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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MOCA to Assess PICA's ICT Systems**

Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, has directed the Major Organised Crime and Anti-corruption Agency (MOCA) to assess the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency's (PICA) Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems to confirm the veracity of security strategies outlined in the Auditor General's (AG) Report issued on September 16, 2021.

Meanwhile, the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) is assuring the public that there is no evidence of any breach of data within the Agency. PICA has outlined that all data in the custody of the Agency are secured under the highest security protocols with robust internal controls.

According to PICA, the mitigation strategies to address concerns raised by the AG's Department were initiated prior to the audit.

The Agency says these include, but are not limited to:

- The establishment of an Information Communication Technology (ICT) Risk Steering Committee and Risk Register in 2014 which monitor cyber risks consistently.
- An authentication system within the current configuration of ICT security systems that prevents access from outside the network, including to ex-employees.
- No external hardware or devices are permitted to connect to the Agency's ICT Systems without clearance from the ICT Unit.
- The passwords of all employees are changed every 90 days.
- The Human Resource Department ensures that prospective employees are not on-boarded before the completion of the proper security vetting processes.
- Over the last 3 years, the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) has been conducting cyber security checks on the ICT infrastructure and has validated the security of the system.

PICA says the recommendations outlined by the Auditor General have been noted and are being considered in the upgrading of the its ICT policies and procedures.

The Agency wishes to assure the public and all stakeholders that every effort has been and continues to be made to safeguard the sensitive information and identity data in its custody.