



# THE AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

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## **Public Servants Complete Spanish Programme**

A number of public servants received certificates today for completing a three-month Spanish programme.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade hosted a Closing Ceremony for the “Initiative for the Dissemination of Colombian Culture through the Teaching of Spanish as a Foreign Language Programme” at the National Public Library Conference Room, located at Richmond Hill, Kingstown.

Senior Foreign Service Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Emil Dougan, said the programme attracted participants from throughout the Public Service. Dougan thanked the Spanish Course Instructor, Flor Alba Rivera Manrinque, for her commitment and dedication over the three-months. He also commended the students who participated in the programme for committing themselves to the task of learning a foreign language, which will make them more marketable.

Meanwhile, the Spanish Course Instructor, Flor Alba Rivera Manrinque said the closing ceremony marked a culmination of a remarkable journey that transcends borders, celebrated diversity, fostered understanding and facilitated cultural exchange.

She said the participants played an important role in the wonderful experience, adding that the programme achieved its goals as they were able to form bonds, build trust and create connections that will endure long after they bid farewell. She also expressed a heartfelt gratitude to her students for making the cultural exchange a resounding success and for making her feel at home.

Rivera-Manrique also expressed gratitude to Sabana University in Colombia, the Government of SVG, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Senator Keisal Peters and her team, and the staff at the National Public Library for opening the learning space to facilitate the programme.

The Initiative for the Dissemination of Colombian Culture through the Teaching of Spanish as a Foreign Language Programme began here in 2019. Over the years, there has been an increase in demand for the programme.