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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, February 18, 2021

**Government Initiates Criminal Investigation into Alleged Data Breach**

Further to the Press Release issued on February 17, 2021, regarding the security vulnerability associated with the JAMCOVID-19 application, the Government of Jamaica wishes to provide the following additional information from the ongoing investigation:

- The database is hosted on an AWS cloud server account owned by the Government of Jamaica.
- An independent review has been commissioned of the security of the system. Results of this review are expected within the next 24 hours.
- The systems of the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency were not in any way affected, compromised or exposed by the vulnerability.
- When a security vulnerability is identified in respect of a Government system, the Government has a duty to investigate and rectify it. Under Jamaican law, we also have a duty to ensure that any unauthorised access to data is investigated and prosecuted. Under section 3 of the Cybercrimes Act, “any person who knowingly obtains, for himself or another person, unauthorised access to any program or data held in a computer commits an offence”. The matter has therefore been referred to the Communication Forensics and Cybercrime Unit of the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency for further investigation.

The Government of Jamaica wishes to assure all travellers and the public in general that we take data privacy and security extremely seriously.

The Government of Jamaica stands by the JAMCOVID-19 application. The application has been a critical element of our Controlled Entry programme and has served us well in our management of the pandemic. The identified vulnerability has been rectified and the security protocols around the application will continue to be monitored to ensure that they meet the highest standards.

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