

South Africa

## Insolvency Act, 1936

Act 24 of 1936

Legislation as at 1 June 2006

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Insolvency Act, 1936 (Act 24 of 1936)

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# South Africa

## Insolvency Act, 1936

### Act 24 of 1936

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*[Please note that the research on this work is ongoing. Amendment, commencement and repeal information may be missing.]*

- [Amended by [Finance Act, 1938 \(Act 17 of 1938\)](#) on 30 September 1938]*
- [Amended by [Income Tax Act, 1940 \(Act 25 of 1940\)](#) on 20 May 1940]*
- [Amended by [Income Tax Act, 1941 \(Act 31 of 1941\)](#) on 1 July 1941]*
- [Amended by [Hire-Purchase Act, 1942 \(Act 36 of 1942\)](#) on 1 May 1942]*
- [Amended by [Insolvency Law Amendment Act, 1943 \(Act 16 of 1943\)](#) on 19 April 1943]*
- [Amended by [Insolvency Amendment Act, 1965 \(Act 99 of 1965\)](#) on 1 July 1943]*
- [Amended by [Insurance Act, 1943 \(Act 27 of 1943\)](#) on 1 April 1944]*
- [Amended by [General Law Amendment Act, 1952 \(Act 32 of 1952\)](#) on 4 June 1952]*
- [Amended by [General Law Amendment Act, 1955 \(Act 62 of 1955\)](#) on 6 July 1955]*
- [Amended by [General Law Amendment Act, 1956 \(Act 50 of 1956\)](#) on 22 June 1956]*
- [Amended by [Merchant Shipping Act, 1951 \(Act 57 of 1951\)](#) on 1 January 1960]*
- [Amended by [Farmers' Assistance Amendment Act, 1960 \(Act 16 of 1960\)](#) on 1 April 1960]*
- [Amended by [Finance Act, 1960 \(Act 64 of 1960\)](#) on 1 June 1960]*
- [Amended by [Income Tax Act, 1961 \(Act 80 of 1961\)](#) on 1 July 1961]*
- [Amended by [Income Tax Amendment Act, 1963 \(Act 6 of 1963\)](#) on 1 March 1963]*
- [Amended by [Insolvency Amendment Act, 1965 \(Act 99 of 1965\)](#) on 7 July 1965]*
- [Amended by [Insolvency Amendment Act, 1972 \(Act 6 of 1972\)](#) on 8 March 1972]*
- [Amended by [Income Tax Act, 1972 \(Act 90 of 1972\)](#) on 28 June 1972]*
- [Amended by [General Law Amendment Act, 1973 \(Act 62 of 1973\)](#) on 27 June 1973]*
- [Amended by [General Law Amendment Act, 1974 \(Act 29 of 1974\)](#) on 15 March 1974]*
- [Amended by [Income Tax Act, 1974 \(Act 85 of 1974\)](#) on 29 November 1974]*
- [Amended by [Sales Tax Act, 1978 \(Act 103 of 1978\)](#) on 28 June 1978]*
- [Amended by [Insolvency Amendment Act, 1980 \(Act 78 of 1980\)](#) on 25 June 1980]*
- [Amended by [Insolvency Amendment Act, 1983 \(Act 101 of 1983\)](#) on 26 August 1983]*
- [Amended by [Insolvency Amendment Act, 1984 \(Act 84 of 1984\)](#) on 18 July 1984]*
- [Amended by [Insolvency Amendment Act, 1983 \(Act 101 of 1983\)](#) on 1 October 1984]*
- [Amended by [Transfer of Powers and Duties of the State President Act, 1986 \(Act 97 of 1986\)](#) on 3 October 1986]*
- [Amended by [Insolvency Amendment Act, 1987 \(Act 27 of 1987\)](#) on 24 June 1987]*
- [Amended by [Insolvency Amendment Act, 1989 \(Act 89 of 1989\)](#) on 28 July 1989]*
- [Amended by [Insolvency Amendment Act, 1991 \(Act 6 of 1991\)](#) on 28 March 1991]*
- [Amended by [General Law Amendment Act, 1992 \(Act 139 of 1992\)](#) on 7 August 1992]*
- [Amended by [General Law Amendment Act, 1992 \(Act 139 of 1992\)](#) on 9 October 1992]*
- [Amended by [Security by Means of Movable Property Act, 1993 \(Act 57 of 1993\)](#) on 7 May 1993]*
- [Amended by [General Law Fifth Amendment Act, 1993 \(Act 157 of 1993\)](#) on 7 May 1993]*
- [Amended by [Insolvency Amendment Act, 1993 \(Act 122 of 1993\)](#) on 1 September 1993]*
- [Amended by [General Law Third Amendment Act, 1993 \(Act 129 of 1993\)](#) on 1 September 1993]*
- [Amended by [Insolvency Amendment Act, 1995 \(Act 32 of 1995\)](#) on 21 July 1995]*
- [Amended by [General Law Amendment Act, 1996 \(Act 49 of 1996\)](#) on 4 October 1996]*
- [Amended by [Judicial Matters Amendment Act, 1996 \(Act 104 of 1996\)](#) on 14 February 1997]*
- [Amended by [Judicial Matters Amendment Act, 1998 \(Act 34 of 1998\)](#) on 31 March 1999]*



[Amended by [Judicial Matters Second Amendment Act, 1998 \(Act 122 of 1998\)](#) on 1 September 2000]  
 [Amended by [Administration of Estates Laws Rationalisation Act, 2001 \(Act 20 of 2001\)](#) on 20 July 2001]  
 [Amended by [Judicial Matters Amendment Act, 2001 \(Act 42 of 2001\)](#) on 7 December 2001]  
 [Amended by [Insolvency Amendment Act, 2002 \(Act 33 of 2002\)](#) on 1 January 2003]  
 [Amended by [Insolvency Second Amendment Act, 2002 \(Act 69 of 2002\)](#) on 1 January 2003]  
 [Amended by [Cross-Border Insolvency Act, 2000 \(Act 42 of 2000\)](#) on 28 November 2003]  
 [Amended by [Judicial Matters Amendment Act, 2003 \(Act 16 of 2003\)](#) on 9 July 2004]  
 [Amended by [Securities Services Act, 2004 \(Act 36 of 2004\)](#) on 1 February 2005]  
 [Amended by [Judicial Matters Second Amendment Act, 2003 \(Act 55 of 2003\)](#) on 31 March 2005]  
 [Amended by [National Credit Act, 2005 \(Act 34 of 2005\)](#) on 1 June 2006]

[The Act was amended by the substitution for the expression "Governor-General" of the expression "State President" and for the expression "Republic" of the expression "union", wherever it occurs by section 48 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]

## ACT

**To consolidate and amend the law relating to insolvent persons and to their estates.**

BE IT ENACTED by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate and the House of Assembly of the Republic of South Africa, as follows;—

### 1. Repeal of laws

The Insolvency Act, 1916 ([Act No. 32 of 1916](#)), the Insolvency Act, 1916, Amendment Act, 192C ([Act No. 29 of 1926](#)) (except the title and preamble thereof and sections one, seventy-one, seventy-two and seventy-four thereof) and section twenty of the Land Bank Amendment Act, 1934 ([Act No. 58 of 1934](#)) are hereby repealed: Provided that if an estate was sequestrated or assigned before the commencement of this Act the sequestration or assignment and all proceedings in connection therewith shall be completed, and a person whose estate was sequestrated or assigned before each commencement and any matter relating to such sequestration, assignment or person shall be dealt with as if this Act had not been passed; and provided further that if, before the said commencement, any action was taken under the said [Act No. 32 of 1916](#) with a view to the surrender or sequestration of an estate but the surrender or sequestration was not effected before the said commencement, such action shall, after such commencement, be deemed to have been taken under this Act, in so far as this Act makes provision therefor.

### 2. Definitions

In this Act unless inconsistent with the context—

"**account**", in relation to a trustee, means a liquidation, account or a plan of distribution or of contribution, or any supplementary liquidation account or plan of distribution or contribution, as the case may require;

"**banking institution**" means a banking institution as defined in section 1 of the Banks Act, 1965 ([Act No. 23 of 1965](#)), and registered or provisionally registered or deemed to be registered as a banking institution in terms of section 4 of that Act, but does not include a provisionally registered banking institution which is so registered provisionally after the coming into operation of the Insolvency Amendment Act, 1972;

[definition of "banking institution" inserted by section 1 of [Act 6 of 1972](#)]

"**building society**" means a building society as defined in section 1 of the Building Societies Act, 1965 ([Act No. 24 of 1965](#)), and finally registered or deemed to be finally registered as a building society in terms of section 5 of that Act;

[definition of "building society" inserted by section 1 of [Act 6 of 1972](#)]

"**Court**" or "the Court", in relation to any matter means the provincial or Local division of the Supreme Court which has jurisdiction in that matter in terms of section one hundred and forty-nine or one hundred and fifty-one, or any judge of that division; and in relation to any offence under this Act or in section

eight, twenty-six, twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-one, thirty-two, paragraph (a) of sub-section (3) of section thirty-four, seventy-two, seventy-three, seventy-five, seventy-six, seventy-eight or one hundred and forty-seven the expression " Court " or " the Court " includes a magistrate's court which has jurisdiction in regard to the offence or matter in question;

"**debtor** ", in connection with the sequestration of the debtor's estate, means a person or a partnership or the estate of a person or partnership which is a debtor in the usual sense of the word, except a body corporate or a company or other association of persons which may be placed in liquidation under the law relating to companies;

"**disposition** " means any transfer or abandonment of rights to property and includes a sale, lease, mortgage, pledge, delivery, payment, release, compromise, donation or any contract therefor, but does not include a disposition in compliance with an order of the court; and "dispose" has a corresponding meaning;

*[definition of "disposition" substituted by section 1 of [Act 27 of 1987](#)]*

"**free residue** ", in relation to an insolvent estate, means that portion of the estate which is not subject to any right of preference by reason of any special mortgage, legal hypothec, pledge or right of retention;

*[definition of "free residue" amended by section 2(a) of [Act 16 of 1943](#)]*

"**Gazette**" *[definition of "Gazette" inserted by section 2(b) of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and deleted by section 1 of [Act 49 of 1996](#)]*

"**good faith** ", in relation to the disposition of property, means the absence of any intention to prejudice creditors in obtaining payment of their claims or to prefer one creditor above another;

"**immovable property** " means land and every right or interest in land or minerals which is registrable in any office in the Republic intended for the registration of title to land or the right to mine;

"**insolvent** " when used as a noun, means a debtor whose estate is under sequestration and includes such a debtor before the sequestration of his estate, according to the context;

"**insolvent estate** " means an estate under sequestration;

"**magistrate** " includes an additional magistrate and an assistant magistrate;

"**Master** " in relation to any matter, means the Master of the Supreme Court within whose area of jurisdiction that matter is to be dealt with and includes an Assistant Master;

"**messenger** " means a messenger of a magistrate's court and includes a deputy-messenger;

"**Minister**" means the Cabinet member responsible for the administration of justice;

*[definition of "Minister" inserted by section 1 of [Act 16 of 2003](#)]*

"**movable property** " means every kind of property and every right or interest which is not immovable property;

"**preference** ", in relation to any claim against an insolvent estate, means the right to payment of that claim out of the assets of the estate in preference to other claims; and " preferent " has a corresponding meaning;

"**property** " means movable or immovable property wherever situate within the Republic, and includes contingent interests in property other than the contingent interests of a fidei commissary heir or legatee;

"**security** ", in relation to the claim of a creditor of an insolvent estate, means property of that estate over which the creditor has a preferent right by virtue of any special mortgage, landlord's legal hypothec, pledge or right of retention;

" **sequestration order** " means any order of Court whereby an estate is sequestered, and includes a provisional order, when it has not been set aside;

"**sheriff** " includes a deputy sheriff;

"**special mortgage**" means a mortgage bond hypothecating any immovable property or a notarial mortgage bond hypothecating specially described movable property in terms of section 1 of the Security by Means of Movable Property Act, 1993 ([Act No. 57 of 1993](#)), or such a notarial mortgage bond registered before 7 May 1993 in terms of section 1 of the Notarial Bonds (Natal) Act, 1932 ([Act No. 18 of 1932](#)), but excludes any other mortgage bond hypothecating movable property;

*[definition of "special mortgage" inserted by section 2(c) of [Act 16 of 1943](#), substituted by section 4 of [Act 57 of 1993](#) and by section 1(1) of [Act 157 of 1993](#)]*

"**Supreme Court**" *[definition of "Supreme Court" inserted by section 2(c) of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and deleted by section 1 of [Act 49 of 1996](#)]*

"**the Territory**" *[definition of "the Territory" inserted by section 2(c) of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and deleted by section 1 of [Act 49 of 1996](#)]*

"**trader**" means any person who carries on any trade, business, industry or undertaking in which property is sold, or is bought, exchanged or manufactured for purpose of sale or exchange, or in which building operations of whatever nature are performed, or an object whereof is public entertainment, or who carries on the business of an hotel keeper or boarding-house keeper, or who acts as a broker or agent of any person in the sale or purchase of any property or in the letting or hiring of immovable property; and any person shall be deemed to be a trader for the purpose of this Act (except for the purposes of sub-section (10) of section twenty-one) unless it is proved that he is not a trader as hereinbefore defined; Provided that if any person carries on the trade, business, industry or undertaking of selling property which he produced (either personally or through any servant) by means of farming operations, the provisions of this Act relating to traders only shall not apply to him in connection with his said trade, business, industry or undertaking;

"**trustee**" means the trustee of an estate under sequestration, and includes a provisional trustee.

"**Republic**" *[definition of "Republic" added by section 2(d) of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and deleted by section 1 of [Act 49 of 1996](#)]*

### 3. Petition for acceptance of surrender of estate

- (1) An insolvent debtor or his agent or a person entrusted with the administration of the estate of a deceased insolvent debtor or of an insolvent debtor who is incapable of managing his own affairs, may petition the Court for the acceptance of the surrender of the debtor's estate for the benefit of his creditors.
- (2) All the members of a partnership (other than partners *en commandite* or special partners as defined in the Special Partnerships Limited Liability Act, 1861 ([Act No. 24 of 1861](#)) of the Cape of Good Hope or in [Law No. 1 of 1865](#) of Natal) who reside in the Republic, or their agent, may petition the Court for the acceptance of the surrender of the estate of the partnership and of the estate of each such member.
- (3) Before accepting or declining the surrender, the Court may direct the petitioner or any other person to appear and be examined before the Court.

### 4. Notice of surrender and lodging at Master's office of statement of debtor's affairs

- (1) Before presenting a petition mentioned in section three the person who intends to present the petition (in this section referred to as the petitioner) shall cause to be published in the *Gazette* and in a newspaper circulating in the district in which the debtor resides, or, if the debtor is a trader, in the district in which his principal place of business is situated, a notice of surrender in a form corresponding substantially with Form A in the First Schedule to this Act. The said notice shall be published not more than thirty days and not less than fourteen days before the date stated in the notice of surrender as the date upon which application will be made to the Court for acceptance of the surrender of the estate of the debtor:

*[subsection (1) amended by section 3(a) of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and by section 1 of [Act 49 of 1996](#)]*

- (2) (a) Within a period of seven days as from the date of publication of the said notice in the *Gazette*, the petitioner must deliver or post a copy of the said notice to every one of the creditors of the debtor in question whose address he or she knows or can ascertain.
- (b) The petitioner must further, within the period referred to in paragraph (a), furnish a copy of the notice—
- (i) by post to every registered trade union that, to the petitioner's knowledge, represents any of the debtor's employees; and
  - (ii) to the employees themselves—
    - (aa) by affixing a copy of the notice to any notice board to which the employees have access inside the debtor's premises; or
    - (bb) if there is no access to the premises by the employees, by affixing a copy of the notice to the front gate of the premises, where applicable, failing which to the front door of the premises from which the debtor conducted any business immediately prior to the surrender; and
  - (iii) by post to the South African Revenue Service.

*[subsection (2) amended by section 3(b) of Act 16 of 1943 and substituted by section 1 of Act 69 of 2002]*

- (3) The petitioner shall lodge at the office of the Master a statement in duplicate of the debtor's affairs, framed in a form corresponding substantially with Form B in the First Schedule to this Act. That statement shall contain the particulars for which provision is made in the said Form, shall comply with any requirements contained therein and shall be verified by an affidavit (which shall be free from stamp duty) in the form set forth therein.
- (4) Upon receiving the said statement, the Master may direct the petitioner to cause any property set forth therein to be valued by a sworn appraiser or by any person designated by the Master for the purpose.
- (5) If the debtor resides or carries on business as a trader in any district (other than the district of Wynberg, Simonstown or Bellville in the Province of the Cape of Good Hope) wherein there is no Master's office, the petitioner shall also lodge a copy of the said statement at the office of the magistrate of the district or, if the debtor resides or so carries on business in a portion of such district in respect of which an additional or assistant magistrate permanently carries out the functions of the magistrate of the district at a place other than the seat of magistracy of that district, at the office of such additional or assistant magistrate.
- [subsection (5) amended by section 19 of Act 62 of 1955]*
- (6) The said statement shall be open to the inspection of any creditor of the debtor during office hours for a period of fourteen days from a date to be mentioned in the notice of surrender.

## **5. Prohibition of sale in execution of property of estate after publication of notice of surrender and appointment of *curator bonis***

- (1) After the publication of a notice of surrender in the *Gazette* in, terms of section four, it shall not be lawful to sell any property of the estate in question, which has been attached under writ of execution or other process, unless the person charged with the execution of the writ or other process could not have known of the publication: Provided that the Master, if in his opinion the value of any such property does not exceed R5 000, or the Court, if it exceeds that amount, may order the sale of the property attached and direct how the proceeds of the sale shall be applied.

*[subsection (1) substituted by section 1 of Act 99 of 1965 and amended by section 1 of Act 101 of 1983]*

- (2) After the publication of a notice of surrender as aforesaid in the *Gazette* the Master may, in accordance with policy determined by the Minister, appoint a *curator bonis* to the debtor's estate, who shall forthwith take the estate into his or her custody and take over the control of any business

or undertaking of the debtor, as if he or she were the debtor, as the Master may direct, including any business the debtor is licensed to carry on in terms of the Liquor Act, 1989 ([Act No. 27 of 1989](#)), but subject in every case, *mutatis mutandis*, to the provisions of section 70.

[subsection (2) amended by section 4 of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and substituted by section 2 of [Act 16 of 2003](#)]

## 6. Acceptance by Court of surrender of estate

- (1) If the Court is satisfied that the provisions of section four have been complied with, that the estate of the debtor in question is insolvent, that he owns realisable property of a sufficient value to defray all costs of the sequestration which will in terms of this Act be payable out of the free residue of his estate and that it will be to the advantage of creditors of the debtor if his estate is sequestrated, it may accept the surrender of the debtor's estate and make an order sequestrating that estate.
- (2) If the Court does not accept the surrender or if the notice of surrender is withdrawn in terms of section seven, or if the petitioner fails to make the application for the acceptance of the surrender of the debtor's estate before the expiration of a period of fourteen days as from the date specified in the notice of surrender, as the date upon which application will be made to the Court for the acceptance of the surrender of the debtor's estate, the notice of surrender shall lapse and if a *curator bonis* was appointed, the estate shall be restored to the debtor as soon as the Master is satisfied that sufficient provision, has been made for the payment of all costs incurred under sub-section (2) of section five.

## 7. Withdrawal of notice of surrender

- (1) A notice of surrender published in the *Gazette* may not be withdrawn without the written consent of the Master.
- (2) A person who has published a notice of surrender in the *Gazette* may apply to the Master for his consent to the withdrawal of the notice, and if it appears to the Master that the notice was published in good faith and that there is good cause for its withdrawal, he shall give his written consent thereto. Upon the publication, at the expense of the applicant, of a notice of withdrawal and of the Master's consent thereto, in the *Gazette* and in the newspaper in which the notice of surrender appeared, the notice of surrender shall be deemed to have been withdrawn.

## 8. Acts of insolvency

A debtor commits an act of insolvency—

- (a) if he leaves the Republic or being out of the Republic remains absent therefrom, or departs from his dwelling or otherwise absents himself, with intent by so doing to evade or delay the payment of his debts;
- (b) if a Court has given judgment against him and he fails, upon the demand of the officer whose duty it is to execute that judgment, to satisfy it or to indicate to that officer disposable property sufficient to satisfy it, or if it appears from the return made by that officer that he has not found sufficient disposable property to satisfy the judgment;
- (c) if he makes or attempts to make any disposition of any of his property which has or would have the effect of prejudicing his creditors or of preferring one creditor above another;
- (d) if he removes or attempts to remove any of his property with intent to prejudice his creditors or to prefer one creditor above another;
- (e) if he makes or offers to make any arrangement with any of his creditors for releasing him wholly or partially from his debts;
- (f) if, after having published a notice of surrender of his estate which has not lapsed or been withdrawn in terms of section six or seven, he fails to comply with the requirements of sub-section (3) of section four or lodges, in terms of that sub-section, a statement which is incorrect or incomplete in

any material respect or fails to apply for the acceptance of the surrender of his estate on the date mentioned in the aforesaid notice as the date on which such application is to be made;

- (g) if he gives notice in writing to any one of his creditors that he is unable to pay any of his debts;
- (h) if, being a trader, he gives notice in the *Gazette* in terms of sub-section (1) of section thirty-four, and is thereafter unable to pay all his debts.

## 9. Petition for sequestration of estate

- (1) A creditor (or his agent) who has a liquidated claim for not less than fifty pounds, or two or more creditors (or their agent) who in the aggregate have liquidated claims for not less than one hundred pounds against a debtor who has committed an act of insolvency or is insolvent, may petition the Court for the sequestration of the estate of the debtor.

*[subsection (1) amended by section 6(a) of [Act 16 of 1943](#)]*

- (2) A liquidated claim which has accrued but which is not yet due on the date of hearing of the petition, shall be reckoned as a liquidated claim for the purposes of sub-section (1).
- (3) (a) Such a petition shall, subject to the provisions of paragraph (c), contain the following information, namely—
  - (i) the full names and date of birth of the debtor and, if an identity number has been assigned to him, his identity number;
  - (ii) the marital status of the debtor and, if he is married, the full names and date of birth of his spouse and, if an identity number has been assigned to his spouse, the identity number of such spouse;
  - (iii) the amount, cause and nature of the claim in question;
  - (iv) whether the claim is or is not secured and, if it is, the nature and value of the security; and
  - (v) the debtor's act of insolvency upon which the petition is based or otherwise allege that the debtor is in fact insolvent.
- (b) The facts stated in the petition shall be confirmed by affidavit and the petition shall be accompanied by a certificate of the Master given not more than ten days before the date of such petition that sufficient security has been given for the payment of all fees and charges necessary for the prosecution of all sequestration proceedings and of all costs of administering the estate until a trustee has been appointed, or if no trustee is appointed, of all fees and charges necessary for the discharge of the estate from sequestration.
- (c) The particulars contemplated in paragraph (a)(i) and (ii) shall also be set out in the heading to the petition, and if the creditor is unable to set out all such particulars he shall state the reason why he is unable to do so.
- (d) In issuing a sequestration order the registrar shall reflect any of the said particulars that appear in the heading to the petition on such order.

*[subsection (3) amended by section 6(b) of [Act 16 of 1943](#), substituted by section 2 of [Act 99 of 1965](#) and by section 1 of [Act 122 of 1993](#)]*

- (4) Before such a petition is presented to the Court, a copy of the petition and of every affidavit confirming the facts stated in the petition shall be lodged with the Master, or, if there is no Master at the seat of the Court, with an officer in the public service designated for that purpose by the Master by notice in the *Gazette*, and the Master or such officer may report to the Court any facts ascertained by him which would appear to him to justify the Court in postponing the hearing or in dismissing the petition. The Master or the said officer shall transmit a copy of that report to the petitioning creditor or his agent.

- (4A) (a) When a petition is presented to the court, the petitioner must furnish a copy of the petition—
- (i) to every registered trade union that, as far as the petitioner can reasonably ascertain, represents any of the debtor's employees; and
  - (ii) to the employees themselves—
    - (aa) by affixing a copy of the petition to any notice board to which the petitioner and the employees have access inside the debtor's premises; or
    - (bb) if there is no access to the premises by the petitioner and the employees, by affixing a copy of the petition to the front gate of the premises, where applicable, failing which to the front door of the premises from which the debtor conducted any business at the time of the presentation of the petition;
  - (iii) to the South African Revenue Service; and
  - (iv) to the debtor, unless the court, at its discretion, dispenses with the furnishing of a copy where the court is satisfied that it would be in the interest of the debtor or of the creditors to dispense with it.
- (b) The petitioner must, before or during the hearing, file an affidavit by the person who furnished a copy of the petition which sets out the manner in which paragraph (a) was complied with.

*[subsection (4A) inserted by section 2 of Act 69 of 2002]*

- (5) The Court, on consideration of the petition, the Master's or the said officer's report thereon and of any further affidavit which the petitioning creditor may have submitted in answer to that report, may act in terms of section ten or may dismiss the petition, or postpone its hearing or make such other order in the matter as in the circumstances appears to be just.

## 10. Provisional sequestration

If the Court to which the petition for the sequestration of the estate of a debtor has been presented is of the opinion that *prima facie*—

- (a) the petitioning creditor has established against the debtor a claim such as is mentioned in subsection (1) of section nine; and
- (b) the debtor has committed an act of insolvency or is insolvent; and
- (c) there is reason to believe that it will be to the advantage of creditors of the debtor if his estate is sequestrated,

it may make an order sequestrating the estate of the debtor provisionally.

## 11. Service of rule *nisi*

- (1) If the court sequestrates the estate of a debtor provisionally it must simultaneously grant a rule *nisi* calling upon the debtor upon a day mentioned in the rule to appear and to show cause why his or her estate should not be sequestrated finally.
  - (2) If the debtor has been absent during a period of twenty-one days from his or her usual place of residence and of his or her business (if any) within the Republic, the court may direct that it is sufficient service of that rule if a copy thereof is affixed to or near the outer door of the buildings where the court sits and published in the *Gazette*, or may direct some other mode of service.
- (2A) A copy of the rule *nisi* must be served on—
- (a) any trade union referred to in subsection (4);

- (b) the debtor's employees by affixing a copy of the petition to any notice board to which the employees have access inside the debtor's premises, or if there is no access to the premises by the employees, by affixing a copy to the front gate, where applicable, failing which to the front door of the premises from which the debtor conducted any business at the time of the presentation of the petition; and
  - (c) the South African Revenue Service.
- (3) Upon the application of the debtor the court may anticipate the return day for the purpose of discharging the order of provisional sequestration if twenty-four hours' notice of such application has been given to the petitioning creditor.
- (4) For the purposes of serving the rule *nisi* in terms of subsection (2A), the sheriff must establish whether the employees are represented by a registered trade union and determine whether there is a notice board inside the employer's premises to which the employees have access.

[section 11 substituted by section 3 of [Act 69 of 2002](#)]

## 12. Final sequestration or dismissal of petition for sequestration

- (1) If at the hearing pursuant to the aforesaid rule *nisi* the Court is satisfied that—
- (a) the petitioning creditor has established against the debtor a claim such as it mentioned in sub-section (1) of section nine; and
  - (b) the debtor has committed an act of insolvency or is insolvent; and
  - (c) there is reason to believe that it will be to the advantage of creditors of the debtor if his estate is sequestrated,
- it may sequester the estate of the debtor.
- (2) If at such hearing the Court is not so satisfied, it shall dismiss the petition for the sequestration of the estate of the debtor and set aside the order of provisional sequestration or require further proof of the matters set forth in the petition and postpone the hearing for any reasonable period but not *sine die*.

## 13. Sequestration of partnership estate

- (1) If the Court sequesters the estate of a partnership (whether provisionally or finally or on acceptance of surrender), it shall simultaneously sequester the estate of every member of that partnership other than a partner *en commandite* or a special partner as defined in the Special Partnerships' Limited Liability Act, 1861 ([Act No. 24 of 1861](#)) of the Cape of Good Hope or in [Law No. 1 of 1865](#) of Natal, who has not held himself out as an ordinary or general partner of the partnership in question: Provided that if a partner has undertaken to pay the debts of the partnership within a period determined by the Court and has given security for such payment to the satisfaction of the registrar, the separate estate of that partner shall not be sequestrated by reason only of the sequestration of the estate of the partnership.

[subsection (1), previously unnumbered, numbered by section 7(b) and amended by section 7(a) of [Act 16 of 1943](#)]

- (2) Where the individual estate of a partner is unable fully to meet the costs of sequestration, the balance shall be paid out of the assets of the estate of the partnership.

[subsection (2) added by section 7(b) of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and substituted by section 3 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]

- (3) The surrender of the estate of a partnership shall not be accepted unless and until the Court is satisfied that petitions have been presented for the acceptance of the surrender of the separate estates of all the partners in the partnership concerned, and that in this regard the requirements of section four have been observed. The petitions re the surrender of the separate estates of



the several partners may be incorporated in the petition re the surrender of the estate of the partnership.

*[subsection (3) added by section 7(b) of [Act 16 of 1943](#)]*

#### **14. Petitioning creditor to prosecute sequestration proceedings until trustee appointed**

- (1) The creditor upon whose petition a sequestration order has been made shall, at his own cost, prosecute all the proceedings in the sequestration until a provisional trustee has been appointed or if no provisional trustee has been appointed until a trustee has been appointed.
- (2) The trustee shall pay to the said creditor out of the first funds of the estate available for that purpose under section ninety-seven his costs, taxed according to the tariff applicable in the Court which made this sequestration order.
- (3) In the event of a contribution by creditors under section one hundred and six, the petitioning creditor, whether or not he has proved a claim against the estate in terms of section forty-four, shall be liable to contribute not less than he would have had to contribute if he had proved the claim stated in his petition.

#### **15. Compensation to debtor if petition is an abuse of court's procedure or malicious or vexatious**

Whenever the court is satisfied that a petition for the sequestration of a debtor's estate is an abuse of the court's procedure or is malicious or vexatious, the court may allow the debtor forthwith to prove any damage which he or she may have sustained by reason of the presentation of the petition and award him or her such compensation as it may deem fit.

*[section 15 substituted by section 4 of [Act 69 of 2002](#)]*

#### **16. Insolvent and spouse whose separate estate has not been sequestrated must deliver his business records and lodge statement of his affairs with Master**

- (1) The registrar of the court granting a final order of sequestration (including an order on acceptance of surrender) shall without delay cause a copy thereof to be served by the deputy sheriff, in the manner provided by the rules of court, on the insolvent concerned and if such order relates to the separate estate of one of two spouses who are not living apart under a judicial order of separation, also on the spouse whose estate has not been sequestrated, and file with the Master a copy of the deputy sheriff's return of service.
- (2) An insolvent upon whom a copy of such order has been served shall—
  - (a) forthwith deliver to the deputy sheriff all books and records relating to his affairs, which have not yet been taken into custody in terms of paragraph (a) of sub-section (1) of section nineteen and obtain from the deputy sheriff a detailed receipt therefor; and
  - (b) within seven days of such service lodge, in duplicate, with the Master a statement of his affairs as at the date of the sequestration order, framed in a form corresponding substantially with Form B of the First Schedule to this Act, containing the particulars for which provision is made in the said Form and verified by an affidavit (which shall be free from stamp duty) in the form set forth therein.
- (3) A spouse whose separate estate has not been sequestrated and upon whom a copy of an order referred to in sub-section (1) has been served shall within seven days of such service lodge, in duplicate, with the Master a statement of his affairs, as at the date of the sequestration order, framed in a form corresponding substantially with Form B of the First Schedule to this Act containing the particulars for which provision is made in the said Form and verified by affidavit (which shall be free from stamp duty) in the form set forth therein.

- (4) In the statement referred to in paragraph (b) of sub-section (2) or in sub-section (3) any merchandise mentioned therein shall be valued at its cost price or at its market value, at the time of the making of the said affidavit, whichever is the lower.
- (5) If the Master is satisfied that the insolvent or a spouse referred to in sub-section (3) was unable to prepare, without assistance, such a statement which he lodged as aforesaid, the person who assisted the insolvent or such spouse with the preparation of the statement shall be entitled to a reasonable fee, to be determined by the Master, which shall be deemed to be part of the costs of the sequestration.

*[section 16 amended by section 9 of Act 16 of 1943 and substituted by section 4 of Act 99 of 1965]*

## 17. Notice of sequestration

- (1) The registrar shall without delay transmit—
  - (a) one original of every sequestration order and of every order relating to an insolvent estate or to a trustee or to an insolvent, made by the Court, to the Master;
  - (b) one original of every provisional sequestration order or if a final sequestration order was not preceded by a provisional sequestration order, then of that final order, and of every order amending or setting aside any prior order so transmitted, which was made by the Court to—
    - (i) the deputy-sheriff of every district in which it appears that the insolvent resides or owns property;
    - (ii) every officer charged with the registration of title to any immovable property in the Republic;
    - (iibis) every officer having charge of a register of ships kept at a port of registry appointed as such in terms of paragraph (c) of section four of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1951, for the registration of ships;

*[subparagraph (ii)bis inserted by section 1 of Act 57 of 1951]*

- (iii) every sheriff and every messenger who or whose deputy holds under attachment any property belonging to the insolvent estate.

- (2) Every officer who has received an order transmitted to him in terms of subsection (1), or a certificate and a copy of an order transmitted to him in terms of section 18A, shall register each such order, certificate or copy and note thereon the day and hour when it was received in his office.

*[subsection (2) substituted by section 2(a) of Act 122 of 1993]*

- (3) (a) Upon the receipt by any officer referred to in subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of a sequestration order, or of a certificate and a copy of an order referred to in section 18A, he shall, if he has not yet entered such a caveat, enter a caveat against the transfer of all immovable property or the cancellation or cession of any bond registered in the name of or belonging to the insolvent, and if the sequestration order or the certificate referred to in section 18A contains the name of the spouse of the insolvent, he shall in like manner enter a caveat in respect of such spouse.
- (b) A caveat contemplated in this subsection, whether it was entered before or after the commencement of the Insolvency Amendment Act, 1993, shall expire ten years after the date of the sequestration order in question, or six months after the commencement of the said Act, whichever date is the later.

*[subsection (3) substituted by section 2(b) of Act 122 of 1993]*

- (3bis) Upon the receipt by any officer referred to in sub-paragraph (ii)bis of paragraph (b) of sub-section (1) of a sequestration order he shall enter a caveat against the transfer of every ship or share in a

ship or the cancellation or cessation of every deed of mortgage of a ship or share in a ship registered in the name of or belonging to the insolvent or his or her spouse.

*[subsection (3)bis inserted by section 1 of Act 57 of 1951]*

- (4) When the Master has received a sequestration order or an order setting aside a provisional sequestration order he shall in each case give notice in the *Gazette* of such order.

*[subsection (4) substituted by section 10 of Act 16 of 1943]*

## 18. Appointment of provisional trustee by Master

- (1) As soon as an estate has been sequestrated (whether provisionally or finally) or when a person appointed as trustee ceases to be trustee or to function as such, the Master may, in accordance with policy determined by the Minister, appoint a provisional trustee to the estate in question who shall give security to the satisfaction of the Master for the proper performance of his or her duties as provisional trustee and shall hold office until the appointment of a trustee.

*[subsection (1) substituted by section 3 of Act 16 of 2003]*

- (2) At any time before the first meeting of the creditors of an insolvent estate in terms of section forty, the Master may, subject to the provisions of sub-section (3) of this section, give such directions to the provisional trustee as could be given to a trustee by the creditors at a meeting of creditors.
- (3) A provisional trustee shall have the powers and the duties of a trustee, as provided in this Act, except that without the authority of the Court or for the purpose of obtaining such authority he shall not bring or defend any legal proceedings and that without the authority of the Court or Master he shall not sell any property belonging to the estate in question. Such sale shall furthermore be after such notices and subject to such conditions as the Master may direct.

*[subsection (3) amended by section 11 of Act 16 of 1943]*

- (4) When a meeting of Creditors for the election of a trustee has been held in terms of section forty and no trustee has been elected, and the Master has appointed a provisional trustee in the estate in question, the Master shall appoint him as trustee on his finding such additional security as the Master may have required.

## 18A. Trustee to furnish particulars of insolvent

Any person appointed as provisional trustee after the commencement of the Insolvency Amendment Act, 1993, or if no provisional trustee has been appointed, or if the provisional trustee has failed to perform the duties mentioned below, a trustee appointed after the said commencement shall as soon as possible after his appointment determine whether the particulars referred to in section 9(3)(a)(i) and (ii) are correctly reflected in the sequestration order, and if any of such particulars are not so reflected or are incorrectly reflected he shall forthwith take all reasonable steps to obtain the correct particulars and shall transmit a certificate containing such particulars, a copy of the sequestration order and of his appointment to every officer charged with the registration of title to any immovable property in the Republic and to the Master.

*[section 18A inserted by section 3 of Act 122 of 1993]*

## 18B. Trustee may cause caveat to be entered

- (1) A trustee may, before or after the rehabilitation of an insolvent, with the written consent of the Master, by notice to the officer charged with the registration of title to immovable property in the Republic, in respect of immovable property or a bond registered in the name of the insolvent or of his spouse contemplated in section 21(13), cause a caveat to be entered against the transfer of the immovable property or the cancellation or cession of the bond referred to in the notice.
- (2) The notice referred to in subsection (1) shall be accompanied by the written consent of the Master contemplated in that subsection and shall identify sufficiently the person in respect of whom and

the property or bond in respect of which the caveat is to be entered so as to enable the officer charged with the registration to enter the caveat as contemplated in the said subsection

- (3) The caveat shall remain in force until the date indicated by the Master in his consent.

*[section 18B inserted by section 3 of [Act 122 of 1993](#)]*

## 19. Attachment of property by deputy sheriff

- (1) As soon as a deputy-sheriff has received a sequestration order he shall attach, as hereinafter provided and make an inventory of the movable property of the insolvent estate which is in his district and is capable of manual delivery and not in the possession of a person who claims to be entitled to retain it under a right of pledge or a right of retention or under attachment by a messenger, that is to say—

- (a) he shall take into his own custody all books of account, invoices, vouchers, business correspondence, and any other records relating to the affairs of the insolvent, cash, share certificates, bonds, bills of exchange, promissory notes, and other securities, and remit all such cash to the Master;

*[paragraph (a) substituted by section 5(a) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (b) he shall leave movable property other than animals in a room or other suitable place properly sealed up or appoint some suitable person to hold any movable property in his custody;
- (c) he shall hand to the person so appointed a copy of the inventory, with a notice that the property has been attached by virtue of a sequestration order. That notice shall contain a statement of the offence constituted by section one hundred and forty-two and the penalty provided therefor.
- (d) he shall make a detailed list of all such books and records and endorse thereon any explanation offered by the insolvent in respect thereof or in respect of any books or records relating to his affairs which the insolvent is unable to produce;
- (e) if the insolvent is present he shall enquire from him whether the list referred to in paragraph (d) is a complete list of the books and records relating to his affairs and record his reply thereto.

*[paragraph (e) added by section 5(b) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (1)bis If an insolvent has in reply to the deputy sheriff's enquiry intimated that the list referred to in paragraph (d) of sub-section (1) is a complete list of the books and records relating to his affairs, the books and records referred to in such list shall, unless the contrary is proved, in any criminal proceedings against him under this Act, be deemed to be the only books and records maintained by him.

*[subsection (1)bis inserted by section 5(c) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (2) Any person interested in the insolvent estate or in the property attached may be present or may authorize another person to be present when the deputy-sheriff is making his inventory.
- (3) The deputy-sheriff shall—
- (a) immediately after effecting the attachment, report to the Master in writing that the attachment has been effected and mention in his report any property which to his knowledge is in the lawful possession of a pledgee or of a person who is entitled to retain such property by virtue of a right of retention and shall submit with such report a copy of the inventory made by him under sub-section (1);

- (b) as soon as possible after the appointment of the trustee, submit a copy of such inventory to him.

*[subsection (3) substituted by section 5(d) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (4) A messenger shall transmit to the Master without delay an inventory of all property attached by him which he knows to belong to an insolvent estate.
- (5) The deputy-sheriff shall be entitled to fees taxed by the Master according to tariff A in the Second Schedule to this Act and the rules for the construction of that tariff.
- (6) The Minister may by notice in the *Gazette* amend the said tariff A and rules.

*[subsection (6) added by section 11 of [Act 50 of 1956](#), amended by sections 46 and 47 of [Act 97 of 1986](#) and substituted by section 4 of [Act 16 of 2003](#)]*

## 20. Effect of sequestration on insolvent's property

- (1) The effect of the sequestration of the estate of an insolvent shall be—
  - (a) to divest the insolvent of his estate and to vest it in the Master until a trustee has been appointed, and, upon the appointment of a trustee, to vest the estate in him;
  - (b) to stay, until the appointment of a trustee, any civil proceedings instituted by or against the insolvent save such proceedings as may, in terms of section twenty-three, be instituted by the insolvent for his own benefit or be instituted against the insolvent: Provided that if any claim which formed the subject of legal proceedings against the insolvent which were so stayed, has been proved and admitted against the insolvent's estate in terms of section forty-four or seventy-eight the claimant may also prove against the estate a claim for his taxed costs, incurred in connection with those proceedings before the sequestration of the insolvent's estate;
  - (c) as soon as any sheriff or messenger, whose duty it is to execute any judgment given against an insolvent, becomes aware of the sequestration of the insolvent's estate, to stay that execution, unless the Court otherwise directs;
  - (d) to empower the insolvent, if in prison for debt, to apply to the Court for his release, after notice to the creditor at whose suit he is so imprisoned, and to empower the Court to order his release, on such conditions as it may think fit to impose.
- (2) For the purposes of sub-section (1) the estate of an insolvent shall include—
  - (a) all property of the insolvent at the date of the sequestration, including property or the proceeds thereof which are in the hands of a sheriff or a messenger under a writ of attachment;
  - (b) all property which the insolvent may acquire or which may accrue to him during the sequestration, except as otherwise provided in section twenty-three.

## 21. Effect of sequestration on property of spouse of insolvent

- (1) The additional effect of the sequestration of the separate estate of one of two spouses who are not living apart under a judicial order of separation shall be to vest in the Master, until a trustee has been appointed, and, upon the appointment of a trustee, to vest in him all the property (including property or the proceeds thereof which are in the hands of a sheriff or a messenger under a writ of attachment) of the spouse whose estate has not been sequestrated (hereinafter referred to as the solvent spouse) as if it were property of the sequestrated estate, and to empower the Master or trustee to deal with such property accordingly, but subject to the following provisions of this section.

- (2) The trustee shall release any property of the solvent spouse which is proved—
- (a) to have been the property of that spouse immediately before her or his marriage to the insolvent or before the first day of October, 1926; or
  - (b) to have been acquired by that spouse under a marriage settlement; or
  - (c) to have been acquired by that spouse during the marriage with the insolvent by a title valid as against creditors of the insolvent; or
  - (d) to be safeguarded in favour of that spouse by section twenty eight of this Act or by the Insurance Act, 1923 ([Act No. 37 of 1923](#)); or  
*[paragraph (d) amended by section 12 of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and by section 1 of [Act 49 of 1996](#)]*
  - (e) to have been acquired with any such property as aforesaid or with the income or proceeds thereof.
- (3) If the solvent, spouse is in the Republic and the trustee is able to ascertain his or her address, the trustee shall not, except with the leave of the Court, realise property which ostensibly belonged to the solvent spouse, until the expiry of six weeks written notice of his intention to do so, given to that spouse. Such notice shall also be published in the *Gazette* and in a newspaper circulating in the district in which the solvent spouse resides or carries on business, and shall invite all separate creditors for value of that spouse to prove their claims as provided in sub-section (5).
- (4) The solvent spouse may apply to the Court for an order releasing any property vested in the trustee of the insolvent estate under sub-section (1) or for an order staying the sale of such property or, if it has already been sold, but the proceeds thereof not yet distributed among creditors, for an order declaring the applicant to be entitled to those proceeds; and the Court may make such order on the application as it thinks just.
- (5) Subject to any order made under sub-section (4) any property of the solvent spouse realised by the trustee shall bear a proportionate share of the costs of the sequestration as if it were property of the insolvent estate but the separate creditors for value of the solvent spouse having claims which could have been proved against the estate of that spouse if it had been the estate under sequestration, shall be entitled to prove their claims against the estate of the insolvent spouse in the same manner and, except as in this Act is otherwise provided, shall have the same lights and remedies and be subject to the same obligations as if they were creditors of the insolvent estate; and the creditors who have so proved claims shall be entitled to share in the proceeds of the property so realised according to their legal priorities *inter se* and in priority to the separate creditors of the insolvent estate, but shall not be entitled to share in the separate assets of the insolvent estate.
- (6) If any property of the solvent spouse (other than property mentioned in paragraph (d) of sub-section (2)) has been released by virtue of sub-section (2) or (4) the separate creditors of that spouse shall only be entitled to share in the proceeds of any property of the solvent spouse which has been realised by the trustee, after the property so released and any property of that spouse acquired by her or him since the sequestration, have been excused.
- (7) Before awarding any such creditor a share in such proceeds, the trustee may require the creditor to lodge with him, within a period to be determined by the Master, an affidavit, supported by such evidence as may be available, setting forth the result of such excussion and disclosing the balance of his claim which remains unpaid. He shall then be entitled to share as aforesaid in respect of that balance only: Provided that any creditor who has incurred costs in excussing the separate property of the solvent spouse and has been unable to recover those costs from the proceeds of that property shall be entitled to add the amount of those costs to the amount of his claim as proved.
- (8) If, during the period determined by the Master, any such creditor has failed either to lodge with the trustee such an affidavit as aforesaid, or to excuss any separate property of the solvent spouse still available for the satisfaction of his claim, he shall be debarred from sharing as aforesaid unless the Court otherwise orders.

- (9) A creditor of the solvent spouse who has proved a claim as provided in sub-section (5) shall not be liable to make any contribution under section one hundred and six, and shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the creditors of the insolvent estate held in terms of section forty, forty-one or forty-two; but any direction of the creditors of the insolvent estate which infringes the rights of any such first-mentioned creditor may be set aside by the Court on the application of such creditor.
- (10) If the solvent spouse is carrying on business as a trader, apart from the insolvent spouse or if it appears to the Court that the solvent spouse is likely to suffer serious prejudice through the immediate vesting of the property of that spouse in the Master or the trustee, and the Court is satisfied in either case that the solvent spouse is willing and able to make arrangements whereby the interest therein of the insolvent estate in the said property will be safeguarded without such a vesting, the Court, either when making the sequestration order or at some later date, but subject to the immediate completion of such arrangement as aforesaid, may exclude that property or any part thereof from the operation of the order, for such period as it thinks fit. During that period the solvent spouse shall lay before the trustee the evidence available in support of her or his claim to such property and within that period the trustee shall notify the solvent spouse in writing whether or not he will release such property in accordance with subsection (2). If the property has not been so released, then upon the expiry of the said period that property shall vest in the Master or in the trustee, but subject to the provisions of this section.
- (11) If application is made to the Court for the sequestration of the estate of the solvent spouse on the ground of an act of insolvency committed by that spouse since the vesting of her or his property in the Master or the trustee of the insolvent estate, and the Court is satisfied that the act of insolvency alleged in that application was due to such vesting, then if it appears—
- (a) that an application is being or, if necessary, will be made under sub-section (4) for the release of any property of the solvent spouse; or
  - (b) that any property of the solvent spouse has been released since the making of the sequestration order, and that the solvent spouse is now in a position to discharge her or his liabilities, the Court may postpone the hearing of the said application or may make such interim order thereon as to it may seem just.
- (12) If the trustee has in accordance with the preceding provisions of this section released any property alleged to belong to the solvent spouse, he shall not be debarred thereby from proving that it belongs to the insolvent estate and from recovering accordingly.
- (13) In this section the word "spouse" means not only a wife or husband in the legal sense, but also a wife or husband by virtue of a marriage according to any law or custom, and also a woman living with a man as his wife or a man living with a woman as her husband, although not married to one another.

## 22. Payment of debts after sequestration

Every satisfaction in whole or in part of any obligation the fulfilment whereof was due or the cause of which arose before the sequestration of the creditor's estate shall, if made to the insolvent after such sequestration, be void, unless the debtor proves that it was made in good faith and without knowledge of the sequestration.

## 23. Rights and obligations of insolvent during sequestration

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section and of section twenty-four, all property acquired by an insolvent shall belong to his estate.
- (2) The fact that a person entering into any contract is an insolvent, shall not affect the validity of that contract: Provided that the insolvent does not thereby purport to dispose of any property of his insolvent estate; and provided further that an insolvent shall not, without the consent in writing of the trustee of his estate, enter into any contract whereby his estate or any contribution towards his

estate which he is obliged to make, is or is likely to be adversely affected, but in either case subject to the provisions of sub-section (1) of section twenty-four.

- (3) An insolvent may follow any profession or occupation or enter into any employment, but he may not, during the sequestration of his estate without the consent in writing of the trustee of his estate, either carry on, or be employed in any capacity or have any direct or indirect interest in, the business of a trader who is a general dealer or a manufacturer: Provided that any one of the creditors of the insolvent's estate or the insolvent himself may, if the trustee gives or refuses such consent, appeal to the Master, whose decision shall be final.
- (3bis) Where a trustee has given his written consent to an insolvent to enter into a contract, or to carry on a trade in terms of sub-section (2) or sub-section (3), as the case may be, he shall forthwith forward to the Master a copy of such consent. Any trustee who does not so forward such consent within one week after it has been granted, shall be deemed to have contravened the provisions of paragraph (b) of section sixty.

*[subsection (3)bis inserted by section 13 of [Act 16 of 1943](#)]*

- (4) The insolvent shall keep a detailed record of all assets received by him from whatever source, and of all disbursements made by him in the course of his profession, occupation or employment, and, if required thereto by the trustee, shall transmit to the trustee in the first week of every month a statement verified by affidavit of all assets received and of all disbursements made by him during the preceding month. The trustee may inspect such record at all reasonable times and may demand the production of reasonable vouchers in support of any item in such accounts and of the expenditure of the insolvent for the support of himself and those dependent upon him.
- (5) The trustee shall be entitled to any moneys received or to be received by the insolvent in the course of his profession, occupation or other employment which in the opinion of the Master are not or will not be necessary for the support of the insolvent and those dependent upon him, and if the trustee has notified the employer of the insolvent that the trustee is entitled, in terms of this sub-section to any part of the insolvent's remuneration due to him at the time of such notification, or which will become due to him thereafter, the employer shall pay over that part to the trustee.
- (6) The insolvent may sue or may be sued in his own name without reference to the trustee of his estate in any matter relating to status or any right in so far as it does not affect his estate or in respect of any claim due to or against him under this section, but no cession of his earnings after the sequestration of his estate, whether made before or after the sequestration shall be of any effect so long as his estate is under sequestration.
- (7) The insolvent may for his own benefit recover any pension to which he may be entitled for services rendered by him.
- (8) The insolvent may for his own benefit recover any compensation for any loss or damage which he may have suffered, whether before or after the sequestration of his estate, by reason of any defamation or personal injury: Provided that he shall not, without the leave of the Court, institute an action against the trustee of his estate on the ground of malicious prosecution or defamation.
- (9) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (5) the insolvent may recover for his own benefit, the remuneration or reward for work done or for professional services rendered by or on his behalf after the sequestration of his estate.
- (10) The insolvent may be sued in his own name for any delict committed by him after the sequestration of his estate, and his insolvent estate shall not be liable therefor.
- (11) Any property claimable by the trustee from the insolvent under this section may be recovered from the insolvent by writ of execution to be issued by the registrar upon the production to him of a certificate by the Master that the property stated therein is so claimable.
- (12) The insolvent shall at any time before the second meeting of the creditors of his estate held in terms of section forty, at the request of the trustee assist the trustee to the best of his ability in collecting, taking charge of or realising any property belonging to the estate: Provided that the trustee shall, during the period of such assistance, give to the insolvent out of the estate such an



allowance in money or goods as is, in the opinion of the Master, necessary to support the insolvent and his or her dependants.

- (13) The insolvent shall keep the trustee of his estate informed of his residential and postal addresses.
- (14) Any notice or information which is to be conveyed to an insolvent in terms of this Act, may be delivered to him personally or may be delivered at or sent in a registered letter by post to an address given by the insolvent to the trustee in terms of sub-section (13).

#### **24. Provisions relating to property in possession of insolvent after sequestration**

- (1) If an insolvent purports to alienate, for valuable consideration, without the consent of the trustee of his estate any property which he acquired after the sequestration of his estate (and which by virtue of such acquisition became part of his sequestrated estate) or any right to any such property to a person who proves that he was not aware and had no reason to suspect that the estate of the insolvent was under sequestration the alienation shall nevertheless be valid.
- (2) Whenever an insolvent has acquired the possession of any property, such property shall, if claimed by the trustee of the insolvent's estate, be deemed to belong to that estate unless the contrary is proved; but if a person who became the creditor of the insolvent after the sequestration of his estate, alleges (whether against the trustee or against the insolvent) that any such property does not belong to the said estate and claims any right thereto, the property shall be deemed not to belong to the estate, unless the contrary is proved.

#### **25. Estate to remain vested in trustee until composition or rehabilitation**

- (1) The estate of an insolvent shall remain vested in the trustee until the insolvent is reinvested therewith pursuant to a composition as in section 119 provided, or until the rehabilitation of the insolvent in terms of section 127 or 127A: Provided that, subject to the provisions of subsection (3), any property which immediately before the rehabilitation is vested in the trustee shall remain vested in him after the rehabilitation for the purposes of realization and distribution.

*[subsection (1) substituted by section 2 of Act 6 of 1972 and by section 4(a) of Act 122 of 1993]*

- (2) When a trustee has vacated his office or has been removed from office or has resigned or died the estate shall vest in the remaining trustee, if any; otherwise it shall vest in the Master until another trustee has been appointed.
- (3) After the expiry of every caveat entered in terms of section 17(3), 18B or 127A in respect of the property of an insolvent any act of registration in respect of such property brought about by him shall be valid in spite of the fact that the property formed part of his insolvent estate.

*[subsection (3) added by section 4(b) of Act 122 of 1993]*

- (4) If a person who is or was insolvent unlawfully disposes of immovable property or a right to immovable property which forms part of his insolvent estate, the trustee may, notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3), recover the value of the property or right so disposed of—
  - (a) from the insolvent or former insolvent;
  - (b) from any person who, knowing such property or right to be part of the insolvent estate, acquired such property or right from the insolvent or former insolvent; or
  - (c) from any person who acquired such property or right from the insolvent or former insolvent without giving sufficient value in return, in which case the amount so recovered shall be the difference between the value of the property or right and any value given in return.

*[subsection (4) added by section 4(b) of Act 122 of 1993]*

## 26. Disposition without value

- (1) Every disposition of property not made for value may be set aside by the Court if such disposition was made by an insolvent—
  - (a) more than two years before the sequestration of his estate, and it is proved that, immediately after the disposition was made, the liabilities of the insolvent exceeded his assets;
  - (b) within two years of the sequestration of his estate, and the person claiming under or benefited by the disposition is unable to prove that, immediately after the disposition was made, the assets of the insolvent exceeded his liabilities:

Provided that if it is proved that the liabilities of the insolvent at any time after the making of the disposition exceeded his assets by less than the value of the property disposed of, it may be set aside only to the extent of such excess.

- (2) A disposition of property not made for value, which was set aside under subsection (1) or which was uncompleted by the insolvent, shall not give rise to any claim in competition with the creditors of the insolvent's estate: Provided that in the case of a disposition of property not made for value, which was uncompleted by the insolvent, and which—
  - (a) was made by way of suretyship, guarantee or indemnity; and
  - (b) has not been set aside under subsection (1),

the beneficiary concerned may compete with the creditors of the insolvent's estate for an amount not exceeding the amount by which the value of the insolvent's assets exceeded his liabilities immediately before the making of that disposition.

*[subsection (2) substituted by section 1 of [Act 84 of 1984](#)]*

## 27. Antenuptial contracts

- (1) No immediate benefit under a duly registered antenuptial Contract given in good faith by a man to his wife or any child to be born of the marriage shall be set aside as a disposition without value, unless that man's estate was sequestrated within two years of the registration of that antenuptial contract.
- (2) In sub-section (1) the expression "immediate benefit" means a benefit given by a transfer, delivery, payment, cession, pledge, or special mortgage of property completed before the expiration of a period of three months as from the date of the marriage.

## 28. \*\*\*

*[section 28 repealed by section 78 of [Act 27 of 1943](#)]*

## 29. Voidable preferences

- (1) Every disposition of his property made by a debtor not more than six months before the sequestration of his estate or, if he is deceased and his estate is insolvent, before his death, which has had the effect of preferring one of his creditors above another, may be set aside by the Court if immediately after the making of such disposition the liabilities of the debtor exceeded the value of his assets, unless the person in whose favour the disposition was made proves that the disposition was made in the ordinary course of business and that it was not intended thereby to prefer one creditor above another.

*[subsection (1) amended by section 9(a) of [Act 64 of 1960](#) and substituted by section 6 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (2) *[subsection (2) deleted by section 9(b) of [Act 64 of 1960](#)]*

- (3) Every disposition of property made under a power of attorney whether revocable or irrevocable, shall for the purposes of this section and of section thirty be deemed to be made at the time at which the transfer or delivery or mortgage of such property takes place.
- (4) For the purposes of this section any period during which the provisions of sub-section (1) of section eleven of the Farmers' Assistance Act, 1935 ([Act No. 48 of 1935](#)), applied in respect of any debtor as an applicant in terms of the said Act, shall not be taken into consideration in the calculation of any period of six months.

*[subsection (4) added by section 17 of [Act 16 of 1960](#)]*

### **30. Undue preference to creditors**

- (1) If a debtor made a disposition of his property at a time when his liabilities exceeded his assets, with the intention of preferring one of his creditors above another, and his estate is thereafter sequestrated, the Court may set aside the disposition.
- (2) For the purposes of this section and of section twenty-nine a surety for the debtor and a person in a position by law analogous to that of a surety shall be deemed to be a creditor of the debtor concerned.

### **31. Collusive dealings before sequestration**

- (1) After the sequestration of a debtor's estate the Court may set aside any transaction entered into by the debtor before the sequestration, whereby he, in collusion with another person, disposed of property belonging to him in a manner which had the effect of prejudicing his creditors or of preferring one of his creditors above another.
- (2) Any person who was a party to such collusive disposition shall be liable to make good any loss thereby caused to the insolvent estate in question and shall pay for the benefit of the estate, by way of penalty, such sum as the Court may adjudge, not exceeding the amount by which he would have benefited by such dealing if it had not been set aside; and if he is a creditor he shall also forfeit his claim against the estate.
- (3) Such compensation and penalty may be recovered in any action to set aside the transaction in question.

### **32. Proceedings to set aside improper disposition**

- (1)
  - (a) Proceedings to recover the value of property or a right in terms of section [25\(4\)](#), to set aside any disposition of property under section [26](#), [29](#), [30](#) or [31](#), or for the recovery of compensation or a penalty under section [31](#), may be taken by the trustee.
  - (b) If the trustee fails to take any such proceedings they may be taken by any creditor in the name of the trustee upon his indemnifying the trustee against all costs thereof.

*[subsection (1) substituted by section 5 of [Act 122 of 1993](#)]*

- (2) In any such proceedings the insolvent may be compelled to give evidence on a subpoena issued on the application of any party to the proceedings or he may be called by the Court to give evidence. When giving such evidence he may not refuse to answer any question on the ground that the answer may tend to incriminate him or on the ground that he is to be tried on a criminal charge and may be prejudiced at such a trial by his answer.
- (3) When the Court sets aside any disposition of property under any of the said sections, it shall declare the trustee entitled to recover any property alienated under the said disposition or in default of such property the value thereof at the date of the disposition or at the date on which the disposition is set aside, whichever is the higher.

### 33. Improper disposition does not affect certain rights

- (1) A person who, in return for any disposition which is liable to be set aside under section twenty-six, twenty-nine, thirty or thirty-one, has parted with any property or security which he held or who has lost any right against another person, shall, if he acted in good faith, not be obliged to restore any property or other benefit received under such disposition, unless the trustee has indemnified him for parting with such property or security or for losing such right.
- (2) Section twenty-six, twenty-nine, thirty or thirty-one shall not affect the rights of any person who acquired property in good faith and for value from any person other than a person whose estate was subsequently sequestrated.

### 34. Voidable sale of business

- (1) If a trader transfers in terms of a contract any business belonging to him, or the goodwill of such business, or any goods or property forming part thereof (except in the ordinary course of that business or for securing the payment of a debt), and such trader has not published a notice of such intended transfer in the *Gazette*, and in two issues of an Afrikaans and two issues of an English newspaper circulating in the district in which that business is carried on, within a period not less than thirty days and not more than sixty days before the date of such transfer, the said transfer shall be void as against his creditors for a period of six months after such transfer, and shall be void against the trustee of his estate, if his estate is sequestrated at any time within the said period.

*[subsection (1) substituted by section 12 of [Act 32 of 1952](#), by section 2(a) of [Act 27 of 1987](#) and by section 1(a) of [Act 6 of 1991](#)]*

- (2) As soon as any such notice is published, every liquidated liability of the said trader in connection with the said business, which would become due at some future date, shall fall due forthwith, if the creditor concerned demands payment of such liability: Provided that if such liability bears no interest, the amount of such liability which would have been payable at such future date if such demand had not been made, shall be reduced at the rate of eight per cent per annum of that amount, over the period between the date when payment is made and that future date.

*[subsection (2) amended by section 2 of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

- (3) If any person who has any claim against the said trader in connection with the said business, has before such transfer, for the purpose of enforcing his claim, instituted proceedings against the said trader—
  - (a) in any court of law, and the person to whom the said business was transferred knew at the time of the transfer that those proceedings had been instituted; or
  - (b) in a Division of the Supreme Court having jurisdiction in the district in which the said business is carried on or in the magistrate's court of that district,

the transfer shall be void as against him for the purpose of such enforcement.

*[subsection (3) substituted by section 2(b) of [Act 27 of 1987](#) and by section 1(b) of [Act 6 of 1991](#)]*

- (4) For the purposes of this section 'transfer', when used as a noun, includes actual or constructive transfer of possession, and, when used as a verb, has a corresponding meaning.

*[subsection (4) added by section 1(c) of [Act 6 of 1991](#)]*

### 35. Uncompleted acquisition of immovable property before sequestration

If an insolvent, before the sequestration of his estate, entered into a contract for the acquisition of immovable property which was not transferred to him, the trustee of his insolvent estate may enforce or abandon the contract. The other party to the contract may call upon the trustee by notice in writing to elect whether he will enforce or abandon the contract, and if the trustee has after the expiration of

six weeks as from the receipt of the notice, failed to make his election as aforesaid and inform the other party thereof, the other party may apply to the Court by motion for cancellation of the contract and for an order directing the trustee to restore to the applicant the possession of any immovable property under the control of the trustee, of which the insolvent or the trustee gained possession or control by virtue of the contract, and the Court may make such order on the application as it thinks fit: Provided that this section shall not affect any right which the other party may have to establish against the insolvent estate, a non-preferent claim for compensation for any loss suffered by him as a result of the non-fulfilment of the contract.

### 35A. Transactions on an exchange

(1) In this section—

"exchange" means an exchange as defined in section 1 and licensed under section 10 of the Securities Services Act, 2004, and for the purposes of this section includes a central securities depository as defined in section 1 of that Act and which is also licensed as a clearing house under section 66 of that Act, or a clearing house as defined in section 1 of that Act;

*[definition of "exchange" substituted by section 117 of [Act 36 of 2004](#)]*

"market participant" means an authorised user, a participant, a client or a settling party as defined in section 1 of the Securities Services Act, 2004, or any other party to a transaction;

*[definition of "market participant" substituted by section 2 of [Act 104 of 1996](#) and by section 117 of [Act 36 of 2004](#)]*

"exchange rules" means the exchange rules and depository rules as defined in section 1 of the Securities Services Act, 2004;

*[definition of "exchange rules", previously "rules of an exchange", substituted by section 117 of [Act 36 of 2004](#)]*

"transaction" means any transaction to which the rules of an exchange apply.

- (2) If upon the sequestration of the estate of a market participant the obligations of such market participant in respect of any transaction entered into prior to sequestration have not been fulfilled, the exchange in question in respect of any obligation owed to it, or any other market participant in respect of obligations owed to such market participant, shall in accordance with the rules of that exchange applicable to any such transaction be entitled to terminate all such transactions and the trustee of the insolvent estate of the market participant shall be bound by such termination.
- (3) No claim as a result of the termination of any transaction as contemplated in subsection (2) shall exceed the amount due upon termination in terms of the rules of the exchange in question.
- (4) Any rules of an exchange and the practices thereunder which provide for the netting of a market participant's position or for set-off in respect of transactions concluded by the market participant or for the opening or closing of a market participant's position shall upon sequestration of the estate of the market participant be binding on the trustee in respect of any transaction or contract concluded by the market participant prior to such sequestration, but which is, in terms of such rules and practices, to be settled on a date occurring after the sequestration, or settlement of which was overdue on the date of sequestration.
- (5) Section 341(2) of the Companies Act, 1973 ([Act No. 61 of 1973](#)), and sections 26, 29 and 30 of this Act shall not apply to property disposed of in accordance with the rules of an exchange.

*[section 35A inserted by section 1 of [Act 32 of 1995](#)]*

### 35B. Agreements providing for termination and netting

- (1) Notwithstanding any rule of the common law to the contrary, all unperformed obligations arising out of one or more master agreements between the parties, or obligations arising from such agreement or agreements in respect of assets in which ownership has been transferred as collateral

security, shall, upon the sequestration of the estate of a party to such master agreement, terminate automatically at the date of sequestration, the values of those obligations shall be calculated at market value as at that date, the values so calculated shall be netted and the net amount shall be payable

- (2) For purposes of this section “master agreement” means—
- (a) an agreement in accordance with standard terms published by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, the International Securities Lenders Association, the Bond Market Association or the International Securities Market Association, or any similar agreement, which provides that, upon the sequestration of one of the parties—
    - (i) all unperformed obligations of the parties in terms of the agreement—
      - (aa) terminate or may be terminated; or
      - (bb) become or may become due immediately; and
    - (ii) the values of the unperformed obligations are determined or may be determined; and
    - (iii) the values are netted or may be netted, so that only a net amount (whether in the currency of the Republic or any other currency) is payable to or by a party,
 

and which may further provide that the values of assets which have been transferred as collateral security for obligations under that agreement shall be included in the calculation of the net amount payable upon sequestration; or
  - (b) any agreement declared by the Minister, after consultation with the Minister of Finance, by notice in the *Gazette* to be a master agreement for the purposes of this section.
- (3) The provisions of this section shall not apply to—
- (a) a transaction contemplated in section [35A](#); or
  - (b) a netting arrangement contemplated in the National Payment System Act, 1998 ([Act No. 78 of 1998](#)).
- (4) Section 341(2) of the Companies Act, 1973 ([Act No. 61 of 1973](#)), and sections [26](#), [29](#) and [30](#) of this Act shall not apply to dispositions in terms of a master agreement.

*[section [35B](#) inserted by section 1 of [Act 32 of 1995](#) and substituted by section 2 of [Act 55 of 2003](#)]*

### **36. Goods not paid for which debtor purchased not on credit**

- (1) If a person, before the sequestration of his estate, by virtue of a contract of purchase and sale which provided for the payment of the purchase price upon delivery of the property in question to the purchaser, received any movable property without paying the purchase price in full, the seller may, after the sequestration of the purchaser's estate, reclaim that property if within ten days after delivery thereof he has given notice in writing to the purchaser or to the trustee of the purchaser's insolvent estate or to the Master, that he reclaims the property: Provided that if the trustee disputes the seller's right to reclaim the property, the seller shall not be entitled to reclaim it, unless he institutes, within fourteen days after having received notice that the trustee so disputes his right, legal proceedings to enforce his right.
- (2) For the purposes of sub-section (1) a contract of purchase and sale shall be deemed to provide for the payment of the purchase price upon delivery of the property in question to the purchaser, unless the seller has agreed that the purchase price or any part thereof shall not be claimable before or at the time of such delivery.
- (3) The trustee of the purchaser's insolvent estate shall not be obliged to restore any property reclaimed by the seller in terms of sub-section (1) unless the seller refunds to him every part of the purchase price which he has already received.

- (4) Except as in this section provided, a seller shall not be entitled to recover any property which he sold and delivered to a purchaser whose estate was sequestrated after the sale, only by reason of the fact that the purchaser failed to pay the purchase price.
- (5) The owner of the movable property which was in the possession or custody of a person at the time of the sequestration of that person's estate, shall not be entitled to recover that property if it has, in good faith, been sold as part of the said person's insolvent estate, unless the owner has, by notice in writing, given, before the sale, to the *curator bonis* if one has been appointed or to the trustee of the insolvent estate, or if there is no such *curator bonis* or trustee, to the Master, demanded a return of the property.
- (6) If any such property has been sold as part of the insolvent estate, the former owner of that property may recover from the trustee, before the confirmation of any trustee's account in the estate in terms of section one hundred and twelve, the nett proceeds of the sale of that property (unless he has recovered the property itself from the purchaser), and thereupon he shall lose any right which he may have had to recover the property itself in terms of sub-section (5).

### 37. Effect of sequestration upon a lease

- (1) A lease entered into by any person as lessee shall not be determined by the sequestration of his estate, but the trustee of his insolvent estate may determine the lease by notice in writing to the lessor: Provided that the lessor may claim from the estate, compensation for any loss which he may have sustained by reason of the non-performance of the terms of such lease.
- (2) If the trustee does not, within three months of his appointment notify the lessor that he desires to continue the lease on behalf of the estate, he shall be deemed to have determined the lease at the end of such three months.
- (3) The rent due under any such lease, from the date of the sequestration of the estate of the lessee to the determination or the cession thereof by the trustee, shall be included in the costs of sequestration.
- (4) The determination of the lease by the trustee in terms of this section shall deprive the insolvent estate of any right to compensation for improvements, other than improvements made in terms of an agreement with the lessor, made on the leased property during the period of the lease.
- (5) A stipulation in a lease that the lease shall terminate or be varied upon the sequestration of the estate of either party shall be null and void, but a stipulation in a lease which restricts or prohibits the transfer of any right under the lease or which provides for the termination or a cancellation of the lease by reason of the death of the lessee or of his successor in title, shall bind the trustee of the insolvent estate of the lessee or of his successor in title, as if he were the lessee or the said successor, or the executor in the estate of the lessee or his said successor, as the case may be.

*[subsection (5) substituted by section 14 of [Act 16 of 1943](#)]*

### 38. Effect of sequestration on contract of service

- (1) The contracts of service of employees whose employer has been sequestrated are suspended with effect from the date of the granting of a sequestration order.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), during the period of suspension of a contract of service referred to in subsection (1)—
  - (a) an employee whose contract is suspended is not required to render services in terms of the contract and is not entitled to any remuneration in terms of the contract; and
  - (b) no employment benefit accrues to an employee in terms of the contract of service which is suspended.

- (3) An employee whose contract of service is suspended is entitled to unemployment benefits in terms of section 35 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1966 ([Act No. 30 of 1966](#)), from the date of such suspension, subject to the provisions of that Act.
- (4) A trustee appointed in terms of section 56, or a liquidator appointed in terms of section 375 of the Companies Act, 1973 ([Act No. 61 of 1973](#)), or a liquidator who, in terms of section 74 of the Close Corporations Act, 1984 ([Act No. 69 of 1984](#)), remains in office after the first meeting and a co-liquidator, if any, appointed by the Master may terminate the contracts of service of employees, subject to subsections (5) and (7).
- (5) A trustee may not terminate a contract of service unless the trustee has consulted with—
- (a) any person with whom the insolvent employer was required to consult, immediately before the sequestration, in terms of a collective agreement defined in section 213 of the Labour Relations Act, 1995 ([Act No. 66 of 1995](#));
  - (b)
    - (i) a workplace forum defined in section 213 of the Labour Relations Act, 1995; and
    - (ii) any registered trade union whose members are likely to be affected by the termination of the contract of service,if there is no such collective agreement that existed immediately prior to the sequestration;
  - (c) a registered trade union representing employees whose contracts of service were suspended in terms of subsection (1) and who are likely to be affected by the termination of the contract of service, if there is no such workplace forum; or
  - (d) the employees whose contracts of service were suspended in terms of subsection (1) and who are likely to be affected by the termination of the contract of service or their representatives nominated for that purpose, if there is no such trade union.
- (6) The consultation referred to in subsection (5) must be aimed at reaching consensus on appropriate measures to save or rescue the whole or part of the business of the insolvent employer—
- (a) by the sale of the whole or part of the business of the insolvent employer; or
  - (b) by a transfer as contemplated in section 197 A of the Labour Relations Act, 1995; or
  - (c) by a scheme or compromise referred to in section 311 of the Companies Act, 1973; or
  - (d) in any other manner.
- (7) If any party referred to in subsection (5) wishes to make proposals concerning any matter contemplated in subsection (6), that party must submit written proposals to the trustee or liquidator within 21 days of the appointment of the trustee in terms of section 56, or the appointment of the liquidator in terms of section 375 of the Companies Act, 1973, or the appointment of a co-liquidator in terms of section 74 of the Close Corporations Act, 1984, or if a co-liquidator is not appointed, the date of the conclusion of the first meeting, unless the trustee or liquidator and an employee agree otherwise.
- (8) A creditor of the insolvent employer may, with the consent of the trustee, participate in any consultation contemplated in this section.
- (9) Unless the trustee or liquidator and an employee have agreed on continued employment of the employee in view of measures contemplated in subsection (6), all suspended contracts of service shall terminate 45 days after—
- (a) the date of the appointment of a trustee in terms of section 56; or
  - (b) the date of the appointment of a liquidator in terms of section 375 of the Companies Act, 1973; or



- (c) the date of the appointment of a co-liquidator in terms of section 74 of the Close Corporations Act, 1984, or if a co-liquidator is not appointed, the date of the conclusion of the first meeting.
- (10) An employee whose contract of service has been—
- (a) suspended in terms of subsection (1); or
  - (b) terminated in terms of subsection (4) or (9),
- is entitled to claim compensation from the insolvent estate of his or her former employer for loss suffered by reason of the suspension or termination of a contract of service prior to its expiration.
- (11) An employee whose contract of service terminates or has been terminated in terms of this section is entitled to claim severance benefits from the estate of the insolvent employer in accordance with section 41 of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, 1997 ([Act No. 75 of 1997](#)).

*[section 38 substituted by section 1 of [Act 33 of 2002](#)]*

### 39. Time and place of meetings of creditors

- (1) Whenever the Master convenes any meeting of creditors as hereinafter provided, he shall appoint it to be held at such time and place as he considers to be most convenient for all parties concerned and may, if necessary, alter the time and place of any such meeting: Provided that he shall publish in the *Gazette* sufficient notice of any such alteration.
  - (2) All meetings of creditors held in the district wherein there is a Master's office shall be presided over by the Master or an officer in the public service, designated, either generally or specially, by the Master for that purpose. Meetings of creditors held in any other district shall be held in accordance with the direction of the Master and shall be presided over by the magistrate of the district, or by an officer in the public service, designated, either generally or specially, by the magistrate for that purpose.
- [subsection (2) substituted by section 7 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*
- (3) The officer presiding at such a meeting shall keep a record of the proceedings, which he shall certify at the conclusion of the proceedings, and if he is not the Master, he shall transmit the record to the Master.
  - (4) If at a meeting of creditors held in a district where there is no Master, an officer other than the Magistrate presides, the presiding officer shall state in the record of the proceedings the reason for the magistrate's absence.
  - (5) The officer presiding at a meeting of creditors may, if necessary or desirable, adjourn the meeting from time to time.
  - (6) The place where a meeting of creditors is held shall be accessible to the public and the publication of any statement made at such a meeting shall be privileged to the same extent as is the publication of a statement made in a court of law.

### 40. First and second meetings of creditors

- (1) On the receipt of an order of the Court sequestrating an estate finally, the Master shall immediately convene by notice in the *Gazette*, a first meeting of the creditors of the estate for the proof of their claims against the estate and for the election of a trustee.
- (2) The Master shall publish such notice on a date not less than ten days before the date upon which the meeting is to be held and shall in such notice state the time and place at which the meeting is to be held.
- (3) (a) After the first meeting of creditors and the appointment of a trustee, the Master shall appoint a second meeting of creditors for the proof of claims against the estate, and for the

purpose of receiving the report of the trustee on the affairs and condition of the estate and giving the trustee directions in connection with the administration of the estate.

- (b) The trustee shall convene the second meeting of creditors by notice in the *Gazette* and in one or more newspapers circulating in the district in which the insolvent resides or his principal place of business is situate.
- (c) Whenever the notice referred to in paragraph (b) is published in any newspaper, the publication shall take place simultaneously in the Afrikaans language and in the English language and in the case of each such language in a newspaper circulating in the district referred to in the said paragraph which appears mainly in that language and the publication in each such language shall as far as practicable occupy the same amount of space: Provided that where in the district in question any newspaper appears, substantially in both such languages publication in both such languages may take place in that newspaper.

*[subsection (3) substituted by section 8 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

#### 41. General meetings of creditors

The trustee of an insolvent estate may at any time and shall, whenever he is so required by the Master or by a creditor or by creditors representing one fourth of the value of all claims proved against the estate, convene in the manner prescribed by sub-section (3) of section forty, a meeting of creditors (hereinafter called a general meeting of creditors) for the purpose of giving him directions concerning any matter relating to the administration of the estate and shall state in such notice the matters to be dealt with at that meeting.

*[section 41 substituted by section 9 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

#### 42. Special meetings of creditors

- (1) After the second meeting of creditors the trustee shall convene by notice in the *Gazette* a special meeting of creditors for the proof of claims against the estate in question whenever he is thereto required by any interested person who at the same time tenders to the trustee payment of all expenses to be incurred in connection with such a meeting.

*[subsection (1), previously unnumbered, numbered by section 3 of [Act 27 of 1987](#)]*

- (2) The trustee may at any time, and shall whenever he is thereto required by a creditor who has proved his claim against the estate, provided that the Master consents thereto, convene by notice in the *Gazette* a special meeting of creditors for the purpose of interrogating an insolvent, and at such interrogation the provisions of section 65 shall *mutatis mutandis* apply.

*[subsection (2) added by section 3 of [Act 27 of 1987](#)]*

*[section 42 substituted by section 3 of [Act 6 of 1972](#)]*

#### 43. A creditor may register his name and address with trustee

Any person who claims to be a creditor of an insolvent estate may register his name and address in the Republic, with the trustee of that estate upon payment to the trustee of a fee of R25. Thereupon the trustee shall send to that address a notice of every meeting of creditors of that estate, a copy of every account which he is submitting to the Master and a notice of the date, time and place of the sale of any property over which the creditor has a preferent right by virtue of a special mortgage, pledge or right of retention or a landlord's tacit or legal hypothec. Failure on the part of the trustee to comply with a provision of this section shall constitute a failure to perform his duties but shall not invalidate anything done under this Act.

*[section 43 substituted by section 10 of [Act 99 of 1965](#) and amended by section 3 of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

#### 44. Proof of liquidated claims against estate

(1) Any person or the representative of any person who has a liquidated claim against an insolvent estate, the cause of which arose before the sequestration of that estate, may, at any time before the final distribution of that estate in terms of section one hundred and thirteen but subject to the provisions of section one hundred and four, prove that claim in the manner hereinafter provided: Provided that no claim shall be proved against an estate after the expiration of a period of three months as from the conclusion of the second meeting of creditors of the estate, except with leave of the Court or the Master, and on payment of such sum to cover the cost or any part thereof, occasioned by the late proof of the claim, as the Court or Master may direct.

(2) *[subsection (2) amended by section 11(a) of Act 99 of 1965 and deleted by section 4 of Act 101 of 1983]*

(3) A claim made against an insolvent estate shall be proved at a meeting of the creditors of that estate to the satisfaction of the officer presiding at that meeting, who shall admit or reject the claim: Provided that the rejection of a claim shall not debar the claimant from proving that claim at a subsequent meeting of creditors or from establishing his claim by an action at law, but subject to the provisions of section seventy-five; and provided further that if a creditor has twenty-four or more hours before the time advertised for the commencement of a meeting of creditors submitted to the officer who is to preside at that meeting the affidavit and other documents mentioned in subsection (4), he shall be deemed to have tendered proof of his claim at that meeting.

*[subsection (3) substituted by section 11(a) of Act 99 of 1965]*

(4) Every such claim shall be proved by affidavit in a form corresponding substantially with Form C or D in the First Schedule to this Act. That affidavit may be made by the creditor or by any person fully cognizant of the claim, who shall set forth in the affidavit the facts upon which his knowledge of the claim is based and the nature and particulars of the claim, whether it was acquired by cession after the institution of the proceedings by which the estate was sequestrated, and if the creditor holds security there for, the nature and particulars of that security and in the case of security other than movable property which he has realized in terms of section eighty-three, the amount at which he values the security. The said affidavit or a copy thereof and any documents submitted in support of the claim shall be delivered at the office of the officer who is to preside at the meeting of creditors not later than twenty-four hours before the advertised time of the meeting at which the creditor concerned intends to prove the claim, failing which the claim shall not be admitted to proof at that meeting, unless the presiding officer is of opinion that through no fault of the creditor he has been unable to deliver such evidences of his claim within the prescribed period: Provided that if a creditor has proved an incorrect claim, he may, with the consent in writing of the Master given after consultation with the trustee and on such conditions as the Master may think fit to impose, correct his claim or submit a fresh correct claim.

*[subsection (4) amended by section 15(a) and (b) of Act 16 of 1943 and substituted by section 11(b) of Act 99 of 1965]*

(5) Any document by this section required to be delivered before a meeting of creditors at the office of the officer who is to preside at that meeting, shall be open for inspection at such office during office hours free of charge by any creditor, the trustee or the insolvent or the representative of any of them.

(6) A claim against an insolvent's estate for payment of the purchase price of goods sold and delivered to the insolvent on an open account, shall not be admitted to proof unless a statement is submitted in support of such claim showing the monthly total and a brief description of the purchases and payments for the full period of trading or for the period of twelve months immediately before the date of sequestration, whichever is the lesser.

*[subsection (6) substituted by section 11(c) of Act 99 of 1965]*

(7) The officer presiding at any meeting of creditors may of his own motion or at the request of the trustee or his agent or at the request of any creditor who has proved his claim, or his agent, call

upon any person present at the meeting who wishes to prove or who has at any time proved a claim against the estate to take an oath, to be administered by the said officer, and to submit to interrogation by the said officer or by the trustee or his agent or by a creditor or the agent of a creditor whose claim has been proved, in regard to the said claim.

- (8) If any person who wishes to prove or who has at any time proved a claim against the estate is absent from a meeting of creditors the officer who presided or who presides thereat, may summon him in writing to appear before him at a place and time stated in the summons, for the purpose of being interrogated by the said officer or by the trustee or his agent or by a creditor or the agent of a creditor whose claim has been proved, and if he appears in answer to the summons the provisions of sub-section (7) shall apply.
- (9) If any such person fails without reasonable excuse to appear in answer to such summons or having appeared or when present at any meeting of creditors refuses to take the oath or to submit to the said interrogation or to answer fully and satisfactorily any lawful question put to him, his claim, if already proved, may be expunged by the Master, and if not yet proved, may be rejected.

#### **45. Trustee to examine claims**

- (1) After a meeting of creditors the officer who presided thereat shall deliver to the trustee every claim proved against the insolvent estate at that meeting and every document submitted in support of the claim.
- (2) The trustee shall examine all available books and documents relating to the insolvent estate for the purpose of ascertaining whether the estate in fact owes the claimant the amount claimed.
- (3) If the trustee disputes a claim after it has been proved against the estate at a meeting of creditors, he shall report the fact in writing to the Master and shall state in his report his reasons for disputing the claim. Thereupon the Master may confirm the claim, or he may, after having afforded the claimant an opportunity to substantiate his claim, reduce or disallow the claim, and if he has done so, he shall forthwith notify the claimant in writing: Provided that such reduction or disallowance shall not debar the claimant from establishing his claim by an action at law, but subject to the provisions of section seventy-five.

#### **46. Set-off**

If two persons have entered into a transaction the result whereof is a set-off, wholly or in part, of debts which they owe one another and the estate of one of them is sequestrated within a period of six months after the taking place of the set-off, or if a person who had a claim against another person (hereinafter in this section referred to as the debtor) has ceded that claim to a third person against whom the debtor had a claim at the time of the cession, with the result that the one claim has been set-off, wholly or in part, against the other, and within a period of one year after the cession the estate of the debtor is sequestrated; then the trustee of the sequestrated estate may in either case abide by the set-off or he may, if the set-off was not effected in the ordinary course of business, with the approval of the Master disregard it and call upon the person concerned to pay to the estate the debt which he would owe it but for the set-off, and thereupon that person shall be obliged to pay that debt and may prove his claim against the estate as if no set-off had taken place. Provided that any set-off shall be effective and binding on the trustee of the insolvent estate if it takes place between an exchange or a market participant as defined in section 35A and any other party in accordance with the rules of such an exchange, or if it takes place under an agreement defined in section 35B.

*[section 46 amended by section 2 of Act 32 of 1995]*

#### **47. Right of retention and landlord's legal hypothec**

If a creditor of an insolvent estate who is in possession of any property belonging to that estate, to which he has a right of retention or over which he has a landlord's legal hypothec, delivers that property to the trustee of that estate at the latter's request, he shall not thereby lose the security afforded him by his right of retention or lose his legal hypothec, if, when delivering the property, he notifies the trustee in writing

of his rights and in due course proves his claim against the estate: Provided, that a right to retain any book or document of account which belongs to the insolvent estate or relates to the insolvent's affairs shall not afford any security or preference in connection with any claim against the estate.

#### 48. Proof of conditional claim

A creditor whose claim against an insolvent estate is dependent upon a condition, may prove that claim in the manner set forth in section forty-four but subject to the following provisions:—

- (a) If the condition is of such a nature that it will be fulfilled, if at all, within a year of the sequestration, the creditor may prove his claim, but he shall have no vote in respect of that claim at a meeting of creditors. If a dividend is awarded on such a claim it shall be paid by the trustee to the Master, who shall pay it to the creditor, if the condition has been fulfilled, and otherwise shall return it to the trustee for distribution among the other creditors.
- (b) If the condition is not such as is described in paragraph (a), the creditor may call upon the trustee at a meeting of creditors to place a value upon the claim and the trustee shall thereupon lay before the officer presiding at that meeting a written valuation of the claim with the reasons therefor, and the presiding officer shall admit that claim at such value as he may determine, or reject it: Provided that when the condition has been fulfilled, before the confirmation, by the Master, in terms of section one hundred and twelve, of a trustee's account in the liquidation of the estate, the creditor may prove his claim as if it had been unconditional.

#### 49. Claims against partnership distinct from claims against partners

- (1) When the estate of a partnership and the estates of the partners in that partnership are under sequestration simultaneously, the creditors of the partnership shall not be entitled to prove claims against the estate of a partner and the creditors of a partner shall not be entitled to prove claims against the estate of the partnership; but the trustee of the estate of the partnership shall be entitled to any balance of a partner's estate that may remain over after satisfying the claims of the creditors of the partner's estate in so far as that balance is required to pay the partnership's debts and the trustee of the estate of a partner shall be entitled to any balance of the partnership's estate that may remain over after satisfying the claims of the creditors of the partnership estate, so far as that partner would have been entitled thereto, if his estate had not been sequestrated.

*[subsection (1), previously unnumbered, numbered by section 21 of [Act 6 of 1963](#)]*

- (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service from proving in the manner provided in this Act a claim against the estate of a partnership in respect of any sum referred to in paragraph (b) of section one hundred and one, or any interest due on such sum.

*[subsection (2) added by section 21 of [Act 6 of 1963](#), substituted by section 12 of [Act 99 of 1965](#), amended by section 1 of [Act 49 of 1996](#) and substituted by section 5 of [Act 69 of 2002](#)]*

#### 50. Arrear interest. Debt due after sequestration

- (1) When a debt bearing interest became due before the sequestration of the debtor's estate, the creditor to whom that debt is owing may include in his claim against the debtor's estate in respect of that debt any interest thereon, which is in arrear, to the date of the sequestration.
- (2) If a person, before the sequestration of his estate, incurred a debt which is payable upon a date (hereinafter referred to as the due date) after the date of the sequestration, the creditor, towards whom the debt was incurred, may claim from the insolvent estate the full amount of that debt as if it were payable on the date of sequestration: Provided that if the debt bears no interest and a distribution account in the estate in question is confirmed by the Master in terms of section [112](#) before the due date, an amount shall be paid on that claim equal to the amount which would have been paid thereon under the distribution account if the debt had been payable on the

date of sequestration, less eight per cent of that amount per annum, reckoned from the date of sequestration to the due date.

*[subsection (2) amended by section 5 of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

## 51. Withdrawal of claim already proved against estate

- (1) A creditor who has proved a claim against an insolvent estate may withdraw his claim by registered letters addressed to the Master and to the trustee and the latter shall in writing notify the other creditors of the withdrawal: Provided that the creditor so withdrawing his claim shall remain liable in terms of section one hundred and six for his *pro rata* share of the costs of sequestration and all costs lawfully incurred by the trustee in connection with the sequestration up to the time when he received the creditor's letter of withdrawal.
- (2) A creditor who has so withdrawn his claim may, by registered notice addressed to the Master and to the trustee, cancel his withdrawal, but if he does so, he shall not become liable for any costs in connection with the sequestration for which he was not liable at the time of cancellation and he shall not be entitled to any payment out of the estate in respect of his claim until all the other creditors who have proved their claims have been paid in full.

*[subsection (2) substituted by section 13 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

## 52. Voting at meeting of creditors

- (1) Save as in this section and in section forty-eight is otherwise provided, every creditor of an insolvent estate shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the creditors of that estate as soon as his claim against the estate has been proved.
- (2) The vote of any creditor shall be reckoned according to the value of his claim, except when it is provided in this Act that votes shall be reckoned in number.
- (3) The vote of a creditor shall in no case be reckoned in number, unless his or her claim is of the value of at least R1 000.

*[subsection (3) substituted by section 6 of [Act 101 of 1983](#) and by section 21(1) of [Act 20 of 2001](#)]*

- (4) A creditor may not vote in respect of any claim which was ceded to him after the commencement of the proceedings by which the estate was sequestrated.
- (5) A creditor holding any security for his claim shall, except in the election of a trustee and upon any matter affecting that security, be entitled to vote only in respect of the amount by which his claim exceeds the amount at which he valued his security when proving his claim, or if he did not value his security, in respect of the amount by which his claim exceeds the amount of the proceeds of the realization of his security in terms of section eighty-three.
- (6) A creditor may not vote on the question as to whether steps should be taken to contest his claim or preference.

*[subsection (6) added by section 16 of [Act 16 of 1943](#)]*

## 53. Questions upon which creditors may vote

- (1) A creditor may vote at a meeting of creditors upon all matters relating to the administration of the estate, but may not vote in regard to matters relating to the distribution of the assets of the estate, except for the purpose of directing the trustee to contest, compromise or admit any claim against the estate.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of section fifty-four and sub-section (7) of section one hundred and nineteen, every matter upon which a creditor may vote shall be determined by the majority of votes reckoned in accordance with sub-section (2) of section fifty-two, and every creditor may vote

either personally or by an agent specially authorized thereto or acting under his general power of attorney: Provided that no creditor shall vote by any agent being—

- (a) the trustee or a person nominated for election as trustee in the estate concerned;
- (b) the employer or employee of such trustee or person;
- (c) the employee of any person or association of persons, whether corporate or unincorporate, by whom or by which such trustee or the person referred to in paragraph (a) is employed;
- (d) the spouse of or a person related to such trustee or the person referred to in paragraph (a) by consanguinity or affinity within the third degree; or
- (e) a person directly or indirectly having a pecuniary interest in the remuneration of such trustee or the person referred to in paragraph (a).

*[subsection (2) substituted by section 14(a) of Act 99 of 1965]*

- (3) Every resolution of creditors at a meeting of creditors and the result of the voting on any matter as declared by the officer presiding at that meeting, shall be recorded upon the minutes of the meeting and shall be binding upon the trustee in so far as it is a direction to him; and no other direction of creditors shall be binding upon him.
- (4) Any direction by creditors which infringes the rights of any creditor may be set aside by the Court on the application of the: creditor whose rights are affected or of the trustee with the consent of the Master.
- (5) The majority of creditors (reckoned in number and in value) may direct the trustee to employ or not to employ a particular attorney or auctioneer in connection with the administration of the estate and if the trustee has reason to believe that it will not be in the interests of the estate to carry out such direction, he may submit the matter to the Master, whose decision, after considering any representations in writing by the trustee and the creditors, shall be final.

*[subsection (5) substituted by section 14(b) of Act 99 of 1965]*

#### 54. Election of trustee

- (1) At the first meeting of the creditors of an insolvent estate the creditors who have proved their claims against the estate may elect one or two trustees.
- (2) Any person who has obtained a majority in number and in value of the votes of the creditors entitled to vote, who voted at such meeting, shall be elected trustee.
- (3) If no person has obtained such a majority of votes then—
  - (a) the person who has obtained a majority of votes in number, when no other person has obtained majority of votes in value, or has obtained a majority of votes in value, when no other person has obtained a majority of votes in number, shall be deemed to be elected sole trustee;
  - (b) if one person has obtained a majority of votes in value and another a majority of votes in number, both such persons shall be deemed to be elected trustees, and if either person declines a joint trusteeship, the other shall be deemed to be elected sole trustee.
- (4) For the purposes of this section "majority of votes in number" means a greater number of votes (apart from the value of the claims which they represent, but subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of section fifty-two) than has been obtained by any competitor and "majority of votes in value" means votes representing claims of a greater aggregate value than the votes obtained by any competitor.
- (5) If at any meeting of creditors convened for the purpose of electing a trustee, no trustee is elected and the estate is not vested at the time of that meeting in a provisional trustee, the Master may, in accordance with policy determined by the Minister, appoint a trustee and if he or she does not

so appoint a trustee, the Master or the insolvent with the Master's consent, may apply, at the cost of the estate, to the Court by petition to set aside the sequestration and the Court may make such order thereon as it thinks fit.

*[subsection 5 substituted by section 5 of [Act 16 of 2003](#)]*

## 55. Persons disqualified from being trustees

Any of the following persons shall be disqualified from being elected or appointed a trustee:—

- (a) Any insolvent;
- (b) any person related to the insolvent concerned by consanguinity or affinity within the third degree;
- (c) a minor or any other person under legal disability;
- (d) any person who does not reside in the Republic;

*[paragraph (d) amended by section 17 of [Act 16 of 1943](#)]*

- (e) any person who has an interest opposed to the general interest of the creditors of the insolvent estate;
- (f) a former trustee disqualified under section seventy-two;
- (g) any person declared under section fifty-nine to be incapacitated for election as trustee, while any such incapacity lasts, or any person removed by the Court, on account of misconduct, from an office of trust;
- (h) a corporate body;
- (i) Any person who has at any time been convicted (whether in the Republic or elsewhere) of theft, fraud, forgery or uttering a forged document, or perjury and has been sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine, or to a fine exceeding R2 000;

*[paragraph (i) substituted by section 21(1) of [Act 20 of 2001](#)]*

- (j) any person who was, at any time, a party to an agreement or arrangement with any debtor or creditor whereby he undertook that he would, when performing the functions of a trustee or assignee, grant or endeavour to grant to, or obtain or endeavour to obtain for any debtor or creditor any benefit not provided for by law;
- (k) any person who has by means of any misrepresentation or any reward or offer of any reward, whether direct or indirect, induced or attempted to induce any person to vote for him as trustee or to effect or assist in effecting his election as trustee of any insolvent estate.
- (l) any person who at any time during a period of twelve months immediately preceding the date of sequestration acted as the bookkeeper, accountant, or auditor so of the insolvent;

*[paragraph (l) added by section 15 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (m) any agent authorized specially or under a general power of attorney to vote for or on behalf of a creditor at a meeting of creditors of the estate concerned and acting or purporting to act under such special authority of general power of attorney.

*[paragraph (m) added by section 15 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

## 56. Appointment of trustee. Security for his administration

- (1) If trustee was elected at a meeting of creditors at which a person other than the Master presided, the election shall not be valid unless it has been confirmed by the Master.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of section fifty-seven, the Master shall, when a person so elected has given security to his satisfaction for the proper performance of his duties as trustee, confirm his election



and appoint him as trustee by delivering to him a certificate of appointment, which shall be valid throughout the Republic.

*[subsection (2) amended by section 18 of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and substituted by section 16(a) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (3) On receipt of his certificate of appointment the trustee shall notify his appointment and address in the *Gazette*.
- (4) When two trustees have been appointed or when the Master has appointed a co-trustee in terms of sub-section (5) of section fifty-seven, both or all three trustees shall act jointly in performing their functions as trustees and each of them shall be jointly and severally liable for every act performed by them jointly.
- (5) Whenever the trustees in the estate disagree on any matter relating to the estate of which they are trustees, the matter shall be referred to the Master who shall determine the question in issue or give directions as to the procedure to be followed for the determination thereof.

*[subsection (5) substituted by section 16(b) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (6) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (1) of section eighty-nine the cost of giving the security mentioned in subsection (2), to an amount which the Master considers reasonable, shall be paid out of the estate in question as part of the costs of sequestration.
- (7) When a trustee has, in the course of liquidating an insolvent estate accounted, to the Master, to his satisfaction, for any property in the estate, the Master may consent to a reduction of the security mentioned in sub-section (2) if he is satisfied that the reduced security will suffice to indemnify the estate or the creditors thereof against any maladministration by the trustee of the remaining property in the estate.

## 57. Appointment of trustee or co-trustee by Master

- (1) If a person who has been elected as trustee was not properly elected or is disqualified, under section fifty-five, from being elected or appointed a trustee or is disqualified from being a trustee of the estate in question or has failed to give within a period of seven days as from the date upon which he was notified that the Master had confirmed his election, or within such further period as the Master may allow, the security mentioned in sub-section (2) of section fifty-six or if in the opinion of the Master the person elected as trustee should not be appointed as trustee to the estate in question, the Master shall give notice in writing to the person so elected that he declines to confirm his election or to appoint him as trustee and shall, in that notice, state his reason for declining to confirm his election or to appoint him: Provided that if the Master declines to confirm the election of a trustee because he is of the opinion that the person elected should not be appointed as trustee, it shall be sufficient if the Master states, in that notice, as such reason, that he is of the opinion that the person elected should not be appointed as trustee to the estate in question.

*[subsection (1) substituted by section 17(a) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (2) When the Master has declined to confirm the election of a trustee or to appoint a person elected as a trustee, or the Minister has under sub-section (9) set aside the appointment of a trustee, the Master shall in accordance with the provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of section forty convene a meeting of creditors of the estate in question for the purpose of electing another trustee in the place of the person whose election as a trustee the Master declined to confirm or whom the Master declined to appoint or whose appointment as trustee has been so set aside. In the notice convening the meeting the Master shall state that he has declined to confirm the election of the person previously elected as trustee, or to appoint the person so elected, and the reasons therefor (but subject to the proviso to sub-section (1)), or that the appointment of the person previously appointed as trustee has been set aside by the Minister, as the case may be, and that the meeting is convened for the purpose of electing another trustee. The Master shall post a copy of the notice to every creditor whose Claim against the estate was previously proved and admitted.

*[subsection (2) substituted by section 17(a) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (3) A meeting mentioned in sub-section (2) shall be deemed to be the continuation of a first meeting of creditors held after an adjournment thereof.
- (4) If the Master declines, for any reason mentioned in subsection (1), to confirm the election of a person who was elected as trustee at a meeting mentioned in sub-section (2), or to appoint a person so elected, he or she shall act in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) and thereupon, if the person whose election the Master declined to confirm or whom the Master declined to appoint, was elected as sole trustee, or if two trustees were elected and the Master did not appoint both or one of them, the Master shall, in accordance with policy determined by the Minister, appoint as trustee of the estate in question any other person who is not disqualified from being a trustee of that estate.

*[subsection (4) substituted by section 6(a) of [Act 16 of 2003](#)]*

- (5) Whenever the Master considers it desirable, he or she may, in accordance with policy determined by the Minister, appoint a person not disqualified from holding the office of trustee who has given the security mentioned in section [56\(2\)](#) as a co-trustee with the trustee or trustees of an insolvent estate.

*[subsection (5) substituted by section 6(b) of [Act 16 of 2003](#)]*

- (6) All the provisions of this Act, relating to a trustee shall apply to a trustee or a co-trustee appointed by the Master under this section.
- (7) Any person aggrieved by the appointment of a trustee or the refusal of the Master to confirm the election of a trustee or to appoint a person elected as a trustee, may within a period of seven days from the date of such appointment or refusal request the Master in writing to submit his or her reasons for such appointment or refusal to the Minister.

*[subsection (7) added by section 17(b) of [Act 99 of 1965](#) and substituted by section 6(c) of [Act 16 of 2003](#)]*

- (8) The Master shall within seven days of the receipt by him of the request referred to in sub-section (7) submit to the Minister, in writing, his reasons for such appointment or refusal together with any relevant documents, information or objections received by him.

*[subsection (8) added by section 17(b) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (9) The Minister may after consideration of the reasons referred to in sub-section (8) and any representations made in writing by the person who made the request referred to in sub-section (7) and of all relevant documents, information or objections, submitted to him or the Master by any interested person, confirm, uphold or set aside the appointment or the refusal by the Master and, in the event of the refusal by the Master being set aside, direct the Master to confirm the election of the trustee concerned and to appoint him as trustee to the estate in question.

*[subsection (9) added by section 17(b) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (10) The decision of the Minister under sub-section (9) shall be final.

*[subsection (10) added by section 17(b) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

## 58. Vacation of office of trustee

A trustee shall vacate his office—

- (a) if his estate is sequestrated under this Act; or
- (b) if an order is issued under the law relating to mental disorders for his reception and detention in an institution, or if he is declared by a competent court to be incapable of managing his own affairs; or
- (c) if he is convicted of any offence and sentenced to serve any term of imprisonment without the option of a fine, or if he is convicted (whether in the Republic or elsewhere) of theft, fraud, forgery or uttering a forged document, or perjury.

### 59. Court may declare a person disqualified from being a trustee, or remove a trustee

On the application of any person interested the Court may either before or after the appointment of a trustee, declare that the person appointed or proposed is disqualified from holding the office of trustee, and, if he has been appointed, may remove him from office and may in either case declare him incapable of being elected or appointed trustee under this Act during the period of his life or such other period as it may determine, if—

- (a) he has accepted or expressed his willingness to accept from any person engaged to perform any work on behalf of the estate in question, any benefit whatever in connection with any matter relating to that estate; or
- (b) in order to induce a creditor to vote for him at the election of a trustee or in return for his vote at such election, or in order to exercise any influence upon his election as trustee, he has—
  - (i) wrongfully omitted or included or been privy to the wrongful omission or inclusion of the name of a creditor from any record by this Act required; or
  - (ii) directly or indirectly given or offered or agreed to give to any person any consideration; or
  - (iii) offered to or agreed with any person to abstain from investigating any previous transactions of the insolvent concerned; or
  - (iv) been guilty of or privy to the splitting of claims for the purpose of increasing the number of votes.

### 60. Removal of trustee by Master

The Master may remove a trustee from his office on the ground—

- (a) that he was not qualified for election or appointment as trustee or that his election or appointment was for any other reason illegal, or that he has become disqualified from election or appointment as a trustee or has been authorized, specially or under a general power of attorney, to vote for or on behalf of a creditor at a meeting of creditors of the insolvent estate of which he is the trustee and has acted or purported to act under such special authority or general power of attorney; or
- (b) that he has failed to perform satisfactorily any duty imposed upon him by this Act or to comply with a lawful demand of the Master; or
- (c) that he is mentally or physically incapable of performing satisfactorily his duties as trustee; or
- (d) that the majority (reckoned in number and in value) of creditors entitled to vote at a meeting of creditors has requested him in writing to do so; or
- (e) that, in his opinion, the trustee is no longer suitable to be the trustee of the estate concerned.

*[section 60 substituted by section 18 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

### 61. Leave of absence or resignation of trustee

At the request of a trustee the Master may permit him to be absent from the Republic for a period longer than 60 days or may relieve him of his office, in either case upon such conditions as the Master may think fit to impose and subject to his giving such notice of his intention to be so absent from the Republic or to resign as the Master may direct.

*[section 61 substituted by section 7 of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

## 62. Election of new trustee

- (1) When a Court or the Master has removed one of two joint trustees from office, the Master may convene a meeting of the creditors of the estate in question for the purpose of electing a new trustee in the place of the trustee who was removed.

*[subsection (1) substituted by section 19(a) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (2) When a sole trustee has vacated his or her office or has been removed from office, has resigned or died, the Master shall convene a meeting of the creditors of the estate in question for the purpose of electing a new trustee, and in the meantime the Master may, in accordance with policy determined by the Minister, appoint a provisional trustee for the preservation of the estate.

*[subsection (2) substituted by section 7 of [Act 16 of 2003](#)]*

- (3) When one of two joint trustees has vacated his office or has resigned or died the Master may convene a meeting of the creditors of the estate in question for the purpose of electing a new trustee in the place of the trustee who has vacated his office or has resigned or died.

*[subsection (3) substituted by section 19(b) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (4) The provisions of section fifty-four shall apply in connection with the election of a new trustee in terms of section.

## 63. Remuneration of trustee or *curator bonis*

- (1) Every trustee or *curator bonis* shall be entitled to a reasonable remuneration for his services, to be taxed by the Master according to tariff B in the Second Schedule to this Act: Provided that the Master may, for good cause, reduce or increase his remuneration, or may disallow his remuneration either wholly or in part on account of any failure of or delay in the discharge of his duties or on account of any improper performance of his duties.
- (1bis) The Minister may by notice in the *Gazette* amend the said tariff B.

*[subsection (1)bis inserted by section 12 of [Act 50 of 1956](#), amended by sections 46 and 47 of [Act 97 of 1986](#) and substituted by section 8 of [Act 16 of 2003](#)]*

- (2) A person who employs or is a fellow employee or is ordinarily in the employment of the trustee shall not be entitled to any remuneration out of the insolvent estate for services rendered to the estate, and a trustee or his partner shall not be entitled to any remuneration out of the estate for services rendered to the estate, except the remuneration to which under this Act he is entitled as trustee.

## 64. Insolvent find others to attend meetings of creditors

- (1) An insolvent shall attend the first and second meetings of the creditors of his estate and every adjourned first and second meeting, unless he has previously obtained the written permission of the officer who is to preside or who presides at such meeting granted after consultation with the trustee to absent himself. The insolvent shall also attend any subsequent meeting of creditors if required so to do by written notice of the trustee of his estate.
- (2) The officer who is to preside or who presides at any meeting of creditors may summon any person who is known or upon reasonable grounds believed to be or to have been in possession of any property which belonged to the insolvent before the sequestration of his estate or which belongs or belonged to the insolvent estate or to the spouse of the insolvent or to be indebted to the estate, or any person (including the insolvent's spouse) who in the opinion of said officer may be able to give any material information concerning the insolvent or his affairs (whether before or after the sequestration of his estate) or concerning any property belonging to the estate or concerning the business, affairs or property of the insolvent's spouse, to appear at such meeting or adjourned meeting for the purpose of being interrogated under section sixty-five.

- (3) The said officer may also summon any person who is known or upon reasonable grounds believed to have in his possession or custody or under his control any book or document containing any such information as is mentioned in subsection (2), to produce that book or document, or an extract therefrom at any such meeting of creditors.

## 65. Interrogation of insolvent and other witnesses

- (1) At any meeting of the creditors of an insolvent estate the officer presiding thereat may call and administer the oath to the insolvent and any other person present at the meeting who was or might have been summoned in terms of sub-section (2) of section sixty-four and the said officer, the trustee and any creditor who has proved a claim against the estate or the agent of any of them may interrogate a person so called and sworn concerning all matters relating to the insolvent or his business or affairs, whether before or after the sequestration of his estate, and concerning any property belonging to his estate, and concerning the business, affairs or property of his or her spouse: Provided that the presiding officer shall disallow any question which is irrelevant and may disallow any question which would prolong the interrogation unnecessarily.
- (2) In connection with the production of any book or document in compliance with a summons issued under sub-section (3) of section sixty-four or at an interrogation of a person under sub-section (1) of this section, the law relating to privilege as applicable to a witness summoned to produce a book or document or giving evidence in a court of law, shall apply: Provided that a banker at whose bank the insolvent in question or his or her spouse keeps or at any time kept an account, shall be obliged to produce, if summoned to do so under subsection (3) of section sixty-four, any cheque in his possession which was drawn by the insolvent or his or her spouse within one year before the sequestration of the insolvent's estate, or if any cheque so drawn is not available, then any record of the payment, date of payment and amount of that cheque which may be available to him, or a copy of such a record and if called upon to do so, to give any other information available to him in connection with such cheque or the account of the insolvent or his or her spouse; and provided further that a person interrogated under subsection (1) shall not be entitled at such interrogation to refuse to answer any question upon the ground that the answer would tend to incriminate him or upon the ground that he is to be tried on a criminal charge and may be prejudiced at such a trial by his answer.

*[subsection (2) amended by section 3(a) of [Act 89 of 1989](#)]*

- (2A) (a) Where any person gives evidence in terms of the provisions of this section and is obliged to answer questions which may incriminate him or, where he is to be tried on a criminal charge, may prejudice him at such trial, the presiding officer shall, notwithstanding the provisions of section [39 \(6\)](#), order that such part of the proceedings be held *in camera* and that no information regarding such questions and answers may be published in any manner whatsoever.
- (b) No evidence regarding any questions and answers contemplated in paragraph (a) shall be admissible in any criminal proceedings, except in criminal proceedings where the person concerned stands trial on a charge relating to the administering or taking of an oath or the administering or making of an affirmation or the giving of false evidence or the making of a false statement in connection with such questions and answers, and in criminal proceedings contemplated in section [139 \(1\)](#) relating to a failure to answer lawful questions fully and satisfactorily.
- (c) Any person who contravenes any provision of an order contemplated in paragraph (a), shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to the penalty mentioned in subsection (5) of section 154 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 ([Act No. 51 of 1977](#)).

*[subsection (2A) inserted by section 3(b) of [Act 89 of 1989](#)]*

- (3) The presiding officer shall record or cause to be recorded in the manner provided by the rules of court for the recording of evidence in a civil case before a magistrate's court the statement of any person giving evidence under this section: Provided that if a person who may be required to give

evidence under this section made to the trustee or his agent a statement which was reduced to writing, or delivered a statement in writing to the trustee or his agent, that statement may be read by or read over to that person when he is called as a witness under this section and if then adhered to by him, shall be deemed to be evidence given under this section.

*[subsection (3) amended by section 20 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (4) The insolvent shall at such interrogation be required to make a declaration that he has made a full and true disclosure of all his affairs.
- (5) Any evidence given under this section shall, subject to the provisions of subsection (2A), be admissible in any proceedings instituted against the person who gave that evidence.

*[subsection (5) substituted by section 3(c) of [Act 89 of 1989](#)]*

- (6) Any person called upon to give evidence under this section may be assisted at his interrogation by counsel, an attorney or agent.
- (7) Any person summoned to attend a meeting of creditors for the purpose of being interrogated under this section (other than the insolvent and his or her spouse) shall be entitled to witness fees to be paid out of the estate, to which he would be entitled if he were a witness in any civil proceedings in a Court of law.
- (8) If the insolvent or his or her spouse is called upon to attend any meeting of creditors held after the second meeting or an adjourned second meeting, he or she shall be entitled to an allowance out of the insolvent estate to defray his or her necessary expenses in connection with such attendance.

## 66. Enforcing summonses and giving of evidence

- (1) If a person summoned under section sixty-four fails to appear at a meeting of creditors, in answer to the summons, or if an insolvent fails to attend any meeting of creditors in terms of sub-section (1) of section sixty-four, or fails to remain in attendance at that meeting, the officer presiding at such meeting may issue a warrant, authorizing any member of the police force to apprehend the person summoned or the insolvent, as the case may be, and to bring him before the said officer.

*[subsection (1) substituted by section 21 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (2) Unless the person summoned or the insolvent, as the case may be, satisfies the said officer that he had a reasonable excuse for his failure to appear at or attend such meeting, or for absenting himself from the meeting, the said officer may commit him to prison to be detained there until such time as the said officer may appoint, and the officer in charge of the prison to which the said person or insolvent was committed, shall detain him and produce him at the time and place appointed by the first mentioned officer for his production.

*[subsection (2) substituted by section 21 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (3) If a person summoned as aforesaid, appears in answer to the summons but fails to produce any book or document which he was summoned to produce, or if any person who may be interrogated at a meeting of creditors in terms of sub-section (1) of section sixty-five refuses to be sworn by the officer presiding at a meeting of creditors at which he is called upon to give evidence or refuses to answer any question lawfully put to him under the said section or does not answer the question fully and satisfactorily, the officer may issue a warrant committing the said person to prison, where he shall be detained until he has undertaken to do what is required of him, but subject to the provisions of sub-section (5).
- (4) If a person who has been released from prison after having undertaken in terms of sub-section (3) to do what is required of him, fails to fulfil his undertaking, the said officer may commit him to prison as often as may be necessary to compel him to do what is required of him.
- (5) Any person committed to prison under this section may apply to the Court for his discharge from custody and the Court may order his discharge if it finds that he was wrongfully committed to prison or is being wrongfully detained.

- (6) In connection with the apprehension of a person or with the committal of a person to prison under this section, the officer who issued the warrant of apprehension or committal to prison shall enjoy the same immunity which is enjoyed by a judicial officer in connection with any act performed by him in the exercise of his functions.

#### **67. Steps to be taken on suspicion of an offence**

- (1) If it appears from any statement made at an interrogation under section sixty-five that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that any person has committed any offence the Master shall transmit the said statement, or a certified copy thereof, and all necessary documents to the Attorney-General in whose area of jurisdiction the interrogation was held or the offence is suspected to have been committed, to enable him to determine whether any criminal proceedings shall be instituted in the matter.

*[subsection (1) amended by section 19 of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and substituted by section 22 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (2) When any such statement has been made at a meeting at which an officer other than the Master presided, the presiding officer, when transmitting the record of the proceedings to the Master, in terms of sub-section (3) of section thirty-nine, shall direct the attention of the Master to what appears to him to be reasonable grounds for suspecting that the insolvent has been guilty of a contravention of this Act.
- (3) For the purposes of this section and sections sixty-four and sixty-five, a person who was, before the sequestration of an estate, an executor, curator or administrator of that estate, shall after the sequestration of that estate, be deemed to be an insolvent in relation to that estate.

#### **68. Presumption as to record of proceedings and validity of acts at meetings of creditors**

- (1) Any record purporting to be a record of any proceedings at a meeting of the creditors of an insolvent estate held under this Act and purporting to have been signed by a person describing himself as Master, magistrate or other presiding officer shall, upon its mere production by any person, be received as *prima facie* evidence of the proceedings recorded therein.
- (2) Unless the contrary is proved, it shall be presumed that any meeting, of the proceedings whereat there was kept and signed such a record as is mentioned in sub-section (1), was duly convened and held and that all acts performed thereat were validly performed.

#### **69. Trustee must take charge of property of estate**

- (1) A trustee shall, as soon as possible after his appointment, but not before the deputy-sheriff has made the inventory referred to in sub-section (1) of section nineteen, take into his possession or under his control all movable property, books and documents belonging to the estate of which he is trustee and shall furnish the Master with a valuation of such movable property by an appraiser appointed under any law relating to the administration of the estates of deceased persons or by a person approved of by the Master for the purpose.

*[subsection (1) substituted by section 23 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (2) If the trustee has reason to believe that any such property, book or document is concealed or otherwise unlawfully withheld from him, he may apply to the magistrate having jurisdiction for a search warrant mentioned in sub-section (3).
- (3) If it appears to a magistrate to whom such application is made, from a statement made upon oath, that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that any property, book or document belonging to an insolvent estate is concealed upon any person, or at any place or upon or in any vehicle or vessel or receptacle of whatever nature, or is otherwise unlawfully withheld from the trustee concerned, within the area of the magistrate's jurisdiction, he may issue a warrant to search for and take possession of that property, book or document.

- (4) Such a warrant shall be executed in a like manner as a warrant to search for stolen property, and the person executing the warrant shall deliver any article seized thereunder to the trustee.

## 70. Banking accounts and investments

- (1) The trustee of an insolvent estate—
  - (a) shall open an account from which amounts are withdrawable by cheque, in the name of the estate with a banking institution within the Republic, and shall deposit therein to the credit of the estate from time to time all sums received by him on behalf of the estate;
  - (b) may open a savings account in the name of the estate with a banking institution or a building society within the Republic, and may transfer thereto moneys deposited in the account referred to in paragraph (a) and not immediately required for the payment of any claim against the estate;
  - (c) may place moneys deposited in the account referred to in paragraph (a) and not immediately required for the payment of any claim against the estate, on interest-bearing deposit with a banking institution or building society within the Republic.

*[subsection (1) substituted by section 8(a) of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

- (2) Whenever required by the Master to do so, the trustee shall in writing notify the Master of the banking institution or building society and the office, branch office or agency thereof with which he has opened an account referred to in subsection (1) and furnish the Master with a bank statement or other sufficient evidence of the state of the account.
- (3) A trustee referred to in subsection (2) shall not transfer any account so referred to from any such office, branch office or agency to any other such office, branch office or agency except after written notice to the Master.

*[subsection (3) substituted by section 8(b) of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

- (4) All cheques or orders drawn upon any such account shall contain the name of the payee and the cause of payment and shall be drawn to order and be signed by every trustee or his duly authorized agent.
- (5) The Master and any surety for the trustee, or any person authorized by such surety, shall have the same right to information in regard to that account as the trustee himself possesses, and may examine all vouchers in relation thereto, whether in the hands of the banking institution or building society or of the trustee.
- (6) The Master may, after notice to the trustee, in writing direct the manager of any office, branch office or agency with which an account referred to in subsection (1) has been opened, to pay over into the Guardians' Fund all moneys standing to the credit of that account at the time of the receipt, by the said manager, of that direction, and all moneys which may thereafter be paid into that account, and the said manager shall carry out that direction.

*[section 70 substituted by section 4 of [Act 6 of 1972](#)]*

## 71. Record of all receipts

- (1) Immediately after his appointment the trustee of an insolvent estate shall open a book wherein he shall enter as soon as possible a statement of all moneys, goods, books, accounts and other documents received by him on behalf of the estate.
- (2) The Master may at any time direct the trustee in writing to produce the said book for inspection and every creditor who has proved his claim against the estate, and, if the Master so orders, every person claiming to be a creditor or a surety for the trustee may inspect the said book at all reasonable times.



## 72. Unlawful retention of moneys or use of property by trustees

- (1) A trustee who, without lawful cause, retains any money exceeding twenty pounds belonging to the estate of which he is trustee, or knowingly permits his co-trustee to retain such a sum of money longer than the earliest day after its receipt on which it was possible for him or his co-trustee to pay that money into a bank, or who uses or knowingly permits his co-trustee to use any property of the estate except for the benefit of the estate, shall, in addition to any other penalty to which he may be liable, be liable to pay into the estate an amount equal to double the amount so retained or double the value of the property so used.
- (2) The amount which a trustee is so liable to pay may be deducted from any claim which the said trustee may have against the estate in question or may be recovered from him by action in a court of law at the instance of his co-trustee, the Master or any creditor of the estate who has proved his claim.
- (3) A person whose estate is sequestrated while he is, in terms of sub-section (1) indebted to an estate of which he was trustee for any sum of money which he misappropriated from that estate, shall be forever incapable of holding the office of trustee, provisional trustee, liquidator, curator dative, tutor dative, *curator bonis*, or executor dative.

## 73. Trustee may obtain legal advice

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section and section 53(4), the trustee of an insolvent estate may with the prior written authorization of the creditors engage the services of any attorney or counsel to perform the legal work specified in the authorization on behalf of the estate: Provided that the trustee—
  - (a) if he or she is unable to obtain the prior written authorization of the creditors due to the urgency of the matter or the number of creditors involved, may with the prior written authorization of the Master engage the services of any attorney or counsel to perform the legal work specified in the authorization on behalf of the estate; or
  - (b) if it is not likely that there will be any surplus after the distribution of the estate may at any time before the submission of his or her accounts obtain written authorization from the creditors for any legal work performed by any attorney or counsel,

and all costs incurred by the trustee, including any costs awarded against the estate in legal proceedings instituted on behalf of or against the estate, in so far as such costs result from any steps taken by the trustee under this subsection, shall be included in the cost of the sequestration of the estate.

- (2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3), costs incurred under this section, except costs awarded against the estate in legal proceedings, shall not be subjected to taxation by the taxing master of the court if the trustee has entered into any written agreement in terms of which the fees of any attorney or counsel will be determined in accordance with a specific tariff: Provided that no contingency fees agreement referred to in section 2(1) of the Contingency Fees (Act, 1997 [Act No. 66 of 1997](#)) shall be entered into without the express prior written authorization of the creditors.
- (3) If—
  - (a) the trustee has not entered into an agreement under subsection (2); or
  - (b) there is any dispute as to the fees payable in terms of such an agreement,

the costs shall be taxed by the taxing master of the High Court having jurisdiction or, where the costs are not subject to taxation by the said taxing master, such costs shall be assessed by the law society or bar council concerned or, where the counsel concerned is not a member of any bar council, by the body or person designated under section 5(1) of the Contingency Fees Act, 1997.

- (4) No bill of costs based upon an agreement entered into under subsection (2) shall be accepted as cost of the sequestration of the estate, unless such bill is accompanied by a declaration under oath or affirmation by the trustee stating—
- (a) that he or she had been duly authorized by either the creditors or the Master, as the case may be, to enter into such an agreement;
  - (b) that any legal work specified in such bill has been performed to the best of his or her knowledge and belief;
  - (c) that any disbursements specified in such bill have been made to the best of his or her knowledge and belief; and
  - (d) that, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, the attorney or counsel concerned has not overreached him or her.
- (5) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, the Master may disallow any costs incurred under this section if the Master is of the opinion that any such costs are incorrect or improper or that the trustee acted in bad faith, negligently or unreasonably in incurring any such costs.

*[section 73 amended by section 20 of [Act 16 of 1943](#), by section 24 of [Act 99 of 1965](#), by sections 1(a), (b) and (c) of [Act 78 of 1980](#) and substituted by section 1 of [Act 34 of 1998](#)]*

#### **74. Improper advising or conduct of legal proceedings**

If it appears to the Court that any attorney or counsel has, with intent to benefit himself, improperly advised the institution, defence or conducting of legal proceedings by or against an insolvent estate or has incurred any unnecessary expense therein, the Court may order the whole or part of the expense thereby incurred to be borne by that attorney or counsel personally.

#### **75. Legal proceedings against estate**

- (1) Any civil legal proceedings instituted against a debtor before the sequestration of his estate shall lapse upon the expiration of a period of three weeks as from the date, of the first meeting of the creditors of that estate, unless the person who instituted those proceedings gave notice, within that period, to the trustee of that estate, or if no trustee has been appointed, to the Master, that he intends to continue those proceedings, and after the expiration of a period of three weeks as from the date of such notice, prosecutes those proceedings with reasonable expedition: Provided that the Court in which the proceedings are pending may permit the said person (on such conditions as it may think fit to impose) to continue those proceedings even though he failed to give such notice within the said period, if it finds that there was a reasonable excuse for such failure.
- (2) After the confirmation, by the Master, of any trustee's account in an insolvent estate in terms of section one hundred and twelve, no person shall institute any legal proceedings against that estate in respect of any liability which arose before its sequestration: Provided that the Court in which it is sought to institute proceedings may, on such conditions as it may think fit to impose, but subject to the provisions of the said section, permit the institution of such proceedings after the said confirmation, if it finds that there was a reasonable excuse for the delay in instituting such proceedings.

#### **76. Continuance of pending legal proceedings by surviving or new trustee**

- (1) Whenever a trustee of an insolvent estate has vacated his office or has been removed from office or has resigned or died, no legal proceedings previously instituted, in which the said estate is involved, shall lapse merely by reason of the vacating, removal, resignation or death.
- (2) The Court in which any such proceedings are pending may, upon receiving notice of the vacating, removal, resignation or death, allow the name of the surviving or new trustee to be substituted for

the name of the former, and the proceedings shall thereupon continue as if the surviving or new trustee had originally represented the estate in those proceedings.

#### **77. Recovery of debts due to estate**

A trustee shall, in the notification of his appointment in the *Gazette*, in terms of sub-section (3) of section fifty-six, call upon all persons indebted to the estate of which he is trustee to pay their debts within a period and at a place mentioned in that notice, and if any such person fails to do so, the trustee shall forthwith recover payment from him, if need be by legal proceedings.

#### **78. Extension of time for payment or compounding of debts due to estate, and arbitration**

- (1) The trustee may accept from a debtor of the insolvent estate who is unable to pay his or her debt in full, any reasonable part of the debt in discharge of the whole debt or grant any debtor of the estate an extension of time for the payment of his or her debt in so far as this is compatible with section 91: Provided that if the debt exceeds R2 000, the trustee shall not accept a part of the debt in discharge of the whole debt, unless he or she has been authorised thereto by the creditors of the estate, or if no creditor has proved a claim against the estate, by the Master.

*[subsection (1) amended by section 9 of Act 101 of 1983 and substituted by section 21(1) of Act 20 of 2001]*

- (2) If authorized thereto by the creditors, or if no creditor has proved a claim against the estate, by the Master, the trustee may submit to the determination of arbitrators any dispute concerning the estate or any claim or demand upon the estate, when the opposite party consents to arbitration.
- (3) If authorized thereto by the creditors or if no creditor has proved a claim against the estate, by the Master, the trustee may compromise or admit any claim against the estate, whether liquidated, or unliquidated if proof thereof has been duly tendered at a meeting of creditors. When a claim has been compromised or admitted, or when it has been settled by a judgment of a court, it shall be deemed to have been proved and admitted against the estate in the manner set forth in section forty-four, unless the creditor informs the trustee in writing within seven days of the compromise or admission or judgment that he abandons his claim: Provided that the preceding provisions of this sub-section shall not debar the trustee from appealing against such judgment if authorized thereto by the creditors.

*[subsection (3) amended by section 21 of Act 16 of 1943]*

#### **79. Subsistence allowance for insolvent and family**

At any time before the second meeting of creditors the trustee may, with the consent of the Master, allow the insolvent such moderate sum of money or such moderate quantity of goods out of the estate as may appear to the trustee to be necessary for the support of the insolvent and his dependants.

#### **80. Continuation of insolvent's business**

- (1) A trustee shall not carry on the business of the insolvent concerned or any part thereof unless authorized thereto by the creditors of the insolvent's estate or, in the absence of instructions from the creditors, by the Master. Such authorization may be given by the Master at any time, whether before or after the second meeting of creditors.

*[subsection (1) amended by section 22 of Act 16 of 1943]*

- (2) If the trustee is authorized to carry on any such business, he shall, unless the creditors have otherwise directed him, purchase for cash only and only out of the takings of that business any goods which he may require for that business.

**80bis. Sale of movable or immovable property on authorization of Master**

- (1) At any time before the second meeting of creditors the trustee shall, if satisfied that any movable or immovable property of the estate ought forthwith to be sold, recommend to the Master in writing accordingly stating his reasons for such recommendation.
- (2) The Master may thereupon authorize the sale of such property, or of any portion thereof, on such conditions and in such manner as he may direct: Provided that, if the Master has notice that such property or a portion thereof is subject to a right of preference, he shall not authorize the sale of such property or such portion, unless the person entitled to such right of preference has given his consent thereto in writing or the trustee has guaranteed that person against loss by such sale.

*[section 80bis inserted by section 23 of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and substituted by section 10 of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

**81. Trustees report to creditors**

- (1) A trustee shall investigate the affairs and transactions of the insolvent concerned before the sequestration of his estate and shall, at the second meeting or, with the written permission of the Master obtained before the second meeting, at an adjourned second meeting of the creditors of that estate, or, if an offer of composition has been accepted by creditors in terms of section one hundred and nineteen, within, one month after the acceptance of such offer of composition, submit a full written report on those affairs and transactions and on any matter of importance relating to the insolvent or the estate, and more especially in regard to—
  - (a) the assets and liabilities of the estate;
  - (b) the cause of the debtor's insolvency;
  - (c) the books relating to the insolvent's affairs, and the question whether the insolvent appears to have kept a proper record of his transactions, and if not, in what respect the record is insufficient, defective or incorrect;
  - (d) the question whether the insolvent appears to have contravened this Act or to have committed any other offence;
  - (e) any allowance he has made to the insolvent in terms of section seventy-nine and the reasons therefor;
  - (f) any business which he may have been carrying on behalf of the estate, any goods he may have purchased for that business, and the result of carrying on that business;
  - (g) any legal proceedings instituted by or against the insolvent which were suspended by the sequestration of his estate which may be pending or threatened against the estate;
  - (h) any matter mentioned in section thirty-five or thirty-seven;
  - (i) any matter in regard to the administration or realization of the estate requiring the direction of the creditors.

*[subsection (1) amended by section 25(a) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (1)bis
  - (a) The trustee shall, at least fourteen days before the date specified in the notice in the *Gazette* for the holding of the meeting at which the report referred to in sub-section (1) is to be submitted, send by registered post to each creditor of the estate whose name and address is known to him a copy of such report and of the inventory transmitted to him by the deputy sheriff under section nineteen and of the valuation furnished by him to the Master under section sixty-nine and shall submit therewith any recommendation in respect of any resolution or direction which in his opinion ought to be passed or given at such meeting.
  - (b) The trustee shall at least twenty-four hours before the time advertised for the commencement of the meeting referred to in paragraph (a) submit to the officer who is to

preside at that meeting an affidavit setting out the names and addresses of the creditors to whom copies of the report, inventory and valuation have been sent in terms of paragraph (a) and containing full particulars of each resolution and direction recommended by him to such creditors under the said paragraph.

*[subsection (1)bis inserted by section 25(b) of Act 99 of 1965]*

- (2) For the purpose of any investigation mentioned in subsection (1) the Commissioner for Inland Revenue and the officers under him shall (notwithstanding the provisions of the law relating to income tax) permit a trustee to inspect any return rendered to the Commissioner by or on behalf of the insolvent in question in connection with income tax, and shall permit the trustee to make copies of any such return. At the request of the trustee the said Commissioner or any officer under him who is in charge of any such return shall certify as correct any such copy which is correct, and if any entry in such return is relevant in any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which the insolvent estate or the insolvent is involved, that return or a copy thereof, purporting to have been certified as aforesaid, shall be admissible in evidence in those proceedings, on its mere production by any person and any such certified copy shall have the same force and effect as the original return.
- (3)
  - (a) The creditors may, at the meeting in question, direct what action shall be taken by the trustee in respect of any matter reported to them under paragraph (e), (f), (g), (h) or (i) of sub-section (1).
  - (b) If no directions have been given by the creditors at the second meeting of creditors, any resolution or direction alleged in the affidavit referred to in paragraph (a) of sub-section (1)bis to have been recommended to the creditors of the estate and which could lawfully have been passed or given by the creditors at such meeting shall, if the Master so approves, be deemed to have been passed or given, as the case may be, by the creditors at such meeting.
  - (c) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Master may, if no directions have been given by the creditors at the second meeting of creditors, in addition to any resolution or direction approved of by him under paragraph (4) or if no such resolution or direction has been so approved of, give such directions relating to any matter reported to the creditors under sub-section (1) or to the administration or realization of the estate as he thinks fit.
  - (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-section (3) of section fifty-three, any resolution or direction approved under paragraph (5) and any direction given by the Master under paragraph (c) shall be binding upon the trustee.

*[subsection (3) substituted by section 25(c) of Act 99 of 1965]*

- (4) The report referred to in sub-section (1) shall contain full particulars of all the facts relating to any alleged contravention of this Act by the insolvent or the alleged commission by him of any offence reported in terms of paragraph (d) of that sub-section and the trustee shall furnish such further information in regard thereto as the Master or the Attorney-General may require.

*[subsection (4) substituted by section 25(d) of Act 99 of 1965]*

## 82. Sale of property after second meeting and manner of sale

- (1) Subject to the provisions of sections eighty-three and ninety the trustee of an insolvent estate shall, as soon as he is authorised to do so at the second meeting of the creditors of that estate, sell all the property in that estate in such manner and upon such conditions as the creditors may direct: Provided that if any rights acquired from the State under a lease, licence, purchase, or allotment of land is an asset in that estate, the trustee shall, in his administration of the estate, act in accordance with those provisions (if any) which by the law under which the rights were acquired, are expressed to apply in the event of the sequestration of the estate of the person who acquired those rights: Provided that if the creditors have not prior to the final closing of the second meeting of creditors of that estate given any directions the trustee shall sell the property by public auction or public tender. A sale by public auction or public tender shall be after notice in the *Gazette* and

after such other notices as the Master may direct and in the absence of directions from creditors as to the conditions of sale, upon such conditions as the Master may direct.

- (2) When the sale is by public tender, every tenderer shall transmit his tender in duplicate in a sealed envelope to the Master, or if the Master has so directed, to a magistrate specified by him. The Master or such magistrate shall keep each tender unopened until the expiry of the period for the lodging of tenders. He shall then open the sealed envelopes and, in the case of the Master, file one duplicate of each tender or, in the case of the magistrate, transmit one duplicate of each tender to the Master. The Master or the magistrate (as the case may be) shall forthwith transmit the other duplicate of each tender to the trustee. The trustee or his representative shall have the right to be present when the Master or the magistrate opens the tenders.
- (3) *[subsection (3) deleted by section 26(a) of Act 99 of 1965]*
- (4) *[subsection (4) deleted by section 26(a) of Act 99 of 1965]*
- (5) After the opening of the tenders no further offer for the property in question shall be considered and unless the creditors have otherwise directed, or if they have given no directions, unless the Master has otherwise directed, the trustee shall accept the best tender or reject all the tenders and sell the Property by public auction.

*[subsection (5) substituted by section 26(b) of Act 99 of 1965]*

- (6) From the sale of the movable property shall be excepted the wearing apparel and bedding of the insolvent and the whole or such part of his household furniture, and tools and other essential means of subsistence as the creditors, or if no creditor has proved a claim against the estate, as the Master may determine and the insolvent shall be allowed to retain, for his own use any property so excepted from the sale.
- (7) The trustee or an auctioneer employed to sell property of the estate in question, or the trustee's or the auctioneer's spouse, partner, employer, employee or agent shall not acquire any property of the estate unless the acquisition is confirmed by an order of the Court.
- (8) If any person other than a person mentioned in subsection (7) has purchased in good faith from an insolvent estate any property which was sold to him in contravention of this section, or if any person in good faith and for value acquired from a person mentioned in sub-section (7) any property which the last mentioned person acquired from an insolvent estate in contravention of that sub-section, the purchase or other acquisition shall nevertheless be valid, but the person who sold or otherwise disposed of the property shall be liable to make good to the estate twice the amount of the loss which the estate may have sustained as a result of the dealing with the property in contravention of this section.

### 83. Realization of securities for claims

- (1) A creditor of an insolvent estate who holds as security for his claim any movable property shall, before the second meeting of the creditors of that estate, give notice in writing of that fact to the Master, and to the trustee if one has been appointed.
- (2) If such property consists of a marketable security, a bill of exchange or a financial instrument as defined in section 1 of the Financial Markets Control Act, 1989 ([Act No. 55 of 1989](#)), the creditor may, after giving the notice mentioned in subsection (1) and before the second meeting of creditors, realize the property in the manner and on the conditions mentioned in subsection (8).

*[subsection (2) substituted by section 30(a) of Act 54 of 1991]*

- (3) If such property does not consist of a marketable security or a bill of exchange, the trustee may, within seven days as from the receipt of the notice mentioned in sub-section (1) or within seven days as from the date upon which the certificate of appointment issued by the Master in terms of sub-section (1) of section eighteen or sub-section (2) of section fifty-six reached him, whichever be the later, take over the property from the creditor at a value agreed upon between the trustee and the creditor or at the full amount of the creditor's claim, and if the trustee does not so take over the

property the creditor may, after the expiration of the said period but before the said meeting, realise the property in the manner and on the conditions mentioned in sub-section (8).

- (4) If no trustee has been appointed before the said meeting, the creditor may, with the permission in writing of the Master and before the said meeting, realise in manner and on the conditions mentioned, in sub-section (8) any such property which he is not entitled to realise in terms of sub-section (2).
- (5) The creditor shall, as soon as possible after he has realized such property, prove in terms of section forty-four the claim thereby secured and he shall attach to the affidavit submitted in proof of his claim a statement of the proceeds of the realization and of the facts on which he relies for his preference.
- (6) If he has not so realized such property before the second meeting of creditors, he shall as soon as possible after the commencement of that meeting deliver the property to the trustee, for the benefit of the insolvent estate and if the creditor has not delivered the said property to the trustee within a period of three days as from the commencement of the said meeting the trustee may demand from him delivery of such property. If the creditor fails to comply with such demand of the trustee, the Master, at the request of the trustee and after notice to the creditor shall direct the deputy-sheriff within whose area of jurisdiction the property is situate to attach the property and to deliver it to the trustee, and in that case the creditor shall be liable for the deputy-sheriff's costs, as taxed and allowed by the Master. If those costs cannot be recovered from the creditor, they shall be paid out of the estate as part of the costs of the sequestration.
- (7) When the trustee has received the property mentioned in sub-section (6), the said creditor may prove his claim and place a value upon the said property in terms of sub-section (4) of section forty-four.
- (8) The creditor may realise such property in the manner and on the conditions following, that is to say —
  - (a) if it is—
    - (i) any property of a class ordinarily sold through a stockbroker as defined in section 1 of the Stock Exchange Control Act, 1985 ([Act No. 1 of 1985](#)), the creditor may, subject to the provisions of the said Act and (where applicable) the rules referred to in section 12 thereof, forthwith sell it through a stockbroker, or if the creditor is a stockbroker, also to another stockbroker; or
    - (ii) a financial instrument referred to in subsection (2), the creditor may, subject to the provisions of the Financial Markets Control Act, 1989, and rules referred to in section 17 thereof, forthwith sell it through a financial instrument trader as defined in section 1 of the said Act, or, if the creditor is a financial instrument trader or financial instrument principal as defined in section 1 of the said Act, also to another financial instrument trader or financial instrument principal;

*[paragraph (a) substituted by section 30(b) of [Act 54 of 1991](#)]*
  - (b) if it is a bill of exchange, the creditor may realise it in any manner approved of by the trustee or by the Master;
  - (c) if it consists of a right of action, the creditor shall not realise it except with the approval of the trustee or of the Master;
  - (d) if it is any other property, the creditor may sell it by public auction after affording the trustee a reasonable opportunity to inspect it and after giving such notice of the time and place of the sale as the trustee directed.
- (9) As soon as the trustee has directed a creditor in terms of paragraph (d) of sub-section (8) to give notice of a sale by public auction, the trustee shall give notice in writing to all the other creditors of the estate in question of the time and place of the proposed sale.

- (10) Whenever a creditor has realised his security as hereinbefore provided he shall forthwith pay the nett proceeds of the realisation to the trustee, or if there is no trustee, to the Master and thereafter the creditor shall be entitled to payment, out of such proceeds, of his preferent claim if such claim was proved and admitted as provided by section forty-four and the trustee or the Master is satisfied that the claim was in fact secured by the property so realised. If the trustee disputes the preference, the creditor may either lay before the Master an objection under section one hundred and eleven to the trustee's account, or apply to Court, after notice of motion to the trustee, for an order compelling the trustee to pay him forthwith. Upon such application the Court may make such order as to it seems just.
- (11) If a creditor has valued his security when proving his claim, the trustee, if authorized by the creditors, may, unless the creditor has realized his security in terms of sub-section (2) or (3), within three months as from the date of his appointment or as from the date of the proof of the claim (whichever is the later) take over the property (whether movable or immovable) which constitutes the security at the value placed thereon by the creditor when his claim was proved: Provided that if two or more creditors have a pledge or special mortgage of the same property, a creditor who has valued his security shall be deemed to have valued, and the trustee shall be entitled to take over, only the preferent rights of the creditor in respect of the property, and not the; property itself. If the trustee does not, within that period, take over the said property or security he shall realize it for the benefit of all creditors whose claims are secured thereby, according to their respective rights.
- [subsection (11) amended by section 24(a) of Act 16 of 1943 and substituted by section 27 of Act 99 of 1965]*
- (12) If the claim of a secured creditor exceeds the sum payable to him in respect of his security he shall be entitled to rank against the estate in respect of the excess, as an unsecured creditor, and if the nett proceeds of any such property exceed all claims secured thereby the balance, after payment of those claims, shall be added to the other free residue (if any) in the estate in question.
- (13) The preceding provisions of this section shall apply *mutatis mutandis* in respect of any creditor for value of a solvent spouse mentioned in section twenty-one, who holds as security for his claim against that spouse any movable property belonging to that spouse.
- [subsection (13) substituted by section 24(b) of Act 16 of 1943]*

#### **84. Special provisions in case of goods delivered to a debtor in terms of an instalment agreement**

*[heading substituted by section 172(2) of Act 34 of 2005]*

- (1) If any property was delivered to a person (hereinafter referred to as the debtor) under a transaction that is an instalment agreement contemplated in paragraph (a), (b), and (c)(i) of the definition of "instalment agreement" set out in section 1 of the National Credit Act, 2005, such a transaction shall be regarded on the sequestration of the debtor's estate as creating in favour of the other party to the transaction (hereinafter referred to as the creditor) a hypothec over that property whereby the amount still due to him under the transaction is secured. The trustee of the debtor's insolvent estate shall, if required by the creditor, deliver the property to him, and thereupon the creditor shall be deemed to be holding that property as security for his claim and the provisions of section 83 shall apply.
- [subsection (1) amended by section 23 of Act 36 of 1942 and by section 172(2) of Act 34 of 2005]*
- (2) If the debtor returned the property to the creditor within a period of one month prior to the sequestration of the debtor's estate, the trustee may demand that the creditor deliver to him that property or the value thereof at the date when it was so returned to the creditor, subject to payment to the creditor by the trustee or to deduction from the value (as the case may be) of the difference between the total amount payable under the said transaction and the total amount actually paid thereunder, If the property is delivered to the trustee the provisions of subsection (1) shall apply.

*[section 84 substituted by section 11 of Act 101 of 1983]*



### 85. Exclusion or limitation of preference under legal hypothec

- (1) A tacit or legal hypothec (other than a landlord's legal hypothec or the hypothec mentioned in sub-section (1) of section eighty-four) shall not confer any preferent right against an insolvent estate.
- (2) A landlord's legal hypothec shall confer a preference with regard to any article subject to that hypothec for any rent calculated in respect of any period immediately prior to and up to the date of sequestration but not exceeding—
  - (a) three months, if the rent is payable monthly or at shorter intervals than one month;
  - (b) six months, if the rent is payable at intervals exceeding one month but not exceeding three months;
  - (c) nine months, if the rent is payable at intervals exceeding three months but not exceeding six months;
  - (d) fifteen months in any other case.

*[subsection (2) amended by section 25 of [Act 16 of 1943](#)]*

### 86. Effect of general bond and general clause

No general mortgage bond registered after the thirty-first day of December, 1916, shall confer any preference in respect of immovable property, and no general clause in a mortgage bond hypothecating immovable property registered after the said date shall confer any preference in respect of any property: Provided that the preceding provisions of this section shall not affect any preference conferred by a general clause in any mortgage bond passed before the commencement of this Act by a widower or widow in favour of a Master, for the purpose of securing the payment to his or her child of any sum of money due to the child from the estate of the widower's or widow's deceased spouse.

*[section 86 amended by section 26 of [Act 16 of 1943](#)]*

### 87. Ranking of mortgages for future debts

Priority under any mortgage bond to secure the payment of future debts shall depend on the date of the registration of that mortgage bond, and not on the date upon which any such debt comes into existence.

### 88. Certain mortgages are invalid

A mortgage bond, other than a kustingsbrief, whether special or general, passed for the purpose of securing the payment of a debt not previously secured, which was incurred more than two months prior to the lodging of the bond with the registrar of deeds concerned for registration or for the purpose of securing the payment of a debt incurred in novation of or substitution for any such first-mentioned debt, shall not confer any preference if the estate of the mortgage debtor is sequestrated within a period of six months after such lodging: Provided that a mortgage bond shall be deemed not to have been lodged as aforesaid, if it was withdrawn from registration.

### 89. Costs to which securities are subject

- (1) The cost of maintaining, conserving, and realising any property shall be paid out of the proceeds of that property, if sufficient, and if insufficient and that property is subject to a special mortgage, landlord's legal hypothec, pledge, or right of retention the deficiency shall be paid by those creditors, *pro rata*, who have proved their claims and who would have been entitled, in priority to other persons, to payment of their claims out of those proceeds if they had been sufficient to cover the said cost and those claims. The trustee's remuneration in respect of any such property and a proportionate share of the costs incurred by the trustee in giving security for his proper administration of the estate, calculated on the proceeds of the sale of the property, a proportionate share of the Master's fees, and if the property is immovable, any tax as defined in sub-section (5)

which is or will become due thereon in respect of any period not exceeding two years immediately preceding the date of the sequestration of the estate in question and in respect of the period from that date to the date of the transfer of that property by the trustee of that estate, with any interest or penalty which may be due on the said tax in respect of any such period, shall form part of the costs of realization.

- (2) If a secured creditor (other than a secured creditor upon whose petition the estate in question was sequestrated) states in his affidavit submitted in support of his claim against the estate that he relies for the satisfaction of his claim solely on the proceeds of the property which constitutes his security, he shall not be liable for any costs of sequestration other than the costs specified in sub-section (1), and other than costs for which he may be liable under paragraph (a) or (b) of the proviso to section one hundred and six.
- (3) Any interest due on a second claim in respect of any period not exceeding two years immediately preceding the date of sequestration shall be likewise secured as if it were part of the capital sum.
- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of any law which prohibits the transfer of any immovable property unless any tax as defined in sub-section (5) due thereon has been paid, that law shall not debar the trustee of an insolvent estate from transferring any immovable property in that estate for the purpose of liquidating the estate, if he has paid the tax which may have been due on that property in respect of the periods mentioned in sub-section (1) and no preference shall be accorded to any claim for such a tax in respect of any other period.
- (5) For the purposes of sub-sections (1) and (4) " tax " in relation to immovable property means any amount payable periodically in respect of that property to the State or for the benefit of a provincial administration or to a body established by or under the authority of any law in discharge of a liability to make such periodical payments, if that liability is an incident of the ownership of that property.

*[subsection (5) amended by section 27 of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and by section 1 of [Act 49 of 1996](#)]*

## **90. Land Bank not affected by this Act**

The provisions of this Act shall not affect the provisions of any other law which confer powers and impose duties upon the Land and Agricultural Bank of South Africa in relation to any property belonging to an insolvent estate.

*[section 90 amended by section 28 of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and by section 1 of [Act 49 of 1996](#)]*

## **91. Liquidation account and plan of distribution or contribution**

Subject to the provisions of sections one hundred and nine and one hundred and ten, a trustee shall within a period of six months as from the date of his appointment, submit to the Master a liquidation account and a plan of distribution of the proceeds of the property in the payment to creditors, or, if all realizable property in the estate has been realized and brought to account and the proceeds are insufficient to cover the costs and charges mentioned in section ninety-seven, a plan of contribution apportioning the liability for the deficiency among the creditors who are liable to contribute.

*[section 91 substituted by section 28 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

## **92. Manner of framing liquidation account**

- (1) A liquidation account shall contain an accurate record of all moneys received and of all moneys disbursed by the trustee otherwise than in the course of a business which he carried on for the insolvent estate in question.
- (2) The record of each such receipt and disbursement shall set forth the amount and date thereof and sufficient particulars to explain its nature.

- (3) The liquidation account shall be accompanied by the trustee's bank pass book and by vouchers in support of the record of receipts and disbursements.
- (4) If a liquidation account is not the final liquidation account, the trustee shall further set forth therein—
  - (a) all property still unrealized;
  - (b) all outstanding debts due to the estate;
  - (c) the reasons why that property has not been realized or those debts have not been collected.

In that event the trustee shall, from time to time and as the Master may direct, but at least once in every six months, unless he has received an extension of time as provided in section one hundred and nine, frame and submit to the Master periodical accounts in form and in all other respects similar to the account mentioned in sub-sections (1) and (2).

- (5) If the estate, of a partnership is under sequestration, separate trustees' accounts shall be framed in the estate of the partnership and in the estate of each member of that partnership whose estate is under sequestration.

### 93. Trading account

If the trustee has carried on any business on behalf of the estate, he shall submit to the Master, in addition to the liquidation account, a trading account containing the following data and no others, namely—

- (a) a record of the value of the stock on hand at the date of sequestration;
- (b) a record of the value of the stock on hand on the date up to which the account is made up;
- (c) the daily totals of receipts and payments in connection with the business;
- (d) the result of his conduct of the business.

### 94. Form of plan of distribution

A plan of distribution shall show in parallel columns under separate headings—

- (a) every claim or the part of every claim against the estate in question which is secured or otherwise preferent;
- (b) every claim or the part of every claim against the estate which is unsecured and otherwise non-preferent;
- (c) the amount awarded under that plan and under any previous plan of distribution to every creditor of the estate;
- (d) the deficiency in respect of each claim;

and shall make provision for the division of the proceeds of the property in the insolvent estate in the order of preference and in the manner set forth in sections ninety-five to one hundred and four inclusive.

### 95. Application of proceeds of securities

- (1) The proceeds of any property which was subject to a special mortgage, landlord's legal hypothec, pledge or right of retention, after deduction therefrom of the costs mentioned in sub-section (1) of section eighty-nine, shall be applied in satisfying the claims secured by the said property, in their order of preference, with interest thereon calculated in manner provided in sub-section (2) of section one hundred and three from the date of sequestration to the date of payment, but subject to the provisions of sub-section (4) of section ninety-six.

- (2) If a creditor whose claim is secured by a mortgage over immovable property belonging to the insolvent estate has not proved his claim and the trustee is not satisfied that the debt in question has been discharged or abandoned, he shall deposit with the Master for payment into the Guardian's Fund the proceeds of the sale of any such property to an amount not exceeding such capital amount of the said mortgage and such arrears of interest as the mortgagee would have had a preferent right to claim, after deduction of an amount equal to the costs which he would have had to pay if he had proved his claim and had stated in the affidavit submitted in support of his claim that he relied for the satisfaction of his claim solely on the proceeds of the sale of the said property. The amount so deposited or the part thereof to which the former mortgagee may be entitled shall be paid to him if, within a period of one year after confirmation in terms of section one hundred and twelve of the distribution account under which the money is distributed, he applies therefor to the Master and the Master is satisfied after proof of his claim, that he is entitled to the amount or part thereof.
- (3) Any amount deposited with the Master in terms of sub-section (2) which has not been paid out to the former mortgagee, as in that sub-section provided, shall after the expiry of the year mentioned in that sub-section be distributed among the creditors who have proved claims against the insolvent estate prior to the confirmation of the said distribution account, as if the amount had, at the time of such confirmation, been available for distribution among them.
- (4) Any creditor claiming to be entitled to share in the said distribution shall make written application to the Master for payment of his or her share, and the Master may pay out to such creditor or may hand the money to the trustee, if any, for distribution among the creditors entitled thereto, or, if there is no trustee, may, in accordance with policy determined by the Minister, appoint a trustee on such conditions as he or she may think fit to impose for the purpose of making such distribution.
- [subsection (4) substituted by section 9 of [Act 16 of 2003](#)]*
- (5) Any trustee charged with the duty of making such a distribution shall submit to the Master a supplementary plan of distribution in respect thereof, and the provisions of this Act relating to a plan of distribution shall apply in respect of such supplementary plan.

## 96. Funeral and death-bed expenses

- (1) Any free residue of an insolvent estate shall be applied in the first place in defraying the expenses of the funeral of the insolvent, if he died before the trustee's first plan of distribution was submitted to the Master in terms of section 91, and the expenses of the funeral of the insolvent's wife or minor child, if those expenses were incurred within the period of three months immediately preceding the sequestration of the insolvent's estate, but the amount payable under this subsection shall not exceed R300 in all.
- [subsection (1) substituted by section 29 of [Act 99 of 1965](#) and by section 12(a) of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*
- (2) Thereafter any balance of the free residue shall be applied in defraying the death-bed expenses of the insolvent if they were incurred before the trustee's first plan of distribution was submitted to the Master in terms of section 91, and the death bed expenses of the debtor's wife or minor child, if those expenses were incurred within the period of three months immediately preceding the sequestration of the insolvent's estate, but the amount payable under this subsection shall not exceed R300 in all.
- [subsection (2) substituted by section 29 of [Act 99 of 1965](#) and by section 12(b) of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*
- (3) In subsection (2) "death-bed expenses" means expenses incurred for medical attendance, nursing, medicines and medical necessaries, and claims for those expenses shall rank *pari passu* and abate in equal proportion, if necessary.
- [subsection (3) substituted by section 29 of [Act 99 of 1965](#) and by section 1 of [Act 122 of 1998](#)]*

- (4) If the free residue of the estate is insufficient to defray the expenses mentioned in sub-sections (1) and (2), the deficiency shall be defrayed out of the proceeds of any other assets of the estate in proportion to their value.

### 97. Cost of sequestration

- (1) Thereafter any balance of the free residue shall be applied in defraying the costs of the sequestration of the estate in question with the exception of the costs mentioned in subsection (1) of section eighty-nine.
- (2) The costs of the sequestration shall rank according to the following order of priority—
- (a) The sheriff's charges incurred since the sequestration;
  - (b) fees payable to the Master in connection with the sequestration;
  - (c) the following costs which shall rank *pari passu* and abate in equal proportions if necessary, that is to say the taxed costs of sequestration (as defined in subsection (3)), the fee mentioned in section 16 (5), the remuneration of the *curator bonis* and of the trustee and all other costs of administration and liquidation including such costs incurred by the trustee in giving security for his proper administration of the estate as the Master considers reasonable, in so far as they are not payable by a particular creditor in terms of section 89 (1), any expenses incurred by the Master or by a presiding officer in terms of section 153 (2) and the salary or wages of any person who was engaged by the *curator bonis* or the trustee in connection with the administration of the insolvent estate.

*[paragraph (c) substituted by section 2 of Act 84 of 1984]*

- (3) In paragraph (c) of subsection (2) the expression "taxed costs of sequestration" means the costs (as taxed by the registrar of the Court) incurred in connection with the petition of the debtor for acceptance of the surrender of his estate or of a creditor for the sequestration of the debtor's estate, but it does not include the costs of opposition to such a petition, unless the Court directs that they shall be included.

### 98. Costs of execution

- (1) Thereafter any balance of the free residue shall be applied in defraying—
- (a) the taxed fees of the sheriff or messenger in connection with any execution upon any property of the insolvent and in connection with any proceedings which resulted in that execution; and
  - (b) any other taxed costs in those proceedings not exceeding a sum of R50,

*[paragraph (b) substituted by section 13 of Act 101 of 1983]*

to a total amount not exceeding the proceeds of that property if that property was still under attachment or if the proceeds of the sale in execution of that property were still in the hands of the sheriff or messenger at the time of the sequestration of the insolvent's estate.

- (2) The attachment of any property in execution of any judgment shall, after the sequestration of the estate, of the judgment debtor, not have the effect of conferring upon the judgment creditor any other preference than the preference provided for in sub-section (1).

### 98A. Salaries or wages of former employees of insolvent

- (1) Thereafter any balance of the free residue shall be applied in paying—
- (a) to any employee who was employed by the insolvent—
    - (i) any salary or wages for a period not exceeding three months, due to an employee;

- (ii) any payment in respect of any period of leave or holiday due to the employee which has accrued as a result of his or her employment by the insolvent in the year of insolvency or the previous year whether or not payment thereof is due at the date of sequestration;
  - (iii) any payment due in respect of any other form of paid absence for a period not exceeding three months prior to the date of the sequestration of the estate; and
  - (iv) any severance or retrenchment pay due to the employee in terms of any law, agreement, contract, wage-regulating measure, or as a result of termination in terms of section 38; and
- [subparagraph (iv) substituted by section 2 of Act 33 of 2002]*
- (b) any contributions which were payable by the insolvent, including contributions which were payable in respect of any of his or her employees and which were immediately prior to the sequestration of the estate owing by the insolvent in his or her capacity as employer to any pension, provident, medical aid, sick pay, holiday, unemployment or training scheme or fund, or to any similar scheme or fund.
- (2) (a) In order to ensure that the balance of the free residue is applied in an equitable manner, the Minister may by notice in the *Gazette* determine maximum amounts which shall be paid out in terms of subsection (1) in respect of—
- (i) paragraph (a), any or all the subparagraphs thereof or any single employee; and
  - (ii) paragraph (b) or any single scheme or fund,
- and different maximum amounts may be so determined in respect of different schemes or funds.
- (b) In order to take into account subsequent fluctuations in the value of money, the Minister may from time to time supplement, amend or withdraw the relevant maximum amounts by like notice in the *Gazette*.
  - (c) The Minister may at any time replace a notice referred to in paragraph (a) with a new notice issued under the said paragraph (a).
  - (d) The Minister shall not exercise the powers conferred upon him or her by paragraph (a) or (c), unless he or she—
    - (i) has caused to be published in the *Gazette* a draft of the proposed notice, together with a notice inviting all interested parties to lodge with the Director-General: Justice and Constitutional Development in writing within a period of 60 days from the date of the publication of the notice any representations that they may wish to make in connection with the proposed notice; and
    - (ii) has caused to be forwarded to the National Economic, Development and Labour Council established by section 2(1) of the National Economic Development and Labour Council Act, 1994 (Act No. 35 of 1994), a copy of such draft.
- [subsection (2) substituted by section 10(a) of Act 16 of 2003]*
- (3) An employee shall be entitled to salary, wages, leave or other payments in terms of subsection (1) (a) even though he or she has not proved his or her claim therefor in terms of section 44, but the trustee may require such employee to submit an affidavit in support of his or her claim for such salary, wages, leave or payment.
  - (4) (a) The claim referred to in subsection (1)(a)(i) shall be preferred to the claims referred to in subsections (1)(a)(ii), (iii) and (iv) and (1)(b).

- (b) The claims referred to in subsection (1)(a)(ii), (iii) and (iv) shall be preferred to the claims referred to in subsection (1)(b) and shall rank equally and abate in equal proportions, if necessary.
  - (c) The claims referred to in subsection (1)(b) shall rank equally and abate in equal proportions, if necessary.
- (5) For the purposes of this section—
- (a) "employee" means any person, excluding an independent contractor, who works for another person and who—
    - (i) receives, or is entitled to receive, any salary or wages; or
    - (ii) in any manner assists in carrying on or in conducting the business of an employer;
  - (b) "salary or wages" includes all cash earnings received by the employee from the employer;
  - (c) "unemployment fund" does not include the unemployment insurance fund referred to in section 6 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1966 ([Act No. 30 of 1966](#)).
- (6) The Minister may, after consultation with the National Economic, Development and Labour Council established by section 2(1) of the National Economic, Development and Labour Council Act, 1994, by notice in the *Gazette* exclude from the operation of the provisions of this section a category of employees, schemes or funds specified in the notice—
- (a) in the case of employees, by reason of the particular nature of the employment relationship between the employer and the employees;
  - (b) in the case of employees, schemes or funds, by reason of the fact that there exists any other type of guarantee which affords the employees, schemes or funds protection which is equivalent to the protection as provided in this section; or
  - (c) in the case of schemes or funds, by reason of the fact that the sequestration of the employer's estate will make it impossible to achieve the objects of the schemes or funds.

*[subsection (6) amended by section 10(b) of [Act 16 of 2003](#)]*

*[section 98A inserted by section 2(1) of [Act 122 of 1998](#)]*

## 99. Preference in regard to certain statutory obligations

- (1) Thereafter any balance of the free residue shall be applied in defraying—
- (a) any amount which in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1941 ([Act No. 30 of 1941](#)), was, immediately prior to the sequestration of the estate, due to the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner by the insolvent in his capacity as an employer, in respect of any assessment, penalty or other payment, or the compensation then due in respect of any workman, including the cost of medical aid and any amount paid or payable in terms of section 40(2), 44, 76(2) or 86(2) of that Act, and in the case of a continuing liability, also the capitalized value, as determined by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner, of the pension (irrespective of whether a lump sum is at any time paid in lieu of the whole or a portion of such pension in terms of section 49 of that Act), periodical payment or allowance, as the case may be, which constitutes the liability;
  - (b) any amount which the insolvent—
    - (i) has under the provisions of section [35 \(2\)](#) of the Income Tax Act, 1962 ([Act No. 58 of 1962](#)), deducted or withheld from any amount referred to in section 9 (1) (6) of that Act in respect of any other person's obligation to pay normal tax;

- (ii) has under the provisions of section 64E of that Act deducted or withheld from any amount of interest referred to in section 64A of that Act in respect of the non-residents tax on interest payable in respect of such amount of interest;
- (iii) is under the provisions of section 99 of the said Act required to pay in respect of any tax due by any other person and has deducted or withheld from any moneys, including pensions, salary, wages, remuneration and amounts of any other nature, held by him for or due by him to such person;

*[subparagraph (iii) amended by section 30(a) of [Act 90 of 1972](#), substituted by section 69 of [Act 85 of 1974](#) and by section 3(a) of [Act 139 of 1992](#)]*

- (iv) has under the provisions of the Fourth Schedule to the said Act deducted or withheld by way of employees' tax from remuneration or any other amount paid or payable by him to any other person; or

*[subparagraph (iv) substituted by section 30(b) of [Act 90 of 1972](#), by section 69 of [Act 85 of 1974](#) and by section 3(a) of [Act 139 of 1992](#)]*

- (v) has under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the said Act deducted or withheld from any insurance benefit under any insurance policy, in respect of the liability of any person for normal tax,

*[subparagraph (v) added by section 30(c) of [Act 90 of 1972](#) and substituted by section 69 of [Act 85 of 1974](#)]*

but did not pay to the Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service prior to the sequestration of the estate, and any interest payable under that Act in respect of such amount in respect of any period prior to the date of sequestration of the estate;

*[paragraph (b) amended by section 6(a) of [Act 69 of 2002](#)]*

- (c) any amount which in terms of the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Act, 1962 ([Act No. 64 of 1962](#)), was, immediately prior to the sequestration of the estate, due to the General Council for Pneumoconiosis Compensation by the insolvent in his capacity as an owner or a former owner of a mine, and any interest due thereon in respect of any period prior to the date of sequestration of the estate;
- (cA) the amount of any customs, excise or sales duty or interest, fine or penalty which in terms of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 ([Act No. 91 of 1964](#)), was, immediately prior to the sequestration of the estate, due by the insolvent;
- (cB) any amount provided to the insolvent by the State from the National Supplies Procurement Fund for any purpose contemplated in the National Supplies Procurement Act, 1970 ([Act No. 89 of 1970](#));
- (cC) the amount of any sales tax, interest, fine or penalty which in terms of the Sales Tax Act, 1978, was, immediately prior to the sequestration of the estate, due by the insolvent.
- (cD) the amount of value-added tax, interest, fine or penalty which in terms of the Value-Added Tax Act, 1991 ([Act No. 89 of 1991](#)), was due by the insolvent immediately prior to the sequestration of the estate.

*[paragraph (cD) inserted by section 3(b) of [Act 139 of 1992](#)]*



- (d) the amount of any appreciation contribution which in terms of the Community Development Act, 1966 ([Act No. 3 of 1966](#)), was, immediately prior to the sequestration of the estate, due to the Community Development Board by the insolvent;
- (e) any amount which in terms of the Unemployment Insurance Contributions Act, 2002 ([Act No. 4 of 2002](#)), was, immediately prior to the sequestration of the estate, due to the Unemployment Insurance Fund by the insolvent in his capacity as an employer, in respect of any contribution, penalty or other payment; and

*[paragraph (e) substituted by section 6(b) of [Act 69 of 2002](#)]*

- (f) *[paragraph (f) deleted by section 3 of [Act 122 of 1998](#)]*

- (2) The claims referred to in subsection (1) shall rank *pari passu* and abate in equal proportion, if necessary.

*[section 99 amended by section 29 of [Act 16 of 1943](#), substituted by section 30 of [Act 99 of 1965](#) and by section 5 of [Act 6 of 1972](#)]*

## 100. \*\*\*

*[section 100 amended by section 13(a), (b) and (c) of [Act 32 of 1952](#), by section 31(a) and (b) of [Act 99 of 1965](#), by section 14(a) and (b) of [Act 101 of 1983](#), by section 4(a) and (b) of [Act 139 of 1992](#) and repealed by section 4 of [Act 122 of 1998](#)]*

## 101. Preference in regard to taxes on persons or incomes or profits of persons

Thereafter any balance of the free residue shall be applied in paying—

- (a) any tax on persons or the incomes or profits of persons for which the insolvent was liable under any Act of Parliament or Ordinance of a Provincial Council in respect of any period prior to the date of sequestration of his estate, whether or not that tax has become payable after that date;

*[paragraph (a) amended by section 1 of [Act 49 of 1996](#)]*

- (a)bis any amount payable by the insolvent under any Act of Parliament by way of interest in respect of any period prior to the date of sequestration of his estate in respect of any tax referred to in paragraph (a);

*[paragraph (a)bis inserted by section 22 of [Act 6 of 1963](#)]*

- (b) in the case of an insolvent partnership, so much of any tax due and payable by any partner as is referable to the taxable income derived by him from the partnership, the amount so referable being deemed to be a sum which bears to the total amount due by him as tax the same ratio as his taxable income derived from the partnership bears to his total taxable income from all sources within the Republic.

*[section 101 substituted by section 23 of [Act 25 of 1940](#), by section 87 of [Act 31 of 1941](#), amended by section 30 of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and substituted by section 32 of [Act 80 of 1961](#)]*

## 102. Preferable under a general bond

Thereafter any balance of the free residue shall be applied in the payment of any claims proved against the estate in question which were secured by a general mortgage bond, in their order of preference, with interest thereon calculated in manner provided in sub-section (2) of section one hundred and three.

### 103. Non-preferent claims

- (1) Any balance of the free residue after making provision for the expenditure mentioned in sections ninety-six to one hundred and two inclusive, shall be applied—
  - (a) in the payment of the unsecured or otherwise non-preferent claims proved against the estate in question in proportion to the amount of each such claim.
  - (b) if the unsecured or otherwise non-preferent claims have been paid in full, in the payment, thereafter, of interest on such claims from the date of sequestration to the date of payment, in proportion to the amount of each such claim.
- (2) The interest mentioned in sub-section (1) shall be calculated at the rate of eight per cent, per annum, unless the amount of any claim bears a higher rate of interest by virtue of a lawful stipulation in writing, when the interest on that amount shall be calculated at the stipulated rate of interest.

*[subsection (2) substituted by section 15 of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

### 104. Late proof of claims

- (1) Subject to the provisions of section 95(2) and section 98A(3), a creditor of an insolvent estate who has not proved a claim against that estate before the date upon which the trustee of that estate submitted to the Master a plan of distribution in that estate, shall not be entitled to share in the distribution of assets brought up for distribution in that plan: Provided that the Master may, at any time before the confirmation of the said plan permit any such creditor who has proved his claim after the said date to share in the distribution of the said assets, if the Master is satisfied that the creditor has a reasonable excuse for the delay in proving his claim.

*[subsection (1) amended by section 5 of [Act 122 of 1998](#)]*

- (2) A creditor of an insolvent estate who proved a claim against that estate after the date upon which the trustee submitted to the Master a plan of distribution in that estate and who was not permitted to share in the distribution of assets under that plan, in terms of sub-section (1), shall be entitled to be awarded under any further plan of distribution submitted to the Master after the proof of his claim, the amount which would have been awarded to him under the previous plan of distribution, if he had proved his claim prior to the submission of that plan to the Master: Provided that the Master is satisfied that the creditor had a reasonable excuse for the delay in proving his claim; and provided further that any creditor who was aware that proceedings had been instituted under section twenty-six, twenty-nine, thirty-one and who delayed proving his claim until the Court had given judgment in those proceedings, shall not be entitled to share in the distribution of any money or the proceeds of any property recovered as a result of such proceedings.
- (3) If any creditor has under subsection (1) of section 32 taken proceedings to recover the value of property or a right under section 25(4), to set aside any disposition of or dealing with property under section 26, 29, 30 or 31 or for the recovery of damages or a penalty under section 31, no creditor who was not a party to the proceedings shall derive any benefit from any moneys or from the proceeds of any property recovered as a result of such proceedings before the claim and costs of every creditor who was a party to such proceedings have been paid in full.

*[subsection (3) substituted by section 6 of [Act 122 of 1993](#)]*

### 105. Form of plan of contribution

A plan of contribution shall show in parallel columns—

- (a) each claim in respect of which the claiming creditor is liable to contribute; and
- (b) the amount which he is liable to contribute, and shall make provision for all such contributions in accordance with the provisions of section one hundred and six.

## 106. Contributions by creditors towards cost of sequestration when free residue insufficient

Where there is no free residue in an insolvent estate or when the free residue is insufficient to meet all the expenses, costs and charges mentioned in section ninety-seven, all creditors who have proved claims against the estate shall be liable to make good any deficiency, the non-preferent creditors each in proportion to the amount of his claim and the secured creditors each in proportion to the amount for which he would have ranked upon the surplus of the free residue, if there had been any;

- (a) if all the creditors who have proved claims against the estate are secured creditors who would not have ranked upon the surplus of the free residue, if there had been any, such creditors shall be liable to make good the whole, of the deficiency, each in proportion to the amount of his claim;
- (b) if a creditor has withdrawn his claim, he shall be liable to contribute in respect of any deficiency only so far as is provided in section fifty-one, and if a creditor has withdrawn his claim within five days after the date of any resolution of creditors he shall be deemed to have withdrawn the claim before anything was done in pursuance of that resolution;
- (c) if all the creditors who would have ranked upon the surplus of the free residue, if there had been any, have withdrawn their claims and, after payment of their contribution in terms of paragraph (b) there is still a deficiency, the remaining creditors whose claims have been proved against the estate shall, notwithstanding the fact that they would not have ranked upon the surplus of the free residue, if there had been any, be liable to make good such deficiency, each in proportion to the amount of his claim.

*[section 106 amended by section 32 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

## 107. Trustee's account to be signed and verified

A trustee shall sign every account which he submits to the Master and he shall verify by his affidavit (which shall be free from stamp duty) that the account is a full and true account of the administration of the estate in question up to the date of the account and that, so far as he is aware, all the assets of the estate have been disclosed in the account.

## 108. Inspection of trustee's accounts by creditors

- (1) If an insolvent resided or carried on business, before the sequestration of his estate, in a district (other than the district of Wynberg, Simonstown or Bellville in the Province of the Cape of Good Hope) in which there is no Master's office, the trustee of that estate shall transmit to the magistrate of that district or, if the insolvent resided or carried on business in a portion of that district in respect of which an additional or assistant magistrate permanently carries out the functions of the magistrate of that district at a place other than the seat of magistracy of that district, to such additional or assistant magistrate a duplicate of every account which he submitted to the Master as hereinbefore provided.

*[subsection (1) amended by section 20 of [Act 62 of 1955](#)]*

- (2) The trustee shall, as soon as possible after he has submitted an account to the Master, give notice in the manner prescribed by paragraphs (b) and (c) of sub-section (3) of section forty that he has so submitted such account and that the account will lie open for inspection by the creditors of the estate at the place or places and during the period stated in the notice.

*[subsection (2) substituted by section 33 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (3) Every such account and every duplicate thereof transmitted to a magistrate shall be open for the inspection by creditors of the estate in question at the office of the Master and of such magistrate during a period of fourteen days as from the date of publication of the said notice in the *Gazette*.

- (4) A magistrate who has received its trustee's account shall cause to be affixed in a public place in or about his office a notice that he has received the account and that it will lie open for inspection in his office during a period stated in that notice.
- (5) After the expiration of the said period the magistrate shall endorse upon the account a certificate (which shall be free from stamp duty) that the account was open in his office for inspection as hereinbefore provided, and shall transmit the account to the Master.

#### 109. Extension of period for submission of account by trustee

- (1) If a trustee is unable to submit an account to the Master within the period prescribed therefor by section 91, he shall before the expiration of such period or within the further period as the Master may allow—
  - (a) submit to the Master an affidavit in which he shall state—
    - (i) the reasons for his inability so to submit the account concerned;
    - (ii) those affairs, transactions or matters of importance relating to the insolvent or the estate as the master may require;
    - (iii) the amount of money available for payment to creditors or, if there is no free residue or the free residue is insufficient to meet all the costs referred to in section 97, the deficiency the creditors are liable to make good;
  - (b) send to each creditor of the estate who proved a claim against the estate, by registered post a copy of the affidavit referred to in paragraph (a),

and the Master may thereupon extend such period to a date determined by him.

- (2) If a trustee fails to submit an account to the Master within the period prescribed therefor by section 91 or before the date determined under subsection (1), the Master, subject to the provisions of section 110, or any person having an interest in the insolvent estate may serve a notice on the trustee in which he is required—
  - (a) to submit the account concerned to the Master; or
  - (b) if he is unable to submit such account, to submit an affidavit as contemplated in subsection (1) to the Master and to send a copy thereof to each creditor of the estate who proved a claim against that estate,

within a period of 14 days from the date of the notice and the Master may, if the account concerned is not submitted and the said affidavit is submitted to him, after the expiration of the said period of 14 days extend such period to a date determined by him.

- (3) If the Master refuses to extend the said period under subsection (1) or (2) or does not so extend such period within a period of 14 days as from the date on which the affidavit referred to in subsection (1) has been submitted to him, the trustee may apply by motion to the court (after having given the Master notice of his intention to make the application) for an order extending the said 15 period and the court may thereupon make such order as it thinks fit.

*[section 109 substituted by section 16 of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

#### 110. Compelling trustee to submit accounts

- (1) If a trustee has funds in hand which, in the opinion of the Master, ought to be distributed among the creditors of the estate in question and the trustee has not submitted to the Master a plan for the distribution of those funds, the Master may direct him in writing to submit to him a plan for the distribution of those funds, although the period prescribed in section ninety-one may not have elapsed.

- (2) If the trustee has failed to submit an account to the Master within the period and in the manner hereinbefore prescribed, the Master may direct the trustee in writing to submit his account.
- (3) *[subsection (3) deleted by section 34 of Act 99 of 1965]*

### 111. Objections to trustee's account

- (1) The insolvent or any person interested in the estate may, at any time before the confirmation of the trustee's account, in terms of section one hundred and twelve, lay before the Master in writing any objection, with the reasons therefor, to that account.
- (2) If the Master is of the opinion that any such objection is well founded or if, apart from any objection, he is of the opinion that the account is in any respect incorrect or contains any improper charge or that the trustee acted *mala fide*, negligently or unreasonably in incurring any costs included in the account and that the account should be amended, he may direct the trustee to amend the account or may give such other direction in connection therewith as he may think fit: Provided that—
  - (a) any person aggrieved by any such direction of the Master or by the refusal of the Master to sustain an objection so lodged, may apply by motion to the Court within fourteen days as from the date of the Master's direction, or as from the date of intimation to the objector of the Master's refusal to sustain his objection, after notice to the trustee, for an order to set aside the Master's decision and the Court may thereupon confirm the account or make such order as it thinks fit; and
  - (b) when any such direction affects the interests of a person who has not lodged an objection with the Master, the account so amended shall again lie open for inspection by the creditors in the manner and with the notice hereinbefore prescribed, unless the person affected as aforesaid consents in writing to the immediate confirmation of the account.

*[subsection (2) amended by section 35 of Act 99 of 1965]*

### 112. Confirmation of trustee's accounts

When a trustee's account has been open to inspection by creditors as hereinbefore prescribed and—

- (a) no objection has been lodged; or
- (b) an objection has been lodged and the account has been amended in accordance with the direction of the Master and has again been open for inspection if necessary as in paragraph (b) of sub-section (2) of section one hundred and eleven prescribed and no application has been made to the Court in terms of paragraph (a) of the said sub-section (2) to set aside the Master's decision; or
- (c) an objection has been lodged but withdrawn or has not been sustained and the objector has not applied to the Court in terms of the said paragraph (a),

the Master shall confirm the account and his confirmation shall be final save as against a person who may have been permitted by the Court before any dividend has been paid under the account, to reopen it.

### 113. Distribution of estate and collection of contributions from creditors

- (1) Immediately after the confirmation of a trustee's account, the trustee shall give notice of the confirmation in the *Gazette* and shall state in that notice, according to the circumstances, that a dividend to creditors is in course of payment or that a contribution is in course of collection from the creditors and that every creditor liable to contribute is required to pay to the trustee the amount for which he is so liable.
- (2) If any contribution, is payable, the trustee shall specify fully in that notice the address at which the payment of the contribution is to be made, and shall deliver or post a copy of the notice to every creditor liable to contribute.

- (3) Immediately after the confirmation of a trustee's account the trustee shall in accordance therewith distribute the estate or collect from each creditor liable to contribute the amount for which he is liable.

#### **114. Trustee to produce acquittances for dividends or to pay over unpaid dividends to Master**

- (1) The trustee shall without delay lodge with the Master the receipts for dividends paid to creditors and if there is a contribution account the vouchers necessary to complete the account. Provided that a cheque purporting to be drawn payable to a creditor in respect of any dividend due to him and paid by the banker on whom it is drawn, may be accepted by the Master in lieu of any such receipt.

*[subsection (1) substituted by section 36(a) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (2) If any such dividend has at the expiration of a period of two months as from the confirmation of the account under which it is payable, not been paid out to the creditor entitled thereto, the trustee shall immediately pay in the dividend to the Master who shall deposit it in the Guardians' Fund for account of the creditor.
- (3) *[subsection (3) deleted by section 36(b) of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

#### **115. \*\*\***

*[section 115 repealed by section 37 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

#### **116. Surplus to be paid into Guardians' Fund until rehabilitation of insolvent**

- (1) If after the confirmation of a final plan of distribution there is any surplus in an insolvent estate which is not required for the payment of claims, costs, charges or interest, the trustee shall, immediately after the confirmation of that account, pay that surplus over to the Master, who shall deposit it in the Guardians' Fund and after the rehabilitation of the insolvent shall pay it out to him at his request.
- (2) *[subsection (2) deleted by section 38 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

#### **116bis. Failure by trustee to submit account or to perform duties**

- (1) If any trustee fails to submit any account to the Master as and when required by or under this Act, or to submit any vouchers in support of such account or to perform any other duty imposed upon him by this Act or to comply with any reasonable demand of the Master for information or proof required by him in connection with the liquidation or distribution of an estate, the Master or any we person having an interest in the liquidation or distribution of the estate may, after giving the trustee not less than fourteen days' notice, apply to the court for an order directing the trustee to submit such account or any vouchers in support thereof or to perform such duty or to comply with such demand.
- (2) The costs adjudged to the Master or to such person shall, unless otherwise ordered by the Court, be payable by the trustee *de bonis propriis*.

*[section 116bis inserted by section 39 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

#### **117. Enforcement of order of Court**

- (1) If a trustee has failed to comply with any order of the Court made under section one hundred and sixteen *bis* the Court may direct that any sum of money which that trustee was ordered to pay be

recovered by attachment and sale of the goods of the trustee and may further commit him to prison for contempt of the Court.

[subsection (1) substituted by section 40 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]

- (2) If the Court has ordered a trustee to pay out of his own means the costs of any proceedings instituted under any provision of this Act, and the person in whose favour the order was made is unable to recover those costs from the trustee, those costs shall be paid as part of the costs of the sequestration out of any assets of the estate in question, which have not yet been distributed among the creditors.

## 118. Enforcing payment of contributions

- (1) After the expiration of a period of thirty days as from the delivery or posting in a registered letter to any creditor of the notice mentioned in sub-section (2) of section one hundred and thirteen, the trustee may take out a writ of execution in the magistrate's court in which the creditor could be sued for the contribution in question against any such creditor who, being liable to contribute under the plan of contribution, has failed to pay the amount of his liability.
- (2) Whenever a creditor liable to contribute under a plan of contribution is in the opinion of the Master and of the trustee unable to pay the contribution for which he is liable or whenever the trustee has incurred in connection with the recovery of any contribution any expenses which are in the opinion of the Master and of the trustee irrecoverable, the trustee shall as soon as practicable and in any event within such period as the Master may prescribe therefor, frame and submit to the Master a supplementary plan of contribution wherein he shall apportion the share of the creditor who is unable to pay or the expenses in question among the other creditors who are in the opinion of the Master and of the trustee able to pay.
- (3) The provisions of sub-section (2) shall *mutatis mutandis* apply whenever a creditor liable to contribute under a first or further supplementary plan of distribution is, in the opinion of the Master and of the trustee, unable to pay the contribution for which he is liable, or whenever the trustee has incurred expenses in connection with the recovery of a contribution under a first or further supplementary plan of distribution which are, in the opinion of the Master and the trustee, irrecoverable by the trustee.
- (4) A trustee may, in lieu of complying with the requirements of section one hundred and eight in connection with any supplementary plan of contribution, furnish a copy of that plan to every creditor liable to contribute thereunder and thereupon the provisions of sub-section (1) shall *mutatis mutandis* apply.

## 119. Composition

- (1) At any time after the first meeting of the creditors of an insolvent estate, the insolvent may submit to the trustee of his estate a written offer of composition.
- (2) If the trustee is of the opinion that the creditors will probably accept the offer of composition, he shall as soon as possible after receipt of the offer post in a registered letter or deliver to every creditor who has proved his claim, a copy of the offer with his report thereon.
- (3) If the trustee is of the opinion that there is no likelihood that the creditors will accept the offer of composition, he shall inform the insolvent that the offer is unacceptable and that he does not propose to send a copy thereof to the creditors.
- (4) The insolvent may thereupon appeal to the Master who, after having considered a report from the trustee, may, if he considers, the offer of composition sufficient for submission to the creditors, direct the trustee to post or deliver a copy of the offer to every creditor who has proved his claim.
- (5) Whenever the trustee posts or delivers to the creditors a copy of an offer of composition in terms of the preceding provisions of this section, he shall simultaneously convene and give notice to the

creditors of a meeting for the purpose of considering the said offer and any other matter mentioned in the notice.

- (6) The said meeting shall be convened for a date not earlier than fourteen days and not later than twenty-eight days after the date upon which the said notice is posted or delivered to any creditor.
- (7) If the offer of composition has been accepted by creditors whose votes amount to not less than three-fourths in value and three-fourths in number (calculated in accordance with the provisions of section fifty-two) of the votes of all the creditors who proved claims against the estate, and payment under the composition has been made or security for such payment has been given as specified in the composition, the insolvent shall be entitled to a certificate under the hand of the Master of the acceptance of the offer: Provided that no offer may be so accepted if it contains any condition whereby any creditor would obtain as against another creditor any benefit to which he would not have been entitled upon the distribution of the estate in the ordinary way; and provided further that any condition which makes the offer of composition or the fulfilment thereof or of any part thereof subject to the rehabilitation or to the consent of the creditors to the rehabilitation of the insolvent shall be of no effect, and provided also that if the composition provides for the giving of any security, the nature of that security shall be fully specified, and if it is to consist of a surety bond or guarantee, every surety shall be named.

*[subsection (7) amended by section 31 of Act 16 of 1943]*

- (8) In sub-section (7) the word "creditor" includes a creditor who has not proved a claim against the insolvent estate in question.

## 120. Effect of composition

- (1) An offer of composition which has been accepted as aforesaid shall be binding upon the insolvent and upon all the creditors of the insolvent estate in so far as their claims are not secured or otherwise preferent but the right of any preferent creditor shall not be prejudiced thereby, except, in so far as he has expressly and in writing waived his preference.
- (2) If it be a condition of the composition that any property in the insolvent estate shall be restored to the insolvent, the acceptance of the composition shall divest the trustee of such property and re invest the insolvent therewith as from the date upon which such property is in pursuance of the composition to be restored to the insolvent, but subject to any condition provided for in the composition.
- (3) A composition shall not affect the liability of a surety for the insolvent.

## 121. If insolvent partner enters into composition, trustee of partnership estate may take over his estate

- (1) When the estate of a partnership and the estate of a partner in that partnership are simultaneously under sequestration, the acceptance of an offer of composition by the separate creditors of the partner shall not take effect until the expiration of a period of six weeks as from the date of a notice in writing of that acceptance given by the trustee of the partner's separate estate to the trustee of the partnership estate, or if the trustee of the partner's estate is also the trustee of the partnership estate, as from the date of the acceptance. The said notice shall be accompanied by a copy of the deed embodying the composition.
- (2) At any time during the said period of six weeks the trustee of the partnership estate may take over the assets of the estate of the insolvent partner if he fulfils the obligations of the insolvent partner in terms of the composition except obligations to render any service or obligations which only the insolvent partner can fulfil: Provided that if the composition provides for the giving of any specific security, the Master shall determine what other security the trustee of the partnership estate may give in lieu thereof.



## 122. Effect of composition on spouse of the insolvent

A composition shall not be binding on the separate creditors of the spouse of the insolvent concerned but upon the acceptance of the offer of composition the property or, if it has been realized, the proceeds of the property of that spouse shall be restored to her or him, without prejudice to the claims of the creditors of that spouse or to any right of preference of any of them at the time when the property was vested in the trustee: Provided that any movable property held as security by any such creditor when the property was vested in the trustee shall be restored to that creditor; and provided further that the proceeds of any security whatsoever which has been realized shall be paid to the person or persons entitled thereto, according to their rights.

## 123. Functions of trustee under composition

- (1) Any moneys to be paid and anything to be done for the benefit of creditors in pursuance of a composition shall be paid and shall be done, as far as practicable, through the trustee: Provided that any creditor who has failed to prove his claim before the trustee has made a final distribution among those creditors who have proved their claims, shall be entitled to recover direct from the insolvent within six months as from the confirmation by the Master, of the account under which the distribution was made, any payments to which he may be entitled under the composition and the trustee shall have no duty in regard thereto and after the said distribution the creditor shall have no claim against the insolvent estate.
- (2) When a composition has been entered into between an insolvent and the creditors of his estate, the trustee of that estate shall frame a liquidation account and plan of distribution of the assets which are or will become available for distribution among the creditors under the composition, and all the provisions of this Act which relate to a liquidation account and plan of distribution and to the distribution of assets among creditors shall apply in connection with the first-mentioned liquidation account and plan of distribution, and with the first-mentioned assets.

## 124. Application for rehabilitation

- (1) An insolvent who has obtained from the Master the certificate mentioned in sub-section (7) of section one hundred and nineteen may apply to the Court for an order for his rehabilitation: Provided that he has not less than three weeks before making the application, given, by advertisement in the *Gazette*, notice of his intention to make the application and delivered or posted in a registered letter to the trustee of his estate a copy of that notice; and provided further that the said certificate shows that payment has been made or the security prescribed by sub-section (7) of section one hundred and nineteen has been given for the payment of not less than ten shillings for every pound of every claim proved or to be proved against the estate of the insolvent.

*[subsection (1) amended by section 32(a) of Act 16 of 1943 and by section 41 of Act 99 of 1965]*

- (2) An insolvent who is not entitled under sub-section (1) to apply to the Court for his rehabilitation and who has previously given to the Master and to the trustee of his estate in writing and by advertisement in the *Gazette* not less than six weeks' notice of his intention to apply to the Court for his rehabilitation may so apply—
  - (a) after twelve months have elapsed from the confirmation by the Master, of the first trustee's account in his estate, unless he falls within the provisions of paragraph (b) or (c); or
  - (b) after three years have elapsed from such confirmation if his estate has either under this Act or a prior law been sequestered prior to the sequestration to which he desires to put an end and if he does not fail within the provisions of paragraph (c); or
  - (c) after five years have elapsed from the date of his conviction of any fraudulent act in relation to his existing or any previous insolvency or of any offence under section one hundred and

thirty-two, one hundred and thirty-three or one hundred and thirty-four of this Act or under any corresponding provision of the Insolvency Act, 1916 ([Act No. 32 of 1916](#)):

*[paragraph (c) amended by section 32(b) of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and by section 1 of [Act 49 of 1996](#)]*

Provided that no application for rehabilitation under this sub-section shall be granted before the expiration of a period of four years from the date of sequestration of the estate of the applicant, except upon the recommendation of the Master.

- (3) After the expiration of a period of six months as from the sequestration of an estate, the insolvent concerned may apply to the Court for his rehabilitation—
  - (a) if he has, not less than six weeks before making the application, given to the Master and to the trustee, if any, of his estate notice in writing, and published in the Gazette a notice of his intention to make the application; and
  - (b) if, at the time of making the application, no claim has been proved against his estate; and
  - (c) if he has not been convicted of an offence mentioned in paragraph (c) of sub-section (2); and
  - (d) if his estate was not sequestrated under any law prior to the sequestration which he desires to end.
- (4) A trustee who has received a notice mentioned in sub-section (1), (2), or (3) shall report to the Master any facts which in his opinion would justify the Court, in refusing, postponing, or qualifying the insolvent's rehabilitation.
- (5) At any time after the confirmation by the Master, of a plan of distribution providing for the payment in full of all claims proved against an insolvent estate, with interest thereon from the date of sequestration, calculated in terms of sub-section (2) of section one hundred and three and of all the costs of sequestration, the insolvent concerned may apply to the Court for his rehabilitation: Provided that he has not less than three weeks before making the application given notice in writing to the Master and to the trustee of his estate of his intention to make the application.

## 125. Security to be furnished prior to application for rehabilitation

Not less than three weeks before applying to the court for his rehabilitation an insolvent shall furnish to the registrar of the court security, to the amount or value of R500, for the payment of the costs of any person who may oppose the rehabilitation and be awarded costs by the court.

*[section 125 substituted by section 17 of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

## 126. Facts to be averred on application for rehabilitation

In support of an application for his rehabilitation, an insolvent shall submit his affidavit that he has made a complete surrender of his estate and has not granted or promised any benefit whatever to any person or entered into any secret agreement with intent to induce his trustee or any creditor not to oppose the rehabilitation. Such affidavit shall include a statement of his assets and liabilities and of his earnings at the date of the application. Information shall also be laid before the Court as to what dividend was paid to his creditors, what further assets in his estate are available for realization and the estimated value thereof, the total amount of all claims proved against his estate, and the total amount of his liabilities at the date of the sequestration of his estate. If application for rehabilitation is made pursuant to sub-section (1) of section one hundred and twenty-four the insolvent shall set out the particulars of the composition and shall state whether there are or are not creditors whose claims against his estate have not been proved, and if there are such creditors, he shall state their names and addresses and particulars of their claims.

## 127. Opposition to or refusal by Court of rehabilitation

- (1) Upon the day fixed for the hearing of an application for rehabilitation the Master shall report thereon to the Court, and the Master, the trustee or any creditor or other person interested in the estate of the applicant may appear in person or by counsel to oppose the grant of the application.

- (2) Whether the application be opposed or not, the Court may refuse an application for rehabilitation or may postpone the hearing of the application or may rehabilitate the insolvent upon such conditions as it may think fit to impose and may order the applicant to pay the costs of any opposition to the application, if it is satisfied that the opposition was not vexatious.
- (3) Among the conditions referred to in sub-section (2), the Court may require the insolvent to consent to judgment being entered against him for the payment of any unsatisfied balance of any debt which was or could have been proved against his estate, or of such lesser sum as the Court may determine, but in such case execution shall not be issued on the judgment except with leave of the Court and on proof that the insolvent has since the date of sequestration of his estate acquired property or income available for the payment of his debts; or apart from any such judgment the Court may impose any other condition with respect to any property, or income which may accrue to the insolvent in the future.
- (4) In granting an application for rehabilitation made under sub-section (1) of section one hundred and twenty-four the Court may order that any obligation incurred by the applicant before the sequestration of his estate which, but for that order, would be discharged as a result of the applicant's rehabilitation, shall remain of full force and effect, notwithstanding the rehabilitation.
- (5) The registrar of the Court shall forthwith give notice to the Master of every rehabilitation of an insolvent granted by the Court.

#### **127A. Rehabilitation by effluxion of time**

- (1) Any insolvent not rehabilitated by the court within a period of ten years from the date of sequestration of his estate, shall be deemed to be rehabilitated after the expiry of that period unless a court upon application by an interested person after notice to the insolvent orders otherwise prior to the expiration of the said period of ten years.
- (2) If a court issues an order contemplated in subsection (1), the registrar shall transmit a copy of the order to every officer charged with the registration of title to any immovable property in the Republic.
- (3) Upon receipt of the order by such officer he shall enter a caveat against the transfer of all immovable property or the cancellation or cession of any bond registered in the name of or belonging to the insolvent.
- (4) The caveat shall remain in force until the date upon which the insolvent is rehabilitated.

*[section 127A inserted by section 6 of [Act 6 of 1972](#) and substituted by section 7 of [Act 122 of 1993](#)]*

#### **128. Partnership cannot be rehabilitated**

A partnership whose estate has been sequestrated shall not be rehabilitated.

#### **129. Effect of rehabilitation**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (3) and subject to such conditions as the Court may have imposed in granting a rehabilitation, the rehabilitation of an insolvent shall have the effect—
  - (a) of putting an end to the sequestration;
  - (b) of discharging all debts of the insolvent, which were due, or the cause of which had arisen, before the sequestration, and which did not arise out of any fraud on his part;
  - (c) of relieving the insolvent of every disability resulting from the sequestration.
- (2) A rehabilitation granted on an application made in circumstances described in sub-section (3) of section one hundred and twenty-four shall have the effect of reinvesting the insolvent with his estate.

- (3) A rehabilitation shall not affect—
- (a) the rights of the trustee or creditors under a composition;
  - (b) the powers or duties of the Master or the duties of the trustee in connection with a composition;
  - (c) the right of the trustee or creditors to any part of the insolvent's estate which is vested in but has not yet been distributed by the trustee, but subject to the provisions of sub-section (2);
  - (d) the liability of a surety for the insolvent;
  - (e) the liability of any person to pay any penalty or suffer any punishment under any provision of this Act.

### 130. Illegal inducements to vote for composition or not to oppose rehabilitation

Any undertaking to grant any benefit to any person in order to induce him or any other person to accept an offer of composition or to agree to, or refrain from opposing the rehabilitation of an insolvent, or as a consideration for the acceptance of an offer of composition or for the agreement to or non-opposition of the rehabilitation of an insolvent (whether by the person for whom the benefit is intended or by any other person), shall be void and any person who has accepted any such benefit or who has stipulated for any such benefit, whether for himself or any other person shall be liable to pay by way of penalty for the benefit of the creditors of the insolvent estate in question—

- (a) a sum equal to the amount of the claim (if any) which he originally proved against the estate; and
- (b) the amount or value of any benefit given or promised; and
- (c) in case of a composition, the amount paid or to be paid to him under the composition.

### 131. Recovery of penalty

The trustee may enforce and recover any penalty mentioned in section one hundred and thirty and if he fails to do so any creditor may do so in the name of the trustee, upon his indemnifying the trustee against all costs in connection with such action.

### 132. Concealing or destroying books or assets

An insolvent shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years if at any time before or after the sequestration of his estate he does any of the following acts, unless it is proved that he had no intention to defraud; that is to say, if he—

- (a) conceals, parts with, destroys, mutilates, falsifies or makes any false entry or erasure in any book or document relating to his business, property or affairs or permits any other person to commit any such act in regard to any each book or document; or
- (b) conceals or permits the concealment of any assets which ought to be placed at the disposal of the trustee; or
- (c) otherwise than in the ordinary course of business makes, or permits the making of a disposition of any property which he has obtained on credit and has not paid for; or
- (d) otherwise than in the ordinary course of business destroys, damages, removes or makes a disposition of, or permits the destruction, damage, removal or the making of a disposition of, any assets in his estate if such destruction, damage, removal or disposition has prejudiced or is calculated to prejudice his creditors:

Provided that—

- (i) whenever in any proceedings for a contravention of paragraph (a) any act described in that paragraph is proved to have been committed in regard to any book or other document relating

to the business, property or affairs of the insolvent, he shall be deemed to have committed or permitted such act unless it is proved that he neither committed it nor could have prevented the commission;

- (ii) in any proceedings for a contravention of paragraph (c) or paragraph (d) any disposition, destruction, damage or removal of assets proved to have been committed shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have been otherwise than in the ordinary course of business;
- (iii) if it appears from any book or document relating to the business, property or affairs of the insolvent or if it is proved in any other manner whatsoever that there ought to be available to the trustee at least ten per cent, more assets of the estate than the assets actually available to him, such insolvent shall be deemed to have removed or made a disposition of assets of a value equal to the difference between the value of the assets which ought to be available, and the value of the assets actually so available, in contravention of paragraph (d), unless he fully and accurately accounts for or explains the deficiency and proves that the deficiency was not caused by his action and that he could not have prevented it.

### 133. Concealment of liabilities or pretext to existence of assets

An insolvent shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years if, within two years immediately preceding the sequestration of his estate, when making any statement either verbally or in writing in regard to his business, property or affairs to any person who was then his creditor or to any person who became his creditor on the faith of such a statement, he concealed any liability, present or future, certain or contingent, which he may then have contracted, or failed to disclose the full extent of his liability or mentioned, as if it were an asset, any right or property which at the time was not an asset, or represented that he had more assets than he in fact had or made any false statement in regard to the amount, quality or value of his assets, or in any way concealed or disguised or attempted to conceal or disguise any loss which he had sustained, or gave any incorrect amount thereof, unless it is proved that he had good reason to believe that the said Statement was correct in every respect and that he was not concealing or failing to disclose or disguising any relevant fact.

### 134. Failure to keep proper records

- (1) An insolvent shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year if his occupation or transactions prior to the sequestration of his estate were such that he might reasonably be expected to keep a record of his transactions, and he failed to keep a proper record of his transactions in the English or the Dutch language and to preserve that record during a period of not less than three years.

*[subsection (1) amended by section 33 of Act 16 of 1943 and by section 1 of Act 49 of 1996]*

- (2) For the purposes of this section a proper record of transactions includes all such records, wherein is set forth clearly the nature of all such person's transactions, as (regard being had to his occupation) he can reasonably be expected to have kept. A trader shall be deemed not to have kept a proper record of his transactions unless he kept a record which includes—
  - (a) detailed stock sheets (which shall disclose the cost price of every article on hand at the date of stocktaking which has been purchased by the trader for the purpose of his business) and balance sheets completed for each of his three financial or business years immediately preceding the sequestration of his estate, or if he commenced business less than three years before the sequestration, completed at the commencement of his business and thereafter for each financial or business year preceding the sequestration;
  - (b) records exhibiting for the period since the commencement of his business or since the commencement of his financial or business year next but one before the financial or business year in which his estate was sequestrated (whichever period is the less) the following particulars—
    - (i) all property purchased in the course of the business, duly supported by the original invoices;

- (ii) all cash receipts and disbursements and the dates thereof;
- (iii) a daily record of all property sold on credit, and such a continuous record of all transactions as a trader may be expected to keep in the ordinary course of his business;
- (iv) the name of every person indebted to the trader and of every person to whom the trader is indebted and the address of every such person at the time when the indebtedness arose or at any time thereafter;

*[paragraph (b) amended by section 7(b) of [Act 6 of 1972](#)]*

- (c) a record of all cheques drawn during the period mentioned in paragraph (d) and the counterfoils of such cheques, showing clearly, in the case of each cheque and on each counterfoil, the name of the payee, the amount of the cheque, and the date of the cheque:

Provided that a trader who proves that his turnover for the two years immediately preceding the sequestration of his estate or since the commencement of the business (whichever period is the less), was at the rate of less than R10 000 per annum shall be deemed to have kept a proper record, if the court dealing with the matter in question, having regard to the nature and circumstances of the business, is satisfied that he has kept a sufficient record of his transactions and that the record complies with the requirements of subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (b).

*[subsection (2) amended by section 7(a) of [Act 6 of 1972](#) and by section 18 of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

### 135. Undue preferences, contracting debts without expectation of ability to pay, etc.

- (1) An insolvent shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment not exceeding one year, if, prior to the sequestration of his estate, he made a disposition of any part of his property with the intention of preferring one or more of his creditors above the others or any other if at the time when he made that disposition his liabilities exceeded the value of his assets: Provided that any such disposition which had the effect of preferring, or was calculated to prefer, one or more creditors above the others or any other shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have been made with the intention of preferring such creditor or creditors above the others or any other. Provided, further, that if the insolvent's estate was sequestrated within a period of six months as from the date of making such a disposition, his liabilities shall be deemed to have exceeded the value of his assets at that date, unless the contrary is proved.
- (2) In sub-section (1) the expression "creditor" includes a surety for the insolvent as, well as a person who in law is in a position analogous to that of a surety.
- (3) An insolvent shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years if, prior to the sequestration of his estate—
  - (a) he contracted any debt of fifteen pounds or more or debts to the aggregate of fifty pounds or more, without any reasonable expectation of being able to discharge such debt or debts; or
  - (b) at a time when his liabilities exceeded his assets or during the period of six months immediately preceding the sequestration of his estate, he diminished his assets by gambling, betting, hazardous speculations or expenditure, not reasonably necessary in connection with his business or vocation or for the maintenance of himself and his dependents or being a trader, alienated any business belonging to him, or the goodwill of such business or any goods or property forming part thereof not in the ordinary course of that business, without publishing a notification of his intention so to alienate in the *Gazette*, and in a newspaper, in terms of the provisions of subsection (1) of section thirty-four:

*[paragraph (b) amended by section 14 of [Act 32 of 1952](#)]*

Provided that in any proceedings for a contravention of paragraph (a) the insolvent shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have contracted the debt or debts without having had a reasonable expectation of discharging it or them, if the debt was or the debts were contracted—

- (i) at a time when his liabilities exceeded his assets; or
- (ii) within the period of six months immediately preceding the sequestration of his estate.

### **136. Failure to give information or to deliver assets, books, etc.**

An insolvent shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years—

- (a) if at any time during the sequestration of his estate he, knowing or suspecting that any person has proved or intends to prove a false claim against his estate, fails to inform the Master and the trustee of his estate in writing of that knowledge or suspicion, within seven days as from the date upon which he acquired that knowledge or upon which his suspicion was aroused;
- (b) if he fails within fourteen days as from the appointment of the trustee of his estate—
  - (i) to deliver to the trustee or as the trustee may in writing direct, any property of whatever nature belonging to the estate which may be in his possession or custody or under his control; or
  - (ii) to inform the trustee of the existence and whereabouts of any property belonging to the estate (other than property mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) which is not fully disclosed in the statement of his affairs mentioned in section four or sixteen or which is not already in the possession of the trustee; or
  - (iii) to deliver to the trustee or deputy sheriff, or as either of them may direct all books and documents in his possession or custody or under his control, relating to his affairs; or
  - (iv) to inform the trustee of the existence or whereabouts of any such book or document not in his possession or custody or under his control, if it is not already in the possession of the trustee;

unless, in any such case, he proves that he had reasonable excuse for such failure;

- (c) if, at any time after the sequestration of his estate, he fails to furnish at the request of the trustee complete and truthful information regarding any property which was at any time in his possession or custody or under his control, or regarding the time when or the manner or circumstances in which he disposed of such property or ceased to be in possession, custody or control thereof, unless he proves that he had a reasonable excuse for such failure.

### **137. Obtaining credit during insolvency, offering inducements, etc.**

Any person shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year—

- (a) if, during the sequestration of his estate, he obtains credit to an amount exceeding ten pounds without previously informing the person from whom he obtains credit that he is an insolvent, unless he proves that such person had knowledge of that fact; or
- (b) if he grants, promises, or offers any consideration whatever in order to procure the acceptance by any creditor of an offer of composition or to prevent opposition to a rehabilitation or, during the sequestration of any estate, to induce any person to refrain from investigating any matter relating to that estate or from disclosing any information in regard thereto; or
- (c) if he contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of section sixteen, or of sub-section (3), (4) or (12) of section twenty-three unless he proves that he had a reasonable excuse for such contravention or failure; or
- (d) if he makes any false statement in the statement of his affairs mentioned in section four or sixteen, or in the statement mentioned in sub-section (4) of section twenty-three.

**138. Failure to attend meetings of creditors or give certain information**

An insolvent shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months

—

- (a) *[paragraph (a) deleted by section 42 of Act 99 of 1965]*
- (b) if he fails, when thereto required in writing by the trustee of his estate, to give a true, clear and detailed explanation of his insolvency or fails to account correctly and in detail for the excess of his liabilities over his assets; or
- (c) if, at a meeting of the creditors of his estate, when thereto required by the trustee or the officer presiding or any creditor or by the agent of any of them, he fails to account for or to disclose what has become of any property which was in his possession so recently that in the ordinary course he ought to be able to account therefor; or
- (d) if he fails to comply with the requirements of subsection (13) of section twenty-three.

**138bis. Presumption in case of prosecution for failure to notify changes of address**

If in any prosecution for a contravention of paragraph (d) of section one hundred and thirty-eight it is proved that the insolvent has changed his residential or postal address it shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed that he has failed to notify the trustee of such change.

*[section 138bis inserted by section 43 of Act 99 of 1965]*

**139. Failure to appear or to give evidence or giving false evidence**

- (1) Any person shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding R500 or to imprisonment without the option of a fine for a period not exceeding six months if he is guilty of an act or omission for which he has been or might have been lawfully committed to prison in terms of subsection (2) or (3) of section 66.

*[subsection (1) substituted by section 19 of Act 101 of 1983]*

- (2) Any person shall be guilty of an offence and liable to the punishment provided by law for the crime of perjury, if, when being interrogated on oath under this Act, he wilfully makes, relative to the subject in connection wherewith he is interrogated, any statement whatever which he knows to be false or which he does not know or believe to be true.

**140. Failure of insolvent or spouse to appear to give evidence**

An insolvent or the spouse of an insolvent shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months if, when summoned to give evidence in any proceedings instituted by or against the trustee of the insolvent's estate he or she conceals himself or herself or quits the Republic or without reasonable excuse fails to attend those proceedings or refuses to answer any question which may be lawfully put to him or her in the course of those proceedings.

**141. Acceptance of consideration for certain illegal acts or omissions**

Any person shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding R500 or to imprisonment without the option of a fine for a period not exceeding six months if he accepts any benefit or the promise or offer of any benefit as a consideration for having refrained from or discontinued, or for his undertaking to refrain from or to discontinue any proceedings for the sequestration of an estate or for having agreed to, or not opposed, or for his undertaking to agree to or not to oppose a composition in an insolvent estate or the rehabilitation of an insolvent, or for having refrained or undertaken to refrain from investigating any



matter relating to an insolvent or an insolvent estate or from disclosing any information in regard to an insolvent or an insolvent estate.

*[section 141 substituted by section 20 of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

#### **142. Removing or concealing property to defeat an attachment or failure to disclose property**

- (1) Any person shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years if, either before or after the sequestration of an estate, he removes, conceals, disposes of, deals with or receives any asset belonging to that estate with intent to defeat an attachment by virtue of a sequestration order, or with intent to prejudice the creditors in that estate: Provided that in any proceedings for an offence under this sub-section, any such removal, concealment, disposal of, dealing with or receipt of assets which had the effect of defeating or was calculated to defeat such attachment or which prejudiced or was calculated to prejudice the creditors of that estate, shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have been committed with intent to defeat the attachment or (as the case may be) to prejudice those creditors.
- (2) Any person who has in his possession or custody or under his control any property belonging to an insolvent estate and who knows of the sequestration of the estate and that the property belongs to it, shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding R1 000 or to imprisonment without the option of a fine for a period not exceeding one year if he fails to inform the trustee of the estate as soon as possible of the existence and whereabouts of the property and (subject to the provisions of section 83) to deliver it to, or place it at the disposal of the trustee.

*[subsection (2) substituted by section 21 of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

- (3) The provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2) shall not apply to an insolvent in respect of any property belonging to his own insolvent estate.
- (4) A secured creditor of an insolvent estate who has realized his security in terms of section eighty-three and who has failed after written demand to pay over the proceeds of the realization in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (10) of that section, shall, apart from any other offence which he may have committed in connection with those proceeds, be guilty of an offence and liable to the penalties mentioned in subsection (2).

#### **143. Criminal liability of partners, administrators, servants or agents**

- (1) A person who—
  - (a) is or was a member of a partnership and who does or omits to do in relation to any property or to the affairs of that partnership or of the insolvent estate of that partnership; or
  - (b) is or was charged with the administration of an estate and who does or omits to do in relation to any property or to the affairs of that estate; or
  - (c) as a servant or agent has or had the sole or practical control of any property or of the affairs of his employer or principal and who does or omits to do in relation to that property or to the affairs of his employer or principal or of the insolvent estate of his former employer or principal,

any act which, if done or omitted by him in the like circumstances in relation to his own property or affairs or to any property belonging to, or the affairs of his insolvent estate, would have constituted an offence under this Act, shall be deemed to have committed that offence.

- (2) The liability under sub-section (1) of a partner, servant or agent shall not affect the liability under that sub-section or under any other provision of this Act, of another partner or of a servant or agent of the same partnership, or of the employer or principal of the employee or agent who is so liable.

#### 144. Criminal liability of trustee for neglect of certain duties

If it was the duty of a trustee to submit an account to the Master or to pay a sum of money to the Master or to a creditor, and he failed to submit that account or to pay that sum of money within a period of two months as from the time when that duty arose, he shall (apart from any other offence which he may have committed in connection with such sum of money) be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding R500.

*[section 144 substituted by section 22 of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

#### 145. Obstructing trustee

Any person who obstructs or hinders a *curator bonis* appointed under this Act or a trustee or a representative of either in the performance of his functions as such shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding R500, or to imprisonment without the option of a fine for a period not exceeding six months.

*[section 145 substituted by section 23 of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

#### 146. Evidence of liability incurred by insolvent

Whenever in any criminal proceedings under this Act any liability incurred by an insolvent or the date or time when the liability was incurred, is in issue or relevant to the issue, proof that a claim in respect of that liability has been admitted against the estate of the insolvent in accordance with any provision of this Act shall be sufficient evidence of the existence of the liability and any such liability shall be deemed to have been incurred upon the date or at the time alleged in any document submitted in accordance with any provision of this Act in support of that claim: Provided that the accused or the prosecutor in those proceedings may prove that no such liability or that a lesser or a greater liability was incurred or that it was incurred on a date or at a time other than the date or time so alleged.

#### 147. Offences committed by insolvent in different provinces may be tried at his place of business or residence

- (1) Any court of law which has jurisdiction to try an insolvent in respect of an offence under this Act committed at place where the insolvent mainly carried on business or resided at the time of the commission of the offence, shall have jurisdiction to try the insolvent in respect of such an offence committed anywhere in the Republic.
- (2) In sub-section (1) "insolvent" includes a person who is liable under sub-section (1) of section one hundred and fortythree.

#### 148. \*\*\*

*[section 148 amended by section 34 of [Act 16 of 1943](#) and repealed by section 24 of [Act 101 of 1983](#)]*

#### 149. Jurisdiction of the Court

- (1) The Court shall have jurisdiction under this Act over every debtor and in regard to the estate of every debtor who—
  - (a) on the date on which a petition for the acceptance of the surrender or for the sequestration of his estate is lodged with the registrar of the Court, is domiciled or owns or is entitled to property situate within the jurisdiction of the Court; or

- (b) at any time within twelve months immediately preceding the lodging of the petition ordinarily resided or carried on business within the jurisdiction of the Court:

Provided that when it appears to the court equitable or convenient that the estate of a person over whom it has jurisdiction be sequestrated by another court within the Republic, the court may refuse or postpone the acceptance of the surrender or the sequestration.

*[subsection (1) amended by section 2 of [Act 42 of 2001](#) and by section 33 of [Act 42 of 2000](#)]*

- (2) The Court may rescind or vary any order made by it under the provisions of this Act.

## 150. Appeal

- (1) Any person aggrieved by a final order of sequestration or by an order setting aside an order of provisional sequestration may, subject to the provisions of section 20(4) and (5) of the Supreme Court Act, 1959 ([Act No. 59 of 1959](#)), appeal against such order.

*[subsection (1) substituted by section 1 of [Act 129 of 1993](#)]*

- (2) Such appeal shall be noted and prosecuted as if it were an appeal from a judgment or order in a civil suit given by the Court which made such final order or set aside such provisional order, and all rules applicable to such last mentioned appeal shall *mutatis mutandis*, but subject to the provisions of subsection (3), apply to an appeal under this section.
- (3) When an appeal has been noted (whether under this section or under any other law), against a final order of sequestration, the provisions of this Act shall nevertheless apply as if no appeal had been noted: Provided that no property belonging to the sequestrated estate shall be realized without the written consent of the insolvent concerned.
- (4) If an appeal against a final order of sequestration is allowed, the Court allowing such appeal may order the respondent to pay the costs of sequestrating and administering the estate.
- (5) There shall be no appeal against any Order made by the Court in terms of this Act, except as provided in this section.

*[subsection (5) added by section 35 of [Act 16 of 1943](#)]*

## 151. Review

Subject to the provisions of section fifty-seven any person aggrieved by any decision, ruling, order or taxation of the Master or by a decision, ruling or order of an officer presiding at a meeting of creditors may bring it under review by the Court and to that end may apply to the Court by motion, after notice to the Master or to the presiding officer, as the case may be, and to any person whose interests are affected: Provided that if all or most of the creditors are affected, notice to the trustee shall be deemed to be notice to all such creditors; and provided further that the Court shall not re-open any duly confirmed trustee's account otherwise than as is provided in section one hundred and twelve.

*[section 151 amended by section 44 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

### 151bis. Costs of review

If the court reviewing any matter referred to in section one hundred and fifty-one confirms any decision, ruling, order or taxation of the Master or officer referred to in that section the costs of the applicant for the review of that matter shall not be paid out of the assets of the estate concerned unless the Court otherwise directs.

*[section 151bis inserted by section 45 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

## 152. Master may direct trustee to deliver documents or property or call upon any person to furnish certain information

- (1) The Master may at any time direct a trustee to deliver to him any Book or document relating or any property belonging to the insolvent estate of which he is trustee.
- (2) If at any time after the sequestration of the estate of a debtor and before his rehabilitation, the Master is of the opinion that the insolvent or the trustee of that estate or any other person is able to give any information which the Master considers desirable to obtain, concerning the insolvent, or concerning his estate or the administration of the estate or concerning any claim or demand made against the estate, he may by notice in writing delivered to the insolvent or the trustee or such other person summon, him to appear before the Master or before a magistrate or an officer in the public service mentioned in such notice, at the place and on the date and hour stated in such notice, and to furnish the Master or other officer before whom he is summoned to appear with all the information within his knowledge concerning the insolvent or concerning the insolvent's estate or the administration of the estate.

*[subsection (2) substituted by section 46 of [Act 99 of 1965](#)]*

- (3) After having interrogated the person summoned as aforesaid the Master or other officer concerned may deliver to him a written notice to appear again before the Master or other officer at a place and upon a date and hour stated in such notice and to submit to the Master or such other officer any further information or any book or document specified in such notice.
- (4) When any person summoned as aforesaid appears before the Master or other officer in question in compliance with a notice issued under sub-section (2) or (3) the Master or such other officer may administer the oath to him and the Master or such other officer and if person other than the trustee was summoned, also the trustee (or his agent) may interrogate the person summoned in regard to any matter relating to the insolvent or his estate or the administration of the estate.
- (5) The provisions of subsection (2) of section 65 shall, subject to subsection (2A) of that section, *mutatis mutandis* apply in connection with the production of any book or document or with the interrogation of any person under the preceding provisions of this section.

*[subsection (5) substituted by section 4 of [Act 89 of 1989](#)]*

- (6) The provisions of section sixty-six shall *mutatis mutandis* apply in connection with a person summoned, and with his interrogation, under this section and the Master or other officer concerned shall, with reference to a person so summoned or with reference to such interrogation, have the powers and immunity conferred upon an officer mentioned in section sixty-six.
- (7) The provisions of sub-section (7) of section sixty-five shall *mutatis mutandis* apply in connection with any person (other than a trustee) who has been summoned under this section for the purpose of furnishing any information: Provided that if there are no assets in the estate in question sufficient to pay the witness fees in question, those fees shall be paid by the State.

## 153. Fees of office and certain costs

- (1) The Master shall recover in respect of the several matters and in the manner mentioned in the Third Schedule to this Act the fees therein specified.

*[subsection (1) amended by section 21(a) of [Act 62 of 1955](#)]*

- (1bis). The Minister may from time to time by notice in the *Gazette* amend the said Third Schedule.

*[subsection (1)bis inserted by section 21(b) of [Act 62 of 1955](#), amended by sections 46 and 47 of [Act 97 of 1986](#) and substituted by section 11 of [Act 16 of 2003](#)]*

- (2) Any expenses incurred by the Master or by an officer who is to preside or presides or has presided at a meeting of the creditors of an insolvent estate in the protection of the assets of an insolvent

estate or in carrying out any provision of this Act shall, unless the Court otherwise orders, be regarded as put of the costs of the sequestration of that estate.

#### **154. Custody of documents. Admissibility of copies or certificates**

- (1) The Master shall have the custody of all documents relating to insolvent estates.
- (2) If there is endorsed upon or attached to any document or record a certificate purporting to have been signed by a person describing himself as Master, wherein he describes the nature of the document or record and states that it relates to a specified insolvent or insolvent estate, that document or record shall on its mere production by any person *prima facie* be deemed to be what the certificate describes it to be.
- (3) Any document or record upon which there is endorsed or to which there is attached a statement purporting to have been signed by a person describing himself as Master, wherein he certifies that the document or record is a true copy of or extract from a document or record relating to a specified insolvent or insolvent estate, and wherein he describes the nature of the original document or record, shall on its mere production by any person be as admissible in evidence in any court of law and be of the same force and effect as the original document or record would be if it bore or had attached to it the certificate mentioned in sub-section (2).
- (4) A certificate, purporting to have been signed by a person describing himself as Master, stating that the estate of a person or partnership mentioned therein was sequestrated on a date therein specified, or that an insolvent named therein has or has not been rehabilitated, or that any person named therein has or has not complied with any particular requirement of this Act, shall upon its mere production by any person be received as *prima facie* evidence of the facts therein stated.

#### **155. Destruction of documents**

- (1) After six months have elapsed as from the confirmation by the Master of the final trustees' account in any insolvent estate, the trustee may, with the consent in writing of the Master, destroy all books and documents in his possession relating to the estate.
- (2) After five years have elapsed as from the rehabilitation of an insolvent the Master may destroy all records in his office relating to the estate of that insolvent.
- (3) This section shall apply to all insolvent estates which have been finally liquidated or are in course of liquidation at the commencement of this Act.

#### **156. Insurer obliged to pay third party's claim against insolvent**

Whenever any person (hereinafter called the insurer) is obliged to indemnify another person (hereinafter called the insured) in respect of any liability incurred by the insured towards a third party, the latter shall, on the sequestration of the estate of the insured, be entitled to recover from the insurer the amount of the insured's liability towards the third party but not exceeding the maximum amount for which the insurer has bound himself to indemnify the insured.

#### **157. Formal defects**

- (1) Nothing done under this Act shall be invalid by reason of a formal defect or irregularity, unless a substantial injustice has been thereby done, which in the opinion of the Court cannot be remedied by any order of the Court.
- (2) No defect or irregularity in the election or appointment of a trustee shall vitiate anything done by him in good faith.

**158. Regulations and policy**

- (1) The Minister may from time to time make regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, prescribing—
  - (a) the procedure to be observed in any Master's office in connection with insolvent estates;
  - (b) the form of, and manner of conducting proceedings under this Act;
  - (c) the manner in which fees payable under this Act shall be paid and brought to account.
- (2) The Minister may determine policy for the appointment of a *curator bonis*, trustee, provisional trustee or co-trustee by the Master in order to promote consistency, fairness, transparency and the achievement of equality for persons previously disadvantaged by unfair discrimination.
- (3) Any policy determined in accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) must be tabled in Parliament before publication in the *Gazette*.

*[section 158 amended by section 46 of [Act 97 of 1986](#) and substituted by section 12 of [Act 16 of 2003](#)]*

**158bis. Minister may amend First Schedule**

The Minister may by notice in the *Gazette* amend the First Schedule.

*[section 158bis inserted by section 13 of [Act 50 of 1956](#), amended by sections 46 and 47 of [Act 97 of 1986](#) and substituted by section 13 of [Act 16 of 2003](#)]*

**158ter. \*\*\***

*[section 158ter inserted by section 47(1) of [Act 99 of 1965](#) and repealed by section 1 of [Act 49 of 1996](#)]*

**159. Short title and date of commencement**

This Act shall be called the Insolvency Act, 1936, and shall come into operation on the first day of July, 1936.

**First schedule****Form A – Notice of Surrender of a Debtor's Estate (Section 4(1))**

Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the \_\_\_\_\_ Division of the Supreme Court on \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19 at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock in the forenoon or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, for the acceptance of the surrender of the estate of\* \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and that a statement of his affairs will lie for inspection at the office of the Master of the Supreme Court at‡ \_\_\_\_\_ (and at the office of \_\_\_\_\_) for a period of fourteen days as from the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for \_\_\_\_\_

\*

Here insert the name in full of the debtor and his occupation and address, and if the debtor is a partnership, its style or firm and the name in full and address of every partner, other than a partner on commandite or a special partner as defined in the Cape [Act No. 24 of 1861](#) or the Natal [Law No. 1 of 1865](#).

‡

If the statement of the debtors affairs is to lie for inspection Only in a Master's office, delete the words in brackets.

\_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

**Annexure VIII – Personal information***[Annexure VIII, previously Form B, substituted by section 8 of [Act 122 of 1993](#)]*

State whether the debtor is married, widowed or divorced

\_\_\_\_\_

If the debtor is or was married, state—

- (a) name or names of spouse or spouses (a ‘spouse’ means not only a wife or husband in the legal sense, but also a wife or husband by virtue of a marriage according to any law or custom, and also a woman living with a man as his wife or a man living with a woman as her husband, although not married to one another)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- (b) whether the debtor is or was married in or without community of property and whether the accrual system applies

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- (c) date of marriage

\_\_\_\_\_

- (d) whether the matrimonial property system has been changed since entering into the marriage and, if so, the nature of the change

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- (e) full names and date of birth of the spouse and, if an identity number has been assigned, the identity number of the spouse

\_\_\_\_\_

State the debtor's nationality

\_\_\_\_\_

State the debtor's place of birth, date of birth and, if a an identity number has been assigned, the identity number

\_\_\_\_\_

Was the debtor's estate or the estate of a partnership in which the debtor is or was a partner previously sequestrated or placed in bankruptcy, whether in the Republic or elsewhere?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If the preceding answer is in the affirmative, state—

- (a) whether the debtor's own estate or his partnership's estate was (i) sequestrated; or (ii) placed in bankruptcy

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

(b) the place where and the date when that estate was sequestrated or placed in bankruptcy

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

(c) whether the debtor has been rehabilitated or his estate released; if so, when

\_\_\_\_\_

The foregoing balance sheet and statements shall be verified by an affidavit in the subjoined form, made by the debtor or by the person who on behalf of the debtor presented the petition tendering the surrender of the debtor's estate, or who is the representative of the debtor or his estate.

**Affidavit**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ declare under oath/solemnly and sincerely declare\* that to the best of my knowledge and belief the statements contained in the foregoing balance sheet and the Annexures thereto are true and complete, and that every estimated amount therein contained is fairly and correctly estimated.

Signature of declarant \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn\*/ Solemnly declared before me on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Commissioner of Oaths

\* Delete inappropriate words.

**Form C – Affidavit for the proof of any claim other than a claim based on a promissory note or other bill of exchange (Section 44(4))**

In the Insolvent Estate of \_\_\_\_\_

Name in full of creditor \_\_\_\_\_

Address in full \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount of claim \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ declare under oath/ solemnly and sincerely declare\*

- (1) That \_\_\_\_\_, whose estate has been sequestrated, was at the date of sequestration, and still is, indebted to \_\_\_\_\_ in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.
- (2) That the said debt arose in the manner and at the time set forth in the account hereunto annexed.
- (3) That no other person besides the said \_\_\_\_\_ is liable (otherwise than as surety) for the said \_\_\_\_\_ debt on any part thereof.
- (4) That I have/ the said \_\_\_\_\_ has\* not, nor any other person, to my/ his\* behalf received any security for the said debt or any part thereof, save and except † \_\_\_\_\_.

\*  
 Strike out inappropriate words according to the facts of the case.

\*  
 Strike out inappropriate words according to the facts of the case.

\*



Signature of declarant \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn/ Solemnly declared \* before me on the day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commissioner of Oaths.

**Form D – Affidavit for the proof of a claim based on a promissory note or other bill of exchange (Section 44(4))**

In the Insolvent Estate of \_\_\_\_\_

Name in full of creditor \_\_\_\_\_

Address in full \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount of claim \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ declare under oath/ solemnly and sincerely declare \*

- (1) That \_\_\_\_\_, whose estate has been sequestrated, was on the date of sequestration, and still is, indebted to \_\_\_\_\_ in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_, by virtue of the following promissory note/ bill of exchange \*

Date of note or bill	Name of maker or drawer	Name of acceptor	Name of person to whom payable	Date when payable	Name of endorser	Amount

- (2) That the said debt arose in the manner and at the time set forth in the account hereunto annexed.

- (3) That I have/ the said \_\_\_\_\_ has \* not, nor has any other person to my knowledge on my/ his \* behalf received any security for the said debt or any part thereof, save and except† \_\_\_\_\_.

Strike out inappropriate words according to the facts of the case.

†

Here insert nature, particulars and value of mortgage, pledge or Other security.

\*

Strike out inappropriate words according to the facts of the case.

\*

Strike out inappropriate words, according to the facts of the case.

\*

Strike out inappropriate words, according to the facts of the case.

\*

Strike out inappropriate words, according to the facts of the case.

\*

Strike out inappropriate words, according to the facts of the case.

†

Here insert nature, particulars and value of mortgage, pledge or Other security.

(4) That besides the said \_\_\_\_\_ one \_\_\_\_\_ mentioned above, is liable to me/ the said \_\_\_\_\_\* as \_\_\_\_\_ of the said note/ bill\*, as aforesaid.

(5) That the said note/ bill,\* is in all respects genuine and valid.

Signature of declarants \_\_\_\_\_.

Sworn/ Solemnly declared\* before me on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner of Oaths.

**Second schedule**

**Tariff A**

[Schedule 2 amended by section 36 of [Act 16 of 1943](#)]

	£	s.	d.
Deputy-Sheriff's Fees (section 19 (5)).			
For the attachment of movable property on one set of premises, from 10s. 6d. to	1	1	0
For the attachment of movable property on each further set of premises beyond the first, 5s. to		10	6
For making of an inventory, per 100 words, or portion thereof		5	0

\*  
Strike out inappropriate words, according to the facts of the case.

\*  
Strike out inappropriate words, according to the facts of the case.

\*  
Strike out inappropriate words, according to the facts of the case.

\*  
Strike out inappropriate words, according to the facts of the case.

For every copy thereof, if necessary, per 100 words, or portion thereof		1	0
For assistance (if necessary) in making inventory:			
(a) if within 3 miles from the deputy-sheriff's office per day (inclusive)		10	6
(b) if beyond that distance per day (inclusive)	1	1	0
For notice of attachment of movable property, if necessary 5 0 For each separate possession (as defined in the rules for the construction of this tariff) per day or portion thereof: a reasonable inclusive fee not exceeding		10	6
For removal and storage: the necessary costs thereof.			
For herding and tending of livestock: the necessary costs thereof) and in addition thereto, a commission of 1½ per cent, of the value of the livestock.			
Travelling allowance per mile or fraction thereof		1	0
If the deputy-sheriff is necessarily accompanied by an officer or assistant, additional travelling allowance may be charged at half the above rate.			

<p>For any work necessarily done by or on behalf of the deputy sheriff in performing his duties under section nineteen of the Act, for which no provision is made in this tariff; an amount to be determined by the Master.</p>			
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For a Deputy Sheriff's Fees in the Territory ten per cent shall be added to the fees set out above, except in the case of the travelling allowance per mile.

### **Rules for the Construction of the Tariff and the Guidance of the Deputy-sheriff**

- (1) In the Tariff "possession" means the continuous' and necessary presence on the premises in question for the period in respect of which possession is charged of a person employed and paid by the deputy-sheriff for the sole purpose of retaining possession.
- (2) When a charge is made for possession of any property, no charge shall be allowed for herding and tending of livestock if one and the same person could render both services.
- (3) If there are more ways than one of doing any particular act the least expensive way shall be adopted unless there is some reasonable objection thereto.
- (4) No travelling allowance shall be charged unless it was necessary for the deputy-sheriff to go beyond a distance of three miles from his office; but when any such allowance is payable, it shall be paid for the actual distance travelled in going from and returning to the office.
- (5) No charge shall be made for the cost of any transport, railway fare, etc., in addition to a charge for travelling allowance.
- (6) If more service than one can be performed on the same journey, the distance to the first place of service may be brought into account only once, and shall be apportioned equally to the respective services; and the distance from the first place of service to the next place of service shall similarly be apportioned equally to the remaining services, and so forth.
- (7) The deputy-sheriff may not charge for an inventory for his own use.
- (8) If the execution of a judgment has been stayed by publication of notice of surrender or by sequestration after an inventory has been made, for the purpose of the execution, no charge shall be made for a second inventory of the same goods The deputysheriffs fees for making the inventory shall be charged to the insolvent estate in question, according to the tariff, and not to the execution creditor, unless the estate is unable to pay those fees.
- (9) The deputy-sheriff may pay rent, if necessary for premises required for the storage of goods attached, for a period of one month or such longer period as the Master shall authorize.
- (10) Every question arising under or relative to the tariff shall be determined by the Master.

**Tariff B – Remuneration of Trustee (Section 63)**

Upon the proceeds of movable property (other than shares or similar securities) sold, or upon the amount collected under promissory notes or book debts, or as rent, interest, or other income	5 per cent.
Upon the proceeds of immovable property, shares and similar securities Sold, life insurance policies end mortgage bonds recovered: Upon the first £5,00	2½ per cent.
Upon any amount in excess of the first £5,000	1½ per cent.
Upon cash in the estate	1 percent.
If the total remuneration of a trustee under this tariff is less than £40 in all, he shall be entitled, up to that amount, to remuneration at the rate of 5 per cent, on the value of all the assets of the estate, with a minimum of £5 5s.	

Remuneration of Curator Bonis and Provisiona Trustee,

A reasonable remuneration to bo determined by the Master, not to exceed the rates of remuneration of a trustee under this tariff.

**Third Schedule**

**Master's Fees of Office (Section 153)**

*[Schedule 3 amended by section 31 of Act 17 of 1938 and substituted by section 22 of Act 62 of 1955]*

		£	s.	d.
1.	For inspection of documents in any one estate, excepting by or on behalf of a trustee or his surety		2	6

2.	For binding documents in each estate according to the size of the estate, in the discretion of the Master from 7s. to	1	10	0
3.	For taxing a trustee's remuneration or a bill of costs (but not a deputy sheriff's account) on every one pound or fraction of a pound of the amount taxed		1	0
4.	Upon the assets in an insolvent estate available for distribution among creditors—			
	(a) upon the first £5,000: $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent, with a minimum of £1;		1	0
	(b) upon any amount in excess of the first £5,000: $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent.			
5.	(a) For extracts or copies of documents made in the office of a Master, for every one hundred words or part thereof		1	0

	(b) For extracts or copies of documents certified in the office of a Master (whether or not made in such office), for every one hundred words or part thereof		1	0
6.	On any amount paid by the trustee into the Guardian's Fund for account of creditors: 5 per cent.			
7.	The fees referred to in items 1 and 5 shall be payable by means of revenue stamps affixed to the relevant document and those referred to in items 2, 3, 4 and 6 shall be payable in cash.			