

# Former diplomat responds to US ambassador's public criticism of corruption in Haiti

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*Open letter to Ambassador Pamela White - Thanks, but no thanks*

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pamela\_white.jpg

Outgoing US Ambassador to Haiti, Pamela White

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- On August 28, 2015, in an interview with Haitian newspaper *Lenouvelliste*, outgoing US ambassador to Haiti, Pamela White, said of the Haitian government, "They (President Martelly and Prime Minister Lamothe) agree that corruption exists at all levels of the society. You can be in prison and buy your freedom. There is a price for everything here. It is like this, in the public administration, in the political sector, etc."

In response, Marcel Duret, Haiti's former ambassador to Japan, has released an open letter to White, entitled: "Madam Ambassador Pamela White - Thanks, but no Thanks: A tribute to employees of the Haitian Public Administration".

In the letter, Duret responds to White's criticisms, and rebuts them with his own experiences with government officials while setting up an organization he now runs in Haiti. His letter is intended as a tribute to public service workers, who continue to work with diligence and integrity in spite of the broad brush of corruption allegations with which their offices have been painted.

marcel duret

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