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AUGUST 2015

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JUDGMENTS OF INTEREST IN THE AUGUST EDITIONS OF THE SALR, SACR AND THE NAMIBIAN LAW REPORTS 2015(2).

• Click on the case name to download the original judgment.

SEE ALSO, FURTHER BELOW, THE TABLE OF CASES FOR BURRELL'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW REPORTS 2014 (AVAILABLE AT THE END AUGUST)

SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REPORTS

Ejecting the free speakers in Parliament

This case deals with whether certain provisions of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act 4 of 2000 violated the Constitution by allowing the arrest of members for what they say at sittings. *Democratic Alliance v Speaker of the National Assembly and Others* 2015 (4) SA 351 (WCC)

Wages when captured by pirates

The court deals with a claim for wages of a ship's crew for the time they spent being held hostage by Somali pirates, with an interesting convergence of Indian and South African law. *The Asphalt Venture:* Windrush Intercontinental SA and Another v UACC Bergshav Tankers AS 2015 (4) SA 381 (KZD)

Universal partnership and eviction

When a romantic relationship soured, a businessman attempted to evict the lady of his former affections, but she resisted. The court examines cohabitation and the requirements for universal partnership. Steyn ν Hasse and Another 2015 (4) SA 405 (WCC)

SOUTH AFRICAN CRIMINAL LAW REPORTS

Different treatment for gang rape perpetrators

The court points out an anomaly, in the different sentencing treatment accorded to first participant to be convicted for participation in gang rape, to that of subsequent participants convicted. *S v Cock; S v Manuel* 2015 (2) SACR 115 (ECG)

Deliberate neglect of a child

Where a child is deliberately neglected, the Legislature has cast the offence net wide, to cover any person who may temporarily or partially and voluntarily be caring for the child. *S v JR and Another* 2015 (2) SACR 162 (GP)

Proper prosecution

The prosecution case cannot be presented by pouring out a jumble of random facts. A fair trial needs to be coherent and orderly. In matters as serious as rape charges, an active role for the investigating officer ought to be mandatory in terms of standard prosecutorial and police procedures. *S v Sebofi* 2015 (2) SACR 179 (GJ)

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Disciplinary hearing at school

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Judicial case management

The objectives of Judicial Case Management are discussed in this application for rescission of a judgment. Also raised is the need for the Supreme Court to clarify the different approaches by courts in dealing with factual disputes and the adequacy of explanations in rescission applications, compared to other interlocutory applications. *Katzao v Trustco Group International (Pty) Ltd and Another* 2015 (2) NR 402 (HC)

Retrenchment award

The employer failed to prove that the retrenchment was both substantively and procedurally fair, and the manner in which employee was retrenched justified a higher award. However, the award should not be aimed at punishing the employer or enriching the employee. *Novanam Ltd v Rinquest* 2015 (2) NR 447 (LC)

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S v KAPUIRE (HC)

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Criminal procedure—Appeal—Notice of appeal—Grounds of appeal—Failure to properly set out grounds of appeal—Grounds of appeal provided were conclusions drawn by appellant and without merit—Magistrates' Courts Rule 67(1).

Criminal procedure—Appeal—Notice of appeal—Late filing of—Appellant failing to provide adequate reasons for late filing of notice and failing to show that there were prospects of success on appeal—Condonation nevertheless granted to enable court to interfere with sentence—Sentence on second count increased.

Criminal procedure—Appeal—Powers of court on appeal—Increase of sentence—Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm—Sentence disproportionate to gravity of offence and disturbingly lenient—Sentence increased to three years' imprisonment—Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977, s 304(2).

KATZAO v TRUSTCO GROUP INTERNATIONAL (PTY) LTD AND ANOTHER (HC)

SMUTS J 2014 MAY 16; JUNE 4 [2014] NACHMD 175

Practice—Judicial case management—Objectives restated—Rescission of judgment—Application for relief from adverse consequences resulting from failure to comply with directions and orders—Applicant grossly negligent in his approach to his case and failing to establish reasonable and acceptable explanation for his default, even more so, taking into account objectives of judicial case management and obligations of parties and their legal representatives.

Practice—Judgments and orders—Rescission—Approach to determination of factual disputes and adequacy of explanation—Probabilities do not favour applicant—Semble: Need for different approaches by courts dealing with factual disputes and adequacy of explanation in rescission applications, compared to other interlocutory applications, requiring clarification by Supreme Court.

PURITY MANGANESE (PTY) LTD v KATJIVENA AND OTHERS (LC)

SMUTS J 2014 JANUARY 23; FEBRUARY 26 [2014] NALCMD 10

Labour law—Labour dispute—Conciliation and Arbitration—Referral for—Rules requiring referral document be signed by referral party—Form not signed by referral party—Referral party's participation in conciliation process and thereafter in arbitration amounted to ratification of referral—Despite use of word 'must' in rules, failure to sign referral form where there had already been participation in conciliation, had not resulted in award being nullity—Rules Relating to Conduct of Conciliation and Arbitration before Labour Commissioner, rules 5 and 14(2).

TJINGAETE v LAKAY NO AND OTHERS (HC)

SMUTS J 2014 MAY 21; JUNE 11 [2014] NAHCMD 178 **Customary law**—Succession—Intestate succession—Adoption in terms of Herero customary law—Evidence needs to be tendered to establish customary law and customs in question—No evidence was tendered—Applicant's assertion of his right to succeed appeared to be based upon document setting out testamentary intention of deceased as being recognised under customary law rather than his adoption being accepted for purposes of intestate succession.

Administration of estates—Intestate succession—Heirs—Adopted child under common law—Only adoption under applicable legislation which was equivalent to blood relationships was recognised—Blood relationships under common law would determine intestate succession under common law—Applicant not intestate heir of deceased on this basis.

Administration of estates—Intestate succession—Heirs—Applicant, in his capacity as nephew of deceased was intestate heir by representation—Applicant never filed next-of-kin statement and inventory with master and as result failed to disclose prima facie right to relief sought.

Practice—Applications and motions—Ex parte applications—Applicant required to make full and proper disclosure to court and owed duty of utmost good faith to court—Non-disclosure of material facts in founding affidavit—Rule nisi also discharged for this reason.

NOVANAM LTD v RINQUEST (LC)

UEITELE J

2013 MARCH 8; 2014 AUGUST 22

[2014] NALCMD 35

Labour law—Appeal—Questions of law—Labour Act making provision for appeal against arbitrator's award on questions of law only—Issue whether or not employee mitigated his losses was question of fact rather than law—Employer could not appeal on that ground—Arbitrator's calculation of employee's leave days was question of fact, but monetary value was question of law—Arbitrator erred in law by making incorrect calculation resulting in incorrect award, which stood to be reduced—Labour Act 11 of 2007, ss 86 and 89(1)(a).

Labour law—Dismissal—Unfair dismissal—Compensation—Arbitrator to award amount of compensation as he considers reasonable, fair and equitable—Award should not be aimed at punishing employer or enriching employee—Arbitrator's award was not punitive but justified on basis of manner on which employment was terminated.

Labour law—Retrenchment—Severance allowance—Provision in Labour Act not precluding court from ordering employer to pay more than statutory minimum in appropriate circumstances—Employer failing to prove that retrenchment was both substantively and procedurally fair—Circumstances and manner in which employee was retrenched justifying higher award—Labour Act 11 of 2007, s 35(1) and (3).

NAMIBIA BUNKER SERVICES (PTY) LTD v ETS KATANGA FUTUR AND ANOTHER (HC)

VAN NIEKERK J 2010 MAY 5; 2014 JUNE 23 [2014] NAHCMD 197

Practice—Applications and motions—Ex parte application—Rule nisi granted—Anticipation of return date—When rule nisi may be anticipated—Rule 6(8) of High Court Rules intended to come to aid of litigant taken by surprise by order granted ex parte—If party agreed to extension of return date it cannot thereafter anticipate return date.

Court—Jurisdiction—Attachment to found or confirm jurisdiction—Incola plaintiff to attach property of peregrinus to confirm jurisdiction even if court had jurisdiction based thereon that cause of action arose within court's jurisdiction.

Court—Jurisdiction—Attachment to found or confirm jurisdiction—Onus of proof of ownership—Property sought to be attached must be that of respondent—Onus was on applicant to establish on balance of probabilities that respondent was owner or had some other attachable interest in property—Applicant, relying on hearsay evidence, failed to prove that respondent was owner—Rule nisi discharged.

MATADOR ENTERPRISES (PTY) LTD ν MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND OTHERS (HC)

SMUTS J 2014 MARCH 14, 25; MAY 16

Statute—Repeal of—Earlier legislation—Import and Export Control Act 30 of 1994 did not expressly or by implication repeal Control of Importation of Dairy Products and Dairy Products Substitutes Act 5 of 1986—Latter Act continued to apply to dairy products—Since incorrect legislation having been invoked, decision embodied in notice fell to be set aside.

Administrative law—Administrative action—Validity—Functionary abdicating statutory obligations to exercise his decision-making functions—Functionary requesting cabinet to make decision to impose restrictions upon import of dairy products into Namibia—Cabinet instructing functionary to publish notice containing restrictions—Notice invalid.

Administrative law—Review—Right to fair administrative justice—Review of administrative decision—Incumbent on minister to apply his mind—Failure of minister to apply his mind and failure to give reasons for decision—Evidence tendered by permanent secretary on behalf of minister amounting to inadmissible hearsay evidence—Notice set aside.

Administrative law—Review—Right to fair administrative justice—Minister must observe audi alteram partem principle—Non-disclosure by minister that cabinet had already taken decision on matter, lacked transparency and adversely impacted upon rights of applicant companies to be heard.

TELECOM NAMIBIA LTD v NANGOLO AND OTHERS (SC)

MAINGA JA, MTAMBANENGWE AJA and HOFF AJA 2014 JUNE 23; NOVEMBER 25 [2014] NASC 23

Labour Court—Appeal—Condonation—Late filing of notice of appeal—Noting of appeal outside 30-day period—Delay in this matter extending beyond delay to file condonation application; delay in conduct of appellant's senior officials and legal representatives and delay in initiation of condonation application were also relevant factors—Court a quo's findings on question of explanation for delays could not be faulted and as result court did not have to express any views on appellant's prospects of success—Contravening factors overwhelmingly militated against granting condonation—Appeal dismissed—Labour Act 11 of 2007, s 89(2) and Labour Court Rules, rule 17.

Labour Court—Appeal—Notice of appeal—Grounds of appeal—If allegations made in grounds of appeal were correct and common cause, they should have been raised in limine before arbitrator and not ex post facto as appellant purported to do.

Practice—Service—What constitutes—Arbitration award was not served on appellant but was collected by appellant's employee at office of Labour Commissioner—Award did not contain notice informing parties of their right of appeal—Appellant had established legal department, manned by lawyers—Omission of mentioning right of appeal in award was in circumstances inconsequential.

PH v SH (HC)

UEITELE J 2014 NOVEMBER 7 [2014] NAHCMD 340

Practice—Judgments and orders—Rescission—Restitution order—Order erroneously sought in absence of defendant—High Court Rule 103(1)(a) applicable to restitution orders which are interlocutory in nature.

Practice—Irregular proceedings—Rule 30 of High Court Rules—Restitution of conjugal rights—Notice to defend—No address provided within radius of eight kilometres from court—Notice not void but irregular—Irregular proceeding cannot be ignored and must be set aside.

MERORO ν MINISTER OF LANDS, RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION AND OTHERS (SC)

MARITZ JA, CHOMBA AJA and MTAMBANENGWE AJA 2009 JUNE 12; 2015 APRIL 2

Land—Agricultural land—Lease of—A 99-year leasehold—Assignment of lease upon death of lessee—Executrix may assign lease to any person approved by Minister of Lands,

Resettlement and Rehabilitation upon recommendation by Land Reform Advisory Commission—Executrix failed to assign lease to person—Minister acted ultra vires his powers when he approved allocation of right to lease property to executrix, purportedly upon commission's recommendation—Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act 6 of 1995, s 53(1).

Land—Agricultural land—Lease of—A 99-year leasehold—Executrix and family requested and authorised Minister of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation to register and transfer farm to them—Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act 6 of 1995 contemplating assignment of remainder of lease to person and not registration and transfer of ownership.

Practice—Applications and motions—Motion proceedings—Relief sought by applicant as formulated in notice of motion determining cause and evidence required to be presented and informing respondent of case to meet—Court a quo granting orders not sought by any party to proceedings—Orders irregular and unsustainable.

Administration of estates—Executor—Duties of—Intestate succession—Whether Land Reform Advisory Commission's failure to direct that appellant's application for resettlement on farm should be brought to attention of executrix for her to determine to whom she was going to assign lease invalidated commission's decision—Referral would not have assisted executrix in determining which beneficiary would be entitled to assignment of lease according to principles of law of intestate succession.

Administration of estates—Executor—Duties of—Intestate succession—Executor's decision to assign lease to particular person was not informed by 'suitability' of assignee under Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act 6 of 1995 but by person's legal right to such assignment on applicable principles and provisions of law of succession.

Administration of estates—Executor—Duties of—Supervising authority—Any complaint about administration, liquidation or distribution of estate by executrix (which would include assignment of lease to herself), had to be lodged with magistrate or master, and not with Minister of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation—Not knowing whether facts and submissions advanced in application for resettlement were in law relevant to assignment, there was no duty on Land Reform Advisory Commission to refer application to executrix.

BALZER v VRIES (SC)

MAINGA JA, SMUTS JA and O'REGAN AJA 2015 MARCH 6, 17 [2015] NASC 8

Appeal—Condonation—Late filing of notice of appeal—Requirements for condonation restated—Eight-month delay—Weighty and cogent explanation called for—Explanation for delay unsatisfactory and not credible—Application dismissed for this reason alone.

Appeal—Leave to appeal—Interlocutory matters—Leave of High Court required—Leave to appeal neither applied for nor granted—Matter struck from roll—High Court Act 16 of 1990, s 18(3).

S v LIBONGANI (SC)

DAMASEB DCJ, MAINGA JA and HOFF AJA 2014 OCTOBER 29; 2015 MARCH 18 [2015] NASC 5

Criminal procedure—Charge—Formulation—Charge sheet lacking particularity—Mere mention of s 2(1)(a) of Combating of Rape Act 8 of 2000 read with s 94 of Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977 insufficient for unrepresented accused—Requiring allegation that rape occurred on divers occasions.

Criminal law—Rape—Sentence—Combating of Rape Act 8 of 2000—Aggravating and mitigating circumstances—Magistrate failed to evaluate seriousness of crime in light of aggravating circumstances—Crime called imperatively for most extreme punishment, in excess of minimum prescribed sentence.

MWASHEKELE v PROSECUTOR-GENERAL (HC)

PARKER AJ 2014 OCTOBER 8; NOVEMBER 20 [2014] NAHCMD 349 **Criminal procedure**—Organised crime—Preservation order—Failure to comply with time period prescribed in s 52(4) of Preservation of Organised Crime Act 29 of 2004—Application for condonation in terms of s 60(1) of Act lodged out of time—Court did not have inherent power of condoning non-compliance with further time period stipulated in s 60(1).

MALETZKY AND OTHERS v ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA AND OTHERS (HC)

MILLER AJ 2014 NOVEMBER 25, 26 [2014] NAHCMD 365

Constitutional law—Legislation—Constitutionality of—Electoral Act 5 of 2014, s 209(2)—Powers of Minister of Local Government and Housing did not conflate functions of legislature and those of executive—Power to determine when legislation should come into operation was vested in branch of executive dealing with legislation.

Election law—Elections—Validity of—Use of electronic voting machines—No impact upon voters' constitutional right to vote.

Court—Jurisdiction—High Court—Election-related matters—These matters fell within jurisdiction of Electoral Court and not High Court.

NATIONAL HOUSING ENTERPRISE v BEUKES AND OTHERS (SC)

MAINGA JA, ZIYAMBI AJA and GARWE AJA 2014 JULY 8; 2015 MARCH 2 [2015] NASC 3

Court—Jurisdiction—Labour Court—Creature of statute and had no inherent jurisdiction to intervene in unterminated proceedings of District Labour Court—Provisions of Labour Act 11 of 2007 did not authorise Labour Court to intervene in proceedings pending before District Labour Court or to make order for provision of security for costs in such proceedings.

GUNCHAB FARMING CC AND ANOTHER V BARNARD AND ANOTHER (HC)

VAN NIEKERK J 2012 APRIL 5; 2014 NOVEMBER 14 [2014] NAHCMD 345

Practice—Pleadings—Exception—Late filing of exception to plea—Plaintiffs ipso facto barred from delivering further pleadings in terms of High Court Rules 25(1) and 26—Not peremptory for defendants to adopt rule 30 procedure—Defendants entitled to raise objection by way of point in limine.

Sale—Land—Agricultural land—Donation of agricultural land without certificate of waiver and transfer of member's interest in close corporation, not prohibited by s 17 of Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act 6 1995—Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Amendment Act 13 of 2002 expressly amended meaning of 'alienate' to include 'donate' and amended s 17 to include sale of member's interest rendering such transactions illegal.

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