

# MONTHLY UPDATE

IN TRANSFORMATION  
INITIATIVE

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## MADAGASCAR



### MAIN STORIES

New High  
Constitutional Court  
(HCC)

IMF

Failed Projects

Foreign Rivalry

Humanitarian  
Developments

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The appointment of nine new members to the High Constitutional Court (HCC) was announced in early April 2021, consisting mostly of loyalists of President Andry Rajoelina, including Rojoniaina Ranaivoson Andriamaholy, the wife of the Deputy Secretary General of the Presidency, Dina Andriamaholy.
- Former President Hery Rajaonarimampianina's Hery Vaovao ho an'i Madagasikara (HVM) party has proposed the formation of an entity called the "national opposition leadership", aimed at uniting all opposition parties.
- Transparency International-Initiative Madagascar carried out a survey on citizens' awareness of the role of deputies. According to the findings of the survey, only 9.1% of those surveyed say that elected officials account for their actions. The level of citizens' confidence in deputies is low at 43.5% as people think that deputies prioritise their own interests.
- Madagascar is ranked 57 out of 180 countries (1=best; 180=worst) on the 2021 World Press Freedom Index, published by Reporters Without Borders, down from 54 in 2020.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a 40-month arrangement under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF), equivalent to SDR219.96 million (about US\$312.4 million or 90% of its quota) for Madagascar.
- The IMF said in its April 2021 World Economic Outlook (WEO) that the economy would grow by 3.2% in 2021, the same as in its October 2020 WEO. It predicts growth of 5.0% in 2022 and 5.0% in 2026.
- According to the IMF the 'Plan Emergence Madagascar' (PEM) is complicated by absorptive capacity constraints and the ability to mobilise public and private resources.

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- As of 23 April 2021, Madagascar had 34 069 confirmed coronavirus cases, 27 152 recoveries and 579 deaths.
- After fierce criticism, the government took a U-turn and signed up for the World Health Organisation (WHO)-led COVAX programme. Rajoelina also announced on 19 April 2021 that the country would seek to acquire the Chinese-manufactured Sinopharm vaccine alongside the vaccines manufactured by Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, BioNTech and AstraZeneca.
- On 18 April 2021, Rajoelina announced the renewal of the state of health emergency for a period of 15 days.
- According to the Civil Protection and European Humanitarian Aid Operations Service (ECHO), the humanitarian situation is further deteriorating in the Grand Sud. Some 1.14 million people are facing severe food insecurity (one third of the total population).
- A military attaché will reportedly soon join Ambassador Xiaomei Guo's team at the Chinese embassy in Antananarivo.
- The French foreign ministry's security and defence cooperation department (DCSD) and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) are currently working on a plan to improve Madagascar's coastal and shipping security. The plan provides for the installation of signal stations in Diego Suarez (Antsiranana) in the north of the country and the Fort Dauphin (Tôlanaro) region in the south.
- In response to the planned expansion of Madagascar's Air Force, the military section of the French embassy in Antananarivo has for the first time opened and filled a post of aviation defence and security advisor. From September 2021, Guillaume Poinot, a squadron leader and flight instructor, will join maritime advisor Nicolas Flury under the direction of a new defence attaché who will take over from Col Bruno Malet.
- The United States Department of State said in its 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices that significant human rights

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issues included: unlawful or arbitrary killings, including extrajudicial killings by government agents.

- Amnesty International said in its 2020/21 report that gender-based violence remained widespread and tens of thousands of people, including hundreds of children, were subjected to prolonged pre-trial detention in appalling conditions.
- Rajoelina presented Madagascar's military with a transport plane when he came to power in 2019, but it is now stuck in South Africa and the state is struggling to pay the maintenance bills for the 30-year-old aircraft.
- The European Union (EU) in Madagascar, through its Civil Protection and European Humanitarian Aid Operations Service (ECHO), provided funding of 3 million euros for projects as part of the response to the drought in the Great South.

