

Dear friends of Vakoka Vakiteny

We are now in the second month of the year, and we hope that 2022 has been good for everyone so far!



Madagascar is slowly trying to recover from the various disasters that have battled the people over the last year, but as you can see below, a terrible cyclone hit the island last week. Unfortunately, a new cyclone is just about to strike again.

There are still only few airlines flying to Madagascar and there are no flights from the African mainland to any Malagasy airport. We hope that this situation will change soon, not only because we cannot visit our friends and family, but because the economy of Madagascar is suffering due to the low number of tourists.

Fortunately, the work of Vakoka Vakiteny is continuing as normal. Ms Hanta and her family, who live in the highland, have not been affected by the cyclone.

Best wishes,

Mparany Rakotondrainy

Situation in Madagascar

Like many countries around the world, Madagascar is still affected by the pandemic. The government reported on 5th of February that there had been 2,115 new cases and 33 deaths per day. 926 543 people, around 3 % of the total population, are full vaccinated.

In addition to the pandemic, Cyclone Batsirai also hit Madagascar. The cyclone brought strong winds and rain, devastating the east coast of Madagascar the worst. More than 100 people have died and nearly 70,000 have been made homeless



Vangaindrano east cost of Madagascar. Picture from Gazetiko newspaper.

Come stay with me

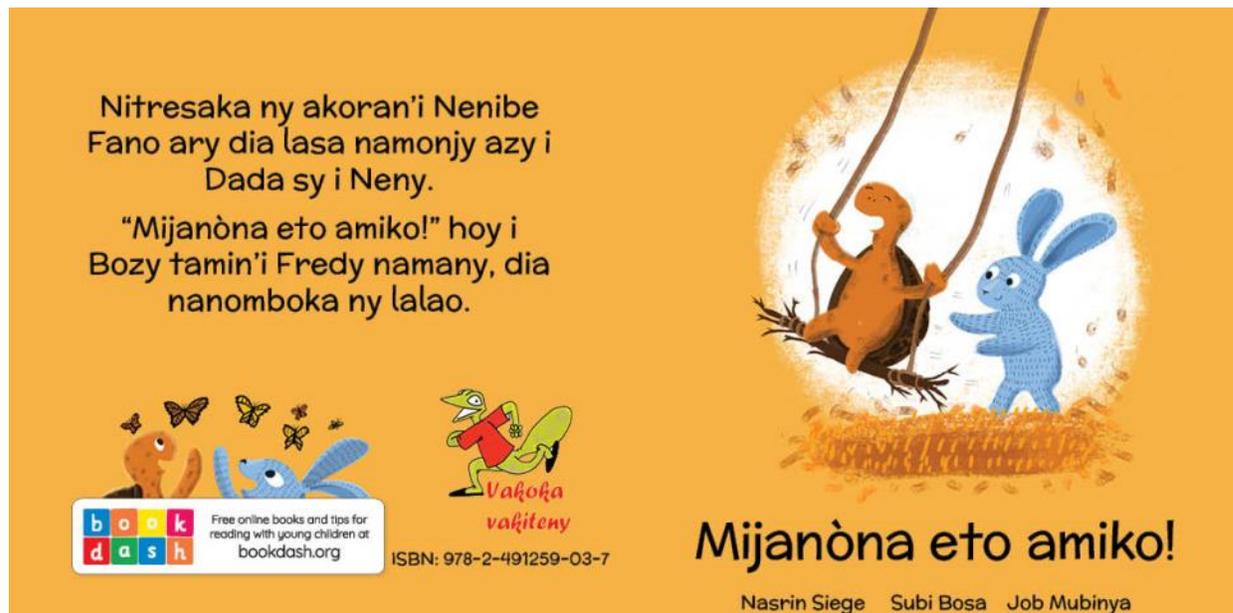
Vakoka Vakiteny has unexpectedly been able to start a cooperation with a South African publisher called Book Dash. Book Dash is a not-for-profit social impact publisher of cheap but high-quality African picture books for young children. Their vision is that "Every child should own a hundred books by the age of five".

It was Nasrin Siegf, the author of '*Hiverina aho, Dadabe!*' who made us aware of a book she had written in cooperation with Book Dash, called 'Come, stay with me'. Since the main goal of Book Dash is to make as many books available to as many children as possible, Vakoka Vakiteny could download print template for the book for free and translate it to Malagasy. The same book has also been translated to Xhosa and Zulu languages.

The book tells a simple story for young readers about the turtle Fredy and its friend, the bunny Bozy.

We have now finished translation and editing of the manuscript and will print 1000 copies in Antsirabe. Since the book has a simple format and binding, we do not have to use the big printing houses in Antananarivo. In the next newsletter, we hope to have news about the distribution of this book.

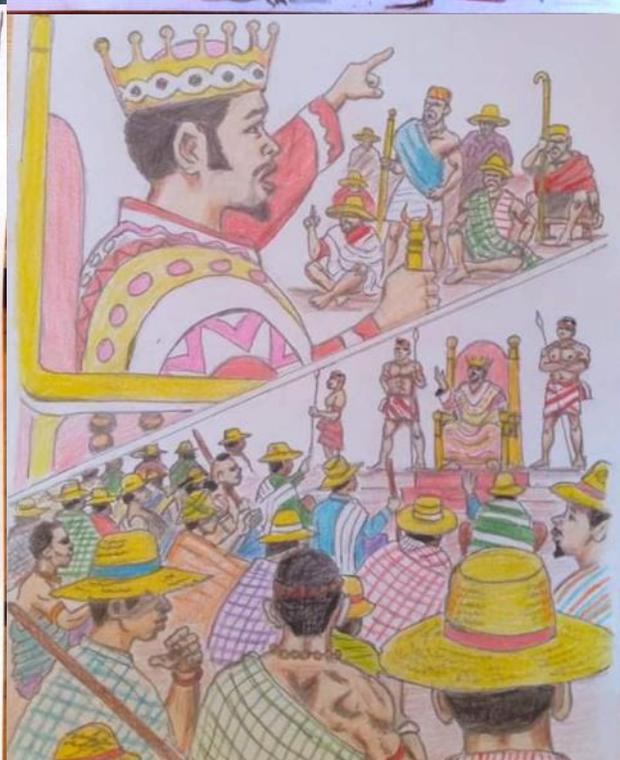
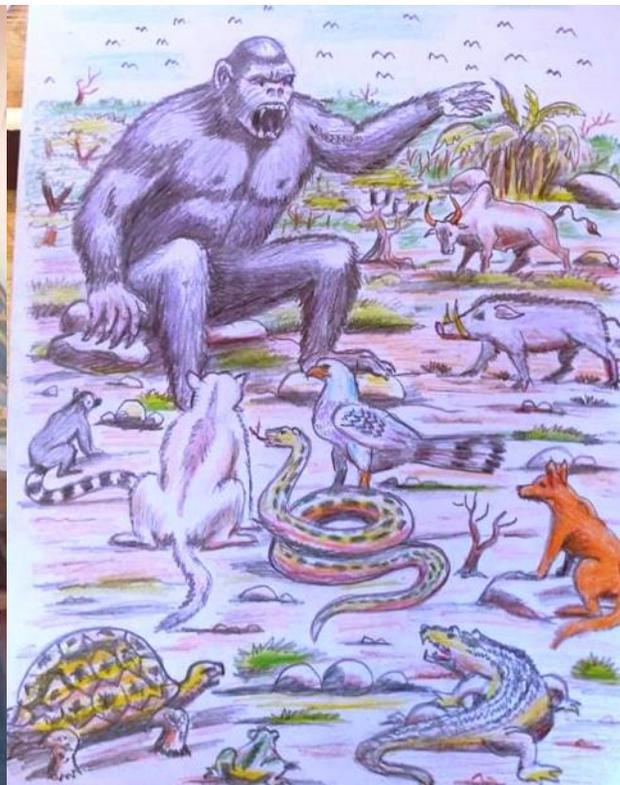
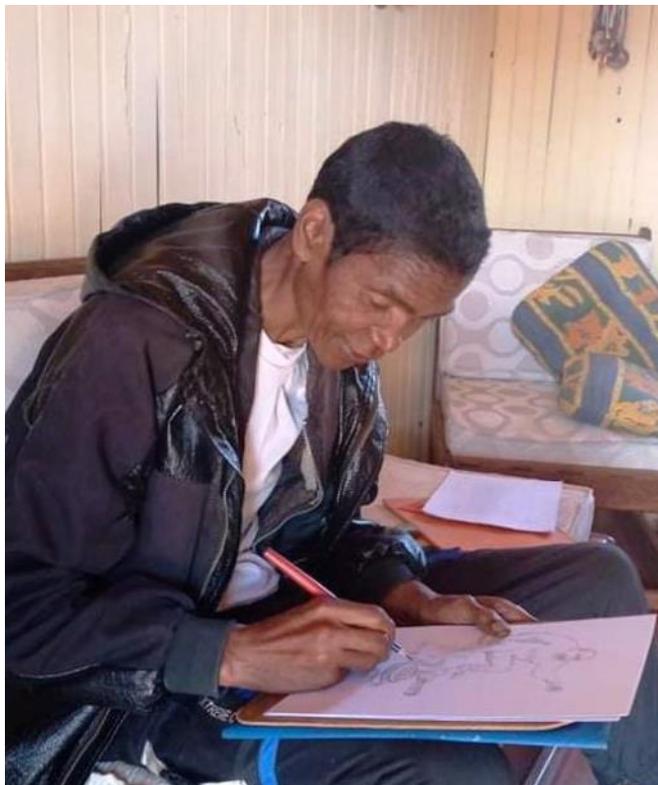
For more information: www.bookdash.org



Bonenitra's journey to Marovoaloina

After the success of the first book of Bonenitra, Pascal has now written a sequel about the young prince and his adventures. This book has even more surprising turns, as Bonenitra once again needs to save his family and the entire village from the monster. He is brave and unafraid and, of course, manages to save everyone. In the end, even the monster becomes his friend.

By now, the text has been sent to several proof-readers. In the meanwhile, Rakoto, the artist who made the pictures for the first book, also illustrates Bonenitra II with his beautiful and colourful illustrations. After all proofreading is finished and the pictures are ready, Mparany will work on the editing. We will have to make a cooperation agreement with a new printing house since we were not satisfied with the work of the previous printery, which we used for Bonenitra I.



Orphanage in Ambatolampy

For many years, Madagascar's national police has operated an orphanage for children in the highland town of Ambatolampy, between Antsirabe and Antananarivo. The orphanage receives the children of police officers who lost their lives in their service. Currently, there are 200 children at this institution. They attend public school, but the orphanage also has a library where the children are spending much of their free time. Unfortunately, this library has few books.

Actually, the head of the orphanage saw the news about Vakoka Vakiteny on television. This was a documentary about the laying of the foundation stone for the library in Mahazoarivo. Immediately, he called Hanta and asked her if she was willing to help the children. We were of course happy to equip the library with some new books and Hanta also trained all the responsible people at the orphanage in using them when they invited her to come to distribute the books.



Picture of the front gate of the orphanage in Ambatolampy (Source: facebook)



During the distribution of books in Ambatolampy

News about the Library in Mahazoarivo

The work with building a library at the school in Mahazoarivo is continuing. However, it has slowed down a bit due to administrative issues. Since all prices are rising rapidly in Madagascar, the cost of the construction materials became considerably higher than previously expected. Therefore, the Parent Teacher Association organised a fund-raising event to collect some extra money in addition to the donation they had received from Vakoka Vakiteny on behalf of the Association Madagascar School- and Children's Books in Germany. The parents have managed to collect some money, but could not yet secure enough funds for the final finish, some of the painting, the window and the doors of the library.

The regional government has promised that they will donate books to the new library in March and we hope that everything will be ready until that time.



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Vakoka Vakiteny has since 2008

- ... published 17 titles
- ... distributed 30,500 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