

**Report of the Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies on the 2022/23 Third and Fourth Quarter Performance and Expenditure Reports of Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA), dated 24 October 2023.**

The Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies (the Committee), having considered the 2022/23 Third and Fourth Quarter Performance and Expenditure Reports of Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), hereafter referred to as “the Department”, and the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA), hereafter referred to as “the Agency,” reports as follows:

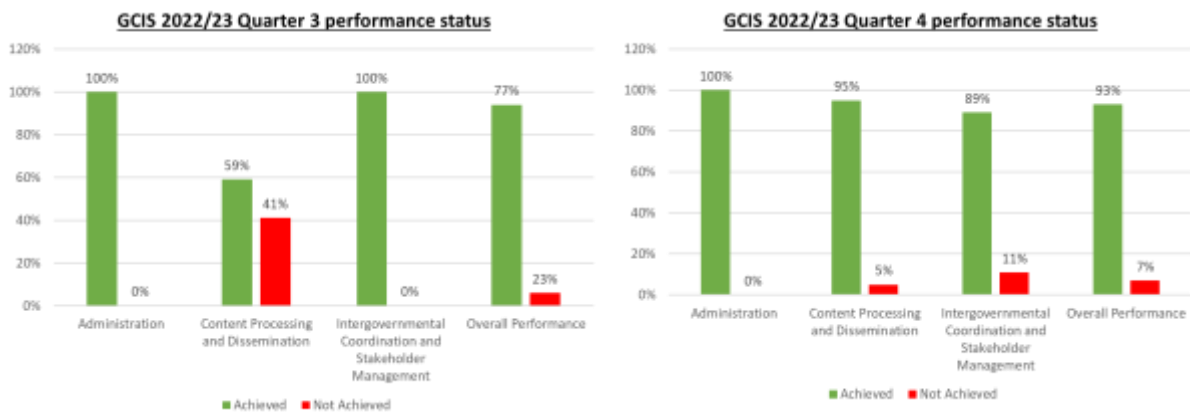
**1. Introduction**

The Committee considered the 2022/23 Third and Fourth Quarter Actual Performance and Expenditure Reports (September 2023) of the Department and the Agency in a virtual meeting. This report gives an overview of the presentation made by the Department, which mainly focuses on its achievements, and output in respect of the performance indicators and targets set for the 2022/23 financial year and related financial performance. The report also provides the Committee’s key deliberations and recommendations in relation to the performance presentation by the Department.

**2. Third Quarter Performance**

The Department had thirty-five (35) targets due for the Third Quarter of the 2022/23 financial year. Twenty-seven (27) targets were achieved and eight (8) targets were not achieved. This constitutes 77 per cent of overall performance.

The Department had thirty (30) targets due for the Fourth Quarter of the 2022/23 financial year. Twenty-eight (28) targets were achieved and two (2) targets were not achieved. This constitutes 93 per cent overall performance.



**3. Summary of Achievements**

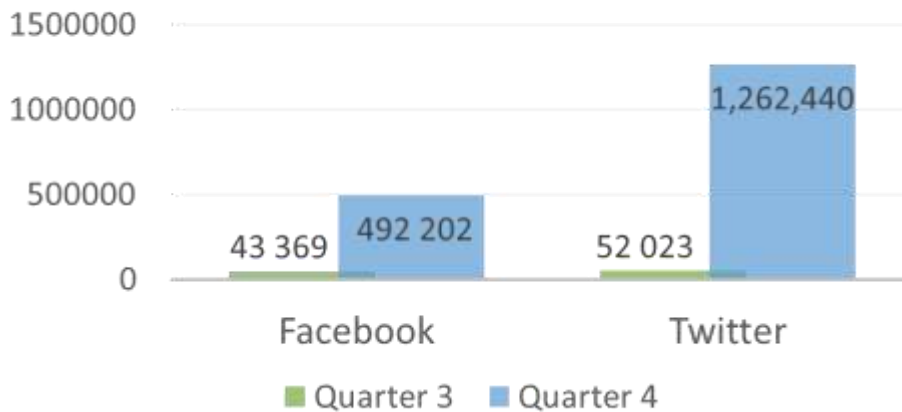
The GCIS Provincial Offices provided strategic liaison services to 147 government activities across the Provinces. These included support to the President, Deputy President, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, MECs, Premiers, Executive Mayors, District Development Model champions, and Government Departments.

The GCIS Provincial Offices continued to form part of the Provincial and District structures to set the communication agenda through communication strategies and plans shared on various strategic governance platforms. A significant achievement to this effect is having managed to ensure that communication continues to be on the agenda in various strategic governance platforms, especially those that deal with the Presidential Imbizo, Integrated Development Planning (IDP), and DDM communication activities.

GCIS Provincial Offices have improved their use of social media for content dissemination and profiling of government programmes.

There are currently 18 active Twitter accounts and 29 Facebook pages, managed at the provincial and district offices. The pages collectively reached about 1,754,642 people in the Fourth Quarter. The graph below shows the high increase in followership between quarter 3 and quarter 4 of the 2022/23 financial year:

### Followership: GCIS Provincial Social Media Pages



The Vuk’uzenzele newspaper has a print run of 850,000 copies per edition and is distributed in all nine provinces, largely door-to-door in deep rural, rural and peri-urban areas. In the period under review, the directorate printed 6.1 million copies, which is 150,000 extra copies to cover SoNA and 850 000 copies for April 2023 which was printed in the month of March 2023. Through research that includes **public perception analysis and media monitoring**, the department is able to report and assess how the government fulfils the information needs of the public. The reports provide communication intelligence to communication clusters on public perceptions of government priorities, which enables them to understand how citizens respond to programmes, to better inform their communication strategies and implementation plans. Five cluster reports on perceptions of government priorities were produced in quarter 3. The CRC produced key messages and opinion pieces and met all requests. A total of 42 key messages and 13 opinion pieces were produced in Quarter 3 and Quarter 4.

#### 4. Summary of Non-Achievements

- 1) An online edition of the SAYB published annually;
- 2) An online edition of the Official Guide to South Africa published annually;
- 3) Number of screens reached on GCIS-managed social media platforms quarterly;
- 4) Number of page views on www.gov.za website;
- 5) Number of national events, government programmes and The Presidency’s engagements profiled through photographic services per year;
- 6) Number of graphic designs completed per year;
- 7) Number of GCIS print products distributed; and
- 8) MAC Sector Code reviewed and updated and approved by the Minister in The Presidency.

- 1) MAC Sector Code reviewed and published in the Government Gazette; and
- 2) Number of engagements between government officials and senior journalists on government’s key programmes in the NASP held.

Mitigation plans were put in place to ensure that the targets are met. By the end of quarter 4, all the missed targets were achieved except for the **MAC Sector Code reviewed and published in the Government Gazette.**

#### 5. 2022/23 Third Quarter Budget and Expenditure Overview

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) spent R545.1 million or 74.7 per cent of its 2022/23 available budget allocation of R729.7 million as of the end of December 2022. The spending was R700 000 or 0.1 per cent higher than the department’s projected spending for the period under review. The higher than projected spending was incurred mainly under goods and

services on travel and subsistence for the Presidential Imbizos, audit fees and office rental due to inflationary adjustments.

The GCIS also incurred higher than projected spending on compensation of employees, due to cost of living adjustment and notch increments (pay progression). In addition, higher than projected was incurred on payments for capital assets, due to higher than projected spending on computer equipment (desktops, laptops and tablets) procured in then 2021/22 financial year and delivered in the current financial year.

## **5.1 Quarter 3 Expenditure per Programme**

### **Programme 1: Administration**

This programme reported an actual expenditure of R140.7 million or 74.3 per cent of the programme's 2022/23 available budget of R189.3 million as at the end of the third quarter of 2022/23. The reported expenditure translates to a higher than projected spending of R600 000 or 0.5 per cent mainly on goods and services as a result of rental payments for the Tshedimosetso office building. The rental amount was higher than projected due to inflationary adjustments. Spending on goods and services was also higher than projected on audit fees. The programme also incurred higher than projected spending on compensation of employees due to cost-of-living adjustment and payment of notch increments.

### **Programme 2: Content Processing and Dissemination**

This programme reported an actual expenditure of R304.9 million or 74.4 per cent of its 2022/23 available budget allocation of R409.7 million as at the end of the third quarter of 2022/23. The reported expenditure translates to lower than projected spending of R1.2 million or 0.4 per cent of the available budget mainly under goods and services, due to lower than projected spending on printing, publication, courier, and delivery of the Vukuzenzele newspaper. Whilst noting the overall lower-than-projected spending, the programme also incurred higher-than-projected spending under machinery and equipment due to laptops, tablets, and computer equipment that were procured in the 2021/22 financial year, and delivered during the current financial year.

### **Programme 3: Intergovernmental Coordination and Stakeholder Management**

This programme spent R99.5 million or 76.2 per cent of its 2022/23 available budget allocation of R130.6 million as of the end of December 2022. The expenditure was R1.3 million or 1.3 per cent higher than the programme's projected expenditure. The higher-than-projected spending was reported mainly under goods and services due to higher than projected spending on travel and subsistence for the Presidential Imbizos. The programme also incurred higher than projected spending on compensation of employees due to cost-of-living adjustment and payment of notch increments.

### **Covid-19 spending**

The GCIS spent R2.8 million on COVID-19-related expenditures mainly for awareness campaigns, office disinfection and, COVID equipment.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) spent R723.9 million or 99.2 per cent of its 2022/23 available budget allocation of R729.7 million as at the end of March 2023. The spending was R5.8 million or 0.8 per cent lower than the department's allocated budget for the period under review. The underspending was incurred mainly under compensation of employees which reported a preliminary underspending of R4.7 million or 1.6 per cent due to vacant funded posts. The GCIS also reported an underspending of R946 000 or 0.5 per cent on goods and services due to lower than anticipated management/handling fees of courier and delivery of Vuk'uzenzele newspaper.

## **5.2 Quarter 4 Expenditure per Programme**

### **Programme 1: Administration**

This programme reported an actual expenditure of R188.5 million or 98.8 per cent of the programme's 2022/23 available budget of R190.8 million as at the end of the fourth quarter of 2022/23 resulting in an underspending of R2.3 million or 1.2 per cent mainly to vacant funded posts and delays in the procurement of uniform for general workers.

### **Programme 2: Content Processing and Dissemination**

This programme reported an actual expenditure of R405.5 million or 99.3 per cent of its 2022/23 available budget allocation of R408.5 million as at the end of the fourth quarter of 2022/23. The reported expenditure resulted in an underspending of R2.9 million or 0.7 per cent of the available budget mainly under compensation of employees due to vacant funded posts. Goods and services also reported an underspending due to lower than anticipated printing, publication, courier, and delivery costs of the Vuk'uzenzele newspaper.

### **Programme 3: Intergovernmental Coordination and Stakeholder Management**

This programme spent R129.9 million or 99.6 per cent of its 2022/23 available budget allocation of R130.4 million as of the end of March 2023, resulting in an underspending of R509 000 or 0.4 per cent reported mainly under compensation of employees due to vacant funded posts.

#### **Covid-19 spending.**

The GCIS spent R2.8 million on COVID-19-related expenditure under programme two and three mainly for awareness campaigns, office disinfection and, COVID equipment.

### **6. Observations and recommendations**

#### **6.1 Observations**

In relation to the Department the Committee noted;

- (i) and commended the performance of the Department;
- (ii) that GCIS has information resource centres in every office and every region;
- (iii) that GCIS has increased the Twitter following;
- (iv) that the rise in crime has necessitated the GCIS to develop a communication strategy;
- (v) that load-shedding has affected its outcome;
- (vi) that MDDA did not report to the Committee as it was currently audited which has resulted in changes to information and will therefore report at a later date;

#### **6.2 Recommendations**

In relation to the Department, the Committee recommends that the Minister should:

- (i) ensure that all vacancies are filled at the Department; and
- (ii) Implore GCIS to continue to supply publications to Parliamentarians.

### **Report to be Considered**