



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ESWATINI

HELD AT MBABANE

CASE NO. 1692/2016

In the matter between:

FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATORY AUTHORITY      Appellant  
(FSRA)

and

SWAZILAND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS  
CONSULTANTS (SEBC)      1<sup>st</sup> Respondent

FINANCIAL SERVICES APPEALS TRIBUNAL      2<sup>nd</sup> Respondent

**Neutral Citation:** *Financial Services Regulatory Authority v Swaziland  
Employee Benefits Consultants and Another*  
(1692/2016) [2019] SZHC 102 (13<sup>th</sup> June 2019).

Qoram :      MAPHANGA J

Date Heard : 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2019

Date Delivered : 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

*Summary : Civil Proceedings- Locus Standi Appeals Tribunal  
established by Section 79 of the Financial Services  
Regulatory Authority Act of 2010 setting aside a decision  
by the Registrar of Pension Funds imposing a fine in  
addition to other corrective and remedial sanctions –*

*Whether Registrar entitled to bring an appeal in terms of  
Section 80(4) of the Act- Registrat lacking the requisite lous  
standi to appeal a decision of the Appeals Tribunal.*

RULING ON A RULE 30 APPLICATION BROUGHT BY THE FIRST RESPONDENT.

- [1] In these proceedings the 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent has brought a Rule 30 application against the Appellant's approach to this court in an appeal against a decision of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Respondent (The Financial Services Appeals Tribunal or Appeals Tribunal) dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. In it the 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent raises certain preliminary points of law in which it challenges the Appellants right to appeal to this court on account of the appellant's alleged want of *locus standi* to do so. That matter has come before as a threshold matter in regard to which this court is moved to make a determination before if the merits are delved in.
- [2] As a prelude I intend to briefly sketch in broad brushstrokes the essential circumstances leading to this appeal devived from the history of the matter. These facts are common This appeal comes to this court in a series of proceedings emanating from a decision of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) in terms of which the Registrar of the FSRA, acting in terms of its regulatory powers as per Section 80 of the Financial Services Regulatory Act (FSRA Act or "The Act") held the 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent liable for violation of certain provisions of the FSRA Act of 2010 and imposition of certain punitive and remedial measures including a fine of E200, 000.00. Aggrieved of that decision the first Respondent appealed to the FSRA Appeals Tribunal against it seeking its setting on divers grounds. In its decision of the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 the Appeals Tribunal considered some of the alleged violations attributed to the SEBC to have either been legally incompetent or unsubstantiated and thus set aside the Registrar's findings in that regard. The Tribunal did however uphold the Registrars decision in regard to violation of section 46(b) of the FSRA Act of 2010 as pertains to unbecoming market conduct on the part of the SEBC. In the result the Tribunal varied the penal aspects of the Registrar's decision by setting aside the penalty of E200,000.00 and the Registrar's finding that SEBC had engaged in conduct amounting to undesirable market practice.

RULE 30 APPLICATION

- [3] The first respondent, in addition to its answering affidavit, has filed a Rule 30 motion the effect of which is to contend that the Appellant has no right of appeal against the second respondent's decision and further that in so doing the appellant

has taken an irregular step. The appellant objects to the rule 30 application on the basis that it is inappropriate regard being had to the contention or cause of complaint set out therein. Counsel for the Applicant, Mr Z. Jele, submitted that the nature of the point taken is not one which whatever its merits, renders the notice of appeal an irregular proceeding or step on a proper application of the rule as to irregular proceedings under the Rules of the High Court.

[4] Appearing for the first respondent, Ms van der Walt on the other hand relied on the South African case of *Druggists Ltd v Beecham Group* 1987 (4) SA 876 (T) as persuasive authority in support of her submission that the Rule 30 (1) procedure is permissible in that the filing of a Notice of Appeal constitutes a step which is susceptible to setting aside in terms of the Rule – our rule being materially similar in wording to the South African rules of civil procedure in that country's High Court. Indeed I accept that such a situation is conceivable as circumstances may arise whter the content or circumstances pertaining to the issuing of a Notice of Appeal may render it 'defective' and thus an irregular process. But that is as far as any persuasive value of the *Druggists* case goes. I do not agree that however that the Rule 30 procedure may be invoked to raise the lack of *locus standi* as a ground for setting aside a Notice of Appeal on the basis that it is an irregular step or proceedings. Instead I incline towards the position adopted in another South African case of *De Polo v Dreyer* 1989 (4) SA 1059 (W) that in such instances the Rule 30 procedure is inappropriate by reason of the fact that by its nature the objection raises an issue of substance rather than form or procedure. It is not, as suggested by the learned authors Herbstein and van Winsen the sort of defect in the proceedings or step 'that hinders the development of the suit as a whole'<sup>1</sup>.

[5] For these reasons it is my judgment that the taking of a point on *locus standi* may be done not by way of a Rule 30 (1) notice but as a preliminary objection on a point of law (*in limine*) in the main application as the first respondent has done in the alternative application. Accordingly I propose to deal with the issue as a point *in limine*.

#### LOCUS STANDI

[6] The crisp issue presenting for determination in the preliminary application is this – whether the FSRA has a right of appeal against a decision of the FSRA-Appeals Tribunal. The issue

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<sup>1</sup> See Herbstein and van Winsen, *The Civil Practice of the Courts of South Africa*, JUTA, 5<sup>TH</sup> Ed., at page 740.

concerns the interpretation to be given to the provisions of Section 80 (4) of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority Act which section enables 'a person' or a 'financial service provider' (FSP) recourse on appeal to this court to challenge decisions of the Appeals Tribunal of the authority.

- [7] Section 80 of the FSRA Act outlines the appeals mechanism availing interested parties as designated in the provision on whom a right of appeal is conferred against decision of specified entities where disputes arise. For purposes of affording context to the relevant subsection key to this ruling, I think it is necessary to quote the entire section. It provides as follows:

**"Appeals**

- (1) *A person who is aggrieved by a decision of an authorised financial services may, within thirty (30) days after the decision appeal to the authority.***
- (2) *A person who is aggrieved by the decision of the Authority may within thirty (30) days after that person is notified of the decision appeal to the Appeals Tribunal.***
- (3) *An authorised financial services provider who is aggrieved by-***
  - (a) the decision of the Authority to withdraw; cancel, suspend or revoke a licence or registration under this Act may, within 21 days after the withdrawal, cancellation, suspension or revocation, appeal to the Appeals Tribunal; or***
  - (b) any written directive of the Authority may within thirty days (30) days of the date of the directive of the Authority, appeal to the Appeals Tribunal.***
- (4) *A person or an authorised financial services provider who is aggrieved by a decision of the Appeals Tribunal may, within thirty (30) days after that person or authorised financial services provider is notified of the decision, appeal to the Court.'***

- [8] By reason of the fact that the issue before this court turns on the proper interpretation of provisions of the FSRA Act, some consideration of the pertinent statutory arrangements would be useful.

*The Scheme of the Act*

- [9] The Financial Services Regulatory Authority is established as a regulatory body under the **Financial Services Regulatory Authority Act (Act No. 2) of 2010**. It is created with a mandate to regulate and supervise the non-banking financial services industry generally but specifically the market conduct of the financial services providers over a range of market-related issues. To carry out this function it is clothed with an array of powers including enforcement measures aimed at curbing errant conduct and elicit compliance of financial services providers in their operations in this country –such measures embracing disciplinary and punitive sanctions within the Authorities supervisory remit. Key amongst the functions of the authority is the protection consumers and or clients of financial services providers.
- [10] In terms of section 79 the Act also creates the FSRA Appeals tribunal (the Appeals Tribunal) whose function is to ‘consider appeals made under the Act’. Section 80 makes provision for the appeals mechanisms and defines the conditions circumstances as well as procedures for the bringing and determination of appeals brought under the section.
- [11] It is important to note that within this ‘appeals’ framework prescribed by the section, the act designates the High Court as the final arbiter in the adjudication of appeals brought in terms of the Act<sup>2</sup>. I intend to return to significance of this observation later in this ruling.
- [12] It is common cause that the first respondent (SEBC) is ‘an authorised financial services provider’ as defined in the act, denoting a licenced non-financial services provider or intermediary involved in the provision of defined non-banking financial services within the pensions and retirement funds sector.
- [13] Section 80 envisages ‘a person’ as one of the entities that may bring an appeal in specified instances in terms of the act. However ‘person’ is not a term specifically defined in the act. For purposes presently, regard must be had to the generic legal

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<sup>2</sup> See Section 80 (4) as read with section 2 (the interpretation section) which defines ‘Court’ as the High Court of Swaziland (eSwatini).

meaning attached to the term 'a person' which includes reference to both 'natural' or 'artificial or legal personality. That definition however has limitations to the enquiry before us hence it is not useful. We must look elsewhere as to its intended meaning.

- [14] It was suggested by the first respondents Counsel that the act implicitly distinguishes 'the Authority' from persons and financial services providers where such reference is intended<sup>3</sup>. In the same vein it was further submitted, as goes the argument, that the FSRA Act where it eschews express reference or mention of the Authority, it must be concluded that it deliberately excludes the authority from the class of persons specifically mentioned in a provision. Consequently it was contended that the authority is excluded from the reference or designation of a person regard being had to Section 80 as a whole as a matter of logic.
- [15] Thus Counsel for the first respondent argued it would be absurd to interpret the relevant section (as read with the Act) in such a way as to include the Authority within the statutory reference to 'a person' in the context of the provision for conduct of appeals under the section. Thus it was contended that the authority is neither a 'person' nor 'an authorised services provider' to qualify it as an entity with a right of appeal as contemplated by Section 80(4) of the Act. Mr Jele on the other hand urged strongly that there is no logical or rational basis for suggesting that the appellant should be excluded from the reference to 'a person' in the section on account of the fact that as pertains to the appeals process before the Tribunal the appellant is an ordinary litigant who is equally entitled to challenge the outcome of the appeal in the same way as any other litigant would be.

#### *Interpretation Principles*

- [16] In this jurisdiction the courts have tended to adhere to the so-called 'golden rule' of statutory interpretation, albeit adapted to the current constitutional and modern era. Its essence is encapsulated in the recent South African judgment of *Cool Ideas* 1186 CC v Hubbard and Ano. 2014 (4) SA 474 (CC) at para 28 as follows:

*"A fundamental tenet of statutory interpretation is that the words in a statute must be given their ordinary grammatical meaning, unless to do so would result in an*

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<sup>3</sup> The Latin maxim '*expresso unius exclusio alterius*' (the mention of one thing excludes the other) was invoked in support of the proposition that if Parliament had intended to include reference to the authorities as one of the entities mentioned in Section 80 (4) of the Act, then it would have said so in clear specific terms.

absurdity. There three important interrelated riders to this general principle, namely:

(a) that statutory provisions should always be interpreted purposively;

(b) the relevant statutory provisions must be contextualised; and

(c) all statutes must be construed consistently with the constitution, that is where reasonably possible, legislative provisions ought to be interpreted to preserve their constitutional validity. This proviso is closely related to the purposive approach referred to in (a)”

[17] I was also referred to the equally pertinent dictum of Wallis J A in another South African case of *Natal Joint Municipality Pension Fund v Endumeni Municipality* 2012 (5) SA 593 SCA, which elaborates on the above principle in the following words:

*“Interpretation is the process of attributing meaning to words used on a document, be it legislation, some other statutory instrument, or contract, having regard to the context provided by reading the particular provision or provisions in light of the document as a whole and the circumstances attendant upon its coming into existence. Whatever the nature of the document, consideration must be given to the language used in the light of the ordinary rules of grammar and syntax; the context in which the provision appears; the apparent purpose to which it is directed and the material known to those responsible for its production. Where more than one meaning is possible, each possibility must be weighed in the light of these factors. The process is objective not subjective. A sensible meaning is to be preferred to one that leads to insensible or unbusinesslike results or undermines the apparent purpose of the document. Judges must be alert to, and guard against, the temptation to substitute what they regard as reasonable, sensible or businesslike for the words actually used.*

*To do so in regard to a statute or statutory instruments is to cross the divide between interpretation and legislation.....the inevitable point of departure is the language of the provision itself, read in context and having regard to the*

*purpose of the provision and the background to the preparation and production of the document"*

- [18] As stated earlier in my mind the use of the words 'a person' in the run of the mill does not on its own present any difficulty in regard to its ordinary and legal connotations as embracing both natural and artificial or corporate (legal) personality. Its ambiguity arises in so far as there may admittedly be another meaning to it in the context of the phrase as used in the section suggesting as the appellant would have it, that it may be construed to include reference also to the authority as, so contends Mr Jele, it was a litigant or a party in the appeal before the tribunal from which this appeal arises.
- [19] It is in that regard where the utility of the second aspect of the principles of interpretation - taking the contextual and purposive considerations into account - comes into play in construing the words 'a person' to accord with the most sensible meaning in a manner that gives it a 'businesslike' efficacy.

*Purposive Contextual Approach*

- [20] In keeping with the purposive and contextual approach Ms Van der Walt invited us to seek to discern what connotation the word carries in the context of the entire section and the various specifically identified legal entities referred to in it.
- [21] Starting from Section 80 (1) and going through to subsection 3 it makes for logical reading that the phrase 'a person' thus far cannot include the appellant or 'Authority' in the sense of the executive organ of the organisation or the Office of the Registrar as, where such reference is intended 'the authority' is consistently, directly and explicitly identified by name. There is thus no doubt that in the logic of the provisions of the section and its scheme it suggests a sequential progression of disputes within the framework of the section. It seems to me following this reasoning that the legislature would have been mindful of a need to create yet another tier after the appeals tribunal for further adjudication to this Court from the decision of the Appeals Tribunal emanating from challenges by aggrieved parties against decisions of either financial service providers or those of the authority through the various levels prescribed in the subsections. Following this approach it appears that this Court becomes the ultimate authority over the same *lis* to which consumers or clients of FSP's and or the FSP's themselves would resort.
- [22] That to me appears to be the most logical and sensible construction taken within the context and purpose suggested by



the provision when read as a whole in regard to reference to 'a person' in terms of subsection (4). In my view it could not in this regard conceivably include the Registrar of the FSRA in the appeals process as regards appeals from that offices own decisions.

- [23] The purpose of the entire section appears to me to be directed at providing external parties or operators within the industry, with an effective appeals procedure to enable a challenge against decisions of 'the authority' unless the appeal arises from a decision of an FSP, by the aggrieved person raising the appeal. The Court sits as an ultimate tier to the appeals process – an ultimate arbiter to finally adjudicate on the correctness of the decision of authority or the financial services provider against which the appeal obtains.
- [24] Put another way, where the origin of the complaint is a decision of an FSP an appeal against that decision lies first to the authority, from the authority to the Appeals Tribunal and ultimately from the tribunal to this Court. Where the source of grievance is the decision of the authority it stands to reason that the appeal is availed to the Tribunal and further to the Courts if the party concerned is still not satisfied. The section in my view admits to no other sensible construction. The interpretation sought to be imported by the appellant, as it would have it, to include the authority within the fold of an affected person or litigant would strain or distort the logical, plain reading of the provision. It is for this reason untenable. There is a further reason why that interpretation cannot be sustained.

*The Ratio in the Pension Fund case.*

- [25] There are no decided court cases in this country concerning the instant issue as pertains to interpretation of the section 80 (4) of the Act. We can only draw guidance from an analogous scenario and the reasoning followed in the leading South African case of **Registrar of Pensions Funds v Financial Services Appeal Board (222/2015) [2015] ZASCA 203 ;[2016] 1 All SA 694 SCA (the Pension Fund)**. Indeed that case was relied upon heavily by the first respondents as authority for the proposition that the authority cannot be construed to be a person or litigant on whom the right of appeal contemplated by the above section is conferred. Mr Jele gracefully conceded that the Pension Fund case is conceptually on all fours with the present scenario in terms of the principle of *locus standi* as regards the institutional competence questions arising. The notable exception being that

in the pension fund case the relief the registrar was seeking was that of review.

- [26] I can find no more insightful and erudite purposive analysis of the role of the authority as the comparable or analogous situation of the Registrar of Pension Funds than the approach of the Court in the Pension Fund case.

*Is the Registrar of FSRA a litigant or a party in relation before the Tribunal in the general sense of an Adversary?*

- [27] That is precisely the question before us which was similarly faced by the court in the Pension Funds case. According to the appellant's counsel the answer is to the affirmative. The facts of that case are comparable to the circumstances of the instant case in that as in the Pension Fund case the Registrar (much like the appellant in casu) sought to assert her right to challenge, by way of an appeal, a decision of the Appeals Board (similar in terms of its remit to the Appeals Tribunal here).
- [28] In its decision the court in Pension Fund found that the Registrar could not be regarded as a party or litigant in the adversarial or partisan sense vis-à-vis the Appeal Board. The Court further held that in appealing against the Appeals Board decision the Registrar was in essence negating the corrective powers of the Appeals Board the effect and scope of which was essentially to replace or confirm that of the Registrar; something the Registrar could not do as to do so would amount to challenging her own decision. I respectfully agree and I must say that reasoning appeals to me. In my judgment the sequenced tiered appeals process provided by section 80 is designed to correct or confirm the decisions of the authority within the adjudicative framework of the Act. That is a purposive approach to the interpreting the section which also accords with the contextual analysis of the text of the provision.
- [29] The upshot of the judgment of Wallis JA in Pension Fund is the recognition by that court that the Registrar could in a review defend the lawfulness of their conduct against a decision of the Appeals Board as contrasted to an appeal. That said, it did not mean the Registrar had the locus standi to defend the correctness of their decision in an appeal or to challenge the correctness of the Appeals Board's decision. Applying the same principle in the instant case I cannot see how the FSRA could have locus standi to invoke the provision of section 80(4) and seek to test the correctness of the Appeals Tribunal. To gainsay the Tribunal would in effect undermine its statutory adjudicative authority in a protracted battle of attrition.

[30] In terms of the institutional arrangements the Registrar of the FSRA has a complimentary relationship as opposed to an adversarial one in relation to the Tribunal in the sense adverted as per the learned Wallis JA's judgment. In that regard it is suggested that permitting the Registrar to challenge the correctness of the Tribunal would mean the Registrar is undermining the due process of the appeals process.

[31] It was suggested by Mr Jele that the Tribunal on account of its being established as an independent entity in relation to the office of the Registrar, and regard being had to the fact that the Registrar made representations before the Tribunal to rebut the appeal mounted by SEBS that was an indicator of its position as a party in the appeals proceedings. This calls for an examination of the role of the Appeals Tribunal within the scheme of the Act. As stated earlier in the judgment is established as an independent and specially constituted body. I understand its independence in the sense of it being an impartial appeals organ whose role is to 'reconsider' decisions of the Registrar and also that it is autonomous, functionally separate from and not embedded in the regulatory or executive function of the FSRA. That does not mean that it is in an adversarial relationship with the Registrar's function. Its function is to consider and examine the correctness of the Registrars decisions based on the information before him and to decide 'what decision the Registrar should have made' if to borrow the analogy from the dictum in Pension Fund opinion. As the learned Wallis JA put it at paragraph 23 of that judgment:

*"Once the appeals Board has spoken, either the Registrar's decision stands, because it has been confirmed, or it is substituted by the Appeals Board's decision"*

[32] I think the same can be said of the decision of the Tribunal *in casu*. I am in full agreement with the reasoning that the Tribunal does not direct the Registrar to act but seeks to give effect to its own order and reverse the outcome of the Registrar's decision where so minded not to confirm but correct the Registrar's call. To hold otherwise would undermine the statutory equilibrium between the Tribunal and the Registrar's office.

[33] I must now come to the alternative argument advanced by the Appellants counsel deriving from their reading of the Pensions Funds *ratio* specifically in so far as reliance is sought to be had to paragraphs 14 and 15 of the judgment in support of the proposition that the said section 80 should be construed as to embrace the appellants right to appeal against the Tribunals

decision in certain exceptional circumstances. It was contended this is so where the authority seeks to vindicate, protect and defend:

- (a) its own peculiar or special interest and authority as a regulator; and or
- (b) the public interests.

[34] Adverting to the case of *Giant Concerts CC v Ronaldo Investments* (2012) ZA CC 28, the appellant sought to forcefully bring to bear the argument that the circumstances of this matter lend themselves to the application of the exceptional interests in recognising the Authority's locus standi to invoke the section 80 procedure. I must disagree. In my own reading of the excerpts in the court's judgment relied on I do not see how they can be used in support of so broad a proposition if at all. On the contrary it does anything but lend support to the Appellant's assertion of locus standi to bring an appeal under the statutory provision in consideration. A careful reading of the cited paragraphs and in fullness of the judgment by the learned Wallis JA in fact shows that the court dismissed the notion that the Registrar in that case had locus standi on the grounds either of her own peculiar interest or the public interest in general in so far as it relates to a right of appeal from a decision of the statutory appeals body of the regulatory institution.

[35] The following remarks in the said paragraph 14 of the Pension Fund judgment are instructive if not illustrative of the court's clear view of the issue:

*"In **Giant Concerts** the Constitutional Court held that whilst this might not require the same sufficient, personal and direct interest at common law, it still required that the litigant must show that the contested legal decision directly affects their rights or interests, or potential rights or interests. But the Registrar's rights and interest, actual or potential, are not affected by the Appeal's Board's decision. She has no interest in the Fund other than as regulator and this case raises no regulatory concerns"*

[36] Coming to the facts of this case it was further argued by Mr Jele that the FSRA has a right, nay obligation to protect and vindicate its regulatory concerns- namely its ability to properly and adequately regulate entities under its supervision. In so far as it is suggested by this proposition that the decision of the Tribunal is repugnant or curtails the FSRA regulatory remit, I must say I fail to see how this could possibly be. All the FSRA has done is interpose its opinion and thus pronounce on the correctness of the FSRA decision. It is the legality of the Tribunal's

decision is in question and it is suggested it has exceeded its mandate or statutory powers that is a different matter that might entail a challenge on review in the sense suggested in the Pension Fund case, defending the lawfulness of the FSRA decision to the extent it is suggested its regulatory function is being 'hindered'.

- [37] Regarding the public interest argument I find this akin to the very argument advanced in the *Pension Fund* case the effect of which was to urge the court in that case to consider that the registrars regulatory function and its interest that the correctness of her decisions be maintained and vindicated. The court rejected that argument and its premise for the reason that the court was of the opinion that the existence of the appeals board in that scenario presupposed a legislative intent and design that 'the decisions of the Registrar might be incorrect, and there needed to be a mechanism to challenge and correct such decisions. To quote Wallis JA at paragraph 16:
- "The view fo the legislature was that when an appeal against a decision of the Registrar succeeds, the Registrar is wrong and the Appeal Board right, or expressed more charitably, as between the Appeal Board and the Registrar the Appeal Board's decision is to be taken as correct".*
- [38] There, lies I believe the nub of the relational arrangement between the two organs of the FSRA. As between the Authority and the Appeals Tribunal the latters decision is final and ought not be gainsaid, save as the court in *Pension Fund* held, in situations where the legality of the decision of the Appeals Tribunal is sought to be impugned.
- [39] Finally the Appellant's attorney placed some capital on the case of *Pepcor Retirement Fund and Another v Financial Services Board and Ano* [2002] ZASCA 198; 2003 (6) SA 38 (SCA) [2003] 3 All SA 21 (SCA) at para 13 as succour for its stance that the appellant has *locus standi* in terms of the section under consideration. In that case the Registrar sought to review her own decision granted or made on the basis of what turned out in due course to have been erroneous or misleading information.
- [40] The court in the *Pepcor* case held that the Registrar had *locus standi* to review her own decision granting a certificate in light of the emergence of correct information in the public interest. I think the case is indeed illustrative of a right of review in the public interest in light of a glaring illegality or irregularity coming to light which shoult stand aside as the court in the *Pension Fund* case regarded as one of the permissible exceptions

to enable the court to remedy the situation. It is, with respect thus distinguishable from what the appellant seeks as a statutory remedy provided under the Act. What perceived interest the FSRA seeks to vindicate is on the principles in the *Pension Fund* case not justiciable on the basis of the appeals procedure on grounds of correctness or otherwise of the Tribunal's decision. That is not the nature of interest that was sought to be vindicated in the *Pepcor* case<sup>4</sup>.

#### DISPOSITION

It is my considered view that the ground on which the assertion of locus standi by the FSRA to appeal against the decisions of the Appeal Board is with respect without support nor is its interpretation of Section 80 (4).

For that reason I have come to the considered conclusion that the FSRA lacks the *locus standi* to bring an appeal under the section relied on and that for that reason the first respondents point in limine must succeed. The appeal is accordingly dismissed.



**MAPHANGA J**  
**JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT**

#### Appearances:

For the Appellant: Mr Z Jele  
Messrs Robinson Bertram Attorneys

For the First Respondent: Ms M. van Der Walt  
(instructed by Messrs Henwood & Company)

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<sup>4</sup> See para 22 of the *Pension Fund* judgment. In that case the court observed that the Registrar was seeking to vindicate the public interest by way of review in regard to a glaring or patent irregularity. To follow the interest has to be defined in reference to the purpose behind the statutory powers and object of the appeals process under sections 79 and 80 of the FSRA Act, which is to enable persons affected by the Registrars decisions an appeals process against decisions of the Authority culminating in recourse to the Court as a last resort.