IT/NR/NES/2023-096

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)

NASTACIA GRANT

APPLICANT

RESPONDENT

JAROL INVESTMENTS

ORDER ON DIRECTIONS

APPEARANCES

For the Applicant

Pro se Freeport, Grand Bahama The Bahamas

For the Respondent

No appearance

WHEREAS:

- On the 3rd August, 2023, Nastacia Grant ("the Applicant") filed a Report of a Trade Dispute against Jarol Investments (Chances) at The Department of Labour ("DOL") in Grand Bahama, The Bahamas, which stated, inter alia, that the issue relevant to the dispute was *Wrongful Dismissal*;
- 2) By a Certificate of Referral dated the 13th September, 2023 (received on the 6th November, 2023), the Honourable Minister of Labour & The Public Service referred the trade dispute between the Applicant and Jarol Investments ("the Respondent") to the Industrial Tribunal, Northern Region, ("the Tribunal");
- In accordance with Rule 3(1) of The Industrial Relations (Tribunal Procedure) Rules, 2010 ("The Rules"), on the 7th November, 2023, the Tribunal served the Applicant with notice of the referral;
- 4) The Applicant filed a **Form A** (Originating Application) on the 7th November, 2023;
- On the 7th November, 2023, the Tribunal served a copy of the Form A (Originating Application), a Form C (Notice of Originating Application) and a Form D (Notice of Appearance) on the Respondent (received by *Roquel Edgecombe*);
- 6) The **Respondent** filed a **Form D** (Notice of Appearance) on the 9th November, 2023;
- On the 9th November, 2023, the Tribunal served a blank Form E (Defence) on the Chambers of the Respondent's Counsel (received by *Kameryn Stuart*);
- The **Respondent** failed to file a **Form E** (Defence) within the 14 days limited for so doing by **Rule 6** of **The Rules**;
- 9) On the 30th November, 2023, the Tribunal issued a **Form J** (Notice of Hearing) setting this matter for Case Management at 10:00 a.m. today (12th February, 2024) and served a copy of the same on the Applicant and Chambers of the Respondent's Counsel on the 4th December, 2023 (received by *Trevonia Blatch*);
- 10)Only the Applicant appeared at the Case Management hearing today, pro se;
- 11)Neither the Respondent nor its Counsel requested an adjournment of the hearing;
- 12)The Tribunal gave the Respondent a grace period to appear and commenced the hearing at 10:57 a.m.;

- 13)The Applicant advised that 2 conciliation meetings were held at The DOL, which did not resolve the said trade dispute and produced copies of the following documents:
 - a. The Respondent's **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**, **SECURITY** dated October 1, 2015;
 - b. An EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR SECURITY OFFICERS & TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT, dated and signed by both parties on the 13th April, 2017;
 - c. A **Uniform Agreement** signed both parties on the 13th April, 2017, but made effective from the 14th April, 2016 (sic);
 - d. A **Memo** dated 1st September, 2017, from *Roquel Edgecombe* addressed to All Employees and captioned **Re: Vacation 2018**; and
 - e. A Termination Letter dated July 31st, 2023;
- 14)According to the termination letter, the Respondent terminated the Applicant's services as a Security Officer effective immediately "*due to Breach of company policies & procedures and Gross Misconduct*";
- 15)The Applicant advised that she worked the 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight shift on Friday, 21st July, 2023, and the Respondent terminated her for allegedly taking boxes of complimentary pizza provided for its customers to her motor vehicle hours before her shift ended, which she denied doing;
- 16)Pursuant to **Rule 7(1)** of **The Rules**, The Tribunal, of its own motion, today issued a **Form F** (Notice For Further And Better Particulars) to the Respondent's Counsel requesting that they produce to the Tribunal within 14 days of receipt:
 - a. A copy of the Respondent's **Certificate of Incorporation** (to confirm its correct name); and
 - b. A flash drive containing any video surveillance footage of the alleged misconduct;
- 17) The **Applicant** advised that she alone will testify on her behalf;
- 18)The **Tribunal** elected to receive the testimony at trial *viva voce* because the Applicant is an unrepresented lay person;
- 19)The **Tribunal** directed that the parties produce the original and 2 copies of all documents they intend to tender at trial in support of their;
- 20)The **Tribunal** estimated that the trial may last 1 day; and

21)The **Tribunal** advised the Applicant that **Rule 3(5)** of **The Rules** provides an unrepresented party may submit *Written Representations* to the Tribunal, and serve a copy thereof on the other party, no later than 7 days before the commencement of the trial;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:-

- 1. The matter is adjourned to 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 11th March, 2024, for trial;
- 2. The **Respondent** provide the Tribunal with:
 - a. A copy of the Respondent's **Certificate of Incorporation** (in order to confirm its name); and
 - b. A flash drive containing any video surveillance footage of the alleged misconduct a copy of the Respondent's **Certificate of Incorporation** as soon as practicable;
- 3. The parties produce the original and 2 copies of all documents they intend to tender at trial in support of their case/defence;
- The parties file any Brief/Skeleton Arguments or Written Representations no later than 7 days prior to the commencement of the trial (by Monday, 4th March, 2024) and serve a copy of the same on the other party; and
- 5. The Tribunal serve a new **Form J** (Notice of Hearing) for trial on both parties.

DATED: This 12th day of February, A.D., 2024.

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