<u>Correctional officers stop fighting</u> <u>among persons in custody and combat</u> <u>illicit activities</u>

Correctional officers at Pik Uk Prison stopped persons in custody from fighting yesterday (August 10).

At 2.35pm yesterday, eleven male persons in custody, aged between 29 and 44, fought in the activity yard. Officers at the scene immediately stopped the fight and used OC foam to subdue them after warnings were ignored.

Three correctional officers sustained minor injuries to the face and hand during the process of stopping the fight. The officers concerned did not need to be sent to public hospital after examination and treatment provided by the institution Medical Officer. Eight of the persons in custody sustained injuries on eye, head and hand, etc. After examination and treatment by the medical officer of the institution hospital, five of them were referred to a public hospital for further treatment whilst three of them did not need to be sent out. The case has been reported to the Police for investigation. All the persons in custody concerned are being removed from association and put under investigation.

To ensure order and security within the institution, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) deployed a regional response team, officers of the Security Section and a dog unit today (August 11) to reinforce the management of Pik Uk Prison to conduct a special searching operation. During the operation, six persons in custody who were found in possession of unauthorised articles were removed from association for investigation. The atmosphere at Pik Uk Prison is currently stable. The CSD will continue to closely monitor developments and the activities of persons in custody concerned.

In order to assist persons in custody to rehabilitate in a safe and orderly environment, the CSD spares no effort in combating illicit activities of all kinds in its institutions.

Pik Uk Prison is a minimum security prison for the detention of male adult persons in custody.