



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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The Minister: Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services
The Honourable Siyabonga Cwele
Pretoria

Dear Minister Cwele,

I read with concern this morning news of the cyber security pact South Africa has signed with China.

Please can you send me a copy of the pact and any position paper your department – or any other government contributor – made to inform the provisions of the pact.

I am concerned about any concessions on internet freedoms and privacy that we may have made in order to sign the pact with China, and any influence it may have exerted on South Africa's positions on internet governance and surveillance.

My concerns are based on China's poor reputation on issues of human rights, freedom of expression and association, as well as its blocking of information flows from outside China. It also has a considerable reputation for cyber attack capabilities. It is suspected of being behind the recent hacking of United States' government computer facilities.

While I appreciate that most of the super powers are not completely innocent of similar activities I believe it is wise to be transparent and open with our citizens as to the terms of our cyber sphere relationships with these nations.

I look forward to your prompt clarity on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Marian Shinn, MP

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