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# Grenada



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# MUST ALEXIS COOL DOWN ON GRENADA OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AT GOLDEN JUBILEE ?

By J. K. Roberts (Sound Public Policies Advocate)

Dr. Francis Alexis QC., constitutional lawyer and advocate for constitutional reforms with specific interest in the Caribbean Court of Justice, was Grenada’s Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs during the Administration of the National Democratic Congress (NDC). Recent ‘alertness and discovery and conclusion’, pertaining to the implied issue, prompted Alexis to release on 22 January 2024 the Public Statement, “**Constitution Reform For Grenada At Fifty**”. With ‘excitement and optimism and forcefulness’, Alexis who seems to be the ‘legal advisor’ to the now Dickon Mitchell-led NDC-administration, seeks to have “Altering ... Grenadian Oath Of Allegiance”, through the ‘power and will’ of the Parliament but without the ‘involvement and endorsement’ of the sovereign constituents, based on judicial reasonings and jurisdiction precedents, as the caption of one of the campaign-articles “**Reasoning and precedent advocate change of Oath of Allegiance**” holds. Some legal experts including Arley Gill, Ewart Layne, Ruggles Ferguson KC. and Jerry Edwin, although

maybe with levels of reservations, is in support of Alexis in racing to ensure that the Reform realizes “in time for 7 Feb 2024, on Grenada at Fifty”.

Key to Dr. Alexis’ campaign on the Issue are subsection 39(2) of the Grenada 1974 Independence Constitution, as well as Appendix 1 and Appendix 3 to the Constitution. Subsection 39(2) states thus : “A Bill to alter this Constitution or the Courts Order or section 3 of the West Indies Associated States (Appeals to Privy Council) Order, 1967, shall not be regarded as being passed by the House of Representatives unless on its final reading in that House the Bill is supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of all the members of the House.” In conjunction with subsection 39(2) is subsection 39(5) which points to those particulars requiring, further to subsection 39(2), that the Bill be “approved on a referendum, held in accordance with such provision as may be made in that behalf by Parliament, by not less than two-thirds of all the votes validly cast on that referendum.” Whilst Appendix 1 specifies the provisions of the Constitution referred to in subsection 39(5), on the surface Appendix 3

is not included directly or indirectly; Appendix 3 contains the Oath of Allegiance whereby certain Government Officials including public officers, swear to ‘Her / His Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Her / His Heirs and Successors’. Alexis submits that the swearing, in the Oath of Allegiance should instead be, to ‘Grenada’.

Dr. Alexis has been dismissing as ‘irrelevant and wrong’ certain concerns raised about the ‘process and manner and consequences’ of the proposed Reform, clarifying on the grounds of those provisions of the Constitution which are referendum-entrenched versus those provisions which are not, including the provisions which are perceived to be ‘entrenchment by inflection’ or ‘entrenchment by implication’. In the 03 February 2024 published article “**One nation, one future, one allegiance**” Alexis addresses within the ‘purposive’ canon of interpretation, the concern about ‘absurdity or inconsistency’ in the application of the provisions, regarding referendum-entrenchment and to which the Oath of Allegiance applies. In further relying on the statutory existences and forms of the Oath of Allegiance to be taken by the High-level State Officials

throughout the Eastern Caribbean countries, Alexis in an earlier article on 02 February 2024, “**Referendum not needed to change Allegiance**”, shows that “By different routes, independence Eastern Caribbean (EC) Constitutions, like all other independence Caribbean Constitutions, ensure that the Form of the Oath of Allegiance (Oath) may be changed without a referendum .... So, each of the 6 (‘six’) independent EC countries has the Oath; in the Constitution in 3 (‘three’), in prescribing legislation in the other 3. The point being emphasised is that, in all those 6 EC countries, as in all other independent Caribbean countries, changing the Oath of Allegiance does not require approval at a referendum.”

It is very unfortunate about the omission, wittingly or not, by Dr. Alexis to elaborate on the corresponding other subsections with subsection 39(2); that is, at least subsection 39(3) and subsection 39(4) under Section 39 of the Constitution which provides for “Alteration of this Constitution and certain other laws”. These two subsections which links to section 48, require that the Bill to alter the Oath of Allegiance as the instance under discussion, be considered also by

the Senate. Although the practice is to suspend the Standing Orders of the Houses of Parliament and to pass a Bill in one Sitting, Section 45 of the Constitution, which directs on the “Mode of exercise of legislative power” by the Members of Parliament, must be observed ‘strictly and meaningfully’ in the process for the constitutional change to the Oath.

With the ‘anxiety and haste and expectation’ of Dr. Alexis to have the Bill for changing the Oath of Allegiance lay and pass at the Special Joint Sitting of the Senate and of the House of Representatives on 06 February 2024, the credibility of the Administration is at stake. The past internet-circulated article “**Grenadians Must Condemn Parliament Special Sitting For Golden Jubilee**“, denounces the short notice for the Sitting as a farce of Democracy, also raising the critical question as to whether or not the proposed Change is genuinely about an urgent issue in the Public Interest versus for egoistic Political Expediency. Whilst the Grenadian-people are ‘sensitive and open’ about ‘sovereignty and nationalism’, the approach on the Issue at this time when the ‘minds and emotions’ are on the Golden Jubilee, is indeed



BY J. K. ROBERTS (SOUND PUBLIC POLICIES ADVOCATE)

egregious.

The NDC Administration gets a boost to its intention to adopt Alexis’ Submission and to change the Oath of Allegiance with the declaration by Attorney Peter David, as an Opposition Member of the Parliament of the New National Party (NNP) on 05 February 2024, that the NNP “will consider” supporting the Bill for the Oath. Nonetheless; Governor-General Dame Cécile Ellen Fleurette La Grenade, Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell and Dr. Francis Alexis need to be aware of the imperative to observe ‘thoroughly’ the constitutional provisions for the parliamentary proceedings about the Bill, and the need to anticipate consequences such as constitutional challenges. The Standing Orders of the Parliament should not take precedence over the Constitution; Independence must mean respect for the Rule of Law and the People!

# GRENADA’S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AFTER 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE! AN URGENT NEED TO SPICE UP AND SPREAD ECONOMIC GROWTH?



PROF. JUSTIN ROBINSON

## Introduction

On behalf of The UWI and the UWI Five Islands campus let me take this opportunity to wish the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique (Grenada) best wishes on the occasion of their 50th anniversary of independence. Grenada is my favourite Caribbean island and some of my favourite humans live there. I am taking the opportunity of the 50th anniversary of independence to provide a brief analysis of the economic performance of Grenada since independence. In the short space provided by a newspaper article I will focus on two economic variables, Gross Domestic Product per Capita and Growth in Real Gross Domestic Product. I am able to access an independent, credible and continuous

series of data from the World Bank for the period 1978 to 2023 for these variables and the analysis will be based on this time period which excludes the first four years of independence. Of course, economic growth, national and social development is a complicated issue and many other indicators and variables will matter for a more comprehensive analysis.

## Income & Wealth Since Independence

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total market value of all the goods and services a country produces in a period of time. It is meant to reflect the market value of goods and services produced in a country during a period of time and by extension the total amount of income earned in the

Table 1. Gross Domestic Product Per Capital 1978 – 2023 (US \$)

	1978	2023	% Change	\$ Change
Antigua and Barbuda	\$ 1,366	\$ 19,919	1358%	\$ 18,553
Dominica	\$ 788	\$ 8,351	959%	\$ 7,562
Grenada	\$ 921	\$ 9,689	951%	\$ 8,767
St. Kitts and Nevis	\$ 1,137	\$ 20,262	1682%	\$ 19,124
St. Lucia	\$ 1,400	\$ 13,030	830%	\$ 11,630
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	\$ 572	\$ 9,125	1493%	\$ 8,552
Source: World Development Indicators				

Table 2: Grenada’s Growth In Per Capita Income Across Decades

Time Period	Cumulative Real GDP Growth
1978 to 1987	113%
1988 to 1997	58%
1998 to 2007	63%
2008 to 2017	33%
2018 to 2023	10%

country during that period of time. When GDP is divided by the population we get GDP Per Capita which is the average income per person in Grenada for a period of time. Since 1978 Grenada has seen a massive explosion in GDP Per Capita from US \$912 in 1978 to \$9,689 in 2023 as shown in table 1. The figures imply that whereas in 1978 Grenadians had an average income of \$204 EC per month or \$2,448 EC a year, that has expanded to \$2,155 per month or \$25,860 EC per year by 2023, which represents a tremendous

improvement in material living standards. GDP Per capital is an average across the entire population and of course in reality many people in Grenada earn more than this and many earn less, but it gives us an average picture and we can track that average over time. We do not have any data on income distribution in Grenada which is extremely important in tracking economic progress because while average income can grow most of that growth can be within certain groups leaving a lot of the population

behind. An analysis of income distribution in Grenada sounds like a perfect research project for some Grenadian graduate students to undertake at the UWI Five Islands campus.

An analysis of the trends in GDP Per Capita in Grenada shows a massive surge in the immediate post-independence period and GDP per capita more than doubled during the 1978 to 1987 decade. However, it is clear that after this period the growth in GDP Per capita has been quite modest and

especially weak since 2008. Even though the growth rate would have been affected by the mathematical fact that GDP would then be growing from a larger base, the 33% increase in the decade 2008 to 2017 is most anemic compared to the 113% growth in the decade 1978 to 1987 (see table 2). In addition to the slowing growth, Grenada’s improvement in GDP Per Capita since independence lags behind a number of its Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) counterparts as shown in table 1. To further delve into the factors behind the trends in GDP Per capita we turn our focus to the growth in GDP itself.

A country’s GDP Per Capita as mentioned earlier is its GDP divided by its population. Grenada’s population has been relatively stable over the years since independence therefore the trends in Per Capita GDP are largely driven by the growth in GDP, therefore we now shift to focus on the growth in Real GDP. Real GDP is where GDP is adjusted to remove the effects of inflation. As seen in table 3 economic growth in Grenada averaged 3.06% per year

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# GRENADA NATIONAL SYMBOLS



## The Coat of Arms

The Coat-of-Arms comprises:

- The Livery Coat or Colour on a Shield
- Charges or Devices on the Shield
- The Helm of special design
- The Mantle which covers the Helm
- The Wreath to hold the Mantle in place
- The Crest
- Supporters
- The Motto

## The National Anthem

Hail Grenada, land of ours  
We pledge ourselves to thee  
Heads, hearts and hands in unity  
To reach our destiny  
Ever conscious of God  
Being proud of our heritage  
May we with faith and courage  
Aspire, build, advance  
As one people, one family  
God bless our nation.

*Written by Irva Blackette Nee Baptiste  
Arranged by Louis Masanto*

## Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the country for which it stands, with Liberty, Justice and Equality for all. I pledge also that I shall defend and uphold the Honour, Dignity and Laws and Institutions of my country.

## The National Flag

The Coat-of-Arms comprises:  
The significance of the components on the Flag:

- Red: represents the fervour of the people, their courage and vitality - their burning aspiration to be free. The red border is indicative of their dedication to preserve harmony and unity of spirit.
- Gold: the colour representative of wisdom also holds significance for Grenadians - a representation of the sun, their islands in the sun, the warmth and friendliness to their people.
- Green: symbolises the fertility of the land, the lush vegetation and the island's agriculture.
- The Seven Gold Stars: represents the seven parishes and the hopes and aspirations and ideas upon which the nation was founded.
- The Nutmeg: represents the reputation as the Isle of Spice and its traditional link with the economy.

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# 50 Years of Independence

“Honour and learn from the lessons of the past”

By Lincoln DePradine

Grenadians may curse off one another over personal disputes. They – leaders included – often engage in verbal political “planassing”.

But, when it comes to love of nation – the Tri-island State of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite – Grenadians quickly close ranks to defend their nation's name against any real or perceived external attacks. And Grenadians, at home and abroad, are unabashed about displaying patriotic pride by fashioning themselves in clothing bearing the red, green and gold national colours, with the nutmeg and stars that are emblems on the state flag.

A sense of heightened pride has been visible ever since the October 2023 official launch of activities commemorating the 50th anniversary of Grenada's political independence from Britain.

In Grenada, as well as in

Diaspora communities where Grenadians and the children of Grenadian parents reside, there have been numerous activities. They have included cultural events, panel discussions and education symposia, and religious services.

Radio and television programs, and social media platforms, have been replete with discussions of Grenada and its current jubilee celebrations.

Topics have included the constitution and the need to change – or not change – one aspect or another, after 50 years of independence.

After a half century of nationhood, many – alive and deceased – clearly contributed immensely to Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique and to nation building. But, who are the worthy recipients, in this jubilee year, to be so designated as National Heroes? The question is being asked.

The road to independence, and the person under

whose leadership independence was attained, also have been hotly debated.

Eric Matthew Gairy had dominated Grenada's politics since 1951. For most of the period, the Herbert Blaize-led Grenada National Party was hardly a match for Mr Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP).

Beginning in the 1970s, Mr Gairy faced a more formidable challenge from a rising local radical student movement and from Grenadians who were returning home from university studies abroad. Mr Gairy's response was neither mild nor kind, in many instances.

He was accused of using police to beat and arrest opponents, who had joined forces as the New Jewel Movement.

Allegations of abuse were also levelled at the so-called “Mongoose Gang”, diehard supporters of Mr Gairy and the GULP.

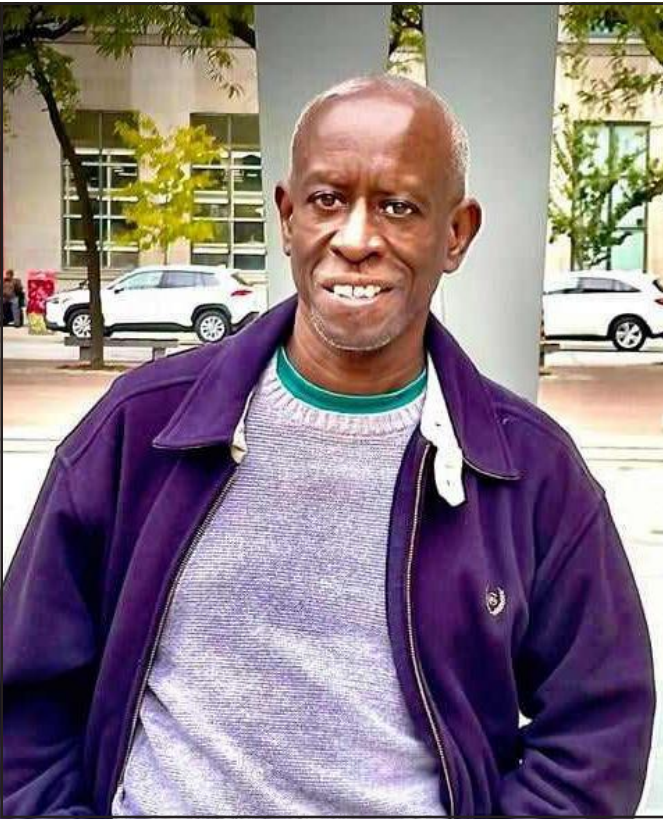
The allegations sparked

public protests and street marches, and also a national strike that shut down commerce on the island, including closure of the St George's Port.

One of the marches, on Monday, January 21, 1974, was forcefully broken up on the Carenage by GULP supporters and Rupert Bishop – father of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop – was shot and killed. It was said to be a policeman's bullet. January 21 is now referred to as, “Bloody Monday”.

Grenada was scheduled to move from Associated Statehood to Independence on February 7, 1974. And, the country did so. But, the national strike was still in effect and the new red, green and gold flag of our independent nation was hoisted under makeshift light.

However, for several years since then and following the death of Mr Gairy on August 23, 1997 at age 75, many have shown a willingness to take a fresh look at the former



LINCOLN DEPRADINE

prime minister, who now is affectionately called, “The Father of Independence”.

Not only are Mr Gairy's foibles now being highlighted. But, he also is being given credit for programs that helped the poor, working class of Grenada; and, too, for initiatives such as negotiating to have the offshore American Medical School set up in Grenada. The school now is the world-renowned St George's University, one of the nation's largest employers and one of the biggest revenue earners.

As part of the jubilee, a government-sponsored billboard of Mr Gairy has been unveiled in St Andrew and his name is often mentioned in speeches on this year's commemoration of independence, whose

theme is, “One Journey, One People, One Future”.

“I would insist we ought to recognize Gairy,” Gerry Hopkin, Grenada's Consul General in Toronto, said at an independence anniversary religious service in the Canadian city.

The February 4 “Interfaith Thanksgiving Service” is one of the commemorative events in Ontario put on by the Grenada Independence Planning Committee, the Grenada Association in Toronto and the consulate general.

Other events include the raising of the Grenada flag at Toronto's city hall. The flag also will be illuminated at Niagara Falls on February 7.

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# DIVISION AT INCEPTION, THE GRENADA CONSTITUTION & POSSIBILITIES FOR REFORM

By Joseph Ewart Layne

The 7th day of February 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of Grenada's independence. The Golden Jubilee celebration was launched in a national event on the Carenage on 31st October 2023. The sum of fifteen million dollars has been budgeted for the celebrations. Scores of Grenadians from the diaspora are returning home for the event. The country is united behind the theme "One People, One Journey, One Future".

The present show of national unity is in sharp contrast to what existed 50 years ago. Ironically the Carenage, where the Golden Jubilee celebration was launched, was the area where mass demonstrations protesting Grenada's ascension to independence under Sir Eric Gairy were staged over a two-month period after "Bloody Sunday", 18th November 1973. The demonstrations finally ended on January 21st, 1974, Bloody Monday. On that fateful day, members of the "Mongoose Gang" and "Secret Police" were sent in by Gairy to put down the mass protest. The assault on the massive demonstration,

by some estimates numbering over 20,000, resulted in the death of Rupert Bishop and injury to scores of people including school children. Following the breakup of the demonstration there was widespread looting. Businesses owned by people considered to be opposed to Gairy were targeted.

Though the demonstrations were suppressed, a general strike which by then was ongoing continued until after 7th February 1974 with the result that the pre-independence flag was lowered, and the independence flag was hoisted in darkness.

The protests did not prevent Grenada's ascension to independence but the circumstances in which Grenada obtained independence left a heavy hand on the independence constitution the effect of which we are still feeling 50 years later.

The heavy hand of 1973-74

Grenada was the first of the small island states which now make up the OECS to obtain independence. Before Grenada, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago (1962), Barbados and Guyana (1966)

and Bahamas (1973) obtained independence.

Upon attaining independence all the countries obtained a constitution which was negotiated by the various interest groups represented by the governing and opposition parties and drafted by British legal draftsmen.

In Grenada's case the negotiations were finalized in the Marlborough Conference which took place between 14th and 18th May 1973. The Order in Council granting Independence is dated 19th December 1973. The Constitution was attached to the Executive Order as a Schedule to it and came into effect on 7th February 1974.

One of the significant features of Grenada's Constitution is that unlike the constitutions of the five English Speaking Caribbean islands which preceded it, it contains "deeply referendum entrenched clauses" i.e. clauses which require the approval of a super majority, two-thirds of the voters in referendum to alter them. None of the constitutions which preceded Grenada has such a clause. In the case of Jamaica, the first of the English-speaking Caribbean states to

attain independence, some clauses require the approval of a simple majority (50% plus one) in a referendum to be altered. Special majorities in Parliament are required to alter certain clauses in the constitutions of the other four. But no referendum is required.

The Grenada Constitution is the result of a set of complex factors including the opposition to, concerns about and fears of Britain conferring independence on Grenada with Eric Gairy at the helm. As recorded in the relevant British Hansard, in taking the decision to confer independence on Grenada and in determining the contents of the constitution for the future governing of Grenada, Britain considered not only what was said at the Conference but all the information available to it then.

By the time of the Constitutional Conference the political temperature in Grenada was rising. The NJM which would be in the forefront of the mass demonstrations in 1973-1974 was formed on 11th March 1973. At the time of the Conference the opposition produced a petition to the British Government



JOSEPH EWART LAYNE

expressing fears and concerns about Grenada proceeding to independence with Eric Gairy at the helm. That petition contained close to 20,000 signatures.

During the period that the independence constitution was being negotiated, widespread protest against Gairy was ongoing. The protest was motivated by fear that Gairy would abuse power if the oversight of the British was removed; that he would use the coercive power of the state to oppress his opponents, take their property, deprive them of pensions, steal elections and hold onto power by undemocratic means.

The referendum clause was therefore a direct result of the mass protest and widespread opposition

to Grenada going into independence with Eric Gairy at the helm. The referendum clause was seen as one of the checks and balances on the plentitude of power being handed over to Eric Gairy without oversight of the colonial master.

Republicanism & the heavy hand of 1973-74

Today, we are a united people as far as the issue of independence is concerned. The independence issue has been settled. We are One People on that issue. At this juncture of our history, sections of Grenadians are raising issues such as republicanism, of removing the monarch as the head of state.

Thus far in the

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

# GRENADA NATIONAL SYMBOLS

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## National Bird: The Grenada Dove

The Grenada Dove is found only on Grenada. Known originally as the Pea Dove or Well's Dove, it is the National Bird of Grenada. It is considered to be one of the most critically endangered doves in the world. The Dove is sometimes sighted in various locations around Grenada, but one can definitely find them at the bird sanctuary at Mt, Hartman, St. George's.



## National Dish: Oil Down

The favourite dish of Grenadians, the oil down is widely cooked on festive occasions such as, independence anniversary, easter and carnival. It is also cooked on occasions at beach side and river side picnics; office fetes, roadside fetes and small parties.



## National Flower: Bougainvillea

Grenada's national flower is the Bougainvillea (Nyctaginaceae), a genus of woody climbers. Bougainvilleas are widely-grown and popular tropical vines whose main attractions are very colorful bracts or leaves. Bougainvilleas can be found in a variety of pretty, bright colours such as pink, red, white, orange, lilac and orange.



# GRENADA’S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AFTER 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE!

## AN URGENT NEED TO SPICE UP AND SPREAD ECONOMIC GROWTH?

Table 3. Annual Growth Rate In Real GDP ECCU (%)

	Ant & B	Dom	Gre	SKN	SLU	SVG
Annual Average	3.64	2.31	3.06	3.79	3.33	3.19
Max Annual	12.71	13.38	13.28	11.18	11.18	14.07
Min Annual	-17.50	-18.36	-13.76	-14.53	-24.37	-4.47
Cumulative (1978 to 2023)	167.63	106.34	140.73	174.20	153.01	146.53
# of Recessions	9	11	10	7	9	5
GDP Losses From Recessions	-48.87	-50.85	-32.05	-25.60	-36.69	-11.44

Table 4. Grenada Cumulative Real GDP Growth by Decade

1978 to 1987	45.54
1988 to 1997	22.60
1998 to 2007	49.17
2008 to 2017	17.75
2018 to 2023	5.67

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over the 1978 to 2023, which is the second lowest among the major economies in the ECCU. Over the 46 year period the economy grew by a combined 140%, again the second lowest among the major economies in the ECCU. The 1978 to 1987 and 1998 to 2007 stand out as two periods of strong and sustained growth in Grenada since independence and account for 67.2% of the growth achieved between 1978 and 2023 over the last 50 years (see table 3).

Over the 1978 to 2023 time period Grenada experienced

10 recessions (years of negative GDP growth) which was the second largest number of recessions among the major economies in the ECCU. Economic recessions in Grenada have tended to be associated with hurricanes or external shocks such as the Gulf War (1991), September 11 terrorist attacks (2001), Sub-prime Mortgage Crisis (2008/2009) and the Covid 19 pandemic (2020) (please see table 5 for details). However, with the exception of the recession following the 2008 global financial crisis and the Covid 19 pandemic, recessions in

Grenada have tended to be short and mild.

The major challenge for Grenada appears to be the relatively modest levels of growth achieved in non-recession years and the vulnerability to external shocks which then reverse the moderate gains made in the non-recession years. The factors behind Grenada’s relatively weak economic growth in non-recession years (compared to other major ECCU economies) and weak growth since 2008 despite its many assets, need to be researched and form the basis for

Table 5. Annual Growth Rate in Real GDP

Year	Real GDP Growth	Year	Real GDP Growth	Year	Real GDP Growth
1978	5.34	1993	-1.96	2008	0.95
1979	5.60	1994	1.69	2009	-6.61
1980	-0.53	1995	2.13	2010	-0.51
1981	1.53	1996	4.44	2011	0.76
1982	4.12	1997	5.02	2012	-1.15
1983	3.63	1998	11.75	2013	2.35
1984	3.57	1999	6.90	2014	7.34
1985	5.98	2000	4.89	2015	6.45
1986	7.19	2001	-2.02	2016	3.74
1987	9.10	2002	3.44	2017	4.44
1988	2.97	2003	9.46	2018	4.36
1989	3.77	2004	-0.65	2019	0.68
1990	4.01	2005	13.28	2020	-13.76
1991	1.39	2006	-4.00	2021	4.69
1992	-0.85	2007	6.12	2022	5.80
				2023	3.90

future policy initiatives (again this seems like a perfect project for some bright graduate students from Grenada to undertake at the UWI Five Islands campus). The evidence may also suggest an urgent need to find new avenues to “spice up” GDP Per Capita as the current model appears to have stalled, unable to create significant new wealth and facilitate catching up with other major ECCU economies.

### Policy Challenges Next Fifty Years

Firstly, Grenada needs to invest in building up policy buffers especially in the form of a Debt to GDP Ratio of 60% to minimize the negative effects of the inevitable external shocks. Secondly, policy makers need to focus on improving the ease of doing business, the efficiency of public services, improving physical and human capital and removing obstacles in the way of the entrepreneurs and investors who can identify and execute the new growth opportunities needed

to “spice up” the rate of economic growth and to build up reserves for the inevitable bad years from hurricanes and/or external shocks. Thirdly, in pursuing new growth opportunities policymakers should prioritize inclusive growth opportunities so that new wealth is generated that is spread across a broad cross section of the society.

Prof. C. Justin Robinson (Professor of Finance and Principal, UWI Five Islands Campus, Antigua & Barbuda)

# QUIT TALKING, START ACTING

By Richard Simon

With just two weeks to go before Grenada celebrates its 50th anniversary of independence a leading voice in the island’s Ministry of Agriculture has admonished industry leaders to “quit talking and let us start acting.”

Administrative Executive in the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Marine Resources, Gemma Bain-Thomas closed her presentation to the Ministry’s National Agricultural Investment Symposium (AGRIVEST) held at the Radisson Grenada Beach Hotel on Wednesday, 24th January challenging representatives from government, private sector, the scientific community and non-governmental agencies to work together to reinvent the sector which has traditionally played a pivotal role in the island’s economic development.

Thomas recounted the government commitment to food and nutritional security on the heels of recent statistics which indicated that the sector’s contribution to Grenada’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell to just 4.32% (US \$49.66M) in 2022, the lowest contribution

to GDP in the past 10 years, although the value has increased due mainly to increases in the price for certain commodities on the world market.

The one day event brought together farmers, agro-processors, suppliers, banks and other financial institutions, and technocrats from government, the private sector, including local and regional exporters under the theme, “Reimagining Agriculture Sustainability: towards enhanced production, food and nutrition security and economic development.”

Participants called on the banking community to rethink their lending policies to support the development and growth of the agricultural sector, noting that the lack of financing is a “significant barrier” to the expansion of an industry that has the capability to “improve the living standards of individuals and their households in Grenada,” particularly the rural communities.

Dr. Stephen Fletcher, a former Ambassador to the European Union and current head of the islands Climate Smart Agriculture & Rural Enterprise Programme –SAEP, noted that one

of the island’s leading banking institutions was birthed out of the “hey days” of Grenada’s agriculture success when Nutmegs, Banana and Cocoa were at the

center of Grenada trade. “We need to look at a financial architecture that move the financing of agriculture from an average of three

to 5% by financial institutions in this country who built their wealth on farmers and farming,” he said in what appeared to be a reference to the


Grenada Cooperative Bank whose foundation was built on a cooperative base.

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May we with faith  
and courage aspire,  
build, advance as **one people**.....

To the People and Government of Grenada, Carriacou & Petite Martinique,  
from the Management & Staff of **Aviation Services of Grenada Ltd.**



**Happy 50th Independence!**



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# DIVISION AT INCEPTION, THE GRENADA CONSTITUTION & POSSIBILITIES FOR REFORM

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 08

English-speaking Caribbean, Trinidad, Guyana, Barbados and Dominica have removed the British monarch, and they have a national referred to as the “President” as head of state.

Such a move in Grenada would on the face of it face the insurmountable obstacle of the super majority referendum requirement.

Section 19 of the Constitution is the section that recognizes His Majesty as the Head of State. That is one of the sections of the Constitution that requires the support of two-thirds of the voters in a referendum to be altered.

Our recent experience with referenda does not hold out much room for hope. Gairy at the height of his popularity obtained less than 60% of the votes in the 1972 elections. NNP swept the polls in Grenada on three occasions yet never obtained more than 62.47% of the votes. In recent times we have seen two referenda fail, falling woefully short of the required two-thirds on each and every issue put before the population. One can reasonably say that it is improbable that the super majority support is obtainable for

a move away from the monarchy to a republic.

**No heavy hand on the Supreme Law Clause: was it a slip of the pen?**

However, in my humble opinion, while on the face of the Constitution, the support of a super majority in a referendum is required to abolish the monarch as head of state, on deeper analysis, it is at least arguable that the Constitution itself provides an avenue to proceed to make such alteration without the restriction of the super majority in a referendum.

What is my reason for saying so? Section 106 of the Grenada Constitution declares the Constitution to be the supreme law of Grenada and states that any law which is inconsistent with any provision of the Constitution is to that extent void. Section 106 therefore sets out the scope and extent of the supremacy of the Constitution.

However, interestingly, section 106 is not one of the sections of the Constitution that requires a referendum to alter it. All that is required to alter section 106 of the Constitution is the support of a

special majority (two-thirds) in Parliament. This contrast starkly with the Jamaica Constitution where section 2, the Supreme law section of the Jamaica Constitution, is referendum entrenched and requires the approval of a majority of those voting in a referendum if it is to be altered.

**“The independence agreement”**

In Hinds v. The Queen (1975), one of the first of several seminal cases interpreting Caribbean constitutions, the Privy Council opined that the constitution “embody what is in substance an agreement reached between the representatives of the various shades of political opinion in the state as to the structure of the organs of government through which the plenitude of the sovereign power of the state is to be exercised in the future.”

In this context an alternative way of viewing the omission of section 106 from the referendum entrenchment requirement is to see it as part of the “independence agreement” including the following:

- a. The immediate

granting of independence despite the country being in turmoil with tens of thousands of people in the streets protesting the ascension to independence under Eric Gairy.

- b. A constitution heavily laden with referendum entrenched provisions requiring a super majority (two-thirds approval) to be altered.
- c. A ‘loophole’ (non-referendum entrenchment of the supreme law clause) that could be used by future generations to effect wholesale change operating from within the ambits of the very constitution.

**Possibilities for fundamental change**

It is my humble submission that the non-referendum entrenchment status of section 106 of the Constitution offers great possibilities with regard to constitutional reform. It could be a gateway for repatriation of the constitution; for replacing the constitution handed to us by the British Government in 1974, as an appendix

to the executive order conferring independence, by a constitution coming out of the bowels of our people and approved by Grenadians in a referendum requiring the support of a majority.

If the Grenadian people approve, such a constitution could include among other things:

- a. The abolition of the monarchy;
- b. Replacement of the Privy Council by the Caribbean Court of Justice as Grenada’s final court.
- c. Renaming the Supreme Court from “Supreme Court of Grenada and the West Indies Associated States” to “Easter Caribbean Supreme Court”.
- d. Renaming the State of Grenada from simply “Grenada” to “Grenada Carriacou and Petit Martinique”; and
- e. A clause declaring the new Constitution to be the supreme law of Grenada and requiring support of a majority in a referendum to alter the supremacy clause.

**Heavy hand by implication**

The obvious argument against the submission that the supremacy clause can be altered in the manner suggest here, to achieve the results suggested herein, is that despite the fact that the supremacy clause on its face is not referendum entrenched, it is entrenched by necessary implication; and any change to it that alters any of the referendum entrenched clauses must be supported by a referendum.

Let’s debate. Let’s have serious and constructive discussions towards constitutional reform to determine how we want to see our country governed over the next 50 years.

*Joseph Ewart Layne is the holder of three law degrees including a Master of Laws Degree in Legislative Drafting from UWI. He is also the holder of the Legal Education Certificate with Merit from Hugh Wooding Law School.*

*He holds a BSc. (First Class Honours) in Applied Accounting from Oxford Brookes University and is a member of the ACCA.*

# 50 Years Of Growing Together



What does independence mean to you?

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# THE ONGOING STRUGGLE TO REPLACE DARKNESS WITH GLORY

By Leon Cornwall

Shrouded in Darkness

Fifty years ago, the tri-colored Independence flag, symbolically marking Grenada as an independent nation, was raised under the shroud of darkness. Undoubtedly, this was very strange! Why darkness?

The casual observer unwilling to probe deeply would have concluded that the darkness was indicative of a lack of electricity in St. George’s. And certainly, our casual observer would have been correct. ‘Light had gone,’ as we would say in our Grenadian parlance. But was this all there was to that? Light had not gone only in St. George’s. It was all over Grenada. Darkness covered the land!

A deeper probe into this phenomenon would have revealed that this darkness was due to the strike action of electricity workers as part of the general strike that was ongoing. The workers of the nation had shut things down. There was widespread protest leading up to Independence. Grenada was a nation divided and in conflict, emerging on 7th February 1974 to take its independent stance in a world itself divided and in conflict. Had there been an Isaiah living amongst us, we might have heard these words: “For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people” (Isaiah 60: 2, NKJV). But there was no such prophetic voice in our midst.

An Autobiographical Digression

As a young man from Laborie, I was born into a poor Gairyite family. My mother was a roadworker, who was derogatively labelled a “travaux,” as she travelled

at the back of a big yellow-painted PWD truck. She sacrificed herself with a dream in her head that her children would not repeat the life of hardship she had lived. She gave everything she could so her only son, namely myself, would get the best education possible and so escape the trap of poverty. Needless to say, she did not sufficiently understand the cause of poverty. However, she felt that this man, whom she and others affectionately referred to as “Uncle Gairy,” would lead them, as Moses did, out of the slavery of poverty. I recall, as a boy, hearing the song that my mother’s generation would boisterously sing: “We will never let our leader fall, because we love him the best of all.” Certainly, they loved Eric Matthew Gairy. He had led a widespread strike in 1951, calling for a better life for the poorest of Grenadians, thereby igniting the imagination of ordinary Grenadians, giving them hope and causing them to dream for a better life, if not for themselves but at least for their children and grandchildren.

I recall seeing and hearing Miss Gertude limping through Laborie telling people “We making two bus-loads on Sunday because Uncle coming back.” And there I was, a little boy, sitting with my mother on Mr. Claude’s bus amongst militant looking heavyset women who were excitedly talking about (1) the admirable virtues of Uncle Gairy and (2) how bad those GNP people were, for they had removed such a good man from power. Occasionally, the women would burst into singing the militant Party song and some gospel choruses.

My mother would repeatedly tell me “Uncle Gairy is for we poor people; therefore,

you must learn your school lessons well and raise your mother’s nose.” But at the GBSS where I attended school, I got a different picture of Uncle Gairy. My best friend, Howard, and I would argue. Howard was what we would call “Grenadian white”. His family lived in an estate house in Laborie. Despite the vast difference in social and economic status, Howard was very good to me. Never once did I detect a hint of prejudice from him towards me. I ate at his family table and drove in the family car. But he and I had different views about Uncle Gairy. My mother had a simple way of explaining the difference. She would say, “Howard and his family are very nice people. I like them. But they are GNP and their bread butter already. He is your good friend. But boy study your head.”

Throughout my years as a GBSS student, I showed no interest in politics or in the budding student and Black Power movements. I was the happy-go-lucky type getting good grades in my schoolwork, although I was not studying as hard as my mother might have wanted. My apolitical attitude remained even when I was a teacher at the GBSS until one day in January 1974 I was drawn into one of the demonstrations proceeding along Tanteen and into Lowther’s Lane. From that day there was no turning back, for I liked the feel of it and it became easy for me to shout with others “G – O! Go! Gairy must go!” I began marching all over Grenada. And before I knew it, I was standing in St. Paul’s on 21st January 1974 with Hudson Austin and others. I had two big stones in my hands ready to charge the bus-load of Secret Police who had smashed the demonstration on the Carenage, looted the Town



LEON CORNWALL

and were jubilantly singing on their way home. But a hail of bullets from the regular police scattered us in multiple directions. However, on that day, the birth of my radical political awareness occurred. I was then very active in the Methodist Church as a youth leader and that new awareness impacted my understanding of the Bible, radicalizing it along Liberation Theology lines.

The NJM: The Organizational Expression of Awakening Consciousness

I made that autobiographical digression because I think that my own journey of political awakening would not be too dissimilar to the political awakening of countless Grenadian youths during the Seventies. The radical political awakening was a worldwide phenomenon, impacting every aspect of human existence. With the political awakening of the Grenadian youths and students through the route of black consciousness (Rastafarianism and Black Power) and unto socialist awareness – with that, the anti-Gairy struggle was intensified. The New JEWEL Movement (NJM) emerged

out of that maelstrom of developing consciousness of the youthful population. The clarion call of NJM was “Not Just Another Society but A New and Just Society.”

The intention of NJM was clear, namely the transformation of the socio-political and economic life of Grenada. Gairy stood in the way of that. Hence the struggle took the form of anti-Gairyism. To the NJM, Gairyism was one-man dictatorial rule. Thus, NJM came with a brand of collective leadership, highlighting joint leadership between Maurice and Unison while advocating that these two leaders were first amongst equals.

To the NJM, Gairy was a lackey of the colonial and imperial powers. And this warranted his removal from power, even though in 1951 the thrust of Gairy’s struggles against the local plantocracy amounted to being anti-colonial. This, I daresay, could be seen as a sign of the cruel twist of history. In 1951, Gairy led a general strike and he was hunted down by the ruling powers of the day. With the emergence of NJM in 1973, Gairy came under siege, faced

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# CDB’S SHETRADES CARIBBEAN REGIONAL HUB SUPPORTS WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AT LEADING INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR



(Bridgetown) - Across the world, female entrepreneurs often encounter a slew of challenges, and the Caribbean is no different. Women in the region seeking to launch or expand businesses are tackling numerous issues like limited access to money, assets, mentoring and networking, expensive funding options, and a lack of business knowledge.

Despite the constraints, multilateral organisations continually cite women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) as proven drivers of both economic growth and poverty reduction. Gender balance in business diversifies the landscape which contributes to economic resilience and enriches local markets. Consequently, addressing gender-specific

barriers to market entry and business expansion is a high priority for the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

To more effectively respond to the needs of this diverse target group, CDB joined forces with the International Trade Centre to establish the SheTrades Caribbean Regional Hub. The primary objective of the Hub is to enhance market access for businesses led or owned by women by providing training and support in obtaining finance and seizing market opportunities.

Among the early beneficiaries is Ms. Nydia Norville, owner and operator of Choiseille, an all-natural, skincare and wellness business that creates products inspired by Caribbean botanicals for export.

By joining SheTrades Caribbean, the Saint Lucian businesswoman is accessing training to improve her company and learning how to better navigate the export space. She can also tap into a network of global women entrepreneurs to access guidance and support to overcome the hurdles she may encounter as a small start-up in a developing economy.

“The regional hub has provided meaningful and tangible support for my personal and professional growth as a Caribbean woman in business. I am availing myself of the many unique, enriching and specialised opportunities accessible through SheTrades.” Nydia Norville stated.

Since the launch in 2023, women in all CDB’s 19 Borrowing Member Countries have joined SheTrades Caribbean. Sectors seeing strong uptake include the Cultural and Creative Industries, Agriculture and Agro Processing, and Tourism.

Given the importance of women-led small businesses in achieving sustainable and equitable economic growth, CDB is aiming to support over 2,000 such enterprises through the regional SheTrades hub by 2025. The ultimate goal is to create a pathway for more Caribbean women to move from local markets to global trade.

“On a whole, stronger Caribbean businesses with more exports can

shore up our economies but empowering women in business increases employment and economic activity, reduces familial poverty, and improves standards of living all of which contribute to more stable, balanced societies and economies,” CDB’s Director of Projects, Mrs. Therese Turner-Jones explained.

“Our SheTrades Caribbean Hub is connecting women entrepreneurs in the Caribbean with global markets and increasing business opportunities which will strengthen trade networks throughout the region and create more resilient economies,” she added. “This is why we are increasingly targeting investment in the business sector.”



# QUIT TALKING, START ACTING

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 11

“When I walk down church street and I turn the corner to the right, I smell a lot of cocoa, I smell nutmeg and I smell less and less bananas.....these banks and institutions that exist in those areas make their wealth from farming from nutmeg and cocoa”, Dr. Fletcher said.

He noted that the food component of Grenada’s food exports amounted to 1.5M while importing 16.1M in agricultural food products.

He called for a review of the relevance of the current financial models used by the Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association (GCNA), the Grenada Cocoa Association (GCA) and the Marketing and National Importing Board (MNIB) tracing the history of the GCNA and GCA back to the 1940’s and 1970’s in the case of the MNIB.

“These institutions have not met expectations in recent years,” he declared while acknowledging that both the Cocoa and nutmeg associations have been responsible for moving close to \$2.0 billion into the national economy since their formation, having paid our close to 85% of their income to farmers during the period.

“That was good, but

it left a fundamental gap in future financing which is what they suffer from today,” he warned, noting that the farmers organizations are forced to rely on the public purse during periods of limited funds to pay the anticipated surplus or bonus to farmers.

To illustrate his position, Dr. Fletcher pointed to the GCA, which he said in the last 5 years grossed over EC \$30M but only realize a profit in 2019.

With just two weeks to go before Grenada celebrates its 50th anniversary of independence a leading voice in the island’s Ministry of Agriculture has admonished industry leaders to “quit talking and let us start acting.”

Administrative Executive in the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Marine Resources, Gemma Bain-Thomas closed her presentation to the Ministry’s National Agricultural Investment Symposium (AGRIVEST) held at the Radisson Grenada Beach Hotel on Wednesday, 24th January challenging representatives from government, private sector, the scientific community and non-governmental agencies to work together to

reinvent the sector which has traditionally played a pivotal role in the island’s economic development.

Thomas recounted the government commitment to food and nutritional security on the heels of recent statistics which indicated that the sector’s contribution to Grenada’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell to just 4.32% (US \$49.66M) in 2022, the lowest contribution to GDP in the past 10 years, although the value has increased due mainly to increases in the price for certain commodities on the world market.

The one day event brought together farmers, agro-processors, suppliers, banks and other financial institutions, and technocrats from government, the private sector, including local and regional exporters under the theme, “Reimagining Agriculture Sustainability: towards enhanced production, food and nutrition security and economic development.”

Participants called on the banking community to rethink their lending policies to support the development and growth of the agricultural sector, noting that the lack

of financing is a “significant barrier” to the expansion of an industry that has the capability to “improve the living standards of individuals and their households in Grenada,” particularly the rural communities.

Dr. Stephen Fletcher, a former Ambassador to the European Union and current head of the islands Climate Smart Agriculture & Rural Enterprise Programme –SAEP, noted that one of the island’s leading banking institutions was birthed out of the “hey days” of Grenada’s agriculture success when Nutmegs, Banana and Cocoa were at the center of Grenada trade.

“We need to look at a financial architecture that move the financing of agriculture from an average of three to 5% by financial institutions in this country who built their wealth on farmers and farming,” he said in what appeared to be a reference to the Grenada Cooperative Bank whose foundation was built on a cooperative base.

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to pay the anticipated surplus or bonus to farmers.

To illustrate his position, Dr. Fletcher pointed to the GCA, which he said in the last 5 years grossed over EC \$30M but only realize a profit in 2019.

Additionally, he called for an examination into the effectiveness of the current structure, policies, programs, initiatives and human capacity support offered by the Ministry of Agriculture to the sub sector. He recommended the SAEP framework as a possible tool in the reimagined agriculture given its inclusion of “all of the main instruments” needed to achieve a reformed sector to meet the needs of the changing environment.

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# INCREASED PRODUCTION WILL IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL PERFORMANCE: EXPORTERS

By Richard Simon

Grenada must take advantage of its current status as “the only island country in the Hemisphere that can export fresh soursop to the United States”.

The call was made by Carlon Mohammed of the Trinidad and Tobago firm, FOB Miami, an export/import/ distribution company, as he addressed the island’s National Agriculture Investment Symposium (AGRIVEST) at the Crown Ballroom at the Radisson Grenada Beach Resort in Grand Anse.

“Grenada, you have been blessed with certain things. You are blessed with geographic location, with fertile soil and leadership,” he told the meeting, as he encouraged participants to examine the imports of agricultural produce across regional countries to identify opportunities that Grenada can fill.

He pointed out that Trinidad and Tobago alone imports 33,000 pounds of cabbage from Costa Rica in one month to satisfy its school feeding program, an area that Grenada has the capability to meet if properly managed. Mohammed committed his company to work with Grenada to expand



the reach of the island’s exports into major cities in the United States and in Europe.

He was one of four presenters who looked at Strengthening Grenada’s competitiveness in Agriculture. The others were Nick Bernal, the Chief Executive Officer of Seasons Farm Fresh Inc. who exports mangoes, soursop and fish into the United States. Lindon Aldridge representing the Grenada Exporters Association and James Ince, the General Manager of Spice Isle Fish House (SIFH), a leading exporter of fresh fish and a private/ public partnership with government.

Bernal told the meeting that his company recognizes that the demand for mangoes in the middle states of the United States continues to expand with 63% growth in the last 10 years. He noted that in 2022, the United States imported 575,000 tons (28000 – 20’ containers) of mangoes at a value of 600M wholesale.

He called for intentional steps to expand Grenada’s mango production including the establishment of orchards for the required varieties of fruit including Julie, Ceylon, Long and the Graham to meet the growing demand for “the most consumed fruit in the world.”



He noted that Grenada is in a good position to focus on the development of the sub-sector since the island’s ability to ship mangoes to the United States was reinstated recently after a 20 year ban said Grenada’s restatement

Among the issues affection the production of mangoes, Bernal cited the aging population of farmers, the logistics of accessing the fruit. “We have to work with the farmers to take better care of their crop because the US customer expects a high quality mango and is willing to pay the price,” he said, adding that mango is likely to follow the trend that set

by soursop in the last 15 years.

For his part, Aldridge made what one participant described as a “startling” statement when he told the AGRIVEST audience that Grenada is the only country “in the world” allowed to ship fresh soursop into the United states and is the country with the longest list (134 or more) of agricultural produce that can enter any port in the United States.

He disclosed that Grenada currently exports about 30,000 pounds of soursop per week into 7 of 50 US states.

“Even in those 7 states, *CONTINUES ON PAGE 22*

we are not meeting 15% of the demands,....so we are not producing enough soursop and when we increased production, we do not have enough air-freight, so we are very happy to see Mr. Mohammed and FOB Miami here,” Aldridge said noting that already the issue of increasing the supply of the commodity is being addressed.

He also pointed to security as another factor affecting the industry and encouraged farmers to and government officials to consider crop insurance to protect against natural disasters, as evidenced by the destruction of the nutmeg industry by Hurricane Ivan and the utilization of current technologies, including security cameras to help protect their produce.

For his part, Ince noted the importance of consistent policies from government regarding the agriculture and fishing sectors. “We don’t want massive changes every four years, you want to have continued planning that everyone buys into collectively, not just one government comes and another one goes,” he said.

He called for a



# CCJ PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR JUSTICE JACOB WIT (RET.)

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.** Representatives from around the region convened on Wednesday, 31st January 2024 at the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago for a Special Sitting, celebrating the life of one of its earliest sworn-in judges, the late Honourable Mr. Justice Jacob Wit. Mr Justice Wit retired from the Court in December 2023 and was buried in a private ceremony on 24 January 2024 in Curaçao.

Presided over by the CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders, the Special Sitting included remarks by judges, academics, and members of the CCJ staff. Justice Wit was described by many of his peers as a witty and kind judge who was genuinely concerned about justice, fairness, and humanity. In the same vein, Mr Justice Saunders reminisced on his friendship with Justice Wit, stating that since they both joined the CCJ in 2005, the years were some of the most joyous “thanks in large measure to Justice Wit’s keen intellect, his curious mind, his generosity of spirit, [and] his collegiality.”

Remarks from the Rt. Hon. Sir Dennis Byron, former CCJ President, were delivered by the Hon. the Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Justice Ivor Archie, ORTT were similarly affectionate. He remembers Justice Wit as “a perpetual student, a great intellect, [who] brought a fresh approach to problem-solving and finding just solutions in the resolution of disputes. He made great contributions



THE CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE, ALONG WITH CHIEF JUSTICE IVOR ARCHIE, JUDICIARY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND OTHER REGIONAL LUMINARIES, GATHERED TO COMMEMORATE THE LEGAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LATE HON. MR. JUSTICE JACOB WIT (RETIRED). MR. JUSTICE WIT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST JUDGES TO BE APPOINTED AT THE COURT AND SERVED THE CCJ FROM 2005-2023.

to the development of our Caribbean jurisprudence, including but not limited to, the land law of Guyana.”

In many of the other tributes throughout the event, Mr Justice Wit was lauded for his many contributions to the “multi-layered concept of the rule of law” particularly in the areas of civil law and constitutional interpretation. He was keenly interested in the granular workings of the judicial system and spent time visiting the prisons in every jurisdiction whenever the Court travelled. In his capacity as co-Chairman of the CCJ Academy for Law, Justice Wit delivered a

rousing lecture in Guyana on “Rethinking Criminal Justice”. The Hon. Mr Justice Winston Anderson confirmed that in *da Costa Hall v. The Queen*, Justice Wit “fathered the principle that time spent in custody before trial should count as time spent under the sentence imposed at trial” as convicted criminals were sentenced to prisons as punishment rather than for punishment.

Further warm sentiments were echoed by the Hon. Mme. Justice Lisa Shoman, General Counsel of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), who stated that when Mr. Justice Wit

was appointed in 2005 at the inception of the Court that he “not by birth, but by deliberate choice, conscientious action and deed, became in spirit and soul, a true son of our CARICOM sun and soil and we are both proud and privileged to claim him.”

Justice Geoffrey Henderson of the Trinidad and Tobago Judiciary also shared his fond memories, drawing from experiences both in Trinidad and Tobago and in The Netherlands as Justice Wit “brought to bear his distinctly blunt, direct, sometimes unsubtle, but most definitely, independent approach to his

work as a jurist and his ability to speak to issues.”

Additional submissions were made by the Honourable Justices of the CCJ Bench; Gizel Thomas-Roberts, CCJ Deputy Registrar and Marshal; Shaiesta Nabibaks, Lecturer, International Law, Anton de Kom University, Suriname; Donovan Walker, President, The Organization of the Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Associations; and the Hon Mr. Justice Mauritsz de Kort, President, The Joint Court of Justice of Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire, Saint Martin, Saba, and Saint Eustatius.

# 50 Years of Independence

“Honour and learn from the lessons of the past”



PRIME MINISTER HON. DICKON MITCHELL

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 07

“Showcase Grenada”, a cultural expo, also has been scheduled by organizers, who have announced that Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell and Andy Williams, Minister of Mobilization, Implementation and Transformation, will be visiting Toronto. They’ll be special guests at an independence gala on Saturday, February 10.

Hopkin, in his address at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, said that “turning 50 as a nation is a big deal”;

and that “independence is about much more than a day”.

February 7 “should also be properly seen as a day that marks an important milestone in a process which started long before that day and which continues to this day, and should be continued into the future by each of us as a people”, Hopkin said.

“Folks, I would insist that we ought to correctly recognize Sir Eric Matthew Gairy as The Father



CONSUL GENERAL GERRY HOPKIN (LEFT) & FATHER DEXTER BRERETON

of Independence. We should never forget his passionate advocacy for the rights of underpaid workers, as well as his resolute efforts which successfully resulted in the obtainment of independence from Britain.”

In the “process of nation building” and on the independence journey, credit also should be given to the Kalinagos – the first inhabitants of Grenada – as well to others such as the freedom-fighting enslaved Africans and current and former

leaders, including those who have served as prime minister.

Dickon Mitchell, the current prime minister, delivered a video message, urging Grenadians to honour and learn from the lessons of the past.

“We must honour the memories of those who paved the way for our freedom and acknowledge the responsibilities that come with it,” Prime Minister Mitchell said.

“As we reflect on

our journey, let us remember the forthrightness of Sir Eric Matthew Gairy and the role he played in raising the socio-political consciousness of the Grenadian people, from adult suffrage in 1951, to gaining our independence in 1974. Let us also remember the hard work and progress made by young people during the Grenadian Revolution and the achievements in the social and economic spheres that allowed Grenada to be a dynamic fierce in the 1980s.”

His government, the prime minister promised, “will continue to work towards a society where every citizen has the opportunity to thrive”.

“I encourage all of you, wherever you are, to envision the next 50 years as we aspire, build and advance as one people,” Prime Minister Mitchell said. “Let us, together, inspire a generation to shape the world in ways that our forefathers could only imagine. Hail Grenada, land of ours. Happy 50th independence.”

Trinidad-born clergyman, Father Dexter Brereton, delivering the sermon at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, reflected on divisions in Grenada and Caribbean societies fueled by political affiliations and the colours of political

parties.

He warned of the dangers of division, using lines from the calypso, “Ism and Scism”, which was sung by the late Black Stalin.

“It must be admitted that the problem of loving only those who belong to our tribe and hating those we consider evil, especially if they don’t wear the same jersey as we do, has been a problem that has bedeviled Caribbean politics for generations. When we speak about our beloved nation Grenada – one people, one journey, one future – do we really mean it? Who do we consider part of this one? Brereton asked.

“When we imagine Grenada’s future, do we leave room in our imagination for those who do not agree with us or think as we do?”

Grenada and Caribbean people cannot afford – either in “financial terms or in terms of their relationships – the “deep and abiding conflicts and turmoil” over politics and political ideology, “total war” and the idea that “we have to eliminate the other side”, cautioned Brereton.

“We cannot live like that; we have to find other ways to live,” he said. “We cannot be obsessed with winning every battle, politically and otherwise.”



# GRENADIANS MUST CONDEMN PARLIAMENT SPECIAL SITTING FOR GOLDEN JUBILEE

By J. K. Roberts (Sound Public Policies Advocate )

On 24 January 2024 the NOWGRENADA website publishes “MPs to celebrate 50th Independence with special joint sitting”. The article mentions about a notice from the Clerk of Parliament to the Members of Parliament (MPs) for a Special Joint Sitting of the Upper House (Senate) and of the Lower House (House of Representatives) of Parliament to be held on 06 February 2024 starting at 9:00am, in order to observe the fiftieth Anniversary of Grenada’s Independence; this being in accordance with Standing Order No. 10 of the Senate and Standing Order No. 12 of the House of Representatives. It should be instructive that particularly, Section 12 tends to provide the rationales or the circumstances for the Speaker of the House of Representatives to direct the Clerk to summon the Members for such a sitting of the House; that is, “when the House stands adjourned .... there is (‘an’) urgent necessity .... that the public interest so requires” for the House to meet earlier than the set date for its resumption, as is represented by a Minister of Government

or by more than half of the elected Members to the House of Representatives.

Is the reason cited for the Special Joint Sitting of the Senate and the House of Representatives, qualify under the two fundamental conditions which are specified in the Standing Order for the purpose of such sittings? What reasonable ‘natural and moral and legal’ interpretations will declare that there truly exists “urgent necessity” and / or “public interest” for the Special Joint Sitting, within the ‘holistic context’ of the celebrations of a milestone completion by a nation, such as the Golden Jubilee of Grenada? Has this Grenada’s milestone completion come as an ‘unexpected occasion with an emergency? Isn’t this obviously ‘ad hoc or spontaneous’ decision to summon the Members of Parliament for the Special Joint Sitting, at this time and manner, testify that there has not been any ‘meaningful interest and sound preparations’ on the part of the Government towards the Golden Jubilee? Should there be any excuses on the behalf of the 23 June 2022 Administration of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) for the ‘tardiness, naivety and / or failure’ about its

‘approach to and desire for’ the Celebrations, and thus for the Government to having this ‘afterthought’ about the Golden Jubilee and for the Special Joint Sitting?

The purported Order Paper for the Special Joint Sitting of the Senate and the House of Representatives, as the Second Session of the Eleventh Parliament, mainly consists of a Motion by the Honourable Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell. The “Motion for the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Grenada” is riveted on Grenada’s historic existence originating as Camahogne with regional indigenous prominence, which was later colonized by the Europeans after resistance by the indigenous peoples; with the French and the British battling for and twice exchanging ownership of Grenada, and under British rule it forms a part of the Federation of the West Indies and then was given Associated Statehood before gaining Political Independence on 07 February 1974 and becoming a member of the Commonwealth of Nations.

And with further considering that 07th February 2024 marks 50 years of

the Independence of Grenada from Colonial rule and that Both Houses of Parliament are desirous of marking this milestone, the Motion continues toward seeking a resolution thus : “NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT further endorsed at this Special Joint Sitting of the Houses of Parliament held at Mt. Wheldale, St. George, this 6th day of February 2024, is the sentiment of the motion of 11th December 1973 by the House of Commons of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, which read: “That the Grenada Termination of Association Order 1973, a draft of which was laid before this House on 22nd November, be approved.”, and which took effect on 7th February 1974; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Houses of Parliament of Grenada at this Joint Sitting records fervent independence wishes to all citizens of the State of Grenada.”

Does the ‘context and objective’ of Dickon Motion substantiate the imperative for the Special Joint Sitting of the Senate and the House of Representatives? What is the reasonable definition and / or interpretation of the “sentiment” of the endorsed Motion of 11 December 1973 in the

Parliament of the United Kingdom? What are the justifications and / or the necessities for the ‘further endorsement’ of this 1973 British Motion by the Grenada Parliament? What really is the significance, the form and the extent of Both Houses of Parliament “marking this milestone” of Grenada’s Independence; is it about ‘acknowledging and correcting’ a fault of the process at the time of hosting the Independence? Why is Dickon Motion limited to “The Grenada Termination of Association Order 1973”, but that it is silent about “The Grenada Constitution Order 1973”? How does the ‘sentiment’ of the 1973 British Motion relate to the letter, the contents and the applications of the Grenada Constitution Order 1973 / the 1974 Independence Constitution (Chapter 128A: Grenada Constitution Act)? Is it a requirement of the Grenada Parliament to ‘further endorse’ this 1973 British Motion before, or in order that, the “Council for Carriacou and Petit Martinique .... the principal organ of local government” there, can be constituted?

intention to patriate, or to reform the National Constitution, neither to produce a new Constitution ‘of the people, by the people and for the people’. Is it the consideration of Dickon’s NDC-administration that this Motion would suffice for the ‘worthy and justifiable’ aspirations of the Grenadian-people about the Constitution and so therefore, the Resolution will reduce or quell or dismiss the persistent voices of stalwart citizens on those long-outstanding sovereign issues? Moreover; is the Motion a substitute or an escape about the Government to present at the upcoming Independence Day ceremony, the ‘documentary evidence about Grenada’s Independence’, as Chairperson Dr. Wendy Crawford-Daniel of the National Organising Committee for the Golden Jubilee, hints that there are efforts with the British High

Most ‘regrettable and concerning’, is that Dickon Motion does not consider any reason or



BY J. K. ROBERTS (SOUND PUBLIC POLICIES ADVOCATE)

intention to patriate, or to reform the National Constitution, neither to produce a new Constitution ‘of the people, by the people and for the people’. Is it the consideration of Dickon’s NDC-administration that this Motion would suffice for the ‘worthy and justifiable’ aspirations of the Grenadian-people about the Constitution and so therefore, the Resolution will reduce or quell or dismiss the persistent voices of stalwart citizens on those long-outstanding sovereign issues? Moreover; is the Motion a substitute or an escape about the Government to present at the upcoming Independence Day ceremony, the ‘documentary evidence about Grenada’s Independence’, as Chairperson Dr. Wendy Crawford-Daniel of the National Organising Committee for the Golden Jubilee, hints that there are efforts with the British High

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# GRENADA WINS PLATINUM MEDAL AT 2024 CARIBBEAN STEM OLYMPIADS

**Bridgetown:** The Caribbean Science Foundation (CSF) held the second annual Caribbean STEM

Olympiads (CSO) on 17 – 21 January 2024 in a virtual format. In these Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

(STEM) Olympiads, individuals and teams representing educational institutions, clubs or themselves

competed in the (a) Math Olympiad, (b) Computer Coding Olympiad and (c) Robotics Olympiad at

three different age levels (12 – 15, 16 – 18 and 19 – 21).

The Math Olympiad was held in a Jeopardy-style format and covered topics ranging from consumer arithmetic to vector calculus. The Computer Coding Olympiad tasked applicants to create apps, games, and websites aimed at solving a challenge faced by Caribbean communities. The challenges tackled by teams in the 2024 Olympiads included geohazards and climate change, inter and intra country transportation, public health, non-communicable diseases, crime, and money movement and financial education. The Robotics Olympiad tasked applicants with building innovative robots from kits at Level I, and complex robots starting from scratch with a set of random parts at Level III.

A total of 131 students from 11 Caribbean countries registered for the 2024 Olympiads. After the preliminary rounds, 39 teams (83 students) made it to the finals. There were 47 finalists in the Math Olympiad, 22 in the

Computer Coding Olympiad, and 14 in the Robotics Olympiad. Medal certificates and cash prizes of US\$ 500, 400, 300 and 200 were awarded to the teams winning platinum, gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively. The Awards and Closing Ceremony, held on Sunday 21 January 2024, revealed that Jamaica led the medal count with 8 medals, followed by Antigua and Barbuda with 6, Belize with 4, Barbados with 3, Saint Lucia with 2, and Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts & Nevis and Trinidad & Tobago with 1 each.

The prestigious platinum medal for Level III of the Math Olympiad was earned by “Pythagorean Triples”, from Grenada, consisting of Kahlil Phillip, Rochelle Griffith and Tristan Pivotte. In Level II of the Math Olympiad, Grenada also had a finalist team called “Nutmeg Warriors” consisting of Nathan John, Rakeem McFarlane and Dominique Nedd of T.A. Marryshow Community College.

Professor Cardinal Warde, the Interim

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2024 CARIBBEAN STEM OLYMPIADS: MEDALISTS BY COUNTRY, EVENT AND AGE LEVEL				
Math Olympiad Level 1				
Country	Team Name	Team Members	Representing	Medal
Jamaica	Team CMS	Chad Wright, Micah Edwards, Sidan-E Walker	Self (Campion College)	Platinum
St. Lucia	Mathmagicians	Analah Bousquet, Shanice Searles	Self (St. Joseph's Convent)	Gold
Belize	Muffles College	Miguel Pech, Rue Hung, Mannat Lalwani	Muffles College High School	Silver
Jamaica	--	Ayelsha Mcpherson	Self (Immaculate Conception High)	Bronze
Math Olympiad Level 2				
Trinidad & Tobago	PCC PI-rates	Avinda Dhoray, Kovid Capildeo, Saiesh Rampersad	Presentation College Chaguanas	Platinum
Jamaica	KSM	Kayla Wright, Shandon McFarlane, Malique Flowers	Self (Campion College)	Gold
Jamaica	J.A.C.	Jayden Clarke, Alano Wheatley, Cody Williamson	Self (Campion College)	Gold
Barbados	Random Walk	Alan Deane-Warner, Nalani Chassang	Self (Queen's College Secondary)	Bronze
Math Olympiad Level 3				
Grenada	Pythagorean Triples	Kahlil Phillip, Rochelle Griffith, Tristan Pivotte	Self (Gap Year, previously attended T.A Marryshow Community College)	Platinum
Barbados	Psi-Kicks	Simeon Green, Ian Francis, Tyreke Jones	Self (UWI - Cave Hill)	Gold
Jamaica	--	Mishkah Melbourne, Max Leiba	Glenmuir High School	Silver
Jamaica	Mathician	Alrique Beckford	Self (University of Technology)	Silver

Computer Coding Olympiad Level 1					
Country	Team Name	Team Members	Representing	Project Title	Medal
Belize	Bobcat	Giselle Garcia	Self (Muffles College High School)	Protective Measures	Platinum
Belize	Techtactic	Osmar Lopez, Ryan Coc, Jaevanie, De Paz, Mannat Lalwani	Muffles College High School	Quest of Survival	Gold
Saint Kitts & Nevis	CoolXing	Abhijith Srinivasan	Self (Charlestown Secondary)	Danger Dash	Silver
Guyana	--	Tejasvarun Kandavel	Queen's College	Adventuring Climate Change	Bronze
Computer Coding Olympiad Level 2					
Jamaica	Island Hacks	Michaela Brown, Jamia Williamson, Kelsey Atkinson, Kathryn McLean	Self (Campion College)	HospitalFlow	Platinum
Antigua & Barbuda	FrostByte	Ajanté Fraser	Self (UWI 5 Islands)	Disaster Ready Caribbean	Gold
Belize	Team CATALYST	Lia Hunt, Aden Zabaneh, Maliyah Casey, Daniel Sharp	Belize High School	MyCRIME	Silver
Antigua & Barbuda	Bread Man	Adrian Judnarine	Patrick Lake Learning Institution	Get There	Bronze
Computer Coding Olympiad Level 3					
Antigua & Barbuda	Bread Man	Adrian Judnarine	Patrick Lake Learning Institution	Mindful Mate	Gold
Antigua & Barbuda	Weather Machine	Saiyan Jacobs	Antigua State College	Weather Monitor	Gold
Antigua & Barbuda	The Pennies	Ajanté Fraser, Emmanuel Chiddick, D'Chaiya Emmanuel	Self (UWI: 5 Islands; Antigua State Coll.; Gap year)	PennyWise	Silver

Robotics Olympiad Level 2					
Country	Team Name	Team Members	Representing	Project Title	Medal
Barbados	Kolij Robotics Club	Jovani Gittens, Nathan Nicholls, Tykairi Sargeant, Maliqua Cherubin	Harrison College	Plant Care Robot	Silver
Jamaica	Team Ravens	Vance Tyndale, Dejaunay Hylton, Malique Powell, Ramiro Guyah	St. Jago High School	Iterations	Silver
Antigua & Barbuda	Bread Man	Adrian Judnarine	Patrick Lake Learning Institution	Solar Tracker	Bronze
Robotics Olympiad Level 3					
Saint Lucia	Light Creations	Faith Robinson	Self (Vieux-Fort Comprehensive)	DRD v1	Bronze



# INCREASED PRODUCTION WILL IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL PERFORMANCE: EXPORTERS

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 17

strengthening of the “staffing” that govern the fishing sector arguing that “if our technical staff in the fisheries department are overwhelmed with relatively trivial matters, they are not paying attention to international agreements that we have signed on to, they are

not paying attention to the support and technical issues that need to be given to the fisherman.”

He also pointed to the need for a better, stronger and younger workforce, in light of the fact that several of the current crop of officials are retiring

with no understudy or competent replacement. “And without that there is no we do not have a sector to move forward with.” He said.

He described the lack of airlift as “one of the biggest stumbling blocks” affecting the industry, calling for consideration to be given to subsidizing

airlift of the shipment of agricultural products “if we want to meet the demands that are placed upon us”.

Pointing to the current trend of Grenadian fishermen selling their fish to Trinidad and Tobago, the SIFH General Manager called on government to consider building

partnerships with larger countries in the region to address the airlift issue to the benefit of Grenada’s farmers and fishermen.

“Grenada fishing boats are discharging fish in Trinidad because we do not have airlift. This is monies that should be circulating in Grenada. These are fishing vessels

that are subsidized by the government and by you the taxpayer but yet the profit is being recognized in a 3rd country. We should be striving to get the airfreight and get all of our production back home where it is providing employment for dock workers, truck drivers and others, he said.”

# HISTORY!!!

By Richard Simon

Grenada on Monday, February 5th, 2024 took another leap into the history books when the island became the first member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to launch “the Grenada 50”, a commemorative EC \$50 note marking the island’s Golden Jubilee.

At a ceremony in St. George’s, titled “the Unveiling” attended by the who’s who in Grenadian society, Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) Timothy Antoine unveiled the special EC \$50 note which he says was the brain child of Grenada’s youngest Prime Minister, Dickon

Mitchell, was produced in 8 months, well ahead of the usual 2 year timeframe required for the production of currency notes.

According to the ECCB Governor, the note, although issued in Grenada will be legal tender throughout the currency union, “which simply means that while its issued only in Grenada, you can spend it throughout the currency union.”

“As you see, touch and feel your Grenada 50, let it inspire you. Indeed may it inspire current and future generations of Grenadians to greatness because G is for Grenada but G is also for greatness,”Antoine, who is also Grenadian,

told the audience at the Grenada Tarde Center and online.

He called on his countrymen to “envision what could be and what should be in our beautiful isle of Spice. Envision what it will take and what will be your contribution to doubling the size of the Grenadian economy over the next 10 years for example,” as he referred to the “big push challenge” which while inclusive of economics, is also focused on doubling the space and opportunities for every single Grenadian to “fully maximize their time, talents, treasure, testimony, touch and trust,” in service to their country and humanity.

In a short speech,

Antoine acknowledged the contribution of Grenada’s first gold medalist at the Olympic Games and world champion Kirani James, who was present in the audience, for the impact of his “inspiring performances,” particularly in Tokyo when he won a bronze medal after recovering from Graves ’ disease, on the people of Grenada and the region.

Pointing to James seated in the front row, the ECCB Governor declared “so fellow Grenadians and people of the Eastern Caribbean, there sits a great Grenadian.”

He called on his countrymen to face the next 50 years with a sense of purpose, passion, patriotism and pride. “Most importantly let us do it together”, he urged, noting that Grenada, in 1974, was the first island

state in the OECS to gain independence from Britain.

In his comments, Prime Minister Mitchell paid tribute to former Grenada Prime Minister Sir Eric Matthew Gairy, considered the father of Grenada’s independence as ”a great Grenadian,” whose “formidable courage and single mindedness” paved the way for the 50th anniversary of Grenada’s independence.

He expressed his appreciation to the governors of the ECCB for supporting the minting of the special commemorative EC \$50 note, which “reflects things that are uniquely Grenadian”, including 3 “iconic” national figures, landmarks and national symbols, including images of nutmegs and cocoa, as well as the Maurice Bishop International Airport.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by 2 students from one of the largest secondary schools on the island’s west coast, Happy Hill secondary, unveiled the special note, which shows images of Kirani James, former Prime Ministers Eric Gairy and Maurice Bishop, mounted on a revolving encasement.

While the notes will be officially in circulation in June, 2024, the ECCB Governor took the opportunity to present the first commemorative note to Grenada’s Governor General Dame Cecile La Grenade while Prime Minister Mitchell presented notes to the family of the late Sir Eric Gairy, the wife of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, Angela and a fourth to Grenada’s first Olympic gold medalist Kirani James.

# NEED FOR IMPROVED PRIVATE / PUBLIC COLLABORATION IN AGRICULTURE



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS ATTEND AGRIVEST 2024



REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHARED THEIR VIEW OF THE SECTOR

*Happy Independence Grenada!*

*We congratulate the Grenadian Public on your 50th year of independence and thank you for your support over the years. God Bless!*

**Coconut Beach**  
French Creole Restaurant

Come dine with us under the stars with your feet in sand as the waves set that tranquil feeling around you or dine indoors by candlelight.

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*Your stay in Grenada is not complete until you visit us!*

**Menu Includes:**  
Lobster Thermidor,  
Caribbean Chicken,  
Fresh Catch of the Day  
with Choice of Sauce,  
Seafood Platter, Lambie Calypso,  
Coconut Pie, T-Bone Steak,  
Pepper Steak

A leading agricultural supplier in Grenada has called for greater use of green houses and associated technologies to help farmers improve their chances of insurance protection and deal with the impact of climate change.

Addressing the National Agricultural Investment Symposium (AGRIVEST) 2024 at the Crown Ball Room of the Radisson Grenada Beach Hotel Wednesday, Ms Kira Thompson of Renwick & Thompson limited, one of the largest suppliers of agricultural equipment and supplies in Grenada, said “what we’ve noticed is that greenhouse farmers tend to have more protection from the elements in the long run.”

She said the use of appropriate technology will also improve the possibility of obtaining financing from financial institutions that will require some support structure as part of the qualifying process.

Ms. Thompson also indicated an apparent reduction in the number of extension officers serving the Grenadian farming community, especially affecting small farmers, whose production has been affected by the absence of the appropriate information exchange.

“A lot of them feel that the outreach from the extension officers has diminished and we have also noticed that you do not have as many extension officers out in the field as we used to,” she told participants in a panel which focused on the performance of the agricultural sector in Grenada and the need for a business investment package for the sector.

In response, Dr. Tessa Barry, who holds a PhD in Agricultural Extension: with Emphasis on Gender; Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Food Security urged

greater collaboration between private enterprise and government to improve the performance of the sector and the lives of farmers.

The University of the West Indies St. Augustine lecturer on the Climate Resilient Agricultural Extension for Community Development Programme urged the private sector to seek ways of bridging the possible shortfalls of government services.

She encouraged the private sector to invest in green house and shade house technologies to be better able to assist famers in utilizing these new agricultural practices to protect their crops, get better yields and raise the quality of their production.

“The idea of the private/public growth within the extension sector is key and that is an area for further investment so we can see how the private sector can contribute to capacity development in increasing the capabilities of extension services within Grenada,” she said.



# GRENADA DISTILLERS LIMITED CELEBRATES GRENADA’S 50TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY WITH 50TH INDEPENDENCE LIMITED EDITION



In celebration of Grenada’s 50th Golden Jubilee independence anniversary, Grenada Distillers Limited (G.D.L), Grenada’s number One Rum! is delighted to present it’s newest expression reflective of our rich Grenadian Heritage. This bold aged spicy rum combines the unique signature elements of Grenada’s Cinnamon, Nutmeg, Bayleaf, and Pimento flavours with a symphony of recognisable exotic fruit flavours embedded with distinctive ex-Bourbon

Oak barrel elements; responsible for the sparkling rich dark golden colour of the Rum.

This limited edition release, which can be considered a “collector’s item” is a timely expression of Grenada’s remarkable achievement and sovereignty as an independent nation celebrating the island’s cultural, social and economic growth over the past 50 years, and a tribute to the prowess of its people.

Our special blended

fusion showcases the unique flavors of Grenada, with a diverse delightful infusion of tropical aromas and sophisticated taste profile reflecting the agricultural and traditional artisanal rum heritage handed down through the ages. The addition of cinnamon and nutmeg highlights the rich spice heritage of Grenada, known as the “Spice Isle.” The Vanilla notes add a smooth and balanced sweetness, while the aged oak barrels contribute depth and complexity to the blend.



General Manager Simon Green stated, “This launch is a tradition of GDL (Grenada Distillers Limited) to create classic unique blends to honor our Nation’s accomplishments. Our company has deep patriotic roots, therefore paying homage to Grenada’s golden jubilee is a natural reflection of our core values. Our growth and existence since 1937 underscores our dedication to commitment to excellence and presenting one of our BEST PRODUCTS yet is a fitting Tribute to our beloved Grenada.”

This isn’t the first occasion that the GDL

has produced a symbolic blend as in 2010, twenty-five years ago, a similar special blend was created to honor Grenada’s silver jubilee. As Grenada celebrates its 50th independence anniversary, Clarke’s Court Rum takes pride in being part of the nation’s vibrant history and culture. With this special limited edition expression. We invite you to join us in commemorating Grenada’s sovereignty and the achievements of its people with a world-class product that reflects the spirit and flavors of our remarkable nation. Cheers to Grenada’s golden jubilee! Our company currently

produces twenty-three world-class, award-winning products, including pre-cast white rums, flavoured rums, premium rums, liqueurs, methylated spirits, and hand sanitizers.

The Grenada 50th anniversary Rum will be sold in selected locations including restaurants, fine wine and spirits retail outlets throughout Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique with a suggested retail price of \$300.00. We encourage you to mark Grenada’s milestone by ensuring that you have this one of a kind Rum as part of your collection!

# THE ONGOING STRUGGLE TO REPLACE DARKNESS WITH GLORY

*CONTINUES FROM PAGE 14*

a crippling general strike and mass demonstrations and he began hunting down the instigators and leaders of this struggle against him.

## Was the Anti-Gairy Struggle Also Anti-Independence?

While NJM was the foremost political force in the anti-Gairy struggle, nonetheless, there were multiple forces and diverse voices and interests therein. It was not a melodious symphony of voices. Because of the all-class unity that had emerged in the struggle, at times there was a cacophony of voices. Thus, some people came away with the view that the pre-Independence anti-Gairy struggle was a popular resistance to and rejection of political independence from Britain. Indeed, there were those who held and articulated that anti-independence view. While they were anti-Gairy, nonetheless, in class interest, they were ruling class and pro-British. But anti-independence was not the posture of NJM.

Prior to Independence, the NJM leadership published a Manifesto setting out its political, social, economic, cultural and foreign policies and strategy. In that Manifesto, the NJM made clear its attitude and position on Independence. Some of what was said can be deemed, in hindsight, to be naïve. But it is to that Manifesto we must turn so as to know the truth.

## The NJM: Anti-Gairy and Pro-Meaningful Independence

The NJM leadership wrote in the Manifesto, “NJM has always stood for real independence, genuine independence, meaningful

independence.” This they contrasted with what they saw as Gairy’s view and approach to independence. Thus, NJM said that “this will be independence in name only. Gairy believes that independence means pulling down one flag and putting up another, composing a new anthem, creating a new motto, calling the Governor ‘Governor General’ and the Premier ‘Prime Minister,’ playing steelband, jumping up and feteing, cleaning up and beautifying the streets.”

For NJM, on the other hand, “independence must mean better housing for our people, better clothing, better food, better health, better education, better roads and bus service, more jobs, higher wages, more recreation – in short, a higher standard of living for workers and their children.” NJM put this forward as some of the aspects of its concept of meaningful independence. But this was in no way a programme of paternalistic handouts to a passive people thereby providing material comforts with the possibility of engendering greed. NJM wanted independence to be so meaningful that the people themselves would come to see it “as something which does not begin and end on one day but rather as a dynamic process of developing self-reliance and attaining self-sufficiency in all areas of our lives – economic, cultural, political and spiritual.”

The NJM was convinced that the Gairy government could not attain to such meaningful independence. Instead of action and progress, Gairy was leading the country into a downward spiral. Moreover, NJM held that Gairy’s continuation in power was due to electoral fraud and his use of police brutality against the people and the NJM leadership. Why then

did Gairy want to take the country into independence?

It was the published view of NJM that “the present move towards independence was an insincere, opportunist move, designed to strengthen the grip of tyranny and corruption.” Thus, they held that this insincere, opportunist move “is bound to result in a sham, bogus, meaningless independence.” Had the Gairy government been sincere about Grenada being truly independent this is what they would have done. “In our negotiations with the British on the question of independence, we could have demanded from them an independent payment of at least one hundred million dollars as partial reparation to make up for some of the money stolen from us and the exploitation, human misery, suffering and degradation we endured at their hands over the last 400 years.” Was this call for a partial reparation naïve or far-sighted? I leave it to the readers to decide.

**Independence Was a Necessary Precursor of The Revolution**

Sounding a somewhat prophetic note, the NJM Manifesto proclaimed that “history will yet record that 7th February 1974 marked the beginning of a new stage in the struggle of our people.” No wonder the new Independence flag was hoisted while the country was shrouded in darkness. This signaled that what had started pre-Independence will continue after the official granting of Independence. Despite Independence, the darkness still persisted and must be gotten rid of so the glory of the people could shine forth.

What is significant here is this – and it seemed not

to have entered into the expressed thinking of the NJM leadership. If it is true, as has been argued by the NJM leadership, that (1) Gairy’s electoral fraud closed the road to the removal of Gairy by electoral means and (2) Gairy’s use of force prevented peaceful mass protest from removing him, then it would have meant that any use of revolutionary force, as was done on March 13, 1979, would have triggered an immediate countering response from the British as long as Grenada remained a British colony. In other words, without Gairy or the anti-Gairy forces knowing it, the move to independence, as opportunist as it might have been, made it possible for Gairy’s removal by means outside of the Constitution. This does not mean that I am here advocating such regime-changing method. It is rather my recognition of the irony of history. The move to cement power that was no longer serving the best interest of the people created the possibility of a move that would remove that power.

## Independence Requires an Ongoing Transformation of Consciousness

But is this only the logic of history as some impersonal process? Or is there an Intelligence that is at work – an Intelligence that is purposeful, desiring to bring humanity to the pinnacle of its development? The Isaian passage about darkness covering the earth, and deep darkness the people, is not a pessimistic prophetic word but rather a quite hopeful one. The full passage is “For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your rising” (Isaiah 60: 2 – 3, NKJV). So, the end-goal for the earth and the people, who are shrouded in darkness, is light, brightness and glory. God who is the Intelligence operating in history will have His way eventually, even though history might be littered with messiness. The messiness is due to the deep darkness covering people. Here we must understand the biblical symbolism. The darkness is symbolic and indicative of people not knowing the truth of who they really are. They do not know their God-given magnificence. Thus, they live thinking that they are less than who they are. They think they are powerless and dependent on an outside saviour. The dumbing down of themselves only make them easy prey for oppression and exploitative use by others. And the upshot of that is the creation of external circumstances that are inhumane and demeaning to some degree or another. But when the people rise in consciousness to their inherent magnificence and greatness that would testify to the glory being upon them. And the upshot of that transformed self-consciousness would be the eventual creation of external circumstances commensurate with the inherent dignity of human beings and would show forth that God is truly in the land. Then it can be truly said this is brightness out of darkness.

*Leon Cornwall was a member of the NJM Central Committee. He holds an Upper Second-Class Honours Bachelor of Divinity degree from the University of London. He does a weekly morning program entitled “Christus Victor” (the Victorious Christ) on Real FM 91.9. Currently, he heads the Rehabilitation Unit of His Majesty’s Prison.*



# RESULTS OF REPUBLIC BANK SPICE ISLAND BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

**St. George's, Grenada:** It was another successful year for the Republic Bank Spice Island Billfish Tournament. The 54th Grand Slam event ended last Friday, with 45 boats participating. Grenada once again topped the count with 14 boats. Trinidad was represented by 11 boats, Barbados – 9, Martinique – 5, St. Lucia and the USA – 2 each, and the UK and Cayman Islands – 1 each.

At the end of an exciting week for fishing, "Hopscotch"

from Trinidad amassed 5,600 points to emerge the overall winner of the tournament. Their catches/releases totaled 17 Sailfish. The vessel "Eclipse" from Barbados placed second, on 4,500 points; 15 catches/releases of Sailfish. "A Fun Day" from Trinidad & Tobago came in third, also on 4,500 points, but with 11 Sailfish and 1 Blue Marlin caught and released.

Martinique copped both the top male and female angler awards: Nathan Jean-Joseph received the prestigious

award in the male category, vessel: "Go", while Caroline Paltoo, vessel "Reha Team" was awarded top female angler. Louki Lanza-Louw from Barbados, vessel "Eclipse" won the top junior angler award. Mrs. Naomi De Allie, Managing Director, Republic Bank, title sponsor of the event, assisted with the presentation of prizes.

Overall, 268 anglers registered for the event. For the full list of results, visit the Spice Island Billfish Tournament Facebook page.



REPUBLIC BANK MANAGING DIRECTOR, MRS. NAOMI DE ALLIE PRESENTING THE WINNING TEAM, 'HOPSCOTCH' WITH THEIR PRIZES

## FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF GRENADA APPLAUDS WEST INDIES VICTORY OVER AUSTRALIA

Dr. The Rt Hon. Keith Mitchell, former Prime Minister of Grenada and Leader of His Majesty's Opposition, has expressed congratulations to the West Indies Cricket Team on its triumph over the Australian team yesterday, in the ongoing ICC World Test Championship.

Known for his love for the game and his close relationship with players, Dr. Mitchell

wasted no time in extending his heartfelt congratulations to Manager, (Grenadian born) Rawle Lewis and Captain Darren Sammy for their outstanding leadership and the team's remarkable performance on the field. "As a staunch supporter of West Indies cricket, I am delighted by the team's spectacular win against Australia," stated Dr. Mitchell.

Dr. Mitchell expresses unwavering commitment to the advancement of sports in Grenada and across the Caribbean region. He currently serves as Chairman of the West Indies Cricket Sub Committee promoting stakeholder engagement. According to Dr. Mitchell, this victory stands as a testament to the West Indies' prowess and resilience.



DR. THE RIGHT HON. KEITH MITCHELL, POLITICAL LEADER OF THE NNP

# SPICE ISLE AUTOMOTIVE DONATES TWO SYM SCOOTERS TO THE ROYAL GRENADA POLICE FORCE



SPICE ISLE AUTOMOTIVE'S OPERATIONS MANAGER; MR. ZAID RAHAMAN, PRESENTS THE KEYS FOR TWO NEW SYM CROX 125CC SCOOTERS TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE ROYAL GRENADA POLICE FORCE (RGPF); MR. JESMON PRINCE.



THE KEYS FOR SYM CROX 125CC SCOOTERS DONATED BY SPICE ISLE AUTOMOTIVE TO THE ROYAL GRENADA POLICE FORCE



SYM CROX 125CC SCOOTERS OUTFITTED WITH REFLECTIVE BRANDING AND TWO-WAY STROBE LIGHTS BY SPICE ISLE AUTOMOTIVE FOR THE ROYAL GRENADA POLICE FORCE.



SPICE ISLE AUTOMOTIVE'S GENERAL MANAGER; MR. RAVI BENJAMIN, GIVES HIS REMARKS ABOUT OUR GENEROUS DONATION.

In commemoration of our Nation's 50th Anniversary, Spice Isle Automotive Inc. presented the South St. George Police Station and by extension

the Royal Grenada Police Force, with a donation of two new SYM Crox 125cc Scooters. This donation signifies our dedication to creating a safer



ANTILLEAN GROUP'S OPERATIONS MANAGER; MR. PHILLIP GITTENS, PRESENTS INSURANCE CERTIFICATES COMPLIMENTS ANTILLEAN GROUP TO ASP SIMON DOUGLAS OF THE ROYAL GRENADA POLICE FORCE.

Grenada and supporting the tireless efforts of law enforcement officers.

This gesture underscores our commitment to community safety

and strengthens partnerships between law enforcement and the Private Sector.

We trust that the Royal Grenada Police



DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE ROYAL GRENADA POLICE FORCE (RGPF); MR. JESMON PRINCE, PRESENTS THE TWO SCOOTERS TO OFFICE IN CHARGE OF SOUTH ST. GEORGE POLICE STATION, MR. SHELDON THOMAS.

Force will utilize these scooters to improve community presence, response times, and critical situation deployment. This initiative highlights

Spice Isle Automotive's commitment to corporate social responsibility and making a positive impact on our society.



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MADE IN GRENADA ✓



# DEMOLITION DRIVE

**St. George's –**  
The Planning and Development Authority (PDA) is partnering with stakeholders to undertake a comprehensive demolition drive to remove illegal structures along the nation's roadsides.

The ongoing initiative, which commenced in January 2024, aims to create a safer, and healthier environment by removing structures erected without permits, those in a state of disrepair, those occupying crown land without proper authorisation, and those obstructing public roads.

Unauthorised vending, roadside garages, and other illegal structures,



as well as the illegal storage of vehicle debris pose significant negative impacts on the environment and Grenada's overall infrastructure.

These structures not only compromise public safety, but also contribute to visual clutter and the degradation of public spaces. The Authority is also concerned that the erection of unauthorised structures and illegally

stored material can become projectiles during adverse weather conditions.

Key objectives of the demolition drive include:

- **Public Safety:** Removal of structures that pose public health and safety risks.
- **Urban Aesthetics:** Enhancing the visual appeal of the country



by removing unsightly and unauthorised structures.

- **Compliance with Regulations:** Enforcing zoning and licensing regulations to ensure that businesses operate within the confines of the law.
- **Infrastructure Optimisation:** Improving the flow of traffic and accessibility

by removing structures obstructing public roads and sidewalks.

The Planning and Development Authority therefore urges all affected vendors and property owners to co-operate and adhere to planning regulations.

People who vend in, or who occupy illegal structures are further advised to secure

personal belongings and have the structures removed ahead of the planned PDA demolition operation.

The demolition drive is not intended to target legitimate businesses, but rather to create a safer and organised landscape development.

For inquiries related to the demolition drive, affected parties are encouraged to contact the PDA for guidance on Tel: 1 (473) 440-2471/4635 or alternatively visit the Authority, to speak with a Planning Officer.

The PDA remains dedicated to fostering a vibrant, safe, and well-maintained environment, for citizens and visitors.

# EXTENSION OF TAX DEADLINES



The Ministry of Finance, Inland Revenue Division extend our sincere appreciation for your collaboration and understanding

as we undergo the significant process of upgrading our tax system to the G-Tax system. Transitions of this nature inevitably bring challenges, and your patience has been invaluable to us during this period.

Recognising the difficulties experienced by some taxpayers amid

this transition, the Division is pleased to announce the extension of the following tax deadlines:

1. **Corporate Income Tax Installment (CIT):** The deadline is extended from **January 31, 2024, to**

- February 9, 2024.**
2. **Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE):** The deadline is extended from **February 8, 2024, to February 16, 2024.**

Our dedicated team is actively addressing the issues encountered by

taxpayers, and we assure you that every effort is being made to swiftly resolve these challenges.

Your patience and cooperation during this transition are genuinely appreciated. We want to reiterate our commitment to delivering an enhanced tax system and an improved customer

service experience. Your feedback is of immense value to us, and we encourage you to share any concerns or suggestions you may have via e-mail at [helpdesk@ird.gov.gd](mailto:helpdesk@ird.gov.gd).

We thank you once again for your understanding and cooperation during this transformative period.



# GRENADA WINS PLATINUM MEDAL AT 2024 CARIBBEAN STEM OLYMPIADS



Giselle Garcia from Muffles College High School, Belize, formed a single-person team named "Bobcat" and clinched the platinum medal in the Level 1 Computer Coding Olympiad for her project "Protective Measures", a hurricane preparedness video game.



Osmar Lopez, Ryan Coc, Jaevanie De Paz and Mannat Lalwani from Muffles College, Belize, formed team Techtactic and won the gold medal in the Level 1 Computer Coding Olympiad for their video game, "Quest of Survival", aimed at educating players about natural disasters in the Region.



Kahlil Phillip, Rochelle Griffith and Tristan Pivotte from Grenada won the platinum medal for their performance in the Level 3 Math Olympiad



Chad Wright, Micah Edwards and Sidan-E Walker of "Team CMS" from Jamaica captured the platinum medal for the Level 1 Math Olympiad.



Team KSM consisting of Kayla Wright, Shandon McFarlane and Malique Flowers from Jamaica won the gold medal for Level 2 of the Math Olympiad.

again impressed by the performance of the medalists. To further raise the bar for our robotics and coding efforts, starting in April of 2024 the CSF will offer coaching sessions for interested robotics and coding teams to help them prepare for our 2025 Robotics and Computer Coding Olympiads."

The competing students also had a lot to say. Platinum medalist "Pythagorean Triples" from Grenada said, "Thank you to the Caribbean Science Foundation for hosting this event. It was truly a pleasure to participate, we learned a lot."

Platinum medalist, "Team PCC Pi-rates" from Trinidad and Tobago stated, "we would like to thank the CSF for hosting this competition as it helped to develop our analytical and critical thinking skills and we were able to apply everything we learnt in order to achieve success. We look forward to next year's competition." Team Ravens of Jamaica, who won a silver medal in Level 2 Robotics said, "Thank you on behalf of Team Ravens; this experience was

truly amazing, and we have learnt a lot from this opportunity to participate!" And then Tejasvarun Kandavel, a 13-year-old student from Guyana who won a bronze medal in the Level I Computer Coding Olympiad said, "I would like to thank the CSF for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Coding Olympiad Finals. I would also like to thank the judges for reviewing my project and giving me feedback on how to improve it."

The Institutional sponsors included CIBC, Emera Caribbean, Peloton International, Trident Insurance, and TAG software. The Caribbean STEM Olympiads is an initiative of the CSF – a regional non-profit NGO with the mission of assisting with the development and diversification of the economies of the Caribbean Region by promoting STEM education reform and stimulating technology-based entrepreneurship. For more information on the CSF, the Caribbean STEM Olympiads and other programmes run by the CSF, please visit <https://caribbeanscience.org>.

# GRENADIANS MUST CONDEMN PARLIAMENT SPECIAL SITTING FOR GOLDEN JUBILEE

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 20

Commissioner to possess or to retrieve such historic reference which was presented at that time but may have been lost?

It should be of serious interest and questioning, in realizing that the 'presumably 24 January 2024' notice for the Special Joint Sitting of the Senate and the House of Representatives comes on the heels of a Public Statement, "Constitution Reform For Grenada At Fifty", been released on 22 January 2024 by Dr. Francis Alexis KC, constitutional lawyer and long-time advocate for constitutional reforms. The Alexis Statement virtually directs for the Dickon's NDC Administration to institute and register a constitution reform, with the altering

of Grenada's Oath Of Allegiance; the Statement outlines that this 'first-time constitution reform' achievement is possible through the 'power and will' of the Parliament, and without the 'involvement and endorsement' of the sovereign constituents, citing a pertinent 2002 case in Jamaica.

The Alexis Statement concludes like this : "How momentous would it be that our leaders, on 7 Feb 2024, swear allegiance to 'Grenada' .... On this reform we can more lustily sing with rousing patriotism: Hail Grenada at fifty". Alexis therefore seems to inject and to be responsible for the "urgent necessity" about the Special Joint Sitting of the Senate and the House of

Representatives on 06 February 2024. This conclusion also conveys that the submission is in the "public interest" within good governance, sovereign independence, patriotic and democratic tenets. Despite the Statement may endeavour for a proud National Achievement for the Golden Jubilee, it has not been sufficiently and thoroughly ventilated in the public domain for the enlightenment of the people and may even not have any pronouncements of views by the 'independent' Members of the Senate. A critical question moreover, relates to deciphering whether or not the proposed Endeavour is genuinely about Public Interest versus egoistic Political Expediency, especially when considering the scenario that 'had not

Honourable Delma Thomas Crossed The Floor from the Opposition New National Party (NNP) of Keith Mitchell, following the 23 June 2022 general elections, to give the NDC Administration two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives, which could facilitate this 'symbolic and superficial' constitutional reform, would Alexis take this gesture?

Further to the 'afterthought' by the NDC Administration about the Golden Jubilee, it is highly likely that there is an inherent 'conspiracy and disrespect' against the Grenadian-people with the scheduled Special Joint Sitting of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The point must be

made that the ORDER PAPER for the Special Joint Sitting (No. 1 of 2024) also provides for "Request for leave to move the adjournment of the House on matters of urgent public importance" and that Section 12 of the Standing Order of the House of Representatives also provide that "by leave of the House" business other than what has been specified in the Notice could be transacted at any special sitting of the House, whilst Section 14 of the Standing Order is "Adjournment of the House on matters of urgent public importance".

Do those two referenced parliamentary items in the Order Paper and in the Standing Order provide the entry and chance for the Alexis Statement to form part

of the proceedings of the Special Joint Sitting?

How do Dickon Motion and Alexis Statement provide valuable input towards the expressions and realities of the Golden Jubilee theme "One People One Journey One Future"? Indeed the Endeavour for a travesty of 'decent constitutional reforms' as at play with the Special Joint Sitting of the Senate and the House of Representatives, adds to the 'controversies and confusions' which typifies Grenada Independence, and it brings to light the substance of the previously internet-circulated article "Grenadians Celebrating Golden Jubilee In DJABJAB Style!" according to the Prime Minister's declared intention for the occasion.



The Ministry of Finance hereby informs the public that the Inland Revenue Division will be relocated from the Financial Complex on the Carenage to the W.E. Julien Building (opposite Courts Grenada Ltd.) located on Young Street, St. George's.

# TEMPORARY RELOCATION OF THE INLAND REVENUE DIVISION

This move is aimed at addressing long-standing occupational safety and health (OHS) concerns to ensure a conducive working environment for staff and taxpayers. The relocation will also facilitate timely rehabilitation work on the Financial Complex, including the incorporation of green

and renewable energy technologies.

The relocation will occur on a phased approach to minimise disruption to daily operations, and will commence on February 5th, 2024, with the following sections:

- Cash
- Taxpayer Service and Registration

- Refunds
- Collection and Enforcement
- Valuation
- Vehicle Licensing and Registration

The public is further advised that the following sections will remain at the current location in the Financial Complex until further

notice:

- Office of the Comptroller
- Audit
- Assessment
- Information Technology Unit

Please take note that the Division's phone numbers and email addresses remain the same.

The Ministry of Finance expresses its gratitude to all stakeholders for their continued support during the relocation process and remains committed to providing high-quality financial services to the public and apologises for any inconvenience caused due to the unavoidable relocation.

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 21

Executive Director of the CSF reported that "the STEM outlook for the Region is very

positive. This year we raised the bar a little higher than it was in

the inaugural year (2023) for the Math Olympiad, and I was





Happy Independence  
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# CHARTING THE COURSE OF FINANCIAL WELLNESS IN 2024

By Dr. Basil Springer

As we journey through 2024, riding the waves toward spiritual and personal well-being, we must anchor our New Year's resolutions in sound financial management. Before January ends, let's commit to mastering the art of balancing our books monthly, both personally and professionally. Given the gift of 24 hours every day, balancing our books is intrinsically tied to optimal time management.

Managing finances is a universal challenge. The principles remain the same, whether balancing the family budget or ensuring business profitability. Income from salaries, loans or investments must eclipse our expenses. These expenses range from basic needs like food and housing to future-oriented expenditures like education, health care, and retirement planning.

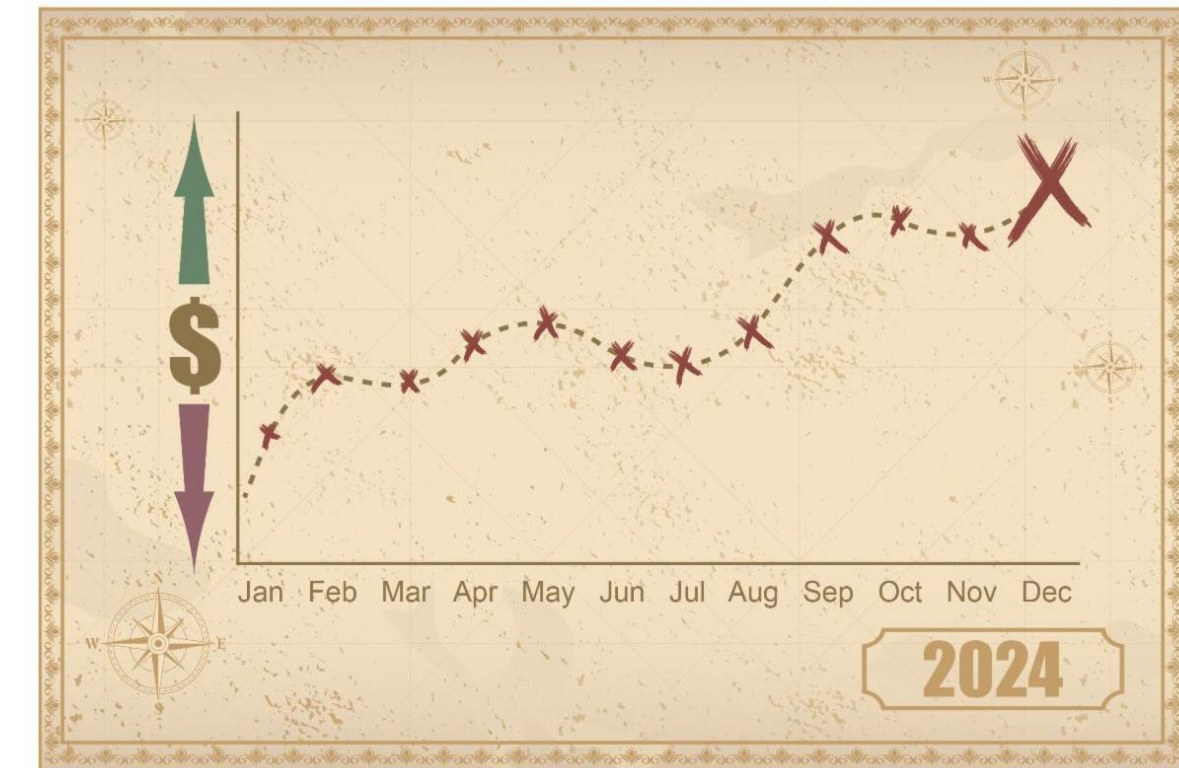
For entrepreneurs, the challenge amplifies. Running a business demands personal financial acumen and a deep understanding of business finance. Profitability isn't merely a goal; it's the lifeline of your venture.

The cornerstone of efficient financial management lies within the pillars of management itself: planning,

organizing, staffing, leading, and monitoring performance against plans.

**Planning:** Start with a clear financial goal. What do you aspire to achieve, either personally or professionally, this year? Set specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals.

**Organizing:** Once your goals are set, assemble your resources and ensure you have the right technological tools and systems. This process involves income and expense budgeting and funds allocation. Specific systems must be adhered to for businesses, such as financial security, marketing, operational efficiency, and human resource



development.

**Staffing:** In most families, one person accepts the responsibility of financial management. However, in a business, owing to its diverse systems, a financial management committee should be established. It is wise to seek advice in both personal and business finance, particularly from independent and experienced financial investment advisors. Indeed, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

**Leading:** Whether leading a household or a company, your attitude toward money sets the tone. Foster a culture of savings.

I fondly recall my mother,

the late Rita Springer, who captured her story in her memoirs. At the tender age of 15, she left school and began working in her father's hardware store, earning a princely 16 cents per week during the late 1920s. Yet, she managed to save half of that each week.

She recalled her first visit to England in the summer of 1937. She was informed of a Guide Camp to be held in England, coinciding with the Coronation of King George VI. The camp invited Overseas Guides and Guiders, and she immediately resolved to be part of this significant event.

With her healthy savings account as collateral, she approached her father

about her desire to travel to England. She proposed taking a loan from him, promising to repay it from her earnings when she returned. Initially, he advised her to give up her daydream. However, after considering the advantages of travel and discussing it with her mother – who was supportive – he finally agreed.

The takeaway here for leaders is the indispensable power of savings. It is crucial to understand the potential of both short-term and long-term investment markets, both domestically and internationally.

**Monitoring:** Regularly evaluate your financial status against your plans. Are you on track with your savings? Is your business meeting its financial targets? Adjust your strategies throughout the year as needed.

As we embrace this journey, it's important to remember that financial management is not just about numbers. It's about making informed decisions that impact our quality of life and the sustainability of our businesses. It's a journey of discipline, learning and growth.

Let's ensure that our financial resolutions don't just stay on paper this year. Let's make them a living reality.



# CLASH OF THE GODS

By Lenrod Nzulu Baraka

From time immemorial, deities have been invoked as communities and nations attempted to impose their wills upon other communities and nations. It was generally believed that military contests established beyond the shadow of a doubt which gods and goddesses were supreme. This philosophy is reflected in an amusing Bible story involving the Assyrians and the Israelites. The outcome of this old Bible story was predictable since in the eyes of the writers of the Bible, no god was stronger than the god of the Israelites.

In the Bible story, Sennacherib king of the Assyrians, invaded Judah after the other ten tribes of Israel had been defeated and scattered by the Assyrians. When the king of Assyria heard that the king of Judah was fortifying his city and getting ready for a ground assault by the Assyrians, the king of Assyria sent envoys with a letter clearly stating that the gods of the nations that had fallen were not able to stop the mighty Assyrian army and that Judah would suffer a similar fate to all the other kingdoms.

Fortunately for the kingdom of Judah, the deity of the Old Testament was spoiling for a fight. Jehovah,

the almighty deity of the Jews promptly dispatched one of his deadliest angelic killing machines who made light work of the entire Assyrian army in what can only be described as an Israeli Defense Force on steroids style offensive. The defeated and disgraced Assyrian king was forced to retreat only to suffer the ultimate indignity of being dispatched to the realm of the ancestors by some of his own sons in an Assyrian church of all places. I guess the writer of the Bible story wanted readers to know that the deity of the Jews would execute an extra-judicial killing in a church if necessary.

European exploration and discovery were driven by a desire to extend European hegemony far and wide. Relatively small nations in Europe, buttressed by Muslim knowledge and Chinese gunpowder, set sail to encounter new people, steal their wealth, freedom, land, lives, and of course introduced them to the one true god whether they want to know him or not. All new lands were claimed for the sovereigns of Europe and for the church. Europeans projected the opinion that both their civilization and god were superior to the civilizations and gods of the indigenous people of the New World and the Africans.

The European invaders of Africa, the Caribbean and the Americas acted pretty much like the Israeli Defense Force in the ongoing Holocaust in Gaza. They smashed, trampled, and obliterated much of the way of life of the people they encountered. Entire communities were wiped out as the indigenous were corralled like animals and driven from their ancestral lands. Colonization, which started in the Canary Islands of the coast of Africa, soon spread to other islands in the Atlantic as Christopher (Should have Stayed at Home) Columbus embarked on his treacherous four voyages.

An entry in Columbus' diary clearly reveals that Columbus had much evil on his mind when he first encountered the inhabitants of the Caribbean islands. Columbus entered in his diary the thought that with the aid of a few men he could easily subjugate the inhabitants of Hispaniola. Subjugation however did not simply mean the enslavement of the indigenous population. Columbus and the conquistadors that followed him wanted to place chains on both the hands and the minds of the indigenous people of the New World.

The three-in-one



LENROD NZULU BARAKA

deity of the Europeans was established as the dominant object of veneration and worship at the expense of the zemino or spirits worshipped and venerated by the indigenous people of the New World. When Africans were introduced into the New World mix, similar attempts were made to force the Africans to abandon their creator god, spirits, and ancestors. Jehovah, Jesus, and the Ghost were promoted to the top of the divine food chain and crippling sanctions were imposed on anyone stupid enough to challenge the primacy of this mysterious, inexplicable three-in-one divine being.

It is highly regrettable that many of the indigenous of the New World and continental and Diasporan Africans continue to uncritically embrace the poison pills administered by the European invaders

of the New World and the continent of Africa. In hindsight we can see that the coming of the European with their supposed superior civilization and religion did little to advance the cause of indigenous people or Africans.

South America and Africa are the two regions where Europeanized Christianity is still experiencing phenomenal growth. Ironically, South America and Africa are plagued with political instability, poverty, underdevelopment, civil wars, poor infrastructure and a brain drain that serves only to exacerbate the problems in these two regions. Clearly the proliferation of churches and the popularity of the three-in-one deity of the Europeans in these two regions has not resulted in the duplication of the economic prosperity enjoyed by the colonizing and proselytizing Europeans.

A study of the rise and fall of nations clearly reveals that the gods have very little to do with national fortunes. Staying abreast of technological advances and incorporating best practices in all spheres of knowledge will do more for the economic bottom line of nations than a steady addiction to Christianity or to any other spiritual tradition. The three-in-one deity of Europeans is no more relevant to national economic prosperity than are the deities of the indigenous people of the New World, the Africans, Indians, the Chinese, or Japanese. The sooner we come to grips with this reality the better it will be for indigenous and people of African ancestry. Lenrod Nzulu Baraka is the founder of Afro-Caribbean Spiritual Teaching Center and the author of Oreos, Coconuts, and Negroeans: Rediscovering Our African Identity.



Grenada's Administration and Management Taxation System has entered a new phase, thanks to funding from the World Bank and the Digital Governance for Resilience (DG4R) initiative.

The recently implemented Grenada Tax (GTAX), instituted digitisation of the Inland Revenue Division's tax administration system, along with other government services, and is expected to facilitate ease of doing business to the public.

This programme, which will be implemented gradually over the course of 2024, is a crucial part of the Government's commitment to a comprehensive national transformation. It also ushers in a new era and a major advancement in the IRD's operational procedures.

Migration to digital processes will also facilitate the IRD's broader strategic shift from a traditional tax collection agency to a more robust and customer-focused division that will act as a supportive partner and educator to taxpayers. The renewed focus on stakeholders' needs and operational efficiencies will mark the defining features of the IRD's

ongoing focus on digitisation.

Initially, the IRD will target large and medium-sized businesses and will make available three-monthly tax types for online filing and payments: Value Added Tax (VAT), Pay As You Earn (PAYE), and Corporate Income Tax (CIT) Installments. The second phase, set to roll out in the last quarter of 2024, embraces all tax types, where a complete package of online services will be made available to businesses, individuals, and property owners.

During the progression to the new system, taxpayers will enjoy a grace period to complete their full online registration with a valid email address by visiting [tax.gov.gd](http://tax.gov.gd)

Sheena Lewis, Comptroller (Ag.) of the IRD, is excited about the benefits this new system will bring everyone. Lewis remarked, "For the IRD, this new IT system (G-Tax) means increased efficiency in our day-to-day operations, streamlined processes, and enhanced collaboration across departments. It means staying ahead of the curve in a rapidly evolving technological landscape. It means providing our taxpayers

with a seamless and improved experience."

As part of the new digital system, a new Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) will be generated for taxpayers

currently registered for VAT, PAYE, and CIT (installments). Existing tax identification numbers will be stored for tax records in 2023 and all previous years. The IRD expects that by

the end of 2024, all new and current taxpayers will have their new TIN to enjoy the benefits of the new system.

The public is advised that more information

will be shared on an ongoing basis, and persons are encouraged to visit the IRD website on [ird.gd/gtax](http://ird.gd/gtax) or contact the office at 440-3556 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ird.gov.gd](mailto:helpdesk@ird.gov.gd)

**Happy Independence**

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Grenada Investment Development Corporation Congratulates Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique on its 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary.

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# GRENADIANS ON DEAN'S LIST WIU



**W** Western Illinois University

Fourteen Grenadian students earned a place on the Dean's List at Western Illinois University last semester. The undergraduate students, part of a growing cohort at the university, all earned GPA's of 3.6. Several of the students earned a perfect 4.0 GPA for the semester.

Arele Mark (Senior)

- Aaliyah G Knight (Senior)
- La Ditra K R Mason (Senior)
- Sherdell Rolanda St Clair (Senior)
- Josh Michael Alexander (Senior)
- Charielle Rae-Len Bubb (Senior)
- Whitney Chrysti Bowen (Senior)

Recognized Students are:

- Akeem Fabian Mitchell (Senior)
- Sierra Khalile Duncan (Senior)
- Noah Marcus Lessey (Senior)
- Rashelle Kendia Jael Bowen (Senior)
- Kendra C E John (Senior)
- Lene Samara Mitchell (Senior)
- Carlene Keiana Alexander (Senior)
- Kamal Johnaton

WIU professors have been singing the praises of Grenadians and other Caribbean students, as the regional cohort has grown to over 150. The other OAS territories also featured strong representation as 55 students from the sub-region placed on the Dean's List.

University Provost, Dr. Mark Mossman, also shared his delight in the high academic achievements of

Caribbean students, noting that they were also thriving personally as well as academically in adapting to the cold, snowy, winters.

Grenadian degree seekers at WIU typically begin their studies online before completing on campus

in the USA. WIU Scholarships are based on local college or CAPE achievement and covers a high percentage of tuition for strong

students. Western Illinois University is a state institution of stellar reputation established in 1899.

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*Happy Independence Grenada!*

# REPUBLIC BANK INTERCOL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024 LAUNCHED



MRS. NAOMI DE ALLIE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF REPUBLIC BANK WITH STUDENTS AND OFFICIALS AT INTERCOL LAUNCH

St. George's, Grenada: March 12-14, 2024 are the dates set for the Republic Bank Inter-Secondary School Athletic Championships ("INTERCOL").

Republic Bank has, for the third consecutive year, affirmed its commitment as title sponsor of INTERCOL, at a press conference held at the Kirani James Athletics Stadium. Mrs. Naomi De Allie, Managing Director, attended and delivered the title sponsor's remarks. In her message, she challenged the students to see 2024 as "the year of opportunity for our athletes" She further commented: "Grenada's hosting of the Junior Carifta games right on the heels of

Intercol, should serve as a motivating factor for each student to aspire to do his or her best; to stretch yourself beyond your comfort zone – make that extra push, that extra jump, extra throw, run that extra mile; do whatever you have to do to secure a spot at the Carifta Games and beyond."

Various other officials attended and delivered remarks as well. They include ACP Douglas of The Royal Grenada Police Force, who outlined measures to be taken to ensure the safety of all attendees at the games. Minister for Youth and Sports, Jonathan La Crette, pledged his ministry's support, to ensure the games are held at a

high standard. Meet Director, Mr. Johnell Mitchell confirmed the reintroduction of Hurdles at this year's games, and promised filled lanes for this event.

Mrs. De Allie commended the Grenada Association of Principals of Secondary Schools and the Grenada Secondary Schools Games Association and all the various stakeholders for their dedication and support.

Twenty-five secondary schools are expected to participate in this year's Republic Bank Intercol championships. We look forward to a safe, competitive three days of Intercol, and wish all the athletes every success.

## CDB, OECS, AND WORLD BANK PARTNER TO FIGHT POVERTY

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados:** The fight against poverty is being accelerated in 2024. Poverty reduction in the context of sustainable development remains high on the agenda for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, in pursuit of the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 1- The Eradication of Poverty in all its Manifestations.

Following requests made from Member States as well as the aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic which posed health challenges, negatively impacted learning, caused job loss and exacerbated economic and social ills, the OECS Commission in partnership with the Caribbean Development Bank and the World Bank-funded Data for Decision Making Project re-launched the Enhanced Country Poverty Assessment

Programme and Data Anonymisation Workshop on Monday, January 15, 2024, in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, and Tobago.

The re-launch opening ceremony and capacity-building workshop event (which ends on January 18, 2024) was conducted via a hybrid modality of in-person as well as live stream for virtual attendees and was attended by Permanent Secretaries, Statisticians, Economists,

Policy Analysts, Social Analysts, and Community Development Specialists from across the Caribbean region. Technical specialists from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), World Bank, UN World Food Programme (WFP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the OECS Commission, also participated.

The updated Enhanced Country Poverty Assessment Programme (eCPA) will accelerate poverty reduction and promote economic stability through the alignment of data with policy direction in the OECS Member States keeping with the provisions of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre in creating an economic union that would facilitate social cohesion, economic development and build resilience.

"This project represents a commitment to understanding and addressing the multifaceted nature of poverty in our region," said the **Director General of the OECS, Dr. Didacus Jules**, as he delivered remarks at the opening ceremony.

He added: "Utilising cutting-edge technology and data analysis, we aim to gain a

CONTINUES ON PAGE 48



# GRENADIANS CELEBRATING GOLDEN JUBILEE IN DJABJAB STYLE!

By J. K. Roberts (Sound Public Policies Advocate)

There has not been any ‘meaningful interest and sound preparations’ on the part of the Government towards the Golden Jubilee of Grenada; and thus by extension, the imperative considerations and engagements surrounding Grenada’s milestone completion of its first fifty years of Independence have not been in the ‘understanding and psyche’ of the Grenadian-people. As a matter of fact; have Grenadians grasped the ‘qualifications and dimensions and practicalities’ of the Political Independence for a small island state like Grenada especially now within a harsh global community, as well as the ‘inalienable intrinsic’ shareholder-status of every citizen in the prosperity and protection of this ‘sovereign entitlement’? In tracing the varied ‘dominance syndromes’ from Slavery under Colonialism to the United Nations with Neocolonialism, the previous article “**The Reality And Evaluation Of Self-Determination In Grenada**” wonders about the meaning of Independence as a misnomer and an illusion.

Critical considerations about the importance and observance of

Grenada’s Golden Jubilee must be beyond the ‘entertainments, beautifications and parades’ as are now given priority and being actively promoted, to the comprehensive analyses of the past and which should not be limited to accomplishments but even more so, involving the failures and wasted opportunities; to the candid recognitions of the present scenario and which should include areas of deficiency and jeopardy, and with pertinent recommendations; and to the clever and careful anticipations of the future, with mechanisms to navigate and survive the lingering and emerging man-made and natural challenges. It is telling about the level of consciousness or of education in the society and so too, it should be appalling about the ‘unbothered and dismissive and neglectful’ attitude of the powers-that-be, on the matter of the sovereign, legal and procedural conditions in the treatments of national institutions, landmarks and symbols like the national flag, from having to witness and to tolerate the ‘mediocre and wild’ manner by which Patriotism and Pride for country is taken or expressed and is extended or perpetuated as standard.

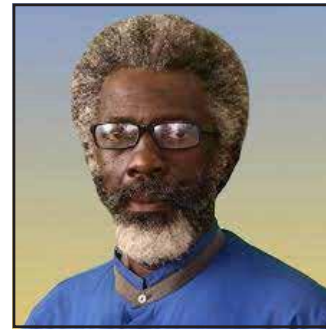
Despite the exciting announcement by the Chair of the ‘regular or

established’ National Celebrations Committee (NCC) at the forty-ninth Independence Day ceremony in February last year that, ‘the journey to the fiftieth anniversary will begin on the next day going throughout 2023 with the hosting of events on the road to a spectacular Golden Jubilee in 2024; the 23 June 2022 administration of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) opted for engaging a ‘new and bigger’ body with a seemingly ‘compromising and bigger’ agenda. The resulting National Organising Committee (NOC) which has been provided with a secretariat and by now may be accessible to about \$16million for the Golden Jubilee, was formed around June / July 2023 with the claimed reason that the celebrations of such ‘milestone completion’ deserve ‘specialized and significant’ undertakings. On 31 October 2023 the NOC launched the Jubilee celebrations meant for a yearlong schedule and at the function, Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell asserts ‘celebrating the occasion in the style of the Jab-Jab, in the style of the Vyeko .... united going up-up-up’, and thereby reestablishing and/or confirming Grenada as a JAB JAB nation (the home of ‘100, 000 Jab Jabs’) according to what has been the depiction and decision

as of the 2008 – 2013 Tillman Thomas’ NDC-administration. The JAB JAB style was actually exposed with the intention of Dickon’s NDC-administration to have had launched, ‘controversially and inappropriately’, the 07 February 2024 Golden Jubilee on 19 October 2023, even with the ‘undisputed and unambiguous’ fact that whilst 07 February reminisces the ‘bright start’ of a democratic era in Grenada’s history, 19 October relates to a ‘dark death’ of a revolutionary experiment. The ‘insensitive and arrogant’ intention for the 19 October Launch has not only erupted ‘displeasure and disorder’ which resulted in the postponement to 31 October, but it inflamed political ‘moods and wounds’ to the extent that certain fraction of the self-destruction (March 1979 – October 1983) Socialist People’s Revolutionary Revolution also had other plans to observe 19 October differently. The JAB JAB style was also evident at the great Launch on 31 October, regrettably with the lack of having pertinent participation by a representative of the Parliamentary Opposition, at least in the unveiling of the Independence Logo which as being claimed, embodies the Independence theme “One People One Journey One

Future”, along with the complementary Independence song “Grenada 50 – Up From Here”; also considering that such national event should transcend all resemblances and forms of partisanship.

The execution of the celebrations for the Golden Jubilee in the JAB JAB style seems to lack ‘sincerity and spirituality’ and tends to be of a ‘mockery with emphasis on frivolities’ and thus sidetracking the people from the major issues of national governance and nation-building. In reviewing the Launch, the related article “**Position Grenada’s Yearlong Golden Jubilee Within Proper Perspective**” accuses the NOC of not defining and contextualizing properly the Jubilee celebrations as an occasion also for signaling a ‘better foundation and new platform’ on the entry of the nation into another fifty years. Although the celebrations are spread over the Jubilee year, also with various inputs by private and independent entities including those in the Diaspora, NOC as the Government’s spearheading and coordinating agent has not initiated any serious forum and document for the edification of the general public, especially the young generation, about the ‘actions, aggressions, actors and agreements’ in the process of



BY J. K. ROBERTS (SOUND PUBLIC POLICIES ADVOCATE)

Grenada obtaining its Political Independence, as well as about the movers and shakers in the development and reputation of Grenada and about the political twists and turns in arriving at fifty years. This questionable observation may be understood in terms of the declaration by NOC that now at the fiftieth Independence anniversary, Grenada is ready to review, to refocus, to rewrite and to reimage its history, culture, identity and legacy; recall the previous two part-article “**Grenada Transforming its Identity And Legacy At Golden Jubilee**”.

Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell delivered the Keynote Address about “**Reparations, Republicanism and The Rule of Law : What Next After Fifty Years Of Independence?**” at the 19th Sir Archibald Nedd Memorial Public Lecture on 22 November 2023, been organized by the Grenada Bar Association. Most ridiculous, on the verge of the occasion

CONTINUES ON PAGE 41



The Management and Staff of Budget Marine wish the Government and People of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique a happy 50th Anniversary of Independence.

## Happy Independence!

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## YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE G-CREWS WATER AMBASSADORS PROGRAM (GWAP) ENGAGE IN KNOWLEDGE SHARING ON RAINWATER HARVESTING



THE GAWP TEAM



GAWP ENAGAGES MEMBERS OF MT CRAVEN COMMUNITY



GWAP MEMBERS TAKING MEASUREMENTS TO DESIGN RWH SYSTEMS IN MT CRAVEN

**St. George's, Grenada:** 6 young people are building and sharing their knowledge on rainwater harvesting with residents of several communities across the State of Grenada. After completing a 3-month comprehensive training program, the young men and women of the Climate-Resilient Water Sector in Grenada (G-CREWS) Water Ambassadors Program (GWAP) are engaging in rainwater harvesting awareness, design and construction in selected communities.

The formation of the GWAP stems from a collaboration agreement between the G-CREWS project and Caritas Grenada for Youth Emergency Action Committee (YEAC) in 2023.

The main objective of the GWAP, is to provide youth with knowledge and skills to promote water conservation practices inclusive of how one can reduce

their high consumption and increase water availability in their communities. With these new skills, the youth group proposes and implements projects in communities to reduce water consumption and increase water availability. Through the program, the Water Ambassadors can understand and explain to community members the impacts of climate change on their water supply and share their knowledge of technology and innovative solutions which can help them use water more sustainably.

As part of this program, they have learnt about rainwater harvesting and its application throughout the region, including on the sister island of Carriacou, which they visited in December 2023. With technical support from Consultant Trevor Thompson and G-CREWS Climate

and Outreach Advisor Ms. Leyana Romain, the team collected the lessons learnt from the island's long-time practice of rainwater harvesting. Though pipe water exists, rainwater harvesting has been the main source of water for the citizens on the sister isles of Carriacou and Petite Martinique for several decades.

Ronald Forbes, one of the GWAP members commented "I have found that rainwater harvesting is an essential commodity that should be valued by everyone in society, as we rely heavily on it during disasters. We should move away from looking at rainwater harvesting or catching the rain as we normally say, as something done by certain groups of people within our society".

Some of the institutions visited were the Princess Royal Hospital, the Indigo "Ningo" 18th century water well

located in Top Hill, Dover Government School, Harvey Vale Government School, households around the community of Harvey Vale and the NAWASA Reverse Osmosis System.

During the exchanges, the young people got an appreciation of the innovative set-ups, the usage of rainwater and how the quality of the water is maintained throughout the year. According to GWAP member Cavona Baptiste, "From the Carriacou experience, while I will encourage persons to engage in rainwater harvesting, I will like them to consider the size of their storage capacity. It

is important that the storage capacity is adequate to match the number of persons living in the household."

The water ambassadors are engaging and empowering residents in the communities

of Crochu in St. Andrew, Mt. Craven in St. Patrick and Jean Anglais in St. George, on the G-CREWS project and rainwater harvesting.

Leyana Romain, G-CREWS Climate and Outreach Advisor in charge of youth and community engagement, is very satisfied with the Water Ambassadors' high level of active participation, willingness to lead and work with others; and share ideas. She reported that the youth are intrinsically motivated and take full advantage of the opportunities given under the G-CREWS project. Under her guidance, she ensures that the youth have total access to resources that aid in their development and the initiatives proposed are implemented by them.

Through the GWAP program, the G-CREWS project achieves both youth engagement and

community outreach in a meaningful way as the project continues to enhance public, private sector and decision makers' understanding of the challenges faced by the water sector due to climate change, through targeted awareness and education activities.

The G-CREWS project is jointly financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) under its International Climate Initiative (IKI), and the Government of Grenada.

Over 6 years, the Government of Grenada, the Grenada Development Bank and the National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA), in partnership with the German Development Corporation (GIZ), implements the project's five components.

## GRENADIANS CELEBRATING GOLDEN JUBILEE IN DJABJAB STYLE!

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 38

of the Golden Jubilee, public discussions and presentations seek to make prominent and creditable the issue of 'what's next' for Grenada for the next fifty years, as if the Golden Jubilee came upon Grenada as an unexpected guest with the next fifty years beginning some reasonable and feasible time ahead. Indeed, this adopted trend of 'what's next for Grenada' takes on a JAB JAB style when considering that the record is 'replete and rich' with tremendous 'experiences and expressions' on virtually every national sector and governance thematic, through various means officially and otherwise. Although Dickon's NDC-administration implies to be serious about 'productivity and implementation'; is it in fact demonstrating a propensity to generate conveniently with diversionary excuses, a set of repeated consultations and studies on critical 'decisions and determinations' which are already taken on certain national issues, as compared with the quick actions taken in 'dark and dubious' circumstances on other issues such as the signing of the Samoa Agreement of the European Union states with the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States on the same date of Dickon's Key Address?

Isn't it about 'continuum in Government despite leadership changes'? Isn't there available a wealth of history with a wide assortment of documents having 'sound recommendations' which are pertinent to Grenada's political upheavals, constitutional abuses, electoral debacles, institutional corruptions, socio-economic troubles including public debts and food security, infrastructural upgrades, and territorial resources amongst other public policy-issues? For example; what is the value of Grenada's 2019 National Sustainable Development Plan 2020-2035 and the set of reviews for genuine constitutional reforms, which had external financial and technical assistance? Further to the need for 'time for action' on those already 'considered and well-defined and resolved' issues, there is the need to give attention to the evolving concepts such as Artificial Intelligence and Gender Equality, with the penetration of foreign cultures and practices which are also negatively affecting Grenada's traditions. Reconsideration on the extent the Citizenship By Investment affects the demographics and governance of Grenada is necessary.

What will be grossly 'embarrassing and

condemning and unforgivable' about DJABJAB style in celebrating Grenada's Golden Jubilee? This must be about having a 'dry and empty' ceremony on 07 February 2024 for Grenada's fiftieth Independence anniversary; that is, with the occasion not featuring any 'extraordinary and progressive' doings. Primarily; will there be the revelation of a 'decently' new or reformed National Constitution for Grenada? Dr. Francis Alexis QC, constitutional lawyer and advocate for constitutional reforms may have sensed this ugliness about the Celebrations and thus releases a Public Statement on 22 January 2024 "Constitution Reform For Grenada At Fifty" with the altering of Grenada's Oath Of Allegiance. Alexis holds the 'reasoned' view that this change is possible without requiring a People Referendum once Parliament has the Will, and that 'how momentous would it be that the leaders on the Independence Anniversary swear allegiance to Grenada and having Grenadians to sing more lustily with rousing patriotism : "Hail Grenada at Fifty". Could it also be that Alexis is reacting to the article, "Has Dickon Mitchell Sourced Grenada's 50th Independence Observance?", which

expresses concerns as to why individuals as attorneys Ruggles Fergusson KC, Dr. Francis Alexis QC, and Sir Lawrence Joseph PhD have not being publicly commenting on the position by Dickon about constitutional reforms?

What then again could Grenadians truly celebrate and congratulate for at the Golden Jubilee on 07 February 2024; is it about having the NDC-party in Government and the signing of the Samoa Agreement? It

is highly unlikely that a new Constitution will be revealed. It is highly unlikely that the 1973 / 1974 documentary evidence about Grenada's Independence which may have been lost during Hurricane Ivan in 2004 but hoping to be gotten from the British High Commission, will be revealed. It is highly unlikely that the introduction of Local Government, a Council for Carriacou and Petit Martinique, as provided for in the Constitution will be revealed. It is highly unlikely that a

list of prisoners who have been reprieved will be revealed. It is highly unlikely that a list of individuals who have been honored as National Heroes will be revealed. It is highly unlikely that an assurance by foreign Institutions and Governments for debt forgiveness will be revealed. It is highly unlikely that a package of significant national projects for evolving during the Jubilee year will be revealed. What real symbolism will display Grenada as a new beginning?

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# DESTINATION GRENADA IS TRENDING GLOBALLY

**St. George –**  
Destination Grenada has much to celebrate as the tri island state has been lauded as one of THE places to visit in 2024 by several international publications.

Grenada has secured a spot on the coveted New York Times “52 Places To Go in 2024” list and British Vogue touted Grenada as one of the, “11 Best Places to Travel in 2024” These highlight Grenada’s captivating allure and diverse offerings and positions the tri-island as an irresistible choice for visitors seeking a blend of sophistication and adventure.

Both House and Garden magazine and travel site Citizen Femme praised the island’s ease of connectivity and diverse offerings which they said reinforced Grenada’s sought after status as a destination that resonates with a global audience.

Noteworthy accolades were also awarded to some of Grenada’s top hotels, further adding to Grenada’s acclaim.

The Evening Standard recognized Calabash Luxury Boutique Hotel as one of the “Hottest Places to Visit in 2024” and Spice Island Beach Resort was acknowledged by The Independent as one of the “Best All-Inclusive Holiday Resorts.”

Mount Cinnamon was also included in The Telegraph’s ‘50 Best Family Friendly Holiday Resorts.’

Petra Roach, CEO of the Grenada Tourism Authority, reflects on Grenada’s acknowledgment in these prestigious publications, stating, “In an era where trends shape travel choices, to receive such a significant amount of exposure from such highly respected publications is humbling and a validation of all the hard work that the Grenada tourism team, both public and private sector, puts into ensuring that our guests have a positive experience when they visit our shores.



We are committed to giving our best and to providing immersive and authentic experiences that resonate and capture the attention of the modern and discerning traveler.”

Chairman Randall Dolland expressed, “We take great pride in these accolades and want to extend a sincere thank you to our stakeholders for their ongoing efforts towards ensuring Grenada remains a top destination for visitors worldwide.”

## TELEPHONE SERVICE RESTORED – CID, ST. GEORGE



The general public

is hereby notified that the fixed line (telephone) number 440- 3921 at the Criminal Investigation Department, St. George has been restored.

The RGPf thanks the public for their patience and understanding while this situation was being resolved.

# THE WORLD BANK SUPPORTS CLEAN ENERGY GENERATION IN DOMINICA



Washington, D.C., January 26, 2024, The World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors approved a project designed to support the Commonwealth of Dominica in developing and integrating clean, sustainable and low-cost energy. Through this \$38.5 million project, a new robust transmission network will be built to withstand natural hazards, strengthening Dominica’s electricity grid.

The challenges faced by Dominica, as a Small Island Developing State, are multi-faceted, stemming from natural hazards, topographical constraints, and external economic shocks. Despite being an upper-middle-income country, Dominica has grappled with persistent economic challenges, exacerbated by hurricanes - such as Hurricane Maria which caused Dominicans to go without power for an extended period in 2017 - and the global COVID-19 pandemic. These underscore

the urgent need for sustainable and resilient infrastructure, especially in the critical area of energy generation. Dominica’s electricity sector is currently challenged by outdated infrastructure, largely dependent on aging diesel generators which result in high electricity expenses and an unreliable power supply, hampering the country’s competitiveness.

In response to these challenges, geothermal energy has been identified by the Government of Dominica as a transformative solution to propel the country toward a green and resilient economy, particularly as it possesses geothermal resources far exceeding its current domestic needs. The World Bank’s ongoing Dominica Geothermal Risk Mitigation Project is supporting the development of the first geothermal power plant through drilling of new geothermal

wells, critical for plant viability and increasing its capacity. The project will also oversee technical studies.

“Dominica is making significant strides in geothermal energy, with innovative investments to deliver clean, low-cost electricity to its citizens and thereafter, the Eastern Caribbean. With support from the World Bank and the Government of Canada, we are building a resilient network for geothermal energy transmission. This network is critical for the commissioning of a 10MW geothermal power plant by Ormat Technologies Inc. Geothermal energy can transform the nation’s energy sector and the economy by reducing electricity costs, achieving 100% renewable energy by 2030 and generating new streams of revenue from the sale of green energy,” stated Hon. Dr. Vince Henderson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business, Trade and

Energy for Dominica.

To complement these efforts, the new Dominica Geothermal Risk Mitigation Project II will allow for the construction of new electrical transmission lines and substations to connect and evacuate electricity generated from the geothermal plant to Dominica’s largest electricity distribution center in the southwest. The project will create a strong network for transmission of electricity with redundancy between key power plants and the demand center, to withstand known natural hazards in the area and thus improve resilience of the entire grid.

“Dominicans will benefit from access to more reliable, cost-efficient and sustainable electricity and the private sector will see less interruption to their production, through the second phase of this project. Households, in particular, will enjoy welfare gains fostering improved opportunities for income, education, and healthcare,” said Lilia Burunciuc, World Bank Country Director for the Caribbean.

“Supporting women’s participation in the energy sector will also be crucial for the success of the project,” she added.


To help responses to future extreme weather events, the project will also facilitate the procurement of emergency spare parts and equipment for efficient and fast repairs, as well as provide technical assistance to improve emergency preparedness, strengthen the regulatory framework, and modernize the grid.

Special focus is placed on inclusion. The project will foster women’s participation in Dominica’s energy sector through the provision of educational programs, scholarships, employment and internship opportunities in electrical, mechanical engineering or other relevant areas. This component will be financed by the Canada-World Bank Clean Energy and Forest Climate Facility.


“Canada is pleased to support the Canada-World Bank Clean Energy and Forest Climate Facility as part of its climate finance

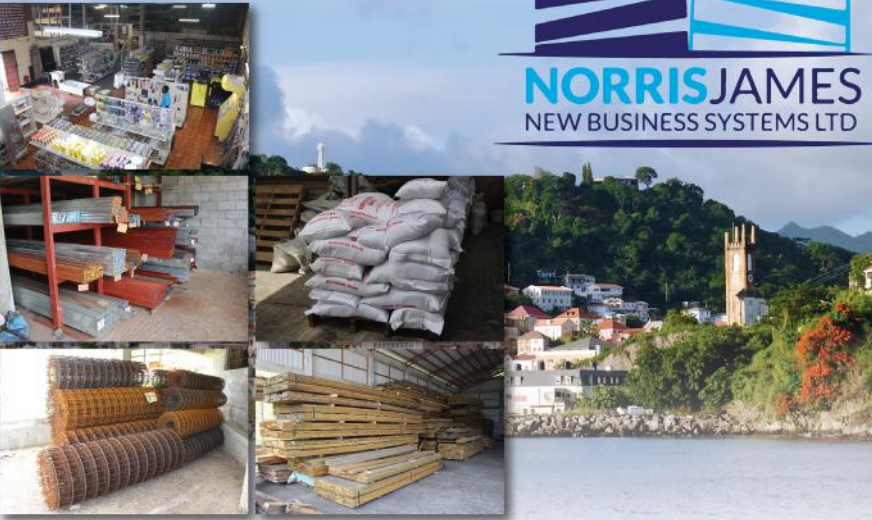
envelope. Through our international climate finance program, Canada takes pride in assisting developing countries in their shift towards low-carbon and more climate-resilient economies, all while adopting a gender-responsive approach. The Dominica Geothermal Risk Mitigation II project is a clear example of how climate finance can effectively tackle gender barriers, ensuring that the clean energy transition is inclusive for all,” remarked Her Excellency, Lilian Chatterjee, High Commissioner for Canada to Dominica.

The Dominica Geothermal Risk Mitigation Project II is financed through a World Bank International Development Association (IDA) credit of \$38.5 million and a \$0.25 million grant from the Canada-World Bank Clean Energy and Forest Climate Facility. IDA credits are a zero to low-interest loan mechanism designed to boost economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve living conditions.



### Happy 50th Anniversary of Independence Grenada!





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## CELEBRATING SIR ARTHUR LEWIS

*A renowned scholar, innovator and winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize for Economics, Sir Arthur was instrumental in establishing CDB, the only indigenous development bank in the region*

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados:** The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) pays tribute to our founding President, Sir Arthur Lewis, a pioneer of

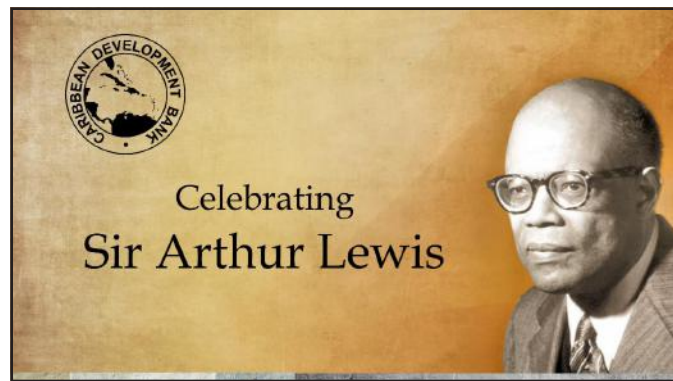
regional development, who was born on January 23, 1915. A renowned scholar, innovator and winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize for Economic Sciences, Sir Arthur was instrumental in establishing CDB, which remains the only indigenous development bank in the Region.

Serving as President from 1970 – 1973, he played a key role in

shaping the strategy and structure of the institution and devising the policies and procedures to ensure its effectiveness in promoting economic development in the Caribbean. Recognising that the evolution and growth of the Region would require a skilled workforce, his tenure was marked by an emphasis on developing human capital with the Bank prioritising investments

in education and skills development to support economic growth.

A national of Saint Lucia, Sir Arthur believed that collaboration and joint efforts were essential to address common challenges and played a critical role in fostering integration and cooperation among Caribbean countries. As President he encouraged member countries to work



together and leverage the resources and expertise of the Bank to achieve shared goals.

CDB honours his legacy through our commitment to accelerating the

social and economic development of Caribbean nations and our ongoing efforts to mobilise the capital and resources needed to achieve the best future for the Region and the people we serve.

## ST. JOHN’S RESIDENT WINS LOTTO JACKPOT



**“Verga Thomas Joins List of Winners from St. John”**

ST. GEORGE’S – All in the same week, after playing the National Lotteries Authority’s Lotto game on Monday, 15th January for a jackpot of \$374,000, Verga Thomas, a mother of five of Mt. Plaisir, St. John received the jackpot prize on Saturday, 20th January 2024 in front of an elated and appreciative crowd at Gouyave, St. John. The N.L.A.’s team was en route to completing their U’ Mus Win island-wide Motorcade, accompanied by

the Grenada Bikers Club. The quick stop saw the presentation occurring within one of the business hubs of Gouyave on Upper Depradine Street.

At the announcement of her winning, Ms. Thomas became very emotional, shedding tears of happiness while the audience clapped. The newest Lotto jackpot winner could not have emerged at a better time and with the most heartwarming stories from both the Winner and the Agent that touched the onlookers!

According to Ms.



Thomas, who is an ardent player of all of the N.L.A.’s games, she had a few tickets to check but was a bit tardy in doing so. She decided to have them checked after attending a funeral at Gouyave on Monday, 15th January. Upon checking her tickets at Agent Land ‘N’ Sea, Ms. Thomas found out that she won a free Lotto ticket by way of the free-ticket letter drawn matching the letter on her purchased Lotto ticket for the specific draw. The quick-pick ticket generated by the sales terminal from her redemption contained the five numbers drawn for the Lotto Jackpot

of that evening. When asked how she felt when she found out that she had won, Ms. Thomas welled up again, managing to utter, “I was very happy.”

The Agent, had his own feel-good story about the somewhat divine role he played in Ms. Thomas’ luck on that said day. According to the proprietor, Ouvell Modeste, his business was broken into which had him down for a short while; but as fate would have it, he opened the bar and gaming centre on that evening, in time for the winner to do her lottery transactions. Mr.



Modeste recounted that it was during his visit to the N.L.A.’s Main Office on Thursday, 17th January that he learned that the Lotto Jackpot was won by someone who played at his business. He stated, “God put me here at the right time no matter what had happened. For every bad thing, there must be a good that comes out of it. I am happy for her.” With an encouraging embrace to Ms. Thomas, Mr. Modeste said, “At the end of the day, give thanks!”

According to the N.L.A.’s Marketing and Business Development Manager

– Ms. Reecé Sam who presented the winner with her cheque, “When one wins so much money, it allows for their life to be changed in so many ways.”

A Jackpot-Seller Certificate was presented to the owner of Land ‘N’ Sea and onlookers were treated from the Agent’s bar, compliments of the National Lotteries Authority. In presenting the certificate, Ms. Sam mentioned that this was not a first for St. John. “You have now joined the ranks of Agents who have sold a jackpot in Grenada, and in St. John.”

## POLICE WELFARE (BRANCH BOARD) ELECTION



Election of officers to serve on the various Branch Boards of the Police Welfare Association is being held

today, Thursday 25th January 2024 between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm. Five election centers have been

established throughout the state to facilitate the voting process.

Section 47 (1) of the Police Act Chapter 244 of the Laws of Grenada provides for the establishment of the Police Welfare Association which shall act through Boards and a Central Committee. The purpose of this Association is to enable Subordinate Officers and Constables to

bring to attention to the Chief of Police and the Governor/General, matters affecting their general welfare and efficiency.

There shall be three Branch Boards, as follows:

- Junior Branch Board – comprising twelve (12) Constables.
- Subordinate Branch Board –

comprising ten (10) Corporals.

- Senior Branch Board – comprising of seven (7) Sergeants/Inspectors

Three (3) members from the Junior Branch Board, two (2) from the subordinate, and two (2) from the Senior Branch Board shall form the Central Committee of which there shall be

elected a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 47 (2) of the Police Act states that the Association shall be entirely independent of and not associated with anybody or person outside the Force.

The Commissioner and members of the Royal Grenada Police Force extend best wishes to each candidate in the election process.

## FAST TRACKING ARMAGEDDON

**By Lenrod Nzulu Baraka**

White Evangelicals in the US, many of whom are hard core Zionists, subscribe to a theology which unapologetically states that the land of Israel, inclusive of Jordan, parts of Lebanon and Syria, and all of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza makes up Eretz Israel. Evangelicals claim that the land was given to Israel by the deity of the Old Testament and that no other ethnic group has any legitimate right to the so-called holy land. The Biblical description of the land of Israel stretching from the Nile River to the Euphrates raises some vexing geopolitical questions that not even the most radical

Zionists are willing to pursue.

Dispensationalism, which is the undergirding force that drives the literalism of the futurist system of prophetic interpretation embraced by most Evangelical churches, affirms that the literal nation of Israel needed to make a big come back in the end time scenario. According to this mode of theological thought, the present dispensation of the church ends when the church is raptured away and the literal nation of Israel again assumes center stage in the divine plan.

Central to the reemergence of Israel in the end time scenario as taught by dispensationalists is the

rebirth of the nation of Israel in Palestine in 1948. Christian Zionists were besides themselves with joy when the Balfour Declaration evolved into solid support for and acceptance of the state of Israel in 1948. Christian Zionists preceded Israeli Zionists in espousing the notion of a land without a people for a people without a land. Lord Balfour, Theodor Herzl, Winston Churchill and all the other major players in the events leading up to the Nakba of 1948, cared little about the rights of the over 700 000 Palestinians who were forced from their ancestral lands to make room for European Jews.



LENROD NZULU BARAKA

As far as Christian Zionists were concerned the nation of Israel had to be restored as a precursor for the rebuilding of the third Jewish Temple and the long-anticipated agreement between the state of Israel and the dreaded Antichrist of the Apocalypse. According to Christian Zionists, the Antichrist would enter into a covenant with the state of Israel but break the covenant in the middle

of the final prophetic week mentioned in the ninth chapter of the Old Testament book of Daniel.

For the predictions of dispensationalists like Hal Lindsey, Tim LaHaye, John Hagee, Pat Robertson Dave Hunt and a host of others to become a reality, Jews had to be restored to the land of Israel and for many dispensationalists, the third Jewish Temple

has to be constructed on the ancient site of the Jewish Temple. Since Palestinians sounded pretty much like Philistines, dispensationalists openly stated that the new Israeli state should go Old Testament on the Palestinians and drive them out of the land using the state-of-the-art weapons furnished by the Europeans and

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# RIVER SALLEE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL CELEBRATES 75 YEARS



FORMER TEACHERS AT THE RIVER SALLEE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL AWARDED FOR SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTION, INCLUDING PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVE, DENNIS CORNWALL



RIVER SALLEE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STAFF, STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT – HON. DENNIS CORNWALL, PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVE, EDUCATION MINISTER, DAVID ANDREW AND DOMINIC JEREMIAH, CEO.

ST. GEORGE’S, GRENADA – The River Sallee Government School celebrated 75 years during a ceremony at the institution on Jan. 17.

The theme for the celebration is “Transforming Lives and Communities: “75 Years of Impact and Service”.

The River Sallee Government School was built in 1948 and opened its doors on Jan. 17, 1949, with 298 students on roll and Joseph Campbell as head teacher. The school was then named the River Sallee School and had a practical centre. In 1954, the school was renamed River Sallee Government School. Throughout its years, the school has been led by nine principals, seven males and two females and numerous teachers.

Education Minister Sen. the Hon. David Andrew, Parliamentary Representative Hon. Dennis Cornwall and Chief Education Officer Dominic Jeremiah were present to celebrate with the students, staff, and parents of the River Sallee Government School at the ceremony.

“I am delighted to be here this morning to share this occasion with the River Sallee Government School. It’s a school that is dear to my heart,” Hon. Andrew said. “You have been in the business of education for much longer than our nation has been an independent nation, here at River Sallee Government, and that’s something worthy of celebrating. That’s significant. Your theme says, “Transforming Lives and Communities

– 75 Years of Impact and Service” and through education, over the years, I’m sure you have allowed several students to journey to parts of the world – far and wide, in both a real and a literal sense.”

The Chief Education Officer, Dominic Jeremiah, an educator with 40 years’ experience, also shared his congratulations. He noted that the Presentation Brothers College, a school he led for 22 years, recently celebrated their 75th anniversary as well. Jeremiah emphasised the importance of being

appreciative to those who help to develop learning institutions and gave a special charge to the current school community, including parents.

He said, “I want to

charge you with the responsibility of continuing to build on the legacy that has been left here at this school for 75 years.”

During the ceremony, past and present teachers, students, community members and corporate sponsors were awarded, along with others who contributed to the growth and success of the institution.

Emerald Gordon was awarded for being the longest serving current teacher, while Madonna Wildman was recognized as the most senior retired teacher. Joyce Alexander is also one of the longest servings, having taught at the River Sallee Government School for 38 years from 1969 to 2007. Additionally, Parliamentary Representative for

St. Patrick East Hon. Cornwall, a past student of and teacher at the school, was recognized during the ceremony.

Author and past student of the River Sallee Government School, Supt. Loxley John, delivered the keynote speech. He made special mention of the strong impact teachers make on students’ lives and highlighted one of his past teachers, Joyce Alexander.

“I mean, she has impacted my life more than she knows and, whenever I see her, there is something that just wells up inside of me, and I think the bond that was created during those years has remained,” John said. “I pause to recognize the invaluable contributions made by the faithful ones who have gone

before us over these 75 years and to offer thanks for the influence and the impact that they’ve had on the lives of the community.

School records indicate that students of River Sallee Government School have consistently performed exceptionally well in the Common Entrance Exam, followed by the CPEA, earning several positions in the top 200. During the revolutionary era, the school was a Centre for Popular Education (CPE). In sports, the River Sallee Government School have earned top places at the national primary school games in both individual and team events, even representing their country at the regional level.

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# FAST TRACKING ARMAGEDDON

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the Americans.

The Nakba of 1948 and the settlement program that continues today, proved to be a breeze for the state of Israel. It was customary for the United Nations to condemn the land grabs of the state of Israel but the US was always there to save the day for Israel by exercising its veto to ensure that Israel was not punished for stealing land from Palestinians or occupying land which belonged to Israel’s neighbors.

By far the more vexing problem for Christian Zionists is the third Jewish Temple project. Much to the chagrin of Christian and Israeli Zionists, the Muslim Dome of the Rock Mosque was built on the site which many Zionists believe to be the site of the old Jewish Temple. In addition to

being an architectural wonder dating back to the seventh century C.E, the Al- Aqsa or Dome of the Rock Mosque also happens to be one of the holiest sites in the Muslim world.

Both Christian and Israeli Zionists advocate for the destruction of the Dome of the Rock Mosque so that the third Jewish Temple can be built on the site that now houses the Dome of the Rock Mosque. It is not difficult to imagine what the response of the world’s 1.8 billion Muslims would be if one of their holiest sites was destroyed by Zionists. Such destruction would be on par with the destruction of the Vatican and it is predictable that there would be hell to pay for such destruction.

The US, Israel, Christian Zionists and the European supporters

of the Zionist project are playing with fire in the Middle East. The Houthis will not be deterred by this new round of bombing by the US and the UK. Over seven years of bombing by Saudi Arabia backed by the US, the UK, France, and several Gulf States, did little to lessen the Houthis enthusiasm for military aggression. Hezbollah is reticent to go all in like the Houthis against Israel but Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, is on record stating that Hezbollah will not allow Israel to wipe out Gaza and its Palestinian population.

The Iranians have delivered on their promise to retaliate for the terrorist attacks that killed scores of Iranians attending a memorial service for assassinated general Qasem Soleimani and for the recent assassination of Sayyed Razi Mousavi, a top Iranian military

adviser in Syria. Iran launched missiles into Syria, Iraq, and Pakistan possibly as a warning to Israel and its allies. It is totally conceivable that Iran will also racket up military support for both Hezbollah and the Houthis.

The president of Turkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other leaders in the Muslim world are currently engaging in the games of diplomacy designed to help the Palestinians without endangering their own national security. The masses of Muslims in the Middle East and in other Muslim majority countries will eventually lose patience with the games of diplomacy if the blood letting in Gaza and the West Bank is not stopped. Pressure from below will forced Muslim leaders to re-evaluate their stance on the Israeli aggression in Gaza and to a lesser extent in the West Bank.

Christian and Israeli Zionists are laying the foundation for the carnage that Christian Zionists call Armageddon. Convinced that they are following the script found in the Bible, Christian Zionists are cheering Israel on as the bombs continue to drop and rivers of Palestinian blood continue to flow. Israel, notwithstanding its weak denials, is a nuclear power. Pakistan, a Muslim majority country, is also a nuclear power. Should Israel threaten Turkiye, Iran or any other Muslim country with a nuclear strike, it is quite possible that Pakistan’s nuclear weapons could be factored into the Middle Eastern equation.

The unleashing of nuclear weapons or the widespread deployment of state-of-the-art conventional weapons in the Middle

East and elsewhere will lead to all the Armageddon the world can stomach. African and Caribbean people should be aware that much of the madness that we are witness in the Middle East finds its genesis in bad religion and in bad theology. African American Christians who are chanting four more years for the Joe Biden administration may also want to re-evaluate their theological foundations. Extricating ourselves from bad religion and bad theology is a necessary prerequisite for people of African ancestry if we want to be found standing on the right side of history.

Lenrod Nzulu Baraka is the founder of Afro-Caribbean Spiritual Teaching Center and the author of The Grand Failure: How Christianity Became a Source of Evil in the World.

## CALL FOR PROJECTS UNDER THE 2024-2025 UNESCO PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME



ST. GEORGE’S, GRENADA – The Grenada National Commission for UNESCO invites ministries, departments, agencies, registered

NGOs and youth organisations, whose area of work falls under UNESCO’s purview, to submit requests for funding for projects under the 2024- 2025 Participation Programme.

The projects or proposals must relate to the promotion of education, science, information and communications or

culture. Preference will be given to projects that are of a transdisciplinary nature, which will be of benefit to Grenada and address issues related to those affecting youth.

When preparing projects, prospective applicants should take into particular account one of the global priorities of the organisation, gender equality.

**Requests for funds, which must not exceed US\$26,000 can be sought for:**

1. Projects/ programmes
2. The services of specialists and consultants
3. Publications, periodicals and documentation
4. Supplies and equipment

5. The organisation of conferences, meetings and seminars
6. Study grants and fellowships

**Please see attached forms for submission of requests.**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDnEJowifDsrgEpC25r2DzasWoy1ZgyXmV2YqfLFFAQv0hCw/>

[viewform?usp=sf\\_link](#)  
Please also note that applications and project details should be submitted on or before **25 Feb. 25, 2024.**

For further information, please contact the Grenada National Commission for UNESCO by Tel: (473) 440-3162/2737 or Email: [unesco-gd@gov.gd](mailto:unesco-gd@gov.gd).



# CDB, OECS, AND WORLD BANK PARTNER TO FIGHT POVERTY

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deeper, more nuanced understanding of the poverty landscape. This is not just about numbers and statistics; it's about the real stories, struggles, and strengths of our people. This work should also assist the region in responding and measuring our progress, our gaps, and challenges as we seek to meet the sustainable development goals (SDGs) specifically SDG 1 – ‘Eradication of Poverty in all its Manifestations.’”

Referencing CDB’s 2017 publication: The Changing Nature of Poverty and Inequality in the Caribbean, New Issues, New Solutions, **CDB Director of Projects, Mrs. Therese Turner-Jones**, highlighted that the pandemic had exacerbated regional poverty in her remarks at the opening ceremony.

“COVID-19 created a sense of normlessness, worsened existing structural inequalities, compounded impediments to citizens’ participation in socio-economic activities across client countries. The confluence of these factors has hastened the need for client countries to be supported by CDB and other partners in undertaking poverty assessments to access current empirical data to inform development policy and planning,” **Mrs. Turner-Jones** said, emphasising that the

individual data collected would be kept strictly private.

Also delivering remarks [in order of appearance in the Programme] at the launch were **Ms. Marie Hinds, Permanent Secretary (Ag.) Ministry of Planning and Development, Trinidad and Tobago**, and **Dr. Martin Baptiste, Division Chief, Social Sector Division, CDB**.

Additionally, **Mr. Olivier Dupriez, Deputy Chief Statistician, World Bank** and **Mr. Thijs Benschop, Statistician, World Bank**, facilitated the Data Anonymisation Workshop which focused on Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC), a technique used in statistics to assess and lower the risk of a person or organisation being re-identified from the results of an analysis of survey or administrative data, or in the release of microdata.

A key highlight on Day 1 of the workshop was the practical training participants received through a hands-on-session in Software Installation and Exploration, the installation of the R package SDC Micro, exploration of the Graphical User Interface, as well as perturbative and non-perturbative data anonymisation methods



MS. MARIE HINDS, PERMANENT SECRETARY (AG.) IN THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, EDWIN ST CATHERINE, PROJECT COORDINATOR, ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES COMMISSION, AND DR. MARTIN BAPTISTE DIVISION CHIEF, SOCIAL SECTOR DIVISION CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LISTEN KEENLY AS THEY ATTEND THE RE-LAUNCH OF THE BANK’S SIXTH ENHANCED COUNTRY POVERTY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (CPA) AT THE HYATT REGENCY HOTEL IN PORT OF SPAIN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ON MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024.

(i.e. ways to respect confidentially and make the data anonymous without compromising or changing the data).

The Enhanced Country Poverty Assessment was first launched in 2016 to measure the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty and living conditions. It consisted of five components: the Survey of Living Conditions/ Household Budgetary Survey, the Institutional Assessment, the Macro-Economic and Social Assessment, the Participatory Poverty Assessment and the Poverty Vulnerability Mapping. Additionally, the OECS Commission provided capacity-building training to Member States in support of the eCPA

implementation.

The updated eCPA has been re-designed to ensure the attainment of meaningful results in the collective effort to address poverty and socio-economic disparities within its Member States whilst prioritizing data privacy and data anonymisation. It will also continue to prioritise the development of local capacity and aims to deliver tangible outcomes which include:

- Extensive consultations with Poverty Assessment Teams across Member States;
- Completion of data analysis and reporting on monetary and multi-dimensional poverty using the Enhanced CPA toolkit;
- Completion of Poverty Vulnerability Mapping (PVM) using data from SLC-HBS and Census Data;
- A Participatory Poverty Assessment and an Institutional Analysis, both of which are critical in providing a qualitative understanding of poverty within the Member States; and
- Macro Social and Economic Analysis, which involves consultations with National stakeholders

and is pivotal in understanding the broader socio-economic landscape as well as informing policy decisions.

The re-launched eCPA has completed a draft set of monetary poverty results for St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as multi-dimensional deprivation indicators for St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the British Virgin Islands. It is designed to strengthen our understanding of poverty to help develop interventions whilst prioritizing confidentiality and anonymity in data collection.

# RIVER SALLEE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL CELEBRATES 75 YEARS



OLDEST LIVING RETIRED TEACHER, MADONNA WILDMAN, IS AWARDED – AWARD PRESENTED BY CEO, DOMINIC JEREMIAH

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Vice Principal of the River Sallee Government School, Kelson Baptiste, spoke of the school’s achievements.

“For 75 years our institution has been a nurturing ground for dreams, a fortress for knowledge and a crucible of character.

Our legacy is woven into the fabric of the community, with each graduate contributing to rich tapestry of our shaped rich history,” Baptiste said. “The 75th anniversary is

not just a milestone. It is a testament to our resilience – to our adaptability and unwavering commitment to excellence. It is an opportunity to

renew our dedication to fostering an environment where curiosity, creativity, and compassion flourish.”

The River Sallee Government School

is also well known for its strong cultural influence, under the guidance of Crofton Mc Guire, a teacher at the school, validating the school motto “Culture through Activity”.



AWARDS

# PATRIOTISM IS MORE

While we as Grenadians, revel in the fact that our nation is now 50 years old and while we proclaim patriotism and love for country, sometimes we have to reconsider whether we really love the country and whether we indeed manifest this love by our actions.

We must pause and understand that patriotism means much more than waving a flag and dressing in national

colors, it is more about committing oneself to do the things that will benefit the country in the short, medium or long term. For example, it is important to put country before political party of choice.

Too many of us wax patriotic only when the political party we prefer is in office. When that is not the case, patriotism disappears.

Putting political party

before country means people putting the localized interests of their specific party over the larger interests of the nation.

Depending on individual perspectives, we are living this right now in Grenada. If you are on a particular side of the political spectrum, it feels like the Republicans are more interested in promoting and defending their

organization than they are preventing the decline of the country’s stability and international reputation, (which just blows the mind).

Choosing “country over party” (which is, to my mind, the right way to approach patriotism) means that no matter who is prime minister or who owns which house, the over-riding interest should be “what’s best for the

country” in the long-term, not “what does my party affiliation tell me to do?”

Another chronic and serious that could justifiably cause one to question of legitimacy of some Grenadians’ patriotism, is the level of littering and illegal dumping that we continue to engage in. Littering is a far more serious problem than many Grenadians realize. As a result of

that, far too often, you find people casually flinging fast food containers, plastic wrappers ad packages, out of vehicle windows and while walking along the streets, without a care in the world.

Ironically, sometimes around the anniversary of independence, it is common to see the occupants of vehicles covered in patriotic bumper stickers and

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# RECRUITMENT FIRM CEO HOPES TO SEE MORE ACCELERATORS, INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES



**BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS** — The CEO of a regional recruitment service is hoping to see more youth accelerators and internship programmes that will help boost employability and help more young Caribbean people with job placement prospects in the future.

Joseph Boll is the head executive of Caribbean Employment Services Inc., a market-leading digital talent acquisition service that aims to connect the top talent from the Caribbean with hiring managers, HR professionals and decision-makers in companies both within the Caribbean as well as abroad. It is headquartered in Barbados but operational throughout the region. Since being founded in 2020, the firm has helped

thousands of Caribbean jobseekers connect with employers and land their dream jobs.

“It would be fantastic to see more accelerator programmes, internships and training programmes that lead directly to employment for Caribbean people of all ages, especially those who may have never had an opportunity to receive formal training,” said Boll. “Some of these can be geared towards entrepreneurship, but it would also be good to see public and private business come onboard and partner with these programmes to help more people become highly-skilled and employed with formal jobs.”

Boll’s comments come on the heels of the final call for applications for the 2024 edition of the Caribbean Tourism

Career Accelerator and Remote Career Internship programme, hosted thanks to a partnership between organizations like Global Startup Foundation — the non-profit arm of Haitian-American tech recruitment company Global Startup Ecosystem; the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Labs; Google Cloud for Startups; IBM Clouds; and others.

The programme is a multi-week reskilling and internship programme open exclusively to young Caribbean professionals who are interested in pursuing careers in the tourism industry. While offering a unique upskilling and networking opportunity, the programme also promises participants job placement

and internship opportunities.

“These are the kind of programmes the region needs to see more of, both to improve the regional economy and also to tackle long-standing issues with young talent moving abroad because it’s too difficult to find job opportunities here,” Boll said.

He noted that his firm,

Caribbean Employment Services Inc., aims to make the job hunting and hiring process easier for jobseekers of all ages as well as for employers. However, he added that the World Bank cautioned that the Caribbean does not have enough of these types of services available.

At the same time, other international organizations have noted the Caribbean’s

challenge with young, educated and highly-skilled individuals migrating away from the region en masse.

“Our services are available free of charge to jobseekers and we are certainly doing our part, but more of these kinds of programmes that offer to train and place young people for free would be a boon for the region,” Boll said.



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# JOURNEY TO WELLNESS: BALANCING MIND, BODY AND RELATIONSHIPS IN 2024

By Dr. Basil Springer

“He gives me new strength. He leads me on paths that are right for the good of His name. Even if I walk through a very dark valley, I will not be afraid, because You are with me. Your rod and Your shepherd’s staff comfort me.” – Psalm 23:3-4

In last week’s column, I shared my spiritual and intellectual resolutions and reflections for the New Year. As we journey further into 2024, I cannot wait to resume my ride on my spiritual blanket and dive into my literary ventures.

Over our Christmas break in beautiful Barbados, Judy and I engaged in enjoyable and leisurely pursuits. But what we did not bargain for were the exhilarating experiences that confirmed the importance of two additional resolutions – physical well-being and nurturing relationships. These relationships are critical to achieving balance in our lives as is evidenced by the first fortnight of the year as it has flown.

My focus now shifts to the physical aspect

of my well-being. Maintaining a healthy body is essential for a fulfilling life. To that end, I’ve outlined several components integral to my physical health in 2024.

As a Springer, sleep comes naturally to me, requiring little effort. It’s ingrained in my routine to sleep four to five times a day, amounting to eight hours, a pattern I have adopted throughout my adult life.

Regular physical activity plays a dual role – it bolsters not just physical health but mental well-being, too. Since I stopped

playing cricket at 40, walking and swimming have become my daily habits. Despite a lapse this past year, I resumed my walking activity last week with a renewed commitment to staying active and mobile.

My 18-year-old grandson, an ardent basketball player, recently committed to combining his passion and skills with a career as a physical training coach. Over Christmas, he prepared a personalized senior fitness plan for me. I have had two face-to-face sessions and pledged to continue this regime virtually.

Judy and I are already committed to mindful eating, focusing on wholesome, nutritious meals while indulging in moderation.

Nurturing human connections is vital for emotional well-being. As the world slowly emerges from the pandemic’s shadow, I’m determined to prioritize physical affection and harnessing the power of a simple hug in building and maintaining meaningful relationships.

Mental health, though often overlooked, deserves our utmost attention. Regular mindfulness and

meditation practices are at the forefront of cultivating peace of mind, given their proven efficacy in reducing stress and elevating overall well-being.

Self-care is not a luxury but a necessity. I plan to treat myself to regular massages and osteopathic treatments to unwind, release tension, and promote relaxation. It’s a small yet significant investment in my physical and mental health.

Preventive health care is another priority for 2024, as it is essential in preventing illness and

ensuring longevity. This year, I shall continue regular check-ups and screenings to detect and address potential health issues early on.

As I embark on this journey of physical wellness, I am cognizant that these resolutions are not merely checkboxes. They are promises to myself, commitments to nurture my body, and investments in my future health.

In this quest for wellness, the importance of familial and friendly bonds cannot be overlooked. The time spent with loved ones during our vacation reminded me they are the cornerstones of cultivating happiness and living a fulfilling life.

Amid the hustle and bustle of our daily routines, we often neglect the people who matter most to us. This year, I resolve to cherish and nurture my relationships with family, friends and colleagues.

So, let’s embrace this opportunity to grow, thrive and make the most of the year ahead.





# FIRST SHIPMENT OF RECYCLABLE PLASTICS EXPEDITED UNDER RECYCLE OECS PROJECT



The first shipment of recyclable plastic waste has been dispatched under the Recycle OECS Project. The shipment out of Dominica left at the end of December 2023 for Honduras with an arrival date of January 10.

This project milestone also represents a significant first for the Dominica Solid Waste Management Corporation (DSWMC), the Waste Management agency leading the implementation of the Recycle OECS

Model Demonstration Project in Dominica. While the DSWMC has been collecting and stockpiling recyclable plastics for some time now, through technical support provided under the Recycle OECS Project, the Corporation has now progressed from collection and storage to export in late December 2023.

This shipment was arranged through the commodity broker, Recycling and Waste Logistics of Trinidad and Tobago. Dominica's first

shipment comprised 65 bales of plastic at an estimated weight of 13 tonnes. The plastics were bound for a recycling manufacturer in Honduras, TerraPolyester S.A. de C.V. TerraPolyester is the largest recycling processing zone in the Western Hemisphere, exporting and reutilizing a variety of waste products. The company produces raw clean PET fakes, which are then further used in the recycling processes, and also produces premium polyester fiber from post-consumer PET packaging.

## RECYCLE OECS PROJECT GENERATES INSIGHTS INTO PLASTIC WASTE LANDSCAPE OF DOMINICA AND GRENADA



New Waste Characterisation Reports are in for Dominica and Grenada. The findings are critical for tailoring the Recycle OECS Model framework to the waste landscape of these Member States. Dominica and Grenada are selected OECS

territories implementing Model Demonstration projects, paving the way for the rest of the OECS Waste Management sector.

Dominica: For Dominica, the Waste Characterisation exercise could not have

been more urgent, as plastic usage trends have significantly altered the waste landscape from 2002 when the Dominica Solid Waste Management Corporation last conducted a waste study. Between July 22 – 28, 2023, the

Dominica Solid Waste Management Corporation (DSWMC) conducted a dual waste classification exercise covering co-mingled municipal solid waste and source-separated recyclable packaging waste at the Fond Cole Sanitary Landfill Site. It also sought to identify the sub-categories of plastics within the waste stream and assess the potential for recycling under the Recycle OECS initiative.

According to the 2023 Study report, plastics make up 24% of Dominica's solid waste stream with film plastics being the dominant component at 53%.

Plastics rank second to organics, at 29%, followed by paper and paperboard at 17%. Within the Recycle OECS project's focus on PET and HDPE plastics, a detailed breakdown shows film plastics at 53%, Clear PET at 24%, Other plastics at 15%, and HDPE containers at 8%.

Overall, glass dominates in the waste stream at 54%, followed by plastics at 41%, and metal at 5%. Clear PET containers (54%), HDPE containers (22%), and Film Plastics (21%) are the primary components of plastics within this waste stream.

Even though Dominica stands out as the only Member State in the region with a dedicated curbside collection system for recyclables, the findings reveal limited participation of residents in the island's curbside recycling collection initiative.

The Study found some consistency in the waste composition hierarchy between the 2023 and 2002 studies, however, there are notable changes, including a decrease in organics (45% to 24%) and there is an increase in plastics (16% to 24%).

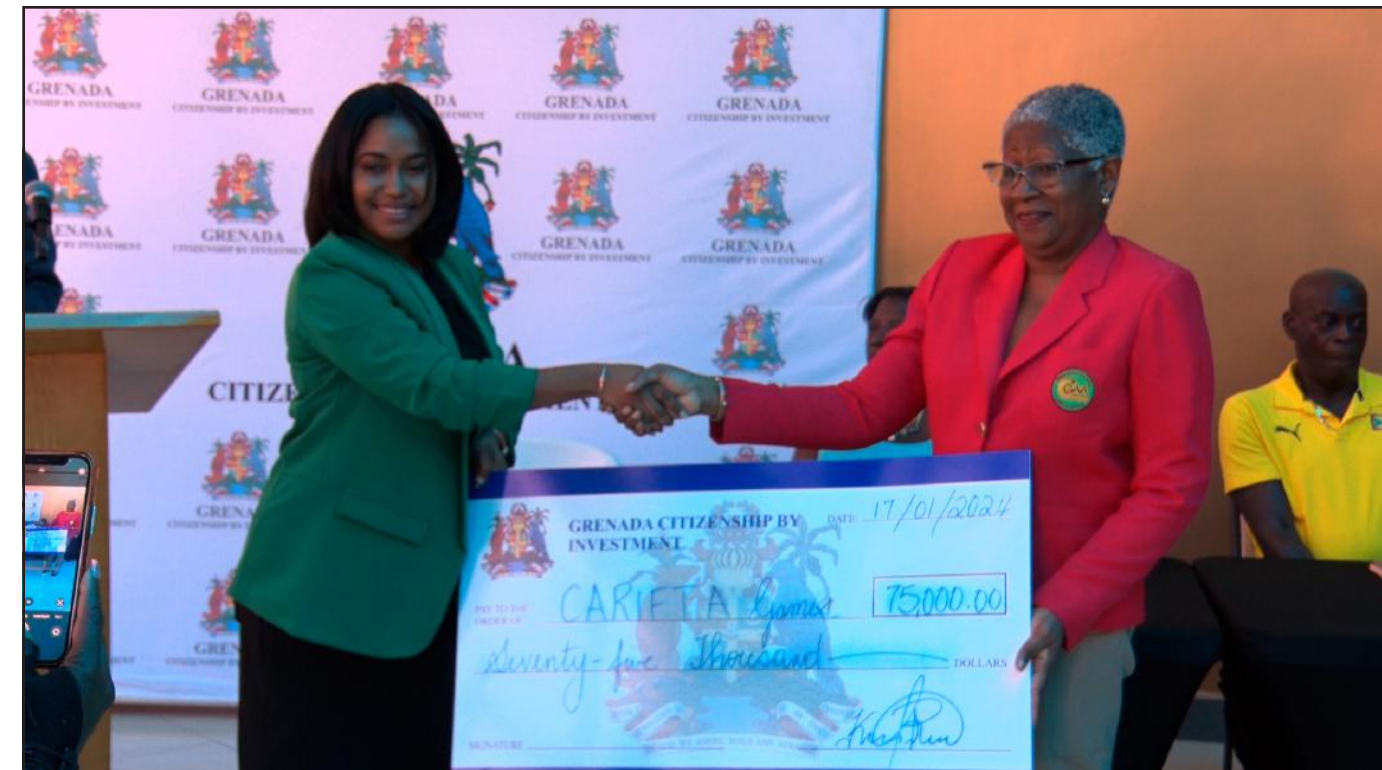
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# GRENADA CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT REINFORCES COMMITMENT TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AS PLATINUM SPONSOR OF 2024 CARIFTA GAMES

St. George, Grenada

– The Grenada Citizenship by Investment Unit (CBI) proudly announces its role as platinum sponsor of the highly anticipated 2024 CARIFTA Games, showcasing its dedication to fostering youth development in the region. In a symbolic gesture of support, the CBI officially handed over a generous cheque amounting to \$75,000 to the Grenada Athletic Association during a ceremony held on Wednesday, January 17th, 2024, at the Grenada Olympic House.

The cheque presentation ceremony was attended by key stakeholders, including representatives from the Grenada Citizenship



by Investment Unit and the Grenada Athletic Association. The event took place at the Grenada Olympic House, a symbolic venue reflecting the unity and shared aspirations of Grenada's athletic

endeavors.

As expressed by Ms. Rea Burke, Marketing and Communications Officer of the Unit, the Grenada Citizenship by Investment Unit is thrilled to be part of the

CARIFTA Games and its overarching mission. She stated, "to the Unit, this is more than just a sponsorship; it reaffirms our commitment to transforming the lives of the youth in the region and supporting

the advancement of the nation's sporting prowess. The Games represent an opportunity for us to promote a culture of excellence, perseverance, and determination."

The Games have produced World and Olympic champions including our very own Kirani James, Alleyne Francique, Anderson Peters, and Lindon Victor, Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Price of Jamaica, Kim Collins of St. Kitts & Nevis, and many others. Therefore, by aligning itself with the CARIFTA Games, a premier regional athletic event, the Unit aims to create a lasting impact on the lives of young athletes.

The Grenada Citizenship by Investment Unit encourages all citizens and stakeholders to join hands in supporting the CARIFTA Games and promoting the holistic development of regional youth.

## NEW LEADERSHIP AT T. A. MARRYSHOW COMMUNITY COLLEGE



DR. JOHN TELESFORD



MRS. MARVA BOWEN-NEPTUNE

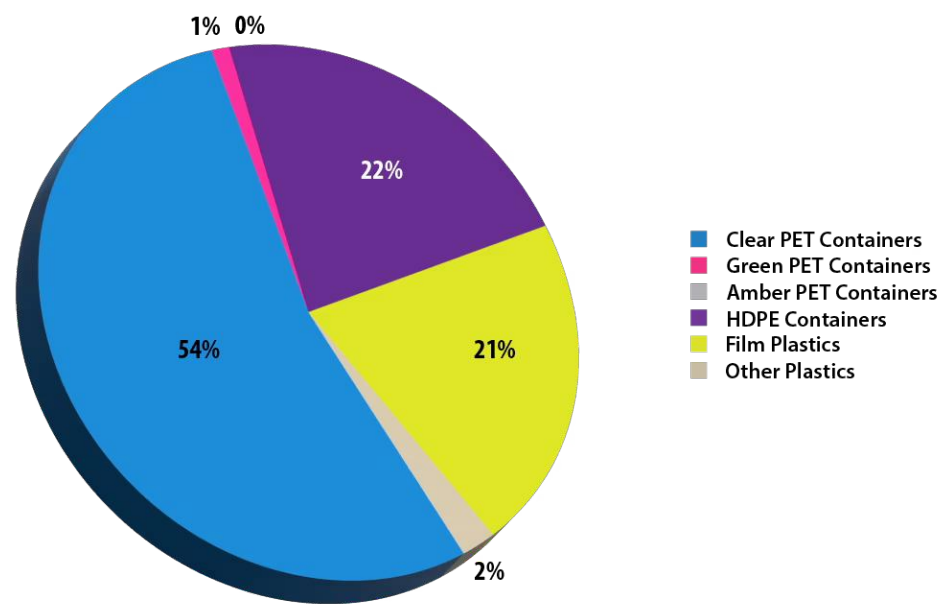
As the T. A. Marryshow Community College continues to grow and evolve, we are pleased to announce new leadership roles at the institution. On January 1, 2024, the College Council appointed Dr. John N. Telesford to the post of Acting Principal for a period of 7 months. This became necessary as the incumbent Dr. Ronald Brunton, who served for just over 2 years, tendered his resignation. Additionally, Mrs. Marva Bowen-Neptune was appointed to act

as Deputy Principal, with oversight for Administration and Human Resources.

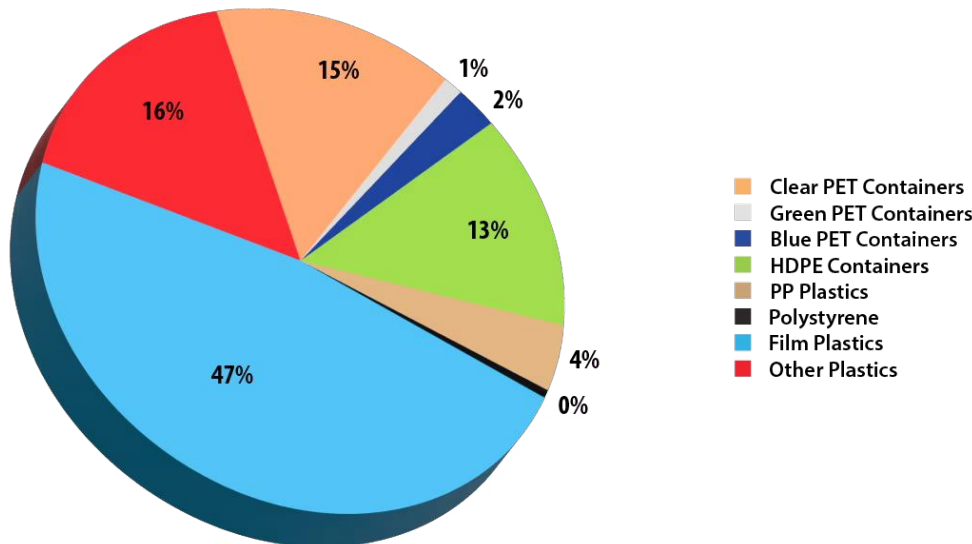
The Council welcomes Dr. Telesford and Mrs. Bowen-Neptune to their new roles and extends wishes for their success, as TAMCC seeks to transform and align its strategies with the transformative agenda of the Government of Grenada. The Council also thanks Dr. Brunton for his service and wishes him success in his new endeavors.



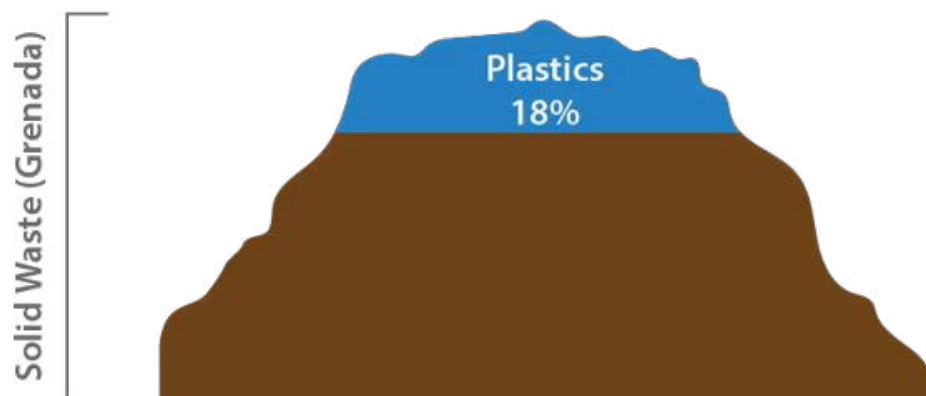
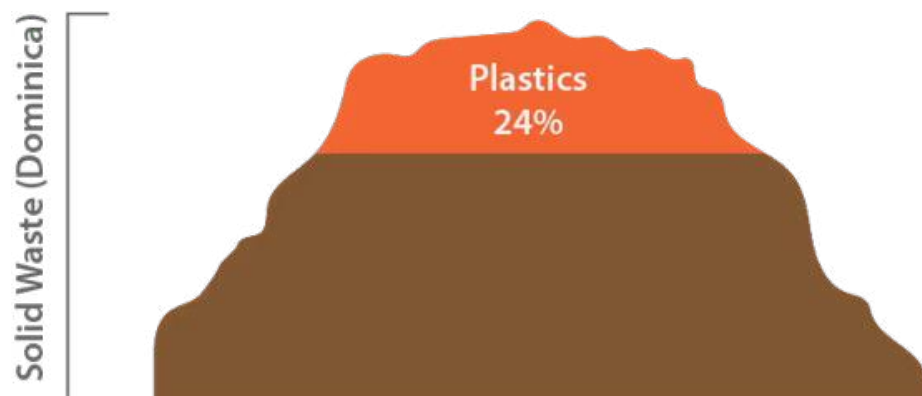
# RECYCLE OECS PROJECT GENERATES INSIGHTS INTO PLASTIC WASTE LANDSCAPE OF DOMINICA AND GRENADA



Dominica's Plastic Composition within the Recyclable Stream (2023)



Grenada's Plastic Composition within the Recyclable Stream (2023)



CONTINUES FROM PAGE 52

These shifts underscore evolving waste patterns influenced by global trends in manufacturing and consumption.

Grenada: Conducted from August 21 – 25, 2023, the Grenada Waste Characterization Exercise focused on understanding the composition of plastic waste within Grenada's municipal solid waste stream. The findings reveal that plastic waste constitutes 18% of the total waste sampled, with film plastics as a significant contributor, constituting 47% of the plastic waste, followed

by other plastics at 16%, clear PET containers at 15%, and HDPE containers at 13%. This means Grenada's plastic waste for the previous year was approximately 7,235 tonnes.

A direct comparison between Grenada and Dominica reveals striking similarities in plastic waste composition. Both Member States share film plastics as the dominant component, reflecting common economic activities, tourism influences, and reliance on plastic-packaged imported

goods.

Regional and Global Comparison: When compared to the other Recycle OECS participating Member States (Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) Dominica's plastic composition at 24% showcases similarities with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Grenada's plastic waste composition at 18% is relatively lower. However, all four territories' plastic waste generation is comparatively higher than the global average

for upper-middle-income countries, emphasizing the common challenge of plastic waste in the region.

The findings from Grenada and Dominica's waste characterization studies have far-reaching implications for the OECS region and beyond. Notably, both nations surpass global averages of 12%. They both exceed the average for other upper-middle-income countries where plastic waste constitutes 11%, shedding light on the challenges faced by small island developing

states.

The Grenada Waste Management Authority and the Dominica Solid Waste Management Corporation have embraced a collaborative "twinning" arrangement, which involves knowledge exchange, research and data sharing, possible resource pooling, a joint approach for public education and awareness, and active collaboration during project implementation. The goal is to develop a replicable model that can be easily adapted to suit the circumstances

of other OECS Member States and document a case study for Small Island Developing states.

Recycle OECS is a pioneering initiative that is setting the stage for a paradigm shift in waste management across the OECS. It is funded by the European Union under the EU-Caribbean partnership for cooperation in the field of circular economy and solid waste management, and implemented by the OECS Commission in collaboration with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

# PATRIOTISM IS MORE

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 49

flags, throwing litter out the window. It is proof that in their minds, the stickers and bunting are enough to prove patriotism and the environment can go to the dogs. This is far from the ideal state of affairs.

Around the world, the discarding of waste in inappropriate places is by now a giant-sized problem and it is no better in Grenada than anywhere else.

Organizations such as Grenada Green Group (G3), and SPECTO from St. Patrick's, as well as individuals such as medical doctor Terrance Marryshow have been constantly making efforts to alert Grenadians to the dangers of littering and illegal dumping; the unsightliness, the health threats, the threats to tourism and the dangers to our environment. Yet it is difficult to perceive

any changes in people's behaviors. That is a far cry from being patriotic

Most of the litter, which is predominantly plastic, end up in our waterways and the marine environment. Every day, the equivalent of 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic are dumped into the world's oceans, rivers, and lakes. Plastic pollution is a global problem. Every year 19-23 million tonnes of plastic waste leaks into aquatic

ecosystems, polluting lakes, rivers and seas. Do we really want to contribute to that? Are we not aware that we are contributing to destroying our country rather than celebrating its independence?

Plastic sticks around in the environment for ages, threatening wildlife and spreading toxins. Plastic also contributes to global warming. Almost all plastics are made from chemicals that come

from the production of planet-warming fuels (gas, oil and even coal).

Plastic kills ocean life. By now you've probably heard about the mass amounts of plastic polluting oceans and other waterways. It kills terrestrial wildlife, also harms the environment by killing land animals. Discarded plastic takes up space, produces chemical pollution and creates microplastics.

In tiny Grenada, large

amounts of plastics and gathered by volunteers each year, along beaches and river courses.

Our island is a small one and therefore, more vulnerable to the effects of environmental pollution. The sooner we understand that love for country takes much more than waving a flag and low our actions to speak of our patriotism, the greater the chance of our country achieving another 50 successful years.



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# HALF A CENTURY LATER

When a new baby comes into the world, the parents are not at that moment, preoccupied with the future achievement of that baby and what it will accomplish at what particular point. They are more engulfed in the joy of having their baby and showering it with their unconditional love and affection.

Certainly, no love can compare with the pure, unblemished love that a parent has for a child, and it's especially strong for a new born. It is only after a while, sometime later in the child's life that they sit back and assess the young one's achievement and analyze in detail, what future they desire for their child.

When Grenada became an independent state in 1974, the euphoria was in the fact that we are now a nation. While every patriotic Grenadian harbored hopes for a prosperous and positive future, it was not yet laid out in their minds, item

by item. It was enough for most that we have a new nation, we could now chart our own way in the global scheme of things and our decisions were ours to make.

Without doubt, we had aspirations for the future but had no road map for exactly where we would be 50 years later for example.

detractors insisted that he had already been displaying alarming dictatorial tendencies and a new elevated status as prime minister would only accentuate those qualities. The final achievement of independence therefore, was not a smooth sail but blemished by resistance and civil disobedience.

While certain nations have existed for centuries, 50 years in the life of anything is nothing to scoff and Grenada's 50th anniversary is as profound a bit of achievement as any. However, as we prepare to commemorate that milestone, it is impossible not to acknowledge the fact that, like the baby we as a nation were forced to struggle through many a difficult and challenging phase before arriving at where we are and while being proud of how far we have come, we are fully aware of much further we have to go.

Independence was nevertheless declared and Grenada embarked on the journey to take its place in the global scheme of things, a daunting challenge considering our miniscule size and paltry resources but we set out on the journey anyway.

As a matter of fact, Grenada registered some footprints on the international landscape before. Our flamboyant premier was not timid in registering his views on world affairs and then there was Grenadian beauty Jennifer Hosten winning the prestigious Miss World beauty pageant in 1970.

When Grenada achieved independence 50 years ago, citizens would have considered it foolhardy to even consider or envisage some of the things we have accomplished today, likewise some of the challenges we have overcome.

Anyway, after achieving independence in 1979, Grenada definitely continued to defy the disadvantages of its miniscule size and absence of natural resources making mainstream industrialization practically impossible. We have had to mostly base our prospects of development on what we possess naturally; picturesque scenery, geographical gifts like waterfalls and beaches, verdant landscapes and of course, arguably the most friendly and welcoming people in the world.

By now it has become obvious that while political independence would be one of the primary desires of any vassal country, not everyone in Grenada relished the idea of achieving that status with Eric Matthew Gairy, the premier at the time, as the one in whose hands, leadership would be placed. His

CONTINUES ON PAGE 59



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# GRENADA HOSTS WORLD-CLASS RUGBY EVENT FOR THE SECOND YEAR



St. George, Grenada – The 2023 Grenada Rugby World 7s (GRW7s) Tournament hosted for the second time in Grenada at the Kirani James Athletics Stadium did not disappoint.

In partnership with the Grenada Tourism Authority, the longest running Club Rugby 7s tournament in the region returned to the Spice Isle from 1st to 2nd December bringing in sixteen of the world’s best Men’s

and Women’s Elite 7s teams to compete for a US\$20,000 total prize pool.

In addition to all the on-field action, teams from the UK, USA, Canada and the Caribbean including the newly formed local team ‘Grenada Greenz’ came out to enjoy a week of official GRW7s events showcasing Pure Grenada including a beach bonfire and cultural entertainment show and a Charity Golf Tournament which

raised EC\$5000 for the Grenada Cancer Society.

GRW7s General Manager Brian Stollmeyer stated this year’s ‘Pure Grenada. Pure 7s experience was once again a great success for both the locals and visitors alike, emphasizing his organizing committee is already looking forward to bringing the event back to the island next year.

“This Tournament is one of rugby’s most

popular international events and although it has been running for over 30 years in various locations, the support we have received from Grenada is just unprecedented. We are thoroughly committed to the Spice Isle. Not only as a world-class destination to host an enjoyable event, but also to use our global Tournament as a platform to assist with developing rugby on the island. This year, we saw Grenada play competitively

internationally for the very first time after only forming their Union in 2021. This is an important milestone for the sport regionally. We also had some of our overseas teams visit local schools and introduce rugby to the students. It is our vision that we continue to bring our Tournament to Grenada to highlight the island’s unique charm as well as to help share the sport with the local community as something everyone can

enjoy.”

CEO of the Grenada Tourism Authority, Petra Roach echoed these sentiments, “We are thrilled to have welcomed Grenada Rugby World 7s to our shores for a second consecutive year. Hosting an event of this caliber adds further depth to our ever-expanding sports tourism offering and we are excited to continue

CONTINUES ON PAGE 66

# GRENADA’S PRIME MINISTER HAS LAID THE BLAME FOR THE STATE OF THE ISLAND’S HEALTH ON BAD EATING HABITS AND FOOD CHOICES

By Richard Simon

Speaking on Vision 75, a new look at Grenada’s national sustainable Development Plan 2035, Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell, urged his countrymen to become more physically active in an effort to become healthier and reduce the incidence of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure among others.

He noted the affinity for sugar, salt and a “romantic affairs” with alcohol that drives the island’s food culture.

He called for a new focus on making healthy choices, engaging in more family time and outdoor activity as part of a determined and international effort

to improve wellness and reduce the levels of diseases that affect people at a young age, including good oral hygiene.

“If we start with ourselves, by Vision 75 we could significantly address many of the primary health concerns that this nation faces. The plan requires us to do what we need to do; the plan requires us to have the discipline to do it. The plan requires that we do it together as a family, as a community and as a village,” the Prime Minister, dressed in a black 50th anniversary polo shirt and black pants with an off white pair of shoes, said.

The Prime Minister positioned healthcare as “one of the main pillars” for transforming

Grenada’s economy, noting the impact of the establishment of the St. George’s University in the southern section of the island by former Prime Minister Eric Gairy and the number Grenadians who have passed through its doors.

He praised the work of Dr. Valma Jessamy, a scientist who has worked with local herbs to come up with VX35, as part of a medical agro-processing program. “Tested, researched, and I swear by it,” he declared, as he also paid tribute to De La Grenade Industries, an agro-processing company operated by the current Governor General which utilizes local fruits and vegetables in producing quality products for local consumption and

export.

The Grenadian leader spoke of the importance of linking agri-processing capabilities with the local tourism industry, as part of an offering to visitors that reflect a truly Grenadian experience when they visit the island.

“Visitors are not coming here to eat a burger they get in New York or eat fries that they eat in France, they want to experience what it is to live in Grenada,” he said suggesting the need for a collaborative approach to research and development that will lead to greater value added, increased job opportunities and improved standards of living among Grenadians.

Using the island’s

approach to nutmegs as an example, the Grenadian leader challenged the monopoly Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association (GCNA), to examine a new approaches to adding value to nutmegs, including producing nutmeg fats and oils, and move away from its over 100 year old practice of exporting the commodity in its raw unprocessed state.

If you are selling the nutmegs raw, you will never be able to manufacture,” he told the meeting on Monday evening, adding “you are caught in a centuries old vicious cycle, where you take your wealth, the black gold as we call it, the pride of Grenada nestled on our flag, and you hand it over to someone else to

manufacture.

He notes that changing the model from exporting raw material to processing for value added will add jobs immediately that did not exist before.

“Engaging in manufacturing almost overnight creates jobs, research and development and all of the value added chain that we need,” he said, suggesting that there is a role for the GCNA and Grenada Cocoa Association to implement the required policy and a government that will support the process.

He rationalized his position by pointing to the subsidies given to airlines travelling to Grenada to keep them coming.

excelled in women’s cricket, football, some playing for teams in the great footballing nations, netball and we have romped our way through track and field, winning world and Olympic titles.

Grenadian calypsonians rank among the best in the world and our list of outstanding achievements can go on for a long time.

We do not pretend to be a world power by any means, nor do we describe ourselves as a great nation in the normal global thinking of the word. However, since independence in 1979 we have

distinguished ourselves in mand fields and we believe that given the challenges we have had to overcome, we are great in our own rights and we are powerful by scale of size and resources.

We do look forward to the future in a general sort of way as well as in specified ways but in the meantime, we will just relish the fact that we turned 50 with a lot to boast about.

We understand that there is quite a distance to go but we will achieve it just as we have achieved the first 50.

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# HALF A CENTURY LATER

For several years after independence, we depended on agriculture and tourism for economic development, having to weather many a storm and leap many a hurdle in the process and considering the limitations, it cannot be argued with that as a nation we have come quite a way.

Not all of our accomplishments have been savory to everyone. Becoming the first English speaking country in the world to affect a political revolution, drew the ire

of many the world over, including the mighty USA, not to mention some Grenadians right here at home.

Nevertheless, that distinction blasted us into the global limelight and we quickly became if not a key player in global affairs but a key discussion point. Our then leader Maurice Bishop was listened to and quoted in the international media. All of a sudden, Grenada was a real news item. We became even more of an international media item with the destruction of

the revolution in 1983, and the events that led up to that destruction as well as the events and consequences that followed.

But rather than retreating back into a small and becoming nothing more that a tiny unremarkable country when the excitement of October 1983 wore down, Grenada continued to remain in the heart of global affairs for one reason or the other most them positive.

Grenada has practically

churned out main stage players in so many international fields of engagement, from jurists to teachers to business and the list is interminable. But in the field of sports, we have excelled.

When Junior Murray was called to represent the West Indies, playing in the highest level of cricket, it was a first for Grenada and understandably elicited jubilation, now a Grenadian on the West Indies team is almost commonplace. Grenadians have also





## NEW NATIONAL PARTY RAISES ALARM ON OPEN ASSAULT ON DEMOCRACY IN GRENADA

The New National Party (NNP) is deeply concerned about the recent actions of the Government of Grenada, led by the Honorable Dickon Mitchell, which represent an open assault on democracy and a direct violation of the principles of transparency and accountability. For the first time in modern Grenadian history, the government is barring reporters and photographers

from the swearing-in of new cabinet ministers, signaling a troubling move towards information control and suppression of the free press.

This event is not an isolated incident but part of a concerning pattern. The media was previously barred from the Jonty Robinson court hearing, and the Government has dismantled the weekly post-cabinet press

briefing, shifting to a communication strategy where information is dispensed on a 'need to know basis.' These actions stand in stark contrast to the government's promises of free access to information made during the election campaign.

The New National Party believes that such actions set a dangerous precedent reminiscent of repressive regimes

and are fundamentally at odds with the democratic values that the Grenadian people hold dear. The lack of independent press coverage not only undermines the role of the media as the fourth pillar of democracy but also hinders the public's right to be informed about government proceedings and decisions.

We remind the Government of its duty

to uphold democratic principles and the rights of its citizens. The NNP calls for immediate action to reverse these undemocratic practices and restore transparency and accountability. We urge international bodies, human rights organizations, and all stakeholders committed to democratic governance to join us in condemning these actions and supporting the people of Grenada in their right to a free and

independent press.

The New National Party remains steadfast in its commitment to defending democracy and will continue to stand with the people of Grenada in these troubling times. We believe that only through collective vigilance and action can we safeguard our democracy and ensure that such assaults on our freedom do not go unchallenged.

## RECRUITMENT FIRM PROJECTS POSITIVE TRAJECTORY FOR EMPLOYMENT IN 2024



**BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS** — Caribbean Employment Services Inc., a market-leading digital talent acquisition firm based in Barbados but operational throughout the Caribbean, is projecting a positive trajectory for employment in the

region heading into 2024.

The firm's CEO, Joseph Boll, noted: "Unemployment in most of the CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Member States is trending downward, and many Caribbean nations have

increased their lowest wages, signalling the potential for prosperity on the horizon after a period of intense economic challenges brought on by the pandemic."

Additionally, many governments have launched programmes aiming to encourage and facilitate formal employment among their populations. Countries such as Barbados, Jamaica and others have made efforts to diversify into new industries, such as coding, programming and information technology (IT). Meanwhile, Guyana's

government has been making efforts to employ some 50,000 people by 2025. Such efforts, if fruitful, could already contribute to a notable increase in formal employment and prosperity in many Caribbean countries.

At the same time, resources like Caribbean Employment Services continue helping Caribbean jobseekers to find gainful employment. The firm aims to connect top talent with hiring managers and HR professionals in companies both within the Caribbean as well as abroad.

Since its launch in 2020, Caribbean Employment Services has already helped more than 100,000 jobseekers find their dream jobs, with thousands of unique visitors to its online job board every month. Just recently, in celebration of its third anniversary, the company held a promotion allowing regional businesses to post their first job ad on the site for completely free for a month.

With the concentrated efforts of respective governments, increased economic activity after the pandemic, unemployment

reaching record lows and reliable resources like Caribbean Employment Services at their disposal, jobseekers are encouraged to be cautiously optimistic heading into the new year.

"Labour and wages look promising, and more businesses will be looking to hire now that the economy has largely turned around," said Boll. "It looks like it could be a great year for more people to return to the formal labour market and find gainful employment to support their families."

GRENADA



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# MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS SHOULD WORK COLLABORATIVELY TO HELP COUNTRIES MEET CLIMATE FINANCE TARGETS



MS. CHERYL SENHOUSE, FINANCE INNOVATION DIRECTOR, CARIBBEAN CLIMATE-SMART ACCELERATOR MAKES A POINT DURING A PANEL DISCUSSION ON “INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO ACCELERATING CLIMATE FINANCE FLOWS INTO THE CARIBBEAN” AT THE 28TH ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP28) WHICH IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. OTHER SPEAKERS ON THE PANEL WERE (FROM LEFT) HONOURABLE QUINCIA GUMBS-MARIE, MINISTER OF SUSTAINABILITY, ANGUILLA, MR. STEPHEN O’DRISCOLL, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND SOCIAL POLICY, EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK, AND MR. ISAAC SOLOMON, VICE-PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS, CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (CDB). THE EVENT WAS JOINTLY STAGED BY THE CDB AND THE ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES ON DECEMBER 4, 2023.

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados** – Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) should strengthen their collaboration to find common solutions that help countries meet their climate finance targets.

Speaking during the “Innovative approaches to accelerating climate finance flows into the Caribbean” at the 28th Annual United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Vice-President

of Operations, Isaac Solomon, noted that enhanced collaboration at every level is an urgent imperative and CDB’s involvement in the Finance in Common Summit provides such a platform to unlock innovation in MDBs, knowledge sharing, and co-financing to obtain scale.

The panel discussion focused on concrete opportunities to adopt and implement innovative approaches to increase the flow of climate finance into the Caribbean region, strategic

ways to mobilise highly concessional climate finance from multilateral climate funds, innovative approaches to scaling up climate finance flows from MDBs and strategies for mobilising private sector financing through blended finance approaches.

“If you look at the context in which we are operating, particularly at the global level, all MDBs agree that the climate finance needs surpass our collective balance sheet and so we cannot do it alone. We need to collaborate



MR. ISAAC SOLOMON, (RIGHT) VICE-PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS, CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (CDB) SPEAKING DURING A PANEL DISCUSSION ON “INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO ACCELERATING CLIMATE FINANCE FLOWS INTO THE CARIBBEAN”, WHILE HIS CO-PARTICIPANT MR. STEPHEN O’DRISCOLL, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND SOCIAL POLICY, EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK, LISTENS IN. THE DISCUSSION WAS JOINTLY STAGED BY THE CDB AND THE ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES COMMISSION ON DECEMBER 4, 2023, AT THE 28TH ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP28) CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

where we can bring additionality to each other based on our comparative advantages and fine creative says to crowd in private sector finance,” Mr. Solomon said.

He added that MDBs also need to review the cost of capital and critically review the range of instruments available to countries to provide more headroom for those adversely affected by natural hazard events.

Stephen O’Driscoll, Head of Environment, Climate and Social Policy, European Investment Bank

(EIB), noted that his organisation depends on blended finance for some of the programmes currently being rolled out in the Region.

“Partnerships are so key. I am thinking of some of the partnerships we set up with our increased involvement in the adaptation market. Creativity is also important. You need to be creative to be constantly pushing the boundaries with other MDB partners,” Mr. O’Driscoll said.

Mr. Solomon suggested that given the scarce financing available,


borrowing member countries (BMCs) need be more strategic in their use of highly concessional financing while establishing ambitious, credible climate finance targets even as they aim to find innovative ways of meeting climate change targets.

The Caribbean is particularly vulnerable to climate change but climate finance flows into the region have been modest. CDB currently works with its BMCs to help shape their priorities and create effective resource allocation toward high-impact areas.



# 50

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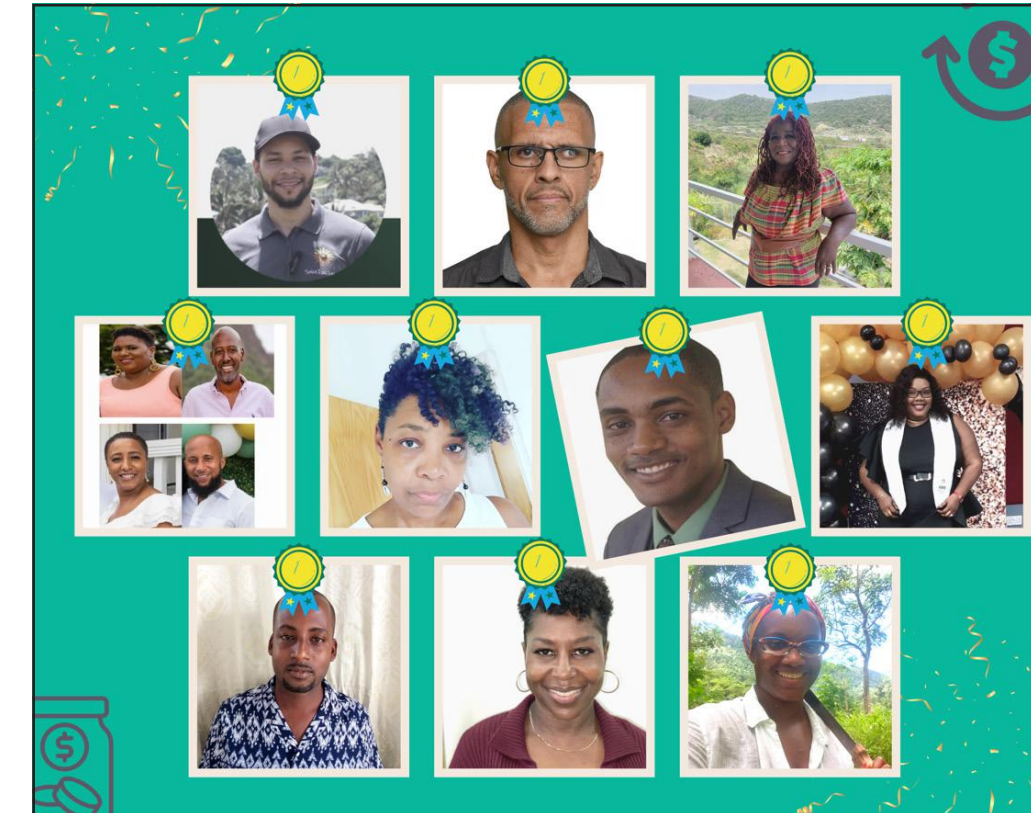


## THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN GREENPRENEURS INCUBATOR PROGRAM ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF US \$10,000 SEED GRANTS FOR 10 GREEN BUSINESSES

The Eastern Caribbean Green Entrepreneurship Initiative is delighted to reveal the awardees of its esteemed US \$10,000 seed grants as part of its Greenpreneurs Incubator program.

This initiative, which is dedicated to fostering and championing environmentally and socially responsible business endeavors within the Eastern Caribbean region, awarded ten deserving recipients, selected from the program's third cohort. These green businesses have exhibited remarkable dedication and innovation in the realm of sustainability.

Each of the enterprises has exhibited outstanding potential within their specific industries, showcasing a distinct dedication to sustainability and a determination to contribute positively to environment and/or social issues. They not only completed all the assigned tasks with precision but also demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainability and green business practices. The rigorous selection process for these grants included a comprehensive evaluation of each participant's business plan, environmental and



social impacts, financial projections, and potential for long-term success. The grantees showcased an impressive blend of innovation and environmental and social responsibility, putting in the hard work required to meet the stringent criteria set by the selection committee. The seed grants aim to offer essential financial backing, enabling them to advance their initiatives and expand their activities.

*"We are excited to unveil the awardees of the \$10,000 seed grants for the 3rd Cohort of the Eastern Caribbean Greenpreneurs Incubator Program. These enterprises exhibit significant potential to catalyze sustainable transformations in*

*our region. With this initiative, our goal is to equip them for elevated success, nurturing a future where green innovation flourishes," commented Dr. Kristin Deason, Caribbean Representative at Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).*

She extended heartfelt congratulations to each winner and expressed anticipation for their growth and achievements in the future at the graduation event for the third cohort held on November 20, 2023.

The Eastern Caribbean Greenpreneurs Incubator program is a free, carefully curated training and mentoring

program designed to support green entrepreneurs to build robust and sustainable business models, and the skills, tools, and confidence to implement them for success. The program featured a 12-week virtual green business training based on the lean start-up methodology, a mentorship program, one-on-one coaching and networking opportunities culminating in the Business Plan Competition. The program is part of the Eastern Caribbean Greenpreneurs Initiative which was launched in 2021 and is being implemented by GGGI in collaboration with the OECS Commission with funding from the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD). The initiative also features a green

Name	Country	Business Name	Business Description
Ryan Gittens	Grenada	<a href="#">Spice Isle Solar</a> (Clean Energy)	Solar design and installation business in Grenada and the Caribbean aims to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy solutions to solve the problem of rising electricity prices and over-reliance on fossil fuels.
Hayden Redhead	Grenada	Home Grown Goodness(Agriculture, Aquaculture or Agro-processing)	Home Grown Goodness produces a variety of healthy, nutrition dense, delicious foods that are grown sustainably and with little to no waste on production or consumption.
Shelly-Ann Meade	Dominica	Little Zion (Agriculture, Aquaculture or Agro-processing)	Little Zion is an agro-tourism business which operates a unique tourist attraction site: a waterfall. It will regenerate an organic farm which will provide raw materials for unique guided tours and a farm-to-table culinary experience. It will also provide eco-friendly accommodation based on modern sustainable design techniques and utilize solar- and hydro-based power sources to create a completely off-grid system.
Juanna McKenzie-Joseph	Antigua and Barbuda	rEvive Solutions or Green Island Solutions(Circular Economy & Waste Management)	rEvive Solutions solves the problem of improper disposal and accumulation of electronic waste which can lead to environmental and health hazards.
Rhonda St. Hill Blanchard	Saint Lucia	Regal Farms (Agriculture, Aquaculture or Agro-processing)	Regal Farms' mission is to provide high quality, nutritional, and chemical free vegetables and meat for consumption whilst assisting to reduce Saint Lucia's food import bill.
Shane Compton	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	SVG Microgreens (Agriculture, Aquaculture or Agro-processing)	SVG Microgreens will provide the highest quality, most nutritious and best tasting fresh microgreens, microgreens supplements, microgreens blends and powders to the island of St. Vincent and regional markets while striving to grow more food with less resources and forming an open and welcoming environment to foster the next generation of farmers.
Bernice Gaspard	St. Lucia	<a href="#">Gaspard Agro &amp; Processing Farm</a> (Agriculture, Aquaculture or Agro-processing)	Gaspard Agro & Processing farm provides quality organic crops all year round to keep a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.
Jeune Gulshard-Pine	St. Kitts and Nevis	St Kitts Beekeeper's Co-Operative (Agriculture, Aquaculture or Agro-processing)	The SKBC is a group that promotes increasing the local honeybee population to enhance the production of local raw honey and products from hives and develop Api tourism as a rural tourism product.
Kervin Vidal	Dominica	<a href="#">K. Vidal's Enterprise</a> (Agriculture, Aquaculture or Agro-processing)	K Vidal's Enterprise aims to manufacture natural, organic products free from additives to persons looking for healthier products for a healthier lifestyle.
Eurta Chiverton	St. Kitts and Nevis	<a href="#">Kittitian Bloom</a> (Agriculture, Aquaculture or Agro-processing)	Kittitian Bloom provides an array of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables as well as cut flowers using ecological and sustainable farming practices which contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases and pesticides.

business Accelerator Program, which supports established green business through interest-free loan financing and access to a green investor network.

For more

information on the Eastern Caribbean Greenpreneurs Initiative, and the awarded businesses, please visit [www.caribbeangreenpreneurs.com](http://www.caribbeangreenpreneurs.com).

# GRENADA



Congratulations to the Government and People of Grenada on the  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence.**



**GRENADA AUTHORITY FOR THE REGULATION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

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# GRENADA HOSTS WORLD-CLASS RUGBY EVENT FOR THE SECOND YEAR

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our partnership with this Tournament as part of our efforts to bring Grenada’s diversity into the spotlight on the world stage.

Given that rugby is relatively new here, this event also solidifies our commitment to assisting with the development of this action-packed sport in the Spice Isle to provide our community with opportunities to participate in new activities, as well as our visitors with something extra they can enjoy during their time on the island. We look forward to bringing everyone an even bigger and better Grenada Rugby World

7s in 2024 and beyond.”

GRW7s General Manager Brian Stollmeyer said support for GRW7s from businesses and individuals, both locally and abroad, is growing from strength to strength. He thanked the following 2023 GRW7s Partners for their dedication and commitment to the event:

- Presenting Partner – Grenada Tourism Authority
- Official Beer of GRW7s – Stag Beer in conjunction with Carib Brewery (Grenada) Ltd.

- Official Rum of GRW7s – Westerhall Rum
- Official Home of GRW7s – Umbrellas Beach Bar
- Official Broadcast Partner – ViralMedia TV
- Official Car Rental Partner – Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- Official Ice Provider – Island Ice Co. Ltd.
- Official Special Events Partner – The Grenada Golf and Country Club
- Official Insurance Partner – Netherlands Insurance Co. (WI) Ltd.
- Official Entertainment

Partner – Mount Cinnamon

- Official Internet Provider – FLOW
- Official Hydration Partners – Dasani and Powerade

Official 2023 GRW7s Prizes

## WOMEN’S DIVISION

The GTA Winner’s Trophy US \$9 000 – Rugby Quebec (Canada)

The Umbrellas Beach Bar Finalist’s Trophy US \$4 000 – Atlantis (USA)

The Enterprise Rent-A-Car 3rd Place Trophy US \$1 000 – Les Bleues

OGs (Canada)

The Netherlands Insurance 4th Place Trophy US \$1 000 – Caribbean Queens (Caribbean)

## MEN’S DIVISION

The Stag Beer Winner’s Trophy US \$2 500 – Atlantis (USA)

The Viral Media Finalist’s Trophy US \$1 500 – The Misfits (Caribbean)

The Westerhall Rum 3rd Place Trophy US \$500 – Rugby Quebec (Canada)

The Island Ice 4th Place Trophy US \$500 – Barbados

(Caribbean)

## SPECIAL PRIZES

The Larry Mouttet Most Sociable Team Trophy – Find Rugby Now (FRN) (UK)

The Chantel MacLean Most Promising Female Player Trophy – Seneca Friend (Atlantis)

The Jamie Waters Most Promising Male Player Trophy – Alois Guaenere (Rugby Quebec)

The Nigel Slinger Most Promising Grenadian Player Trophy – Denny Fletcher

# HAS DICKON MITCHELL SOURED GRENADA’S 50TH INDEPENDENCE OBSERVANCE?

By J. K. Roberts (Sound Public Policies Advocate)

What is the main issue of contention? Grenada’s Ruling Administration of the 23 June 2022 National Democratic Congress (NDC) led by Attorney Dickon Mitchell, must have caused many disappointments and suspicions concerning its lack of ‘open and serious’ considerations for tackling the 07 February 1974 constitutional construct of the nation, at an appropriate occasion such as this fifty-

year milestone of Independence, towards enhanced ‘democracy and governance and prosperity’ entering a new fifty years.

What are the unfortunate realities? Firstly; there has not been any explicit mention in NDC’s 2022 ‘transformation agenda’ elections-manifesto about constitutional reforms. Secondly; there has not been any specific inclusion in the composition and role of the National Organizing Committee (NOC) for the year-long celebrations of the

nation’s Golden Jubilee. Thirdly; Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell, when quizzed about efforts for the conducting of a constitutional referendum, discloses no ‘consolatory’ resolution and commitment for this sovereign undertaking. Those pointers must also be evaluated within the decisions and plans of the NDC Government to have had launched the Golden Jubilee on 19 October 2023, but which had to be reluctantly changed to 31 October due to the intense ‘concerns and uproars’ from various

quarters of the society. Recall the article **“Grenada’s 19 October National Heroes Day In Serious Limbo”** which raises the position of Dickon that the related schedules to commence the Celebrations on 19 October 2023 and to designate this date going forward as National Heroes Day, are by “no accident” and with “no more fitting day”; as well as the two-part article **“Grenada Transforming Its Identity And Legacy At Golden Jubilee”** which notes the perspectives and petitions surrounding

those decisions and plans, by some expert commentators who also ultimately prompted another Launch Date.

How then should patriotic Grenadians react to this pertinent contentious issue, especially those who have being advancing and advocating passionately about the ‘education, recommendations and process’ for ‘credible and deserved’ constitutional reforms, and have had reasonable expectations for said? On 22 November 2023 in addressing the



BY J. K. ROBERTS (SOUND PUBLIC POLICIES ADVOCATE)

topic **“Reparations, Republicanism and The Rule of Law : What Next After Fifty Years Of Independence?”**, and in response to the follow-up question about “a constitutional change (‘for Grenada’) where we can have a constitution of the people, by the people and for the people”, Dickon Mitchell

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# THE OVERLOOKED IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON CARIBBEAN LABOUR



Climate change, its detrimental effects and the potential to wipe out the region completely have received an increasing amount of attention over the past few years as major world powers move to cut back on fossil fuel use and adopt clean energies.

However, one of the more indirect ways climate change can devastate Caribbean populations is seldom discussed: its impact on labour.

The more immediate concern of harsh weather events wreaking havoc on countries has understandably been the forefront of conversations surrounding climate change in small-island

developing states (SIDs).

As a region that is already prone to hurricanes and sometimes even earthquakes, worsening natural disasters could mean the extinction of entire groups of people.

But just as immediate is the need to protect vulnerable groups against the many ways climate change can decimate jobs and increase poverty in a region that is already struggling with high rates of job informality and poverty.

Research from McKinsey & Company suggests that severe weather events can lead at-risk groups to lose their jobs in several ways. At the same time, lack of

diversity in emerging industries in the green economy also means that the most vulnerable workers can be shut out of high-earning, stable jobs.

McKinsey & Co. based this data on a study of how climate change uniquely affects African-Americans, and how it can exacerbate racial gaps in the United States of America.

“Black populations are particularly vulnerable to physical-hazard exposure, since they are concentrated in areas especially susceptible to extreme weather,” McKinsey said in its report.

“As people and businesses attempt to

adjust to a low-carbon economy, they must also further contend with second-order transition risks — such as the loss of jobs in impacted industries — resulting from market changes.”

While many Caribbean countries have a Black majority, the way climate change can disproportionately impact low-wage workers of colour can still apply within this region.

According to data from the World Bank, poverty rates in the Caribbean are nearly 30% in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic, which crippled tourism.

Although tourism has largely recovered,

poverty rates and informal employment remain relatively high and are not projected to significantly decrease in the near future.

McKinsey’s research pinpointed how low-wage earners can lose their livelihoods due to climate change, and how they have fewer financial resources to fall back on if that comes to pass.

“There’s a higher concentration of Black workers in low-wage frontline jobs,” the study noted.

“Black people save \$75 billion less than their white peers. One out of five Black Americans live in food deserts, with limited access to fresh, healthy food options.”

Additionally, severe climate change could eradicate all outdoor jobs — such as construction workers, contractors, farmers, fishermen, agricultural workers, landscapers, and more. In the Caribbean, the extinction of these jobs could mean mass unemployment, exacerbating poverty and increasing vulnerability to extreme weather events, external shocks and related fallout.

At the same time, diversity in emerging clean energy fields remains low. The World Bank, for instance, found that women make up

only around a third of the workers in the green economy.

According to Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), “Black and Hispanic/Latino workers are more poorly represented in clean energy than they are across the rest of the economy, with Black people composing eight percent of the clean energy workforce (compared with 13 percent economy-wide) and Hispanic/Latinos making up 16.5 percent (versus 18 percent economy-wide).

“Women represent less than 30 percent of all workers in the sector despite accounting for nearly half (48 percent) of the US labour force as a whole.”

Many Caribbean countries have launched programmes to get young people involved in emerging green industries, which could change this trajectory if successful.

In the meantime, the combined risk of wide-scale job loss and limited access to highly-skilled, high-paying jobs in clean energy emphasizes the need for urgent action to address climate change, protecting lives, safeguarding livelihoods and ensuring future prosperity for the Caribbean region at large.



## HAS DICKON MITCHELL SOURED GRENADA'S 50TH INDEPENDENCE OBSERVANCE?

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explores two main excuses for "I won't waste my time .... it simply will not work" on a constitutional referendum at this time. The past article **"The Constitutional Factor In Transforming Grenada At Golden Jubilee"** reiterates that articulations by the powers-that-be about reconciliation and justice with Reparations from the past colonizers, but without the demonstrations of 'genuine efforts' towards a ratified Constitution, is 'crude hypocrisy and betrayal' which must be detected and rejected.

The two-part article **"Diversionary Tactics About Reforming Grenada's Constitution"** seeks to debunk Dickon's intended excuses as being absurd and insensitive, with huge insults to the 'intelligence and independence' of the Grenadian-people and in particular, with a serious blow to the 'record and resolve' of mature stalwarts on this 'long-standing' issue. Are the excuses offered about the possibility of non-cooperation by the main opposition party, the New National Party (NNP) led by the immediate former Prime Minister Keith Mitchell, and on the need for providing and studying the various global options on the type of Government for Grenada over the next fifty years 'acceptable and sensible' when considering all factors? In fact; how must the people assess Dickon's motive with State Power,

when theoretically and practically he knows that in its current state the Constitution "can be exploited for political advantage", and that according to Prime Minister of St. Vincent and The Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, State Power is an Illusion – "Prime ministerial power in these societies is largely an administrative power to do evil".

The Grenadian-people must understand that indeed a 'hurt and disrespect' was inherent in Dickon's utterances, and that a 'damper and deficiency' may have also been caused to the national observance of the nation's Golden Jubilee, within the excellent background facts and good deliberative reasonings which are known and are in existence on the Issue otherwise. In fact; it is imperative that the leading voices on constitutional reforms give a verdict on the presentation and / or position of Dickon in relation to their very own knowledge, work and position, and with also the referencing of the materials and involvements pertaining to the unprecedented constitutional referenda held on 24 November 2016 and on 06 November 2018 during the NNP's reign. Who are some of those active players about constitutional reforms, and what are some of the significant references? Are the rationales for constitutional reforms no more 'relevant and valid' and that the Prime

Minister's reasons now supersede and stand as supreme?

What's about the parameters and / or objectives presented by Dr. Wendy Grenade, Grenadian Political Scientist at the University of the University, on 05 November 2016 to the Grenada Constitution Reform Special Assembly? Grenade's Keynote Address situates constitutional reforms within the larger process of Independence; draws attention to the significance of Self-definition and Self-governance; underscores the importance of the Constitution as an instrument to improve the quality of Democracy; and shows the relationship between constitutional reforms and the wider imperative of Caribbean Regionalism.

Considering that major aspects of the drive for 'greater evidence' of Caribbean Regionalism or Integration include the full ascension by all countries in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), then where are the proponents of the CCJ now? It is crucial for individuals who have been claiming that the real merit for Grenada to achieve the CCJ as its final appellate jurisdiction instead of the Privy Council, is about "access to justice" for the people and about a symbol of delinking from the vestiges of the British Empire, to speak up; some of these

individuals are attorneys Ruggles Fergusson KC, Dr. Francis Alexis QC, and Sir Lawrence Joseph PhD. Wasn't the CCJ issue regarded and attempted to be proven as priority, to the extent that it was the focus for the constitutional referenda of 2016 and 2018?

As one of the seeming advisors and sympathizers of NDC, William Joseph, owes the general population 'clear and sound' explanations about the realization of the "New Age Politics" for building 'The New Future' for the Grenadian people", with having the National Constitution as a source "for shaping and giving substance to 'The New Future'", as postulated publicly in January 2021 via **"The Patriotic Vine ... Letter to the NDC Hierarchy"**. That is; the Constitution "needs to be reassessed and re-tooled if it must serve the people better for the next fifty years. The dominant challenge is to establish the Constitution beyond being the Supreme Law so that it mandates a binding framework for development .... NDC must break new ground in making "good government" a central theme, presenting on its meaning and benefits. Commitment to public education on the Constitution so that it becomes a living asset in every Grenadian family is vital. The language must be simplified to aid popular understanding and to minimize the need for interpretation by the courts". By the way then; how must Dickon's excuses be

interpreted or be excused? Should it be conceded that it is still early days for Dickon's moves for the next fifty years?

Is it too burdensome, and would it be immaterial or be futile, for the Government to submit and implement the idea of Citizen John Rulow for the establishment of a Constituent Assembly towards having a people's 'homegrown' Constitution? How long must Rulow and the other so-concerned citizens wait before receiving 'meaningful and decisive' statements on the recurring 'unsettled' questions about the patriation for Grenada's sovereignty, and acknowledging "documentary evidence or bibliographical references" about Grenada's obtaining Independence? Further considering that the development of a National Constitution must not be confined to politicians and to attorneys but rather, this must be of the 'wishes and determinations and actions' of the Sovereign people, then the challenge is again placed to Dr. Wendy Crawford-Daniel's NOC and to Dickon Mitchell's Government to allocate portion of the \$15 million for the Golden Jubilee to a Civil Society group which would help spearhead public education fora on the struggles and contentions along the pathway to Grenada's Independence and for reviewing the processes and submissions of the past for constitutional reforms. Once again

the 2014 combined **"Recommendations By Grenada Constitution Review Commissions"** of Dr. Francis Alexis, and the 2002 publication **Caribbean Constitutional Reform / Rethinking the West Indian Polity**" and the thesis **"Re-drafting The Grenada Constitution"** by the late Professor Simeon C. R. McIntosh, are sufficient 'working materials' for engaging the young naive population on constitutional reforms.

However finally; considering the 'dark circumstances' by which the 'comprehensive document' of the new Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its member states, and the members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, "Samoa Agreement", was signed by Grenada but with its possibly 'negative bearings' on the 1974 Independence Constitution and on the traditions of the people, and considering that the Prime Minister can adopt the governance model of the (March 1979 – October 1983) People's Revolutionary Government which had put aside the Constitution and ruled by decrees, and considering that there are many constitutional issues in 'prevalence and emergence' concerning different interest groups, then all 'conscientious and conscious' Grenadians should prepare for Dickon Mitchell to knock a constitutional referendum 'without objectivity' at any unexpected time.



# Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Independence

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Bryden & Minors Ltd.  
join with the Government and People of Grenada  
as we celebrate 50 years of Independence.

**"Striving towards our destiny with faith and courage as one people"**



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# CRFM AND PFR OF NEW ZEALAND DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS FROM SARGASSUM

## Belize City, (CRFM)

— Groundbreaking work has begun in the Caribbean to produce Sargassum-derived liquid fertilizers or plant growth promoters, as well as an organic compost from processed Sargassum, for eventual incorporation into farmer and grower practices in the Caribbean.

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), an inter-governmental organization of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and Plant & Food Research, a New Zealand Crown Research Institute, are leading this initiative, under the Sargassum Products for Climate Resilience in the Caribbean Project, a multiyear project funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

This builds on work undertaken by the CRFM since 2015, to address the persistent problem of recurring Sargassum inundations which have been plaguing the region for the past 12 years. Sargassum blooms continue to adversely affect the coastal ecosystems and economic sectors—such as fisheries and tourism—in many Caribbean countries, and clean-up efforts have been costly. Although Sargassum levels have fluctuated from year to year, the general forecast



**GREENHOUSE TRIAL WITH LIQUID ORGANIC FERTILIZER DERIVED FROM SARGASSUM.**  
(PHOTO: M. HAUGHTON, CRFM)

is for continued high levels of blooms and beaching of Sargassum in the foreseeable future. Climate change and nutrient enrichment of the oceans have been identified as major contributing factors to this phenomenon which has been affecting our region since 2011.

*“Sargassum is a natural marine living resource that has been abundant in our coastal waters. It is often an unpleasant sight on our otherwise picturesque beaches, and rotting Sargassum heaps are hazardous to humans and marine life and environmental health. We must, therefore, find ways to use the Sargassum while neutralizing any potential negative effects of the heavy metals contained therein. The safe and profitable conversion of Sargassum biomass*

*into innovative products to adapt to climate change and bolster economic resilience will also generate tangible economic and social benefits for local communities and present and future generations across the entire Caribbean,”* said Milton Haughton, Executive Director of the CRFM.

The first phase of the project, which focused on testing the Sargassum to better understand how to handle and use it safely, was completed in 2022. This second phase, which commenced early 2023, focuses on product and process development. In May 2023, the CRFM concluded agreements with the University of the West Indies (UWI), Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Cave Hill Campus, and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), which are providing



**SARGASSUM INUNDATION ACROSS A FISHING BEACH IN SAINT LUCIA.**  
(PHOTO: M. HAUGHTON, CRFM)

technical support for joint research and surveys to advance the second phase of the project. During this phase, the project will develop and evaluate liquid fertilizers and compost from Sargassum. The hope is that this initiative will help to protect the marine environment and coastal communities, and create jobs and value-added products, while contributing towards the reduction of the region's high import bill for fertilizers used by farmers.

There are two very important guiding principles of this project. The first is the application of the precautionary principle which ensures that when there is uncertainty and a risk of harm, we should act with care and caution, guided by the best available scientific information. The second principle encompasses the circular economy approach, which ensures total utilization of the Sargassum to eliminate

waste and pollution, which is good for people, business, and the environment. The Sargassum harvested from the sea will, therefore, be used to produce fertilizer, and the residue will be utilized to generate other products such as compost and building materials—all of which will be safe and effective for their intended purposes.

UWI has assisted with the process of producing liquid fertilizers from the Sargassum. CARDI has been conducting a survey of farmers to engender a deeper understanding of how they use fertilizers and their interest in a fertilizer product from Sargassum. This knowledge will enhance strategies to promote the uptake of the Sargassum-derived products for use in the agriculture sector.

CARDI is now completing a study to evaluate the performance of the liquid fertilizers developed with the

assistance of UWI on crops under greenhouse conditions. Further studies will be conducted in the field with the assistance of farmers.

Since the commencement of the Sargassum Products for Climate Resilience Project in 2020, the CRFM and Plant & Food Research of New Zealand have worked with partners in Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic, and with specialized laboratories in the United States and New Zealand, to conduct Sargassum raw material safety testing and to review potential products that could be made from the Sargassum.

The final phase of the project, which is due to commence in 2024, will focus on the establishment of a pilot plant to produce liquid organic fertilizer, as well as on outreach and supply chain development, which would entail the dissemination of a workable model to industry stakeholders in the Caribbean. Through continued stakeholder engagement, the project will also gather feedback to guide future work, strengthen relationships with Caribbean enterprises, and develop sustainable pathways for the commercialisation of new Sargassum products.