



FAFEN Parliament Monitor

Senate  
of Pakistan  
**Seventy-Sixth Session**

(December 09-20, 2011)

Free and Fair Election Network

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

# Abbreviations

ANP	Awami National Party
BNPA	Balochistan National Party (Awami)
CAN	Calling Attention Notice
CDA	Capital Development Authority
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IND	Independent Member
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
JI	Jamaat-e-Islami
JUI	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam
JUIF	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazlur Rehman)
JWP	Jamhoori Watan Party
MQM	Muttahida Quami Movement
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NP	National Party
PkMAP	Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PMLF	Pakistan Muslim League (F)
PMLN	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
PO	Point of Order
PPPP	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians
PPPS	Pakistan People's Party (Sherpao)



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

## Executive Summary

After successfully observing the proceedings of the National Assembly, FAFEN has started observation of the provincial assemblies – Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan – and the Senate. This report is based on FAFEN's direct observation of the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the Senate, which was held between December 9- 20, 2011.

The proceedings are observed using a robust methodology based on the rules of procedures and business. The observers collect information on all major types of parliamentary business on a standardized checklist. The data gathered is analyzed together with that acquired from other parliamentary sources to prepare session-wise reports.

FAFEN has also started releasing daily factsheets on the proceedings of the Senate. These are released the same day the sittings are held to provide media and other interested stakeholders vital statistics to encourage informed public discourse on the performance of the House.

During the 76<sup>th</sup> session, the Upper House met for 13 hours and 36 minutes, an average of an hour and 57 minutes each day. Each sitting was delayed, on an average, by 37 minutes.

The attendance of Senators was observed to be low, with an average 13 Senators present at the outset and 25 at the end of the each sitting. The Leader of the House attended the entire session while the Leader of the Opposition was present in three sittings. The Chairman attended one sitting while the Deputy Chairman was present in six. The Parliamentary Leader of PPPS did not attend any sitting but those of PkMAP and PMLN attended seven each, ANP six, PML, MQM, NP, JI and PMLF five each, and JWP and BNPA leaders attended one sitting each.

Overall 55% of the Senators – 47 male and eight female - participated in the session by submitting agenda items on the Orders of the Day or by taking part in the debates. Female Senators appeared to be less active than their male counterparts. Their participation constituted 57% of their total membership at 83 while female participation was 47% of their total membership at 17.

A party-wise analysis shows that 86% of the PMLN Legislators took part in the proceedings, followed by MQM's 83%, ANP's 67%, PML's 48%, JUIF's 44%, PPPP's 37% and 33% of the BNPA. Seven Independents, along with all the Senators of NP, JI, JUI and JWP, also attended the session.

The House passed two Government Bills and Private Members' bills each. Only 32 (18%) out of 176 Starred Questions (requiring oral answers) were put up and responded to by the relevant ministries. The Question Hour could not be held during the 4<sup>th</sup> sitting due to the absence of ministers.

Sixty Points of Order were raised during the session. The Senators raised issues pertaining to energy (16), Balochistan (13) and ministerial absence (11). None of the Points of Order attracted the formal ruling of the Chair. Unless the Chair gives a formal ruling on a Point of Order, it does not lead to any output.

One out of two Calling Attention Notices which appeared on the Agenda was taken up by the House. Moved by an ANP Senator, the CAN regarding the missing NATO containers was directed to the Ministry of Finance, Revenue, Planning and Development.

The House witnessed four walkouts and a protest during the 76<sup>th</sup> session. The ANP Senators walked out of the House twice protesting over the mention of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as KPK in official documents, and over not being allowed to discuss matters related to the Director General of ISI in the House. Senators from FATA staged a walkout over the unavailability of utility stores in their areas. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> sitting, all the Senators – treasury and opposition – protested over the absence of ministers. The PkMAP, PMLN and ANP staged a walkout on the same issue during the 6<sup>th</sup> sitting.

# Introduction

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 Parliament in order to hold those elected leaders accountable.

The Parliament Watch Project (PWP), launched in 2008, aims at generating objective and statistically-sound information about parliamentary performance to foster informed engagement between the constituents and their elected representatives. Universal access to information about national legislative processes is an essential component of democracy. A society cannot be truly democratic until constituents know about the person they are voting for, and whether or not the elected representatives are fulfilling their responsibilities. Since there is a dearth of publicly accessible information about the political decision-making processes, such as parliamentary deliberations, the PWP is an effort to bridge this gap. This report will be a contribution towards creating a more informed citizenry and an increasingly responsible Parliament.

The PWP employs direct observation as one of the tools to evaluate parliamentary proceedings with the following indicators:

**Transparency:** Government's accountability requires transparency in decision-making and policy implementation. Transparency refers to the amount and quality of information available to the public as well as timely and clear information communicated within legislative bodies themselves. Inclusive and strong decisions can only be made when all Legislators are well-informed about parliamentary proceedings.

**Participation:** Only the active and responsible participation of all the Senators can make the business of Parliament meaningful. The participation can be judged through various indicators like attendance of parliamentary leaders and other Senators and their active involvement in parliamentary discussion and activities.

**Responsiveness:** Parliament's responsiveness means Senators' collective actions on the issues of public interests which are raised and discussed on the floor of the House through Legislation, Resolutions or any other agenda item. Responsiveness of Government to the public is measured in terms of parliamentary oversight and effective implementation of policy decisions. Parliament's executive oversight function is mainly carried out through Questions and parliamentary committees.

**Parliamentary Output:** Parliamentary output primarily comes in the form of Legislation and Resolutions. The quantity of such output is indicative of Parliament's efficiency. The quality of output is equally important. Considering Legislation on matters of national significance through careful debate and discussion is arguably a Parliament's chief and most important function.

**Order and Institutionalization:** Order and Institutionalization of Senators are important for an efficient and productive Parliament. Order may be measured, for example, by the conduct of Senators and the Chair's effective management of parliamentary business. Institutionalization refers to Senators' understanding and compliance with rules of procedure for parliamentary business.

## 1.0 Session Duration and Senators' Participation

### 1.1 Session Time

The 76th session of the Senate had seven sittings, starting on December 9, and prorogued sine die on December 20. The Upper House met for 13 hours and 36 minutes, an average of an hour and 57 minutes each day. Each sitting was delayed, on an average, by 37 minutes.

The shortest sitting lasted 31 minutes (December 17) while the longest was spread over three hours and 25 minutes (December 14).

Date	Sitting No	Delays	Hours	Minutes
Friday, December 09, 2011	1st	42	1	17
Monday, December 12, 2011	2nd	34	2	39
Tuesday, December 13, 2011	3rd	35	2	10
Wednesday, December 14, 2011	4th	37	3	25
Thursday, December 15, 2011	5th	42	2	3
Saturday, December 17, 2011	6th	35	0	31
Tuesday, December 20, 2011	7th	35	1	31
<b>Total</b>		<b>Average 37 minutes</b>	<b>13 hours and 36 minutes</b>	

### 1.2 Senators' Participation

Participation has been classified into three categories – Senators who only submitted agenda item(s) on the Orders of the Day; Legislators who did not submit any agenda item but took part in discussions and deliberations in the House, and Senators who submitted agenda items and participated in debates as well.

Fourteen Senators submitted items on the Orders of the Day while 20 participated in debates. Twenty-two Senators submitted agenda items and also actively took part in the House discussions.

Party	Senators Who Submitted Agenda Items	Senators Who Took Part in Debates	Senators Who Participated in Debates as well as Submitted Agenda Items	Percentage of Senators Who Submitted Agenda Items	Percentage of Senators Who Participated in Debates	Percentage of Senators Who Submitted Agenda Items And Participated in Debates	Total Number of Senators in Assembly by Party
MQM	0	3	2	0%	50%	33%	6
NP	0	1	1	0%	50%	50%	2
PPPP	2	4	4	7%	15%	15%	27
JUIF	1	1	2	11%	11%	22%	9
IND	2	1	4	18%	9%	36%	11
ANP	0	1	3	0%	17%	50%	6
PPPS	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	1
PML	4	3	3	19%	14%	14%	21
BNPA	0	0	1	0%	0%	33%	3
JI	2	0	1	67%	0%	33%	3
PMLN	1	4	1	14%	57%	14%	7
JUI	0	1	0	0%	100%	0%	1
JWP	0	1	0	0%	100%	0%	1
PMLF	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	1
PkMAP	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>100</b>

### 1.3 Senators' Attendance

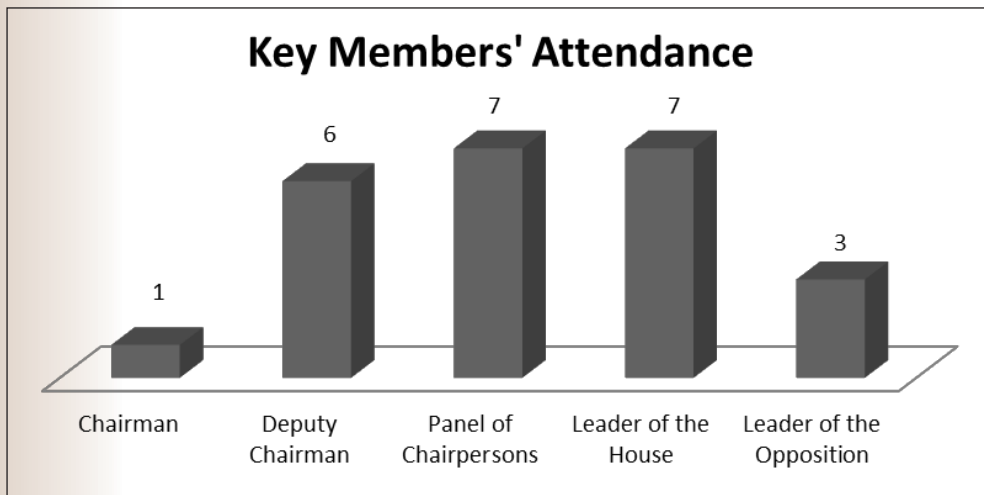
Senators' attendance remained low. On average, 13 Senators were present at the outset and 25 at the end of each sitting. The lowest attendance of Senators was observed in the seventh sitting when only eight were present at the start of the sitting and six at the end.

Sitting No.	Senators present at the Outset	Senators at the End
1st	23	28
2nd	12	43
3rd	10	23
4th	14	36
5th	11	26
6th	16	11
7th	8	6
<b>Average</b>	<b>13 Senators</b>	<b>25 Senators</b>

### 1.4 Key Members' Attendance

The Leader of the House attended the entire session while the Leader of the Opposition was present in three sittings. The Chairman attended one sitting and the Deputy Chairman was present in six. The Members of the Panel of Chairpersons were present in all the sittings.

The Parliamentary Leader of PPPS did not attend any sitting, while leaders of PkMAP and PMLN attended seven each, ANP six, PML, MQM, NP, JI and PMLF five each, and JWP and BNPA leaders attended one sitting each.



Thirty-eight Senators applied for leave during the course of the session. The following table shows a party-wise and province-wise analysis of leave seekers.

Party	Balochistan	FATA	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Punjab	Sindh	Total
ANP			5			5
IND	2	2				4
JI			4			4
JUI			2			2
JUIF	2		1			3
MQM					1	1
PML			1	3	1	5
PMLF					1	1
PMLN				4		4
PPPP				4	4	8
PPPS			1			1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>38</b>

## 2.0 Calling Attention Notice

Calling Attention Notices (CANs) are a method of drawing the attention of a Minister towards a matter of urgent public importance.

### 2.1 Issues Raised through CANs

One out of two Calling Attention Notices which appeared on the Agenda was taken up by the House. Moved by an ANP Senator, the CAN was regarding the missing NATO containers, while the other CAN – sponsored by a JI Senator – was about the reported tax refund fraud of Rs 10.40 billion.

Sr. No	Party	Issue Raised	Relevant Ministry	Status
1	ANP (one male Senator)	Missing NATO/ISAF containers	Finance, Revenue, Planning and Development, Economic Affairs and Statistics	Taken Up
2	JI (one male Senator)	Reported tax refund fraud of Rs10.40 billion.	Finance, Revenue, Planning and Development, Economic Affairs and Statistics	Not Taken Up

### 3.0 Question Hour

As many as 176 Starred Questions (requiring oral answers) were put forth by Senators. A total of 32 (18%) of the Starred Questions were taken up. The Senators asked 69 Supplementary Questions. The Question Hour could not be held during the 4th sitting due to the absence of ministers.

Sitting No.	Starred Questions of the Agenda	Starred Questions taken up by the House	Supplementary Questions
1st	25	5	15
2nd	-	-	-
3rd	27	7	19
4th	59	<b>Ministerial Absence</b>	
5th	22	12	14
6th	-	-	-
7th	43	8	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>69</b>

### 3.1 Question Hour Statistics

Senators from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa submitted the highest number of Questions, followed by Senators from Balochistan. The Senators from the two provinces submitted 59% of the total number of Questions.

	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Total	Fully Answered	No Response	Partially Answered	Total
Balochistan	47	1	48	45	2	1	48
FATA	11	8	19	16	3		19
ICT	1	0	1		1		1
KP	61	1	62	57	5		62
Punjab	1	0	1	1			1
Sindh	30	0	30	30			30
Technocrats	1	0	1	1			1
Technocrats including <i>Ulema</i>	8	0	8	8			8
Women	16	1	17	16	1		17
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>187</b>

### 3.2 Ministry-Wise Breakup of Questions and Responses

Most of the Questions were addressed to the Cabinet Secretariat. Three Ministries received only one Question each. The table shows a Ministry-wise breakup of both starred and unstarred Questions asked in the House, and the responses from the relevant ministries.

Ministry	Starred	Unstarred	Total	Full Answered	Partially Answered	No Response	Total
Cabinet Secretariat	40	8	<b>48</b>	43	5		<b>48</b>
Commerce	9		<b>9</b>	9			<b>9</b>
Communications	44		<b>44</b>	43	1		<b>44</b>
Economic Affairs and Statistics	5		<b>5</b>	4	1		<b>5</b>
Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development	31		<b>31</b>	30		1	<b>31</b>
Foreign Affairs	17		<b>17</b>	17			<b>17</b>
Housing and Works	3	1	<b>4</b>	3	1		<b>4</b>
Human Rights	1		<b>1</b>	1			<b>1</b>
Industries	1		<b>1</b>	1			<b>1</b>
Inter-Provincial Coordination	3		<b>3</b>	3			<b>3</b>
Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	2		<b>2</b>	1	1		<b>2</b>
Overseas Pakistanis	2		<b>2</b>	2			<b>2</b>
Petroleum and Natural Resources	4	1	<b>5</b>	4	1		<b>5</b>
Religious Affairs	1		<b>1</b>	1			<b>1</b>
Water and Power	13	1	<b>14</b>	12	2		<b>14</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>187</b>

### 3.3 Party-wise Breakup of Questions

Senators belonging to the JUIF put forth the most Questions, followed by the ANP and MQM. Each party requested for more written replies than oral ones in the House.

Party	Starred	Unstarred	Total
ANP	26		26
BNPA	9		9
IND	16	8	24
JI	6	1	7
JUIF	73	2	75
MQM	26		26
PkMAP	1		1
PML	9		9
PMLN	2		2
PPPP	8		8
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>187</b>

Most Questions put forth by JUIF, ANP and MQM Senators were addressed to the Ministry of Communications. Only one question was posted by a PkMAP Senator to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The following table shows a party-wise analysis of questions directed to various ministries.

Ministry	ANP	BNPA	IND	JI	JUIF	MQM	PkMAP	PML	PMLN	PPPP	Total
Cabinet Secretariat	7	4	14		14	3		1	2	3	<b>48</b>
Commerce		1			5	3					<b>9</b>
Communications	12	4		2	21	5					<b>44</b>
Economic Affairs and Statistics						4		1			<b>5</b>
Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development	2		4	2	15	4		2		2	<b>31</b>
Foreign Affairs			1	1	10	1	1	3			<b>17</b>
Housing and Works			1		1	1				1	<b>4</b>
Human Rights										1	<b>1</b>
Industries					1						<b>1</b>



Ministry	ANP	BNPA	IND	JI	JUIF	MQM	PkMAP	PML	PMLN	PPPP	Total
Inter Provincial Coordination					1			2			3
Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs			1			1					2
Overseas Pakistanis					2						2
Petroleum and Natural Resources	2		2		1						5
Religious Affairs					1						1
Water and Power	3		1	2	3	4				1	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>187</b>

### 3.4 Gender-wise Submission of Questions

Out of a total 187 Questions put forth, 170 (91%) were asked by male Senators while 17 (9%) by female Senators.

Gender	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Total
Female	16	1	17
Male	160	10	170
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>187</b>

The data reveals that 170 Questions were submitted by 20 male Senators and 17 by five female Senators. In other words, counting only those Senators who put forth Questions, an average of almost 3.4 Questions were asked by each female Senator and 8.5 Questions by each male Senator.

Party	Questions asked by Female Senators	Female Senators	Questions asked by Male Senators	Male Senators	Total Questions	Total Senators who asked Questions
ANP			26	3	26	3
BNPA	9	1			9	1
IND			24	5	24	5
JI	1	1	6	2	7	3
JUIF			75	2	75	2
MQM			26	1	26	1
PkMAP			1	1	1	1
PML			9	4	9	4
PMLN	1	1	1	1	2	2
PPPP	6	2	2	1	8	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>25</b>

## 4.0 Legislation

Considering Legislation on matters of national significance through careful debate and discussion is arguably a Parliament's chief and primary function.

### 4.1 Government Bills

Two Government Bills were passed while one Bill was introduced and sent to the respective Standing Committee.

Sr. No.	Government Bills on the Orders of the Day	Bills Debated	Status		
			Introduced	Passed	Rejected/ Not Taken Up/ Deferred
1	The Islamabad High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2011	✓		✓	
2	The Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2011	✓		✓	
3	The Private Power and Infrastructure Board Bill, 2011				✓
4	The Islamabad Consumers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2011		✓		

### 4.2 Private Members' Bills

Nine Private Members' Bills appeared on the Orders of the Day. Two Criminal Law (Amendment) Bills were unanimously passed by the House. The remaining Bills were either withdrawn or deferred.

Sr. No.	Private Members' Bills on the Orders of the Day	Bills Debated	Status		
			Introduced	Passed	Rejected/ Not Taken Up/ Deferred
1	The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2011 ( <i>Amendment of section 332, insertion of new sections 336A and 336B in Act XLV of 1860 and amendment of Schedule II of Act V of 1898</i> )	✓		✓	
2	The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2011 ( <i>Substitution of section 310A, insertion of new Chapter XXA in Act XLV of 1860, insertion of new section 402D and amendment of Schedule II of Act V of 1898</i> )	✓		✓	
3	The Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, 2008				✓
4	The Pakistan Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2011			✓	
5	The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2010 ( <i>Amendment of Article 142</i> ).				✓
6	The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2011 ( <i>Amendment of Article 248</i> ).				✓
7	The Service Tribunals (Amendment) Bill, 2011				✓
8	The Victims of Natural Calamities (Rehabilitation and Financial Assistance) Bill, 2010				✓
9	The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2010 ( <i>Amendment of Articles 1 and 239</i> ).				✓

## 5.0 Resolutions

The Upper House adopted a Resolution to express grief on the demise of ex-Senator Nawabzada Jehangir Shah Jomezai. The Resolution was moved by the Leader of the House.

## 6.0 Question of Privilege (QoP)

Questions of Privilege are concerned with the rights or privileges of the House or any of its Members. In the latter case, they are known as Points of Personal Privilege.

A Question of Privilege was raised during the second sitting about derogatory remarks passed by the Vice Chancellor Quaid-e-Azam University against the Parliamentarians. The QoP was sent to the Standing Committee on Rules of Procedures and Privileges.

## 7.0 Points of Orders

Under the rules, a Member can raise a Point of Order only to point out any violation of the rules and procedure or to seek enforcement of certain rules required to regulate the business of the House. The Chair is required to give a ruling on it.

### 7.1 Issues Raised in Points of Order

Sixty Points of Order were raised during the session, which have been categorized into 20 broader themes. Most of the issues raised by Senators pertained to energy (16), followed by Balochistan related issues (13) and the absence of (11). None of the Points of Order attracted the formal ruling of the Chair. Unless the Chair gives a formal ruling on a Point of Order, it does not lead to any output.

Sr. No	Issues	ANP	IND	Ji	JUIF	JWP	MQM	NP	PkMAP	PML	PMLN	PPPP	Total
1	Energy	2	1	1	1		2	1	1	4	2	1	16
2	Balochistan related issues		1		3			3	2	2		2	13
3	Ministerial Absence	2	1		2				1	1	2	2	11
4	Foreign Affairs									1	1		2
5	Memogate	2											2
6	NATO Attack (27th November, 2011)	1									1		2
7	Agriculture				1								1
8	Business of the House				1								1
9	Communication				1								1
10	Democracy	1											1
11	Dr Aafia Siddique's Case				1								1
12	Economy						1						1
13	Employment									1			1
14	FATA related issues		1										1
15	Housing and Works						1						1
16	Media				1								1
17	Missing Persons					1							1
18	Narcotics						1						1
19	Performance of the Government				1								1
20	Prime Minister's Role in Senate					1							1
<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>60</b>

## 7.2 Senators raising Points of Order

Thirty-five Senators raised a total of 60 Points of Order. The following table shows a party-wise analysis of Senators raising Points of Order. Out of 35 Senators, five were female – two each of PPPP and PML and one PML.

Gender	ANP	IND	JI	JUIF	JWP	MQM	NP	PkMAP	PML	PMLN	PPPP	Total
Female									2	1	2	5
Male	4	3	1	4	1	5	2	1	3	3	3	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>35</b>

## 8.0 Protests, Boycotts and Walkouts

The House witnessed four walkouts and a protest during the 76th session. The ANP Senators walked out of the House twice protesting over the name of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in official documents, and over not being allowed to discuss issues related to the Director General of ISI in the House. The Senators belonging to FATA staged a walkout over the unavailability of utility stores in their areas. During the 3rd sitting, all the Senators – treasury and opposition – protested over the ministerial absence. The PkMAP, PMLN and ANP staged a walkout on the issue during the 6th sitting.

Sitting No	Party	Reason	Time	Protest/Walkout/ Boycott
1st	ANP	Name of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in official documents	5	Walkout
3rd	IND	Unavailability of Utility Stores in FATA	2	Walkout
4th	All Senators	Ministerial Absence	22	Protest
5th	ANP	Issues related to the Director General Inter-Services Intelligence	18	Walkout
6th	PkMAP, PMLN and ANP	Ministerial Absence	10	Walkout
<b>Total</b>				<b>52 minutes</b>

# 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.

**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.



# 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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