



MAIN STORIES

Rajoelina
Campaigning

Dictating to the
Opposition

Humanitarian
Situation

The Drug Trade

HIGHLIGHTS

- President Andry Rajoelina, on his tour of the Boeny Region, said that his government had achieved in two years what others could not do in seven years, adding that all the infrastructure projects his government is launching will remain engraved in the history of the country.
- The Senate adopted the draft law on the status of the opposition, stipulating that the leader of the opposition in parliament must be a member of the National Assembly. This disqualifies former president Marc Ravalomanana, who is the leader of the Tiako i Madagasikara (TIM) and the Rodoben'ny Mpanohitra ho an'ny Demokrasia eto Madagasikara” (RMDM) coalition, as he is not a Member of Parliament (MP).
- Ravalomanana, who maintained a low profile for a while, was back on the campaign trail, visiting markets and bus stations in various districts of the capital and its outskirts. The Minister of Communication and Culture, Lalatiana Rakotondrazafy Andriatongarivo described Ravalomanana’s rallies as political manoeuvring to destabilise the country.
- Debate in the National Assembly on the proposed law on the Malagasy nationality code was postponed to the next parliamentary session in October 2021. Civil society and social media users launched a scathing campaign against MPs over the proposed law, which they said would see the sale of ancestral land and nationality to foreigners.
- Rajoelina dismissed Rinah Rakotomanga as his communications director. Rakotomanga was replaced by Soatiana Rajoelisoa.
- During an armed attack on the villages of Morafeno, Benonoka and Ampahatelo in the district of Midongy Atsimo, Atsimo-Atsinanana Region in southern Madagascar, 19 people were killed, 300 houses set on fire and 500 head of cattle stolen, less than 24 hours after the inauguration of a military base.

MADAGASCAR



- According to the Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime, rendered vulnerable by both its geography and weaknesses in its governance, Madagascar is being pushed into a position of prominence in regional drug markets.
- In Betroka, cannabis trafficking is controlled by large, hierarchically networks that exercise a significant degree of control over the territory in which cannabis is produced. One cannabis trafficker reported that his gang reached a pact with regional law enforcement: the gang surrendered arms from former cattle-rustling operations in return for impunity in its cannabis venture.
- The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) provided a grant of \$686,000 to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) which will provide food relief to around 72,000 people.
- United States (US) Ambassador Michael Pelletier announced that his government would contribute nearly \$40 million in additional support to the drought-stricken south.
- According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), in the absence of a scale-up of external support, the 2021/22 lean season will begin early and be even more severe than the recent 2020/21 lean season.
- According to Amnesty International, more than a million people are facing hunger due to the devastating famine currently ravaging southern Madagascar.
- Rajoelina launched the Regional Colloquium for the Emergence of the South, with the objective to provide “Malagasy-Malagasy solutions for a radical transformation” of the Androy and Anôsy regions.
- As of 16 June 2021, Madagascar had 41,966 confirmed coronavirus cases, 40,279 recoveries and 891 deaths. On 13 June 2021, Rajoelina renewed the state of emergency for another 15 days.



MADAGASCAR



- Prime Minister Christian Ntsay announced in June 2021 that the government forecast a growth rate of 4.3% for 2021.
- The Glorious Islands, which is part of the Scattered Islands were officially classified as a French nature reserve on 8 June 2021.
- The French Secretary of State to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, in charge of Tourism, French people living abroad and La Francophonie, Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, met with Rajoelina to discuss bilateral cooperation.
- Li Zhanshu, chairman of China's National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, held talks with Parliament's Speaker Christine Razanamahasoa via video link. Li said that China is willing to work with Madagascar to dovetail China's Belt and Road Initiative with the Madagascar Revitalisation Plan.

