

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD

CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 1817 OF 2018
IN
FIRST APPEAL STAMP NO. 40308 OF 2017

Sahebrao Deorao Gunjal ...Applicant

Versus

The State of Maharashtra and Ors. ...Respondents

Mr Abhijit S. More, Advocate for Applicant
Mr P.M.Kulkarni, A.G.P. for Respondent Nos. 1 and 3
Mr Gulab Rajale, Advocate for Respondent No. 2 (Absent)

CORAM : SHRIKANT D. KULKARNI, J.

DATE: 16th SEPTEMBER, 2020

ORAL ORDER :

1. It is an application for condonation of delay moved by the applicant/original claimant by taking aid of section 5 of the Limitation Act, 1963.

2. Heard Mr Abhijit More, learned counsel for the applicant and the learned Assistant Government Pleader for respondent Nos. 1 and 3. Perused the record.

3. Mr Gulab Rajale, the learned counsel for respondent No. 2 is neither available in the Court Hall where video conferencing facility is made available nor virtually available, when the matter is called out.

4. There is delay of 743 days in preferring the appeal by the applicant. The applicant has assigned the reasons in his application in para No. 2 to that effect. He could not prefer the appeal within time due to financial crisis. The delay was neither deliberate nor intentional. The delay needs to be condoned in order to decide the cause on merits.

5. The reliance can be placed on the ratio laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in case of ***the Collector, Land Acquisition, Anantnag & Another Vs. Mast. Katji and others, reported in AIR 1987 Supreme Court 1353***, wherein it is observed that refusing to condone delay can result in a meritorious matter being thrown out at the very threshold and cause of justice being defeated. As against this, when delay is condoned, the highest that can happen is that a cause would be decided on merits after hearing the parties. Making a justice oriented approach from this perspective, there is sufficient cause to condone the delay in the institution of the appeal.

6. It is necessary to obtain undertaking from the applicant that he would not take statutory benefits for the delayed period in case he succeeds in appeal for enhancement.

7. Having regard to the above reasons and discussion, I proceed to pass the following order :

ORDER

(i) The application for condonation of delay moved by the applicant is hereby allowed.

- (ii) The appeal be registered after due scrutiny.
 - (iii) The applicant/original claimant shall furnish his undertaking with the Registry that he would not claim statutory benefits provided in the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 for the delayed period in case he succeeds in the appeal.
 - (iv) Issue notice to the respondent Nos. 1 to 3, returnable on 28th October, 2020.
 - (v) The learned Assistant Government Pleader waives notice for respondent Nos. 1 and 3.
 - (vi) Call Record and Proceedings from the Reference Court.
8. Place the matter on 28th October, 2020.

[SHRIKANT D. KULKARNI, J.]

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