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Department of Labour & Pensions

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2 November 2021

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	RULING	En De
	2	13 2021 ZI
Case Title:		NOV 0 3 2021 A
Case Ref:	26728	NA /A
Case Rei.	20/20	
Date of Hearing:	16 June 2021	Miner 255
	1:30pm	4333
	Proceedings conducted by ZOOM video conference.	
Present:	Labour Appeals Tribunal	
	Mr. Sonji Myles, Deputy Chair	
	Ms. Raquel Solomon, Member	
	Ms. Joseph Jackson, Member	
For the Appellant:	SW COUNTY TO THE TOTAL TO THE T	
For the Respondent:	(Respondent)	
5.8.48A	Mana	
Witnesses:	None	
	Background Background	Control of the control
the "Employe	omplaint of unfair dismissal by are are an interest on 28th January 2021, the Laboruary 2021 ("Tribunal's Decision"), found that:	(the "Employee"), against bor Tribunal ("Tribunal") in its
 was guil formed on reason hearing, the abs 	nal can look at the letter from and accept that ty of serious misconduct, the Tribunal was incapable conable grounds. That the lack of oral evidence on sence of written statement from the Accountant and contributed to the Tribunals inability to find that inds.	of finding that such belief was behalf of the second at the Tribunal

The Employer has not satisfied the Tribunal that the termination was reasonable in the circumstances and therefore the Tribunal found that was unfairly dismissed.



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	Consequently, the Tribunal made the following awards in arrange favour:
	 Severance pay Unfair dismissal compensation, Total award \$
	In calculating period of employment, the tribunal found that was employed on 21st March 2016 and dismissed on 3rd March 2020. That contract is silent on required notice period and as a result notice period is one month being the time between pay dates. Therefore, for the purposes of calculating was award, the Tribunal determined that true date of termination was the 2nd April 2020 being one month after wrongful termination.
Gr	ounds of Appeal
1.	The Appellant submitted Grounds of Appeal by email on the 3 rd March 2021 in the following terms:
	"We wish to appeal this matter as the Labour Tribunal initially engaged the other Director in this matter but in the latter part left to ut and redirected emails to myself. The one who was handing the matter. However in never got notified of the hearing. As such was not awarded the opportunity to defend, justify and or bring clarity to the matter. "
2.	The Ground of Appeal submitted via email, was confirmed at the Appeal Hearing by the Appellant who further submitting that, the Department of Labour and Pensions did not provide the Notice of Hearing to the appropriate contact at the Employer and as a result, the Employer was unrepresented at the Tribunal Hearing.
3.	The Appellant submitted no grounds of appeal against the findings of the tribunal.
	Decision of the Labour Appeals Tribunal
4.	This Appeals Tribunal, having reviewed the decision of the Tribunal and the evidence presented before It, as well as the evidence presented at the Appeal Hearing, finds that:
	a) the Appellant was in fact provided with reasonable notice of the Tribunal Hearing. On the Appellant's own admission, it was conirmed that the Notice of Hearing was sent to the Managing Director of the Employer who is responsible for human resource matters and that it is not uncommon for the Department of Labour and Pensions to contact that Director in relation to matters being dealt with by the Department. This Appeals Tribunal notes that the Tribunal also acted reasonably in adjourning the original hearing, which was set for the 21 January 2021,

but after seeing that the Employer was not present, agreed to postpone the hearing to a later



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date to allow for further notice to be sent to the Employer. The subsequent hearing was held on the 28 January 2021.

- b) the Tribunal sufficiently considered the evidence before it in arriving at its decision;
- c) the Tribunal applied the available facts to the appropriate law in arriving at its decision,
- d) the Tribunal's decision is correct based on the evidence presented to it.
- 5. The Appeals Tribunal notes that no grounds of appeal were submitted to challenge the findings of the Labour Tribunal.
- 6. Accordingly, having considered this matter, this Appeals Tribunal upholds the Decision of the Labour Tribunal.

Right of Appeal

Appeals to Grand Court

- 79. (1) An appeal may be made to the Grand Court from a decision of the Appeals Tribunal upon a point of act only.
- (2) Subject to subsection (1), no decision of a Labour Tribunal or the Appeals Tribunal shall be open to challenge or review in any Court of Act upon any grounds whatsoever.
- (3) An appeal pursuant to subsection (1) shall not operate as a stay of any award, order or decision of a Labour Tribunal or the Appeals Tribunal, or of the effect of any notice, unless the Grand Court so orders.
- (4) An application for a stay shall be made by ex parte application.

Deputy Chairman 02/November/21



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	LABOUR TRIBUNAL Extraordinary Gazette No. 45/2019	
Chairpersons	Deputy Chairpersons	Members
Gregery Barnes	Ryan Charles	Melanie Bodden
Robert Jones	Angelita Edwards	Martha Bush
James Kennedy	Brando Rankin	Ludivene Dilbert
Jennodell Myles	Stephanie Suckoo (Resigned)	lan Charlerly
Kathryn Rowe	Noel Webb	Brando Rankin
		Edward Solomon

Proceedings

Matter:	
Date of Hearing:	2 November 2020
Location:	Main Conference Room Department of Employment Relations, 2 rd Floor Royal Plaza Cardinal Avenue, George Town, Grand Cayman
Labour Tribunal Panel	
Chairperson: Deputy/Member: Member:	Gregery Barnes Angelita Edwards Jennodell Myles
Labour Tribunal Secretary:	Kara Connor
Employee/Complainant:	
Employer/Respondent:	On behalf of Represented by Mr Alasdair David of HSM Chambers
Observers:	E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-

Intr	Introduction	
1.	This is the Decision and Order of the Labour Tribunal ("the Tribunal") in respect of the hearing of a Complaint ("the Complaint") filed by ("the Complainant" or "the Respondent") against former employer, the Employer or "the Respondent"). The Complaint was heard by the Tribunal on the 2 nd November 2020, commencing at 9:30am via the virtual video conference platform Zoom.	
2.	The Tribunal has reviewed and carefully considered the Complaint and reviewed and carefully considered the oral and written submissions of the Complainant and the oral and written submissions of the Respondent. The Tribunal has also reviewed the relevant sections of the Cayman islands Labour Law (2011 Revision) ("the Law").	
Bac	liground	
3.	was employed by the Respondent from 17th January 2003 through to 19th May 2020. At the time employment came to an end, was working in the capacity of a Gateway Lead and earning CI per month.	
4.	According to most recent quarterly performance evaluation, on or about 11th March 2020, it was determined that, based on performance over that period, the Complainant was "meeting expectations."	
5.	The Respondent alleges that the Complainant was issued a Performance Improvement Plan on or about 30 th March 2020 in relation to, at least in part, at attitude. However, this Performance Improvement Plan was not provided to the Tribunal and the Complainant adamently refutes this allegation.	
6.	The parties agree that there was an altercation on 4th May 2020 between the Complainant and a co-worker that took place in the afternoon at or about 6pm in relation to a company vehicle.	
7.	In a letter signed by the the the Complainant was the aggressor: — Cayman Islands, dated 19th May 2020, the Respondent alleges that the Complainant was the aggressor:	
	"On March 30, 2020 you were placed on a Performance Improvement Plan to correct issues surrounding your performance. The Performance Improvement Plan set forth multiple areas in which you were falling to meet performance expectations, including, but not limited to "Create and adjust attitude". On May 4, you ignored this warning about improving your attitude and engaged in serious misconduct during an altercation with your co-worker	
	On May 4, filed a complaint with the claiming that you shouted at about the van had been driving, yelling expletives a file and threatening with violence. conducted an investigation of the incident, which included receiving written statements from you, and, one of the witnesses to the incident (our emphasis added). After reviewing all the statements, it was determined that you were the aggressor in the alternation and that you threatened [our emphasis added]. This behaviour is considered gross misconduct, and pursuant to the Termination provision of your employment agreement, specifically Clause 3.2(a), has the right to	

	effective May 19, 2020.
	You have the right to appeal this decision in writing to within 7 days of the date of this letter.
	Any outstanding salary, notice, and vacation days will be paid to you via cheque. You are required to submit all Company property that may be in your possession.
	Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter by signing the attached copy. "
1.	An unsigned piece of correspondence, represented as and presumed to be a statement from states:
	"After I came back in the office (i.e. (i.e. van again or else me an you going to have things. I said what you talking about said again me and you foing to have things and I am going to show you something to
	So I said a you going on like your horn longer than anybody else that's why you want people to be agraid of you, you going like its your can why you a go on like that.
	said am going to show you something. So I said what is this for why you a go on like that said you going to know, I going to show you something I said me and you don't have anything I don't even talk to you from morning I make sure I avoid you. He said again you see you I going to show you something.
	Then I say to sail you have problem at your yard let it stay at your yard don't bring it to me. Then said you is my problem.
	So when I realize its getting out of hand I said you can't do me nothing, so said I can't do you nothing watch and see so I said talk you a talk you can't do me nothing. Said ask Cayman people about me, ask them and they can tell you who
	I said I don't need to ask people nothing because you can't me nothing. said okay, okay I can't do you nothing I don't have to do you anything, I ago make me friend dem do it. Now I said you can't make nobody do me nothing said watch and see no, watch and see. Then I said if you let anyone do me anything am coming for you."
2.	An email dated 6th May 2020 from to to to the and copied to the subject heading of 'Incident Report on May 4, 2020' states:
	"I just want to state what I have witness in the incident between and and and an

3.	The Complainant admits to being involved in the verbal altercation but in the incident Report' he prepared dated 8th May 2020, Incident Report' he prepared dated was the first to use expletives and become aggressive:
	On Monday the 4th of May 2020 at approximately 6:12pm an incident arose between colleague and myself this occurred at the set facility in the Operations area, as the van that I would normally drive home due to Covid19 road blocks. This van was driven out by just prior to my departure from the office for the day. Upon his return I asked "why would you drive out the van that I would usually drive home", the content of the content of the van it was our other colleague. Whom both return to the office together.
	I replied to minimum indicating "that I saw and driving the van" we both exchange words however during this exchange assemed to be getting more aggressive in body language. The argument cease as another colleague assemble escorted assemble into the Imports office. "
4.	During testimony, also said that both and testimony exchanged threats but that did not take it seriously because people say things they do not mean when they are angry.
5.	said that on the evening of the 4th May 2020 got a call from who told that was in a verbal altercation with the Complainant wherein that been threatened and that was going to file a police report. It is that the complainant wherein that would have to make the decision on the work as to whether or not to make a police report but that wassured to make a police report but that wassured to make a police report but that was a sould look into the matter right away.
6.	On 5th May 2020, Market Called And And And And And And And And And An
7.[that there was a lot of shouting but that although the land the arguing was not paying attention. Confirmed that there was a lot of shouting but that did not know if any threats had been made.
8.	toward said that seemed first told that seemed had confirmed to that seemed had made threats toward to the start of shift, so that they could look into the matter.
9.	According to proximately 2 hours later, when the Complainant arrived, asked to speak with both and and because did not agree with the decision. When recapping with the evidence that was obtained from the inquiries and made, and now denied that any witnesses confirmed that threats were made.
10	estified that Twas very upset to learn that was now relaying a different version of the outcome of investigations. Said that to told the was now very confused and that the latest had to go home until they could properly look into the matter.
11	be sent home also, if was going to be sent home.

admitted to saying that when the Complainant was providing a verbal recollection of the 4th May incident to admitted to saying that should ask around Cayman about the because would learn that was a very peaceful person. Calms that told that hat doubted would have interpreted such a statement in that manner and that it was more likely that would interpret that as a threat. The end result of the meeting was that was sent home for the day.
13. The Complainant testified that reported to work on 6th -8th May as usual. That on the 6th May 2020 attended a meeting with supervisor and supervisor and wherein they apologized to each other and to the supervisor and supervisor
14. said that received a call from some on 6th May stating that had learned that was now denying that threats were made but that had in fact told that threats were made towards advised to write a letter to the Interim HR Manager setting out the events in sown words.
15 said that Decame convinced that the Complainant was guilty of serious misconduct on the basis of evidence and upon learning of a previous matter from earlier in the year in relation to performance and behaviour towards co-workers (attitude). No evidence was provided to the Tribunal in relation to these previous matters. The Complainant denied that had received any previous written warning and this was not challenged by the Respondent.
16. Confirmed that did not disclose to the Complainant who the witnesses were that provided evidence in this case that was relied upon in making the decision. The Complainant testified that the first time them learned that the witness was was in the second termination letter that received. Tribunal with the first termination letter that received (referenced above) which does not identify the witness.
17. The Complainant said that too had a phone call with the complainant said that too had a phone call with the complainant said that the complainant said the complainant said that the complainant sai
18. Notwithstanding the first termination letter, Counsel for the Respondent now says that the Complainant was terminated for serious misconduct pursuant to section 52(1)(a) of the Labour Law.
The Law
19. The Labour Law (2011 Revision) provides:
51 (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), a dismissal shall not be unfair if the reason assigned by the employer for it is -
(a) Misconduct of the employee within section 52(1);
(b) That it is under section 52(3), namely misconduct following the receipt of a written warning;
(c) That it is under section 53(2), namely a failure of the employee to perform his duties in a satisfactory manner following the receipt of a written warning:
(d) That the employee was redundant;
(e) That the employee could not continue to work in the position he held without contravention (on his or on the
employer's part) of a requirement of this or any other law; or
(f) Some other substantial reason
And under the circumstances the employer acted reasonably

52 (1) An employer may terminate forthwith the employment of an employee where the employee has been guilty of misconduct in or in relation to management so serious that the employer cannot reasonably be expected to take any course other than termination. Such misconduct includes, but is not limited to situations in which the employee has:-

- (a) Conducted to such a manner as clearly to demonstrate that the employment relationship cannot reasonably be expected to continue;
- (b) Committed a criminal offence in the course of employment without the consent, express or implied, of the employer;

(c) Behaved immorally in the course of maduties; or

(d) is under the influence of a controlled arug (other than one lawfully prescribed by a health practitioner) or alcohol during the hours of the employment.

"It is well established that in a case of suspected misconduct the test of fairness is not whether the employer has provide the employee guilty, and still less whether has done so beyond reasonable doubt, but rather whether the employee genuinely believed on reasonable grounds in the employee's guilt. This involves a threefold test:

- 1) The employer must establish that a genuinely did believe the employee guilty of the misconduct;
- 2) That belief must have been formed on reasonable grounds; and
- 3) The employer must have investigated the matter reasonably"

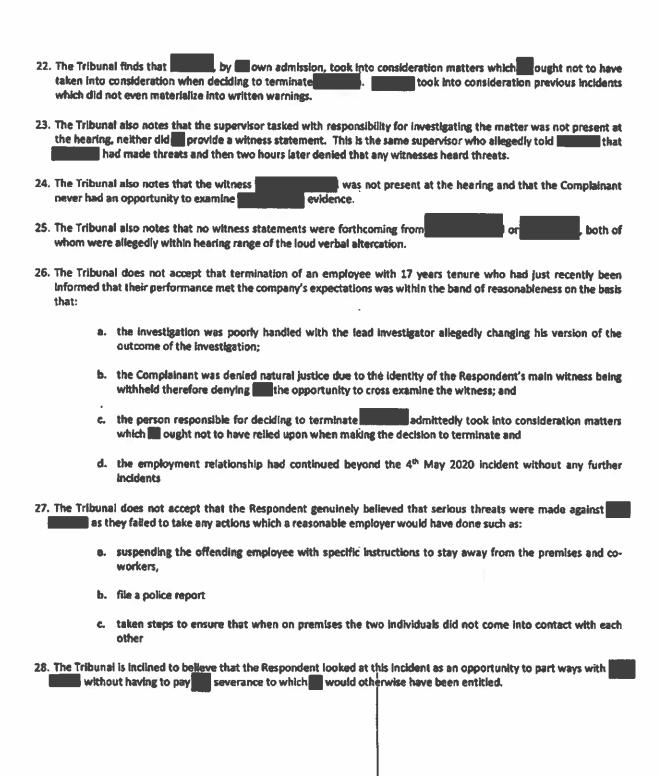
(See Halsbury Laws of England, paragraph 651)

If this test is met, the Tribunal need only consider further whether the Employer acted reasonably in the circumstances.

"The key consideration for an employment tribunal is, therefore, the reasonableness or otherwise of the employer's conduct, not the injustice to the employee. In adjudicating on the reasonableness of the employer's conduct, an employment tribunal must not simply substitute its own views for those of the employer and decided whether it would have dismissed on those facts; it must make a wider inquiry, to determine whether a reasonable employer could have decided to dismiss on those facts. The basis for this approach (the 'range of reasonable responses test'_ is that in many cases there is a band of reasonable responses to the employee's conduct within which one employer might reasonably take one view and another quite reasonably take another; the function of a tribunal as an industrial jury is to determine whether in the particular circumstances of each case the decision to dismiss the employee fell within the ban of reasonable responses which a reasonable employer might have adopted. If the dismissal falls within the band, the dismissal is fair; but, if the dismissal falls outside the bad, it is unfair."

(See Halsbury Laws of England, paragraph 642)

	The Tribunal's Findings
Decision	
	20. The Tribunal notes that the Respondent is relying upon section 52(1)(a) as the basis for the termination of As above, section 52(1)(a) says that the employee conducted that the employment relationship cannot reasonably be expected to continue". However, the incident took place on 4th May 2020, the employee was sent home for one day on 5th May 2020 and then reported to work as usual on 6th- 8th May 2020. Thus the employment relationship had in fact continued.
	21. The Tribunal notes that both the state and the state attended a meeting with their immediate supervisor present on 6th May 2020 wherein they applicated to each other and to their supervisor. The Tribunal also notes that no further incidents were reported between the Complainant and the state of the



29. Claim for severance pay succeeds. Is entitled to per month claim for unfair dismissal similarly succeeds. The Tribunal award

The Tribunal's decision, enforcement and appeals are governed by section 75 to 78 of the Labour Law. Any persons aggrieved by this Tribunal decision by virtue of section 78 of the Labour Law may, within 14 days of notification of the decision, or service of notice, appeal to the Appeals Tribunal.

Gregery Barnes, Chairperson
Signed this ______ day of February, 2021

