

Nagħti l-kunsens tiegħi.

(L.S.)

GEORGE ABELA
President

17 ta' Lulju, 2009

ATT Nru. XII ta' l-2009

ATT biex jemenda diversi liġijiet li għandhom x'jaqsmu ma' materji ċivili.

IL-PRESIDENT bil-parir u l-kunsens tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, imlaqqgħa f'dan il-Parlament, u bl-awtorità ta' l-istess, hareġ b'liġi dan li ġej:-

1. (1) It-titolu fil-qosor ta' dan l-Att huwa l-Att ta' l-2009 li jemenda Diversi Liġijiet li jirrigwardaw Materji Ċivili.

Titolu fil-qosor
u bidu fis-sehħ.

(2) Id-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att għandhom jidhlu fis-sehħ f'dik id-data li l-Ministru tal-Ġustizzja jista' jistabilixxi b'avviż fil-Gazzetta, u dati differenti jistgħu jiġu hekk stabbiliti għal disposizzjonijiet differenti u għal skopijiet differenti ta' dan l-Att.

TAQSIMA I

2. Din it-Taqsima temenda l-Kodiċi ta' Organizzazzjoni u Proċedura Ċivili, u għandha tinqara u tinftiehem haġa waħda mal-Kodiċi ta' Organizzazzjoni u Proċedura Ċivili, hawnhekk iżjed 'il quddiem f'din it-Taqsima msejjah "il-Kodiċi".

Emendi tal-
Kodiċi ta'
Organizzazzjoni
u Proċedura
Ċivili.
Kap. 12.

3. Fis-subartikolu (1) ta' l-artikolu 89 tal-Kodiċi, minflok il-kliem "u ta' esperti fil-Qrati ta' Malta u ta' Għawdex" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "u ta' esperti fil-Qrati ta' Malta u ta' Għawdex, u ta' irkantaturi pubbliċi".

Emenda ta' l-
artikolu 89 tal-
Kodiċi.

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 258 tal-Kodiċi.

4. Fil-verżjoni bl-Ingliż tal-paragrafu (a) ta' l-artikolu 258 tal-Kodiċi, minflok il-kliem "in paragraph (a) of article 253" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "in paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) of article 253".

Żieda ta' artikolu ġdid fil-Kodiċi.

5. Minnufuh wara l-artikolu 304 tal-Kodiċi, għandu jiżdied l-artikolu ġdid li ġej:

"Proċedura ta' bejgh ta' oġġetti mobbli. 304A. Il-proċedura tal-bejgh ta' oġġetti mobbli għandha ssegwi l-istess proċedura, *mutatis mutandis*, bħal dik imsemmija fl-artikolu 305."

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 306 tal-Kodiċi.

6. Is-subartikolu (1) ta' l-artikolu 306 tal-Kodiċi għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) fil-paragrafu (d) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "jkun aċċessibbli għall-pubbliku.", għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "jkun aċċessibbli għall-pubbliku; u"; u

(b) minnufih wara l-paragrafu (d) tiegħu, għandu jiżdied il-paragrafu ġdid li ġej:

"(e) tahtar irkantatur pubbliku bi hlas skond regolamenti magħmulin mill-Ministru taht dan l-artikolu."

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 307 tal-Kodiċi.

7. Fl-artikolu 307(2) tal-Kodiċi, minflok il-kliem "fi żmien hamest ijiem" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "fi żmien għoxrin ġurnata".

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 314 tal-Kodiċi.

8. Fis-subartikolu (3) ta' l-artikolu 314 tal-Kodiċi, minflok il-kliem "titoli elenkati f'*exchanges* ta' investment rikonoxxuti", għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "titoli elenkati fi swieq regolati".

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 333 tal-Kodiċi.

9. Fil-verżjoni bl-Ingliż tas-subartikolu (1) ta' l-artikolu 333 tal-Kodiċi, minflok il-kliem "may, by an application, bid *animo compensandi*.", għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "may bid *animo compensandi*".

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 345 tal-Kodiċi.

10. Fl-artikolu 345 tal-Kodiċi, minflok il-kliem "jew mill-kunsinnatarju uffieċjali" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "jew mill-kunsinnatarju"

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 378 tal-Kodiċi.

11. Fl-artikolu 378 tal-Kodiċi, minnufih wara l-kliem "biex iġġiegħlu jiddepożita dawk il-beni" għandu jiżdied il-proviso ġdid li ġej:

"Iżda meta s-sekwestratarju jkun Bank, dak il-Bank ikollu jiddikjara x'hemm *fixed deposits* u kotba bankarji oħra proprjetà tad-debitur, minghajr ma jiddepożitahom, b'dan illi l-persuna li għandha t-tmexxija tal-Bank tibqa dejjem responsabbli skond

id-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-artikolu."

12. Fl-artikolu 388Ċ tal-Kodiċi, minflok il-kliem "ta' l-artikoli 868 u 870" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "ta' l-artikoli 858 u 860".

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 388Ċ tal-Kodiċi.

13. L-artikolu 527 tal-Kodiċi għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 527 tal-Kodiċi.

(a) fis-subartikolu (1) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "bil-mezz ta' ittra ċirkolari", għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "permezz ta' ittra reġistrata"; u

(b) fis-subartikolu (2) tiegħu, il-kliem "u kull wiehed għandu jagħmel il-firma tiegħu fuq iċ-ċirkolari, illi tibqa' merfugħa fl-inkartament ta' l-interdizzjoni jew inabilitazzjoni" għandhom jiġihassru.

14. L-artikolu 833A tal-Kodiċi għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 833A tal-Kodiċi.

(a) minflok il-kliem "msemmin fl-artikolu 830(1)(a), (b), (ċ) u (e)" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "msemmin fl-artikolu 830(1)(a), (b) u (d)"; u

(b) minnufih wara l-kliem "skond liema data tiġi l-ewwel" għandu jiżdied il-proviso ġdid li ġej:

"Izda wkoll ma jkun hemm l-ebda hteġa ta' rikors ġuramentat jew rikors jew talba, skond il-każ, f'każ li l-mandat kawtelatorju jiġi kkonvertit f'wiehed eżekuttiv jew jiġi mneħhi permezz ta' kontro-mandat."

15. Fis-subartikolu (7) ta' l-artikolu 836 tal-Kodiċi, minflok il-kliem "f'liema każ ta' l-aħħar għandha tordna li l-att kawtelatorju jiġi revokat" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "f'liema każ ta' l-aħħar għandha tagħti dawk l-ordnijiet li jidhrilha xierqa, inkluż, jekk ikun il-każ, ir-radd lura tal-garanziji lid-debitur".

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 836 tal-Kodiċi.

16. L-artikolu 838B tal-Kodiċi għandu jiġi sostitwit bl-artikolu ġdid li ġej:

Sostituzzjoni ta' l-artikolu 838B tal-Kodiċi.

"838B. (1) Sakemm ma jiġix imħassar mill-Qorti jew irtirat mill-parti li toħroġ il-mandat, kull mandat kawtelatorju għandu jibqa' fis-seħh sa hmistax-il ġurnata wara li l-kawża tgħaddi f'ġudikat.

(2) Minkejja d-disposizzjonijiet tas-subartikolu (1), mandati kawtelatorji maħruġin skond l-artikolu 830(1) isiru eżekuttivi wara li kawża tgħaddi f'ġudikat jew meta, skond l-artikolu 166B, dik l-ittra uffiċjali ssir titolu eżekuttiv b'dan illi:

(a) fil-każ ta' mandat mahruġ skond l-artikolu 830(1)(b), (ċ), (d) u (f), il-kreditur għandu jippreżenta nota fi żmien hmistax-il ġurnata minn meta l-kawża tkun għaddiet f'gudikat fl-atti ta' l-istess mandat u jitlob li jestendi jew inaqqas l-effetti tal-mandat għas-somma ekwivalenti għall-ispejjeż legali, l-imghaxijiet u d-differenza fis-sorta skond is-sentenza, liema nota għandha tiġi notifikata lid-debitur, u dawk kollha li għandhom interess;

(b) fil-każ ta' mandat mahruġ skond l-artikolu 830(1)(a) u (e), il-kreditur għandu jippreżenta rikors skond id-disposizzjonijiet ta' l-artikolu 388E fi żmien hmistax-il ġurnata minn meta l-kawża tkun għaddiet f'gudikat."

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 859 tal-Kodiċi.

17. L-artikolu 859 tal-Kodiċi għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) fin-nota marginali tiegħu, minflok iċ-ċifra "€1,600", għandha tidhol iċ-ċifra "€7,000"; u

(b) minflok il-kliem "ta' mhux anqas minn hdax-il elf u sitt mitt euro", għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "ta' mhux anqas minn sebat elef euro".

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 874 tal-Kodiċi.

18. Fis-subartikolu (3) ta' l-artikolu 874 tal-Kodiċi, minflok il-kliem "jiġi notifikat mir-Registatur fi żmien erbgħa u ghoxrin siegħa lid-Direttur tar-Registru Pubbliku" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "jiġi notifikat minn nutar pubbliku, maħtur mill-Qorti għal dan il-għan, fi żmien erbgħa u ghoxrin siegħa lid-Direttur tar-Registru Pubbliku".

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 877 tal-Kodiċi.

19. Is-subartikolu (7) ta' l-artikolu 877 tal-Kodiċi għandu jiġi sostitwit bis-subartikoli ġodda li ġejjin:

"(7) Il-mandat li l-effett tiegħu ma jkunx spiċċa għal raġunijiet oħra, jibqa' jsehh għal sena li tibda għaddejja minn dak in-nhar li jinħareġ, kemm-il darba, f'dan iż-żmien, ma jiġix mogħti lir-rikorrent, fuq rikors tiegħu, it-tiġdid taż-żmien.

(8) It-tiġdid ta' dak iż-żmien jista' jingħata iżjed minn darba waħda, iżda ma jistax jingħata għal żmien itwal minn sena kull darba.

(9) Id-digriet li bih jingħata t-tiġdid taż-żmien għandu jkun fih imsemmi sa liema ġurnata l-mandat għandu jibqa' jsehh.

(10) Id-digriet li bih jingħata t-tiġdid taż-żmien għandu jkun notifikat lill-persuni msemmijin fis-subartikoli (2) u (3).

(11) Ebda waħda mill-persuni hekk notifikati ma tinkorri ebda responsabbiltà jekk, wara li jagħlaq iż-żmien hawn fuq imsemmi, oriġinali jew imġedded, u qabel ma jiġi lilha nnotifikat id-digriet tat-tiġdid taż-żmien, taġixxi bħallikieku l-mandat ma baqax isehh.

(12) In-nuqqas ta' talba għat-tiġdid taż-żmien mhuwiex ta' impediment għall-hruġ ta' mandat ġdid."

TAQSIMA II

20. Din it-Taqsima temenda l-Kodiċi Ċivili, u għandha tinqara u tinftiehem haġa waħda mal-Kodiċi Ċivili, hawnhekk iżjed 'il quddiem f'din it-Taqsima msejjaħ "il-Kodiċi".

Emendi tal-Kodiċi Ċivili. Kap. 16.

21. Fis-subartikolu (4) ta' l-artikolu 1322 tal-Kodiċi Ċivili, minflok il-kliem "u kull strument ta' investiment" u l-kliem "dawk l-istrumenti ta' investiment", għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "u kull strument" u "dawk l-istrumenti" rispettivament.

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 1322 tal-Kodiċi.

TAQSIMA III

22. Din it-Taqsima temenda l-Att XIV ta' l-2006, u għandha tinqara u tinftiehem haġa waħda ma' l-Att XIV ta' l-2006, hawnhekk iżjed 'il quddiem f'din it-Taqsima msejjaħ "l-Att XIV ta' l-2006".

Emendi tal-Att XIV ta' l-2006.

23. Fl-artikolu 14 ta' l-Att XIV ta' l-2006, minflok l-artikoli 282 sa 293 (it-tnejn inkluzi) li jinsabu f'dak l-artikolu, għandhom jidhlu l-artikoli ġodda li ġejjin:

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 14 ta' l-Att XIV ta' l-2006.

"Mandat ta' qbid fuq hwejjeġ mobbli.

282. Il-mandat ta' qbid ta' hwejjeġ mobbli, barra l-partikolaritajiet imsemmijin fl-artikolu 274, għandu jkun fih l-ordnijiet tal-Qorti fejn:

(a) (i) għandu jiffissa l-jum, il-lok u l-hin tal-bejgħ fl-irkant bil-qorti u sussegwentement li jaqbad u kontestwalment jeleva l-oġġetti kollha mil-lok indikat mill-kreditur jew minn fuq il-persuna tad-debitur; jew

(ii) għandhom jinqabdu mil-lok li jiġi indikat mill-kreditur, inkluż minn fuq il-persuna tad-debitur, l-oġġetti kollha fil-pussess tad-debitur jew l-oġġett jew oġġetti msemmija fil-mandat; kif ukoll li wara l-eżekuzzjoni, l-uffiċjal eżekuttiv tal-qorti għandu jiġi ordnat sabiex jiffissa, flimkien ma' l-avukat jew prokuratur legali tal-kreditur, il-ġurnata tal-bejgħ fl-irkant bil-qorti wara konsultazzjoni ma' l-uffiċjal eżekuttiv inkarigat, u liema uffiċjal għandu jiffissa wkoll mal-kreditur il-jum li għandu jkun ta' l-inqas sebat ijiem qabel dak iffissat għall-bejgħ fl-irkant bil-qorti sabiex issir l-elevazzjoni ta' l-oġġetti li l-kreditur eżekutant jagħzel li jiġu elevati;

(b) għandu jiġi eżegwit il-mandat, jekk hekk mehtieg, wara s-siġhat legali u fil-Hdud u btajjel pubbliċi u jekk wara żewġ attentati ta' eżekuzzjoni l-uffiċjal eżekuttiv tal-qorti ma jirnexxilux jinnotifika, huwa jkun awtorizzat jiżgassa;

(ċ) għandhom jiġu trasportati l-ħwejjeġ maqbuda u elevati għall-postijiet tal-ħażna li jiġu indikati mill-kunsinnatarju u jittrasferixxi l-pussess tagħhom mid-debitur għall-kunsinnatarju;

(d) għandu jahtar kunsinnatarju u għandu jintaxxa u jirċievi l-ħlas dovut lill-kunsinnatarju minghand il-kreditur għall-perjodu li l-oġġetti maqbuda u elevati ser jagħmlu f'idejn il-kunsinnatarju b'dan illi dan il-ħlas jista' jiġi maqsum fuq perjodi li jiffissa r-Registratur skond in-natura ta' l-oġġetti maqbuda u elevati. Dan il-ħlas isir bla ħsara tal-jedd tar-rigress kontra d-debitur meta hemm lok għal dan ir-rigress;

(e) għandhom jiġu mahtura esperti biex jivvalutaw il-ħwejjeġ miżmuma, jekk dan hu mehtieġ bil-liġi, jew f'ċirkostanzi speċjali li l-qorti jidhrilha li hu xieraq, jew fuq talba ta' xi parti interessata jew tad-debitur;

(f) għandu jiġi mahtur irkantatur bi ħlas skond id-disposizzjonijiet ta' l-Att dwar l-Irkantaturi, jekk dan hu mehtieġ bil-liġi;

(g) tordna l-bejgħ fl-irkant bil-qorti ta' dawk l-oġġetti maqbuda u elevati fil-jum stabbilit skond ir-regolamenti magħmulin mill-Ministru responsabbli għall-ġustizzja, u dan mingħajr il-bżonn ta' notifika oħra lid-debitur.

Kap. 342.

Deskrizzjoni tal-ħwejjeġ maqbuda.

283.(1)(a) L-uffiċjal eżekuttiv tal-qorti għandu jehmeż mal-mandat, deskrizzjoni dettaljata tal-ħwejjeġ maqbuda.

(b) Il-kreditur jew id-debitur jew xi parti interessata jistgħu jagħmlu talba lill-uffiċjal eżekuttiv tal-qorti sabiex jiehu ritratti jew filmat ta' l-oġġetti miżmuma b'mezzi elettronici jew bi kwalunkwe apparat ieħor, bi spejjeż fuq il-parti li tagħmel it-talba.

X'ghandu jkun fiha riferza meta ma jinstabux hwejjeg mobbli, eċċ.

(2) Jekk l-uffiċjal eżekuttiv tal-qorti ma jsibx hwejjeg mobbli, jew isib biss hwejjeg minn dawk li m'humiex suġġetti għal qbid, huwa għandu jagħmel riferza ta' dan il-fatt u, meta jkun il-każ, jiddeskrivi x-xorta tal-hwejjeg mobbli li ma jkunux suġġetti għall-qbid u għandu jwahaħhal ir-riferza mal-mandat.

Hlas ta' l-ammont dovut.

284. (1) Fl-eżekuzzjoni ta' mandat ta' qbid, huwa biss l-ammont shih mitlub mill-kreditur li jista' jithallas mid-debitur f'idejn l-uffiċjal eżekuttiv tal-qorti.

(2) L-uffiċjal eżekuttiv tal-qorti għandu jiddeskrivi haġa b'haġa l-hwejjeg maqbuda u jekk -

(a) fost il-hwejjeg ikun hemm merkanzija, iqabbad lil min jizinha, iqejjisha jew ikejilha skond il-każ;

(b) jaqbad flus jew titoli li jissarrfu fi flus, haġar fin jew oġġetti ta' metall prezzjuż, għandu bir-reqqa jniżżel l-ammont jew il-valur nominali jew il-piż tagħhom u għandu fl-iqsar żmien possibbli jehodhom u jqegħdhem b'ċedola fir-registru;

(ċ) meta jiġu maqbuda karti, l-uffiċjal eżekuttiv tal-qorti għandu jwahaħhal fuqhom sigilli u jagħtihom f'idejn ir-Registatur, u dawn is-sigilli ma jistgħux jiġu mneħħija mingħajr l-awtorità tal-qorti.

Qbid ta' hwejjeg mobbli oħra.

285. (1) Huma suġġetti għall-qbid hwejjeg mobbli, inklużi wkoll:

(a) azzjonijiet u ishma f'soċjetajiet kummerċjali;

(b) liċenzi maħruġa minn xi awtorità kompetenti kif jista' jiġi stabbilit b'regolamenti magħmulin mill-Ministru responsabbli għall-gustizzja;

(ċ) poloz ta' assigurazzjoni;

(d) titoli ta' kreditu u kwalunkwe titolu ta' proprjeta' intellettuali jew industrijali:

Izda fuq dawn l-oġġetti, l-effett tal-mandat jibda jopera mill-ġurnata minn meta tiġi notifikata dik l-awtorità jew dik il-persuna li tkun harget tali mobbli. Kull trasferiment jew piż li jsir minn jew fuq dawn il-mobbli wara dik il-ġurnata jkunu *ipso jure* nulli u dan b'effett mid-data tan-notifika tal-qbid lill-persuna jew lill-awtorità li tkun harget l-istess.

(2) Fejn f'soċjetà kummerċjali l-istatut tagħha jagħti xi dritt ta' preferenza dwar it-trasferiment ta' azzjonijiet, dawk l-azzjonisti għandhom ikunu infurmati bil-ġurnata tal-bejgħ u jistgħu jeżerċitaw dan id-dritt fl-imsemmi bejgħ.

(3) F'kull bejgħ fl-irkant bil-qorti ta' polza ta' assigurazzjoni għandha tiġi notifikata d-ditta assiguratriċi bid-data ta' dak il-bejgħ.

Kunsinnatarju

286. (1) Hwejjeġ elevati mill-pussess tad-debitur, skond id-disposizzjonijiet ta' l-artikolu 282(1)(ċ), bla ħsara għad-disposizzjonijiet ta' l-artikolu 293, għandhom ikunu minnufih trasferiti fil-pussess fiżiku tal-kunsinnatarju fil-preżenza ta' l-uffiċjal eżekuttiv tal-qorti, u l-kunsinnatarju għandu jirċievi u jżomm dawn il-hwejjeġ f'post tal-ħażna awtorizzat mir-Registatur sakemm dawn il-hwejjeġ jiġu mibjugħa jew sakemm il-kunsinnatarju ma jingħatax ordnijiet oħra.

(2) Il-kunsinnatarju għandu joħroġ riċevuta ffirmata minnu għall-hwejjeġ li jkunu ġew maqbuda u elevati mill-pussess tad-debitur li jkunu ġew f'idejh:

Iżda l-kunsinnatarju jista', bil-kunsens bil-miktub tar-Registratur, iżomm dawk il-hwejjeġ f'postijiet oħra minflok il-post tal-ħażna uffiċjali u dan fejn, minħabba x-xorta jew id-daqs tal-beni maqbuda, ma jkunx possibbli li jsir mod ieħor.

Persuni li ma jistghux ikunu kunsinnatarji.

287. Kunsinnatarju ma jistax jiġi mahtur taħt dan it-Titolu meta jkun:

(a) il-kreditur li jitlob il-ħruġ tal-mandat;

(b) żewġ id-debitriċi jew il-kreditriċi jew mart id-debitur jew il-kreditur;

(ċ) il-missier jew l-omm tal-kreditur, bintu jew ibnu, jew huw jew oħtu, iz-ziju jew iz-zija tiegħu, missier jew omm martu jew żewġha jew żewġ bintu jew mart ibnu;

(d) fl-impjeg dirett jew indirett tal-kreditur;

(e) tkun il-persuna li tippretendi li hija s-sid tal-hwejjeġ maqbuda.

Attenzenza tal-kunsinnatarju.

288. Fl-eżekuzzjoni tal-mandat ta' qbid taħt l-artikolu 282, il-kunsinnatarju għandu jattendi flimkien ma' l-uffiċjal eżekuttiv tal-qorti għall-eżekuzzjoni tal-mandat. L-uffiċjal eżekuttiv tal-qorti jista' jaqbad u jeleva mingħajr ma javża lill-kreditur.

Kunsinnatarju responsabbli għall-preservazzjoni tal-hwejjeġ.

289. (1) Il-kunsinnatarju għandu jkun responsabbli għall-preservazzjoni xierqa tal-hwejjeġ fdati lil u ma għandu la huwa u anqas iħalli lil ebda persuna oħra li tagħmel użu mill-hwejjeġ sakemm mhux ordnat mod ieħor mill-qorti:

Iżda d-debitur jista' jithalla juża jew jibqa' jzomm pussess ta' dawk l-oġġetti minn fost il-ħwejjeġ maqbuda li l-qorti tista' tawtorizza jekk tqis li dawk l-oġġetti huma normalment meħtieġa f'dar medja għal għajxien deċenti sabiex tinzamm id-dinjità umana tad-debitur u tal-familja tiegħu.

(2) Meta jinqabdu ħwejjeġ li jiddeterjoraw, ir-Registatur għandu, mingħajr bżonn ta' aktar awtorizzazzjoni, ibiegħ il-ħwejjeġ maqbuda u bir-rikavat minn dak il-bejgħ, jaġixxi skond id-disposizzjonijiet ta' l-artikolu 284.

Il-kunsinnatarju għandu jaġixxi bħal missier tajjeb.

290. Il-kunsinnatarju hu fid-dmir li juża, għaž-żamma fiż-żgur tal-ħwejjeġ maqbuda, id-diliġenza ta' missier tajjeb; jekk il-kunsinnatarju jonqos li jippreżenta dawk il-ħwejjeġ meta jintalab li jagħmel dan, il-qorti għandha tordnaluh jidher quddiemha biex jiġġustifika n-nuqqas tiegħu li jagħmel dan; il-kunsinnatarju jkun responsabbli għad-danni u l-imghax u l-qorti, wara li teżamina ċ-ċirkostanzi tal-każ, tista' tagħti dawk l-ordnijiet li jidhrilha xierqa, magħdud l-arrest personali tal-kunsinnatarju għal perjodu li ma jaqbiżx it-tliet xhur, sabiex huwa jiġi mgiegħel jippreżenta dawk il-ħwejjeġ. In-nuqqas tal-kunsinnatarju li jippreżenta dwak il-ħwejjeġ meta jiġi ordnat mill-qorti biex jagħmel dan, għandu jikkostitwixxi disprezz lejn l-awtorità tal-qorti skond id-disposizzjonijiet applikabbli taħt dan il-Kodiċi.

Il-kredituri l-oħra ma jistgħu jagħmlu ebda oppożizzjoni għall-mandat.

291. Il-kredituri tal-parti li kontra tagħha jkun sar il-qbid ta' ħwejjiġha, ma jistgħu għall-ebda raġuni jagħmlu oppożizzjoni għall-eżekuzzjoni tal-mandat jew għall-bejgħ tal-ħwejjeġ:

Iżda dawk il-kredituri jistgħu jeżerċitaw il-jeddijiet tagħhom fuq il-prezz li jġibu l-ħwejjeġ maqbuda.

Ma ghandhiex
issir
rikonjizzjoni
ta' hwejjeg ga
maqbuda.

292. (1) Meta l-ufficjal eżekuttiv tal-qorti jsir jaf li sar mandat ieħor u l-oġġetti ma ġewx elevati, huwa għandu xorta waħda jerġa' jeżegwixxi l-mandat fil-post lilu indikat mill-kreditur. Ir-rikonjizzjoni ma hijiex aktar permessa. L-ufficjal eżekuttiv tal-Qorti għandu, għas-spejjeż tal-kreditur, jinforma lill-kredituri li fuq talba tagħhom kienu ġew eżegwiti mandati oħra bil-mandat l-ieħor.

Il-mandat
jista' jiġi
eżegwit fuq l-
oġġetti oħrajn
minbarra l-
oġġetti diġà
maqbuda.

(2) Meta jkun diġà nħatar kunsinnatarju, u l-oġġetti elevati, mandati oħrajn ma jistgħux jiġu eżegwiti fuq dawk l-oġġetti.

Hwejjeg li ma
jistgħux jiġu
maqbuda.

293. (1) M'humieħ suġġetti għal qbid:

(a) l-ilbies ta' kuljum, is-sodda u dawk l-affarijiet tal-kċina u l-għamara li jitqiesu raġonevolment meħtieġa għall-ghajxien b'mod deċenti tad-debitur u tal-familja tiegħu;

(b) il-karti personali u l-kotba li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-professjoni tad-debitur, tal-mara tiegħu jew tat-tfal tiegħu;

(ċ) ir-reġistri u l-minutarji tan-nutara pubbliċi;

(d) il-magni u l-ghodda meħtieġa għat-tagħlim jew l-eżerċizzju ta' xi xjenza jew ta' xi arti tad-debitur, tal-mara tiegħu jew tat-tfal tiegħu;

(e) il-bhejjem u l-ghodod meħtieġa għall-biedja u xi frott kemm jekk imqaċċta jew mhux imqaċċta mill-art;

(f) inġenji ta' l-ajru, approprijati b'mod esklużiv għas-servizz ta' l-istat, inkluż is-servizz postali, iżda eskluż servizz kummerċjali;

(g) bastimenti mikrija għal kollox fis-servizz tal-Gvern ta' Malta;

(h) ilbies sagru u kontenituri wżati fi knisja konsagrata jew ta' proprjetà ta' qassis, ta' ordni reliġjuża jew ta' membru tagħha;

(i) kull proprjetà ta' kull membru tal-Korp tal-Pulizija jew tal-Forzi Armati ta' Malta li tkun armi, munizzjon, tagħmir, strumenti jew ilbies użati minnu fil-qadi ta' dmirijietu:

Izda l-*hwejjeġ* imsemmija fil-paragrafi (a) sa (g) jistgħu jiġu maqbuda -

(i) meta l-mandat ta' qbid jintalab għall-prezz ta' dawk il-*hwejjeġ*;

(ii) meta l-mandat ta' qbid jintalab għall-kera jew għal ċnus tal-fond fejn dawk il-*hwejjeġ* kienu jinżammu;

(iii) jekk it-titolu eżekuttiv li fuqu l-mandat inħareġ jikkundanna lid-debitur b'mod speċifiku biex jagħti lura dawk il-*hwejjeġ*.

(2) Jistgħu jiġu maqbuda *hwejjeġ* mobbli mhux maqsuma bejn id-debitur u terza persuna, izda ma jistax isir il-bejgħ ta' dawn il-*hwejjeġ* jekk mhux wara l-qasma tagħhom."

Mgħoddi mill-Kamra tad-Deputati fis-Seduta Nru. 140 tal-14 ta' Lulju, 2009.

LOUIS GALEA
Speaker

PAULINE ABELA
Skrivan tal-Kamra tad-Deputati

I assent.

(L.S.)

GEORGE ABELA
President

17th July, 2009

ACT No. XII of 2009

AN ACT to amend various laws relating to civil matters.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Short title and commencement.

1. (1) The short title of this Act is the Various Laws (Civil Matters) (Amendment) Act, 2009.

(2) The provisions of this Act shall come into force on such date as the Minister responsible for justice may, by notice in the Gazette, establish, and different dates may be so established for different provisions and for different purposes of this Act.

PART I

Amendments to the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure. Cap. 12.

2. This Part amends the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure and it shall be read and construed as one with the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure, hereinafter in this Part referred to as "the Code".

Amendment of article 89 of the Code.

3. In subarticle (1) of article 89 of the Code, for the words "and experts in the Courts of Malta and Gozo" there shall be substituted the words "and experts in the Courts of Malta and Gozo, and public auctioneers".

- 4.** In the English version of paragraph (a) of article 258 of the Code, for the words "in paragraph (a) of article 253" there shall be substituted the words "in paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) of article 253".
Amendment of article 258 of the Code.
- 5.** Immediately after article 304 of the Code, there shall be added the following new article:
Addition of new article to the Code.
- "Procedure for the sale of movable property. 304A. The procedure for the sale of movable property shall follow the same procedure, *mutatis mutandis*, as that referred to in article 305."
- 6.** Subarticle (1) of article 306 of the Code shall be amended as follows:
Amendment of article 306 of the Code.
- (a) in paragraph (d) thereof, for the words "shall be accessible to the public.", there shall be substituted the words "shall be accessible to the public; and"; and
- (b) immediately after paragraph (d) thereof, there shall be added the following new paragraph:
- "(e) appoint a public auctioneer who shall receive a fee in terms of regulations made by the Minister under this article."
- 7.** In article 307(2) of the Code, for the words "within five days" there shall be substituted the words "within twenty days".
Amendment of article 307 of the Code.
- 8.** In subarticle (3) of article 314 of the Code, for the words "listed securities in a recognised exchange", there shall be substituted the words "listed securities in regulated markets".
Amendment of article 314 of the Code.
- 9.** In the English version of subarticle (1) of article 333 of the Code, for the words "may, by an application, bid *animo compensandi*.", there shall be substituted the words "may bid *animo compensandi*.";
Amendment of article 333 of the Code.
- 10.** In article 345 of the Code, for the words "or by the official consignee", there shall be substituted the words "or by the consignee".
Amendment of article 345 of the Code.
- 11.** In article 378 of the Code, immediately after the words "in order to force him to lodge such property" there shall be added the following new proviso:
Amendment of article 378 of the Code.
- "Provided that where the garnishee is a Bank, that Bank shall declare what fixed deposits or other bank books are in its possession, the property of the debtor, without having to deposit them; however the person responsible for the Bank's

management shall always remain responsible in accordance with the provisions of this article."

Amendment of article 388C of the Code.

12. In article 388C of the Code, for the words "in terms of articles 868 and 870" there shall be substituted the words "in terms of articles 858 and 860".

Amendment of article 527 of the Code.

13. Article 527 of the Code shall be amended as follows:

(a) in subarticle (1) thereof, for the words "be published in the Government Gazette, and that an intimation of such interdiction or incapacitation be given, by means of a circular letter, to all notaries in Malta.", there shall be substituted the words "be published in the Government Gazette."; and

(b) in subarticle (2) thereof, the words "and the notary shall affix his own signature to the circular which shall be kept in the record of the proceedings relating to the interdiction or incapacitation" shall be deleted.

Amendment of article 833A of the Code.

14. An article 833A of the Code shall be amended as follows:

(a) for the words "referred to in article 830(1)(a), (b), (c) and (e)" there shall be substituted the words "referred to in article 830(1)(a), (b) and (d)"; and

(b) immediately after the words "according to which date first occurs" there shall be added the following new proviso:

"Provided also that no sworn application or application or petition, as the case may be, shall be required in the case where the precautionary warrant is converted to an executive warrant or it is removed by means of a counter-warrant."

Amendment of article 836 of the Code.

15. In subarticle (7) of article 836 of the Code, for the words "in which latter case it shall order that the precautionary act be revoked" there shall be substituted the words "in which latter case it shall give such orders as it may deem appropriate, including, if the case so warrants, the giving of the security back to the debtor".

Substitution of article 838B of the Code.

16. Article 838B of the Code shall be substituted by the following new article:

"838B. (1) Unless rescinded by the court or withdrawn by the party suing out the warrant, all precautionary warrants shall remain in force for a period of fifteen days after the cause becomes *res judicata*."

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subarticle (1), precautionary warrants issued under article 830(1) become executive warrants after that the cause becomes *res judicata* or when in accordance with article 166B such judicial letter constitutes an executive title, so however that:

(a) in the case of a warrant issued under article 830(1)(b), (c), (d) and (f), the creditor shall file a note within fifteen days from the cause becoming *res judicata* in the acts of the same warrant and demand an extension or reduction of the effects of the warrant to an amount equivalent to the legal costs, interest and the difference in the principal amount due in terms of the judgement, and such note is to be served upon the debtor and such persons as may have any interest therein;

(b) in the case of a warrant issued under article 830(1)(a) and (e), the creditor shall file an application under the provisions of article 388E within fifteen days from the cause becoming *res judicata*."

17. Article 859 of the Code shall be amended as follows:

Amendment of article 859 of the Code.

(a) in the marginal not thereof, for the figure "€11,600", there shall be substituted the figure "€7,000"; and

(b) for the words "amounting to not less than eleven thousand and six hundred euro", there shall be substituted the words "amounting to not less than seven thousand euro".

18. In subarticle (3) of article 874 of the Code, for the words "be served by the Registrar within twenty-four hours on the Director of the Public Registry" there shall be substituted the words "be served by a notary public, appointed by the Court for the purpose, within twenty-four hours on the Director of the Public Registry".

Amendment of article 874 of the Code.

19. For subarticle (7) of article 877 of the Code, there shall be substituted the following new subarticles:

Amendment of article 877 of the Code.

"(7) The warrant which has not ceased to be in force for other reasons, shall remain in force for one year to be reckoned from the day on which it was issued, unless within such time the person suing out the warrant shall have, upon an application to that effect, obtained an extension.

(8) Such extension may be granted more than once, but it may not be granted for more than one year each time.

(9) The decree allowing the extension shall state the date up to which the warrant shall remain in force.

(10) The decree allowing the extension shall be served on the persons mentioned in subsection (2) and (3) above.

(11) None of such persons shall incur any liability if, after the expiration of the said time, whether original or extended, and before the decree of any such extension has been served on him, he shall act as if the warrant had ceased to be in force.

(12) The absence of a demand for an extension shall not be a bar to the issue of a fresh warrant."

PART II

Amendments to the Civil Code. Cap. 16.

20. This Part amends the Civil Code and it shall be read and construed as one with the Civil Code, hereinafter in this Part referred to as "the Code".

Amendment of article 1322 of the Code.

21. In subarticle (4) of article 1322 of the Code, for the words "and any investment instrument" and "or investment instrument", there shall be substituted the words "any instrument" and "or instrument" respectively.

PART III

Amendments to Act XIV of 2006.

22. This Part amends Act XIV of 2006 and it shall be read and construed as one with Act XIV of 2006, hereinafter in this Part referred to as "Act XIV of 2006".

Amendment of article 14 of Act XIV of 2006.

23. In article 14 of Act XIV of 2006, for articles 282 to 293 (both inclusive) contained therein, there shall be substituted the following new articles:

"Warrant of seizure on movable property.

282. The warrant for the seizure of movable property shall, besides the particulars stated in article 274, contain Court orders about:

- (a) (i) the appointment of the day, place and time for the judicial sale by auction and the subsequent seizure and removal thereupon of all such articles from the place which has been indicated by the creditor or from the person of the debtor; or

(ii) the seizure from the place indicated by the creditor, including from the person of the debtor, of any such article which the debtor may possess or such article or articles as may be mentioned in the warrant; and also that after the execution of the warrant, the court executing officer shall be ordered to fix, together with the advocate or the legal procurator of the creditor, the day when the judicial sale by auction is to be held in consultation with the executing officer responsible therefor, and such executing officer shall also fix with the creditor the date, which shall at least be seven days prior to the date of the judicial sale by auction, when the removal of the articles which the executing creditor selects to have removed shall take place;

(b) the execution of the warrant, if so required, after legal hours or on a Sunday or public holiday, and if after two attempts to execute the warrant the court executing officer fails to effect such execution, he shall be authorised to force open the place;

(c) the transport of the property seized and to be removed to the storage places indicated by the consignee, and about the transfer of their possession from the debtor to the consignee;

(d) the appointment of a consignee and the taxing and receipt of payment due to the consignee by the creditor for such period during which the articles seized and to be removed would be under the care of the consignee, so however that such payment may be divided in proportion to the periods established by the Registrar depending on the nature of the articles seized and to be removed. Such payment is made subject to the right of regress against the debtor when such right exists;

(e) the appointment of experts to make a valuation of the property seized, if so required by law, either in special circumstances which the court may deem appropriate, or on the demand of any interested party or of the debtor;

(f) the appointment of an auctioneer who shall receive a fee in terms of the Auctioneers Act, if so required by law;

(g) an order for the judicial sale by auction of such articles as are seized and to be removed on the appointed day in terms of regulations to be made by the Minister responsible for justice, without further service of any notice to the debtor.

Cap. 342.

Description of
property
seized.

283.(1) (a) The court executing officer shall attach to the said warrant a detailed description of the property seized.

(b) The creditor or the debtor or any interested party may demand the court executing officer to take any photograph or filmshot of the detained articles either by electronic or by any other means at the expense of the party making the demand.

Contents of certificate in case of unsuccessful execution.

(2) If the court executing officer finds no movable property, or finds only such property as is not liable to seizure, he shall make a certificate to that effect, stating therein the nature of the movable property, if any, not liable to seizure, and he shall attach such certificate to the warrant.

Payment of the amount due.

284. (1) When a warrant of seizure is being executed, it is only the full amount claimed by the creditor that may be paid by the debtor to the court executing officer.

(2) The court executing officer shall describe in detail the property seized and -

(a) where the property includes any merchandise, he shall cause such merchandise to be weighed, measured or gauged, as the case may be;

(b) where money or securities for money, jewellery, or articles of precious metal are seized, he shall accurately state the amount or nominal value or weight thereof and he shall within the shortest time possible take the same to the registry and lodge them therein by means of a schedule;

(c) where papers are seized, he shall seal them and deliver them to the Registrar, and such seals may not be removed except by the authority of the court.

Seizure of other movable property.

285. (1) Seizure may be effected on any movable property including:

(a) shares in commercial partnerships;

(b) licences issued by any competent authority as may be established by regulations made by the Minister responsible for justice;

(c) insurance policies;

(d) credit securities and any intellectual or industrial property right:

Provided that on such property the warrant shall have effect as from the date of the service on such authority or such person who would have issued such movable property. Any transfer made or burthen incumbent on such property after that date shall be *ipso jure* null as from the date of the service of the certificate of seizure to such person or authority issuing same.

(2) Where in any commercial partnership its statute attributes any right of preference with regard to the transfer of shares, the shareholders shall be informed of the date when such sale is due to take place and they may exercise the said right during that sale.

(3) When the judicial sale by auction of an insurance policy is due to take place, notice shall be given to the insurance company of the date of such sale.

Consignee.

286. (1) Such property as is removed from the possession of the debtor, in terms of article 282(1)(c) subject to the provisions of article 293, shall be transferred forthwith to be retained in the hands of the consignee in the presence of the court executing officer, and the consignee shall receive and hold such property in a storage place authorised by the Registrar until such time as that property is sold or the consignee is ordered to do otherwise.

(2) The consignee shall issue a receipt, to be signed by him, for such property as would have been seized and removed from the possession of the debtor and which he would have received:

Provided that the consignee may, with the written consent of the Registrar, retain such property in any place other than the official storage place in such circumstances where, due to the nature or the size of the articles seized, it would not be feasible to dispose otherwise.

Persons who may not act as consignees.

287. A consignee may not be appointed under this Title when he is either:

- (a) the execution creditor;
- (b) the husband or wife of the debtor or of the creditor;
- (c) the father or mother of the creditor, his daughter or son, or his brother or sister, his uncle or aunt, his father-in-law or mother-in-law or her husband or his son-in-law or daughter-in-law;
- (d) directly or indirectly employed with the creditor;
- (e) the person who claims to be the owner of the property seized.

Attendance of the consignee.

288. At the time of execution of the warrant of seizure under article 282, the consignee shall attend together with the court executing officer to execute the warrant. The court executing officer may seize and remove property without informing the creditor.

Consignee to preserve property seized.

289. (1) The consignee shall be responsible for the proper preservation of the property entrusted to him and he shall not use, nor shall he allow any person to use, such property unless otherwise ordered by the court:

Provided that the debtor may be allowed to use or retain in possession such articles of the property seized as the court may authorise if the court considers that such articles are normally required by an average household for decent living to maintain the human dignity of the debtor and his family.

(2) Where the property seized is of a perishable nature, the Registrar shall, without further authorisation, sell the goods seized and with the profit made from that sale, he shall proceed according to the provisions of article 284.

The consignee to act as a *bonus paterfamilias*.

290. The consignee is bound to exercise for the safe keeping of the property seized, such care as is exercised by a *bonus paterfamilias*; if the consignee fails to present such property when called upon to do so, the court shall order him to appear before it to explain his failure to do so; the consignee shall be responsible for damages and interest and the court, after examining the circumstances of the case, may issue such orders as appear to be appropriate, including the personal arrest of the consignee for a period not exceeding three months, to compel him to present such property. The failure of the consignee to present such property when ordered by the court shall of itself constitute contempt of court in terms of the applicable provisions under this Code.

Other creditors may not oppose execution.

291. The creditors of any person, whose property has been seized, may not, for any cause whatsoever, make any opposition to the execution of the warrant or to the sale of the property:

Provided that it shall be lawful for such creditors to enforce their claim on the proceeds of the sale of the property seized.

No identification is to be made of property already seized.

292. (1) If, when executing a warrant of seizure, the court executing officer finds that another warrant has already taken place and that the articles have not been removed, he shall likewise execute the warrant again at the place indicated to him by the creditor. Identification of the property so seized shall no longer be permitted. The court executing officer shall, at the creditor's expense, inform the creditors that on their demand other warrants had been executed by means of the first warrant.

The warrant may be executed on new articles other than those already seized.

(2) When a consignee has already been appointed, and the articles have been removed, no other warrant may be executed on such articles.

Property not subject to seizure.

293. (1) The property mentioned hereunder is not subject to seizure:

(a) such clothes for daily wear, bedding and such utensils and furniture as are considered reasonably necessary for the decent living of the debtor and his family;

(b) personal documents and books relating to the profession of the debtor, of his wife or of his children;

(c) the registers and minute-books of notaries public;

(d) tools and implements necessary for the instruction in or the exercise of any science or of any art of the debtor, of his wife or of his children;

(e) animals and tools required for agriculture and any fruit either cut or not yet separated from the ground;

(f) aircraft, exclusively appropriated to a state service, including the postal service, but excluding commercial service;

(g) sea vessels wholly chartered in the service of the Government of Malta

(h) sacred vestments and vessels which are used in a consecrated church, or belonging to a priest, a religious order or any member thereof;

(i) any property of any member of the Police Force or of the Armed Forces of Malta being arms, ammunition, equipment, instruments or clothing used by him in the discharge of his duties:

Provided that any such property as is mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (g) may be seized -

(i) if the execution is demanded in respect of the price of such property;

(ii) if the execution is demanded in respect of rent or ground-rent of the tenement in which such property is kept;

(iii) if the executive title by virtue of which the warrant has been issued specifically condemns the debtor to effect the return of such property.

(2) The seizure may be effected of unseparated movable property belonging to both debtor and a third party, insofar as no sale of such property may take place except after their separation."

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 140 of the 14th July, 2009.

LOUIS GALEA
Speaker

PAULINE ABELA
Clerk to the House of Representatives