

RASSED for Parliamentary Monitoring Program

Report on the First Day's Parliamentary Deliberations on the Election Law

February 21, 2016

Within the framework of Al-Hyata's Parliamentary Monitoring Program, RASSED's observers are closely following and documenting parliamentary deliberations on the election law.

The first day of discussions included two sessions (morning and evening), which are scheduled to deliberate on the outputs of the legal committee; assigned to study the government's proposed legislation. Field observers reported that (106) MPs commenced the first session at 11:00, while the headcount dropped to (103) at 12:00, to rise again at 13:00, summing up to (114) MPs. Following an exhaustive round of interventions, the Lower House only managed to approve the first two articles of the proposed law (the name of the law and introductory definitions). As for the second session, the initial headcount summed up to (78) MPs, raising to (96) during the second hour of its proceedings, and five more articles were approved.

The majority vote among MPs corresponded to the legal committee's propositions, where all recommended amendments –within the limits of debated articles- were approved as they are. However, one controversial issue was shifted for consultations; the right to vote for civilians employed by the armed forces.

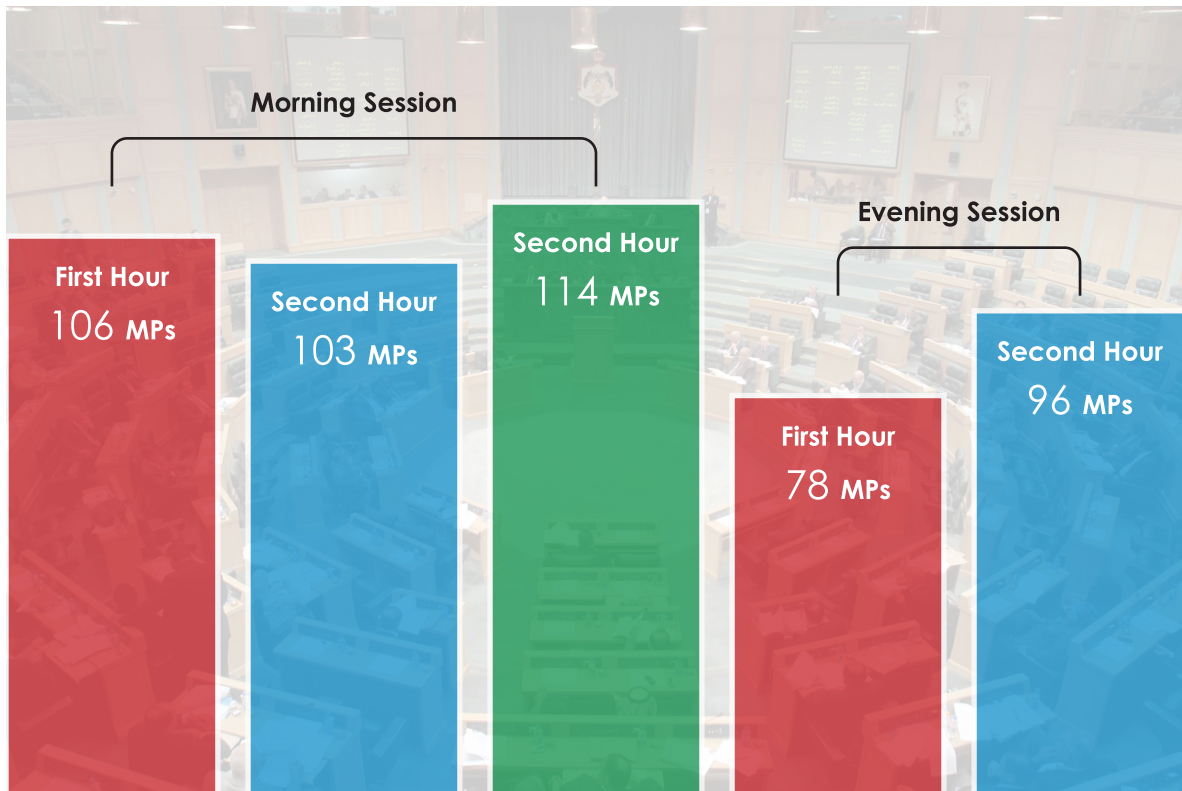
Several MPs have verbalized fundamental critiques to the proposed law, some described as a reproduction of the Single Non-Transferable Vote system (SNTV) Jordan currently adopts. However, the greatest majority had an opposite stand, expressing satisfaction with the main elements of the legislation.

Broad argumentation took place during the two halves of the day. The morning session included (74) interventions, presented by (41) MPs, and (38) individual amendment propositions, submitted by (18) MPs. The evening session, on the other hand, included (87) interventions, presented by (38) MPs, and (48) propositions, submitted by (24) MPs.

Reported statistics by field observers indicates (3) propositions on article (1), (35) on article (2), (21) on article (3), (18) on article (4), one proposition on each of articles (5) and (6), and (8) on article (7). All propositions were disapproved through a plenary vote.

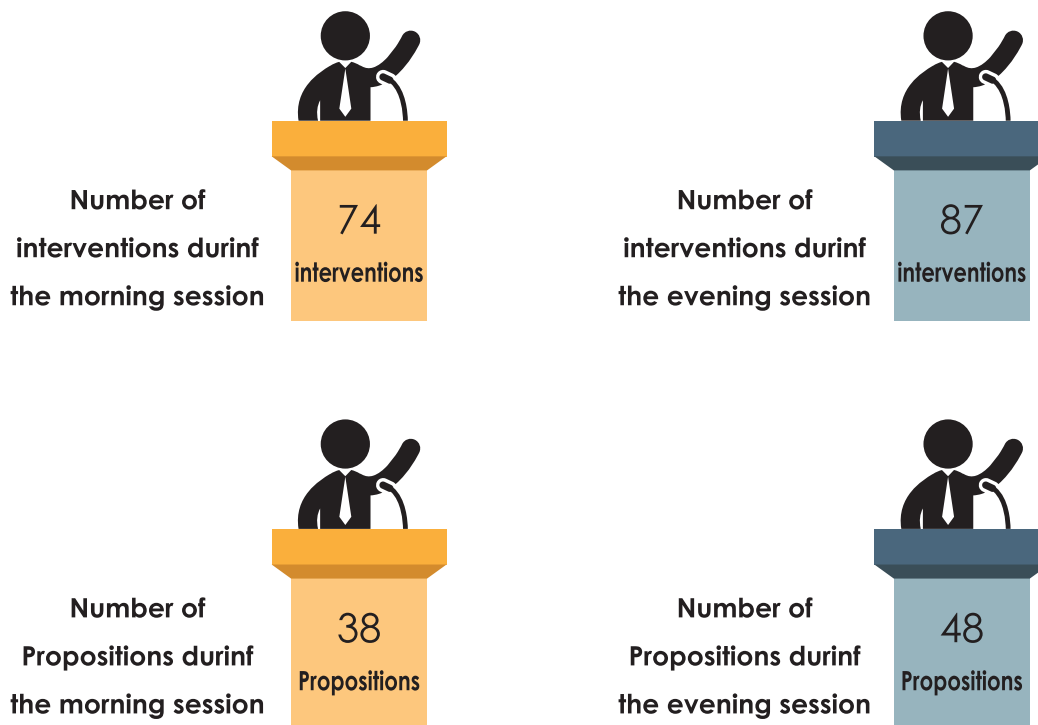
In conclusion, the first day promises systematic and inclusive deliberations, that RASED hopes to continue throughout the process. This is indicated by the significant commitment of MPs so far to attend and actively contribute in each legislative debate respectively.

MPs' Headcount During the First Day of Deliberations on the Election Law



Graph (1): MPs' Headcount During the First Day of Deliberations on the Election Law

MPs Interventions and Propositions During the First Day of Deliberations on the Election Law



Graph (2): MPs Interventions and Propositions During the First Day of Deliberations on the Election Law

Note: The presentation of the Legal Committee was not calculated as an intervention