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CHINA SAITE GROUP COMPANY LTD: HAS MANAGEMENT BEEN CAUGHT SHORT, LACKING AN 'UMBRELLA' OR A WATER CLOSET ?

As the ancient proverb goes, when it rains, it pours.

The origin of this proverb is unknown, but its meaning stands in good stead, today, especially for Mr Jiang Jian Qiang (), the Chairman of China Saite Group Company Ltd () (Code: 153, Main Board, The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd).

On April 16, 2019, China Saite Group Company Ltd was sued in the High Court of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) by a businessman, said to reside in Beijing, the Capital City of the PRC.

The name of this businessman was given in Writ of Summons, Number 665 of 2019, as (Transliteration: Mr Xie Yong).

Mr Xie Yong is seeking from the Defendant – China Saite Group Company Ltd – the sum of \$HK32,035,000.00, plus interest, costs and further and/or other relief.

The Statement of Claim, attached to the Writ of Summons, follows a trail of purported dealings that the Plaintiff had had with the Defendant, going back to December 6, 2017.

But, by November 15, 2018, the former congenial relationship between the Plaintiff and the Defendant started to be strained, it seems only too obvious, leading to the Plaintiff, becoming more than a little litigious and, as such, being forced to turn to an Officer of the HKSAR High Court in order to obtain justice and recompense.

The following is a verbatim transcript of the Statement of Claim, attached to Writ of Summons, Number 665 of 2019, from Paragraphs Three through to 18:

- ^{63.} By way of a Subscription Agreement dated 6th December 2017 ("the 1st Subscription Agreement"), the Plaintiff subscribed a debenture issued by the Defendant in the sum of HK\$36,000,000.00 ("**the 1st Debenture**").
- ⁶4. In pursuance of the 1st Subscription Agreement, the Plaintiff duly paid a total sum of HK\$36,000,000.00 for the purpose of subscribing the 1st Debenture. A certificate evidencing the 1st Debenture was issued on 6th December 2017 by the Defendant to the Plaintiff bearing Certificate No. CSG 151.
- ^{65.} The maturity date of the 1st Debenture was 6th March 2018. The Defendant had fully repaid to the Plaintiff the principle of HK\$36,000,000 and interest pursuant to the terms of the 1st Subscription Agreement and the 1st Debenture.
- '6. By way of a Subscription Agreement dated 4th May 2018 ("the 2nd Subscription Agreement"), the Plaintiff subscribed a debenture issued by the Defendant in the sum of HK\$37,000,000.00 ("the 2nd Debenture").
- ⁶7. In pursuance of the 2nd Subscription Agreement, the Plaintiff duly paid a total sum of HK\$37,000,000.00 for the purpose of subscribing the 2nd Debenture. A certificate evidencing the 2nd Debenture was issued on 4th May 2018 by the Defendant to the Plaintiff bearing Certificate No. CSG 230.
- ⁶8. The maturity date of the 2nd Debenture was 4th August 2018. The Defendant had fully repaid to the Plaintiff the principle of HK\$37,000,000.00 and interest pursuant to the terms of the 2nd Subscription Agreement and the 2nd Debenture.

'The 3rd Subscription Agreement and the 3rd Debenture

- '9. By way of another Subscription Agreement dated 15th August 2018 ("the 3rd Subscription Agreement") duly executed by the parties, the Plaintiff subscribed another debenture issued by the Defendant in the sum of HK\$35,000,000.00 ("the 3rd Debenture", which was also duly executed by the parties.)
- [•]10. Apart from the dates and amount of principle involved, the terms in the 3rd Subscription Agreement and the 3rd Debenture are identical to those in the 1st and 2nd Subscription Agreements and the 1st Debenture and 2nd Debenture.

- '11. In pursuance of the 3rd Subscription Agreement, the Plaintiff duly paid a total sum of RMB30,702,000.00 (equivalent to HK\$35,000,000.00 at the then exchange rate of 87.72) into a bank account designated by the Defendant at , Account Number: 019801460004051, of an affiliated company of the Defendant in China, (Jiangsu Saite Steel Structure Company Ltd). A certificate dated 15th August 2018 evidencing the 3rd Debenture was issued by the Defendant to the Plaintiff bearing Certificate No. CSG 284.
- [•]12. Pursuant to Schedule 1 of the 3rd Subscription Agreement and the maturity date on the 3rd Debenture, the repayment of the principal of HK\$35,000,000.00 and 0.1% interest were due and payable to the Plaintiff on 15th November 2018.
- [•]13. The Plaintiff will refer to the 3rd Subscription Agreement, the Schedules attached therewith, and the 3rd Debenture for its full terms and effects for the purpose of trial of these proceedings.
- '14. In breach of the terms of the 3rd Subscription Agreement and the 3rd Debenture, the Defendant had failed to repay in full the principal and interest thereunder, whether on 15th November 2018 or otherwise.
- *15. Despite repeated demands by the Plaintiff and repeated reassurances and undertakings given by the Defendant since 15th November 2018, the Defendant has, as of the date of this Writ, repaid only the Plaintiff a sum of about HK\$3,000,000.00 on or about 7th January 2019.

'Particulars of reassurances and undertakings given

- '(1) An undertaking by the Defendant to repay a sum of HK\$3,000,000.00 on or before 31st December 2018 (which HK\$3,000,000.00 was not repaid until 7th January 2019).
- (2) An undertaking by the Defendant to repay another sum of HK\$16,000,000.00 on 15th March 2019, to which the Defendant failed to honour.
- (3) An undertaking by the Defendant to repay another sum of HK\$16,000,000.00 plus all interest payable on 15th April 2019, to which the Defendant again failed to honour.
- '16. By letter dated 21st March 2019, the Plaintiff, through his solicitors Messrs. Hoosenally & Neo issued a letter to the Defendant demanding the immediate repayment of the entire principal and interest (after deducting the HK\$3,000,000.00 paid by the Defendant. Despite the said letter, no reply from the Defendant had ever been received by the Plaintiff.
- '17. For the reasons aforesaid, the Plaintiff has suffered loss and damage.

'Particulars

'The outstanding balance owed by the Defendant under the 3^{rd} Subscription Agreement and the 3^{rd} Debenture in the sum of <u>HK\$35,035,000.00</u> being the total principal and interest as of the maturity date of 15^{th} November 2018 less the partpayment of <u>HK\$3,000,000.00</u>

'18. The Plaintiff is further entitled to interest on said sum of <u>HK\$32,035,000.00</u> at such

rate and for such period until judgment as this Honourable Court shall deem just and thereafter at the judgment rate until payment to sections 48 and 49 of the High Court Ordinance, Cap. 4.'

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