



FIDE ETHICS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

The First Instance Chamber of the Ethics & Disciplinary Commission (hereafter called “the EDC Chamber”), sitting in the following composition

Chairperson : Mr Ali Nihat Yazici
Members : Mr Khaled Arfa
Mr David Hater

following an exchange of correspondence and a Public Open Hearing, made the following –

SHORT OPERATIVE DECISION

CASE NO. 04/2026 “Allegations surrounding conduct arising from the 2026 African Chess Confederation election activities by ACC/FIDE officials”

Reasons to follow

Parties:

- **Ms Tshepiso Lopang** (FIDE ID: 11300515) – Complainant in the Primary Complaint and Respondent in the Cross-Complaint
- **Mr Benard Wanjala** (FIDE ID: 10801510) – Respondent in the Primary Complaint and Complainant in the Cross-Complaint

1. The First Instance Chamber of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, having considered the Parties’ written submissions and supporting documents, and having heard the Parties and the witnesses during the oral hearing held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on 21 September 2026, unanimously renders the following decision.

Primary Complaint: Ms Tshepiso Lopang v. Mr Benard Wanjala

2. The allegations against Mr Benard Wanjala under Articles 6.10, 6.12, 6.17(a) and 6.25(a) of the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code have not been established to the comfortable satisfaction of the Panel. **Mr Wanjala** is therefore **found not guilty**, and the **Primary Complaint is dismissed**.

Cross-Complaint: Mr Benard Wanjala v. Ms Tshepiso Lopang

3. The allegation against Ms Tshepiso Lopang under Article 11.6(a) has not been established to the comfortable satisfaction of the Panel. The Panel **did not consider her accusation unjustified**, as the material available to her at the relevant time provided an apparent factual basis for raising it. **Ms Lopang** is therefore found **not guilty** of this charge.



4. The Panel **finds** that Ms Lopang failed to complete the handover of the ACC administration to Mr Wanjala and the newly elected administration. She is therefore **found guilty** of violations of Articles 6.10, 6.16(a), 6.17(a), 6.25(a) and (b), and 11.6(b).

Sanction and Directions

5. Ms Lopang is **sanctioned** with a **twelve-month** exclusion from holding or exercising any administrative, executive, or representative office position or function in chess at the national, continental, or FIDE level, **fully suspended on the condition that** Ms Lopang complete the full and effective **handover of the ACC administration** to Mr Wanjala and the newly elected administration **within thirty calendar days** following notification of this decision. Failing which, the exclusion for a period of 12 months will come into effect commencing from the 31st day.
6. If Ms Lopang is reasonably required to travel for the sole purpose of completing the handover, the reasonable and properly documented costs of economy-class travel, accommodation, and necessary local transportation shall be borne by the ACC budget.
7. The Parties shall notify the FIDE Secretariat in writing upon completion of the handover. Any dispute concerning compliance shall be referred to the Panel.

Motivated Decision, Notification and Appeal

8. Pursuant to Rule 70.4 of the EDC Procedural Rules, the Panel's full motivated grounds shall be issued no later than one month from the date of this decision.
9. Pursuant to Rule 70.5 of the EDC Procedural Rules, this decision shall become binding and enforceable upon notification to the Parties. As this operative decision is issued without motivated grounds, the right to appeal shall arise upon publication of the Panel's motivated grounds.
10. The FIDE Secretariat is directed to communicate this decision to the Parties and to arrange for its publication on the official FIDE website.

DATED AND PUBLISHED in SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN, ON THIS 22nd September 2026

Ali Nihat YAZICI

CHAMBER CHAIRPERSON

FIDE ETHICS & DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION