



## FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR



### **SEVENTH SESSION**

Provincial Assembly of Sindh

(September 18 - 25, 2013)

Free and Fair Election Network

[www.fafen.org](http://www.fafen.org)

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

## List of Abbreviations

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| IND   | Independent Member                      |
| MQM   | Muttahida Quami Movement                |
| NPP   | National Peoples Party                  |
| PML   | Pakistan Muslim League                  |
| PML-F | Pakistan Muslim League (Functional)     |
| PML-N | Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)          |
| PPPP  | Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians |
| PTI   | Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf                |



This report is based on direct observation of proceedings of Provincial Assembly of Sindh, conducted by **Pakistan Press Foundation**, a member organization of FAFEN.



## Executive Summary

The seventh session of the Sindh Assembly witnessed the passage of important government bills on health care, witness protection, real estate development and government funding without the formal constitution of standing committees.

Overall the House passed 13 treasury bills during the session. Six bills were on real estate – five of them aiming to revive and amend repealed acts concerning development authorities in Malir, Lyari, Larkana, Hyderabad, Sehwan to encourage the housing industry and provide shelter to people in Sindh. A bill to control the violations of building codes was also passed.

The House approved four bills on health care, seeking to prevent and control thalassemia, screening newborns for hearing disabilities and regulating matters relating to the treatment and care of mentally disordered persons. The Sindh Assembly continued to legislate to adopt the duties devolved to the provinces under the 18th amendment as it passed the bill to shift the responsibility of treatment and protection of HIV/AIDS to the province.

In the context of law and order situation in Sindh, particularly in Karachi, the House passed the all-important bill to provide protection to witnesses to encourage them to give evidence in criminal proceedings.

Three private members bills on protecting children from early marriage, prohibiting dowry and the ostentatious display on marriages were introduced during the session.

However, the Sindh Assembly has still not formed Standing Committees. According to Rule 129 of the Sindh Assembly's rules of procedure, the House, in its first session after the general election has to form Standing Committees. Although a motion for the election of Standing Committees appeared on the agenda twice the committees were not formed during the proceedings.

All the 17 resolutions tabled by legislators singly or jointly were adopted during the session. Fourteen of the resolutions were moved by single parties - nine submitted by MQM, four by PPPP and one by PML-F.

As the country faced some tragic incidents such as the earthquake in Balochistan and terrorist attack on soldiers of Pakistan Army in Dir and a church in Peshawar, the Sindh Assembly adopted resolutions to show solidarity with the victims of the natural catastrophe and condemned the attacks. Four resolutions expressed sympathies with the earthquake victims, especially in Awaran and Khuzdar, Balochistan. The resolutions called for making collective efforts for rehabilitating the earthquake survivors. However a PPPP legislator's resolution asking the Prime Minister to return from his UN visit to personally monitor the rescue efforts was also adopted.

The session, spread over six sittings, from 18 till 25 September 2013 lasted 21 hours and 14 minutes. On average each sitting met for three hours and 32 minutes, starting an hour and 50 minute behind schedule.

The Chief Minister was present in three sittings while the Leader of the Opposition attended five. The Speaker presided over 13% of the session time, the Deputy Speaker 86% while the remaining proceedings (1%) were chaired by a member of Panel of Chairpersons.

To conduct treasury's oversight, lawmakers submitted 38 starred questions to seven ministries/departments; 22 questions were taken up and answered on the floor. Additionally, lawmakers asked 182 supplementary questions. Lawmakers submitted more questions (15) for the Ministry of Agriculture.

For the first time in the 40-year history of the House a draft of new rules of procedure was laid before the House for consideration during the first sitting.

The House considered three MQM sponsored adjournment motions whereby, among other issues the party criticized the law enforcing agencies on malicious targeting of MQM leaders and workers during the operation launched against criminals.

Five private motions moved by a female PML-F lawmaker, were adopted by the House. The motions were on employment opportunities for the disabled and son quotas, training paramedical staff on medical and behavioral subjects, controlling power and gas load-shedding and price hike etcetera.

A privilege motion each was tabled by PPPP, PTI and MQM lawmakers against maltreatment by DIG police, Sukkur, the irresponsible attitude of the municipal commissioner of South district Karachi and the undue delay in consideration of the MPAs agenda, respectively.

Lawmakers spoke on 56 points of orders consuming an hour and 41 minute of the session time.

The PML-F lawmakers staged a 33-minute walkout to protest the Chair's ruling to dispel a party MPA for her alleged unruly behavior during the question hour.

## 1.0 Session Time, Attendance and Participation

This section provides details of the session's duration, delays, participation and the attendance of members including key members such as the Chief Minister, Leader of the Opposition, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

### 1.1 Session Time

The seventh session lasted six sittings and met for 21 hours and 14 minutes. The first sitting was the longest, meeting for four hours and 51 minutes. With average delay of 110 minutes, all sittings started behind schedule. The fifth sitting started more than two hours late.

**Table 1.1: Time and Duration**

| Sr. No.      | Day and Date            | Sitting No. | Late Starts                | Hours                          | Minutes |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1            | Wednesday, September 18 | 1st         | 65                         | 4                              | 51      |
| 2            | Thursday, September 19  | 2nd         | 120                        | 2                              | 43      |
| 3            | Friday, September 20    | 3rd         | 107                        | 2                              | 52      |
| 4            | Monday, September 23    | 4th         | 127                        | 4                              | 30      |
| 5            | Tuesday, September 24   | 5th         | 135                        | 3                              | 30      |
| 6            | Wednesday, September 25 | 6th         | 104                        | 2                              | 48      |
| <b>Total</b> |                         |             | <b>Average 110 minutes</b> | <b>21 hours and 14 minutes</b> |         |

### 1.2 Members' Attendance

Active participation and attendance of members in the proceedings can make the business of the House meaningful. As the Sindh Assembly Secretariat does not make public the attendance records of members, FAFEN observers conduct a headcount of legislators at the beginning and the end of each sitting to gauge their attendance.

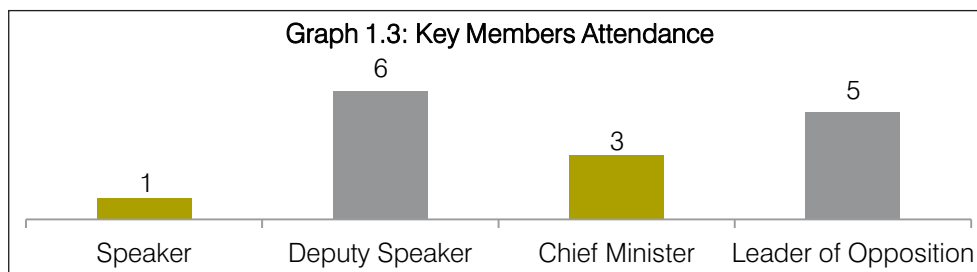
In the House of 168 members, attendance remained comparatively low at the start of the proceedings, as on average 57 legislators (34%) were present. On the other hand on average 80 members (48%) were present in the plenary at the time of adjournment, and a maximum of 115 members (68%) were observed at any time during the proceedings. On average, five of nine members representing minorities attended the proceedings.

**Table 1.2: Legislators' Attendance**

| Sitting No.    | Members at the Outset | Members at the End | Maximum Members | Minority Members |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1st            | 57                    | 80                 | 115             | 5                |
| 2nd            | 50                    | 48                 | 66              | 3                |
| 3rd            | 70                    | 107                | 110             | 5                |
| 4th            | 97                    | 62                 | 105             | 5                |
| 5th            | 75                    | 59                 | 99              | 5                |
| 6th            | 75                    | 74                 | 88              | 5                |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>57</b>             | <b>80</b>          | <b>115</b>      | <b>5</b>         |

### 1.3 Key Members' Attendance

The Chief Minister was present in three sittings, attending the proceedings for 21% of the total session time. However, the Speaker only attended the last sitting and presided over 13% of the proceedings. The Deputy Speaker was present in the entire session and chaired 86% of the proceedings. The remaining one percent of the proceedings were chaired by a member of Panel of Chairpersons.





## 1.4 Member's Participation

Participation has been classified into three categories – legislators who tabled agenda item(s) on the orders of the day; MPAs who did not submit agenda item but took part in House debate; and Members who submitted agenda items and also participated in debates.

Out of 168 members in the Sindh Assembly only 23% tabled agenda items, while 18% took part in debates. On the other hand, 24% members submitted agenda and participated in debates also.

**Table 1.4: Participation**

| Sr. No.      | Party | Members Who Only Submitted Agenda Items | Members Who Took Part in Debates | Members Who Participated in Debates as well as Submitted Agenda Items | Percentage of Members Who Only Submitted Agenda Items | Percentage of Members Who Participated in Debates | Percentage of Members Who Submitted Agenda Items And Participated in Debates | Members in Assembly by Party |
|--------------|-------|---|----------------------------------|---|---|---|--|------------------------------|
| 1            | MQM   | 17                                      | 7                                | 21  | 33%   | 14%   | 41%  | 51                           |
| 2            | PML-F | 2                                       | 2                                | 4   | 18%   | 18%   | 36%  | 11                           |
| 3            | PML-N | 0                                       | 2                                | 0   | 0%  | 25%   | 0%   | 8                            |
| 4            | PPPP  | 19                                      | 18                               | 14  | 21%   | 20%   | 15%  | 92                           |
| 5            | PTI   | 0                                       | 2                                | 2   | 0%  | 50%   | 50%  | 4                            |
| 6            | NPP   | 1                                       | 0                                | 0   | 50%   | 0%  | 0%   | 2                            |
| <b>Total</b> |       | <b>39</b>                               | <b>31</b>                        | <b>41</b>   | <b>23%</b>  | <b>18%</b>  | <b>24%</b>   | <b>168</b>                   |

Almost 66% of the total 168 lawmakers took part in the proceedings during the session. The legislators of the main opposition party - MQM - were most active as 88% of them tabled agenda and took part in debates. Similarly more than two-thirds of the PML-F legislators, the other opposition party in the House, actively took part in the proceedings. However, a little more than half of the ruling PPPP legislators (55%) took part in the proceedings. Among smaller parties two out of four PTI members participated in the proceedings, followed by PML-N's two out of eight members and NPP's one out of two MPAs.

## 2.0 Representation, Responsiveness and Government Oversight

The section reviews the legislators' representative and oversight role in the House as it covers the question hour, adjournment motions, private members' motions and privilege motions.

### 2.1 Questions and Responses

According to Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, "the first hour of the sitting, after the recitation from the Holy Quran and the swearing in of Members, if any, shall be available for the asking and answering of questions."

Question hour gives legislators the opportunity to monitor the government's performance. Answers to questions may be demanded in written or oral form, referred to as unstarred or starred questions, respectively.

A total of 38 starred questions were submitted in the House during the session. Of them 22 were taken up on the floor of the House while written responses were provided for the rest of the questions. In other words, the government provided oral and written answers to all questions. Additionally the MPAs asked 182 supplementary questions.

**Table 2.1a: Starred Questions**

| Sitting No   | Starred Question on Agenda | Taken Up  | Not Taken Up | Supplementary Questions |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1st          | 4                          | 4         | 0            | 31                      |
| 2nd          | 4                          | 4         | 0            | 11                      |
| 3rd          | 6                          | 3         | 3            | 17                      |
| 4th          | 15                         | 4         | 11           | 38                      |
| 5th          | 4                          | 4         | 0            | 37                      |
| 6th          | 5                          | 3         | 2            | 48                      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>38</b>                  | <b>22</b> | <b>16</b>    | <b>182</b>              |

Of the 38 questions, 32 were submitted by female MPAs – 84% of the total questions. As the main opposition party in the Sindh Assembly, four MQM legislators submitted 31 questions during the session. Moreover two MQM female members submitted 25 questions.

A PML-F female member submitted four questions. However the ruling PPPP's legislators seemed least interested in their oversight role. A female PPPP lawmaker submitted three questions during the session.

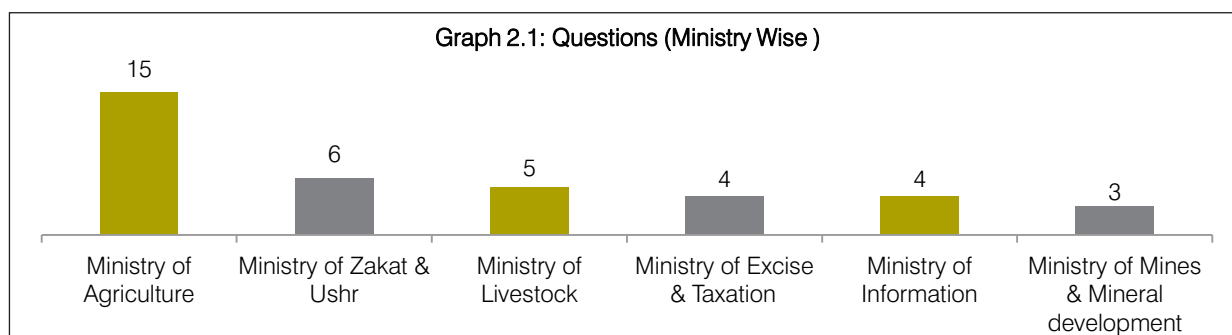
**Table 2.1b: Questions (By Gender and Party)**

| Party        | Members who Raised Questions |          |               | Number of Questions Raised by Member |           |                 |
|--------------|------------------------------|----------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
|              | Female                       | Male     | Total Members | Female MNAs                          | Male MNAs | Total Questions |
| MQM          | 2                            | 2        | 4             | 25                                   | 6         | 31              |
| PML-F        | 1                            | 0        | 1             | 4                                    | 0         | 4               |
| PPPP         | 1                            | 0        | 1             | 3                                    | 0         | 3               |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>4</b>                     | <b>2</b> | <b>6</b>      | <b>32</b>                            | <b>6</b>  | <b>38</b>       |

### Ministerial Responses to Questions

The 38 questions submitted during the session were addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture (15), the Ministry of Zakat and Usher (6), the Ministry of Livestock (5), the Ministry of Excise and Taxation (4), the Ministry of Information (4) and the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development (3).

**Graph 2.1: Questions (Ministry Wise)**



### The Ministry of Agriculture

The 15 questions were about the number of cane commissioners in Sindh and their duties, various aspects of the sugarcane and rice crops, export of mangoes, and the prices and availability of fertilizers. On a question by an MQM female legislator, the House was told that the post of cane commissioner was set up way back in 1984. Though the answer provided the duties, it did not provide the number of cane commissioners working in the province.

The House was also informed that in 2008-09, Rs 55 million dues were outstanding against 32 sugar mills in the province. Of this amount, Rs 46 million have been recovered under the Sugarcane (Development) Cess. The written answer provided the list of five sugar mills which still have to pay more than Rs 9 million outstanding dues to the provincial government.

The Minister for Agriculture provided the details about the varieties of rice sown in Sindh and their district wise production. The minister also listed the efforts to increase per hectare yield of rice and also the measures taken to save it from diseases such as leaf spot and bacterial blight.

In response to another question, the House was informed that the provincial government was not planning to set up a Rice Crop Development Group.

The House was told that in 2011-12, Sindh exported 396.1 tonnes mangoes to 54 countries.

Responding to a question, the minister admitted that “few miscreants” were involved in the “sale of counterfeit fertilizer.” The House was also informed that due to the devastating floods in 2010, the demand for all kinds of fertilizers including urea was significantly reduced.

On the prices of fertilizer, the minister said the federal government from time to time imported urea and sold it through the National Fertilizer Marketing Limited, which is less than market price. However, the minister added prices of local fertilizer has not been fixed at government level due to free market mechanism.



## The Ministry of Zakat and Ushr

All six questions about the Zakat and Usher department were submitted by a PML-F legislator.

In response to a question, the minister told the House that though the Zakat and Usher department after the passage of the 18th amendment has been devolved to provinces, the federal government was still collecting Zakat. In August 2011, the Council of Common Interests decided that the federal government would continue to collect Zakat.

Furthermore the minister told the House that in a meeting of the Chief Secretaries of four provinces in July 2012 in Karachi, it was decided that the collection of Zakat will remain centralized till 2015. This meeting was chaired by then federal Minister for Religious Affairs.

In responding to another question about the third extension given to the chairman of the Sindh Zakat Council, the minister said the law does not specifically restrict reappointment of the Chairman and member of the Council for only two terms. The minister also told the House that the services of 800 Amleen-e-Zakat (Zakat paid staff) have not been regularized because of the financial constraints.

## The Ministry of Livestock

In response to a question by an MQM female legislator, the minister informed the House that the bio safety lab program was set up by the previous government for research on bird flu, swine flu and foot and mouth disease. The minister stated that the program was approved at a time when the previous government was completing its term, as Rs184.64 million were allocated for three years. However Rs 60 million allocated for the year 2012-13 were not utilized due to delayed approval of the scheme and the Finance Department not releasing the funds.

## The Ministry of Information

On a question by MQM member, the Minister for Information briefed the House on details of financial assistance provided to journalists under the head of assistance or reward. The minister added that only five journalists in the province have been provided assistance during the financial year 2012-13.

### 2.2 Amendment in the Rules of Procedure of Sindh Assembly

A draft to amend the rules of procedure of Sindh Assembly was laid before the House. The draft will made the amendments in the assembly rules after 40 years.

### 2.3 Privilege Motion

Three motions on the breach of privilege of legislators were submitted during the session. PPPP, MQM and PTI legislators submitted the motions individually. A PPPP member submitted the privilege motion against DIG police, Sukkur over his alleged abusive and threatening language and a PTI legislator on the irresponsible attitude of the municipal commissioner of South district, Karachi, and other officials to his calls regarding poor sanitation conditions in his constituency. Both motions were referred to a special committee.

An MQM lawmaker tabled a privilege motion that the bills submitted by him four months back were not on the orders of the day. However the Law Minister assured him that the bills would soon be presented in the House.

### 2.4 Adjournment Motions

Members may request the Speaker to consider a matter of public importance. By moving the adjournment motion, they try to impress upon the Speaker that their concern regarding a particular issue justifies that the Sindh Assembly adjourn or stop its regular agenda and consider the matter which is being raised.

Five adjournment motions were moved in the seventh session. Out of all five motions moved by MQM legislators, three were taken up. They were about deteriorating law and order situation in Karachi, the contamination of Keenjhar Lake water and poor garbage collection in Karachi.

The spread of diseases in Hyderabad due to poor sanitary conditions was rejected after debate on the issue and the issue of doctors' kidnappings in Sindh was also not taken up.

### 2.5 Private Motions

Five private motions moved by a female PML-F member were adopted in the fifth sitting. The legislator raised the issues of ensuring employment opportunities on the basis of disabled and son quotas, provide training on medical and behavioral subjects to paramedical staff, reduce the duration of power and gas load-shedding to provide relief to the people, control price hike and ensure proper use of funds reserved for making protective walls and embankments along the rivers by the irrigation department.



## 3.0 Output

Assembly output is primarily the legislation passed, the resolutions adopted and the Standing Committee reports laid during a session. Legislation appears in the form of government and private members' bills and ordinances.

### 3.1 Government Bills

Out of the 14 bills introduced by the government, the Sindh Assembly passed 13 during the session – nine of them in the second sitting. Six of the passed bills were on matters concerning real estate, four on improving health care and one each about witness protection, education and government funds. Three private members' bills were introduced during the session.

According to Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure of the Sindh Assembly, it is required to elect Standing Committees during the assembly's first session after the general election, for the duration of the House. However as the Standing Committees were not formed during the session, a Special Committee was constituted to review the Sindh Health Care Commission Bill 2013.

The private member bills by a female PPPP lawmaker - the Child Marriage Prohibition Bill 2013, the Sindh Prohibition of Dowry Bill 2013 and the Sindh Marriage Functions (Prohibition of Ostentatious Display and Wasteful Expenses) Bill 2013 were introduced during the session.

**Table 3.1: Details of Bills**

| Sr. No. | Bill   | Status                                 |
|---------|--|--|
| 1       | The Sindh Witness Protection Bill 2013   | Passed                                 |
| 2       | The Sindh Prevention and Control of Thalassemia Bill 2013  | Passed                                 |
| 3       | The Sindh Mental Health Bill 2013  | Passed                                 |
| 4       | The Malir Development Authority (Revival and Amendment) Bill 2013                                  | Passed                                 |
| 5       | The Lyari Development Authority (Revival and Amendment) Bill 2013                                  | Passed                                 |
| 6       | The Larkana Development Authority (Revival and Amendment) Bill 2013                                | Passed                                 |
| 7       | The Hyderabad Development Authority (Revival and Amendment) Bill, 2013                             | Passed                                 |
| 8       | The Sehwan Development Authority (Revival and Amendment) Bill 2013                                 | Passed                                 |
| 9       | The Sindh Building Control (Amendment) Bill 2013   | Passed                                 |
| 10      | The Sindh Fund Management Bill 2013  | Passed                                 |
| 11      | The Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2013                                    | Passed                                 |
| 12      | The Sindh HIV and AIDS Control Treatment and Protection Bill 2013                                  | Passed                                 |
| 13      | The Sindh New Born Screening Bill 2013   | Passed                                 |
| 14      | The Sindh Health Care Commission Bill 2013   | Sent to a Special Committee for review |
| 15      | The Sindh Marriage Functions (Prohibition of Ostentatious Display and Wasteful Expenses) Bill 2013 | Introduced                             |
| 16      | The Child Marriage Prohibition Bill 2013   | Introduced                             |
| 17      | The Sindh Prohibition of Dowry Bill 2013   | Introduced                             |

### Passed Government Bills

#### 1) Health

The Sindh Prevention and Control of Thalassemia Bill 2013 was passed to provide for compulsory pre-marital blood tests for marrying couples especially to diagnose their thalassemia and trait status and to take concrete steps controlling the disease. The proposed health care facility treating thalassemia patients will also ensure that the blood relatives of such patients including directly related aunts and uncles and their children are all also screened. The bill also mandates for all NGOs working on thalassemia to contribute 10% of their budget on developing facilities for curing and prenatal diagnosis of the disease.

As the subject of health has been devolved to the provinces after the 18th amendment, the assembly passed a bill to transfer the control of treatment and protection of the HIV/AIDS to the province.

In the fourth sitting, the Sindh Newborn Screening Bill 2013 was passed to provide for screening of newborns for hearing impairment.





The Sindh Mental Health Bill 2013 regulates treatment and care of mentally disordered persons, allowing better provisions for their care, treatment, management of properties and affairs. It also seeks to encourage community care of mentally disordered persons and for the promotion of mental health and prevention of mental disorders. A Sindh Mental Health Authority comprising not more than 14 members from the judiciary, government service and six eminent psychiatrists will also be set up. The bill also allows a Court of Protection to launch an inquiry into the ascertainment of mental disorders for a person possessing property whether he is mentally unstable and incapable of managing his/her property.

## 2) Real Estate

The House passed five bills, each aiming to revive and amend repealed acts concerning development authorities in Malir, Lyari, Larkana, Hyderabad and Sehwan. The purpose is to encourage the housing industry and provide shelter to the people in various regions of the province. An amendment in all the laws acts states that all orders and appointments made, proceedings taken and acts done by any authority or person under the repealed acts between July 1, 2002 till the day these bills come into force, notwithstanding any court judgment, shall be deemed to be validly made and shall not be called in question by any court or forum.

According to the bill, each development authority will comprise eight members, including the Minister for Local Government as the Chairperson of each authority.

Additionally, to curb the violations of the Sindh Building Control Ordinance 1979, the House passed the Sindh Building Control (Amendment) Bill 2013 to empower the government to establish as many special courts as it considers necessary and its territorial limits.

## 3) Witness Protection

The Sindh Witness Protection Bill 2013 was passed to provide protection to witnesses to encourage them to give evidence in criminal proceedings. In the wake of increasing terrorist activities witnesses are reluctant to give evidence against the accused.

## 4) Government Funds

To ensure efficient management of the investment of government funds and its entities, the Sindh Fund Management Bill 2013 provides for establishing the Sindh Fund Management House. According to the bill, the Fund Management House will have the power to acquire, hold and dispose of the property both movable and immovable.

## 5) Education

During the third session, the House approved the Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Bill 2013 seeking to declare it as an independent degree awarding institute and to modify the composition of the board of governors.

## 3.2 Resolutions

Through resolutions, the House expresses an opinion, makes recommendations, or conveys a message on a specific and important issue. Resolutions can be moved by ministers or by private members.

All the 17 resolutions tabled by legislators singly or jointly were adopted during the session. Fourteen of the resolutions were moved by single parties - nine submitted by MQM, four by PPPP and one by PMLF.

As the country faced some tragic incidents like earthquake in Balochistan and terrorist attacks on soliders of Pakistan Army in Dir and a church in Peshawar, the Sindh Assembly adopted resolutions to show solidarity with the victims of the natural catastrophe and condemned the attacks. Four resolutions expressed sympathies with the earthquake victims, especially in Awaran and Khuzdar, Balochistan. The resolutions called for making collective efforts for rehabilitating the earthquake survivors. However a PPPP legislator's resolution asking the Prime Minister to return from his UN visit to personally monitor the rescue efforts was also adopted.

Two of the resolutions were moved by PPPP, one by MQM and one resolution was jointly moved by members of PPP, MQM and PML-F.

Two resolutions, moved by members of PPPP and MQM, paid tribute to army officers and soldiers martyred in an attack on their convoy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A resolution jointly moved by members of PPPP, MQM, PML-F, PTI and NPP strongly condemned the suicide attack on the church in Peshawar killing more than 80 people including women and children.

Resolutions to prohibit child marriage by setting up minimum age of 18 years for both genders and barring wasteful expenses on marriage were also adopted. The legislators urged the provincial government to enforce one-dish system on marriages in the province. MQM legislators asked the provincial governments of Sindh and Punjab to take stern

actions against rapists of minor girls in Umerkot and Lahore.

Resolutions to condemn the conspiracy of making another province in Sindh, petroleum price hike, setting up fire brigade stations with adequate facilities, prohibiting heavy duty vehicles to enter the city during day time, preventing the sale of toxic things to youth, increasing street children in the province and birthday greetings to the MQM leader were also adopted.

**Table 3.2: Resolutions**

| Sr. No. | Resolutions   | Party                              | Status  |
|---------|---|------------------------------------|---------|
| 1.      | The House wishes birthday greetings to the democracy lover and true patriotic leader of MQM Mohtarm Altaf Hussain Bhai on his 60th birthday   | MQM                                | Adopted |
| 2.      | The rape of a five-year old girl in Lahore has shocked the entire nation. A case of rape was also reported in Chachro, district Umerkot, Sindh. It is most unfortunate that rape against minors in Punjab and Sindh go unabated and culprits are not arrested or if arrested, they are not given exemplary punishment. The House resolves and recommends the federal government and provincial government of Sindh to arrest the culprits, amend the law and award sentence to rapist.  | MQM                                | Adopted |
| 3.      | This House condemns the attack on Pakistan's two senior military officers Major General Sanaullah Niazi, Lieutenant Colonel Tauseef and a Sepoy in the country's troubled northwest by the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TPP). The House pays tribute to all the martyrs who have lost their precious lives while serving the nation and recommends the provincial government of Sindh to approach the federal government to take immediate necessary action in this regard.   | MQM                                | Adopted |
| 4.      | The Sindh Assembly and people of the of Sindh resolves that the sudden attack of terrorists on the convoy of Pakistan army at Dir, Malakand, martyring Major General Sanaullah, Colonel Tauseef and Lance naik Irfan Sattar is a great loss of Pakistan.  | PPPP                               | Adopted |
| 5.      | The House condemns in strongest words the conspiracy of formation of a separate province by breaking motherland Sindh and resolves that all kinds of sacrifices will be rendered to protect motherland Sindh.   | PPPP                               | Adopted |
| 6.      | The assembly resolves and recommends to the government of Sindh to prohibit ostentatious display and wasteful expenses on marriage and all events connected therewith in Sindh. Enforce "One Dish" system in the province and make any such rules as are required for its strict implementation.  | PPPP<br>MQM                        | Adopted |
| 7.      | The Assembly vehemently condemns the barbaric suicide attack on Kohati Gate Church in Peshawar. The culprits should be dealt with iron hands and given exemplary punishment. In this hour of grief we stand in solidarity with our fellow Pakistani Christian brethren and pledge to continue our fight against terrorism and work towards a progressive, peaceful Pakistan as envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah   | PPPP<br>MQM<br>PML-F<br>PTI<br>NPP | Adopted |
| 8.      | This House calls for the reversal of petroleum prices as it adversely affects the daily life of the common man.   | MQM                                | Adopted |
| 9.      | Restrict the movement of heavy vehicles in the city area, especially in residential areas from 5:30am to midnight   | MQM                                | Adopted |
| 10.     | Take measures to curtail the rampant sale of intoxicative things to the youth   | PML-F                              | Adopted |
| 11.     | To establish Fire Brigade Stations having adequate number of vehicles with allied facilities  | MQM                                | Adopted |
| 12.     | The minimum age of marriage for both male and female should be 18 years   | MQM                                | Adopted |
| 13.     | The assembly expresses deep grief and sorrow over the massive earthquake of 7.7 magnitude all over Pakistan on afternoon of Tuesday, the 24th September, 2013 and especially in Awaran and several other districts of Balochistan which has caused huge human as well as property losses.   | PML-F<br>PPPP<br>MQM               | Adopted |
| 14.     | This House is of the opinion that the number of street children in Sindh is increasing alarmingly due to sheer negligence of the authorities. The figures of these children have increased to 1.4 million out of whom 30,000 homeless children are in Karachi. Homeless children on the streets of Sindh are operated by gangs who kidnap these children and make them disabled for begging.<br>Children on the streets are susceptible to all kinds of violence and are easy prey for all types of abusers. Most of such children are drug users. The House recommends to the provincial authorities to approach the federal government to take immediate necessary measures in this regard. | MQM                                | Adopted |



| Sr. No. | Resolutions   | Party | Status  |
|---------|---|-------|---------|
| 15.     | The House expresses deepest sympathies and condolence over the loss of precious lives in the earthquake in Balochistan. The House urges the Federal Government to facilitate the victims and extend support for rehabilitation and appeals to the civil society, philanthropists and charity organizations to come forward and contribute generously in this noble cause of humanitarian rescue and rehabilitation. It is time we stand together with our brothers and sisters of Balochistan   | PPPP  | Adopted |
| 16.     | The Sindh Assembly members and people of Sindh stand united with people of earthquake-hit Balochistan. I appeal the Honorable Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan may like to curtail his visit and return back to country to personally visit and monitor rescue activities of earthquake's victims in Balochistan. No visible efforts have so far been carried out by the Balochistan Government however; Sindh Government has offered assistance on humanitarian grounds. We have all sympathies with the demised souls and their families with whom Sindh Cabinet valued Members and people of the Province of Sindh are standing on this hard time. | PPPP  | Adopted |
| 17.     | The House expresses deepest sympathies and condolence over the loss of precious lives in the earthquake in Balochistan. The House urges the Federal Government to facilitate the victims and extend support for rehabilitation and appeals to the civil society, philanthropists and charity organizations to come forward and contribute generously in this noble cause of humanitarian rescue and rehabilitation. It is time we stand together with our brothers and sisters of Balochistan   | MQM   | Adopted |

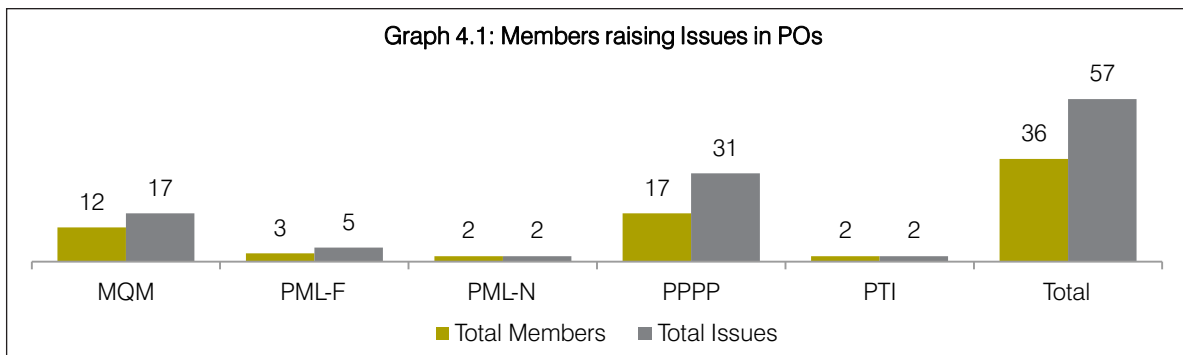
## 4.0 Order and Institutionalization

This section deals with order and institutionalization which is important for an efficient and productive legislature. It includes points of order and the time consumed in discussing them. It also narrates the instances of protests, walkouts and boycotts.

### 4.1 Points of Order

A point of order exclusively relates to the interpretation or enforcement of the rules of procedure. However, legislators while speaking on points of order also discuss national, regional and local issues.

Legislators raised 57 issues through 56 points of orders consuming one hour and 41 minutes of the session's total time. Thirty-six legislators- females (seven), males (29) – spoke on points of orders. Of them, 17 PPPP legislators raised point of orders, followed by MQM (12), PML-F (three), PML-N (three) and PTI and PML-N two each.



Of all the 57 issues raised through points of order, 16 were about the House business. Nine of them talked about the issues pertaining to education, followed by seven points of orders on health and four each on development schemes and law and order situation in Karachi. Legislators also voiced their views on water related issues, natural calamities, power and energy, corruption, employment, protection of minorities and political victimization.

**Table 4.1: Points of Order**

| Issues                  | Number of Issues |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Business Of the House   | 16               |
| Education               | 9                |
| Health                  | 7                |
| Development Schemes     | 4                |
| Law and Order           | 4                |
| Sindh related Affairs   | 3                |
| Water related Issue     | 3                |
| Criticism of Colleague  | 2                |
| Natural Calamities      | 2                |
| Power and Energy        | 2                |
| Corruption              | 1                |
| Employment              | 1                |
| Political Victimization | 1                |
| Minorities              | 1                |
| Criticism of Media      | 1                |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>57</b>        |

#### 4.2 Protests, Boycotts and Walkouts

The House observed a single walkout in the second sitting of the session. PML-F lawmakers walked out for 33 minutes as the Chair gave a ruling to order one of their female members to leave the House over her arguments. The PML-F members returned to the assembly as the Chair overruled the order on the request of PPPP legislators.

## Glossary

### Adjournment Motion

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

### Amendment

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

### Assembly

National assembly or a provincial assembly

### Assent

Refers to the power of the Governor to assent the Bill passed by the assembly or return the same to the assembly for reconsideration.

### Chairperson

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

### Chair

The presiding officer at a meeting of the house or a committee.

### Committee

A parliamentary committee constituted under Rules of Procedure, comprising of various members of parliament.

### Constitution

Means the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973.

### Deputy Speaker

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

### Leader-of-the-Opposition

"Leader of the Opposition" means a Member who, in the opinion of the Speaker, is the leader of the majority of opposition members for a certain time period.

### Legislation

The process of crafting law.

### 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.

### Motion

A proposal made by a member or a minister relating to any matter, which may be discussed by the assembly 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.

### Point of Order

Relates to the interpretation or enforcement of Parliamentary rules of business or articles of the constitution that regulate the business of the assembly. The mover of a point of order raises a question which is within the cognizance of the Speaker.

### 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.

### Quorum

Quorum is the minimum number of members of assembly necessary to conduct the business of the assembly. Under Article 55(2) of the Constitution 1/4th of the total membership of the assembly is required for quorum.

### 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.

### Speaker

The Speaker of the assembly, including the Deputy Speaker or any other member acting as the Chairperson on a particular sitting or number of sittings.

### Starred Question

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

### Sitting

A meeting of the assembly or that of a committee on a day.

### Table

The table of the house.

### Unstarred Question

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



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## 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 include:

- Observed the public display of Pakistan's 2007 draft electoral rolls and conducted the country's first statistically-valid voters' list audit
- Deployed 18,829 trained, neutral Election Day observers nationwide to monitor the February 18, 2008, General Elections
- Fielded 264 long-term observers nationwide and published 19 pre-election reports
- Conducted 260 simultaneous Parallel Vote Tabulations (PVTs)- the largest PVT effort in the world
- Conducted a Constituent Aspirations Survey in December 2008 with 3,124 respondents regarding attitudes and beliefs of people living in the constituencies
- Observed Gilgit-Baltistan 2009 General Elections and 2010-2012 By-Elections in various constituencies of the Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Implements a unique methodology to observe and report on legislative proceedings and performance under a Parliament Watch Project
- Monitors public institutions across Pakistan and issues monthly reports on the state and performance of educational, health and other local institutions as well as reports on prices, crimes, incidence of disease, caseload in lower courts, and political and electoral violence

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 and promoting active citizenship through ongoing civic education activities across the country. FAFEN is currently implementing Supporting Transparency, Accountability and Electoral Processes (STAEP) in 200 National Assembly constituencies in 119 districts across Pakistan.