



The News

December 20th, 2pm ©

by Emma Phillips

15 million euros have been raised so far for Mayotte by the Fondation de France. The charity's director has confirmed that it has proved to be the largest "emergency fundraising effort in such a short space of time". Meanwhile, outgoing minister for the armed forces, Sébastien Lecornu has confirmed that military aid for Mayotte will be stepped up. There are currently 800 service members deployed to the islands.

The news comes as Emmanuel Macron has now left Mayotte after his visit to the islands that have been devastated by cyclone Chido. While there, the president was confronted by several angry residents. Now, Macron has pledged that medicines and water will be handed out every day. The tax authority URSSAF has also announced that the collection of social security contributions from Mayotte residents will be suspended until further notice.

François Bayrou is insisting that the political parties in the Assemblée Nationale give him their answer today as to whether he can count on including party representatives in the new government. The Parti Socialiste has already indicated that none of its party representatives are willing to become ministers. The prime minister has pledged to form the new government before Christmas.

Paul Watson will be arriving to France today to be welcomed by his support committee in Paris. The environmental activist in his 70s was released from custody in Denmark this week after Japan's extradition request for him was refused.

And finally, Malaysia has given the go-ahead for resuming the search for the wreckage from flight MH370. The Boeing 777 aircraft vanished in 2014 while en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. The exploration firm Ocean Infinity will conduct the search in a new area of the Indian Ocean.