

President bows out of election race

Madagascar's President, Hery Rajaonarimampianina, has conceded defeat in his bid for a second term after finishing a distant third in the first round of voting in the island's presidential vote. Rajaonarimampianina received just 8.82% in the November first round, the High Constitutional Court said on Wednesday, behind former Presidents Marc Ravalomanana, who got 35.35%, and Andry Rajoelina, who got 39.23%. A report on the [EWN](#) site notes that he will not take part in the second round, due on 19 December. **The court rejected his request to have the election cancelled.** 'The people's choice must be respected,' Rajaonarimampianina said in a televised statement late on Friday.