

SENATE*Tuesday, June 30, 2020*

The Senate met at 1.30 p.m.

PRAYERS[MADAM PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Madam President: Hon. Senators, because of the absence of so many of our fellow Senators from the various Benches, I have directed the Clerk that all items under papers and questions to the Ministers will be deferred to another sitting. Leader of Government Business.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The following questions stood on the Order Paper in the name of Sen. Wade Mark:

Coronavirus Effects on the National Community**(Measures to Address)**

132. Could the hon. Minister of Finance state:

Given the views expressed by leading economists that the coronavirus poses a serious threat to the national economy, can the Minister advise as to what measures are being contemplated to address this potential problem?

Paria Fuel Trading Company Limited**(Contract for Fuel Sale)**

156. Could the hon. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries state:

Can the Minister provide the Senate with a copy of the contract for the recent sale of 150,000 barrels of gasoline by the Paria Fuel Trading Company Limited, and in particular the specified clause/provision which

protects this country from any action should the gasoline be directed to any US sanctioned country?

Hosting of Carifesta XIV

(Forensic Audit)

158. Could the hon. Minister of Finance state:

Given the expenditure incurred by the Government in hosting Carifesta XIV in which over \$12.3 million was spent in excess of the budgeted \$28.4 million, as well as several financial discrepancies observed by the Auditor General, can the Minister indicate whether it is the intention of the Government to launch a forensic audit into the expenditure involved in hosting said event?

Local Business Financial/Economic Challenges

(Measures to Address)

159. Could the hon. Minister of Finance state:

In light of the financial and economic challenges facing thousands of micro, small and medium-sized businesses as well as the interest rates and service charges imposed by banks, can the Minister indicate what measures are being taken to ease the burdens being faced by these businesses?

Questions, by leave, deferred.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Energy and Energy Industries (Sen. The Hon. Franklin Khan): Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I now beg to move that this Senate do now adjourn to Thursday 02 July, 2020 at 2.30p.m. During that sitting we would do what we had planned to do today, which is the committee stage of the Urban and Regional Planning Profession Bill, 2019.

Question put and agreed to.

Senate adjourned accordingly.

Adjourned at 1.34 p.m.