

# **Independence Message 2009**

**By Dr. the Rt Hon. Keith Mitchell**

**7 February 2009**

With a great sense of pride in being a citizen of Grenada, and tremendous love for this beautiful land of ours, I extend congratulation to every Grenadian on the observance of our 35th year as an independent nation.

Today we have an excellent opportunity to reflect on our challenges, our struggles and our achievements as a people. As a nation we have had a very colorful and sometime very painful past, but fortunately for us we have been able to unite our efforts and to overcome many of our adversities.

While we still have a long way to go as a nation, we are able to look back and smile at our many achievements over the years. These achievements signify our hard work, our resilience and the tremendous sacrifices which we have all made.

We must therefore be extremely grateful to God for his blessings and his mercies towards us. We must be ever thankful to our fore fathers for the significant role they played in the early years. We must recognize the father of our independence Sir Eric Matthew Gairy for the role he played. Indeed, we must recognize every Grenadian who has contributed their time, effort and talents over the past 35 years.

Independence is never granted but it is achieved by a people whose hopes and aspiration are tempered with a willingness to succeed. This process continues with every generation aiming to surpass the achievements of the former. That is why we can be confident that the contributions we make today will be used as a springboard and will be built upon by generations to come.

As we face very challenging times, it is important that we remain united as a people. It is important that we are comforted by the words of scripture which says that weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning.

Despite the problems that confront us at this time we will overcome them and will stand tall. I therefore call on all Grenadians at home and abroad to recommit yourself to national unity.

It is very evident that in recent times partisan politics has divided many of our people in many ways. Let us recognize and appreciate our citizens not for the political organisation that they

support but for the contribution that they can make to the building of an educated, productive, healthy and prosperous nation. We must all commit to putting our country before party at all times.

We must live in love, with respect for each other and respect for our institutions regardless of who holds an office. As we observe this important day, I again extend best wishes to every citizen of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Ever conscious of God, we aspire, build and advance as one people.

May God bless us all!