

THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW APPELLATE TRIBUNAL
NEW DELHI

M.A. No.53/2018

In

Un-numbered Company Appeal (AT) No. /2018
(F.No.07/02/2018/NCLAT/UR/91)

In the matter of:

Venku Hospitals Pvt. Ltd. & Anr. Applicants/Appellants

Versus

Registrar of Companies, Chennai Respondent

Appearance: Ms. Shruti Iyer and Shri Anandh K. Advocates for the
Applicants.

27.02.2018

This is an application under rule 26 of the NCLAT Rules, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the Rules) seeking extension of time granted for compliance.

2. The allegation in the application is that the delay in curing the defects was caused as Applicant No.1 was travelling till 19.02.2018. The delay is alleged to be inadvertent and bonafide. Therefore, the prayer is to condone the delay of nine days' in refiling 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 07.12.2017 in CP/111/(252)/2017 of the Hon'ble NCLT, Chennai 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 is seen presented before the Registry on 07.02.2018. The appeal when scrutinised on 08.02.2018 was found to be defective and hence on 09.02.2018 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 16.02.2018. However, the appeal has been submitted after curing the defects only on 24.02.2018. According to the Section there is a delay of nine days' and hence the matter has been put up before me under sub-rule (2) to rule 26 of the Rules for appropriate orders.

6. The certified free copy of the impugned order dated 07.12.2017 is seen issued on 11.12.2017. The allegation in para 2 of the appeal memorandum is that the Applicants received the copy on 13.12.2017. However, no proof in support of the same has been produced. Therefore, the office has rightly computed the period of limitation from 12.12.2017 and when so computed, the period of 45 days for filing the appeal would expire on 25.01.2018.

7. In the case on hand, the initial presentation of the appeal under Rule 22 on 07.02.2018 and the subsequent presentation after curing the defects on 24.02.2018 are apparently much beyond the period of 45 days. It is true that the proviso to sub-section (3) to section 421 of the Act provides that the period of filing an appeal can be extended for a further period not exceeding 45 days. However, the power to extend the period provided under the proviso can be invoked only by the Hon'ble Appellate Tribunal.

8. 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. 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.

9. In the instant case, as 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.

10. **Point No.(ii):** - M.A. No.53/2018 disposed of accordingly.

List the matter before the Hon'ble Appellate Tribunal on 28.02.2018.

(C.S. Sudha)
Registrar