

As Inevitable as Gravity

On September 7th, a new footbridge erected in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** collapsed beneath the feet of officials as they were celebrating its opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The incident occurred in Kinshasa's Mont-Ngafula district.

Videotape footage of the event reveals a handful of officials falling as the new structure collapses beneath them. Two Congolese Officials had just cut the ribbon when it began to collapse, making it appear as if the ribbon was instrumental in supporting the bridge.

Although there was the usual ineffective and pointless shouting and frenzied running around by onlookers and participants, no one appears to have been injured. Some onlookers did take the opportunity to laugh and howl at the misfortune of participating officials.

As the structure began to fail, the female official who cut the ceremonial ribbon can be observed grabbing onto another official to her left. The fact that she is obese is not believed to have contributed to its collapse.

Specifically, handrails on each side became detached as the center of the bridge broke and both sections fell into the stream below. Needless to say, the ceremonial bottle of champagne brought for the occasion was not employed during the mishap.

In 2007, the co-discoverer of the DNA molecule's structure -- Nobel Laureate Dr. James Watson -- was stripped of his academic titles and responsibilities for stating that he was "**... inherently gloomy about the prospects for Africa (because) all our social policies are based on the notion that their intelligence is the same as ours -- whereas all the testing says not really.**"

I. Newton, Heaven