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The following Act was passed by Parliament on 18th October 2010 and assented to by the President on 15th November 2010:—

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

No. 30 of 2010.

I assent.

(LS)

S R NATHAN,
President.
15th November 2010.

An Act to amend the Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Chapter 322 of the 2007 Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Act 2010 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of section 16

2. Section 16(1) of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended by deleting the words “a writ or other originating process” in paragraph (a) and substituting the words “a writ of summons or any other originating process”.

Amendment of section 20

3. Section 20 of the principal Act is amended by deleting paragraph (a).

Amendment of section 21

4. Section 21 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by deleting subsection (1) and substituting the following subsection:

“(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and any other written law, an appeal shall lie to the High Court from a decision of a District Court or Magistrate’s Court —

(a) in any case where the amount in dispute, or the value of the subject-matter, at the hearing before that District Court or Magistrate’s Court (excluding interest and costs) exceeds \$50,000 or such other amount as may be specified by an order made under subsection (3); or

(b) with the leave of that District Court or Magistrate’s Court or the High Court, in any other case.”; and

(b) by inserting, immediately after subsection (2), the following subsections:

“(2A) An order of the High Court giving or refusing leave under subsection (1)(b) shall be final.

(2B) No appeal shall be brought to the High Court in any case where a District Court or Magistrate’s Court makes an order specified in the Third Schedule, except in such circumstances as may be specified in that Schedule.”.

Deletion and substitution of sub-heading to Part III

5. Part III of the principal Act is amended by deleting the sub-heading immediately before section 23 and substituting the following sub-heading:

“Supervisory and Revisionary Jurisdiction”.

Amendment of section 27

6. Section 27 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (3), the following subsection:

“(4) The High Court shall, when exercising (or deciding whether to exercise) its supervisory and revisionary jurisdiction under subsection (1) or powers under subsection (2) in relation to any matter which concerns a case where the High Court has heard and determined an appeal from a subordinate court, have regard to whether that matter was, or could reasonably have been, raised in that appeal.”.

New sub-heading to Part III and new section 28B

7. Part III of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 28A, the following sub-heading and section:

“Further Arguments

Further arguments before Judge exercising civil jurisdiction of High Court

28B.—(1) Before any notice of appeal is filed in respect of any judgment or order made by a Judge, in the exercise of the civil jurisdiction of the High Court, after any hearing other than a trial

of an action, the Judge may hear further arguments in respect of the judgment or order, if any party to the hearing, or the Judge, requests for further arguments before the earlier of —

- (a) the time the judgment or order is extracted; or
- (b) the expiration of 14 days after the date the judgment or order is made.

(2) After hearing further arguments, the Judge may affirm, vary or set aside the judgment or order.

(3) If any request for further arguments has been made under subsection (1) —

- (a) no notice of appeal shall be filed in respect of the judgment or order until the Judge —
 - (i) affirms, varies or sets aside the judgment or order after hearing further arguments; or
 - (ii) certifies, or is deemed to have certified, that he requires no further arguments; and
- (b) the time for filing a notice of appeal in respect of the judgment or order shall begin on the date the Judge —
 - (i) affirms, varies or sets aside the judgment or order after hearing further arguments; or
 - (ii) certifies, or is deemed to have certified, that he requires no further arguments.

(4) For the avoidance of doubt, a party to the hearing may, but is not required to, request for further arguments before he files a notice of appeal in respect of the judgment or order.”.

Amendment of section 30

8. Section 30 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting subsection (2) and substituting the following subsection:

“(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Court of Appeal in the exercise of its civil jurisdiction shall, if it

consists of 2 Judges of Appeal, be duly constituted for the purpose of hearing and determining —

- (a) an application to extend the time for filing and serving a notice of appeal;
- (b) an application to discharge or vary any direction or order made under section 36(1);
- (c) an appeal against an interlocutory judgment;
- (d) an appeal against any judgment or order obtained after the hearing of an assessment of damages;
- (e) an appeal against any judgment or order obtained after the hearing of a taking of accounts between parties; or
- (f) an appeal against any judgment or order obtained after any proceedings other than the trial or hearing of any action or matter commenced by any originating process.”; and

(b) by inserting, immediately after subsection (3), the following subsection:

“(3A) No Judge of Appeal shall sit as a member of the Court of Appeal on the hearing of an application to discharge or vary any direction or order made by him under section 36(1).”.

Amendment of section 34

9. Section 34 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by deleting paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of subsection (1) and substituting the following paragraph:

“(a) where a Judge makes an order specified in the Fourth Schedule, except in such

circumstances as may be specified in that Schedule;”;

(b) by deleting the words “the Court of Appeal or” in subsection (2);

(c) by deleting paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and substituting the following paragraph:

“(a) where the amount in dispute, or the value of the subject-matter, at the hearing before the High Court (excluding interest and costs) does not exceed \$250,000 or such other amount as may be specified by an order made under subsection (3);”;

(d) by deleting paragraph (d) of subsection (2) and substituting the following paragraph:

“(d) where a Judge makes an order specified in the Fifth Schedule, except in such circumstances as may be specified in that Schedule; or”; and

(e) by deleting subsection (2A) and substituting the following subsections:

“(2A) Subsection (2)(a) shall not apply to any case heard and determined by the High Court in the exercise of its original jurisdiction under —

(a) section 17A;

(b) section 59 or Part X of the Women’s Charter; or

(c) any written law which requires that case to be heard and determined by the High Court in the exercise of its original jurisdiction.

(2B) An order of a Judge giving or refusing leave under subsection (2) shall be final.”.

Amendment of section 36

10. Section 36(3) of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the word “Every”, the words “direction or”.

Amendment of section 74

11. Section 74 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “, whether in the High Court or in any subordinate court, and” in subsection (1) and substituting the words “in any court or subordinate court,”;
- (b) by inserting, immediately after the words “any court” in subsection (1)(a) and (b), the words “or subordinate court”;
- (c) by deleting the words “is unable on account of poverty” in subsection (2) and substituting the words “satisfies the High Court that he lacks the means”; and
- (d) by inserting, immediately after subsection (4), the following subsection:

“(5) In this section, “legal proceedings” includes any proceedings, process, action, application or appeal in any civil matter or criminal matter.”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 75

12. Section 75 of the principal Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor:

“Disqualification of Registrar

75.—(1) Except with the approval of the Chief Justice, the Registrar, the Deputy Registrar and an Assistant Registrar —

- (a) shall not be capable of —
 - (i) accepting or taking any other office of emolument; or
 - (ii) carrying on any business either directly or indirectly; and

(b) shall not accept any fees of office, perquisites, emoluments or advantages, other than his salary and allowances.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Registrar, the Deputy Registrar and an Assistant Registrar may, with the approval of the Chief Justice —

(a) be appointed to any commission of inquiry, committee of inquiry or other judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative tribunal, or hold any office in any institution or society for charitable purposes or for the advancement or encouragement of art, science, education or other knowledge; and

(b) receive an allowance or other honorarium in respect of that appointment or office.”.

New section 83

13. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 82, the following section:

“Amendment of Third, Fourth and Fifth Schedules

83.—(1) The Minister may, after consulting the Chief Justice, by order published in the *Gazette*, amend the Third, Fourth or Fifth Schedule.

(2) An order under subsection (1) may contain such transitional and savings provisions as may appear to the Minister, after consulting the Chief Justice, to be necessary or expedient.”.

New Third, Fourth and Fifth Schedules

14. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the Second Schedule, the following Schedules:

“THIRD SCHEDULE

Sections 21(2B) and 83

ORDERS MADE BY DISTRICT COURT OR MAGISTRATE’S COURT THAT ARE NON-APPEALABLE

No appeal shall be brought to the High Court in any of the following cases:

- (a) where a District Court or Magistrate’s Court makes an order giving unconditional leave to defend any proceedings;
- (b) where a District Court or Magistrate’s Court makes an order giving leave to defend any proceedings on condition that the party defending those proceedings pays into court or gives security for the sum claimed, except if the appellant is that party;
- (c) where a District Court or Magistrate’s Court makes an order setting aside unconditionally a default judgment, regardless of how the default judgment was obtained (including whether by reason of a breach of an order of court or otherwise);
- (d) where a District Court or Magistrate’s Court makes an order setting aside a default judgment on condition that the party against whom the judgment had been entered pays into court or gives security for the sum claimed, regardless of how the default judgment was obtained (including whether by reason of a breach of an order of court or otherwise), except if the appellant is that party.

FOURTH SCHEDULE

Sections 34(1)(a) and 83

ORDERS MADE BY JUDGE THAT ARE NON-APPEALABLE

No appeal shall be brought to the Court of Appeal in any of the following cases:

- (a) where a Judge makes an order giving unconditional leave to defend any proceedings;
- (b) where a Judge makes an order giving leave to defend any proceedings on condition that the party defending those proceedings pays into court or gives security for the sum claimed, except if the appellant is that party;
- (c) where a Judge makes an order setting aside unconditionally a default judgment, regardless of how the default judgment was obtained (including whether by reason of a breach of an order of court or otherwise);

- (d) where a Judge makes an order setting aside a default judgment on condition that the party against whom the judgment had been entered pays into court or gives security for the sum claimed, regardless of how the default judgment was obtained (including whether by reason of a breach of an order of court or otherwise), except if the appellant is that party;
- (e) where a Judge makes an order refusing to strike out —
 - (i) an action or a matter commenced by a writ of summons or by any other originating process; or
 - (ii) a pleading or a part of a pleading;
- (f) where a Judge makes an order giving or refusing further and better particulars;
- (g) where a Judge makes an order giving leave to amend a pleading, except if —
 - (i) the application for such leave is made after the expiry of any relevant period of limitation current at the date of issue of the writ of summons; and
 - (ii) the amendment is an amendment to correct the name of a party or to alter the capacity in which a party sues, or the effect of the amendment will be to add or substitute a new cause of action;
- (h) where a Judge makes an order refusing security for costs;
- (i) where a Judge makes an order giving or refusing interrogatories.

FIFTH SCHEDULE

Sections 34(2)(d) and 83

ORDERS MADE BY JUDGE THAT ARE APPEALABLE ONLY WITH LEAVE

Except with the leave of a Judge, no appeal shall be brought to the Court of Appeal in any of the following cases:

- (a) where a Judge makes an order refusing leave to amend a pleading, except if —
 - (i) the application for such leave is made after the expiry of any relevant period of limitation current at the date of issue of the writ of summons; and
 - (ii) the amendment is an amendment to correct the name of a party or to alter the capacity in which a party sues, or the

effect of the amendment will be to add or substitute a new cause of action;

- (b) where a Judge makes an order giving security for costs;
- (c) where a Judge makes an order giving or refusing discovery or inspection of documents;
- (d) where a Judge makes an order refusing a stay of proceedings;
- (e) where a Judge makes an order at the hearing of any interlocutory application other than an application for any of the following matters:
 - (i) for summary judgment;
 - (ii) to set aside a default judgment;
 - (iii) to strike out an action or a matter commenced by a writ of summons or by any other originating process, a pleading or a part of a pleading;
 - (iv) to dismiss an action or a matter commenced by a writ of summons or by any other originating process;
 - (v) for further and better particulars;
 - (vi) for leave to amend a pleading;
 - (vii) for security for costs;
 - (viii) for discovery or inspection of documents;
 - (ix) for interrogatories to be varied or withdrawn, or for leave to serve interrogatories;
 - (x) for a stay of proceedings.”.

Transitional and savings provisions

15.—(1) Section 4(a) shall not apply to any decision of a District Court or Magistrate’s Court in any suit or action for the recovery of immovable property or in any civil cause or matter made before the date of commencement of this Act, and section 21(1) of the principal Act in force immediately before that date shall apply to any such decision as if section 4(a) had not been enacted.

(2) Sections 4(b) and 14, only in so far as they relate to the insertion of the new section 21(2B) of and the new Third Schedule to the principal Act, shall not apply to any order made by a District Court or

Magistrate's Court that is specified in that Schedule, if that order is made before the date of commencement of this Act.

(3) Section 7 and section 9(a), only in so far as it relates to the deletion of section 34(1)(c) of the principal Act, shall not apply to any interlocutory order in chambers made by a Judge before the date of commencement of this Act, and section 34(1)(c) of the principal Act in force immediately before that date shall apply to any such order as if sections 7 and 9(a) had not been enacted.

(4) Sections 9(a) and 14, only in so far as they relate to the deletion and substitution of section 34(1)(a) of, the deletion of section 34(1)(b) of and the insertion of the new Fourth Schedule to the principal Act, shall not apply to any order made by a Judge that is specified in that Schedule, if that order is made before the date of commencement of this Act, and section 34(1)(a) and (b) of the principal Act in force immediately before that date shall apply to any order referred to therein as if sections 9(a) and 14 had not been enacted.

(5) Section 9(b) shall not apply to any application made before the date of commencement of this Act for the leave of the Court of Appeal under section 34(2) of the principal Act in force immediately before that date, and section 34(2) of the principal Act in force immediately before that date shall apply to any such application as if section 9(b) had not been enacted.

(6) Section 9(c) shall not apply to any decision of the High Court in any civil cause or matter made before the date of commencement of this Act, and section 34(2)(a) of the principal Act in force immediately before that date shall apply to any such decision as if section 9(c) had not been enacted.

(7) Section 9(d) and section 14, only in so far as it relates to the insertion of the new Fifth Schedule to the principal Act, shall not apply to any order made by a Judge that is specified in that Schedule, if that order is made before the date of commencement of this Act, and section 34(2)(d) of the principal Act in force immediately before that date shall apply to any order referred to therein as if sections 9(d) and 14 had not been enacted.

(8) Section 9(e), only in so far as it relates to the insertion of the new section 34(2B) of the principal Act, shall not apply to any application

made before the date of commencement of this Act for the leave of the Court of Appeal under section 34(2) of the principal Act in force immediately before that date, and section 34(2) of the principal Act in force immediately before that date shall apply to any such application as if section 9(e), only in so far as it relates to the insertion of the new section 34(2B) of the principal Act, had not been enacted.
