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GLOCEPS Webinar Series

**Theme: Institutionalizing the Raila Odinga Legacy:
Constitutionalism, Democratic Reform, and the
Realization of African Union Agenda 2063**

Week 3: Wednesday 8th April 2026 | Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Meeting ID: 857 7507 9550 | Passcode: 765310

Article 1: Democratic Policing: Raila Odinga's Legacy and the Advancement of Constitutional Accountability in Kenya's Security Sector Reforms ~ *Mr. Amos Ochieng' Awitti*

Article 2: Institutionalising the Raila Odinga Legacy: Constitutionalism, Democratic Reform, and the Realisation of the African Union Agenda 2063 ~ *Mr. Charles Govan Ochieng*



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Mr. Charles Govan Ochieng, CPA
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Dr. Susan Mwangi, PhD
Discussant



Dr. Kizito Sabala, PhD.
Discussant



Dr. Janet Kiguru, PhD.
Discussant



Dr. Evans Onyango, PhD.
Discussant



Col (Rtd) Godfrey Gitonga
Closing Remarks

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Abstract

Democratic Policing: Raila Odinga's Legacy and the Advancement of Constitutional Accountability in Kenya's Security Sector Reforms

Amos Ochieng' Awitti

Democratic reform in Kenya has been persistently intertwined with efforts to transform policing from an instrument of political control into an accountable citizen-centred public service. This study interrogates the relationship between democratic consolidation, constitutionalism, and police reform in Kenya by examining Raila Odinga's legacy as a reformist opposition leader and critical actor in the country's second liberation. The study's primary objective is to assess how Odinga's normative vision shaped the direction, scope, and limitations of police accountability reforms following the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. This study is theoretically anchored on Francis Fukuyama's Sequencing Dilemma. The literature review situates Kenya's trajectory within broader African debates on post-authoritarian transitions and aligns it with governance aspirations articulated in the African Union's Agenda 2063. Methodologically, the study adopts a qualitative, interpretative research design, drawing on document analysis of constitutional provisions, legislation, policy frameworks, commission reports, and scholarly literature. Data was analyzed thematically to trace reform trajectories, institutional interactions, and accountability outcomes. The findings of the study revealed that while the 2010 constitution catalyzed a transformative reconfiguration of Kenya's policing architecture, oversight institutions have been undermined by bureaucratic turf wars, overlapping mandates, and political capture. Authoritarian policing cultures persist, compounded by insufficient reforms in training, recruitment, and disciplinary systems, rendering the link between police reform and democratic consolidation tenuous. The study concludes that democratic consolidation has not kept pace with institutional reform. While Raila Odinga's reformist vision significantly shaped the normative foundations of constitutional policing, sustainable police reform in Kenya and across Africa remains a generational undertaking requiring sustained political will, civic vigilance, and ongoing professionalization.

Key Words: Police Reforms, Security Sector Reforms, Democracy, Constitutional Accountability, Legacy, and AU Agenda 2063.



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Abstract

Institutionalising the Raila Odinga Legacy: Constitutionalism, Democratic Reform, and the Realization of African Union Agenda 2063

Charles Govan Ochieng

This paper examines the complex process of institutionalizing the political legacy of Raila Odinga, a central and enduring figure in Kenya's post-colonial history. It moves beyond the conventional focus on his persona and presidential ambitions to analyze how his decades-long struggle for democratic principles can be translated into enduring institutional frameworks. The analysis centers on three interconnected pillars: his foundational role in championing constitutionalism, particularly his pivotal contribution to the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution; his relentless pursuit of democratic reform, including the expansion of civil liberties, electoral justice, and devolved governance; and the alignment of these domestic struggles with the continental aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063. The paper argues that the "Odinga legacy" is not merely a biographical footnote but a critical case study in the operationalization of progressive African political thought. It posits that institutionalizing this legacy - embedding its core tenets into the independent functioning of state organs, civic practice, and national political culture - is essential for safeguarding Kenya's democratic gains against regression. Furthermore, it demonstrates how this legacy, when properly institutionalized, serves as a tangible, domestic implementation pathway for the ideals of Agenda 2063, specifically "The Africa We Want." This vision encompasses democratic governance, the rule of law, human rights, and people-driven development, goals that Odinga's career has consistently sought to realize at the national level. By situating Odinga's legacy at the intersection of national constitutionalism and pan-African ambition, this study contributes to broader discourses on democratic consolidation, political transition, and the realization of progressive continental frameworks. It concludes that the true measure of this legacy will be the degree to which its commitment to constitutional order and popular sovereignty becomes an irreversible, self-sustaining feature of the Kenyan state, thereby offering a replicable model for democratic institutionalization across the African continent.