



2017 Independence Message to the Diaspora
by
Dr. The Rt. Hon. Keith C. Mitchell
Prime Minister of Grenada

Fellow Grenadians and friends of Grenada, I greet you warmly on this the 43rd Anniversary of our Nation's Independence.

Through 43 years, we have much for which to be thankful. We have made tremendous strides in the development of all sectors of our national life; including our human resource. In the last year for example, we provided hundreds of students with scholarships and other assistance to pursue their dreams at colleges and universities around the world. Our professionals are also afforded countless opportunities for training and skills development globally.

Economically, we are poised for take-off. We are putting our fiscal affairs in order and managing our economy. With positive and increased growth recorded in each of the last three years, regional and international institutions have acknowledged Grenada's status as one of the fastest growing economies in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union.

Investor confidence, both local and foreign, is at an all-time high, as is evidenced by the spate of projects in different spheres of society. Already in the first few weeks of 2017, we have seen the launch of another hotel project, infrastructural works all around the Tri-Island, the new port construction in Carriacou, expansion of a financial institution into St. Andrew's, the signing of the agreement to secure Grant funding for the ultra-modern Health Center in Gouyave, and the opening of a state-of-the-art entertainment center in Calliste. All this in just January.

Our people must be commended for their sense of purpose and unity in securing our achievements. Notwithstanding the different ranges of political thoughts and affiliations, we have seen Government and Social Partners coming together and putting politics aside in pursuit of the national agenda of development and unity.

In November 2016, this social partnership experienced new heights when we were able to hold, for the first time in Grenada's history, a Constitutional Referendum. Despite the result of the Referendum, our people everywhere should take pride in noting that we are closer to constitutional reform than we have ever been.

Through committed public-private partnership, Grenada looks to achieve another historic feat this year with the staging of the first ever Grenada Invitational Track Meet, bringing together world class athletes here at our IAAF certified First-Class Athletic Stadium. The stars of our

local athletes are shining brighter on the global stage and we owe them and the subsequent generations our commitment to the all-round development of all our citizens. We therefore look forward to having not only our locals, but you, our brothers and sisters abroad, joining and supporting these youngsters on this momentous milestone on April 8th.

Grenada's future is bright and our steps must continue to be steady in staying the course.

Rest assured that in my administration, you have the political will necessary to create a future which will economically empower our thousands of young people, propelling them to the information highway in this new world order of high-tech growth and competitiveness. The future is upon us and we can no longer deliberate in this regard.

Together we must continue to promote our traditions and values, as Grenada takes its rightful place among the community of nations.

We are thankful that we continue to live in peace with each other and that our citizens continue to enjoy security and harmony. We pray always for the same for our Grenadians and friends abroad. Always remember that you are welcome in paradise--anytime.

Distance and time do not preclude any of us from our inherent "Grenadianness" and with that, our ultimate responsibility to work together in the best interest of our country.

Whether you are a Grenadian looking to return home, or your home is in one of our vibrant Diaspora communities, let us embrace our ideals, celebrate our accomplishments and join hands in national development.

On this anniversary of Independence, from my heart to yours, and on behalf of your brothers and sisters here at home, I thank you all for your love of country and your commitment to its development.

May God bless our beautiful Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, and all its citizens and friends. Happy 43rd!