

# **Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals Bill 2015**

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**Bill No. /2015.**

*Read the first time on .*

## **COMMUNITY DISPUTE RESOLUTION TRIBUNALS ACT 2015**

**(No. of 2015)**

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A BILL

*i n t i t u l e d*

An Act to provide for the establishment of Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals, for the jurisdiction and powers of such tribunals and for matters connected therewith, and to make consequential and related amendments to other written laws.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

## PART 1

## PRELIMINARY

**Short title and commencement**

- 5     **1.** This Act may be cited as the Community Dispute Resolution  
Tribunals Act 2015 and shall come into operation on such date as  
the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

**Interpretation**

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —
- 10     “claim” means a claim lodged under section 19 to commence  
proceedings before a tribunal and includes a counterclaim;
- “claimant” means a person who commences proceedings before  
a tribunal by lodging a claim and includes any person who  
becomes a party to the proceedings on any claim in the  
capacity of a claimant;
- 15     “Community Mediation Centre” means a Community  
Mediation Centre established under section 3 of the  
Community Mediation Centres Act (Cap. 49A);
- “court” means any court of competent jurisdiction in Singapore;
- 20     “party” means a claimant or respondent and any person joined  
as a third party;
- “pre-hearing mediation” means a pre-hearing mediation referred  
to in section 22(1);
- 25     “Registrar” means the registrar of the Community Dispute  
Resolution Tribunals appointed under section 8 and includes  
any deputy registrar of the Community Dispute Resolution  
Tribunals;
- “Registry” means the Registry of the Community Dispute  
Resolution Tribunals established under section 17;

“respondent” means any person against whom a claim is made and includes any person who becomes a party to the proceedings on any claim in the capacity of a respondent;

5 “Senior Tribunal Judge” means the Senior Tribunal Judge of the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals appointed under section 6 and includes any Tribunal Judge of the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals;

10 “tribunal” means a Community Dispute Resolution Tribunal constituted under section 4 of the State Courts Act (Cap. 321).

### **Act to prevail, etc.**

3.—(1) Subject to this Act, the provisions of the State Courts Act (Cap. 321) shall apply to the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals.

15 (2) Except as provided in this Act, no provision of the Rules of Court (Cap. 322, R 5) shall apply to the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals.

## **PART 2**

### **COMMUNITY DISPUTE RESOLUTION TRIBUNALS**

#### **20 Process of tribunal**

4. All originating processes, summonses, warrants, orders, notices and other mandatory processes issued by the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals shall be signed by the Senior Tribunal Judge or Registrar and shall bear the seal of the tribunal issuing the same.

#### **25 Sittings of tribunal**

5.—(1) Every tribunal is to sit on every day of the year except on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

30 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Senior Tribunal Judge may lawfully sit on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday or during a vacation authorised under section 61 of the State Courts Act (Cap. 321) if —

(a) the Presiding Judge of the State Courts, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice, has directed the Senior Tribunal Judge to sit on that day or during that vacation; or

5 (b) in the opinion of the Senior Tribunal Judge, the business to be despatched is extremely urgent.

(3) Every tribunal is to sit at such times as the Chief Justice may from time to time appoint.

### PART 3

#### APPOINTMENTS, POWERS AND DUTIES

##### 10 **Appointments and qualifications of Senior Tribunal Judge and Tribunal Judges**

**6.**—(1) The President of Singapore, on the recommendation of the Chief Justice, shall appoint —

15 (a) a District Judge appointed under section 9 of the State Courts Act (Cap. 321) to be the Senior Tribunal Judge of the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals; and

20 (b) so many Tribunal Judges as may be necessary for the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals from among District Judges or Magistrates appointed under section 9 or 10, as the case may be, of the State Courts Act.

(2) A tribunal shall be presided over by the Senior Tribunal Judge or a Tribunal Judge.

25 (3) Every person appointed to be the Senior Tribunal Judge or a Tribunal Judge is to hold office for such term as may be specified in the instrument of his appointment, and may from time to time be reappointed.

(4) Any appointment of the Senior Tribunal Judge or a Tribunal Judge under subsection (1) may at any time be revoked by the President of Singapore on the recommendation of the Chief Justice.

30 (5) Any person appointed to be the Senior Tribunal Judge or a Tribunal Judge under subsection (1) shall, although the period of his appointment as such has expired or his appointment as such has

been revoked, in relation to any case heard by him as a Senior Tribunal Judge of a tribunal, continue to sit as such for the purpose of giving judgment or otherwise.

### **Powers of tribunal**

- 5     **7.** The tribunal shall, as regards any action within its jurisdiction, have the same powers as conferred on a District Court under the State Courts Act (Cap. 321).

### **Appointments and qualifications of registrar and deputy registrars**

- 10    **8.—(1)** The Chief Justice shall appoint a registrar and so many deputy registrars as may be necessary for the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals.

(2) No person shall be appointed to be or to act as the registrar or a deputy registrar unless he is a qualified person as defined in section 2 of the Legal Profession Act (Cap. 161).

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(3) The registrar and deputy registrars shall be ex-officio commissioners for oaths.

### **Jurisdiction, powers and duties of registrar and deputy registrars**

- 20    **9.—(1)** The registrar and deputy registrars shall, in addition to such jurisdiction or powers as are conferred or duties as are imposed by the provisions of this Act or any other written law, have such jurisdiction, powers and duties as may be prescribed.

(2) Subject to any rules made under this Act, all the powers conferred and duties imposed on the registrar, whether by this Act or any other written law, may be exercised or performed by a deputy registrar.

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### **Appointments and revocations to be published in *Gazette***

- 10.** All appointments and revocations made under this Part shall be published in the *Gazette*.
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## PART 4

## JURISDICTION OF TRIBUNAL

**Jurisdiction of tribunal**

5     **11.**—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a tribunal shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any claim under section 38 of the Civil Law Act (Cap. 43).

(2) Except where this Act expressly provides otherwise, the jurisdiction of a tribunal shall not extend to a claim —

(a) which exceeds the prescribed limit; or

10     (b) brought after the expiration of one year from the date on which the cause of action accrued.

(3) Where a tribunal is of the opinion that a claim lodged with it pursuant to section 19 is beyond its jurisdiction, the tribunal must discontinue the proceedings and notify the claimant and respondent.

15     (4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), where the amount of a claim exceeds the prescribed limit, the claimant may abandon the excess amount and thereafter —

(a) the amount of the claim shall be deemed to be within the prescribed limit;

20     (b) the tribunal shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine the claim;

(c) the claimant shall not obtain in the claim any remedy or relief in respect of the action the value of which exceeds the prescribed limit; and

25     (d) an order of the tribunal in relation to the claim shall be in full discharge of all demands in respect of the claim.

(5) The prescribed limit, in relation to the jurisdiction of the tribunal, shall be \$20,000 or such other amount as the Minister may, after consultation with the Chief Justice, substitute by order published in the *Gazette*.  
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### **Exclusion of other jurisdictions**

**12.**—(1) Where a claim has been lodged with a tribunal, no civil proceedings relating to that claim shall be brought before any other court except —

- 5        (a) where the proceedings before that court were commenced before the claim was lodged with the tribunal; or
- (b) where the claim before the tribunal is discontinued under section 11(4), withdrawn or abandoned.

10       (2) No claim shall be brought before a tribunal if civil proceedings relating to that claim are pending in or have been heard and determined by any other court.

          (3) For the purposes of this section, a claim shall be deemed to have been lodged with a tribunal when section 19 has been complied with.

### **15    No division of claims**

**13.** No claim shall be split or divided and pursued in separate proceedings before a tribunal for the sole purpose of bringing the sum claimed in each of such proceedings within the jurisdiction of a tribunal.

### **20    Transfer of counterclaim from tribunal to court**

**14.**—(1) Where any counterclaim or any set-off and counterclaim in proceedings before a tribunal is a claim which is not within the jurisdiction of the tribunal, any party in those proceedings may apply to an appropriate court, within the prescribed time, for an order that the whole proceedings, or the proceedings in the counterclaim or set off and counterclaim, be transferred to that court.

          (2) On an application referred to in subsection (1), the court may order —

- 30        (a) that the whole proceedings be transferred to that court;
- (b) that the whole proceedings be heard before a tribunal; or

(c) that the proceedings on the counterclaim or set-off and counterclaim be transferred to that court and that the claim by the claimant and the defence to the claim other than the set-off, if any, be heard before a tribunal.

5 (3) Where an order is made under subsection (2)(c) and judgment on the claim is given for the claimant, execution on the judgment shall, unless the court at any time otherwise orders, be stayed until the proceedings transferred to that court have been concluded.

10 (4) Where no application is made under subsection (1) or where on such an application it is ordered that the whole proceedings be heard before a tribunal, the tribunal shall have jurisdiction to hear the proceedings notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act.

#### **Costs in transferred cases**

15 **15.** Where any proceedings on a claim, counterclaim, or set-off and counterclaim are transferred under section 14 from a tribunal to another court, the costs of the proceedings both before and after the transfer shall, subject to any order of the tribunal made in relation to the proceedings before the transfer, be in the discretion of the court to which the proceedings are transferred and shall be taxed in that  
20 court.

#### **Assessors to assist tribunal**

25 **16.—**(1) In any proceedings before a tribunal, the Senior Tribunal Judge may, if he thinks fit on the application of any party, or on his own motion, summon to his assistance, in such manner as may be prescribed, one or more persons of skill and experience in the matter to which the proceedings relate who may be willing to sit with the Senior Tribunal Judge and act as assessors.

30 (2) Subject to subsection (3), the remuneration of assessors for sitting under this section shall be at such rate as may be prescribed and shall be costs in the proceedings unless otherwise ordered by the Senior Tribunal Judge.

(3) Where one or more assessors are summoned for the purposes of this section otherwise than on the application of a party to the

proceedings, the remuneration of any such assessor shall be payable out of moneys provided by Parliament.

- (4) Where any person is proposed to be summoned as an assessor, objection to him, either personally or in respect of his qualification, may be taken by any party in the prescribed manner.

## PART 5

### REGISTRY AND FILING CLAIMS

#### **Registry**

**17.**—(1) There shall be established and maintained a Registry of the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals.

(2) The Registry is to be under the control and supervision of the registrar.

#### **Office hours**

**18.**—(1) The Registry is to be open on every day of the year except on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

(2) Despite subsection (1), a Registrar may lawfully sit or carry out the business of the Registry on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday if —

(a) the Presiding Judge of the State Courts, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice, has directed the Registrar to do so on that day; or

(b) in the opinion of the Registrar, the business to be despatched is extremely urgent.

(3) The office hours of the Registry is to be at such times as the Presiding Judge of the State Courts, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice, may from time to time direct.

#### **Mode of commencing proceedings**

**19.** A claimant may commence proceedings before a tribunal by lodging a claim with the registrar in the prescribed form and manner.

### **When claim should not be lodged**

**20.**—(1) A claim must not be lodged under section 19 unless —

- 5 (a) the claimant and the respondent have attended mediation on at least one occasion at a place as the Minister may specify by order published in the *Gazette*; or
- (b) the respondent has been invited, on at least 2 occasions, to attend mediation with the claimant at a specified place referred to in paragraph (a) and the claimant was willing and able to attend the mediation on both occasions but the  
10 respondent has refused or failed to attend the mediation on both occasions.

(2) Where the claimant has not satisfied the requirement in subsection (1) before he lodges a claim, the Registrar may make such orders as the Registrar deems fit in relation to the claim,  
15 including dismissing the claim.

### **Assessment of claim by Registrar**

**21.**—(1) At any time after a claim has been lodged the Registrar may, subject to any written law and in addition to its powers to make any other orders, make the following orders:

- 20 (a) dismiss the claim where he is of the opinion that the claim does not fall within the jurisdiction of the tribunal;
- (b) dismiss the claim which he considers to be frivolous or vexatious, or an abuse of the process of the tribunal, on such terms as to costs as he thinks fit;
- 25 (c) refer the matter to the police for investigation, where the Registrar is of the opinion that the claim discloses —
  - (i) an offence or possible offence under any written law; or
  - (ii) an act in which there is a threat of violence or  
30 imminent danger of violence to any person;
- (d) refer the matter to an appropriate enforcement agency, where the Registrar thinks fit;

(e) order any party to the claim to attend a medical examination where the physical or mental condition of the party is relevant to any matter in question in the proceedings.

5 (2) Where the Registrar refers the matter to the police or the appropriate enforcement agency, as the case may be, under subsection (1)(c) or (d), the Registrar may make any other order as it thinks fit with regard to the claim, including an order to dismiss or stay the claim.

10 (3) The Registrar must not make an order under subsection (1)(a) or (b) or (2) dismissing a claim in the absence of the claimant.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Registrar must not dismiss a claim other than in a case referred to in subsection (1)(a) or (b) or (2).

15 (5) A claimant who is aggrieved by the decision of the Registrar made under subsection (1)(a) or (b) or (2) to dismiss or stay the claim may appeal to a tribunal whose decision shall be final.

(6) On appeal to a tribunal under subsection (5), the tribunal may make an order confirming, reversing or varying the decision of the Registrar.

20 (7) The Registrar or the tribunal (as the case may be) may request from any party to the claim any record, document, article or thing in the party's possession, custody or control if, in his or its opinion, the record, document, article or thing is necessary to enable the Registrar or tribunal to exercise his or its power under  
25 subsection (1), (2) or (6).

### **Pre-hearing mediation**

30 **22.**—(1) Where a claim has been lodged, other than a claim which has been dismissed or stayed (or if there is an appeal against a Registrar's decision to dismiss or stay the claim, his decision has been affirmed by the tribunal) or referred to a relevant authority under section 21(1)(c) or (d), a Registrar may order parties to the claim to attend a pre-hearing mediation before any person.

(2) Where a settlement is reached at a pre-hearing mediation the Registrar shall, at the request of the parties to the settlement, make an order in writing that gives effect to the terms of the settlement.

5 (3) An order made under subsection (2) by the Registrar will have effect as if it were an order of a tribunal and section 41 of the Civil Law Act will apply to such an order.

### **Where no settlement of claim at pre-hearing mediation**

10 **23.** Where no settlement of a claim is reached at a pre-hearing mediation or otherwise, the Registrar must fix the claim for hearing before a tribunal.

### **Referral of cases to Community Mediation Centre**

15 **24.—**(1) Notwithstanding any written law, the Registrar may refer a claim that has been lodged at a tribunal to a Community Mediation Centre for mediation, with or without the consent of the parties to the claim.

(2) The Registrar, in making a referral under subsection (1), may order all or any of the parties to the claim to attend personally before a mediator of a Community Mediation Centre at a time and place to be specified in the Registrar's order.

20 (3) Any person who fails to comply with the Registrar's order made under subsection (2) commits contempt of court and action may be taken against that person under section 8 of the State Courts Act (Cap. 321).

## **PART 6**

### **PROCEEDINGS BEFORE TRIBUNAL**

#### **Proceedings to be in private**

**25.** All proceedings before a tribunal shall be held in private.

#### **Evidence**

30 **26.—**(1) A tribunal is not to be bound by the rules of evidence but may inform itself on any matter in such manner as it thinks fit.

(2) Evidence tendered to a tribunal by or on behalf of a party to any proceedings need not be given on oath but the tribunal may, at any stage of the proceedings, require that such evidence or any part of such evidence be given on oath whether orally or in writing.

5 (3) A tribunal may, on its own initiative, seek and receive such other evidence and make such other investigations and inquiries as it thinks fit.

(4) All evidence and information received and ascertained by the tribunal under subsection (3) must be disclosed to every party.

10 (5) For the purposes of subsection (2), a Senior Tribunal Judge is empowered to administer an oath.

(6) A Senior Tribunal Judge may require any written evidence given in the proceedings before the tribunal to be verified by statutory declaration.

15 **Withdrawal of claim**

**27.** A claimant may at any time withdraw his claim whether or not a tribunal has heard the claim.

**Order of tribunal**

20 **28.** A tribunal may make any order under section 39 or 40 of the Civil Law Act (Cap. 43) with regard to a claim under section 38 of that Act.

**Enforcement of orders**

25 **29.** Every order by a tribunal under section 28 or a Registrar under section 22(2) shall be deemed to be an order of a Magistrate's Court and may be enforced in the same manner as if the order were given or made by a Magistrate's Court, and the Rules of Court (Cap 322, R 5) shall apply, with necessary modifications, to the enforcement of such orders.

**No costs allowed in proceedings before tribunal or Registrar**

**30.**—(1) Except as provided in this Act, costs, other than disbursements, shall not be granted to or awarded against any party to any proceedings before a tribunal or Registrar.

5 (2) Where a claimant or respondent fails to attend a pre-hearing mediation as ordered by the Registrar under section 22(1), the Registrar may order that costs be awarded against the party who fails to attend the pre-hearing mediation.

10 (3) Where a tribunal dismisses a claim which it considers to be frivolous or vexatious, or an abuse of the process of the tribunal, the tribunal may do so on such terms as to costs as it thinks fit.

PART 7

APPEAL

**Appeals**

15 **31.**—(1) Subject to subsection (2), any party to proceedings before a tribunal may appeal to the High Court against an order made by the tribunal under section 28.

(2) An appeal shall lie to the High Court under this section only if leave to appeal is given by the High Court.

20 (3) An order of the High Court giving or refusing leave under subsection (2) shall be final and shall not be subject to any appeal.

**Appeal not to operate as stay of execution**

25 **32.**—(1) The filing of an application for leave to appeal or of a notice of appeal to the High Court under section 31 shall not operate as a stay of execution of an order of the tribunal, unless the tribunal or the High Court otherwise orders.

30 (2) An order of a stay of execution may be subject to such conditions as to costs, payment into a tribunal or the High Court, the giving of security or otherwise as the tribunal or the High Court thinks fit.

### **Judgment or order of High Court to be final**

**33.** A judgment or order of the High Court, on an appeal under section 31(1), shall be final and shall not be subject to any appeal.

## **PART 8**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

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#### **Right of audience**

**34.—**(1) Subject to this section, a party to proceedings before a Registrar or tribunal shall present his own case.

10 (2) The following persons may present a case on behalf of a party to proceedings before a Registrar or tribunal:

(a) where the party is a minor and is, in the opinion of the Registrar or tribunal, unable to present his own case, his parent, his guardian or any other person as may be approved by the Registrar or tribunal (as the case may be);

15 (b) where a person is not resident in Singapore and is unable to remain in Singapore until the hearing of the case, any other person who is duly authorised in writing by the first-mentioned person and with the approval of the Registrar or tribunal (as the case may be);

20 (c) where a person who is, in the opinion of the Registrar or tribunal (as the case may be), is unable to present his own case by reason of old age, illiteracy or infirmity of mind or body, any other person who is duly authorised in writing by the first-mentioned person or who is approved by the  
25 Registrar or tribunal (as the case may be).

(3) Despite subsection (2), no party to any proceedings before a Registrar or tribunal shall be represented by an advocate and solicitor unless —

30 (a) all the parties to the proceedings otherwise agree to a party being represented by an advocate and solicitor; and

(b) with the leave of the Registrar or tribunal.

(4) Except as provided by subsection (2), no party to any proceedings before a Registrar or tribunal shall be represented by an agent, whether paid or otherwise.

5 (5) Notwithstanding subsection (2), the Registrar or tribunal shall, before permitting a person referred to in that subsection to represent a party, satisfy himself or itself that the person has sufficient knowledge of the case and sufficient authority to bind that party whom he represents.

### **Publication of orders**

10 **35.** The registrar shall cause to be published, in such manner as the Minister from time to time directs, such particulars relating to proceedings in tribunals as the Minister specifies in the direction.

### **Person not precluded from filing claim in court**

15 **36.** Nothing in this Act shall be construed as precluding a person from lodging a claim that is within the jurisdiction of a tribunal in any other court if that person elects to institute proceedings in that other court to hear and determine that claim.

### **Rules**

20 **37.—**(1) The Rules Committee appointed under section 80(3) of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Cap. 322) may make rules to —

- 25 (a) regulate and prescribe the procedure and practice to be followed in the tribunals and the Registry, including any procedure and practice to be followed in any proceedings or hearings (including mediation), and any matters incidental to or relating to any such procedure and practice;
- (b) regulate the enforcement of directions and orders of the tribunals and the Registrar; and
- 30 (c) prescribe such matters as are required by this Act to be prescribed or as are necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the rules may provide for the following:

- 5 (a) the form and content of documents to be used for the purposes under this Act, the services of documents and the giving of notices;
- (b) the manner and time within which any act, application, claim or appeal under this Act is to be done or made;
- (c) the functions, powers and duties of the tribunals, the Registrar and other officers including but not limited to —
  - 10 (i) the service of documents and giving of notices;
  - (ii) the enlargement and abridgement of time for the doing of any act or taking any proceedings;
  - (iii) the conduct of proceedings;
- 15 (d) the manner in and the time within which an application or claim may be heard, and the circumstances and manner in which claims may be heard together;
- (e) the withdrawal and amendment of claims;
- (f) the summoning of witnesses and the payment of witnesses from public funds or otherwise;
- 20 (g) the means by which particular facts may be proved, and the mode in which evidence thereof may be given, in any proceedings or on any application in connection with or at any stage of any proceedings;
- (h) the commission of offences by, and the punishment of,
  - 25 persons who refuse to give evidence or obey a summons to witness;
- (i) the transfer of proceedings from a court to a tribunal and from a tribunal to a court;
- 30 (j) to regulate the joinder of parties and to prescribe in what cases persons absent, but having an interest in the claim, shall be bound by any order made in that claim, and the circumstances in which orders may be made of the

representation of absent persons by one or more parties to a cause or matter;

- 5 (k) the circumstances where an order or direction of the Registrar a tribunal may be set aside and the procedure for setting aside such orders or directions;
- (l) the procedure to be followed on appeals from a Registrar to a tribunal and from a tribunal to the High Court;
- 10 (m) the scales of allowances, costs and fees to be taken or paid to any party or witness in any proceedings in a tribunal or before a Registrar, the fees to be charged in respect of anything done or any service rendered under or by virtue of this Act, and for regulating any matters relating to the costs of such proceedings.

## PART 9

### 15 CONSEQUENTIAL AND RELATED AMENDMENTS TO OTHER WRITTEN LAWS

#### **Consequential and related amendments to Community Mediation Centres Act**

20 **38.** The Community Mediation Centres Act (Cap. 49A) is amended —

- (a) by inserting, immediately after the word “section 15” in section 9, the words “and the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals Act 2014”;
- 25 (b) by inserting, immediately after the words “and 15” in section 11(1), the words “and the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals Act 2014”; and
- (c) by inserting, immediately after section 15, the following section:

**“Referral of cases under Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals Act**

5           **15A.** Where a dispute is referred under the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals Act 2014 by a Registrar of the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals for mediation by a mediator of the Community Mediation Centre, the mediator must record and notify, without delay, the Registrar of the outcome of the mediation.”.

**Related amendment to Small Claims Tribunals Act**

10       **39.** Section 5(1)(b) of the Small Claims Tribunals Act (Cap. 308) is amended by inserting, immediately after the words “any property”, the words “other than a claim under section 38 of the Civil Law Act (Cap. 43)”.

**Consequential and related amendments to State Courts Act**

15       **40.** The State Courts Act (Cap. 321) is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Magistrate’s Court limit” in section (2), the following definition:

20                           ““officer of the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals” means the Senior Tribunal Judge, a Tribunal Judge, the registrar or a deputy registrar of the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals;”;

25       (b) by deleting the full-stop at the end of sub-paragraph (e) of section 3(1) and substituting a semi-colon, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following sub-paragraph:

                          “(f) Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals.”;

(c) by inserting, immediately after paragraph (4) of section 3, the following paragraph:

30                           “(5) The Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals shall have such jurisdiction as is conferred by the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals Act 2015 or any other written law.”;

(d) by inserting, immediately after the words “judicial officers” in section 17(1), the words “, officers of the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals”;

5 (e) by deleting the section heading of section 17 and substituting the following section heading:

**“Oaths of judicial officers, etc.”;**

(f) by deleting the words “and Magistrates’ Courts” in section 61 and substituting the words “, Magistrates’ Courts and the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals”;

10 (g) by inserting, immediately after the words “judicial officer” in section 63(2), the words “or an officer of the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals”;

(h) by inserting, immediately after the words “judicial officer” in the following provisions, the words “or an officer of the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals”:

Sections 64(1) and (2), 65 and 68(1) and (4); and

(i) by inserting, immediately after the words “this Act” wherever they may appear in section 67, the words “, the Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals Act 2015”;

20 **Consequential and related amendment to Supreme Court of Judicature Act**

25 **41.** The Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Cap. 322) is amended by deleting the word “and” at the end of paragraph (b) of section 20 and by inserting, immediately after paragraph (b) of section 20, the following paragraph:

“(ba) the hearing of appeals from Community Dispute Resolution Tribunals; and”.

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