Residents of the “Historical Parish”, St. Patrick, who once felt left on the backburner, in terms of national development, now feel optimistic and are singing praises to government, as the parish is receiving its fair share of projects that are already bearing fruits, although the main harvest is yet to come.

Two significant projects are currently underway, in St. Patrick.

The Sauteurs Breakwater and the Levera Beach Resort projects, which from all indications are expected to improve and protect the parish’s coastline, create development opportunities in the north of the island, and generate jobs.

Although the interventions and investments by Government and investors in the Northern Parish will result in improvements in their quality of life, economic stimulation and is likely to have a lasting impact on their community, residents are also optimistic about many more developmental prospects both projects can create in the North.

As part of the Disaster Vulnerability Programme, Government is putting a stop to the coastal degradation caused by the rough Atlantic waters, to ensure the safety of citizens and property.

At a cost of 4.8 million dollars, the Breakwater Project will lay a 1500 foot stone core structure in the water, stretching from the shore just under the Sauteurs Catholic Church or Leapers Hill, moving out to sea and on to the old Sauteurs jetty.

The structure will be 50 feet wide at the bottom and 25 feet wide at the top. This is expected to calm the rough Atlantic waters heading onto shore, thereby lessening the damage to the sand and seashore.

Hon. Anthony Boatwin, Parliamentary Representative for St. Patrick West, spoke on the genesis of the project and government’s mitigation actions, during the 2017 budget presentation.

“I want to commend our Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, notwithstanding the difficult financial situation, he went to Sauteurs and saw what was happening and he said... We have to do something about that project. Mr. Speaker, and now that project is on stream,” he said.

Arnold Frederick, a restaurant employee, from Madeys, St. Patrick, told The GIS Review, ‘Is not today we was looking forward for that, is years now…. the wait is finally over and the benefits of the Breakwater project is already visible’, a sentiment expressed by many community members.

The expectation is that boats like the Osprey and others will soon be able to safely anchor at Sauteurs; that the fishermen can both moor their boats and face calmer waters when heading out to sea and the storekeepers and those residing on the coastline can feel secure that their property is no longer at risk.

“It’s one of the best projects that have been done for a long, long time. Everybody was looking forward for that and today we get it and praise the Government – the NNP Government - for doing such a project like that,” Dennis Phillip, also known popularly as Comsies, a retired citizen of Sauteurs, shared.

Like many other residents from St. Patrick’s, Annie Clift, Co-owner of the Petite Anse Hotel which by all means is the first major hotel establishment in the North of the island, says she thinks the project is well managed and they’re already seeing the differences to the water.

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Gathered that trained professionals, including a number of Imani trainees, have benefited from various in-house and overseas training programmes and the evidence of their growth is constantly being manifested in their quality of work.

The GIS team is eagerly looking forward to relocating from their current cramped quarters on the fifth floor of the Ministral Complex. A building, already identified, will soon be renovated to accommodate the staff.

Finally, I take this moment to commend the Director Mr. Rawle Titus and his team of highly motivated and dedicated staff for making this Fourth Anniversary publication possible.

Sen. The Hon. Dr. Winston Garraway
Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security.

Welcome to this special edition of The GIS Review in which we showcase massive progress, made in just four years by the Keith Mitchell led New National Government. We invite you to leaf through the pages of this special edition and read the stories and review the many pictures, empirical evidence of the gains made by this administration.

Additionally, tune in to all television stations and social media as a special television feature, Signed, Sealed, Delivered, highlighting the progress after four years, premiers. As Minister of State with responsibility for Information, I have been happy to preside over and work with enthusiastic employees who have defied varying challenges but have gone to great lengths to provide rich and vibrant multimedia content to educate the nation on the work of the Government.

GIS is a (24 hour), Government owned TV channel, generated over 85% of the content that we broadcast. As an entity in late stage transition from the analog to digital era, we have made significant strides by modernizing the way we do things.

One of the first big changes is the distribution of audio materials using free cloud services on-line. This meant a major cutback on the purchase and use of CDs, a huge increase in use of emails and other free services to communicate.

Most of our cameras now use flash media instead of tapes that are only acquired and used on special occasions. The staff have now been able to significantly cut costs in the purchase of recording media, which includes DVD’s, CD’s, and DV tapes. Our transformation at GIS also includes an increased presence on social media, especially through Facebook and YouTube, where our material can be viewed.

The GIS Review is now airing on national television that does the same.

The pictures, articles and figures contained in this special edition of The GIS Review outline the volume of work undertaken by the Keith Mitchell led Government in just four years.

From quick action to rebuild the Hubble Bridge in Gouyave, to resurrecting a long list of projects left dead, to installing new measures to restore the local economy, the Government has been unyielding in its effort to do the right thing.

In just four years, an economy in deficit has been turned into surplus with growth rate averaging 8.6 percent, the best performing economy in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU), unemployment has plummeted from more than 40 percent to 28.6 percent with net jobs created amounting to more than 2000.

In the last year, the Inland Revenue Division and Customs have been consistently exceeding their targets while the country’s debt stock has been reduced by more than 40 billion dollars.

In fact, at the conclusion of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) Grenada’s debt stock is expected to be further reduced by 158.3 million dollars.

In four years, the government has made a clear and deliberate effort to assist the most vulnerable in our society through many programmes.

To this effect, there has been a complete revamp of the SEED programme with 5000 beneficiary households.

A record number of scholarships have been handed out with 231 new ones.

119 families have benefitted from the soft loan programme, 125 families have gained from the material assistance programme and 355 housing units have been distributed with 647 families benefit from the second phase of 150 housing units.

Close to 50 million dollars in retrospective payments have been made to public servants and pensioners, while income tax has been removed.

The Keith Mitchell led Government has also announced a commitment to solving the lingering pension problem.

The landscape has further shown evidence of a busy administration seeking to bring benefits to the nation.

Much of the credit has fallen on the major projects generating jobs such as Silver Sands, Levera, St. Patrick’s Breakwater, Clarke’s Court Bay Marina, Tyrel Bay Marina, Mt. Cinnamon and more.

But the superfluous amount of smaller projects throughout the 15 constituencies has gone unnoticed, to some extent. These include roads, bridges, drains, health centers and assistance in housing and education.

Much of GIS team’s mission is working in the constituencies reported so many abandoned projects which were referred to as, MAREP, BNTN, Grand Bacolet Rehabilitation Centre, Mango Cane Community Centre and several road projects.

In the year ahead, Grenada’s economic prospects look bright with many of the key indicators of a recovery and growth trend into the future.

Our real estate sector is also facing a healthy prognosis having experienced record surges within the past two years.

While other countries have retrenched workers the Keith Mitchell led administration has avoided this IMF request by introducing measures which will boost revenue and reduce spending. Specific legislation has been passed to ensure this as well.

Grenada has earned an era of open government and higher level of transparency with the Integrity Commission functioning and Social Partners sitting with Government monthly to discuss the latest state of affairs in the country.

While this special edition of The GIS Review offers many details about the work of Government, it is not a special documentary in that we are now airing on national television that does the same.

"Signed, Sealed and Delivered", takes viewers into the community to report on the Government work and the impact of the beneficiaries themselves.

We know you will be better informed.
The breathtaking view of Port Louis Marina in St. George's meter, but will have positive rippling effects throughout the economy.

The Invitational is not only about showcasing the talent of the athletes; it is also about the economic possibilities that will result in the spin-off of opportunities from all our people – from the taxi driver to the hotel owner and worker, to the vendor and businessman and woman," Dr. Mitchell said.

Cont’d on page 11

Silver Sands Rises From The Dust

“We always anticipated that we would peak around 450-500 workers on site at any one time,” said Renwick. 

“I think right now we are heading to that peak because we have multiple things happening. It may peak at around 550 it may actually go up beyond that.” Projects like Silver Sands, apart from creating local jobs; also boost the skill set of local workers.

“You have to keep to the standards so when you got some new guys you have to bring them up to the standards that are expected”, said Lincoln Duncan, of Quin Company.

A major part of the Silver Sands Hotel is its 100 meter (or 328 foot long, 25 meter) swimming pool, a feature that’s unique in this hemisphere.

“It is impressive,” declared former Tourism Minister Alexandre Choukri. “You drive past there and you see the buildings coming out of the ground. You see the swimming pool which is just amazing. As a former Tourism Minister I am very excited about that project.”

GRENADA’S TOURISM FORECAST FOR 2017

The US Multi-million Dollar Silver Sands Hotel Under Construction in Grand Anse
EFD AGREEMENT SIGNED - GOUYAVE HEALTH CENTER GETS GREENLIGHT

PM. Mitchell signs the agreement with EU Rep for Barbados and the OECS, Her Excellency Daniela Tramacere in the presence of Health Minister Hon. Nickolas Steel and other officials.

3.5 Million EUR has been given in grant funding to Grenada for the enhancement of Primary Health Care. A signing ceremony between Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell and Ambassador of the EU Delegation to Barbados and the OECS, Her Excellency Daniela Tramacere was held in St. George’s last month, demonstrating Grenada’s readiness to revitalize its efforts in the delivery of primary health care services.

“This programme will focus on preventative care, addressing the need of the most vulnerable in rural communities. So, this is very important in a country that has been going through very harsh measures, to foster the access of those in need of basic services for the well being of everybody in the country,” Ambassador Tramacere said.

A major part of the funds will go towards the implementation of the Grenada Health Care Services for St. John and St. Mark.

Prime Minister Mitchell said he is particularly pleased with that project since dealing with the health sector in Grenada can be challenging. “Having the European Union support on this is so important to us,” Dr. Mitchell said. “Having the resources to implement and to do this project at this particular time, I think, is extremely important and makes me extremely happy.”

The GIS Review

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EDF AGREEMENT SIGNED - GOUYAVE HEALTH CENTER GETS GREENLIGHT

The Grenada Government has held talks with a Canadian entrepreneur to expand its involvement in the Canadian Farm Labour programme.

Dean Thomson, owner of a 500-acre apple orchard, employed 35 Grenadians last year and wants to increase the numbers to sixty this year.

“I came down here because I’ve been working with Grenadians for ten years on my farm and really enjoy working with them,” said Thomson. “I got some really good quality people that have come up to Canada and I really think we can expand the workforce coming out of Grenada,” said Thomson, who met with Economic Development and Labour Minister, Hon. Oliver Joseph.

We’re very optimistic that part of our expansion process will include many more and we are also hoping to look at expanding the number of workers we have there,” said Ambassador James.

“The Government of Grenada has placed a lot of emphasis on the farm programme by the appointment of the Deputy Consul in Montreal. His main emphasis is on the farm workers programme”, Ambassador James.

A total of sixty-eight Grenadians are currently employed under the farm labour programme in Canada, which dates back to almost 50 years.

WORLD CLASS MARINA IN PURE GRENADE

Widespread consensus abounds following the one million dollar budget for 2017 announced by Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell.

“We are quite excited about this budget,” declared Noel Edwards, President of the Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

“We are seeing that the small man is able to benefit but people who want to go into business have an opportunity to go into business.

Separate from the projects and initiatives to be rolled out under the various ministries, the 2017 Budget made announcements of several fiscal relief measures or tax cuts and incentives for Public Officers.

These include the tax registration amnesty for the period January to March; reduction in the price of the 20 pound LPG Cooking gas; reduction in personal income tax rate from 15% to 10%, and the removal of all income tax on pension income among others.

“I think it was a very good budget. I think the plans for the future look really green and I think the government has done a great job. If they continue, Grenada would be a better place” said Roma Watts who attend the budget presentation.

“It shows that the austerity programme that has succeeded and there are benefits to the programme in terms of wage increases and things like that,” added well-known Grenadian Economist Carlisle Noel.

The 2017 budget presentation was punctuated with success stories including Government’s ability to achieve a primary surplus of 5.1% as against its target of 3.5% of GDP.

This, the Prime Minister admits, is largely due to a robust revenue performance driven by increased economic growth and improvements in tax revenues and collection of taxes.

Government was also able to knock-down the country’s unemployment rate.

“Unemployment has fallen from over 40 percent when we assumed office to 31.2 percent at the end of 2013 and 28.6 percent now in 2016 with over 3203 net jobs created”, said the Prime Minister during his 2017 Budget presentation in St. George’s.

The GIS Review has learnt, that the programme which is also known as the Caribbean / Commonwealth Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme (CCSAWP) recruits several workers from other countries in the Caribbean including St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET SETS THE TONE FOR MORE GROWTH

The Clarkes Court Bay Marina, tucked away Woburn, St George’s, now boasts one of the biggest marinas and boatyards in the Caribbean. The revolutionary project, while set to change the face of Grenada’s yachting sector, is also transforming lives in the process; close to 100 Grenadians have found direct and indirect employment on the site. Many of them are receiving hands-on technical training in the areas of rigging, fiber glass, mechanical and electrical work, to name a few. But more employment opportunities are expected, once the project is completed.

The Clarkes Boatyard and Marina, which has been attracting clients from as far as Australia, France and Germany and as near as Barbados and St. Vincent, also has an environmentally-friendly focus as it puts efforts into safeguarding the mangroves and dove sanctuary nearby.

The GIS Review has learnt that to date, the facility has hauled more than 500 yachts, restored several ferries, 50 yachts, monohulls, catamarans and small vessels.

With a growing demand for Caribbean marinas, industry players are optimistic that the advantages of safety, security, attracts new site of the art marina, will attract bigger boats and bigger bucks to Grenada.

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Filed photo: Two Caribbean Apple Pickers on a Farm Canada

“It is not only Quebec that we are looking at for farm workers, but we also have interest and we have some workers in Ontario. We are also hoping to look at expanding the number of workers we have there,” said Ambassador James.

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A total of sixty-eight Grenadians are currently employed under the farm labour programme in Canada, which dates back to almost 50 years.

Special Issue
The day after the Hubble Bridge in Gouyave collapsed, the area was declared a disaster. Alvin DaBreo, Parliamentary Representative for St. John was on the scene, with engineers from the Ministry of Works and private contractors to assess the situation for a quick response.

Within a short period, boots were on the ground. Construction had started on a temporary walkover while the foundation was laid for the construction of the new bridge.

Months later, the ECS 1.1m Government of Grenada /World Bank financed bridge was completed and the Chinese national who was overseeing the construction says it’s wider, and much stronger.

The construction of the bridge created employment for a number of people. The GIS Review, had a quick chat with Chester Andal from River Sallee St. Mark’s, one of the workers who said, “I was very happy to be working on this project.’’

"We worked very good and very fast because we had to take seven months and we had to be working on this project,” he boasted Primary School student Aden Griffith.

"It is a pleasure and great effort by the persons who did the work. We are all excited to go across the bridge,” said school teacher Anthony Antoine.

"We are all glad the work has being done and we want to praise the persons who were in charge of getting things done”.

Bus driver Clifton George, “I feel very happy to see the progress. That is very good and I like that, that was a nice Christmas gift”, he told The GIS Review.

Immediately after the disaster, DaBreo pulled together a team of engineers to assess the scope of work, the possibility of a newer, wider and stronger bridge, and how best the immediate and possible future challenges would be minimized.

Meanwhile, during a recent visit to the once disaster area he thanked all who contributed to the rebuilding effort thus far. “I alone cannot take the credit because this would not happen with me alone,” he said.

“They are a lot of other people who came to make it happen. I want to say thanks to all of them because we will be doing this together again in the very near future”.

Residents of Pomme Rose, La Tante, Belle Vue, Requin and surrounding communities in St. David are receiving treated and a more reliable supply of water for the very first time.

The taps were turned on, on January 12, with the commissioning of the 1.8 million-dollar Water Treatment Facility, built by the National Water and Sewerage Authority’s (NAWASA), at Mt. Agnes, St. David.

The facility, which features a pump house, filtered tanks, an operator’s quarters and a 250,000 gallon capacity holding (or dissemination) tank, was completed in one year and six months.

Speaking at the commissioning of the facility, General Manager of NAWASA, Christopher Husbands said, “The project will mark a first for over a hundred persons in this Mt. Agnes, St. David area, who up to this point have never had access to treated water”.

He explained, that the residents were always receiving raw water from the dam, because they have resided used to be the old treatment plant.

Husbands said the initiative is phase 1 of 2, and that within the next six months approximately another 30 to 55 households will be supplied with pipe-borne water, for the first time and more than 300 residents in the surrounding area will have access to a safe supply of portable water.

Present at the event and reinforcing government’s commitment to the venture was Parliamentary Representative for St. David, Hon. Oliver Joseph.

“We are committed to ensuring that water supply improves – the quality improves - to our people, and today is a manifestation of that,” he assured.

Residents were more than eager to express their delight at the development.

“It gives me great privilege to be here this afternoon, just to say, I’m very thankful to NAWASA,” said Pomme Rose resident, Debbiann Lumpress.

“I think the opening of this facility here is really a historic achievement,” said retired farmer and resident of La Tante, Samuel Joseph.

The project played its part in providing short-term employment, as approximately 40 workers were hired at the peak of construction.

Several of them are residents from the immediate area who engaged in extensive excavation, steel bending and concrete work, among other tasks.

Various communities in St. David were affected by both the quality of the water and its inadequate supply over the years.

### TREATED WATER FOR ST. DAVID RESIDENTS

Fifty three scholarships, totaling more than $7 million U.S., approximately 90 percent of which are for study at the St. George’s University (SGU), were awarded to Grenadian students, during a ceremony at the Public Workers Union building in St. George, on February 3, 2017.

The Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development and The Environment hosted the ceremony, during which one Masters student in International Business; five island scholars and 24 other Undergraduates pursuing degrees in the Arts and Sciences received 53 of the 53 awards. Undergraduate areas of study include two Nursing (Associate Degree) scholarships; scholarships in Accounting and Finance; Psychology; Marine Biology; Sociology; Information Technology; Computers & Technology; Management; Biology; International Business and Business Management.

Johansson Felix, one of five island Scholars from the University of St. Martin’s in Public Health; three pre-med, one in Veterinary Science and sixteen medical scholarship awards.

Johansson Felix is continuing her medical studies at the Masters level. Her aim is to study Oncology and be able to provide specialized health services to persons with cancer in the near future. She would like to open a Cancer Center in Grenada.

"From the ceremony you may have realized that the total tuition is about $20,000 USD and, honestly, I cannot afford that, so I am really grateful for the opportunity to receive this..."
new State-of-the-art X-ray System

After twenty years since the last X-ray was performed at the Princess Alice Hospital in St. Andrew, the service is finally restored. And Grenadians including those in the Diaspora are reaping praises of government and its partners, for restoring and upgrading the medical services at the Mirabeau based hospital.

Diagnostic services (X-ray and Ultrasound) were commissioned at Princess Alice on December 2, 2016 at a formal ceremony that marked the historic achievement for healthcare in Grenada.

Valued in excess of a million Eastern Caribbean Dollars, the two new additional X-ray machines are receiving positive ratings from staff, clients and residents from St. Andrew.

"I feel blessed in knowing that at least together we have provided a means of early detection and hopefully early treatments thereby avoiding untimely deaths".

"Mrs. Benjamin who is one of the benefactors of the project added, that while the Ronald and Nadja Benjamin Foundation had contributed EC$100,000.00 to the project Government has contributed EC$231,000.00.

However the project itself took some six years before fruition, and as indicated by GRENLEC’s Managing Director, Clive Hosken, they saw the benefits and immediately got on board.

"We want to thank the staff and students of the neighbouring school is much better now." said Nigel Ellis, a Grade 3 teacher, said when asked about the science room, the additional space for the chairs”.

"I added that the time there was well spent. Students love for reading. "I additionally, Dow encouraged parents and relatives to continue to support students, as they work towards the successful completion of their degrees.

The ceremony marked another significant milestone of the ruling Keith Mitchell led Government, that continues to deliver on its promise of more educational opportunities and scholarships for Grenadians.

The GRENLEC Review, has learnt that the present government has awarded another 231 new scholarships since taking office in February 2013.

"We want to stand tall," said Synclen Sylvester, National Manager of SpiceMas Corporation.

"We are all one family here in Grenada, so that people can say, Yes, indeed I enjoyed Carnival’s" as we provide fantastic entertainment for visitors and locals alike.

We encourage you to keep your eyes on Grenada for 2017.
MAC DONALD COLLEGE WELCOMES NEW TECH. BLOCK
Hon. Anthony Boatswain, Minister for Education and Human Resource Development, said, “We at the Ministry of Education, however, look forward to greater enrollment in technical subjects at the CXC level, and by extension, improved performances.”

The new block comprises of seven laboratories with the required built-in furniture - one for all technical subjects offered; a classroom; an administration department and male and female washrooms.

Safety features include fire detection and alarm systems and fire extinguishers in strategic locations, such as the laboratories.

The contractor on this project was Jiangsu Geology and Construction Ltd., with the consultants being VKAB Engineering Consultants Ltd., headed by Dave Doekaran.

GRENADA’S MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET
Cont’d from page 4

Apart from providing direct employment opportunities, government also moved to enhance an environment that encourages investments and business start-ups leading to job creation, estimated to be at least $500 million.

This is something that was achieved under the Small Business Development Fund and administered through the Grenada Development Bank.

The Citizenship by Investment (CBI) programme, established in 2014 is now seeing a roll-out of 13 approved projects in key sectors of the economy including agriculture and tourism.

“Health is and should be people centered and about the users of the system, the actual patients, and how best to improve their experience”, the Minister explained.

Meanwhile the Grenadian Health Minister while celebrating the historic return of diagnostic services to Princess Alice, took the opportunity to highlight some of his Ministry’s most recent accomplishments.

The Don. Detra Thomas also addressed the occasion; and hailed the philosophy that is, “Health is and should be people centered and about the users of the system, the actual patients, and how best to improve their experience”, the Minister explained.

Con’t on page 11

ST. PATRICK’S ANGLICAN PRIMARY - BIGGER AND BETTER!

Education Minister Anthony Boatwain and Principal Wilma Alexander Symbolically Cut the Ribbon to New the School

St. Patrick buzzed with excitement on February 08, as Government handed over the newly refurbished St. Patrick’s Anglican Primary School to the school’s administration. The ceremony was held at the St. Patrick’s Anglican Church and was attended by Education Minister - Hon. Anthony Boatwain, other members of government; former Prime Minister - Tillman Thomas; staff, students and community members.

Minister Boatwain, in addressing the gathering commended the staff and students for maintaining a high performance level, notwithstanding inconveniences experienced by relocation due to reconstruction. “Despite these challenges, the school continued to do well in all areas, which reminds us that adversity can bring out the best in us,” the M.P. for the area said to applause.

The School’s Principal Ms. Wilma Alexander expressed delight with the finished product and is relieved to have her staff and students back at the school’s much-improved premises.

“This new facility is indeed a spectacular product, state-of-the-art, I must add, and currently it’s receiving enormous attention from the public,” she said.

Con’t on page 11

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES AT PRINCESS ALICE HOSPITAL

Cont’d from page 6

The GIS Review notes that the commissioning of the new facility would not have been completed without the blessing of the Grenadian Health Minister the Hon. Nickolas Steel, who spared no time in commending Mrs. Benjamin and all of the other contributors and stakeholders for their invaluable contribution towards the success of the project.

The Health Minister in putting the commissioning into context, referenced his Ministry’s Mission, Vision and Core Values which speaks to “Putting People First”.

“I believe that we should all maintain the project as timely and significant. The ceremony was attended by the Hon. Yolande Bain-Horsford, the Hon. Emmalin Pierre and the Hon. Roland Bhola, who are Members of Parliament from St. Andrew. Speaker of the House of Representatives the Hon. Michael Pierre, former Prime Minister Tillman Thomas and former Health Minister Mrs. Ann David-Antone were among the specially invited guests.

Mac Donald College welcomes new tech. block at MDC in St. Patrick