

= Parti des déshérités de Madagascar =

The Parti des déshérités de Madagascar ( PADESM , " Party of the Disinherited of Madagascar " ) was a political party active in Madagascar from June 1946 into the First Republic ( 1960 ? 1972 ) . It was formed in reaction to the establishment and rapid political success of the Mouvement démocratique de la rénovation malgache ( MDRM ) political party , formed by Merina elites on a platform of independence from France . While nationalism - and therefore the MDRM - had widespread support from all ethnic communities , PADESM championed the empowerment and equitable government of coastal peoples , who had historically been subjugated by the Merina and feared the MDRM could ensure their return to political dominance upon independence . They actively recruited and campaigned along ethnic lines , initially including coastal peoples and the descendents of Merina slaves , but eventually excluding the latter entirely . The formation and political success of PADESM was actively fostered by the French colonial administration , which manipulated election results in favor of the coastal party .

The nationalist Malagasy Uprising of 1947 led the French colonial administration to dissolve the MDRM and temporarily suspend all other political parties , including PADESM . Tensions between the parties played out during the uprising through targeted acts of violence between supporters of the rival groups . An estimated 1 @, @ 900 to 5 @, @ 000 PADESM supporters were killed during the uprising by pro @-@ MDRM nationalist fighters . After the nationalist movement was crushed in December 1948 , PADESM experienced an increase in popularity , aided by continuing French support . The party won several key political elections in the 1950s . Nevertheless , as the process toward independence began , it became fragmented between conservative and progressive factions , with the latter splitting off in December 1956 to form the Parti sociale démocrate ( PSD , Social Democratic Party ) . With this split and independence in 1960 , PADESM became moribund .

PADESM has had a lasting impact on political life in Madagascar . Philibert Tsiranana , leader of the PSD , went on to become Madagascar 's first president upon independence in 1960 . Many other major political figures in Madagascar have connections to PADESM and PSD , including former president Didier Ratsiraka and former prime minister Jacques Sylla . More broadly , the formation of PADESM cemented ethnic rivalries within Malagasy politics , linking the interests of specific ethnic groups with particular political parties .

= = History = =

= = = Founding and ideology = = =

At the first post @-@ war constituent assembly convened in Paris in November 1945 to draft the constitution of the French Fourth Republic , Madagascar was represented by two doctors named Joseph Raseta and Joseph Ravoahangy . They formed the Mouvement démocratique de la rénovation malgache ( MDRM ) political party together with future writer Jacques Rabemananjara in early 1946 . All three leaders were the descendents of Hova Merina who had been politically prominent in the former royal court . The party 's platform was built on national independence from France and garnered mass support that cut across geographic , ethnic and class divisions . In November 1946 the trio were elected to represent Madagascar as deputies ( députés ) in the French National Assembly .

In reaction to the founding of the MDRM , which many non @-@ Merina feared would revive Merina political hegemony , the Party for the Disinherited of Madagascar ( Parti des déshérités de Madagascar , PADESM ) was formed in June 1946 by members of coastal communities formerly subjugated by the Merina empire , as well as highland @-@ based descendents of former Merina slaves . Militant leader Mahasampo Raveloson was key in the creation of the party . Other founding members included Philibert Tsiranana ( who became Madagascar 's first president after independence ) , Albert Sylla ( who became Minister of Foreign Affairs under Tsiranana , and whose son , Jacques Sylla , would go on to become Prime Minister of Madagascar under Marc

Ravalomanana ) , and Pascale Velonjara , father @-@ in @-@ law of future president Didier Ratsiraka .

In July 1946 , PADESM was changed to become a direct opposition party to MDRM . Initially a non @-@ nationalist party , PADESM eventually favored a gradual process toward independence that would preserve close ties to France and prevent the reemergence of the precolonial hegemony . It actively recruited membership along ethnic lines to include coastal peoples and the descendents of Merina slaves , attracting a number of intellectual elites and political leaders from coastal areas . Its platform focused on increasing distribution of resources to coastal areas to counterbalance decades of colonial investment in the central highlands . Over time , the party grew more conservative , and Mahasampo Raveloson led a successful effort to exclude any Merina from the party , including descendants of those who had been enslaved by nobles of their own ethnic group under the Kingdom of Imerina and shared their coastal compatriots ' concerns regarding Merina political dominance .

The Socialist @-@ dominated French authorities actively supported PADESM . The French characterized this support as an effort to champion the oppressed masses and strengthen their protection against exploitative Hova elites . Governor General Jules Marcel de Coppet provided the party with space in public buildings for meetings . PADESM candidates in the January 1947 provincial elections received financial support from French settlers owing to the party 's favorable disposition to the French administration .

In the critical November 1946 election to select the first ever deputies to represent Madagascar at the French National Assembly , MDRM accused the French administration of stuffing ballot boxes , tampering with electoral rolls , intimidating MDRM candidates and supporters , and blatantly falsifying election results to ensure PADESM victory . Despite these irregularities , MDRM won 71 percent of the vote , and none of the PADESM candidates was elected . While MDRM won decisive victories in the central and eastern province , results were close in the western province , where the MDRM candidate Joseph Raseta won 21 @,@ 475 votes and the PADESM candidate Totelehibe won 19 @,@ 014 votes .

= = = Role during and after the Malagasy Uprising = = =

In early 1947 the French administration instituted a new rule that increased the weight of the French vote over the Malagasy vote in selection of candidates , and three PADESM candidates favored by French conservatives were successfully elected to the Conseil de la Republique . The results of the election and popular discontent with French interference served to intensify widespread frustration against the colonial authority and desire for Malagasy self @-@ governance across the island . These factors finally erupted in a nationalist uprising that began on the evening of 29 March 1947 with attacks against a police camp and several French plantations in the eastern rainforest carried out by militant Malagasy nationalists , chief among them the members of the nationalist secret societies Vy Vato Sakelika ( VVS ) and Jiny .

Despite the role of the militants in leading the Uprising , the colonial authorities immediately accused the MDRM of instigating the movement . This view was echoed by PADESM leaders and shared by the majority of French settlers . The French authorities responded by targeting not only MDRM leaders and members , but also their supporters , drawing the wider population into the conflict . Attacks against the colonial authority in the east were immediately followed by similar actions in the south of the island before rapidly spreading throughout the country . The movement enjoyed particularly strong support in the south , where the revolt attracted as many as one million peasants to fight for the nationalist cause . The French responded with heavy military action and psychological warfare , including incidences of crimes against humanity . Between July and September 1948 , most of the key leaders of the Uprising were captured or killed , and the last of the fighters disbanded and fled into the forests in December 1948 .

The eruption of the conflict provided the pretext for violence between highland Merina and coastal Malagasy of other ethnic groups . An estimated 1 @,@ 900 to 5 @,@ 000 Malagasy PADESM supporters were killed by their pro @-@ MDRM nationalist countrymen during the conflict .

Although the MDRM leadership consistently maintained its innocence , the party was dissolved by the French administration on 10 May 1947 , and all other political parties , including PADESM , were temporarily suspended . The banning of MDRM further strengthened PADESM 's prominence after the end of the uprising . Between 1951 and 1956 , PADESM candidates won three consecutive legislative elections .

= = = Decline = = =

Despite the outward appearance of success , the party was suffering from internal divisions . Other countries under French colonial rule , including Morocco , Indochina and several in West Africa , had either become independent or had begun to negotiate the process to independence ; this inspired the hope that Madagascar could follow suit , allowing the tantalizing opportunity for PADESM to wield unfettered power in Malagasy politics . This emerging possibility fragmented the party , which became paralyzed by in @-@ fighting . The progressive faction split off to form the Parti sociale démocrate ( PSD , Social Democratic Party ) in Mahajanga in December 1956 , under the leadership of Philibert Tsiranana , a French @-@ educated school teacher of Tsimihety coastal origin , and Andre Raseta .

= = Legacy = =

The PSD that emerged from the disintegration of PADESM was a powerful force in Malagasy politics throughout the First Republic . When Madagascar achieved independence in 1960 , PSD leader Tsiranana was named the country 's first president , a position he held until the rotaka protests forced him to resign in 1972 . His administration was succeeded by the socialist nationalist Second Republic under Didier Ratsiraka .