

AMD. BY ACT #8/1961

CHAPTER 7

THE OVERSEAS JUDGMENTS (RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT) ACT, 1960

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

PART I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and application.
2. Interpretation.

PART II

REGISTRATION OF OVERSEAS JUDGMENTS

3. Power to extend Part II of Act to overseas countries giving reciprocal treatment.
4. Application for, and effect of, registration of overseas judgment.
5. Rules of court.
6. Cases in which registered judgments must, or may, be set aside.
7. Powers of registering court on application to set aside registration.
8. Overseas judgments which can be registered not to be enforceable otherwise.

PART III

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

9. General effect of certain overseas judgments.
10. Power to make overseas judgments unenforceable in Federation if no reciprocity.
11. Issue of certificates of judgments obtained in the Federation.
12. Judgments which can be, or already are, registered under the law of a Territory.

AN ACT to make provision for the enforcement in the Federation of judgments given in overseas countries which accord reciprocal treatment to judgments given in the Federation, for facilitating the enforcement in overseas countries of judgments given in the Federation, and for other purposes in connection with the matters aforesaid.

Date of assent 14th July, 1960
Commencement 14th July, 1960

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short
title and
applica-
tion.

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Overseas Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Act, 1960.

(2) This Act shall apply to the Cayman Islands and to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Interpre-
tation.

2. (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“appeal” includes any proceeding by way of discharging or setting aside a judgment or an application for a new trial or a stay of execution;

“country of the original court” means the country in which the original court is situated;

“judgment” means a judgment or order given or made by a court in any civil proceedings, or a judgment or order given or made by a court in any criminal proceedings for the payment of a sum of money in respect of compensation or damages to an injured party, and, in relation to any country or territory within the Commonwealth, includes an award in proceedings on an arbitration if the award has, in pursuance of the law in force in the place where it was made, become enforceable in the same manner as a judgment given by a court in that place;

“judgment creditor” means the person in whose favour the judgment was given and includes any person in whom the rights under the judgment have become vested by succession or assignment or otherwise;

“judgment debtor” means the person against whom the judgment was given, and includes any person against whom the judgment is enforceable under the law of the original court;

“original court” in relation to any judgment means the court by which the judgment was given:

“overseas country” means—

- (a) any foreign country; or
- (b) any country or territory within the Commonwealth and outside the Federation;

“overseas judgment” means a judgment of a court of an overseas country;

“prescribed” means prescribed by rules of court;

“registering court” in relation to any judgment means the court to which an application to register the judgment is made;

“superior court” in relation to a Territory means any court exercising original jurisdiction that is or forms part of a superior court of record established for that Territory;

“superior court of the Federation” means the Federal Supreme Court or any superior court of a Territory.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, the expression “action in personam” shall not be deemed to include any matrimonial cause or any proceedings in connection with any of the following matters, that is to say, matrimonial matters, administration of the estates of deceased persons, bankruptcy, winding up of companies, lunacy, or guardianship of infants.

PART II

REGISTRATION OF OVERSEAS JUDGMENTS

3. (1) For the purpose of implementing any agreement with, or obligation towards, or arrangement relating to, any overseas country the Governor-General may, if he is satisfied that, in the event of the benefits conferred by this Part of this Act being extended to judgments given in the superior courts of such overseas country, substantial reciprocity of treatment will be assured as respects the enforcement in that overseas country of judgments given in the superior courts of the Federation, direct by Order—

OVERSEAS JUDGMENTS (RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT)

- (a) that this Part of this Act shall extend to that overseas country; and
- (b) that such courts of that overseas country as are specified in the Order shall be deemed superior courts of that country for the purposes of this Part of this Act.

(2) Any judgment of a superior court of an overseas country to which this Part of this Act extends, other than a judgment of such a court given on appeal from a court which is not a superior court, shall be a judgment to which this Part of this Act applies, if—

- (a) it is final and conclusive between the parties thereto;
- (b) there is payable thereunder a sum of money, not being a sum payable in respect of taxes or other charges of a like nature or in respect of a fine or other penalty; and
- (c) it is given after the coming into operation of the Order directing that this Part of this Act shall extend to that overseas country.

(3) For the purposes of this section, a judgment shall be deemed to be final and conclusive notwithstanding that an appeal may be pending against it, or that it may still be subject to appeal, in the courts of the country of the original court.

(4) The Governor-General may by a subsequent Order vary or revoke any Order previously made under this section.

4. (1) A person, being a judgment creditor under a judgment to which this Part of this Act applies, may apply to a superior court of a Territory at any time within six years after the date of judgment, or, where there have been proceedings by way of appeal against the judgment, after the date of the last judgment given in those proceedings, to have the judgment registered in that superior court, and on any

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such application that court shall, subject to proof of the prescribed matters and to the other provisions of this Act, order the judgment to be registered:

Provided that a judgment shall not be registered if at the date of the application—

- (a) it has been wholly satisfied; or
- (b) it could not be enforced by execution in the country of the original court.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act with respect to the setting aside of registration—

- (a) a registered judgment shall, for the purposes of execution, be of the same force and effect; and
- (b) proceedings may be taken on a registered judgment; and
- (c) the sum for which a judgment is registered shall carry interest; and
- (d) the registering court shall have the same control over the execution of a registered judgment,

as if the judgment had been a judgment originally given in the registering court and entered on the date of registration:

Provided that execution shall not issue on the judgment so long as, under this Part of this Act and the rules of court made thereunder, it is competent for any party to make an application to have the registration of the judgment set aside, or, where such an application is made, until after the application has been finally determined.

(3) Where the sum payable under a judgment which is to be registered in a superior court of a Territory is expressed in a currency other than the currency of that Territory, the judgment shall be registered as if it were a judgment for such sum in the currency of that Territory as, on

the basis of the rate of exchange prevailing at the date of the judgment of the original court, is equivalent to the sum so payable.

(4) If at the date of the application for registration the judgment of the original court has been partly satisfied, the judgment shall not be registered in respect of the whole sum payable under the judgment of the original court, but only in respect of the balance remaining payable at that date.

(5) If, on an application for the registration of a judgment, it appears to the registering court that the judgment is in respect of different matters and that some, but not all, of the provisions of the judgment are such that if those provisions had been contained in separate judgments those judgments could properly have been registered, the judgment may be registered in respect of the provisions aforesaid but not in respect of any other provisions contained therein.

(6) In addition to the sum of money payable under the judgment of the original court, including any interest which by the law of the country of the original court becomes due under the judgment up to the time of registration, the judgment shall be registered for the reasonable costs of and incidental to registration, including the costs of obtaining a certified copy of the judgment from the original court.

Rules of
court.

5. (1) The Chief Justice of the Federation, after consultation with the Chief Justices of the superior courts of the Territories, shall make rules of court for regulating the practice and procedure of the superior courts of the Territories in respect of proceedings of any kind under this Act and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, may make rules for the following purposes—

- (a) for making provision with respect to the giving of security for costs by persons applying for the registration of judgments;
- (b) for prescribing the matters to be proved on an application for the registration of a judgment and for regulating the mode of proving those matters;

- (c) for providing for the service on the judgment debtor of notice of the registration of a judgment;
- (d) for making provision with respect to the fixing of the period within which an application may be made to have the registration of the judgment set aside and with respect to the extension of the period so fixed;
- (e) for prescribing the method by which any question arising under this Act whether an overseas judgment can be enforced by execution in the country of the original court, or what interest is payable under an overseas judgment under the law of the original court, is to be determined;
- (f) for prescribing any matter which under this Part of this Act is to be prescribed.

(2) Rules made for the purposes of this Part of this Act shall be expressed to have, and shall have, effect subject to any such provisions contained in Orders made under section 3 of this Act as are declared by the said Orders to be necessary for giving effect to agreements between the Federation and overseas countries in relation to matters with respect to which there is power to make rules of court for the purposes of this Part of this Act.

6. (1) On an application in that behalf duly made by any party against whom a registered judgment may be enforced, the registration of the judgment—

(a) shall be set aside if the registering court is satisfied—

(i) that the judgment is not a judgment to which this Part of this Act applies or was registered in contravention of the foregoing provisions of this Act; or

(ii) that the courts of the country of the original court had no jurisdiction in the circumstances of the case; or

Cases in which registered judgments must, or may, be set aside.

OVERSEAS JUDGMENTS (RECIPROCAL
ENFORCEMENT)

- (iii) that the judgment debtor, being the defendant in the proceedings in the original court, did not (notwithstanding that process may have been duly served on him in accordance with the law of the country of the original court) receive notice of those proceedings in sufficient time to enable him to defend the proceedings and did not appear; or
 - (iv) that the judgment was obtained by fraud; or
 - (v) that the enforcement of the judgment would be contrary to public policy in the Territory of the registering court; or
 - (vi) that the rights under the judgment are not vested in the person by whom the application for registration was made;
- (h) may be set aside if the registering court is satisfied that the matter in dispute in the proceedings in the original court had, previously to the date of the judgment in the original court been the subject of a final and conclusive judgment by a court having jurisdiction in the matter.

(2) For the purposes of this section the courts of the country of the original court shall, subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, be deemed to have had jurisdiction—

- (a) in the case of a judgment given in an action in personam—
 - (i) if the judgment debtor, being a defendant in the original court, submitted to the jurisdiction of that court by voluntarily appearing in the proceedings otherwise than for the purpose

- of protecting, or obtaining the release of, property seized, or threatened with seizure, in the proceedings or of contesting the jurisdiction of that court; or
- (ii) if the judgment debtor was plaintiff in, or counter-claimed in, the proceedings in the original court; or
 - (iii) if the judgment debtor, being a defendant in the original court, had before the commencement of the proceedings agreed, in respect of the subject matter of the proceedings, to submit to the jurisdiction of that court or of the courts of the country of that court; or
 - (iv) if the judgment debtor, being a defendant in the original court, was at the time when the proceedings were instituted resident in, or being a body corporate had its principal place of business in, the country of that court; or
 - (v) if the judgment debtor, being a defendant in the original court, had an office or place of business in the country of that court and the proceedings in that court were in respect of a transaction effected through or at that office or place;
- (b) in the case of a judgment given in an action of which the subject matter was immovable property or in an action in rem of which the subject matter was movable property, if the property in question was at the time of the proceedings in the original court situate in the country of that court;
- (c) in the case of a judgment given in an action, other than any such action as is mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection, if the

jurisdiction of the original court is recognised by the law of the registering court.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (2) of this section, the courts of the country of the original court shall not be deemed to have had jurisdiction—

- (a) if the subject matter of the proceedings was immovable property outside the country of the original court; or
- (b) except in the cases mentioned in subparagraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (a) and in paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of this section, if the bringing of the proceedings in the original court was contrary to an agreement under which the dispute in question was to be settled otherwise than by proceedings in the courts of the country of that court; or
- (c) if the judgment debtor, being a defendant in the original proceedings, was a person who under the rules of public international law was entitled to immunity from the jurisdiction of the courts of the country of the original court and did not submit to the jurisdiction of that court.

Powers of registering court on application to set aside registration.

7. (1) If, on an application to set aside the registration of a judgment, the applicant satisfies the registering court either that an appeal is pending, or that he is entitled and intends to appeal, against the judgment, the court, if it thinks fit, may, on such terms as it may think just, either set aside the registration or adjourn the application to set aside the registration until after the expiration of such period as appears to the court to be reasonably sufficient to enable the applicant to take the necessary steps to have the appeal disposed of by the competent tribunal.

(2) Where the registration of a judgment is set aside under subsection (1) of this section or solely for the reason that the judgment was not at the date of the application for

registration enforceable by execution in the country of the original court, the setting aside of the registration shall not prejudice a further application to register the judgment when the appeal has been disposed of or if and when the judgment becomes enforceable by execution in that country, as the case may be.

(3) Where the registration of a judgment is set aside solely for the reason that the judgment, notwithstanding that it had at the date of the application for registration been partly satisfied, was registered for the whole sum payable thereunder, the registering court shall, on the application of the judgment creditor, order judgment to be registered for the balance remaining payable at that date.

8. No proceedings for the recovery of a sum payable under an overseas judgment, being a judgment to which this Part of this Act applies, other than proceedings by way of registration of the judgment, shall be entertained by any court in the Federation.

Overseas judgments which can be registered not to be enforceable otherwise.

PART III

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

9. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a judgment to which Part II of this Act applies or would have applied if a sum of money had been payable thereunder, whether it can be registered or not, and whether, if it can be registered, it is registered or not, shall be recognised in any court in the Federation as conclusive between the parties thereto in all proceedings founded on the same cause of action and may be relied on by way of defence or counterclaim in any such proceedings.

General effect of certain overseas judgments.

(2) This section shall not apply in the case of any judgment—

- (a) where the judgment has been registered and the registration thereof has been set aside on some ground other than—
 - (i) that a sum of money was not payable under the judgment; or
 - (ii) that the judgment had been wholly or partly satisfied; or

OVERSEAS JUDGMENTS (RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT)

(iii) that at the date of the application the judgment could not be enforced by execution in the country of the original court; or

(b) where the judgment has not been registered, it is shown (whether it could have been registered or not) that if it had been registered the registration thereof would have been set aside on an application for that purpose on some ground other than one of the grounds specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be taken to prevent any court in the Federation recognising any judgment as conclusive of any matter of law or fact decided therein if that judgment would have been so recognised before the passing of this Act.

Power to make overseas judgments unenforceable in Federation if no reciprocity.

10. (1) It it appears to the Governor-General that the treatment in respect of recognition and enforcement accorded by the courts of any overseas country to judgments given in the superior courts of the Federation is substantially less favourable than that accorded by the courts of the Federation to judgments of the superior courts of that country, the Governor-General may by Order apply this section to that country. [Amd. Act 8/1961]

(2) Except in so far as the Governor-General may by Order under this section otherwise direct, no proceedings shall be entertained in any court in the Federation for the recovery of any sum alleged to be payable under a judgment given in a court of a country to which this section applies.

(3) The Governor-General may by a subsequent Order vary or revoke any Order previously made under this section.

Issue of certificates of judgments obtained in the Federation.

11. Where a judgment under which a sum of money is payable, not being a sum payable in respect of taxes or other charges of a like nature or in respect of a fine or other penalty, has been entered in a superior court of the Federation against any person and the judgment creditor is desirous of enforcing the judgment in an overseas country to which Part II of this Act applies, the court shall, on an

application made by the judgment creditor and on payment of such fee as may be prescribed, issue to the judgment creditor a certified copy of the judgment, together with a certificate containing such particulars with respect to the action, including the causes of action, and the rate of interest, if any, payable on the sum payable under the judgment, as may be prescribed:

Provided that, where execution of a judgment is stayed for any period pending an appeal or for any other reason, an application shall not be made under this section with respect to the judgment until the expiration of that period.

12. Where an Order is made under this Act extending ^{Judgments} Part II of this Act to an overseas country and on the date ^{which can} of such Order there is provision under the law of a Territory ^{be, or} for the enforcement in that Territory of the judgments of ^{already are,} such overseas country, the said Part II shall in relation to ^{registered} that Territory have effect as if— ^{under the} ^{law of a} ^{Territory.}

- (a) the fact that a judgment of such overseas country was given before the coming into operation of the Order did not prevent it from being a judgment to which the said Part II applies, but the time limited for the registration of such a judgment were, in the case of a judgment so given, such period of time from the date of the judgment as the law of that Territory prescribes or such longer period as may be allowed by the registering court;
- (b) any judgment of such overseas country registered in any court of that Territory under the law of that Territory before the coming into operation of the Order had been registered in that court under the said Part II and anything done in relation thereto under the law of that Territory or any rules of court or other provisions applicable thereto had been done under the said Part II or the corresponding rules of court or other provisions applicable to the said Part II.