

LOVE KNYSNA PETITION

TO: COMMITTEE PETITIONS & EXECUTIVE UNDERTAKINGS
SUBJECT: **UPDATE #2 (AUGUST 31 2017)**



"Knysna, the prettiest town in South Africa, will awake this morning to a different world, one of loss and ash on tongues. It is certain that this will be known as the Great Fire or something else of great importance. Humans died with their prayers whilst three schools screamed. And the wind howled and howled... Today, the survivors will find out who they really are. Some found out yesterday. It is now a town for the lucky and unfortunate, the brave and the helped. Please Love Knysna!"

– *posted June 8 2017 by Mike Hampton (Knysna Activist)*

"I will conclude by saying the following – you will never be a man, the highest level you can aspire to is to be a 'low down piece of scum' and even that may be too high for you."

- *From the email Deputy Mayor Peter Myers sent Mike Hampton after Myers and the DA refused to help the victims of the Great Knysna Fire*

INTRODUCTION

The Western Cape remains firmly the Democratic Alliance's country of corruption. How much longer must we suffer before greater Government steps in?

As is the nature of rot, it has continued to grow since my last appearance before this Select Committee Petitions & Executive Undertakings (NCOP).

It's my belief that the Democratic Alliance (DA) and Knysna Municipality are in overdrive, cover-up mode. Crimes are not being punished, just pushed out of sight at great expense to the Public.

The irony is that they're proving my Love Knysna Petition true and themselves wrong.

My struggle for justice has been incredibly difficult but that has only gotten worse with the loss of my rented home and possessions in the Great Knysna Fire. I've had to move several times and, as I type this, I'm forced out of town yet have to expensively return for a Court case on September 7 2017 (and I expect more after that).

The DA has seized upon my weakened situation as further opportunity to attack me. More propaganda has been spat online and Knysna Mayor Eleanore Spies has had Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Inc (one of the largest attorney firms in South Africa) threaten me with Court action.

UPDATES

1. The biggest news was the Great Knysna Fire which links and adds severity to my submission. People who should never have been in command were in command. Sedgefield Station Commander Wayne Sternsdorf and the Knysna Fire Department's failure to act on residents complaints of fire may be the cause of the majority of deaths and destruction. The Knysna Municipality worsened a situation of suspicion to [investigate itself](#). Fire Chief Clint Manuel (friend and hirer of Sternsdorf) issued a report that cleared themselves of wrongdoing. However, [Afriforum's more comprehensive forensic investigation](#) points fingers at them. Culpable homicide, obstructing justice and defeating the ends of justice must be considered.
2. The Knysna Municipality has still failed to investigate the appointment of Sternsdorf and Manuel. Instead, I've been unfairly and unconstitutionally held under an interim protection order for one year. It's another obscenity of gagging me to hide the truth, especially since the initial matter involves racism and cronyism, subjects greatly in the Public interest. There's also a motion by Sternsdorf to prevent witnesses such as Manuel and Director Dawie Adonis from appearing. Next court date is September 7 2017.
3. The Knysna Municipality has [admitted Director Community Services Dawie Adonis was illegally appointed](#) yet has chosen to keep him on in an undefined and thus unorganogrammed position. I've been told that Adonis is friends with Manuel from a previous municipality. If true, it could explain how Manuel got hired whilst in scandal in Cape Town and, then, in turn, hired Sternsdorf whilst he too was in scandal. It would also explain why there's been no appropriate response to my complaints and that, instead, I'm taken to court by Sternsdorf with the Municipality providing attorneys for witnesses Manuel and Adonis.
4. Knysna Fire Chief Clinton Manuel approached me threateningly before and after

- the fire. The goal was to intimidate me. I cannot help but wonder whether he deliberately allowed my neighbourhood to burn. When escaping the fire (for the first time), he was the first person I saw and spoke to. That was before any of the houses in our complex caught fire, whilst he was only a kilometre and a half away. 19 of the 25 homes burnt down. More if we add our neighbours.
5. Advocate Julie Seton, ex DA-candidate, and her partner, ex-DA Deputy Mayor Esme Edge are now both freelancing for the Knysna-Plett Herald, the newspaper I've accused of previously being biased towards them and the needs of a faction of the DA. They're now going by the surname of Jeffries (although it's unknown if the change is legal as Seton still practices as 'Seton').
 6. Seton and Edge spoke against me online, regards our fire disaster. Seton did so, breaking the protection order I've got against her. As stated previously, the SAPS will not act on my complaints so it's no use complaining again. I felt that Seton and Edge were baiting me, trying to get me to respond so that they could falsely try enact the suspended sentenced that threatens me after I wrote a blog about Edge whilst unknowingly beneath an interim order.
 7. I remain pressurised. The propaganda against me continued, beginning straight after my last appearance before this Committee. Most notably, [Knysna Mayor Eleanore Spies lied](#) about why she couldn't attend that hearing and, thereafter, issued a [press release of falsehoods](#) against witness Susan Campbell and me. It was a continuation of the campaign to discredit us whilst perpetuating political lie. Her insult to Parliament and our town requires addressing by this Committee.
 8. On her Facebook, Mayor Spies continued the lies, beginning with: "*There is something very wrong when two people who have no mandate from the Greater Knysna residents nor the local newspaper go to Parliament and state fiction as fact.*" It's worrying that Spies doesn't believe in Constitutional Rights and that the law requires crime to be reported. It's utterly arrogant and foolish that she chose to post her bad beliefs publicly. She also chose not to moderate her comment thread which became nasty towards me. She allowed a fake profile, with inside information, to attack. I believe that likely belonged to her friend and Communication Manager, Fran Kirsten. Kirsten's live-in partner, Jan Potgieter, supported the nastiness too, saying that I should be "*tarred and feathered and railroaded out of town*". In his next comment, he stated that I must be banned from Knysna. Mayor Spies *liked* the comment.
 9. My subsequent requests for a public meeting or debate with Mayor Spies were widely read and supported but Spies wouldn't respond.
 10. Dominique Van Rooyen, a resident, [ran a petition](#) to try remove my Facebook page despite my almost 12,000 citizen subscribers. It was shared by people such as DA Councillor Martin Young and Candace Myers, the Deputy Mayor's wife. The campaign was supported by several of the political propagandists I've already presented. Here are examples of comments accompanying the petition:
 1. Mark Allan: "There are serious questions to be asked about his motives and in particular his interest in children."
 2. DA Councillor Martin Young: "'Love Knysna' is a 'Love Hampton' site - no more, no less. It has hurt this town for six years, and continues to do so."
 3. Julie Seton (wife of Edge, ex-DA candidate and repeated Advocate against me): "Love knysna hates Knysna and destroys reputations and people with impunity."
 4. Cat Simoni (close friend of Edge & Seton): "The man is a tool of destruction and a fraud."

5. Santa Sternsdorf (wife of fireman Sternsdorf): "This site do harm and cause trouble."
6. Martin Hatchuel (progandist and municipal/Knysna Tourism contractor): "Mike Hampton is a bully..."
7. Maggie Zeelie (Knysna Tourism): "It does not portray any love of Knysna and does not allow for any person to have an opinion that may differ from the admin. If you dare to speak differently, you are bullied and verbally assaulted and threatened. I see this happen all the time on said page."
11. Councillor Dr Martin Young used the Knysna Fire Disaster as a [propaganda tool against me](#), that despite me being made homeless and losing all my possessions of importance (except my laptop). He accused me of lying that I was a victim and accused me of using the disaster for personal gain. After I reported him to the DA Federal Executive (which never responded), he posted a brief apology on Facebook which never stated what he was apologising for. It can in no way be seen in isolation. His campaign against me has lasted 17 months. And in his latest offensive and offending comment section were his long-time cohorts e.g. Ashley Barnes returned to the old tactic of claiming that I'm a danger to children. Elsewhere, their other colleague, Mark Allan, did the same, again associating me with that poor missing child, Liyema Baleni.
12. During the fire crisis, Barnes was hired as a contractor to assist the Municipality's Communication's Department during the fire crisis.
13. New Chief Financial Officer Mbulelo Memani has refused to continue paying Fran Kirsten, the Mayor's friend who was illegally contracted to run the Communications Department. However, Memani is not investigating the 10 months of illegal payments (so obviously not seeking to recover it). Kirsten 'left' the 'employ' of the Municipality in July.
14. In January 2017, Kirsten wanted me arrested by Local Law Enforcement for taking photos in the tea room during a break from a Council Meeting. My complaint to Acting Municipal Manager Johnny Douglas was surprisingly answered but he failed to carry out an investigation.
15. Everything I've reported to the Committee amounts to a leadership and morality crisis. The DA doesn't hesitate to treat the Public poorly or lie on social media. The response to me questioning the Municipality's failure to help the homeless victims of the Great Knysna Fire was to have Deputy Myer's [blatantly lie](#) to the greater Public about what had occurred (recorded) in a meeting the night before. His wife supported him, [blaming the victims for being selfish!](#) When I questioned the latter, and reported them to the DA Federal Executive (who, again, didn't respond), Myers [emailed the FedEx and me](#): *"I will conclude by saying the following – you will never be a man, the highest level you can aspire to is to be a 'low down piece of scum' and even that may be too high for you."*
16. As of two months ago, Ex-Municipal Manager Grant Easton was still in South Africa. He said that he was contracting his services, Cape Town being one of the clients. The final result of the investigation into him by De Swardt Vogel was R2,3-million. That the Municipality never acted upon the findings but seemingly used taxpayer's monies to force one of their cohorts to leave was highly improper, lacking accountability.
17. That attitude is pervasive and costly. There have now been municipal investigations into several of my complaints to the Committee i.e. ISDF tender, T20 tender and Jam Electrical tender. It's suspicious that they wouldn't investigate for years, only after my petition to you gained small life in the

media. The investigators found wrongdoing yet recommended that no monies or accountability be pursued. Regards Jam Electrical, the company solely owned by the husband of Manon McDonald, the Manager of the Electrical Department, only one tender was looked at instead of all. There was also no investigation into tenders by the company's previous incarnations McDonald Electric and Mac 'n Tina Maintenance CC.

18. The DA and Eden District continue to ignore the forensic report into graft by Councillor Rowan Spies, partner of Mayor Eleanore Spies. They also refuse to respond to the allegations that his alcoholism sent him to rehab twice this year. Instead, he was promoted to the Eden District MAYCO Committee as Head of Roads. There are too many crummy politicians in bed with each other. Nothing else can explain his promotion.
19. Who rules Knysna? In the context of the gross maladministration and criminality our town experiences, rumour is often the trail to evidence. Rumour has it that the reason why Deputy Mayor Myers acts like the Mayor is because Mayor Spies owes him a lot of money, loaned before the local election and, possibly, thereafter. That ties in with the fact that Myers gave money to ex-ANC turned Independent Councillor Velile Waxa (who won his Ward and became the DA's first coalition partner). It also ties in with the rumour that Spies was in financial difficulty and couldn't sufficiently pay Kirsten as her election manager so the deal was to illegally give her the Knysna Municipality's Communication Manager's position.
20. Mayor Spies had refused to answer my queries. Instead, I've received threatening letters from Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Inc attorneys. I don't consider it coincidental that the same firm investigated, on behalf of the Municipality, some of the tenders I complained about, finding no reason to pursue justice. Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Inc will not answer whether their pursuit of me is paid by Spies or Knysna Municipality. Their actions, on behalf of Spies, is intimidation instead of political honesty and accountability.
21. For years, the Knysna Council kept my large, publicly well-known, complaints off the Council agenda, even after their 2016 appearance before the Committee. It was a deliberate policy of dodging which, for the most part, continues to be the acted out by Knysna and Cape Town. However, after the SABC broadcast part of my May 2017 update to the Committee, it became impossible for them to avoid. At the next Council meeting, the Opposition mentioned it. Mayor Spies responded that she welcomed forensic investigation but then, two hours later into the meeting, hypocritically [voted against it](#).
22. As detailed in my August 29 2017 letter to the Committee, DA MEC Anton Bredell blatantly lied to the Western Cape Provincial Legislature. In light of the evidence the Committee possesses, the [video is damning](#).
23. The SAPS/Hawks remain unhelpful despite me [exposing Maritime Risk Solutions](#), a well-armed international security company, as illegal (not registered with CIPC and PSIRA and thus cannot be registered with SARS). I also showed that the academic qualifications of its owners/directors Hermanus and Margaretha van Niekerk are fraudulent. The story has a twist in that the owners belong to a [coven of witches](#) whose founder, Gary Leff a.k.a. Damon Leff, is the leader of the South African Pagan Rights Alliance (SAPRA). He's now stated that the organisation is suing me and has gained an (interim) protection order against me (which I've yet to receive). I consider this intimidation. Not that there is any connection to illegal activities but it's interesting that Deputy Mayor Peter Myers and his wife, Candace, are friends of the Van Niekerks. I mention this topic because it's right for me to be fearful yet, owing to matters

- already in evidence, I cannot rely on our police.
24. My complaint to the Police Complaints Commission against the SAPs was responded to but, to my knowledge, there's been no investigation and the officer in charge has stopped communicating with me.
 25. The Cape Bar has failed to act on my complaint against Advocate Seton and the Chairperson of the Cape Bar.
 26. After more than one year, Budget Manager Avitha Sunkar's final hearing was supposed to happen the past month. I don't know the outcome.
 27. The process appointing Director Planning & Development Marlene Boyce was allegedly flawed regarding the selection panel and time frames.
 28. An unconfirmed source told me that Director Planning Marlene Boyce is to be disciplined by the new municipal manager after she leaked confidential info to her best friend, Susan Campbell, regarding a discussion with Wesgro on the Knysna Tourism's Service Level Agreement (SLA).
 29. Knysna Tourism's SLA expired yet the organisation continued to operate.
 30. Knysna Tourism didn't renew the contract with Greg Vogt as CEO.
 31. The Mayor and Municipal Manager were allegedly instructed by MEC Alan Winde to extend the tourism SLA with Knysna & Partners (a.k.a. Knysna Tourism) by one year. This has since happened.
 32. Knysna Tourism refused to comply with my PAIA requests.
 33. Some municipal directors and managers don't have performance contracts for 2016/2017. It's a requirement under Systems Act. Performance assessments are supposed to happen January and July. To get a clean audit, the Municipality is supposed to prove that they have achieved their performance targets which are set in the annual performance agreements. No agreement = no target. That also means no bonuses. If no performance contract, there's no audit trail for non-final audit. If no audit trail then no clean audit. Georlene allegedly refused to do the performance assessments and Eleanore had also failed to do so for 2017/2018. Why did the Auditor General give Knysna a 'clean audit'? Why, again and again, is dirty Knysna given a clean bill of health. Are other 'clean audits' in the Western Cape also dirty? Are 'clean audits' a DA marketing tool? And what is MEC Bredell's Dept. Of Local Government's position or role regarding the lack of performance contracts and assessments?
 34. CFO Memani promised to provide me COMAFS (Communication of Audit Findings) but then didn't, stating that Legal Services Director Meloney Paulsen said that I hadn't submitted a PAIA. Firstly, a PAIA isn't needed and Memani had already stated he would provide the requested documents. Secondly, I had submitted via PAIA too. Despite this being explained, I've never received the COMAFS i.e. I believe that Memani bowed to the DA as administrative staff normally do regarding me.
 35. Kamalasen 'Kam' Chetty became Knysna's Municipal Manager on July 4 2017. In the two months since, he failed to respond to my evidence of corruption and my request for a meeting. Again, we have a Municipal Manager who acts for the DA and not for the administration and our town.
 36. The position of Director Corporate Services has been vacant since end January 2017, 8 months so far. A recruitment and selection process happened and interviews were held. 5 months later, an item containing the outcome report of the process served before Council at its meeting of 20 June 2017. Instead, the Council appointed another temporary director.
 37. The questionable process that, without tender and public participation, leased half of famous Knysna Heads to a private business is being repeated for the other half. There has been no recovered of the related R8-million owed to the

Public.

38. Geordin Hill-Lewis, the ex-Chief of Staff to Helen Zille, is now the Chief of Staff to Leader Mmusi Maimane. That makes [his response to me](#) exceptionally detrimental. First note that my sources tell me that DA's behind the scenes ruling is to ignore me. I assume that's so that the DA leadership can, when all this gets to Court, try claim they're not liable. Hill-Lewis' mistake disrupts years of DA policy towards me.

1. In an email that included proof of DA crimes, Hill-Lewis put the DA on a hook when made the following deplorable statement: *"I stand 100% behind our Mayor. Look forward to cross examination, and am not in the slightest bit intimidated by you."*
2. When i requested an address to serve legal documents, Hill-Lewis un Constitutionally said: *"This email is on behalf of everyone at the Leader's Office. I have instructed my colleagues not to respond. We will also be adding your address to the junk mail box so that we don't receive your correspondence anymore."*
3. My queries to DA FedEx member and National Spokesperson Refiloe Ntsekhe went unanswered.
 1. Question 1: What is the DA policy on handling corruption reported to them?
 2. Question 2: Why is the DA threatening to block communication as a response to reported DA corruption and the serving of legal documents?
 3. Question 3: Why, instead of investigation which is both fair to the complainant and the accused, is the DA supporting alleged corrupt Knysna Mayor Eleanore Spies but not the Public?
 4. Question 4: Why does the DA protect alleged corruption in its ranks?
 5. Question 5: Does this represent who Mmusi Maimane is? If not, will he be firing Hill-Lewis and responding to me, in person, and with the sincerity and transparency this serious situation demands?
 6. Question 6: You, Refiloe Ntsekhe, have personally spoken out against corruption. Was that truth or convenience? Were you speaking of all corruption or only that of your political opposition?

PUBLIC PROTECTOR'S FAILURE

I believe that the Office of the Public Protector is protecting DA criminality and maladministration. The OPP will likely find an excuse as to why they have failed to appropriately act regarding my 13 submissions but it will not correspond with the duty they're suppose to present or the evil they are suppose to protect us from.

It's unfortunate that, at the May hearing of the Love Knysna Petition, the Committee gave so little time to questioning Western Cape Manager Sune Griessel and Senior Investigator Gideon Landman. Even more unfortunate that insightful questions were not asked.

I have extensive correspondence with the OPP as well as a recording of a conversation

with Landman in which he's damningly being evasive.

There has been failure by Pretoria to respond to my subsequent complaints.

Cleopatra Mosana, Spokesperson for Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane told me telephonically that the old guard, under Thuli Madonsela, were blocking information getting to Mkhwebane. However, despite my repeated efforts, she has not gotten Mkhwebane to contact me.

As has happened with so many government departments and media, I'm blocked. In my experience, the DA already rules our country. It horrifies me that corruption is the dominant characteristic of South Africa; our past, present and, likely, our future.

I repeat that the OPP cannot investigate Knysna alone and that Mkhwebane needs to speak for her department.

My intention was to supply a detailed update to the Committee but to do that correctly will be exhaustive whereas time has escaped me again. Note that this needs vital addressing and that if an investigative team is appointed, I'll focus all my time, outside of court cases, to them.

EVIDENCE NEEDED

The Committee has previously been presented with an enormous amount of evidence. I don't wish to burden it further, possibly slowing the process and decision. Consequently, this update is accompanied by a few easy-to-read blog links. However, it must be noted that i will supply supportive information (such as screenshots) upon request.

It will assist an investigative team to gain from the Knysna Municipality:

- 7.1The report by service provider Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Inc attorneys into tender preferential treatment, Manager Electrical Manon McDonald and Jam Electrical, the T20 tender and the ISDF tender.
- 7.2The evidence and audio recordings from the disciplinary hearing of Municipal Manager Grant Easton, as well as the report by attorneys De Swardt Vogel.
- 7.3Susan Campbell's evidence in support of her complaint to Knysna Municipality regarding Municipal Manager Grant Easton.
- 7.4All documents and communication relating to my complaints to the Public Protector and their consequent interaction with the Knysna Municipality.
- 7.5All information request by me via PAIA to an uncooperative Knysna Municipality, Knysna Tourism, City of Cape Town, Public Protector and Department of Local Government.
- 7.6The report by ex-Acting Municipal Manager Johnny Douglas into how Dawie Adonis was illegally appointed.

MY PETITION'S VALIDITY

The Democratic Alliance has proven that it'll do anything to stop justice. It will likely challenge my petition and most certainly how it was broadened after my original submission (as MEC Anton Bredell has done).

It's important to note that my original complaint included how I was being oppressed.

I'm being oppressed because of my exposure and pursuit of corruption. Because of that, all supplementary documentation becomes evidence. Indeed, they are so arrogant as to consistently attack me on social media and via press releases.

No decent human being would ignore that everything ties into the same group of people acting for themselves, each other or their party, against the Public.

They have presented a consistent middle finger towards this Committee, Parliament, truth and justice. But, in that, they're trapped by their major hypocrisy.

I'm against all corruption but I'm only one human being, one struggling activist under enormous pressure by powerful forces. I live in the town of Knysna and the Western Cape where the DA rules. As such, the majority of my focus is on them and not the allegations against President Jacob Zuma, something far beyond my ability and means. That situation, however, presents a prime example of DA hypocrisy and criminality.

DA Leader Mmusi Maimane was loud in the media regarding his party laying charges against President Zuma under the Prevention of Combating of Corrupt Activities Act. His substantiation was that, by law, anyone aware of crime must report it.

I wholeheartedly support that by practicing it but Maimane is disingenuous to pretend that he and the DA do too. The fingers of logic and just must point every way, not one way.

Why has the DA failed to act on my evidence that is extensive, convincing and frightful? Why have they failed to charge Maimane, Zille, Bredell, Winde, James Selfe, the rest of the DA Federal Executive and their many, implicated underlings. Instead, they promote them.

Why isn't South African law fair for all? Why are there different rules for the Western Cape?

CONCLUSION

The Justice system and Government continues to fail me and our town of Knysna.

The Eden District Corruption Hotline has still failed to act.

The Office of the Public Protector has continued to not perform its duties.

Legal Aid has, again, failed to assist me. No lawyer or legal organisation, so far, will assist me (which I believe is because they have thrown their lot in with the DA, either ideologically or for money).

Knysna Municipality continues to ignore my complaints.

Premier Helen Zille still won't respond.

DA Leader Mmusi Maimane and the DA Federal Executive have failed to respond to my complaints (except in that one negative instance in which Geordin Hill-Lewis implicated the Office of Maimane).

The promise by this Select Committee Petitions & Executive Committee to protect me remains unfulfilled. How am I, or any citizen, supposed to trust you if you lie?

Why is that my painful efforts towards improving our country is met with the coldness of apathy and the heat of opposition instead of rapid support and thanks?

It needs repeating because history will record the truth: The Western Cape remains firmly the Democratic Alliance's country of corruption.

I also repeat what I told the Committee in the NCOP building. I'm not here with a begging bowl. I'm not here to choose sides. I'm expecting you, as Public representatives (no matter your party), to defend Knysna, the Western Cape and South Africa's Constitution.

I'm going to keep on loving Knysna. I intend being true to the Truth from start to finish. It's never too late for Government to join me.

Mike Hampton
mike@loveknysna.com
www.knysnakeep.org
www.loveknysnaprojects.co.za
www.facebook.com/loveknysna