

Dear friends of Vakoka Vakiteny

I had a long and exiting journey to very remote areas of Madagascar the middle of April to the beginning of May. Madagascar's landscape is always interesting but unfortunately, much of the original vegetation has disappeared. The nature in Madagascar is very unique; most of us know that many of the plants and reptiles are found only on this island. My journey was wonderful as we were able to visit the Mangoky River in Western Madagascar - one of the most beautiful areas I have ever seen.

During my stay, Klaus and Hubert joined me. We visited some of the schools (Mahazorivo in Antsirabe and Andranomena in Toliara) who have been co-operating with Vakoka Vakiteny for many years. It is always interesting to visit school. The children and teachers opened their door for us guests and prepared surprises, as you will see in this newsletter.

The news regarding our family is that the children, Sophie and I are moving to Germany this summer. Sophie will start a new job in Stuttgart and I will still continue in the same organization before but based in Germany. We are really looking forward to this change and being closer to the association in Southern Germany!

Best wishes,

Mparany Rakotondrainy

Manager of **Vafoha Vakiteny**



The small town of Ambohimambola

Big surprise from the children in Mahazoarivo

Last year, Vakoka Vakiteny built our first library with the support of the Association. It was a huge success and the children in Mahazoarivo are full of joy and happiness because they got the library and the chance to read books also in the weekends and holidays.



After our latest book «Stay with me» (Mijanona aty amiko) was published, the library got a new painting on the wall - the bunny Bozy pushing the turtle Fredy on the swing. In the nice weather, the children like sitting in the garden and reading. There are so many children coming to the library that the teachers and the volunteer parents have their hands full to keep them all organised.

The library in Mahazoarivo is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It's always full and full of excitement too. The library is small but it's really giving happiness and joy. It's not only for the students in Mahazoarivo but for some students from secondary school and other kids in the neighbourhood and visiting children. Hanta is creating membership cards so that students from around Mahazoarivo can have a chance to go in and read during their free time.

Some of the teachers in Mahazoarivo too come in before the school starts to borrow library books to use in class.

When we visited, the children performed a play with the story of the rat Rebila who wants to fly with his friend, the kingfisher Rikibitiky, Rebila's failed attempts to do so and his final victory with the help of the big bird Hitsikitsika. It was a very entertaining play and the kids showed a lot of creativity in their performance.



In the upper picture, Rebila is finally flying in a basket together with Hitsikitsika.

The other pictures show children and teacher enjoying a read in the library.



The regional education office director came to greet the guest from the association in Germany when they visited Mahazoarivo, Klaus and Hubert. He thanked them for the great cooperation and said that he was looking forward for more collaboration in the future. He also mentioned that the work the association and Vakoka Vakiteny are doing is playing a great role for the future of education and the children in Antsirabe.



Top: Mme Niny, Hanta, Mparany, Klaus, Chef Cisco, Hubert and the school director

Bottom: Children at Mahazoarivo 2



A dream to read books at the new library

Many students from the secondary school in Mahazoarivo, which is located close to the library have for a long time dreamt about being able to read books in the library. They pass the library every day, but were afraid to ask if they could enter. In the end, the children Avotra and Tahina, both 11 years old, met Hanta at the gate of the school in Mahazoarivo and asked her if they could come in. They told us this:



Avotra: « Our new school is not far from here. Now we leave home 20 minutes earlier than usual the afternoons to come to the library before we go to school. We are trying to get the chance to read books. Ms Hanta told us that we can come at any time when the library open. I'm so happy! I always wanted to have the chance to read books. I love books but we don't have any in our school. Books give me the joy and of course more knowledge. For example, the geography and environment book *Fantaro ny Nosintsika* has give me the opportunity to learn more about the uniqueness of Madagascar.»

Tahina: «We graduated from Mahazoriavo primary school two years ago. Our previous teacher told us that Vakoka Vakiteny has built a library. Therefore, we had a big dream to come and read books. I love books, but we don't have many at home. I got some from Vakoka Vakiteny when I went to Mahazoarivo primary school, like Rebila and Takoboka. When we went to grade 6, we lost this chance. Therefore, I am so happy for the library. Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday when the library open, we come here. Thanks to Vakoka Vakiteny because this going to help us a lot and it gives us so much joy!»



New library in Ambohimananambola

When Klaus I were in Madagascar last year, we went to visit the school in Ambohimananambola where we will build our second library. The director, Ny Avana, told me that the teachers and parents had a meeting in early May to decide about where to put the library on the compound of the school, what is the participation from the parents will be and when to start the building.

Harvesting time and most of the work on the farmland are finished now, so the parents are eager to start building of the library. Since 16 May, 105 parents already brought their participation, which is either sand or, if they cannot bring sand, an amount of money equal to the value of the sand. Some already transported stones and the rest of the bricks to the area where the library will be built.

On the pictures you can see Ny Avana at the place where there soon will be a library, and the bricks that are already waiting in the compound for the construction to start.



On 20 May, the school in Ambohimananambola started the building with the symbolic laying of the cornerstone. The library is very important for the community in Ambohimananambola. When Ny Avana called for this work, 150 people came to help. Hanta was joining the event too, together with the media, different government workers from the municipality of Ambohimananambola.

The national television sent a news report which you can see [here](#) (in Malagasy language). It is a great honour that the national media covered this event, and everyone in Ambohimananambola was very proud.

Parents, teachers and children in Ambohimananambola are excited about this new opportunity. The school was built in 1983, but it has gotten very little attention from the government, and no NGOs have ever come to support them. Books and libraries are crucial for the development of the knowledge of children, but most of the people have never seen a library before. Therefore, the people in Ambohimananambola sent a big thanks to Vakoka Vakiteny and the association in Germany.



Top left: Hanta together with government representatives

Top right: Representatives of the municipality putting the first stone with Hanta

Different Events

In Madagascar the month of April is the month for celebrating different events, especially for literature and creativity. Therefore, in the middle of April, Vakoka Vakiteny was invited by the regional government to join the "Zon'ny mpamorina" ("rights of creators") event. Hanta went and represented Vakoka Vakiteny together with different artists and authors from Antsirabe and Antananarivo. The celebration took place at the cultural centre in Antsirabe. During the ceremony, Hanta was interviewed by the national television about the work of Vakoka Vakiteny and the importance of the joy of reading.





Klaus and Hubert also went to Toliara where they distributed books at the school of Andranomena. The children were very happy to receive the guests and were excited to read the book of Bonenitra II after they had already received Bonenitra I last year.



Mparany
Rakotondrainy
Manager/ Editor



Sophie Küspert-
Rakotondrainy
Public Relations/
Editor



Hanta
Rakotondrainy
Book
distribution/
Trainings

About *Vaĥoĥa Vaĥiteny*

Vaĥoĥa Vaĥiteny has since 2008

- ... published 18 titles
- ... distributed 32,000 books
- ... encouraged thousands of children to read
- ... introduced reading in hundreds of schools
- ... strengthened the Malagasy language
- ... promoted Malagasy authors and artists
- ... participated in many cultural events
- ... supported the Malagasy natural environment through books and campaigns

Address:

Edition *Vaĥoĥa Vaĥiteny*

Publishing Company

B.P. 453

Toliara 601

MADAGASCAR

+261(0)349069769

vakoka.vakiteny@gmail.com

www.vakiteny.org