



**Address by Prime Minister Dr. the Rt. Hon. Keith Mitchell**

**On the Occasion of Grenada's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence**

**7 February 2014**

It is with great honor that I bring you greetings on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

We pray that all commemorative activities at home and in our Diaspora communities will be of much success, and the occasions will fill all of our compatriots with pride and joy.

Throughout our history we have been cognizant of the very significant role the Grenadian Diaspora community has played in the development of our nation.

Their service to country will continue to be an inspiration to all of us here at home.

On this the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation's Independence, we are eternally grateful to God for guiding us through the years.

We are proud that in spite of some turbulent years, Grenada has emerged as a stable democracy, and as a society where the rights of the individual are respected.

We have come this far because the foundation was laid by the framers of our constitution.

I am of the view that this current generation firmly believes that for us to live out the true meaning of our independence, the 40<sup>th</sup> –year mark is a good time to start with the type of constitutional reforms that will reassert our independence.

It is in that spirit that the government has recently instituted a constitution review commission.

We are determined to build on the foundation that was set by the Father of Independence, Sir Eric Mathew Gairy.

Through 40 years, we have much for which to be thankful. We have made tremendous strides in the development of all sectors of our national life—in particular our human resources.

Our people have more exposure in education than they did 40 years ago -thanks to the advent and take off of initiatives in Information Communication Technology. As a government, we will continue to invest in education and ICT - for we believe that is where true independence lies.

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

The achievement of 40 years of self-rule must signify a maturity of vision, inclusivity, productivity and responsibility. Let us now truly fulfill our claim of being independent; understanding that we can only do so if we work collectively for the benefit of this nation.

Whether you are a Grenadian living at home, or in our diaspora communities, let us embrace our ideals, celebrate our accomplishments and join hands in development.

May God bless this beautiful nation that we are proud to call home.