IT/NR/NES/2023-008

## INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL

## COURT #2 FREEPORT INSURANCE CENTER, 21B WEST MALL & POINCIANA DRIVE, FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA, COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

Before

MRS. HELEN J. ALMORALES-JONES (VICE-PRESIDENT)

(SITTING ALONE)

**RITCHIE M<sup>c</sup>PHEE** 

APPLICANT

RESPONDENT

**CLEAR BLUE MARITIME AGENCY** 

ORDER ON DIRECTIONS

**APPEARANCES** 

For the Applicant

Justin Palacious Labour Advocate Freeport, Grand Bahama The Bahamas

For the Respondent

Counsel Cassietta Z. M<sup>c</sup>Intosh-Pelecanos M<sup>c</sup>Intosh & Co. Freeport, Grand Bahama The Bahamas

## WHEREAS:

- On the 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2022, Ritchie M<sup>c</sup>Phee ("the Applicant") filed a Report of a Trade Dispute against Clear Blue Maritime Agency ("the Respondent") with The Department of Labour in Grand Bahama, The Bahamas, which stated, inter alia, that the issue relevant to the dispute was *Proper Notice, Severance Pay* and *Vacation Pay 2015 – 2022*;
- By a Certificate of Referral dated the 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 (received on the 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2023), the Honourable Minister of Labour & Immigration referred this trade dispute to the Industrial Tribunal, Northern Region, ("the Tribunal");
- 3) The Tribunal served the **Applicant** with notice of the referral on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023;
- 4) The Applicant filed a Form A (Originating Application) on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2023, which did not state the Applicant's *Termination date*, but stated, inter alia, that:- his *Occupation/ Position* was Field Manager; his *Basic wages/salary* was \$ 840.00; the grounds for his application was *Notice pay, Termination/Severance pay*; no reason was given for his dismissal; and he was not given a letter of termination;
- On the 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2023, the Tribunal served a copy of the Form A (Originating Application) together with a Form C (Notice of Originating Application) and a Form D (Notice of Appearance) on the Respondent's place of business);
- 6) The **Respondent** filed a **Form D** (Notice of Appearance) on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023, which stated, inter alia, that:- it intends to resist the application; its name is **Clear Blue Maritime Agency Limited**; and the name of its Representative is **Cassietta M<sup>c</sup>Intosh** of **M<sup>c</sup>Intosh & Co.**;
- 7) The **Respondent** filed a **Form E** (Defence) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023, which stated, inter alia, that:- the Applicant was dismissed; the reason for his dismissal was that he was not allowed on any of their Client's properties due to his actions; his employment commenced in March 2017; his date of termination was July 2022; the details of remuneration he stated was not correct; his basic wage/salary was \$ 630.00 per week; he has received all payments due to him under The Employment Act; and he owes the Company for a personal loan he received and did not repay, which must be accounted for.
- The Tribunal today conducted a Case Management hearing in this matter pursuant to Rule 15 of The Industrial Relations (Tribunal Procedure) Rules, 2010 ("The Rules");

- 9) The **Applicant** appeared with his **Representative** and the **Respondent's Vice**-**President**, **Jane Williams-Rolle**, appeared on behalf of the Respondent;
- 10)No appearance of the Respondent's Counsel who consented to the Tribunal conducting the Case Management hearing in her absence;
- 11)The **Tribunal** disclosed to the parties that the Respondent's President, **Corey Gazel Rolle**, is the Second Cousin of her Husband, but she (Vice-President Jones) is not well-acquainted with him and does not socialize with him;
- 12) The **Tribunal** directed that the parties inform the Tribunal in writing, before the adjourned date, whether or not they are requesting that Vice-President Jones recuse herself from hearing and determining this trade dispute because of the foregoing disclosure;
- The parties agreed to file their List of Documents and Bundle of Documents (if any) by 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2023;
- 14)The **Tribunal** will conduct the trial at **10:00 a.m.** on **Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2023**; and
- 15)The **Tribunal** advised the parties that **The Rules** require that they file any **Brief**/ **Skeleton Arguments** [pursuant to **Rule 3(5)**] or **Written Representations** [pursuant to **Rule 3(6)**] with the Tribunal at least 7 days before the trial date;

## IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:-

- Each party file their List of Documents and Bundle of Documents (if any) with the Tribunal by 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2023, and at the same time, serve a copy thereof on the other party;
- Each party file any Brief/Skeleton Arguments or Written Representations with the Tribunal by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2023, and at the same time, serve a copy thereof on the other party; and
- 3. This matter is adjourned **10:00 a.m.** on **Monday**, **21**<sup>st</sup> **August**, **2023**, for trial.

DATED: This 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, A.D., 2023.

Her Honor, Helen J. Almorales-Jones, Vice-President