

An Open Letter from the AGOA Workers of Madagascar to
The Honorable Barack S. Obama
President of the United States of America

August 1, 2009

The Honorable Barack S. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

We are the AGOA workers of Madagascar. Since 2000, AGOA has employed more people than any other initiative in the history of Madagascar. AGOA has allowed us to send our children to school, to provide for our families, and to introduce our country to the global economy. More than 100,000 of us depend on AGOA for a living. In turn, we are able to support more than 500,000 members of our families.

Since 2000, we have dedicated ourselves to producing quality products at competitive prices for the American market. Investors and employers from all around the world have come to know the Malagasy as dedicated, reliable and hard working. Less than ten years after our country was accepted into AGOA, Madagascar has become one of the leading African garment exporters to the United States, outpacing even Kenya, which has more than twice our population.

We are proud of our achievement. We are proud to have helped develop our nation. And we are proud to have been able to provide for ourselves and our families.

Now, however, through no fault of our own, Madagascar may lose its AGOA privileges. Should that happen, despite our high productivity and the commitment we have made to our employers, we will not be able to compete with other countries. We will lose our jobs. Our families, almost all of whom live very modest lives, will face the real possibility of being thrown back into abject poverty.

President Obama, it is working people who will suffer if you suspend Madagascar from AGOA. The global economy wants its orders completed on time and at competitive prices. With AGOA, we can do that. Without AGOA, companies will close their doors and move elsewhere. We cannot close our doors. We cannot move. This is our country. We want to work. Please help us to continue doing so.

We are not asking for a handout. We are not asking for financial support. We just want to be able to go to work every day and do the best we can.

Mr. President, please do not punish us, our children and the future of our country. The people of Madagascar need AGOA.

Signed by 28,412 Malagasy AGOA workers.

cc: U. S. Trade Representative

PRIVATE SECTOR OPEN LETTER

FREE ZONE COMPANIES IN MADAGASCAR – IT 'S:

- 20 years of work, growth and success
- 100 000 direct jobs and 300 000 indirect jobs
- more than 60% of the country's export receipts in foreign currency
- 12 000 000 000 ariary of monthly direct salaries

We have become the 2nd textile-apparel exporter in the region below the Sahara in Africa.

Madagascar's eligibility to AGOA is jeopardized

If there is no quick consensual resolution of the prevailing situation, cancellation of AGOA for us seems inevitable.

If Madagascar's eligibility isn't decided until the end of 2009, the resulting uncertainty will divert American buyers toward other countries. Indeed, due to deadlines for supply and manufacturing, clients have only a few days left to place their orders. Beyond those deadlines, and with no assurance of continuing AGOA benefits, orders for Madagascar will stop abruptly.

Tens of thousands of jobs or so will be lost.

The Private Sector is aware of the efforts that all the parties are making in order to get to a consensual solution for a promising future for our country. The only objective of this letter is to alert all the concerned forces without participating in the political debate which has been going on for several weeks.

This is an urgent appeal to the Malagasy Wisdom, which can save jobs, in the prime interest of the nation.

Antananarivo June 11, 2009

GEFP – GEM – SIM – AMCHAM

SUMMARY

- An Open letter from the AGOA Workers of Madagascar to the Honorable Barack S. Obama
President of the United States of America
- Private sector open letter

VOLUME I

-A & W Madagascar.....	15 workers
-AQUARELLE Madagascar.....	1661 workers
-AXELLE/CADENCE.....	402 workers
-ANTANA PRODUCTION.....	93 workers

VOLUME II

-BASE.....	154 workers
-COATS.....	49 workers
-COLORTEX.....	97 workers
-COTONA.....	2343 workers
-COSMOS.....	1547 workers
-DHL.....	23 workers
-EPSILON.....	956 workers

VOLUME III

-FESTIVAL.....	604 workers
-FLOREAL.....	260 workers
-GROVE.....	1465 Workers
-INITIATIVES.....	172 workers
-JFFI.....	29 workers
-JH Madagascar.....	794 workers
-JNJ.....	365 workers

VOLUME IV

-KDC.....	2388 workers
-KARINA.....	526 workers
-KANTO.....	1300 Workers
-KUK RIM.....	630 workers

VOLUME V

-KWWOK HING.....	1893 workers
-KAM HING.....	1840 workers
-LABOI.....	135 workers
-LABELTEX.....	24 workers
-MADAGRAPHIC.....	26 workers

VOLUME VI

-MAZAVA.....	693 workers
-MADAPROD.....	184 workers
-MKLEN.....	1063 workers
-MACOTEX.....	288 workers
- GROUPE Madagascar SALES.....	2390 workers
-PLG.....	336 workers

VOLUME VII

-PLASMAD.....	84 workers
-PRIME VIEW.....	802 workers
-RADHA FASHIONS.....	906 workers
-TEXT'ILE MADA.....	387 workers
-TAKWIN.....	158 workers
-TROPICMAD.....	410 workers
-ULTRAMAILLE.....	458 workers

TOTAL..... 28 412 workers

Antananarivo, le 21 septembre 2009

Monsieur Robert STRAUSS
Président de l'AmCham
ANTANANARIVO

N/Réf : 37/BE/2009

Objet : Bordereau d'envoi

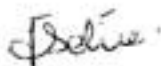
Monsieur le Président,

Nous vous prions de trouver en annexe les documents relatifs à la défense de l'AGOA :

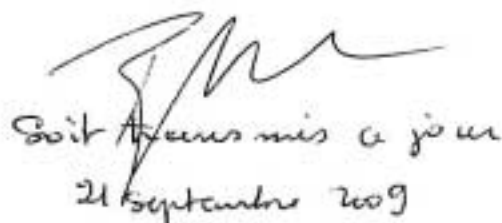
- Volume I : - Lettre ouverte des travailleurs au Président OBAMA
- Lettre ouverte du Secteur Privé
- Signatures des travailleurs
- Volume II à VII : - Signatures des travailleurs
- Volume VIII : - Extraits de Presse sur AGOA

Nous vous souhaitons bonne réception de la présente.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Président, l'expression de nos salutations les meilleures.



Julie RATSIMISETRA
Secrétaire Général



Soit Agous mis a jour
21 septembre 2009

Taratasy misokatra avy amin'ny mpiasan'ny AGOA eto Madagasikara,

Ho an'Andriamatoa hajaina Barack S. Obama

Filoham-pirenena Amerikana

Andriamatoa hajaina Barack S. Obama

Filoham-pirenena Amerikana

"Maison Blanche"

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington, D.C. 20500

Andriamatoa Filoha:

Izahay izay manoratra dia mpiasa miankina amin'ny AGOA avy eto Madagasikara. Hatramin'ny taona 2000 no mankaty dia nanome asa betsaka lavitra noho ny sehatra asa hafa teo amin'ny tantaran'i Madagasikara ny AGOA. Ny AGOA dia nahafahanay nandefa ny zanakay tany an-tsekoly sy namelona ny ankohonanay ary nampiditra ny firenenay teo amin'ny tontolon'ny toe-karena eto amin'izao tontolo izao.

Hatramin'ny taona 2000 no mankaty dia nifofotra mafy hatrany izahay mba hanananay kalitaon'asa tsara, amin'ny vidiny afaka mifaninana eo amin'ny tsena Amerikana. Mpampiasa vola sy mpampiasa maro avy amin'izao tontolo izao no mahafantatra akehitriny fa ny Malagasy dia tena manao ho zava-dehibe ny asany, azo ianteherana sady miasa mafy tokoa. Tsy ampy folo taona akory taorian'ny nahazoan'i Madagasikara ny AGOA, dia efa tonga isan'ireo firenena Afrikana sangany amin'ny fanondranana fitafiana mankany Etazonia i Madagasikara, efa nisongona an'i Kenya akory aza, dia i Kenya izay ahitana mponina mihoatra ny avo roa heny amin'ny isan'ny Malagasy.

Afaka mirehareha amin'ny zava-bitanay izahay. Afaka mirehareha amin'ny anjara fampandrosoana nentinay ho an'ny firenenay izahay. Ary afaka mirehareha izahay fa afaka miahy ny fiainanay sy ny an'ny ankohonanay.

Ankehitriny anefa, tsy misy fahadisoana avy aminay; dia mety hafoin'i Madagasikara ny tombontsoa azony avy amin'ny AGOA. Raha sanatria ka miseho izany, dia tsy ho afaka hifaninana amin'ny firenen-kafa intsony izahay na dia mahavita zavatra be aza ary na dia eo aza ny fanoloran-tenanay amin'ny mpampiasa anay. Ho very asa izahay. Mety ho latsaka ao anaty fahantrana lalina indray ny fianakaviana maro izay tsy dia manao ahoana akory ny fiainan'ny ankamaroan'izy ireo ankehitriny.

Andriamatoa Filoha, ho voa mafy ireo olona miasa raha toa ka hatsahatrao ny fahazoan'i Madagasikara ny AGOA. Ny toe-karena eran-tany dia mila komandy vita ara-potoana sy amin'ny vidiny afaka mifaninana amin'ny hafa. Ary amin'ny alalan'ny AGOA dia vitanay izany. Raha tsy eo ny AGOA, dia hanakatona ny varavarany ny orinasa maro ka hifindra any an-toeran-kafa. Izahay kosa tsy mba afaka manakatona varavarana ary tsy mba afaka mifindra amin'ny toeran-kafa. Ity no firenenay. Te-hiasa izahay. Miangavy re tompoko, ampio izahay mba ho afaka hanoy ny asanay.

Tsy asa fiantrana no angatahanay. Tsy fanampiana ara-bola no tadiavinay. Tsotra ihany ny hetahetanay, dia ny mba ho afa-miasa isanandro sy ho afa-manao izay tratry ny herinay.

Andriamatoa Filoha ô, aza saizana re izahay sy ny zanakay ary ny hoavin'ny firenenay e! Mila ny AGOA ny vahoaka Malagasy.

Sonian'ny XXX, XXX Mpiasan'ny AGOA eto Madagasikara

Dika mitovy: Solotenan'ny Varotra Amerikana