**16 May 2023**

**Vote 4: Government Communications and Information Services**

**FF Plus: W Wessels**

The minister referred to the Chat GBT technology that certain governments used but it's quite clear that her speech was not written by Chat GBT because if it was artificial intelligence would have acknowledged the complete chaos that are in certain parts of the GCIS, the inefficiency, the havoc at the MDDA and would have addressed the concerns of civil society, especially with regards to the MDDA

Spinning away the problems and inefficiencies of the ANC government but no spin doctor can do that because no one can miss the complete failure of the ANC

The Covid-19 pandemic and the complete chaos and ill-informed regulations by the government was an example of miscommunication and the failure of the GCIS to actually perform their real task.

Their task was not to promote the ANC and create the impression that everything is well. It is to communicate in such a way that people understand.

Did people out there understand the regulations apart from the fact that it was enforced, it was miscommunicated because different government departments communicated in silence. They still do. Does GCIS play a role in informing the public out there of new legislation? Of amendments to legislation? What is actually going on? Does the GCIS actually promote public participation and play a role in promoting our public participatory democracy? They do not.

They do not play a role in informing the public out there of SASA. How confusing is that for normal citizens out there that do not understand the changes at SASA, and social development fails horribly in informing the public? The Post Office is...not the Post Office. I don't know what it is. And GCIS play no role, they are just there to say how good the government is doing although everybody knows that is not true.

The problem is also that this minister and the government also allow a person with the stature of Nozabelo to be appointed as the chairperson of the NDDA. A person that was fingered by the Nugent Commission and involved in misconduct at the SARS. But you laugh about it?

And this is the problem, chairperson, you pay lip service to the Zondo Commission; you pay lip service to the fact that you say you are going to rid government institutions of corruption. You don't do that because why do you allow a person like that to be appointed?

While civil society writes to the minister.... writes to the President and says there is something wrong here. And then he goes look at the NDDA, which is supposed to be promoting community media, community radio stations...But there is complete inconsistency and biased and people are promoted and given grants that shouldn't and are not deserving of those grants....But you don't care...you just care about yourself. But you are going to lose and the GCIS will not be able to spin in 2024 because you are going to lose the election.