Honourable House Chair,

last time you told me to do the right thing and I'm here, and when I'm here you send me back to my seat. But that is fine. I'm very happy the Minister of Communication is here because he will block the interference when you tell me your time is up. And I'm thrown out of this House because I couldn't hear the previous Chairman. I hope the Minister will do his job and make sure that I hear you when you tell me my time is up.

Honourable House Chair, the digital agenda your Ministry is responsible for holds a number of the solutions South Africa needs, and that is to build a smart nation. Government departments cannot work in silos. Your present Minister must be felt wider in all departments. So let us advise you to build a pipeline of transformation by preparing youth in primary schools all the way to university for the fourth industrial revolution. Support youth who don't make the transition after matric with digital skills certification to be globally employable. There are no jobs in South Africa so they've got to work outside South Africa.

Support girls and women with digital skills certification to be globally employable. Design and implement a scheme for global and remote internships. Design and implement a scheme for global and remote jobs as our captains of industry are not creating jobs here in South Africa. Our Honourable President said in his SONA in 2022, we need a new abnormal. You were there, you were in the Presidency. I repeat this because we need to focus on the digital economy that is beginning to require many traditional job opportunities and the new ones that have been created, place skills in this area as mandatory. The jobs we have today will not exist in 2030. The stone age jobs we still have in South Africa will eventually disappear. So Honourable Minister, you were in the Presidency then. Now as Minister of Communication you can implement the vision of His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa.

We can learn from our neighbours deploying smart labs, incorporating coding, robotics, artificial intelligence, numeracy, and literacy. Al-Jamal's Executive Mayor in the city of Joburg, when he was political advisor to three mayors, one who died from COVID and two in car accidents, convinced them to embrace the 40 Industrial Revolution. They implemented this plan to form a city structure which is ready to start implementing well-researched plans. The Minister must assist municipalities and the city of Johannesburg is ready to be assisted. The new abnormal Minister is about creating our future. I recommend this to our Honourable new Minister.

Al-Jamal supports the budget.

Thank you very much.

**MR M.G.E Hendricks**

**Al Jama-ah Leader in Parliament**