

**4 September 2018**

**Faith Muthambi hits back, claims Phumla Williams is “emotionally unhinged”**

Yesterday at the Zondo Commission into state capture, acting DG of the government communication and information system (GCIS), Phumla Williams, revealed distressing details of emotional “torture” she suffered under the then communications minister Faith Muthambi. Responding today, Muthambi released a statement stating that Williams’ testimony at the commission “is a travesty to derail the pursuit of truth”.

Muthambi stated that as much as she welcomes any initiative that exposes and roots out corruption within state entities, she felt that Williams destroyed the spirit and credibility of the of the commission. “I watched with grave disappointment and alarm at the televised testimony of Ms Williams... the testimony may well have jeopardized the intent and outcome of the commission by reducing her opportunity to provide legal and credible testimony to a personal, inappropriate and unjustified attack on myself.”

Muthambi said yesterday the whole of South Africa got to know the real Phumla Williams. She claimed that Williams has revealed the side of her that made it hard for the two women to work together. “This is exactly the Phumla Williams I worked with, who couldn’t pass the opportunity to tell a lie - any lie - to ingratiate herself with anyone in a position of authority, and now panders to the basest instincts of the public,” she exclaimed.

Williams is one of the “most shameful manipulators and liars that I have ever had the displeasure to encounter,” Muthambi declared. She said that as had been the case before, Williams took the opportunity to undermine an important institution to “make it all about herself”.

Using terms such as “all-consuming sense of entitlement”, “wilful distortion of the facts”, and “tarnishing the reputation of GCIS”, Muthambi lamented the likelihood that Williams’ testimony had undermined GCIS’ painstaking work, under various leaders, to establish itself as an apolitical instrument.

The former minister accused Williams of simply acting out of anger and hatred. In addition, she would seek legal advice and would like to expose Williams by revealing to South Africa a very different truth from what was said to the commission.

“Her emotional self-serving outburst, and entirely inappropriate attempt to refer to ordinary managerial and management processes as similar to torture, and her experiences in detention, is so deliberately emotionally manipulative, that it would have been laughable if her intentions in doing so were not so blatantly malicious and informed by an irrational (almost psychotic) hatred for me. It is evident that we are dealing here with an emotionally unhinged person,” concluded the statement.

Useful links:

[Zondo Commission](#) website

[Government Communication and Information System](#) (GCIS)