

Subject: Personal Campaign
From: "Shaun Van Eck" <shaunvan@mweb.co.za>
Date: 2011/06/14, 8:35 am
To: <mike@gardenrouteconcerts.com>

Hi Mike

I write this mail from my personal e-mail as you have turned a work issue into a personal issue, and I respond in that capacity.

You have written a letter to my new Board and, although I have not seen it, I have been given a sense of it by some of those who received it.

I feel for your long history of unresolved conflicts which clearly affect your approach to life and business. You are a trier, but these issues manifest themselves as a huge part of your life through your negative talk and victim mentality. I fear that you will never truly be happy and develop positive business relationships until you deal with these issues and dispense with your 'demons'.

I have sincerely tried to help you in one of your darkest hours. I took a chance on you that could easily have backfired on me during my arbitration, and now IS due to your playing the victim again. I singled you out and gave you support, energy and time that I could ill afford at the time. You seem to believe, as a result of my empathy for your situation, that I OWE you more. You clearly believe that I am now responsible for your projects and that you are my only issue that has to be dealt with. I had an extreme May, with Indaba, followed by 6 major events which required my personal attention and a sponsorship challenged Oyster Festival looming (minus R1 million on last year), plus running all aspects of my job. This included working for 7 weeks without a day off, under major pressure. I have had to take on a PA for 2 days a week to try to get through all of the tasks. You, however, clearly believe that you are a priority over all the critical tasks that I have been faced with, and this is totally unfair. I appealed to you to work through my responsible Manager to allow your projects to get into the work stream, but this clearly was demeaning to you in your opinion. Because of the sponsor dropout for this Oyster Festival, there is NO money for your projects and this was one of my focuses to remedy. At the same time, my responsible staff advised that the third events course was going to put too many people into the market with limited opportunities, and this is true and we suspended this till a later date.

My family and I have just come through 6 months from hell with the arbitration, and could finally look forward to a new start with positive support. You have NO right to demote me from good person to bad

person and go on a destructive personal tirade because you do not get your own way. It is an immature and selfish tactic to target a family who are making a positive contribution to Knysna and compromise their lives unfairly. I will NOT put my family through this again and will ensure that every poisoned word you spread is countered with the truth.

You have chosen to assert your destructive victim-tainted opinions on a positive situation with my new Board even before I have had an opportunity to have my first Board Meeting. You have created a sense of doubt that will permeate and limit all of the dealings of this Board and limit my freedom to assist people like you with worthy projects in the future. You will cause wasted energy and time, and handicap momentum because you want to throw your toys out of the cot and make me the bearer of all of your past injustices.

Understand very clearly that I will not allow a dark influence like you to derail all of the good work that we are doing for the entire community of Knysna. I will make sure that the truth and the full perspective is seen far more prominently than your negative ramblings.

You have a choice to make at this stage. You may withdraw the letter from the Board and suspend your hate campaign and I will walk away from the conflict. Should you continue, I will make sure that the TRUTH reaches every ear that you reach, and that further every Tourism CEO and Municipal Manager in SA is warned of your modus operandi. As it did in my arbitration, the TRUTH will triumph and your selfishness will be seen for what it is.

I seldom threaten, but you are targeting three of the things I hold most dear - my family, my desire to make a positive difference in Knysna, and my morals and life approach based on the example of Jesus. I suggest you read the last few mails between us and you might realise that I was not unreasonable and that your anger and ranting is misplaced. I will watch your blog to gauge your response and hope you will start channeling your energy positively and making a worthwhile difference.

Bev and I will pray for you and hope that you find some relief from your suffering!

Cheers

SHAUN

Happiest regards,
Shaun & Bev van Eck
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