AKAMASOA HUMANITAIRIAN AID ORGANIZATION

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*Dear Friends!*

*It is never easy to report on the year past, to you who entrust us and help us pursue the work of AKAMASOA on behalf of thousands of Malagasy’s families and children. We are not isolated; we suffer from all the negative consequences of those who are leading the country. Nonetheless we want, every year, to tell* ***the truth as we see it from the lowest level****, where are living thousands of people forgotten by their leaders and left on their own. To who has eyes and some spirit and humanity this desistance is taking scandalous proportions.*

*It is also for us the occasion to take a step back and* ***look for the true solutions to the evils which create injustice and despair within the citizens****, and more generally,* ***to what prevents the country from taking off*** *as its people are wishing for, to finally take off from poverty towards a fairer life, a more human world whom would make people feel the need to surpass themselves and prepare a brighter future for the children we gave birth to.*

*Looking back at 2015, and at AKAMASOA only, we can see that* ***we continue to move forward****. Our school and medical building being several stories high, each year the new constructions make* ***look like a city what was formerly a small hamlet****.*

*But we must constantly* ***strengthen the mutual aid****, what we call* **Fihavanana** *in Madagascar, the mutual aid of all neighbors and villagers, a value which is nowadays strongly attacked by the easy life of the capital city, the individualistic mentality of the every man for himself and the indifference toward common good, real diseases which are eating up all levels of the society. If at AKAMASOA we have been able to resurge, to get up and to stand up, it is thanks to this mutual aid, to friendship and solidarity, thanks to this spirit of community that we have spread since the very beginning of our work 26 years ago.*

*Amongst the persons responsible for the loss of* ***these ancestral values*** *are some of the artists and singers of today who are demobilizing the youths. An entire climate which produced a defection of the asam-pokonolona (work for the common good): we have to threaten people with the loss of the benefits of the community, when in the old days they would come by conviction and for the love of their town and their homeland. And the higher we are in the social scale, the greatest the insouciance.* ***The ancestral web and the millennial culture******that trained populations, that united tribes, are now dissolving****. Already, parents do not dare to give advice to their children; the same goes for educators; politicians remain voiceless in front of the social degradation of their towns. No one dares to speak up in the defense of the common good, the good of the community, the good of everybody.*

*This* ***fear to be committed, to denounce, to tell the truth****, is a fact. We are asking ourselves: but who will dare to speak up? We ask ourselves and we wait. And in the mean time things keep degrading. We see everywhere the dirt and the garbage pilling up; clogged gutters that no one is cleaning up; cheap restaurants opening up everywhere, with no permit whatsoever, and selling, even if the seller suffers from tuberculosis; grocers not hesitating to break up the sidewalk to build a stair for people to reach their shop faster, and without minding the sidewalk. It means that individuals think they are in their own right, and do not have any duty for the community.*

*With no clear objectives, the persons responsible for the towns do not state what they want to do with their town, which city they want to create, which values they want to promote: towns are moving forward by feeling, without any direction.* ***People do not know where to go****.*

***It is time for it to stop****. It is time for the State, starting from the lowest level, with the council members, to clear up the way and to demand a minimum of citizenly behavior, a minimum of respect for the common good. It is necessary for these individual voices, which are pursuing their own interests only, to be publicly countered, even to be denounced to the face of the law. A great deal of courage from citizens who love their country and their village will be necessary for that to happen. And* ***we must help these persons to dare more, because there is more of them that we may think, but they are usually small, and voiceless****, they do not dare to show up and publicly denounce the exactions of some thieves, of some people who have no qualms about it and who take advantage of the position they have rise to, with the excuse of serving, and who are actually exploiting their own people.*

*But because everything is not completely negative -the proof is that families, parents, youths, children, are striving, want to live to an ideal and respect the truth, which is the basis for their commitment-, we now want to give you some information on the work that has been made for the good of the most humble social class of this country.*

**2015 Realizations:**

**Buildings**: 103 houses in Antananarivo – Extension of the Welcome Center – 29 wood houses in Ampasika – 1 meeting room, 10 toilets and showers, 1 water tank for the sport center of Bemasoandro – 1 directors’ office and 1 teachers’ room at the Safata high school – 1 small market place in Safata – 2 water tanks in Antolojanahary – A hundred of privy – 1 waste collector for recycling; **Roads**: construction of paved roads (with gutters): 300 m/l at Bemasoandjo, 300 m/l at Mangarivotra, 400 m/l at Mahatsara – **Tarring**: school yard of the Manantenasoa high school (467 sqm), 2 fields in Andralanitra, the road of Bemasoandro, basketball and volleyball fields in Bemasoandro, the road of Antaninarenina (455 sqm), the car park of the Manantenasoa church (73 sqm); **Arrangements**: ESP fence at Tolotra – retaining wall in Mangarivotra and the hike to Bemansoandro; **Refurbishment**: coating of 66 houses in Antananarivo - kitchen of the Welcome Center – the school of Antolojanahary; **Reforestation**: 15,000 trees planted in Antolojanahary; **Manufacturing**: 550 table-benches for the schools – 100 beds for the Welcome Center – **Welcome Center**: 44,177 people came by our Center (6,000 more than in 2014).

**Projects and Forecast for 2016:**

**Buildings:** 100 houses in Andralanitra, Mahatsara, Manantenasoa, Ambohimalaza – 2 Primary Schools : Mahatsara and Andralanitra – 2 Maternity wards : Morondava and Manantenasoa – 100 privy and showers in Ambaniala, Ankadiefajoro and Tsaramasoandro – Sport fields for mini soccer and basketball for the youth in Tsaramasoandro, Cité Akamasoa, Manantenasoa, Lovasoa – 5 communal washing places and 5 waste containers in Lovasoa, Mahatazana, Bemasoandro – 1 high school in the center of the country and 1 secondary school in Ampitafa – **Finishing**: Primary School of Mahatazana, high school of Mahatsinjo and Andralanitra – Welcome House in Ranomafana and directors’ office- teachers’ room in Safata- **Roads and walls**: paved road of 1,000 meters – Tarring at Bemasoandro, Andralanitra – Several retaining walls in Lovasoa, Mahatazana – **Water**: concrete work on a waterway in Lovasoa – 4 water tanks of 62m3 –water conveyance and water points in Lovasoa, Bemasoandro, Mangarivotra, Mahatsara et Antolojanahary – **Reforestation**: 20,000 trees to be planted in Antolojanahary and Ambohimalaza – **Electrification** of the Antaninarenina, Ambaniala and Manantenasoa’s villages – **Manufacturing** of 1,000 table-benches for our schools – Painting work on the Andralanitra, Mahatsara and Mahatsinjo’s schools – **Coating** of 150 houses in Andralanitra, Ambaniala, Mahatsara – **Capacity increase** for the Welcome Center of Mangarivotra: building of stories + 20 privy and showers for the new comers.

*We are tackling the New Year with a new fighting spirit, in order to correct the deviations from one’s word and restore the* ***trust*** *that we created at AKAMASOA, and who, more than the financial help we receive, is* ***the driving force behind our development and our progress.***

*We will continue to promote creativity amongst the youth, so that everyone could, wherever he lives, be the leader of his own future. We are aware of the gigantic richness embedded in the ca. 13,000 children schooled at AKAMASOA. But for this richness to bear fruits it must be cleverly directed, to allow the mind to exteriorize itself, share and spread its inventiveness in human relations as well as in culture, art, know-how and manners. There is the role of educators.*

*We must also* ***lift up this climate of gloominess and pessimism*** *which would invade even our families,* ***fight the diseases*** *which are spreading in the poorest villages. We must* ***reinstate a civic sense****, whose lack thereof is flagrant in fields as diverse as car traffic -accident are related daily by newspapers- or community work (*asam-pokonolona*). For the latter, we must* ***re-establish partnerships*** *and mutual needs amongst people, reprimand theft, swindling, everything likely to break up harmony and bonds. Partnership, at the highest as well as at the lowest level, must be based on mutual respect, truth, honesty; it is the only way we could forecast a rapid development of the society and of all the poorest districts.*

*We must also make a greater effort regarding* ***social protection****, for women alone with numerous children, elder people and handicapped people, which today, are totally inexistent. Without social protection it is impossible to create a fair society, which respects itself and want to progress.*

***Time bombs*** *are brewing in several fields:* ***thousands of young people are without jobs;*** *the constant increase in* ***armed robbery*** *by organized groups; the youth have no objective in their life and do not hesitate to rob and kill their fellow countrymen, which was unimaginable only 40 years ago. The State, its police force, with the help of the* Fokonolona*, must work on creating social peace, so that we can breathe and live normally. Social instability has become an obstacle to the coming of external investors. The poorest districts and lots of villages* ***are lacking drinkable water, public lights and visibility****, which help villains to strike;* ***the farmers are missing support****: since the Independence, they are fighting alone against hell and high water so that they can simply be and sell some of their production, which they also need themselves to survive. They however account for more than 70% of active population. A massive help should be granted to them.*

*The local elections of the past year bring new hopes. May the* ***divine and ancestral wisdom*** *illuminate the newly elected leaders so that they finally engage themselves amongst and with their citizens and show a true will to change the old habits of the profiteers, by putting together objectives which favor the public good.* ***Let the people know that we are taking care of them and we are really moving forward****. Let them see tangible realizations.*

*We would especially like to give the example at AKAMASOA that* ***all the community work must be made through the shortest and the quickest way possible****, because the poor are tired of waiting, they need to see the work that is being made in their favor. That is why, at AKAMASOA at least, we will fight all the useless paperwork which is slowing down development and progress. Because the goal is always to come out of extreme poverty, and not to create new folders which will be piled up within useless archive rooms, stacked in drawers and eventually only become cemeteries for great promises.*

***We will start 2016 with lots of hope, strength, joy and optimism,*** *because we believe it is the only way for us to fight the poverty which tries every single year to overwhelm us through the sloppiness and the hell of the waste and the each man for himself. It is only by being* ***together, as a Movement of Action and Solidarity****, with tangible works realized immediately, that we will put the population back on its feet, make it trust itself again, give it the courage and the desire to sacrifice itself for its own children, for its family and for its Homeland.*

*Thanks to you all who have been accompanying us for the past 26 years, may this oasis of hope that we have built from scratch with the Malagasy youth keep going and existing and* ***shout out that justice is possible, that a more fraternal world is possible, and that peace, too, is possible****.*

*Thanks for staying with us through this local and universal fight.*

*Merry Christmas and happy New Year 2016!*

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