

# Madagascar and Olympism

## MADAGASCAR

587,041 sq. km.  
8,080,900 inhabitants.



## COMITE OLYMPIQUE MALGACHE (COM)

Founded in 1963.

Recognised by the IOC in 1964.

*President in office* : Edmond Ralijaona \*.

*Secretary General in office*: Samuelson Andriamanisa\*.

*Address* : B. P. 4188, Antananarivo.

*Telegrams* : Madolympic.

## Role of the COM

To ensure, prepare and organise the participation of the Malagasy Republic in the Olympic Games.

\* See biographical notes.

## Creation

It was at a meeting at Antananarivo on 30th December 1963 that the presidents of the Madagascan sports federations affiliated to their respective IF's decided to found the COM. This decision was ratified by the government on 15th August 1964. Immediately, those in charge of the COM endeavoured to obtain the recognition of the IOC. For this purpose, a delegation from the COM, led by its President, Renti Rakotobe \*, went to the IOC headquarters in Lausanne on 6th March 1964 in order to hand in an official application for recognition, which was granted on 26th June of the same year by decision of the Executive Board of the IOC.

### Composition of the first Executive Committee of the COM (in 1964)

*PT*: René Rakotobe\*, *VPT* : Victor Ramanitra, *SG*: Georges Ranarivelo, *Ms*: Flavian Bon, Félix Ralamboarison, Albert Andriamamonjisoa, Samuel Razafimandranto, Mamode Nouraly.

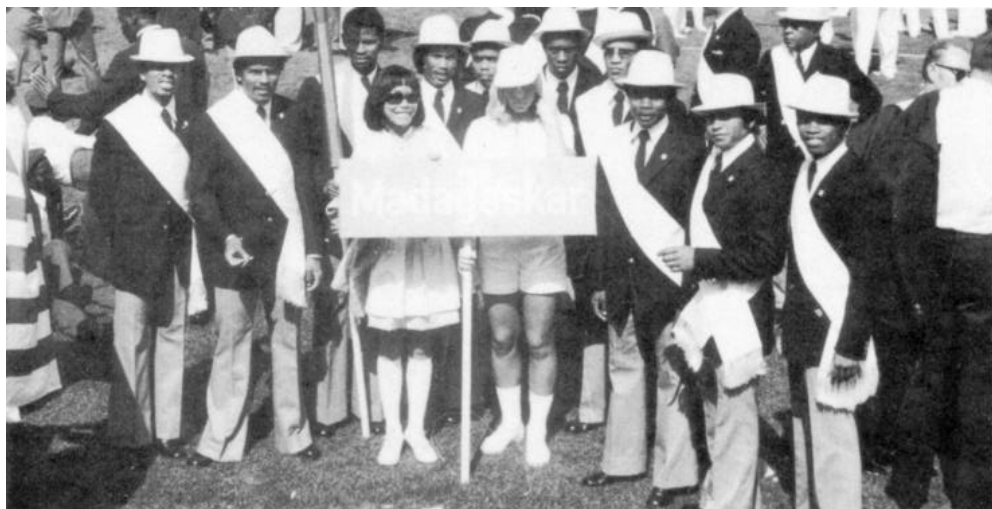
## Successive Presidents of the COM

1963-1971 : René Rakotobe \*.

Since 1971 : Edmond Ralijaona \*.

## IOC member in Madagascar

René Rakotobe \*, from 1968 till his death in 1971.



1972 - The Malagasy delegation.

## MADAGASCAR AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

- **Date of first participation** : 1968.

Since then, a national delegation has attended each celebration of an Olympiad except however for the Games of the XXI<sup>st</sup> Olympiad in Montreal in 1976.

- **Representation of Madagascar at the Olympic Games from 1968 to 1960**

	Athlétisme	Cyclisme	Judo	Total
1964	3	-	-	3
1968	3	1	-	4
1972	8	-	4	12
1976	-	-	-	0
1980				

## PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE COM

- *The present* Statutes were adopted on 25th January 1973.
- *The General Meeting*, convened in ordinary session every four years, elects officials of the COM.
- *The Executive Committee*, the governing body of the COM, is composed of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, the assistant treasurer and three counselors.



*Best Olympic performance*  
*In 1972, in Munich: the sprinter Jean-Louis Ravelimanantsoa (seen here in training) came 8th in the 100 m.*



1965 - The President of the Malagasy Republic, Philibert Tsiranana, accompanied by the Minister for Cultural Affairs, receives the President of the COM, René Rakotobe (in the centre), who was to become the first member of the IOC in Madagascar.

• **Present members of the Executive Committee** (elected on 27th January 1977)

PT: Edmond Ralijaona \*, VPT: Sasembo, SG: Samuelson Andriamanisa\*, T: Rabejaofera, MS : Managn' Ignace Rakotomalala, Sabin Adrianarisata, Jean Robiarivony.

• **Olympic federations affiliated to the COM**

	IF Affiliation	No. of members in 1978
Athletics	1963	1 071
Basketball	1963	1 600
Boxing	1963	509
Cycling	1965	620
Equestrian events	1965	396
Fencing	1963	-
Football	1964	15 697
Weightlifting	1968	205
Handball	1969	1 524
Judo	1961	520
Wrestling	-	241
Swimming	1963	258
Volleyball	1962	1316

and the tennis, table tennis, automobile sports, rugby, chess and karate federations.

• **Financing of the COM**

The funds needed for running the COM come mainly from State subsidies and to a lesser extent from the annual subscriptions paid by the affiliated federations.

**THE COM AND OLYMPISM**

• **Olympic Day**

The programme of the day includes lectures and debates on Olympism. Some of the ceremonies are broadcast by radio and television.

• **Protection of the Olympic emblems**

The COM endeavours to obtain this protection by means of circulars and the organisation of lectures.

• **International Olympic Academy**

The COM very much wishes that it had the necessary funds to take part in the work of the IOA.



1979 - Officials of the COM: Ignace Rakotomalala, the President Edmond Ralijaona, the Treasurer Rabejaofera and the Secretary General Samuelson Andriamanisa.

## SPORT IN MADAGASCAR

### • Other sports governing bodies

- School sports associations.
- Military Omnisport Federation.
- University Omnisport Association.
- Catholic Omnisport Federation.

### • State aid for the sports movement

The State sets aside 0.68 to 0.75 % of its budget for sports activities. It grants the sports federations annual subsidies. It also pays a large part of the expenses incurred by participation in the Olympic Games.

### • Sport at school

An average of 3 hours a week is devoted to physical and sports education.

### • Sports installations in Madagascar

At present these include :

sports grounds	13,058
open-air swimming pools (50 m)	1
other swimming pools	19
sports centres	6
gymnasia	20

### • Sports which draw the biggest crowds

Football - Rugby - Basketball - Volleyball.

### • Sports experiencing the greatest development during the last few years

Karate -Judo - Football.

### • Percentage of practising sportsmen in the country

5 %.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

### Edmond Ralijaona

President of the COM since 1973.

Born at Antananarivo on 16th November 1916, he obtained the diploma of civil administrator after brilliant higher studies. His administrative career resulted in his being given the post of head of the personnel department of the only National Company (over 4,000 agents) ensuring the production and distribution of electricity and water for the whole island.

Fired by a desire to educate the young, he accepted the post of Secretary General of the Alliance of Young Peoples Christian Unions of Madagascar (1963) in this capacity, he attended the World Council of Youth several times.

A tennis player from an early age, he took part in various national championships. He was also a football player (selected 5 times to play in the provincial team - 1939 to 1943)

A member, then Secretary General (1952-1960) of the Steering Committee of the Malagasy Swimming League, he continually accumulated activities as a sports official; founder and first President of the Malagasy Swimming Federation, he was also a member of the National Sports Council from 1968 to 1973.

### Samuelson Andriamanisa

Secretary General of the COM since 1972

Born on 29th August 1936, he studied law, political, social and economic sciences, diplomacy, the magistrature, followed by several courses under the auspices of UNESCO in various Latin American and African countries. He taught Social Sciences at the Higher National Institute of Educational Training and Research. A technical counsellor for the Ministry of Information, he is head of the National News Agency «TARATRA» (ANTA).

He played in his school football, volleyball and basketball teams. Having specialised in table tennis, he was a member of the champion national team and won a bronze medal at the African Games in Lagos in 1973. Several times coach of the national team, he is head of the national Table Tennis Federation.

### René Rakotobe

IOC member in Madagascar from 1968 till his death in 1971.

«The law, State service and the development of the sports movement» are the paths followed by René Rakotobe, the first Madagascan to become a member of the International Olympic Committee.

The university education he received in the Faculties of Law in Paris and Algiers enabled him to assume that highest of legal responsibilities-High Court Judge. A member of Parliament since 1956, he presided over the National Assembly then the Congress of Parliament on the occasion of the election of the first President of the Malagasy Republic. At one time Minister of Justice, he left this post in 1960 to preside over the Higher Council of Institutions.

In 1950, fourteen years after being school athletics champion, he reached the finals of the national tennis championships. His great qualities as an organiser and his perfect knowledge of sport benefited the Malagasy Judo Federation, then the Comité Olympique Malgache.