

AN ANNOTATION OF THE SINGAPORE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ACT 1987. By N. SUBRAMANIAM & DOROTHY CHAN. [Singapore: Butterworths. 1987. x + 197 pp. Softcover: \$45.00]

AS the title suggests, this book is an annotation of the amendments that were made to the Singapore Companies Act¹ by virtue of the 1987 Companies (Amendment) Act² that came into effect on 15 May 1987. As would be known to those who had been following with close interest all the arguments and counter-arguments about the problems and difficulties to be solved or posed by the Amendment Act, the scope of amendments ranged from the abolition of the infamous section 149 to the enactment of a new Part VIIIA providing for the much-vaunted concept of judicial management.

Within the sixteen chapters and 197 pages of the main text, the authors have admirably attempted to present in simplified form the

¹ Cap. 50, 1985 (Rev. Ed.), hereinafter referred to as “the Principal Act.”

² Hereinafter referred to “the Amendment Act”.

various sections in the Amendment Act. Unfortunately, due perhaps to the fact that the Amendment Act itself is bulky (for an amendment Act) whereas the annotation is rather brief relatively, this book suffers from the defect of being too brief and simplified. In fact, apart from the introduction chapter, the rest of the book is mainly filled with the list of amendments under the Amendment Act plus a mere paraphrasing of these amendments. Some attempt has been made in certain chapters (for example, Chapter 9 on judicial management) to outline the scope and/or purpose of the amendments made, but by and large, the comments are a mere paraphrase of the amendments with little attempt to discuss them. This is no doubt useful in its own way, especially to those short on time, but to a person dealing with companies and company law, it has limited value.

Nevertheless, it must not be forgotten that this is only an annotation, and if one's expectations are not raised too high, it is a useful book and, apart from its price, it is one worthwhile having as a quick reference to the various amendments made under the Amendment Act.