

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Marc RAVALOMANANA

Dear fellow citizens of Madagascar
Dear members of the international community

Madagascar has embarked on the path of transformation. Since 2002 we have laid the foundation that will allow our country to move forward rapidly. In November 2004, we created our Vision “Madagascar, *Naturally*” and we have designed and implemented many programs to support our development.

To accelerate and better coordinate the development process and to make a quantum leap, we have created the Madagascar Action Plan, the MAP. The MAP is a bold, five year plan which establishes direction and priorities for the nation from 2007 to 2012. It states the commitments, strategies and actions that will ignite *rapid growth*, lead to the *reduction of poverty*, and ensure that the country develops in response to the *challenges of globalization* and in accordance with the national vision – Madagascar *Naturally* and the UN Millennium Development Goals.

To the people of Madagascar, I invite you to become active participants in the implementation of the MAP. Everyone has a role to play in the work ahead. Rapid development will bring tremendous benefits to all the villages and towns of Madagascar.

To my colleagues in the civil service, we now must face the challenge of strengthening the efficiency of the public administration to respond to the expectations of the population through provision of quality services. We also should improve our capacity to absorb and use efficiently all resources that are available to us from the international community and the donors. And we will benefit from our efforts. The time has come to reconsider the status of public servants in the Public Administration. I promise to do so. The Public Administration is the lead employer nationwide. We, its employees, are “public servants” and we must be the examples of true service

and professionalism. We should show devotion, courage, integrity, and merit.

To the private sector, you are central to the achievement of the MAP goals. We are committed to becoming a high-growth economy and making a quantum leap in our development. We must promote participation of local enterprises in all sectors of the economy to create more jobs and rapidly employment. We must attract more foreign investors to support our economy. The time has come to provide strong support to the rapid and broad development of the private sector. Our policy is based on the spreading of investments that will contribute to employment creation, to the strengthening of professional education, and to the improvement of the living conditions of the Malagasy people.

To our development partners, the international community, and the donors, you have played a vital role in the development of Madagascar. I thank you on behalf of all the Malagasy people. And I would like to gratefully thank you in advance for the substantial support that you will provide us for the implementation of the MAP. We need your assistance and strong cooperation to improve the infrastructure, develop the educational system, promote rural development, and create a comprehensive health sector that aggressively addresses family planning and the fight against HIV/AIDS. Mutual trust is crucial to success. We will continue to strengthen this partnership.

As President of the Republic of Madagascar, I publicly declare my commitment to providing the necessary leadership for the MAP to contribute to the rapid and sustainable development of Madagascar. We will succeed.

God bless our country,

