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25/04/2016



The District Court in Tel-Aviv - Yafo

Liquidation File 44348-04-16 Reznik Paz Nevo Trusts Ltd. Vs. Urbancorp Inc.

Before the Honorable Justice Eitan Orenstein, Vice President

On the matter of: the Companies Act, 5759-1999

And on the matter of: the Companies Regulations (Request for Compromise or Arrangement), 5762-2002

And on the matter of: Article 350 of the Companies Act, 5759-1999

And on the matter of: Reznik Paz Nevo Trusts Ltd.
Trustee of holders of bonds (class A) of the company
By its representatives: Yoel Freilich, Adv., Yael Herschkowitz, Adv., Inbar Hakmian-Nahari, Adv., and Evgeniya Gluchman, Adv.

The Applicant

And on the matter of: Urbancorp Inc.
By its representative: Gad Ticho, Adv.

The Company

And on the matter of: the Official Receiver
By its representative: Roni Hirschenzon, Adv.

Decision

General

1. Before me is an urgent request for the provision of temporary reliefs and for the appointment of a functionary in Urbancorp Inc. (hereinafter: "the Company"), pursuant to Regulation 14(a) of the Companies Regulations ((Request for Compromise or Arrangement), 5762-2002 (hereinafter: "the Arrangement Regulations") and Article 350 of the Companies Act, 5759-1999 (hereinafter: "the Companies Act").

Summary of the Facts

2. The Company incorporated in Canada and it is registered in the county of Ontario. Its main occupation is leasing and initiating real-estate for residential and commercial



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purposes at the location of its incorporation. The Company operates geothermal systems in several of its projects, which are used for providing heating and cooling for the properties, while using green energy. It is in the control of Mr. Alan Saskin, a citizen of Canada and a resident thereof (hereinafter: “**the Controlling Party**”).

In December 2015 the Company raised bonds from the Israeli public, amounting to approximately 180 million ILS, with an interest of 8.15%. The bonds were raised pursuant to a prospectus dated 30/11/2015 and later completions thereof, and were registered for trade at the Tel-Aviv Stock Exchange. It shall be stated that Midroog Ltd. has granted the bonds a rating of A3, a medium-high rank. The underwriter of the issuance was Apex Issuances Ltd., the prospectus was drafted by Shimonov & Co. Law Firm, and the Deloitte firm Brightman, Almagor, Zohar & Co., Accountants. The trustee for the bond holders is Reznik Paz Nevo Trusts Ltd., which has submitted the application (hereinafter: “**the Trustee**”).

The consideration of the issuance was intended to serve for shareholders’ loan for the Company’s subsidiaries which are also incorporated in Canada (hereinafter: “**the Subsidiaries**”) and for providing equity for paying off loans in their various projects, as specified in the bill of trust, as well as for the payment of taxes.

The application states that during the months following the issuance, there has been a severe deterioration in the Company’s financial state and in its capability to sustain itself, which is the result of a number of events, when according to the Applicant it is impossible to rule out that the share of those had already been known prior to the issuance, but they were not reported. The outcome was that all Company directors, apart from the Controlling Party, have resigned; the Company’s trade in securities has ceased; the ranking has ceased, and more. In light of the foregoing, there has been very intensive contact with the Controlling Party, who was supposed to sign a Stand-Still document, and has asked to delay the taking of actions against the Company. Nevertheless, the Trustee was surprised to find out that the Subsidiaries, which excess cash flows were supposed to serve the debt for the holders of bonds, have recently begun an insolvency proceeding in Canada, and a trustee on behalf of the court there has been appointed to them.

The Request

3. The Trustee points in his request, to a series of severe failures in the Company’s conduct, which also constitute a breach of the bill of trust, and give rise to a cause for providing



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the debt for immediate repayment and taking proceedings against the Company. For this matter, it has been claimed that it is necessary to immediately intervene in the Company's businesses by appointing a functionary, who shall be granted the authorities of the Company's directorate; who shall exercise the Company's power of control in its Subsidiaries; who shall examine the insolvency proceedings taken by the Subsidiaries; who shall negotiate with the trustee appointed to them; who shall act to obtain all required information pertaining to raising the capital; who shall formulate a recovery plan for the Company, inasmuch as it shall be possible; and who shall enter the Company's premises and its offices and shall seize its assets, including accounts and financial deposits.

4. The request was submitted on 24/04/2016, during the Passover recess, and I have instructed holding an urgent discussion today in the presence of the Company, its former functionaries who provide services to it, the Israeli Securities Authority, the Official Receiver and more. In my decision from yesterday, an order for the prohibition of disposition was also granted, according to which the Company and anyone on its behalf is prevented from making any transaction, of any sort and type whatsoever, with its property.

The Court Discussion

5. The following were present at the discussion: the Trustee and its representatives; the representative of the recently resigned Company directors; the Company's former legal consultants; the representative of the Tel-Aviv Stock Exchange and members of its legal department; the representative of the Official Receiver, as well as Gad Ticho, Adv., on behalf of the Company, who has notified that he had taken on representing the Company the previous evening.

The Trustee's representative, Yoel Freilich, Adv., has repeated the request during the discussion, and has emphasized the need for granting the urgent reliefs. He clarified that the Trustee has engaged with a law firm in Canada, which shall assist the functionary, should he be appointed, in fulfilling his position; that there is no conflict of interests for the intended functionary; and more.

According to the Company's representative, its client does not object to leaving the order of prohibition of disposition effective, however she does not see the need for appointing a functionary and for granting the requested authorities, and she objects to the identity of



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the suggested functionary due to conflict of interests. In addition, the Company's representative has claimed that there is no need for the drastic requested reliefs, that the Company should be given leave to submit a proper response, that in any case a meeting of the holders of bonds is scheduled for May 1, 2016 – in which the meeting shall decide with regards to continuing the proceeding – and that no irreversible damage shall occur should the order not be granted.

The representative of the Official Receiver holds the opinion that the state of the Company justifies granting a relief against it, similar to other cases in which the court has instructed appointing a functionary, even if it is for a limited period of time, until the situation is clarified.

Discussion and Ruling

6. We are dealing with a request which was submitted urgently during the Passover recess, and which requires an urgent decision, therefore I shall suffice with a brief reasoning.

The Rule

The request, by nature, is a request for temporary relief, and prior to submitting the primary proceeding. Therefore, it should be examined by the rules used for temporary reliefs, namely, does the Applicant meet the test of *prima facie* reliable evidence in the cause of the action as well as the balance of convenience test, and as set in the Civil Procedure Regulations, 5744-1984 and in rulings, when between the two there is a "parallelogram of forces" (see Civil Leave of Appeal 2174/13 **D.K. Shops for Rent in Herzlia HaTze'ira Ltd. Vs. Avraham Cohen & Co. Contracting Company Ltd.** (published on the website of the Judicial Authority, 19/04/2016).

I shall emphasize, that under the circumstances of the request before me, when the primary relief has not yet been requested, the court is required to take extra precautions when ruling on a request for temporary relief, especially given the drastic temporary reliefs requested therein.

The request is accompanying to a primary proceeding which the Trustee is intending to submit pursuant to the provisions of Article 350 of the Companies Act, which deals with an arrangement between a company and its creditors, a proceeding which, according to the word of the law, can also be taken by a creditor of the company, in addition to the company itself, or a participant or a liquidator. As is known, it is possible to appeal for



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temporary reliefs even before beginning the primary proceeding, provided that the applicant has met the required conditions stated above.

Another basis for the request, as mentioned, is Regulation 14(a) of the Arrangement Regulations, which authorizes the court to appoint a functionary when discussing a request for arrangement in accordance with Article 350 of the Companies Act, saying:

“To appoint a functionary, who shall have all authorities and duties which shall be determined by the court, including managing the company or supervising its management, keeping its assets, as well as examining claims of debt and claims for amending the registry of shareholders in the method specified in Chapter C; the court shall appoint a functionary once it was convinced that the candidate is suitable for the position due to his skills or his experience in formulating compromise arrangements or an arrangement[...].”

From the General to the Specific

7. Viewing the statements of claim and their appendixes paints a grim picture, to say the least, of the state of the Company.

On the surface it appears that it is failing to meet the conditions of the bill of trust, in a way which gives rise to a cause for providing the debt for immediate repayment. For this matter, I shall list the breaches, each of which is sufficient to give rise to the stated cause, let alone when put together: the trade in the Company's bonds has been stopped; the Company's rating by Midroog Ltd. has also been stopped; all of the Company's Israeli directors have resigned, as well as its legal consultants and its internal auditor;

And severe failures in the Company's activity have been found, as specified in the report it submitted pertaining to its financial data, dated April 20, 2016. Amongst those: a loss of 15 million Canadian Dollars compared with the current activity in the last quarter of 2015; a decrease in the value of the right of the Controlling Party assigned to the Company to receive loans from corporations in his control, thus from an estimated value of approximately eight million Dollars, the value is expected to drop to an insignificant amount; concern that the Company shall decrease the value of the geothermal assets at a total ranging between four and six million Canadian Dollars. The end of the report even



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states that it is possible that the Company's state is far worse and that its losses shall be high.

Another event teaching of failures in the Company which should be stated, is the decision of the Canadian Home Organization Trion dated April 4, 2016, to not extend the Company's license, namely, the Company is not entitled to continue its activity of initiating and selling planned projects.

This is joined by the fact stated above, that the Subsidiaries have recently begun a stay of proceedings in Canada, as part of which a trustee was appointed to them. The Company and the Controlling Party have not brought this important fact to the knowledge of the Trustee, let alone given details pertaining to the proceeding taken, its significance, its implication on the Company and such.

The conclusion drawn from the stated above is that there is total uncertainty with regards to the Company's financial state, its equity, its capability of sustaining itself, and concern for the fate of the investments made by the holders of bonds. Another conclusion is that there is a substantial lack of information pertaining to the occurrences in the Company, and the Trustee is forced to seek in the dark, all when there is concern for the fate of the Company and its assets, including with regards to the occurrences in the Subsidiaries and their assets, which have enjoyed the monies of capital raised by the holders of bonds.

In my opinion, the stated above is sufficient basis for appointing a functionary to the Company, who shall be authorized to receive all information pertaining to the Company, its activity, its property and its rights, including the Subsidiaries and the proceedings conducted in Canada. Simultaneously, the functionary shall be able to track the Company's property, to locate it, to seize it and to prevent making irreversible actions. I shall add that obtaining the information shall also enable making an educated decision regarding taking appropriate proceedings with regards to the Company, to minimize damages and to redirect, as much as possible, the monies which would be could be paid to the holders of bonds.

Needless to say, the Company is in the twilight zone of insolvency, when there is concern for its fate and for the fate of the monies of investors, unless urgent actions are taken. As stated by the representative of the Official Receiver, the court discussing insolvency has a wide range of reliefs at its disposal, which also apply to a situation where the Company is in the twilight zone of insolvency. In this regard I shall refer to a recent ruling by the



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Supreme Court, as said by the Honorable Justice E. Hayut in Civil Appeal 3791/15 Synergy Cables vs. Hever, paragraph 8 (published on the website of the Judicial Authority on 19/04/2016):

The District Court has not ruled pursuant to which legal authority it appoints the respondent, but as rightfully stated by the respondent, reality shows that there are cases [...] where the court appoints **functionaries in proceedings in which the corporation is in the “zone of insolvency”, even prior to issuing an order for stay of proceedings or for the liquidation of the company (compare, for example: Liquidation File (Tel-Aviv) 36681-04-13 Hermetic Trusts (1975) Ltd. vs. IDB Development Ltd. (30/04/2013), in which the District Court in Tel-Aviv (Justice E. Orenstein) has decided to appoint a functionary who was defined as an “observer” for the company, while relying for this purpose of the wide authority granted to him in accordance with Regulation 14(a)(1) of the Companies Regulations [...]**

(Emphasis not in the original – E.O.)

This rule also applies to the matter before us.

In my opinion, the circumstances of the case meet the tests required for granting a temporary relief. For this matter, the Company has allegedly breached its undertakings towards the holders of bonds in a way which grants the holders of bonds the right to provide the debt for immediate repayment, and to claim the reliefs due as a result thereof. I shall add that the balance of convenience also leans towards granting the temporary relief. In this context, I shall state that according to the Company's representative, these days a substantial transaction is to be executed, of selling the Company's property, which should provide it with a substantial amount of money; it is not improbable that the consideration shall not be given to the holders of bonds, despite the order of prohibition of disposition, in the absence of practical capability for enforcement, thus causing irreversible damage. Therefore, only a functionary who could also track the stated transaction, could possibly prevent irreversible damage to the holders of bonds.

This conclusion is emphasized noticing the recent problematic conduct of the Controlling Party. As is evident in the request, he has failed to disclose to the Trustee during contacts



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conducted these days that the Subsidiaries intend on taking the proceeding of insolvency as they have done.

In fact, the Company has no management core, whereas all directors, apart from the Controlling Party, have resigned, it has no internal auditor, and even the legal consultants have terminated their engagement with it. In this state of affairs, the Company is given to the good will of the Controlling Party, and in light of the problems I have pointed pertaining to him, and in the absence of supervision on his conduct, it would be best to appoint an authority who shall take the Company's reigns and shall supervise the occurrences in the Company at least until the picture is clarified.

I have not ignored the claim made by the Company's representative regarding the damage which could be caused to the Company due to appointing the functionary, but I have not seen that it leads to a different conclusion. I believe that the weight of the reasons I have specified above, exceeds by far the concern raised by Advocate Ticho in this regard. In any case, it is possible to find the required balance between guaranteeing the Company's conduct and the argued damage, by limiting the authorities which shall be granted to the Trustee and the period of time in which he shall be appointed. I shall emphasize that the concern raised by Advocate Ticho, which, according to him, may be a result of appointing a temporary liquidator to the Company, can be abated by not appointing a temporary liquidator, which has not even been requested.

I have also answered the argument made by Advocate Ticho regarding the conflict of interest in which the offered functionary is allegedly in, due to him representing the Trustee. I have not found this argument sufficient reason for not appointing Advocate Gissin, and I shall clarify: Gissin & Co. Law Firm has accepted the representation of the Trustee only recently, as Advocate Freilich has said in the discussion. The firm has not represented the Trustee in the process of preparing the prospectus, its publication and the issuance of the bonds, nor in the following period, but only following the Company's getting into trouble. Therefore, it is impossible to say that he is involved in proceedings preceding this request. In addition, should it be found out in the future, that there is a conflict of interest, the argument shall be made before the court and shall be examined by itself, and the argument shall not prevent the appointment at the preliminary stage we are in.



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8. To complete the picture I shall state that there is no dispute regarding the authority of the court in Israel to grant the requested relief. In this context, I shall refer to the various documents attached by the Trustee to the request, including the prospectus and the bill of trust, which state that the Company acknowledges the authority of the court in Israel to grant the reliefs (see clause 34 of the bill). In addition, I shall state that Article 39a of the Securities Law, 5728-1968, which applies to the prospectus, rules that the provisions of the Companies Act shall apply to any foreign company which has issued securities. Needless to say, the authority of the court to discuss the request is also pursuant to the court ruling given in a case with similar circumstances, and I shall refer to Civil Appeal 2706/11 **Sybil Germany Public Co. Limited vs. Hermetic Trusts (1975) Ltd.** (published on the website of the Judicial Authority on 04/09/2015).

9. In light of the foregoing I hereby instruct as follows:

I appoint Advocate Gissin as functionary in Urbancorp Inc. and grant him the authority to exercise the Company's authorities, for all following actions:

- ✦ To locate, to track and to seize all Company assets, of any sort and type whatsoever, including its monies and rights in the Subsidiaries;
- ✦ To exercise the Company's power of control in the Subsidiaries;
- ✦ To obtain all information, of any sort and type whatsoever, pertaining to the Company's activity, its property and its rights; the same applies to the Subsidiaries;
- ✦ To negotiate with the Subsidiaries' trustee, and for this purpose, to also approach the Canadian court as an authorized representative of the Company;
- ✦ To track the Company's activities prior to the prospectus and thereafter.

For the purpose of exercising these authorities, the functionary is hereby authorized to appear in the Company's name before any body, authority or person in Israel and abroad; to obtain any information whatsoever from any of the Company's factors, from the Controlling Parties, from the authorities and from any person who has provided or is providing services for the Company; and to obtain from them all documents he believes shall be required for fulfilling his position.



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The functionary shall be authorized to formulate an initial outline of a creditors' arrangement.

The functionary shall approach the court if necessary, and shall request its permission to exercise Company authorities not expressly specified in the decision.

For the avoidance of doubt: the functionary is not authorized to realize the Company's property.

A condition for the appointment is the functionary depositing a personal bond at a total of 250,000 ILS.

The functionary shall do all that he can for obtaining the required information in the coming days, so that it can be presented, as much as possible, before the meeting of holders of bonds set for next Sunday, May 1, 2016.

At this point I set the appointment until May 22, 2016 or as shall be otherwise decided.

A first report of the functionary's actions shall be submitted by May 8, 2016.

The case has been set for discussion for May 22, 2016 at 11:30.

The secretariat shall notify of the decision by telephone and shall also send it by fax.

Given today, 17 Nisan 5776 (25th of April 2016), *ex parte*.

Eitan Orenstein, Justice

Vice President

