



MAIN STORIES

Opposition Out of the
Blocks

Agreement with IMF

Humanitarian
Developments

HIGHLIGHTS

- Two years before the presidential election, the opposition platform Panorama emerged from its silence. It is made up of 17 political parties, amongst others the Hery Vaovao ho an'i Madagasikara (HVM) of former president Hery Rajaonarimampianina and the Malagasy Tonga Saina (MTS) of the deputy of the large port city of Tamatave, Roland Ratsiraka, as well as former president Marc Ravalomanana's Tiako I Madagasikara (TIM). Ratsiraka said they were in a "constructive criticism" of President Andry Rajoelina's regime. Ratsiraka, who supported Rajoelina in the second round of the presidential election in 2018, said the regime "prioritises personal interest, mismanagement and corruption." Ravalomanana, who publicly reconciled with Ratsiraka during the event, criticised Rajoelina's disrespect for the Constitution.
- Through a regulatory act published on 30 October, Rajoelina noted the election of seven new members of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI). On 11 November, Tiana Randrianarivonantoanina was re-elected as the magistrate who will represent the Supreme Court. Rajoelina must still appoint his representative.
- The governors of the regions and the mayors of communes met to discuss ways to improve the Decentralised Territorial Collectivities (CTD). The meeting followed measures announced by the government to assist municipalities to improve service delivery as part of the 2023 election strategy. The government decided to revise upwards its contribution to municipalities from 15 million ariary to 25 million ariary through subsidies.
- The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime published the Global Organised Crime Index – 2021. It includes all 193 United Nations (UN) member states (1=highest crime; 193=lowest crime).

MADAGASCAR



- It evaluates countries according to their levels of criminality on a score from 1 to 10 (lowest to highest organised crime levels). Madagascar is ranked 63 out of 193 with a criminality score of 5.59.
- On 9 November, the printing office of the Gazette de la Grande Ile, which lately wrote articles critical to government, was petrol-bombed. No injuries were reported.
- Following numerous border violations, especially in Nosy-Be, a maritime vigilance committee was established in Nosy-Be by police headquarters. The objective of the committee is to control the entry and exit of boats to prevent the trafficking of drugs, precious stones and people.
- The strengthening of the fight against the insecurity caused by the theft of vanilla is among the resolutions taken during a meeting between Rajoelina and key actors in the sector. Rajoelina announced the establishment of a special brigade which will deal specifically with the issue.
- A team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), led by Frederic Lambert, held virtual discussions from 22 September to 25 October 2021 on the first review of the 40-month arrangement with Madagascar supported by the Extended Credit Facility (ECF). The review's completion would allow the disbursement of SDR 48.88 million (about US\$69 million) to Madagascar.
- The IMF says the economy has been gradually recovering and growth is expected to reach 3.5 percent in 2021, supported by the mining, textile, and service sectors. Structural reforms are gradually advancing, with work still needed to improve budget transparency and reporting.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) from 3 January 2020 to 16 November 2021, there were 43,672 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 964 deaths.



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- Madagascar is forecast to grow its economy by 5.4% next year as the pandemic eases, borders are reopened, and public investments and confidence improves, according to the 2022 finance bill submitted to the National Assembly. The budget deficit is seen narrowing to 6.1% of GDP next year from 6.6% in 2021. Inflation is forecast at 7% compared with 6.4% this year.
- Rothschild & Co will support the country's integration into international financial markets and advise it in the search for investment financing for the national airline.
- The United Nations (UN) said nearly 30,000 people were now officially affected by famine in the country and more than 1.3 million others were considered to be in a food security crisis or emergency.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) said on 16 November that some pockets of IPC 5 or famine-like conditions had now been reported, basically the only - maybe the first - climate change famine on earth.
- The global climate crisis has intensified a devastating drought in southern Madagascar, where hunger has brought 1 million people to the brink of famine, according to Amnesty International.
- Rajoelina was in Glasgow for the COP26 climate change conference with a mission to find financing for ethanol, a fuel promoted by his wife Mialy Rajoelina. Taking advantage of the opportunity to speak directly with heads of state from around the globe, Rajoelina asked for \$100 million to fund projects to promote ethanol use in Madagascar.
- A dozen civil society groups have denounced a lack of transparency in Madagascar's lucrative mining sector, which accounts for 30 percent of its exports. The gold industry - subject to large-scale trafficking - is of particular concern.



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- Maritime security and illegal trafficking in the south of the Seychelles' territory were two subjects discussed by President Wavel Ramkalawan and Rajoelina on the side-lines of the COP26 Conference.
- The President of the National Reconciliation Council (CFM), Alphonse Maka, met with South Africa's Ambassador in Madagascar, Sisa Ngombane. The implementation of national reconciliation was at the centre of the meeting.
- The government and TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen monitoring and capacity to tackle illegal wildlife trade.

