



PRESS RELEASE

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Public thematic report

WHICH DEVELOPMENT FOR MAYOTTE?

Ten years after the Department of Mayotte was created, and while the Government has made one plan after another in its favour, the situation of Mayotte remains atypical within the Republic. In sixty years, the archipelago has seen its population multiplied by 12 and it now has the highest population density in overseas France, due to both very dynamic endogenous growth and high illegal immigration. At the same time, the period following departmenthood has seen, despite real progress in the standard of living of its inhabitants, a sharp deterioration in security and quality of life conditions (transport, water, environment, housing). Crime has reached such a level that security has become the primary concern of inhabitants. In terms of education, it is also difficult to catch up, as half the population does not speak French. In the report published today, the financial courts (Court of Accounts and the Mayotte Regional Chamber of Accounts) stress that the services of the central Government and the Department of Mayotte do not manage to provide the solutions expected by the people of Mayotte on social, economic, and societal levels. In order to contribute to a strategic reflection on the sustainable development of Mayotte, the Court is making some recommendations aimed at consolidating the action of the public authorities and strengthening the fight against illegal immigration.

Faced with the challenges of territorial development, local institutions are struggling to consolidate their actions

If local institutions are struggling to establish their development actions, it is mainly because the central Government services in Mayotte report difficulties in hiring administrative staff who, moreover, do not stay on the job long enough to ensure the continuity of their actions. In addition, the prefecture does not have the means and organisation to perform its role as a manager and coordinator of central Government action, because, apart from recruiting difficulties, the context of recurring emergencies prevents the prefectural service from taking action over time and developing or managing projects that meet the local challenges. For its part, the department must strengthen its human resources, management control, and IT systems functions in order to have a management base that guarantees the proper implementation of policies formalized by contract. In previous reports, the Mayotte Regional Chamber of Accounts made recommendations on the monitoring of the public service concession for the port of Longoni, on the land disputes and the addressing of properties, on the central Government's steering of the departmenthood process, and on the multi-year

scheduling of the central Government's financial commitment and public facilities. However, those recommendations were little or just partially followed by the department and the central Government, which affected the monitoring of the development plans and the recovery of the department.

Central Government development plans: ambitious commitments, uneven implementation

While the 2014 "Mayotte 2025" plan included a consensual roadmap, and the 2018 plan included €1.3 billion in central Government spending, some of the measures that were quickly initiated have been halted due to political or prefect changes. For example, monitoring of the "Mayotte 2025" plan was discontinued after one year, and for the 2018 plan there is no updated monitoring document or data on its implementation, apart from a table filled in by the prefecture at the Court's request. Therefore, although the commitments made by the central Government are substantial, it remains difficult to assess the amount of the additional effort made. Public action in Mayotte unfolds in fits and starts, without the linkage between one plan and the next one being established. This is because neither the prefecture of Mayotte nor the Directorate General for Overseas France has teams dedicated to monitoring these plans and, under these conditions the dispersed, centralised services of the central Government are not encouraged to produce monitoring documents or to document their actions.

The central Government's responses have not provided all the solutions expected


In the 2018 Plan for the Future of Mayotte, the majority of the state's responses to the demands of the people of Mayotte focused on law and order. However, crime statistics show that the situation continues to deteriorate in this area. In addition, responses to social problems remain inadequate: the health care supply remains below national standards, housing construction remains far below needs (39% of housing is insecure) and there are still difficulties in accommodating children in schools (221 schools are full). The spatial planning policy also reveals significant limitations. Only resolute central Government action, given the necessary technical and financial resources and steered with constancy, can bridge the gap with mainland French standards. Without calling departmenthood or decentralization into question, the central Government must strengthen its capability to lead the development of the territory, in a governance combining the department and the other communities. The central Government must also assume its authority when necessary, which it will do all the better if its own commitments have been met.


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