

RASSED for Parliamentary Monitoring Program 20th Weekly Report on the Performance of the Parliament During the 3rd Ordinary Session April 9, 2016

RASSED: the House of Representatives calls for discussing Audit Bureau reports.

Audit Bureau reports on the Parliaments agenda since more than two weeks.

The House of Representatives may not ask to investigate the irregularities in Audit Bureau reports.

Ten Parliamentary meetings were held, distributed between the regulatory and legislative.

The House of Representatives held in the twentieth week of its third ordinary session two legislative sessions and one regulatory while nine parliamentary committees held ten legislative and regulatory meetings.

RASSED team noted that the House had not yet been able to discuss the Finance Committee Resolution No. 3 of 062016/03/ that contains the Audit Bureau reports for the years (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012), although it was included on the agenda of the meeting, which was held in the 222016/03/ but the House has decided to change the session from legislative to regulatory.

Since then, no discussion of the reports has been made and it was placed on the agenda of Sunday's session on 102016/04/. The House must discuss these reports, which were absent from the parliament agenda for nearly seven years.

The Finance Committee of the House of Representatives submitted last month, four reports of six reports to the Audit Bureau , all were accumulated with the other reports handed over to Parliament since 2009 , The Finance Committee is currently studying two reports for 2013 and 2014.

It seems that the deputies' options in dealing with the debate confined to reporting under the decision of the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution, which issued a fatwa in the meeting held in 092008/04/ that the House of Representatives may not ask the public prosecutor to continue investigating the irregularities listed in the Audit Bureau annual report.

The Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution reported that if the irregularities and crimes listed in the report of the Audit Bureau attributed to non-ministers, the House of Representatives may forward it to the Prime Minister to take measures dictated by the legislation in force and inform the House of Representatives, according to article no. 45 of the constitution which states that : “The Council of Ministers shall be entrusted with the responsibility of administering all affairs of the State, internal and external, with the exception of such matters as are or may be entrusted by the present Constitution or by any other legislation to any other person or body.” Therefore the council may not ask the public prosecutor to continue investigating the irregularities because the Constitution has not conferred such authority.

The Higher Council reported that if the violation mentioned in the Audit Bureau attributed to a minister and considered to be one of the crimes stipulated in ministers trial Law then accordingly the Council has the authority to investigate, collect evidence and accuse the minister, the Council shall appoint one of its members to carry out the accusations and the referral of the minister before the Higher Council.

The Finance Committee held two meetings on February 28th and March 6th to discuss the report in the presence of the President, the Secretary General of the Audit Bureau and the stakeholders were they finalized the report with all the notes that were recorded on Court reports in the years referred to. Their recommendations were attached along with the report.

The Finance Committee noted in the report that includes the summery of the Audit Bureau outcome analysis, that the clarifications and the regulatory books has reached the number of 6118, and that 3947 has been answered, while the clarifications and the procedural books exceeded the number of 1100, and the committees amounted to 68 committees, which included 1857 outcomes in their agenda, 657 has been corrected, and 169 are being corrected, as the Finance Committee will follow up with the other outcomes.

It should be pointed that the discussion of the Audit Bureau reports may require more than one parliamentary session. While the work of current session of House ends the forthcoming 10th of May.

The former Finance Committee had formed a large number of investigating committees jointed with the Audit Bureau concerned with a number of clarifications given by the Audit bureau in its reports in those years.

During last week the House Speaker and the members of the Permanent Office met with the Chairmen of the parliamentary blocs and the individuals. They also discussed a number of issues of concern to the House. They have been also informed with what have been achieved of legislations, and what remained of it with the competent committees to look through.

The committee assigned by the Permanent Office to follow-up with the parliamentary memos sent to the government met with the Former

Minister of the Political and Parliamentary Affairs Khalid Al Kalaldeh. The Second Deputy Speaker Khamees Attyieh said that there is a general feeling by the House of

Representatives that the government is not being committed in responding to the parliamentary memos within the legal period stipulated in the bylaw, as well as a lack of seriousness and concern. This pushed the Permanent Office to form the committee, noting that it is currently limiting the number of notes that haven't received a governmental response during the last period.

Regarding the meetings of the parliamentary committees, the Joint committee (Women and Family Affairs Committee and the Legal Committee) held three meetings to discuss the draft law on domestic violence. It was stressed that the committee is working to establish a modern law that promotes stability and achieve peace to the individual, family and society and gives the perpetrator of domestic violence an opportunity to reform his behavior, and for this purpose the committee listened to the ideas and suggestions of stakeholders on the articles of the draft law, where the Minister of social development, said on the sidelines of the debate that her department has dealt since 1997 and until February 29, 2016, with 71,412 cases of assault on families, while during the first two months of this year dealt with 1143 cases of assault.

The Joint committee (the Finance Committee and the Economic and Investment Committee) held an initial meeting to discuss a draft law amending the law of Deposit Insurance Corporation. The National Steering and Media Committee held a meeting to discuss the proposal for setting up a system for establishing a council of complaints. The Legal Committee listened to the observations and suggestions on the draft law of mediation to resolve civil disputes for the year 2016.

As for the regulatory side, the Integrity, transparency and fact-finding Committee held a meeting appropriated to consider the complaint

submitted by citizens about the distribution of the housing units in the town of Al Rawda in south of Ghour. The Health and Environment Committee held a meeting to discuss the establishment of a CPU corrected surgery unit (Gamma Knife).

The Tourism and Antiquities Committee urged the tourist transportation companies to stress on the need to appoint an additional driver for the transportation of pilgrim's buses, in order to preserve the safety and security of pilgrims. The committee held another meeting allocated to discuss the mechanisms to develop the tourist transportation and labor sector, in order to protect passengers and prevent accidents that may affect their lives.

The Education Committee discussed a number of issues, including: private schools, cultural centers and the issue of students of public high school diploma, "Tawjihi» students studying abroad.

On the other hand four committees held meetings with outside the walls of the House of Representatives, while a sub-committee of the Integrity and Fact Finding committee went to Aqaba on a fact finding mission on the port of No. 4, which had a workers' strike due its transfer. On the other hand, the Energy and Mineral Resources Committee held a workshop at the Dead Sea on the nuclear energy and alternative energy. The Tourism and Antiquities Committee briefed on projects in the Dead Sea area. The public freedoms and the rights of citizens Committee visited Umm Al- Lulu Center for Reform to see the general situation there.