

(2023) 09 GUJ CK 0065

In the Gujarat High Court

Case No : R/Civil Application No. 922 Of 2023 In F/First Appeal No. 15379 Of 2023

Nileshkumar Ambalalbhair Patel

APPELLANT

Vs

Amathabhai Savsibhai Suneta

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 21-09-2023

Acts Referred:

Limitation Act, 1963 — Section 5

Citation : (2023) 09 GUJ CK 0065

Hon'ble Judges : Gita Gopi, J

Bench : Single Bench

Advocate : A R Dwivedi, R G Dwivedi

Final Decision : Allowed

Judgement

Gita Gopi, J

1. The present application has been filed for condonation of delay of 338 days caused in filing the First Appeal.

2. Learned advocate for the applicant states that the applicant is an agriculturist and being resident of interior area, did not have the information of the judgment and award and only after receiving the compensation amount, which is also on lower side, could make arrangement for Court fees and other expenses.

3. In the case of Collector, Land Acquisition, Anantnag and Another v. Mst. Katiji and Others reported in AIR 1987 SC 1353 it has been observed as under :-

"3. The legislature has conferred the power to condone delay by enacting Section 5 of the Indian Limitation Act of 1963 in order to enable the Courts to do substantial justice to parties by disposing of matters on 'merits'. The expression "sufficient cause" employed by the legislature is adequately elastic to enable the courts to apply the law in a meaning- ful manner which subserves the ends of justice that being the life-purpose for the existence of the institution of Courts. It

is common knowledge that this Court has been making a justifiably liberal approach in matters instituted in this Court. But the message does not appear to have percolated down to all the other Courts in the hierarchy. And such a liberal approach is adopted on principle as it is realized that:-

1. Ordinarily a litigant does not stand to benefit by lodging an appeal late.
2. 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 con-doned the highest that can happen is that a cause would be decided on merits after hearing the parties.
3. "Every day's delay must be explained" does not mean that a pedantic approach should be made. Why not every hour's delay, every second's delay? The doctrine must be applied in a rational common sense pragmatic manner.
4. When substantial justice and technical considerations are pitted against each other, cause of substantial justice deserves to be preferred for the other side cannot claim to have vested right in injustice being done because of a non-deliberate delay.
5. There is no presumption that delay is occasioned deliberately, or on account of culpable negligence, or on account of mala fides. A litigant does not stand to benefit by resorting to delay. In fact he runs a serious risk.
6. It must be grasped that judiciary is respected not on account of its power to legalize injustice on technical grounds but because it is capable of removing injustice and is expected to do so."
4. Considering the averments made in the application and as the delay is sufficiently explained and in view of the facts and circumstances of the case, the delay of 338 days caused in filing the First Appeal is condoned. The application is allowed.