

JUTA'S ADVANCE NOTIFICATION SERVICE

MAY 2014

Dear South African Law Reports and Criminal Law Reports subscriber

Herewith the cases of interest in the May reports, as well as the 2014(1) Namibian Law Reports.

JUDGMENTS OF INTEREST IN THE MAY EDITIONS OF THE SALR AND THE SACR

SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REPORTS

Attacked while on duty at hospital

A doctor was attacked and raped while on duty at a state hospital, but when she claimed for her damages, the MEC filed a special plea that the doctor was precluded from claiming, because the attack was an accident under the Compensation for Occupational Injuries Act. The court found that the attack was intentional and deliberate, and was not a risk that was a usual incident of the job. The plaintiff was not precluded from claiming damages. *DN v MEC for Health, Free State* 2014 (3) SA 49 (FB)

Notice of default still not received?

With reference to its *Sebola* judgment, the Constitutional Court revisits the notice of default sent by a credit provider to a consumer, and spells out what is required to bring the notice to the attention of the consumer. *Kubyana v Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd* 2014 (3) SA 56 (CC)

Who cleans up water pollution from the gold mines?

Harmony had managed gold mining operations on behalf of a land owner, but the business and land were sold to another company that then went into liquidation. Harmony disputed that it had to comply with a directive requiring it and other mining companies to take antipollution measures regarding water contamination. *Harmony Gold Mining Co Ltd v Regional Director, Free State Department of Water Affairs, and Others* 2014 (3) SA 149 (SCA)

SOUTH AFRICAN CRIMINAL LAW REPORTS

Did accomplice in robbery know about a weapon?

If an accomplice to a robbery did not have intent regarding a weapon used, do the consequences of aggravating circumstances attach to him too? The appellants complained that the legislation created strict liability that infringed their rights to freedom and security, and right to fair trial. *Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development and Another v Masingili and Another* 2014 (1) SACR 437 (CC)

Exhumation of body for evidence

The post-mortem report was not clear on the two gunshot wounds to the deceased's head, so the prosecution needed to exhume the body for further examination. The application may be made ex parte, and without notice to the family of deceased, and could also be done after commencement of the criminal trial arising from the death of the deceased. *Botha v Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development and Others* 2014 (1) SACR 479 (NCK)

The war on rhino poachers

The killing of rhinos, the court held, solely to trade their horns was a serious crime. The evidence on record revealed that 26 rhinos had been shot and killed for their horns, and the arrest and prosecution of the appellant prevented the potential loss of a further 50 rhinos, solely for their horns. *S v Lemtongthai* 2014 (1) SACR 495 (GJ)

THE NAMIBIAN LAW REPORTS 2014(1)

Failure to pay maintenance to be taken seriously

Failure to pay maintenance for a child is not to be dealt a mere slap on the wrist, even for first offenders. Economic abuse in the form of failing to pay maintenance is a species of domestic violence, as stipulated in s 2(1)(c) of the Combating of Domestic Violence Act 4 of 2003. *S v EZ* 2014 (1) NR 18 (HC)

Breathalyser to meet standards

A breathalyser device used to make the alcohol analysis had to be properly approved in accordance with legislation, for the analysis to be reliable, and for any admission made pursuant thereto to be reliable. *S v Titus and Others* 2014 (1) NR 129 (HC)

Lay litigants and the rules of court

Although court should be understanding of the difficulties experienced by lay litigants and assist them where possible, the rules of court were adopted to ensure fair and expeditious resolution of disputes, in interest of all litigants and the administration of justice. Condonation for non-compliance with rules is not permissible where that would render proceedings unfair. *Worku v Equity Aviation Services (Namibia) (Pty) Ltd (In Liquidation) and Others* 2014 (1) NR 234 (SC)

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Please forward any comments regarding *The South African Law Reports* and *The South African Criminal Law Reports* to lawreports@juta.co.za

Kind Regards

The Juta Law Reports Team

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VAN NIEKERK J 2012 NOVEMBER 16; 2013 FEBRUARY 19

Review—Application for—Time within which proceedings to be instituted—Delay—Whether delay unreasonable—Question whether delay unreasonable clearly a question of fact and not of law—Question to be determined objectively on particular facts and circumstances of each case—Determination of such question not entailing exercise of discretion—But it does imply making of a value judgment.

Review—Application for—Time within which proceedings to be instituted—Delay—Whether unreasonable delay should be condoned—Determination of such delay bringing issues of prejudice to any party and public interest to fore—In interests of administration of justice that finality be reached within reasonable time.

S v OKUANI (HC)

NDAUENDAPO J and SIBOLEKA J 2013 FEBRUARY 5

Immigration—Offences—Entering Namibia without unexpired passport bearing valid visa or authority—Contravention of s 12(1) read with s 12(4) of Immigration Control Act 7 of 1993—Charge must contain allegation that immigration official demanded from accused unexpired passport bearing valid visa or authority as set out in s 12(1) and that accused failed to produce it—Provisions of s 12(1) and (4) must be cited in charge in order to create offence.

S v EZ (HC)

DAMASEB JP and NDAUENDAPO J 2013 JULY 22, 23

Maintenance—Failure to pay maintenance for child in contravention of Maintenance Act 9 of 2003—Sentence—Not to be treated lightly, even for first offenders—Economic abuse in form of failure to pay maintenance a species of domestic violence as stipulated in s 2(1)(c) of Combating of Domestic Violence Act 4 of 2003.

Maintenance—Failure to pay maintenance for child in contravention of Maintenance Act 9 of 2003—Sentence—Periodical imprisonment—Intention of court in imposing such sentence is (i) to ensure accused remains employed to earn income from which to pay maintenance and (ii)

to send clear message that failure to pay maintenance will not be countenanced by court— Court to elicit information in sentencing process to determine when accused works—Failure to do so might mean periodical imprisonment imposed during time accused should be at work— Such failure constituting material misdirection justifying setting aside of sentence.

WITVLEI MEAT (PTY) LTD v AGRICULTURAL BANK OF NAMIBIA AND ANOTHER (HC) SMUTS J

2013 JULY 18, 26

Practice—Judgments and orders—Application for stay of execution of judgment pending appeal—Jurisdiction of court to consider application where appeal had lapsed as applicant had failed to lodge security timeously—Court having jurisdiction to determine matter in terms of its inherent jurisdiction where dictates of real and substantial justice required it.

S v TJIKOTOKE (HC)

DAMASEB JP and HOFF J 2012 OCTOBER 29

Criminal procedure—Sentence—Several offences—Taking of counts together for purposes of sentence—Should only be done in exceptional circumstances—Where globular sentence exceeded maximum permissible for any of individual counts that had been taken together, this was an incompetent sentence and a nullity.

S v NDENGU (HC)

HOFF J and VAN NIEKERK J 2013 MAY 29

Criminal procedure—Trial—Mental state of accused—Enquiry into mental capacity—Person requesting referral for observation required to lay a basis for such request.

Criminal procedure—Trial—Mental state of accused—Enquiry into mental capacity—Report by psychiatrist—Parties required to indicate their stance regarding report—Where parties do not do so, duty of court to enquire.

Criminal procedure—Trial—Mental state of accused—Enquiry into mental capacity—Report by psychiatrist—Unrepresented accused—Duty of court towards—Court required to explain to accused that he could dispute report—Where neither party indicates stance, duty of court to call witness to testify about report.

MOUSSA v PROSECUTOR-GENERAL AND OTHERS (HC)

PARKER AJ 2013 APRIL 15

Court—Jurisdiction—Matters relating to pending criminal trial in lower court—Applicant applying for order releasing him from detention where two previous bail applications had failed—Court lacking jurisdiction as this would be usurping function and order of lower court.

Court—Jurisdiction—Matters relating to pending criminal trial in lower court—Applicant applying for order declaring that his trial date had to be last postponement of his matter—Court lacking jurisdiction as matter speculative and would be anticipating facts which were not before it.

Court—Jurisdiction—Matters relating to pending criminal trial in lower court—Applicant applying for order compelling Prosecutor-General to withdraw criminal case against him—Such order beyond jurisdiction of court as art 88(2) of Namibian Constitution vesting sole power in Prosecutor-General to prosecute.

S v IILONGA (NLD)

LIEBENBERG J 2013 FEBRUARY 19, 25

Criminal procedure—Sentence—Minimum sentences—'Substantial and compelling circumstances'—What constitutes—Immaturity and lack of education of rural offender—Statement from bar that young offender immature and unsophisticated, insufficient to

establish this as a factor—Proper basis for treating offender in any way differently than other offenders required to be established.

Criminal procedure—Sentence—Minimum sentences—'Substantial and compelling circumstances'—Although mitigating factors seen in isolation constituted substantial circumstances, when viewed against background of aggravating factors they were not substantial and compelling circumstances—Young first offender raping 8-year-old girl who suffered severe trauma—Court imposing higher sentence than mandatory minimum.

HAILULU V DIRECTOR OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION AND OTHERS (HC) DAMASEB JP

2012 MARCH 20; 2013 JULY 19

Criminal law—Corruption—Investigation under provisions of Anti-Corruption Act 8 of 2003— Irrelevant that investigation done for improper motive but public institutions warned to guard against becoming instruments for settling private scores.

Criminal law—Corruption—Arrest under warrant issued in terms of provisions of Anti-Corruption Act 8 of 2003—Prior decision by Prosecutor-General under s 31(2) not required before arrest.

Criminal law—Corruption—Arrest under warrant issued in terms of provisions of Anti-Corruption Act 8 of 2003—Less drastic means than arrest of securing attendance of subject at court to be considered before arresting subject.

KALIPI v HOCHOBEB AND ANOTHER (HC)

GEIER J 2013 APRIL 4; MAY 30

Practice—Stay of proceedings—Grounds—Lis alibi pendens—When available—High court having inherent jurisdiction to stay civil proceedings pending outcome of other civil proceedings to prevent abuse of its process if an action already pending between the same parties on same cause of action—Discretion to be sparingly exercised.

PROSECUTOR-GENERAL v UUYUNI (HC)

GEIER J 2012 NOVEMBER 23; 2013 MARCH 12

Criminal procedure—Search and seizure—Preservation of property order—Application for— In terms of s 51 of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act 29 of 2004—Requirements for— Application brought ex parte and in camera but insufficient grounds shown for application to be in camera—No absolute entitlement to in camera hearing in s 98(1) of Act.

S v TITUS AND OTHERS (HC)

SHIVUTE J, SIBOLEKA J and MILLER AJ 2013 NOVEMBER 4, 28

Criminal law—Traffic offences—Driving with an excessive concentration of alcohol in the blood—Proof of—Reliance on breathalyser test in terms of s 82(7) of Road Traffic and Transport Act 22 of 1996—Reliability of test—Device to be approved by minister by notice in Gazette and must conform to requirements of any standard publication contemplated in s 94(4) of Act as specified in such notice—GN 100 of 2003 not meeting requirements of s 82(7).

CSC NECKARTAL DAM JOINT VENTURE v TENDER BOARD OF NAMIBIA AND OTHERS (HC)

DAMASEB JP, SMUTS J and UEITELE J 2013 MAY 23, 24; JULY 4

Review—Application for—Parties—Locus standi—Applicant a joint venture of certain parties— Joint venture agreement providing that it would terminate when tender awarded to third party—On proper interpretation of agreement, its termination only triggered in event of lawful award of tender or where joint venture parties elected not to challenge award—Nothing in agreement to suggest that joint venture parties had precluded themselves from challenging tender award—Joint venture parties also having agreed to challenge award and having successfully applied to intervene in application and join proceedings—Challenge to standing moot—Joint venture having standing to apply for review of award.

Government procurement—Procurement process—Clarification of tender in terms of s 15(1) of Tender Board of Namibia Act 16 of 1996 (Nm)—Right of clarification that of tender board to assist it in examination, evaluation and comparison of tenders—Right of clarification not that of tenderers who do not comply with tender specifications—Incumbent upon tenderers to complete their tenders properly in all respects required by tender documentation—Failure of tenderer to complete portion of information required not resulting in right of tenderer to clarification by tender board to ensure omission by tenderer can be rectified.

Government procurement—Procurement process—Decision of tender board—Referral of tenders to ministry for its recommendation in terms of s 19 of Tender Board of Namibia Act 16 of 1996 (Nm)—Tender board not obliged to act upon such recommendation—Tender board obliged throughout to apply its own mind and exercise its discretion fairly and impartially in respect of each tender before it—Evaluation of tenders sent by ministry to board must fairly reflect evaluations and tenders themselves.

S v KAUARIA (HC)

SHIVUTE J and PARKER AJ 2013 FEBRUARY 12

Criminal procedure—Sentence—Competence of—Accused convicted on two counts—One count dealt with in terms of s 112(1)(*b*) of Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977 and other count in terms of s 112(1)(*a*) as amended by s 7 of Act 13 of 2010—Magistrate taking both counts together and imposing wholly suspended sentence of six months' imprisonment—Section 112(1)(*a*) as amended providing that court may impose any competent sentence other than imprisonment without option of a fine or fine exceeding N\$6000—Magistrate misdirecting himself by taking two counts together and imposing imprisonment without option of fine—Sentence set aside and substituted with sentence of fine or imprisonment wholly suspended for three years.

SHILONGO v CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA (SC)

SHIVUTE CJ, MAINGA JA and MTAMBANENGWE AJA 2013 JUNE 13; OCTOBER 16

Appeal—Application for condonation—Non-compliance with Rules—Court expressing grave concern about alarming wave of condonation applications for non-compliance with rules of court—Application for condonation not there for the asking nor a mere formality—Of cardinal importance that practitioners take time to study the rules and apply them correctly.

Appeal—Application for condonation—Late filing of notice of appeal—Appellant under an obligation to take an active part in the compilation of the record—Responsibility cannot be shifted on to official transcribers.

NAMIB CONTRACT HAULAGE (PTY) LTD v OSHAKATI GARAGE CC (SC)

MARITZ JA, MAINGA JA and MTAMBANENGWE AJA 2013 JUNE 17; NOVEMBER 15

Appeal—Application for condonation—Late filing of notice of appeal—Notice served on respondent's legal representatives and Registrar of Supreme Court timeously but through an oversight on part of messenger, only a month later on Registrar of High Court—Condonation granted.

Practice—Parties—Substitution—Effect of failure to file a notice of substitution of plaintiff at trial—Point taken for the first time on appeal—Substitution had taken place without objection from appellant—No prejudice created—Failure condoned.

Practice—Parties—Authorisation—Failure to file power of attorney and resolution authorising action on behalf of close corporation—Non-compliance with rule 7(1) and (4) of the rules of court not rendering proceedings void and could be condoned in appropriate circumstances.

Practice—Rules of court—Compliance with—Routine non-compliance with rules 5(1) and 8(1) of the rules of court becoming a menace in appeal cases in the Supreme Court, wasting valuable time.

ARANGIES T/A AUTO TECH v QUICK BUILD (SC)

SHIVUTE CJ, STRYDOM AJA and O'REGAN AJA 2012 NOVEMBER 6; 2013 JUNE 18

Practice—Withdrawal and dismissal of proceedings—Dismissal—Application for dismissal of action on grounds of failure to prosecute action within reasonable time—Court will consider following: length of delay, explanation therefor, prejudice caused to defendant thereby, effect of delay on conduct of trial and extent to which defendant contributed to delay—Not necessary to establish that dilatory litigant intended never to prosecute action to finality or to cause prejudice to other party—But such intention, if established, will amount to abuse of process—Relationship between delay and prejudice may have bearing on outcome of application—Approach that application might only succeed if intention is averred and proved cannot be endorsed.

VOX ORION (PTY) LTD t/a VOX ORION v PRINSLOO (LC) GEIER J 2013 MAY 31; JUNE 13

Labour law—Termination of employment—Payment of remuneration—Payment of commission—Contract of employment providing that commission payable only 'after customer acceptance, full provisioning and the customer being invoiced'—Employee resigning after doing work entitling him to commission—Termination of employment occurring before full provisioning and invoicing of customer had taken place—On proper interpretation of s 9 of Labour Act 2007, read with s 37 and definition of 'remuneration' in s 1, commission not due and owing to employee on termination of employment—Claim for payment thereof failing.

STRAUSS AND ANOTHER v WITT AND ANOTHER (HC) SILUNGWE AJ 2007 JULY 2; 2009 NOVEMBER 19

Prescription—Acquisitive prescription—Servitude—Acquisition of against local authority— Effect of s 65 of Local Authorities Act 23 of 1992—Section merely precludes a person from asserting, by prescription, any right in respect of the immovable property that was at the time owned by a local authority council.

WITVLEI MEAT (PTY) LTD AND OTHERS v DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE FOR LEGAL PRACTITIONERS AND OTHERS (SC)

MAINGA JA, CHOMBA AJA and O'REGAN AJA 2013 JULY 3; NOVEMBER 15

Legal practitioner—Disciplinary procedure—Appeal in terms of s 35(3) of Legal Practitioners Act 15 of 1995 against decision by disciplinary committee of law society—Such appeal one in ordinary strict sense, ie rehearing on merits but limited to evidence or information on which decision under appeal was given—Only determination to be made is whether decision right or wrong.

Legal practitioner—Rights and duties—Duties of loyalty and confidentiality owed to clients— Proper approach to determining ambit of such duties—Duty of loyalty imposing obligation upon legal practitioner to act diligently and devotedly in interests of client—Such duty existing as long as relationship of legal practitioner and client exists, but is terminated when that relationship ends—Implications of duty set out—Duty of confidentiality imposing obligation upon legal practitioner not to divulge any information received from client in confidence—Nor may practitioner use such information to promote his/her own interests—Such duty extends beyond termination of practitioner's mandate—Legal practitioner may not take instruction from new client that will give rise to risk that confidential information obtained from existing or former client may be disclosed. **Legal practitioner**—Disciplinary procedure—Complaint that legal practitioner breached duty of confidentiality—Proper approach to be followed—Complaining client must establish (*a*) that it provided confidential information to legal practitioner that was relevant or related to issue upon which practitioner has given advice to, or is acting in litigation on behalf of, another client; and (*b*) that disclosure of confidential information would be likely to be adverse to complaining client's interests—Once (*a*) and (*b*) established, presumed that there is risk of breach of confidentiality and practitioner will bear burden of establishing absence of such risk.

WORKU v EQUITY AVIATION SERVICES (NAMIBIA) (PTY) LTD (IN LIQUIDATION) AND OTHERS (SC)

O'REGAN AJA, ZIYAMBI AJA and GARWE AJA 2013 NOVEMBER 4, 15

Practice—Rules of court—Compliance with—Lay litigant—Although court should be understanding of difficulties experienced by lay litigants and seek to assist them where possible, rules were adopted to ensure fair and expeditious resolution of disputes in interest of all litigants and administration of justice—Condonation for non-compliance with rules not permissible where that would render proceedings unfair.

S v ASHIMBANGA (HC)

VAN NIEKERK J and UEITELE J 2012 SEPTEMBER 21; NOVEMBER 2

Criminal procedure—Appeal—Notice of appeal—Grounds of appeal—Failure properly to set out grounds of appeal—Appellant a lay person, serving custodial sentence drawing up notice of appeal—Complaint about notice of appeal to be approached with some leniency—Where issues raised by appellant discernible and state able to file full heads of argument on merits and state not materially prejudiced, appeal not struck off roll.

Criminal procedure—Appeal—Argument on appeal—Appellant on appeal relying on contradictions between police officers' witness statements and their testimony at trial—Such point not made in court a quo nor were police officers confronted with such contradictions— Appeal to be decided on basis of record of proceedings in court a quo—Not permissible for appellant to rely on witness statements or such ground of appeal.

CHAIRPERSON, COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF WINDHOEK, AND OTHERS $\mathbf v$ ROLAND AND OTHERS (SC)

STRYDOM AJA, CHOMBA AJA and O'REGAN AJA 2013 JULY 4; NOVEMBER 15

Local authority—Town planning—Town planning scheme—Scheme providing that buildings in residential area may not exceed two storeys without permission of council—Clause 21(3) of Town Planning Scheme of Windhoek unambiguous and regulation 29B of Building Regulations which dealt with coverage of property not relevant to its interpretation.

Court—Jurisdiction—Exclusion of jurisdiction—Domestic remedies—Clause 51 of Town Planning Scheme of Windhoek applicable only to applicants for decision under scheme.

Review—In what cases—Error of law by administrative official—Although court will pay respect to interpretation of legislative provisions by experienced and skilled town planners in their field of expertise that there were limits to respect that will be paid—Where interpretation so at odds with ordinary meaning of provision that it would not be appropriate for court to respect that interpretation, court would review decision.

S v GOMASEB (HC)

SMUTS J and MILLER AJ 2013 NOVEMBER 25, 29

Criminal law—Rape—Sentence—Factors to be taken into account—Youthful first offender (15 years and one month old) convicted of contravening s 2(1)(*a*) by inserting his finger into vagina of five-year-old girl—Sentence of six years' imprisonment of which half was suspended for five years not inducing sense of shock—Combating of Rape Act 8 of 2000.

WEATHERLY INTERNATIONAL PLC v BRUNI AND MCLAREN NNO AND ANOTHER (SC)

MAINGA JA, CHOMBA AJA and O'REGAN AJA 2013 JULY 2; NOVEMBER 15

Company—Compromise—Scheme of arrangement in terms of s 311 of Companies Act 61 of 1973—Sanctioning of scheme of arrangement or compromise by high court does not mean its terms become an order of court and executable.

BENZ BUILDING SUPPLIERS v STEPHANUS AND OTHERS (LC)

PARKER AJ 2013 OCTOBER 18; NOVEMBER 19

Labour law—Dismissal—Proof of—Onus of proof on employee to prove fact of a dismissal in unfair dismissal dispute in terms of s 33(4) of Labour Act 11 of 2007—Act of dismissal conscious and clearly expressed command or order directed to employee that he/she was discharged from employer's service.

ONGOPOLO MINING LTD v URIS SAFARI LODGE (PTY) LTD AND OTHERS (HC) DAMASEB JP 2013 JULY 15: 2014 FEBRUARY 19

Prescription—Extinctive prescription—Land—Whether claim for return of land fraudulently obtained constituting 'debt'—Whether fraud that enabled the transfer single act, or continuing wrong that could interrupt prescription—Prescription Act 68 of 1969, ss 10(1) and 11(*d*).

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