



MAIN STORIES

**Rajoelina
Campaigning Again**

World Bank Views

**Humanitarian
Situation**

HIGHLIGHTS

- During visits to the south, the new Vatovavy region, the Haute Matsiatra region and the Itasy region, where he inaugurated several projects, President Andry Rajoelina declared that he was delivering on his 2018 election promises and that his government was “young and competent,” while taking digs at the opposition.
- At a ceremony chaired by Rajoelina, the 23rd region of Madagascar was officially launched on 7 October. The new Vatovavy region was created from a split of the Vatovavy-Fitovinany region. The governor of the new region, Maurice Lucien Randriadrison, was appointed on 6 October 2021. Lucien Laurel Razafitsotra was appointed as the governor of the Fitovinany region.
- Jean Roger Randrianjafinindrina was appointed as the governor of the Betsiboka region. He also previously served as the governor of the region (2013-2018). With Randrianjafinindrina’s appointment, all 23 regions now have governors.
- A clash between 120 armed bandits and the population of the rural commune of Marovitsika, Befotaka Sud district, Atsimo-Atsinanana region in September 2021, left 45 people dead.
- Armed bandits in September attacked the village of Mandroatsy in the district of Maintirano, Melaky region. They stole 200 zebus and took four villagers hostage.
- According to a Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) report dated 28 September, the prevalence and severity of food insecurity increased in 2021 in the southern regions of Androy, Anosy and Atsimo Andrefana, and conditions are projected to worsen by the end of the year. Between October and December 2021, 1.31 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity, 24 percent higher on a yearly basis.
- As of 15 September 2021, a total of 20 suspected and 22 confirmed cases of plague had been notified.

MADAGASCAR



- As of 19 October 2021, Madagascar had 43,616 confirmed coronavirus cases, 42,586 recoveries and 960 deaths. Commercial flights operated by Air Madagascar and Air France to Europe are authorised to resume from 6 November.
- According to a study by Transparency International - Initiative, 84% of students surveyed were victims of sexual harassment.
- The World Bank October 2021 Macro Poverty Outlook states that the initial impact of the COVID-19 crisis has been more severe than previously anticipated. Growth is predicted to reach 1.8 percent in 2021. Growth is expected to pick up to 5.4 percent in 2022 and 5.1 percent in 2023.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its October 2021 World Economic Outlook (WEO) that the economy will grow by 2.9% in 2021. It predicts growth of 4.8% in 2022 and 4.9% in 2026.
- Air Madagascar has been placed under a court-appointed restructuring process after incurring an operating deficit of around \$80 million. Air Madagascar is to be merged with its domestic subsidiary Tsaradia and renamed Madagascar Airlines.
- Rajoelina ordered Solo Andriamanampisoa, a former president of state-run power company Jirama, as well as the MD of State Procurement of Madagascar (SPM), to work on boosting imported goods. On 27 September, Rajoelina committed to bringing around 20 ships filled with essential food products to Madagascar, including edible oils and sugar.
- Rajoelina said that the new town of Tanamasoandro would be established in Imerintsiatosika, Itasy region after Ambohitrimanjaka rejected the proposal. China intends to finance the construction of certain infrastructures within the framework of the Tanamasoandro project, in particular two buildings intended to accommodate the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



MADAGASCAR



- Vonjy Andriamanga was dismissed as the director general of the water company Jirama. He will be temporarily replaced by Rivo Radanielina, deputy general manager in charge of marketing, digitalisation and sales at the company.
- Rajoelina, during his speech at the 76th United Nations (UN) General Assembly meeting, said that Madagascar did not envisage resorting to arms or a military confrontation for the restitution of the Scattered Islands. However, he took advantage of his speech to officially demand the restitution of the Scattered Islands to his country.
- The United States (US) government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on 15 October launched a new \$3.4 million, three-year project to address the problems of illegal wildlife trafficking and related corruption.
- France has granted EUR 152 million for the construction of a cable car project to alleviate traffic congestion in Antananarivo.
- The International Forum for Right and Security (IFFRAS), a non-profit international think tank headquartered in Toronto, Canada, claims that China has aided the building of infrastructure and poured in massive revenue resulting in an increased number of Chinese-funded enterprises. Chinese migrants have taken away the employment opportunities of locals, disrupted their trade and commerce, and opened shops selling Chinese consumer goods at low costs, IFFRAS states.

