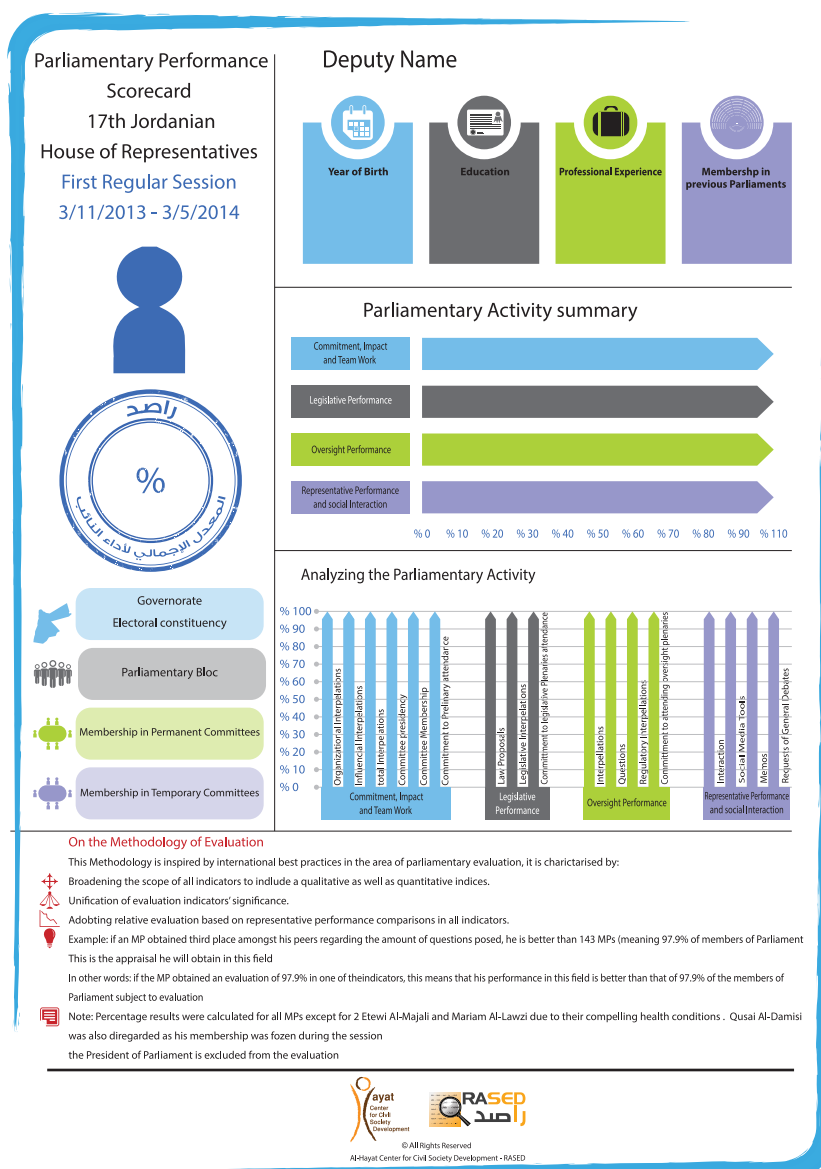


# Executive Summary of the Final Report on the Performance of Members of the 17th House of Representatives during the First Ordinary Session of 2014



# **Executive Summary of the Final Report on the Performance of Members of the 17th House of Representatives during the First Ordinary Session of 2014**

**Issued by the Program of Monitoring Elections and the  
Elected Councils – “RASED”  
Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development  
June 2014**

## **Report Preparation Team**

**Dr. Amer Bani Amer**

**General Director Al Hayat Center for Civil Society Development/RASED**

|                     |                        |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Ayoub Naymour       | Amro Nuwayseh          | Mustafa al-Relat, B.J. |
| Baraa al-Omoush     | Hamza al-Akayleh, B.J. | Talal Eliemat, LL.B    |
| Ragheb Shraim, LL.B | Eng. Abbas Nuwayseh    | Abdallah Jebarah       |
| Esraa al-Shyab      | Eng. Daniel Amareen    | Waleed Husni, B.J.     |

**Kamal Qasem - Graphic Design and Artwork**

## Table of Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Introduction</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>RASED Program for Monitoring Elections and the Performance of Elected Councils</b>             | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>The 17th House of Representatives</b>  | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Political Background</b>   | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Methodology Used in the Preparation of the Report</b>  | <b>17</b> |
| <b>Chapter One: Composition of the House of Representatives during the First Ordinary Session</b> | <b>20</b> |
| <b>Chapter Two: Royal Address at the Session's Opening</b>  | <b>33</b> |
| <b>Chapter Three: Governmental General and Unit Budgets</b>                                       | <b>37</b> |
| <b>Chapter Four: Summary of Sessions and Agendas</b>  | <b>40</b> |
| <b>Chapter Five: Representative's Dedication to Attendance of Sessions and Committee Meetings</b> | <b>41</b> |
| <b>Chapter Six: Legislative Performance of the House of Representatives</b>                       | <b>47</b> |
| <b>Chapter Seven: Supervisory Performance of the House of Representatives</b>                     | <b>52</b> |
| <b>Chapter Eight: Role of the House of Representatives in Foreign Politics</b>                    | <b>63</b> |
| <b>Chapter Nine: Governmental Interaction with Parliamentary Performance</b>                      | <b>67</b> |
| <b>Chapter Ten: Representative and Senate Disputes and Outcomes of Common Sessions</b>            | <b>70</b> |
| <b>Chapter Eleven: Non-Bloc Representative Coalitions and Meetings</b>                            | <b>73</b> |
| <b>Chapter Twelve: Official Foreign Visits of Members of Parliament</b>                           | <b>84</b> |

## Introduction

The House of Representatives assumes an important role in the enactment of legislation which the state pursues, and has the greatest impact on the development or decline of Jordan. In addition to monitoring the governmental performance working on applying this legislation, the House of Representatives is an essential pillar in the foundation and security of the democratic progress.

Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development believes in the legislative, supervisory and representative importance of this institution. Additionally, the Center believes that Civil Society Organizations, through their efforts and experience, provide the ability to contribute to the development and effectiveness of this institution. One of the most important roles of Al-Hayat Center is the provision of objective and constructive assessment of the performance of members of the House of Representatives, as well as making realistic recommendations directly related to members' contributions in order to improve their performances and bridge the gap between them and their constituencies. These assessments aid in putting the constituencies' priorities and concerns before the Parliament so they are taken into account as the Representatives exercise their legislative and supervisory roles.

The RASSED team took the initiative to prepare this report with the goal of informing the public of the activities of the 17th House of Representatives during the First Ordinary Session in order to strengthen popular supervision on the performance of members of this democratic institution. Additionally, this report will improve the performance of the parliament through positive interaction with the public. Civil Society Organizations and the local community encourage the creation of monitoring mechanisms, in order to track the performance of their representatives in Parliament. This, in turn, will impact the performance of the Representatives by

motivating them to do regulatory and legislative tasks, particularly with regards to all aspects of the reform process. Such a report also stimulates parliamentarians to be consistent in their campaign message and its actual implementation in Parliament. Moreover, this report contributes to strengthening and raising the level of participation between citizens and their representatives by way of the creation of continual sustainable mechanisms and devotion to principles of transparency, integrity, and good governance.

The report includes twelve chapters, collectively covering the most prominent qualitative and quantitative indicators of parliamentary performance, as well as including scorecards evaluating both MP performance and the performance of permanent committees. This method of evaluation is one of the most important tools used to evaluate their performance, and is taken from a set of best practices in the field of representative democracy, though its application is still in its infancy phase in the Arab states.

The Parliamentarians' performance scorecard in this report is the second generation of this practice. This scorecard is based on improvements made to the first generation scorecards applied to the First Non-Ordinary Session of this Parliament. This methodology of evaluation was developed through consultation with academic experts, statisticians, and experts with practical experience in order to reach a broader level of qualitative analysis of parliamentarians' performance in their various legislative, organizational, and supervisory roles.

Al-Hayat Center hopes that this report will improve upon the formation of an assessment model that is beneficial for evaluating the members of the House of Representatives, with the goal of bettering their future performance to keep pace with the developmental needs of their constituents..

## **RASED Program for Monitoring Elections and the Performance of Elected Councils**

**Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development believes that the successes of this program will remain in the Jordanian people's consciousness while they vote at the next elections for the 18th Parliament**  
The RASED program is one of Al-Hayat Center's programs making an effort to promote a peaceful democratic transition in Jordan through supporting

political participation and developing the electoral process. Additionally, RASED works to improve the performance of elected councils by way of increasing social accountability on the performance of parliamentary representatives while promoting a higher degree of harmony between the performance of representatives, and aspirations of the people, and developmental needs.

RASED falls within a set of other Al-Hayat Center projects focused on competence in democratic development. The program was launched in May 2013 with its first report entitled, "100 days on the Performance of the 17th Jordanian House of Representatives," which documented its performance during the first 100 days of work of the First Non-Ordinary Session in 2013. Additionally, a final report on the performance of representatives in the same session was published on June 1st, 2013. Yet another report was published in February/March 2013 on the results of monitoring various election stages of which the outcome is the current composition of House of Representatives. The RASED program also monitored the parliamentary elections of 2007 and 2010, the performance of the 15th parliament in 2009, and the performance of the Irbid Municipality Council throughout 2012. The program also focuses on capacity building of local civil society organizations regarding the monitoring of elections and performance of elected councils in a number of Arabic countries, including but not limited to: Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Libya.

RASSED focuses on improving the performance of the elected councils using three main themes. Firstly, monitoring the Jordanian parliamentary performance based on a set of political indicators. These indicators include the presence of parliamentary sessions and committee meetings, holding a set of meetings with members of Parliament to discuss their initiatives and activities, meetings with governmental representatives to discuss governmental reactions towards the direction of initiatives and activities, follow-up and promises of the MPs and their attitudes, the term of their responsibilities, and their attitudes and compatibility with their position in parliament.

The second theme concerns the organization of periodic opinion polls. These polls are intended to be public opinion polls to measure the perceived performance of the Jordanian parliament or issues and laws discussed by MPs. Additionally, polls are taken to determine the opinions of MPs on a number of issues the House of Representatives works on. The analyses of the polls' results are undertaken by a specialized team and its is included in periodic reports.

The third theme appertains to the organization of a series of discussions between MPs and local communities in all governorates of the Kingdom. These discussions lead to an exchange of views and concerns between the people in these communities and their representatives. They also inform the community members of their role within the House of Representatives. The organization of a set of roundtable discussions was also included throughout the Kingdom between MPs and communities of special interest, where Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), political parties, and institutions dealing with women and youth are represented. These institutions are largely made up of Jordanians concerned with legislation and general politics, as they deal with the promotion of their members' rights. The roundtables lead to better understanding and response from members of parliament to the rights and needs of members of these institutions. They also lead to broader discussions of these groups' opinions on what is happening in terms of legislation and decision-making in Parliament to support their interests.

Jordanian citizenship participation in the upcoming parliamentary elections is to be enhanced so that elections are fair, building upon candidates' program, and to increase the number of voters representing non-direct monitoring results of the Parliament's performance. The process of monitoring contributes to the practice of the House of Representatives in carrying out their supervisory, legislative, and representative roles. Additionally, it enables electoral rules of building subjective and objective evaluations around the performance of its representatives, which will reflect positively on voting behavior in the future.



## **Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development**

Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development is an independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental Jordanian Civil Society Organization established in May 2006 by a group of Jordanian youth activists in civil society.

Al-Hayat Center seeks to contribute to development of political life in Jordan, within the framework of democratic principles, human rights, and rule of law. Additionally, Al-Hayat Center strives to spread necessary awareness amongst members of local communities of the values of civil society based on justice, equality, freedom, democracy, acceptance of others, and rule of law.

Al-Hayat Center believes that development must reach all corners of the country as well as the center, so the implementation of several developmental projects and activities in disadvantaged areas with a focus on participation by both sexes in these activities is crucial. Additionally, a local area network comprising a set of CSOs and branches from Karak to Amman to Irbid was founded. Al-Hayat also believes in the necessity of work on a regional (Arab) and international level, so the organization has joined several international networks, and contributed to the establishment of two sister organizations also named Al-Hayat. One organization is based in Nablus, Palestine (est. 2009), and the other is in Sana'a, Yemen (est. 2013).

Al-Hayat Center aims to strengthen electoral reform in Jordan, and to develop the performance of elected councils by way of contributing to the strengthening accountability, transparency, and rule of law in the context of their work. Other aims are to strengthen public participation in political life, and to support youth human rights defenders, political activities and protection of the right to freedom of expression. Moreover, Al-Hayat Center seeks to strengthen the role of CSOs in the development of political life in Jordan.

To implement these goals, Al-Hayat works on five main programs.

- 1.) RASSED: monitors elections performance of elected councils, and the government.
- 2.) Defaa: defending human rights and the right to freedom of expression.
- 3.) Mushareka: strengthening public participation in political life and the decision-making process (civic culture in communities and schools, female political empowerment, and discussions with decision-makers.)
- 4.) Local Governance Project: developing of local council's work and strengthening decentralization
- 5.) Local leadership development

Al-Hayat Center has differentiating experience in the area of studies and research, both of which target popular opinion polling regarding various topics. Additionally, Al-Hayat conducts careful analysis and shaping laws and government policies related to political reform. The Center has also published periodic documentary reports on the most important political issues and societal views.

## The 17<sup>th</sup> Jordanian House of Representatives

A Royal Decree was issued to dissolve the 16th House of Representatives on 4/10/2012 and to hold parliamentary elections for the 17<sup>th</sup> House. According to a draft of the amended law of elections number 25, issued in 2012, this law increased the number of parliamentary seats to 150 members of parliament. Of these, 15 seats were allocated for a female quota, and 27 seats to national

lists. This leaves 108 seats for local constituencies, Chechyens and Circassians, and Christians in various governorates.

On 16/10/2012, the Independent Election Commission identified the date of the 17<sup>th</sup> House Parliamentary elections to be on Wednesday 23/1/2013. The number of candidates running in the elections amounted to 1528, of which 699 applied at the level of local departments; ‘individuals’, and 829 candidates applied through national lists, reaching 61 lists.

Pursuant to Paragraph “A” of Article “55” of the Electoral Law 25, 2012 and its amendment, the Independent Election Commission issued the final results of the elections for the 17th House of Representatives, with the exception of the local constituencies, Chechyens and Circassians, and Christians’ seats in several of the Kingdom’s governorates. In these elections, 25 women won by way of the set quota, in addition to three females receiving a seat through occupying two seats of local constituencies and one in a national list. Of the 27 seats allocated to the Public Department, there were 22 lists who won, of which four won a total of 8 while the remaining seats were distributed amongst 18 lists. A Royal Decree was issued on 4/2/2013 upon invitation by the National Assembly, and stated that the meeting of the Non-Ordinary Session was to fall on Sunday the 10th of February 2013. This issue occurred in coherence with Articles 73 and 78 of the constitution, and the First Non-Ordinary Session was opened by the Royal Address. After the

election procedures, the Permanent Office of the Parliament was headed by Eng. Sa'ad Hayel was instated as President of Parliament for the duration of the Non-Ordinary Session.

According to constitutional amendments of Article 78, approved in 2011, the length of the First Non-Ordinary Session was to be six months. This amendment lengthened the term from four months to six for both the Ordinary and Non-Ordinary Sessions. By Royal Decree, the First Non-Ordinary Session adjourned on 10/8/2013, followed by a special session lasting 25 days convened on 1/9/2013, and subsequently adjourned on 25/9/2013.

The 17<sup>th</sup> House of Parliament's First Ordinary Session was invited to convene by Royal Decree on 3/11/2013. This session lasted six months under Presidency of Eng. Atef al-Tarawneh, and adjourned on 3/5/2014.

## Political Background

The government of Transjordan was officially recognized on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1923 and the first Parliamentary elections were conducted in the year 1929, per the Jordanian Election Law of the year 1928. This set the number of members of Parliament to be 16, representing four constituencies; Karak, Balqa', Ajloun, and the Bedouins. The First House of Representatives was headed

by Hassan Khalid Abu al-Huda and lasted from April 1929 until December 1931, according to Council Regulation 1<sup>(1)</sup> of the Second Legislative Council. The government began preparations for new elections in the beginning of June 1931, after members of the Legislative Council handed in their resignations, and continued their work until June 1934 for the duration of three years.

The Third Legislative Council was installed after the elections of October 16th, 1934. After completion of the constitutional term of the Third Legislative Council, new elections were called for the election of the Fourth Legislative Council in 1937, which completed its constitutional term. Hereafter, on October 16th 1942, their mandate was extended for two years. It is worth mentioning that throughout the term of this Council, four governments were formed.

The Fifth Legislative Council, which was the first after gaining independence, was institutionalized in October 1942, per the same system as "Council Regulation 1". However, some changes were carried out, the most important of which was the increase in the amount of constituencies to four instead of three after Ma'an splitting into a separate constituency from Karak and inclusion of Jerash and the electorate of Amman in the Baqa' constituency. The Council continued their constitutional term until October 20th, 1945 upon which their mandate was extended for two years<sup>(2)</sup>.

(1) This is the Regulation that states there must be 16 deputies in the House of Representatives, and 7 non-elected members being the Prime Ministers and Ministers.

(2) The constitutional governmental term was three years until 1952, after issuance of the 1952 Constitution when the governmental term became four years.

The amendments to the 1947 constitution which were passed upon the transition to a Kingdom after independence had an impact on the decision to hold general elections for the Second House of Representatives. This was done under the “Law of 1947” the Council passed in April 1947 that created the system of two Houses<sup>(3)</sup>. After that, the Election Law for the Lower House was published, which prescribes the right for every Jordanian older than 18 years-old to vote. The parliament thereupon consisted of 20 representatives directly elected by the people, and 10 Royally appointed Senators, and determined the term of the council to be four years<sup>(4)</sup>. This council distinguished itself by an expansion of powers in comparison with the previous council. In light of the unity of the West and the East Bank (of the Jordan River), the number of members of the Third House of Representatives, elected on April 20th 1950, was increased to 40 members distributed equally between the West and the East banks. Seven electoral constituencies were added to represent the West Bank. The formation of the Senate also occurred on April 20th, 1950, however it was disbanded in under a year on May 3rd 1951.

Elections for the Fourth House of Representatives were held in August 1951, and this House continued until the 22nd of June 1954 when it was released during the mandate of King Talal Bin Abdallah and the 1952 constitution which is regarded as one of the best constitutions because it opened prospects for public freedoms. The Fifth House of Representatives was elected on the 17th of November, 1954 and was in charge of amending the constitution. The Senate’s term of office was reduced from eight to four years, and the Fifth House stayed in place until June 26th, 1956. In that same year elections took place for the Sixth House of Representatives which included 50 deputies and 25 Senators.

The Seventh House was instated on October 22nd, 1961 per Electoral Law of the year 1960, consisting of 60 deputies and 30 Senators. This House did not complete its constitutional term. It was dissolved by Wasfi al-Tal because of lack of cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities, headed by Dr.

(3) The system of two Houses is a system where the Parliament consists of the Senate (Upper House) and the House of Representatives (Lower House). The first Senate was formed on 24/10/1947.

(4) The 1947 constitution determined the term for the elected House of Representatives to four years, whereas for the Senate a term of eight years was determined, renewable every four years by vote.



Mustafa Khalifa. The Eighth House of Representatives continued its work from July 7th 1962 until April 21st 1963 and also did not complete its constitutional term. It was dissolved by the government of Samir Rifai' for the same reason of lack of cooperation between the two authorities, which was headed by Salah Touqan.

Hereafter the Ninth House of Representatives was elected and was instated from July 7th 1973 until December 23rd 1966, finishing before the end of the constitutional term because it was dissolved by Wasfi al-Tal again due to lack of cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities, and was headed by the late 'Aakef al-Fayez. The Tenth House of Representatives lasted from April 18th 1967 until April 18th 1971, upon which its term was extended by two years, and was invited to Regular and Special Sessions several times until it was dissolved on July 30th 1988 because of the occupation of the West Bank by the Zionist enemy in July 1967.

After 22 years, parliamentary life in Jordan stopped because of occupational circumstances in the West Bank which was Jordanian land. Thus, the democratic process was launched and revived by the elections for the 11th House of Representatives, which took place in 1989. The Election Law was amended to stipulate the number of deputies to be 80, and the number of senators to be 40. The 1986 Electoral Law was adopted on the principle of constituents' votes, which formed the equivalent of the number of seats allocated to that district, known as the 'cluster system'.

The 1989 elections distinguished themselves by participation of all political powers, and the Muslim Brotherhood gained around 16% of the seats in the 11th House. After the elections, the country witnessed a political breakthrough which prevailed in the spirit of dialogue between the legislative and executive authorities by way of participation of all national powers and all classes of people. The National Charter was prepared in 1991 to express solidarity between groups of Jordanian society and to cancel martial law. It also allowed the establishment of

political parties to grow until the number of parties reached over 40. The Muslim Brotherhood were not able to achieve the desired political development, however, nor have they been able to become partisan in parliament.

Elections for the 12th House of Representatives were conducted in 1993 after the Electoral Law was adopted and came to be known as the “One Man One Vote” rule, which allows voters to only vote for one candidate even if there were more than one open seat in his constituency. In spite of the ‘one man one vote’ rule stipulated in this law, most of the political forces were involved in the elections. At its forefront was the Muslim Brotherhood, which participated with a list including 36 candidates competing for 80 seats and 17 of them won.

On the 4th of November 1997, elections for the 13th House of Representatives were held as per a newly modified Election Law whereby the constituencies were divided and some other materials relating to election mechanisms were altered. On July 17th 2003, elections for the 14th House of Representatives were held after being postponed for a year and a half. There was an increase of 30 seats, and the House continued its work until the end of the term in 2007. In this same year the elections for the 15th House were held. These elections were the most controversial elections held for the Lower House as the youth committed a lot of crimes and fraud during these elections. The House was disbanded in 2009, and parliamentary life was disrupted until 2010 when elections were held for the 16th House of Representatives as per the new temporary Electoral Law. There was an increase of 10 seats for this House. This election was highly controversial between those who boycotted the elections and those who participated in them, especially in regards to the integrity of the boycotters. Of the parties in this election, the most important were the Islamic Action Front (party) and the Democratic Popular Unity party, of which members were killed in the 2007 elections. There was also controversy over rigging techniques and the transfer of votes. A number of decrees were issued, among which a report by the Civil Alliance “Rased,” which pointed to a mass transfer and buying of votes, and falsification of civil status cards. These were the only voting documents, leading to manipulation of



the election results. All the public anger was the result of the excesses of the 16th House in conjunction with the events of the Arab Spring. As a result, the House was disbanded on 4/10/2012 not even finishing half of the constitutional term of 4 years, as had happened to the 15th House of Representatives.

A Royal Decree was issued to dissolve the 16th House of Representatives on 4/10/2012 and to conduct elections for the 17th House, according to the amendment of Law 25 of the year 2012. This was passed by the 16th House on 8/7/2012 in its extraordinary session with a majority of 66 members out of 77 who were present at the voting, and was approved by King Abdullah II on 23/7/2012. The law raised the amount of seats in the Lower House to 150, of which 15 were reserved for the female quota, 27 for the national lists, and the remaining 108 seats for local constituencies, Chechyens and Circassians, and Christians in various governorates of the Kingdom.

## Methodology Used in the Preparation of the Report

In the preparation of this report the Rased team adopted quantitative and qualitative indices in light of the experience Al-Hayat Center accumulated in its preparation of regulatory reports. A large part of the performance measurement tools were inspired by a set of surveys conducted by the World Bank in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in 2011. These indicators were

the summary of the work of 190 Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations (PMOs), working on the monitoring of 80 parliaments around the world.

The team took a number of steps in the preparation of this report, such as information collection which researchers worked on monitoring within the Parliament using a range of models especially designed for this purpose, follow-up on parliamentary sessions, registration of interventions made by MPs and their speeches and participation, attendance of sessions and committee meetings, in addition to building a database of minutes of committee and House meetings.

Some of this data has also been collected by way of a set of dialogue meetings and roundtable discussions which the Rased program organized with a number of MPs of the 17th House in several of the Kingdom's governorates. Additionally, polls represented at the national level were carried out. The information, data, and outcomes have been compiled and analyzed as a group of related recommendations which achieve the objectives of this report.

The earlier sections on the emergence of the elected Houses (parliament) in Jordan analyzed the historical composition of blocs within the Lower House and its MPs, and its numbers and assignment of the total amount of members of the House. It also analyzed bloc member allocation to permanent and temporary committees and the Permanent Office. As well as identifying changes which took place in the

blocs in terms of (numerical) structure, the extent of members' commitment to bloc resolutions, conformity with bloc positions, the scope work of the blocs, and interaction with the community.

The Rased team also worked on analysis of the Royal Address and the parliamentary response to it in addition to the analysis of parliamentary performance during discussion of the General Budget Law and budgetary balance of the governmental units. Rased also analyzed speeches based for the Economic and Finance Committee on themes and standards such as: budget preparation, budget comprehensiveness, interventions, discussions, and diversions. Additionally, meetings which the committee held with its members and concerned official civil and civic institutions were analyzed by Rased. The team also measured the degree of harmony between members of a certain bloc in order to track collective action in the House.

With regard to sessions of the House of Representatives and meetings of the permanent committees, the team carried out studies of the sessions and presented its issues and interventions. Outcomes treated the nature of supervisory or legislative and MP interventions, and presented its number and its discussions, and follow-up on minutes of meetings of committees, what was raised to the President of the House, and what was responded to them from the House, as well as a census of the number of meetings and its outcomes. The report includes a summary of these sessions and committee meetings, and its interventions on the regulatory and legislative axis. The team also monitored punctuality of MP attendance of sessions and the activities of members and blocs, and their interventions during sessions. This study determined those who were most and least committed to attending, based on the counting of working days of the House of Representatives and its meetings.

Regarding legislative performance through legislative sessions and meetings of the permanent committees, Rased tracked laws which were discussed and approved, or the response of the House, or its requirements for the participatory sessions with the Senate. The team also followed the legislative performance of MPs in

terms of their suggestions for laws and their interventions during discussions. Follow-up was also carried out on the regulatory performance in the House in terms of the study sessions and reports on the questions which the Prime Minister and Ministers faced from the MPs. The division of questions in different axes that included the political, economic, and service aspects, in addition to interpellations the MPs posed and its analysis, and debate requests and memos being part of the data. All of these items were analyzed according to its contents.

The interaction of the government with the regulatory and legislative deputies was monitored, as well as Ministers' attendance of sessions and their commitment to the sessions, their responses to MP questions, the amount of responses given within and outside of the legal timeframe, and those that were not replied to whatsoever. The Ministries and institutions most vulnerable to being questioned were also monitored, as well as the Ministries which were subjected to questions the most, and questions that were not responded to by any representative were recorded.

The RASSED team followed activities of the blocs outside Parliament and their interactions with local communities by visiting them, publishing their programs, or connecting with them online through their websites or social media. The blocs' activities were observed through their meetings, visits, and the quality of those activities.

## **Chapter One: Composition of the House of Representatives during the First Ordinary Session**

### **Introduction**

According to articles 13-21 of the Internal Regulations for the House of Representatives regarding mechanisms to elect the President of the House, the Vice-President and his aides, and of calculating votes, the President of the House is elected first, after which the first and second Vice-Presidents are elected successively, and two aides

are elected in one list. To win, the President and two Vice-Presidents require an absolute majority of attendees, and the President's aides need a relative majority. Pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph A in Article 3 of the Internal Regulations for the House of Representatives, prescribes that, in the case of a tie in votes "The most senior MP assumes the Presidency, if there are MPs who have the same seniority the one who was an MP for the most sessions is elected and his aides are the two youngest MPs. If one of them cannot fulfill this task, the MP next in line is chosen. They only assist him until his elected as President of the House." The MP Muhammad al-Hajj assumed the role of Presidency as he was the most senior MP in terms of attendance of sessions. MP Hamzeh Akhu Rasheed and MP Muhammad al-Riyaty, the youngest members in terms of attendance, were invited to be the aides of the President.

According to Article 13 of the Internal Regulations for the House of Representatives, the Supervisory Committee is appointed by ballot and composed of MP Muhammad al-Amru, Jamal Qamweh, and Mustafa al-'Amawy. The latter was chosen as Chairman of this Committee. As stated in Article 69, Paragraph 1 of the constitution, the House of Representatives elects the President upon the start of each Ordinary Session, for a term of one year. Whereas according to Article 69, Paragraph 2 of the constitution the President of the Non-Ordinary Session is elected for a term expiring upon the start of the Ordinary Session.

### One: Election of the President of the 17th House of Representatives

The President Muhammad al-Hajj opened the first meeting of the First Ordinary Session of the 17th House, and then opened the possibility to run for President of this session on 3/11/2013. The MPs running as candidate for the position were MP Atef al-Tarawneh, Abdel Kareem al-Daghmy, and Sa'ad Hayel al-Surour.

The amount of MP votes amounted to 145, because of the absence of two MPs; Muhammad al-Badry and Miryam al-Louzy. MP Talal al-Shareef was made redundant, membership of Qusai al-Damesy was frozen, and Mahmoud al-Houwaymhal passed away (from the 6th constituency in Karak Governorate). After completion of the procedures, it was shown that the amount of votes numbered 144 ballot papers. Three of these were canceled, and one was blank. The total of the obtained results announced that MP Atef al-Tarawneh received 60 votes, getting the highest number of votes, while Abdel Kareem al-Daghmy received 43, and Sa'ad Hayel al-Surour received 37.

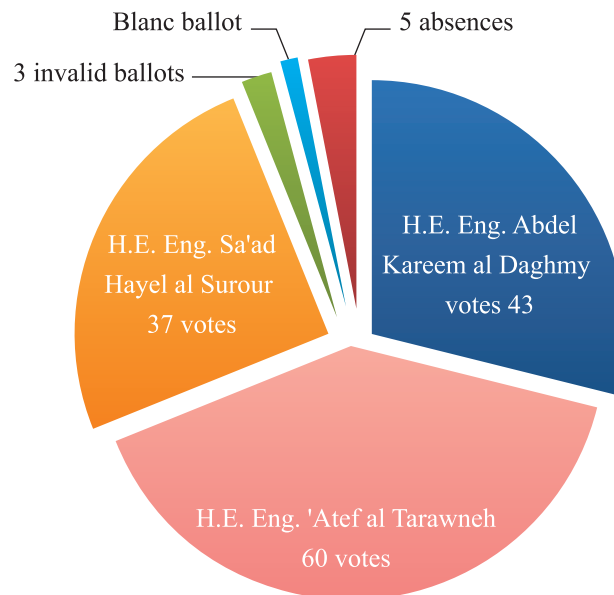


Figure 1: Results of the first voting rounds for the election of the President of the 17th House of Representatives.

Based on these results, none of the three candidates won due to lack of the absolute majority of those present. A second round of voting was called for between the

two candidates who received the most votes, as per Article 14, Paragraph B of the Internal Regulations for the House of Representatives. Those two candidates were Atef Al-Tarawneh and Abdel Kareem al-Daghmy.

Before the second voting round commenced, Abdel Kareem al-Daghmy relinquished the elections in favor of Atef Al-Tarawneh, thereby making him the President of the House.

The last time the House of Representatives saw the need for two rounds of elections for the appointing of the presidency was at the opening of the First Non-Ordinary Session of the 17th House. The first round in this case included four candidates, Mahmoud al-Kharabsheh, Mustafa Shanekat, Sa'ad Hayel al-Surour, and Muhammad al-Hajj. None of these candidates gained the relative majority of the votes thus a second round of ballots was called for between the MPs Sa'ad al-Surour and Muhammad al-Hajj, of which the former won with 80 votes while the latter received 62.

### **Two: Elections of the First and Second Vice-Presidents to the 17th House of Representatives**

After the election of Atef al-Tarawneh as President of the House, the possibility to run for the position of First Vice-President was opened to which MP Suleiman al-Zaban, Tareq Khoury, and Ahmad al-Safdy, Falk al-Jum'any, Yousef al-Qurne responded.

The following MPs put themselves up for candidate for the position of Second Vice-President; Habes al-Shabeeb, Mazen al-Dula'een, Abdel Majeed al-Aqtash, Wafa' Bani Mustafa, and Nusar al-Qaisy.

Before voting commenced, there was widespread controversy in the House regarding the voting mechanisms and how to calculate the votes. To this Dr. Roula al-Huroub proposed to follow the absolute majority or relative majority. These options were voted upon, where the option of following the relative majority



received preference. Prior to the start of the ballot, the President inquired if there was any candidate who wanted to waive his candidacy which was only the case for Nusar al-Qaisy.

Upon completion of the voting procedures, the counting of the ballot papers began. These contained both the names of the First and Second Vice-Presidential candidates on the same paper. One blank ballot was found, and six containing a vote for the First only. Another one ballot paper only had a vote for the Second Vice-President. The total amount of ballots numbered 146, and Ahmad al-Safdy gained the relative majority of votes with 39 total for the position of First Vice-President. Mazen al-Dula'een won the position of Second Vice-President with 42 votes.

### **Three: Elections for the Presidential Aides in the 17<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives**

The election of the two aides to the President of the House occurs through writing the names of two candidates on a single paper. The candidates who receive the largest amount of votes are instated as aides to the President. After the President opened the possibility to run for the position of aide, the following MPs applied; Zayd al-Shouwbikeh, Muhammad al-Rudaydeh, Abdallah Obeidat, Amana al-Gharagheer, Ali Bani 'Ata, Muhammad al-Khasawneh, Fawaz al-Z'aby. The latter withdrew thus making the election for the two positions between 6 candidates. 140 members voted resulting in the winning of Abdallah Obeidat and Muhammad al-Khasawneh, as can be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1: Results of the Presidential Aide elections**

| No.   | Candidate             | Votes |
|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| 1     | Abdallah Obeidat      | 59    |
| 2     | Muhammad al-Khasawneh | 49    |
| 3     | Amana al-Gharagheer   | 43    |
| 4     | Zayd al-Shouwbikeh    | 42    |
| 5     | Muhammad al-Rudaydeh  | 28    |
| 6     | Ali Bani 'Ata         | 27    |
| 7     | Blank vote            | 1     |
| 8     | Cancelled             | 3     |
| Total |                       | 140   |



**Table 2: Final distribution of positions for the Permanent Office of the 17th House of Representatives, and their blocs**

| No. | Name                  | Position               | Bloc                |
|-----|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1   | Atef al-Tarawneh      | President of the House | Homeland (Al-Watan) |
| 2   | Ahmad al-Safdy        | First Vice-President   | Al-Aslah (Reform)   |
| 3   | Mazen al-Dala'een     | Second Vice-President  | Al-Nahda (Revival)  |
| 4   | Abdallah Obeidat      | Aide                   | Democratic Assembly |
| 5   | Muhammad al-Khasawneh | Aide                   | Al-Nahda (Revival)  |

#### **Four: Permanent Committees and Parliamentary Blocs**

The Permanent Committees are formed at the beginning of each Ordinary Session, and each one is composed of a maximum of eleven and a minimum of seven members. The House elects these by way of anonymous voting if the amount of candidates exceeds the amount of voters. The Committees have representation relative to consensus between blocs and independents as determined by the Executive Office. A member of parliament may not be member of more than two permanent committees. In addition, it is also impossible to have combined membership in a permanent committee and the Permanent Office.

| Name of MP           | Bloc                  | Permanent Committee 1           | Permanent Committee 2            |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ahmad al-Muslumany   | National Union Party  | Tourism & Antiquities           | Public freedoms & Human rights   |
| Ibrahim al-Shahahdeh | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Finance                         | Water & Agriculture              |
| Ibrahim al-At'awy    | National Action Front | Youth & Sports                  | Energy & Mineral Resources       |
| Kareem al-Owdat      | National Consensus    | Rural & Badia Areas             | N.A.                             |
| Amjad al-Majaly      | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | National Guidance & Information | N.A.                             |
| Amjad al-Khuttab     | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Finance                         | Public services & transportation |
| Amana al-Gharagheer  | Center Islamic Bloc   | Water & Agriculture             | Women & Family Affairs           |
| Ansaf al-Khouwadeh   | Center Islamic Bloc   | Not a committee member          | N.A.                             |
| Ahmad al-Jaloudy     | National Union Party  | Economy & Investment            | N.A.                             |
| Ahmad al-Ruqaybat    | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Not a committee member          | N.A.                             |

|                            |                       |                                    |  |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Ahmad al-Safdy             | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Permanent Office                   | N.A.   |
| Ahmad al-Hameesat          | National Union Party  | Administrative                     | Youth & Sports                               |
| Basel al- Malkawy          | Center Islamic Bloc   | Energy & Mineral<br>Resources      | Order & Conduct                              |
| Basel 'Alawneh             | National Union Party  | Economy & Investment               | Labor, Social<br>Development &<br>Population |
| Bader al-Toureh            | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Education & Culture                | N.A.   |
| Bisam al-Battoush          | National Consensus    | Education & Culture                | N.A.   |
| Bisam al-Manaseer          | National Action Front | Foreign Affairs                    | Integrity, transparency<br>& facts           |
| Tamer Binou                | Center Islamic Bloc   | Order & Conduct                    | Integrity, transparency<br>& facts           |
| Tamam al-Riyaty            | Center Islamic Bloc   | Order & Conduct                    | Women & Family<br>Affairs                    |
| Thamer al-Fayez            | Center Islamic Bloc   | Health & Environment               | Rural & Badia Areas                          |
| Jamal Qamweh               | Democratic Assembly   | Health & Environment               | Energy & Mineral<br>Resources                |
| Jameel al-Nimri            | Democratic Assembly   | National Guidance &<br>Information | Tourism & Antiquities                        |
| Habes al-Shabeeb           | National Action Front | Not a committee<br>member          | N.A.   |
| Hazem Qashwe               | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Foreign Affairs                    | N.A.   |
| Hadeetha al-<br>Khuraysheh | Independent           | Energy & Mineral<br>Resources      | Rural & Badia Areas                          |
| Hasan Obeidat              | Democratic Assembly   | Foreign Affairs                    | N.A.   |
| Husni al-Shiyab            | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Not a committee<br>member          | N.A.   |
| Hamdiye al-Quwayder        | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Education & Culture                | Labor, Social<br>Development &<br>Population |
| Hamzeh Akhu<br>Rasheede    | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Foreign Affairs                    | Youth & Sports                               |
| Khalid al-Bukar            | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | National Guidance &<br>Information | Energy & Mineral<br>Resources                |
| Khalid al-Hayari           | National Action Front | Not a committee<br>member          | N.A.   |

|                                  |                       |  |                                |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Khalood al-Khatatbeh             | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | National Guidance & Information        | N.A.                           |
| Khalil Atieh                     | Independent           | Not a committee member                 | N.A.                           |
| Khamees Atieh                    | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Palestine                              | Order & Conduct                |
| Khayr Abu S'eleek                | National Consensus    | Economy & Investment                   | N.A.                           |
| Khayr Addeen Hakouz              | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Public services & transportation       | Public freedoms & Human rights |
| Raed al-Khalayleh                | National Consensus    | Economy & Investment                   | Energy & Mineral Resources     |
| Raed al-Hajazeen                 | National Action Front | Health & Environment                   | N.A.                           |
| Raed Hussan al-Kouz              | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Public services & transportation       | Palestine                      |
| Radineh al-Ate                   | National Action Front | Finance                                | N.A.                           |
| Radaa Haddad                     | National Action Front | Health & Environment                   | Women & Family Affairs         |
| Roula al-Haroub                  | National Consensus    | Public freedoms & Human rights         | N.A.                           |
| Reem Abu Dalbough                | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Legal                                  | N.A.                           |
| Zakaria al-Sheikh                | Center Islamic Bloc   | National Guidance & Information        | Health & Environment           |
| Ziad al-Shawabkeh                | Democratic Assembly   | Legal                                  | N.A.                           |
| Sa'ad al-Balwy                   | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Administrative                         | N.A.                           |
| Sa'ad al-Zuwaydeh                | National Consensus    | Water & Agriculture                    | Rural & Badia Areas            |
| Sa'ad Hayel al-Surour            | Independent           | Not a committee member                 | N.A.                           |
| Saleem Batayneh                  | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Not a committee member                 | N.A.                           |
| Suleiman al-Zaban                | Center Islamic Bloc   | Labor, Social Development & Population | Rural & Badia Areas            |
| Samir al-Arabi                   | National Union Party  | Tourism & Antiquities                  | N.A.                           |
| Samir 'Awees                     | Democratic Assembly   | National Guidance & Information        | Palestine                      |
| Shady al-'Adwan                  | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Public services & transportation       | N.A.                           |
| Shahaha Abu Shousheh al-'Amareen | National Union Party  | Tourism & Antiquities                  | Women & Family Affairs         |

|                                   |                       |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Dirar al-Daoud                    | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Public services &<br>transportation          | Tourism & Antiquities                        |
| Dhayf-Allah al-Khaldy             | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Health & Environment                         | Rural & Badia Areas                          |
| Dayf-Allah al-Sa'edeen            | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Water & Agriculture                          | Labor, Social<br>Development &<br>Population |
| Tareq Khoury                      | Democratic Assembly   | Youth & Sports                               | National Guidance &<br>Information           |
| Taha al-Sharfa'                   | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Administrative                               | Public freedoms &<br>Human rights            |
| Atef Qa'war                       | Democratic Assembly   | Foreign Affairs                              | Tourism & Antiquities                        |
| Amer al-Basheer                   | Democratic Assembly   | Foreign Affairs                              | Public services &<br>transportation          |
| Abd Ali al-Maseehi                | National Consensus    | Health & Environment                         | Palestine                                    |
| Abdel Jaleel al-'Obadi            | Democratic Assembly   | Legal  | Integrity, transparency<br>& facts           |
| Abdel Raheem al-<br>Baq'a'i       | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Economy & Investment                         | N.A.   |
| Abdel Kareem al-<br>Durayseh      | National Action Front | Order & Conduct                              | N.A.   |
| Abdel Kareem al-<br>Daghmy        | Independent           | Not a committee<br>member                    | N.A.   |
| Abdallah al-Khouadeh              | Democratic Assembly   | Economy & Investment                         | N.A.   |
| Abdallah Obeidat                  | National Consensus    | Permanent Office                             | N.A.   |
| Abdel Majeed al-<br>Aqtash        | National Consensus    | Public freedoms &<br>Human rights            | Palestine                                    |
| Abdel Mon'eim al-<br>Oudat        | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Legal  | N.A.   |
| Abdel Hady al-Majaly              | National Action Front | Not a committee<br>member                    | N.A.   |
| Abdel Hady al-<br>Muharremeh      | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Youth & Sports                               | Labor, Social<br>Development &<br>Population |
| Adnan al-Soua'eer al-<br>'Ajarmeh | Democratic Assembly   | Labor, Social<br>Development &<br>Population | Order & Conduct                              |
| Adnan al-Farjat                   | National Union Party  | Water & Agriculture                          | Tourism & Antiquities                        |

|                                   |                       |                                     |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Adnan Abu Rakbeh                  | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Administrative                      | Labor, Social<br>Development &<br>Population |
| Assaf al-Shawbaki                 | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Administrative                      | National Guidance &<br>Information           |
| Ali al-Khalayleh                  | National Action Front | Energy & Mineral<br>Resources       | Order & Conduct                              |
| Ali al-Saneed                     | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Public freedoms &<br>Human rights   | Integrity, transparency<br>& facts           |
| Ali al-'Azazmeh                   | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Public freedoms &<br>Human rights   | Palestine                                    |
| Ali Bani Ata'                     | National Action Front | Youth & Sports                      | Health & Environment                         |
| 'Aoud Kreshan                     | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Education & Culture                 | Women & Family<br>Affairs                    |
| Faten al-Khalefat                 | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Tourism & Antiquities               | Women & Family<br>Affairs                    |
| Fares al-Halseh                   | Democratic Assembly   | National Guidance &<br>Information  | Public services &<br>transportation          |
| Fatima Ali Abu Abta               | Center Islamic Bloc   | Education & Culture                 | Women & Family<br>Affairs                    |
| Falak al-Jumani                   | Independent           | Palestine                           | Women & Family<br>Affairs                    |
| Fawaz al-Zouwabi                  | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Economy & Investment                | Energy & Mineral<br>Resources                |
| Faysal al-'Aour                   | National Consensus    | Health & Environment                | Rural & Badia Areas                          |
| Qasem Bani Hani                   | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Youth & Sports                      | N.A.   |
| Kamal al-Zaghloul                 | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Finance                             | Water & Agriculture                          |
| Mazen al-Dala'een                 | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Permanent Office                    | N.A.   |
| Majham al-Zaqour                  | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Water & Agriculture                 | Public services &<br>transportation          |
| Muhammad al-Badri                 | National Consensus    | Not a committee<br>member           | N.A.   |
| Muhammad al-Hajayeh               | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Legal                               | Administrative                               |
| Muhammad al-Hajouj<br>al-Duwaymeh | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Youth & Sports                      | Public freedoms &<br>Human rights            |
| Muhammad al-<br>Khashman          | National Union Party  | Public services &<br>transportation | N.A.   |

|                             |                       |                                |                                  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Muhammad al-Rudaydeh        | National Union Party  | Finance                        | N.A.                             |
| Muhammad al-Riyati          | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Administrative                 | N.A.                             |
| Muhammad al-Zaboun          | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Public freedoms & Human rights | N.A.                             |
| Muhammad al-Saudi           | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Finance                        | Water & Agriculture              |
| Muhammad al-Shadefat        | Independent           | Not a committee member         | N.A.                             |
| Muhammad al-Shorman         | Center Islamic Bloc   | Administrative                 | Health & Environment             |
| Muhammad al-Obadi           | National Union Party  | Foreign Affairs                | Youth & Sports                   |
| Muhammad al-'Elaqmeh        | National Union Party  | Water & Agriculture            | Energy & Mineral Resources       |
| Muhammad al-Amru            | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Education & Culture            | Palestine                        |
| Muhammad al-Farehat         | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Legal                          | National Guidance & Information  |
| Muhammad al-Qutatsheh       | Center Islamic Bloc   | Foreign Affairs                | Education & Culture              |
| Muhammad Ahmad al-Hajj      | Center Islamic Bloc   | Not a committee member         | N.A.                             |
| Muhammad Jameel al-Zahrawe  | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Youth & Sports                 | Tourism & Antiquities            |
| Muhammas Rashed al-Barayseh | National Action Front | Finance                        | N.A.                             |
| Muhammad 'Asha al-Duwaymeh  | Independent           | Not a committee member         | N.A.                             |
| Muhammad Fouad al-Khasawneh | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Permanent Office               | N.A.                             |
| Muhammad Hadeeb             | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Foreign Affairs                | Order & Conduct                  |
| Mahmoud al-Kharabsheh       | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Not a committee member         | N.A.                             |
| Mahmoud Mahedat             | Al-Watan (Homeland)   | Education & Culture            | Integrity, transparency & facts  |
| Mad-Allah al-Tarawneh       | Center Islamic Bloc   | Administrative                 | Public services & transportation |
| Mustafa al-Hamarneh         | Independent           | Not a committee member         | N.A.                             |

|                      |                       |  |  |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Mustafa al-Ruwashdeh | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Integrity, transparency<br>& facts           | N.A.   |
| Mustafa al-Shanekat  | Democratic Assembly   | Not a committee<br>member                    | N.A.   |
| Mustafa al-'Amawi    | Center Islamic Bloc   | Labor, Social<br>Development &<br>Population | Order & Conduct                              |
| Mustafa Yaghi        | National Consensus    | Legal  | N.A.   |
| Motaz Abu Rumman     | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Youth & Sports                               | Integrity, transparency<br>& facts           |
| Maflah al-Khaza'leh  | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Legal  | Water & Agriculture                          |
| Maflah al-Rahimi     | National Action Front | Not a committee<br>member                    | N.A.   |
| Maflah al-'Ashebat   | Independent           | Palestine                                    | N.A.   |
| Munir Zuwaydeh       | Democratic Assembly   | Public services &<br>transportation          | Tourism & Antiquities                        |
| Mousa al-Khalayleh   | National Union Party  | Administrative                               | Labor, Social<br>Development &<br>Population |
| Mousa Abu Swaylem    | Center Islamic Bloc   | Education & Culture                          | Public freedoms &<br>Human rights            |
| Mawfaq al-Damour     | National Consensus    | Not a committee<br>member                    | N.A.   |
| Mirza Abu Lad        | National Consensus    | Public freedoms &<br>Human rights            | Rural & Badia Areas                          |
| Mayser al-Sardeyeh   | Al-Nahda (Revival)    | Rural & Badia Areas                          | N.A.   |
| Nayef al-Khaza'leh   | National Action Front | Economy & Investment                         | Energy & Mineral<br>Resources                |
| Nayef al-Limoun      | National Action Front | Administrative                               | N.A.   |
| Najah al-'Azze       | National Union Party  | Labor, Social<br>Development &<br>Population | Women & Family<br>Affairs                    |
| Nussar al-Qaisi      | Al-Aslah (Reform)     | Finance                                      | Integrity, transparency<br>& facts           |
| Nadal al-Hayari      | National Union Party  | Finance                                      | N.A.   |
| Na'eem al-'Ajaarmeh  | National Action Front | Foreign Affairs                              | Women & Family<br>Affairs                    |



|                     |                       |                                    |                                    |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Hayel al-Da'jah     | National Consensus    | Foreign Affairs                    | Education & Culture                |
| Hind al-Fayez       | Democratic Assembly   | Integrity, transparency<br>& facts | N.A.                               |
| Haytham al-Obadi    | Center Islamic Bloc   | Finance                            | Economy & Investment               |
| Haytham Abu Khadija | Independent           | Economy & Investment               | Health & Environment               |
| Wasfi al-Zayoud     | National Union Party  | Legal                              | Energy & Mineral<br>Resources      |
| Wafa' Bani Mustafa  | Center Islamic Bloc   | Order & Conduct                    | Women & Family<br>Affairs          |
| Yaseen Bani Yaseen  | Independent           | Order & Conduct                    | N.A.                               |
| Yahya al-Saoud      | National Action Front | Legal                              | Palestine                          |
| Yousef al-Qurneh    | Democratic Assembly   | Finance                            | National Guidance &<br>Information |
| Yousef Abu Houidi   | National Consensus    | Tourism & Antiquities              | Rural & Badia Areas                |

With regard to the parliamentary committees in the House, the Al-Nahda (Revival) Bloc succeeded to have the greatest amount of members in the committees, namely 22 members (14.8%), followed by Al-Watan (Homeland) with 18 members (12.1%). The least amount of members were from the Al-Aslah (Reform), National Union blocs both with 10.1%.

| No.          | Bloc Name             | No. of Members | Percentage |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------|
| 1            | Al-Nahda              | 22             | 14.8%      |
| 2            | Watan                 | 18             | 12.1%      |
| 3            | National Action Front | 17             | 11.4%      |
| 4            | Center Islamic        | 17             | 11.4%      |
| 5            | National Consensus    | 16             | 10.9%      |
| 6            | Democratic Assembly   | 16             | 10.7%      |
| 7            | National Union        | 15             | 10.1%      |
| 8            | Al-Aslah              | 15             | 10.1%      |
| 9            | Independents          | 13             | 9%         |
| <b>Total</b> |                       | <b>149</b>     |            |

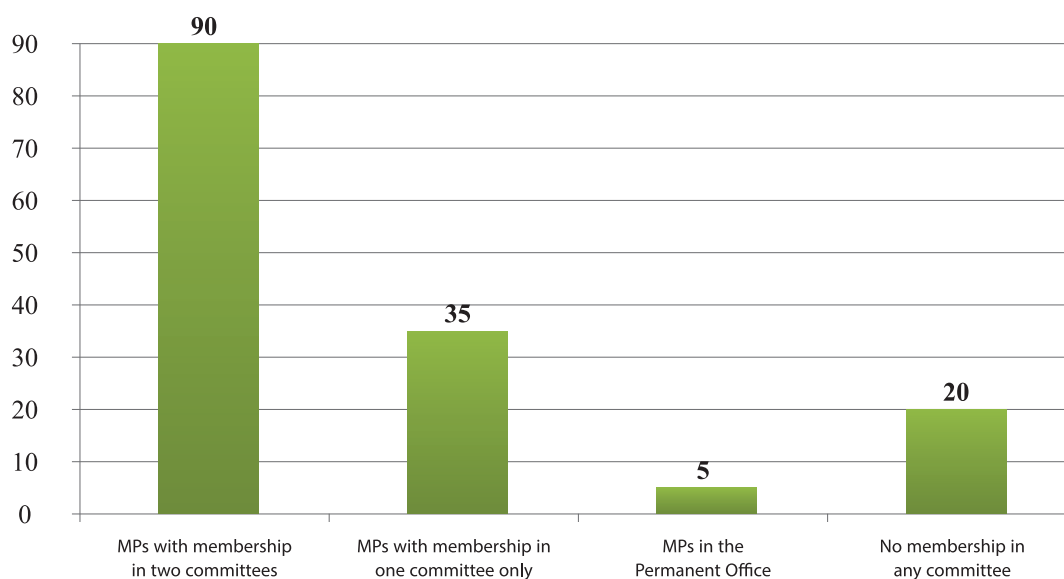
The Al-Nahda bloc gained the largest amount of seats in the permanent committees with 34 members, whereas the National Consensus bloc held the least amount of seats with 20 members.



With regards to the Chairmanship of the committees, the National Union Party dominated the position with the largest amount of Chairmen reaching 4, whereas the National Action Front had the smallest number of presidencies with 1 presidency. No independent member chaired any of the permanent committees.

| Bloc                 | No. of Bloc Members | No. of committee seats | No. of committee members | No. of members in the Chairman position | No. of members in the Vice-Chairman position | No. of members in the rapporteur position |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| Center Islamic       | 17                  | 30                     | 15                       | 2                                       | 2  | 5   |
| National Consensus   | 16                  | 20                     | 7                        | 3                                       | 2  | 2   |
| Al-Watan             | 18                  | 28                     | 13                       | 1                                       | 3  | 1   |
| Al-Aslah             | 16                  | 21                     | 8                        | 1                                       | 3  | 2   |
| National Union Party | 15                  | 25                     | 9                        | 2                                       | 4  | 2   |
| National Action      | 19                  | 21                     | 8                        | 4                                       | 1  | 3   |
| Al-Nahda             | 22                  | 34                     | 14                       | 3                                       | 2  | 4   |
| Democratic Assembly  | 16                  | 27                     | 12                       | 4                                       | 3  | 1   |
| Independents         | 13                  | 12                     | 5                        | 0                                       | 0  | 0   |

Distribution of MPs in Permanent Committees and the Permanent Office



## Chapter Two: Royal Address at the Session's Opening

This chapter is present in full in the Budget Report

### Introduction

The First Ordinary Session of the House was opened on 3/11/2013, in accordance with Articles 73 and 78 of the Jordanian constitution by the Royal Address. The King held the Address in two meetings of the House of Representatives and the Senate as per Article 79 of the constitution.

The Parliamentary Committee was formed in accordance with Article 79 of the constitution and Article 6 of the Internal Regulations for the House of Representatives, to formulate a responsive petition to the Royal Address of the First Session. The Members of the 17th House of Representatives decided to authorize the Permanent Office with the selection of the members of this committee to which 12 MPs should be members, thus the committee met to formulate the response on 5/11/2013. MP Mahmoud al-Kharabsheh was voted as President of the committee and MP Ysaen Bani Yaseen as rapporteur.

The Rased team worked on a complete analysis of the content of the Address and the parliamentary response to it by using a number of axial categories and indices to measure repeatability in addition to comparisons to the content of the statement.

### First: Analysis of the Royal Address upon the Opening of the First Ordinary Session

The Royal Address was comprised of 1398 words. After initial analysis of the speech's contents, it became clear that its content falls into ten main categories;

|                                       |        |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--|
| Introduction of the Royal Address     | Axis 1 | Opening and welcome, reminder of the role of the Parliament in supporting the democratic process, and broaden popular participation in decision-making |
| Reform process and achievements       | Axis 2 | Results of the reform process and its role in access to parliamentary governments  |
| Parliamentary and municipal elections | Axis 3 | Development of parliamentary and municipal electoral law so as to enforce the reform process and achieve decentralization                              |

|  |         |   |
|--|---------|---|
| Popular impressions of the House of Representatives    | Axis 4  | Parliamentary code of conduct, the necessity to abide by it, and maintain the functions of the House of Representatives   |
| Development of the performance of government apparatus | Axis 5  | Development of human resources for the public sector, preparing outstanding leaders and complete the restructuring of public sector institutions  |
| Legislative amendments for the next phase              | Axis 6  | Legislative amendments to conform with constitutional amendments as a state security court law and law of the independence of the judiciary   |
| Enhance system integrity                               | Axis 7  | Royal Commission to enhance system integrity, the application of law, sovereignty, and a sense of responsibility, objectivity and respect for the opinions of others                                |
| Economic reform  | Axis 8  | Political, economic and social reform, and foundations from which to build economic policies and development planning   |
| Integration of the legislative and executive branches  | Axis 9  | Cooperation between the two authorities and agreement on priorities of growing needs and provision of basic services  |
| Foreign policies                                       | Axis 10 | Strengthening the internal front, and the role on regional and global levels regarding Jordan, the Palestinian case, defense of religious identity, the Syrian issue, and Syrian refugees in Jordan |
| Conclusion   | Axis 11 | Necessity of popular and official cooperation to overcome the challenging phase   |

To study the importance of the axes mentioned in the Address, the number of words of each axis was counted, as shown below in chart 1

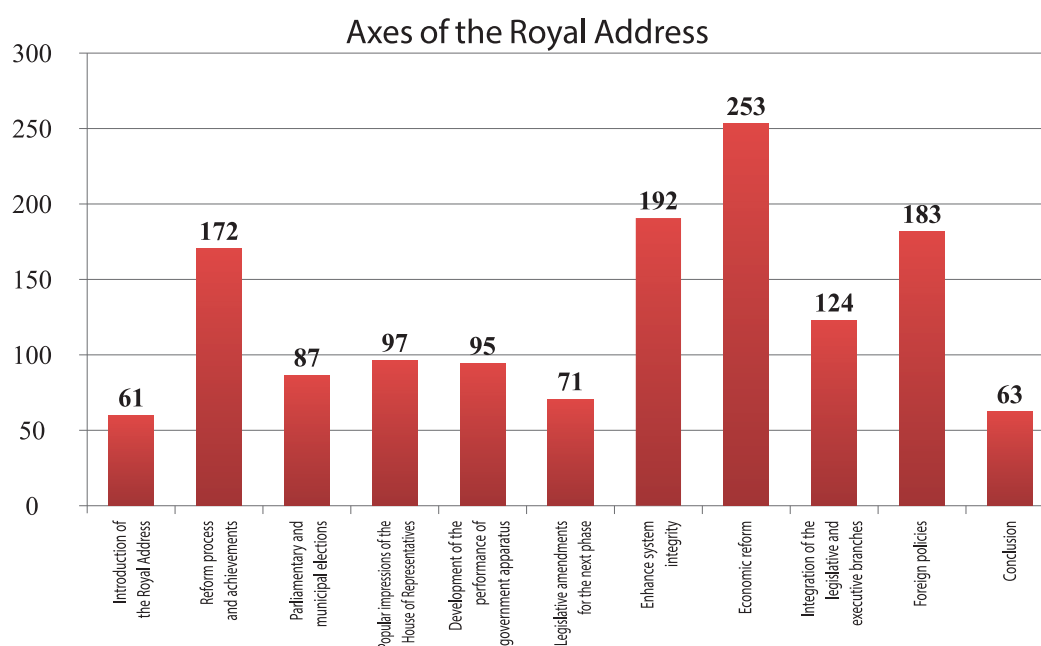


chart 1: Distribution of words in the Royal Address held upon the opening of the First Session based on word count per axes

## Two: Analysis of the Parliamentary Response to the Royal Address

The parliamentary committee was formed as per Article 79 of the constitution, and article 6 of the Internal Regulations for the House of Representatives to formulate a response to the Royal Address. The 17th House authorized the Permanent Office to select members of this committee which was to be formed of 12 MPs. The members were Mahmoud al-Kharabsheh, Abdel Kareem al-Daghmy, Mustafa al-'Amawi, Habes al-Shabeeb, Yaseen Bani Yaseen, Muhammad al-Radaydeh, Muhammad al-Hajj, Atef Qa'war, Abdel Jaleel al-Zayoud, Muhammad Hadeeb, Reem Abu Dalbough, and Roula al-Haroub. The committee convened to formulate a response on 5/11/2013, and through the committee MP Mahmoud al-Kharabsheh was elected as its chairman, with the Yaseen Bani Yaseen as rapporteur. The finalized response was given to the King on 17/11/2013.

The initial analysis shows the distribution of the members of these committees in comparison with the parliamentary blocs at the time. Democratic Consensus and Watan obtained the largest positions with two members. Al-Aslah, the Islamic Center, the National Action Front, the National Union, Al-Nahda, National Consensus, all had one representative, and there were two independent members. The response to the Royal Address was comprised of 1658 words, distributed amongst 12 axes approximate to those in the Royal Address. The results of the analysis took into account the sequence of the narrative and Royal visions in most cases.

| Axis<br>1 | Introduction  | Referring to contents of Royal Address   |
|-----------|---|--|
| Axis<br>2 | Conservation of rights and protection of freedoms               | Importance of the conservation of rights and protection of freedoms as a pillar in the democratic structure  |
| Axis<br>3 | The House's role in the formation of a parliamentary government | Importance of the founding level of the parliamentary government accompanied by the development of parliamentary parties and work  |
| Axis<br>4 | Decentralization  | Importance of a transition to decentralization and development of all legislations for this goal. Enhance popular political participation and increase the balance of performance of government institutions |

|         |  |  |
|---------|--|--|
| Axis 5  | Legislative amendments                   | Concordance of legislation with constitutional amendments to strengthen the process of reform and construction   |
| Axis 6  | Limpness of the government apparatus     | Impact of governmental limpness and its consequences on institutions and trust between citizens and representatives, and mechanisms to fix this limpness |
| Axis 7  | Just and fair system                     | The necessity to achieve justice and integrity, and provision of all necessary requirements for the development of the judiciary                         |
| Axis 8  | Development of parliamentary performance | Internal system of the House and parliamentary code of conduct   |
| Axis 9  | Complex reform                           | Importance of a parallel direction in political and economic reform  |
| Axis 10 | Energy resources                         | Governmental decrease of energy in dealing with the crisis and searching for alternative resources   |
| Axis 11 | Foreign politics                         | The Syrian crisis and Palestinian issue, and support of the armed forces and security apparatus  |
| Axis 12 | Conclusion                               | Necessity of cooperation between the nation's corners in overcoming difficulties   |

### Distribution of the amount of words which were used in the response to the Royal Address

|         |   |     |
|---------|---|-----|
| Axis 1  | Introduction  | 240 |
| Axis 2  | Conservation of rights and protection of freedoms               | 81  |
| Axis 3  | The House's role in the formation of a parliamentary government | 192 |
| Axis 4  | Decentralization  | 135 |
| Axis 5  | Legislative amendments  | 77  |
| Axis 6  | Limpness of the government apparatus                            | 136 |
| Axis 7  | Just and fair system  | 95  |
| Axis 8  | Development of parliamentary performance                        | 84  |
| Axis 9  | Complex reform  | 103 |
| Axis 10 | Energy resources  | 177 |
| Axis 11 | Foreign politics  | 249 |
| Axis 12 | Conclusion  | 89  |

### Chapter Three: Governmental General and Unit Budgets

This Chapter is available in full in the Budget Report

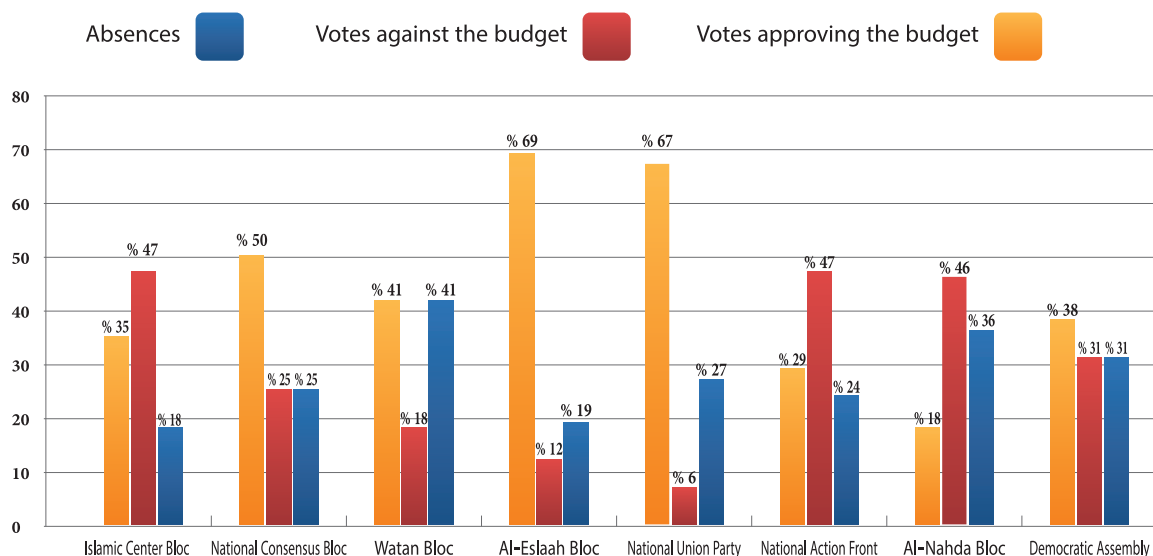
The report shows the results of the parliamentary evaluation in debates and votes regarding the budget of the fiscal year, and independent government units for the year 2014. An imbalance that gripped the Parliamentary voting process during the voting on the budget, where voting in approval of the budget was done by 61 MPs and against it were 43.

In the report the specialist research team of Rased prepared, the results with regards to MP presence upon voting for the budget were measured as 70% of the total House. The amount of votes for the budget was 105 MPs, 41%.

The results show that the percentage of MPs who addressed issues of electoral reform (Party and Electoral Laws) amounted to 3.3%. The amount of MPs who addressed issues of price spikes and increase of support was 71%. The ratio of the MPs addressing the Gulf grant was 38%.

The demand to increase the salaries of the armed forces amounted to 38% of MPs. The amount of requests to merge the independent governments' bodies amounted to 13%. Specifically the issue of alternative energy it was addressed by 16% of the MPs, whereas mentioning of fears of naturalization was 7%. With regard to the tours of the American Minister of Foreign Affairs John Kerry to the area and peace talks, it was mentioned by 9%. The Syrian refugee issue showed up in the results as having been addressed by 26% of the MPs.

With regards to mass performance during the voting, the results show that the Watan bloc abstained the most regarding the votes on the budget, reaching 41%. This is followed by the Al-Nahda bloc with 36%, those abstaining the least were the Islamic Central bloc (18%) and Al-Aslah (19%).



The blocs voting in favor of the budget the most was Al-Aslah showing confidence in the budget with 69%, the National Union Party followed with 67%. The parties voting against the budget the most were the National Action Front and the Islamic Central bloc both with 47%. Al-Nahda followed with 46%, after which the Democratic Assembly with 31%.

With regards to the role of female MPs in debates and voting, the results show that there are 18 women in the House of Representatives. 11 spoke on the issue of the General Budget bill and the Unit Budget bill, reaching 61% of all females in the House. The results show that the percentage of women speaking amounted to 12% of all the speakers in the House as a whole. By way of analyzing their words, the results show that the bulk focused on economics whereas eight women raised an intervention in economic affairs. Three of the female MPs did not address economics, and the percentage of females who voted against the budget was 8% of all females voting, meaning 5% of all those voting against the budget. Those females voting for the budget reached 2% of all MPs voting for.

The Rased team trusts the parliamentary voting conduct on the topic of the general budget bill.



### **MPs voting in favor of the budget – 61 votes:**

Hayel al-Da'jeh, Ahmad al-Jaloudi, Ra'ed al-Kouz, Muhammad 'Asha al-Duwaymeh, Abd al-Mahseri, Yousef al-Qurneh, 'Amjad al-Musleman, Ahmad al-Safdi, Ahmad al-Humaysat, Khayr Abu Sa'elek, Nusar al-Qaisi, Khayr al-Deen Hakouz, Saleem al-Batayneh, Muhammad al-Khasawneh, Fawaz al-Za'bi, Basel al-Malkawi, Dirar al-Daoud, Nadal al-Hayari, Jimal Qamu, Shady al-'Adwan, Mawqef al-Damour, Taha al-Sharfa, Fares Halseh, adnan al-Farajat, Sameer al-Arabi, Kareem al-Odat, Mirza Abu Lid, ali al-Khalayleh, Mousa al-Khalayleh, Muhammad al-Saoudi, Adnan Abu Rukbeh, Mustafa al-Hamarneh, Abdallah al-Khoualdek, Maflah al-Rahimi, Ali Bani 'Ata, Ridaa Hadad, Sa'ad al-Surour, Thamer al-Fayez, Rudayneh al-'Ati, Ansaf al-Khawaldeh, Amana al-Gharagheer, Mustafa al-'Amawi, Muhammad al-Khushman, Majhem al-Saqour, Ali al-'Azazmeh, Muhammad al-Zaboun, Abdel Hady al-Mahareme, Muhammad al-'Amour, Hazem Qashou', Muhammad al-Badri, Muhammad al-'Obadi, Amjad Aal al-Khuttat, Hadeetha al-Khareeshe, Ahmad al-Raqeebat, Hatham al-'Obadi, Shaha al-'Amareen, Yousef Abu Huwaydi, Muhammad al-Hajouj, Khalid al-Bukaar, 'Amer al-Basheer, Moneir al-Zuwaydeh.

### **MPs voting against the budget – 43 votes:**

Khalil 'Atieh, Muhammad al-Brayseh, Assaf al-Shawbaki, Mousa Abu Swaylem, Tamer Binou, Adnan al-'Ajarmeh, Sameer 'Oways, Jameel al-Nimri, Muhammad al-Shorman, Mahmoud al-Kharabsheh, Bisam al-Manaseer, Ra'ed Hajazeen, Bisam al-Battoush, Madallah al-Tarawneh, Nayef al-Limoun, 'Aoud Kreshan, Tareq Khoury, Nayef al-Khaz'aleh, Muhammad al-Shadefat, Ibrahim al-Shahahdeh, Muhammad al-Qatatsheh, ali al-Saneed, Muhammad al-Riyati, Habes al-Shabeeb, Suleiman al-Zaban, Na'eem al-'Ajarmeh, faten Khulayfat, Falak al-Jum'ani, Najah al-'Azza, Khaloud al-Khatatbeh, Hind al-Fayez, Muhammad al-Hajj, Zakaria al-Sheikh, Roula al-Haroub, Khamees Atieh, Abdel Hady al-Majali, Mazen al-Dala'een, Amjad al-Majali, Faysal al-'Aour, Hamdieh al-Hamaydeh, Motaz Abu Rumman, Muhammad al-Zahrawi, Sa'ad al-Balwi.



## Chapter Four: Summary of Sessions and Agendas

During the First Ordinary Session, during which the new Internal Regulations were implemented as per decree of 2013, House held meetings during 56 working days. The content of these meetings was split between legislative and supervisory tasks. The previous was carried out during 29 days, whereas supervisory work was carried out over 18 days.

During 9 sessions the House focused on organizational and legislative work. Three sessions were held per week, two of which legislative and the other organizational, where answers were given to questions and requests for debates, in addition to any other item of work which was not included in the scope of the sessions.

|                         |     |             |
|-------------------------|-----|-------------|
| Supervisory             | 32% | 18 meetings |
| Legislative             | 52% | 29 meetings |
| Legislative supervision | 16% | 9 meetings  |

On the other hand, there were four sessions held together with the Senate where four laws were ratified (Social Security Law, Restructuring of Governmental Institutions Law, State Security Court Law, Preventing of Illegal Profits Law). This Session is the one where the most joint meetings with the Senate were held.

## Chapter Five: Representative's Dedication to Attendance of Sessions and Committee Meetings

The 17th House of Representatives convened a total of 26 times during the First Ordinary Session, distributed amongst 56 working days. The RASED team followed up on the Parliamentary sessions, and found that the total amount of MP absences during the entire session amounted to 1429 absences.

This makes the rate of absence 28 MPs per working day. RASED moderators found that only two MPs did not have any absences, Amjad al-Muslemany and Zakaria al-Sheikh.

The following chart shows the extent of commitment by MPs with regards to attending the parliamentary sessions throughout the First Ordinary Session

| MP Name               | Absence Days |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Amjad Al-Maslamani    | 0            |
| Zakareya Al-Sheikh    | 0            |
| Bader Al-Torra        | 1            |
| Mahmoud Al-Kharabsheh | 1            |
| Nidal Al-Heyari       | 1            |
| Hayel Al-Da'aja       | 1            |
| Ibrahim Al-Etewi      | 2            |
| Ahmad Al-Hmeisat      | 2            |
| Mohammad Al-Shurman   | 2            |
| Mefleh Al-Esheibat    | 2            |
| Amjad Al-Majali       | 3            |
| Ahmad Al-Safadi       | 3            |
| Khamees Ateyyeh       | 3            |
| Kher El-Den Hakouz    | 3            |
| Abdel Men'em Al-Odaat | 3            |
| Mohammad Al-Zaban     | 3            |
| Mohammad Al-Saudi     | 3            |
| Mohammad Al-Abbadi    | 3            |

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Mohammad Al-Amro            | 3 |
| Mwaffaq Al-Dmour            | 3 |
| Bassam Al-Btoush            | 4 |
| Hazem Qashou'               | 4 |
| Def Allah Al-Sa'edeyyen     | 4 |
| Abdul Jaleel Al-Abbadi      | 4 |
| Ali Al-Sneed                | 4 |
| Ali Bani Ata                | 4 |
| Mohammad Ahmad Al-Hajj      | 4 |
| Mustafa Al-Amawi            | 4 |
| Motaz Abu Rumman            | 4 |
| Moneer Zawaydeh             | 4 |
| Nayef Al-Laymoun            | 4 |
| Ibrahim Al-Shahahdah        | 5 |
| Thamer Al-Fayez             | 5 |
| Jamal Gammoh                | 5 |
| Ra'ed Hassan Al-Kouz        | 5 |
| Abed Ali Al-Mahseeri        | 5 |
| Adnan Al-Sawaeer Al-Ajarmeh | 5 |
| Assaf Al-Shobaki            | 5 |
| Faris Al-Halasah            | 5 |
| Fatmah Ali Abu Abta         | 5 |
| Qasem Bani Hani             | 5 |
| Mohammad Al-Reyati          | 5 |
| Mohammad Al-Qatatshah       | 5 |
| Madd Allah Al-Tarawneh      | 5 |
| Nassar Al-Qaisi             | 5 |
| Haitham Al-Abbadi           | 5 |
| Amjad Aal Khattab           | 6 |
| Ahmad Al-Jaloodi            | 6 |
| Tamer Beeno                 | 6 |
| Hamzah Akho Ershedeh        | 6 |
| Rida Haddad                 | 6 |
| Roula Al-Hroub              | 6 |
| Sameer Oweis                | 6 |
| Taha Al-Shorafa             | 6 |
| Abdallah Al-Khawaldah       | 6 |
| Faisal Al-Awar              | 6 |
| Yousef Al-Gorneh            | 6 |

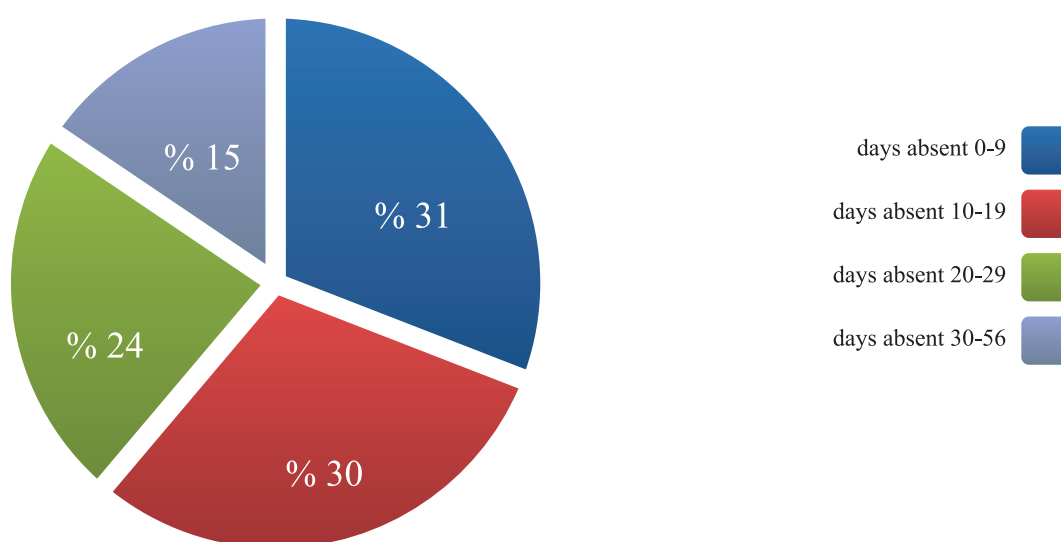
|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Suleiman Al-Zaban             | 7  |
| Abdelmajeed Al-Aqtash         | 7  |
| Mohammad Al-Hjouj Al-Dawaymeh | 7  |
| Mohammad Al-Shdeifat          | 7  |
| Mohammad Al-Freihat           | 7  |
| Mostafa Al-Hamarneh           | 7  |
| Najah Al-Azzeh                | 7  |
| Wasfi Al-Zyoud                | 7  |
| Khloud Al-Khatatbeh           | 8  |
| Sa'ed Al-Balawi               | 8  |
| Shaha Abu Shoushah Al-Amareen | 8  |
| Abdelraheem Al-Biq'a'i        | 8  |
| Abdallah Obeidat              | 8  |
| Mostafa Al-Rawashdah          | 8  |
| Mousa Al-Khalaylah            | 8  |
| Nayef Khaza'lah               | 8  |
| Aamnah Al-Gharagheer          | 9  |
| Jameel Al-Nimri               | 9  |
| Tareq Khouri                  | 9  |
| Mejhim Al-Sqour               | 9  |
| Mohammad Al-Hajaya            | 9  |
| Mohammad Rashed Al-Baraysah   | 9  |
| Mousa Abu Sweilem             | 9  |
| Hind Al-Fayez                 | 9  |
| Yousef Abu Hweidi             | 9  |
| Kher Abu Se'lek               | 10 |
| Reem Abu Dalbough             | 10 |
| Zeid Al-Shawabkah             | 10 |
| Adnan Al-Farajat              | 10 |
| Ali Al-Khalaylah              | 10 |
| Faten Al-Khleifat             | 10 |
| Mefleh Al-Rheimi              | 10 |
| Haitham Abu Khadeejah         | 10 |
| Hasan Obeidat                 | 11 |
| Sameer Al-Arrabi              | 11 |
| Aatef Qewar                   | 11 |
| Abdelkareem Al-Daraysah       | 11 |
| Abdelhadi Al-Maharmeh         | 11 |
| Mefleh Al-Khaza'leh           | 11 |

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Yaseen Bani Yaseen          | 11 |
| Ekreem Al-Awadaat           | 12 |
| Basel Malkawi               | 12 |
| Khalid Bakkar               | 12 |
| Rodaynah Al-Ati             | 12 |
| Sa'ed Al-Zawaydeh           | 12 |
| Sa'ed Hayel Al-Srour        | 12 |
| Amer Al-Basheer             | 12 |
| Ali Al-Azazmeh              | 12 |
| Fawwaz Al-Zo'ubi            | 12 |
| Mazen Al-Dala'een           | 12 |
| Mohammad Fo'ad Al-Khasawneh | 12 |
| Merza Boulad                | 12 |
| Ra'ed Hijazeen              | 13 |
| Saleem Bataineh             | 13 |
| Abdelkareem Al-Daghmi       | 13 |
| Adnan Abu Rokbeh            | 13 |
| Mostafa Al-Shneikaat        | 13 |
| Shadi Al-Edwan              | 14 |
| Wafaa' Bani Mostafa         | 14 |
| Bassam Al-Manaseer          | 15 |
| Hadeetha Al-Khreesah        | 15 |
| Hamdeyyah Al-Qwaider        | 15 |
| Mohammad Jameel Al-Thahrawi | 15 |
| Naayem Al-Ajarmeh           | 15 |
| Ensaf Al-Khawaldah          | 16 |
| Falak Al-Jom'aani           | 16 |
| Mostafa Yaghi               | 16 |
| Ahmad Al-Rqeibaat           | 17 |
| Basel Alawneh               | 17 |
| Mohammad Hdeib              | 17 |
| Mahmoud Mheidaat            | 17 |
| Husni Al-Shayyab            | 18 |
| Derar Al-Dawoud             | 18 |
| Khaleel Ateyyah             | 19 |
| Ra'ed Al-Khalayleh          | 20 |
| Habes Al-Shbeeb             | 21 |
| Def Allh Al-Khalidi         | 21 |
| Yahia Al-Soud               | 21 |

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Tamam Al-Reyati           | 22 |
| Awad Kreishan             | 22 |
| Mohammad Al-Badri         | 22 |
| Mohammad Asha Al-Dawaymeh | 23 |
| Kamal Al-zghoul           | 24 |
| Mohammad Al-Khashman      | 24 |
| Mohammad Al-Radaydeh      | 24 |
| Abdelhadi Al-Majali       | 26 |
| Mohammad Al-Alaqmeh       | 28 |
| Maysar Al-sardeyyeh       | 29 |
| Khaled Hyari              | 34 |

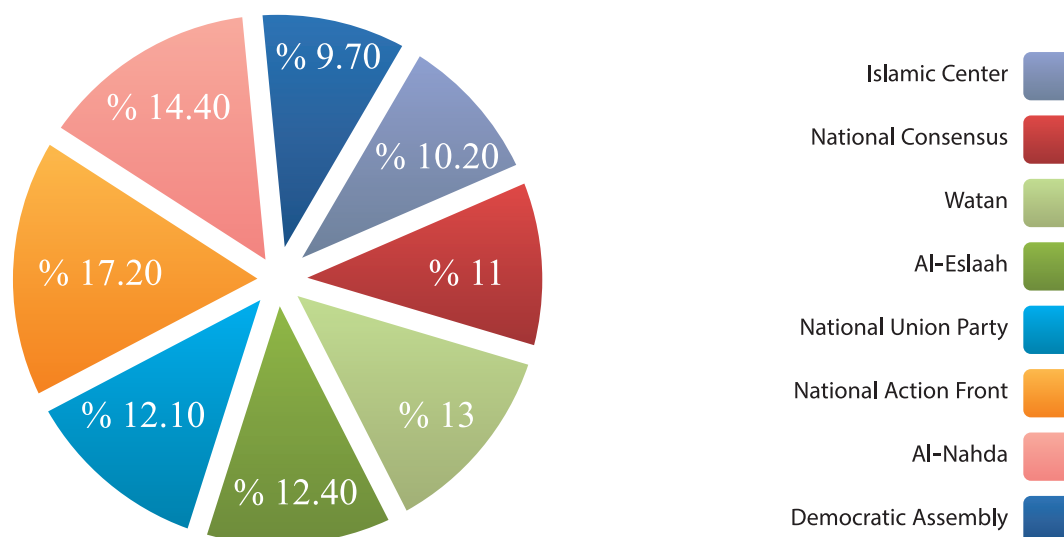
This chart shows that the two MPs Amjad al-Muslemani and Zakaria al-Sheikh did not miss any sessions, followed by Bader al-Toureh, Muhammad al-Kharabsheh, Nadal al-Hayari, and Hayel al-Da>jah. These all missed one session, whereas Khalid al-Hayari is the MP with the most absences amounting to 34 days of the 56 original working days. He is followed by Mayser al-Sardiyeh missing 29 days, and Muhammad al-→Alaqmeh with 28 days.

Percentage of Absences in the IVth Parliament



With regards to the commitment of the parliamentary blocs to attending sessions, it became clear that the bloc in which the most members were absent was the National Action Front with 17.2%. Al-Nahda reached 14.4%, Watan 13%, Al-Aslah 12.4%, National Union Party 12.1%, National Consensus 11%, Islamic Center bloc 10.2%. The blocs with the least amount of absences were the Democratic Assembly with only 9.7% registered absences by its members.

Burden Distribution on Parliamentary Blocs





## **Chapter Six: Legislative Performance of the House of Representatives**

The House of Representatives adopted 28 bills during the Session, and two proposals were sent to the government. Additionally, amendments were made to the Internal Regulations for the House of Representatives. The House also adopted three amendments by the Senate. Thus the total of legislative topics the House dealt with during the session comes to 34.

The draft laws focused on laws which needed amendments to stay consistent with constitutional amendments, most notably: Law Amending the Law of the State Security Court, Law Amending the Law on the Minister of Court, Law Amending the Law on the Formation of Military Courts, Law Amending the Law on Prevention of Terrorism, Law Amending the Law on the Anti-Corruption Organization.

The motion tool was activated in this session, where the House referred two proposals to the government; to amend the law of the constitutional court, and to amend the law with respect to imposing tougher penalties for auto theft. The Legislative Committee additionally ended a legal study on a proposal of a law including amendments to traffic laws.

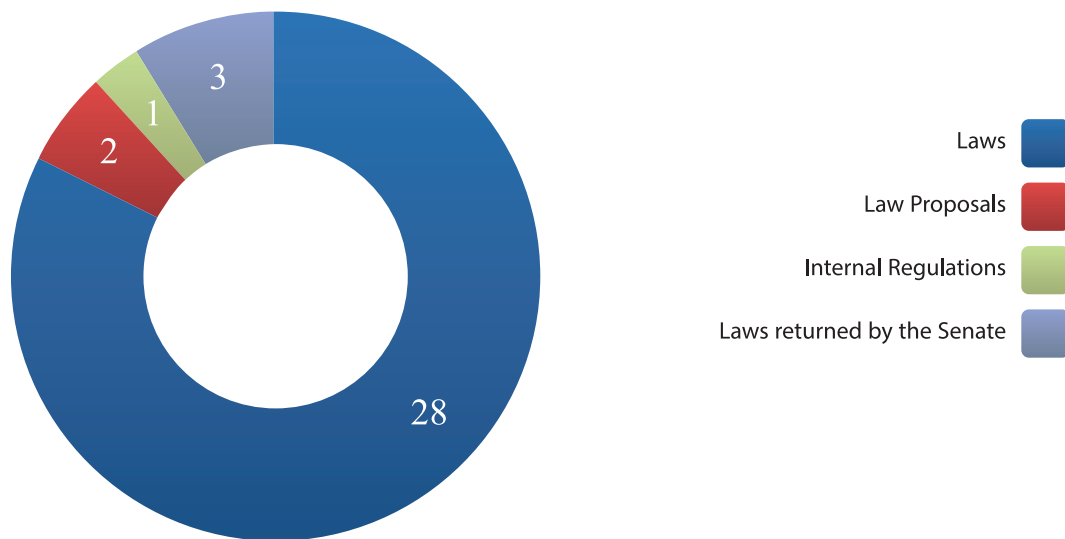
In addition to these, under the guidance of the Lower House two questions on the legislative performance were asked. The first was directed at the constitutional court to interpret Articles 89 and 92 of the constitution. These deal with the topic of the required majority upon voting in joint sessions, if it is permissible to adopt conciliatory proposals during such meetings. The second was directed at the Chamber of Law Interpretation to interpret the purview of Article 16 of the Internal Regulations, concerning the required majority to win the position of Vice- President.

Legislations approved by the council during this session

1. Draft law of Revocation of the Ministers' Operations Law
2. Draft law amending the Law of Structuring Administrative Courts for the year 2003
3. Draft law amending the Military Service and Military Reserve Law of 2013
4. Draft law amending the Ministers' Prosecuting Law
5. Draft law amending the Law of Construction Contractors for the year 2013
6. Draft law amending the National Security Court Law of 2013
7. Draft law amending the Sanctions Law for the year 2013
8. Temporary Law Number (2) for the year 2010 law ratifying the Free Trade Agreement between the Kingdom of Jordan and Canada for the year 2013
9. Draft law amending the Popular Army Law of 2013
10. The temporary law number (37) amending the Customs Law for the year 2010
11. The temporary law number (24) amending the Customs Law for the year 2010
12. Draft law of National Budget for the fiscal year 2014
13. Draft law of Governmental Units' Budget for the fiscal year 2014
14. Draft law amending the Passports Law for the year 2014
15. Draft law amending the General Administration Law for the year 2014
16. Draft law amending the Anti-Corruption Committee Law for the year 2013
17. Draft law amending the Military Housing Fund Law for the year 2014
18. The temporary Agriculture Law number (44) for the year 2002
19. Draft law of approving the agreement between the Natural Resources Authority in Jordan and the National Petrol Public Shareholding Co., Ltd. for participating in the production of petrol discovery, assessing its discovery, manufacturing, and production, in East Al-Safawi region for the year 2013
20. Draft law amending the Military Courts Formation Law for the year 2014
21. The temporary law number (17), amending the Higher Education and Scientific Research Law for the year 2010
22. The temporary law number (24), amending the Higher Education and Scientific Research Law for the year 2009
23. Draft law approving the agreement between the Jordanian government represented by the Natural Resources Authority and the Arabian Saudi Oil Shale company for the privilege of distillation of the topmost layer, for the year 2013

24. Draft law amending the Copyright Protection Law for the year 2009
25. Draft law amending the Jordanian Universities Law for the year 2014
26. Draft law amending the Journalists' Union Law for the year 2014
27. Draft law amending the Anti-Terrorism Law for the year 2014
28. Order amending the by-law of the House of Representatives for the year 2014
29. Draft law amending the Water Authority Law for the year 2014
30. The approval of law proposal number (19) dating July 17th, 2013, on amending article (17) of the Constitutional Court Law by adding paragraph (B) with the following text:  
B. The Constitutional Court has to issue the required interpretation of Section (A) of this article in a period of no longer than 60 days, from the day of issuing the request.
31. Approving law proposal number (2) dating February 24th, 2013 on toughening the punishment for theft crimes.

All Legislations Worked On by the Lower House During the First Ordinary Session



The First Ordinary Session of the 17th Jordanian Parliament has witnessed 4 joint sessions due to disputes on legislations between the Lower and Upper houses, on the following laws:

- 1- The draft law amending the State Security Court Law for the year 2013
- 2- The draft law amending the law of restructuring governmental institutions and authorities for the year 2013
- 3- Temporary law number (7) of the Social Security Law for the year 2010

Upon ending of the Session, the Permanent Parliamentary Committee completed 18 laws. However, they were not returned to the House nor included in the agenda to be carried over to the next session. These legislations were:

#### Legislation

1. Draft law amending the military retirement law for the year 2014
2. Temporary law number (26) for the year 2010, amending the labor law
3. Draft law amending the orderly lawyers' union law for the year 2014
4. Temporary law number (79) of Food Control for the year 2011
5. Temporary law number (56) amending the Amal Jordanian Cancer Institution for the year 2003
6. Juveniles Draft law for the year 2012
7. Draft law of the Jordanian Arabic Language Academy for the year 2014
8. Draft law protecting the Arabic language for the year 2014
9. The draft law of investment for the year 2013
10. Draft law amending the Specifications and Standards Law for the year 2008
11. Temporary law number (20) for the year 2010, approving the agreement of Mining between the Jordanian government, Jordan Atomic Energy Commission, Areva Company, and the Nabatean Energy Ltd., co. company.
12. Draft law cancelling the law approving the mining agreement between the Jordanian government , Jordan Atomic Energy Commission, Areva Company, and the Nabatean Energy Ltd., co. company, for the year 2013
13. Draft law of 2013 approving the agreement on participating in the exploration of Petrol, evaluating its exploration process, developing, and producing it, between the Jordanian Natural Resources Authority and Amonayt Energy International incorporation in Al-Jafar area, central Jordan.
14. Temporary law number (53), of the National Bank for funding Small Enterprises, for the year 2003
15. Draft law of 2013 approving the agreement on participating in the exploration of Petrol, evaluating its exploration process, developing, and producing it, between the Jordanian Natural Resources Authority and the coalition of Korea Global Energy Corporation and Enji Oil (PLC) in the Dead Sea and Wadi Araba region.
16. Parliamentary Code of Conduct for the year 2014
17. Temporary Civil Status Law number (36), for the year 2010
18. The draft law amending the Civil Retirement Law for the year 2013

When the First Ordinary Session of the 17th House of Representatives ended, the accumulated legislative burden was as follows:

| No.          | Committee                                | No. of projects | No. of temporary laws | No. of laws proposed        |
|--------------|--|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1            | Legal                                    | 18              | 13                    | 12                          |
| 2            | Finance                                  | 3               | 2                     | Office of Audit reports - 4 |
| 3            | Economy and Investment                   | 15              | 27                    | 1                           |
| 4            | Foreign Affairs                          | -               | -                     | 3                           |
| 5            | Administrative                           | 5               | 7                     | 1                           |
| 6            | Education and Culture                    | 2               | 1                     | -                           |
| 7            | Youth and Sports                         | -               | -                     | -                           |
| 8            | National Guidance and Information        | 2               | 1                     | -                           |
| 9            | Health and Environment                   | -               | 4                     | -                           |
| 10           | Water and Agriculture                    | 1               | -                     | -                           |
| 11           | Labor, Social Development and Housing    | 1               | 1                     | -                           |
| 12           | Energy and Mineral Resources             | 3               | 3                     | 2                           |
| 13           | Public Services and Transport            | 3               | 3                     | -                           |
| 14           | Tourism and Antiquities                  | -               | -                     | 1                           |
| 15           | Public Freedoms and Human Rights         | -               | -                     | -                           |
| 16           | Palestine                                | -               | -                     | -                           |
| 17           | Rural and Badia Areas                    | -               | -                     | -                           |
| 18           | Order and Conduct                        | -               | -                     | -                           |
| 19           | Integrity, transparency and fact-finding | -               | -                     | -                           |
| 20           | Women and Family Affairs                 | -               | -                     | -                           |
| <b>Total</b> |  | <b>53</b>       | <b>62</b>             | <b>24</b>                   |

## Chapter Seven: Supervisory Performance of the House of Representatives

### One: Questions

In total, 771 questions were posed to the government during the Session, including 121 questions being on meeting agendas, where most of them were discussed. However, by way of sorting the questions by date, it appears that only 26 included a question in the First Ordinary Session of the 17th House of Representatives. 21 of these were discussed in the meetings,

and 5 were not discussed because of absence of the deputy who had posed the question. The rest of the questions remained from the previous Sessions.

Result analysis shows that the questions were asked by only 84 MPs. 599 were answered, meaning 77.7%, whereas 172 questions were not responded to (22.3%). With regards to the governmental responses during the legal timeframe, which is eight days, RASED found that only 2.8% of the questions were responded to within this timeframe. This means that 97.2% of the questions were not responded to within the legal timeframe.

With regards to question distribution, we find that the majority of questions directed to the Head of Government amounted to 71.6% of all questions asked. The Ministry of Higher Education received 4.2%, the Ministry of Labor and Tourism 2.7%. No questions were directed at two Ministries; the Ministry of Interior Affairs (Minister Ahmad Ziyadat), and Ministry of State (Salama al-Na'emat). as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Elaboration of questions asked to the government by Ministry**

| No. | Questioned Minister                                  | No. of Questions | Responded to | No response |
|-----|--|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1   | Prime Minister – Minister of Defense                 | 552              | 400          | 152         |
| 2   | Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research | 32               | 31           | 1           |
| 3   | Minister of Labor and Minister of Tourism            | 21               | 17           | 4           |
| 4   | Minister of Finance                                  | 20               | 18           | 2           |
| 5   | Minister of Interior                                 | 15               | 11           | 4           |
| 6   | Minister of Health                                   | 13               | 13           | 0           |



|    |   |    |    |   |
|----|---|----|----|---|
| 7  | Minister of Environment   | 8  | 0  | 8 |
| 8  | Minister of Religious Endowments (Awqaf) and Holy and Islamic Affairs | 9  | 8  | 1 |
| 9  | Minister of Education   | 9  | 9  | 0 |
| 10 | Minister of Water and Irrigation                                      | 12 | 11 | 1 |
| 11 | Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources                              | 11 | 11 | 0 |
| 12 | Minister of Agriculture   | 9  | 8  | 1 |
| 13 | Minister of Industry, Trade, and Supplies                             | 6  | 6  | 0 |
| 14 | Minister of Social Development  | 6  | 5  | 1 |
| 15 | Minister of Public Works and Housing                                  | 5  | 5  | 0 |
| 16 | Minister of Planning and International Cooperation                    | 4  | 4  | 0 |
| 17 | Minister of Culture   | 5  | 4  | 1 |
| 18 | Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants                             | 5  | 4  | 1 |
| 19 | Minister of Transport   | 8  | 8  | 0 |
| 20 | Minister of Public Transportation Development                         | 4  | 3  | 1 |
| 21 | Minister of Internal Affairs  | 4  | 4  | 0 |
| 22 | Minister of Communication and Information Technology                  | 4  | 4  | 0 |
| 23 | Minister of Political and Parliamentary Affairs                       | 1  | 1  | 0 |
| 24 | Minister of Justice   | 3  | 2  | 1 |
| 25 | Minister of State for Media Affairs                                   | 1  | 1  | 0 |

The questions were asked by 84 members of parliament. MP Muhammad al-Riyati issued a list of the 84 MPs who posed questions. He himself posed a total of 207 questions, followed by Mahmoud al-Kharabsheh with 37. Hereafter the order is Muhammad al-Qatatsheh - 31, Motaz Abu Rumman – 29, Roula al-Haroub – 27, Ra'ed al-Khalayleh – 23, Nadal al-Hayari – 20, Samir 'Oways – 19. As such, these eight MPs asked 51% of the total of number of questions which were directed at the government.

**Table 2: Elaboration on questions by MP**

| MP name               | Questions |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Mohammad Al-Reyati    | 207       |
| Mahmoud Al-Kharabshah | 37        |
| Mohammad Al-Qatatshah | 31        |
| Motaz Abu Rumman      | 29        |
| Roula Al-Hroub        | 27        |
| Ra'ed Al-Khalaylah    | 23        |



|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Nidal Al-Hyari              | 20 |
| Sameer Oweis                | 19 |
| Khaleel Ateyyeh             | 18 |
| Sa'ed Al-Zawaydeh           | 18 |
| Mefleh Al-Raheemi           | 15 |
| Nayef Al-Khaza'leh          | 14 |
| Adnan Al-Sawa'er Al-Ajarmeh | 13 |
| Kher Abu S'elek             | 12 |
| Assaf Al-Shobaki            | 12 |
| Mohammad Al-Badri           | 12 |
| Mohammad Jameel Al-Thahrawi | 12 |
| Ahmad Al-Hmeisat            | 11 |
| Bassam Al-Battoush          | 10 |
| Zakaria Al-Sheikh           | 10 |
| Suleiman Al-Zaban           | 10 |
| Mousa Abu Sweilem           | 10 |
| Ibrahim Al-Shahahdeh        | 9  |
| Khamees Ateyyeh             | 9  |
| Mwaffaq Al-Dmour            | 9  |
| Faisal Al-Awar              | 8  |
| Mohammad Al-Abaddi          | 8  |
| Mostafa Al-Rawashdeh        | 8  |
| Hind Al-Fayez               | 8  |
| Bassam Al-Manaseer          | 7  |
| Hayel Al-D'ajah             | 7  |
| Yahya Al-Saoud              | 7  |
| Sa'ed Al-Blewly             | 6  |
| Abd El-Hadi Al-Maharmeh     | 6  |
| Qasem Bani Hani             | 6  |
| Mohammad Hdeib              | 6  |
| Amjad Aal-Khattab           | 5  |
| Aamneh Al-Gharagheer        | 5  |
| Fawwaz Al-Zo'bi             | 5  |
| Mostafa Yaghi               | 5  |
| Mohammad Al-Shurman         | 4  |
| Amjad Al-Maslamani          | 3  |
| Ibrahim El-Etewi            | 3  |
| Jameel Al-Nimri             | 3  |
| Abd Al-Jaleel Al-Abbadi     | 3  |

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Abd Al-Kareem Al-Daghmi       | 3 |
| Adnan Al-Farjat               | 3 |
| Fatmah Ali Abu Abta           | 3 |
| Mohammad Ahmad Al-haj         | 3 |
| Haitham Al- Abbadi            | 3 |
| Wafa' Bani Mostafa            | 3 |
| Tamer Beno                    | 2 |
| Tamam Al-Reyati               | 2 |
| Hamza Akho Ershede            | 2 |
| Tareq Khouri                  | 2 |
| Abd Al-Majeed Al-Aqtash       | 2 |
| Ali Bani Ata                  | 2 |
| Mohammad Al-Hjouj Al-Dawaymah | 2 |
| Mohammad Asha Al-Dawaymah     | 2 |
| Yousef Abu Hweidi             | 2 |
| Amjad Al-Majali               | 1 |
| Ahmad Al-Safadi               | 1 |
| Basel Al-Malkawi              | 1 |
| Jamal Gammouh                 | 1 |
| Hasan Obeidat                 | 1 |
| Khloud Al-Khatatbeh           | 1 |
| Ra'ed Hassan Al-Kouz          | 1 |
| Rodaynah Al-Ati               | 1 |
| Sa'ed Hayel Al-Nsour          | 1 |
| Def Allah Al-Khalidi          | 1 |
| Amer Al-Basheer               | 1 |
| Ali Al-Khalayleh              | 1 |
| Faten Al-Khleifaat            | 1 |
| Falak Al-Jom'ani              | 1 |
| Mazen Al-Dala'een             | 1 |
| Mohammad Al-Hajaya            | 1 |
| Mohammad Al-Khashman          | 1 |
| Mohammad Al-Saudi             | 1 |
| Mostafa Al-Amawi              | 1 |
| Moneer Zawaydeh               | 1 |
| Mousa Al-Khalayleh            | 1 |
| Maysar Al-Sardeyyeh           | 1 |
| Na'ayem Al-Ajarmeh            | 1 |
| Haitham Abu Khadeejeh         | 1 |

With regards to the topics of the questions asked, the RASED team divided them into eleven categories. 42% of all questions dealt with administrative issues, 15% with financial, 11% economic. Questions referring to natural resources, environment and agriculture amounted to a meagre 1%.

Distribution of Parliamentary Questions by Topic

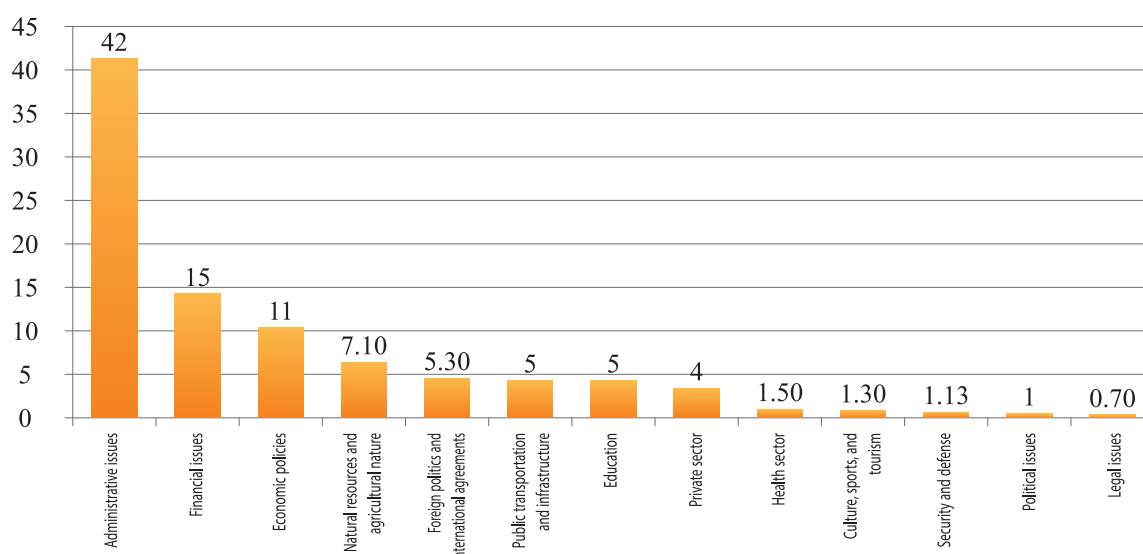


Chart 1: Elaboration on question categories

## Two: Interpellations

The deputies posed 33 interpellations, according to the official records of the House there were only two interpellations. Only one of them were discussed, which was submitted by MP Zakaria al-Sheikh. The majority of interpellations were directed at the Prime Minister, amounting to 29 (88%). Two were directed at the Minister of Finance, and one at the Minister of Social Security and Transportation.

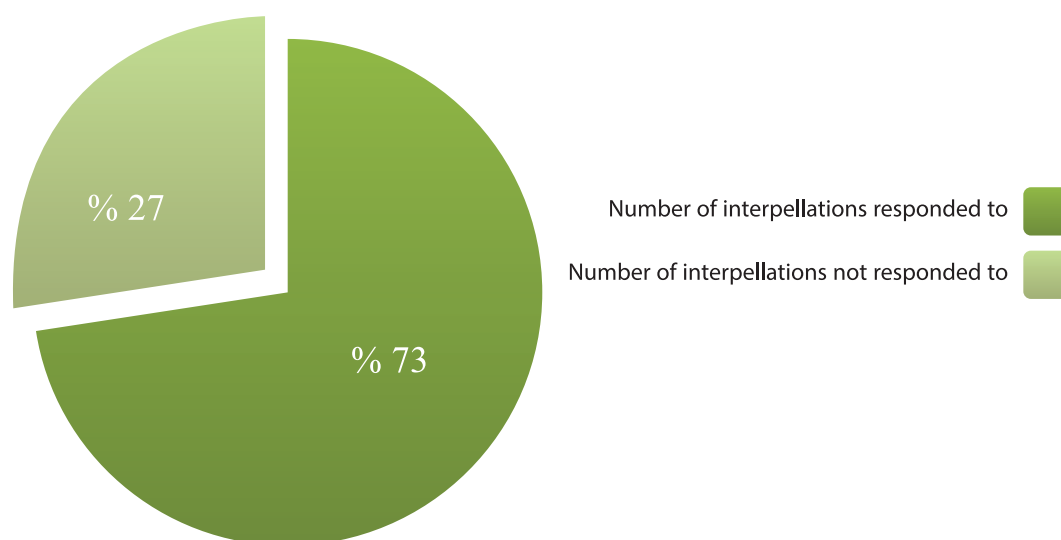
| Parties Interpellations directed to | Prime Minister | Minister of Finance | Minister of Transport | Minister of Social Development |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Number of interpellations           | 29             | 2                   | 1                     | 1                              |
| Percentage                          | 88 %           | 6 %                 | 3 %                   | 3 %                            |

The interpellations submitted during the Session were submitted by nine MPs, with Muhammad al-Riyati having submitted the most with 48.5%, followed by Mahmoud al-Kharabsheh with 15.2%, Zakaria al-Sheikh 12.1%, and Roula al-Haroub 9.1%.

| MP                    | No. of Interpellations | %     |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Mohammad Al-Reyati    | 16                     | 48.5% |
| Mahmoud Al-Kharabsheh | 5                      | 15.2% |
| Zakaria Al-Sheikh     | 4                      | 12.1% |
| Roula Al-Hroub        | 3                      | 9.1%  |
| Mohammad Al-Saudi     | 1                      | 3%    |
| Bassam Al-Btoush      | 1                      | 3%    |
| Khamees Ateyyeh       | 1                      | 3%    |
| Kher Abu S'elek       | 1                      | 3%    |
| Faisal Al-Awar        | 1                      | 3%    |

73% of the posed interpellations received a response, meaning 27% did not.

Regulatory Performance (Interpellations)



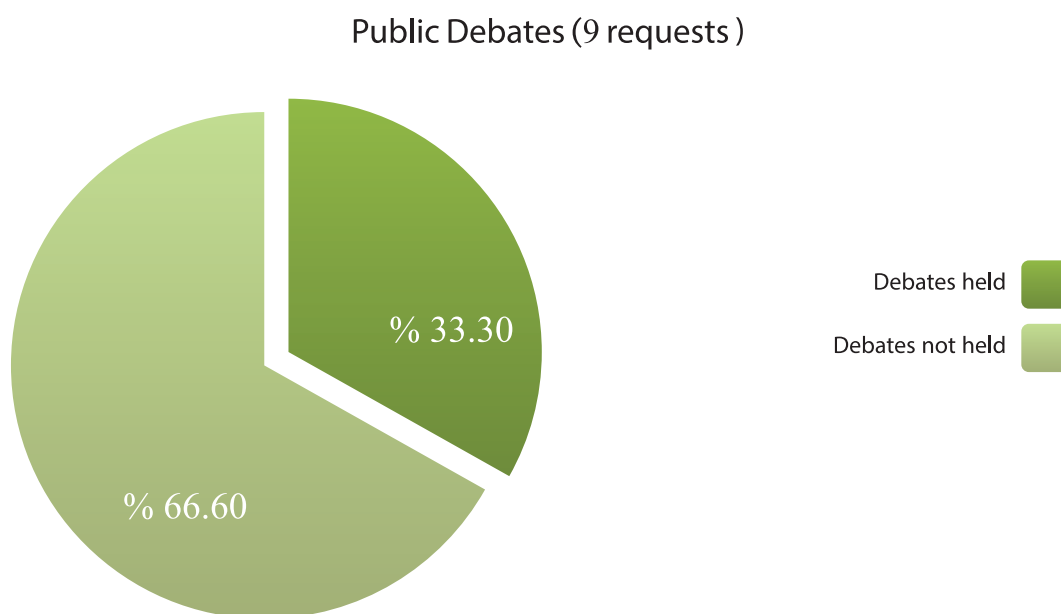
The following table shows the categories of interpellations.

| Submitter             | No | Directed Party                    | Interpellation Topic                                     |
|-----------------------|----|-----------------------------------|--|
| Zakaria al-Sheikh     | 1  | Prime Minister                    | Daylight saving time                                     |
| Zakaria al-Sheikh     | 2  | Prime Minister                    | Mayahuna Company   |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 3  | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 4  | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 5  | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 6  | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 7  | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 8  | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 9  | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 10 | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 11 | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 12 | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 13 | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 14 | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 15 | Prime Minister                    | Financial support for citizens                           |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 16 | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 17 | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Muhammad al-Riyati    | 18 | Prime Minister                    | Special Authority of Aqaba                               |
| Mahmoud al-Kharabsheh | 19 | Prime Minister                    | University violence at the University of Balqa           |
| Mahmoud al-Kharabsheh | 20 | Prime Minister                    | Lack of governmental commitment to<br>MP recommendations |
| Mahmoud al-Kharabsheh | 21 | Prime Minister                    | Oil explorations in Saudi Arabia                         |
| Mahmoud al-Kharabsheh | 22 | Prime Minister                    | Financial support for citizens                           |
| Muhammad al-Saoudi    | 23 | Minister of Finance               | Final accounts   |
| Faysal al-'Aour       | 24 | Prime Minister                    | Penal Code   |
| Zakaria al-Sheikh     | 25 | Prime Minister                    | Power outages  |
| Mahmoud al-Kharabsheh | 26 | Prime Minister                    | Failure of power and energy devices                      |
| Rula al-Haroub        | 27 | Prime Minister                    | Jordanian Television Broadcasting<br>Company             |
| Zakaria al-Sheikh     | 28 | Prime Minister                    | Shoubak District   |
| Rula al-Haroub        | 29 | Minister of Finance               | Iraqi Government dues                                    |
| Rula al-Haroub        | 30 | Minister of Transport             | Reasons for the loss of Royal Aviation                   |
| Bisam al-Battoush     | 31 | Prime Minister                    | Jordanian youth  |
| Khamees 'Atieh        | 32 | Prime Minister                    | Amounts of imported oil                                  |
| Khayr Abu Sa'eleek    | 33 | Minister of Social<br>Development | Staff retirements  |

### Three: Public Debates

The Internal Regulations for the House of Representatives and Public Debates are defined in Chapter 13 of Article 127 to 130 to be; “[an] exchange of opinions and advice between the House and the government.”, and authorizes “ten members or more to put in a request at the House for a debate on any topic and public issues.” The government also has the right to “request public debates”, and such are to be submitted in writing to the President of the House who shall place it on the agenda. The House determines the limits of the public debate in agreement with the government, where it cannot exceed the duration of 14 days. It should be noted that the public debate is merely an exchange of ideas at the end of which a voting can be issued by the House to raise it to the government. The requesters of the public debate in this case are entitled to entrust the government or the Ministry or Minister after the end of the debate subject to the provisions of Article 54 of the constitution.

RASED recorded 9 requests for public debates where the filed applications were discussed, about the tour of John Kerry, the privatization report, and the death of Judge Zu’ayter. These applications are elaborated on below in Chart 4.



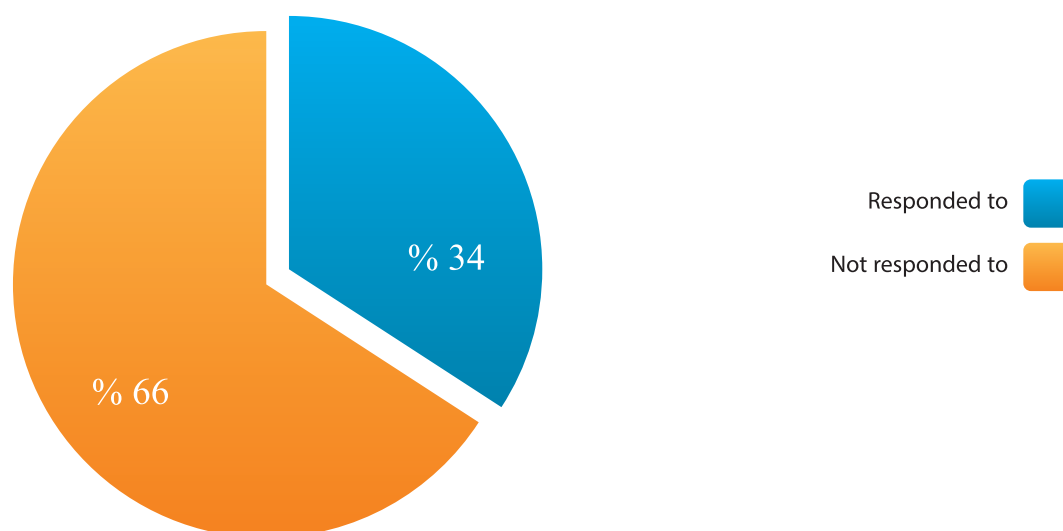
**Table 4: Applications for Public Debates**

| Public Debate Request 1 | 12 MPs – Islamic Center bloc | Conditions of Jordanian Press                  |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Public Debate Request 2 | 20 MPs                       | Snow crisis                                    |
| Public Debate Request 3 | 11 MPs                       | Oil extraction                                 |
| Public Debate Request 4 | 11 MPs                       | Kerry tour                                     |
| Public Debate Request 5 | 15 MPs                       | Jordanian decline in the<br>transparency index |
| Public Debate Request 6 | 23 MPs                       | Gas shipment                                   |
| Public Debate Request 7 | 25 MPs                       | Privatization report                           |
| Public Debate Request 8 |                              | Martyrdom of Judge Zu'aytir                    |
| Public Debate Request 9 | 11 MPs                       | Tax evasion                                    |

#### Four: Memos

Neither the Jordanian constitution nor the Internal Regulations for the House of Representatives prescribe the subject of parliamentary memos. However, the parliamentary custom created them so as to be an important tool for MPs to execute supervision on the work of the Executive Authority. It is considered one of the most important tools for parliamentary oversight. A memo is a written petition signed by one or more deputies and advanced to the President of the House. It includes ideas of an MP regarding a general issue of importance to the country, citizens, or personal issues such as constituencies' services.

**Memoranda**





During the Session, 144 memos were submitted to which only 49 were responded. This means 34% of memos were responded to, while 66% were not. The president of the government was subject to 74.3% of the memoranda, followed by the Chairman of the Accounting Board with 3.5%, President of the House of Representatives and Minister of Transport with 2.8%.

The amount of memoranda included on the agenda of the First Session was 5, of which only one was discussed. The topic of this memo was the entrusting of the government.

| Party to who Memo was directed                     | No. of Memos | %      | No. of memos responded to | %      |
|--|--------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| Prime Minister                                     | 107          | 74.3 % | 8                         | 7.5 %  |
| President of Audit Bureau                          | 5            | 3.5 %  | 0                         | 0 %    |
| Lower House President                              | 4            | 2.8 %  | 0                         | 0 %    |
| Minister of Transport                              | 4            | 2.8 %  | 0                         | 0 %    |
| Minister of Labor and Tourism                      | 3            | 2.1 %  | 0                         | 0 %    |
| Minister of Religious Endowments (Awqaf)           | 3            | 2.1 %  | 0                         | 0 %    |
| Minister of Interior                               | 3            | 2.1 %  | 1                         | 33.3 % |
| Minister of Foreign Affairs                        | 2            | 1.4 %  | 1                         | 50 %   |
| Minister of Higher Education                       | 2            | 1.4 %  | 0                         | 0 %    |
| Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee              | 2            | 1.4 %  | 0                         | 0 %    |
| Secretary General of the Lower House               | 1            | 0.7 %  | 0                         | 0 %    |
| Chairman of Financial Committee                    | 1            | 0.7%   | 0                         | 0 %    |
| Chairman of Public Service and Transport Committee | 1            | 0.7 %  | 0                         | 0 %    |
| Chairman of Order and Conduct committee            | 1            | 0.7 %  | 0                         | 0 %    |
| Minister of Energy                                 | 1            | 0.7 %  | 0                         | 0 %    |
| Minister of Social Development                     | 1            | 0.7 %  | 0                         | 0 %    |
| Minister of Justice                                | 1            | 0.7 %  | 0                         | 0 %    |
| Minister of Finance                                | 1            | 0.7 %  | 0                         | 0 %    |

## Five: Proposals

The amount of proposals submitted were 2, and referred to the relevant committees. Note that the competent committees did not deal with the rest of the submitted proposals. In accordance with the provisions of the Internal Regulations, you are to submit a brief report on the proposal within fifteen days of submission. This report is to issue a recommendation of acceptance or refusal. The Session agenda did not witness the inclusion of any report by the relevant committees regarding a proposal.

Chart: Proposals submitted

| No. | Submitter         | Date      | Topic  | Associated Committee                       |
|-----|-------------------|-----------|--|--|
| 1   | Muhammad al-Hajj  | 2/3/2014  | Religious Endowment<br>events in Zeban directorate | Administrative<br>Committee                |
| 2   | Fatima Abu 'Abteh | 13/2/2014 | School construction                                | Education, Culture,<br>and Youth Committee |

## Chapter Eight: Role of the House of Representatives in Foreign Politics

### One: Parliamentary Diplomacy

Despite the absence of any mention of parliamentary diplomacy in the constitution or Internal Regulations, the following can be described as the norm: “Every parliamentary internal or external activity with respect to working with international, Arab, Islamic, or regional parliaments, unions, and embassies located in the

Kingdom, including any protocol activity in which the President of the House or any other member of parliament may be involved in any political work outside the country, or any political or diplomatic work inside the Kingdom, including meetings and conferences in which the President of the House or any other deputy may meet any non-Jordanian diplomats or politicians inside the Kingdom.

Parliamentary diplomacy is important in the international community to establish a new international community in parallel to and complimentary to official diplomatic work. Especially seeing as parliamentary diplomacy executed by parliamentarians is considered closer to representing the will of the people than governments.

#### a. Foreign Affairs Committee

Interestingly, the Foreign Affairs Committee registers its activities in many areas and issues of a political nature consistent with the tasks set for them by the rules of procedure of the House.

The committee was locally active to intensify its meetings with a number of embassies and Arab, Islamic, and foreign states within the House of Representatives. As well as organizing more than one trip to Syrian refugee camps, with as a goal to secure support for the Jordanian state to materially and morally help them in the continuation of providing safety and care for Syrian refugees.

The activities of this committee were not limited to the First Ordinary Session, but went beyond it by way of field trips in the Northern Governorates where they familiarized themselves with the tasks connected to the impact of the Syrian refugees in these Governorates, and the positive and negative implications, and the extent of the needs of Jordan for international support for this cause.

**Table 1 represents the external meetings of the Foreign Affairs Committee.**

| No. | External Meetings                 | Date       |
|-----|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 1   | Bosnia and Herzegovina delegation | 11/12/2013 |
| 2   | Korean Ambassador                 | 23/12/2013 |
| 3   | French Ambassador                 | 23/12/2013 |
| 4   | Egyptian Ambassador               | 6/2/2014   |
| 5   | EU Ambassador                     | 16/2/2014  |
| 6   | Ambassador to the Netherlands     | 3/3/2014   |
| 7   | Italian Ambassador                | 11/3/2014  |
| 8   | Italian Ambassador                | 16/3/2014  |
| 9   | Swedish Ambassador                | 17/2/2014  |
| 10  | Swedish parliamentary delegation  | 30/3/2014  |

**Table 2 represents the meetings of the committee at the domestic level**

| No. | Party   | Date       |
|-----|---|------------|
| 1   | Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Institution and Center for Strategic Studies | 1/12/2013  |
| 2   | Ministerial Team  | 22/12/2013 |
| 3   | Families of prisoners detained in foreign countries             | 29/12/2013 |
| 4   | Dean of the Jordanian University                                | 30/12/2013 |
| 5   | Prime Minister's Office   | 31/12/2013 |
| 6   | Camp Director and Governor of Mafraq                            | 6/1/2014   |
| 7   | Foreign Affairs Committee in the Senate                         | 7/1/2014   |
| 8   | Minister of Foreign Affairs                                     | 8/1/2014   |
| 9   | Camp Director and Governor of Mafraq                            | 9/2/2014   |
| 10  | Minister of Foreign Affairs                                     | 16/4/2014  |

**Table 3 represents field visits which the Foreign Affairs Committee conducted**

| No. | Date      | Visit Location                      |
|-----|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1   | 27/1/2014 | Northern border                     |
| 2   | 3/3/2014  | Northern border                     |
| 3   |           | Badia visits (Zarqa, Irbid, Mafraq) |

The above charts show the work plan of the Committee being centered on two fundamental axes; bureaucratic and field diplomacy.

The committee conducted twenty meetings distributed between external and internal meetings contributing to national diplomacy on the one hand, and the adoption of new parliamentary diplomacy on the other.

Field diplomacy was done through the Foreign Affairs Committee conducting two visits to the Northern borders, and a visit to Zarqa, Irbid, and Mafraq.

#### b. Palestinian Parliamentary Committee

The Palestinian Parliamentary Committee accomplished important goals, organizing and sponsoring the First «Road to Jerusalem» conference. This was a global conference attended by dozens of politicians, media, and clergy, in the framework of supporting the Palestinian cause and to shed light on the many risks the city of Jerusalem was exposed to historically by the policies of Judaization undertaken through Israel's occupation.

The committee played an important political role when it stood with the support of the House to address the disarmament project of Jordanian sovereignty from the Al-Aqsa mosque in accordance with Israeli law submitted to the Knesset. Because of what was done by the Committee, with mobilization of the MPs to address this topic, the House succeeded in aborting the Israeli plans which were primarily aimed at the unsettling of Jordanian religious and administrative authority at the Al-Aqsa mosque, a prelude to the ultimate tampering with it. Thus parliamentary diplomacy achieved predominant representation in the House of Representatives, and the committee in particular in an important historic victory. The Jordanian Foreign Ministry could not accomplish this without addressing the House of Representatives in this task.

### c. Parliamentary Friendship Committees

The formation of a Friendship and Brotherhood Committee was invoked by old parliamentary customs. In the First Ordinary Session, 8 Parliamentary Brotherhood committees were formed with Arab and Islamic parliaments, and 18 Friendship Committees with foreign parliaments.

### **Two: Peace Negotiations and Kerry's Visit**

The revival of Peace negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides took up the largest amount of space in Jordanian and Arab media in the last quarter of the last year. Thus talks and analysis around the reviving of the peace talks once more, as it is not the first time the United States engaged in them. This was the most focused and dense in terms of time, effort, and content, however. The new generation of negotiations began upon American Foreign Minister John Kerry's visit in July of the last year (2013), to the region in general and Amman in particular. The visit was followed and surrounded by many leaks from the press and media about what it was for and regarding new plans and determinations set by the negotiations. As a result, 10 MPs submitted the request for a debate number 4 on 27/1/2014 to include a discussion of Kerry's tour, its implications, and impacts on the Palestinian cause, Jordan, and the region in the public debate. In addition to hear the viewpoint of the government around the impacts of Kerry's visit, and Jordan's role in the negotiations.

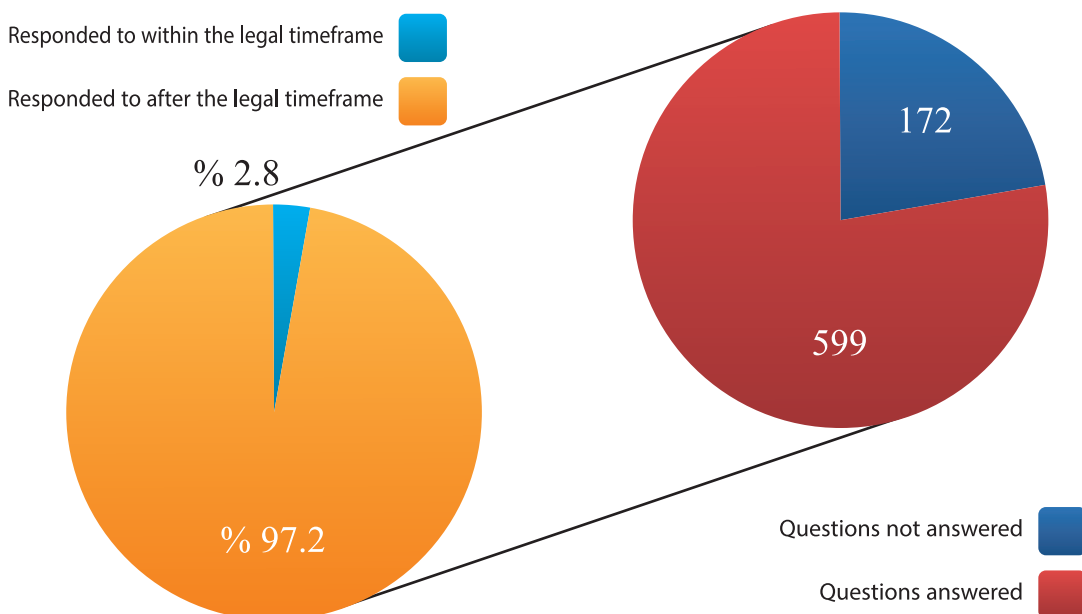
The request was included on the agenda of the fourteenth meeting on 2/2/2014, where on behalf of the government the Minister of Foreign Affairs Nasser Joudeh spoke to clarify the details of the visit and the official position of Jordan.

## Chapter Nine: Governmental Interaction with Parliamentary Performance

The legislative, supervisory, organizational, and representative functions of the House of Representatives require the creation of interaction and integration between them and the Executive Authority. Whereas the Executive Authority takes suggestions, recommendations, and guidance from the legislative authority, and responds to all supervisory tools which members of

the House use. In order to measure interaction of the government with the performance of the parliament, RASED tracked government responses to parliamentary oversight tools, and the extent of the government's commitment to the legal timeframes.

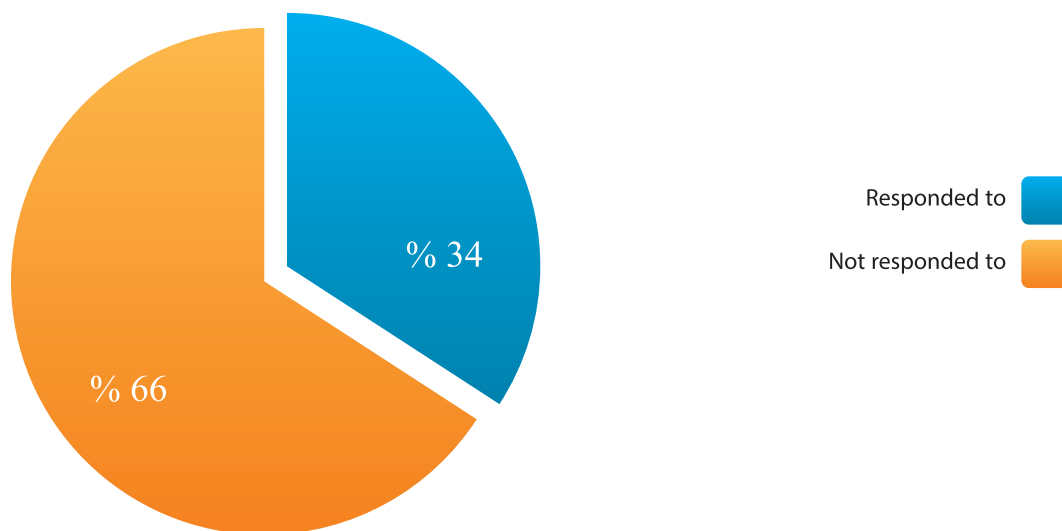
The amount of questions the government received was 711, members of the government responded to 663 of them, comprising 85.9%. This means the government did not respond to 108 questions, 14.1%. However, when the dates of receipt of the government answers are checked, it becomes clear that the vast majority of responses were later than the legally set timeframe of 8 days, and this was the case for 646 answers.





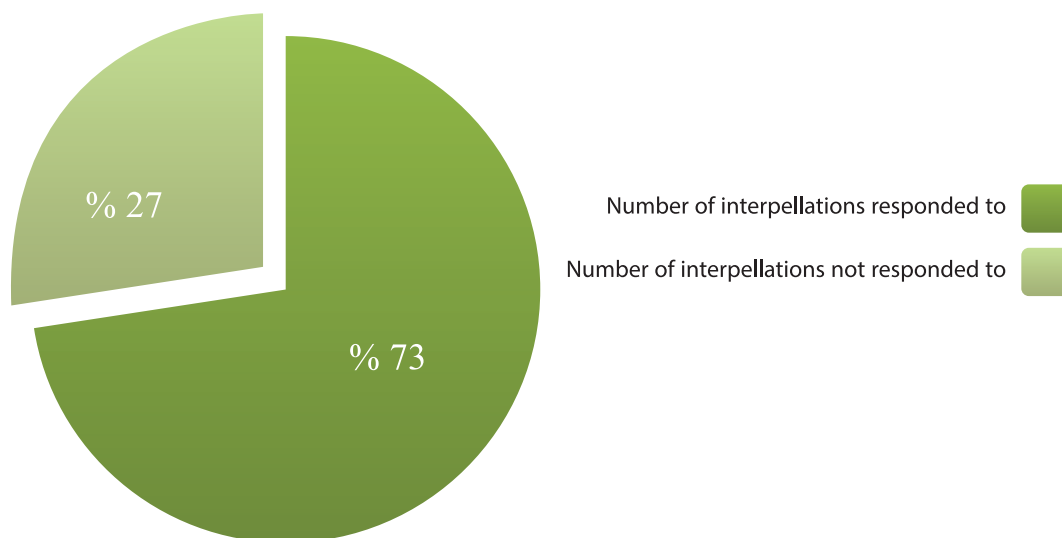
Regarding the other supervisory tools the government responded to 49 memos out of a total of 144, constituting 34%. They did not respond to 95, meaning 66%.

Memoranda

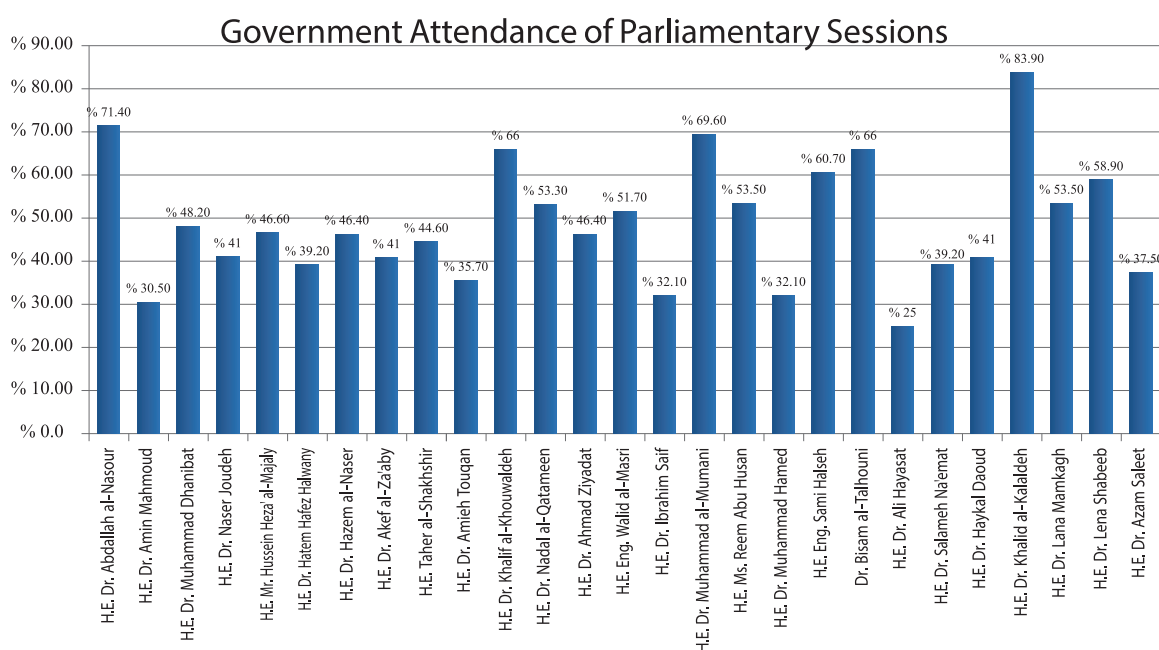


Regarding interpellations, 33 were submitted, of which 24 were answered making up 72.7%. 9 were not answered making up 27.3% of interpellations, as shown in the table below.

Regulatory Performance (Interpellations)



With regards to the interaction of the government with the House of Representatives and presence of the government at its sessions, the results show that the Prime Minister was present 35 working days out of a total of 56, or 62.5%. The Minister who was present at the most sessions was the Minister of Foreign Affairs Khalid al-Kalaldeh with 47 days, 83.9%, followed by the Minister of State for Media Affairs and Government Spokesperson, Dr. Muhammad al-Moumani with 39 days, 69.6%. Those attending the least amount of meetings were Minister of Health Ali Hayasat; 14 days, 25%, followed by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Muhammad Hamed and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Ibrahim Sayf with 18 days, or 32.1%. This is shown in the table below.



## Chapter Ten: Representative and Senate Disputes and Outcomes of Common Sessions

### Introduction

During the First Ordinary Session the parliament, meaning both the House of Representatives and the Senate, held four joint sessions to resolve disputes between them regarding four laws:

1. Bill for the amendment of the State Security Court Law of the year 2013

2. Bill for the Restructuring of Institutions and Government Departments of the year 2013

3. Bill for the Illegalization of Non-Legitimate Gains of the year 2013

4. Temporary Law No. 7 of the year 2010, for the Social Security Law

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution, the Senate and the House hold a joint meeting in light of one of the two Houses rejecting a law twice, and its acceptance by the other House. This is as per Article 92 of the constitutions which prescribes: "If one of the Houses rejects a bill twice, and the other House accepts it whether amended or not, the Houses shall convene in a joint session chaired by the President of the Senate to examine the disputed material. Required for the acceptance of the bill is the decree by the joint Houses with a two-thirds majority of members being present. When the above described bill is rejected it is not submitted a second time to the House in the same Session."

### One: Joint session on the Social Security Law of 18/12/2013

There was a dispute between the Senate and the House regarding the bill of the Social Security Law in Article 3, 4, 17, 28, 81, and 90. The deputies approved Article 3-h/1, and rephrased Article 3-h/2. Some words were deleted and others were replaced according to Terms and Conditions. However, the Senate approved the Article unchanged as a bill, and during the joint session the Article was approved. As for Article 4, the House deleted 4/a-2 and the Senate approved the amendment with an adjustable legal period from 1/1/2014 until 1/1/2015, and both Houses approved it.

Regarding Article 17, the deputies added a new paragraph, but the Senate deleted it for the approval of the law as it came from the government in the joint legislative session. Both Houses approved the Article 28-b unchanged.

The Senate did not approve the amendments the deputies made to Article 81-a/3, they approved it as it came from the government meaning unchanged. The article was approved in the joint session unchanged.

The Senate approved amendments the deputies made to Article 90/d and acknowledged it in the session as it came from the House of Representatives.

### **Two: Bill for the Restructuring of Institutions and Government Departments**

The House of Representatives and the Senate convened to discuss the bill after it became clear there was a dispute over Articles 2/h and 2/w. Despite the amendments and additions introduced by the House of Representatives on Article 2h the Senate decided during their session to delist the updated additions. However the session voting results decided that the Article would be adopted as proposed.

Additions and amendments were made to Article 2w and submitted by deputies to the Senate. They in turn rejected the amendments, so as to be approved in the legislative session as it came from the government meaning unchanged.

### **Three: State Security Court Law**

The House of Representatives and Senate disagreed over the State Security Court Law, with the main point of dispute being Article 3. This states the State Security Court has jurisdiction over the Five Crimes. The House of Representatives added to the bill the following paragraph excluding; “any action with respect to resistance to the Zionist occupier” from the provisions on terrorist crimes. The Senate for a second time wrote off the paragraph from the law, however by way of the voting system in the joint session the removal of the paragraph which excludes resistance to the occupation crimes from the State Court’s jurisdiction. The House of Representatives failed to pass their proposal due to only having 28 votes, thus the bill remained unchanged.

#### **Four: Bill for the Illegalization of Non-Legitimate Gains**

There was disagreement between the two Houses on this issue, where the Senate made additions which the deputies suggested as “Where did you get this” as the name for the bill. The Senate deleted Article 21 which was added by the House, and deleted the phrase “tests and complaints” from the text of Paragraph B of Article 5. This was according to the approved text of the received from the government for reporting suspicions of corruption. The Senate disagreed with the government response concerning the designation of the “Anti-Corruption Department”, and replaced it with the “Department of Financial Disclosure”.

The House refused to approve the draft law ex post facto, upon which the House of Representatives approved the bill with some amendments. Most important of which: addition of the phrase “where did you get this” to the name of the law, which the deputies called “Illegalization of Non-Legitimate Gains – Where did you get this”. The results of the voting procedure in the joint session led to the deletion and the title remaining “Illegalization of Non-Legitimate Gains.”

## **Chapter Eleven: Non-Bloc Representative Coalitions and Meetings**

### **Introduction**

The 17th Jordanian House of Representatives witnessed the birth of four coalitions and various parliamentary assemblies. The first was the announcement by MP Mustafa al-Hamarneh to start the parliamentary “Mubadera” initiative with participatory work with the government.

He suggested the program to the government who agreed via formation of two joint committees. The second initiative regards the gathering of the Jordanian Parliamentarians Forum, the third the gathering of MPs with a military background named the “National Forum”.

The First Session also saw the registration of the first parliamentary coalition in the history of Jordanian parliamentary life, between two blocs. These are the Watan (18 MPs), and the Islamic Center (16 MPs). It was officially registered at the General Secretariat of the House of Representatives on 25/3/2014. This represents a positive step in the context of strengthening work on parliamentary coalitions between blocs and to ensure unitary positions and projects between the coalition blocs.

The RASED team met with representatives of the new parliamentary assemblies in the House, to gain insight into their viewpoint on the next stage, the nature of its work and its members, and the possibility for its orientation in the next phase to shift parliamentary blocs.

### **One: The Parliamentary “Mubadera” Initiative**

The coordinator of Mubadera, MP Mustafa al-Hamarneh indicates in the statement he gave the RASED team that its members are on their way to shift to parliamentary blocs in the next parliamentary Session. He pointed out that the delayed announcement

was due to the material of the Internal Regulations which removes deputies from their office in the bloc in case of joining the Mubadara bloc.

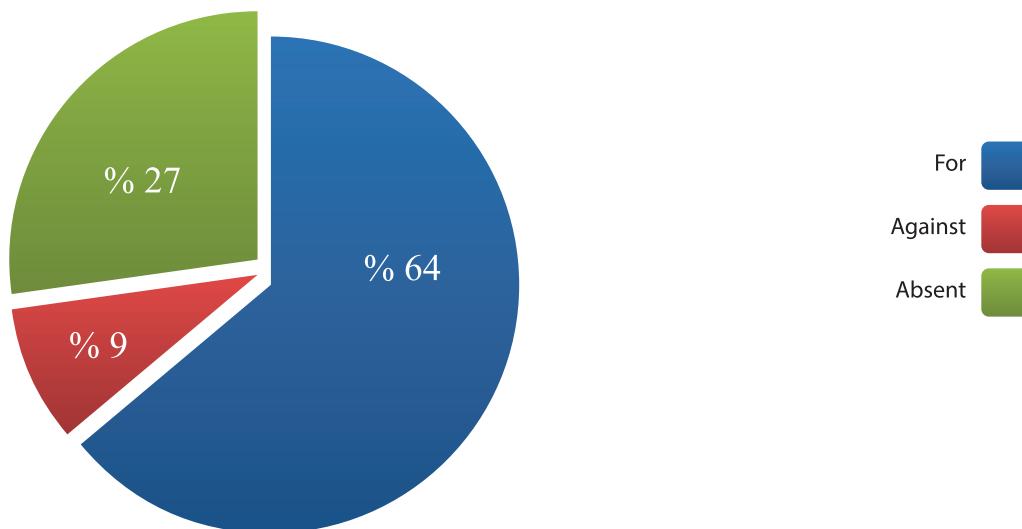
The following table clarifies Mubadara member conduct on the voting of the budget and entrusting of the government of Dr. Abdallah al-Nasour.

| No. | Name                   | Bloc                  | Budget vote  | Vote of confidence |
|-----|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1   | Sa'ad Hayel al-Surour  | Independent           | Not a member | Abstention         |
| 2   | Mustafa al-Hamarneh    | Independent           | For          | Confidence         |
| 3   | Hadeetha al-Khareeshe  | Independent           | For          | Confidence         |
| 4   | Faysal al-'Aour        | National Consensus    | Against      | Confidence         |
| 5   | Amer al-Basheer        | Democratic Assembly   | For          | Confidence         |
| 6   | Hasan Obeidat          | Democratic Assembly   | Absent       | No Confidence      |
| 7   | Khamees 'Atieh         | Al-Nahda              | Against      | No Confidence      |
| 8   | Wafa Bani Mustafa      | Islamic Center        | Absent       | Abstention         |
| 9   | Basel Malakawi         | Islamic Center        | For          | Confidence         |
| 10  | Muneer al-Zuwaydeh     | Democratic Assembly   | For          | Confidence         |
| 11  | Mustafa al-'Amaweh     | Islamic Center        | For          | Confidence         |
| 12  | Muhammad al-Khasawneh  | Al-Nahda              | For          | Confidence         |
| 13  | Amjad Aal Khuttab      | Al-Nahda              | For          | Abstention         |
| 14  | Abdallah al-Khuwaldeh  | Democratic Assembly   | For          | Confidence         |
| 15  | Yousef al-Qurneh       | Democratic Assembly   | For          | Absent             |
| 16  | Abdel Moneim al-'Awdat | Watan                 | Abstention   | Confidence         |
| 17  | Qasem Bani Hani        | Watan                 | Absent       | Confidence         |
| 18  | Muhammad al-'Obadi     | National Union        | For          | Confidence         |
| 19  | Jimal Qamweh           | Democratic Assembly   | For          | Confidence         |
| 20  | Atef Qa'ouar           | Democratic Assembly   | Absent       | Confidence         |
| 21  | Khayr Abu Saleek       | Watan                 | For          | Abstention         |
| 22  | Haytam al-Obeidi       | Islamic Center        | For          | Confidence         |
| 23  | Hayel al-Da'ajah       | National Consensus    | Not a member | Confidence         |
| 24  | Yousef Abu Huwaydi     | National Consensus    | Not a member | Confidence         |
| 25  | Mustafa Yaghi          | National Consensus    | Absent       | No Confidence      |
| 26  | Rudayneh al-'Ati       | National Action Front | Not a member | Absent             |
| 27  | Wassfi al-Zayoud       | National Union        | Not a member | Absent             |
| 28  | Muhammad al-Hajouj     |                       | Not a member | Abstention         |
| 29  | Falak al-Jum'ani       | Independent           | Not a member | Absent             |
| 30  | Muhammad al-Shorman    | Islamic Center        | Not a member | Confidence         |

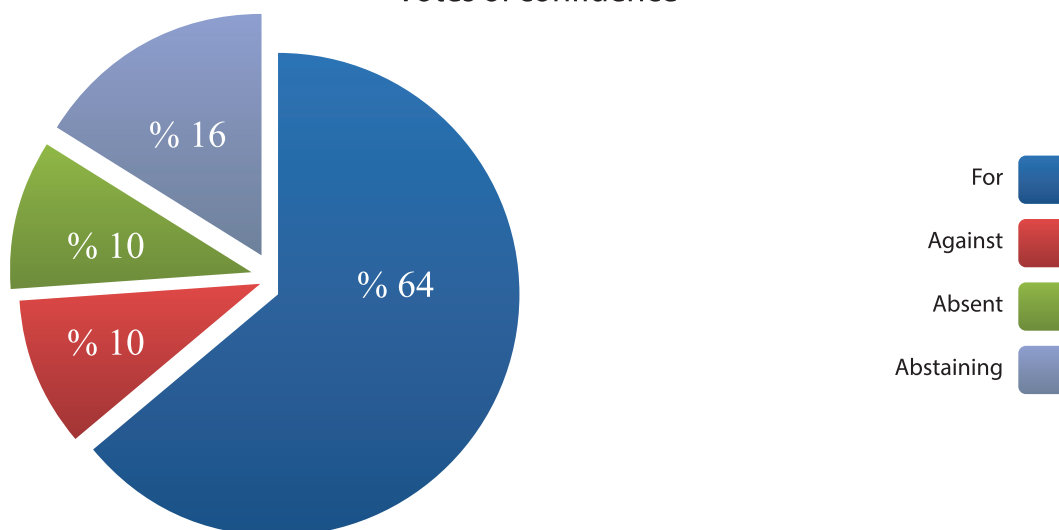


The impact of the new coalitions can be measured through its impact on bloc cohesency and merit of votes on the general budget. The votes of the four allegences cannot be measured as they were formed after the votes on the budget and confidence took place. With exception of the Mubadera initiative, which started its work before the House of Representatives was opened. The results show that members of Mubadera voted in favor of the budget with 68%, 9% voted against it, and 27% of the members were absent. At the time, Mubadera consisted of 21 MPs, when the vote of confidence took place the amount of members had risen to 30. Of these, 64% voted with confidence, 16% abstained, 10% voted with no confidence, and 10% were not present at the vote.

Budget voting

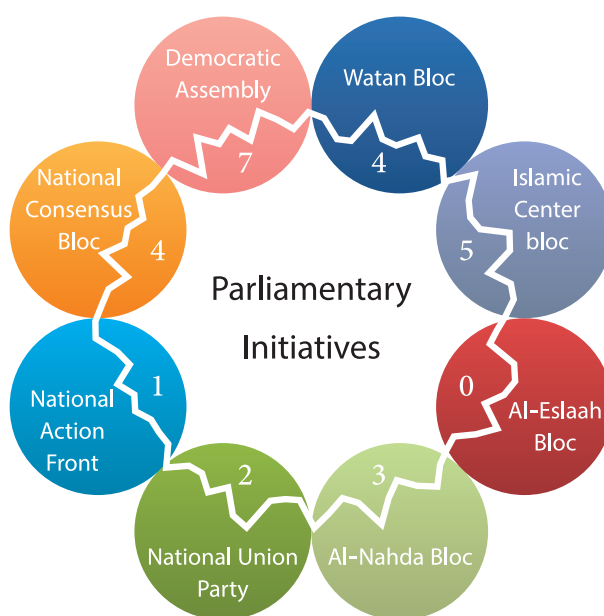


Votes of confidence



The Mubadara initiative formed its executive offices, with members including: Sa'ad Hayel al-Surour – Chairman; Mustafa al-Hamarneh – General Coordinator and Spokesman; Amjad Aal Kuttub - Secretary; Muneer al-Zuwaydeh – Treasurer; Wafa Bani Mustafa, Yousef Al-Qurneh, Hassan Obeidat, Khamees 'Attieh, Rudayneh al-'Ati.

The following graphs shows the number of MPs from each bloc who joined the Mubadara initiative.



### Goals of the Mubadara Initiative

Mubadara formed a joint committee with the government's ministers on the following topics: agriculture, energy and transport, elementary and higher education, tourism, employment, security and the rule of law, legislation, decentralization, corruption, social development, the Abdali project, foreign affairs, and health.

It also submitted a set of demands in the scope of social welfare;

- Rule review of the National Aid Fund, and the necessity to empower women with the ability to receive special support for the family
- The necessity for the government to immediately issue a special “Alimony Loan Fund” system in addition to direct activation of Family Reconciliation Offices as prescribed in the temporary Law of Personal Status
- The need to review the new instructions which the Ministry of Social Development issued regarding customs exemptions for persons with disabilities
- The necessity for the government to provide a bill regarding the civil rights of children of Jordanian women married to foreigners, to stop their suffering

Mubadara announced during the discussion of the budget, its idea coming through the desire of many MPs, an effort in unity with Al-Nahda party in parliamentary work and contribution to the development of strategic visions to achieve economic and political development. This comes from the belief that this will only provide practical suggestions for specific policies to transform to be applied on the ground. This is the first step in the strengthening the principle of partnership and parliamentary government, and depends mainly on the government's response to the parliamentary Mubadara initiative. As well as on the sincerity of its intentions in the building of an honest partnership which Mubadara believes is the best way to promote political stability for the country and pass the difficulties it is currently finding itself in.

### Controversy around the Mubadera initiative:

Since its establishment Mubadera's relationship with a number of parliamentary blocs and MPs has been characterized by tension and controversy regarding its legitimacy. Specifically the Internal Regulations for the House of Representatives does not recognize the work of initiatives, though the text explicitly recognizes blocs and coalitions. Possibly the reason for this controversy is the nature of Mubadera's work and its interference with the parliamentary blocs. This has been featured in different phases, amongst which the following.

Firstly: In the House of Representatives' session on 11/2/2014, MP Adnan al-Farajat opposed the way the Ministers work with Mubadera. Ahmad al-Safdy – President of the House of Representatives requested on behalf of the government not to deal with Mubadera, addressing the need to only work with committees and parliamentary blocs.

Secondly: In the session of 18/2/2014, MP Muhammad al-Qatatsheh demanded the government choose to work either with the House of Representatives or Mubadera. This was raised during the House's debate on the Higher Education Law and Academic Research. MPs Wafa Bani Mustafa, Khalil 'Atieh, and Sa'ad al-Surour who became the President of Mubadera, objected to the speech, demanding respect by the House for the views of Mubadera as being part of the House of Representatives.

Third: During the debate on the bill for the budget on 14/1/2014, MP Samir 'Oweis delivered a speech on behalf of the Democratic Assembly bloc, which included a number of members of Mubadera. Hereafter, MP Yousef al-Qurneh delivered a speech on behalf of Mubadera which has MPs from the Assembly bloc.

Fourth: During the debate of the House of Representatives on 12/3/2014 regarding the killing of the Jordanian Judge Zu'aytar, all of the blocs in the House gave a speech expressing their positions. It was announced that they spoke on behalf of their members with mention of the names, followed by a speech by MP Basel Malkawi on behalf of Mubadera.

## Two: Jordanian Women Parliamentarians Forum

According to a statement by the President of the Jordanian Women Parliamentarian Forum, MP Tamam al-Riyati to RASED, the Forum includes all women in the Parliament except for MP Mayser al-Sardiye, amounting to 17 MPs. Al-Riyati indicates that the Forum is considering a shift to being a bloc, and that it is all still ideas which are present but have not actualized yet. She is confident that the Forum will not interfere in the parliamentary voting on either the budget or trust. The following are the members of the Forum:

| No. | Name                 | Bloc                  |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1   | Tamam al-Riyati      | Islamic Center        |
| 2   | Amina al-Gharagheer  | Islamic Center        |
| 3   | Fatima Abu Abteh     | Islamic Center        |
| 4   | Hind al-Fayez        | Democratic Assembly   |
| 5   | Najah al-'Azze       | National Union        |
| 6   | Wafa Bani Mustafa    | Islamic Center        |
| 7   | Faten Khalefat       | Al-Nahda              |
| 8   | Khaloud al-Khatatbeh | Watan                 |
| 9   | Ansaf al-Khawaldeh   | Islamic Center        |
| 10  | Falak al-Jum'ani     | Independent           |
| 11  | Rula al-Huroub       | National Consensus    |
| 12  | Shaha al-Amareen     | Al-Nahda              |
| 13  | Hamdiye al-Hamadiye  | Al-Nahda              |
| 14  | Reem Abu Dalbough    | Al-Nahda              |
| 15  | Maryam al-Lawzi      | Independent           |
| 16  | Na'eem al-Ajarmeh    | National Action Front |
| 17  | Rudayneh al-'Atte    | National Action Front |

Since the Forum first was established during the First Ordinary Session, it carried out 20 activities including meetings and workshops. King Abdallah II met with members of the Forum on 26/1/2014. Activities of the Forum vary from discussions with specialists and economists on the issue of the state budget, legislative mechanisms in Jordan, holding workshops to debate the Juvenile Law amendments, in addition to the Forum demanding from the Prime Minister an increase of representation of females in senior positions by 30%.

The founding statement of the Forum states that it seeks to unite individual efforts of parliamentarians towards the enhancement of teamwork, with as a goal to engage females and the enhancement of their role in development work as a whole, and development and democratic reform.

According to the announcement of the first event on 25/8/2014, it is not intended to be a substitute for the parliamentary blocs seeing as members remain in their blocs. The role of the Forum is to be support of female parliamentarians in the case of their nomination for any position in the House. Additionally it has as a goal to remove the negative direction of discrimination against women while maintaining the positive discrimination process such as the female quote in the House of Representatives and Municipal elections. The agenda includes legislative priorities to amend the law on Personal Status, and inclusion of framing mechanisms for the Alimony Credit Fund, and the offices of Family Reconciliation, and Labor Law including justice to women and achieving a balance between Labor Laws and employers. This includes safe and fair working conditions for women. In addition to amending laws governing political life and related to; elections, political parties, municipalities, including justice to women. As well as amending the Income Tax Law in order to achieve social justice for convergent economic segments. The Forum Covenant prescribes the defense of human rights, specifically women, children and marginalized groups in the community. As well as defending the values of justice, equality, and equal opportunities, regardless of the type of community, race, religion or sect, political direction, social class, or economics. Defending the rights of Jordanians for free education in public universities, comprehensive health insurance and life in dignity, and improve the image of women in media and educational curricula to enhance their role in serving the community.

### **Three: National Forum (Representatives with military backgrounds)**

On 1/4/2014 the foundation of the National Forum was announced in the House of Representatives, which includes representatives with military backgrounds. According to a statement from the spokesperson Adnan al-Farajat to RASED, the Forum includes 20 deputies. He added that the Forum does not have as a goal to replace the parliamentary blocs. In its first meeting, the Royal Address was adopted regarding the ten-year plan for the reform of the Jordanian economy, which was presented to the government for

follow-up by way of a committee formed by a number of members of the National Forum to examine what had been accomplished to date by the government. As well as to follow-up on the Office of the Ombudsman for the advancement of his performance, to follow-up on military issues that have been outstanding for a number of years, as well as on the effects of the Tribal Evacuation Custom and tribal tensions, and standing on the side of the Veterans Institution to involve 160,000 veterans under its umbrella. As well as working on improving its mission in terms of providing employment opportunities for veterans, and access to university for individuals with disabilities and open a dialogue with them and to overcome some of the difficulties.

The Forum was founded on April 1st 2014, thus it was not possible to measure its impact on the budget vote, which took place in January 2014. As well as on the votes of confidence after the killing of Judge Zu'aytar, this took place on 18/3/2014.

Members of the forum are:

| No. | Name                   | Bloc                  |
|-----|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1   | Ahmad al-Safdy         | Al-Aslah              |
| 2   | Khayr al-Deen Hakouz   | Watan                 |
| 3   | Sa'ad al-Zuwaydeh      | National Consensus    |
| 4   | Mousa al-Khalayleh     | National Union        |
| 5   | Muhammad al-Khushman   | National Union        |
| 6   | Muhammad al-Hajaya     | Watan                 |
| 7   | Mustafa al-Amawi       | Islamic Center        |
| 8   | Basel al-Alawneh       | National Union        |
| 9   | Ali Bani 'Ata          | National Action Front |
| 10  | Adnan al-Farajat       | National Union        |
| 11  | Na'eem al-'Ajarmeh     | National Action Front |
| 12  | Yahya al-Saoud         | National Action Front |
| 13  | Suleiman al-Zaban      | Islamic Center        |
| 14  | Mwqef al-Damour        | National Consensus    |
| 15  | Maflah al-'Ashebat     | National Action Front |
| 16  | Nayef al-Ghaza'leh     | National Action Front |
| 17  | Redaa Haddad           | National Action Front |
| 18  | Dayf-Allah al-Sa'edeen | Watan                 |
| 19  | Dayf-Allah al-Khaldi   | Al-Nahda              |
| 20  | Yaseen Bani Yaseen     | Independent           |



#### **Four: National Coalition of Deputies**

The Watan and Islamic Center blocs registered their parliamentary coalition with the Secretariat of the House of Representatives on 25/3/2014. This includes 35 MPs as members and is the first coalition of its kind to be officially registered at the Secretariat.

On 7/4/2014, the two blocs were sponsored by the President of the House Eng. Atef al-Tarawneh to establish their coalition under the name the National Coalition of Deputies and announced their own bylaws.

In a celebratory ceremony, the representatives of the coalition announced the establishment of the coalition and it being the culmination of efforts to communicate, coordinate, cooperate, and integrate between the Watan and Islamic Center blocs. Proceeding from the conviction and belief in the importance of the national need to devote to parliamentary teamwork, which benefits the overall national path. Guiding it forward on the path of development and reform. The popular participation strengthens the decision-making process, and the coalition will implement applicable programs and solutions within a clear and specific timeframe, dealing with local political, economic, and social issues. A specialized committee of the coalition formed for this end will work towards its preparation. The coalition invited all members of parliament to support this view and the programs in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, and announced the opening of its doors before the MPs and non-involved blocs.

Chairman of the Islamic Center bloc Mustafa al-'Amawi was announced to become the coalition's chairman, and chairman of the Watan bloc Khalid al-Bukar its General Coordinator. The Executive office was formed by 6 MPs, three from each bloc, in addition to the Chairman and General Coordinator.

General Coordinator to the coalition Khalid al-Bukar, stated to RASSED that the coalition will probably culminate contacts and more blocs will join them. He added that the coalition has held three meetings, the first was regarding the

establishment, the second on the formation of the committee, the third to clarify programs and meetings with the government. He pointed out that the position of the coalition was unanimous during the voting of confidence after the killing of Judge Zu'aytar, which happened during the period of founding and were not yet officially registered.

## **Conclusion**

The RASSED team is of the opinion that parliamentary convergence outside the frameworks of the bloc such as those mentioned above will make it difficult for the parliamentary blocs to continue their work. They need conglomerates and meeting places, and it is necessary for new legislative texts to be written in the Internal Regulations for the House of Representatives. This in order to address the issue of duplication in membership between parliamentary blocs and forums or other parliamentary groups. However, these new groups are obliged to shift to blocs in accordance with the new Internal Regulations, which does not recognize anything but blocs and coalitions. Perhaps it is evidenced by the refusal of the House during debates regarding the proposed amendments which were submitted by MP Ansaf al-Khawaldeh with recognition from the Female Parliamentarians Forum and the text in the Internal Regulations. During the parliamentary debate on the amendments to the new Internal Regulations, which took place on 16/4/2014 a proposal was made by the female representatives regarding their right to form a parliamentary forum within the provisions of the Internal Regulations. MP Ansaf al-Khawaldeh and all female parliamentarians defended the inclusion of a provision in the Internal Regulations giving legitimacy to the Female Parliamentarians Forum. This was rejected by the House, while it was voted on twice. Deputies also demanded the inclusion of a text preventing MPs from forming forums and initiatives outside the scope of parliamentary blocs. This was the issue that blocked the road for any requests for the recognition of any other initiatives in the Internal Regulations.

## Chapter Twelve: Official Foreign Visits of Members of Parliament

This chapter deals with the tasks involving parliamentary delegations in official functions abroad. RASED analyzed travel days of individuals and blocs, analyzing the amount of bloc members and the amount of traveling days of members of such a single bloc with regard to the total amount of travel days of members of parliament.

This chapter covers the period between the First Non-Ordinary Session of the 17th House, until the end of the First Ordinary Session.

### One: Individual MPs

The analysis of travel days shows that MP Mustafa Shanekat was the deputy with the largest sum of travel days, comprising of 29 days meaning 2.9% of all the total amount of travel days for all MPs which amount to 1001. Following is MP Mazen al-Dala'een with 2.4% and Falak al-Jum'any and Muhammad al-Khasawneh with 2.2% each. While the total number of deputies who did not participate in any foreign official delegations were 24, or 16% of all members of the House of Representatives.

| Name                  | Bloc                  | Traveling days |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Mustafa Shanekat      | Democratic Assembly   | 29             |
| Mazen al-Dala'een     | Al-Nahda              | 24             |
| Falak Al-Jum'aani     | Independents          | 22             |
| Mohammad Al-Khasawneh | Al-Nahda              | 22             |
| Yahia Al-Soud         | National Action Front | 19             |
| Atef Al-Tarawneh      | Watan                 | 17             |
| Zeid Al-Shawabkeh     | Democratic Assembly   | 16             |
| Sa'ed Al-Srour        | Independents          | 16             |
| Wafa' Bani Mostafa    | Islamic Center        | 16             |
| Amjad Al-Majali       | Al-Nahda              | 16             |
| Fatmah Abu Abta       | Islamic Center        | 15             |
| Ahmad Al-Jaloudi      | National Union        | 15             |

|                        |                       |    |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----|
| Mostafa Al-Hamarneh    | Independents          | 14 |
| Yousef Al-Qarnah       | Independents          | 14 |
| Abd Al-Raheem Bqaa'en  | Watan                 | 13 |
| Abdullah Al-Khawaldeh  | Democratic Assembly   | 13 |
| Awad Kreshan           | Watan                 | 13 |
| Ali Al-Khalayleh       | National Action Front | 13 |
| Abdulla Obeidat        | National Consensus    | 13 |
| Reem Abu Dalbooh       | Al-Nahda              | 12 |
| Haitham Al-Abbadi      | Islamic Center        | 12 |
| Mostafa yaghi          | National Consensus    | 12 |
| Ra'ed Al-Khalayleh     | National Consensus    | 12 |
| Kher Abu S'elek        | National Consensus    | 12 |
| Mohammad Al-Freihat    | Al-Nahda              | 12 |
| Fawaz Al-Zo'bi         | Al-Aslah              | 12 |
| Yaseen Bani Yaseen     | Independents          | 11 |
| Khaled Al-Bakkar       | Watan                 | 11 |
| Mudallah Al-Tarawneh   | Islamic Center        | 11 |
| Mwaffag Al-Dmour       | National Consensus    | 11 |
| Sa'ed Al-Blewi         | Al-Nahda              | 11 |
| Mousa Al-Khalayleh     | National Union        | 11 |
| Khaleel Ateyyeh        | Independents          | 10 |
| Abd Al-Men'em Al-Odaat | Watan                 | 10 |
| Mohammad Al-Hajaya     | Watan                 | 10 |
| Rodaynah Al-Ati        | National Action Front | 10 |
| Rida Haddad            | National Action Front | 10 |
| Mohammad Al-radaydeh   | National Union        | 10 |
| Tareq Khouri           | Democratic Assembly   | 9  |
| Tamam Al-Reyati        | Islamic Center        | 9  |
| Hind Al-Fayez          | Democratic Assembly   | 9  |
| Mohammad Al-Barayseh   | National Action Front | 9  |
| Nayef Al-Khaza'leh     | National Action Front | 9  |
| Amjad Aal- Khatlab     | Al-Nahda              | 9  |
| Mejhem Al-Sqour        | Al-Aslah              | 9  |
| Basel Alawneh          | National Union        | 9  |
| Mohammad Al-Amro       | Watan                 | 8  |
| Khamees Ateyyeh        | Al-Nahda              | 8  |
| Na'ayem Al-Ajarmeh     | National Action Front | 8  |
| Moneer Al-Zawaydeh     | Democratic Assembly   | 8  |
| Mohammad Hdeib         | Watan                 | 8  |

|                                  |                       |   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Saleem Bataineh                  | Watan                 | 8 |
| Bassam Al-Btoush                 | National Consensus    | 8 |
| Ahmad Al-Safadi                  | Al-Aslah              | 8 |
| Hamdeyyeh Qweider                | Al-Nahda              | 7 |
| Qasem Bani Qasem                 | Watan                 | 7 |
| Mostafa Al-Amawi                 | Islamic Center        | 7 |
| Roula Al-Hroub                   | National Consensus    | 7 |
| Mostafa Al-Rawashdeh             | Al-Nahda              | 7 |
| Ali Al-Azazmeh                   | Al-Nahda              | 7 |
| Ra'ed Al-Kouz                    | Al-Aslah              | 7 |
| Shaha Abu Shousha Al-Amareen     | National Union        | 7 |
| Mohammad Al-Abbadi               | National Union        | 7 |
| Sameer Oweis                     | Democratic Assembly   | 6 |
| Abd Al-Jaleel Al-Zyoud Al-Abbadi | Democratic Assembly   | 6 |
| Haitham Abu Khadeejah            | Independents          | 6 |
| Def Allah al-Sa'edeyeen          | Watan                 | 6 |
| Mohammad Al-Hjouj Al-Dawaymeh    | Watan                 | 6 |
| Mohammad Al-Thahrawi             | Watan                 | 6 |
| Mahmoud Moheidat                 | Watan                 | 6 |
| Tamer Beeno                      | Islamic Center        | 6 |
| Suleiman Al-Zaban                | Islamic Center        | 6 |
| Mefleh Al-Rheimi                 | National Action Front | 6 |
| Ra'ed Hjazeen                    | National Action Front | 6 |
| Abd Al-Hadi Al-Majali            | National Action Front | 6 |
| Ali Al-Sneed                     | Al-Nahda              | 6 |
| Hamza Akho Rsheidah              | Al-Nahda              | 6 |
| Maysar Al-Sardeyyah              | Al-Nahda              | 6 |
| Hussni Al-Shayyab                | Al-Aslah              | 6 |
| Mefleh Al-Khaza'leh              | Al-Aslah              | 6 |
| Wasfi Al-Zyoud                   | National Union        | 6 |
| Taha Al-Shorafa                  | Watan                 | 5 |
| Kher el-Deen Hakouz              | Watan                 | 5 |
| Mohammad Al-Saudi                | Al-Nahda              | 5 |
| Jamal Gammouh                    | Democratic Assembly   | 5 |
| Atef Qewar                       | Democratic Assembly   | 5 |
| Basel Malkawi                    | Islamic Center        | 5 |
| Habes Al-Shbeeb                  | National Action Front | 5 |
| Bassam Al-Manaseer               | National Action Front | 5 |
| Faisal Al-Awar                   | National Consensus    | 5 |

|                          |                       |   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Yousef Abu Hweidi        | National Consensus    | 5 |
| Def Allah Al-Khalidi     | Al-Nahda              | 5 |
| Hazem Qashou'            | Al-Aslah              | 5 |
| Kamal Al-Zghoul          | Al-Aslah              | 5 |
| Faten Khleifat           | Al-Nahda              | 4 |
| Ibraheem Shahahdeh       | Al-Nahda              | 4 |
| Khloud Al-Khatatbeh      | Watan                 | 4 |
| Ensaaf Al-Khawaldeh      | Islamic Center        | 4 |
| Aamneh Al-Gharagheer     | Islamic Center        | 4 |
| Mohammad Al-Qatatsheh    | Islamic Center        | 4 |
| Mohammad Al-Shurman      | Islamic Center        | 4 |
| Nayef Al-Leimon          | National Action Front | 4 |
| Sa'ed Al-Zawaydeh        | National Consensus    | 4 |
| Abed Ellayan Al-Mahseeri | National Consensus    | 4 |
| Etewi Al-Majali          | Al-Nahda              | 4 |
| Mohammad al-Riyati       | Al-Nahda              | 4 |
| Mahmoud Al-Kharabsheh    | Al-Aslah              | 4 |
| Mohammad Al-Alaqmeh      | National Union        | 4 |
| Najah al-'Azze           | National Union        | 4 |
| Ahmad al-Hmeisatt        | National Union        | 4 |
| Abdel Kareem al-Daghmi   | Independents          | 3 |
| Hasan Obeidat            | Democratic Assembly   | 3 |
| Adnan al-Sawa'er         | Democratic Assembly   | 3 |
| Mohammad al-Hajj         | Islamic Center        | 3 |
| Ali Bani Ata             | National Action Front | 3 |
| Abdel Kareem al-Darayseh | National Action Front | 3 |
| Hayel al-Da'ajah         | National Consensus    | 3 |
| Abdel Majeed al-Atrash   | National Consensus    | 3 |
| Bader Al-Torra           | Al-Nahda              | 3 |
| Assaf Al-Shobaki         | Al-Nahda              | 3 |
| Nassar Al-Qaisi          | Al-Aslah              | 3 |
| Jameel Al-Nimri          | Democratic Assembly   | 2 |
| Merza Boulad             | National Consensus    | 0 |
| Abd Al-Hadi Al-Maharmeh  | Al-Aslah              | 0 |
| Tha'er al-Fayez          | Islamic Center        | 0 |
| Zakaria al-Sheikh        | Independents          | 0 |
| Mohammad Al-Badri        | National Consensus    | 0 |
| Amjad Al-Maslmani        | National Union        | 0 |
| Mariam Al-Lawzi          | Independents          | 0 |

|                       |                       |   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Hadeetha al-Khreeshah | Independents          | 0 |
| Adnan Abu Rokbeh      | Watan                 | 0 |
| Ahmad al-Ruqibat      | Al-Aslah              | 0 |
| Faris al-Halaseh      | Democratic Assembly   | 0 |
| Amer al-Basheer       | Democratic Assembly   | 0 |
| Mousa Abu Swaylem     | Islamic Center        | 0 |
| Muhammad al-Shadefat  | National Action Front | 0 |
| Khaled al-Hayari      | National Action Front | 0 |
| Kareem al-'Odat       | National Consensus    | 0 |
| Dirar al-Daoud        | Al-Aslah              | 0 |
| Shadi al-Adwan        | Al-Aslah              | 0 |
| Mutaz Abu Rumman      | Al-Aslah              | 0 |
| Muhammad al-Zaboun    | Al-Aslah              | 0 |
| Muhammad al-Khushman  | National Union        | 0 |
| Samir al-Arabi        | National Union        | 0 |
| Adnan al-Farajat      | National Union        | 0 |
| Nadal al-Hayari       | National Union        | 0 |
| Qusai al-Damisi       | National Union        | 0 |

## Two: Parliamentary Blocs

This section of the analysis focuses on the share of parliamentary blocs in visits abroad by way of comparison, taking into account the number of members who make up each of the blocs subject to analysis.

The analysis shows that Al-Nahda was the bloc with the greatest amount of members traveling abroad; 18.5%, followed by Watan with 14.3%. Al-Aslah was the bloc with the least amount of traveling abroad carried out by its members, namely 6.5% of the total days members of the 17th House of Representatives traveled.

| Bloc                  | No. of Traveling Days | %      | No. of Bloc Members | Average travel days/member |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Al-Nahda              | 185                   | 18.5%  | 22                  | 8.4                        |
| Watan                 | 143                   | 14.3%  | 18                  | 7.94                       |
| National Action Front | 116                   | 11.60% | 17                  | 6.8                        |
| Democratic Assembly   | 114                   | 11.4%  | 15                  | 7.6                        |
| Islamic Center        | 106                   | 10.6%  | 16                  | 6.63                       |



|                       |            |      |    |      |
|-----------------------|------------|------|----|------|
| National Consensus    | 99         | 9.8% | 16 | 6.19 |
| Independents          | 96         | 9.6% | 12 | 8.3  |
| National Action Front | 77         | 7.7% | 16 | 4.8  |
| Al-Aslah              | 65         | 6.5% | 16 | 4.1  |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>904</b> |      |    |      |

### 1. The Democratic Assembly

The Democratic Assembly has 15 members, of whom 13 spent a total of 114 days traveling outside the Kingdom. This constitutes 11.4%, as 2 members did not travel at all. This means that the rate of travel for a single member is 7.6 days per member. MP Mustafa Shanekat was the individual traveling the most amount of days, he is also the chairman of the bloc. He reached 29 traveling days.

### 2. Watan

Watan has 18 members, of whom 17 spend a total of 143 days traveling outside the Kingdom. This constitutes 14.3%, as 1 member did not travel at all. This means that the rate of travel for a single member is 7.94 days per member. MP and President of the House Atef al-Tarawneh was the individual with membership to Watan traveling the most amount of days; 17.

### 3. Islamic Center

The Islamic Center has 16 members, of whom 14 spent a total of 106 days traveling outside the Kingdom. This constitutes 10.6%, as 2 members did not travel at all. This means that the rate of travel for a single member is 6.63 days per member of the Islamic Center bloc. MP Wafa Bani Mustafa was the individual traveling the largest amount of days. She reached 29 traveling days.

### 4. National Action Front

The National Action Front has 17 members, spending a total of 116 days traveling outside the Kingdom. This constitutes 11.6%, meaning that the rate of travel for a single member is 6.8 days per member. MP Yahya al-Saoud was the individual traveling the largest amount of days. He reached 19 traveling days.

## 5. National Consensus

The National Consensus bloc has 16 members, of whom 13 spent a total of 99 days traveling outside the Kingdom. This constitutes 9.8%, as 3 members did not travel at all. This means that the rate of travel for a single member is 6.19 days per member of the National Consensus bloc. MP Abdallah Obeidat was the individual registering the largest amount of traveling days. He reached 13 traveling days.

## 6. Al Nahda

Al Nahda was the bloc with the largest amount of traveling days, constituting 18.5% of the total amount. All 22 members spent a total of 185 days traveling outside the Kingdom. This means that the rate of travel for a single member is 8.4 days per member of the bloc. MP Mazen al-Dala'een was the individual registering the largest amount of traveling days. He reached 24 traveling days.

## 7. Al-Aslah

Al Aslah bloc has 16 members, of whom 10 spent a total of 65 days traveling outside the Kingdom. This constitutes 6.5%, as 6 members did not travel at all. This means that the rate of travel for a single member is 4.1 days per member of the National Consensus bloc. MP Fawaz al-Za'bi was the individual registering the largest amount of traveling days. He reached 12 traveling days.

## 8. National Union Party

The National Union Party has 16 members, of whom 10 spent a total of 77 days traveling outside the Kingdom. This constitutes 7.7%, as 6 members did not travel at all. This means that the rate of travel for a single member is 4 days per member of the National Consensus bloc. MP Ahmad al-Jaloudi was the individual registering the largest amount of traveling days. He reached 15 traveling days.

Regarding the distribution of travel days abroad amongst the members, the following table highlights a quantitative clarification of those members traveling the most and the least amount of days.

| Bloc                  | No. of MPs<br>traveled | MP Most traveled  | No. of days<br>traveled by MP<br>most traveled | No. of days<br>Chairman<br>traveled |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Democratic Assembly   | 2                      | Mustafa Shabikat  | 29   | 29                                  |
| Independents          | 3                      | Falak al-Jum'ani  | 22   | 0                                   |
| Watan                 | 1                      | Atef al-Tarawneh  | 17   | 11                                  |
| Islamic Center        | 2                      | Wafa Bani Mustafa | 16   | 7                                   |
| National Action Front | 0                      | Yahya al-Saoud    | 19   | 6                                   |
| National Consensus    | 3                      | Abdallah Obeidat  | 13   | 0                                   |
| Al-Nahda              | 0                      | Mazen al-Dala'een | 24   | 16                                  |
| Al-Aslah              | 6                      | Fawaz al-Za'bi    | 12   | 9                                   |
| National Union        | 6                      | Ahmad al-Jaloudi  | 15   | 9                                   |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>23</b>              |                   |  | <b>87</b>                           |

## Scorecards of Representative Performance

### Introduction

Complementing the efforts of Al Hayat Center for Civil Society Development – RASED in strengthening the performance of deputies, and based on the participatory role of Civil Society Organizations with the legislative power in the investigation of peaceful democratic transformation, we present the new methodology in the preparation of scorecards of individual representatives. A team of specialists carried out a scientific review with as goal to develop the existing mechanisms of preparation in the First Non-Ordinary Session of the 17th House of Representatives.

The new methodology was developed focusing on four main activities;

1. Review of international best practices in the scope of parliamentary scorecard preparation:

One Hayat Center team carried out research and studies on the preparation of evaluative studies on international experiences in the development of scorecard preparation methodologies. This was done in 8 countries where normative successes have been achieved in the development of working methodologies, including objective indicators based on international standards of democratic representation. These countries were:

- Uganda<sup>(1)</sup>
- India<sup>(2)</sup>
- Kenya<sup>(3)</sup>
- Kosovo<sup>(4)</sup>
- Italy<sup>(5)</sup>
- France<sup>(6)</sup>
- Pakistan<sup>(7)</sup>
- Zimbabwe<sup>(8)</sup>

(1) <http://cu-csds.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/2009-2010scorecardforinternet.pdf>

(2) [http://www.cbgaindia.org/files/whats\\_new/Study%20Report.pdf](http://www.cbgaindia.org/files/whats_new/Study%20Report.pdf)

(3) <http://info.mzalendo.com/info/scorecard-faq>

(4) <http://www.kdi-kosova.org/publications/Fletnotimit7-12-2009.pdf>

(5) <http://parlamento17.openpolis.it/le-classifiche-di-openpolis-sul-parlamento>  
<http://www.openpolis.it/eng>

(6) <http://2007-2012.nosdeputes.fr/martine-billard>

(7) <http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/Democracy&LegStr/ScoreCardof13thNationalAssemblyofPakistan-The2ndYear.pdf>

(8) <http://www.kuvakazim.com/info/scorecard>

2. Consultation: a working group conducted a set of consultative sessions with academic specialists, statisticians, and experts with practical experience in the construction of evaluative indicators to poll their opinions regarding the proposed quantitative mechanisms for the performance of representatives, using the simplest formula to guarantee general understanding.

3. Representative opinion reconnaissance: a working group conducted an extended dialogue session with a group of representatives on (...). This had as a goal to discuss scorecard preparation methodology and provide feedback on the outcomes issued at the end of the First Non-Ordinary Session.

Based on the outcomes of the abovementioned activities, mechanisms for individual evaluation of members of the House of Representatives were developed, including a simple and objective methodology. Through the use of a clear framework, impressions regarding the performance of their representatives are simplified for voters.

#### The New Methodology for the Preparation of Parliamentary Performance Scorecards

1. Adoption of proportional performance measurement for all members in every index, and not proportional to highest rating members!

Adoption of the new evaluation mechanism on indicators measuring performance on basis of quantity and quality based on the percentage of total overall performance for all members of the House of Representatives – not in relation to the hypothetical ideal case. This enhances the objective measuring system.

A theoretical example of a quantitative indicator: parliamentary activity during legislative, supervisory, and organizational debates.

Type of measurement: amount of parliamentary interjections

Measurement mechanism: counting the amount of interjections made by each deputy during debates.

Point of reference measurement: the total of interjections made by all representatives during debates.

Mechanism for the calculation of marks: sorting of the MP amongst his colleagues in order of the amount of interjections he made during a debate, followed by the conversion of this sortation into a percentage.

A practical example of a quantitative indicator: if we assume that the total of parliamentary interjections made during one session amount to 2500, and the MP “Ahmad” was reported to have made 130 interjections, this gives him the rating 45. Thus his performance – in this indicator – is better than 105 other representatives as the total amount of MPs is 150.

105 representatives are equal to 70% of all members of the House. Therefore, MP “Ahmad” is evaluated with a 70% mark in this index. Simply said, this means that his performance with regards to the amount of interjections made, was better than 70% of the members of parliament.

(MP Ahmad is evaluated with 70% in the index of amount of interjections = the total performance for MP Ahmad in interjections is better than 70% of members of parliament.)

A theoretical example of a qualitative indicator: impact of a representative during legislative, supervisory, and organizational debates.

Type of measurement: number of articulated parliamentary interjections

- Articulated interjections: this is the parliamentary interjection that has had an impact on parliament dealings with a specific issue. For example, an MP’s recommendations referring to laws which have been introduced to the committees,

points of order which brought about change in the session's course, et cetera.

Measurement mechanism: counting the amount of articulated interjections made by each representative during debates.

Point of reference measurement: the total of articulated interjections which were made by all MPs during debates.

Mechanism for the calculation of marks: sorting of the MP amongst his colleagues in order of the amount of articulated interjections he made during a debate, followed by the conversion of this sortation into a percentage.

A practical example of a qualitative indicator: If we assume that the total of articulated parliamentary interjections made during one session amount to 800, and the MP "Layla" was reported to have made 70, this gives her the rating of 90. Thus her performance – in this indicator – is better than 60 other representatives as the total amount of MPs is 150.

60 representatives = 40% of all members of parliament. Therefore, MP Layla is evaluated with a 40% mark in this index. Simply said, this means that her performance with regards to the amount of articulated interjections made, was better than 40% of the members of parliament.

(MP Layla is evaluated with 40% in the index of amount of articulated interjections = the total performance for MP Layla in articulated interjections is better than 40% of members of parliament.)

## 2. Unification of the significance of measurement indicators

The old methodology gave all measurement indices a specific significance (marks allocated to the index of the total marks). However, in an effort to increase the objectivity of the evaluation, the specific weights were unified in all indices by converting all assessments into percentages. Then, the overall rating was calculated based on the rate of those percentages; hereby we are avoiding the negative impact of bias based on the personal perception of researchers in affording significance to indices.



The unification of significance of indices had a negative impact on the depth of the scorecards and its ability to provide a fair measure of MP performance. As there is a clear disparity between importance and impact and tools of legislation and control used by the representatives. In order to eliminate this negative impact, we worked on expanding the measurement indicators to include a new set of qualitative indices sharing significance with all quantitative indices and their significance in the evaluation.

#### New Indices

Commitment, influence, and teamwork:

1. Membership of permanent committees
2. Chairmanship of permanent committees
3. Commitment to session attendance
4. Organizational interjections
  - a. (Total) amount of organizational interjections
  - b. Articulated organizational interjections
5. Coherence with bloc majority voting behavior
  - a. Budget voting
  - b. Voting of confidence

Legislative aspect:

1. Legislative interjections
2. Law proposals
3. Commitment to legislative session attendance

Regulatory aspect:

1. Regulatory interjections
2. Commitment to regulatory session attendance
3. Questions
4. Interpellations

## Representative aspect and communication with citizens

1. Requests for public debates
2. Voluntary motions
3. Memoranda
4. Social networking tools
  - Number of accounts on social network sites
  - Representative interaction with the public on social media

## Scorecards of Committee Performance

These scorecards have as goal to evaluate the performance of permanent committees, using 7 tracking and objective measurement indicators. The main indicators are as follows.

### 1. Legislative meetings

How many meetings has the committee held throughout the Session, and debates regarding laws submitted to the committee from the beginning of the Session or which the government has transmitted to them during the Session.

### 2. Public debates

How many debates has the committee conducted throughout the Session; regarding urgent or specific issues of interest, with individuals from the Executive Authority or citizens.

### 3. Regulatory meetings

Meetings which were called by the committee regarding the formulation of work principles, election of the chairman, vice-chairman, or spokesperson

### 4. Specialist issues

The amount of meetings held regarding issues of the committee's specialty, and the amount of issues closed by the committee

## 5. External activities

Activities which were undertaken by the committee external to the House of Representatives. For instance the sponsoring of a ceremony, holding of workshops, or participation in any other external work.

## 6. Field visits

Visits carried out by the committee outside of the House of Representatives.

## 7. Attendance of committee meetings

Member attendance rate per meeting.

### Permanent Committees

Members of permanent committees, as prescribed in Article 40 of the Internal Regulations to the House of Representatives, are elected at the start of every Session, and the total amount of permanent committees to be formed is 20. Each committee is assigned tasks, functions, and action mechanisms as per the Internal Regulations.

A permanent committee consists of a maximum of eleven members. In the case of candidates for a committee exceeding the set limit, the House elects them by way of anonymous ballots. An MP may not be member of more than two permanent committees. If they are elected in two committees, they forfeit the right to put themselves up for candidacy for another committee, unless they announce their withdrawal of one of the committees for which he was elected as member in writing.

It is up to the House to form temporary committees if an urgent need for their creation is identified. The House determines the functions of these committees, as well as the amount of members. The term of any of such committees ends after its prescribed tasks have been fulfilled. Additionally, there are a number of committees which are formed on a temporary basis for the purpose of a specific task provided for in the Internal Regulations. For example, the Royal Address Response Committee, and the Supervisory Committee for the Executive Council's Elections.

During the First Ordinary Session of the 17th House of Representatives, 20 permanent committees were formed as prescribed in Articles 41-60 of the Internal Regulations, which also show the nature of such committees.

This chapter will consist of two parts, the first containing the Permanent Committee scorecards, and the second regarding the amount laws submitted to the committees before the finishing of the First Ordinary Session.

### Laws Submitted Before the Ending of the First Ordinary Session

Upon the finishing of the Session, the remaining laws were mapped out before the House, as follows.

Statistics of laws presenting before the committees.

| No.          | Committee                                | No. of projects | No. of temporary laws | No. of laws proposed        |
|--------------|--|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1            | Legal                                    | 18              | 13                    | 12                          |
| 2            | Finance                                  | 3               | 2                     | Office of Audit reports - 4 |
| 3            | Economy and Investment                   | 15              | 27                    | 1                           |
| 4            | Foreign Affairs                          | -               | -                     | 3                           |
| 5            | Administrative                           | 5               | 7                     | 1                           |
| 6            | Education and Culture                    | 2               | 1                     | -                           |
| 7            | Youth and Sports                         | -               | -                     | -                           |
| 8            | National Guidance and Information        | 2               | 1                     | -                           |
| 9            | Health and Environment                   | -               | 4                     | -                           |
| 10           | Water and Agriculture                    | 1               | -                     | -                           |
| 11           | Labor, Social Development and Housing    | 1               | 1                     | -                           |
| 12           | Energy and Mineral Resources             | 3               | 3                     | 2                           |
| 13           | Public Services and Transport            | 3               | 3                     | -                           |
| 14           | Tourism and Antiquities                  | -               | -                     | 1                           |
| 15           | Public Freedoms and Human Rights         | -               | -                     | -                           |
| 16           | Palestine                                | -               | -                     | -                           |
| 17           | Rural and Badia Areas                    | -               | -                     | -                           |
| 18           | Order and Conduct                        | -               | -                     | -                           |
| 19           | Integrity, transparency and fact-finding | -               | -                     | -                           |
| 20           | Women and Family Affairs                 | -               | -                     | -                           |
| <b>Total</b> |  | <b>53</b>       | <b>62</b>             | <b>24</b>                   |

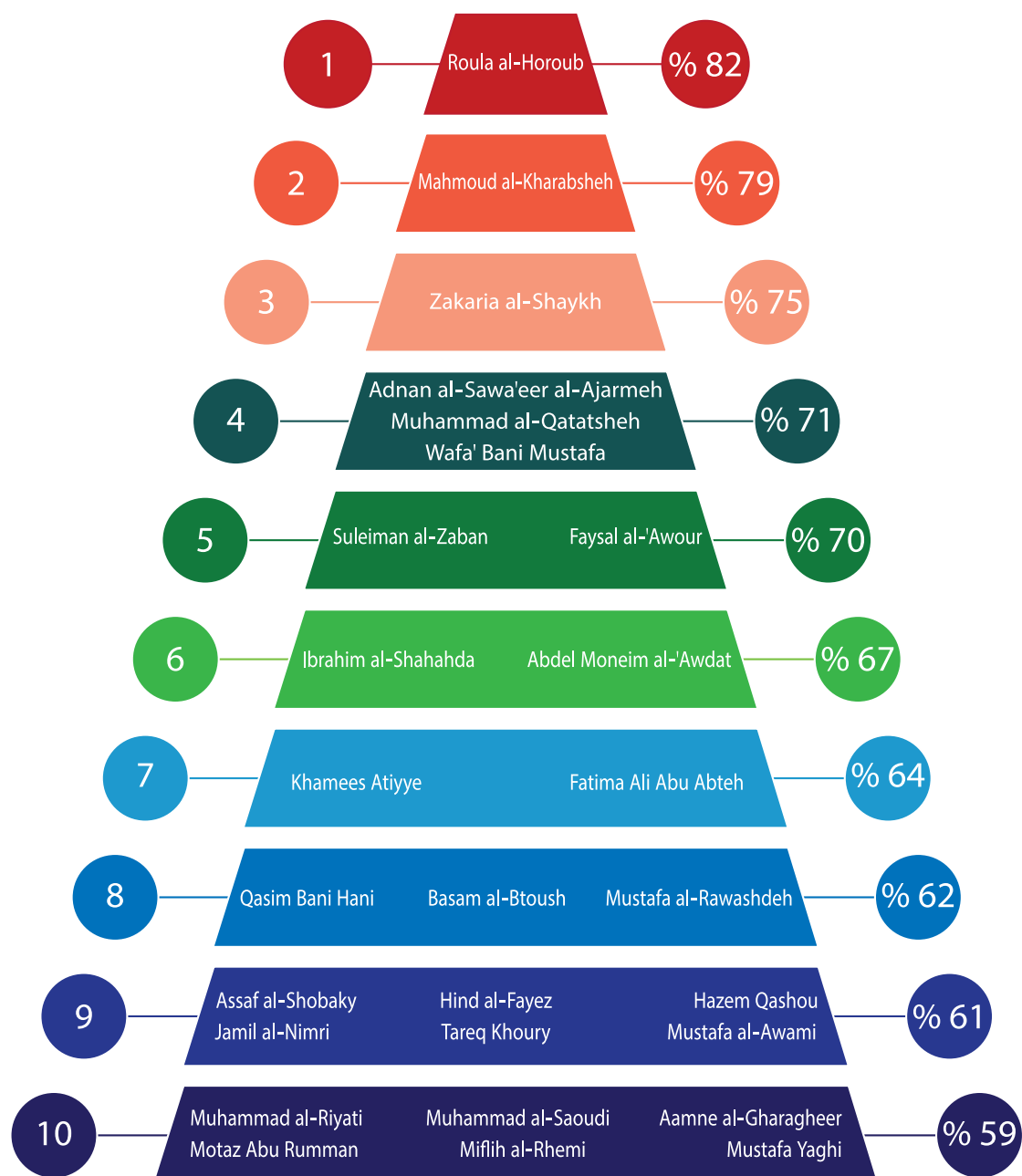
## Report Recommendations

### **RASSED proposes the following recommendations:**

1. Carry out constitutional amendments on articles relating to the election of the President of the House, so as to make the term two years instead of one, and to raise the number of signatory MPs needed for requesting a motion of confidence from 10 to 30.
2. Find a mechanism to determine committee meetings as to overcome the listing problem of activities and meetings of the majority of permanent committees are concentrated on Sunday and Wednesday, in conjunction with the regular sessions. This obstructs the work of the committees, and affects the completion of laws presented to them, also resulting from a number of representatives being member of more than one committee. Thus, the member is forced to attend only part of the meeting in order to be able to attend another committee's meeting. This weakens the effectiveness of laws being passed within committees, in addition to leading to the loss of quorum for one or more committees, and lack of possibilities to decide on the presented laws as the majority of members required to be necessary for such actions is not present. This in turn may reduce the number of debates the committee is able to have.
3. The House of Representatives is to choose specific mechanisms of dealing with any order of business, and its inclusion on the meeting agenda so as to determine the number of speakers on this issue and not to leave any issue undiscussed as is the case now. As well as to rely on parliamentary norms and customs which previous Houses have established. Such as the determining of the number of speakers on an item, representing all blocs and representatives, and taking into account the discussion of emergency issues and research requirements. It is also necessary to regulate the inclusion of such items on the agenda of the House, in addition to the need to compel the government to respond to or comment on topics. Often ministers are reluctant to respond to comments of MPs, it has been found.

4. The House of Representatives is to abide by the provisions of the Internal Regulations regarding interpellations; those that have not been responded to need to be placed on the agenda. Thus far this has not been done, in violation of Article 135, Paragraph G of the Internal Regulations. This prescribes that “interpellations and responses should be included on the agenda of the first session thereto allocated, as all as including interpellations on the agenda if it has not been responded to by the respective Minister within the legal timeframe.”
5. Specifically promote the principle of parliamentary transparency in the work of parliamentary committees. Their work must be open to all without any restrictions or requirements to view the work of these committees. This includes facilitating citizen access to parliamentary information and electronic communication, and enhancing citizen involvement in making laws.
6. Parliamentary committees are to present law proposals, which are to be offered to MPs first during their debates. As well as to work on the completion of temporary laws which were submitted to them by three Houses prior.
7. The House is to give the supervisory aspect of its work the utmost importance.

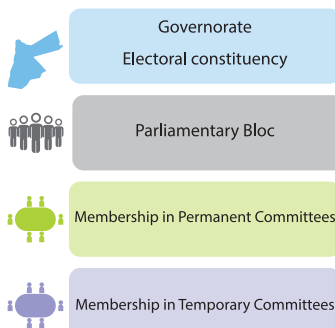
## Top **10** Rates of Parliamentary performance during the First Ordinary Session of the 17th House of Representatives





## Parliamentary Performance

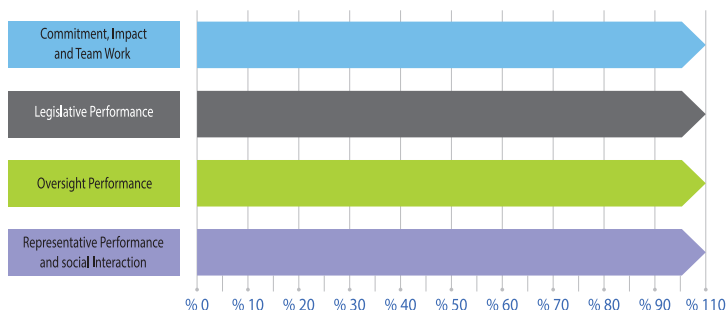
Scorecard  
17th Jordanian  
House of Representatives  
First Regular Session  
3/11/2013 - 3/5/2014



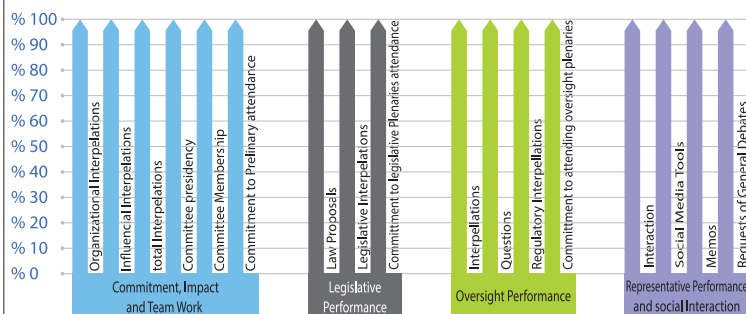
## Deputy Name



## Parliamentary Activity summary



## Analyzing the Parliamentary Activity



### On the Methodology of Evaluation

This Methodology is inspired by international best practices in the area of parliamentary evaluation, it is characterised by:



Broadening the scope of all indicators to include a qualitative as well as quantitative indices.



Unification of evaluation indicators' significance.



Adopting relative evaluation based on representative performance comparisons in all indicators.

Example: if an MP obtained third place amongst his peers regarding the amount of questions posed, he is better than 143 MPs (meaning 97.9% of members of Parliament). This is the appraisal he will obtain in this field.

In other words: if the MP obtained an evaluation of 97.9% in one of the indicators, this means that his performance in this field is better than that of 97.9% of the members of Parliament subject to evaluation.



Note: Percentage results were calculated for all MPs except for 2 Etewi Al-Majali and Mariam Al-Lawzi due to their compelling health conditions. Qusai Al-Damisi was also disregarded as his membership was frozen during the session. The President of Parliament is excluded from the evaluation.

## Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development - RASED

**Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development is an independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental Jordanian Civil Society Organization established in May 2006 by a group of Jordanian youth activists in civil society.**

**Al-Hayat Center seeks to contribute to development of political life in Jordan, within the framework of democratic principles, human rights, and rule of law. Additionally, Al-Hayat Center strives to spread necessary awareness amongst members of local communities of the values of civil society based on justice, equality, freedom, democracy, acceptance of others, and rule of law.**

**Al-Hayat Center believes that development must reach all corners of the country as well as the center, so the implementation of several developmental projects and activities in disadvantaged areas with a focus on participation by both sexes in these activities is crucial. Additionally, a local area network comprising a set of CSOs and branches from Karak to Amman to Irbid was founded. Al-Hayat also believes in the necessity of work on a regional (Arab) and international level, so the organization has joined several international networks, and contributed to the establishment of two sister organizations also named Al-Hayat. One organization is based in Nablus, Palestine (est. 2009), and the other is in Sana'a, Yemen (est. 2013).**



Tel: +962 6 5377330 Fax: +962 6 5377230

E-mail: [info@hayatcenter.org](mailto:info@hayatcenter.org)

[www.hayatcenter.org](http://www.hayatcenter.org)

 [www.facebook.com/hayatcenterjo](https://www.facebook.com/hayatcenterjo)

[www.rasedjo.org](http://www.rasedjo.org)