

RASSED for Parliamentary Monitoring Program 19th Weekly Report on the Performance of the Parliament During the 3rd Ordinary Session April 2, 2016

The House of Representatives held two legislative and one oversight session in its Third Ordinary Session. A loss of quorum occurred in these sessions.

Eight committees held 11 legislative and oversight meetings. The Women and Family Affairs Committee held three meetings. One of them was a joint meeting with the Legal Committee to proceed discussing the draft law for the protection against domestic violence project, where MP Reem Abu Dalbough was elected as Chairperson of the Joint Committee, and MP Zaid Shawabkeh as its Vice Chairperson.

The Palestine Committee and the Legal Committee held two meetings each, with the rest of the meetings held by the Countryside and the Desert Committee, the Integrity, Transparency and Fact-Finding Committee, Finance Committee, Labor and Social Development and Population Committee and Management Committee.

Perhaps the most prominent event from the 19th week is that the Permanent Office of the House decided to limit the parliamentary notes that have been delivered to the government in order to point out which of them have been answered by the government and which have not and to reveal the fate of those remaining notes. The Permanent Office assigned the Second Deputy Speaker Khamis Attia and the Assistant of the House speaker Faten Khleifat to study the parliamentary notes thoroughly, especially the notes of citizens' demands and to follow-up with the government and the ministers concerned in order to respond to the notes. The assigned committee held a meeting with the concerned people from the General Secretariat in order to sort the notes and figure out why the government did not reply to some of the notes.

According to the Second Deputy Speaker, this shall be done by activating the regulatory side, following up with the parliamentary notes, and evaluating how keen the government is on strengthening the supervisory authority of the Legislative Power. The Permanent Office is going to allocate a person to track the notes and report periodically to the Permanent Office.

RASED is full of hopes that this will enhance the supervisory authority of the Legislative Power in following up with the parliamentary notes and recording it. RASED also anticipates that this follow-up is sustained and implemented with all the regulatory tools.

With regards to legislative matters, the Legal Committee elected the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Joint Committee in addition to approving the draft law of the treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters between the Kingdom and the United States for the year 2016.

The Energy and Mineral Resources Committee passed a number of articles of the radiological control, safety and nuclear security draft law of 2016, which the Jordan Nuclear Regulatory Commission considers to be legally derived from the Energy and Minerals Regulatory Commission (EMRC), as well as giving it the authority to supervise and organize the nuclear and radiation sector and assign the tasks of the Commissioners and CEO of the committee.

The Women and Family Affairs Committee, met with All Jordan Youth Commission in Ma'an governorate where the Committee shared the idea initiated by the youth of Ma'an and students of Al-Hussein Bin Talal University, for developing alternative sanctions that are not inconsistent with the freedoms in the Jordanian Constitution. The Committee held a meeting with a group representing a forum for training and empowering women and children and reviewed the forum work mechanism and its most prominent achievements.

The Palestine Committee honored in a meeting, the Palestinian young man Mashhour Qaddoumi. The Committee held a meeting with the head of the Jordanian Women's Union Tahani Shakhshir to discuss the international campaign the union plans to launch calling for the release of child prisoners in Israeli jails.

The Countryside and the Desert Committee rejected the Ministry of Water and Irrigation's decision to increase the price of processed water meters as agreed on with «Alakidr» station from 10 piasters to 100 piasters, warning that the Jordanian farmers' subsistence is not to be compromised. The Integrity, Transparency and Fact-Finding Committee met with Dr. Shafiq Alashqar, the CEO of the Phosphate Company, and representatives from the Anti-Corruption Commission and discussed the supervision of the phosphate company on the affiliated and allied companies.

The Management Committee discussed the demands of the third class employees in the public sector who received diplomas during their work, and listened to their demands. The Labor and Social Development and Population Committee discussed the matter of relocating the customs to Square 4, and listened to the demands of the clearance companies owners, where the worker committee in the clearance companies refused relocating the customs because it is not a safe place, threatening that a strike will take place in all customs centers once the decision of relocating is taken.

The Finance Committee met with IMF mission who visited the Kingdom, where the Commission stressed the need to take social dimension into account in the policies and measures taken by the IMF.