

GLEAN: I WILL DO MY BEST TO FULFILL THE OBLIGATIONS

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Grenada's new Governor General (GG), His Excellency Carlyle Glean has promised to uphold the highest Office of the land with dignity.

"I will do my best to fulfill the obligations of the Office of Governor General of our country," said Glean last Thursday when he was sworn in at a ceremony held at the Grenada Trade Center at Grand Anse.

The swearing-in ceremony for Glean, who became the island's 5th Governor General since Grenada attained political independence from Great Britain on February 7, 1974, took place at the Grenada Trade Centre during a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

In his inaugural address, Glean pledged that as the new Head of State, he will perform his duties with dignity and integrity. He was gracious about the appointment, stating he was grateful and humbled by the confidence placed in him and the support being given. "I stand before you today with great joy and humility. To serve Grenada in this manner is an unexpected but welcomed honour. I thank God for His grace and blessings, and for the privilege and honour," he said.

However, Glean said he deeply feels the gravity of the role bestowed upon him. "This is indeed far beyond growing up in Belmont (St. George's) and Gouyave (St. John's), and being a 15-year old pupil teacher in training," he added. Glean did not fall short in recognising the role played by his predecessors.

The new GG said he acknowledges the dignified service and the important efforts of his predecessors in recognising, encouraging and unifying Grenadians. Glean was preceded by Sir Leo De Gale, who served from February 7, 1974 to September 30, 1978, Sir Paul Scoon from September 30, 1978 to August 6, 1992, Sir Reginald Palmer from August 6, 1992 to August 8, 1996, and Sir Daniel Williams from August 8, 1996 to November 18, 2008.

The Head of State underscored the economic, social, and spiritual challenges that are now facing his people and urged them to face the future with confidence, and have faith in God and themselves. Quoting from the scripture verse of Phillipians 4: 17, Glean encouraged the people to say like St. Paul, "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."

"As we face the upcoming challenges, let us go forward with faith and courage, aspire, build and advance as one people, one family, God bless our nation," he added. The new GG also used his maiden address to urge the healing process in the land.

"We can continue to persevere and embrace life, striving to bring about healing and reconciliation, and to rekindle that unique Grenadian spirit of togetherness that we once knew," he said.

"We must all work diligently to build our beloved Grenada, not only for the present generation, but also for future ones. In doing so we become good stewards as we honour the sacrifices and build on the legacy of our forefathers," he remarked. By adapting another scripture passage taken from Ephesians 4:31-32, the new Head of State implored the nation, "No more shouting of insults. No more hatred feelings of any sort. Instead, be kind to one another and forgive one another as God has forgiven you in Christ."

As a deep-rooted Roman Catholic, Glean acknowledged the role being played by faith-based and other social groups. He spoke of his intention to meet with the groups including youth, women and other civic organisations in an effort to offer them support. The new Head of State will first reside at a house in Morne Rouge, St. George's before moving into the former judge's house at Tempe.