

MONTHLY UPDATE

IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

19 NOVEMBER • NO 11/2020

MADAGASCAR



MAIN STORIES

Senate Elections

Spike in Banditry
Activities

Rovo Controversy

France

Humanitarian
Situation

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 12 November, the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) presented the list of voters who will elect the new senators on 11 December 2020. There will be 12 465 mayors and municipal councillors called to vote for the 12 parliamentarians who will sit in the Senate next year.
- President Andry Rajoelina appointed Aurélie Razafinjato and Murielle Ramanamirija as his new special advisers.
- The Council of Ministers appointed Aline Mamiarisoa as governor of the region of Amoron'i Mania, the first woman to hold this position in the region.
- Several people were killed in recent attacks by dahalos (bandits). On 12 November, around 60 bandits abducted six women, injured three men, and stole 127 zebus (cattle) as well as food in Saronanala (Atsimo-Andrefana Region). In subsequent clashes between the bandits, gendarmes and villagers, 11 bandits, one gendarme and three civilians were killed.
- The Secretary of State for the National Gendarmerie, Richard Ravalomanana, said that with senatorial elections drawing close, insecurity had increased. He even blamed a spike in criminal activity, including rape, in Antananarivo, on the opposition.
- Supporters of former presidents Marc Ravalomanana and Hery Rajaonarimampianina were prevented from holding a number of political rallies in different parts of the country.
- On 9 November, university students demonstrated over a water supply problem on campus in Ankatso (Antananarivo). After three consecutive days without water, the inhabitants of Ambatolampy Antehiroka, in the 6th arrondissement of Antananarivo, protested on 11 November.

MADAGASCAR



- One year after Rajoelina pledged to decongest prisons, detainees in Madagascar are still suffering in overcrowded prisons at nearly three times their capacity, according to Amnesty International
- According to the Executive Director of Transparency International Madagascar (TI-MG) Ketakandriana Rafitoson, 76% of the population in Madagascar believe that corruption has worsened during the last 12 months.
- The Independent Anti-Corruption Office (Bianco) reported that in 2019, the number of corruption complaints received had more than doubled to 6 033 compared to 2018. It was the highest number in ten years.
- The Financial Intelligence Service of Madagascar (SAMIFIN) said that in 2019, the country had lost 579 billion ariary due to money laundering.
- The inauguration of an amphitheatre, like the Roman Colosseum, opposite the former royal palace, the Rova de Manjakamiadana by Rajoelina has been criticised as "cultural genocide."
- France returned the crown of Queen Ranavalona III, which it took in 1897. The crown was restored on the occasion of the inauguration of the Rova. For the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Liva Tehindrazanarivelo, the return of the crown marks a new facet of cooperation between Madagascar and France.
- According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) between November 2020 and March 2021, when the main harvest period begins, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in the southern and south-eastern regions is expected to be higher than the 728 000 people estimated in the same period in 2019/20.
- Famine is once again ravaging the south of Madagascar. Hundreds of thousands of people are acutely malnourished and in desperate need of food relief.
- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said in its 2019 annual report, published in November 2020 that cyclical droughts

MADAGASCAR



in the South continued to drive migration from the area, substantially transforming patterns of internal migration. It is estimated that more than 100 000 people move from rural areas to the capital, Antananarivo, every year. It is estimated that between 60 to 70 percent of all settlements in the capital comprise of informal constructions in slum-like conditions.

- In its report, “2020 List of Goods Produced by Child or Forced Labour,” the US Labour Department’s Bureau of International Affairs identified mica mined in Madagascar as a good produced by child labour, a finding that will put pressure on companies to modify their supply chains.
- As of 19 November, Madagascar had 17 310 confirmed coronavirus cases, 16 592 recoveries and 250 deaths. On 22 October, Madagascar’s Civil Aviation Authority imposed restrictions on travel to Madagascar from Belgium, France, Germany Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Spain, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.
- During the second quarter of 2020, the Institut National de la Statistique (INSTAT) reported that export revenues had fallen by 30% compared to the second quarter of 2019.
- According to the 2020 Mo Ibrahim Index on African Governance (IIAG), Madagascar was placed 35th on overall governance out of 54 African countries (1=best; 54=worst).
- Madagascar has one of the lowest environmental indices on the planet. One in five deaths on the island is caused by environmental degradation and its effects on health.
- Bamboo Capital Partners, an impact investing platform, has been appointed by the government of Madagascar and the World Bank as the international fund manager for the Off-Grid Market Development Fund (OMDF), a \$40 million renewable energy access fund.
- Rajoelina and former President Didier Ratsiraka congratulated United States (US) President-Elect, Joe Biden and his vice president, Kamala Harris on winning the US election.

