



THE TRUTH WIRE

**D&K Management Consultants' monthly newsletter – an absolute MUST for anyone
dedicated to protecting themselves and their business interests!**

April 2014

The Captain's Log ...

Turning a blind eye in the face of “culture”

Does hiding behind the ‘shield’ of one’s culture provide you with “cultural immunity”? This is a question that I think needs some serious analysis. You see, it is my opinion that we, as Africans, have created a wonderful excuse for when we behave in a particular way and it upsets others. We simply claim that it is ‘our culture’ and, therefore, this makes our behaviour acceptable. Now, before I have the Human Rights department banging down my door crying foul, let me clarify ... I am not opposed to culture or acts of unique Africanism. Believe it or not, I have culture too ... quite a bit actually ... rugby, braais, the odd Brandy and Coke nogal, these all form part of my very, very sophisticated cultural repertoire. And, just like my neighbour’s neighbour, who is culturally required to euthanize a cow at their annual pool party, I too, engage in the odd hunt or fishing expedition, but when criminal acts are committed behind the smoky veneer of culture, we need to draw the line.

The sickening devastation of our Rhinos, due directly to the demand of crushed horn for small, little man with shrivelled penises, is a perfect example. In Vietnam and China it is their culture to eat, drink or snort the micro-fibre hairs of one of the planet’s oldest living mammals in order to get the little chap to attention, but, here at home, we disagree and everyone is in an uproar and rightfully so! Why then do we not make the same noise and jump on our soap boxes about a very similar cultural practice taking place in our own backyard?

Here’s the thing ... the Mai Mai ‘traditional’ healers market in downtown Johannesburg sell all kinds of ‘muti’, cheetah pelts, snake skins and tortoise eggs (embryo included) are all to be found for sale. In some shops, the whole body of a little-known illegally trafficked species lies openly ready to go for cash. This species is the Pangolin – an indigenous mammal resembling a cross between an Aardvark and an artichoke, looking remarkably similar to an Armadillo. This mammal is the most trafficked mammal in the world, according to the International Union for Conservation, even more trafficked than Rhino horn! Yet, here in downtown Johannesburg, openly displayed in rudimentary stalls, lies the rotting bodies of these animals, along with many others. So, why are no arrests made? Why no mass protests? I’ll tell you why ... because everything at the Mai Mai market is deemed to be culturally acceptable ... even if it’s illegal!

My view is quite simple ... cultures and cultural behaviour has, and always will be, what defines us as homosapiens and everyone’s culture needs to be practiced, encouraged and protected at all times, however, the law is the law and, where these practices contravene the laws, they must be stopped!

Fighting crime is not something that is done selectively – far from it! Zero tolerance is the only way that we, as a country, will ever move forward in the war against criminal activity, but if we are going to allow cultural practices, that are in essence illegal, to go unchallenged in the face of ‘poking the bear’, then we are weak and spineless and deserve crime to continue unabated.

My culture is easy to understand ... we all deserve the right to life, freedom and happiness but, this must be achieved honestly and legally!

Until next month ...

The Legal Beagle



The Legality of Undercover Evidence



An undercover operation typically takes the form of taped telephone conversations, audio evidence and the like, which evolved subsequent to a trap having been laid by the employer.

Extracts from the Labour Court matter of Cape Town City Council v SAMWU, wherein it was held *inter alia*, that “it seems that provided the courts are satisfied that the use of entrapment is properly scrutinised and the admissibility of evidence obtained as a result thereof carefully regulated, then courts tend to recognise that there are circumstances in which law enforcement (and the pursuit of justice generally) would be impeded if the evidence obtained from a trapping situation were excluded”.

In *Sugreen v Standard Bank of SA (2002)*, the employer sought to admit a taped telephone conversation in which the dismissed employee had implicated herself in the receipt of a bribe. The employee objected to the admission of the taped evidence on grounds that:

1. It constituted an invasion of her rights.
2. The employer had submitted that it did not wish to become involved in entrapment.
3. The credibility and calibre of the witness who taped the conversation was questionable.

The commissioner also referred to the Cape Town City Council case, among others, although concluded that the taped telephone conversation was admissible.

In the arbitration award, it was held that “the use by the employee of the employer’s telephone and e-mail are legitimate areas of interest to the employer where it suspects that the employee is guilty of misconduct”.

News

- A recent large-scale VIP protection assignment was successfully completed in Cape Town. The project saw a team of 12 of our close protection officers looking after a group of 300+ international visitors on an incentive trip to South Africa. The team, led by Vincent Herselman, did a fantastic job in keeping the visitors safe and worked long into the night ensuring that the adventurous Russian visitors did not land themselves in too much trouble.

Thank you to Vincent and your team!

- There is an email making the rounds and, whether or not it's true, it's always better to be on the safe side, so please take note:

There is a new number plate hi-jacking trend brewing around, where after you've parked your car at a mall, the hi-jackers remove your number plate and wait for you to drive off. They then follow you and overtake you, displaying your number plate at their window, as though you've lost it and they want to give it back to you. Shocked that your number plate has fallen off your car, you bring your vehicle to a halt to get it from them – which is exactly what they want you to do, and by the time you realise what has happened, it's too late, your car has been hi-jacked or you could have been harmed. Therefore, please don't stop for anything, a number plate is valueless compared to your life.

Exposed!

Congratulations on a job well done to Barry and his undercover agent, BS, for the manner in which a 4-man team was exposed and successfully dismissed from a popular family restaurant in Sandton Square – all 4 men were long-suspected of stealing bottles of wine and spirits on a fairly large scale.

With the help of the undercover agent deployed into the bar area, our team, along with the restaurant owner, were able to plan and run a covert camera installation, which saw us placing a pinhole camera into an ornamental bottle of champagne overlooking the cellar. Over a 2-week period, all 4 of the suspects, identified by our undercover agent, were captured illegally accessing the storeroom and removing bottles of red wine. All 4 were successfully dismissed!

Well done to my team! Bottoms UP boys!

Cell Block Humour



- A woman posts an ad in the newspaper that looks like this
“Looking for a man with these qualification; won’t beat me up; or run away from me and is great in bed”.
She receives many phone calls replying to her ad but met someone perfect at her door one day. The man she met said,
“Hi, I’m Bob. I have no arms so I won’t beat you up and no legs so I won’t run away”.
So, the lady says, “What makes you think you are great in bed?”
Bob replies, “I rang the doorbell didn’t I?”
- A mother and her 5-year old son were flying Qantas from Sydney to Auckland. The son (who had been looking out the window) turned to his mother and asked, “If big dogs have baby dogs and big cats have baby cats, why don’t big planes have baby planes?”

The mother, who couldn’t think of an answer, told her son to ask the flight attendant. So the little guy walks up to the galley and asks the flight attendant, “If big dogs have baby dogs and big cats have baby cats, why don’t big planes have baby planes?”

The flight attendant responded, “Did your mother tell you to ask me that?”

The boy said, “Yes, she did”.

“Well then, please tell your mother that there are no baby planes because Qantas always pulls out on time, and ask her to explain that to you”.

Quote of the Month:

“A democracy is nothing more than mob rule, where fifty-one percent of the people may take away the rights of the other forty-nine”.

Thomas Jefferson

Thank you for reading our newsletter and, please feel free to submit any suggestions or feedback, including any topics you would like us to cover.



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