



IN TRANSFORMATION  
INITIATIVE

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# MADAGASCAR



## MAIN STORIES

Rajoelina in France

Crime and Corruption  
in the Vanilla Sector

Humanitarian  
Developments

## HIGHLIGHTS

- President Andry Rajoelina visited France where he met with President Emmanuel Macron on 27 August 2021. The content of their private meeting was not made public, but during a joint press briefing they spoke of ties of friendship that bind the two countries and committed to strengthening relations. According to sources privy to the private meeting, the two presidents agreed to relaunch the joint commission on the Scattered Islands. In addition, French support for several projects, including an airport and two hydroelectric dams, were discussed.
- While former President Marc Ravalomanana is increasing his visits to markets to drum-up support for his Tiako i Madagasikara (TIM) and his 2023 election campaign, a split is allegedly looming in the party.
- The Rodoben'ny Mpanohitra ho an'ny Demokrasia eto Madagasikara (RMDM) opposition coalition was able to hold a demonstration in Antsirabe, capital of the Vakinankaratra Region on 11 September to protest against government incompetence.
- The sapphire mine in Analamahevelona, in Besakoa commune, Sakaraha district, was closed after a clash that took place between the Bara and the Antandroy tribes on 9 September 2021, which left 12 people dead.
- Indonesian Divine Word Father Alexander Dhae was attacked during a robbery at his monastery in Mananjary, Vatovavy Region on 12 September 2021. Dhae, who has worked in Madagascar for more than 30 years, was seriously injured.
- The 2021 Basel Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Index, released in September 2021, ranks Madagascar in 7th position out of 110 countries (1=high risk; 110=low risk). Madagascar's score is 7.40 (0 –10 system, where 10 indicates the highest risk level).

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- According to the financial intelligence service, Service des renseignements financiers (SAMIFIN), 2020 review of suspicious transaction reports (DOS), in terms of offenses identified in 2020, customs fraud stands out with 42 cases detected.
- According to the Bureau Indépendant Anti-Corruption (BIANCO's) 2020 annual report, it received 3,772 complaints about suspected corruption, down from 6,033 in 2019.
- According to the Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime's monthly East and Southern Africa Risk Bulletin, Madagascar's vanilla industry has become a magnet for corruption, money laundering and criminality.
- Madagascar is on the brink of experiencing the world's first "climate change famine," according to the United Nations.
- As of 17 September 2021, Madagascar had 42,898 confirmed coronavirus cases, 41,322 recoveries and 958 deaths. Madagascar ended a 17-month health state of emergency as the number of cases of coronavirus ebbed.
- A plague outbreak has killed at least seven people and in early September, the Director General of Preventive Medicine, said that another 22 patients were being treated for pneumonic plague.
- Rajoelina launched the \$235 million rehabilitation of the RN6 connecting Ambanja – Diégo. French construction company, Colas, will undertake the rehabilitation project.
- The president of the board of directors of Air Madagascar, Mamy Rakotondraibe, said that before the COVID-19 crisis the airline had already suffered a loss of about \$70 million.
- Shoprite is planning to withdraw from the Uganda and Madagascar markets. The group operates 10 stores in Madagascar.
- Prime Minister Christian Ntsay took over the Ministry of Mines and Strategic Resources from Fidiniavo Ravokatra. Brice Randrianasolo, who would have replaced Ravokatra, resigned three days after his appointment in August 2021.



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- Ntsay wants a new mining code to improve governance and ensure that the country earns more from royalties and taxes.
- Some sites near a Rio Tinto-owned mine in Madagascar have reportedly recorded uranium and lead levels 52 and 40 times in excess of WHO's safe drinking water standards.
- The new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Patrick Rajoelina, said that his ministry has four priorities, namely economic diplomacy, to spread the influence of Madagascar throughout the world, strengthen relations with the diaspora and fighting corruption.
- The President of the Senate, Herimanana Razafimahefa, met with the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the African Union (AU), Félix Tshisekedi, during a visit to Kinshasa to discuss the need to establish "dialogue and appeasement" within the Pan-African Parliament.
- A Chinese language course has been set up at Madagascar's Ministry of National Defence, according to the Chinese Embassy in Madagascar.
- The British Ambassador, David Ashley, held a meeting with the President of the National Reconciliation Council (CFM), Alphonse Maka. Ashley said they spoke at length about the current political environment, the need for political stability, the rule of law, as well as the importance of freedom of expression and reconciliation.

