

**2013 INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE
FROM
HIS EXCELLENCY SIR CARLYLE GLEAN, GCMG
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF GRENADA**

“Celebrating 39 years of Achievement with Renewed Optimism”

Grenadians at home and in the diaspora are called to join in “celebrating thirty-nine (39) years of Achievement with renewed optimism”. Let us join heads, hearts and hands as we celebrate and give praise and thanks to God for his grace and blessings.

We achieved our national independence on February 7, 1974. We have our national flag, national anthem and national pledge. They are to be respected and honoured as our national symbols. We stand at attention when we sing the anthem or say the pledge. The flag is flown and or carried at national ceremonies. Respect for our flag is respect for our nation. Standing at attention when the anthem is being sung or when the pledge is being said, is showing respect for our nation.

How improved are we in our achievement or showing respect for our flag, anthem or pledge?

The nation was divided over independence in 1974. Prime Minister Gairy and his political party, Grenada United Labour Party, accepted and celebrated while opposition and their supporters did not accept but boycotted the Independence celebration.

The opposition to Independence continued in Parliament and country, and in 1979, the leftist NJM members of the Parliamentary opposition staged a coup and seized power. Parliament was dissolved and the PRG ruled by committees and armed detachments. The government had strong links with Fidel Castro and Cuba and initiated plans for an international airport and the granting of scholarships. In 1983 the PRG had very serious internal problems and Bishop, the leader and his close associates were executed and a State of emergency declared. Within weeks the USA forces (with Caribbean support) attacked and defeated the forces in Grenada with some loss of lives.

An Interim Government headed by Nicholas Brathwaite was appointed by Sir Paul Scoon, Governor-General. The Interim Government accepted the International Airport project as a major and necessary infrastructure for the country, and donor agencies were approached. Funds were mobilized and the project was completed and later opened.

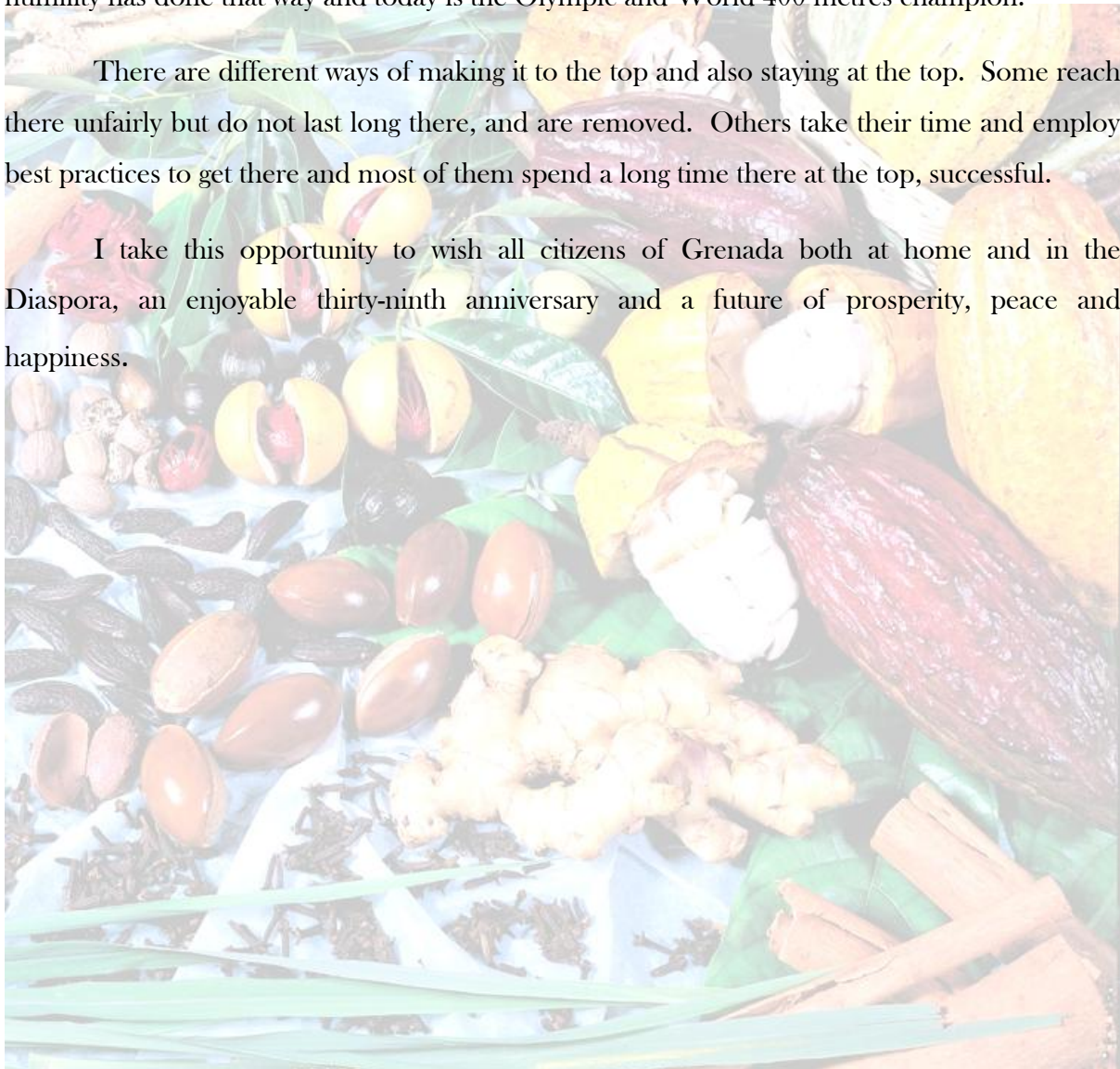
The Administration also subsequently renewed contacts with Cuba who resumed the granting of scholarships to Grenada in the fields of medicine, health, engineering and others.

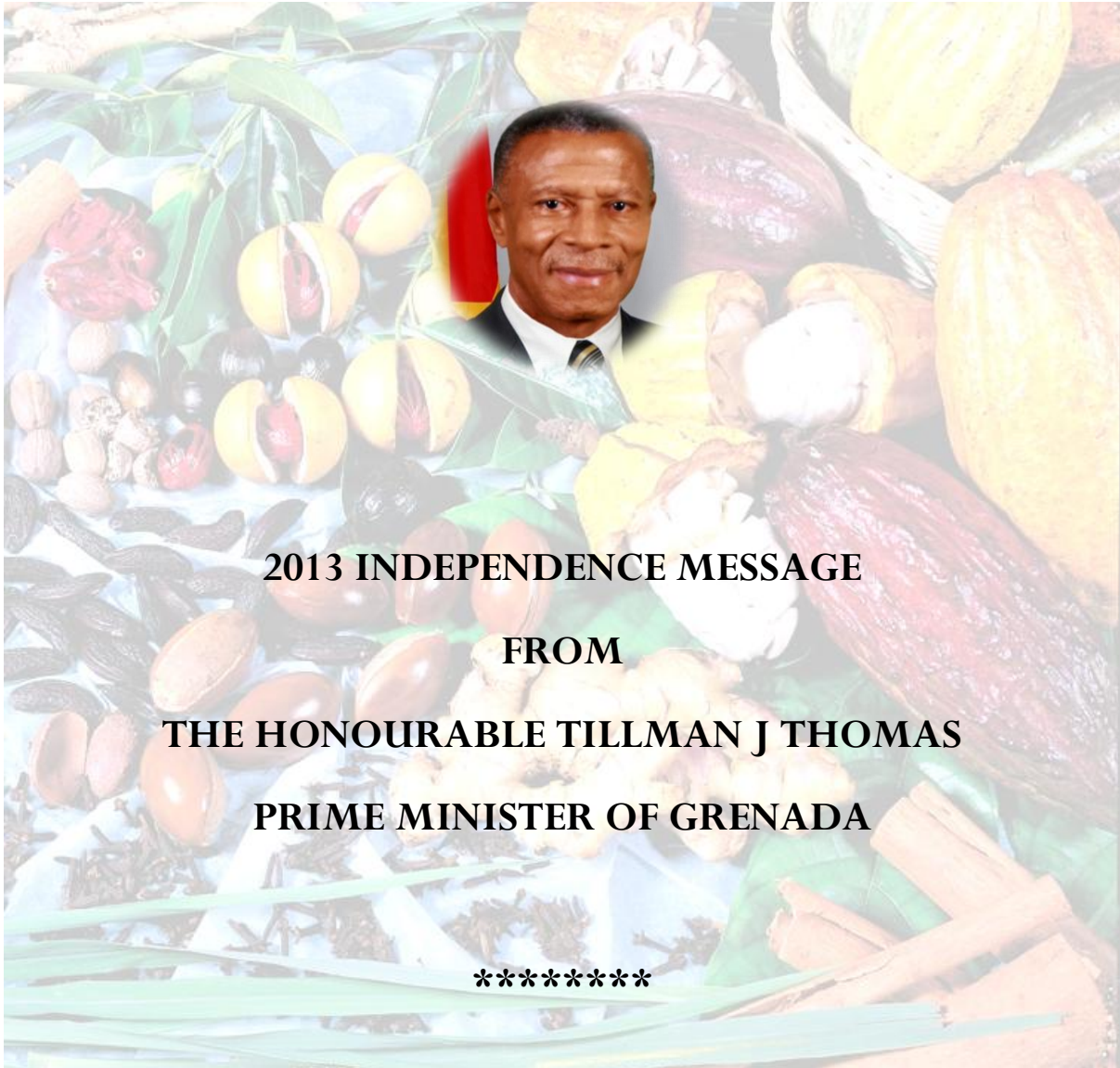
Cuba continues to grant scholarships to Grenada and has medical and other trained personnel working here.

Most of our youth grow up active in games and sports especially cricket, football, athletics and more recently basketball. They play the games from infant state all the way to secondary school, college and university. Many make it to the top at school and parish level through the encouragement and advice of parents, teachers and coaches. Some have gone on to success at top of school and parish levels and a few at top of national through good coaching, disciplined training and diet and sufficient rest. One of Grenada's local track stars with quiet humility has done that way and today is the Olympic and World 400 metres champion.

There are different ways of making it to the top and also staying at the top. Some reach there unfairly but do not last long there, and are removed. Others take their time and employ best practices to get there and most of them spend a long time there at the top, successful.

I take this opportunity to wish all citizens of Grenada both at home and in the Diaspora, an enjoyable thirty-ninth anniversary and a future of prosperity, peace and happiness.





**2013 INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE
FROM
THE HONOURABLE TILLMAN J THOMAS
PRIME MINISTER OF GRENADA**

“Celebrating 39 years of Achievement with Renewed Optimism”

The 39th Anniversary of our Independence is on us.

I take this opportunity to extend hearty congratulations to all Grenadians at home and in the Diaspora on the celebration of the 39th year of our Independence from Britain. It may seem as a long time since we attained our Independence; but, at thirty – nine (39) one can still be considered young with much vigor and significant goals to still achieve.

The Theme selected by the national Celebrations Committee for this year' observance of our Independence is therefore quite fitting: "Celebrating 39 years of Achievement with Renewed Optimism." This Theme calls on every Grenadian at home and in the Diaspora to participate in a celebration during which we take time to reflect on our achievements, the challenges we have encountered since February 7, 1974 and look forward to a brighter future for ourselves and our children.

In tracing our path between the date on which Independence was attained and today, we find many memorable moments worthy of commemoration along with several low moments causing grief and hurt. Our history must not be an anchor to keep us stagnant. It must be a rudder that guides our future.

As a nation and people we can boast of a country whose scenic attribute is second to none. We can pride ourselves with one of the most picturesque town and harbor in the region. We can boast of our own international airport, seaport and cruise ship port. We can invite the world to enjoy our world famous Grand Anse Beach, our several waterfalls and mountain ranges along with our underwater sculptures and marine protected areas. We have been blessed with rich fertile soil and unique spices making Grenada the Isles of Spice. And of course we are the home of gold medal champion Kirani James.

As a people we have excelled in all fields of endeavor: in academics, culture, sports, arts and craft, agriculture to name a few. Grenadians have left an indelible mark in countries where they have worked and lived. Over the years we have demonstrated a level of resilience that is second to none.

It is my hope that growing older as a nation means growing wiser as a people. Our years of experience and accomplishment must enable us to make better, more mature decisions while at the same time improving our perspectives and contribution to the development of our beautiful country.

Every Grenadian, despite political allegiance, religious affiliation or ethnicity has a stake in our small, beloved country.

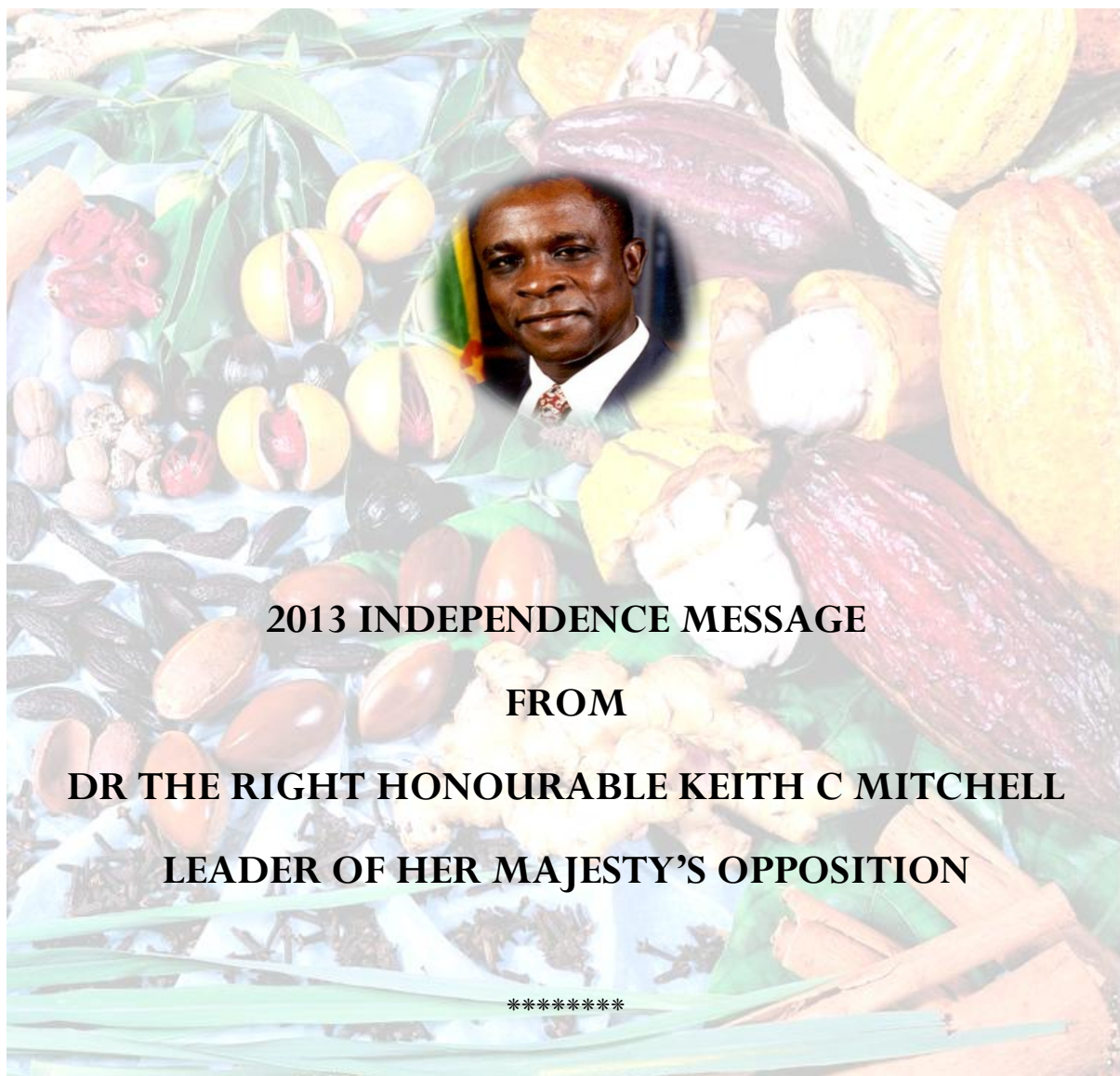
At thirty – nine (39) years of Independence Grenada's true potential can only be realized if we produce more and utilize our natural resources to the benefit of the people. This can be accomplished if Grenadians at home and in the Diaspora, and all those who call Grenada home, work together, in the interest of ensuring that we all enjoy the benefits that come from hard work and the returns from well planned investments.

We welcome all Grenadians in the Diaspora, as we did in the 2012 Grand Homecoming, to continue playing their role in moving Grenada forward and wish to place on record our profound gratitude and thanks for their contribution to our country's growth.

We must, as a people, recognize the importance of facing our challenges together and truly focus on producing our way to prosperity.

I wish all Grenadians at home and in the Diaspora a Happy Independence as we focus on **Celebrating 39 years of Achievement with Renewed Optimism.**





2013 INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE

FROM

DR THE RIGHT HONOURABLE KEITH C MITCHELL

LEADER OF HER MAJESTY'S OPPOSITION

“Celebrating 39 years of Achievement with Renewed Optimism”

As Leader of her Majesty's Opposition and on behalf of the party which I lead, we take this opportunity to wish the entire Grenadian community happy 39th anniversary of independence.

Our people celebrate yet another year of our rich legacy, steeped in hundreds of years of history, but given new meaning when the nutmeg and stars were raised for the first time amidst the darkness back on February 7, 1974.

In spite of the many trials and tribulations, and a sometimes colourful history which included a revolution and a rescue mission, we have always stood as a proud nation of the Caribbean community.

As we enter our 40th year, there are new and even more difficult challenges that face us, but we believe that the upcoming general elections give us a historic opportunity to press the reset button.

In the face of a difficult world recession in the last few years, made even worse at home by not well-thought-out nor executed government policies, too many of our people have slid back into poverty.

The testing times have shaken the very foundation on which the nation has been built.

As leader of the New National party and as a person aspiring to lead this nation again, I have been advocating that in the face of these difficult challenges, it calls for a different politics.

This is what our party offers going in to the General Election which follows within days of our national celebrations.

We believe that for Grenada to live out the true meaning of its independence, we have to get back to economic growth, and an increasing self-sufficiency.

In the coming period, government needs to craft policies that will attract and encourage investments, and develop a system that is more sensitive to the needs of ordinary working people.

I have spoken about the need for a new politics of inclusion and co-operation if we are to successfully navigate the perils of our time.

Indeed, we are at the crossroads, but we remain hopeful that as a nation there is no challenge big enough that we cannot overcome.

We have shown that time and time again, especially after the tumultuous early 1980s and again in the aftermath of the destruction of Hurricane Ivan.

Within the last year, the exploits of our international superstar Kirani James have given us renewed hope about what we are capable of as a people.

So we march forward, with this abounding faith in our people and selfless dedication to the nation.

Happy 39th Independence Anniversary everyone!