

NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL SWORN IN

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Prominent Gouyave resident and renowned educator, Mr. Carlyle Arnold Glean, was sworn in as Grenada's 5th Governor General on Thursday 27th November, 2008 at a joint sitting of the Houses of Parliament. He replaces Sir Daniel Charles Williams who retired as Governor General on 18th Nov.

A Guard-of-Honour was mounted in the yard to the main entrance of the Grenada Trade Centre in Grand Anse, which saluted the arrival of the Commissioner of Police – Mr. James Clarkson and the Prime Minister – Hon. Tillman Thomas.

The silent arrival of Governor-General Designate and his wife was announced to the packed gathering in the Trade Centre and the couple was then escorted into the Chamber by the Chief of Protocol, accompanied by a short fanfare by a trumpeter. The Royal Commission appointing the new Governor General was read by Clerk-of-Parliament – Mr. Adrian Hayes who then invited its inspection by Hon. Madam Justice Clare Henry, following which the Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Office were administered. Mr. Glean was then invited to sign the Instrument proclaiming that he has assumed the Office of Governor-General of Grenada. As the new Governor General ascended the Throne a fanfare of trumpet was sounded followed by a 21-Gun Salute and the rendition of the National Anthem.

Congratulatory messages were delivered by the Leaders of Government Business in the House of Representative – Hon. V. Nazim Burke and of the Senate – Hon. George Prime as well as Prime Minister - Hon. Tillman Thomas. They all expressed confidence that Mr. Glean is bringing to the Office of Governor General honesty and integrity on the basis of his unblemished and brilliant track record.

They noted his long and illustrious career in the field of education, in politics and in the social dimension of his community.

Because he, who was once actively involved in frontline politics, retired from that field since about 1995, that makes him the ideal candidate fully qualified to hold the highest office in the nation. They did not forget to remind His Excellency that he is ascending to the highest Office in tough and challenging times. In referring to an example in the history of Australia where a Governor General dismissed a Prime Minister, Mr. Glean was reminded that his Office is far more important and significant than merely ceremonial. Profound gratitude was extended to the former Governor General, Sir Daniel Williams, for his excellent service to the nation.

The Senate President – Hon. Joan Purcell – then invited the new Governor General to deliver his inaugural address. His Excellency extended gratitude to all who supported him in his journey and he thanked his predecessor for a job well done. He indicated awareness of the current challenging times and he highlighted certain levels of degradation in society particularly economic, social and spiritual. He, however, expressed confidence that the tasks ahead are not insurmountable as he applied St. Paul's words to himself that "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

The Governor General pledged to work assiduously with social groups to promote the plight of children, women, the vulnerable and the marginalized. He quoted from Eph. 4: 31-32 in making the call for national unity and forgiveness, which says: "Get rid of all bitterness, passion and anger. No more shouting or insults. No more hateful feelings of any sort. Instead, be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another as God has forgiven you in Christ." After his delivery he was escorted to the yard where he "received" the National Anthem and inspected a "Guard of Honour".

In and out of politics Mr. Glean has always been actively involved in various ministries in the Catholic Church, both at the parish and diocesan levels. He served as chairperson of the church council, in the Men's League, the Eucharistic Passover for Men, Family Life Commission, Marriage Encounter and was, up to recently, president and member of the Hillside Home Management Committee. He was an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, a Reader and he presided at services in the absence of a priest. He did voluntary teaching at the New Life Organization (NEWLO) in Palmiste – St. John.

His ministry also extended to the Catholic Central Board of Management (CCBM) where he has been assisting the CCBM in formulating policies and drafting documents for its effective operations and the edification of Catholic teachers. He taught at various levels including Grenada National College (now TAMCC) and at the Cave Hill campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI). He was principal of a primary school, vice-principal and principal of Grenada Teachers' College. He holds an M.A. degree majoring in Education from the University of Calgary in Canada and another M.A. degree from the University of East Anglia – U.K.

Mr. Glean served in the 1990 NDC coalition government, having been appointed a Senator and made the Minister of Education. He retired from active frontline politics when the party lost the elections of 1995. His Excellency and First Lady have five surviving children (with one having gone ahead to the after life) and fifteen grand children.

Among the local officials present were former Governor General – Sir Paul Scoon, Former Prime Minister – George Brizan, former House Speakers – Sir Curtis Strachan, Mr. Lawrence Joseph who was also Minister of Labour and Education with the former New National Party (NNP) government and Mr. Marcel Peters. Conspicuous by their absence were Dr. Keith Mitchell – Opposition Leader, Ms. Clarice Modeste and Mr. Elvin Nimrod.

It is understood that the new Governor General will take up residence in a building on the hill overlooking the Morne Rouge.