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PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI — In response to mounting criticism over ineffective protection for police officers, Haitian leaders have removed Frantz Elbe from his position as the director of Haiti’s National Police. His successor is Normil Rameau, a former police chief who was dismissed nearly four years ago and is now tasked with leading an underfunded and ill-equipped police force of approximately 4,000 officers in a country of over 11 million people.

The decision comes amidst escalating violence in Haiti, with over 2,500 casualties due to gang activities in the first three months of the year. Nearly 24 police officers have been killed as gangs, controlling 80% of the capital Port-au-Prince, increasingly outgun the police.

Rameau's reappointment coincides with the installation of a new prime minister and Cabinet, supported by a transitional presidential council. Previously dismissed in November 2020 by then-Prime Minister Joseph Jouthe for incompetence, Rameau originally served under former President Jovenel Moïse.

Rameau’s primary challenge will be addressing the surge in gang violence and enhancing the security and capabilities of the Haitian National Police.