

RASED for Parliamentary Monitoring Program 8th Weekly Report on the Performance of the Parliament During the 3rd Ordinary Session January 11, 2016

The work of the House of Representatives in the eighth week of its Third Ordinary Session has witnessed two sessions allotted for legislation matters, while 11 out of the 20 standing committees held 18 meetings during this week.

By the end of the eighth week, the number of questions directed to the government reached 151 questions, 52 of which were answered so far. The number of notes sent to the government was 24 notes, two of them were answered, with regard to the interrogations the number reached two while one draft law proposal was submitted, and a request for general debate meeting. During last Tuesday's session the loss of quorum recurred in the House, which prevented the continuation of discussing the amended law of Residency and Foreigner Affairs.

RASED team recorded the absence of the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Ibrahim Saif from last Wednesday's energy meeting. The Integrity, Transparency and Fact-Finding Committee held a meeting last Wednesday without allowing the media to attend.

With regard to the outcome of the meetings of the parliamentary committees, the Finance Committee approved the General Budget Draft Law of 2016 and the Independent Governmental Units Draft Law of the same year. The Legal Parliamentary Committee approved the Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Draft Law of 2015. The Economic and Investment Parliamentary Committee approved the provisional law amending the Martyrs of General Security Law No. 29

of 2010, and the draft law amending the Civil Defense Martyrs' Fund Law of 2013.

The Finance Committee held the biggest number of meetings with four meeting during the week, ended with a meeting with the Prime Minister Abdullah Al Nsour regarding the budget. The Legal Committee held two meetings in addition to a joint meeting with the Energy and Mineral Resources Committee, which held two meetings on its own. The Integrity, Transparency and Fact-Finding Committee, the Public Services and Transport Committee, the Palestine Committee, the Tourism and Antiquities Committee, the Economic and Investment Committee, the Administrative Committee, the Education and Culture Committee, and the National Steering and Media Committee held one meeting each. Moreover, The Foreign Affairs Committee issued a statement condemning the attack on the Saudi Embassy in Iran without holding a meeting for this purpose.

Meetings were either for monitoring or legislative purposes. The Integrity, Transparency and Fact-Finding Committee , the Energy and Mineral Resources Committee, Palestine Committee, the Tourism and Antiquities Committee, the Administrative Committee, and the Education and Culture Committee held six monitoring meetings regarding the issues of the responsibility of the downfall of Abdullah Ghosheh Street, the electric power and its failure in some areas during rainstorms, the Al Risha gas field, a meeting with the people from Gaza, the establishment of a tourism chamber and the discussions of it with the field representatives, the problems of the workers in the medical field, and universities academic topics. In the meantime, five parliamentary committees held various legislative meetings; the Legal Committee completed the reading of the proposals submitted on the Elections Draft Law during the national dialogue conference it held. It

also held a closing meeting with the women sector. While the Public Services and Transportation Committee started discussing the Public Transport For passengers Provisional Law no.33 of 2010. The Joint Parliamentary Committee (legal and Energy and Mineral Resources) discussed the Ratification of The Jordanian Electricity Company PLC License Draft Law , the distribution and supply of retail electric power law, and the Convention on the settlement and reconciliation between the government and The Jordanian Electricity Company PLC for the year 2014. Also, the National Steering and Media Committee discussed the draft law amending the Access to Information Law of 2012.

What distinguished the committees' meetings was the lack of quorum, especially the committees which held legislative meetings, where the meetings were mostly attended only by the committee's president and his deputy or two MPs, while the rest of the members are absent.

The House of Representatives is supposed to discuss the Budget Draft Law next Tuesday after listening to the Finance Committee's report and recommendations on Sunday. «Mubadara» Bloc announced through its president, MP Ali Bani Atta, its decision to let a representative speak on behalf of the bloc during the discussions of the general budget in order not to waste the council's time.

MP Amjad Maslamani, the official spokesman of «Islah» Parliamentary bloc, announced that MP Abdul Hadi Maharmh will deliver the bloc's speech on the general budget and the budget of governmental units for the 2016 fiscal year.

RASED encourages such positive approaches by the parliamentary blocs, and hopes that other blocs will follow the steps of «Islah» and «Mubadara» Parliamentary Blocs, and use one unified speech to express

its economic vision in this aspect, which will encourage the work of the blocs in the council, and level up the parliamentary speech to the required national efficiency level.

RASED calls upon the House of Representatives to find an appropriate discussions mechanism during the budget discussions sessions and have blocs' speeches that discuss the budget rather than separate speeches by each MP, especially that the budget sessions are to discuss the financial and economic governmental policies and not the services demands, given that the budget has been prepared by the government and includes the projects that are to be implemented in the kingdom's various regions of the Kingdom, thus its financial budgets are already assigned. RASED also calls the Parliament Members not to repeat the phenomenon of absences during the budget discussions due to these sessions' importance.

In the framework of MPs activities during last week, the Jordanian Female Parliamentarians Forum has approved the election of the new Executive Office by acclamation, where MP Falak Al Jam'ani was elected as the forum's coordinator, MP Najah Al Azzeh a Secretary, and MP Roula Al Hroub the Spokesperson.