

RASSED for Parliamentary Monitoring Program

RASSED's Final Report on Parliamentary Debates on the Election Law

February 23, 2016

MPs approve election law with 88% approval rate of those present

423 interventions and 220 propositions presented by MPs within three working days

39% of women in Parliament had interventions and propositions

57% of MPs had interventions and proposals within three working days

The Independent Party made 40% of interventions, followed by the Renaissance Party with 13.7% of interventions. The Reform Parliamentary Bloc made 13% of total interventions.

Over the past three days of discussions, the Parliament has held discussions on the Draft Election Law. This law is the base of Jordanian political life, especially since the Popular Party and official powers agreed on the need to change the former election law.

RASSED, Al Hayat's Parliamentary Monitoring Program, has been following the five parliamentary sessions held to approve the election law held over the course of three working days. Today, the Parliament approved a draft election law for the Parliament for 2016, with approval by 88% of total deputy attendees. The final session began today with 103 deputies. By the second hour of the session, the number of deputies increased to 110 attendees. 98 deputies cast their vote on the draft law.

The adoption of this law, which is one of the most important reform legislations, would strengthen the evolving democratic process in Jordan.

One of the most important changes in the election law is the shift to an open electoral system and a one vote system, with more constituencies. Additionally,

it establishes a truly democratic transition by increasing political participation within the electoral process.

The five sessions held to approve the election law witnessed a varied and extensive series of discussions about specific articles within the draft law that represent the most important pillars of the bill. These articles include numbers 2, 8, 9, 47, 57, 58, and 60.

The monitoring team observed that 56% of MPs spoke at some point during the five sessions, presenting a total of 423 interventions and 220 propositions.

Additionally, 39% of women in Parliament made interventions and propositions. This means that a mere 7 out of 18 female MPs made interventions or propositions, with women constituting only 9% of total speakers in Parliament. The percentage of female interventions was 12.3% of total inputs that have been introduced over the three day period. The percentage of proposals submitted by women was 16% of the total propositions submitted, with women constituting 12% of total members of parliament.

Regarding the interventions and propositions made by Parliamentary Blocs, the Independent Parties made 40% of interventions and 47.7% of propositions, followed by the Democratic Rally Revival Bloc with 13.7% of interventions and 14% of propositions over three working days. The Reform Parliamentary Bloc made 13% of total interventions and presented 8.6% of total propositions. Al Wefaq Parliamentary Bloc presented 7.8% of the interventions and 7.3% of the propositions. Finally, the Islamic Center Bloc presented 7.3% of interventions and 8% of propositions.