IT/NR/NES/2023-050

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)

MACQUEL M^cDONALD

APPLICANT

RESPONDENT

ENDEAVOR DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL LTD.

ORDER ON DIRECTIONS

APPEARANCES

For the Applicant

Pro se Freeport, Grand Bahama The Bahamas

For the Respondent

Wallace R. Allen, Esquire Cambridge Law Chambers Holding brief for Ernie E. Wallace, Esquire Wallace Law Chambers Freeport, Grand Bahama The Bahamas

WHEREAS:

- On the 4th May, 2023, Macquel M^cDonald ("the Applicant") filed a Report of a Trade Dispute against Endeavor Development International Ltd. with The Department of Labour in Grand Bahama, The Bahamas, which stated, inter alia, that the <u>issues relevant to the dispute</u> were Wages owed, Vacation pay, Breach of contract, In lieu of Notice and Severance pay;
- By a Certificate of Referral dated the 17th May, 2023 (received on the 5th July, 2023), the Honourable Minister of Labour & Immigration referred the trade dispute between the Applicant and Endeavor Development International Ltd. ("the Respondent") to the Industrial Tribunal, Northern Region, ("the Tribunal");
- 3) The Tribunal served the **Applicant** with notice of the referral on the 6th July, 2023;
- 4) On the 14th July, 2023, the **Applicant** filed a **Form A** (Originating Application) which stated, inter alia, that, the <u>Grounds for his application</u> were *Wages owed, in Lieu Notice, Breach of contract, Vacation pay* and *Severance pay*,
- On the 19th July, 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;
- On the 25th July, 2023, the **Respondent** filed a **Form D** (Notice of Appearance) and Form E (Defence);
- The Respondent's Form D (Notice of Appearance) did not indicate whether or not it intended to resist the application and stated, inter alia, that the name of the Respondent was *Wallace Law Chambers, Ernie E. Wallace*;
- 8) The Respondent's Form E (Defence) stated, inter alia, that:-
 - the name of the Respondent was *Endeavor Dev. Int. Ltd.*;
 - the Applicant was not dismissed;
 - the dates the Applicant gave as to his period of employment were not correct;
 - the details of remuneration stated by the Applicant were not correct; and
 - the Respondent intends to resist the application on the grounds that the Respondent never hired the Applicant, who was hired in Abaco by persons who were not agents of the Respondent;

- The Respondent's President gave written authorization for Wallace R. Allen, Esquire and the Respondent's Communications Director, Peter Adderley, to represent the Respondent, in the absence of its Counsel, Ernie E. Wallace, Esquire;
- 10)**The parties** agreed that 2 conciliation meetings were held at The Department of Labour (virtually) and none of the issues relevant to the dispute were resolved;
- 11)The **Respondent's Counsel** advised that the Respondent was only the agent for a U.S. Company called "*Btree*", which was the Applicant's employer;
- 12)The **Applicant** to decide whether or not to file a **Form M** (Notice of Joinder of Parties) applying to join *Btree* as a party to the proceedings;
- 13)The Tribunal directed that within 2 weeks, the **Respondent's Counsel** provide the Tribunal with *Btree's* corporate name, e-mail address and the name & address of its registered office;

14) The Applicant advised that:-

- he worked as the Respondent's Superintendent;
- he had an employment letter from the Respondent;
- the Respondent did not have an Employee Handbook, but were in the process of creating one;
- after a meeting with the Respondent's management staff, he and other employees were told that if the deal between *Btree* and *Edward Hanna* did not go through, the employees would not get paid;
- his employment with the Respondent continued after they no longer had access to Baker's Bay Cay (in late October 2022) up until the 21st December, 2022; and
- the Homeowner (*Ms. Seta*) started paying the Project Manager (*Shane Williams*);

15) The Respondent's Communications Director, Peter Adderley, advised that:-

- Btree's Senior Vice-President (*Michael Campian*) had given the Applicant that information; and
- the Respondent may settle the matter before the trial date;

16)Pursuant to **Section 58(1)(a)** of **The Industrial Relations Act**, **Cap. 321**, the Tribunal remitted the issues to the parties for further consideration, with a view to settling or reducing it;

17) The **Applicant** advised that he will testify on his behalf;

- 18)The **Respondent's Counsel** advised that the Respondent will call about 2 witnesses in its defence;
- 19)The witnesses to give *viva voce* testimony;
- 20)The parties to file their **List of Documents** and **Bundle of Documents** by the end of October 2023;
- 21)The **Tribunal** estimated that the trial may last 1 day; and
- 22)The Tribunal advised the parties that The Industrial Relations (Tribunal Procedure) Rules, 2010, require that they file any Brief/Skeleton Arguments [pursuant to Rule 3(5)] or Written Representations [pursuant to Rule 3(6)] at least 7 days before the trial date;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:-

- The **Respondent's Counsel** provide the Tribunal and the Applicant's Counsel with *Btree's* corporate name, e-mail address and the name & address of its registered office by **Monday**, 18th September, 2023;
- 2. The trial be done at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 20th November, 2023;
- The parties file their List of Documents and Bundle of Documents with the Tribunal by 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 31st October, 2023, and at the same time serve a copy thereof on the other party; and
- The parties file their Brief/Skeleton Arguments or Written Representations (if any) with the Tribunal by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, 13th November, 2023, and at the same time serve a copy thereof on the other party.

DATED: This 4th day of September, A.D., 2023.

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