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OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE



BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIEGE  
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLIS

# **BOLLETTINO**

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 190910b

Tuesday 10.09.2019

## **Apostolic Trip of His Holiness Francis in Mozambique, Madagascar and Mauritius (4 to 10 September 2019) – Farewell ceremony in Madagascar and Telegram to the President of the Republic of Madagascar**

**Farewell ceremony in Antananarivo Airport, Madagascar**

**Telegram to the President of the Republic of Madagascar**

### **Farewell ceremony in Antananarivo Airport, Madagascar**

This morning, after celebrating Holy Mass in private, the Pope took leave of the apostolic nunciature in Antananarivo. Then, after greeting the staff of the residence, the benefactors, friends of the Pontifical Representation and around a dozen poor elderly women representing the people assisted every Friday by the nunciature, he transferred by car to Antananarivo Airport for the farewell ceremony.

Upon arrival at 8.50 local time (7.50 in Rome), the Holy Father was welcomed by the President of the Republic of Madagascar, Mr. Andry Rajoelina, and his wife, at the entrance to the Presidential Pavilion, where they spoke briefly. As he left the Pavilion, the Pope greeted the Malagasy bishops and proceeded to the aircraft. Around 300 faithful were present.

After passing through the Guard of Honour, Pope Francis boarded an Air Madagascar A340neo bound for Italy.

The aircraft carrying the Holy Father on his return trip from Mozambique, Madagascar and Mauritius departed at 9.38 local time (8.38 in Rome) and is expected to arrive at Rome-Ciampino Airport at 19.00.

**Telegram to the President of the Republic of Madagascar**

Immediately after his departure by air from Antananarivo, the Holy Father Francis sent the following telegraphic message to the President of the Republic of Madagascar, Mr. Andry Rajoelina:

HIS EXCELLENCY ANDRY RAJOELINA  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR  
ANTANANARIVO

AS I LEAVE MADAGASCAR AGAIN TO RETURN TO ROME, I RENEW MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME, AND I INVOKE UPON THE NATION THE BLESSINGS OF ALMIGHTY GOD.

FRANCISCUS PP.

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