



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

IN THE LABOUR COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA, JOHANNESBURG

Not Reportable

Not of interest to other judges

Case no: JS480/2008

In the matter between

REUBEN SEHLOHO & OTHERS

APPLICANTS

and

CHOICE FOODS

RESPONDENT

Date heard: **In chambers:**

Date delivered: **9 May 2018**

Summary: Application for leave to appeal

JUDGMENT – LEAVE TO APPEAL

COETZEE AJ

- [1] In the *ex tempore* judgment with reasons of 24 November 2017 I gave judgment in favour of the applicants with costs.
- [2] The respondent on 29 March 2018 filed an application for leave to appeal.
- [3] The application for leave to appeal sets out the various grounds of appeal.
- [4] The respondent filed written submissions in support of the application for leave to appeal.
- [5] The application for leave to appeal is unopposed.
- [6] The respondent filed its application for leave to appeal outside of the prescribed period. It explained that it was not late as it only received the judgment on 15 March 2018. That means that the application for leave to appeal was served and filed in good time.
- [7] I have considered the application for leave to appeal and the written representations in chambers.
- [8] In terms of Rule 30 (2)

‘If leave to appeal has not been made at the time of judgment or order, an application for leave must be made and the grounds for appeal furnished within 15 days of the date of the judgment or order against which leave to appeal is sought, except that the court may, on good cause shown, extend that period’
- [9] Section 17 of the Superior Courts Act, No 10 of 2013 regulates an application for leave to appeal from a decision of a High Court. It reads as follows:

‘17. Leave to appeal. —

(1) Leave to appeal may only be given where the judge or judges concerned are of the opinion that—

(a) (i) the appeal would have a reasonable prospect of success; or

(ii) there is some other compelling reason why the appeal should be heard, including conflicting judgments on the matter under consideration;

(b) the decision sought on appeal does not fall within the ambit of section 16 (2) (a); and

(c) where the decision sought to be appealed does not dispose of all the issues in the case, the appeal would lead to a just and prompt resolution of the real issues between the parties'.

[10] This section also applies to applications for leave to appeal in the Labour Court.¹

[11] The Court in *Mgezeni Gasbat Nxumalo v the National Bargaining Council for the Chemical Industry (NBCCI) and Others*² conveniently summarised the approach to an application for leave to appeal:

'The traditional formulation of the test that is applicable in an application such as the present requires the court to determine whether there is a reasonable prospect that another court may come to a different conclusion to that reached in the judgment that is sought to be taken on appeal. As the respondents observe, the use of the word "would" in s17(1)(a)(i) are indicative of a raising of the threshold since previously, all that was required for the applicant to demonstrate was that there was a reasonable prospect that another court might come to a different conclusion (see *Daantjie Community and Others v Crocodile Valley Citrus Company (Pty) Ltd and Another* (75/2008) [2015] ZALCC 7 (28 July 2015). Further, this is not a test to be applied lightly – the Labour Appeal Court has recently had occasion to observe that this court ought to be cautious when leave to appeal is granted, as should the Labour Appeal Court when petitions are granted. The statutory imperative of the expeditious resolution of labour disputes necessarily requires that appeals be limited to those matters in which there is a reasonable prospect that the factual matrix could receive a different treatment or where there is some legitimate dispute on the law (See the judgment by Davis, JA in

¹ Section 151 of the Labour Relations Act, Act 66 of 1995

² JR1170 /2013 unreported

Martin and East (Pty) Ltd v NUM (2014) 35 ILJ 2399 (LAC), and also *Kruger v S* 2014 (1) SACR 369 (SCA) and the ruling by Steenkamp, J in *Oasys Innovations (Pty) Ltd v Henning and Another* (C 536/15, 6 November 2015) and also *Seatlholo and Others v Chemical, Energy, Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers' Union and Others*³.

[12] I do not intend to deal with each of the grounds of appeal separately.

[13] The respondent has not raised grounds other than those in the hearing of the matter which matters were addressed in the reasons for the judgment.

[14] In my view after careful consideration of the respondent's stated grounds for leave to appeal and the submissions, there is nothing that persuades me that any appeal would have a reasonable prospect of success.

[15] There are no other compelling reasons why leave to appeal should be granted.

[16] There is no reason why a cost order should be made in this application.

[17] I make the following order:

[17.1] The application for leave to appeal is dismissed.

[17.2] There is no order as to costs.

Coetzee AJ

Acting judge of the Labour Court

³ (2016) 37 ILJ 1485 (LC)

Representation:

For the applicant: Considered in chambers

For the Respondent: Considered in chambers