

# “Zo Hiteny”, Dream’in TV, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – English Transcription

**Blue: TV Presenter**

**Black: Programme Guest**

0:00: \*Intro music of the programme\*

0:17: It's Saturday evening, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

0:25: Welcome to this programme where we will once again receive a guest.

0:30: Today is a special episode of *Zo Hiteny* (Right for Speech). We will discuss the mining of natural resources in the Anosy region, focusing on ilmenite extraction.

0:47: This ilmenite mining has been going on for several years, specifically in Fort-Dauphin, in the Anosy region.

0:59: Civil society organisations have been closely monitoring the situation and the mining activities in Fort-Dauphin.

1:10: So that's what we will be discussing today, because in every discussion about national refoundation, there is always the question of how to ensure that a country's natural resources benefit and return to its people. Today, we will see what the reality is in the Anosy region.

1:30: Last week, we discussed the northern part of the island, where there is rare earth extraction ongoing, which the local population has not yet fully accepted, given the current situation.

1:43: So that's the reason why we invited Mr. Masimana Gahidi Marenjaka, regional president of the CSOs platform in the Anosy region.

1:56: Greetings, Sir. Thank you very much, and welcome to *Zo Hiteny* programme.

2:01: Greetings, Mr. Harinjaka. We are very happy to be able to speak here today, since we have been waiting for this moment for a long time.

2:19: First of all, I would like to greet all of us following on Dream'in TV, especially everyone in Anosy. Good evening to you all.

2:28: We are here to talk, analyse, and clarify what is exactly happening in Anosy. This investigation has been led by “civil society”, a name after which the Anosy people know us.

2:46: That's our today's topic. But before we dive into it, perhaps I should give a brief introduction to the Anosy region.

2:55: Go ahead.

2:56: Our Anosy region is very rich. It stretches along a 200 km coastline and is known for its agriculture, especially lychees, which are currently in season and abundant.

3:18: Beyond that, we also grow vanilla. In addition to crops, we also practice livestock farming. Thanks to our long coastline, fishing is also important. Those are all our main resources, of which we are proud.

3:34: But the focus of our today's discussion is ilmenite. Yes, there is ilmenite there, which we have been proud of since the 1980s. It was first exploited by a company called Kitfer.

3:52: Then, seeing the abundant resources of the Anosy region, they decided to exploit the ilmenite. They realised its real potential after a study conducted in 1986. They began requesting approval from the government in 1997. Later, in 1998, they obtained authorisation. Then, there was an Establishment Agreement.

4:24: The Establishment Agreement is basically a law regulating ilmenite production for the company. At that time, it was Kitfer, which later became Rio Tinto QMM. In 1998, thanks to the Establishment Agreement 98-002, they were allowed to mine for 25 years during which they are supposed to extract ilmenite.

4:57: Then they started setting up the facilities and related works. In 2005, they began to set up the infrastructure, namely the construction of the deep-water port and the factory plant in Mandena.

5:14: In 2009, they began exporting ilmenite from the mining operations. Overall, the company produces around 500,000 tons of ilmenite per year.

5:32: Around 2017, instead of mining ilmenite or/and zircon as planned—they ended up mining monazite.

5:46: Monazite is actually a very rare and radioactive mineral, containing small amounts of radioactivity. This property makes it harmful to health of people exposed to it.

6:01: In addition, the Establishment Agreement was renewed under Law 23-017.

6:13: A little after the Mining Code, which is Law No. 23-007. One small caveat: when we, CSOs, read the law – though we are not legal experts – we are somewhat capable of interpreting certain details.

6:32: So, we saw that the word is “ores” rather than specifically “ilmenite,” meaning that all ores being mined can be exploited – for 25 years.

6:43: That's the overall situation with the company there.

6:48: And that gives a brief overview of the company and the mining activities in Fort-Dauphin.

6:56: Today's reality is completely opposite to what has been communicated regarding the Anosy region though; especially concerning ilmenite mining, but also ores in general.

7:14: Miners claim that their presence in Fort-Dauphin is actually beneficial for the local population, society and economy. According to them, these benefits exist in Fort-Dauphin.

7:31: To be more precise, they even claim that there has been no power outage locally since the company started mining in Fort-Dauphin. Electricity supply has been sufficient, and the company is one of those ensuring it.

7:49: A lot of related statistics have also been released.

7:57: For instance, school enrolment among children. I can also see right here that a lot of things are actually discussed in that.

8:11: But now I would like to talk about your views, as civil society organisations. How do you see the current situation?

8:22: Is the mining activity actually beneficial for the local population, economy and society?

8:30: Thank you very much for the question. The company settlement normally aimed to promote development, but the main concern is whether it really benefits the people, or just for their own profit?

8:49: Overall, from my perspective, we have also tried to conduct our own survey since its establishment. We published a small assessment report book entitled “Rio Tinto QMM – 15 Years of Operations, Observations and Reality – 2025”.

9 :11: In other words, how things have been over the past 15 years? Indeed, it brought development, since its arrival led to the construction of a deep-water port in our region.

9 :25: Besides, a development project – Pôle intégré de croissance - was established in our area, which should also bring visible development aspects.

9 :35: From an economic point of view, poverty rate in the Anosy region was around 74% in 2005. In 2022, just three years ago, poverty rate increased to 92%.

10 :06: It is somewhat paradoxical, with regard to development.

10 :00: Moreover, the Anosy region has become the third poorest region.

10 :19: So overall, there is a visible development, but when we look at those data—which we didn't create ourselves, but we collected from INSTAT and other organisations conducting surveys in the Anosy region

10 :37: What could be causing the fact that there is a large company, yet the poverty rate in your region keeps on increasing?

10:47: Personally, that's the reason why I highlighted a word in the report: wealthy. Anosy is a prosperous region, but the social contract needs consideration.

11:02: The blame is not on the mineral resources being exploited. We should rather thoroughly examine the social contract: what caused this, and were the actions taken appropriate or not?

11:15: There are many provisions in the social contract, and several steps were followed before extracting ilmenite: such as conducting public consultations, environmental impact assessment, then there is the Terms of Reference (ToR), and there is the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as well.

11:31: Many documents, almost a thousand pages each, are published every year depending on the commitments made by the company.

11:42: From our external perspective, as we try to obtain information from the company but in vain, we feel that it doesn't really benefit the general public, but a few people only.

11:59: That explains why poverty rate was 74% in 2005 and 92% in 2022. That's generally how I see it from the outside, and I'd say that most people in Fort-Dauphin would probably agree with that.

12:18: Therefore, what can be considered as the main problems related to that mining activity in the Anosy region? Rumours spread that the water is polluted, etc...

12:32: What are they exactly? Many people complain that the company doesn't hire local workers, and so on.

12:39: How about the ToR implementation, which should have been fully followed on the ground by now?

12:51: Thank you very much. Saying that "The water is polluted, Terms of Reference..."

12:56: Well, those are rumours in the region, but now you can clearly explain the real issues related to that mining activity.

13:03: First of all, historically before 2022, CSOs were just observing, thinking things were moving along, seeing many pickups around here, and assuming they were promoting development.

13:21: But starting from water discharge by the company, 1 million m<sup>3</sup> over 7 weeks was released into the Andrakaraka lagoon, which is now publicly known for being polluted.

13:39: It has been almost 7 months since this water has been smelling bad. But we'll discuss this towards the end of the programme.

13:47: After seeing that, and noticing how things were unfolding, we tried to investigate to understand the real situation, and we started finding out multiple issues, in relation to the Terms of Reference.

14:08: The ToR doesn't really match reality. So, we decided to request that we'd better get directly involved, and work together in monitoring with the monitoring team or the follow-up committee that they set up.

14:22: Our request was denied — as they said we couldn't do it. However, we were allowed to do it as an independent entity.

14:29: We all know that CSOs don't receive any funding. We finance ourselves with our own money. And my presence here is in the context of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Civil Society.

14:43: This means, our expenses are covered by a small amount of funding from the headquarters. And because of that, we took the opportunity to speak with the partners and ask if we could speak, asserting our right to speak as we are doing now. We thank you for making it possible.

15:00: But as of now, we still don't know what is actually happening there. When we drafted this report, we tried to gather information, but we couldn't get any. That implies that information is indeed unclear.

15:15: Regarding the Andrakaraka lagoon, are there people who make a living from this water, or is it really polluted as they say?

15:21: Some people do make a living from it. I was among those who set up the QMM site in this area in 2022. Since there was a research site, I tried fish and tilapia farming there, at that time.

15:38: And that's when I noticed that there were many species there. At that time, I estimated there were over a hundred.

15:48: But as we speak now, only two species remain. We're talking about fish species.

15:55: What would be the reason? The problem comes from the so-called spillway test, meant to separate freshwater from salt water, and the company needs water to do extraction.

16:10: They are seeking water that will eventually seep into the groundwater. They conduct this spillway test to avoid contaminating the Fort-Dauphin groundwater, so that if they extract freshwater, only freshwater comes out in Fort-Dauphin.

16:24: That's it. And the biological diversity has impoverished since that lagoon was closed.

16:32: That is a serious problem. To top it all off, water acidification has increased, which ultimately leads to its contamination.

16:46: The water is contaminated, not polluted. It's foul-smelling. Polluted water might just be odourless, but this water is severely contaminated overall.

16:55: Explanation from the company says there is a special treatment ongoing, and it is not true that only two species remain.

17:08: As I mentioned earlier, we don't get information from them. But from the small survey we have conducted, we verified and spoke with the community, who also accepted and confirmed what only remain in the water.

17:24: So, yes, I know them because I used to do an internship there. Yesterday, I spoke with them because the President of the Fishermen's Federation, who collaborates with them, was present. I asked him about the current situation of the water, which isn't improving.

17:40: The company itself used to supply drinking water to the local population. But for almost a year—I don't know exactly— or around 07 months now, there hasn't been much of that water supply activity.

17:53: The consequences at this moment? Many children are coughing, many have wounds, many suffer from diarrhoea and other illnesses because they are living with contaminated water.

18:06: Besides the issue of water discussed in your report book, you also talked about Despair—what do you mean exactly? Has the population become disappointed with what was initially expected?

18:23: In that same context, you also talk about a degraded environment, or a seriously damaged — even destroyed – place. What is the situation like right now?

18:37: Indeed, there is disappointment, as we mentioned earlier. Disappointment is a normal reaction.

18:43: First of all, since the mining began, there has been a royalty, known as a redistribution royalty.

18:51: From my simple calculations, I estimate that the collected redistribution royalties should amount to 89 million USD since then.

19:03: Yet, Fort-Dauphin lives with frequent power outages and water shortages most of the time. Where are those 89 million USD?

19:16: Moreover, people feel disappointed because the company that was expected to help and provide jobs for the youth did not do so.

19:33: In 2023 and 2024, a job offer was posted. None of the 800 local young people who submitted their applications was hired. Only 13 people from other organisations were recruited by the company.

19:51: We then started and tried to advocate for the youth, but the company still didn't listen at that time, and the situation almost turned into a serious conflict.

20:05: People are disappointed because the promises are not fulfilled. Why do we talk about it so much?

20:16: You might have heard from time to time that QMM is on strike.

20:21: This started, not in 2020, but in 2011. The CSOs proposed a resolution at that time.

20:30: A one-stop service for the youth was also set up. But the problem we saw at the time was that...and without blaming the company either.

20:42: ... when the one-stop service was set up, the parents enrolled only their own children and family members, leading to the one-stop service being ineffective.

20:49: It should be redirected and reactivated at some point. The consequence is that 800 unemployed young people from our community were not accepted, and this is the cause of our disappointment.

21:05: Third, there are various diseases.

21:09: This one is a serious problem.

21:13: I discussed simple statistics with a local doctor. I would say, for example, that 60 to 80% of eye cancer patients are from Fort-Dauphin, but not all cancer patients though.

21:28: I was shocked. I heard that recently.

21:31: And I was wondering what the causes are. It means that Fort-Dauphin is one of the communes and districts affected by cancer.

21:44: That's my perspective, because there are things that gradually affect the people's health in Fort-Dauphin.

21:55: First of all, I want to alert the government, and especially this Refoundation regime, that this issue needs to be addressed at its roots.

22:10: All problems, but not only health problems, should be addressed and turned into development for QMM company, so as not to hinder the progress of the Anosy region.

22:24: There are many issues related to mining. The local community is often marginalised, and their rights frequently violated.

22:36: Now, how about land rights, the right to live freely, and many other rights. What is the situation like locally at the moment? How is the respect for the local communities' rights being upheld?

22:52: Yes, I have looked into it a bit—the existence of various claims, through strikes. That means that...

22:02: Has that been resolved now?

23:05: It hasn't been resolved. It is just a superficially resolution. I sincerely apologise for saying that way.

23:13: There is also what we call CSR, which has been well-known since 2024, if I'm not mistaken.

23:19: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is something beneficial for us, which generates 4 million USD per year to address all these kinds of problems.

23:37: However, we tried to get in and analyse the use of that money. We didn't really have a clear understanding of it.

23:47: Often, it goes straight to Antananarivo. A certain percentage is ours. We can't use it for its intended purpose. We don't have any exact proof of what it should be used for.

23:57: And as we speak, the landowners are dissatisfied because the response they were given is not legally clear.

24:08: As for the strikes, the legal procedures for handling them were unclear at the time, back when the previous President was in office.

24:18: And military officers were sent from Antananarivo to confront strikers.

24:23: And in the last — or the one before the last incident —two or three people died, if I'm not mistaken. I wasn't there myself, but I was on a mission at the time.

24:34: But this is the current situation, and the government often tends to protect the company, rather than the people.

24:44: I'm not talking about the government itself, but the local officials.

24:51: Regarding the CSR, rumours say that there are companies, run by local officials, that are actively operating there, but we can't say exactly who is involved.

25:02: And we are trying to get in, analyse the situation, bring order and organisation within that company.

25:13: In 2003, we made a collaboration proposal, same in 2023, but no response as of now.

25:24: However, all the solutions to all the issues we have been talking about are already right here. And here lies the question that shocks us: who is QMM really working for: the government and its officials, or the people? Whose development? Many unanswered questions.

25:40: That is why, in the preamble of this report book, we decided to start with the question: "A billion-dollar mine—but for whom?"

25:56: Because, it is still not clear for us as CSOs, where all the promised benefits have gone, as there is no concrete evidence of them up to now?

26:04: Does that mean that you, as CSO members, really dare to speak out? Because from what you just explained, you were shocked, you were asking questions and requested reports, but you did not receive any.

26:18: Do you mean there's a lack of transparency in the current situation on the ground? How is governance being handled? And what about the political choices being made by those in power as well?

26:28: Within all this, we are talking about the fight for transparency. It's rather the effort, than struggle, to establish and uphold transparency and accountability.

26:41: From the way you describe it, I have the impression that everything happening seems completely unclear and almost blur to you.

26:47: Exactly. It's completely unclear.

26:50: There were times, we really repeatedly tried to act as mediators, because CSO's role is precisely addressing these kinds of issues.

27:00: There was a time another CSO named TKI, instead of those on the ground, stepped in to resolve the issue. Indeed, we appreciate the fact that they knew how to solve the problem.

27:12: But they were not successful, because the problem came back again.

27:15: As a CSO on site, I help this organisation, TKI, by depicting and providing the benefits that should be given to the people. Then, they said to me: "Since you make a big effort to help us, you should be included as a member of the committee to be formed."

27:36: So, I took the initiative to investigate and see what exactly was causing this disorder.

27:40: Then we, our team and myself, looked into the company, the people, and the leaders.

27:50: When they found out that we were starting to dig deeper, they blocked me from being included as a member of that committee.

27:59: That means there are unclear things on the inside.

28:01: So, what could be the negative impacts of this lack of transparency and the absence of clear political responsibility at the local level?

28:13: As a consequence, the local people don't realise the extent of the situation. I would say, that there could be a possible strike at some point.

28:27: But let me introduce the real problem.

28:31: A week ago, I heard that there is a 90% chance that this company may leave the area. That's the real consequence; and that information prompted me to discuss with you now.

28:49: Because its sudden leave would be a serious disaster for the Anosy region.

28:54: We tried to send WhatsApp messages and emails to the person in charge, but we have not received any response whether they will leave or not.

29:02: And I am worried that once Rio Tinto leaves, like in some other countries or in places such as the Panguna mine in Papua New Guinea, people had to wait 35 years after Rio Tinto had left to get a response to their complaints.

29:24: I am worried about the company's departure from Fort-Dauphin; that is why I am bringing this situation here to you, leaders and authorities, who can help solve this problem.

29:35: We need to know clearly: will they leave or not? They should fix the numerous pending issues in Fort-Dauphin: land ownership (usufruct rights), the fishermen's situation, and matters related to the reeds, which are essential for people's livelihoods of this region.

29:54: Because reeds are used to make almost everything like mats, hats, and other items.

29:59: We discussed, earlier, whether the company damaged them or not.

30:04: For your information, once the land is hoed, it is automatically ruined.

30:09: It never returns to its original state again. It's not just about the land, but there are microbes, many animals, all of which contribute to the terroir and soil characteristics.

30:24: For the case of Madagascar, for instance, the appellation "Red Island" was given from digging up of multiple plots of land and its layers.

30:32: The soil cycle, I mean specifically the soil layer, takes at least 200 years to recover, even if restoration is carried out.

30:41: And that's what I said that even with restoration, it's just a dream for now.

30:49: Overall, that's probably all I can to say, speaking from my simple knowledge of microbiology and soil layers.

30:57: As the project had not benefited the local population, and now we are under a refoundation government, as CSOs, I believe that since you were able to produce a report like this, you must have suggestions to contribute to the change, especially for the current government leaders.

31:14: What system do you think would make the exploitation of mineral resources in Madagascar truly successful, not harmful but beneficial to the local people. Because... the reality is that CSOs will always stand up and say, "No!" to mineral resource exploitation in Madagascar.

31:34: Or they simply stand up and denounce the reason why some things are not acceptable.

31:40: We are now under a nation rebuilding period, to allow the country to benefit from its own resources. From your point of view, what kind of system should be put in place to implement improvement?

31:53: Especially, if we take the case of Fort-Dauphin.

31:57: We have mentioned everything in the report, but to summarise, I would say...

32:04: First of all, regarding the previously mentioned Mining Code No. 23-007, we are thankful to those who drafted it, for mentioning the civil society in that law.

32:22: Beyond that, if we truly follow the law and the provisions within it, it is possible— I repeat, possible— for the exploitation of mineral resources in Madagascar to be conducted in an ideal way that will bring "paradise" transformation.

32:42: But I see that the lack of compliance with the law and the high-level corruption, among other things, are causing this problem.

32:51: Secondly, the Establishment Agreement cannot be revised before the 25 years are completed.

32:59: What should be done about it? This refoundation government should at least do something for re-discussion and consultation.

33:09: Monazite mining and how the people of Fort-Dauphin were treated is an example.

33:15: But why hadn't they been incentivised?

33:19: That situation must change. How things were done should now be corrected to establish transparency and to make people aware of the real situation.

33:30: And working together. The real authorities should be the ones to do this.

33:35: For instance, some foreign NGOs implement their CSR activities without having a real understanding of the situation in that region or in that area.

33:47: Some, for example, provide fertilisers, that the community doesn't even want.

33:54: There are many things that need to be changed. I truly see that, people of Fort-Dauphin, and no one else, are the only ones that know best the needs of Fort-Dauphin.

34:03: In general, that is what I want to say regarding this refoundation regime.

34:07: The people on the ground know their own situation, and only they can solve this problem.

34:15: [Here is a report from the QMM regarding the CSR issue you just mentioned.](#)

34:30: [Regarding electricity, they said that a generator, capable of producing 16 megawatts, has already been installed.](#)

34:43: [They have implemented emergency measures, and many livelihood projects have truly helped the fishermen and supported thousands of farmers, according to the report.](#)

34:56: [You were talking about fertilisers that do not meet the needs of the farmers.](#)

35:01: [So, is the action made by QMM not satisfactory, or is it just not appreciated?](#)

35:09: It's neither unsatisfactory nor unappreciated; they just do not understand the real needs of Fort-Dauphin people.

35:15: That's why I said earlier that Fort-Dauphin itself can solve Fort-Dauphin problems, without anyone from outside at all.

35:21: Secondly, I witnessed during aid distribution that, fishermen, for instance, immediately sell theirs as soon as the authorities left.

35:36: That means they don't need items like coolers, etc. As soon as authorities leave them, I'd say within 10 minutes after the distribution, they're already dividing among themselves, saying "I'll sell this one, you'll sell that one."

35:48: I am not saying that QMM isn't doing anything, but they should identify the farmers' real needs, because that's the reason for this situation.

36:00: We actually have hectares of solar park here. We also have about 19 operating wind turbines, there.

36:10: But is that what the region truly wants? That's the problem as I see it.

36:18: [How then should that be handled?](#)

36:20: There really is a one-time investigation conducted locally. Public consultation can be done even just once without problem, to bring order in the region.

36:32: Many things need reconsideration from the root. Recruitment, for instance, is a real and simple example.

36:45: On recruitment, the majority says that—about 80%—is local recruitment.

36:52: And the former President, during his term, stated that priority must be given to natives of the Anosy region.

37:00: When there are no available regional natives, then come people from our province; if there's none in the province, only then do they look at the national level.

37:08: That's not the reality; people come from the province, from another region, arrive in Fort-Dauphin, and get a Proof of Residence, without even speaking the Antanosy dialect, but are accepted because they are from Fort-Dauphin based on the provided document.

37:23: Those are exactly aspects that need careful consideration. As for me, I often proposed to this region to create an independent Orientation Committee for the development of the Anosy region.

37:38: That Committee would be among the effective solutions if it truly carries out its proper role.

37:48: All the main stakeholders and the one-stop service centre are inside it.

37:55: That Committee should be properly organised; then there would be no selfishness or personal interests. I also see it as part of the solution, not only for Fort-Dauphin but for the entire Anosy region.

38:05: We've discussed a lot of points earlier, but the last point I want to talk about is the one on environment.

38:13: Regarding environment, at the moment, and even at COP 30 or elsewhere, the topic is about facing climate change, and on top of that, there are also negative impacts from various types of exploitation.

38:30: What will happen to the Anosy region if that is left uncontrolled?

38:36: And what about the efforts that have already been made?

38:39: They say they've reforested hectares of land, made various actions regarding the environment, etc., but what is actually happening there right now?

38:47: Yes, as we're talking about the environment: if it's clean, the people and all living beings in it are in good health.

38:59: But overall, based on my previous explanation, it's not as clean as one might think.

39:05: The case of drinking water is a tangible example.

39:09: For your information, the previously mentioned spoiled and smelly water is actually the water from which people drink in Fort-Dauphin.

39:15: QMM company also takes its drinking water from that site. So, we, people in Fort-Dauphin, request that this serious situation be examined closely and urgently, because there are many cases of stomach illnesses and other diseases there.

39:49: Additionally, the air we breathe also needs some consideration.

40:05: Overall, that would be the complete assessment of the environment we live in. I urge government leaders, to take a close look now, to prevent disasters and end up blaming one another.

40:20: *But isn't there already an environmental impact assessment conducted?*

40:26: There is an impact assessment. There are reports, and monitoring. But the company itself covers the costs and pays the allowances of the people in charge of monitoring.

40:38: This is not to put the blame on the company, but the assessment is done by the company itself.

40:45: *Who then issues the assessment outcomes?*

40:46: Those same people, themselves. We're not blaming the company, but the government isn't either...

40:50: *Themselves, they won't admit having done something wrong.*

40:53: Exact. Had I been a key person in the company, I would never admit "We killed such or such people". That's impossible.

40:59: So overall, the government should take responsibility. For example, setting up a local laboratory.

41:09: As we're talking about water. Around that area, a law firm Leigh Day conducted a simple study on the lead levels in the water used by surrounding people.

41:23: We're talking about the lead level standard, which is 10 microgrammes per decilitre out of 100. A standard which is already high, but is actually a low limit for health.

41:38: That's a 2005 reference, but now, it's already 60–70 microgrammes per decilitre.

41:48: That means the lead level in their water is 5 to 7 times higher than the normal standard.

41:56: What causes that? Was there no lead before, and now there is? It's unclear whether it's from the water itself or something else.

42:03: And we also tried to conduct an analysis, as far as water discharge is concerned.

42:11: That event happened in 2022, but until now we haven't received the results of the water analysis. However, rumours say that the lead levels... and the aluminium levels in it are very high.

42:24: For your information, let me put it simple for you; aluminium dissolves in an acidic environment.

42:31: So, when we drink acidic water, the aluminium in our bodies increases.

42:38: The simplest effect is that drinking that water could often develop Alzheimer's disease. That's a straightforward effect.

42:59: That means the environment needs a rapid assessment. It's already an alert and the situation we're talking about is not trivial.

43:03: Regarding social matters, the committee supposed to be established ends up being mostly self-centred.

43:16: It's not a committee that will accomplish everything properly; instead, it changes all the time, and further adds fuel to the already intense social problems in that area.

43:24: That's why, in my view, an independent Orientation Committee is truly one of the effective solutions for the social issues and the situation.

43:35: And economically, expenses should be fully considered.

43:44: For example, the Fort-Dauphin municipality receives a royalty.

43:49: If I'm not mistaken, they received a royalty, but their debt to JIRAMA is equivalent to 150 or 200 million Ariary.

43:59: Only 30% of the royalty is used for everyday expenses, while the remaining 70% is allocated to infrastructure development.

44:14: Why not exchanging the amount? Infrastructure is already more or less handled by QMM. It will allow the Commune and the surrounding community to know and carry out what can realistically be done.

44:27: That's all the solution I can see. It's joint management from the ground and with transparency. They don't back down, so we just kindly ask; maybe I'll discuss it at the end.

44:41: Do not neglect us, the people and CSOs, because many of us should also cooperate with you.

44:48: We need to support one another to produce proper and tangible results in that area, because it is a sacred and resource-rich region. Thank you, Sir.

45:00: In general, the thing is, in the past, CSOs didn't really have their proper role ... as it was viewed as a counter-development entity. Many CSOs were accused of that.

45:15: You are coined as "anti-development" when you dare point out the problems experienced on the ground, observe or take action, act as whistleblowers or speak out about them within that context.

45:28: In this programme, I truly believe some people might be saying, "Civil society will probably once again portray the local situation negatively."

45:35: Some will question the purpose of this special episode of *Zo Hiteny* programme. Within that, how exactly can you really establish your proper position in it?

45:45: What exact responsibilities do you want to take on, so that you won't be neglected anymore within that context?

45:52: Thank you very much. Generally speaking, a true civil society, which is different from business-oriented civil society,

46:02: that is about making money for themselves. But for the civil society where we belong to, and which is part of the national structure, I mentioned earlier that we had just celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national CSO.

46:16: And civil society is one that continuously strives and seeks to benefit the community.

46:24: There is no room for selfishness; it is all about selflessness.

46:28: Our true role is to act as a mediator between the people and the government.

46:34: Communicating with the company doesn't mean we don't go there, but we engage in dialogue.

46:41: And we are truly in proper contact and we communicate. But last time, once we raised our 21 points regarding QMM unaccomplished responsibilities, they no longer communicate with us.

46:56: And they are looking for solutions, by calling truly dedicated CSO members—CSO specialists, for example: Ms. Sahondra RABENARIVO.

47:11: A woman the company hired to discuss with us.

47:16: The first and second meetings went smoothly. When we raised our requests for explanation about the existing problem, then no third meeting up to now.

47:28: That's the problem: the processes and steps we are supposed to carry out as CSOs always get impeded in some way.

47:42: But in general, whether there is a blockage or not, we keep moving forward. And it's possible that we need to look more closely because CSR, which can both support and develop the area if it is properly implemented, is just getting started.

48:00: Aren't the 89 million USD, I previously mentioned, enough to complete the water supply infrastructure, for example?

48:09: Wouldn't that be enough to properly maintain the power poles that frequently cause outages in Fort-Dauphin?

48:16: Every day there's a power outage. And often, the tap water only starts working around midnight. Isn't that money an opportunity to solve the issue of the contaminated water source?

48:29: That's 4 million USD per year—what would that money be used for under the current situation? There's also the need for coordination, because we are present on the ground to continuously monitor what truly benefits the people of Fort-Dauphin.

48:44: And we have to face the reality, because we must keep striving no matter what.

48:51: [This Wednesday will be the official launch of the national consultation.](#)

49:04: [It's an opening ceremony, but after that, the events will continue as planned.](#)

49:08: That means, as a CSOs platform in the Anosy region, you have prepared something to present regarding the reforms in terms of mineral resource extraction.

49:23: Has there been consultations among your CSO groups, so that you can bring your contribution to the reforms in Madagascar?

49:38: Thank you very much.

49:39: Are we talking about the national consultation meeting?

49:42: (Agreeing)

49:43: We started on Tuesday, last week. We were leading the consultation, together with the Tanosy elders and the traditional community leaders.

49:55: We also created a WhatsApp group, with probably more than 200 members and several ideas, to share information. Once the national consultation organisers arrive in Fort-Dauphin, we will submit our proposals.

50:11: CSOs at the national level are a bit behind, but a regional level we have already started.

50:19: From the first discussion, we had divided ourselves into four clusters: social issues, environment, health, constitution and so on.

50:35: And we are sharing ideas in our WhatsApp group.

50:41: Our restitution workshop is scheduled on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

50:46: Humm! That's great!

50:49: Alright, we've already covered quite a lot of topics. To end, could you summarise or deliver a strong final message worth remembering, within two or three minutes.

51:07: Yes, sure. Thank you very much, Harinianja.

51:12: Generally speaking, I keep repeating that Anosy is a rich region. It shouldn't content on this unsuccessful mining exploitation due to various previously mentioned parameters. Instead, it should further develop ecotourism, tourism, and fisheries, for which we are known, like lobsters, shrimps, oysters, and other local products.

51:41: Let's not forget agriculture either. Those are the sources of our future, at this point.

51:48: So, I would say that within this refoundation regime, we should also undergo a refoundation ourselves, so that we can manage our own resources ourselves.

51:59: The objective is our collective cooperation. Let's avoid corruption, hatred, and let's work together to develop our region.

52:09: Our region is already the third poorest region in the country.

52:16: So, let's make it a challenge that in two, three, or ten years, our region will rank among the top 3 most developed regions in Madagascar.

52:31: And for all of us, let's hope this refoundation brings benefits to us, so that the Malagasy people are the truly owners of Madagascar.

52:40: That's probably how I'll conclude it.

52:41: Alright. Thank you very much, Mr. MASIMANA GAHIDI MARENJAKA. You are one of the well-known personalities in the Anosy region, in terms of advocacy on various matters, as a civil society member.

53:03: Thank you very much for coming to the *Zo Hiteny* programme. It's great that the programme is already reaching people from different regions, and is starting to listen to voices from across the country. Efforts are being made to call and invite people from other regions who come to Antananarivo to share the realities with the Malagasy citizens.

53:26: Thank you very much for being our guest, and many thanks to everyone at home who followed the programme until the very end.

53:32: See you again on Thursday. Good bye!

53:40: \*Closing music for the program\*

54:03: \*Ending\*