

**2012 INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE
FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
HIS EXCELLENCY SIR CARLYLE GLEAN, GCMG**



Breaking all Barriers, Striving for Greater Achievements under One Flag.

Fellow Grenadians, I greet you today on the thirty-eighth anniversary of our attainment of Independent status. As we are all aware, one of the most important symbols of our Independence is our national flag.

A National flag is one of the most recognizable symbols of our nationhood; it is supposed to symbolize our origins, the journey we have travelled along the road to become an independent nation and our hopes and aspirations for this our nation.

When the Union Jack was lowered for the last time at midnight of February 6, 1974, it was also the first occasion on which our National Flag was raised. As Grenadians, we came under one flag, one Nation, ever conscious of God. With the raising of our Flag we broke the barriers of political dependence, and ushered ourselves into Independent nationhood, free to manage our own affairs, with only a nominal supervision of our Head of State.

Our road to Independence was long and often turbulent, and our achievements as an Independent people and nation are reflected today in the rights and privileges enshrined in our Independence Constitution. In it are reflected the struggles from which we have emerged victorious. But, Independence is not only the end of one phase in our development as a people; it is the beginning of another.

As important as Independence is, we are not expected to rest on our laurels. Instead, Independence is meant to inspire us to strive to even greater achievements. In this regard,

we see that as much as our Constitution shows us the road along which we have travelled, it also indicates the road that lies before us.

Our Governments since Independence have concentrated their efforts upon the accumulated effects of the period before we attained Independent status. As much as we have inherited from our British colonial experience what is worthy of celebration and emulation, there remains a lot that needs to be done. There are structural problems in our economy that require sustained attention by our most talented intellectuals. There remains much to be done with respect to the development of our physical infrastructure.

Above all, we need to continue the development of our most valuable resource: our people. We need to develop our people, so that we may be able to rise to even greater heights of achievement than we have to date. It is only our people, well educated and developed, that can bring us as a people and a nation to even greater heights of achievement.

We need to break the barriers that would have us believe that we are unable to achieve the things of which I know we are capable. We have to break beyond repair the barriers of self-doubt, the notions of inferiority that was part and parcel of the pre-Independence era. Only with a well-educated, well-informed people can we find creative solutions to our persistent problems that stand in the way of progress as a nation.

A famous Caribbean statesman, whose godfather was no less a personality than our own T.A. Marryshow, once told the youth of the nation on the occasion of Independence that they carry the future of their young nation in their school bags.

On this occasion, I believe that it is still a worthwhile message to give to our nation's youth. It is in you that we invest our hopes, dreams and expectations for a new Grenada. But, perhaps, it may be more appropriate to tell you that today you carry the future of our tri-island state in your laptops!

But, even as we observe our Independence, we are also contemplating other important matters that are at the very heart of what we are celebrating today. Yesterday, February 6, we observed the Diamond Jubilee of the Accession to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II. As Grenada's Head of State, and her direct representative, it would be remiss of me not to remind you of the year-long celebrations to observe the 60th Anniversary of The Queen's reign. Later this month, Grenada will welcome a Royal Visit by the Earl and Duchess of Wessex as part of these celebrations.

In the midst of all this, we as a people and nation are also contemplating our continued relationship with the British monarchy, to the extent that a Constitutional Review Commission has been appointed to enquire into this question.

In 1974, we became an Independent monarchy within The Commonwealth. As we celebrate the 38th Anniversary of this event, we are also looking at both the celebration of The Queen's Sixtieth Anniversary as our Head of State and Head of The Commonwealth and entertaining discussions on our constitutional arrangements as a monarchy. This Anniversary Year promises to be an interesting one indeed.

Our National Anthem pledged us to join hearts and hands in unity, to reach our destiny. As we drape our homes, public buildings and ourselves in the colours of our national flag, I ask you to reflect upon the way that we have travelled as a people and nation; to continue to aspire to the heights of achievement that our national flag symbolizes.