

**OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE OF MR. LAURENT LAMOTHE PROTESTING AGAINST
THE DECISION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.**

November 21th, 2022

For Immediate Release

I was totally shocked to learn, through social media, that the Canadian government has decided to sanction me for allegedly financing gangs and supporting criminal activities in Haiti.

This decision is absurd. It is not based on any verifiable fact or evidence, and is inconsistent with my track record of fighting crime and implementing law and order. I vehemently condemn the levity with which these false accusations were made.

I applaud Canada's interest in Haiti which is descending into chaos because of the unspeakable actions of armed groups and their sponsors who act with impunity.

I was the first to plead in favor of an international tribunal to shed light on the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, which may disturb many in the current government. I was also one of the first Haitian personalities to seek an armed international support to help the National Police (PNH) dismantle all gangs in Haiti, these same gangs that are funded and supported by certain members of this government.

During my 31 months as Prime Minister, from 2012 to 2014, the fight against insecurity was my number one priority. Thanks to a policy of zero tolerance against armed criminals of all walks of life and of any background, against kidnapping and corruption, my government's TRACK RECORD in the fight against organized crime during this period remains indisputable:

- 1- Dismantlement of the two largest kidnapping rings in Haiti;
- 2- Elimination of lawless areas in all cities and towns;
- 3- Applying the full effect of the law against all personalities involved in kidnapping;
- 4- Strengthening of the National Police through the purchase of weapons and equipment, including good quality armored patrol tanks that are still in use today;
- 5- Constant support for new laws against corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorist activities.

It is my belief, that this arbitrary decision by the Canadian government is the result of false information relayed to them by my detractors. I defy anyone to show a single concrete piece of evidence showing my involvement in any type of association with gangs or linking me to any type of financing of criminal activities. The Canadian government should thoroughly verify its sources of information, and in full transparency, either make public all evidence backing their accusations, or completely and formally withdraw them. I demand a public apology and reserve the right to go to the Canadian courts for the sake of defending my honor and my integrity.