



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Justice hereby **recalls** and **reiterates** that, pursuant to Articles 135, 140, 141, 210, 211, 212 bis and 257 of the **Code of Criminal Procedure**, the **conduct of searches** and seizures is strictly regulated by law and subject to clearly defined procedures and mandatory legal requirements. Officials carrying out a search operation:

1. **must be accompanied by officers of the Judicial Police (OPJ) and senior officers of the Judicial Police (OSPJ), who shall not wear masks or conceal their identity;**
2. **shall not resort to the use of force except in cases of resistance or obstruction;**
3. **must be able to present, upon request, the authorization issued by the Public Prosecutor's Office.**

Accordingly, any search **conducted** outside these **legal requirements**, or carried out by persons lacking the necessary authority or legal capacity, including through impersonation or **usurpation of official powers**, constitutes a **criminal offence** and renders its perpetrators liable to the penalties provided for under the laws in force in the Republic of Madagascar.

The **Judiciary** has already taken the **necessary measures** and is encouraged to continue **prosecuting** and **sanctioning** those **responsible** for **fraudulent** or unlawful search operations.

It is further expressly clarified that **the Ministry of Justice is not the authority empowered** to authorize house searches or search operations. Any information disseminated to the contrary therefore constitutes misinformation intended to mislead public opinion.

Citizens are also encouraged **to immediately report** any **suspicious** incident or activity to the law enforcement authorities or to the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Antananarivo, July 11, 2026



The Director of Communication,
Ministry of Justice