

## MITA PRESS RELEASE

### **EMBASSIES SERVER CYBER ATTACK: UPDATE 2 – IMPACT OF ATTEMPTED BREACH NEUTRALISED**

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Following a detailed analysis of the evidence and logs of the Embassy servers, the US security advisory firm advising MITA confirmed that the attempted breach has not been successful and the unauthorised programme did not manage to extract the usernames and passwords of the personnel in Malta's Embassies.

This has been corroborated by the specialised technical staff of MITA who throughout the last 48 hours have analysed all available information. The conclusion of both exercises is identical and that is that the extraction was not successful.

The infrastructural, technological and policy security framework of MITA was fundamental in the neutralisation of the impact of this attempted breach. Moreover a series of immediate preventive measures to eliminate further the risk exposure to the users as a consequence of this attempted breach, were adopted and executed within hours of the detection of the attempted breach.

Although the risk of exposure was limited, one of the preventive measures taken was to ensure that all knowledge workers in Government change their password within the shortest possible time. In fact by 1500hrs of Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009, 67% of all users had made this change in a smooth process directed by MITA and efficiently coordinated by the Chief Information Officers of Ministries and public sector entities. The Service Call Centre is operating on a 24x7 basis until the exercise is concluded.

In the meantime, activities at Embassies of Malta abroad are back to normal with all Embassies fully connected and operational. No public-facing systems (such as e-Government services) have been affected and all Government systems are also operational. MITA is monitoring these systems to ensure minimum impact on services provided to the public.

The Board of Directors of MITA expresses its appreciation to the management and operational teams at MITA for their incessant commitment and exceptional skill demonstrated over the last 48 hours. The Board thanks the Chief Information Officers in Ministries and public sector entities for their invaluable collaboration in this complex process.

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