

## **RASED for Parliamentary Monitoring Program 12<sup>th</sup> Weekly Report on the Performance of the Parliament During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session February 6, 2016**

The House of Representatives held two legislative and one oversight session during the 12th week of the Third Ordinary Session. During the legislative sessions, the council approved four laws. As for the oversight session, the council was not able to complete the agenda after two and a half hours, noting that the session was delayed for half an hour from the scheduled time.

The Parliamentary Committees held 16 meetings. The Joint Committee (Finance and Economy) held 3 meetings. The Legal Committee held 2 meetings dedicated to discuss the Electoral Draft Law. The National Steering Committee organized a workshop to discuss journalists' complaints between perception and practice.

During this week, the Executive Office of the House of Representatives made the decision to dissolve the Management Committee. The Executive Office justified the loss of the required number for the continuation of the Commission after the submission of seven deputies' resignation from committee membership. The Executive Office's decision to dissolve a committee is one of the rare cases not monitored by the RASED team during the Seventeenth Parliament, or the sixteenth. This decision has prompted different reactions among those who believe that this is a correct decision. Opponents of this act believe that this decision did not take the Articles of the Rules of Procedure of the House of Representatives into account. The Executive Office rapporteur MP Khloud Khatatba said that the Executive Office decided to re-form the

committee according to Article 61 of the Rules of Procedure after losing the quorum, which authorizes the holding of its meetings legally.

Al-Khatatba stated that the Committee was formed by Representatives Qusay Al-Dmaisy, Assaf Al-Shobaki, Tamer Bino, Sameh Al-Majali, Mohamed Al-Zboun, Nassar Al-Qaisi, Mohammed Al-Amro, Mohammed Al-Hjaya, Muwaffaq Al-Dmour, Faris Al-Halseh and Ali Al-Sinead.

According to Article 61 of the Rules of Procedure in paragraph A, «the Standing Committee is composed of an upper limit of eleven members and a minimum of five-members. The agreement on the composition is determined by the Executive Office on the basis of proportional representation blocs». While paragraph B states that, «if there is no consensus on the formation of committees in accordance with the provisions of paragraph A of this Article, members will be elected by secret ballot if the number of candidates exceeds the expected number within a period not exceeding fourteen days from the beginning of each ordinary session.

Deputies believe that the Executive Office's view is abnormal and that the Rules of Procedure serve to display resignations to the Board to give their point of view. This is especially true since resigning from the membership of the committees' requests are submitted to the Council, whereby the Executive Office then decides. The legal deputies see that decision based on Article 61 of the Rules of Procedure is not enough to take the decision to disband the Committee.

The Chairman of the Board decides to implement the Executive Office's decision to form the Management Committee on the agenda of Sunday's session and inform the Council of its content. However, the

parliamentary branches questioned why the Executive Office did not reveal the resignations from the committee membership to the Council, as is the case in other committees.

During this week, a number of deputies signed a memorandum adopted by MP Adnan Al-Swa'er with demands to intensify the Council's sessions on Sunday and Tuesday and to hold two oversight and legislative sessions during the week.

The committees' meetings were distributed between the legislative and oversight sessions to discuss certain issues. The tripartite joint-committee (composed of the Finance, Economy and Labour Committees) held a meeting with the Jordanian recruiting company's owners union.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (Finance and Economy) held a meeting where they elected their chairmen and deputies and its rapporteurs. The Committee elected MP Abdul Rahim Al- Biqai Chairman of the Committee, to discuss the Central Bank amended law. The Committee approved the Central Bank of Jordan Law for the year 2015. MP Abdullah Al-Khawaldeh was elected chairman of the Committee to discuss the Banking Amendment Law. The joint committee met the deputy director of the International Monetary Fund to discuss the Syrian refugee crisis and the subsequent economic burden on Jordan.

The Legal Committee held a meeting devoted to discussion of the electoral draft law, in which they approved 46 articles. The Committee will review articles 8 and 9 on the division of constituencies and the number of members of the Council, in addition to article 46 relating to the mechanism of calculating the votes as a result of not resolving the decision on them.

At its meeting last Tuesday, the Committee heard proposals submitted by “Mobadara” Bloc Coordinator MP Mustafa Hamarneh and MP Hassan Obiedat on the necessity to provide criminalization of political money used in the elections in the draft law. They also discussed the need to identify those who must follow up and monitor political money and address the problem of voting delegates who are deprived from voting because of their participation in the electoral process management, both on behalf of the Independent Election Commission for the election or the candidates.

Khaled Al-Kalalkeh, Minister of Political Development and Parliamentary Affairs, said that the duty of the Independent Election Commission is to inform the public prosecutor about people who use political money. The Commission also identifies polling places for the election monitors and delegates to ensure their constitutional right to vote. The representative of the Commission noted during the meeting attended by the Minister of Public Sector Development Akhalif Al-Khawaldeh that it is expected to oversee the process of holding elections. For these purposes, nearly 45 thousand people will be deployed at all polling stations over the country.

The Economic and Investment Committee discussed the Chambers of Commerce Draft Law No. 70 of 2003. The Health and Environment Committee held a preliminary reading of the environmental protection project for the year 2015 in Parliament. The Energy and Mineral Resources Committee continued discussion on the Natural Resources Draft Law of 2015.

The Tourism and Antiquities Committee held a meeting with the heads of Tourism Association Agents and the Federation of Tourism Associations asked them to provide the Committee with suggestions

and comments on a draft law to create increased opportunities to serve the sector.

The Integrity, Transparency and Fact-Finding Committee asked the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to reconsider the procedural system concerning the maintenance of existing antiquities in the archaeological museums. They proposed using the means and methods used in developed countries because of a clear imbalance in the mechanism for the protection of monuments. The Education and Culture Committee held a meeting to discuss bridging in Jordan.

The Foreign Affairs Committee met the President of the Christian Democratic Party from the Kingdom of Sweden. The Parliamentary Committee on Palestine met a delegation from the Renewal of Feminist Consciousness Organization from Morocco.