



LA JEUNESSE
POUR LES DROITS HUMAINS
ET LA JUSTICE CLIMATIQUE,
ECONOMIQUE ET ECOLOGIQUE



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STATEMENT

IT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO SACRIFICE THE RIGHTS OF POPULATIONS OPPOSED TO THE VARA MADA PROJECT AND THE LOCAL NATURAL HERITAGE, AS WELL AS NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, TO SATISFY THE DEMANDS OF THE AMERICAN LEADER.

Since the President of the Refoundation of the Republic of Madagascar (PRRM) took office, the populations affected by Vara Mada have consistently expressed their outright rejection of this mining project. They went to the Iavoloha Palace on December 15, 2025, to meet with the PRRM and reiterate their demand for the definitive shutdown of this project. Demonstrators were also seen holding numerous placards demanding this during the PRRM's visit to Toliara on April 17, 2026. Furthermore, on April 18, 2026, the PRRM offered its condolences to the family of the late Mr. Benefice, who was killed by the gendarmes during a demonstration against the Vara Mada project on September 13, 2025.

Despite these facts and this expression of public opinion, and according to the information published today[1], the Malagasy Prime Minister and the US Deputy Secretary of State reached an agreement on the Vara Mada project during their meeting in Washington. They also discussed broader future cooperation aimed at securing the US supply chain for strategic minerals such as rare earths, while integrating Madagascar into global security and technology value chains[2].

This information confirms the circulating rumors that the Malagasy Prime Minister has already given his approval for the implementation of the Vara Mada project, because he does not dare to oppose the efforts of the American government to impose economic colonialism on Madagascar as well as on other countries possessing the strategic minerals it needs, such as Ukraine and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

If it is true that the PRRM made this concession, it demonstrates his intention to ignore the claims of the affected peoples with regard to their fundamental rights to their ancestral lands, their livelihoods, their health, and the environment and ecosystems in which they live.

It also means that he has chosen without hesitation to sacrifice the interests and sovereignty of the Malagasy people over the natural resources located in the mining areas.

All of this is done to strengthen the supply of energy and strategic minerals to the US government, which has decided to protect its own population and environment from the harmful effects of rare earth production, by exporting this threat to the communities and ecosystems of the Toliara I and II districts.

We also wish to remind the PRRM and all competent authorities that they are primarily responsible to the citizens who brought them to power, and that it is also their responsibility to respect, protect and guarantee the right of these citizens to freely choose the development projects that best suit them.

Finally, we, the signatories of this Declaration, affirm our full solidarity with the communities affected by the Vara Mada project, who will never accept the exploitation of mineral sands and monazite on their territory and are ready to continue to claim their right to say no to this project which will destroy their means of subsistence and the environment of future generations.

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^[1] <https://2424.mg/mines-engagement-commun-de-madagascar-et-des-etats-unis-a-promouvoir-les-opportunités-autour-du-projet-vara-mada-dapres-le-departement-detat-americain/>

^[2] Ibid.