reports

The purpose of the Standing Committees is to put Members with relevant expertise and specialization in charge of providing in-depth insight into Legislations the House has under consideration. These committees also advise the relevant Ministries/Divisions on various issues and serve as an effective vehicle in evaluating their performance.

A total of 12 Standing Committees' reports were presented during the sessions. Two of these pertained to Bills that were passed during the course of both sessions – the Delimitation of Constituencies (Amendment) Bill, 2011 and the Special Economic Zones Bill, 2011. In addition, other reports were presented by the committees on

finance and revenue, inter-provincial coordination, states and frontier regions, ports and shipping, industries, rules of procedure, and the interior.

Session	Sitting	Name of Standing Committee Report	Name of Committee	Status
78th	1st	The report on second Biannual Monitoring on the Implementation of National Finance Commission (NFC) Award for the period January-June, 2011	Finance, Revenue, Planning and Development, Economic Affairs and Statistics	Taken up
78th	2nd	The Annual Report of the Council of Common Interests for the period July 2010- June 2011	Inter-Provincial Coordination	Not taken up
79th	1st	The Delimitation of Constituencies (Amendment) Bill, 2011	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Taken up
79th	1st	The Special Economic Zones Bill, 2011	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Taken up
79th	1st	The Control of Prices of Essential Commodities and Price-hike Bill, 2010	Finance, Revenue, Planning and Development, Economic Affairs and Statistics	Taken up
79th	1st	Second report of the Committee for the period from January 2011- to December 2011	States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON)	Taken up
79th	1st	Report of the Committee for the period from January 2010 to December 2011	Ports and Shipping	Taken up
79th	1st	Report of the Committee for the period from March 2011 to February 2012	Industries and Production	Not taken up
79th	1st	Report of the Committee on the Privilege Motion moved by Leader of the House, regarding derogatory remarks made by Vice-Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University, against Parliamentarians	Rules of Procedure and Privileges	Taken up
79th	1st	The Annual Report of the Council of Common Interests for the period July 2010 to June 2011	Inter Provincial Coordination	Taken up
79th	2nd	The Annual Report on Observance and Implementation of the Principles of Policy in relation to the affairs of the Federation for the year 2010-11	Cabinet Secretariat	Taken up
79th	3rd	Report of the Committee for the period from 16th April, 2011 to 11th January, 2012	Interior	Taken up

2.2 Resolutions

Through Resolutions, the House expresses its opinion, makes recommendations, or conveys a message on a definite and important issue. It can also commend, urge, or request action on a situation under consideration by the Government. Resolutions may be moved by Ministers or Private Members. This section comprises information on the types and the number of Resolutions considered or adopted by the House.

Four Resolutions were presented and adopted during the two sessions. One of these condemned the burning of the Quran by US troops at the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan that outraged Muslims and sparked violent protests. The Afghan government strongly condemned the incident as did several other countries. The other Resolutions related to condolences on the death of a fellow senator, missing persons, and suicide attacks on political meetings in KP.

Session	Sitting	Resolution on Orders of the Day
78th	1st	The House expressed profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of the former PMLN Senator Anwar Kamal Khan Marwat
79th	1st	The House condemned the incident of Quran burning by US troops in Afghanistan
79th	2nd	The House expressed deep concern over the issue of missing persons
79th	4th	The House condemned suicide attacks on political meetings in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

2.3 Amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business

A highlight of the 79th session was the approval of new rules for the Upper House. The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, which replace the rules approved in 1988, have introduced significant changes like making ministers' presence in the House mandatory during the Question Hour and abolishing discretionary powers of Chairman to appoint the Leader of Opposition. The Chairman will now seek written applications from Senators nominating their Leader of Opposition. After verifying signatures, the Chairman will declare a Senator having support of the most colleagues as Leader of the Opposition. Similarly the new rules also introduce the Prime Minister's Question Hour. Under Rule 47, "In every session that exceeds seven days; there shall be one hour which shall be called Prime Minister's Hour."

The new rules also give more powers to Standing Committees, making the ministers' presence mandatory in their meetings with every department or division of ministries bound to obey their directives. Under the Rule 62, "last half an hour of a sitting shall be utilised as Zero Hour to take up matters of urgent public importance." The Zero

Hour seems to be an effort to stop the misuse of the Points of Order. A new chapter lays out rules for using the Zero Hour.

For moving a no-trust motion against the chairman or deputy chairman needs signatures of at least one-fourth (27) Members of the House. Earlier, a single Senator could move a no-trust motion against the chairman or deputy chairman.

Under the new rules, the annual reports of the Council of Common Interests, National Economic Council, National Finance Commission, Auditor General and the Council of Islamic Ideology will also be tabled in the Senate.

3.0 Order and institutionalization

This section of the report deals with issues raised through Points of Order and the time consumed. It also reviews the Questions of Privileges, the instances of protests, walkouts or boycotts.

3.1 Points of Order

A Point of Order is raised to address an apparent breach in the rules of parliamentary procedures while business is underway, and usually requests the Speaker's or the Chair's ruling on the issue. This section looks at the POs raised during the sessions and the decisions taken to resolve them.

Thirty-eight POs were raised which consumed 10% of the total 993 - minute duration of both sessions.

Session	Sitting No.	Points of Order	Time Consumed
78th	1st	18	65
78th	2nd	5	11
79th	1st	0	0
79th	2nd	15	27
79th	3rd	0	0
79th	4th	0	0
Total		38 POs	103 minutes

Five of these POs raised by female Members related to the Quran burning issue in Afghanistan, Balochistan, missing persons, and Senators' perks and privileges. The others were raised by male Members. Despite the erroneous use of POs, they still reflect the priorities of the Senators regarding the people they represent and issues of national importance. This is evident because apart from the above mentioned POs, Members also spoke about agriculture, law and order, the National Reconciliation Order, petroleum prices, rehabilitation and reconstruction etc. Interestingly, the only PO raised regarding women rights was by a male Member.

Sr. No.	Issues	ANP		IND		JIP		JUI		JUIF		MQM		PML		PMLN		PPPP		Total	
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
1	Agriculture	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	0	2
2	Balochistan-Related Issues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
3	Burning of Quran Issue in Afghanistan	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0
4	Business of the House	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	0	3
5	Drone Attacks	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	0	2
6	Law and Order	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1
7	Miscellaneous Affairs	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	3
8	Missing Persons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	0
9	NATO Supply	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1
10	NRO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1
11	Parliamentary Affairs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	0	1
12	Petroleum Prices	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2
13	Rehabilitation and Reconstruction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	1
14	Senators' Perks and Privileges	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	4	2	12
15	Women Rights	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1
Total		1	5	-	2	-	4	-	1	-	9	-	2	2	5	-	1	2	5	5	33

3.2 Protests and Walkouts

In response to a false media report pertaining to supposed arrest warrants issued by Interpol against an unnamed Senator belonging to KP, an ANP Member led a walkout. All Members of the Opposition and some from the Coalition left the House for three minutes. In addition, a 15-minute protest was staged against American drone attacks by Members belonging to the JUIF, PMLN and ANP as well as Independent Members.

Session	Sitting No	Party	Reason	Time (Minutes)	Protest/Walkout/ Boycott
78th	1st	ANP	Over a media report against another senator	3	Walkout
		JUIF PMLN ANP Independent	Against the drone attacks	15	Protest
Total				18 minutes	

GLOSSARY

Adjournment Motion

A motion to adjourn the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of recent and urgent public importance.

Amendments

A motion to amend an earlier motion before that earlier motion is put to the Assembly for its decision.

Assent

Refers to the power of the President to assent the bill passed by the House or return the same to the House for reconsideration.

Chairperson

In relation to a sitting, any person who is presiding at that sitting.

Calling Attention Notice

A Senator who wishes to raise a matter of sufficient public importance can call attention of the Minister to such matter by giving notice in writing. The Chairman would select one of them but not more than two notices in a week for a statement by the Minister.

Chair

The Presiding Officer at a meeting of the House or a Committee.

Chamber

The place where the Senate meets to transact its business.

Deputy Chairman

When the office of Chairman is vacant or Chairman is absent or is unable to perform his functions due to any cause the Deputy Chairman acts as the Chairman of the House.

Election

The process of choosing a representative by vote.

Leader of the Opposition

"Leader of the Opposition" means a Senator who, in the opinion of the Chairman, is the leader of the majority of Opposition Senators for a certain time period.

Legislation

The process of crafting law.

Legislative Process

The processes by which bills are approved by Assembly.

'List of Business'

The 'List of Business' includes the business scheduled for an Assembly sitting.

Member

A member of the Assembly and for purposes of moving or opposing a Bill, an amendment, a motion or a resolution, includes a Minister.

Member-in-Charge

In the case of Government Bill, a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary acting on behalf of the Government and in the case of a private member's Bill, the member who has introduced it or any other member authorized by him in writing to assume charge of the Bill in his absence.

Minister

May refer to the Prime Minister, a Federal Minister or a Minister of State, or a Parliamentary Secretary in respect of any function delegated or entrusted to him by a Minister.

[We wish to extend our acknowledgment to the Senate Website for material contributions presented in the Glossary.](#)

Motion

A proposal made by a member or a Minister relating to any matter, which may be discussed by the House and includes an amendment.

Mover

The mover of a Bill, a resolution, a motion or an amendment of a Bill, a resolution or a motion and in the case of a Government Bill, a resolution, a motion or an amendment, a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary acting on behalf of the Government.

Opposition

The party or parties who do not belong to the governing party.

Orders of the Day

"Orders of the Day" means the list of business to be brought before the House on any day.

Point of Order

A member can raise a point of order relating to the interpretation or enforcement of the rules or such Articles of the Constitution as regulate the business of the Senate, and are in the cognizance of the Chairman. A point of order can also be raised in relation to the business before the Senate at the moment.

Private Member

A member who is not a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary.

Private Member's Bill

A proposed law introduced by a Private member.

Proceedings

The actions taken by the House or by a committee, the most important parts of the proceedings are the decisions that are taken.

Quorum

Quorum is the minimum number of members of Senate necessary to conduct the business of the Assembly. (One-fourth of the House)

Question Hour

A time fixed under the rules for asking and answering questions.

Resolution

A motion for the purpose of discussing and expressing an opinion on a matter of general public interest.

Starred Question

A question that requires an oral answer in addition to a written reply.

Senate

The Upper House of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) known by that name.

Table

The Table of the House.

Unstarred Question

"Unstarred Question" means a question for a written answer.

We wish to extend our acknowledgment to the senate website for material contributions presented in the Glossary

About FAFEN

Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), established in 2006, is a coalition of 42 leading civil society organizations, working to strengthen all forms of democratic accountabilities in Pakistan. Governed by Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA), FAFEN's key achievements are:

- Observed the public display of Pakistan's draft electoral rolls and conducted the country's first statistically-valid voters' list audit in 2007
- Deployed more than 18,829 trained, neutral Election Day observers nationwide to watch the February 18, 2008 polls and 264 long-term observers to monitor the pre-election process
- Fielded long-term observers nationwide and published 19 pre-election reports
- For the February 18, 2008, General Elections, FAFEN conducted 260 simultaneous Parallel Vote Tabulations (PVTs)- the largest effort in the world
- Conducted its first survey, Constituents Aspirations Survey, in December 2008 with a sample size of 3,124 respondents to get the description of the state of public opinion and also to get a deeper understanding of the values, attitudes and beliefs of people living in the constituencies
- Conducted mapping of organizations working for human rights within Pakistan
- Observed general elections at Gilgit-Baltistan in 2009 and by-elections in various constituencies of the Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2010
- Implemented a unique methodology to observe parliamentary proceedings under its Parliamentary Watch Project
- Monitors public institutions across Pakistan and issues monthly reports on the state and performance of educational, health and other local level institutions. In addition, monthly reports on prices, crimes, incidence of disease, caseload in lower courts and political and electoral violence are issued

FAFEN continues to implement robust programs in-between elections related to monitoring parliamentary affairs, connecting constituents to their elected representatives, monitoring the performance of public and elected institutions and advocating electoral and democratic reforms. FAFEN is also monitoring political and electoral violence, peace activities and promoting active citizenry through ongoing civic education activities across the country. FAFEN is currently implementing Supporting Transparency, Accountability and Electoral Processes in Pakistan in 200 National Assembly constituencies in 119 districts across Pakistan.

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