

'A National Crisis' -- Stakeholders Say Court Ruling Could Prove Devastating To Sugar Industry

[Mark Titus](#)

The Gleaner



Derrick Heaven

Western Bureau:

Yesterday's decision by the Court of Appeal to uphold an injunction, which was sought by Algix Jamaica against the operators of the Appleton Estate sugar factory, in St Elizabeth, has sent shock waves throughout the local sugar sector, and has effectively blocked

operation at the factory for the 2016 crop year.

Board chairman of Jamaica Cane Product Sales (JCPS), Ambassador Derrick Heaven said the implications of the ruling amount to a national crisis which requires urgent attention.

"I would hope that the authorities would immediately seek to convene a meeting of all the affected parties to see how this national crisis, which now results from the injunction can be mitigated with a view to satisfy the court and the entity which has brought the injunction."

Heaven told The Gleaner yesterday.

"This is a sad day and I am not sure to what extent the national interest and Algix's interest have been taken into consideration, but this will have far-reaching national impact on the future of the sugar industry in Jamaica," he added.

Effluent On Fish Farm

J. Wray and Nephew had appealed an interim injunction taken out by Algix Jamaica, which operates a fish farm in proximity to the sugar production facility, Appleton Estate. Appleton Estate is owned by J. Wray and Nephew. Algix Jamaica claimed that effluent from the factory was entering its fish farm.

In the aftermath of the filing of the injunction, cane farmers in communities surrounding the Siloah-based facility staged several days of protest, claiming the court action was a threat to their livelihood.

"We are troubled by the outcome of the appeal process. It means we are not able to resume sugar factory operations and our entire sugar crop for 2016 is at risk," said Clement 'Jimmy' Lawrence, chairman of J. Wray and Nephew Limited. "We hold firm in our defence that the company has not caused the damages being claimed by Algix and, in fact, during the course of the injunction hearing, NEPA (National Environment and Planning Agency) reported that it had seen no evidence that corroborated Algix's claims."

Alleviating Challenges

Lawrence also stated that in light of the ruling, the company was discussing the plight of the cane farmers with the All Island Jamaica Cane Farmers Association (AIJCFA) to determine how the challenges that will be faced by the independent cane farmers can be alleviated.

Allan Rickards, chairman of the AIJCFA, said he would welcome any form of intervention for the more than 2,000 registered cane farmers operating in the area, but said millions would be lost.

"Those farmers are in deep. deep trouble because they are set to lose almost \$300 million combined from not reaping the crop, plus the cane will deteriorate for the next crop and losses from that is in the region of \$90-\$100 million," Rickards told The Gleaner.

Despite the injunction, J. Wray and Nephew had given an assurance that it would retain the services of its employees.

Appleton here to stay, says Wray & Nephew boss

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LAWRENCE ... the over 800 third party farmers are panicking

Fears by hundreds of sugar workers and cane farmers in St Elizabeth that the J Wray & Nephew-operated Appleton Sugar Estate would

cease production forever were dispelled yesterday by the company's chairman, Clement "Jimmy" Lawrence.

In an interview with the Jamaica Observer, Lawrence said that although the company had been set back by an injunction filed by fish farming company Algix, which was upheld by the Court of Appeal on Friday, J Wray & Nephew would continue to seek a way out of the situation, while working to soothe the pain of those directly impacted by the court action.

The injunction, filed by Algix in January for Appleton to cease production of sugar, had resulted in the initial delay of the 2016 sugar cane harvest, which has now been cancelled for this year, Lawrence confirmed. The sugar harvest normally runs from January through June.

“The over 600 workers of Appleton are concerned, and the over 800 third-party farmers are panicking. Some are even saying that the factory will close down for good, but Appleton is here to stay. We will not close forever,” Lawrence said.

Cane farmers stand to lose over \$300 million because of the non-production, although Wray & Nephew, bought by Italian firm Gruppo Campari for US\$500 million, has already moved to cushion the financial blow by offering farmers and workers support — the amount of which Lawrence declined to reveal.

Algix, in filing the injunction, claimed that Appleton was discharging effluent from the sugar factory that was killing its fish, an allegation that J Wray & Nephew has flatly denied.

J Wray & Nephew filed an appeal, but the court, comprising President Dennis Morrison, Paulette Williams and Christine McDonald, upheld the injunction, thus keeping the matter fixed in the lane of uncertainty. The trial is set for September 2016.

Algix also filed a claim for damages in which it originally sought US\$23 million, for what it claimed was damage sustained in its operations, but later inflated that claim to US\$49 million. That matter is to be heard by the Supreme Court.

Minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Agriculture JC Hutchinson could not be reached for a comment yesterday, but in January he had urged then Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Derrick Kellier to try and resolve the dispute.

“I am calling on the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to break his silence on this matter and bring the parties together to resolve this very serious situation. It’s as if the minister is not aware of what is going on in the agricultural sector,” said Hutchinson, who is Member of Parliament for St Elizabeth North Western, which takes in cane-growing sections of Lacovia.

Hutchinson's call follows street protests in the form of roadblocks by the people of St Elizabeth to protest the inactivity at Appleton. The protests were concentrated in the fish farming community of Newton.

There are fears that, with the projected 26,000 tonnes of sugar that Appleton expected to produce this year now no longer possible, Jamaica's overall sugar export target will not be met, what with the premature closure of State-run Monymusk Sugar Estate in Clarendon, which is the second largest producer of sugar behind Frome Sugar Estate in Westmoreland.

Managing director of Algix Maurice Reynolds, in a statement yesterday, lauded the Appeal Court's decision to uphold the injunction.

"The ruling by the Court of Appeal sends a strong message for industries to abide by and respect the environmental laws of the country", Reynolds stated.

"Algix Jamaica has no interest in closing down J Wray & Nephew's operations at Appleton Estate, but was forced to seek a legal remedy for the major negative impact that effluent discharges from the Appleton sugar factory has had on our fish farm operations.

"The sole intention of Algix Jamaica is to avoid further 'fish kills' on our farm and this can only be realised if J Wray & Nephew takes the necessary steps to keep the Appleton sugar factory effluent discharges within the stipulated regulatory standards of the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA).

Algix Jamaica is committed to assisting Appleton sugar factory in solving this problem. To this end, the company has offered to bring in a team of experts at no cost to Appleton to assist in bringing discharges within the NEPA standards. These experts would endeavour to find a solution which can be implemented and completed within the shortest possible time in order to facilitate and fast track the resumption of the processing of sugar cane at the factory," Reynolds said.

Lawrence reiterated J Wray & Nephew's commitment to protecting the environment.

“Wray & Nephew cares about the environment. We have seen no evidence of a fish kill, and NEPA did its checks and found no evidence of a fish kill. All I am saying is, if there is a fish kill, bring me the proof. But we at Wray & Nephew have a firm belief in Jamaica's justice system, and we abide by the latest ruling.”

Lawrence also said that the output of its famous Appleton rum would not be impacted negatively as, according to him, “We have good inventories.”

He is, however, hoping that Jamaica's political leaders will also spring into action in determining how the people affected may find greater comfort.

“We have made a lot of attempts to involve the Government, and I am hoping to have a meeting with the prime minister soon. A high level of urgency has to be applied to this situation, and the Government has to take an active participation in this as thousands of people are going to be impacted,” Lawrence said.

Apart from Appleton Sugar Estate, J Wray & Nephew also owns the New Yarmouth Sugar Estate in Clarendon, and the smaller Holland Estate in St Elizabeth.

More than 800 workers to be affected following court ruling

The Observer



Appleton Estate (File photo)

KINGSTON, Jamaica — More than 800 workers will be affected by the Court of Appeal's ruling in favour of an injunction preventing Appleton Estate in St Elizabeth, from producing sugar for the rest of the 2015/16 crop, according to Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU) Deputy Island Supervisor Hanif Brown.

The court's judgement, handed down yesterday, supported the injunction originally granted by the Supreme Court in January, which led to a demonstration by more than 700 people related to the sugar factory and distillery against the owners of the fish farm, Algix Jamaica Limited, which has accused J Wray & Nephew Limited and its Appleton factory of producing effluent that has destroyed their fish stock.

Brown told OBSERVER ONLINE yesterday that the closure has affected more than 800 workers employed at the factory and could seriously erode economic activities in the Siloah area of North Eastern St Elizabeth, if it continues.

“It has very serious implications for the workers and the economy there, as well as this year's sugar crop, because Appleton has to contribute significantly to the Jamaica Cane Products Limited' production targets,” Brown commented.

Since 2005, attempts have been made to get Appleton to put up a proper waste disposal mechanism but, as then Minister of Agriculture, Roger Clarke, explained, a “significant investment was needed to improve its waste water system”.

Algix Jamaica has alleged that since then, effluent from the Appleton operations has damaged its property and has been seeking US\$23 million in compensation.

The injunction has resulted in the suspension of full operations at Appleton, which is part of the J Wray and Nephew Limited conglomerate since January.

J Wray & Nephew Limited is a subsidiary of Gruppo Campari, the sixth largest player in the global branded beverage industry, with a portfolio of more than 50 premium and super premium brands marketed and distributed in over 190 countries worldwide.

Balford Henry

Appleton Sugar Factory To Remain Closed,



The Gleaner

J. Wray & Nephew Limited says the Appleton Estate sugar factory in St Elizabeth will have to remain closed after the Court of Appeal this morning upheld an injunction against it.

Appleton says it regrets the decision of the court.

In a statement this morning, J. Wray & Nephew Limited reiterated that it believes the allegations against the company are without merit.

In January, Algix filed a law suit against J. Wray & Nephew accusing it of releasing effluent into rivers which affected its business.

As part of its lawsuit, Algix obtained an injunction which has halted operations at Appleton since January.

Contacted by our news centre, Patrick Foster, one of the attorneys representing J. Wray & Nephew, said he could not comment at this time about what would be the next step for the company as he had not yet received instruction from his client.

However, Foster indicated that the legal team will be strongly defending the case when the matter comes up for trial in September.

He stated that J. Wray & Nephew secured a partial victory today.

The attorney says in making its ruling the appeals court set aside the decision of the Supreme Court to award legal cost to fish producer, Algix Limited, when it obtained the injunction.

J. Wray & Nephew reiterated this morning that the upholding of the injunction by the appeals court will negatively impact Appleton, cane farmers and communities in St Elizabeth, Clarendon and Trelawny.

It also said there is also concern that Jamaica's sugar export targets for 2016 are also being threatened.

Appeal Court Upholds Injunction Against Wray & Nephew



The Gleaner

The Court of Appeal has upheld an injunction against J. Wray & Nephew Limited (JWN) preventing the company from resuming operations at the Appleton Estate sugar factory in St. Elizabeth.

The injunction, obtained by Algix Jamaica Limited in January 2016, bars Appleton Estate from discharging effluent that does not meet trade standards into two rivers in the parish pending the resolution of a lawsuit.

The case is set for trial in September.

Algix has contended that the effluent from the sugar estate was entering its fish farm and that this was affecting its business. However, JWN denies any casual link between its factory and Algix's alleged losses.

JWN said Algix originally sought US\$23 million (\$2.8 billion) as compensation for damage allegedly suffered at its property some six miles downstream on two occasions, in February and March 2015. It said Algix recently inflated its claim to US\$50 million (\$ 5.6 billion).

In a release on Friday following the Court of Appeal ruling, JWN said the operations at the sugar factory will remain suspended.

The company said it regretted the Court's decision as the negative impact of the suspension of the operations at the factory will be far-reaching for numerous stakeholders including staff at the sugar factory, cane farmers and communities in St. Elizabeth, Clarendon and Trelawny that depend on the annual sugar crop.

JWN said there is also concern that Jamaica's sugar export targets for 2016 are being threatened. "We are troubled by the outcome of the appeal process. It means we are not able to resume sugar factory operations and our entire sugar crop for 2016 is at risk," said JWN chairman, Clement 'Jimmy' Lawrence.

Lawrence said that in light of the ruling, the Company is now discussing the plight of the cane farmers with the All Island Jamaica Cane Farmers Association to see how the challenges that will be faced by independent cane farmers can be alleviated.

Lawrence reiterated that despite the injunction and the negative impact on the business, the company will retain the services of its employees.

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Operation remains suspended as Court upholds Algix injunction against Appleton

The Observer



KINGSTON, Jamaica — J Wray & Nephew Limited says operations at Appleton Estate in St Elizabeth will remain suspended in wake of the Court of Appeal’s ruling today upholding the injunction obtained by Algix Limited.

Wray & Nephew in a statement this morning said that it “regrets this decision by the Court as the negative impact of the suspension of the operations at the factory will be far-reaching for numerous stakeholders inclusive of but not limited to staff at the sugar factory, cane farmers and communities in St Elizabeth, Clarendon and Trelawny that depend on the annual sugar crop for their livelihoods”.

There is also concern that Jamaica’s sugar export targets for 2016 are also being threatened, the company statement said.

According to J Wray & Nephew chairman, Clement ‘Jimmy’ Lawrence, “We are troubled by the outcome of the appeal process. It means we are not able to resume sugar factory operations and our entire sugar crop for 2016 is at risk. We hold firm in our defence that the company has not

caused the damages being claimed by Algix and in fact, during the course of the injunction hearing, NEPA reported that it had seen no evidence that corroborated Algix's claims."

Algix, a freshwater fish production company, claims that effluent from operations at Appleton contaminated rivers in the area resulting in massive losses.

Algix originally sought US \$23 million (J\$2.8 Billion) as compensation for damage allegedly suffered at its property some six miles downstream on two occasions, in February and March 2015.

According to Wray & Nephew Algix recently inflated its claim to US\$50 Million (J\$ 5.6 billion) adding that it views the claim as "completely unfounded and will defend it vigorously at the trial", which has now been set for September 2016.

Editorial: Sugar And Justice: A Battle For Survival

The Gleaner

Two substantial public-policy issues - the question of the efficacy and efficiency of the justice system, and whether the Government should intervene to shore up wobbly sugar companies - collided last week, possibly edging the Holness administration closer to doing the latter. The Government is likely to conclude that it has no other option.

This newspaper, however, urges care and caution, lest the Government find itself in a mission creep and a return to a place where it was a mere six years ago, owning the bulk of the island's sugar industry that lost near J\$5 billion a year and was a liability to taxpayers.

Such an outcome would pose danger to the gains of the macroeconomic stabilisation programme of the past four years and threaten the country's economic support and reform agreement with the International Monetary Fund to which the administration has declared commitment.

Discussion of the deficiencies in Jamaica's justice system focuses, quite understandably, primarily on what happens in the criminal courts - with their backlog of around half a million cases that sometimes take forever to be resolved. Indeed, it is this sector that is receiving priority attention, with initiatives to break the logjam, including a suggestion by the recently installed justice minister, Delroy Chuck, that judges throw out cases that have been in the system for more than five years for want of prosecution.

The problems are, of course, just as deep in the civil courts, but without similar focus. Civil disputes, including commercial ones, can lag for decades, which will be a matter of increasing concern if Jamaica continues to fix its economy and maintain its momentum of improvement in global indices as a place in which to do business and, by extension, to invest.

But among the things of which investing capital wants to be assured is an independent and efficient judicial system by which to arbitrate disputes. The former, yes; the latter, problematic. By the rate of Jamaica's legal system, the speed at which the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal ruled on an application by Algix Ltd for an injunction against Appleton Estate discharging effluent in the Black River, unless, it meets established regulatory standards, was lightning. Last week, the appeal court ruled in favour of Algix, which believes that Appleton's actions, six miles upstream, were responsible for the deaths of thousands of fish in its ponds.

SUGAR FACTORY TO REMAIN CLOSED

The upshot is that Appleton's sugar factory will remain closed, meaning that it won't be able to process sugar cane and manufacture sugar from farms in the surrounding area. In the circumstance, the Government will feel compelled to go ahead with its plans to operate, ostensibly on a short-term basis, the Long Pond factory in Trelawny, whose owners, Everglades Farms, mothballed the facility because of economic problems.

At the same time, the Government is considering how to handle the Chinese-owned Pan Caribbean Sugar Company, which has decided to withdraw from the factory and fields at Monymusk, Clarendon - one of three acquired in the wave of divestment.

These are not the only sugar-related businesses facing financial problems with the loss of preferential markets and propped-up prices for sugar in the European Union. With 30,000 jobs at stake, the Government will feel pressured to act to save them, but it must remember why it divested the business and think hard about Jamaica's future in sugar.

On the Algix-Appleton matter, there are more urgent rounds to go that require similar alacrity - as does the entire justice system.

Laws Of Eve: Employers, Beware

The Gleaner

In the 2004 Privy Council decision in the case of Clinton Bernard v the Attorney General of Jamaica, the Government was found liable for the actions of an off-duty police officer who shot the claimant after he declined to allow him to use a pay telephone ahead of him. The rationale was that the police officer was not acting as an ordinary person, although he was off duty. He purported to exercise his official authority.

Even after that ruling, it might have still seemed unlikely for an employer to be held liable for the criminal acts of his employee. However, the unanimous decision of the United Kingdom's Supreme Court on March 2, 2016 in the case of Mr A M Mohamud (in substitution for Mr A Mohamud (deceased)) (Appellant) v WM Morrison Supermarkets plc (Respondent)[2016] UKSC 11 might force us to reconsider that view.

BACKGROUND

Mohamud, a man of Somali descent, went to a petrol station operated by Morrison. After checking the air pressure in his tyres, he went to the kiosk and asked whether he could print documents from a USB stick. Morrison's employee, Khan, refused and used "foul, racist and threatening language" in ordering Mohamud to leave. Mohamud returned to his car, got in and started to leave when Khan followed him, opened the passenger door of the car and punched him in his temple.

Mohamud switched off the car, got out to close the passenger door when Khan "punched him in the head, knocking him to the ground, and subjected him to a serious attack, involving punches and kicks, while the claimant lay curled up on the petrol station forecourt, trying to protect his head from the blows". Khan carried out the attack ignoring the instructions of his supervisor, who tried to stop him.

The court directed itself to ask two questions:

1. In a broad sense, what is the nature of the job the employee was employed to do?
2. Under a system of social justice, was there sufficient connection between the position in which the employee was employed and his wrongful conduct, to make it right for the employer to be held liable?

The trial judge ruled in Morrison's favour and stated that, "There was not a sufficiently close connection between what [Khan] was employed to do and his tortious conduct, for his employer to be held vicariously liable." The Court of Appeal upheld that ruling, but the Supreme Court ruled in Mohamud's favour for the following reasons:

- Khan's job was to attend to customers and to respond to their inquiries. His conduct was inexcusable but within the "field of activities" assigned to him. What happened thereafter was an unbroken sequence of events.
- It is not right to regard Khan as having metaphorically taken off his uniform the moment he stepped from behind the counter.
- When Khan followed Mohamud back to his car, there was nothing personal between them; it was an order to keep away from Morrison's premises, which he reinforced with violence. He was

purporting to act about Morrison's business and, although it was a gross abuse of his position, it was in connection with the business in which he was employed to serve customers.

- Morrison entrusted Khan with that position, and that is all there was between them and Mohamud, so they should be held responsible for Khan's abuse of it.
- It was irrelevant that Khan was motivated by personal racism.

In the past, it was much easier to assess whether an employer could escape liability by asserting that the employee was on a "frolic of his own" when he carried out a particular act. Today, employers must feel that the limited scope for raising such a defence has narrowed even further.

- Sherry Ann McGregor is a partner and mediator in the firm of Nunes Scholefield DeLeon & Co. Please send questions and comments to lawsofeve@gmail.com or lifestyle@gleanerjm.com

The Spanish-Jamaican Foundation supports Regional Disability Studies Conference

First Look

On March 16-17, 2016 the University of the West Indies Centre for Disability Studies (UWICDS), as part of its mission to “transform and empower disabled individuals throughout the Caribbean through the use of applied research, education and training and public advocacy”, staged a regional conference under the theme “Transformation of the Lives of Persons with Disabilities through Modern Technologies: Myth or Reality?”

Some 500 key stakeholders from the Caribbean region participated, and were made aware of the various initiatives and technologies accessible to people with disabilities (PWDs). People with physical disabilities and representatives of those with intellectual disabilities, were well accommodated as were delegates of organizations that offer support to this sector of the population.

Presentations were highly engaging and informative and were delivered by persons from the UWI, persons living with disabilities, and representatives from organizations such as the Sir John

Golding Rehabilitation Centre (Mona Rehab), the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, the Jamaica Library Service and The Mico University College, among others.

As part of its commitment to the significant, but often neglected disabled community in Jamaica; The Spanish-Jamaican Foundation (SJF) again offered support to the UWICDS, this time by purchasing all conference stationery and badges. The SJF has, in the past, given assistance to Genesis Academy, Promise Learning Centre, the Jamaica Association for the Deaf, the Salvation Army School for the Blind, and more recently, they have supported the STEP Centre through the purchase of Christmas cards and bilingual story books.

SJF Project Manager, Ms Vanessa Meggoe, who was in attendance, noted that “It was truly enlightening to see the technological innovations now available, and the measures being implemented by governments to facilitate greater independence and integration of persons with disabilities. These improvements will enable more significant contributions to the region on a whole.”

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Woman to be sentenced for concealing birth

The Observer

A brief look at Jamaica's political history provides an interesting background to the concept and creation of the 1962 Constitution and the format of the Senate.

A young woman who threw the body of her newborn baby into a drain after claiming that she did not know that she was pregnant is to be sentenced in the Kingston and St Andrew Parish Court on May 16.

The 25-year-old woman, of a Kingston 11 address, pleaded guilty to concealment of birth when she appeared before Senior Parish Judge Judith Pusey Thursday.

The matter was consequently scheduled for sentencing on May 16 and a social enquiry report was requested. The woman's bail was also extended.

The body of the infant, believed to be about four-days-old, was found by residents in a drain on Spanish Town Road, on March 2.

The police were summoned and following investigation, the woman was arrested and charged. When she was cautioned, she reportedly told the police, "Me neva know me did pregnant and me go bathroom to defecate and me feel something a come out of me vagina and me take it out and go throw it in the drain."

Attorney Zara Lewis is representing the young woman.

Old man says he got fake US\$94,000 cheque from US client



The Observer

The 69-year-old businessman who reportedly defrauded Sagicor Bank of US\$65,000 and J\$3 million, after lodging a fraudulent cheque for approximately US\$94,000, was on Thursday denied

bail when appeared in the Kingston and St Andrew Parish Court.

Senior Parish Judge Judith Pusey upheld the police objection and refused bail after hearing that the accused, Carlton Buckley, had committed similar offences in the United States and was deported after serving eight years in prison.

The police had objected to bail on the grounds that the business developer was a flight risk. However, before Buckley's bail was refused, Attorney Leroy Equiano, who sought bail for Buckley on behalf of his lawyer, Althea Freeman, told the court that the accused got the cheque from overseas and was quite surprised that it was cleared so speedily.

“Well, a man of his age, people bend over backward for him, and he represents himself well,” Judge Pusey said.

She told the lawyer that she was not granting Buckley bail as he had a reputation. Buckley then took it on to himself to explain to the court what he claimed really occurred. “The sums of money were advanced to me from a client overseas,” he said.

He then explained that he was the director of a company called Capital Group Limited that manufactures computers and had received the cheque for payment for consultation and to build computers for the client.

“And they would leave Bill Gates in America and come to you?” the judge asked. A very confident Buckley, in answering, told the court that his company was contracted because it is using a cutting edge operating system that is superior to Microsoft's operating system. Buckley then told the magistrate that when he lodged the cheque he was told that it would be cleared after 30 days, but five days later he went to another branch of the bank and was told that the cheque was cleared.

“I was surprised that the cheque was cleared,” he said while pointing out that he had used the money to buy computer parts.

However, Buckley's explanation did not change the judge's mind and he was remanded until May 3.

According to allegations, on February 23, Buckley went to the Duke Street branch of Sagicor Bank in downtown Kingston and lodged the cheque for US\$93,938.16 to his account.

Buckley was accused of later withdrawing J\$3 million and US\$15,000 from his account.

It is further reported that on another date Buckley withdrew US\$50,000 from the account, and sometime afterwards it was discovered that the cheque he had lodged was fraudulent.

An investigation was done and he was subsequently arrested and charged.

Jamaican model who alleges Donald Trump's modelling agency defrauded her moving forward with case

[Hassan Sanusi](#)



Alexia Palmer who claims US presidential candidate, Donald Trump's modelling agency duped her of \$225k is proceeding with the court case.

Jamaican supermodel, Alexia Palmer who claims US presidential candidate, Donald Trump's modelling agency duped her of \$225k is proceeding with the court case, despite the lawsuit dismissal by a U.S. District Judge Analisa Torres in New York last month over insufficient evidence.

Palmer's lawyer, Naresh Gehi, said on Wednesday April 6: said, 'We are now going to pursue our rights before the Department of Labor, and, if necessary, we will then appeal this case to the New York state Supreme Court.'



The Jamaica-born is accusing Trump Model Management LLC, which birth her entrance into New York on a special visa and promised to pay her \$75k a year – but received a total of \$3,880.75 during the three years – of racketeering, breach of contract, mail fraud and violating wage laws for immigrants, according to Telegraph.

'The salary that was posited was aspirational in nature, Trump Model has been in full compliance, and should

fare well in any investigation or audit,' Trump's lawyer for immigration issues, Michael Wildes stated, according to Reuters.

Palmer was discovered during Caribbean



Model Search in Kingston, Jamaica, where she came second at the age 17, and became the first Jamaican model to feature in *Vogue* without being signed to an international fashion label. She moved to New York in 2011.

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The End