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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 9: Wednesday 20th May 2026 | Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Meeting ID: 825 6180 0101 | Passcode: 129453

Article 1: *The Roadmap to Achieving AU Agenda 2063 through Localised Frameworks on Good Leadership, Governance, and Policymaking* ~ *Maxmillian Ochango and Kilonzo Mutie*

Article 2: *The Political Economy of Connectivity: Examining the Tension Between Raila Odinga's Continental Infrastructure Vision (PIDA/AfCFTA) and the Dynamics of Political Patronage* ~ *Beatrice Mbinya*



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Discussant



Dr. Janet Kiguru, PhD.
Discussant



Dr. Ochieng Kamudhayi, PhD.
Discussant



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Discussant



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Vote of Thanks



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Abstract

The Roadmap to Achieving AU Agenda 2063 through Localised Frameworks on Good Leadership, Governance, and Policymaking

Maxmillian Ochango & Kilonzo Mutie

This essay contextually analyses the paradox of progress and stagnation that Kenya and other African countries have experienced in their journey to achieving the Agenda 2063. Throughout different historical epochs, the paper analyses how the nature of politics has shaped paradigms of tolerance and multipartyism, how AU's legal frameworks have been localised in Kenya and the extent to which they have been synthesised and finally, practical mechanisms Africa needs to adopt to achieve its great aspiration of integration for resilience and sustainability. Findings indicate that tyrannical rule has shrunk multipartyism, heightened polarisation and eroded any progress towards a Pan-African dream. Emphasis has been made on African countries to think of inter-continental integration through trade, comparative advantages and collective action to address transnational challenges.

Keywords. Governance, AU Agenda 2063, Pan-Africanism, Localised frameworks, Strengthened institutions.



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Abstract

The Political Economy of Connectivity: Examining the Tension Between Raila Odinga's Continental Infrastructure Vision (PIDA/AfCFTA) and the Dynamics of Political Patronage

Beatrice Mbinya

This paper interrogates the legacy of Raila Odinga in advancing pan-African economic integration, focusing specifically on his formal role as the African Union (AU) High Representative for Infrastructure Development. Odinga's vision, rooted in Agenda 2063, aimed to accelerate the programme for infrastructure development in Africa (PIDA) and unlock the potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). However, this study posits a structural conflict: the fundamental tension between the continental ideal of seamless connectivity and the reality of entrenched national political economies. The research pursues two objectives: First, to analyze the direct policy and institutional linkages between Odinga's PIDA advocacy and the core infrastructural needs of the AfCFTA, thereby mapping the alignment with Agenda 2063's Aspiration. Secondly, to assess how political patronage and vested national interests obstruct implementation in regional infrastructure governance, with a view to proposing institutional reforms. Employing a political economy framework and drawing on AU policy documents and regional project performance data, the paper identifies patronage as the primary mechanism diverting resource allocation and creating bottlenecks in last mile trade logistics and customs. The study concludes that while Odinga successfully institutionalized the continental vision at a high political level, this championing lacked the structural authority to depoliticize implementation. This paper contributes by diagnosing patronage as the root cause of paper corridors and proposes actionable institutional safeguards such as enhanced continental anti-corruption oversight to shield regional projects from national political cycles. This offers a tangible policy blueprint for translating the legacy of Pan-African advocacy into effective, accountable institutional practice.