

FLAGS OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND MOVEMENTS IN MADAGASCAR FROM THE COLONIZATION UNTIL INDEPENDENCE

Lucien Philippe

The island of Madagascar became a French Colony by the law dated August 6, 1896. On September 28, General Gallieni, Commandant of the Occupation Corps was appointed Governor General. In 1897 he appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Lyautey and put him in charge of the pacification and the organization of the Nord-West region (1897-1900), promoted Colonel on January 6, 1900 Lyautey was, later, appointed to Superior Commandant of the South region.

It is important to remember the population of the South were always hostiles to the power of the Merina monarchy of Tananarive.

The Menalamba movement developed from 1896 and Colonel Lyautey managed to pacify the region and stayed at his post until 1902 when the South of Madagascar returned to civilian rule

1) The MENALAMBA movement

It means "dressed with red clothes" because the insurgents took a red bandeau as a rallying sign. They also used red flags with a black assegai (fig. 1). Red symbolized the love of the homeland, the struggle for freedom and the independence of Madagascar. The assegai was a weapon used against the French settlers. It symbolized the resistance. The movement was founded on March 2, 1896. It is a Sakalavan, Rabezavana who managed the Western region. The movement expended in the South of the island under the direction of Rabezaka and in the South-East under the direction of Rainibeksimisaraka native of Antsirabe. The rebels attacked the settlers, the religious communities, their priests, pastors and missionaries (French Catholics and English Protestants). Colonel Lyautey and his troops fought against them. The insurrection was virtually defeated on May 25, 1898 and only a few pockets of resistance remained until 1905..



(fig. 1)



(fig. 2)

2) The SADIVAHY movement

That expression meant in Antandroy language: "cling to" "resist" "hold out". This movement was founded in Tuléar in 1910 to regroup the peoples of the South (Antandroy, Mahafaly, Bara,...). Its flag was divided crosswise in two colours, at the top, violet, for the freedom of the peoples of the South and red at the bottom for the freedom and the independence of Madagascar (fig. 2). Its activity lasted until 1915.

3) The VYVATO SAKELINA movement

VVS meant "Iron, Stone, Resistance". It was a secret society located at the end of 1815 at the medicine school of Tananarive. . It was founded by pastor Ravelojaona. It was composed of students, teachers, and a few employees and countrymen. Their rallying symbol was a red flag with the letters VVS in black (fig. 3). The red symbolized the freedom and the independence, the human rights and the equality. In 1920 the movement grew through the impetus given by a Betsileo teacher, Jean Ralaimongo who claimed the independence in 1929. On May 29, 1929 a great demonstration was organized to support him. It provoked the disbanding of the VVS.



(fig. 3)



(fig. 4)

4) The MALAGASY NATIONALIST PARTY (*Parti Nationaliste Malgache / PANAMA*)

It was founded at the end of 1942. Its chief Ravelotahiana was killed in 1946. Its flag was divided diagonally, at the top, green symbolizing the island of Madagascar, at the bottom, red for the struggle and the freedom (fig 4). It participated in the revolt which broke out on March 29 1947. It was dissolved by a decree of May 30, 1947.

5) YOUTH for NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE (*Jeunesses pour l'Indépendance Nationale / JINA*)

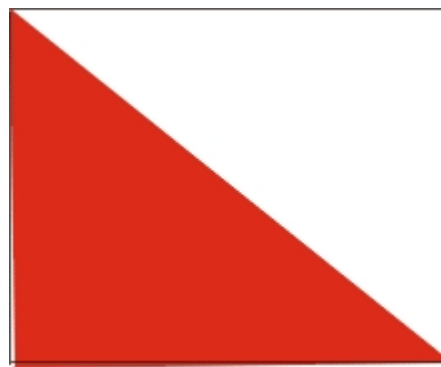
The movement was founded on July 22, 1944 at Manakora (Fianarantsoa) by Monja Jaena. Its flag was violet, the independence colour in the South of the island. It wore two crossed red assegais symbolizing the struggle (fig.5). That movement expanded to the Southern and South-Eastern regions. It participated in the revolt of March 29, 1947. It was dissolved by a decree of May 30, 1947.

6) DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT for MALAGASY RENOVATION (*Mouvement Démocratique de la Rénovation Malgache / MDRM*)

The statutes of this party were registered in Paris at the Ministry of Overseas France, on January 27, 1946. The receipt of registration was delivered on February 11, 1946. Its founders were Dr Joseph Raseta and Jacques Ralemananjara. The flag was divided diagonally, red and white (fig. 6). It was the Royal Merina colours but it also had other meanings, red for the Red island (Madagascar), white for a healthy population or red for the blood, spilled for the struggle and independence, white for the freedom and the independence. Its goal was to provide in all matters the triumph of the Malagasy renovation (the genius specific to the race, the social democracy, the equality between all Malagasy, the defence of the poor classes and of workers against the foreign capitalism). Starting from the Central region of the Merinas it spread through the island and has had around 200,000 members. It participated in the revolt of March 29, 1947 and was dissolved on May 30, 1947 by a decree.



(fig. 5)



(fig. 6)

7) PARTY of the UNDERPRIVILEGED of MADAGASCAR (*Parti des Déshérités de Madagascar / PADESM*)

The first meeting of representatives of the "Coast-men" (Tanindrana and people of the provinces), of former slaves (Maintyenindreny), and of the black Hovas (Hovamountry) was organized on June 27, 1946 to draft the PADESM statutes. The first general assembly of June 29 established the foundation of the party. On July 1, 1946 they registered the legal statutes at the office of the governor of Madagascar. This loyalist party was supported by the French authorities. Its goal was to fight against a possibility for the "Hova Andriana" oligarchy to come to power again. It wanted to develop the cultural and social standard of the "underprivileged" to help them to participate in power. In some regions it organized active sections but it was not as important as the MDRM. The legal statutes of the newspaper "Voromahery" (Eagle), the voice of the party, were registered on July 25, 1946. Mr Ramambason was the general secretary, Mr Totolemibe Félix and Zafimahova Antoine were the assistant secretaries. Tsiranana Philibert, later the first President of the Republic, and Rakotovo Joseph were two of its distinguished members.

The first party's flag was red with a black eagle (Voromahery), the "strong bird" symbolizing the strength of the black people, and the letters PADESM, in black (fig. 7). A long rectangular insignia had the same colours (fig. 8). From March 29, 1947 the members of PADESM were attacked by the insurgents and by the militants of MDRM. The red flag was used from 1946 to 1949. The flag became green after 1949 (fig 9) because the flag of MDRM was red. Besides a green flag with the

white bird Voromahery was used by Radama I in 1824 in Tamatave. A new green insignia was also made (fig. 10). At the end of 1956 the party disbanded and its members created two new parties: *Union des Démocrates Sociaux de Madagascar* (UDSM) and the *Parti Social Démocrate Malgache et Comorien* (PSDMC).



(fig. 7)



(fig. 8)



(fig. 9)



(fig. 10)

8) MALAGASY DEMOCRATIC PARTY (Parti Démocratique Malgache / PDM)

Pastor Ravelojaona founded the PDM on May 10, 1946 from the Committee which had supported his unfortunate candidature at the elections of November 18, 1945. The President of the party was a brilliant journalist named Gabriel Razafintsalama. The party's goal was to bring the friendship and the brotherhood between Malagasy, equality of rights, and common obligation of Malagasy whatever their tribe and their religion may be. The main goal was unity but also the fight for full independence of Madagascar in accordance with the international convention of San Francisco. PDM wanted to protect Malagasy against oppression, to increase Malagasy on moral and physical level for a life with dignity, a higher level of education, a job and happiness and freedom for each family. PDM was the symbol of the protestant and conservative tradition of nationalism Old Hova (*Vieux Hova*). PDM was against communists and the majority of former members of PANAMA had joined it. It was mainly present among the protestant burgers of Imerina. Many intellectuals and members of VVS also joined that party.

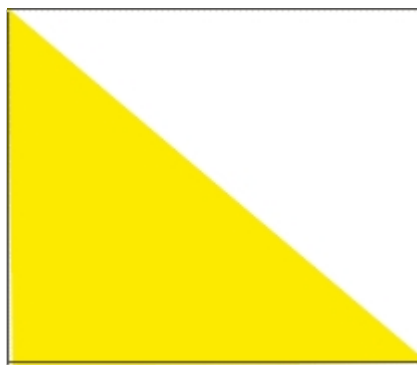
Its flag was divided diagonally with blue and red (fig. 11). Red was the symbol of the motherland and blue symbolized the independent people.

Different protestant parties succeeded PDM in 1955.

Madagascar became a Territory inside the French Union on October 27, 1946.



(fig. 11)



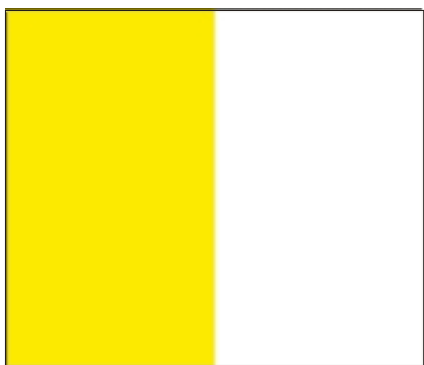
(fig. 12)

9) SOCIAL and MALAGASY MOVEMENT (Mouvement Social Malgache / MSM)

At the end of 1946 Catholics missions founded the MSM. Edouard Ralaimihoatra was its President. The articles of association defined the party's goals: to develop the Malagasy personality in accordance with the eternal principles of freedom, justice and solidarity; to save and to develop the moral and intellectual treasures of the Malagasy people; to contribute to the realization of its legitimate desires and to govern itself. That party wanted independence within French Union and recommended a kind of Commonwealth.

Its flag was yellow and white. There are two versions of the flag, divided diagonally yellow and white (fig. 12) and with two vertical stripes, yellow and white (fig. 13). Yellow symbolize the faith and God, white, true and justice. These colours are the colours of the Vatican and Catholics. Several Catholics parties succeeded MSM.

Madagascar became a Territory inside the French Union on October 27, 1946.



(fig. 13)



(fig. 14)

10) SFIO MALAGASY FEDERATION (Fédération de Madagascar de la Section Française de l'Internationale Ouvrière/SFIO)

It was founded on February 23, 1948. The flag was red with a green map of Madagascar (fig. 14). Renouncing the three arrows of SFIO (French Section of the International Workers Association) Malagasy socialists showed their wish for autonomy with regard to the metropolitan party. In Majunga, on December 28, 1956, they united with a part of PADESHM to create PSDMC (Malagasy and Comorian Social Democratic Party / *Parti Social Démocrate Malgache et Comorien*).

11) CHRISTIAN LIBERAL PARTY (Parti Libéral Chrétien / PLC)

It was founded on December 5, 1955. Martin Rakotovao was its national president. Its liberal spirit opened it to Protestants and Catholics. Its flag was white with a red map of Madagascar (fig. 15).



(fig. 15)



(fig. 16)

12) NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY of the INDIAN OCEAN (Parti Nouveau Démocrate de l'Océan Indien / PNDIO)

It was founded in Tananarive in 1955 and was run by Aristide Ratsimbazafy. Its flag was divided diagonally blue and white (fig. 16). It participated in the Congress of Tamatave from May 2 to 4 in preparation for independence. PNDIO became the Malagasy Communist Party (*Parti Communiste Malgache*).

13) FEDERAL REASSEMBLY of MADAGASCAR (Regroupement Fédéral de Madagascar / RFM)

It was founded on June 6, 1955. Gabriel Razafintsalama was its President. Its flag was divided horizontally white and blue (fig. 17). Its goal was a federal structure for Madagascar.



(fig. 17)



(fig. 18)

14) ASSOCIATION of MADAGASCAR'S FRIENDS (Association des Amis de Madagascar)

It was founded in 1956 in Tananarive. Its flag was divided diagonally red and blue (fig. 18). It participated in the Congress of Tamatave from May 2 to 4, 1958, in preparation for independence.

15) ASSOCIATION of FARMERS' FRIENDS (Association des Amis des Paysans / AAP)

It was founded in Tamatave in 1954. Its flag was green with black letters (fig. 19). It participated in the Congress of Tamatave from May 2 to 4 in preparation for independence. It became one of the components of the Party of Congress and Independence of Madagascar AKFM (*Antokon ny Kongresin ny Fahateovantenan Madagasiraka / Parti du Congrès et de l'Indépendance de Madagascar*) created on October 19, 1958.



(fig. 19)



(fig. 20)

16) MALAGASY PEOPLE UNION (Union du Peuple Malgache / UPM; Furandrosan ny Vahoaka Malagasy / FVM)

It was founded on January 12, 1956. Stanislas Rakotonirina was its leader. It had a communist leanings. Its flag was yellow with a red map of Madagascar (fig. 20), yellow symbolizing independence and moral and red for motherland and freedom. It became a component of AFKM on October 19, 1958.

17) MALAGASY NATIONAL FRONT (Front National Malgache / FNM)

It was a nationalist movement on the left of the protestant PDM and was founded in 1956. Henri Razanaiseno was its secretary-general. Its flag was white with red letters (fig. 21). It became one of the components of AFKM on October 19, 1958.

18) UNION of INDEPENDENTS of TANANARIVE (Union des Indépendents de Tananarive / UIT)

It was founded in November 1956 by Stanislas Rakotonirina who had left UMP. Its flag was blue with yellow letters (fig. 22). The party split up at the time of the referendum of September 28, 1957.



(fig. 21)



(fig. 22)

19) NEW CHRISTIAN PARTY (Nouveau Parti Chrétien / NPC)

It was founded in Tamatave on June 22, 1955. It was a protestant party. The national President was Antoine Ranoasy. Its flag was divided diagonally blue and red (fig. 23) (as the PDM's flag but reversed colours). It became a component of the Union of Malagasy Christians Parties (*Rassemblement des Partis Chrétiens Malgaches*) on July 26, 1958.



(fig. 23)



(fig. 24)

20) MALAGASY CHRISTIANS UNION (Union des Chrétiens Malgaches / Firousan Ny Krisetiana Malagasy / FKM)

It was founded in Sambava on July 26, 1956. It was a protestant party with Alfred Rakotomanana as President. Its flag was yellow with red letters (fig.24). It became a component of the Union of Malagasy Christians Parties on July 26, 1958.

21) MADAGASCAR POPULAR PARTY (Parti Populaire de Madagascar / PPM)

It was founded in Tananarive on May 28, 1956. It was a protestant party with René Rakotobe as national President. Its flag was yellow with black letters (fig. 25). It became a component of the Union of Malagasy Christians Parties on July 26, 1958.



(fig. 25)



(fig. 26)

22) MALAGASY DEMOCRATIC and SOCIAL GROUP (Groupement Démocratique et Social Malgache / GDSM)

It was founded in 1956 in Tamatave by Lombardo. It was a progressive movement. Its flag was white with red letters (fig. 26). It participated at the Congress of Tamatave from May 2 to 4, 1958 in preparation for independence.

23) CHRISTIAN and POPULAR MOVEMENT (Mouvement Chrétien Populaire / MCP)

It was founded in 1954 in Tamatave. Its President was a Catholic, William Rabemananjara. Its flag was divided diagonally, yellow and blue (fig.27). It became a component of the Malagasy Christians Union created at the Congress of December 14, 1958.

24) CHRISTIAN NATIONAL UNION (Union Nationale Chrétienne / UNC)

It was founded on August 20, 1956 by Michel Randria, mayor de Fianarantsoa. It expanded quickly in the Betsileo country. Its flag was divided diagonally red and yellow (fig.28). It became the **Christian Labour Movement (Mouvement Travailiste Chrétien / MTC)** on November 20, 1957 at Fianarantsoa. Michel Randria took charge of the Malagasy Christian Union at the Tamatave Congress of December 14, 1958. That Union included MTC and 3 other Catholic parties. The MTC flag was the same as the UNC flag (fig.28).



(fig. 27)

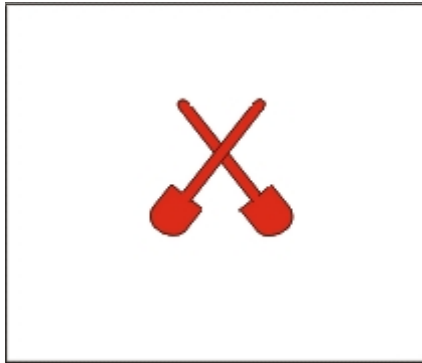


(fig. 28)

25) VAKINANKARATRA CHRISTIAN PARTY (Parti Chrétien de Vakinankaratra / PCV ; Antoko Krisitiana Vakinankaratra / AKV)

It was founded in 1956 in Antsirabe with the help of the Catholic Mission. Its President was Antoine Ranoasy. Its flag was white with two red crossed spades (fig. 29). It became a component of the Malagasy Christian Union created at the Congress of December 14, 1958.

Vakinankaratra is a very inhabited region between Tananarive and Antsirabe.



(fig. 29)



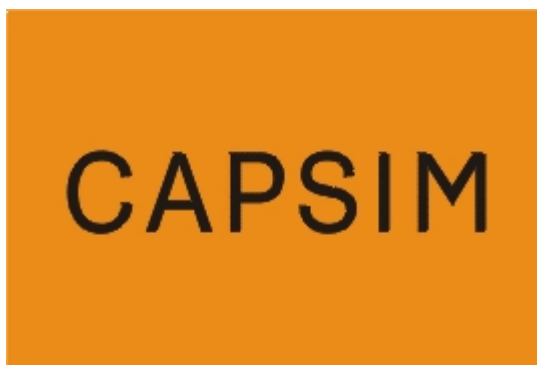
(fig. 30)

26) MALAGASY CHRISTIAN PARTY (Parti Malgache Chrétien / PMC)

It was founded in Tananarive in 1956. Its national President was Norbert Rakotonirina. Its flag was divided horizontally green and blue (fig.30). It became a component of the Malagasy Christian Union created at the Congress of December 14, 1958.

27) COMMITTEE for SOCIAL and POLITICAL ACTION for the INDEPENDENCE of MADAGASCAR (Comité d'Action Politique et Sociale pour l'Indépendance de Madagascar / CAPSIM)

It was founded in 1956 by Alexis Bezaka. It participated at the Congress of Tamatave from May 2 to 4, 1958 in expectation of independence. Its flag was orange with black letters (fig.31). It became a component of the Malagasy National Union created in December 1958.



(fig. 31)



(fig. 32)

28) MALAGASY POPULAR UNION (Parti Populaire Malgache / PPM)

It was founded in 1956. That Christian Party from Tamatave participated at the independence's congress which sit in Tamatave from May 2 to 4, 1958. Its flag was white with a black map (fig.32). It became a component of the Malagasy National Union created in December 1958.

29) LABOUR and FARMERS UNION (Union Travailleiste et Paysanne / UTP)

It was founded in 1956. Its national President was R.W. Ralemananjara. Its flag was blue with a black Roberval scales (fig.33). It became a component of the Malagasy National Union created in December 1958.



(fig. 33)



(fig. 34)

30) MALAGASY NATIONAL UNION (Union Nationale Malgache / UNM)

It was founded on January 28, 1957 by Rakotonirainy, later Ramamonji Ratrimo became the national President. It was a resurgence of the MDRM. Its flag was divided diagonally green and red (fig 34). It became a component of the Malagasy National Union created in December 1958.



(fig. 35)



(fig. 36)

31) MALAGASY DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIAL UNION (Union Démocrate Sociale Malgache / UDSM)

The party's statutes were registered on December 7, 1956. It was run by three brothers: Norbert Zafimahova, President, Antoine and Joseph Zafimahova, Vice-Presidents. Members

came partly from PADESM. This Catholic party appeared in the South-East of Madagascar and distrusted against Merinas. It used two kinds of flags with the same colours red and blue with black letters (fig. 35) (fig.36).

On March 7, 1962 it created, with two small regional parties, the **Republican Union of Madagascar (Union des Républicains de Madagascar / URM)** at Fianarantsoa.

32) MALAGASY and COMORIAN SOCIAL and DEMOCRATIC PARTY (Parti Social Démocrate Malgache et Comorien / PSDMC)

It was founded on December 28, 1956 in Majunga by 21 persons including Philibert Tsiranana and André Resampa. They adopted the colours red and green which appeared diagonally on their flag (fig. 37). The red colour of local SFIO was united with the green colour of PADESM. Its goals were: 1) to work for the evolution towards independence for Madagascar and Comoros; 2) to defend the rights and interests of workers in the working and farmer classes regarding wages, education and health; 3) to help the country with its economic development (agriculture, industry, commerce); and 4) to teach the native people to love work and to become qualified workers.

Comoros were united with Madagascar on February 23, 1914. The archipelago became Overseas Territory on January 1, 1947. The statute of Territory was confirmed in 1958.

The party changed its name in January 1957 and became the **Social Democratic Party (Parti Social Démocrate / PSD)**. A cat's head was added on the flag because in Malagasy "PSD" is read "pisodia" which refers to a small feline in the local language (fig. 38).



(fig. 37)



(fig. 38)

33) PARTY of NATIONAL MOVEMENT for the INDEPENDENCE of MADAGASCAR (Parti du Mouvement National pour l'Indépendance de Madagascar / PMNIM; Antoko Monima)

It was founded in Tulear by Monja Jaona (founder of the JINA in 1944) on July 29, 1958. Its flag was violet, the colour of voting bulletin of MONIMA which recommended to vote "NO" during the referendum of September 28, 1958. It represented the resistance to the behaviours imported by imperialism and the claim of popular sovereignty. Red was the common colour of all the Malagasy sovereigns who, wore this colour, until their death and it was the symbol of the force of the Nation and the force of the people. The 18 gold stars around the red fimbriated map of Madagascar represented the 18 sovereigns which shared the power. It symbolized the gathering, the harmony, the rallying of the Nation to build Madagascar. The gold colour represented the sovereignty of the

Malagasy population and of the Nation. The red spade (angady) symbolized the work, the force, the courage of men, the richness of the country, the red assegai symbolized the authority, the sovereignty and in particular the popular sovereignty. The assegai must always be clean and without any stain (fig. 39) (letter of Monja Joana dated April 22, 1988).

On April 1, 1971 the Mohina and its leader Monja Jaona tried to stir up the population of Tulear. On December 29, 1976, the party joined the National Front of Defence of the Revolution (*Front National de Défence de la Révolution*) and left the Front in June 1977



(fig. 39)



(fig. 40)

A referendum was organized on September 28, 1958 to approve the French Community Constitution. The majority of Malagasy population approved it and the Republic was proclaimed in Tananarive on October 14, 1958. The Constitution was promulgated on April 29, 1959 and Philibert Tsiranana became President.

34) PARTY for the CONGRESS and for the INDEPENDENCE of MADAGASCAR (Parti du Congrès et de l'Indépendance de Madagascar; Antokan ny Kongresin ny Fahaleovantenan i Madagasikara / AKFM). DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE of the MALAGASY SOCIALIST REVOLUTION (Comité Démocratique de la Révolution Socialiste Malgache ; Komity Demokratika ny Revolusiona Sosialista Malagasy / KDRSM)



(fig. 41)



(fig. 42)

It was founded on October 19, 1958 due to the merging of three left extremist parties: the **UPM (Union of Malagasy People; Union du Peuple Malgache)**, the **FNM (Malagasy National Front; Front National Malgache)** and the **Association of Farmers'friends (Association des Amis des Paysans)**. The President was the pastor Richard Andriamanjata.

The majority of the members came from the Merinas of the Tananarive Province. They used different flags, there were yellow with a red fimbriated yellow dove and red inscriptions (fig.40) (fig.41) (fig.42).

In a letter of June 20, 1989 Maurice Rakotobe, Assistant Secretary General of AKFM gave me the meaning of the colours: yellow symbolizes the maturity, when the rice ripens it turns yellow, as it is the same for fruits. Red is the colour of the revolution. The dove is the symbol of peace and sagacity. The dove always finds its way to arrive safe and sound.

In May 1972 General Ramanantsoa was invested with full powers by President Tsiranana and the AKFM was the only party of the opposition represented at the Assembly. On December 29, 1976, the AKFM became part of the **National Front for the Defence of the Revolution (*Front National de Défense de la Révolution*)**. President Pastor Richard Andriamanjato was dismissed on March 25, 1989.

35) MALAGASY COMMUNIST PARTY (*Parti Communiste Malgache / PCM*)

It was founded by Aristide Ratsimbazafy in May 1958 at Tamatave. It was the successor of PNDOL. In 1975 the PCM left the political scene because it did not take part in the coalition government presided by Commander Didier Ratsiraka. The flag was the one of the International Communist (*Internationale Communiste*): a red flag with a yellow hammer and sickle (fig. 43) (letter from Assistant Secretary General Nalisoa Raharimalala dated July 18, 1990).



(fig. 43)



(fig. 44)

36) UNION of MALAGASY CHRISTIAN PARTIES (*Rassemblement des Partis Chrétiens Malgaches / RPCM; Firousan ny Antoko Malagasy Kristiana*)

It was founded on July 26, 1958 in Tananarive. It was the merging between three protestants parties: the NPC from Tamatave, the PPM from Tananarive and the FLM from Sambava. Its national President was Joseph Rabetrano. Its flag was divided diagonally red and white (fig.44). It looked like the flag of MDRM.

37) MALAGASY CHRISTIAN UNION (*Rassemblement Chrétien Malgache / RCM*)

It was founded on December 14, 1958 during the congress of Tamatave. It was the result of the merging of four Catholic parties: the **Christian Labour Party (*Parti Travailleiste Chrétien*)** from Fianarantsoa, the **Popular Christian Party (*Parti Populaire Chrétien*)** from Tananarive, the **Malagasy Christian Party (*Parti Chrétien Malgache*)** from Tananarive and, the **Vakinankaratra Christian Party (*Parti Chrétien de Vakinankaratra*)** from Antsirabe. Its President was Michel

Randria. Its flag was divided diagonally in three parts, yellow at the pole, red and white at the fly (fig.45). White symbolized independence, yellow, the faith and ethic, red the freedom. White and yellow, the colours of the Vatican, looked like the 1946 flag of Malagasy Social Movement (*Mouvement Social Malgache*).



(fig. 45)



(fig. 46)

38) MALAGASY NATIONAL UNION (*Rassemblement National Malgache / RNM ; Furondronan ny Tia Tanindrazana Malagasy*)

It was founded on December 1958 by Alexis Bezaka. It was the result of the merging of four parties: CAPSIM (**P**olitical and **S**ocial **C**ommittee for the **I**ndependence of **M**adagascar; *Comité d'Action Politique et Sociale pour l'Indépendance de Madagascar*), d'Alexis Bezaka, UNAM (**M**alagasy **N**ational **U**nion; *Union Nationale Malgache*), PPM (**M**alagasy **P**opular **P**arty; *Parti Populaire Malgache*) and UTP (**L**abour and **F**armers **U**nion; *Union Travailleuse et Paysanne*). Its flag was white with four red stars symbolizing the four parties of the Union (fig.46).

The independence of the Malagasy Republic was proclaimed on June 26, 1960. The Democrat Social Party of President Tsiranana kept the majority at the elections of 1962, 1965 and, 1970. Later more parties were founded.

All the drawings were made by Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux (France).



Lucien Philippe was born on May 11, 1923 in Pantin (Seine-Saint-Denis, Paris). He got married with Mauricette and they had 5 children. Since 15 years old he was fascinated by history and geography but also by natural sciences. He followed courses of lithography and became a good drawer. Very early he was interested in the flags and coats of arms of cities. In 1944 he became really a vexillologist researching material in archives, libraries and embassies. Wanting to popularize that discipline, participated in 1966 in the foundation of the "Société Française d'Études Internationales de Vexillologie (AFEIV)" and later the "Société Française de Vexillologie SFV" created on March 15, 1985.

After he retired, he moved from to Le Crès, near Montpellier in the South of France . Lucien Philippe had relations in all the world and was a member of many foreign associations. He has participated at many International Congress of Vexillology (Zürich, Turin, London, Issel Meer, Wien, Madrid and Barcelona,) where he presented lectures. He was the sub-editor of the bulletin "Emblèmes et Pavillons" since its creation in 1985. He has also written many articles in foreign bulletins. He had received the silver honour medal from "Fondation de la Bannistique et de l'Héraldique" (Muiderberg, The Netherlands) granted at the Congress of Ottawa for his contribution in many parts of the vexillology and for his generosity in the exchange of documentation.

He died suddenly on March 17, 2005

(Article from Franciae Vexillae March 2005)