

COMMUNIQUÉ

Appeal to the President of the Republic for an immediate suspension of the construction work of the highway, in the face of the distress call of the rural populations impacted and ignored.

We, the organisations and representatives of the victim populations, signatories of this communiqué, hereby express our deep concern about the cry of alarm and distress of the rural populations ignored, and seriously affected by the highway construction project linking Antananarivo and Toamasina.

For several weeks, thousands of families in the municipalities affected by the 80 km of the first route of this motorway project have been living in a dramatic situation: victims of forced and abusive expropriations, as well as the sudden destruction of their agricultural land, the main pillar of their survival. This is being done in a chaotic manner, without any fair and equitable compensation or appropriate compensation measures.

"We are helpless in the face of massive destruction carried out without prior notification, consultation or preparation. The sudden arrival of SAMCRETE's bulldozers, razing rice crops and fields, has caused turmoil and panic in our community, which is deprived of its main means of subsistence," said Mr. Nicolas Jean RAKOTONDRAMANA, representative of the villagers, of the commune of Ambohimanga Rova.

The presidential project is intended to be a lever for development for the country and should be a model. On the contrary, it seems to threaten the economic and social survival of local populations. In the absence of appropriate mitigation measures and alternatives, these populations are at immediate risk of food insecurity, aggravated by the lack of respect for their human rights.

These risks threaten not only the families who cultivate land along the route of the highway, but also entire communities who have seen the water in their rice fields replaced by torrents of red mud, due to SAMCRETE's management of the site that is totally unsuited to the realities of Madagascar's climate and topography.

To date, according to the complaints received, no fluid and transparent communication has been established with the inhabitants concerned. In addition, no official and final route has been communicated, contrary to all the standards of conduct for such a project.

Even municipal officials are not able to provide their constituents with precise details on the route, the schedule of the work and the compensation. *"The route is constantly changing and remains very unclear for us, the managers and the SAMCRETE company make decisions as they wish. And the work is progressing at high speed without us being able to do anything,"* criticise the populations, who suffer from the opaque and authoritarian management of the project.

We, the undersigned CSOs, do not question the need for infrastructure development. However, we refuse to allow it to be done to the detriment of rural populations and the principles of social justice. A presidential project worthy of the name cannot be synonymous with

brutal expropriations, food insecurity and destruction of citizens' livelihoods, irreversible degradation of natural ecosystems and cultural sites, as in the case of Ambohimanga Rova.

"We are plunged into uncertainty and despair, with no clear information about our future in the face of this project. Despite various community grievances and our repeated efforts to establish a dialogue at all levels, we have not been provided with a satisfactory response or concrete measures. We don't know where to turn anymore," says Mrs. Sophie RAHARIMALALA, member of the local committee of Ambohimanga Rova.

Will this cry of distress and indignation go unanswered? Will the authorities finally take into account the suffering of these citizens? The ball is now in the court of the President of the Republic, who must choose between pursuing his project in opacity or restoring the confidence of the Malagasy people through consultation and social justice.

Concerning the above, we, the Civil Society Organisations, are unanimous in asking the President of the Republic to:

- immediately suspend of the current work in progress and immediately halt the destruction of agricultural land until a consultation process and a real consultation have been established with the affected populations and Civil Society Organisations;
- transparently publish all official route documents, drawn up in consultation with the affected populations by municipality, duly stamped;
- effectively implement a clear compensation and resettlement plan, in line with national and international standards, ensuring fair and equitable compensation for each affected family, whether or not they have formal titles, before any work continues;
- honour commitments to environmental protection and food security, by putting in place alternative solutions to preserve fertile land and the livelihoods of rural communities.

Development cannot be achieved by sacrificing the rights, dignity and livelihood of citizens. We call on you to act immediately to meet the legitimate expectations of the populations concerned in order to preserve our last forests, their last resort for survival. We ask you to listen and see for yourself the realities experienced by these Malagasy families who, today, feel abandoned by their own President.

Antananarivo, 28 February 2025

Cette déclaration est soutenue par plus de 100 organisations signataires

1. Action Sans Frontières
2. ACCE
3. Alamino (Agora des Paysages et des forêts de Madagascar)
4. ASITY Madagascar
5. ASA (Action to Solve Altogether)
6. AZAFADY people community environment
7. AVG (Alliance Voahary Gasy)
8. Association AGIR
9. Association Capricornus
10. Association FAMELOGNO
11. Association FBMM
12. Association KOLO ALA
13. Association Gny To Tsy mba Zainy
14. Association Taratra Miray
15. Avotra RFF
16. BIMTT
17. CARE
18. CCOC (Collectif des Citoyens et des Organisations Citoyennes)
19. CEDII
20. CDRP Andramasina
21. CNPE (Coalition Nationale de Plaidoyer Environnemental)
22. Coalition LAMPOGNO Mamabaie
23. Coalition Nationale des OSC pour la Pêche et l'Economie Bleue des 23 régions
24. Coalition SAVA
25. Collectif TANY pour la défense des terres malgaches
26. Comité Local d'Ambohimanga
27. Coté Sud
28. CPM
29. DRV (Dinika sy Rindran'ny Vehivavy)
30. FAPBM (Fondation pour les Aires Protégées et la Biodiversité de Madagascar)
31. FARM (Femmes en Actions Rurales de Madagascar)
32. FANAMBY
33. FEKRITAMA
34. FVTM (Federationa Ny Vehivavy Tantsaha eto Madagasikara)
35. FISEFI Ihorombe
36. FIVEPIMANJA du district de Manjakandriana
37. FIVOI Menabe
38. Flambeau Madagascar
39. FOÏA
40. FTMF (Fikambanan'ny Tanora Mandala ny Fahamarinana)
41. GERP
42. Global Forest Watch
43. Graine de Vie
44. GREEN PARK Bembaray
45. GOSOC KOMANGA
46. GROUPE MANOVA Itasy
47. IDEM Planet
48. Ilontsera
49. Impact Madagascar
50. INDRI - Initiative pour le Développement, la Restauration écologique et l'Innovation
51. JAI (Jeune Actif Interrégional)
52. Koloharena
53. Madagasikara Voakajy
54. Maintimolaly Tsiroanomandidy
55. Maliasili
56. MANONDROALA Madagascar
57. MASÀKY
58. MATEZA Fenerive Est
59. MYBN (Malagasy Youth Biodiversity Network)
60. MIFAMA
61. MITIA Toamasina
62. Mitsinjo Andasibe
63. MONEPT (Mouvement pour l'Éducation pour Tous)
64. MONEY For MADAGASCAR
65. Mouvement ROHY
66. MSIS-TATAO (Multi-Sector Information Service - Tohana sy Ainga ho an'ny TAmbazotran'ny Olom-pirena)
67. Natural Justice
68. Ny Tanintsika
69. OBS - MADA
70. Observatoire Momba ny Tanora
71. ONDH (Observatoire National des Droits Humains)
72. ONG CODE Menabe
73. ONG Fiantso Madagascar
74. ONG HITSY
75. ONG IVORARY
76. ONG Lalana
77. ONG Ravintsara
78. ONG SAHA
79. OSCE MANDRESY Diana
80. OSCIE (Organisation de la Société Civile sur les Industries Extractives)
81. PFED (Plateforme pour l'Environnement et Développement de Nosy Be)
82. PFNOSCM (Plate-forme Nationale des Organisations de la Société Civile de Madagascar)
83. Plate-forme des Organisations de la Société Civile Alaotra Mangoro
84. Plate-forme Régionale des Organisations de la Société Civile Ihorombe (RROSCI)
85. Plateforme FIVE Menabe
86. Planet Madagascar
87. PCQVP (Publiez Ce Que Vous Payez)
88. READ DSS
89. RMH (Réseau Malgache du Handicap)
90. ROAD FREE
91. SAF/FJKM
92. SARAMBA Initiative
93. SIF (SEHATRA IOMBONANA HO AN'NY FANANAN-TANY)
94. TAFITA Ambohimambola
95. TAFO MIHAAVO
96. Tanora Mandray Andraikitra Betsiboka
97. Tanora Mitambatra ho an'ny Tanindrazana (TMT)
98. Taiza Tanora iray Zara
99. TIHARY Nature et Art
100. TI-MG (Transparency International - Madagascar)
101. Tontolo Voakobaby
102. TNMF
103. TTM (Tranoben'ny Tantsaha Mpamokatra)
104. TSIMOKA
105. TSIRATY Tsihombe
106. VOHIFIRAISANA Analamanga
107. VOI didy Ambatondrazaka
108. Voahary Salama
109. World Resources Institute

