

Grenada

Also known as:

“The Spice Isle”

Motto:

Ever Conscious of God We Aspire, and Advance as One People

History:

Columbus landed on the island in 1498, but the French first settled on the island in 1650. It was alternately ruled by the French and British until 1783 when, under the Treaty of Versailles, the island was ceded to the British. It was joined to the Windward Islands in 1833, and was a part of the West Indies Federation during the period 1958-62. It gained independence on 7 February 1974. The Maurice Bishop Government which came to power in 1979 was toppled by an internal coup in 1983, and an interim government prepared the way for the 1984 elections.

Economic Summary:

As a result of the widespread destruction of various sectors of Hurricane Ivan, economic activity declined by 3.2 per cent in 2004, in contrast to the 4.7 per cent growth projected in the middle of the year. The only sectors which demonstrated some level of buoyancy in the post-Ivan period were Construction (7.6 per cent growth); Mining and Quarrying (10.2 growth) and the Cruise tourism sub-sector which registered a whopping 54.5 per cent increase in passenger arrivals. Unemployment, which registered 13 per cent in the pre-Ivan period, increased sharply immediately after Ivan as many persons lost their jobs. Recent efforts to rebuild homes and revitalise the agricultural sector have helped many displaced persons find employment.

Head of State:

H.E Dr. Cecile La Grenade, Governor General



Head of Government:

Dr. The Hon. Keith Mitchell
Prime Minister

Date of Birth: November 12, 1946

Professional/Political Career:

1984: Elected Member of Parliament for St. George North West
1988-1989: Minister of Communications, Works and Public Utilities, Cooperative, Community Development, Women's Affairs and Civil Aviation

1989: Elected as leader of the NNP

1995: Elected Prime Minister

1999: Re-elected Prime Minister

2003: Re-elected Prime Minister

2008: Sworn in as leader of the NNP leader and leader of Opposition

2013: Elected Prime Minister

Education:

1979: Doctorate in Mathematics and Statistics from the American University
1975: Master's Degree from Howard University

1971: Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics and Chemistry

Airport:

Point Salines International

Status:

Independent - 7 February 1974

Capital:

St. Georges

Population:

110,821 (2009)

Currency:

Eastern Caribbean Dollar (ec\$2.70 =US\$1) (2008)

CARICOM Membership:

1 May 1974

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.

National Highest Award: Grenada does not have a system of national awards. Instead, the achievement of citizens in various areas of national development is recognised each year in a grand awards ceremony held to coincide with Independence Day.

National Dish: Oil Down

National Symbols:



Coat of Arms



National Flag



National Flower