

Observation of GBLA 21st Session 1st Sitting

The 1st sitting of the 21st session of Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly (GBLA) held today on October 10, 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 12:25 PM till next day. No bill placed in the order of the house, while two resolutions one on qualification and salary of journalists and the other for establishing tourism department in Karakoram International University were adopted by the house.

Bills and Resolutions

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

General Observation on representation

- Session started at its scheduled time and continued for 1 hour and 25 minutes.
- Honorable Speaker GBLA chaired the full session.
- Member's attendance was 63% for the session.
- At the start of the session, 15 members of the assembly were present in the house.
- Number of women members was 2 at the beginning of the session which remained constant till the end of the sitting.
- Three 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 while Leader of the Opposition remained there for the full session.
- Four out of six ministers were present during the session.
- Out of 33 assembly members, 9 members were absent during the session while members of the assembly; Prince Saleem, Dr. Iqbal, and Iqbal Hassan were on leave.

Representation and Responsiveness

The general proceeding of the house started with the recitation of verses of Holy Quran followed by resolution presented by Deputy Speaker, Mr. Jafarullah Khan favoring Journalists reporting for the GBLA. He appreciated their work, dedication and honesty in reporting. He proposed that the journalists reporting for GBLA must hold B.A degree and their pay must be Pak Rs. 16,000 at least.

After consensus among members present in the house, the resolution was unanimously accepted and adopted by the house.

Member of the Opposition Mrs. Rehana Ebadi brought the resolution for establishment of Tourism department in Karakoram International University. Tourism Minister Mr. Fida Khan informed that a department of “Hospitality and Tourism” was already approved and established in Karakoram International University, Hunza campus. The Speaker GBLA passed by the majority votes adopted the resolution.

Outcome

No bills were placed in the business of the house while two resolutions were presented in the house one for increase of wages qualification of journalists reporting for GBLA, and the second for the establishment of Tourism department in Karakoram International University. Both resolutions were 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.