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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 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 and content: Sophie and Mparany Rakotondrainy

# **Vakoka Vakiteny News**

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

For a long time there has been no news from us. As you know, Sophie and I are currently working in Ethiopia. However, Mrs. Hanta is still in Madagascar, working with full effort on distribution, trainings and public relations. So as you can see from this newsletter, there is a lot going on in Madagascar.

I will travel to Madagascar on a private trip at the end of April/beginning of May, and when I come to Antsirabe I will have a thorough meeting with Mrs. Hanta as well as SOS children's village Antsirabe (see page 3) and Leo Club (see page 4).

*Mparany Rakotondrainy*  
Manager of **Vakoka Vakiteny**

## ***Distribution Continues***

The distribution of books to schools and orphanages is continuing, and Mrs. Hanta also distributes books on public occasions and celebrations. Now almost all Tsingolanga and Sedram-piainana, the books that were printed last year, are distributed.



## *Vakoka Vakiteny's participation at Z'Ovy Festival*

On 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September the festival "Z'Ovy" was celebrated in Antsirabe. This festival is the first of its kind and is intended to be celebrated annually in the region of Vakinankaratra where Antsirabe is the centre. According to the news page [www.newsmada.com](http://www.newsmada.com), the main objective of the festival is to follow up the region's socio-economic situation with a particular focus on social issues and sports.

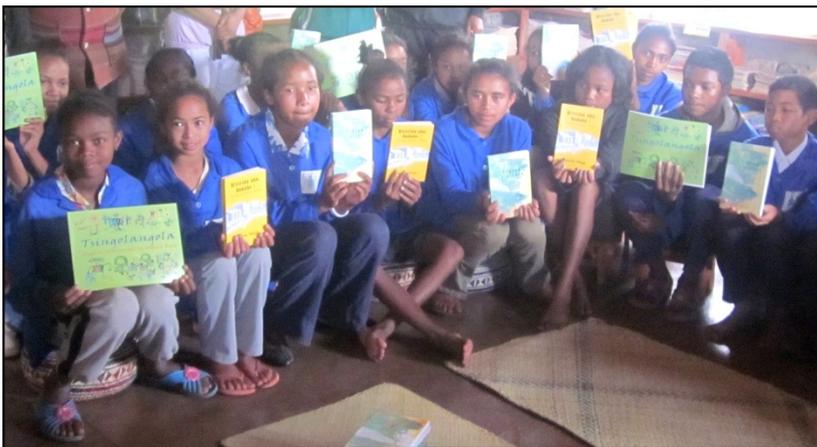
Vakoka Vakiteny represented by Mrs. Hanta participated in this festival with a stand where estimated 250 people passed by to read, talk and plan for future cooperation. Different projects and organisations which work with children and youth were interested in working together with Vakoka Vakiteny, such as for example SOS children's villages (see below). Also representatives from the government were present at the festival and several of them showed interest for our work.

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## *Celebration at SOS Children's Village*

On 19<sup>th</sup> February the SOS children's village in Antsirabe arranged a celebration for the children and invited Vakoka Vakiteny and other cultural and artistic organisations from Antsirabe to come and contribute. The TV station RTA was also present, and Mrs. Hanta gave an interview which was broadcasted on national news.

At this celebration, different artistic groups performed songs, poems, speeches and "vaky sova" (traditional song accompanied by "kabosy", a homemade guitar, and clapping). Hanta was invited to present Vakoka Vakiteny and tell about the importance of reading. Afterwards, she handed over books to the children's village and encouraged the children and the educators to use them regularly. The contribution of Vakoka Vakiteny was highly appreciated by both the children as well as the administration of SOS children's village.



Above: Some of the children from the SOS children's village with the books they had received.



Right: The handing over of the books was a nice ceremony where representatives from the SOS children's village received their books from Mrs. Hanta in front of the whole audience.

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## Poet Dox' 100th Birthday anniversary



Dox (1913 - 1978)  
Photo: Wikipedia

In December the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of the famous Malagasy poet Dox (birth name: Jean Verdi Salomon Razakandriany) was celebrated at *Hotel des Thermes* in Antsirabe. For this occasion, Vakoka Vakiteny was invited and Mrs. Hanta presented our books and arranged games with books as prize for the winners. Other organizations, associations, companies and bookstores were also invited, and the occasion was arranged by the Ministry of Handicraft, Arts and Literature.

Dox is one of the most famous Malagasy writers who in addition to numerous novels, poems and plays also produced other art such as painting and music. His works have to a great extent contributed to the Malagasy history of literature. He died in 1978 in Antananarivo, but was originally from a village around Antsirabe.



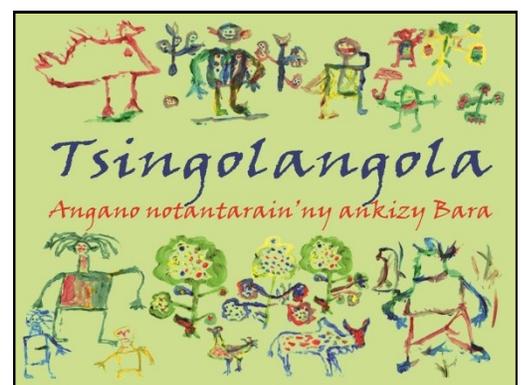
From the left: Hanta together with Eli Solomon Ramasindraibe, Dox' son; Edmond Ralaidimby, leader of culture and literature; and Rovaniaina Vonampitiavana, president of the regional association for literature, at the monument of the poet Dox, placed close to the People's House in



As an appreciation, Vakoka Vakiteny and some other organizations present at the event received a diploma from the National Association of Arts and Literature that is placed under the Ministry of Handicrafts, Arts and Literature.

## The Most Popular Books

Mrs. Hanta has kept statistics on which books are most interesting among the children and adults who visit stands and exhibitions by Vakoka Vakiteny. Not surprisingly Tsingolangola, the Bara fairytales with its bright pictures painted by children was the most desired. However, Fantaro ny Nosintsika, our geography book was equally often taken up to be read. Also the other books were often read and both children and adults seemed really to enjoy all the books.



## *Our Books Become Theater Plays*

The students at the private universities in Antsirabe have together formed a nonprofit club called Leo Club and they have newly started a fruitful cooperation with Vakoka Vakiteny. After having heard of our books they requested some copies of children's books from us. Although we gladly provided them, we did not know exactly what they would use them for. It was therefore a great surprise when it turned out that they, on the basis of some of the stories, had made children's theater plays they intend to perform at schools!



The director of the orphanage Henintsoa receives books from Vakoka Vakiteny in the presence of the students from the Leo Club (right in the picture) and the residents of the orphanage.

On 21<sup>st</sup> February Mrs. Hanta visited the orphanage Henintsoa together with Leo Club. There, the students from the club performed three plays: Rebila, Dadanaivo and Dangaligny, to the great joy and amusement of the children who loved the plays. After the plays Mrs. Hanta distributed these books to the orphanage, and we are sure that the children are going to read the books very often, and those who cannot read will remember the plays and be able to retell the stories from the pictures.

In March, Leo Club together with Lion's Club Antsirabe arranged a trip to Ambositra, a town 80 km from Antsirabe and Mrs. Hanta was invited to join. Here they visited several public schools in the surroundings of the town. Leo Club distributed stationary articles and Vakoka Vakiteny had the pleasure to distribute library sets of Tsingolanga and other books.



The children in Ambositra public primary school together with the banner of Leo Club and Mrs. Hanta (right in the white T-shirt).

## Letter from 8 year old Laurie

On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014, Laurie Tovanirina (8) sent Vakoka Vakiteny a letter and pictures she had painted as gratitude for having received Tsingolangola, the Bara fairy-tale book at her school.

Laurie is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Mahazoarivo public school in Antsirabe, and because of her good performance (second in class), her teacher gave her one book from the school library which previously had been donated by Vakoka Vakiteny.



Amia. 8 oktobra 2014  
 Izaho Laurie dia faly manelika  
 ary aty aminareo, nahazo  
 faha 2 ahodina nahazo boky  
 Tsingolangola  
 tovanirina Laurie



Laurie writes:

*I, Laurie, am happy to send pictures to you because I became second and received a Tsingolangola book.*



## Annual Meeting of the Association

On 20<sup>th</sup> July, the Association for School and Children's Books in Madagascar had its annual meeting at vice chairperson Christel Schelshorn's home in Baden-Baden, Germany. Mparany and Sophie from Vakoka Vakiteny were invited although they are not regular members. They were delighted to present their work during the last year.

The support of the association has again made it possible to print books: This time we could present *Tsingolangola*, the Bara fairytales, and *Sedram-piainana*, the autobiography of Voninirina Rakotoson. The print of *Tsingolangola* had been generously supported by the Endress + Hauser Company, Maulburg and the association Eine-Welt-Verein Keniahilfe e.V., Bühl.



Above: Mparany hands over the book *Tsingolangola* to Mr. Hansjörg Willig, the chair person of the association Eine-Welt-Verein Keniahilfe who donated a generous amount of money for the print and distribution of this book! Thank you!



Left: The annual meeting started with drinking coffee, eating cake and a lively conversation.

Left bottom: The members of the association. Not present: Renate Maindok, Franziska Kienzler, Anna-Lena Kienzler and Wiebke Matthei.



Sophie presents the content of *Tsingolangola*