

A press release on the initial report of the 2016 state and independent units' budgets Parliamentary discussions

The Report shows a comparison between the performances of the 17th House of Representatives on discussions of the General Budget for the 2015 Fiscal Year and the General Budget for the 2016 Fiscal Year. On the General Budget for the 2016 Fiscal Year 110 ,2015 out of 150 representatives spoke and made a total of 791 requests for budget allocations. As for the General Budget for the 2016 Fiscal Year, only 100 out of 150 representatives spoke and made a total of 582 requests for budget allocations.

In MPs' statements to the government, RASED was able to distinguish 47 distinct topical areas addressed. In its response to the parliament, the government responded to 27 of these topics, leaving %43 of the issues unanswered. In addition, the government omitted any mention of the Anti-Corruption Commission or controversial issues of nepotism and favoritism in its response.

The vote on the final budget was conducted in a chaotic way that seriously compromised the transparency and integrity of the vote.

The report shows that 86 MPs voted affirmatively to the General Budget of the 2015 Fiscal Year out of 121 with a percentage of %71.74. The number of voters on the Budget for Government Agencies for the 2016 Fiscal Year was 85 out of 124 with a percentage of %68.54.

55 MPs from outside of the committee attended meetings to observe discussions. The MP Fatima Abu Abtah attended 10 meetings with the greatest presence in committees meetings. MP Zaid Al

Shwabkah and Nidhal Al Hiyari attended 8 meetings. MP Yahya Al Soud attended 7 meetings. MP Abdullah Al Khwaldeh attended 6 meetings. MP Ahmad Al Jalodi and MP Bassel Al Malkawi attended 5 meetings. MP Wafaa' Bani Mustafa attended 4 meetings.

During the discussion, 100 of 150 representatives spoke, with a total percentage of %66.6. All 7 blocs issued shared statements.

RASSED adopted a quorum for the session methodology on three periods to find out the commitment of the Representatives to attend the hearing through the end of the session. The loss of a quorum was found in the majority of the budget discussion sessions. The attendance on the first day reached 71 MPs for the first period, 60 for the second period, and 57 for the third period. For the morning session of the second day, the attendance in the first period was 73, 72 for the second period, and 70 for the third period. In the evening session, the attendance was 79 for the first session, 60 for the second session, and 61 for the third session. On the third day, the first period of the morning session was 57, 67 for the second period, and 70 for the third period. Attendance at the first period for the evening session was 84, the second period was 85, and the third period was 59. On fourth day of the discussion, the attendance for the first period of the morning session was 48, the second period was 54, and the third period was 68. In the evening session, the Representatives voted on the Draft General Budget and Governmental Units Law the attendance at the first period was 112, and at the second period was 121 and at the third period was 124.

In the MPs' statements, only %58 of MPs mentioned specific components of the budget with %53 from the previous year. %69 of MPs mentioned the need to address poverty and unemployment,

while %29.3 talked about raising the price of electricity. Other topics mentioned by the representatives include fighting terrorism and extremism (%23.9), raising the salaries of security forces (%39.1) and the need to support the army and security services (%40).

%46.7 of the Representatives gave a set of demands applicable to their regions, while just %23.9 of the Representatives gave a set of demands applicable to the entire country.

According to the report, electoral reforms did not received much attention in the MPs' interventions during the discussions. The percentage MPs who talked about electoral reform was %1.1 and the percentage of those who talked about decentralizations was %1.1 as well of the MPs who talked individually. "Mobadara" bloc has included the need to modify the electoral law during its speech. Women issues were discussed in %7.6 of the interventions, and %44.6 of the MPs talked about supporting the agricultural sector. %40.2 of the MPs demanded to support the education sector. However, no speakers addressed the need to integrate independent institutions in their interventions. The parliamentary blocs addressing the raise of electricity rate dropped to reach %57 compared to %66 last year.

Regarding the parliamentary blocs' interventions, the report shows that none of the blocs addressed the removal of subsidies, foreign aid, freedoms and rights, or women in their interventions. "Mobadara" bloc was the only bloc to call for the need to maintain the infrastructure, while "Mobadara" and the "National Union Party" blocs have addressed the importance of implementing decentralization and supporting municipalities. On the other hand, all blocs participated in the demands to reduce unemployment and to encourage investments through a strategic plans implemented by the government.

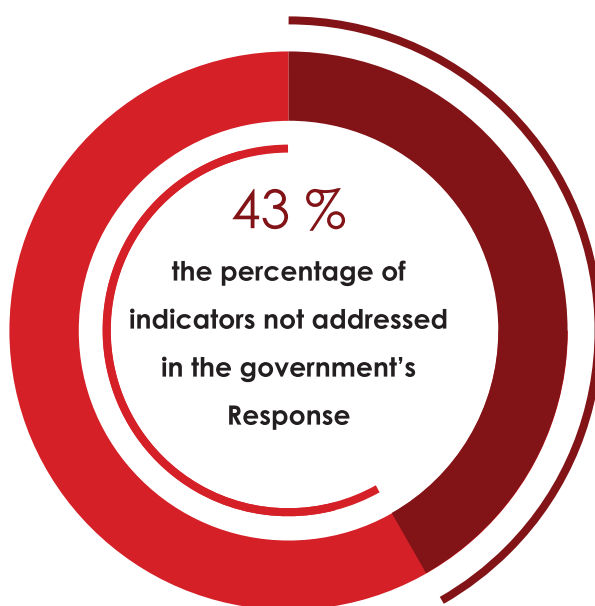
Regarding the commitment of the blocs to one speech each, the report points out that “Mobadara” bloc was committed to the one speech for the second time in a row, this speech was read by MPs Haditha al-khrisha and Tamam Riyati. “Al-Eslah” and “Al-Nahda” blocs commitment towards the one speech was %38 each, followed by the “National Union Party” and “Al-Wifaq” blocs by %33 each. The “Islamic Center” bloc and “Watan” block come after with %29 commitment each, which reflects a rise in the commitment to the one speech per bloc during the current session compared to the Second Ordinary Session.

According to the report, 528 recommendations were made in their interventions. An analysis revealed that the largest number of recommendations for service regionalism was at 268, while national recommendations received 69 recommendations, and the financial and administrative policy recommendations received 127 recommendations. The proportion of the recommendations of the education sector received 54 recommendations, and 10 recommendations were directed at the energy sector.

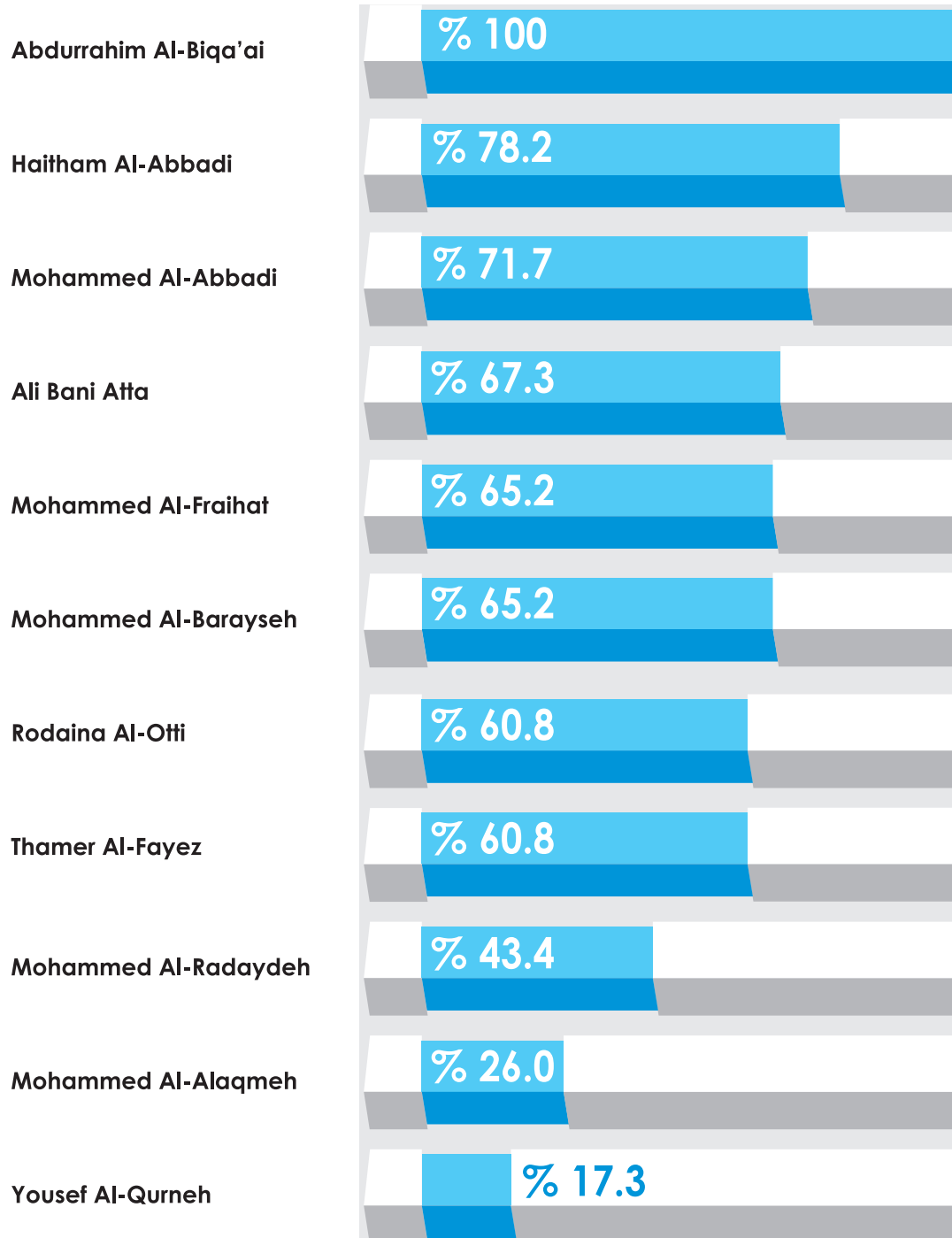
RASSED conducted a series of comparisons between the House of Representatives performance in the discussion of the general budget for 2015 and 2016. This analyzed the total number of responses from the government for 2015, with a total of 20 indicators, compared with 27 for the current year, There is an equal number of responses to address poverty and unemployment in the interventions of the House of Representatives for the past and current year at %100. There was a decrease in the debt indicator, with %89 of speakers in last years budget discussions, while the current year %71, as well as the proportion of those who mentioned the issue of tax evasion to reach %57 compared to last year, at %78.

The report also showed an increase in the interest in decentralization and the development of the provinces at a rate of %43 compared to %22 last year. The electoral reform demands (Election Law) was missing from the MPs interventions this year, compared to %11 for the last year. At the same time, the investment support demands were raised to %86 of the MPs interventions compared to %50 last year. The demands to increase the use of the alternative energy resources were raised to reach %71 compared to %38 last year. However, no interventions regarding the environment was recorded this year.

The percentage of indicators involved in the MPs' interventions but not addressed in the 2016 state budget government's Response

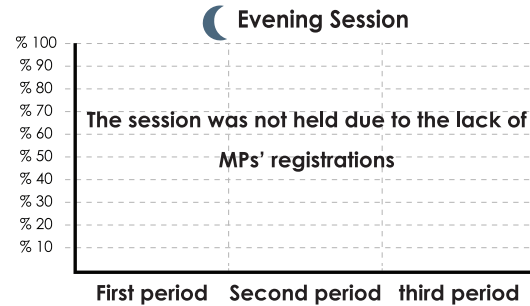
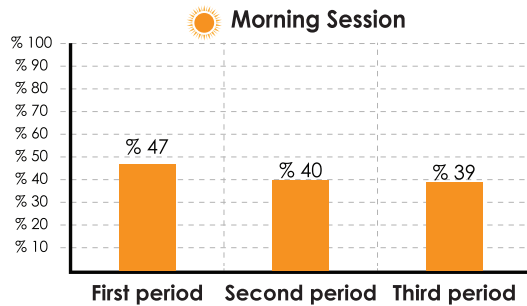


The percentage of the Financial Committee members' attendance during 2016 state budget discussions

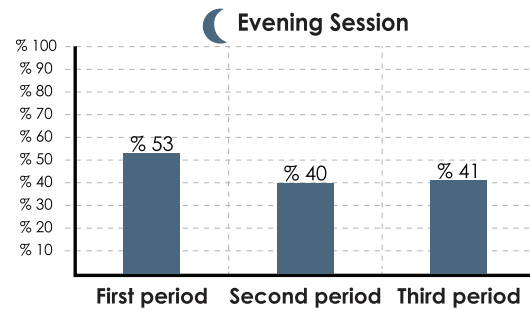
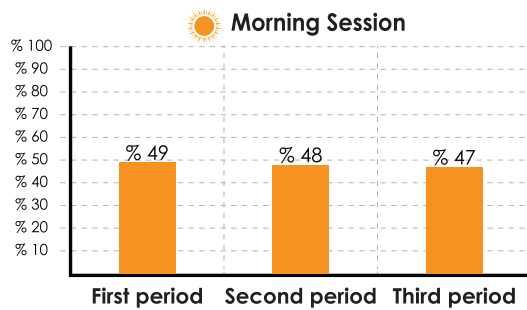


The percentage of MPs' attendance during 2016 state budget discussion

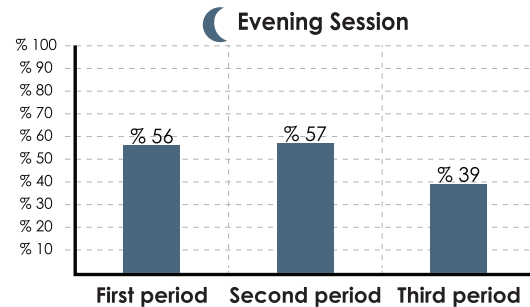
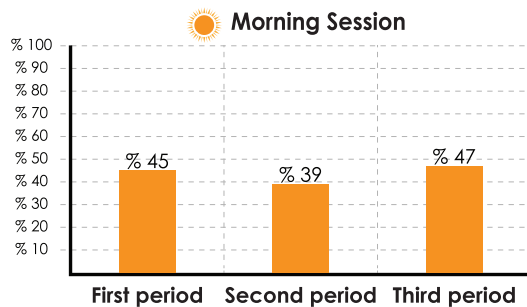
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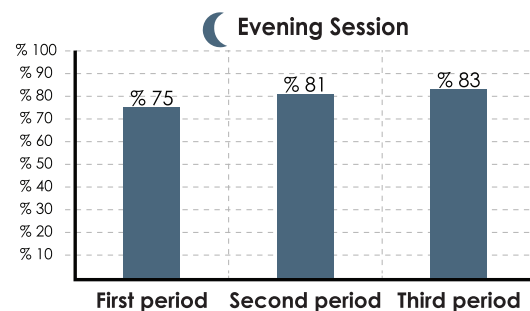
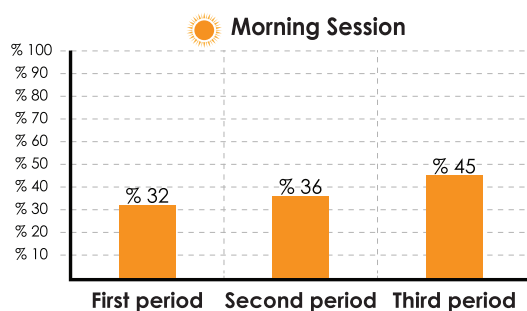
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Wednesday 13/1/2016



Thursday 14/1/2016



* The government's Response to the MPs' interventions

The percentage of indicators involved in the blocs' interventions during the 2016 state budget discussions



Parliamentary recommendations during 2016 state budget discussions

