



IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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MADAGASCAR



MAIN STORIES

An Attempted Coup

A New Cabinet

Humanitarian Developments

HIGHLIGHTS

- Two Frenchmen were among 21 people arrested following a 'failed assassination attempt' on President Andry Rajoelina. The men, named as dual Franco-Malagasy national Paul Rafanoharana and Frenchman Philippe François, have been charged with endangering the security of the state, of conspiracy to kill the president and of associating with criminals. Rafanoharana's name has recently been circulated as a potential prime minister in the event of a cabinet reshuffle.
- Oil firm Benchmark Group said it had been approached for funds to topple Rajoelina. Benchmark, a majority shareholder in crude extractor Madagascar Oil, said it had received an email from Rafanoharana soliciting 10 million euros.
- No official judicial source has revealed the names of the other accused or the charges against them. Local media reported that Victor Ramahatra, 76, a retired former general and prime minister under former president Didier Ratsiraka was taken into custody. Retired general Ferdinand Razakarimanana, who was a member of the cabinet of Prime Minister Guy Willy Razanamasy, was also reportedly taken into custody.
- Rajoelina appointed a new cabinet, expanded to 32 ministers, vice ministers and secretaries of state from 25. Christian Ntsay retains his post as prime minister together with 10 ministers from the previous cabinet. Rindra Hasimbelo Rabarinirinarison becomes finance minister, Patrick Rajoelina, adviser to the president, takes over as foreign minister and Sophie Ratsiraka, the daughter of late former President Didier Ratsiraka, was appointed minister of crafts.
- Brice Randrianasolo, who was appointed as Minister of Mines and Strategic Resources, resigned three days later. Randrianasolo cited online "slander" related to a legal case in which he was previously involved.

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- The Rodoben'ny Mpanohitra ho an'ny Demokrasia eto Madagasikara (RMDM) held its national congress in late July. It wants Rajoelina to resign and the abrogation of the Constitution, consultations with all stakeholders on a new Constitution and the creation of a Fifth Republic.
- 72 hours after taking up his official post at the head of the National Gendarmerie, Secretary of State Serge Gellé sacked Major General Njatoarisoa Andrianjanaka as the head of the National Gendarmerie Command and appointed Major General Andry Rakotondrazaka.
- As of 21 August 2021, Madagascar had 42,838 confirmed coronavirus cases, 41,274 recoveries and 954 deaths. On 8 August, Rajoelina said that Madagascar could claim to have defeated the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The state of health emergency still remains, but the curfew has been lifted throughout the country.
- Rio Tinto signed a power purchase agreement for a new renewable energy plant to power the operations of its QIT Madagascar Minerals (QMM) ilmenite mine in Fort Dauphin.
- Rajoelina will meet French President Emmanuel Macron at the Élysée Palace on 27 August 2021.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India sees Madagascar not only as an important bilateral partner but also a vital pole in its collaborative maritime vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).
- Rajoelina received a Congolese delegation led by Nicolas Kazadi Kadima, Minister of Finance of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). He delivered a message of support from President Félix Tshisekedi, the current President of the African Union, following the alleged assassination attempt on Rajoelina.
- The World Bank earmarked a total of \$490 million (416 million euros) to help Madagascar buy COVID vaccines and finance development projects.

