

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Madagascar Monthly Briefing February 2026

Madagascar Summary 24 February 2026

Foreign affairs minister, Christine Razanamahasoa, meets with African Union Commission chairman Mahamoud Ali Youssouf in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) as part of the foreign affairs ministry's lobbying efforts to have Madagascar's AU suspension lifted as soon as possible. Transitional president Michaël Randrianirina (2025-present) leads a government delegation to make an official visit to Moscow (Russia), as the two countries bolster ties. Cyclone Gezani passes through Madagascar and makes landfall in the city of Toamasina, destroying up to 75% of the city.

Meeting of a Malagasy delegation with AU President

A Malagasy delegation led by the foreign affairs minister, **Christine Razanamahasoa**, met with **African Union Commission (AUC)** chairperson, **Mahamoud Ali Youssouf**, at the AU headquarters in **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** on 16 February, on the sidelines of the 39th **African Union Summit**.

The [meeting](#) provided an opportunity for Razanamahasoa to present the developments in the political situation in Madagascar and the progress of the country's reconstruction process. She also made a call for international assistance following the passage of the two cyclones **Fytia** and **Gezani**, which caused significant damage and loss of life.

For his part, Youssouf [expressed](#) his solidarity with the Malagasy people following this series of natural disasters that struck Madagascar. On the political front, he encouraged the government of re-foundation's authorities to organise an inclusive national consultation. He assured the AU's support for the re-foundation process as well as the commission's willingness to work with the government. At the end of the meeting, Razanamahasoa conveyed the invitation from transitional president, **Michaël Randrianirina** (2025-present), addressed to Youssouf for a visit to Madagascar, who responded positively.

After the coup d'état in October 2025, the AU held an extraordinary meeting and announced the suspension of Madagascar's participation in all AU activities, its organs, and institutions, until constitutional order is restored in the country. The meeting between Youssouf and Razanamahasoa is part of lobbying efforts by the foreign affairs ministry to have these suspensions lifted as soon as possible.

Randrianirina meets Putin

Randrianirina led a delegation to [meet](#) Russia's President **Vladimir Putin** (2012-present) and several members of the Russian government on 19 February at the **Kremlin Palace** in **Moscow (Russia)**. The delegation left Madagascar on 18 February aboard a plane chartered by Russia and was composed of six members of the government including mines and strategic resources minister, **Carl Andriamparany**, foreign Affairs minister, **Christine Razanamahasoa**, agriculture and livestock minister, **Rasatarimanana José Nirina**, armed forces minister, General **Maminirina Ely Razafitombo**, economy and finance minister, **Herinjato Aimé Ramaroson**, energy and hydrocarbons minister, **Ny Ando Ralitera**, and national assembly president, **Siteny Randrianasoloniaiko**, who already made a visit to Moscow in November 2025.

During his speech, Putin immediately offered his condolences to the Malagasy government following **Cyclone Gezani**, which caused around sixty deaths and left over 400,000 people affected. He also highlighted in 2027, the two countries will celebrate 55 years of diplomatic relations [adding](#)

"Madagascar is one of Russia's important partners in Africa". He mentioned sectors that could be at the heart of cooperation between the two countries including energy, agriculture, and infrastructure. The Kremlin leader also [declared](#) that "Russia will support Madagascar at international platforms, including at the **United Nations**."

Randrianirina [stated](#) that "our presence in your country demonstrates our strong desire to work with Russia in all fields." He added, "after 55 years of cooperation, we are ready to open a new chapter of cooperation and be an example in Africa." Randrianirina is the second Malagasy head of state to make an official visit to Moscow since the late president Didier Ratsiraka (1975-1993; 1997-2002), who visited in June 1978.

This shift towards Russia reflects a new direction in Malagasy foreign policy reminiscent of the Second Republic's period between 1975 and 1992 and is a clear message to Madagascar's traditional partner, **France**. **Randrianirina** is set to meet **France's** President **Emmanuel Macron** (2017-present) in France on 24 February, departing directly from his visit to Russia, a diplomatic sequence seen as highly symbolic.

Cyclone Gezani makes landfall in Toamasina

Tropical Cyclone Gezani entered the **Toamasina II** district early in the evening on 10 February, causing immense damage in the port city, [destroying](#) an estimated 75% of the city. Eight districts in four regions - **Atsinanana**, **Analamanga**, **Analanjirifo**, and **Alaotra Mangoro** - are directly affected, according to the **Bureau national de gestion des risques et catastrophes (BNGRC)** (National Office for Risk and Disaster Management). The government declared 11 February a public holiday for workers in the affected regions. Classes have also been suspended.

Randrianirina, accompanied by his wife, travelled to Toamasina on 10 February and on 11 February, he visited several neighbourhoods in Toamasina to assess the extent of the damage. The latest [report](#) on the passage of Cyclone Gezani, published by the BNGRC on 16 February, reports 59 deaths and over 423,000 people affected. Since the start of the 2025/2026 cyclone season in November 2025, Cyclone Gezani is the second tropical cyclone to hit Madagascar after **Cyclone Fytia**, which crossed the country on 31 January, causing 14 deaths and affecting over 85,000 people.

Toamasina is the economic capital and principal port city of Madagascar, with activity coming to a standstill following the cyclone. Following the call for international solidarity launched by Randrianirina, several countries aided, [including China](#) granting \$14.5m in financial aid alongside military and material assistance from France and Russia, as well as a **Switzerland** sending a humanitarian team. In addition, the World Bank released \$37m. Randrianirina confirmed the urgent need for \$151m to meet the financial requirements that will allow the reconstruction of Toamasina. The cyclone has once again highlighted Madagascar's reliance on external aid and assistance in addressing adverse weather patterns, which will likely become more rampant with climate change.

Planner

24 – 25 Feb 2026 **Paris (France)** President **Michaël Randrianirina** will undertake an official visit to Paris (France) during which he will have a meeting with the France's President **Emmanuel Macron**

Chronology

23 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. President **Michaël Randrianirina** is set to meet **France's** President **Emmanuel Macron** in France, shortly after an official visit to **Russia** where he met President **Vladimir Putin**, a diplomatic sequence seen as highly symbolic amid tensions between Russia and **Europe**;

21 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. During an official visit to **Russia**, transitional president **Michael Randrianirina** discusses strengthening military cooperation, including renewing equipment, receiving training, and expanding defence ties;

19 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. A **Russian** plane delivers humanitarian aid, including an MI-8 helicopter and trucks, to Madagascar following Tropical Cyclones **Fytia** and **Gezani**, with more shipments of food and essential supplies expected to support relief efforts;

18 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. The government and the **European Union (EU)** sign three financing agreements worth 370 billion ariary (\$80.3m) to support SMEs, improve water access, and protect biodiversity, aiming to enhance livelihoods and economic resilience;

17 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *Presidency*. Transitional president **Michaël Randrianirina** leads a Malagasy delegation aboard a plane sent by Russia for an official trip to **Moscow**;

17 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *X*. National assembly president **Siteny Randrianasoloniaiko** denounces the "illegal" presence of French soldiers in Madagascar.

16 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. **China** will remove tariffs on imports from African countries starting May 2026, creating a potential boost for Malagasy exports such as vanilla, seafood, and minerals;

14 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *Midi Madagasikara*. Police and the gendarmerie search the home of former ruling **Isika Rehetra Miaraka Amin'i Andry Rajoelina (IRMAR)** deputy, **Augustin Andriamananoro**, for the second time over unknown reasons;

14 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *Prime Minister's Office*. Prime minister **Herintsalama Rajaonarivelo** officially declares a state of national disaster following the passage of Cyclone **Gezani** and announces an urgent need for \$151m to meet the financial requirements that will allow the reconstruction of the city of Toamasina.

13 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *Yas Madagascar*. Cyclones **Fytia** and **Gezani** severely damage telecommunications infrastructure, impacting service quality according to mobile phone and internet fibre operator **Yas Madagascar**;

13 Feb 2026 **Toamasina (Madagascar)** *Reuters*. **Japan's Sumitomo Corporation** says its **Ambatovy** mining project suffered significant material damages following the passage of **Cyclone Gezani**;

13 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *Anadolu Agency*. The **World Bank** announces the release \$37m to address the urgent needs of the population following the passage of cyclones **Fytia** and **Gezani** in Madagascar during the month of February;

13 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *Presidency of Madagascar*. President **Michaël Randrianirina** and the **Chinese** Ambassador in Madagascar, **Jin Ping**, formalise a strategic cooperation agreement involving a donation of \$14.5m as a gesture of solidarity with the Malagasy people following the passage of cyclones **Fytia** and **Gezani**;

12 Feb 2026 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Malagasy Foreign Affairs Minister*. Foreign affairs minister, **Christine Razanamahaso**, meets with her **Djiboutian** counterpart, **Abdoulkder Houssein Omar**, on the sidelines of the 39th **African Union Summit** in **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)**;

11 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *Presidency of Madagascar*. Transitional president **Michaël Randrianirina** calls for international solidarity to contribute to urgent aid and support operations for victims following the passage of the intense tropical **Cyclone Gezani**;

10 Feb 2026 **Toamasina (Madagascar)** *Anadolu Agency*. The intense tropical **Cyclone Gezani** makes landfall in Madagascar along the east coast, affecting several districts and localities;

9 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. Madagascar's social partners, including the **Group of Companies of Madagascar (GEM)**, **Fivmpama** and the **Conference of Workers of Madagascar (CTM)**, agree to raise the private-sector minimum wage to MGA 300,000 (\$68) from 1 March 2026, subject to **National Labor and Employment Council** approval;

9 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. Madagascar launches a \$10 billion project with **China's Eternal Tsingshan Holdings**, aiming to build a large integrated industrial complex and new industrial city that could create up to 100,000 jobs and generate \$15 billion in annual exports;

7 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *Dépêche informative Taratra*. Offices located in the building housing the interior ministry catch alight, but the ministry rules out the possibility of a deliberate incident;

7 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *2424.mg*. Former president **Andry Rajoelina** meets with the King of Eswatini, **Mswati III**, which the government condemns;

6 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *Prime Minister's office*. Prime minister **Herintsalama Rajaonarivelo** says the government of refoundation is committed to organising reliable elections to ensure stability and calm in Madagascar;

5 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *Banky foiben'I Madagasikara*. **Banky foiben'I Madagasikara** (central bank) governor **Aivo Andrianarivelo** says at least twenty tonnes of gold is exported annually from Madagascar abroad;

4 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *RealTV Madagasikara*. **United Nations (UN)** delegation led by **Simon Pierre Nanitelamio** meets with former president **Marc Ravalomanana** as part of a series of meetings with political actors and members of civil society to assess the political situation in the country;

3 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *TVPLUS Madagasikara*. Former ruling **Isika Rehetra Miraka Amin'i Andry Rajoelina (IRMAR)** deputy **Milavonjy Philobert** confirms that a delegation from the **African Union** visited former **Senate** president, General **Richard Ravalomanana**, and former minister, **Marie Michelle Sahondrarimalala**, at the Imerintsiatosika prison.

3 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *Mines.mg*. Mines and strategic resources ministry lifts the 16-year moratorium on the granting of new mining permits, with no fewer than 3,000 applications for new permits pending following the suspension decision introduced in 2010;

2 Feb 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. **Andrianaina Rabarisoa** is appointed president of Madagascar's **Economic Development Board (EDBM)** to support economic recovery and strengthen public-private partnerships;

29 Jan 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. Energy minister, **Ny Ando Ralitera**, launches a plan to settle outstanding debts with oil companies and restructure the energy sector, including clearing cross-debts and gradually adjusting fuel prices;

27 Jan 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. Madagascar and the **European Union (EU)** are set to sign an expanded **Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)** that will strengthen trade, provide privileged access to the EU market, and cover goods, services, investment, and intellectual property;

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