



Indian Diaspora Council

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Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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Press Statement

Government of Grenada Officially Declares 1st May as Indian Arrival Day

The Government of Grenada has officially declared 1st May as Indian Arrival Day when Grenadians of Indian descent will officially celebrate the arrival of their ancestors to the island. This year marks 160 years since the first East Indians arrived from Calcutta, India aboard the SS Maidstone which anchored at Irwin Bay in Saint Patrick on 1st May, 1857. The total number of Indian labourers from India to Grenada during the period of Indian indenturedship is approximately 3,200.

Indian Arrival Day will be celebrated in conjunction with Labour Day and added to Grenada's list of Bank Holidays. The centenary celebration took place in 1957. In 2009 government recognized 1st May as Indian Arrival Day in conjunction with Labour Day. The Indo Grenada Heritage Foundation was instrumental in getting official recognition for Indian Arrival Day and has installed a plaque at Irwin Bay in St Patrick to commemorate the day.

Grenada's Minister of Culture, Senator Brenda Hood revealed at last week's Senate sitting the Government's decision to officially declare 1st May as Indian Arrival Day. Senator Ray Roberts, representative of the Trade Unions Council (TUC) applauded the contributions of the Indian and Indo-Grenadian communities to Grenadian society. Roberts, on behalf of the TUC, said that they welcome the joint celebrations, fully accepted this decision and commended the Government for this move.

According to the Indo Grenadian Heritage Foundation's Facebook page, Indian Arrival Day celebrations have become an annual event and have been gathering a larger participation from among Indo-Grenadians and other communities every year. <https://www.facebook.com/IndoGrenadians/>

"We welcome this official declaration by the Government of Grenada and express IDC's gratitude to Shadel Nyack Compton for her determination and efforts to preserve and promote Indian history and culture in Grenada", declared Ashook Ramsaran, president of Indian Diaspora Council.



Shadel Nyack Compton

Shadel Nyack Compton, Managing Director of Belmont Estate, President of the Indo Grenadian Heritage Foundation and Indian Diaspora Council (IDC) Coordinator, Grenada, stated that, "this is long awaited and we are excited about all Grenadians annually honouring the arrival of our forebears from India. We in Grenada happily join with Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Guadeloupe, Mauritius, Fiji, South Africa and other countries in commemorating Indian Arrival Day". Minister Brenda Hood and Shadel Nyack Compton participated in the recently concluded Indian Diaspora World Convention 2017 held in Trinidad & Tobago.

For more information contact

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Indian Diaspora Council (IDC) is an international non-profit organization of shared heritage, aspirations and interests.