KABUL - Lawmakers in the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) on Wednesday rejected government's draft budget for 2017, calling it unbalanced and unprofessional. Some MPs said that there was no balance regarding the allocation of funds for projects in certain provinces.

The session focused on the first day of the new fiscal year. The MPs argued that there are certain issues within the draft budget that need to be addressed and by government including the elimination of money spent on the some suspected ghost projects. After hours of debates, the lawmakers said that they would not approve the budget until it is reviewed and make necessary changes.

"We believe the honorable lawmakers are not ignored the corruption in the country," said MP Shomareh Shab- hadar. On the problems regarding the draft budget, lawmakers said some provinces had been allocated an unfair amount of funds. MPs have criticized the revenue generation was unclear that there were more ongoing projects opposed to new projects. Most of the money needed to be allocated to emergency and miscellaneous categories. Funding that has been allocated to suspect ghost projects in the ministry of rural rehabilitation and urban development and that there was a lack of focus on underdeveloped provinces.

"There is no balance, neither justice nor transparency to the draft budget," said MP Eklamuddin Nazifi.

"The recommendations of the representatives on the national issues must be taken into consideration, the joint commission also recommend the budget to be rejected," said MP Mohammad Yar. "We hope to finalize it Insha Allah on Pk 40."

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