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Knysna blogger s arrest ordered by a high-court judge – but where in the world is Mike Hampton?

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A judge of the high court authorised the immediate arrest of well-known Knysna blogger Mike Hampton on March 27 – CXPRESS reports

JUSTICE Babalwa Mantame issued the order for Mike Hampton's arrest after he failed to comply with a previous court order granted nearly four years ago – on July 7, 2015 – restraining him from publishing or disseminating any pictures of then deputy mayor of Knysna Esme Edge.

He was further restrained from making any defamatory statement concerning Edge, or disseminating any personal information about her, and was instructed to dismantle his website and social media pages.

The court ordered a sentence of 60 days imprisonment, which was suspended for three years on condition that Hampton refrained from publishing defamatory statements or photographs of Edge during the period of suspension.



In the latest draft order, Justice Mantame stated that Hampton was in contempt of the court order issued in 2015.

He ruled that “the sheriff be authorised and ordered to immediately arrest the respondent and bring him before the same court as soon as possible to show good cause why he should not be sentenced to 60 days imprisonment”.

It was further stated that should Hampton fail to comply with the order within 12 hours of it being served, the sheriff had to “remove all defamatory material that constitutes contempt of the July 7, 2015 court case”.

This was “specifically to, but not limited to personal information of Edge and/or defamatory statements relating to the applicant, and/or her family published on the website themikehampton and any other social media sites or websites operated and/or owned by Hampton”.

The order further stated that “should the sheriff require the assistance of an IT specialist, Hampton will be responsible for the cost implication”.

Apart from having to close down themikehampton website, Mantame also ordered that Hampton's e-book, Same Shit Different Government, in which Edge is mentioned and defamed, not be published on any website or social media site on April 1, or any other date thereafter.

Hampton was instructed to pay all legal costs related to the application.

On hearing of his arrest order, Hampton took to social media stating that Mantame made a “generalised judgement, effectively not protecting just the political applicant (sic) but the DA as a whole”.

Edge responded by stating that her legal actions against Hampton were done in her personal capacity.

“It has nothing whatsoever to do with the DA or any political party, or any other individual. I am personally paying all legal fees with no financial contributions from anybody.

“I am doing this at great personal and financial cost, to protect my reputation from what is nothing but

vicious and malicious slander and defamation.”

Edges spousal partner, advocate Julie Seton – who is also laying criminal charges against Hampton for contempt of her protection order, and is mentioned in his e-book, too explained that although Hampton had been found to be in contempt of court, he still had the opportunity to address the court.

“He is, however, refusing to hand himself over and is hiding from both the sheriff and the police,” Seton said.

In closing, she added: “Those who are paying for the book [Same Shit Different Government] in the knowledge that its publication has been prohibited, as it is being distributed in defiance of existing court orders, may well find themselves in hot water.

“The individuals who are being targeted and defamed in that book are taking advice in this regard.”

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