

# **CHANGING CULTURE AND MINDSET TO ACHIEVE CORRECTIONS**

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“A society should be judged not by how it treat its outstanding citizens but by how it treats inmates.”

- Fyodor Dostoevsky

# **Key Focus of the Presentation**

- Best practices obtained in Guyana in relation to rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

# **Model of Approach to Rehabilitation and Reintegration**

In the context of the Guyana Prison Service, the mixed model of approach incorporates a historical perspective, current strategy, and future-outlook.

Taking into consideration the cultural, economic, and social diversification, which has positively impacted the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

# Model of Approach to Rehabilitation and Reintegration



# Model of Approach Cont.

## Governmental Intervention

- ▶ Investment: \$28B GYD/\$135M USD invested in infrastructural development, such as accommodation, trade shops, and vocational training schools.
- ▶ Rehabilitation: \$290M GYD/ \$1.3M USD were invested into the training in academics, technical/vocational, and behavioral modification programmes.

## Model of Approach Cont.

- ▶ Reintegration: \$75M GYD/ \$362,000 USD were invested into the fresh start initiative, family support, religious and cultural activities such as family bonding, kite, and school supplies distribution.

Provision of character references, and supporting access to key services such as birth, marriage, death, and TIN certificates, identification cards, passports, and driver's license.

## **Model of Approach Cont.**

- ▶ Collaborations – with various ministries such as Health, Agriculture, Labour and Manpower, Human Service and Social Security, Education, Amerindian Affairs, Finance, and Housing and Water to ensure persons who are released from prison have access to key services.

# Model of Approach Cont.

## Public Safety

- ▶ The GPS collaborates with the Guyana Police Force, through their Social Prevention Program and the National Intelligence Agency through the sharing of information.
- ▶ Public engagement through the television programme, publishing of newsletters, social, print, and electronic media, and visiting communities. Thus, reducing stigma and discrimination through public awareness.

# Model of Approach Cont.

## **Private Sector Collaboration**

The GPS collaborates with the private sector for the following;

- ▶ Provision of employment for persons released from prison.
- ▶ Facilitating rehabilitation programmes to meet their business demand.

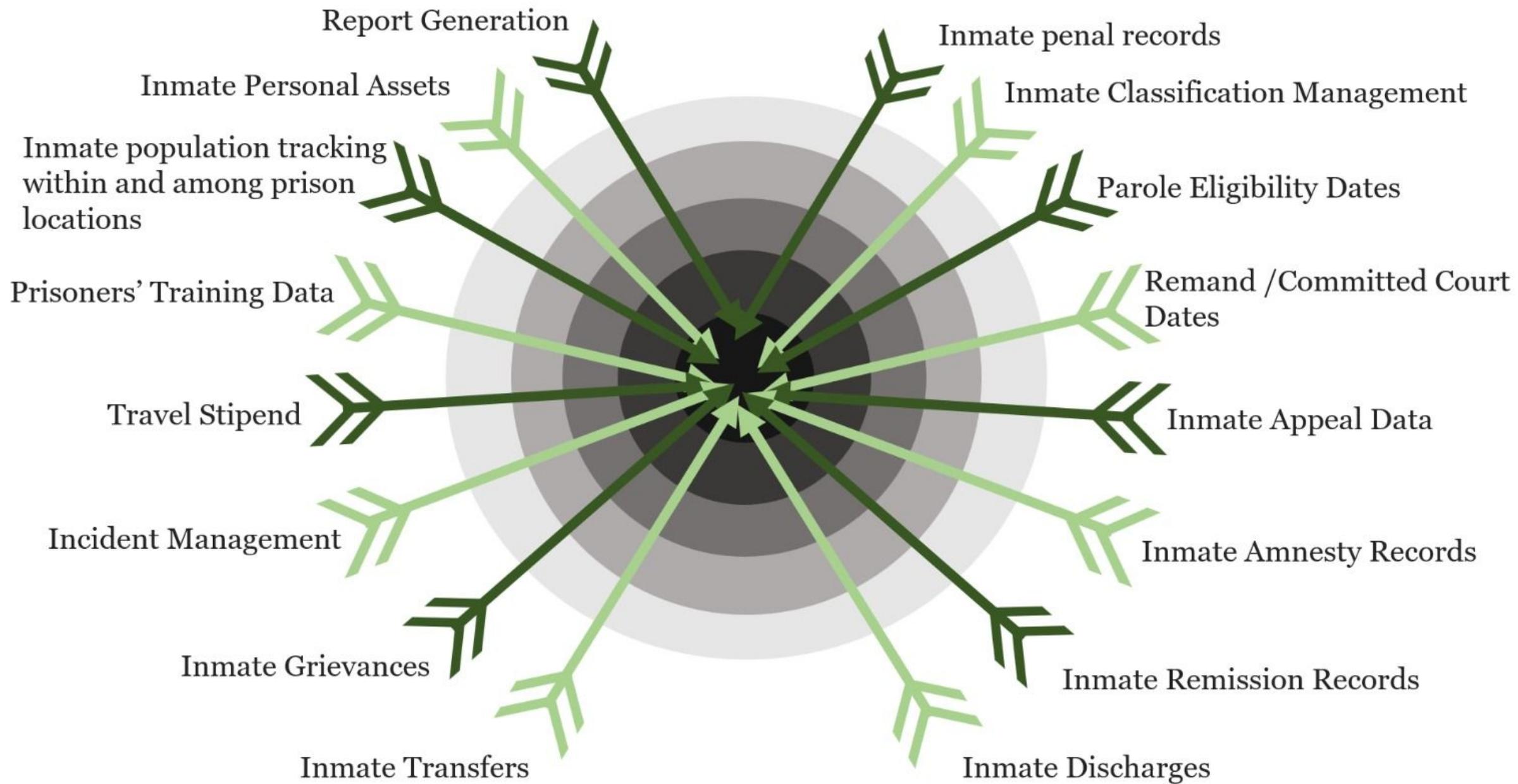
# What Happens Behind Bars In Guyana's Context

## Areas of Focus

- ▶ Rehabilitation of Offenders
- ▶ Reintegration of Offenders

# Rehabilitation of Offenders

- ▶ Risk Assessment
- ▶ Placement into accredited training programs
- ▶ Monitoring of Inmates' performance
- ▶ Reward/Recognition for participation



# Types of Rehabilitation Provided to Offenders

- ▶ Literacy and Numeracy

**1**



**2**



## □ Technical/ Vocational



*The Masonry , Tailoring and Apiculture Programme at the various prison locations in Guyana*

## Behavioral Modification Programs



*Family Reconciliation and Anger Management Training Programme at the New Amsterdam and Mazaruni Prisons*

# Online Classes and Computer lab



► Appropriate Diet (meals)



*Photos showing bread made for prisoners' consumption during breakfast/dinner at the New Amsterdam Prison*

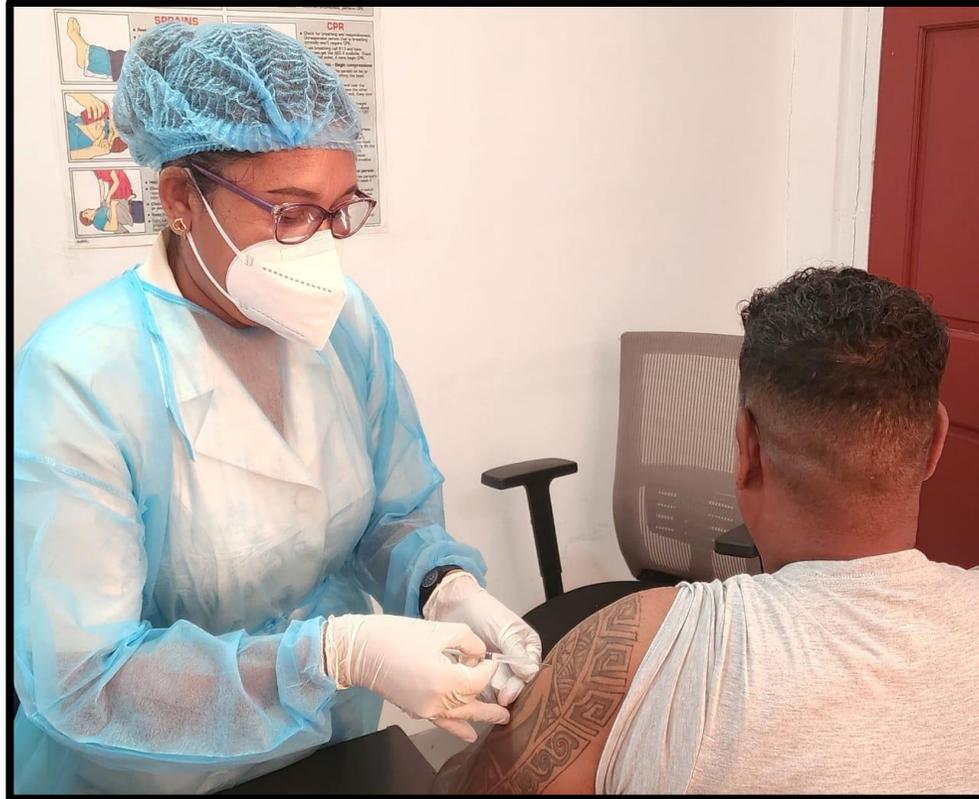


*Prisoners' Dietary at the Lusignan Prison Location.*

► Health Care Service



*Dental Services*



*Immunization Vaccines*



*New Pharmaceutical Facility*

► Addressing Welfare and Social Service needs



***Kite Distribution***



***Family Bonding Activities  
During Mother's Day, Father's Day and  
Christmas***

► Addressing Complaints



***Former Minister of Home Affairs.  
Hon. Robeson Benn, MP  
Addressing a Complaint at the  
Mazaruni Prison***

► Recreational Activities

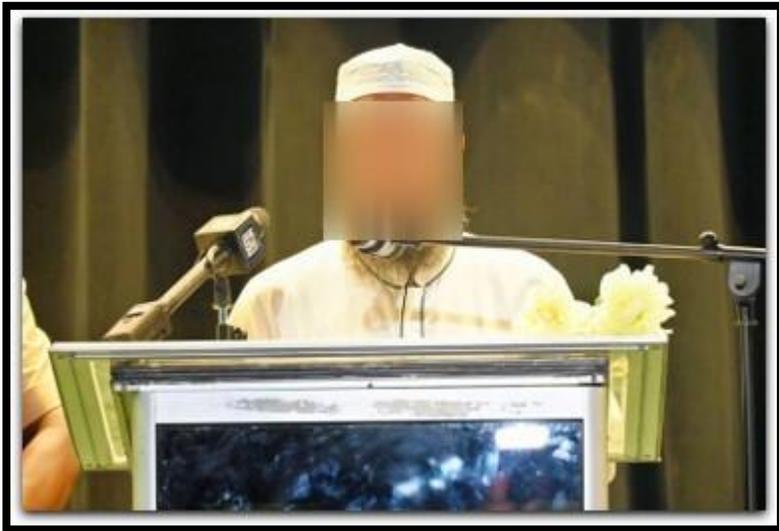


***Sports Activities at the Timehri and Lusignan Prisons.***

► Providing Religious support system



*Baptism*



*Praying in Arabic*

# Staff Training

Staff training is key to ensure that offender's rehabilitation activities are accomplished.



Prison Management, Leadership, Management and Supervision Training

- ▶ Human Rights training done under the Nelson Mandela rules
- ▶ Professional Development Programmes



# Acceptance vs Denial

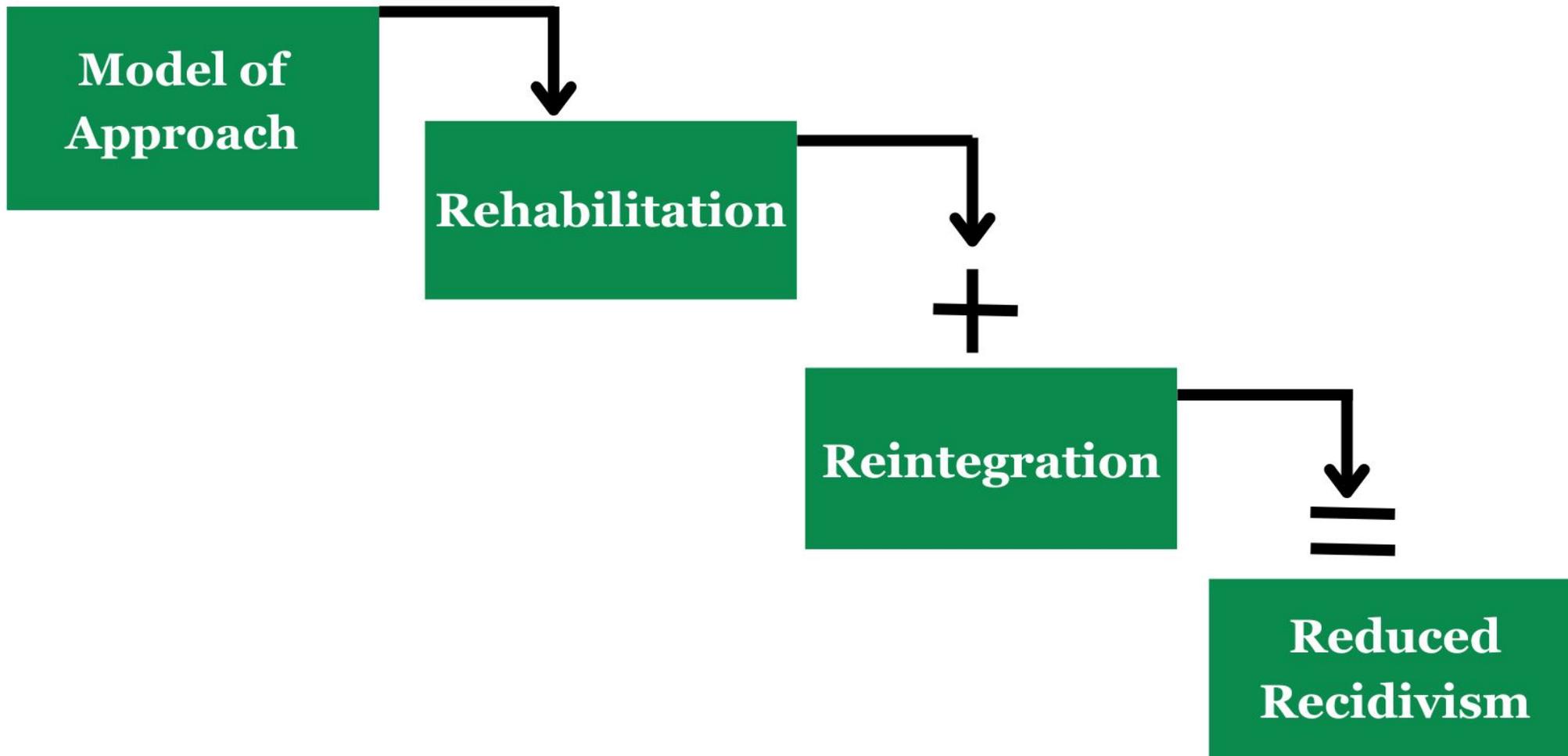
- ▶ Acceptance: person will be more willing and opened to learn hence their transition would easy.
- ▶ Denial brings about a form of anger and rebellious acts from offender therefore the specialized intervention would be needed.

# **Elements for a successful reintegration that leads to preventing/reducing recidivism**

- ▶ Family, Community, and Prison support.
- ▶ Access to Social Services (housing, welfare, peer group counselling, medical care).
- ▶ Employment opportunities/access to grants to start business)
- ▶ Educational opportunities (technical and university level).
- ▶ Establishment of Restorative building (night shelter).

# Conclusion

In conclusion, this model of approach towards rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders is a pathway to reducing/preventing recidivism.



# Thank You



No one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens but its lowest ones.

(Nelson Mandela)

izquotes.com