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COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
IN THE COURT OF APPEAL
SCCrApp & CAIS No. 180 of 2023

Trevon Stevens

Appellant

v

The Director of Public Prosecutions

Respondent

(Bail)

Before: The Hon Sir Michael Barnett, President, Kt
The Hon Mr Justice Isaacs, JA
The Hon Madam Justice Crane-Scott, JA

Appellant appeared Pro Se
Ms T'Shura Ambrose, Counsel for Respondent

20 February 2024

1 The oral judgment of the court was delivered by

2 Sir Michael Barnett, P, Kt:

3 This is an appeal against a decision of Justice
4 Williams denying bail to the appellant who has been charged
5 with a number of serious offences. The decision refusing bail
6 was delivered on 26th September, 2023, but the reasons for the
7 decision were not published until 1st November, 2023.

8 In the ruling, the judge considered the length of
9 time the appellant was in custody as well as the circumstances
10 which he said there were serious risks to the public and to
11 witnesses if granted bail. He then made the decision that
12 having regard to the fact that the trial date was fixed for
13 20th November, 2023, he would continue the detention of the
14 appellant until that trial date. The appellant seeks to
15 appeal that decision.

16 As an appellate court we do not see any matter that
17 the judge took into account that he ought not to have taken
18 into account or that he did not take into account any matter
19 that he should have taken into account and, therefore, there
20 is no basis upon which we would consider the exercise of the
21 discretion to refuse bail as one which this court would set
22 aside. For that reason, the appeal against that decision is
23 refused.

24 We note, however, that 20th November, 2023 has
25 passed and that the appellant has still not yet been tried for

1 these offences. Clearly, there is a change of circumstances
2 and this may affect the decision whether or not he ought to
3 continue to remain in custody or whether or not he should be
4 granted bail on conditions. But that is not a matter for us
5 as an appellate court. That is a matter that should be
6 considered by the Supreme Court on any renewed application by
7 the appellant for bail.

8 We recognise the fundamental right of any appellant
9 to a fair trial within a reasonable time and that that is a
10 right that must be jealously guarded by the courts. We
11 therefore direct that in the event an application for bail is
12 renewed, that that application be heard as a matter of
13 urgency.

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16 Dated this 20th day of February, 2024

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SIR MICHAEL BARNETT, P, Kt

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