



NOT REPORTABLE

CASE NO: SA 47/2022

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NAMIBIA

In the matter between:

ULI CLOETE

First Appellant

RIAAN CLOETE

Second Appellant

AUTONATION MOTORING SERVICES CC

T/A FRIEDELS COLLISION REPAIR CENTRE

Third Appellant

and

JASPER ADRIAAN JACOBUS MEYER

Respondent

Coram: DAMASEB DCJ, MAINGA JA and HOFF JA

Heard: 1 March 2023

Order: 1 March 2023

Reasons released: 14 March 2023

Summary: The High Court on 18 March 2020 entered judgment against the appellants. Unsatisfied with the order, the appellants filed their notice of appeal on 24 June 2022.

The notice of appeal was filed outside the time period as prescribed by the Supreme Court Rules. The appellants filed an application for condonation for the late filing of

their appeal record and failure to furnish security for costs. Reinstatement of the appeals was not sought.

The purported application for condonation is not accompanied by a record and does not deal with the prospects of success. The appellants' explanation in support of the 'condonation application' is that they are lay persons and that it was difficult for them to comply with the rules on time. Furthermore, the appeal remains lapsed as no effort has been made to cure any of the non-compliances for which condonation is sought.

Held that in view of the serial non-compliances apparent on the record. The matter was struck from the roll, no order as to costs.

APPEAL REASONS

DAMASEB DCJ (MAINGA JA and HOFF JA concurring):

[1] On 1 March 2023, we gave an order in this matter in open court, striking the appeal from the roll, with costs and reasons to follow in due course. We have decided to give reasons for the order because the circumstances relating to this appeal are now all too common.

[2] It is settled jurisprudence of this Court that an appeal to it from a judgment and order of the High Court, is deemed to have lapsed, when:

- a) The notice of appeal is not lodged within 21 days of the judgment or order appealed against (Rule 7(1));
- b) The record is not lodged within the stipulated time of three months from the date of judgment or order appealed against (Rule 8(2)); or

c) The appellant failed to furnish security (Rule 14(2)).

[3] All references to rules are to the Rules of the Supreme Court.

[4] In those circumstances, the suspension of any judgment or order of the court appealed from is considered lifted and the appeal is deemed to have been withdrawn¹.

[5] The present appeal falls foul of all these prescripts. On 18 March 2020 the High Court entered judgment against the appellants jointly and severally, the one paying, the other to be absolved, in the following terms:

- '1. Payment in the amount of N\$315 400.00.
2. Costs of suit.'

[6] In their notice of appeal the appellants state that judgment was granted by the High Court on 18 March 2020. Therefore, if they wished to appeal against that order, they should have filed a notice of appeal on 20 April 2020 and would have complied with rule 7(3)(c)(ii).² The notice of appeal was only filed on 24 June 2022 and it did not comply with rule 7(3)(c) (ii).

¹ Rule 9(1)(b) of The Supreme Court Rules and *Andrews v Standard Bank Namibia Limited* (SA 90-2020) [2021] NASC (15 October 2021).

² '7 (3) The notice of appeal referred to in sub rule (1) must -

(a) . . .

(b) . . .

(c) set forth concisely and distinctly -

(i) in the grounds referred in subparagraph (i), in separate numbered paragraphs, the findings of fact and conclusions of law to which the appellant objects and the particular respects in which the variation of the judgment or order is sought'.

[7] To the above transgressions are to be added the following non-compliances:
The record was not lodged and no security was furnished.

[8] What is before us now is an inept application for condonation which seeks the following relief:

- '1. Condoning the Appellants' non-compliance with Rule 7(1) of the Rules of this Honourable Court with regard to the time period prescribed therein for lodging of the notice of appeal against the entire proceedings in the High Court under Case No: HC-MD-CIV-ACT-OTH-2019/01429, in terms of Supreme Court Rules of 15 November 2017;
2. Condoning the Appellants' non-compliance with Rule 8(1) of the Rules of this Honourable Court with regard to the time period prescribed therein for lodging of the copies of the record of the entire proceedings in the High Court under Case No: HC-MD-CIV-ACT-OTH-2019/01429, in terms of Supreme Court Rules of 15 November 2017;
3. Condoning the Appellants' non-compliance with Rule 14(1) of the Rules of this Honourable Court with regard to the time period prescribed therein for lodging of the security of costs of the entire proceedings in the High Court under Case No: HC-MD-CIV-ACT-OTH-2019/01429, in terms of Supreme Court Rules of 15 November 2017;
4. Ordering the Respondent to pay the costs in disbursements of this Application, only in the event of it opposing this Application.'

[9] The condonation application is inept because to date no effort has been made to cure any of the non-compliances for which condonation is sought. In other words, the appeal remains lapsed on any of the bases that I have set out previously.

[10] As I have already stated, the purported application for condonation is not accompanied by a record and - unsurprisingly – does not deal with the prospects of success. The appellants' explanation in support of the 'condonation application' is that they are lay persons and that it was difficult for them to comply with the rules on time.

[11] Because of the absence of a record we are not in a position to ourselves assess – given that the appellants are unrepresented - whether the proceedings *a quo* are tainted by any irregularity or that the order being impugned suffers from any legally cognizable defect.

[12] When the matter was called on 1 March 2023, neither the appellants nor the respondent appeared. Because of the respondent's absence we are none the wiser what his attitude was as regards costs. We therefore did not make any order as to costs.

[13] We were satisfied that striking the matter was the only competent order in view of the serial non-compliances apparent on the record.

DAMASEB DCJ

MAINGA JA

HOFF JA

APPEARANCES

APPELLANTS:

No appearance

RESPONDENT:

No appearance