

GRENADA INSTALLS FIFTH GOVERNOR GENERAL

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An elaborate ceremony fitted with pomp and pageantry by members of the Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF) heralded the swearing-in of the country's 5th Governor General, Carlyle Glean.

A fanfare of trumpets and the playing of the National Anthem by the RGPF Band, along with a 21 gun salute marked the installation of the new Head of State at the Grenada Trade Centre last week Thursday.

The former university lecturer and Education Minister in the 1990-1995 Sir Nicholas Brathwaite-led Government pledged the oath of allegiance, and oath of Office before resident High Court Judge, Madam Justice Clare Henry during a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Second gave assent to the appointment of the new Governor General who takes over from Sir Daniel Williams who demitted Office on November 18.

The Queen's Commission appointing Glean to the large ceremonial post read in part, "we do, by this our Commission under our signed manual and signet, appoint you, the said Carlyle Arnold Glean Senior to be our Governor General of Grenada during our tenure with all the powers, rights, privileges and advantages to the said Office belonging and appertaining. And we further do hereby appoint that this, our Commission, shall take effect on the 27th day of November, 2008..."

The appointment of Glean to the highest position in the land makes him the second person from the Parish of St. John's to be appointed as Grenada's Head of State. The first was Sir Paul Scoon who held the position from September 30, 1978 to August 6, 1992.

The others who served as Governor General are Sir Leo De Gale from February 7, 1974 to September 30, 1978, Sir Reginald Palmer from August 6, 1992 to August 8, 1996, and Sir Daniel who served from August 8, 1996 to November 18, 2008.

Prime Minister Tillman Thomas who addressed the ceremony indicated that the Office of the Governor General is far more than ceremonial. Thomas spoke of the Office of Governor General as being important and fundamental in fulfilling some of the requirements of the Westminster style parliamentary democracy.

The Prime Minister said Glean can be regarded as a noble citizen, a patriotic Grenadian, and an outstanding educator. "Your Excellency, it is really an honour and pleasure for me to congratulate you and to wish you all the best... I think you are really a good model for this country, and as a people we should work together, we should try to promote what is good for this country," he remarked.

The Grenadian Leader admonished the nation to rededicate themselves to promote values of honesty, integrity and respect for institutions. Words of congratulation were also expressed by Leader of Government Business in the House of Representative, Nazim Burke, and Leader of Government Business in the Senate, Senator George Prime.

Burke stated that Glean's experience as a Member of Parliament, and Cabinet Minister has equipped him with profound understanding of the proceedings of Parliament. "By your detachment from partisan affiliation, you represent the powerful transition for parliamentary procedure and the supremacy of our parliament," Burke said. "Our government has begun a new course by promoting democracy and good governance, and trust that your Office will stand up for the weak, the vulnerable, the dispossessed and the powerless in our society," he added.

Glean bowed out from active politics in 1995 when the then National Democratic Congress (NDC) lost power to the New National Party (NNP) of Dr. Keith Mitchell. Five years earlier, Glean had failed in his bid to win the St. John seat in general elections. He did not contest elections in 1995.

In his message, Sen. Prime suggested that Glean's absence from active politics in recent years affords him the qualification to occupy the High Office of the land. Following the swearing-in ceremony, Glean proceeded to the parade square where he was accorded the Royal Salute, and inspected a Guard of Honour that was formed by uniformed members of the Special Services Unit (SSU) of RGPF.