

THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW APPELLATE TRIBUNAL
NEW DELHI

M.A. No.37/2017

In

Un-numbered Company Appeal (AT) No. /2017

In the matter of:

Northern Projects Ltd. & Ors.

.... Applicants

Versus

Blue Coast Hotels & Resorts Ltd. & Ors.

.... Respondents

Appearance: Shri Abhishek Puri with Ms. Surbhi Gupta, Advocates for the
Applicants.

05.12.2017

This is an application (no provision of law mentioned) to extend the time granted for compliance given under sub-rule (2) to rule 26 of the NCLAT Rules, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the Rules).

2. The allegation in the application is that changes had to be made in the voluminous sets and hence the delay in submitting the appeal after curing the defects. The delay is not intentional and therefore, the prayer is to condone the delay of one day in submitting the appeal after curing the defects.

3. The points that arise for consideration are: -

- i) Is the time given for complying the direction to cure the defects liable to be extended under sub-rule (3) to rule 26 of the Rules?
- ii) Reliefs.

4. **Point No. (i):** - Heard the learned Counsel for the Applicants.

The aforesaid Appeal is against the order dated 19.09.2017 in T.C.P. 14/(111A)/2011 of the Hon'ble NCLT, Mumbai Bench. As per sub-section (3) to section 421 of the Companies Act, 2013 (hereinafter referred to as the Act) an appeal has to be filed within a period of 45 days from the date on which a copy of the impugned order is made available to the person aggrieved.

5. The appeal herein has been presented before the Registry on 20.11.2017. The appeal when scrutinised on 21.11.2017 was found to be defective and hence on the

same day, the Applicants were informed of the defects with a direction to cure them and submit the same within a period of seven days. The period of seven days expired on 28.11.2017. However, the appeal has been submitted after curing the defects only on 30.11.2017 and as there is a delay of two days, the Section has put up the matter before me under sub-rule (2) to rule 26 for appropriate orders.

6. As noticed earlier, the impugned order is dated 19.09.2017. The allegation in para 6 of the appeal memorandum is that they received the certified copy free of cost on 05.10.2017. Therefore, the office has rightly computed the limitation from 06.10.2017. The period of 45 days then expires on 19.11.2017 (Sunday) and hence the initial presentation of the appeal under rule 22 on 20.11.2017 by the Applicants is proper and within time.

7. Sub-rule (3) to rule 26 enables the Registrar to extend the time for compliance given under sub-rule (2) to rule 26. However, the Rules cannot override the provisions of the Act. Proviso to sub-section (3) to section 421 empowers the Hon'ble Appellate Tribunal to entertain an appeal beyond the period of 45 days. But this power can be exercised only by the Hon'ble Appellate Tribunal. The power under sub-rule (3) to rule 26 to extend the time given for compliance can be exercised by the Registrar, provided it is within the period of 45 days referred to in sub-section (3) to section 421 of the Act.

8. In the instant case, as the subsequent presentation of the appeal after curing the defects is beyond the period of 45 days, the time granted for compliance under sub-rule (2) to rule 26 cannot be extended by invoking the power under sub-rule (3) to rule 26. Therefore, the matter be placed before the Hon'ble Appellate Tribunal for appropriate orders. Point answered accordingly.

9. **Point No.(ii):** - M.A. No.37/2017 disposed of accordingly.

List the matter before the Hon'ble Appellate Tribunal on 06.12.2017.

(C.S. Sudha)
Registrar