

MICHAEL HAMPTON

Community Activist in Knysna, the Prettiest Town in South Africa  
www.loveknysna.com - www.knysnakeep.org - facebook.com/loveknysna  
+27 83 673 0909 - mike@loveknysna.com



Attention: Acting Chairperson Moses Mhlanga

NCOP: Select Committee Petitions and Executive Undertakings

Reference: Love Knysna Petition

Date: June 4 2017

Print/Sent via Email: Email

---

## **PROTECTION REQUESTED**

---

Honourable Chairperson Moses Mhlanga,

On May 24 2017, at the third hearing of the Love Knysna Petition, you stated that witness Susan Campbell and I would be protected. Owing to renewed attack by the Democratic Alliance, I'm asking that you uphold your commitment.

The following day, May 25, Knysna Municipality and Executive Mayor Eleanore Bouw-Spies issued a press release [AMM01] against us that was truly propaganda. It begins with, "Knysna has once again fallen victim to allegations brought by serial blogger, Mike Hampton and Knysna resident, Susan Campbell..."

It was shared by DA councillors Mark Willemse and Martin Young as well as ex-councillors and municipal staff, including those accused by me of corruption [AMM02].

In response, Richard Thorpe, the Chairperson Knysna Ratepayers' Association, commented online that [AMM03]: "I never thought that only two people can cause so much damage to a town." He's referring to Campbell and me.

The press release was posted in full in an online newspaper call The Gremlin and, in parts, on the Knysna-Plett Herald website.

The Knysna-Plett Herald made three postings [AMM04a,b,c] yet never contacted me for comment despite me, obviously, being a main figure in the subject matter.

The Gremlin [AMM05a,b,c] showed how deep the Municipality's new deception went, posting two attachments as supposed evidence in support of the press release. The first was the Municipality's 2016 submission to the Committee, long discredited owing to the investigation and disciplinary hearing of ex-Municipal manager Grant Easton. The second attachment, the preferential procurement policy, was as outdated, the Auditor General having found it illegal, our town having lost millions, and it forming one of the charges against Easton. As per the communication policy, either Mayor Spies or Acting Municipal Manager Johnny Douglas had to have signed off that press release.

Mayor Spies also posted on her Mayoral Facebook [AMM06a->h]. She used the love icon to support a comment by an obviously fake profile that called for me to be banned from Knysna. It's notable that that profile had inside knowledge, possibly being the Mayor herself or her friend, the illegal Communications Manager. The romantic partner of the latter was attacking me there, one of his comments liked around the same time by Mayor Spies.

Mark Allan, the self-admitted propagandist who previously worked with the DA on social media to associate me with child abuse and sociopathy, has returned strongly, especially on the Knysna-Plett Herald's page – few examples [AMM07a->d]. The newspaper's Editor Elaine King and owner Group Editors Director Nicole Rimbault have continually refused to remove him despite the disgusting things he says, his direct attempts at character assassination, and that I've a protection order against him.

The Mayor's statements are not factual but rather riddled with lies and defamation. In no way are any of our allegations addressed. The goal is simply to discredit us.

This continued, the following day, on May 26, when May Spies made a statement [AMM08] during the Council Meeting, singling me out (I recorded it). In a great, hypocritical moment, she said she welcomed forensic audit regarding my allegations of corruption and maladministration but, 2 hours later (supported by her fellow DA councillors and Shakespeare Arends, their ACDP coalition partner), voted against it.

Additionally, it's fact that the Mayor lied to the Committee [AMM09a]. Her excuse for requested postponement, her need to work on the budget, was blatant falsehood. Her and half the DA councillors, including Speaker Wolmarans (who was the previous Mayor who failed to appear before the Committee in 2016), were 300km away in Beaufort West, campaigning for the DA [AMM09b]. The return trip, alone, would've been 7 hours.

It cannot be considered coincidence that Susan Campbell falsely heard, at the airport, that the hearing had been postponed. I would later discover for myself that Councillor Martin Young, one of Mayor spies' allies who'd been a major figure in the propaganda campaign against me and had threatened businesses if they dealt with me, had posted that lie on Facebook [AMM10a]. Via email, he claimed to be misinformed but refused to explain where he'd gotten the information [AMM10b].

The DA has again emphasised their previous and obvious disregard for Parliament and it's Committee. Arguably, they've even less for Ms Campbell and I who threaten their livelihood and, possibly, their freedom.

Worried that the Committee would be taking too long to reach decision, I appealed to the Municipality many times, as well as the DA's leadership in Cape Town, even threatening with criminal charges. Rather than being fair by stating investigation, Mmusi Maimane's

new Chief of Staff, Geordin Hill-Lewis, arrogantly sent an email saying, "*I stand 100% behind our Mayor. Look forward to cross examination, and am not in the slightest bit intimidated by you.*" [AMM11]

I've attached evidence for all that I've said above. By no means is this all that has happened. However, I've added related blogs so as to assist your understanding (published by me to expose the lies and propaganda) [AMM12a->k].

Instead of preparing for another court appearance on June 8, staff of Knysna Municipality versus me representing myself. Instead, I've spent an unbearable amount of time protecting mine and Campbell's names whilst informing the public of the truth. It's quite possible that part of Mayor Spies' goal was to waste my time and make me unprepared for court.

Campbell has made me aware that she's submitted similar complaint to the Committee but also asking for investigation in Mayor Spies' conduct regards the Committee. I reiterate that.

It's my realistic concern, in light of my evidence to the Committee of past events, that matters worsen for us.

I don't feel safe in my bed at night yet I'm expected to wait up to a year before Parliament rules on whatever your Committee recommends.

Active citizenry, standing up for what's right, should not have to endure attack by the corrupt and those protecting the corrupt. Please protect us.

Thank you.

Mike Hampton (Petitioner)  
Love Knysna, Save Knysna!

Attachments:

- AMM01a->f Knysna Municipality 'press release' on Facebook
- AMM02a->c Shares of press release by DA Councillors
- AMM03 KRA Chairperson Richard Thorpe
- AMM04a->c Knysna-Plett Herald
- AMM05a Knysna Municipality press release on Gremlin with 2 attachments
- AMM05b Gremlin – attachment 1
- AMM05c Gremlin – attachment 2
- AMM06a->h Mayor Eleanore Spies Facebook
- AMM07a->d Mark Allan examples
- AMM08 Council meeting recording
- AMM09a Beaufort West comment
- AMM09b Beaufort West photo of Mayor
- AMM10a Councillor Martin Young saying hearing postponed
- AMM10b Councillor Martin Young emails
- AMM11 Mmusi Maimane's new Chief of Staff, Geordin Hill-Lewis
- AMM12a->q – my blogs & articles in defence