



Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for being here today at this UK-Madagascar Trade and Investment Forum, 2nd edition. It is once again an honor and a great pleasure for me to preside this event.

Indeed, two years ago, back in November 2015, we were here in this magnificent city of London. It was an opportunity for us to meet, an opportunity for us to introduce to you our country and to present what it has to offer, we gave you an overview of our country's resources: from the large surfaces of arable land to the immensity of our marine territory with all of its assets, through the exceptional endemism of our fauna and flora, not ignoring the multitude richness of our mining resources, surrounded by 5000km of coastline with pristine beaches.



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We keep improving our investment climate, and in 2016 only, we realized 20 reforms relating to the business environment: company creation, construction permit, land property, commercial justice, trades across borders, tax administration are just some examples. At the end of 2016, we adopted our law on Public Private Partnerships, and it is under this framework that the extension and the renovation of our main airports, Ivato and Nosy Be, are being done. Upon the achievement of the works, Ivato airport will be able to accommodate 1,5 million travelers per year and will have the capacity to handle an Airbus A380.



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This PPP framework is opened to many other activities. This year, we have also carried out reforms, if I only take the examples, among others, of the implementation of the Credit Bureau and the improvement of the tax payment system; at the end of this year, we will have our law on Special Economic Zones. With this new framework will come numerous opportunities in many sectors such as the textile and garment, food processing, technology etc...



Our textile and garment sector is growing fast and is moving towards a more than promising horizon. The first semester of 2016 has seen our export double compare to the whole year 2015. The big international brands are sourcing more and more from Madagascar. 10 new textile companies opened during the past 18 months and to sustain this growth, we are working on a Textile City, a special zone dedicated to all activities relating to textile and garment.



The ICT sector attracts even more international operators. The World's number one call center, Tele performance, opened a brand new site in Antananarivo at the beginning of 2016. Many other international firms (SFR, Meetic, ...) have also decided to operate in Madagascar. And there are still enormous opportunities.



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The tourism sector sustains its growth. The number of tourists coming to Madagascar keeps increasing by 18% per year and the revenue has seen a growth of 27% between 2015 et 2016. Turkish Airlines start edits first flight to Madagascar at the end of 2015 and Ethiopian Airlines joined us last March. The tourists' enthusiasm to come to Madagascar is undeniable and the newly opened 157 hospitality companies are not enough. There is still a lot to do.



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If today, we have chosen the specific sectors of energy and mining, it's because they deserve specific attention as well. We are aware of the environmental and climate issues that the World is facing today, we are willing to exploit our resources and develop our country in full respect of the environment. We are moving towards renewable sources of energy. We have a large quantity of rivers for hydroelectricity and the other sources (wind, solar, biomass) are also to be exploited. And of course, the PPP law that I mentioned earlier is the favorable framework for the energy sector.



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Our mining wealth is very well known, industrial and metallic minerals, energy resources and gemstones are all abounding. I invite you to discover more during this afternoon's sessions.

I wish you then a very good forum and I hope that every private operator present here will find partners for mutual and lasting interests.

Thank you and see you in Madagascar!