



**2022 Independence Day Message for the Diaspora**  
**Dr. the Right Honourable Keith Mitchell**  
**Prime Minister, Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique**  
**On the occasion of**  
**Grenada's 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence**  
**Overcoming Our Adversity, Safeguarding Livelihoods, Protecting Our Future**  
**February 7, 2022**

Fellow Grenadians, February 7, 2022 represents yet another momentous occasion in our country's history, as we celebrate 48 years as an independent nation. I know that Grenadians far and wide share a genuine love for home, a bond that transcends all differences, particularly on occasions like these, when the love of our country is the language we all speak.

The past four decades were filled with many bumps that threatened to derail our progress, but our beloved country recorded many significant milestones along the way. There is much to be proud of as we approach our half century. Despite the extensive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which is exacerbating the usual developmental challenges that small island developing states face, we are indeed well-poised to continue our upward trajectory of growth and advancement of our people.

Sisters and brothers, the developmental gains that Grenada now enjoys did not come easily; the road has been fraught with trials and tribulations, but time and time again, we have overcome, rising triumphantly over impediments and continuing the march forward. Grenadians have repeatedly proven that we are a resilient people who showcase that resilience with great pride. And you my friends in the diaspora, are no less resilient and patriotic.

The threat of COVID-19 remains very real. It has claimed the lives of many of our relatives and friends, and it has affected the livelihood of many. Government however, remains optimistic about the future. Prudent fiscal management and the sacrifices of our people have enabled us to survive the significant fallout from the pandemic and we look forward to continued improvement in our economic situation.

Despite our generally positive outlook, there are some areas of concern, including the level of vaccine hesitancy. Guided by the science, Government continues to advocate for vaccination, but ultimately, it is a matter of individual choice. We ask however, for genuine partnership, Government and people, working side by side as we seek to overcome this adversity, safeguard lives and livelihoods and create a legacy for future generations.

The fallout created by the pandemic has increased the onus on Government to provide economic relief and social welfare programmes to ease the burden of impact on our people. We have responded with economic stimulus packages that provide income and payroll support for individuals and businesses, unemployment benefits, enhanced social protection initiatives and improved access to funding for small businesses among other initiatives.

Government is doing a lot but we must also give credit to the value of partnerships which constitute an important element of nation building. It is important here to recognise Grenadians in the diaspora who have been a pillar of immense support. We are truly grateful for all that you have done and continue to do, despite your own challenges in the countries you now reside.

My friends, as we look to the future, let us continue to work together to further the development of our homeland. I pray that God continues to richly bless our people, uniting us in our patriotism to this beautiful land of ours - Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.