

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

ON THE 38TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRENADA'S INDEPENDENCE



*The Hon. Tillman J. Thomas
Prime Minister of Grenada,
Carriacou & Petite Martinique*

On 7 February 2012 Grenada will observe another milestone when, as a people, we celebrate our 38th year of independence, under the theme—***“Breaking all Barriers, Striving for Greater Achievement, under One Flag.”***

Our growth and development have been characterized by bold successes and challenges, albeit, of historic proportions. However, our resilience and strength of character served as pillars in overcoming these challenges. We must therefore celebrate our successes and learn from the challenges as we continue on our journey to maturity as a nation.

Thirty eight years after the flag of our new nation was raised under a gloomy skyline on Fort George, we continue to work assiduously to determine the qualities and values that make us uniquely Grenadian. The actions that reflected our immaturity as a young nation must now be shelved for a coherent, planned and more reasoned approach to our development.

Grenadians of all walks of life, both at home and in the Diaspora, must share the vision of our founding fathers who looked beyond their present circumstances to the potential of a people to fulfill any aspiration and navigate any hurdle, if together we harness our talents and skills.

The baton has been passed and this generation, our generation, must now successfully run its leg of the race and contribute to the success of our homeland. It is for this cause that our administration has developed the mechanisms, aimed at deepening the relations with the Diaspora, allowing Grenadians everywhere to play a role in the enhancement of our homeland.

We must, therefore, change the view of ourselves as being small and insignificant. We must indeed reflect pride in our uniqueness, espousing those virtues that make us who we are. Grenadians, we must use our differences as building blocks rather than stumbling blocks.

As we celebrate, I urge you to reflect on your own contribution to our country. Our patriotism must not only be reflected at Independence, it must drive our productivity, our respect for each other and our determination to strive for greater achievements, as one people under one flag.

Kirani James, our world champion at the 400 meters, reflected it best when he told the world his achievement was influenced by the support he felt from Grenadians at home and abroad.

Just as he is playing his role, we must play ours, working hand in hand for a better and brighter future, under one flag.