

Dear Sir/Madam,

The designated operator of **MADAGASCAR**, Paositra Malagasy, wishes to inform UPU member countries of the following:

"Paositra Malagasy was recently informed of the existence of several illegal stamp issues bearing the name of Madagascar and relating to themes such as:

- Year of the Monkey 2016;
- 90th anniversary of the foundation of the Communist Party of China in 1999;
- International Year of Astronomy 2009;
- 75th anniversary of the death of Pierre Fredy in 2012;
- 200th anniversary of the birth of Richard Wagner in 2013;
- 200th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty.

"These stamps were not approved by Paositra Malagasy and are therefore illegal. They were issued in contravention of the Universal Postal Convention, and are therefore to be considered null and void and under no circumstances valid as evidence of the payment of postage.

"Paositra Malagasy has now been victim to illegal postage stamp issues on numerous occasions. It strongly denounces and condemns such practices and notes that illegal issues are detrimental, not only to the reputation of Paositra Malagasy, but also to that of philatelic services in general.

"Paositra Malagasy is therefore seeking solidarity and support from all UPU member countries with a view to eliminating such practices, prohibiting the sale and circulation of illegal stamps, and identifying and bringing to justice the perpetrators of these acts.

"Paositra Malagasy kindly asks designated operators to bring these illegal stamps to the attention of stamp collectors and catalogue publishers in order to prevent their purchase, sale or collection.

"Paositra Malagasy also takes this opportunity to point out that Madagascan postage stamps issued officially since 2002 are visible on the UPU's WNS website."

Yours faithfully,

Murray Buchanan
Director of Regulation, Economics and
Markets