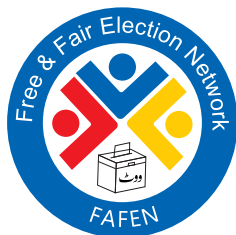


NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

41st SESSION

April 12 – April 21, 2017



FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK

www.fafen.org | www.openparliament.pk

ABBREVIATIONS

AJIP	Awami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan
ANP	Awami National Party
APML	All Pakistan Muslim League
AMLP	Awami Muslim League Pakistan
BISP	Benazir Income Support Program
BNP	Balochistan National Party
CANs	Calling Attention Notices
IND	Independent Member
JI	Jamaat-e-Islami
JUI-F	Jamiat-e-Ulema-Islam (Fazlur Rehman)
MQM	Muttahida Qaumi Movement
MUR	Motion under Rule
NP	National Party
NPP	National Peoples Party
PkMAP	Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PML-F	Pakistan Muslim League (Functional)
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
PML-Z	Pakistan Muslim League (Zia-ul-Haq Shaheed)
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
QWP-S	Qaumi Watan Party (Sherpao)

Actual
Sittings

8

Cumulative
Duration

16

Hours & 27 Minutes

Average
Sitting Delay

18

Minutes

Members at Outset
(Average)

62

present

Members at End
(Average)

57

present

NA Session Haunted by Quorum Issue Leaves 74% Agenda Unaddressed

ISLAMABAD: The 41st session of the National Assembly was marked by low interest and thin attendance of lawmakers as the House witnessed multiple walk-outs, and protests by opposition parties against the Prime Minister in the wake of Supreme Court's verdict on Panama Papers' scandal.

Five out of eight sittings had to be adjourned due to lack of quorum while most of the agenda (74%) on Orders of the Day, including Private Members' Day, remained unaddressed. The lawmakers belonging to PPPP resorted to seven consecutive walkouts against "enforced disappearances" of their party loyalists. They did not return to the House after recording their protest. The quorum was pointed out six times by PPPP lawmakers and twice by PTI legislators. The eight-sitting session started on April 12, 2017 and prorogued sine die on April 21, 2017.

MQM lawmakers also walked out of the House for 23 minutes during the first sitting against the "enforced disappearances" of their political workers. JI lawmakers resorted to walkout during seventh sitting against unsatisfactory reply to Calling Attention Notice (CAN) related to sufferings of patients due to unavailability of proper medical treatment at PIMS Hospital.

Opposition parties protested over Supreme Court's verdict on Panama Papers' scandal during the last sitting and demanded of the Prime Minister to resign from his office. Lawmakers belonging to ruling PML-N and opposition parties (PTI, PPPP) chanted slogans against each other. Opposition lawmakers surrounded the Speaker's dais and tore apart the copies of agenda to express their indignation. Their protest continued for 14 minutes.

The interest of legislators in the proceedings remained low throughout the session. On average, 62 lawmakers were present at the outset and 57 at the adjournment of each sitting. The reporting session consumed 16 hours and 27 minutes, while on average, each sitting spanned over two hours and three minutes, starting with a delay of 18 minutes.

The Speaker presided over 44 % (seven hours and 15 minutes) of the session while 50 % (eight hours and 11 minutes) of the proceedings were chaired by the Deputy Speaker. The session, however, remained suspended for 63 minutes (6%) for want of required number of lawmakers after identification of quorum. The Prime Minister did not attend the entire session while his counterpart, the Leader of the Opposition, remained present for 35 % (three hours and 43 minutes) of the

2

Government
Bills Passed

5

CANs
Taken Up

242

Starred
Questions

9

Walkouts

8

Call of
Quorum

session's working hours.

JI Parliamentary Leader attended every sitting of the session and was followed by leaders of APML (7), AJIP (6), AMLP & PKMAP (6 each), ANP (5), PML-F, PML-Z & QWP (4 each), PPPP, BNP &, NP (3 each) and PTI, NPP and JUI-F (one each). Parliamentary Leaders of MQM and PML did not attend any of the sitting.

Out of 125 agenda items during the session, 93 items (74%) remained unaddressed, 32 agenda items (25%) were taken up while one percent agenda was deferred. Entire Private Members' agenda was left unaddressed.

The House unanimously adopted a resolution to condemn the cold-blooded murder of a university student in Mardan and expressed its resolve to amend the blasphemy law in order to prevent its misuse. Four lawmakers – one each of JUI-F, PTI, JI and MQM – spoke on the resolution for 13 minutes. Six other resolutions on the agenda were not considered by the House.

The House passed the Pakistan Council for Science and Technology Bill, 2017 and the Compulsory Teaching of the Holy Quran Bill, 2017. Twenty-two Private Members' bills could not be considered due to the adjournment of sitting over lack of

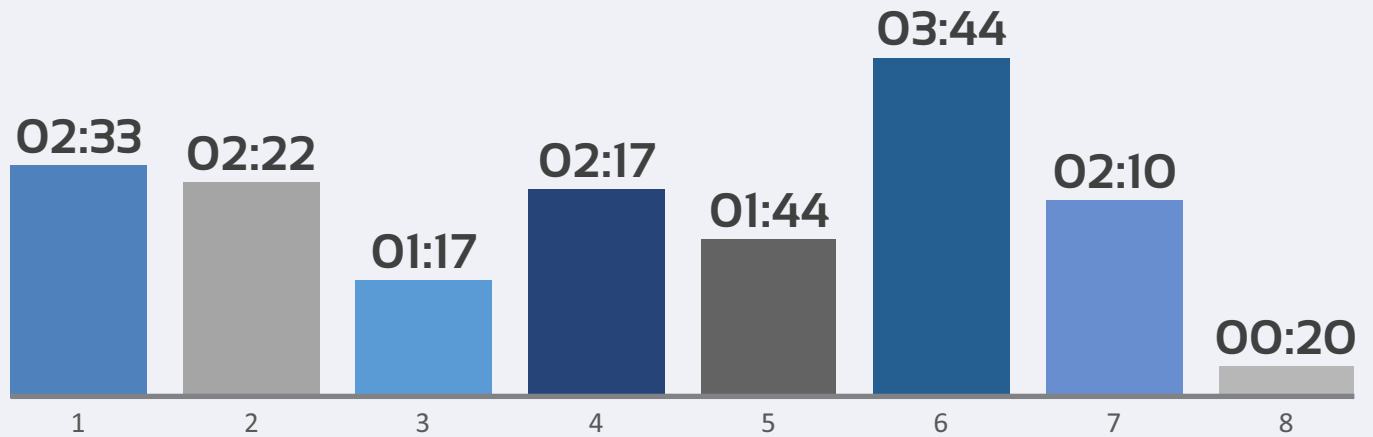
quorum pointed out by a PPPP lawmaker on Private Members' Day.

The lawmakers, through Calling Attention Notices, drew the government's attention to the issues relating to a letter of Accountant General Pakistan Revenues (AGPR) to the government employees on the issue of loans; electricity load-shedding; shortage of water supply in Islamabad; insufficient number of seats for admission of deserving students in schools of Islamabad and sufferings of patients due to unavailability of proper medical treatment at PIMS Hospital, Islamabad.

The House took up 48 out of 242 Starred Questions, while the legislators asked 128 supplementary questions. Lawmakers spoke on 37 Points of Order, highlighting various regional and national issues that consumed two hours and 47 minutes (17%) of the session's time. Of 19 various reports appearing on the agenda, nine were presented in the House.

The House held 50-minute discussion on an Adjournment Motion regarding Pakistan's role in the Islamic Military Alliance. Five PTI lawmakers participated in the discussion while the Minister for Defence concluded it.

SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



KEY MEMBERS ATTENDANCE



Speaker



Deputy Speaker



Prime Minister

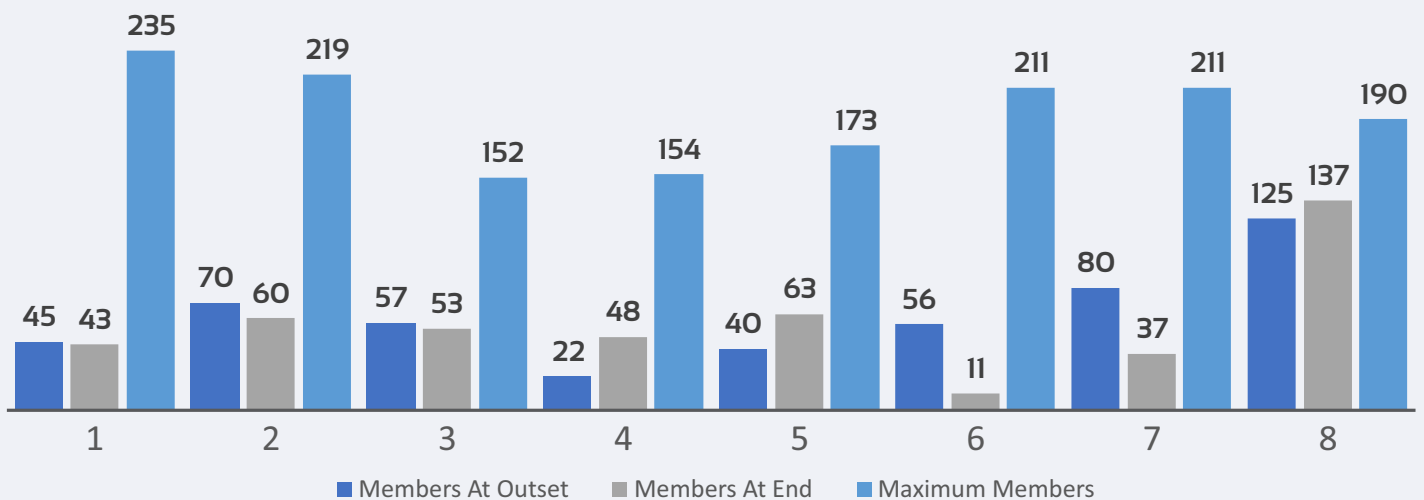


Leader of the Opposition



*Four percent duration of session was consumed in prayer breaks or suspension of proceedings.

MEMBERS ATTENDANCE



PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



Sahibzada Tariqullah



JI

8

attended



Iftikhar Uddin



APML

7

attended



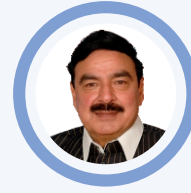
Engr. Usman Khan Tarakai



AJIP

6

attended



Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed



AMLP

6

attended



Mahmood Khan Achakzai



PkMAP

6

attended



Ghulam Ahmed Bilour



ANP

5

attended



Saddar-ud-Din Rashidi



PML-F

4

attended



Muhammad Ijaz-ul-Haq



PML-Z

4

attended



Aftab Ahmed Sherpao



QWP-S

4

attended



Syed Naveed Qammar



PPPP

3

attended



Sayed Essa Nori



BNP

3

attended



Sardar Kamal Bangulzai



NP

3

attended



Imran Khan



PTI

1

attended



Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi



NPP

1

attended



Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman



JUI-F

1

attended



Dr. M. Farooq Sattar



MQM

0

attended



Ch. Pervez Ellahi



PML

0

attended

ABOUT FAFEN

- FAFEN is one of the most credible networks of civil society organizations working for strengthening citizens' voice and accountability in Pakistan since 2006.
- FAFEN has harnessed information technology for real-time monitoring, facilitation and technical backstopping of partners for effective and result-based program delivery.
- FAFEN is the only civil society group to have been invited by the Judicial Commission to present the evidence of illegalities and irregularities documented through the course of General Elections 2013 Observation. The systemic and procedural issues identified by FAFEN have been acknowledged by the commission in its detailed findings.
- FAFEN's recommendations for electoral reforms have contributed to the work of Parliamentary Committee for Electoral Reforms.
- FAFEN's advocacy for parliamentary transparency, accountability and reforms has shaped public discourse on parliamentary reforms. Improved citizens' access to parliamentary information including daily public release of parliamentarians' attendance records can be directly attributed to FAFEN's work.
- FAFEN deployed 18,000 and 40,000 non-partisan and trained observers for the systematic observation of general election 2008 and 2013, respectively, largest citizens' observation ever undertaken in Pakistan.
- FAFEN's evidence and recommendations for reforms have improved the quality of public and political discourse on elections, its issues and need for reforms. Leading political parties and media houses extensively use FAFEN's election findings and analysis to build a case for reforms.
- With more than 18,000 followers on Twitter and around 100,000 on Facebook, FAFEN is considered one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.

Free and Fair Election Network
www.fafen.org

