



Edition **Vakoka Vakiteny**  
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### **Vakoka Vakiteny...**

...is a young and professional publishing company producing literature for children and youth in Malagasy language.

...is owned and run by a dynamic team of young Malagasy.

...contributes to growth and development in Madagascar - culturally and materially.

...promotes the joy of reading and develops the understanding for literature and art in a modern Malagasy environment.

Layout: content: Sophie and  
Mparany Rakotondrainy

# **Vakoka Vakiteny News**

### **Dear friends of *Vakoka Vakiteny*.**

Finally the book about Todisoa (*Ich kehre zurück, Dadabé/ Hiverina aho, Dadabe*) is finished! We are now doing the layout and will soon be able to send the manuscript to Madagascar for printing. Hopefully we will be able to take some printed copies to Germany this summer.

Moreover, the activities in Madagascar are not reduced compared with the second half of 2011, and more are coming. We also wish to expand our enterprise to include printing activities, but this is still in the very first phase of planning. See page 4 for more information.

*Mparany Rakotondrainy*

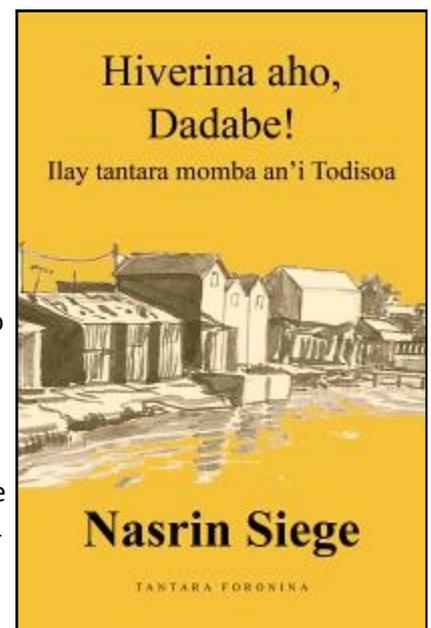
Manager of **Vakoka Vakiteny**

### ***Last finish for Todisoa***

In February we received the corrected manuscript of the book about Todisoa and we reworked the whole text. Now the manuscript has been reviewed twice by external proofreaders and is almost ready to be printed. There is only some work on the layout left. The title is "Hiverina aho, Dadabe", as the German version as well: "Ich kehre zurück, Dadabé" (I'm coming back, Grandfather).

The book has already been test read by several teenagers, most of them 14 to 15 years old. It was received very well by them, and according to the feed-back the book is well suited for this age group and beyond. In the meantime, Mrs Hanta has been to Antananarivo and negotiated with several printing houses. It seems like the choice has fallen on the Lutheran printing house that also before has printed Nasrin Siegf's books.

The aim is to be able to bring some printed copies of the book to Germany in summer. As for now we do not dare to hope too much, but we will do everything we can to achieve this. If not, at least the German version will be in our suitcase and we will show pictures and the manuscript of the Malagasy version.



Preliminary cover of the  
Malagasy version

## *Activities in Madagascar*

As in the second half of 2011, this first trimester has been full of activities in Madagascar. In February Vakoka Vakiteny participated in an exhibition at a school near Antsirabe. The arranger was 'Zap VI', a reunion of private and public schools in North-West Antsirabe. Zap VI celebrated 20 years anniversary and for this occasion gathered its 54 member schools. In total, 564 pupils visited the exhibition.

Mrs Hanta read aloud from some of the books and gave information. We also donated books to several schools and offered two days of teacher training about literature for interested teachers. The training was about the inclusion of literature in school but also about the importance of reading in the leisure time.

Furhter, Mrs Hanta had a meeting with Prediff, a library that recently also sells some of Vakoka Vakiteny's books. The director of Prediff is also head of the association for editors in francophone Africa and invited Vakoka Vakiteny to become a member. This might be a step towards international recognition of Vakoka Vakiteny.

On the 8th of March, the women's day Vakoka Vakiteny participated in the celebration. Vakoka Vakiteny was invited by museum Raketamanga, a museum about culture and literature. Here Mrs Hanta received some training about literature and she also participated in a workshop about future planning for Malagasy literature. In addition Vakoka Vakiteny was asked to make a permanent exhibition at the museum.



*Upper left:*  
Interested children at the exhibition

*Lower left:*  
Mrs Hanta is reading aloud from the book about Rebila, the flying rat.

*Lower right:*  
Mrs Hanta in the white T-shirt together with the deputy major on her left and the director for the Cisco (education district administration) and on his right the leader of Zap VI



## Arrangement in Baden-Baden this summer

We are extremely grateful for our supporters and sponsors in Germany. This time it is Mrs Wasserburger the owner of the bookstore Mäx und Moritz in Baden-Baden who is planning a big event supported by Mrs Schelshorn from the association. Mrs Wasserburger's bookstore was also host for the Vakoka Vakiteny team at two occasions in 2010 when we told about Madagascar and our work.

The arrangement will be on the 22nd of July at the Kulturhaus LA 8, Lichtentaler in Baden-Baden where there is a inner courtyard, perfect for an event like this. According to the information we have got there will be a buffet which is planned to contain Malagasy food. Further, we have been asked to say a few words about Vakoka Vakiteny, there will be readings and hopefully also Malagasy music. As we have heard, other associations are also asked to participate on this arrangement. More information will come in the summer newsletter.

We are very much looking forward to this event, and hopefully we will have the *Hiverina aho*, *Dadabe* with us. We will also try to get some handicraft and vanilla from Madagascar for selling. If someone who reads this knows of a person who will travel from Madagascar to Norway/ Germany before July and is able to spare some space in the suitcase for some items for Vakoka Vakiteny we would be most grateful.



## Planning for the next trimestre

In April we will make a tour to public and private schools in and around Antsirabe to promote Vakoka Vakiteny and the books. In addition an important goal will be to raise awareness about books and literature among students, parents and teachers. Schools that are particularly interested but have no financial means will be able to receive free copies of some of the books.



Further there will be a national book fair in Antananarivo where Mrs Hanta will participate on the behalf of Vakoka Vakiteny. Here she will again exhibit the books and try to attract writers and illustrators for future publications.

One orphan school in Antsirabe has applied for free books for their library. The school is a private primary school not charging tuition fees. We will as soon as possible visit the school and bring the books. The titles and number of the books are not yet decided.

## Vakoka Vakiteny printing shop?

As you may know, we are not always satisfied with the work the printing house is doing. After the printing of *Fantaro ny Nosintsika*, the geography book, we had to change printing house due to bad service and quality. However, we are not guaranteed better service and quality at other printing houses. On the other hand, one of our aims is to print the books in Madagascar and not in another country where it is cheaper (e.g. China). This is because we want to promote the Malagasy market, contribute to capacity building and local development and sustain the labour market.

(please see next page)

Therefore we are considering the idea of making our own small-scale printing house in Toliara. However, we are worried because of the big investments and also the lack of market for this kind of work in addition to low purchasing power in society. Still it would be interesting and beneficial for Vakoka Vakiteny if we would manage to do this. Therefore we are now discussing the issue to find out if it can work out, and how this can be implemented. In any case, it is good to know more about how the process of printing is conducted. One of the reasons why it is difficult to receive good quality from the printing houses in Antananarivo is that we have no expertise in this field and thus are not able to give advice on technical matters. Therefore Mparany will have a small training at a printing house in Bühl near Baden-Baden in summer. We are very grateful to Mr Willig who has arranged this.

The reason why we raise this issue in the newsletter is that some of our readers may have some knowledge in this field. We are happy for any comments or advice, especially concerning competence building, materials and equipment and strategy planning.

### ***'Toliara and the South-West of Madagascar'***



Dr. Klaus-Christian Küspert (picture) has now collected some of his vast knowledge about the area around Toliara in a 100 page trilingual book (English, German and French). With many pictures and informative texts he gives detailed and inside information about the city and the surroundings. A comprehensive introduction gives information about the whole South West of Madagascar and the appendix is a small synopsis about the island (geography, nature, languages, etc.).

The main content of the book is its bright pictures with easy and smooth captions of varying length that make Toliara alive in the reader's imagination. The book is divided into two parts, the first being about the very city of Toliara and covering diverse topics such as transport and trade, religion, food and gender issues. As for the second part, the surroundings of Toliara in the north, south and inland is covered with especial emphasis on nature and the culture of people. As a matter of fact the author is particularly knowledgeable about the tortoises living in this region. Further, the book even covers the very remote Mikoboka mountains east of Toliara.

What makes this book so special is first and foremost the author's unique familiarity about this area and the people living within it. It does moreover not paint an unnatural glossy picture of Toliara, but also discusses issues like the environmental challenges.

This book will be printed by Vakoka Vakiteny in Madagascar in the second half of 2012 and it will be financed privately by the author himself. We will try to make it available all over Madagascar and if possible also in Germany. Number of copies and price is not yet decided and we will continuously follow up with information about the process.

