

CloudWalk National Facial-Recognition Deal — Zimbabwe's Belt-and-Road AI Surveillance Partnership

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Zimbabwe

Quality score: 27/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

In 2018 Zimbabwe signed China's first Belt-and-Road AI export deal with CloudWalk to build a national facial-recognition database for airport, rail and bus-station security, letting CloudWalk train its algorithms on citizens' biometric data with no published oversight.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	0/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	0/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-14

[Government of Zimbabwe; CloudWalk Technology](#) — accessed 2026-08-14

[Coda Story](#) — accessed 2026-08-14

[Biometric Update](#) — accessed 2026-08-14

[Quartz Africa](#) — accessed 2026-08-14

[Africa Defense Forum](#) — accessed 2026-08-14

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