

# KABARAK LAW REVIEW



## Section Call for Contributions

### Honouring Our Elders: Conversations with the Living-Dead

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## Introduction

Every society is built on borrowed time. We live in spaces shaped by people we rarely pause to acknowledge, walking in the shadows of those who came before us. Yet as the world moves on, elders, presumed to be the carriers of memory and wisdom, are often overlooked as life rushes forward.<sup>[1]</sup> As a result, we end up taking for granted the courage and foresight that built our civilisation. Why should we honour our elders? Because without them, we would not be who we are. They carried the burdens, built the spaces we now live in and taught us lessons we cannot learn from books.<sup>[2]</sup> To honour them is to remember where we come from, and to learn what it takes to keep moving forward.<sup>[3]</sup> From its very first issue, *Kabarak Law Review* has contributed to this task of keeping alive the memory of our elders in the Honour your elders section.<sup>[4]</sup>

Wangari Maathai  
Doudou Thiam  
Amílcar Cabral  
Nawal El Saadawi  
Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

[1] Patricia Cheruiyot, 'The Exclusive Economic Zone and the legacy of FX Njenga', 1 *Kabarak Law Review* (2023) 165.

[2] Rose A Sackeyfio, 'Ama Ata Aidoo: Celebrating her legacy in the twenty-first century', 3 *Kabarak Law Review* (2025) 224.

[3] Phoebe Oyugi, 'Living TWAIL: Lessons from practice and experience', *Bonaya Godana Blog*, 4 September 2025. See for example as Phoebe Oyugi has suggested, the significance of Godana's legacy lies not in celebration alone, but in the enduring relevance of his critical engagement with power. His attentiveness to marginal spaces, and his insistence that international law be responsive to those it has long overlooked.

[4] Sharon Amwama, 'Editorial', 1 *Kabarak Law Review* (2022) xvi.



NAWAL EL SAADAWI

Overtime, we have kept updating the title of this section, first to Honouring our elders then later on to Honouring our elders: Conversations with the Living-Dead.<sup>[5]</sup>

This Section publishes interdisciplinary reflections on Afrocentric intellectual history in legal thought, as well as other Afrocentric multidisciplinary approaches, in philosophy, literature, post-colonial and decolonial studies. Through critical engagement with African intellectual giants, the section seeks to trace the philosophical bloodlines of contemporary Afrocentric thought.

## Proposed intellectual elders to be honoured

This Section Call for contributions proposes focusing on five major figures whose intellectual contributions are essential in understanding modern African law and politics. This will inevitably ensure the sustenance of an Afrocentric perspective in such an intellectual heritage. The figures comprise but are not limited to **Wangari Maathai**, **Doudou Thiam**, **Amílcar Cabral**, **Nawal El Saadawi** and **Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o**. The submissions should critically analyse how these scholars' works contribute to contemporary debates in African studies. Comparative, interdisciplinary, feminist, or contemporary reinterpretations of their ideas are highly encouraged.



NGŨGĨ WA THIONG'O

[5] Nadya Rashid, 'Editorial', 3 *Kabarak Law Review* (2024) x. The earlier title, 'Honouring Our Elders', was suggested by Dr Harrison Mbori during his interaction with the 2024 *Kabarak Law Review* Editorial Board.

## Submission guidelines

All contributions must be the original work of the author(s) and must not have been submitted to any other publication for consideration.

- All submissions should be sent through the Online Journal System (OJS) accessible here <<https://journals.kabarak.ac.ke/index.php/klr/about/submissions>>.
- Please contact the Editor-in-Chief in case of inquiries relating to the system via <[kabaraklawreview@kabarak.ac.ke](mailto:kabaraklawreview@kabarak.ac.ke)>.
- Contributions may be submitted in English or Swahili and should be edited for language before submission.
- The authors should adhere to the Kabarak Legal Citation Guide (KALCI) accessible here <[https://journals.kabarak.ac.ke/public/site/legal\\_citation\\_guide.pdf](https://journals.kabarak.ac.ke/public/site/legal_citation_guide.pdf)>.

## Review process

Contributions to this Section will undergo single-blind peer review.

Authors are expected to incorporate the review comments, where necessary, and resubmit the revised paper.

Only the accepted papers at this stage will be published in the upcoming issue of *Kabarak Law Review*.

Deadline for submission of contributions is **31 July 2026**.

Please feel free to contact the Editorial Board to clarify any queries you may have on

this Call for contributions at <[kabaraklawreview@kabarak.ac.ke](mailto:kabaraklawreview@kabarak.ac.ke)>.

Carolyn W Gatonye

Section Editor - Honouring our Elders: Conversations with the Living-Dead

*Kabarak Law Review* (2026)

Open Call  
for  
Contributions



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