

## **Media Release**

# **Madagascar's exiled President Marc Ravalomanana to return home unconditionally SADC to amend roadmap to allow return of all exiles**

Madagascar's exiled President Marc Ravalomanana is to return home "unconditionally" the SADC extraordinary summit on Madagascar held in Sandton, Johannesburg yesterday (Sunday June 13) decided.

And the controversial roadmap of SADC mediator on Madagascar, former Mozambican President Joachim Chissano, is to be amended, to allow for the return of President Ravalomanana and all "Malagasy people in exile for political reasons".

There is widespread speculation that SADC and the African Union will "support" the return of the President to Madagascar.

In its communiqué on the Summit, SADC says: "Summit noted that the return of the country to constitutional normalcy is a matter of urgency."

It said that it would endorse the roadmap "after effecting necessary amendments".

The communiqué added: "Summit urged the leaders of mouvances Ratsiraka, Ravalomanana and Zafy to initial the roadmap expeditiously, as soon as the necessary amendments are effected.

"Summit also urged the High Transition Authority (HTA) to allow the Malagasy people in exile for political reasons, to be allowed to return to the country unconditionally, including Mr Marc Ravalomanana.

"Summit further urged the HTA to urgently develop and enact all outstanding legal instruments to ensure the political freedom of all Malagasy in the inclusive process leading to free, fair and credible elections."

President Ravalomanana was forced out of the country after a violent and illegal *coup d'état* in March 2009.