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JULY 2018

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SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REPORTS

Competition law: a first case on predatory pricing

Here the Competition Appeal Court held that the test for whether predatory pricing—where a dominant firm undermines competitors by deliberately reducing prices to a loss-making level—was objective, and the dominant company's intention therefore irrelevant. It was further held the appropriate cost benchmark in this determination is 'average avoidable costs'. *Media 24 (Pty) Ltd v Competition Commission* 2018 (4) SA 278 (CAC).

Extent of record for purposes of reviewing proceedings of judges' appointment

Transcripts of the Judicial Service Commission's post-interview deliberations form part of record for the purposes a review of a selection process to appoint judges. This was so, the Constitutional Court here held, because Uniform Rule 53(1)(b) had be interpreted to advance applicant's rights of access to courts and to equality. Helen Suzman Foundation v Judicial Service Commission 2018 (4) SA 1 (CC)

Two issues relating to accrual system

Is the commencement value of each estate as stated in antenuptial contract, binding on the parties when the accrual is calculated? This case holds that declared values are merely prima facie proof of the actual commencement values, and subject to rebuttal by any party, including the spouses. It also holds that an accrual claim may be decided during divorce proceedings. *TN v NN and Others* 2018 (4) SA 316 (WCC).

SOUTH AFRICAN CRIMINAL LAW REPORTS

First appearance: duty of court, prosecutor and investigating officer to consider bail

The accused was brought to court within two hours of his arrest on a charge of assault with the intention to do grievous bodily harm. The matter was then postponed for further investigation—without the court considering releasing the accused on bail—resulting in the accused being incarcerated for a week on charge that did not warrant his remaining in custody. This oversight, said the SCA, constituted a shocking violation by the prosecutor, the magistrate and the investigating officer of their duties to ensure that the question of bail was

properly considered at the appellant's first appearance. *De Klerk v Minister of Police* 2018 (2) SACR 28 (SCA).

Poaching marine living resources not victimless crime

In considering an appropriate sentence following a conviction on charges of unlawful possession or control of abalone for commercial purposes, the court highlighted the negative effect poaching has on coastal communities—it was not a victimless crime and called for severe punishment. *S v Miller and Others* 2018 (2) SACR 75 (WCC).

Evidential value of voice identification

During the course of a robbery, the accused asked the complainant if he recognised him as he had previously worked for him. After his arrest, he was identified by the complainant in an identification parade—through his voice. This case holds that, provided the parade is properly held, evidence of voice is acceptable in our courts but it had to be credible in the sense of reliability. S v Mahlangu 2018 (2) SACR 64 (GP).

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

Please send any comments or queries to lawreports@juta.co.za.

Kind Regards

The Juta Law Reports Team

SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REPORTS

JULY 2018

TABLE OF CASES

- Helen Suzman Foundation v Judicial Service Commission 2018 (4) SA 1 (CC)
- City Capital SA Property Holdings Ltd v Chavonnes Badenhorst St Clair Cooper and Others 2018 (4) SA 71 (SCA)
- Madikizela-Mandela v Executors, Estate Late Mandela and Others 2018 (4) SA 86 (SCA)
- National Police Commissioner and Another v Ngobeni 2018 (4) SA 99 (SCA)
- Patmar Explorations (Pty) Ltd and Others v Limpopo Development Tribunal and Others 2018 (4) SA 107 (SCA)
- Pietermaritzburg and District Council for the Care of the Aged v Redlands Development Projects (Pty) Ltd and Others 2018 (4) SA 113 (SCA)
- Scalabrini Centre, Cape Town and Others v Minister of Home Affairs and Others 2018 (4) SA 125 (SCA)
- Chowan v Associated Motor Holdings (Pty) Ltd and Others 2018 (4) SA 145 (GJ)
- De Lille v Democratic Alliance and Others 2018 (4) SA 171 (WCC)
- Dark Fibre Africa (Pty) Ltd v Cape Town City 2018 (4) SA 185 (WCC)
- Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency v Medbury (Pty) Ltd t/a Crown River Safari 2018 (4) SA 206 (SCA)
- Eastern Produce Estates SA (Pty) Ltd v Wales Communal Property Association and Others 2018 (4) SA 220 (LCC)
- Eskom Holdings Ltd v Grundy 2018 (4) SA 242 (KZP)
- Hosken Consolidated Investments Ltd and Another v Competition Commission 2018 (4) SA 248 (CAC)

- MEC for Health, Limpopo v Rabalago and Another 2018 (4) SA 270 (LP)
- Media 24 (Pty) Ltd v Competition Commission 2018 (4) SA 278 (CAC)
- Mr LED (Pty) Ltd v Waxfam Investments (Pty) Ltd and Another 2018 (4) SA 308 (GJ)
- TN v NN and Others 2018 (4) SA 316 (WCC)

FLYNOTES

HELEN SUZMAN FOUNDATION v JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION (CC)

ZONDO DCJ, CAMERON J, FRONEMAN J, JAFTA J, KATHREE-SETILOANE AJ, KOLLAPEN AJ, MADLANGA J, MHLANTLA J, THERON J and ZONDI AJ 2018 APRIL 24 [2018] ZACC 8

Judge—Appointment—Judicial Service Commission—Selection process—Review—Record on review—Extent of record—Transcript of commission's post-interview deliberations forming part of record—Must be supplied to applicant—Uniform Rules of Court, rule 53(1)(b).

Review—Procedure—Record on review—Extent of record—Applicable rule to be interpreted to advance applicant's rights of access to courts and to equality of arms before it—Judicial Service Commission's post-interview deliberations on appointment to bench forming part of record on review—Must be supplied to applicant—Uniform Rules of Court, rule 53(1)(b).

CITY CAPITAL SA PROPERTY HOLDINGS LTD v CHAVONNES BADENHORST ST CLAIR COOPER AND OTHERS (SCA)

LEACH JA, SALDULKER JA, PLASKET JA, TSOKA AJA and SCHIPPERS AJA 2017 DECEMBER 1 [2017] ZASCA 177

Company—Winding-up—Master—Only Master authorised to appoint liquidators—Not competent for High Court to appoint liquidators—Where, as in present case, High Court declaring separate wound-up companies as single entity, its appointment of liquidators in respect thereof amounting to nullity—Companies Act 71 of 2008, ss 20(9), 22, 141(2)(c) and 141(3)

Appeal—Power of court of appeal—Power to dismiss appeal where judgment or order sought would have no practical effect or result—Appeal against court a quo's refusal to set aside earlier court's appointment of liquidators—Where appeal based on it not being competent for court to appoint liquidators, but Master thereafter appointing same liquidators, appeal having no practical effect—Appeal accordingly dismissed—Superior Courts Act 10 of 2013, s 16(2)(a)(i).

MADIKIZELA-MANDELA v EXECUTORS, ESTATE LATE MANDELA AND OTHERS (SCA) SHONGWE AP, SWAIN JA, MATHOPO JA, MOKGOHLOA AJA and ROGERS AJA 2018 JANUARY 19 [2017] ZASCA 2

Review—Application—Delay in bringing application—Whether delay unreasonable—Factors to be considered—Duty on applicant to be reasonably vigilant of rights—Applicant instituting review 17 years after decision taken—While applicant only recently learning of decision, reasonable person vigilant of his or her rights would have acquired knowledge of decision much earlier—Delay unreasonable.

Review—Application—Delay in bringing application—Condonation—Factors to be considered—Court finding that, even assuming prospects of success on merits, not sufficient to overlook excessive delay when due regard was had to potential for severe prejudice to respondents should decision be set aside.

NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSIONER AND ANOTHER v NGOBENI (SCA)

SHONGWE ADP, WALLIS JA, SALDULKER JA, MATHOPO JA and PLASKET AJA 2018 MARCH 15 [2018] ZASCA 14

Police—National Commissioner—Powers—To establish board to inquire into allegations of misconduct by provincial commissioner—South African Police Service Act 68 of 1995, ss 8(2)(c), 8(8) and 9(1).

PATMAR EXPLORATIONS (PTY) LTD AND OTHERS v LIMPOPO DEVELOPMENT TRIBUNAL AND OTHERS (SCA)

NAVSA JA, WALLIS JA, MATHOPO JA, DAVIS AJA and HUGHES AJA 2018 MARCH 16 [2018] ZASCA 19

Court—Precedent and stare decisis—Departure from prior decision on law—When SCA may depart from own decision—When judge may depart from decision of judge of same division.

PIETERMARITZBURG AND DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE CARE OF THE AGED v REDLANDS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (PTY) LTD AND OTHERS (SCA)

NAVSA JA, WALLIS JA, WILLIS JA, MATHOPO JA and PILLAY AJA 2018 MARCH 29 [2018] ZASCA 51

Water—Actio aquae pluviae arcendae—Upper property discharging water into municipality's waterworks under municipality's direction and water fed by municipality's pipes into lower property's canal—Lower property seeking to interdict supra-natural flow of water from upper property.

SCALABRINI CENTRE, CAPE TOWN AND OTHERS v MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND OTHERS (SCA)

CACHALIA JA, MAJIEDT JA, SALDULKER JA, LAMONT AJA and SCHIPPERS AJA 2017 SEPTEMBER 29 [2017] ZASCA 126

Immigration—Refugee—Asylum seeker—Refugee Reception Office—Decision to close Cape Town office—Legality review.

CHOWAN v ASSOCIATED MOTOR HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD AND OTHERS (GJ) MEYER J

2018 MARCH 23

Delict—Elements—Unlawfulness or wrongfulness—Breach of statutory duty—Breach by employer of duty under PDA not to subject whistle-blowing employee to occupational detriment—Employee dismissed after lodging internal complaint of gender and race discrimination against employer—Provided requirements of PDA met, constituting wrongful conduct for purposes of imposition of delictual liability—Protected Disclosures Act 26 of 2000, s 3 and s 6.

Labour law—Whistle-blowers—Protected disclosure—Occupational detriment—Whether employer's imposition of occupational detriment on employee contrary to PDA giving rise to delictual action justiciable by High Court—Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995, s 156; Protected Disclosures Act 26 of 2000, s 3 and s 6.

Labour law—Courts—Jurisdiction—High Court and Labour Court—LRA not intended to destroy civil remedies—High Court may entertain Aquilian action for breach of employer's duty not to subject employee to occupational detriment for making protected disclosure under PDA—Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995, s 156; Protected Disclosures Act 26 of 2000, s 3 and s 6.

DE LILLE v DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE AND OTHERS (WCC)

HENNEY J 2018 FEBRUARY 14

Local authority—Municipal council—Councillor—Voting—Motion of no confidence in Mayor—Councillors entitled to vote freely and in accordance with their conscience—Cannot be held bound to party line—Speaker of Municipal Council having discretion to order whether or not vote to take place by secret ballot.

DARK FIBRE AFRICA (PTY) LTD v CAPE TOWN CITY (WCC)

DAVIS J

2017 DECEMBER 14

Telecommunication—Fibre optic network—Construction—City imposing conditions on—Lawfulness thereof—Electronic Communications Act 36 of 2005, s 22.

EASTERN CAPE PARKS AND TOURISM AGENCY v MEDBURY (PTY) LTD t/a CROWN RIVER SAFARI (SCA)

NAVSA JA, SERITI JA, SALDULKER JA, SWAIN JA and SCHIPPERS AJA 2018 MARCH 27 [2018] ZASCA 34

Animals—Wild animal—Land sufficiently enclosed to confine game—Where so, and game escaping, then contra common law, ownership not lost—Whether certificate of sufficient enclosure prerequisite for protection—Game Theft Act 105 of 1991, s 2.

EASTERN PRODUCE ESTATES SA (PTY) LTD ν WALES COMMUNAL PROPERTY ASSOCIATION AND OTHERS (LCC)

CANCA AJ 2018 APRIL 4

Land—Land reform—Restitution—Where land awarded subject to lease—Whether huur gaat voor koop applicable, and if so whether constituting infringement of constitutional right to restitution—Constitution, s 25(7); Restitution of Land Rights Act 22 of 1994, s 42D(1)(a).

ESKOM HOLDINGS LTD v GRUNDY (KZP)

JAPPIE JP, PLOOS VAN AMSTEL J and NKOSI AJ 2018 FEBRUARY 6

Contract—Consensus—Caveat subscriptor—Contract providing that standard conditions contained in annexure were incorporated as part of agreement—Party A seeking to hold party B to such conditions—A failing to provide evidence that annexure was attached to agreement—Instead seeking to rely on clause in contract whereby B acknowledging receipt of annexure—Caveat subscriptor rule not applying to matters of fact in agreement, such as a recordal that another document was attached to it—If not attached, cannot be deemed to have been so attached on basis of signature—Whether or not document attached remaining a question of fact.

HOSKEN CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENTS LTD AND ANOTHER v COMPETITION COMMISSION (CAC)

DAVIS JP, VICTOR AJA and MNGUNI AJA 2017 OCTOBER 30

Competition—Competition Tribunal—Jurisdiction—To make declaratory orders—Competition Tribunal having jurisdiction to make declaratory orders—Declaratory order made that proposed transaction not constituting **noti_able me**rger—Competition Act 89 of 1998, s 27(1).

Competition—Promotion of competition—Merger control—Merger—What constitutes—Whether, after obtaining unconditional merger approval, subsequent transaction to increase controlling company's shareholding in controlled company constituting **noti_able** merger—Not where, as in present case, transaction not giving rise to change in post-transaction qualitative control—Determination of such change must be made when merger is approved, and could not be revisited later—Competition Act 89 of 1998, s 12.

MEC FOR HEALTH, LIMPOPO v RABALAGO AND ANOTHER (LP)

PHATUDI J 2017 MARCH 20

Constitution—Human rights—Freedom of religion—Spraying of insecticide onto body during 'faith healing'—Interdiction of—Constitution, ss 15(1) and 31(1).

MEDIA 24 (PTY) LTD v COMPETITION COMMISSION (CAC)

DAVIS JP, ROGERS JA and BOQWANA JA 2018 MARCH 19

Competition—Unlawful competition—Prohibited practices—Abuse of dominance—Predatory pricing—Test objective, dominant company's intention irrelevant—Appropriate cost benchmark 'average avoidable costs'—Competition Act 89 of 1998, s 8(c).

MR LED (PTY) LTD v WAXFAM INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD AND ANOTHER (GJ)

MAKUME J, MONAMA J and GAUTSCHI AJ 2017 FEBRUARY 17

Contract—Performance—Demand—Demand of sum that is overstated—Admission that part of sum owing and due—Whether demand valid.

TN v NN AND OTHERS (WCC)

BINNS-WARD J 2018 MARCH 12

Marriage—Divorce—Proprietary rights—Accrual system—Parties declaring commencement values of their estates in antenuptial contract—Whether declared values binding—Whether accrual claim may be decided during divorce proceedings—Matrimonial Property Act 88 of 1984, s 6(3).

SOUTH AFRICAN CRIMINAL LAW REPORTS

JUNE 2018

TABLE OF CASES

- Director of Public Prosecutions, Grahamstown v Peli 2018 (2) SACR 1 (SCA)
- S v Brink 2018 (2) SACR 6 (WCC)
- S v De Besch 2018 (2) SACR 22 (NCK)
- De Klerk v Minister of Police 2018 (2) SACR 28 (SCA)
- Austin v Minister of Justice and Others 2018 (2) SACR 49 (ECG)
- S v Mabuza 2018 (2) SACR 54 (GP)
- S v Mahlangu 2018 (2) SACR 64 (GP)
- S v Heroldt 2018 (2) SACR 69 (KZP)
- S v Miller and Others 2018 (2) SACR 75 (WCC)

FLYNOTES

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS, GRAHAMSTOWN v PELI (SCA)

SWAIN JA, MBHA JA and HUGHES AJA 2018 FEBRUARY 16; MARCH 28 [2018] ZASCA 40

Rape—Sentence—Life imprisonment—Minimum sentence in terms of Criminal Law Amendment Act 105 of 1997—Substantial and compelling circumstances—First offender, 24 years of age, claiming to have been under influence of alcohol at time when raped 6-year-old boy—No true remorse shown—Serious misdirection in finding presence of substantial and compelling circumstances—Effective sentence of six years' imprisonment disturbingly lenient—Replaced with life imprisonment.

S v BRINK (WCC)

ALLIE J and DAVIS AJ 2018 MARCH 13

Traffic offences—Driving with excessive concentration of alcohol in blood—Contravention of s 65(2)(a) of National Road Traffic Act 93 of 1996—Sentence—Suspension of driver's licence—Circumstances to be taken into account—Includes personal circumstances of accused.

Traffic offences—Driving with excessive concentration of alcohol in blood—Contravention of s 65(2)(a) of National Road Traffic Act 93 of 1996—Sentence—Previous convictions—Proof of—Insufficient for court to rely solely on evidence of accused.

Traffic offences—Driving with excessive concentration of alcohol in blood—Contravention of s 65(2)(a) of National Road Traffic Act 93 of 1996—Sentence—Previous convictions—Determination of whether offence was first, second or third offence for purposes of s 35(1)—Relevant question was whether offence fell under ss 35(1)(a), (aA), (b) and (c) and not whether it fell under identical statutory provision.

S v DE BESCH (NCK)

TLALETSI JP, WILLIAMS J and PHATSHOANE J 2018 MARCH 12; APRIL 30

Murder—Sentence—Life imprisonment—When to be imposed—Murder committed with dolus directus attracting different minimum sentence than same murder planned or premeditated, accordingly imperative that trial court specify whether murder indeed planned or premeditated.

DE KLERK v MINISTER OF POLICE (SCA)

SHONGWE ADP, LEACH JA, MAJIEDT JA, ROGERS AJA and HUGHES AJA 2018 MARCH 8, 28 [2018] ZASCA 45

Arrest—Without warrant—For assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm—Nature and seriousness of wound not established—Arrest without warrant not justified in such circumstances—Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977, sch 1.

Arrest—Procedure after arrest—Detention of accused after appearing in court—Investigating officer aware that accused would not be released on bail on appearance in court, despite recommending bail—Such appearance mechanical act and no inquiry made into justification for further detention—Police not responsible for damages for further detention, even though initial arrest unlawful.

AUSTIN v MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND OTHERS (ECG)

LOWE J 2018 MAY 3, 9

Trial—Stay of prosecution—Temporary stay—Application for—Pending decision of Constitutional Court on constitutionality of various provisions of statutes impacting on present cases—In interests of justice to grant stay.

S v MABUZA (GP)

RANCHOD J and LUKHAIMANE AJ 2017 FEBRUARY 28; AUGUST 30

Evidence—Witness—Children—Appointment of intermediary in terms of s 170A(1) of Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977—Prosecutor making use of services of social worker to interview children to determine whether intermediary required—Competency report not required before appointing intermediary—Contents thereof not constituting evidence on which witnesses could be cross-examined.

S v MAHLANGU (GP)

MONAMA J and BASSON J 2017 AUGUST 28; SEPTEMBER 15

Evidence—Identification—Voice identification—Such evidence acceptable, subject to its credibility and reliability—Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977, s 37(1)(c).

S v HEROLDT (KZP)

PLOOS VAN AMSTEL J and MBATHA J 2018 APRIL 20; MAY 11

Witness—Competence of—Child witness—Questioning by presiding officer—Magistrate's questions direct and specific and answers clear and precise—Five-year-old child competent to testify.

Witness—Children—As complainants in sexual offences—Use of infantile words to describe parts of genitalia acceptable and sufficiently understood by all concerned.

S v MILLER AND OTHERS (WCC)

GAMBLE J 2018 MARCH 19

Conservation—Fishing—Abalone—Possession or control for commercial purposes—Contraventions of regulations under Marine Living Resources Act 18 of 1998—Sentence—Effect of poaching on environment and social implications for coastal community highlighted—

Not victimless crime—In case where large amounts of abalone involved, severe sentences imposed.

Conservation—Fishing—Abalone—Possession or control for commercial purposes—Contraventions of regulations under Marine Living Resources Act 18 of 1998—Sentence—Value of abalone involved—No direct correlation between value of abalone and sentence—Large profits to be made by participants in value chain.

Prevention of crime—Offences—Contraventions of s 2(1) of Prevention of Organised Crime Act 121 of 1998—Racketeering in contravention of s 2(1)(e)—Sentence—Involvement in poaching and processing of abalone—Large amounts of abalone involved.

Sentence—Factors to be taken into account—Length of trial—Lengthy trial and case having hung over accused's heads for 11 years—Sentence had to be ameliorated.

BOTSWANA LAW REPORTS

2014 (3)

TABLE OF CASES

- Akabilko Investments (Pty) Ltd v Phuramarapo Investments (Pty) Ltd [2014] 3 BLR 429 (CA)
- Akerele v The Dental Clinic (Pty) Ltd and Others [2014] 3 BLR 18 (CA)
- Anderson v The State [2014] 3 BLR 558 (HC)
- Arab Contractors (Pty) Ltd v AML Agriculture (Pty) Ltd [2014] 3 BLR 438 (CA)
- Attorney-General and Another v Ramatlapeng [2014] 3 BLR 455 (CA)
- Attorney-General v Mothahu and Others [2014] 3 BLR 60 (CA)
- Attorney-General v Umbrella For Democratic Change and Others [2014] 3 BLR 120 (HC)
- Barclays Bank Ltd v Thaga and Another [2014] 3 BLR 51 (CA)
- Batisi v Attorney-General and Others [2014] 3 BLR 114 (HC)
- Bobeng and Others v Italtswana Construction Company [2014] 3 BLR 33 (IC)
- Botswana Power Corporation Workers' Union and Another v Botswana Power Corporation [2014] 3 BLR 195 (HC)
- Bulala v Bulala (nee Chikumba) [2014] 3 BLR 140 (HC)
- Commissioner General of the Botswana Unified Revenue Service and Another v Junction Trading (Pty) Ltd t/a Chobe Distributors [2014] 3 BLR 6 (CA)
- Davies and Others v Commissioner General of Botswana Unified Revenue Services [2014]
 3 BLR 410 (CA)
- Directorate of Public Prosecutions v Setshedi [2014] 3 BLR 264 (HC)
- Disele v The State [2014] 3 BLR 474 (CA)
- Dlamini and Another v The State [2014] 3 BLR 449 (CA)
- Dodzi and Others v Attorney-General and Others [2014] 3 BLR 515 (HC)
- Dube v Attorney-General and Others [2014] 3 BLR 267 (HC)
- Edumusic Solutions Center t/a P and T Industries v GMT (Pty) Ltd; In Re: GMT (Pty) Ltd v
 Edumusic Solutions Center t/a P and T Industries [2014] 3 BLR 277 (HC)
- Faheem Investments (Pty) Ltd v O'Connell; In Re: O'Connell v Faheem Investments (Pty) Ltd and Another [2014] 3 BLR 111 (HC)
- Goldwing (Pty) Ltd t/a Cell City v Automated Security (Pty) Ltd t/a G4S Alarms [2014] 3 BLR 85 (CA)
- Habana v Kganele [2014] 3 BLR 337 (HC)
- Hakamo v Attorney-General [2014] 3 BLR 105 (HC)
- Kambura v The State [2014] 3 BLR 235 (HC)
- Keogane v Directorate of Public Prosecutions [2014] 3 BLR 313 (HC)
- Kereeletswe v Katukula and Others [2014] 3 BLR 589 (HC)
- Ketlhaotswe v Debswana Mining Company [2014] 3 BLR 177 (IC)
- Kgathi v Attorney-General and Others [2014] 3 BLR 568 (HC)
- Kgosi v Botswana Housing Corporation and Another [2014] 3 BLR 294 (HC)

- Khwarae v Keaikitse and Others [2014] 3 BLR 523 (HC)
- Lemogang v The State [2014] 3 BLR 370 (CA)
- Leoifo v Ngwato Land Board and Others [2014] 3 BLR 468 (CA)
- Letsholo v Directorate of Public Prosecutions [2014] 3 BLR 489 (HC)
- Magwadi v Barclays Bank of Botswana Ltd [2014] 3 BLR 211 (HC)
- Market Development Company (Pty) Ltd v Ontiretse [2014] 3 BLR 594 (HC)
- Marumo v Kobedi [2014] 3 BLR 373 (CA)
- Maxipriest Distribution (Pty) Ltd v G and S Projects (Pty) Ltd [2014] 3 BLR 161 (HC)
- Metsimabe v The State [2014] 3 BLR 406 (CA)
- Mmaba v The State [2014] 3 BLR 368 (HC)
- Mmolokeng v The State [2014] 3 BLR 600 (CA)
- Mogapi and Another v The State [2014] 3 BLR 250 (HC)
- Mogorosi v Attorney-General and Another [2014] 3 BLR 256 (HC)
- Mokoka's Transport and Plant Hire (Pty) Ltd and Others v Ramsden and Others [2014] 3 BLR 423 (CA)
- Molefi v The State [2014] 3 BLR 339 (HC)
- Moradu v The State [2014] 3 BLR 504 (HC)
- Mothibi v Mothibi (nee Keipeile) [2014] 3 BLR 347 (HC)
- Mustapha v Giddie and Another [2014] 3 BLR 332 (HC)
- Natshane v Estate Property Investments (Pty) Ltd; In Re: Estate Property Investments (Pty) Ltd v Natshane [2014] 3 BLR 168 (HC)
- Ngavulane v Mosetse Brigade Development Trust [2014] 3 BLR 67 (IC)
- Ntu v Curry Pot [2014] 3 BLR 219 (IC)
- Oteka Holdings (Pty) Ltd v Botswana Network of Aids Services Organisation and Another [2014] 3 BLR 97 (HC)
- Otukile v The State [2014] 3 BLR 433 (CA)
- Pelekekae v Tutume McConnel Community Trust (IC) [2014] 3 BLR 133 (HC)
- Phumaphi v The Francistowner (Pty) Ltd t/a The Voice Newspaper and Others [2014] 3 BLR 172 (HC)
- Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board v Zac Construction (Pty) Ltd and Another [2014] 3 BLR 381 (CA)
- Remmogo and Others v Attorney-General [2014] 3 BLR 147 (HC)
- Selema v The State [2014] 3 BLR 481 (HC)
- Seloko v The State [2014] 3 BLR 284 (HC)
- Seretse v The State [2014] 3 BLR 328 (HC)
- Stanbic Bank Botswana Ltd v Motlhabane [2014] 3 BLR 519 (HC)
- Stanbic Bank Botswana v Brightlife (Pty) Ltd [2014] 3 BLR 42 (CA)
- State v Segoea [2014] 3 BLR 317 (HC)
- Tlhankane v Directorate of Public Prosecutions [2014] 3 BLR 290 (HC)
- Tsodilo Services (Pty) Ltd t/a Sunday Standard and Another v Attorney-General; In Re: Attorney-General v Tsodilo Services (Pty) Ltd t/a Sunday Standard and Another [2014] 3 BLR 240 (HC)
- Wellright v Montsho [2014] 3 BLR 362 (HC)
- Zac Construction (Pty) Ltd and Another v Tau Grading and Building Construction (Pty) Ltd and Others [2014] 3 BLR 1 (HC)