



Kariuki t/a Kiarie Kariuki & Co Advocates v Monarch Insurance Co Ltd (Miscellaneous Application 9 of 2023) [2024] KEHC 7794 (KLR) (27 June 2024) (Ruling)

Neutral citation: [2024] KEHC 7794 (KLR)

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE HIGH COURT AT MALINDI
MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION 9 OF 2023**

M THANDE, J

JUNE 27, 2024

BETWEEN

KIARIE KARIUKI T/A KIARIE KARIUKI & CO ADVOCATES APPLICANT

AND

THE MONARCH INSURANCE CO LTD RESPONDENT

RULING

1. By an application dated 6.11.23, the Applicant seeks that judgment be entered in its favour against the Respondent in the sum of Kshs. 73,486/= as per the certificate of taxation dated 24.5.23. The Applicant also seeks interest on the taxed sum at the rate of 16% as well as costs.
2. The certificate of taxation was issued pursuant to the taxation of an Advocate/ Client bill of costs dated 17.1.23 arising from Malindi CMCC No. 282 of 2018 Valentine Charo Katan a.k.a Valentine Charo Katana v the Monarch Insurance Company Limited.
3. The Respondent though served did not file a response nor attend Court at the hearing.
4. The jurisdiction of this Court to enter judgment for the sum certified to be due to an advocate upon taxation of a bill of costs is contained in the Advocates Act and the Advocates Remuneration Order. Section 51(2) of the Advocates Act provides as follows:

The certificate of the taxing officer by whom any bill has been taxed shall, unless it is set aside or altered by the Court, be final as to the amount of the costs covered thereby, and the Court may make such order in relation thereto as it thinks fit, including, in a case where the retainer is not disputed, an order that judgment be entered for the sum certified to be due with costs.

5. The certificate of taxation dated 24.5.23 that was issued by the taxing officer in favour of the Applicant herein has neither been set aside nor altered by the Court. As per the foregoing provision, the certificate of costs is final as to the amount contained therein. Section 51(2) empowers the Court to make such



order as it thinks fit, including an order that judgment be entered for the sum certified to be due with costs.

6. The Applicant seeks interest on the taxed amount at the rate of 16% per annum. Paragraph 7 of the Advocates Remuneration Order allows an advocate to charge interest on his costs and disbursements as follows:

An advocate may charge interest at 14 per cent per annum on his disbursements and costs, whether by scale or otherwise, from the expiration of one month from the delivery of his bill to the client, provided that such claim for interest is raised before the amount of the bill shall have been paid or tendered in full.

7. The rate of interest which an advocate may charge is set at 14% per annum. This interest is chargeable from the expiration of 1 month from delivery by the advocate of the bill to his client. There is a rider however. The claim for interest must be raised before the amount of the bill is paid in full.
8. In the present case, there is an affidavit of service indicating that the Respondent was served with the notice of taxation and bill of costs on 27.3.23. There is also evidence that the Respondent accepted service by stamping and signing the said notice. The Applicant is therefore entitled to charge interest from the expiration of one month from the delivery of his bill to the Respondent, that is to say 27.4.23.
9. In view the foregoing, the Court finds that the Application dated 6.11.23 is merited. Judgment is hereby entered in favour of the Applicant as against the Respondent in the sum of Kshs. 73,486/= as per the certificate of taxation dated 24.5.23 together with interest at the rate of 14% per annum from 27.4.23. The Applicant shall have costs.

DATED, SIGNED and DELIVERED vis MS TEAMS this 27th day of June 2024

M. THANDE

JUDGE

