



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KENYA

AT NAIROBI

JUDICIAL REVIEW APPLICATION NO. E057 OF 2021

**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO INSTITUTE
JUDICIAL REVIEW PROCEEDINGS FOR ORDERS OF CERTIORARI, AND MANDAMUS**

BETWEEN

REPUBLIC.....APPLICANT

VERSUS

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ADMINISTRATIVE

REVIEW BOARD.....RESPONDENT

AND

THE ACCOUNTING OFFICER, DEPARTMENT

OF HEALTH SERVICES, COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OF UASIN GISHU.....1ST INTERESTED PARTY

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF UASIN GISHU.. ..2ND INTERESTED PARTY

MEDIONICS HEALTHCARE LIMITED.....3RD INTERESTED PARTY

EX PARTE:

BIOMED HEALTHCARE LIMITED

RULING

The Application

1.aBiomed Healthcare Limited, the *ex parte* Applicant herein, is aggrieved by the decision made on 26th April 2021 by the Public Procurement Administrative Review Board (the Respondent herein) in PPARB Application No. 45 of 2021, with respect to Tender Number UGC/HLTH/001/2020-2021 for the Supply and Delivery of Medical Equipment for Mitigation against Covid-19 Pandemic.

2. The *ex parte* Applicant has consequently filed an application by way of a Chamber Summons dated 28th April 2021, seeking the following orders:

1. This Application be certified urgent and heard ex parte in the first instance.

2. THAT this Court be pleased to grant the ex-parte Applicant leave to apply for an order of certiorari to bring into this Court for purposes of being quashed the entire decision of The Public Procurement Administrative Review Board, the

Respondent herein, in Application Number 45 of 2021, dated 26th April ,2021. and/ or signing any contract with the 3rd Interested Party herein in respect to Tender Number UGC/HLTH/001/2020-2021 for the Supply and Delivery of Medical Equipment for Mitigation against Covid-19 Pandemic. (hereinafter the "Tender").

3. THAT this Court be pleased to grant the Ex parte Applicant leave to apply for an order of Mandamus compelling the Respondent to re-hear and determine the Request of Review Number 45 of 2021 on merits.

4. THAT the leave sought do operate as a stay of the entire decision of the Public Procurement Administrative Review Board, the Respondent herein in Application Number 45 of 2021, dated 26th April 2021.

5. THAT pending the hearing and determination of the substantive motion, there be a conservatory order prohibiting the 1st and 2nd Interested party from signing and/or entering and/or implementing any contract with the 3rd Interested Party in respect of Tender Number UGC/HLTH/001/2020-2021 for the Supply and Delivery of Medical Equipment for Mitigation against Covid- 19 Pandemic. (hereinafter the "Tender")

6. THAT , further order and/ or incidental orders or directions as this Court shall deem just and expedient be issued.

7. THAT the costs of this application to provide for.

3. The grounds for the application are stated in the *ex parte* Applicant's statutory statement dated 28th April 2021, and a verifying affidavit sworn on the same date by Kelly Nandasaba Watimah, the *ex parte* Applicant's Project Manager. In summary, the *ex parte* Applicant averred that it was irrational for the Respondent to make a finding that the *ex parte* Applicant's request for review dated 1st April 2021 and filed on 6th April 2021 was outside the statutory timelines, without considering that 2nd to 5th April was an Easter holiday period, and there was a fumigation exercise on its premises on 1st April 2021. Therefore, that the Respondent erred in law by stating that it lacked jurisdiction.

4. The *ex parte* Applicant annexed copies of the impugned decision made by the Respondent on 26th April 2021 in PPARB Application No. 45 of 2021; the pleadings it filed therein, and evidence of payment of its filing fees for the request for review.

The Determination

5. I have considered the application dated 28th April 2021 and the reasons offered in support of the urgency, and I am satisfied that the *ex parte* Applicant has demonstrated that this matter is urgent. This for reasons that procuring entity is required to proceed with the procurement process of the subject tender to arising from the Respondent's impugned decision.

6. On the orders sought by the *ex parte* Applicant for leave to commence judicial review proceedings, the applicable law is *Order 53 Rule 1* of the Civil Procedure Rules, which provides that no application for judicial review orders should be made unless leave of the court was sought and granted. The main reason for the leave as explained by Waki J. (as he then was), in **Republic vs. County Council of Kwale & Another Ex Parte Kondo & 57 Others, Mombasa HCMCA No. 384 of 1996**, is to ensure that an applicant is only allowed to proceed to substantive hearing if the Court is satisfied that there is a case fit for further consideration.

7. It is also trite that in an application for leave such as the present one, the Court ought not to delve deeply into the arguments of the parties, but should make cursory perusal of the evidence before it and make the decision as to whether an applicant's case is sufficiently meritorious to justify leave. It was explained by Lord Bingham in this respect in **Sharma vs Brown Antoine (2007) 1 WLR 780**, that a ground of challenge is arguable if its capable of being the subject of sensible argument in court, in the sense of having a realistic prospect of success.

8. In the present application, the *ex parte* Applicant has provided evidence of the ruling by the Respondent on in PPARB Application No. 45 of 2021, and has averred as to the grounds and reasons why it considers the Respondent's decision to be illegal. To this extent I find that the *ex parte* Applicant has met the threshold of an arguable case, and is therefore entitled to the leave sought to commence judicial review proceedings against the Respondents.

9. On the question of whether the said leave can operate as a stay of the impugned report, the applicable principle is that the grant of such leave is discretionary, but the Court should exercise such discretion judiciously. Order 53 Rule 1(4) of the Civil Procedure Rules provides as follows in this respect:

“The grant of leave under this rule to apply for an order of prohibition or an order of certiorari shall, if the judge so directs, operate as a stay of the proceedings in question until the determination of the application, or until the judge orders otherwise.”

10. I am guided by the exposition on the purpose of a stay in **R (H). vs Ashworth Special Hospital Authority (2003) 1 WLR 127**, where it was held that such a stay halts or suspends proceedings that are challenged by a claim for judicial review, and the purpose of a stay is to preserve the *status quo* pending the final determination of the claim for judicial review, and to ensure that a party who is eventually successful in his or her challenge is not denied the full benefit of the success.

11. The circumstances under which a Court may grant a direction that the grant of leave do operate as a stay of proceedings or of a decision, and the factors to be taken into account by the Courts in this regard were laid down in the said decision, and in various decisions by Kenyan Courts. It has in this regard been held that were the action or decision is yet to be implemented, a stay order can normally be granted in such circumstances. Where the action or decision is implemented, then the Court needs to consider the completeness or continuing nature of such implementation. If it is a continuing nature, then it is still possible to suspend the implementation.

12. These positions were also explained in the decisions in Taib A. Taib vs. The Minister for Local Government & Others Mombasa HCMISCA. No. 158 of 2006, Jared Benson Kangwana vs. Attorney General, Nairobi HCCC No. 446 of 1995, Republic vs Cabinet Secretary for Transport & Infrastructure & 4 Others ex parte Kenya Country Bus Owners Association and 8 Others, (2014) e KLR and James Opiyo Wandayi vs Kenya National Assembly & 2 Others, (2016) eKLR.

13. In the present application, the orders given by the Respondent in the impugned decision will result in consequent actions being undertaken in the subject procurement by the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Interested Parties, and the implementation of the Respondent's decision is therefore not only amenable to stay, but the *ex parte* Applicant's application will also be rendered nugatory if the stay order is not granted. In the premises the stay orders are merited to this extent.

The Disposition

14. In light of the foregoing observations and findings, the *ex parte* Applicants' Chamber Summons dated 28th April 2021 is found to be merited to the extent of the following orders:

I. The *ex parte* Applicants' Chamber Summons application dated 28th April 2021 is hereby certified as urgent, and is hereby admitted for hearing *ex parte* in the first instance.

II. The *ex parte* Applicant is granted leave to apply for an order of Certiorari to bring into this Court for purposes of being quashed the entire decision of the Public Procurement Administrative Review Board, the Respondent herein, in Application Number 45 of 2021, dated 26th April 2021, and/ or signing any contract with the 3rd Interested Party herein in respect to Tender Number UGC/HLTH/001/2020-2021 for the Supply and Delivery of Medical Equipment for Mitigation against Covid-19 Pandemic..

III. The *ex parte* Applicant is granted leave to apply for an order of Mandamus compelling the Respondent to re-hear and determine the Request of Review Number 45 of 2021 on merits.

IV. The leave granted herein shall operate as a stay of implementation in any manner by the Respondent and Interested Parties of the Respondent's decision in Application Number 45 of 2021 dated 26th April 2021, including a stay of the signing, entering, and/or implementing of any contract between the 1st and 2nd Interested Parties with the 3rd Interested Party with respect to Tender Number UGC/HLTH/001/2020-2021 for the Supply and Delivery of Medical Equipment for Mitigation against Covid- 19 Pandemic, pending the hearing and determination of the *ex parte* Applicant's substantive Notice of Motion or until further orders of this Court.

V. The costs of the *ex parte* Applicants' Chamber Summons application dated 28th April 2021 shall be in the cause.

VI. The *ex parte* Applicant shall file and serve the Respondent and Interested Parties with (i) the substantive Notice of Motion and submissions thereon, (ii) the Chamber Summons dated 28th April 2021 and its supporting documents, (iii) a copy of this ruling, and (v) a hearing notice, within ten (10) days from today's date.

VII. Upon being served with the said pleadings and documents, the Respondent and Interested Parties shall be required to file their responses, which shall include their substantive responses and any preliminary objections to the substantive Notice of Motion, together with their reply submissions, within ten (10) days from the date of service.

VIII. The *ex parte* Applicant is granted leave to file and serve a further affidavit and supplementary submissions if need be, which shall be strictly limited to any new facts and issues of law raised by the Respondents and Interested Party, within five (5) days of service by the Respondents and Interested Parties.

IX. Timelines shall be strictly observed in light of the decision by the Court of Appeal in Civil Appeal No 39 of 2021- Aprim Ltd vs The Parliamentary Service Commission, and any default by any of the parties shall attract the appropriate sanctions and orders by the Court.

X. A virtual hearing of the *ex parte* Applicant's substantive Notice of Motion shall be held on 31st May 2021 at 3.00pm, when a judgment date will also be reserved.

XI. In view of the Ministry of Health directives on the safeguards to be observed to stem the spread of the current COVID-19 pandemic, this Court shall hear and determine the *ex parte* Applicant's substantive Notice of Motion on the basis of the electronic copies of the pleadings and the written submissions filed by the parties.

XII. All the parties shall file their pleadings and submissions electronically, by filing them with the Judiciary e-filing system, and send copies by electronic mail to the Deputy Registrar of the Judicial Review Division at judicialreview48@gmail.com and asunachristine51@gmail.com.

XIII. The service of pleadings and documents directed by the Court shall be by way of personal service and electronic mail, and in the case of service by way of electronic mail, the parties shall also email a copy of the documents so served to the Deputy Registrar of the Judicial Review Division at judicialreview48@gmail.com with copies to asunachristine51@gmail.com.

XIV. The parties shall also be required to file their respective affidavits evidencing service in the Judiciary's e-filing system

XV. The Deputy Registrar of the Judicial Review Division shall put this matter on the Division's causelist for a virtual hearing on 31st May 2021 at 3.00pm and shall send the parties an electronic link for the mention.

XVI. The Deputy Registrar of the Judicial Review Division shall send a copy of these directions to the *ex parte* Applicant by electronic mail by close of business on Monday, 3rd May 2021.

XVII. Parties shall be at liberty to apply.

15. Orders accordingly.

DATED AND SIGNED AT NAIROBI THIS 30TH DAY OF APRIL 2021

P. NYAMWEYA

JUDGE