

**IN THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL  
HYDERABAD BENCH, HYDERABAD**

**CA No.277 /252/HDB/2017**

U/s 252 (3) of the Companies Act, 2013  
R/w Rule 87A of and 34 of NCLT Rules, 2016

In the matter of

Mr. Paul Bhaskar Marapatla &  
Mrs. Chaya Marapatla  
Shareholders & Directors of  
**Axis Seven E Constructures Pvt. Ltd**  
Flat No.G1, Manivenkata Residency,  
39-6-79/1, near Visakha ITC, Muralingar  
Visakhapatnam – 530007  
Andhra Pradesh

...Applicants

**Versus**

The Registrar of Companies  
2<sup>ND</sup> Floor, CORPORATE BHAWAN, GSI POST,  
TATTIANNARAM, NAGOLE, BANDLAGUDA  
HYDERABAD – 500068

...Respondents

Date of order: 29.12.2017

Coram:

Hon'ble Shri Rajeswara Rao Vittanala, Member (Judicial)

Parties / Counsels present:

For the Applicant:	Dr. S.V. Ramakrishna along with Shri S.V. Vanshi Krishna, Advocates
For the Respondent:	Shri R.C. Mishra, RoC Shri Josekutty V.E, DRoC

**Per: Rajeswara Rao Vittanala, Member (Judicial)**

**ORDER**

1. The present Company Application bearing CA No. 277/252/HDB/2017 is filed by Mr Paul Bhaskar Marapatla & Another, Directors and shareholders of



Axis Seven Econstructures Private Limited (Applicants herein) under Section 252 (3) of Companies Act, 2013, R/w Rule - 87A of the National Company Law Tribunal (Amendment) Rules, 2017, seeking the following reliefs.



- (a) To allow the Appeal to restore the Company from the "strike off" status to "active" status so that the Company would be in a position to file to comply with the statutory requirements by filing the arrear documents including the Balance Sheets, Annual Returns etc. on payment of applicable additional filing fee for late filing within four weeks;
  - (b) To direct the Registrar of Companies at Hyderabad to restore the name of the Company to the Register of "Active" companies maintained by the Registrar of Companies and allow access to the relevant portal to the Company and to its authorised officers to file various returns / eforms including the Annual Returns, Balance Sheets etc. for the previous financial years ended 31.3.2014 to 31.3.2016 together with the applicable late filing fee;
  - (c) To direct the Respondent Registrar of Companies at Hyderabad to remove disqualification u/s 164(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 of the Appellants Mr. Paul Bhaskar Marapatla (DIN No.02760413) and Mrs. Chaya Marapatla (DIN No.07305301) who are two Directors of the Company to carry on their regular duties as Directors of the Company; etc.
2. Brief facts, leading to filing of the present company application, are as under:




- (a) Axis Seven EConstructures Private Limited was incorporated on 27th April, 2004 in the name of "V R SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED" and subsequently its name was changed to "AXIS SEVEN ECONSTRUCTURES PRIVATE LIMITED" and obtained Fresh Certificate of Incorporation dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2009. The above Company is engaged in the business of construction of residential apartments/flats, housing development, real estate. The main objects of the above Company include to lay out, develop, construct, build, erect, demolish re-erect, alter, re-model or do any other work in connection with any building, scheme, roads, highways, docks, etc.
- (b) The Company is a closely held private company having only two shareholders i.e the Applicants who are also its Directors. But due to inadvertent non-filing of the Annual Returns for the past few years caused the disqualification of the directors u/s 164(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 and the name of the said Company is struck off u/s 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 from the Register of the Registrar of Companies at Hyderabad for the State of Telangana and the Andhra Pradesh.
- (c) The Company has been regular in filing its annual returns, balance sheets, etc. with the Registrar of Companies and the last documents pertain to the financial year ended 31.3.2013 as per the Company Master Data available with the Registrar of Companies. Filings of Annual Report for the subsequent financial years were unfortunately missed out for filing with ROC due to lack of



proper coordination between the staff of the above Company and the Statutory Auditors/ Company Secretaries and the promoter directors are under the impression that they were regularly filed.

- (d) It is further submitted that the above Company is a running Company having assets and liabilities as reflected in the Balance Sheet as on 31.3.2017 and various other stakeholders by way of employees, customers, clients, government agencies. The striking off the name of the above Company adversely affected the interests of the various stakeholders and the society in general and it is urgent and essential to restore its name to "active" mode from 'strike off' mode in the Register of the Registrar of Companies as the Company is suffering irreparable loss and injury.

The financial position of the Company is as under:-



Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount (Rs.)
1.	Paid up capital	1,00,000
2.	Free Reserves	(-) 3,25,008
3.	Long term loans / Unsecured loans	7592802
4.	Inventories	13125533
5.	Trade payables	10540023
6.	Trade Receivables	1465947
7.	Cash & bank balances	1906001

- (e) It is submitted that Non-filing of the above annual returns is neither wilful nor wanton but due to lack of proper coordination between the staff and the Chartered Accountant/Company Secretary in Practice who were authorised to file

the annual returns but somehow missed out inadvertently.

- (f) The above Company is in the midst of completion of a large construction project comprising Stilt + Ground Floor + 4 upper floors with a floor area of 5,719.25 sq.mtrs. a residential complex known as 'AXIS HEIGHTS' at Kurmannapalem, Visakhapatnam after obtaining necessary approvals from the Commissioner, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) and Occupancy Certificate dated 28.6.2016 was issued by the Commissioner, GVMC to the above Company. There are many incidental and finishing works that are going on to the building and various Customers are waiting for the same to be handed over to the owners as per contractual obligations. Thus, the above Company is a running company with various stakeholders and strike off its name put all the stakeholders to hardship and suffering loss and injury. Hence, it is urgently required to be restored to 'active' status and its directors' DIN numbers should be enabled for filing necessary statutory returns with ROC.

- (g) It is further submitted that the above Company is a genuine running company with various stakeholders and its accounts were duly audited every year. It is further confirmed that the bank account of the Company is used only for genuine business transactions and no abnormal entries are there in the Bank Account of the Company post-demonetization during 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.



(h) Therefore the present appeal/application is filed by seeking to restore the Company, by seeking the reliefs stated as supra.

3. Heard Dr. S.V. Ramakrishna and Shri Vanshi Krisha, Learned Counsels for the Applicant Company and Mr.Ramesh Chandra Mishra, ROC, and also carefully perused all the documents filed along with ROC report. Ref No. ROCH/ LEGAL/ SEC252/ 43145/ ASEPVT/ STACK/2017dated 28.12.2017.

4. Dr. S.V. Ramakrishna, learned counsel for the Appellant/applicant, while reiterating all the contentions raised in the Company Application, further submitted that, apart from the lacunae's as point out in this application, the Company is willing to file all its pending statutory returns with the ROC along with prescribed/addl. fees. He further submit that if the name of Company is not restored to original status, the Company, its employees, and their families apart from the Public, would suffer irreparable loss and injury. Therefore, he prayed the Tribunal to take a lenient view by condoning the delay in filing statutory returns, and it may be permitted to file the same within short time and allow the Application as prayed.

5. He has also relied upon the judgment of the Hon'ble Bombay High Court in the matter of Purushottamdass and Anr. (Bulakidas Mohta Co.P Ltd.) Vs. Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra, & Ors., (1986) 60 Comp Cas 154 (Bom), by inter-alia stating that;

*“the object of Section 560(6) of the Companies Act is to give a chance to the Company, its members and creditors to revive the company which has been struck off by the Registrar of Companies, within period of 20*





*years, and given them an opportunity of carrying on the business only after the company judge is satisfied that such restoration is necessary in the interest of justice.”*

6. Mr. Ramesh Chandra Mishra, Registrar of Companies, by reiterating the averments made in his report Ref. No.ROCH/LEGAL/SEC252/43145/ASEPVT/STACK/2017 dated 28.12.2017, has further submitted that the Tribunal may consider the case of the Company subject to filing all pending returns namely annual returns, balance sheets with fee and addl. fees as prescribed under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013. It may also be directed to ensure statutory compliance of applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 without any delay in future. However it is submitted that the impugned notices are issued strictly in accordance with law.
7. In order to examine the issue of striking off companies, it is necessary to advert to relevant provisions in Companies Act, 2013. And the relevant provisions are sections 248 and 252 of The Companies Act 2013



**Chapter XVIII deals with Removal of Companies from the Registrar of Companies.**

**Power of Registrar to remove name of company from register of companies**

248 (1) Where the Registrar has reasonable cause to believe that—

- (a) *a company has failed to commence its business within one year of its incorporation;*
- (b) *the subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay*

*within a period of one hundred and eighty days from the date of incorporation of a company and a declaration under sub-section (1) of section 11 to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation; or*

- (c) *a company is not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has not made any application within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455, he shall send a notice to the company and all the directors of the company, of his intention to remove the name of the company from the register of companies and requesting them to send their representations along with copies of the relevant documents, if any, within a period of thirty days from the date of the notice.*

- (5) *At the expiry of the time mentioned in the notice, the Registrar may, unless cause to the contrary is shown by the company, strike off its name from the register of companies, and shall Gazette of this notice, the company shall stand dissolved.*

- (6) *The Registrar, before passing an order under sub-section (5), shall satisfy himself that sufficient provision has been made for the realisation of all amounts due to the company and for the payment or discharge of its liabilities and obligations by the company within a reasonable time and, if necessary, obtain necessary undertakings from the managing director, director or other persons in charge of the management of the company:*

*Provided that notwithstanding the undertakings referred to in this sub-section, the assets of the*





company shall be made available for the payment or discharge of all its liabilities and obligations even after the date of the order removing the name of the company from the register of companies.

**Appeal to Tribunal deals with under Section 252 of the Companies' Act, which reads as follows:**

252 (1) Any person aggrieved by an order of the registrar, notifying a company is dissolved under section 248 May file an appeal to the Tribunal within a period of three years from the date of the order of the Registrar and if the Tribunal is of the opinion that the removal of the name of the company from the Register of companies is not justified in view of the absence of any of the grounds on which the order was passed by the registrar, it may under restoration of the name of the company in the register of the companies; provided that before passing any order under this section that liberal shall give a reasonable opportunity of making representations of being heard to the register, the company and all the persons concerned:

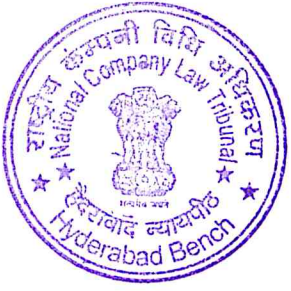


Provided further that if the registrar is satisfied that the name of the company has been struck off from the register of companies either inadvertently or on the basis of incorrect information furnished by the company or its directors, which requires restoration in the register of companies he may within a period of three years from the date of passing of the

order of dissolving the companies under section 248, file an application before the tribunal seeking restoration of name of such company



- (2) A copy of the order passed by the Tribunal shall be filed by the company with the registrar within 30 days from the date of the order and on receipt of the order the Registrar shall cause the name of the company to be restored in the register of companies and shall issue a fresh certificate of incorporation.
- (3) If a company or any member or creditor or workmen d feels aggrieved by the company having its name struck off from the Register of companies, the Tribunal on an application made by the company, member, creditor or workmen before the expiry of 20 years from the publication in the official Gazette of the notice under subsection (5) of section 248 may if satisfied that the company was, at the time of its name being struck off, carrying on business or in operation or otherwise it is just that the name of the company be restored to the Registrar of companies, order the name of the company to be restored to the Registrar of companies, the Tribunal may, by the order, give other such directions and make such provisions as deem just for placing the company and all the persons in the same position as merely as may be in the name of the company had not been struck off from the Register of companies.



8. As stated supra, there is a prescribed procedure under the Act as to how the Registrar of Companies would strike off from the Register of companies. By reading of averments made in the application and the submissions made by the Learned Registrar of Companies, the impugned notices have been issued in accordance with law as stated supra. However, before taking final action to strike off a Concerned Company U/s 248(5), the Registrar of Companies, is under duty to follow proviso 6 of section 248, which mandates the Registrar of Companies to satisfy himself that sufficient provisions has been made for realisation of all amounts due to the Company and for payment or discharge of its liabilities and obligations etc. In the instant case, as stated supra, there are employees working in the Company to develop real estate business including lands, buildings, houses, etc., and the employees are to be paid their wages for the services rendered. And thus striking off the name of Company would also result in serious repercussions like Debit Freeze accounts of the Company with its Bankers etc. However, the Registrar of Companies has failed to see this issue before issuing the impugned Gazette notification, leading even workers/employees aggrieved by the impugned action. However, the appellant for the Company pleaded that in view of hardship, a lenient view may be taken by the Tribunal in the interest of justice.
9. As per section 252 (3) as extracted above, a Company, or any member or creditor workman, if they feel aggrieved by striking off its name can approach the Tribunal by way of application, before expiry of 20



years after date of publication. On being filed an application, the Tribunal can order to restore striking off company on its role, if it is satisfied that the company was, at the time of **its name being struck off, carrying on business or in operation or otherwise it is just** that name of a company be restored to the Registrar of companies.



As narrated supra, it is not in dispute application has been filed by properly authorised person on behalf of Company, it is within limitation and it is carrying on business even by time of impugned action, and it has suitably explained the reasons for not filing required documents with Registrar of Companies, which ultimately leads to impugned action.

10. The Ministry of corporate affairs has issued a notification dated 26 December 2016 framing the rules under section 248 known as companies (Removal of names from the ROC) Rules 2016

Rule 3 (2) and (3) are relevant to the present case, which is extracted below for ready reference:

*“3(2): for the purpose of sub rule (1) The Registrar shall give a notice in writing in the form of STK-1 which shall be sent to all the Directors of the company at the addresses available on record by registered post with acknowledgement due or by speed post*

*3(3): The notice shall contain the reasons on which the name of the company is to be removed from the Register of companies and shall seek representations, if any against the proposed action from the company and its directors along with the copies of the relevant*

*documents if any, within a period of 30 days from the date of notice*

**Manner of Publication of Notice:**

The Rule 7 is read as to manner of publication of notice:-(1) the notice under subsection (1) or subsection (2) or section 248 shall be in form STK -5 or STK-6 , as the case may be and be-



- (I) placed on the official website of the Ministry of corporate affairs on a separate link established on such other website in this regard
- (II) Published in the official Gazette
- (III) Published in English language in leading newspaper and at least once in vernacular language in leading vernacular language newspaper, both having wide circulation in the state in which the registered office of the company is situated

**Rule 9** deals with the Notice of striking off and dissolution of the company.

11. Article 19(g) in the Constitution of India 1950, confers right to all citizens of India to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, Trade or Business.

In accordance with this Constitutional provision, the Companies Act of 2013 also confers such rights to its citizen by permitting them to incorporate a Company under the Act to carry on any profession, Trade and Business. In the instant case, it is not in dispute that the Company is incorporated in accordance with Act and prima facie to prove that the Applicant Company is following all extant provisions of companies Act in



consonance with its Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association of the Company till the impugned violation(s) are noticed. It is not in dispute that Registrar of the Companies is empowered to take the impugned action and only the point here is that he has to strictly comply with provisions as extracted above. A Court/Tribunal cannot interfere with normal activities of business of a Company being carried on in accordance with law unless any serious violation of law committed by a Company. As stated supra, the impugned violations are not so severe so as to take serious view of it. Moreover, the Company has come forward to file all required documents comply in accordance with law along prescribed/additional fee along with fine. It is also relevant to point out here that there is no bar for a Company, which is struck off, can register new company, in accordance with law.

12. As stated supra, the Company is into Real Estate Business and it is running without any interruption. The Employees are suffering a lot by virtue of impugned action. In terms of section 248(6) of Act as extracted supra, the above consequences are required to be looked into while passing final order under 248(5) of the Act. It is no doubt that the Company, on its part, is under statutory obligation to comply with all extant provisions Companies Act, 2013. The Company is now satisfactorily explained to Tribunal the reasons for the delay in filing statutory returns in question and expressed its willingness to file them along with payment of prescribed fee.

As stated supra, the Learned ROC also did not oppose the application but it can be considered subject to



compliance of statutory provisions and undertaking etc.

13. In light of aforesaid facts and circumstances of case and the extant provisions of the companies Act 2013 and rules here under, I am satisfied that the applicant Company has filed the present application within prescribed time under law, and also shown sufficient reasons to order Restoration of its name in the Register of companies maintained by the Registrar of Companies. Therefore, the Company application deserves to be allowed, however, subject to filing all pending returns, Annual returns, Balance sheets, statements etc., along with prescribed and addl. fee under law. And also subject to giving undertaking that they would not resort to such type of violations in future.



14. By exercising the powers conferred on this Tribunal under Section 252 of the Companies Act, 2013, and Rule 87A of NCLT (Amendment) rules 2017 R/w NCLT Rules, 2016, the Company application bearing CA No.277/252/HDB/2017 is disposed of with the following directions:

- 1) The Registrar of Companies, the respondent herein, is ordered to restore the original status of the Applicant Company as if the name of the company has not been struck off from the Register of Companies and take all consequential actions like change of company's status from 'strike off' to Active (for e-filing), to restore and activate the DINs, to intimate the bankers about restoration of the name of the company so as to defreeze its accounts.

- 2) The Applicant company is directed to file all the statutory document(s) along with prescribed fees/ additional fee/fine as decided by ROC within 45 days from the date on which its name is restored on the Register of companies by the ROC;
- 3) The Company's representative, who has filed the Company application is directed to personally ensure compliance of this order.
- 4) The restoration of the Company's name is also subject to the payment of cost of Rs 30,000/- (Rupees Thirty thousand only) through online payment in [www.mca.gov.in](http://www.mca.gov.in) under miscellaneous fee by mentioning particulars as "payment of cost for revival of company pursuant to orders of Hon'ble NCLT in CA No.277/252/HDB/2017".
- 5) The applicant is directed to deliver a certified copy of this order with ROC within thirty days of the receipt of this order.
- 6) On such delivery and after duly complying with above directions, Registrar of Companies, Hyderabad is directed to, on his office name and seal, publish the order in the official Gazette;
- 7) This order is confined to the violations, which ultimately leads to the impugned action of striking of the Company, and it will not come in the way of RoC to take appropriate action(s) in accordance with law, for any other violations /offences, if any, committed by the applicant company prior or during the striking off of the company.



प्रमाणित प्रतिलिपि  
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

केस संख्या  
CASE NUMBER. CA No. 277/RS2/HDB/2017  
निर्णय का तारीख  
DATE OF JUDGEMENT 29.12.2017  
प्रति तैयार किया गया तारीख  
COPY MADE READY ON 7.2.2018

for *G. Anantha Lakshmi*  
Dy. Regr./Asst. Regr./Court Officer/  
National Company Law Tribunal, Hyderabad Bench

*8d/-*  
RAJESWARA RAO VITTANALA  
MEMBER (JUDICIAL)