

THE NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE

The National Values and Principles of Governance in Kenya are outlined in Article 10 of the Constitution.

Definition of Terms

Values: Values refer to beliefs or ideas shared by members of the same community, same culture and same nation. Values are morals and standards of what is good or bad, and what is desirable or undesirable. Values have a major influence on a person's behaviours and attitude and serve as broad guidelines in an individual's conduct in all situations.

National Values: National Values are beliefs of a Nation, guiding the actions and behaviours' of its citizen.

Principles of Governance: Principles of Governance are normative standards that oblige the state to perform its functions in a manner that promotes general well-being its people.

The National Values and Principles of Governance binds all State organs, State officers, public officers and all persons whenever any of them

- (a) applies or interprets the Constitution;
- (b) enacts, applies or interprets any law; or
- (c) makes or implements public policy decisions.

The National Values and Principles of Governance include --

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| 1. Patriotism | 7. Equity | 14. Good Governance |
| 2. National Unity | 8. Social Justice | 15. Integrity |
| 3. Sharing and Devolution of Power | 9. Inclusiveness | 16. Transparency And Accountability |
| 4. The Rule of Law | 10. Equality | 17. Sustainable Development |
| 5. Democracy and Participation Of The People | 11. Human Rights | |
| 6. Human Dignity | 12. Non-Discrimination | |
| | 13. Protection of The Marginalised | |



Governance and Unity Values

- **Patriotism:** "Love, loyalty and devotion shown to one's country."
- **National unity:** Building a state of oneness and teamwork despite diverse ethnic, cultural, or religious backgrounds.
- **Sharing and devolution of power:** Distributing political, economic, and social resources between national and county levels.
- **The rule of law:** Ensuring all people and institutions are accountable to fair, publicly enforced laws.
- **Democracy and participation of the people:** Involving citizens directly or indirectly in running and deciding the affairs of the nation.

Human Rights and Social Values

- **Human dignity:** Recognizing the inherent right of every person to respect and ethical treatment.
- **Equity and Equality:** Treating everyone fairly and impartially without special privileges or discrimination based on status.
- **Social justice:** Providing fair access to wealth, opportunities, and privileges.
- **Inclusiveness and Non-discrimination:** Giving all diverse groups a voice and fair treatment.
- **Human rights:** Respecting inherent and basic liberties protected by law.
- **Protection of the marginalized:** Safeguarding groups disadvantaged through past exclusion.

Integrity and Development Values

- **Good governance:** Managing public resources prudently with proper control structures.
- **Integrity:** Adhering to strong moral character, honesty, and ethical principles.
- **Transparency and accountability:** Acting openly, sharing information, and taking responsibility for actions.
- **Sustainable development:** Balancing current needs with the protection of future resources.