

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH

FAFEN PARLIAMENT MONITOR

5th SESSION

June 12 - September 02, 2019



FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK

www.fafen.org | www.openparliament.pk

ABBREVIATIONS

GDA	Grand Democratic Alliance
MMA	Muttahida Majlis - e - Amal Pakistan
MQMP	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
TLP	Tehreek - e - Labbaik Pakistan
PO	Point of Order
AM	Adjournment Motion
CAN	Call Attention Notice

Total
Sittings

32

Cumulative
Duration

97

Hours & 15 Minutes

Longest Sitting

9th

11 Hours & 59 Minutes

Total
Break Time

75

Minutes

Sindh Assembly Addresses 50 Percent Agenda during 5th Session

- 61 percent lawmakers participate in debate on Finance Bill, 2019
- Opposition's Protests disrupt the proceedings for four percent of total time
- 11 resolutions adopted, 61 percent starred questions addressed

The Provincial Assembly of Sindh transacted half of its scheduled business during fifth session comprising 32 sittings that continued between June 12, 2019 and September 2, 2019. The House witnessed passage of the Sindh Finance Bill, 2019 and as many as 61 percent lawmakers participated in budget debate, observes Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) in its session report.

Of 168 lawmakers, 103 (61 percent) contributed to the budget debate. Among them, 24 were female legislators while 79 were male lawmakers. The interest of women legislators in budget was higher than men lawmakers in context of their total membership in the House. As many as 24 of 31 women MPs (77 percent) while 79 out of 137 (58 percent) men legislators participated in budget debate. The participating lawmakers belonged to PPPP (53), PTI (23), MQMP (17), GDA (nine) and TLP (one). On the other hand, 65 lawmakers did not take part in the budget debate. Amongst them, 46 belonged to PPPP, seven to PTI, five to GDA, four to MQMP, two to TLP and one belonging to MMAP remained among inactive members during the budget debate.

The House proceedings commenced with an average delay of an hour and 29 minutes in each sitting while none of the sitting started on its scheduled time. The House also witnessed ten incidents of protests during the proceedings by treasury and opposition lawmakers who exchanged heated arguments while debating various parliamentary interventions which consumed three hours and 54 minutes (four percent) of the proceedings.

The proceedings remained suspended for an hour and fifteen minutes (one percent) due to the prayer breaks and lack of quorum. The regular as well as supplementary agenda of the House during fifth session comprised six government bills and one private members' bill, 35 resolutions, 56 Call Attention Notices (CANs), an amendment to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 21 private motions, 105 starred questions and five Questions of Privilege. The House passed the Sindh Finance Bill 2019 and adopted eleven resolutions during the

Average
Sitting Delay

1

Hour & 29 Minute

Members at Outset
(Average)

42

present

Members at End
(Average)

57

present

11
Resolutions
Adopted

session. In addition, four budgetary papers were laid, 61 percent starred questions were responded, 26 CANs were answered, two Adjournment Motions were admitted for discussion and a Privilege Motion was referred to the concerned standing committee.

The question of quorum surfaced on ten occasions during the session. The Chair himself pointed out quorum twice and adjourned the sittings due to lack of quorum.

1 Session, Duration and Attendance

The 5th session spanning over 32 sittings commenced on June 12, 2019 and prorogued on September 02, 2019. The low attendance of the lawmakers was marked during the session as an average of 42 percent lawmakers were observed to be present at the start and 57 percent at the end of each sitting.

Each sitting, on average, started an hour and 29 minutes behind the schedule and lasted for three hours two minutes, on average.

The Speaker attended 28 out of 32 sittings and presided over 58 percent of the session's time. The Deputy Speaker, on the other hand, remained present in 29 sittings and chaired 35 percent of the proceedings. The Members of the Panel of Chairpersons presided the remaining seven percent of the session's time. However, the proceedings remained suspended for an hour and 15 minutes for prayer breaks and lack of quorum.

The Leader of the House remained present in nine sittings and attended 33 percent of the session's time, while the Opposition Leader was present in 19 sittings attending 53 percent of the proceedings.

The parliamentary leaders of TLP attended 29 sittings, followed by PPPP (28), MMAP (27), PTI and MQMP (nine each) and GDA (six).

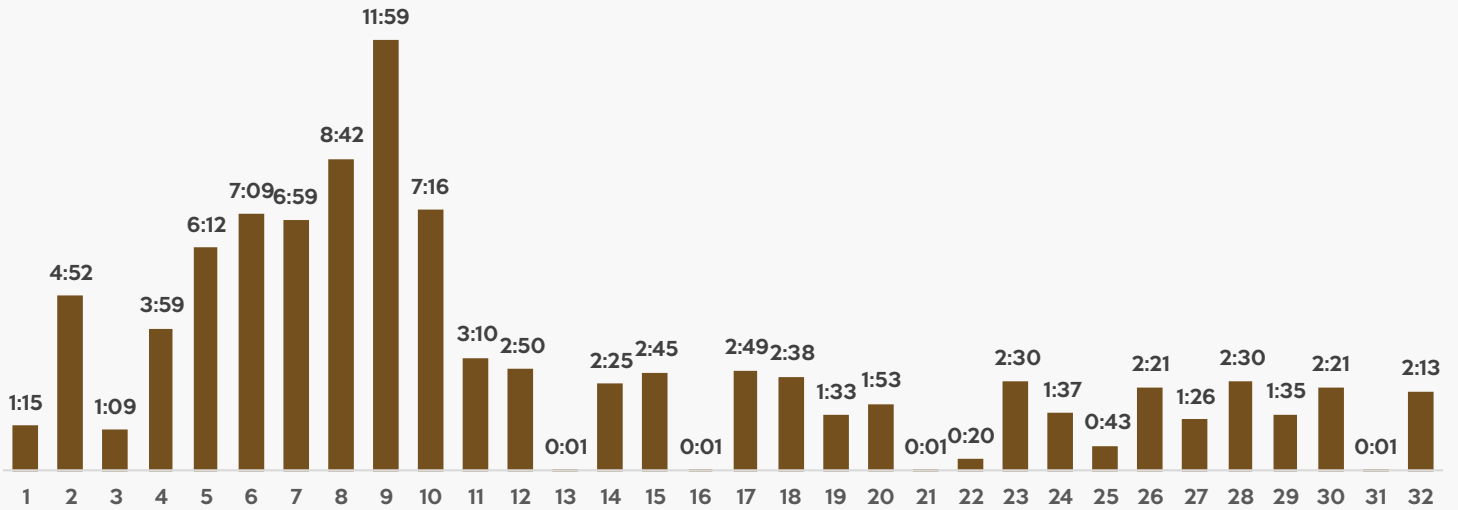
2 Assembly Output

This section deals with the legislative business, resolutions, amendment to the rules, reports and documents presented before the House during the session

2.1 Legislation

The legislative business brought before the House during fifth session comprised six government-sponsored bills including a money bill and a private member bill. The House passed the Sindh Finance Bill, 2019 while another four legislative proposals introduced in the House were referred to the concerned standing committees for further deliberations. On the other hand, two bills including a Private Members bill that appeared on the legislative business of the House during the reporting period remained unaddressed.

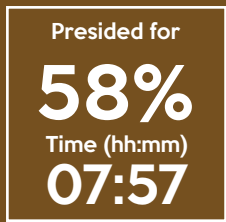
SITTINGS DURATION (hh:mm)



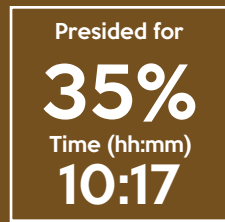
KEY MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



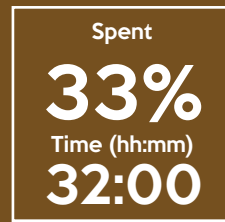
Speaker



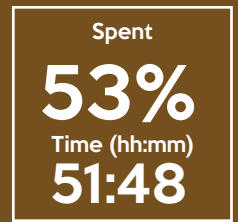
Deputy Speaker



Leader of the House

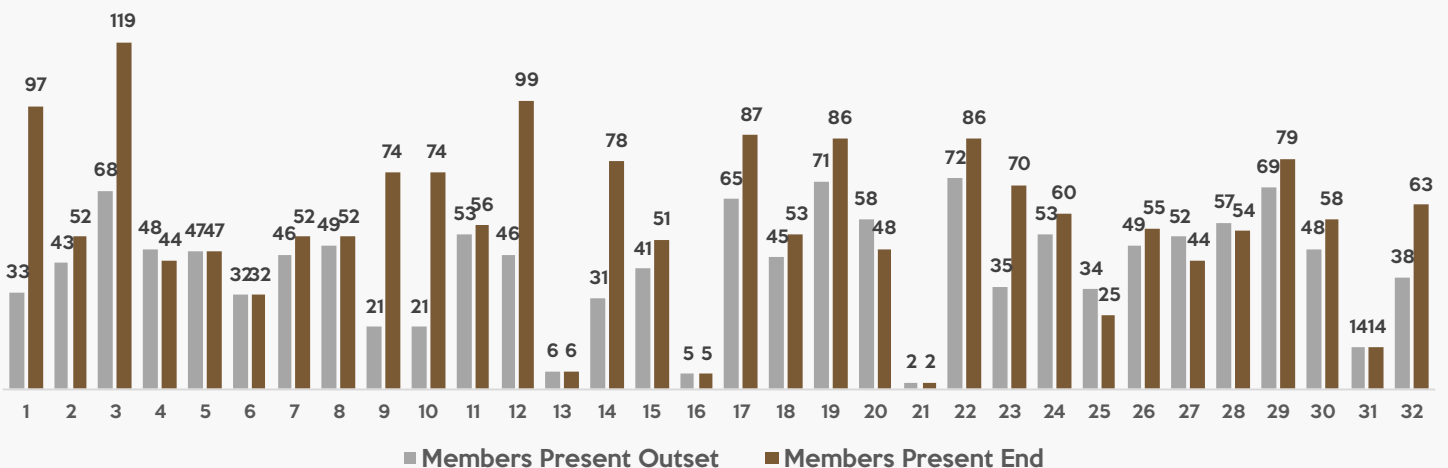


Leader of the Opposition



* The remaining 7% of the proceeding was chaired by a member of penal of chairperson

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE



PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS ATTENDANCE



MUHAMMAD QASIM



TLP

29

attended



MUKESH KUMAR CHAWLA



PPPP

28

attended



SYED ABDUL RASHEED



MMAP

27

attended



HALEEM ADIL SHEIKH



PTI

9

attended



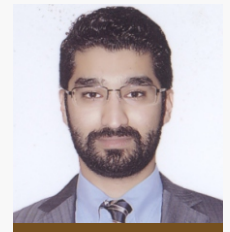
KANWAR NAVEED JAMEEL



MQMP

9

attended



HUSNAIN ALI MIRZA



GDA

6

attended

7

Bills

1

Bill
Passed

4

Bills
Introduced

2

Bills
Not Taken Up

2.1.1 Bills Introduced

Sr.	Bill
1	The Sindh Institute Of Ophthalmology And Visual Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2019
2	The Sindh Reproductive Healthcare Rights Bill, 2019
3	The Sindh Advisors (Appointments, Powers, Functions, Salaries, Allowances And Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 2019
4	The Coastal Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2019

2.1.2 Bills Not Taken up

Sr.	Bill	Type
1	The Sindh (Repeal of the Police Act, 1861 and Revival of Police Order 2002) (Amendment) Bill, 2019	Government
2	The Sindh Advisors (Appointments, Powers, Functions, Salaries, Allowances And Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 2019	Private

2.1.3 Bills Passed

The Sindh Finance Bill, 2019

Date of Introduction: June 14, 2019

Date of Passage: June 27, 2019

2.2 Resolutions

The Provincial Assembly adopted 11 out of 35 resolutions pertaining to various issues of governance during the session while 24 remained unaddressed. As many as 29 resolutions appeared on the agenda of the House while six were taken as supplementary agenda items. The lawmakers individually sponsored 32 private and one government resolution while two resolutions were jointly sponsored during the reporting period.

The lawmakers belonging to PTI sponsored 14 resolutions followed by GDA (eight), PPPP (seven), MQM (three), MMAP (two) and TLP (one). Male lawmakers sponsored 17 while women legislators tabled 17 resolutions either individually or jointly during the reporting period.

The adopted resolutions condemned arrest of President PPPP, alleged torture on Journalist, death of 11 years old boy who drowned in a swimming pool, Indian atrocities in Kashmir after eliminating its special status while others demanded to reduce prices of edibles, establish

1

Private Members' Bills

6

Government Bills

1

Amendments to Rules

21

Private Motions

rehabilitation centers for the drug addicts, set up a Provincial Finance Commission, take lawful action against kidnapping of girls , provide anti-rabies vaccine in all the emergency centers and hospitals of Sindh, ensure attendance of detained lawmakers in the Chamber after issuance of their production orders and action against K-electric over negligence and leaving electric wires exposed.

The House did not address 24 private members' resolutions that appeared on its agenda during the session. These unaddressed resolutions were on the subjects related to control dollar price in the country, cancel purchase of summit bank by the Sindh bank, increase in railway fares by federal government, implement the Domestic Violence (Prevention & Protection) Act, 2013, protect crops from locust, plan for development of Gorakh Hill Station. These resolutions were sponsored individually or jointly by the lawmakers belonging to PTI, GDA, MQMP, PPP and TLP.

2.3 Reports and Papers

The House witnessed presentation of four financial and budgetary papers while a report of the standing committee on a government bill was not taken up during this period.

Sr.	Report/Paper	Status
1	The schedule of authorized expenditure for the year 2019-20	Presented
2	The budget execution report 03 rd Quarter, 2018-19 ended on 31 st march, 2019	Presented
3	1 st Biannual Monitoring Report on the Implementation of National Finance Commission (NFC) Award for the period from July-December, 2016	Presented
4	2 nd Biannual Monitoring on the implementation of National Finance Commission (NFC) Award for the period from January-June, 2017, as required under clause 3(b) of Article 160 of the Constitution	Presented

2.4 Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

The Assembly's Rules of Procedure can be amended with a majority vote on a motion initiated by any member of the House. As many as seven lawmakers, five belonging to PTI and one each to PPP and MQMP, initiated motions proposing amendments to the Assembly Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business which were not taken up by the House during the reporting period.

3 Representation and Responsiveness

This section gives statistical as well as qualitative overview of legislator's interventions in the House – Calling Attention Notices (CANs), Questions, Adjournment Motions (AM) or any other motions – for the oversight of government and to articulate issues of public interest and importance.

56

Calling Attention Notices

7

QoPs

1

QoPs Taken Up

5

QoPs Withdraw

3.1 Questions

As per Rule 38 of the Sindh Assembly, the House holds a 60-minute question hour at the outset of a sitting except on the sittings falling on Saturdays, Sundays and the day set for oath taking/elections of key members.

The lawmakers asked as many as 105 starred questions from 15 departments of the government during the session. The House took up 64 (61 percent) starred questions for verbal answers during the proceedings while the remaining 41 (39 percent) were left unaddressed due to absence of their movers or the concerned ministers. In addition to this, the lawmakers asked 295 supplementary questions as well for further elucidation of the government's replies on starred questions.

The party-wise bifurcation of starred questions shows that lawmakers belonging to PTI asked 32 questions, 26 by GDA, 21 by PPPP, 15 by MQMP, eight by PML-F and three questions by MMA lawmakers. Similarly, the gender wise disaggregation of questions raised by MPAs shows that male lawmakers raised 53 starred questions while women members asked 52 questions during the proceedings.

The ministry wise break-up of starred questions raised during the session is as following:

Ministries/Departments	No of Starred Questions Sponsored
Health	13
Culture, Tourism & Antiquities	12
Education	11
Excise, Taxation & Narcotics Control Departments	11
Prisons	9
Energy	7
Information & Archives	7
Local Government	6
Industries and Commerce	5
Parliamentary Affairs	5
Transport	5
Forest & Wildlife	4
Planning & Development	4
Women Development	4
Population Welfare	2
Total	105

3.2 Calling Attention Notices (CANs)

A lawmaker can call the attention of a minister/department's head for any matter involving law and order situation or a definite matter of urgent public importance, by submitting one calling attention notice per sitting. According to Rule 69 of the Sindh Assembly, a calling attention notice cannot be debated and the member moving the notice cannot respond to the reply furnished by the government.

The lawmakers submitted as many as 56 Call Attention Notices (CANs) to draw government's attention to the issues of public importance. Of these, 26 CANs were taken up for answers during the session. The remaining CANs were left unaddressed due to the absence of either the movers or the relevant ministers. As many as 16 CANs were related to

105

Questions

64

Questions
Taken Up

41

Questions
Not Taken Up

295

Questions
Supplementary

Local Government, four to Home department, two to Health department and one each to Education and Literacy, Excise and Taxation, Narcotics and Law and Provincial Disaster Management Authority.

The CANs addressed during the reporting period were sponsored by lawmakers belonging to PTI (17), MQM (four), GDA (two), PPPP, MMAP and MQMP (one each).

3.3 Adjournment Motions (AMs)

The Assembly may adjourn its regular proceedings to debate any definite and urgent matter of public importance raised through an Adjournment Motions. Following the discussion, the House may refer the contents of debated Adjournment Motion to the provincial cabinet for its consideration through a substantive motion.

The lawmakers belonging to treasury and opposition parties submitted 14 Adjournment Motions seeking discussions on matters of urgent public importance.

The House admitted two AMs for discussion but it could not take place. Moreover, nine AMs were not taken up due to absence of their movers or early adjournment of sittings, two were withdrawn by their movers on government assurances while one was rejected by the Chair for not complying the Assembly Rules.

3.4 Private Motion

A total of 21 private motions appeared on the orders of the day during the session but none of them was taken up by the House. Out of total 21 unaddressed motions, 11 were sponsored by PTI lawmakers, five by GDA, three by PPPP and two by MQMP lawmakers.

These motions were mainly related to governance and service delivery issues.

3.5 General Discussion on Budget

The Provincial Assembly during its 5th session also witnessed presentation of provincial annual budget. The Leader of the House introduced the Sindh Finance Bill, 2019 during 3rd sitting on June 14, 2019 which was passed by the House during 12th sitting on June 27, 2019. After three days of the budget speech of Finance Minister, the House commenced general discussion on annual budget that continued for seven sittings. The House also approved 225 Demands for Grants while lawmakers belonging to opposition benches moved 616 Cut Motions which were rejected by a majority vote.

As many as 103 out of 168 sitting members took part in the general discussion on the Finance Bill, 2019 held between June 17 and June 27, 2019. The Chief Minister of Sindh Assembly laid the Finance Bill, 2019 in the House inviting Members of Sindh Assembly to give recommendations on the bill. The House witnessed remarkable interest of lawmakers in the

37

Points
of Order

225

Demand
for Grants

616

Cut Motions

budget debate as a total of 103 (61 percent of total membership) lawmakers contributed to the budget debate. Among them, 24 were female legislators while 79 were male lawmakers. The interest of women legislators in budget was higher than men lawmakers in context of their total membership in the House. As many as 24 of 31 women MPs (77 percent) while 79 out of 137 (58 percent) men legislators participated in budget debate. The participating lawmakers belonged to PPPP (53), PTI (23), MQMP (17), GDA (nine) and TLP (one).

Similarly, 65 lawmakers did not take part in the budget debate. Amongst them, 46 of PPPP, seven of PTI, five of GDA, four of MQMP, two of TLP and one belonging to MMAP remained among inactive members during the budget debate.

The debate on budget continued for 39 hours and 52 minutes (41 percent of total session's time) in which lawmakers belonging to PPPP discussed the budget for half of the total debate time. Similarly, 27 percent of the time was consumed in budget debates by PTI lawmakers, 15 percent by MQMP lawmakers, seven percent by GDA lawmakers and one percent by TLP lawmaker.

4 Order and Institutionalization

Order and Institutionalization is important for an efficient and productive legislature. This section provides information about Points of Order, quorum and any instances of walkout during the proceedings.

4.1 Question of Privilege (QoP)

The Rule 71 of the Rules of Procedure of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, 2013 allows any member, with the consent of the Speaker, to raise a question involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the Assembly or of a Committee. The Speaker decides the admissibility of any written notice of Question of Privilege moved by member after checking its compliance with relevant Assembly Rules.

The lawmakers sponsored five Questions of Privileges (QoPs) individually and two jointly during the reporting period. The House referred a joint QoP to the Privilege Committee while another one individually sponsored by PTI lawmaker was rejected by the Chair. The remaining five QoPs were withdrawn by their movers after government assurance.

4.2 Points of Order.

Lawmakers spoke on 37 Points of Order (POs) during the session, consuming an hour and 34 minutes of the proceedings. They discussed the issues related to house business, politics, law and order as well as governance through POs.

14

Protest

3

Walk Outs

4.3 Walkout/Protest

The opposition lawmakers staged protests on 14 occasions during the session consuming three hours and 54 minutes of the proceedings. The main causes of these protests were the complaints of opposition parties about the attitude of the Chair for not giving floor to its lawmakers, exchange of derogatory remarks between treasury and opposition benches, interruptions by treasury members during budget speeches of opposition and non-consideration of opposition's agenda items.

Moreover, the opposition benches led by the Leader of the Opposition staged walkouts at three occasions. The entire opposition walked out against the decision of the House for reconsidering the Sindh (Repeal of the Police Act, 1861 and Revival of Police Order, 2002) Bill, 2019 which continued for five hours and 42 minutes. Similarly, the opposition benches walked out of the proceedings for 25 minutes when the documents present on the seat of the Leader of Opposition were allegedly misplaced as left his seat unattended for some time. On third occasion, the Leader of the Opposition walked out of the proceedings for an hour and 15 minutes against the remarks made for him by the Leader of the House.

4.4 Quorum

The lawmakers belonging to both treasury and opposition parties identified the lack of quorum for ten times during the proceedings. The lawmakers belonging to ruling party including the Chair himself identified the lack of quorum five times, PTI lawmakers pointed out quorum four times while a GDA lawmaker called for short of quorum one time.

On six occasions, the House was adjourned while proceedings remained suspended on two occasions till the presence of required number of members in the House. However, the quorum was found complete twice after the headcount.

ABOUT FAFEN

- FAFEN is one of the most credible networks among civil society organizations working to strengthen 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 finalization of the Elections Act, 2017 and helped improve the quality of public and political discourse on elections. Leading political parties and media houses extensively use FAFEN's election findings and analysis to build upon the cases for 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 around 18,000, 40,000 and 20,000 non-partisan and trained observers for the systematic observation of the General Elections 2008, 2013 and 2018, respectively.
- With more than 25,000 followers on Twitter and around 143,000 on Facebook, FAFEN is considered to be one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.

Free and Fair Election Network

www.fafen.org
www.openparliament.pk
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This report is based on direct observation of the proceedings of the National Assembly conducted by Free and Fair Election Network. Every effort has been made to keep this report, which deals with on-floor performance of the Members, accurate and comprehensive. Errors and omissions are excepted.