



FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR



SIXTH SESSION

Provincial Assembly of Balochistan

(September 26 to October 9, 2013)

Free and Fair Election Network
www.fafen.org

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

List of Abbreviations

| | |
|-------|--|
| ANP | Awami National Party |
| BNP | Balochistan National Party |
| BNPA | Balochistan National Party (Awami) |
| PML | Pakistan Muslim League |
| PML-N | Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) |
| PkMAP | Pakhtunkhuwa Mili Awami Party |
| NP | National Party |
| MWMP | Majlis-i-Wahdatai Muslimeen Pakistan |
| JUI-F | Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (Fazal-ur-Rehman) |



This report is based on direct observation of proceedings of Provincial Assembly of Balochistan, conducted by CPD, a member organisation of FAFEN.



Executive Summary

During its sixth session the Balochistan Assembly adopted 14 resolutions on the Peshawar church attack and provincial issues including the Balochistan earthquake, pricing and distribution of gas, communications, financial matters and development projects.

Responding to the twin suicide attacks on a church in Peshawar the assembly adopted a resolution sponsored jointly by the PkMAP, NP and PML-N lawmakers. On other resolutions the House urged the government to ensure relief activities for the victims of the September earthquakes in Balochistan, ensure the eradication of polio and interest-based financial system in the province and set up four sugar mills in Dera Allahyar, Sohbatpur, Osta Muhammad and Dera Murad Jamali.

The government was called upon to protect the rights of the local public by eradicating the practice of employing 80% of the Reko Dik project employees from other provinces; and equating the CNG rates charged in Balochistan to other provinces. The House also demanded for the supply of gas to various regions and the immediate construction of Mangi and Helak Dams to meet the water requirement in Quetta city.

In addition to renaming the Balochistan Coast as Behre-Baloch, the House urged the government to bring an end to the Zarai Taraqiati Bank's (ZTBL) vendetta against landlords belonging to different district in the province. The latter issue was brought in the House again on an adjournment motion during the fifth sitting.

The other two adjournment motions debated during the session were on the line of control violation and indiscriminate firing of Afghan security forces on Pak-Afghan border killing several civilians and Levies officials and the government's decision to increase petroleum product prices despite their recent fall in the world market.

The session started on September 26 till October 9, 2013 consuming 21 hours and 40 minutes. On average, each sitting lasted three hours and 37 minutes.

The Chief Minister and the Leader of Opposition attended two sittings each. The Speaker chaired 69% of the proceedings while the remaining time (19%) was chaired by the members of Panel of Chairpersons. Twelve percent of the session (two hours and 40 minutes) was consumed by five breaks.

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 Members can make the business of parliament meaningful. The participation can be judged through various indicators like attendance of parliamentary leaders and other members and their active involvement in parliamentary discussion and activities.

Responsiveness: Parliament's responsiveness means Members' 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 members are important for an efficient and productive parliament. Order may be measured, for example, by the conduct of members and the chair's effective management of parliamentary business. Institutionalization refers to members' understanding and compliance with rules of procedure for parliamentary business.

The quorum which meets on the presence of 16 MPAs (1/4th of total strength) - generally met during the session. On average, a maximum 36 legislators were present at the beginning and 19 at the end of the proceedings. The three minority members in the Balochistan Assembly attended the entire session.

Eight of 15 starred questions on the agenda were taken up on the floor however only two of them were fully answered - one each by the Ministries of Interior, and Labor and Manpower.

Thirty-three MPAs spoke on 59 points of order, consuming three hours and four minutes – 14% of the total session time.

The session witnessed two walkouts; the first, staged by the JUI-F and ANP MPAs, against the lack of agenda on the list of business while the second by PML-N lawmakers over the raid of security forces on a party MPA's residence.

1.0 Session Duration, Attendance and Participation

This section deals with the duration the provincial assembly met during the session, attendance and participation of the legislators; and maintenance of quorum (1/4th of the total membership, 16).

1.1 Session Time

The six-sitting session spanned from September 26 to October 9, 2013 consuming 21 hours and 40 minutes. On average each sitting lasted three hours and 37 minutes remaining 34 minutes behind schedule. The third sitting was the most delayed by 52 minutes.

The House took five breaks consuming two hours and 40 minutes of the proceedings.

Table 1.1 : Time and Duration

| Sr. No. | Day and Date | Sitting No | Late Starts | Hours | Minutes | Breaks |
|---------|------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|------------|
| 1. | Thursday, September 26 | 1st | 34 | 4 | 47 | 44 |
| 2. | Saturday, September 28 | 2nd | 40 | 2 | 48 | 18 |
| 3. | Tuesday, October 01 | 3rd | 52 | 2 | 17 | 19 |
| 4. | Friday, October 04 | 4th | 25 | 3 | 45 | 38 |
| 5. | Monday, October 07 | 5th | 36 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| 6. | Wednesday, October 09 | 6th | 18 | 4 | 59 | 41 |
| | | | Average 34 minutes | 21 Hours and 40 Minutes | | 160 |

1.2 Members' Attendance

The FAFEN observer conducts a headcount of the legislators at the beginning, at the end and the time when maximum members are present in each sitting. The actual time spent in the House by the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition is also documented.

In Balochistan Assembly, a 64-member House, on average a maximum 36 legislators were present at the outset and 19 at the adjournment of each sitting. All three minority members in the House attended the proceedings. The quorum (16 MPAs) was generally maintained during the proceedings.

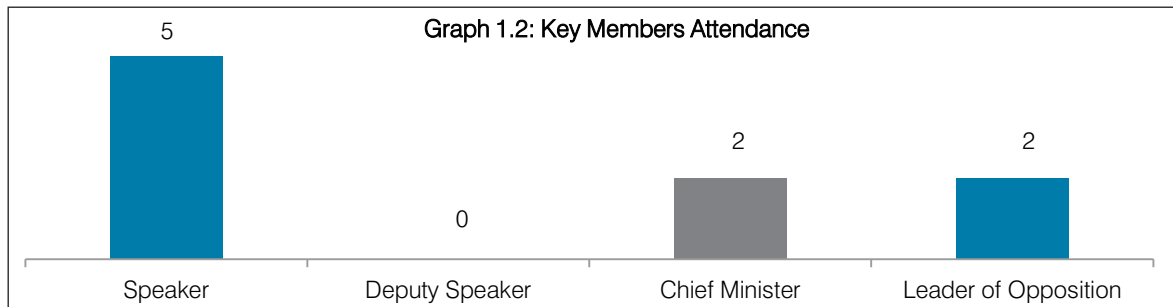
Table 1.2: Members' Attendance

| Sitting No. | Members at the Outset | Members at the End | Maximum Members | Minority Members |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1st | 31 | 17 | 31 | 3 |
| 2nd | 34 | 18 | 34 | 3 |
| 3rd | 36 | 17 | 36 | 3 |
| 4th | 36 | 28 | 36 | 3 |
| 5th | 37 | 17 | 37 | 3 |
| 6th | 42 | 19 | 42 | 3 |
| Average | 36 | 19 | 36 | 3 |



Attendance of MPAs is vital, especially of those holding important positions - the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition - to perform their legislative and representative roles effectively.

The Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition both were present in two sittings attending 27% and 30% of the proceedings, respectively. The Speaker chaired 69% (14 hours and 56 minutes) of the proceedings while the Panel of Chairpersons chaired 19% (three hours and 44 minutes) of the session.



1.3 Members' Participation

Participation has been classified into three categories: the MPAs who only submit agenda, those who do not submit any agenda item but take part in discussions and the MPAs who both submit agenda items as well as participate in the debates.

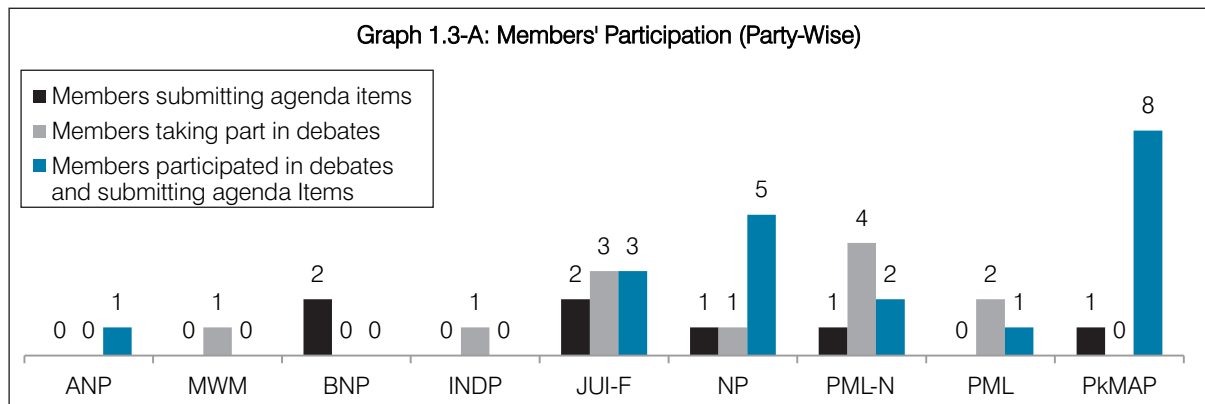
Overall 39 MPAs (61% of total strength) participated in the session: seven MPAs (11%) submitted agenda items; 12 (19%) only spoke in the on-floor debates while 20 MPAs (31%) both tabled and debated agenda.

Table 1.3: Member's Participation

| Sr. No. | Political Party | Members Who Submitted Agenda Items | Members Who Took Part in Debates | Members Who Participated in Debates as well as Submitted Agenda Items | Percentage of Members Who Submitted Agenda Items | Percentage of Members Who Participated in Debates | Percentage of Members Who Submitted Agenda Items And Participated in Debates |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | ANP | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0% | 0% | 100% |
| 2 | MWM | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0% | 100% | 0% |
| 3 | BNP | 2 | 0 | 0 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| 4 | BNPA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 5 | INDP | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0% | 100% | 0% |
| 6 | JUI-F | 2 | 3 | 3 | 25% | 38% | 38% |
| 7 | NP | 1 | 1 | 5 | 10% | 10% | 50% |
| 8 | PML-N | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5% | 18% | 9% |
| 9 | PML | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0% | 50% | 25% |
| 10 | PkMAP | 1 | 0 | 8 | 7% | 0% | 57% |
| Total | | 7 | 12 | 20 | 11% | 19% | 31% |

All lawmakers of ANP and MWM (single member parties), BNP (two MPAs) and JUI-F (eight MPAs) participated in the session in one way or the other. Seven of 22 PML-N MPAs (32%) took part in the session mostly by debating agenda. Of the larger parties seven out of 22 PML-N MPAs participated by actively debating agenda, nine out of 14 PkMAP lawmakers (64%) keenly both submitted and debated agenda while following a similar trend seven out of 10 NP lawmakers participated in the session.

The sole BNPA lawmaker did not participate in the session.

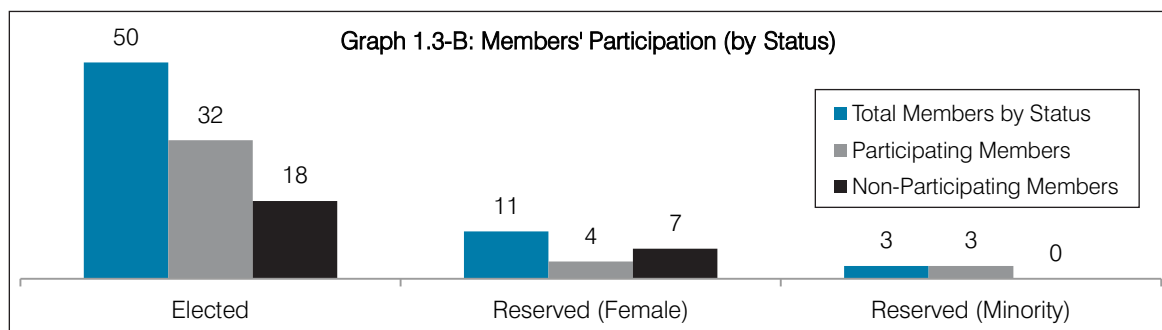


More male lawmakers (34 out of 52) participated in the session as compared to their female counterparts (five out of 12) each by both submitting as well as debating agenda.

Table 1.3: Participation by Gender

| Sr. No. | Gender | Members Who Submitted Agenda Items | Members Who Took Part in Debates | Members Who Participated in Debates as well as Submitted Agenda Items |
|--------------|--------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Male | 7 | 10 | 17 |
| 2 | Female | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Total | | 7 | 12 | 20 |

Fifty MPAs of the House strength have been elected on general seats and 14 on reserved – eleven female and three minority MPAs. Thirty-two elected lawmakers (64%) and four females and all minority MPAs on reserved seats participated in the session by more actively both submitting and debating agenda.



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, calling attention notices and adjournment motions.

2.1 Question Hour

Question hour is a mean of government oversight where the MPAs can submit questions addressed to any ministry or department seeking information regarding its area of expertise and its performance. MPAs can submit starred questions (requiring both oral and written answers) or un-starred (requiring written answers only).

Four male lawmakers - two each of BNP and JUI-F - submitted 15 starred questions on the agenda. Eight starred questions were taken up on the floor however only two of them received reply from the relevant ministry/department leaving 13 questions unanswered.

The female lawmakers did not submit any questions for the question hour held during the first and second sitting of the session.



Table 2.1: Ministry Wise Questions

| Ministry Concerned | Starred Questions | Fully Answered | No Response |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Interior | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Services and General Administration | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Education | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Health | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Labour and Manpower | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Livestock | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 15 | 2 | 13 |

The BNP MPAs submitted 11 questions while the JUI-F MPAs four. The maximum questions were directed to both the Ministries of Interior and Services and General Administration (4), followed by Ministry of Education (3), Labour and Manpower(2) and one question each was addressed to each Ministry of Health and Livestock.

2.2 Adjournment Motion

An adjournment motion is a parliamentary instrument utilized by MPAs to bring a matter of urgent public importance by suspending the business of the House being transacted.

In the first sitting male JUI-F MPAs moved an adjournment motion regarding violation and firing of Afghan security forces on Pak-Afghan border resulting in casualties of civilians and Levies officials. Another adjournment motion moved by a female JUI-F MPA regarding increase in the prices of petroleum products and power tariff was also debated by the House.

The male PkMAP MPAs moved a motion about the alleged operation of Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited (ZTBL) against its borrowers despite their loans being written off by the previous federal government. The subject of the said motion reappeared on a resolution in the next sitting's agenda.

The adjournment motion submitted by JUI-F MPAs regarding the kidnapping of a cardiologist Dr. Abdul Munaf on September 17, 2013 resulting in strikes by government doctors in the province was not taken up by the House.

3.0 Parliamentary Output

This section is concerned with the bills introduced and passed and the resolutions debated during the session. During this session no bills were introduced or passed by the Balochistan Assembly.

3.1 Resolutions

Through Resolutions, the House expresses an opinion, makes recommendations or conveys a message on a specific and important issue. The House can also commend, condemn, urge or request an action by the government. Resolutions can be moved by ministers or by private members.

Fourteen out of seventeen resolutions tabled during the session were adopted by the House. Eight of the adopted resolutions were moved by a single party member of PkMAP (four resolutions), JUI-F (two) and one resolution each submitted by NP and PML. Additionally, six joint resolutions were also taken up.

The House responded to national and regional issues on resolutions. A joint resolution on twin suicide attacks on Kohati Gate Church in Peshawar was moved by the minority members of PkMAP, NP and PML-N. On another resolution jointly sponsored by JUI-F, ANP and JI members, the House expressed solidarity with the Balochistan earthquake victims demanding for the provision of immediate relief and rehabilitation for the same.

The other jointly tabled resolutions called upon the government to provide employment opportunities to Baloch people in the Reko Diq mining project, marking Polio day in schools to raise awareness on the fatal disease, setup of sugar mills in Dera Allahyar, Sohbat Pur, Osta Muhammad and Dera Murad Jamali and to supply sui gas to the tehsil Mangochar of Kalat District.

Four resolutions were tabled by PkMAP to urge the government to set CNG rates in Balochistan similar to those in other provinces, permit setting up of CNG stations and laying of a pipeline project for supply of gas to Quetta from Zarghoon Gas Field through a shorter and safer route and to award the relevant contract to a local contractor. The party also called for the establishment of modern educational and technical institutions in Chaman and the resolution of the Zarai Taraqati Bank's dispute with the landowners in the province.

The JUI-F lawmakers called for the repair and expansion of Zhob to D.I.Khan Dana Sar road and the abolition of interest-based financial system in Quetta city. A resolution each was sponsored by PML and NP to request the provincial government to expedite the Mangi and Helak Dam projects and rename the 1000-km Balochistan coastal area as Behre-Baloch, respectively.

Moved by the JUI-F lawmakers, two resolutions calling for the establishment of a cadet college in Zhob, and improvement in health facilities in the province were not taken up. Similarly an NP sponsored resolution calling upon the government to prepare computerized birth certificates to stop misuse of Balochistan domicile by outsiders, was debated and later deferred by the House.

Table 3.1 : Resolutions

| Sr. No | Resolution | Party | Status |
|--------|---|----------------------|---------|
| 1. | The House strongly condemns the incident of twin suicide attacks carried out on Kohati Gate Church killing more than 81 people and injuring 146 including 34 Women and seven children. This was the worst incident of country's 66 years history and also an ample proof of failure of Law enforcement agencies. This House calls upon the federal government to arrest the culprits of this incident immediately | PkMAP NP PML-N | Adopted |
| 2. | The House request the provincial government to consult the federal government for the issue of Zhob to D.I.Khan Dana-sar road. Due to its worse condition, it is not for traffic use and creating difficulties for the local people to connect with the other provinces. This road should be repaired and expanded in accordance to the Quetta-Zhob road so that the people of the province can easily travel to Punjab and KP without wasting their time | JUI-F | Adopted |
| 3. | The House condemns the current practice of interest based transactions for carrying out business activities in Quetta city | JUI-F | Adopted |
| 4. | The House extends condolences over the deaths of the September 24 earthquake victims and calls upon the federal government to provide assistance to families of the deceased and the affectees with proper medical treatment to the injured | JUI-F ANP JUI | Adopted |
| 5. | Demand to give at least 80% of the employment quota to the residents of Balochistan in Reko Diq project, so that the issues of poverty and unemployment in the region can be eradicated | PML-N NP PML | Adopted |
| 6. | The House requests to the government to approve setup of sugar mills in the Dera Allahyar, Sohbat pur, Osta Muhammad and Dera Murad Jamali | PML PML-N | Adopted |
| 7. | Request to the provincial government to consult the federal government for operational state of five CNG stations that have been completed. Along wise CNG purchase price should be equated to the rates prevailing in the other provinces. | PkMAP | Adopted |
| 8. | The House calls upon the provincial government to start construction of Mangi and Helak Dams immediately to fulfill the water requirement of Quetta city | PML | Adopted |
| 9. | The House therefore, calls upon the provincial government to contact the administration of Mari Gas Company Limited that the pipeline may be laid down through the short route via Dalwani Tor Shor Hanna to Quetta, while its contract which has been given to a non-local contractor may be resolved at once and be given to local contractors. While, Gas royalty and jobs may be given to the local people | PkMAP | Adopted |
| 10. | The House calls upon the provincial government to rename the 1000 Km long Balochistan Coast to <i>Behre-Baloch</i> | NP | Adopted |
| 11. | The House calls upon the provincial government that Polio Day may be Marked in all the schools on Polio day on legal grounds. To protect backward and far-flung areas from this fetal disease. It is necessary that a pre-condition of complete advance Polio immunization course may be laid down for children desirous to seek admissions in all schools. Moreover, Polio campaign card may be declared as mandatory to get rid of this fatal disease forever | NP PkMAP PML-N | Adopted |
| 12. | The House calls upon the federal government to take immediate steps to provide sui gas to the village of tehsil Mangochar of Kalat District, so as a lonely lasting demand of people of Mangochar could be fulfilled. | NP PML-N | Adopted |
| 13. | The House therefore, calls upon the provincial government to ensure steps to establish Cadet College, Polytechnic Institute and Residential school in Chaman | PkMAP | Adopted |
| 14. | Zarai Taraqjati Bank of Pakistan has continued with revengeful operations against landlords of different district in the province that includes intolerable arrests as well. Such incidents have caused great distress among the land lords of Balochistan. Although payable debts of the land lords from Balochistan was announced to be cleared by the previous federal government. Additionally, a notification clearly indicated writing off the payable loans of landlords from Zhob and Kalat was issued. | PkMAP | Adopted |



| Sr. No | Resolution | Party | Status |
|--------|---|-------|----------------------|
| 15. | The House calls upon the provincial government to take steps to establish a cadet college in Zhob on immediate basis so as sense of deprivation among the students of the area could come to an end | JUI-F | Not Taken Up |
| 16. | The House therefore, calls upon the provincial government to devise a comprehensive strategy against the sale of substandard medicines, medical stores without licenses and quackery, so a better health care facilities could be provided to the people | JUI-F | Not Taken Up |
| 17. | The House calls upon the provincial government that computerized Birth Certificate should be declared mandatory to obtain local certificate people from outside may not indulge in any laid of injustice by illegally acquiring local or domicile certificate of Balochistan and this illegal practice could be stopped forthwith | NP | Debated by the House |

4.0 Order and Institutionalization

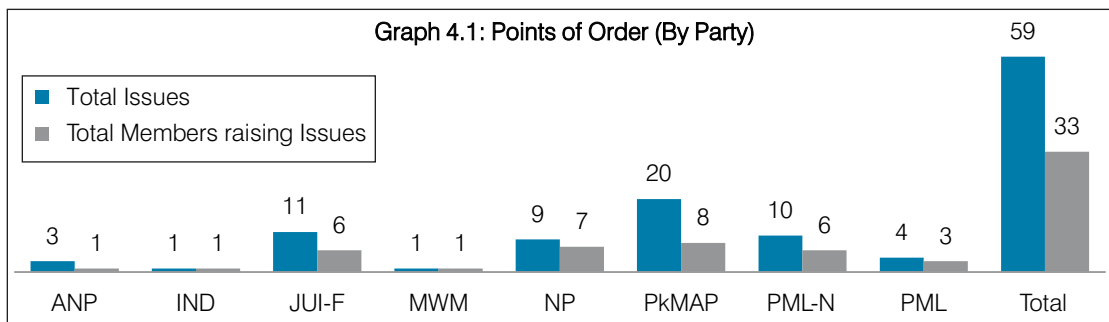
This section deals with order and institutionalization which is important for an efficient and productive legislature. It includes points of order and the time consumed in discussing them. It also narrates the instances of protests, walkouts and boycotts.

4.1 Points of Order (PO)

A lawmaker can speak on a point of order to highlight an observed breach of the assembly rules and procedures while the assembly business is under way. However it has become a common practice in the assembly for members to erroneously raise points of orders to bring national, regional or local issues.

Thirty-three MPAs spoke on 59 points of order, consuming three hours and four minutes – 14% of the total session time. Male lawmakers highlighted more issues while speaking on points of order (28 MPAs raised 53 issues) while five females spoke about six issues.

The PkMAP lawmakers actively shared their views on points of order with eight members raising 20 points of order, followed by seven NP lawmakers (nine POs), six lawmakers of JUI-F and PML-N (11 and ten POs respectively), three PML lawmakers (four POs) and a single point of order was raised by a member of ANP, MWM and an independent MPA.



During the session lawmakers mostly spoke about provincial matters. Eleven points of order were about business of the House, followed by nine on health care, the Balochistan earthquake (seven), employment (five) and power and energy (three).

Other important issues including development schemes, education, terrorism, corruption, media, and feudalism were also raised but on fewer points of order.

Table 4.1: Issues Raised on Points of Order

| Issues | Number of Issues |
|--|------------------|
| Business of the House | 11 |
| Health | 9 |
| Natural disaster (Balochistan earthquake) | 7 |
| Conveyance of gratitude | 6 |
| Employment | 5 |
| Power and energy | 3 |
| Criticism of government | 2 |
| Development Schemes | 2 |
| Education | 2 |
| Terrorism | 2 |
| Balochistan related affairs | 1 |
| Corruption | 1 |
| Criticism of security forces | 1 |
| Feudalism | 1 |
| Government expenditures | 1 |
| Media | 1 |
| Parliamentary affairs | 1 |
| Praise of JUI-F | 1 |
| Tribute to martyred PkMAP workers of 7th, October-1983 | 1 |
| Tribute to Sheikh Zayed Bin Nihyan | 1 |
| Total | 59 |

4.2 Protests, Boycotts and Walkouts

Two walkouts were witnessed during the sixth session consuming 43 minutes – 3% of the total time. The JUI-F and ANP lawmakers staged a 24-minute walkout in the third sitting to protest the lack of agenda on the orders of the day, while the PML-N MPAs walked out of the sixth sitting for 19 minutes against security force's raid on one of their party member's residence.



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.



FAFEN Election Observation Secretariat
House 145, St 37, F-10/1, Islamabad

(P) 051-84 66 230-32
(F) 051-84 66 233

(E) secretariat@fafen.org
(Twitter) [@_FAFEN](https://twitter.com/_FAFEN)

www.fafen.org

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.