

Observation of GBLA 21st Session 3rd Sitting

The 3rd sitting of the 21st session of Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative assembly held today on October 12, 2017, and chaired by the Speaker GBLA. The members of the assembly were scheduled to sit in the assembly lobby at 11:00 AM. Session started at its scheduled time and adjourned at 12:45 PM. There was no bill placed in the order of the house. Three resolutions; Condemning Defense Secretary of US on his recent comments on the CPEC, Establishing Urdu department in Karakoram International University and Baltistan University, and Allocating Office space in GBLA for women members of GBLA, were presented and adopted by the house.

Bills and Resolutions

There was no bill placed in the order of the house. Three resolutions were presented in the house.

General Observation on representation

- Session started at its scheduled time and continued for 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- Honorable Speaker GBLA chaired the full session.
- At the start of the session, 16 members of the assembly were present in the house. 5 members joined the house later.
- Number of women members was 2 at the beginning of the session which remained constant till the end of the sitting.
- Two out of six preliminary secretaries were present while all the chairpersons of Standing Committee were present in the house for the full session.
- Chief Minister was absent and Opposition leader remained there for the full session.
- Four out of six ministers were present during the session.
- Out of 33 assembly members, 11 members were absent during the session while Member of the GBLA Prince Saleem Khan was on leave.

Representation and Responsiveness

The general proceeding of the house started with the resolution presented by the Deputy Speaker Mr. Jafarullah Khan condemning the statement of Defense Secretary of USA against CPEC and Gilgit Baltistan. He said people of Gilgit Baltistan are the owners of Gilgit Baltistan and it's their right to decide their future. No foreign involvement will be tolerated against CPEC and sovereignty of

Gilgit Baltistan. Seven respectable members of the house added their thoughts and appreciated Deputy Speaker of GBLA Mr. Jafarullah Khan for the resolution. This resolution was unanimously accepted by the house.

Deputy Speaker of GBLA Mr. Jafarullah Khan presented another resolution emphasizing on the importance of Urdu as national and official language of the country. He demanded the establishment of Urdu department in Karakoram International University, Baltistan University and all the campuses of Karakoram University in Gilgit-Baltistan. This resolution was unanimously accepted by the house.

Member of the Opposition Mrs. Bibi Salima brought a resolution for establishing a group of parliamentary women. She requested for an office in GBLA to address the issues of women around Gilgit-Baltistan. Six members of the GBLA took part in discussion and agreed with Mrs. Bibi Salima. This resolution was unanimously accepted and adopted by the house.

Outcome

No bills were placed in the business of the house while three resolutions were presented in the house. All the resolutions were accepted and adopted by the house.

Transparency

The order of the day was restricted to the legislators whereas it was not available for the observers and others. The information on attendance of the legislators was not available for observers and general public.