



RASSED's report on the 8th week of the 18th Parliament's First Ordinary Session

31 / 12 / 2016

- **RASSED: The secret meetings reflect in a bad way on the People trust of the House of Representative.**
- **20 parliamentary committees held 6 meetings.**
- **Many MP's attend the starting of the session then they leave.**

RASSED's report shows a decrease in both the parliamentary sessions and the permanent committees meetings. The 18th House of Representatives held one Legislative session and it was filed before completing its agenda. The 20 parliamentary committees held 6 meetings as there are draft laws supposed to be reviewed by the permanent committees.

The report also showed that the share of the legislative side has been low where 2 Legislative sessions were held out of 6 sessions. The 2 held by the Legal Committee and the Economic and Investment Committee, the last 4 meetings were regulatory meetings held by the Administrative Committee, Education Committee, Economy and Investment Committee and the Energy Committee. In turn the Finance Committee continued their daily meetings to discuss 2017 Budget Law and the Governmental Units law for 2017

RASSED hopes that the House of Representative to double the number of the Legislative sessions and to focus on it specially that there is legislations in the Parliamentary Committees agenda needs to be reviewed, RASSED raises a concern about the increase of secret meetings; as after the last secret meeting which was held by the House of Representative the other day to hear the government declaration on what happened in Al-Karak . The Energy and Mineral Resources announced that they are planning to have a secret meeting with the government to discuss the agreement of Gas importing. While RASSED emphasised on the House of Representative and the permanent committees rights to held a secret meetings according to the parliament rules of procedure. As RASSED recalls in this regard that the discussed issues in that secret sessions were a national issues and it's a right to everyone to have access to information on their representative's attitudes what would enhance the transparency.

RASSED praises the Executive Office's first meeting, which was headed by his Excellency Atef Al-Tarawneh, the House Speaker. During that meeting MP Tamer Bino was elected to be the Rapporteur of the Executive Office. We hope to set a road map to enhance the trust between the House of Representative and people.

As for publishing the names of the absent MP's the general secretary announced 8 excused absences who didn't attend that session and they are Khaled Bakar, Ibtesam Nawafleh, Deema Tahboob, Abdullah Obeidat, Abdullah



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Al-Qaramseh, Adnan Rukeibat, Ibraheem Quraan and Khaled Al-Fanatseh. MP Mejhem Sqour was absent without excuse. According to RASSED's monitoring data, 70 MP's were attending by the end of that session, as according to the general secretary there were 121 MP at the beginning. RASSED recommends the General Secretary to consider the attendance at the end of the each session, because it has been noticed that some of the MP's attend for few minutes at the beginning of the session and then leave, which is causing a disorder of quorum.

RASSED hopes to make amendments on the House of Representative rule of procedure which became necessary to end the conflict with constitution regarding the election of the Speaker of Parliament, where the context of the draft should address sanctions more effective than depriving the absent MPs from the parliamentary delegations, and to activate code of conduct which was approved by the 17th Parliament where it contributes in decreasing the rates of absence of the parliamentary sessions and permanent committees meetings.

About the House of representative work during the 8th week, the Energy and Minerals Sector Regulatory Authority law draft for 2015 was rejected, and the answer came when the MPs discussed two articles. So they went against the common legislation mores not to vote on returning any law draft except at the beginning or at the end of discussing it. Also the House didn't finish discussing the Tourism law draft and the session was filed before discussing half of the articles.

Regarding the Parliamentary Committees the Economy and Investment Committee approved many articles of the Securities Act law draft NO. 76 for 2002, also the committee discussed a previous decision of the Council of Ministers to restructure Amman's Stock Exchange which was issued on 29/2016/9/. Another regulatory meeting held to discuss some investors' complaints on buying all the ministries and the governmental institution needs from King Abdullah II Centre for Planning and Development, as they discussed the Advertisements Licensing System within the limits of the municipal areas number 76. Also they discussed the Building and Organization of Villages System number 136, the Minister of Municipal Affairs attended this meeting with people affected by this system. Also the Legal Committee held a meeting and discussed the Consumer Protection Law Project for 2013

The Education and Cultural committee held a meeting to hear the Ministry of Education views toward the amendments on the Curriculums recently, as the Energy and Mineral Resources Committee held another meeting and delayed the decision of cancelling the Gas agreement until they hear the government justification about this agreement, also they postponed discussing The Natural Resources law draft for 2015 to the next meeting. The Administrative Committee discussed the demands of many military retirees working with contracts in the Jordanian Armed Forces - Arab Army.