

Haiti

Haiti - Economy: Important delegation of Canadian businessmen in Haiti



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An important Canadian trade delegation of businessmen, led by the Canadian Minister Bernard Valcourt [Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency) (La Francophonie)], is in Haiti since Thursday for a mission of two days to evaluate the potential of investments. The delegation was welcomed by the Investment Facilitation Centre (CFI), the Presidential Council on Investment and the Economic and Social Council. Thursday, during their first day in Haiti, members of the government have presented to these potential Canadian investors, the various opportunities offered by Haiti.

Friday, these potential investors, will meet with Haitian businessmen to create Haitian-Canadian partnership. According to Georges Andy René, the Director General of CFI, these Canadian businessmen considering investments, including in the areas of telecommunications, agricultural production and of infrastructure...

On the sidelines of the first working day, the Prime Minister, Laurent Lamothe declared "[...] The Minister of State Bernard Valcourt, makes us the pleasure to come with a Canadian mission to see and evaluate the business opportunities in Haiti [...] once again it is important that the investment enter into Haiti, which will result in job creation, to put Haiti on the map of business throughout the world.

So that foreign investors can settle in Haiti, we must create a climate of trust, so this visit allows that this climate be established. This allows Haitian institutions to show the efforts that are made and what progress is made in different sectors. We're not saying it's easy [...] but we are confident that we are able to meet the challenge and put investors at ease [...] we sent several laws in Parliament to facilitate the business environment, so that when someone want to establish a business in Haiti, it found a welcoming environment.

These last two or three weeks ago there is an increase of insecurity, it is something that we take very seriously, we gave instructions to the new police chief, with the Secretary of State to take all measures to ensure that security can be restored [...] we asked the police to take action, we asked all the security forces to do what they have to do to restore the security environment. Without security there cannot

have investment. When we have an investor, who comes into the country to create 10,000 jobs and he finds himself in front of a barricade of burning tires, or in an attack... he will not invest, it is the country that loses [...]"

For his part, the Canadian Minister Bernard Valcourt declared "[...] the objective of course is to strengthen ties between Canada and Haiti and especially in the wake of the economic development plan put forward by the Haitian government, which fits perfectly with the Canadian strategy of international trade. We want to promote trade, which will allow economic growth in our respective countries and also of course, job creation in Haiti, but also in Canada.

I have the privilege to set foot on the Haitian soil for the first time and I was delighted of the welcome [...] I was pleased to hear this morning the Minister of Commerce and Prime Minister who presented to the participants of the Canadian mission, what were the business objectives of Haiti, as I said, they fit perfectly with what Canada wants to do, which is a good sign.

We have 16 Canadian companies who accompany us in the areas of infrastructure, communications and also the agribusiness. We know that in the reconstruction plan of Haiti, at the infrastructure level, in the tourism industry, this will require significant infrastructure and Canada has expertise and entrepreneurs in these areas, which have every interest I think, to come and see the extraordinary potential offered by Haitian market.

As indicated the Prime Minister this morning, there are conditions which are the basis for success of these investments and it is of course the establishment of a framework based on the respect of the rule of law and governance that is solid. We note that this is what the Haitian Government wants to establish quickly and I think it is important to succeed at the level of investments that must be done here [...]

We already know the sectors that have been or are being targeted by the Haitian government and I do not think we have to challenge the sectors that have been identified, it is the reconstruction, housing construction but also at the infrastructure level of agric-food and tourism sector. Sectors where Canadian companies have a lot of expertise..."