

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY

PRESS STATEMENT

GRADUATION CEREMONY - GUYANA PRISON SERVICE

The Guyana Prison Service held its Anger Management Graduation Ceremony, on Wednesday September 26th 2018, at Georgetown Prison Conference Room. Ten inmates from the Georgetown Prison 'A' completed a twelve weeks training in Anger Management and were awarded certificates.

The officer-in-Charge of Georgetown Prison 'A' Mr.Nicklon Elliot, told the gathering that the Anger Management Programme was implemented at the Camp Street Prison in response to an increase in the incidence of prisoner to prisoner violence. He is also hopeful, that the programme will reduce the occurrences of prisoner to prisoner and prisoner to officer conflict. In his Closing remarks, he encouraged the graduands to be mentors to others inmates about conflict resolution.



From left, Mr.Nicklon Elliot officer in Charge Georgetown Prison 'A', Ms. Marielle Bristol Officer in charge of Prisoners Welfare , Mr. Wil Campbell Programme Manager.

Ms. Marielle Bristol, Prisoners Correction and Welfare Officer, also expressed congratulation to the inmates and encouraged them to use the information they received from the course wisely. She explained that though the course taught inmates anger management skills, they also learnt alternative solutions, de-escalation tactics and other skills that will be useful as they reintegrate into society. She further emphasized to the inmates that **“you can Never Control how someone will react to you, but what you can control, is how you will react to situations”**

Mr. Will Campbell, Programme Manager, remarked that the programme focused on emotional awareness and not on anger. He added that participants learnt how to be assertive and not aggressive, they learnt how to find and use their voices in constructive rather than destructive ways. The programme he said, also reminded participants of their inherent power, that is best exercised when they learn to control self, rather than controlling others.

At the graduation ceremony, the participants demonstrated what they learnt by performing poetry and skits, and offering words of encouragement.

The Anger Management Course is one aspect of the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programmes offered by the Guyana Prison Service. It provides an alternative way for inmates to manage and control their anger. This programme is offered at all prison locations except Lusignan which will be added to the list shortly.

As a result of the Anger Management Programme, several locations have already reported a decrease in altercations among prisoners.

Ministry Of Public Security

September 28th, 2018