

Letter to the Editor

Your February 9th article '[Haiti: Too Many Presidents, Too Little of Everything Else](#)' contains inaccuracies and, more alarmingly, seems to call for the violent removal of Haiti's President, Jovenel Moise. No responsible news outlet should publish endorsements for "ousting" a democratically elected President.

Under Haiti's constitution, written in 1987, branches of government are imbalanced and procedures are such that a small minority of lawmakers can block essential action, even elections. Today we have a President governing without a legislature, without that essential oversight, because the legislature itself prevented its own body's elections from taking place. This has happened five times since 1987. Our system is designed for cyclical deadlock, dysfunction, chaos and instability – much of which boils down to flaws in our constitution.

In 2020 President Moise commissioned a new constitution that will strengthen Haiti's weak democratic structures, create real checks and balances, and build functionality in government. This effort is supported by nearly 90% of Haitians. The new constitution was drafted by an independent commission and will be put to the public in a nationwide referendum in April. Regardless of whether the draft is accepted, local, state and national elections will be held later this year so that when the President's term ends in February 2022, the legislature and the new President's administration can get to work.

Haiti's democracy is at a turning point this year: we have the chance to lay the groundwork for real change in a country that needs it desperately. It is complicated and messy, like politics everywhere, but it's more than worth it. The Nation, meanwhile, should take a more considered look at the events occurring in our country and at the messages they choose to promote.

From His Excellency Ambassador Bocchit Edmond, Ambassador of the Republic of Haiti in the United States.

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