

Fathers Charles And Vaz Watch Their Sons Sworn In

The Gleaner

Gary Spaulding, Senior Gleaner Writer

Pearnel Charles Snr sat in the front row of King's House ballroom alongside Prime Minister Andrew Holness witnessing some of his Parliamentary colleagues being sworn in as government ministers.

But for the first time in 36 years, the veteran politician would not be sworn in as a Cabinet Member to a Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) administration.

Instead, it was a day when Charles was instrumental in the passing of a political baton.

Although his son, Pearnel Charles Jr., was not named to the Cabinet, he has been appointed a junior minister.

It was also a day when families and friends as well as loved ones and supporters reserved the moment for the people who made it to the executive branch of the country's governance structure.

Douglas Vaz, who on more than one occasion, took the spotlight as a Cabinet member was on hand to witness a similar oath being taken by his son Daryl.

Then there were the influential figures in the public sector, obviously aware that they could be impacted the Cabinet members sworn into office.

With crime and the economy listed among the targeted areas in the Holness-led administration, among the attendees were: Central Bank governor Brian Wynter, Police Commissioner, Dr Carl Williams and Dennis Morrison, President of the Jamaica Court of Appeal.

Prominent business leaders also ventured out to witness the oaths being taken by the team with which they will interface.

Three Teens Charged With The Murder Of Luciano's Son

The Gleaner

The Police are reporting that three teenagers have been charged with the murder of Menelik McClymont, the son of popular entertainer, Luciano, whose real name is Jepther McClymont.

Charged are Jerome Coombs of Bob Marley Boulevard in Cooreville Gardens, Kingston 20, Camanie Shaw of Ambrook Lane, Kingston 10 and Nashlyn Anderson of Ambrook Lane, Kingston 10.

All three accused are 18 years old.

They are scheduled to appear in the Corporate Area Resident Magistrate's Court on Friday.

McClymont who died as a result of stab wounds he received during an alleged attack at a plaza in Kingston 10 on Sunday, February 28.

\$70,000 for lying to get US visa

By SHANICE WATSON



The Star Online

A woman who admitted to concocting a plan with her friend to lie to the United States Embassy about having money in her bank account was fined \$70,000 when she appeared in the Corporate Area Resident Magistrate's Court recently.

The accused, Candy Johnson, a small business operator, pleaded guilty to the charges of uttering a forged document and conspiracy to commit forgery.

The court heard that on February 5, Johnson prepared forged bank statements and presented them at the US Embassy when applying for a visa. The forged statement claimed she was the owner of an account with a certain sum at a credit union.

However, checks later revealed that was a lie.

BANK STATEMENT

Johnson admitted to the court that she did not own an account with the credit union, but her friend, who works at the institution, claimed she would prepare the bank statement.

"I told my friend who works at the bank that I was going to apply for the visa and she said I have a small business so she will help me. I didn't know it was forged because it looked real to me," she said

When Senior Resident Magistrate Judith Pusey asked Johnson if she should be sent to prison for her actions, her response was, "No. I am six months pregnant."

Pusey replied, "We have crib over there enuh and you can get pampers to buy."

She then informed Johnson that she could have been sent to prison for five years, and handed down her sentence which was \$50,000 or six months for uttering forged documents, and \$20,000 for conspiracy.

US Supreme Court upholds Alabama same-sex couple's adoption

By Scottie Thomaston

Equality On Trial

In a short opinion without any noted dissent, the US Supreme Court has reversed the Alabama supreme court's refusal to recognize a same-sex adoption that took place in Georgia.

V.L. and E.L. were in a relationship and raising three children together. The couple lived in Alabama but moved to Georgia to "facilitate the adoption" according to the decision, and that state's courts allowed the adoption. Once they moved back to Alabama, that state refused to recognize the adoption. The state supreme court disagreed that they had to give "full faith and credit" to Georgia's decision.

According to BuzzFeed, the Court ruled that Georgia had jurisdiction over the adoption:

The court issued the decision in a summary reversal on Monday morning, ruling in a brief, unsigned opinion that the Alabama Supreme Court had failed to give "full faith and credit" — a constitutional requirement — to a Georgia court's decision granting the adoption.

"The Georgia judgment appears on its face to have been issued by a court with jurisdiction, and there is no established Georgia law to the contrary," the court held. "It follows that the Alabama Supreme Court erred in refusing to grant that judgment full faith and credit."

The case was being looked at by the Court in several conferences, where they could have decided to take up the case and allow both sides to brief and argue the case.

The Court instead issued this six-page opinion with no noted dissent.

The Court just last week disposed of another LGBT rights case, turning down a challenge to New Jersey's ban on so-called "conversion therapy" for minors.

The End