



Kenya moves to secure global market access with livestock reforms
Farmers, exporters and consumers in Kenya stand to benefit from stricter livestock standards and improved disease surveillance as the government deploys a new veterinary board and expands a nationwide workforce of young professionals. **Page 6**



Gachagua Accuses Ruto allies of corruption in health scheme as leaders trade claims
DCP leader Rigathi Gachagua has escalated his attacks on the government, alleging massive corruption in the Social Health Authority (SHA) system and mismanagement of key public programmes. **Page 18**

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The Mt. Kenya Times

Daily ePAPER

KMPG audit report Voters said to have registered with identity cards which do not belong to them who totaled 226,143

2027 Elections: Mass Voters Registration Kicks Off



30Days

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has begun mass voter registration. The exercise will take 30 days.



IEBC chairman Erustus Etheke. Photo | IEBC

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has begun mass voter registration. The exercise will take 30 days. The audit firm KMPG did audit of registers of voters prior to 2022 general elections. According to the audit report, there is existence of duplicate records totaling 481,711 and voters said to have registered with identity cards which do not belong to them who totaled 226,143. A total of 246,465 records of deceased voters were also picked. Another 164,269 registration were linked to invalid registrations documents (IDs and Passports). **Page 9**

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IEBC launches voter registration drive to boost inclusivity

BY MKT correspondents

@themtkenyatimes

Some of the moments as captured in pictures

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) officially launched the Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration (ECVR) exercise in Kwale County, marking a significant step in efforts to expand voter participation ahead of the next General Election. The national launch was held in Shimoni, an area known for its diverse communities, including the WaTswaka, WaPemba, Makonde, Washirazi, Wavumba and WaRundi. The Commission said the choice of location underscores its commitment to inclusivity, transparency and accessibility in the voter registration process.

IEBC officials noted that Kwale County represents both cultural richness and economic potential, making it an ideal setting to champion democratic participation. They also expressed gratitude to local leaders and communities, including the Kaya elders, for their warm reception and support during the launch.

Since the resumption of Continuous Voter Registration on September 29, 2025, the Commission has registered 273,498 new voters across the country. In Kwale County alone, 2,547 new voters have been enrolled, reflecting growing public interest in participating in electoral processes.

The Commission called on eligible citizens, particularly youth and marginalized groups, to take advantage of the ongoing exercise and register as voters. It emphasized that increased voter registration is key to strengthening democracy and ensuring all voices are represented.

The ECVR exercise is expected to continue across the country in the coming months.



Editor's Desk




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NEWS IN BRIEF



Fish traders from various markets in Vihiga County display equipment they received under the NORAD/ARNSA project to support fish value addition and marketing. Each trader received items including a jiko, display box, cool box, frying spoon, umbrella, cap, apron and frying pan to improve their operations and enhance the quality of fish sold to consumers. The traders were also trained on proper handling and storage of fish to ensure quality and food safety.



The National Government and the Mombasa County Government have been challenged to construct a 50-metre Olympic-size swimming pool in Mombasa and subsidise swimming gear to help promote the sport. The Mombasa County Swimming Association (MCSA) hosted a Junior Gala swimming competition at the Aga Khan Academy, which attracted ten teams drawn from the county's six sub-counties, with the aim of promoting and nurturing young swimmers. MCSA Executive Committee member Punjan Kanaba said the two-day gala will ensure that junior swimmers gain valuable competition experience. He noted the commendable performance of the young swimmers compared to previous galas held last year.



The official opening of the 62nd National 2026 Kenya Science and Engineering Fair (KSEF) at Garissa High School. For the first time, KSEF is integrating Junior School (Grades 7–9) learners alongside senior schools, focusing on STEM innovations, including robotics. Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale presided over the event, joined by senior officials from the Ministry of Education. The learners will present projects in Agriculture, Biological and Environmental Science, Energy and Transportation, Mathematical, Chemical and Physical Science, Social and Behavioural Science, Technology and Engineering, among other fields.



Public participation for the Animal Identification and Traceability (ANITRAC) Bill, 2026 in the Western region kicked off yesterday in Kisii, involving stakeholders from four counties: Kisii, Nyamira, Migori and Homabay. The team was led by the Senior Deputy Director for Livestock Policy, Research and Regulations at the State Department for Livestock Development, Dr. William Akwimbi, alongside seven other officers from the ANITRAC Bill Secretariat. Dr. Akwimbi noted the Bill seeks to provide for animal identification, registration and traceability systems and to facilitate surveillance, control and eradication of diseases. The ANITRAC server system is up and ready to transform the livestock sector by providing a modern, data-driven system that empowers farmers and opens up premium markets for livestock products.

Farmers in Kenya's coastal region are increasingly adopting climate-resilient maize varieties due to erratic rainfall and prolonged dry spells affecting production. Improved seeds such as DK777 are gaining popularity for their adaptability and short maturity period of about three months. According to David Muchiru of Bayer East Africa Limited, certified seeds enhance yields and food security, with farmers encouraged to verify authenticity through Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service. Farmers report better harvests and resilience after adopting the seeds. Experts emphasize that access to certified seeds, training, and extension services is vital for improving productivity and sustaining agriculture amid changing climate conditions.

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Economy Kagwe said the reforms mark a decisive shift toward a data driven, export oriented livestock economy built on technology adoption

Kenya moves to secure global market access with livestock reforms

Principal Secretary Jonathan Mueke emphasized the role of youth, noting that the internship programme has trained more than 7,500 graduates

BY Suleiman Mbatiah

@themtkenyatimes

Farmers, exporters and consumers in Kenya stand to benefit from stricter livestock standards and improved disease surveillance as the government deploys a new veterinary board and expands a nationwide workforce of young professionals.

The changes follow the inauguration of a new board at the Kenya Veterinary Board, alongside the induction of more than 1,300 veterinary interns to strengthen service delivery, compliance, and surveillance systems across the livestock sector.

Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the reforms mark a decisive shift toward a data driven, export oriented livestock economy built on technology adoption, youth inclusion, and strict adherence to international market standards.

Central to the reforms is the rollout of the Animal Identification and Traceability System, designed to improve disease monitoring, boost export credibility, and ensure Kenyan livestock products meet stringent global safety and traceability requirements. "Moving forward, exporting animals to international markets must have traceability. That is why we have ANITRAC," Kagwe said, linking digital systems directly to Kenya's competitiveness



Young professionals having a selfie moments with CS Mutahi Kagwe and other officials.

and access to premium global livestock markets.

New board chair John Wilberforce Muchibi said the institution now sits at a critical intersection of animal health, food security, and national stability, requiring careful balancing of regulatory oversight and economic priorities.

He said the board will focus on protecting livelihoods, strengthening safeguards against zoonotic diseases, and supporting innovation, while maintaining professional standards across veterinary practice in an evolving and increasingly complex livestock economy.

Principal Secretary Jonathan Mueke emphasized the role of youth, noting that the intern-

ship programme has trained more than 7,500 graduates, creating a pipeline of skilled professionals to support nationwide livestock services.

"Moving forward, exporting animals to international markets must have traceability. That is why we have ANITRAC," Kagwe said, linking digital systems directly to Kenya's competitiveness and access to premium global livestock markets.

”

The government said the programme, now in its tenth cohort, is critical for expanding veterinary coverage, improving rural service delivery, and ensuring compliance with health and safety standards required in both domestic and export markets.

"Transformation is not driven by policy alone, it is driven by you, the young people," Mueke said, urging interns to embrace innovation and responsibility as the sector undergoes rapid modernization and global integration.

Director of Veterinary Services Allan Azegele highlighted the One Health approach, warning that zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and climate related risks require coordinated responses

across human, animal, and environmental health systems.

The reforms align with the Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda under William Ruto, which positions livestock as a driver of jobs, industrial growth, and export earnings, supported by digital platforms and improved regulatory frameworks.

"This is your calling," Kagwe said, urging young professionals to view their role as both technical and strategic in shaping Kenya's economic future through a livestock sector that is competitive, traceable, and globally trusted.



CS Mutahi Kagwe during the launching exercise.

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NAIROBI

Odinga allies reveal dual strategy within ODM as questions linger over 2027 bid



BY Emmanuel Too
@themtkenyatimes

Two close allies of former ODM leader Raila Odinga have shed light on the political calculations that shaped his engagement with the broad-based government, revealing a strategy that kept multiple options open should the arrangement falter. Speaking to Citizen TV, Odinga's former legal advisor Paul Mwangi and longtime spokesperson Dennis Onyango described a deliberate balancing act within the ODM party, involving both diplomatic engagement and a parallel hardline faction.

According to the two, a group within the party associated with more assertive political positions, including ODM Secretary General Edwin Sifuna and Siaya Governor James Orengo, served as a contingency should cooperation with President William Ruto's administration break down.

"Raila would not engage in anything without an exit strategy. If things did not work out, he would turn to the militant faction and rally them as a fallback," Mwangi said.

Onyango echoed the sentiment, noting that key figures within the party were positioned to provide an alternative political path if the broad-based arrangement proved untenable.

"Yes, leaders like Orengo and Sifuna were part of that exit card in case the arrangement did not work," he said.

The two insiders indicated that these parallel approaches were not

accidental but part of a structured strategy, with different teams operating under distinct instructions to preserve Odinga's political flexibility.

"These are two teams that operated with different job descriptions," Mwangi explained.

"He would tell you something and not necessarily tell another person the same thing," Onyango added, suggesting a compartmentalised approach to political management.

Mwangi and Onyango also weighed in on the emerging divisions within ODM, suggesting that a split within the party may be inevitable amid competing interests and strategies.

"They have to split. It may be better for them if that happens," Mwangi said.

Onyango projected a possible realignment of factions, with different leaders aligning with separate camps within the party.

Despite their shared insights into Odinga's political strategy, the two differed on whether the former Prime Minister had made a decision regarding a potential presidential run in 2027.

Onyango maintained that Odinga kept his options open.

"He kept it open," he said.

Mwangi, however, indicated there were no clear signs that Odinga was preparing for another bid, pointing instead to ongoing coalition-building efforts.

"He had not shown any signs of running again. There are things like building coalitions that we would be doing," Mwangi said.



AFA clears avocado export, warns against immature harvesting

BY KNA
@themtkenyatimes

Avocado farmers across the country have received a major boost after the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) officially announced that harvesting for export through sea shipment will commence on Thursday.

The directive follows weeks of anticipation after the authority delayed the opening of the harvesting season due to concerns over fruit maturity.

AFA had conducted a comprehensive field survey between March 1 and 6 in key avocado-growing regions to assess whether the produce had reached the required maturity levels for export.

At the time, the findings indicated that the fruits were not sufficiently mature prompting an extension of restrictions on harvesting for sea export.

However, the authority has now noted a significant improvement in fruit maturity across major production zones paving the way for the season to commence.

In a public notice issued by AFA Director General Calistus Kundu, exporters have been instructed to

adhere strictly to new guidelines aimed at safeguarding quality and maintaining Kenya's reputation in international markets.

"All fresh produce will be subject to packhouse inspection starting April 7, and exporters must apply for inspection at least three days before shipment," the notice stated.

Additionally, exporters are required to submit a list of their registered horticultural produce marketing agents or suppliers by March 30.

The authority emphasized that only duly registered players will be allowed to participate in the export value chain.

AFA has also set April 30 as the official date for the commencement of avocado harvesting intended for oil processing.

To further enforce quality standards, the authority has directed that all harvested avocados must be transported in crates.

It warned that exporters or their agents found using open pickups or trucks, or transporting produce without proper packaging, risk having their licenses revoked.

The regulator expressed concern over reports that some exporters and processors have been harvesting immature avocados, a practice

that threatens market access and farmer earnings.

As a result, AFA announced intensified surveillance of packhouses and avocado processing facilities.

Any operator found handling immature fruits will face deregistration or loss of export licenses.

Meanwhile, in Murang'a County, security concerns around avocado farming have also come into focus.

County Commissioner Hassan Bule issued a stern warning to individuals involved in the theft of avocados from farms.

Bule said security agencies have been put on high alert to track down and arrest those engaging in the vice, noting that such activities deny farmers the fruits of their labor.

He further directed that only licensed dealers will be allowed to purchase avocados directly from farms, pointing out that illegal brokers often fuel theft by operating unauthorized buying centers.

The combined measures by AFA and local authorities are expected to bring order to the sector, protect farmers and ensure that Kenya maintains its competitive edge in the global avocado market.

Elections KMPG report showed that the digital voters register had over 2 million mysterious voters.

Voter registration for credible 2027 General Elections



By: Ndung'u Wainaina

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has begun mass voter registration. The exercise will take 30 days.

The audit firm KMPG did audit of registers of voters prior to 2022 general elections. According to the audit report, there is existence of duplicate records totaling 481,711 and voters said to have registered with identity cards which do not belong to them who totaled 226,143. A total of 246,465 records of deceased voters were also picked. Another 164,269 registrations were linked to invalid registrations documents (IDs and Passports).

The report unearthed 14 mysterious Returning Officers (ROs) running the system. The report indicated that the mysterious Returning Officers were able to “transfer, delete, insert, trigger, truncate, and update the voters register at will,” and “one user, Postgress, had superuser access privileges.”

According to the report, KPMG also discovered that the 14 Returning Officers were not gazetted but had worked alongside 290 IEBC officers in charge of the constituencies in previous elections. The audit also revealed that the ‘digital’ ROs were backed by 513 generic accounts in the IDMS against 9 genuine accounts and had access to the voters’ register in the Integrated Database Management System (IDMS). The officers had the elevated privileges in IEBC IDMS to transfer, change voter particulars and deactivate deceased voters and the constituency

KMPG report showed that the digital voters register had over 2 million mysterious voters. These voters registered using duplicate or fake documents while other people registered twice in previous elections. Auditors also found that during the cleaning of the voters’ register, new voters



IEBC chairman Erustus Ethekeon during the launching of mass voter registration exercise yesterday.

were re-registered mysteriously.

KPMG also noted that the IDMS database was not set up to delete inactive accounts after 90 days as required by IEBC policy, and this made it more uncomplicated for those who had left the IEBC to gain access to the system.

The total records within the Smartmatic register of voters that were provided to KPMG on May 5, 2022 was 21,970,597, including all biographic and biometric details. Smartmatic undertook duplication of the 2,184,472 records against the 21,970,597 records to generate a fully deduplicated register containing 21,710,728 voters, which was given to KPMG on May 18, 2022.

Irreducible minimums on 2027 General Election

1. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) must unconditionally and immediately cancel the opaque, secretive and trained contract extension to Smartmatic for election technology management. This scrupulous company has terrible credibility record across the world on electronic voting, voter registration, and results transmission
2. IEBC must without issue fresh

tender for acquisition of Integrated election management technology. The procurement must meet the constitutional and procurement transparency threshold including involvement of all stakeholders. We will not accept any time buying tactics.

3. No voter biometrics registration should be done with the KIEMS kits provided by Smartmatic. Smartmatic has supplied the IEBC with critical election technology, including biometric voter registration systems, KIEMS kits for voter identification, and results transmission infrastructure. The kits and technology must be discarded and new kits be acquired afresh.

4. All voter registration must be polling stations based. Each polling station must have special code. Voters’ data safety and security per polling station must be guaranteed. The voters identification kits must be foolproof to deter any sharing of data.

5. IEBC must develop and provide a timebound roadmap and milestones on election preparedness. Each milestone must be specific on what ought have done and report on status.

6. Parliamentary Legal and Justice Committee must immediately summon IEBC to provide details of

the election preparations, any electoral reforms needed, and governance structure of the Commission including its secretariat staff recruitment status

7. IEBC must ensure that as per the Constitution, the High Court and Court of Appeal, the final presidential election results shall be announced at Constituency by the returning officer after collating final polling stations results. There shall be no Bomas or other such centre to purport to announce presidential results.

8. IEBC must make regulations to give media full access to final results announced at both polling stations and Constituency tallying centre in realtime including giving them the right to project winners of those centres. This is in exercise of principles of participation, transparency and accountability

9. IEBC must gazette and disclose all polling stations with their special codes. Further, the Commission must give clear timelines for voters’ identification and voters’ registers public scrutiny per polling station.

10. A comprehensive registers of voters audit must done. In addition, the IEBC, National Civil Registration Bureau and Immigration services must work together to confirm



The report unearthed 14 mysterious Returning Officers (ROs) running the system. The report indicated that the mysterious Returning Officers were able to “transfer, delete, insert, trigger, truncate, and update the voters register at will,” and “one user, Postgress, had superuser access privileges.”

According to the report, KPMG also discovered that the 14 Returning Officers were not gazetted but had worked alongside 290 IEBC officers in charge of the constituencies in previous elections.

the details of all registers voters and their valid documentation. All old voters’ registers must be transparently audited.

11. The process of electoral materials procurement must be made public and involve all stakeholders. Voting materials per polling station must each have a special code.

12. Finally, all documentation on proceedings, resolutions and meetings’ records of the Commission and it’s various committees on any matter touching on electoral and election management must be made public.

Ndung'u Wainaina works for Africa Council on Human Security. Email: Admin@icpcafrica.org Nwainaina@icpcafrica.org Mobile: +254 787707161

Grief Among leaders who visited the family and attended the second funeral planning meeting were Limuru MP John Kiragu and Bureti MP Kibet Komingoi

Leaders mourn Ol-Kalou MP David Kiaraho as funeral plans begin

BY MKT REPORTER
@themkenyatimes

Leaders from across the political divide yesterday joined the family of the late Ol-Kalou MP David Njuguna Kiaraho at his Runda home in Nairobi to mourn and condole with them as burial arrangements gather pace.

Members of Parliament, government officials, and constituents flocked to the residence to pay their last respects to the three-term legislator, who passed away on Sunday morning while undergoing treatment at a Nairobi hospital.

In an official communication



Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife Rebecca Miano signing the condolences book yesterday.

| Photo: Courtesy.

to the National Assembly, Speaker Moses Wetang'ula described the late Kiaraho as a dedicated and committed leader who served his constituents diligently.

The Speaker also announced the formation of a funeral preparation committee to coordinate burial arrangements in consultation with the family.

The committee will be chaired by Kinangop MP Kwenya Thuku and deputized by Nyandarua Woman Representative Faith Gitau, alongside seven other Members of Parliament.

Among leaders who visited the family and attended the second funeral planning meeting were Limuru MP John Kiragu and Bureti MP Kibet Komingoi.

Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife Rebecca Miano and former Water Cabinet Secretary Sicily Kariuki were also present.

The leaders later joined the bereaved family for a church service held at the residence,

where they paid glowing tribute to the late legislator's leadership and service to the people of Ol Kalou.

Kiaraho was serving his third term in Parliament, having first been elected in the 2013 General Election.

During his tenure, he was a member of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure as well as the Procedure and House Rules Committee, where he contributed to legislative processes and national development.

Born on October 2, 1963, Kiaraho was an alumnus of Alliance High School and Nairobi School. He later joined the University of Nairobi, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Architecture.

As funeral plans continue, leaders and residents alike have continued to stream to his home, remembering him as a steadfast leader whose contribution to public service will be deeply missed.

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Diplomacy The DP said the 5 million trillion dollars needed to elevate Kenya's status can only be realized through global and local partnerships

Promote Kenya every moment of your time abroad, Kindiki tells Ambassadors

“You have a big role to play to project Kenya as a safe country, an important country and a country on the move. Sell Kenya in the morning, afternoon, evening, night, from Monday to Sunday, January to December. Sell Kenya forever,” DP stated.

BY DPCS

@themtkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has challenged ambassadors to use every opportunity they get abroad to promote Kenya to ensure the country's profile remains strong and appealing to investors and visitors.

Speaking yesterday when he presided over the closing of the 19th Ambassadors Conference in Nairobi, Kindiki said Kenya has made huge strides in all the facets of economy since 2022, challenging the envoys to spread Kenya's economic strength and stability in their hosting countries and missions.

“You have a big role to play to project Kenya as a safe country, an important country and a country on the move. Sell Kenya in the morning, afternoon, evening, night, from Monday to Sunday, January to December. Sell Kenya forever,” DP stated.

He said Kenya's ambition to become a first world country is on course but will be achievable through collaboration with investors from the private sector.

The DP said the 5 million trillion dollars needed to elevate Kenya's status can only be realized through global and



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi welcoming Deputy President Kithure Kindiki to the forum yesterday.

local partnerships.

“We cannot do the transformation we are targeting on our own. We need investments, capital injection from the private sector. We have a lot of hope in you. You are the biggest resource we have to help the world partner with Kenya,” he added.

The Deputy President said the government is focusing on delivering infrastructural expansion including expansion of roads, railways, seaports and airports to ensure Kenyan remains the destination of choice for investors.

He challenged the diplomats to use their influential positions to shape good narratives about Kenya internationally.

“Kenya's diplomacy must deliver. It must deliver economic opportunity. It must deliver

security and stability. It must exert influence in shaping global outcomes. Anything short of this falls below the expectations of this Administration,” he reiterated.

Further, he urged them to make sure the diplomatic engagement is aligned with the national development agenda

anchored on the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

“The Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda is not confined to our borders. It must be projected outward through trade, investment partnerships, innovation, and the positioning of Kenya as a



DP Kithure Kindiki addressing the conference during the closing ceremony.

competitive and credible economic partner,” he noted.

The DP challenged the envoys to unflinchingly protect Kenya's interests as they are the key representatives depended on by the country to make sure its position is honoured and respected globally.

“You carry the authority of the Republic. You carry the expectations of our people. And you carry the responsibility to deliver. I urge you to execute your mandate with focus, discipline, and unwavering commitment to Kenya's interests,” he said.

The Deputy President said the government is focusing on delivering infrastructural expansion including expansion of roads, railways, seaports and airports to ensure Kenyan remains the destination of choice for investors.

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E-waste Kenya imports about 70 percent of its electronic equipment, much of which is near obsolescence, contributing to a rapidly growing waste stream

Kenya flooded with end-of-life electronics donations as E-waste crisis deepens

BY Suleiman Mbatiah

@themtkenyatimes

Much of the electronic equipment entering Kenya arrives at the end of its life cycle, often disguised as donations, fueling an unregulated e-waste economy that is exposing workers to hazardous toxins, a new policy brief has found. Kenya imports about 70 percent of its electronic equipment, much of which is near obsolescence, contributing to a rapidly growing waste

stream that now totals about 51,000 metric tonnes annually, with only one percent formally recycled.

The report links these imports to widespread environmental degradation and unsafe recycling practices, where discarded electronics are dismantled through open burning, acid leaching, and manual processes that release toxic substances into surrounding communities.

In Nairobi's Korogocho settlement, surveys show 61 percent of waste pickers report

health complications, with 47.2 percent suffering respiratory illnesses and 35.3 percent experiencing skin infections linked to prolonged exposure to hazardous materials.

“What we are witnessing is waste colonialism in action: wealthy countries offloading toxic burdens onto African communities under the guise of development and charity,” said Hellen Kahaso Dena of Greenpeace Africa.

The policy brief further warns that entire communities are affected, with pollution



A technician is seen sorting spare parts and wastes in a computer workshop in Nakuru City. | Photo: Suleiman Mbatiah

“What we are witnessing is waste colonialism in action: wealthy countries offloading toxic burdens onto African communities under the guise of development and charity,” said Hellen Kahaso

Dena of Greenpeace Africa.

contaminating air, soil, and water systems, while children and pregnant women face heightened risks due to exposure to neurotoxic substances such as lead.

Children as young as six years are involved in sorting and burning e-waste to extract metals such as copper and aluminium, exposing them to carcinogenic fumes and compounding long-term health and developmental risks.

The report notes that much of the imported waste is mislabelled as reusable electronics, bypassing safeguards under the Basel and Bamako Conventions, despite Africa receiving over 60 percent of its e-waste from imports.

Kenya's growing electronics market, driven by increased demand for digital devices and reduced import taxes, has accelerated waste generation, with official data indicating e-waste reached more than 53,000 metric tonnes in 2024. “These are not abstract numbers. Behind every statistic is a mother, a child, a young man trying to earn a living by picking through the world's

discarded electronics with his bare hands,” Kahaso added.

Workers in the informal sector, who form the backbone of recycling systems, often operate without protective equipment, stable incomes, or social protections, earning as little as 40 Kenyan shillings for basic phones or 70 shillings for components.

The findings also highlight structural gaps, including weak enforcement of regulations, limited recycling infrastructure, and heavy reliance on informal networks, which dominate collection and initial processing despite hazardous working conditions.

At the same time, formal recyclers struggle with high operational costs and limited supply, often exporting complex components such as lithium batteries and solar panels to countries with advanced processing capacity, including the United Arab Emirates.

The report outlines policy measures including enforcement of Extended Producer Responsibility regulations, improved tracking of waste flows, expansion of collection infrastructure, and incentives for repair, reuse, and circular economy practices.

“These images are not easy to look at, but they are far harder to live with. My work is to make sure no one can say they did not know,” said Kenyan photojournalist Edwin Nyamasyo.

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Scouts Chief Commissioner Victor Radido affirmed that the leadership structure remains intact and is executing its mandate with authority and legitimacy

Kenya Scouts Association dismisses allegations, defends integrity and governance

BY MKT REPORTER

@themkenyaintimes

The Kenya Scouts Association has strongly refuted allegations circulating on social media questioning its governance, operations, and integrity, terming them false and misleading.

In an official statement, the Association's National Scout Board said the claims, allegedly propagated by former associates, are intended to misinform stakeholders and undermine the credibility of the organization. The Board maintained that the institution continues to operate within a well-established governance framework guided by its Constitution, policies, and procedures.

Chief Commissioner Victor Radido affirmed that the leadership structure remains intact and is executing its mandate with authority and legitimacy. He urged members of the public and stakeholders to disregard

what he described as unverified and malicious claims.

The Association also defended the credibility of its recent electoral process held on March 28, 2026, stating that it was conducted in strict adherence to laid-down procedures. According to the Board, all candidates underwent thorough vetting to ensure integrity, and successful applicants are currently undergoing the final stages of formal appointment.

It further acknowledged that minor challenges were experienced in some areas during the elections but noted that decisive measures had been taken to restore order and maintain institutional stability.

On financial accountability, the Association emphasized that its operations are subject to regular internal and external audits, including oversight by the Office of the Auditor General. It added that audit reports are made publicly available through its official platforms, underscoring its commitment to transparency and accountability.

The Board also assured stakeholders that any concerns raised through official channels are handled transparently and in line with established procedures.

In a stern warning, the Association indicated that its legal team has been instructed to take action against individuals or groups involved in what it termed as defamation and misinformation campaigns. It cautioned that those found culpable would be held personally accountable through due legal processes.

Despite the controversy, the Kenya Scouts Association reiterated its commitment to its core mission of youth development, empowerment, and community service.

The organization called on its members, partners, and the public to remain focused on its long-standing role in shaping young people's character and leadership skills, assuring them that its operations remain stable and guided by strong institutional values.



Escaping reality



I lie naked on my bed
In my mind waves of imagination crash
I try cooling my soul
Trying to wash away pain and misery
Yet i can't
The sun is bloody, the moon is dark
Yet I choose only to escape reality

I fall asleep while drowning in music

Sad songs loudly they pierce my heart
Songs louder that my soul can think and rethink
I feel nothing
Just the words, the ideas, the singing, the vocals
Mine eyes closed
Trying to Escape
To escape reality

I stare at my pictures and laugh
Am I just the way I was supposed to be
Was I supposed to keep going through this again
I choose to let go
Just to escape from the reality
The reality of just missing
Missing a piece in my life

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
The Weeping Onion

Be not afraid of going slowly Be afraid of standing still



Being slow is not to feel sad.
It's a gradual improvement.
It shows the perfection in progress.
Slow and steady wins the race.
'Slow' it's not here lazy spark.

It's a path of perfection.
Don't think it is a feel of fear.
If carry on to process means
You cannot be still at one place.
If like a stone put into the pond
You must afraid that you are still.
There will be no improvement.
Keep it in remember the proverb
Little drops of water makes the ocean.
The lines of Robert Frost is the key
"And miles to go before I sleep"
Insist us Don't be still at anywhere.
Slow progress is better than standing still.

N. Selvarani.
Sakkarakkottai.

Before love had a name



In the beginning, it wasn't love—
just a pause the universe forgot to end,
a moment stretched between two heartbeats
where your existence brushed against mine...
and something in me recognized home.

Then came the ache of knowing—
not loud, not certain,
but like a secret my soul had been keeping
long before I met you.
You weren't new...
you were remembered.

I didn't fall for you—
I unraveled.
Piece by piece,
every guarded corner of me
learned the language of your presence,
as if my chaos had finally found
its meaning in you.

There was a phase
where love felt like light—
soft, golden, infinite—
where your laughter stitched galaxies
inside my chest,

and even silence felt like poetry
when you were near.

But love, real love, doesn't stay gentle...
it tests the depth it dares to create.
We became storms to each other,
breaking, bending, questioning—
not because we wanted to leave,
but because staying meant
facing everything we tried to hide.

And somewhere between the cracks,
I found a version of us
that wasn't perfect—
but true.
A love that didn't need saving,
just understanding.

Now... it is no longer a feeling.
It is a state of being.
You don't live in my heart—
you echo in my existence.

This is the final stage—
where love is no longer spoken,
no longer proven...
it simply is.

Not yours, not mine—
but something eternal
that chose us
as its home.

©Dr Daksha Udhani
Ahmedabad

Global warming



The sun is acting extra bold,
Earth's turned up like tea too hot to hold.
Ice caps melting, penguins say,
"Who left the heater on all day?"

Polar bears are sweating now,

Trying to learn swimming somehow.
Fans and ACs working hard,
Even winter's lost its card

Trees are gone, replaced by malls,
Nature's sending missed calls.
Oceans rising inch by inch,
Coastal cities start to flinch.

"Save me, humans!" Earth does plead,
"Less your wants, and more your need!"
So plant a tree, don't be late,
Before we all evaporate

Dr Meera.T

The earth



The earth is the 3rd planet from the sun in solar system,

Earth is the Home planet,
Human have live on the earth,
Trees 🌳 can grow on earth,
The earth is the only planet to live ,
The earth has water 💧

The earth has all kind of air ,
The earth has trees and plants,
The earth has one moon 🌕
Revolves around the earth,
The earth is the beautiful planet.

The earth has 7 countries,
That has many country .

P.Hemanya
Vii
John Dewey Mat Hr Sec School
Panruti Cuddalore District.

I am proud to be the one who moves slowly



I am proud to be the one who moves slowly,
instead of standing still.
I choose progress over comfort,
even when the steps feel small.
There is strength in continuing,
in not giving up on the path.

I do not measure myself by speed,
but by the courage to keep going.
And with every quiet step forward,
I become someone who never stopped.

Krishnaveni
Graduate Teacher
Cuddalore
Tamil Nadu
India.

Win where you lost



Do not fear the place where you failed,
Because that is where strength begins.
Every loss teaches a lesson,

Every mistake becomes a guide.
Return to the same path with courage,
But this time with more belief.

Word hard than before,
And learn from your experience.
The place that once broke your confidence,
Can become your victory ground.

V. S. Nithiyasri
Vii
John Dewey Matric Higher Secondary School,
Panruti, Cuddalore District, Tamilnadu.

Church Bishop Thagana appealed to young people, including recent high school graduates, to take advantage of the registration process

Church leaders urge youth to register as voters ahead of 2027 elections

BY John Kamau
@themkenyatimes

Church leaders have joined the push to increase voter registration, calling on young people to actively participate in the ongoing exercise led by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission ahead of the 2027 General Election.

Clerics led by Bishop David Thagana of the Federation of Evangelical and Indigenous Christian Churches of Kenya (FEICCK) emphasized the importance of youth engagement in shaping the country's leadership. Speaking at Glory Outreach Assembly Church in Kahawa Wendani, Ruiru Constituency, during a fundraiser for a Sh117 million church project, Bishop Thagana



Federation of Indigenous Christian Churches of Kenya (FEICCK) Secretary General Bishop David Thagana.

urged eligible youths to register as voters and acquire national identity cards to enable their participation.

His remarks come amid con-

cerns raised by the electoral commission over low youth turnout in the Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration (ECVR) exercise launched in

September last year. According to IEBC data, voters aged above 35 account for 67.35 percent of new registrations, while younger voters make up

only about 32 percent, highlighting a significant gap in youth participation.

Bishop Thagana appealed to young people, including recent high school graduates, to take advantage of the registration process and exercise their democratic right in the upcoming elections. He also called on the IEBC to address challenges affecting the process, such as technical glitches and malfunctioning registration kits, which have hindered smooth operations in some centres.

"We want all eligible youths, including Gen Z, to register as voters and be part of the democratic process that will determine the country's future leadership," he said.

Echoing his sentiments, Bishop Deborah Phyllis Wangeci underscored the influence of the youth vote, noting that it could play a decisive role in the next elections. She urged young people to not only register but also turn out in large numbers on election day, describing voting as the most effective way to influence leadership and governance.


The cleric also called on political leaders to promote peace and cohesion as the

country gradually enters the electioneering period, stressing the need to safeguard social, economic, and political stability.

Youth leader George Chiira raised concerns about inefficiencies in the voter registration process, citing delays in IEBC offices in Ruiru, Juja, and Thika due to staff shortages and faulty equipment. He urged the government to streamline the exercise to ensure all eligible citizens are able to register without obstacles.

Chiira also pointed to a growing wave of political awareness among young people, driven by the "niko kadi" movement, which has gained traction on social media platforms such as TikTok, X, and Instagram. The phrase has become a rallying call among Gen Z voters documenting their journey toward voter registration.

With increasing civic awareness and digital engagement, stakeholders believe the youth vote could significantly influence the outcome of the 2027 elections if registration and turnout improve.



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Sport The scouting exercise is set to continue today in Igambang'ombe Sub-County at Kathwana Stadium and in Chuka Sub-County

Young talents eye county glory as KYISA trials ignite hope in Tharaka Nithi

BY Alex Njeru

mwendaalex6@gmail.com

[@themkenyatimes](https://www.themkenyatimes.com)

A wave of excitement and determination swept across Tharaka North and Tharaka South sub-counties as youths turned up for a highly anticipated scouting exercise organized by the Tharaka Nithi County Sports Department in collaboration with key county sports stakeholders.

The exercise, aimed at identifying football and volleyball talent (both men and women), was successfully conducted at Rwatha Primary School and Nyangumi Stadium, drawing youths eager to earn a coveted spot on the county team set to compete at the KYISA games in Laikipia County.

From early morning, the venues buzzed with energy as players showcased their skills, each hoping to rise above the competition. The participants, drawn from the five ward levels across Tharaka Constituency, demonstrated discipline, passion,



Tharaka-Nithi County Department of Sports conducts sub county scouting exercise for players to represent the county in Kenya Youth Inter-County Sports Association in Laikipia county | Photo: Alex Njeru

and raw talent, clear indicators of a promising sporting future for the region.

The scouting exercise is set to continue today in Igambang'ombe Sub-County at Kathwana Stadium and in Chuka Sub-County at Chuka Boys' High School, before concluding tomorrow in Muthambi and Mwimbi sub-counties at Kajiunduthi

and Kairuni stadiums respectively.

To ensure fairness and eligibility, only players aged between 18 and 23 years, those born between 2003 and 2008 are being considered. Participants are also required to present valid identification documents. Additionally, first-time conference league players are eligible, even if registered in FIFA Connect, provided they were not part of Division

Two or higher leagues in the previous year.

For many youths, the trials represent more than just a chance to play, it is an opportunity to transform their lives through sport.

John Mugambi, one of the standout participants, expressed confidence in the integrity of the process and optimism about the county's prospects.

"The selection exercise was very

transparent. We are happy because those who have been picked to proceed to the county level are surely the best. That gives us confidence that a good number of them will go on to represent our county well in Laikipia," he said.

Local administrators also lauded the initiative, emphasizing its importance in nurturing emerging talent. Tharaka North Sub-County Administrator Alex Karani noted that such programs are vital in empowering young people.

"This is a great opportunity for our youths to nurture their sporting talents. Sport pays very well, and with such exposure, many of them can build successful careers," Karani remarked.

His sentiments were echoed by Tharaka North counterpart Fred Kiriri, who underscored the long-term benefits of investing in grassroots sports development.

As the scouting exercise progresses across the remaining sub-counties, anticipation continues to build among players and fans alike. For these young sports men and women, the dream of wearing county colors at the KYISA games is within reach and they are leaving nothing to chance.

PUBG MOBILE To mark its eighth anniversary, PUBG MOBILE introduces the brand concept "For Every #1," celebrating players' individual journeys and milestones.

PUBG Mobile celebrates 8 years with major version 4.3 update and global community events

BY Elizabeth Angira

[@themkenyatimes](https://www.themkenyatimes.com)

PUBG MOBILE, one of the world's most popular mobile games, has launched its highly anticipated Version 4.3 Update, marking its biggest anniversary celebration yet. Running from March to May 2026, the update introduces new gameplay experiences, global collaborations, and exclusive incentives designed to celebrate eight years of community, competition, and evolution.

At the heart of the update is the Evolving Universe themed mode—a cosmic transformation of battlegrounds across Erangel, Livik, and Miramar. The mode features revamped urban areas, spacetime distortions, dynamic rail mechanics,

and new racing gameplay. Players can also take on parachute challenges for rewards, while five new passive skill specialisations and an Energy Rank system (Rank C, B, A, or S) unlock Temporal Vaults with themed loot, adding depth and personalisation to gameplay.

To mark its eighth anniversary, PUBG MOBILE introduces the brand concept "For Every #1," celebrating players' individual journeys and milestones. From March 12, players gain exclusive early access to "LEAN (PUBG MOBILE 2026 Theme Song)" by OneRepublic. The update also delivers a range of time-bound rewards, including the RPA18 Royale Pass (running through May 15), available at a discounted 60 UC (down from 720 UC), with total rewards worth up to 80,000 UC.

Anniversary events roll out across key dates, starting with the Mythic Forge Anniversary Event in March, offering up to 50% discounts. This is followed by the Special Collaboration Set and themed frames and avatars released from March 20. The celebration peaks later in the month, when players can log in for exclusive rewards and a special anniversary show. Players can also collect card sets to unlock milestone items, including a free upgradable Splendid Assault firearm finish and exclusive Holo Cards.

Beyond the game, PUBG MOBILE is hosting large-scale global events. On March 31, the flagship 8th Anniversary Carnival will take place at the Great Pyramid of Giza, featuring music, esports, and live performances. The same day, Türkiye will host

a dedicated gala with offline viewing parties across major cities and large-scale activations. From March 28–29, the "8BEYOND THE CIRCLE" Festival in Surabaya, Indonesia, will showcase exhibitions, gameplay zones, and a record-attempt drone show.

Version 4.3 also brings major collaborations, including MrBeast, launched on March 12, featuring an exclusive hoodie, themed vaults, and in-game access to his latest video. Meanwhile, Jujutsu Kaisen returns from March to April 12, featuring fan-favourite characters like Yuji Itadori and Satoru Gojo, alongside additions such as Ryomen Sukuna and Suguru Geto, with themed items and rewards unlockable through gameplay.

Additional updates span core modes, including World of Wonder's \$10 million creator programme and the WOW DASH competition, which launched on March 19 with a \$100,000 prize pool. Further enhancements extend to Classic Mode, Metro Royale: Chapter 31, and Home Mode.

As the celebrations draw to a close, PUBG MOBILE will spotlight competitive gaming in Africa with the



PMGO Africa Finals on May 9–10, 2026. Top teams will compete for a \$22,000 prize pool and a chance to make their mark on the global stage.

Available until May 10, 2026, the Version 4.3 Update stands as one of PUBG MOBILE's most expansive releases yet, blending innovation, entertainment, and community celebration into a single experience. The game is available for free download on the App Store and Google Play Store.

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MY LETTER TO MY CHRISTIAN POEMS
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Politics Gachagua's remarks come in response to recent statements attributed to Duale warning that the SHA could face operational challenges

Gachagua Accuses Ruto allies of corruption in health scheme as leaders trade claims

Gachagua is currently leading a five-day tour of the Ukambani region under the United Alternative Government banner
BY MKT Correspondents

@themkenyaintimes

Democracy for Citizens Party (DCP) leader Rigathi Gachagua has escalated his attacks on the government, alleging massive corruption in the Social Health Authority (SHA) system and mismanagement of key public programmes.

Speaking yesterday at Tawa Market in Mbooni Constituency, Makueni County, during his ongoing tour of the Ukambani region, the former Deputy President claimed that a consortium linked to Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale was involved in the procurement of the KSh104 billion SHA system.

He further alleged that up to Sh50 billion had already been lost through the deal.

Gachagua's remarks come in response to recent statements attributed to Duale warning that the SHA could face operational challenges if systemic issues are not addressed.

The DCP leader, however, dismissed the concerns as a cover-up, accusing the administration of mismanaging the transition from the defunct National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to SHA.

He also turned his criticism to the government's digital revenue systems, alleging that billions of shillings collected through the eCitizen platform had been misappropriated. According to Gachagua, the funds were being diverted for political purposes, including influencing public support.

"These resources belong to Kenyans and must be used transparently to improve services," he said, calling for accountability and independent audits of government systems.

The former Deputy President further highlighted challenges in the agricultural sector, pointing to an ongoing shortage of subsidized fertilizer despite earlier government assurances of adequate supply. He warned that farmers risk reduced yields during the current rainy sea-

son due to limited access to inputs.

"We were told fertilizer is available, but farmers cannot find it. This is a serious threat to food security," he said.

In response, government officials have maintained that the SHA reforms are aimed at improving universal healthcare coverage and addressing inefficiencies that plagued NHIF. CS Duale has previously defended the new system, stating that it is designed to enhance service delivery, reduce fraud, and ensure sustainability of healthcare financing.

On fertilizer supply, the Ministry of Agriculture has in recent weeks acknowledged distribution challenges in some regions but insisted that stocks are available and efforts are ongoing to streamline delivery through the subsidy programme.

Meanwhile, allies of President William Ruto have dismissed Gachagua's claims as politically motivated, accusing him of spreading misinformation to gain political mileage ahead of the 2027 General Election.

The sharp exchange highlights deepening political divisions within the country, with leaders increasingly clashing over governance, service delivery, and the management of public resources.

Gachagua is currently leading a five-day tour of the Ukambani region under the United Alternative Government banner, where he continues to rally support and outline his policy agenda amid an intensifying political landscape.

“

“These resources belong to Kenyans and must be used transparently to improve services,” Gachagua said, calling for accountability and independent audits of government systems.



Rigathi Gachagua in Ukambani yesterday



Dr Fred Matiang'i and Kalonzo Musyoka yesterday. | Photo: Courtesy.

Science Scientific texts usually follow the standard grammatical word order. Inversion is rarely used because it may create ambiguity.

Sentence structure in scientific style



BY Erkinov Dilmurod Adham

@themkenyatiimes

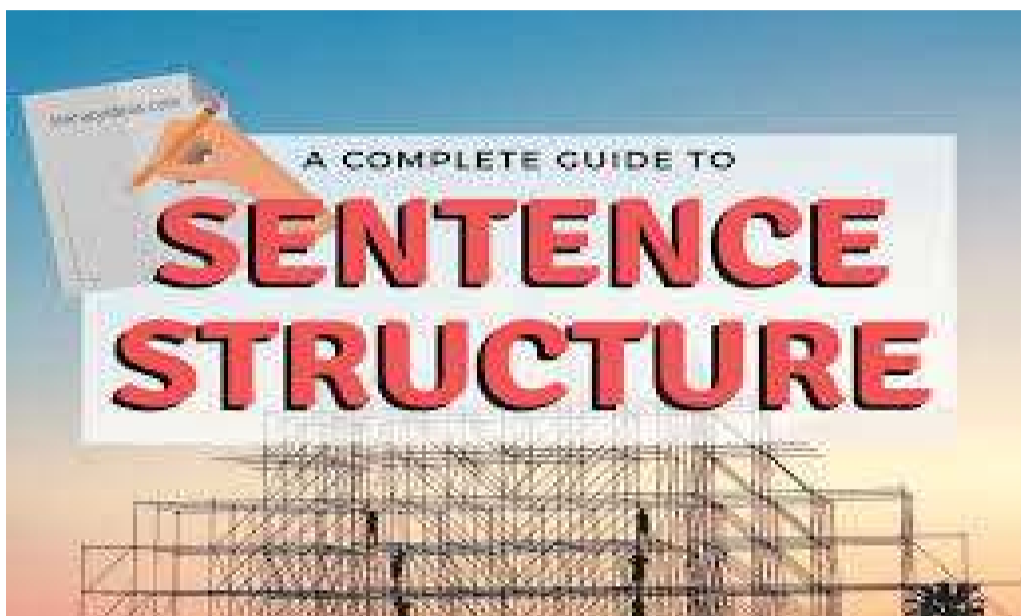
The development of society, science, and technology significantly expands the functional potential of language. Language serves not only as a means of communication but also as an essential tool for expressing scientific thinking. In scientific activity, ideas must be presented clearly, logically, and consistently, which has led to the formation of the scientific style.

The scientific style differs from other functional styles by its objectivity, logical coherence, precision, and generalization. These characteristics are particularly evident in sentence structure. In scientific discourse, ideas are based on evidence, concepts, and theoretical foundations; therefore, grammatical accuracy and logical consistency are more important than emotional or expressive language. Sentences in scientific texts are usually interconnected through logical relations such as cause-effect, condition, explanation, comparison, and conclusion. As a result, scientific texts form a logical chain of ideas that facilitates readers' understanding.

This article analyzes the syntactic features of sentence construction in scientific style, focusing on word order, the use of complex sentences, and logical cohesive devices. The study aims to reveal typical sentence models used in scientific texts and their role in presenting information clearly and systematically.

Main Part

The syntactic organization of scientific texts plays a crucial role in expressing scientific ideas clearly and logically. Sentence construction in scientific style differs significantly from other functional styles, as it prioritizes clarity,



objectivity, and logical consistency.

Features of Simple Sentences

Simple sentences in scientific texts are mainly used to define concepts, explain notions, and present general conclusions. Such sentences are concise, grammatically complete, and free from emotional elements.

Typical models include definitional, classificatory, and generalizing sentences. For example:

Definitional sentence:

A phoneme is the smallest meaningful unit of language.

Classificatory sentence:

Sentences are divided into simple and complex sentences according to their structure.

Generalizing sentence:

Scientific discourse is based on precision and logical coherence.

In these sentences, the subject is usually expressed by a noun or nominalized form, while the predicate often appears in the present tense, which reflects the general and universal nature of scientific statements.

Dominance of Complex Sentences

Complex sentences are more common in scientific style because they allow authors to express logical relationships between ideas. Such relations include cause-effect, condition, explanation, and comparison.

Examples include:

Cause-effect relation:

Language units are interconnected as a system because

each element is part of the overall structure.

Conditional relation:

If sentence elements are arranged correctly, clarity of thought is ensured.

Explanatory construction:

Scientific style is a form of language used to express scientific information.

These structures help present arguments step by step and ensure logical development of ideas within the text.

Word Order

Scientific texts usually follow the standard grammatical word order. Inversion is rarely used because it may create ambiguity. Observations show that the subject generally appears at the beginning of the sentence, modifiers precede the head noun, and the predicate occurs at the end.

For example:

The syntactic structure of a scientific text ensures logical coherence.

This sentence pattern represents a typical syntactic model of scientific discourse.

Passive Voice and Impersonal Constructions

Scientific writing focuses on processes, phenomena, and results rather than individuals. Therefore, passive voice forms and impersonal constructions are widely used.

Examples include:

This phenomenon has been widely studied in linguistics.

The following methods were used in the study.

Such structures help main-

tain objectivity and neutrality in scientific texts.

Logical Connectors

Logical connectors play an important role in organizing scientific discourse. Words and phrases such as therefore,

thus, as a result, first, second, in particular, and that is help establish logical relations between sentences and paragraphs. These cohesive devices improve the clarity and coherence of scientific texts.

Overall, sentence construction in scientific style demonstrates a strong relationship between language structure and logical thinking, allowing scientific information to be presented accurately and systematically.

Conclusion

The analysis of sentence structure in scientific style shows that syntax plays a crucial role in organizing and presenting scientific information. Scientific discourse requires clear, logical, and objective expression, which directly influences the structure of sentences.

The study reveals that com-

plex sentences are widely used to express logical relations such as cause-effect, condition, and explanation. Standard word order predominates in scientific texts, while inversion is rarely used. In addition, passive voice and impersonal constructions contribute to the objectivity of scientific discourse.

Logical connectors also play an important role in ensuring textual cohesion and guiding readers through the flow of ideas. Therefore, sentence construction in scientific style reflects the close connection between linguistic form and scientific thinking.

Understanding these syntactic features is essential for developing effective scientific writing skills and improving the culture of scientific communication.

Erkinov Dilmurod Adham is a Master's student, Namanagan State Pedagogical Institute

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Tel Aviv, Israel Israeli and U.S. strikes have increasingly hit Iran's power distribution centers and industrial facilities.

What to know about U.S. shifting targets, new deployments and diplomatic double game as conflict enters Day 30?

BY Xinhua News Agency

@themkenyatimes

The U.S.-Israeli campaign against Iran that began with targeted "de-capitation" strikes on Feb. 28 has spiralled into a multi-front regional war with no end in sight. As Sunday marks the 30-day milestone of the conflict, has the United States shifted its striking targets already? Is it ready to initiate a new phase of the campaign involving ground operations? And is it really vying for a diplomatic off-ramp? Here's what you need to know.

From military assets to economic, energy infrastructure

In the first weeks of the war, U.S. and Israeli airstrikes focused primarily on eliminating key leadership and hitting Iran's military installations, missile launch sites, and command-and-control centers. U.S. Navy Admiral Brad Cooper, who commands U.S. military forces in the region, claimed Wednesday in a video message that his forces had hit over 10,000 targets, destroying 92 percent of Iran's largest ships and more than two-thirds of its missile, drone and naval production facilities. "We're not done yet," he said. Yet, as the conflict has dragged into its second month, targeting priorities have shifted significantly toward Iran's economic lifelines and energy infrastructure. On March 13, U.S. warplanes bombed Iran's Kharg Island, Iran's main oil export hub in the Gulf, striking over 90 military sites. While initial strikes were described as targeting defensive positions, the island's oil infrastructure has since become a focal point, as Washington seeks to cripple Tehran's ability to generate revenue and sustain its war effort.

Meanwhile, Israeli and U.S. strikes have increasingly hit Iran's power distribution centers and industrial facilities. Iranian media reported in early March that an electricity distribution center supplying large sections of Tehran's eastern neighborhoods was knocked out for several hours after an airstrike. U.S. and Israeli forces also expanded targets



A man is taken away by police officers during a protest against the U.S.-Israeli military strikes against Iran in Tel Aviv, Israel, March 28, 2026. | Photo: Xinhua/Chen Junqing

to include a heavy water production plant and a yellowcake production facility in central Iran, two steel plants in central and southwestern Iran, and a cement plant in southwestern Iran, all on Friday alone. The University of Science and Technology in Tehran and the Isfahan University of Technology in the central city of Isfahan were also struck earlier this week. Some analysts believed that the strategic logic behind this shift appears twofold -- to pressure Iran economically by targeting its energy exports, crucial for foreign revenues, and to demonstrate Washington's ability to strike anywhere inside Iran with impunity, and hence potentially force Tehran to the negotiating table.

Troops, ships and ground preparation

The U.S. military presence in the region has expanded dramatically in recent days. On Saturday, the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) said the USS Tripoli, an amphibious assault ship carrying some 3,500 Marines and sailors, had arrived in the Middle East. The group also includes "transport and strike fighter aircraft, as well as amphibious as-

sault and tactical assets," CENTCOM said in a post on social media platform X. This adds to what officials described as the largest U.S. force buildup in the region in more than 20 years.

The Pentagon has also deployed AH-64 Apache attack helicopters for operating on Iran's southern flank, CENTCOM said in updates released on March 16 and March 18. The New York Times reported Tuesday that the United States is expected to send around 3,000 troops from the elite 82nd Airborne Division to the region, in addition to roughly 2,500 more soldiers from Asia. The Wall Street Journal and AFP both reported on Friday that U.S. officials are now considering sending up to 10,000 additional troops to the region to



The U.S. military presence in the region has expanded dramatically in recent days.

join thousands of paratroopers and Marines already there. Meanwhile, despite U.S. State Secretary Marco Rubio's Saturday remarks insisting that the United States "can achieve all of our objectives without ground troops," several media reports have revealed that the Pentagon is drafting options for weeks, or even months, of potential ground operations in Iran. The Washington Post, citing unnamed U.S. officials, said Saturday that the plans, which have been under development and "war-gamed," focus on limited but high-risk ground operations "by a mixture of Special Operations forces and conventional infantry troops," including raids into coastal areas near the Strait of Hormuz to "find and destroy weapons" capable of targeting international commercial and military shipping, rather than a full-scale invasion.

Talks, threats and Hormuz Strait

Perhaps the most striking feature of the conflict's 30th day is the stark disconnect between U.S. diplomatic rhetoric and military preparations. On Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump claimed Washington had

reached "major points of agreement" with Iran, telling reporters the two sides were "going to get together" by phone and that he had ordered a five-day delay of planned strikes on Iranian energy facilities. Washington had also proposed a 15-point ceasefire plan to Iran via intermediaries from Pakistan.

However, Tehran has repeatedly denied any direct or indirect communication with the United States. The semi-official Fars news agency reported Monday that there had been no contact, while the Iranian Foreign Ministry dismissed Trump's remarks as "part of efforts to reduce energy prices and buy time" for military plans. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reiterated on Wednesday that Iran does "not intend to negotiate." So far, no negotiations have taken place. On Sunday, Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf accused Washington of "openly sending a message of negotiation and secretly planning a ground attack." Iran has also officially rejected the U.S. 15-point proposal and responded with its own five-point plan, which includes war reparations, guarantees against future attacks, and control over the Strait of Hormuz.

Reacting to Tehran's attitude, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt warned Wednesday that the United States would "unleash hell" on Iran if Tehran does not accept a deal. A day later, Trump said if Iran does not agree to a deal, it will face a U.S. "onslaught." Behind the diplomatic theater, the Pentagon is drafting four "final blow" options for Trump, Axios reported Thursday, citing sources. The options include invading or blockading Kharg Island, seizing Larak Island, a strategic location for controlling the Strait of Hormuz, capturing Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb, three strategic islands in the Gulf near the Strait of Hormuz that are controlled by Iran but claimed by the United Arab Emirates, as well as blockading or seizing vessels exporting Iranian oil through the eastern Strait of Hormuz. Axios added that U.S. military planners have also drawn up options for seizing highly-enriched uranium stored at Iranian nuclear sites.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“Uko kadi”: how Gen-Z is redefining political engagement

“Uko kadi?” — are you registered? — began as a casual question lobbed between friends on TikTok. It has since become the most effective voter mobilisation slogan Kenya’s youth have ever produced, and nobody in an office designed it.

That is precisely the point. Gen-Z, the first generation to grow up with a smartphone in hand rather than a civics textbook on the desk, has found a way to make political participation feel less like obligation and more like identity. Through short videos, memes and viral hashtags circulating on TikTok, Instagram and X, a question about a registration card has been transformed into a cultural litmus test — a blend of peer pressure, humour and genuine civic urgency that no government campaign has managed to replicate.

“Uko kadi” is not a slogan. It is a dare — and an entire generation is answering it.

Unlike their predecessors, who relied on television bulletins and party rallies for political information, Gen-Z trusts peer-generated content and



influencers who speak their language. This shift has carried political awareness into spaces — late-night comment sections, group chats, university corridors — where it had never meaningfully reached before. The disengaged are being engaged, not by politicians, but by each other.

The risks are real and should not be minimised. The same platforms that spread awareness spread misinformation with equal efficiency. Virality and accuracy are not the same thing, and the responsibility to verify before sharing falls on every user who picks up the hashtag. Trends are not a substitute for scrutiny.

But the net effect is undeniable. By turning voter registration into a social trend, Ken-

ya’s Gen-Z has done something remarkable: they have made civic duty cool. In a country where youth apathy has long been cited as a structural threat to democratic health, that is no small achievement.

A generation that was told it did not care about politics is now asking everyone around it — loudly, persistently, on every available screen — whether they have their card. When the answer is no, they tell them exactly where to get one.

That is not apathy. That is a movement — one post at a time, one registration at a time, one voter at a time.

By Caroline Nyambura | Laikipia University

The Brazilian butt lift craze: beauty at a deadly cost

Every year, women climb onto operating tables chasing a body shape they saw on Instagram. Some do not come back. The Brazilian Butt Lift holds the grim distinction of being the cosmetic procedure most likely to kill you — and it is growing more popular by the month.

The BBL involves harvesting fat from the abdomen or thighs, purifying it, and injecting it into the buttocks. The result, when it goes well, is the curvaceous silhouette that dominates social media feeds. When it goes wrong, it can be fatal. Fat embolism — where injected fat enters the bloodstream and blocks vital organs — is the leading cause of BBL-related death, and international surgical associations consistently rank the procedure above all others in mortality risk.

Kenya is not immune. Clinics



in Nairobi and Mombasa report rising inquiries, driven by global beauty standards amplified on TikTok and Instagram. The problem is that Kenya’s cosmetic surgery sector remains loosely regulated. Patients drawn to cheaper clinics encounter environments where sterilisation protocols are inconsistent, informed consent is cursory, and surgical qualifications go unverified. Health campaigns have largely ignored the issue, leaving many Kenyans dangerously uninformed.

There is an irony worth noting. Some of the very celeb-

rities who made BBL aspirational are quietly reversing their procedures, signalling a cultural retreat from the hyper-curvaceous aesthetic that drove the craze. Whether that shift reaches Kenyan audiences in time to moderate demand remains to be seen.

Beauty standards evolve. Death is permanent. Kenya needs urgent regulatory action on cosmetic surgery — before the next preventable fatality becomes tomorrow’s cautionary headline.

By Jeremiah Kingamu | Laikipia University

From village dreams to city reality: the hidden struggles behind urban success

They arrive with packed bags and bigger dreams. Within weeks, the city teaches them something no one back home thought to mention: survival here is a full-time job, and it pays nothing at first.

Every year, thousands of young Kenyans leave their villages for urban centres, drawn by the promise of education, employment and a chance to lift their families. What awaits them is rarely what they imagined. Rent consumes money that seemed sufficient during planning. Transport, food and daily expenses devour whatever remains. Many find themselves simultaneously managing part-time work, academic deadlines and the quiet panic of running out.

Loneliness strikes hardest. In the village, belonging is



inherited; in the city, it must be constructed from scratch. Homesickness settles in during the difficult moments, precisely when familiar support is furthest away. Social media deepens the wound, projecting an illusion that everyone else is thriving while one struggles in silence.

Then come the phone calls from home — loving, hopeful, and quietly crushing. Families who see the city as a place where success arrives quickly do not always understand that

stability takes years to build. That weight falls entirely on young shoulders already straining under the load.

Yet those who endure emerge sharper, more resourceful and more resilient than any classroom could have made them. The city does not give dreams away. It makes you earn them — and that, ultimately, is the education worth having.

By Alphonse Mambo Kioko | Laikipia University

Politicians should not abuse one another in public

Kenya’s politicians have forgotten something fundamental: the microphone in their hand is not a weapon. It is a public trust. And they are squandering it, one insult at a time.

Across the country, political discourse has degenerated into a contest of personal attacks, crude put-downs and abusive language that would embarrass a school debating society. Leaders who were elected to solve problems — unemployment, the cost of living, crumbling infrastructure — spend their platform time tearing each other apart. The real issues go unaddressed. The spectacle continues.

When leaders normalise abuse, they do not just embarrass themselves — they give an entire nation permission to follow suit.

The damage runs deep. Politicians are, whether they accept the responsibility or not,



role models. Young Kenyans watching their leaders trade insults on television and social media absorb a damaging lesson: that power means the freedom to demean. Supporters mirror the aggression of those they follow. Community tensions harden. The distance between inflammatory rhetoric and actual violence is shorter than many political leaders care to admit.

None of this is inevitable. Robust disagreement — fierce, unapologetic, principled opposition — is the lifeblood of

healthy democracy. It does not require abuse. The strongest political arguments are built on evidence and conviction, not humiliation.

Kenya deserves leaders who can disagree without degrading, debate without destroying, and compete without corroding the very institutions they are asking citizens to believe in. Words have consequences. Choose them accordingly.

By Alex Mutisya | Laikipia University

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
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Sports >> *A commanding first-half display, a goalkeeper who refused to buckle, and a deflected finish from England-born substitute Zech Obiero sealed a famous bronze medal for Kenya in Kigali.

Harambee Stars thrash Grenada to claim third place at Fifa Global Series

KIGALI — Harambee Stars signed off from the Fifa Global Series in style on Monday evening, thrashing Grenada 3-0 at the Amahoro Stadium to secure third place and deliver Kenya's finest result at the tournament since its inception. It was a performance that will linger long in the memory — controlled, purposeful and, when it mattered most, ruthless.

The tone was set inside 13 minutes. Grenada goalkeeper Trishawn Malcom Thomas, caught flat-footed by Ryan Ogam's firm shot, could only spill the ball into the path of Austine Odhiambo, who showed the composure of a seasoned finisher to tap into an empty net. It was the kind of opener that settles nerves, and Kenya never looked back.

Five minutes later the lead was doubled, and the goal was a thing of beauty. Duke Abuya's drive from the edge of the box was blocked, but the loose ball fell kindly to Ben Stanley Omondi on the left flank. The Gor Mahia midfielder read the situation perfectly, squaring low across the area for Ogam — the man behind so much of Kenya's best work in the tournament — to apply the simplest of close-range finishes. His second goal of the competition, and it could barely have been more deserved.

The first half offered further evidence of Kenya's intent. Clarke Oduor, cutting back on his left foot from the right flank, fired a low effort that drifted narrowly wide. Odhiambo struck the woodwork after being released by Oduor on the edge of the box, and Crispine Erambo, played through by Omondi in the closing moments of the half, sent a shot fractionally over the bar. Had the finishing been sharper, the second half might never have had any drama at all. Obiero, who had earlier dith-



Ryan Ogam celebrates his goal against Grenada. PHOTO/RWANDA FA

ered with the ball and shot tamely at the keeper, was not to be denied a second time — and Kenya had their third.

Grenada re-emerged from the dressing room a side reborn. The Caribbean outfit pressed with intensity, and Faruk Shikhalo — one of the standout players of the tournament — was required to be at his sharpest, smothering a low shot from Jabari Joel Decoteau after the striker had stolen in behind the Kenyan defence. The Stars goalkeeper then watched anxiously as Trevon Bobby Williams' effort kissed the outside of his post. At 2-0, and with a rejuvenated Grenada pressing hard, the game was by no means settled.

Simba SC's Mohammed Bajaber, introduced at the interval,

added further menace going forward but missed the inside of the post by a whisker with a close-range effort in the 51st minute. Fellow substitute Chris Alpha Onyango volleyed over from a promising position moments later. Kenya were riding their luck, and coach McCarthy responded with another round of changes — among them Zech Obiero, the England-born youngster making his mark on the tournament.

His first contribution was inauspicious: a weak, directionless shot straight at the keeper after too long spent dithering. But in the 81st minute, a breathtaking passage of play changed everything. Lawrence Okoth raced on to a through ball and, without breaking stride, back-heeled it to Daniel Sakari. Sakari squared

instantly for William Lenkupae in the danger area, and the Australian-born forward had the presence of mind to lay it first-time into Obiero's path. His shot took a deflection on its way in — but no one in a green shirt was complaining.

It was the goal that completed a performance worth celebrating. Kenya came to Kigali as underdogs and leave it as bronze medalists — a result that will buoy the nation's football ambitions and offer McCarthy the firmest possible evidence that this generation of Harambee Stars is ready to compete on the world stage.

Third place at the Fifa Global Series. The stars, for once, truly aligned.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Kenya's women's sevens fell 24–12 to Brazil in the fourth-place playoff, ending their Championship hopes — but their spirited showing in São Paulo signaled a genuine revival.

Lionesses show signs of rebirth despite São Paulo heartbreak



Kenya Lionesses in São Paulo

BY MARTIN WECHÉ

SÃO PAULO — There are defeats that diminish a side, and there are defeats that merely delay them. Kenya's Lionesses left the Estádio Nicolau Alayon on Sunday evening on the wrong end of a 24–12 scoreline against Brazil, their hopes of Championship qualification extinguished. But to define their weekend by that result alone would be a profound disservice to what was, in truth, one of the most encouraging performances of their season. Saturday opened with a stumble. A 19–12 loss to Argentina in the opening pool match exposed the early nerves and defensive lapses that have haunted the Lionesses at various points this campaign. For those who had watched Kenya toil through the Nairobi and Montevideo legs — where inconsistency and missed opportunities were the recur-

ring themes — it looked, at first glance, like another chapter of the same story.

What followed over the next 24 hours suggested something rather different. Kenya regrouped with conviction, beating South Africa 14–5 in a match that showcased the defensive discipline so often missing earlier in the season. Then came the result of the weekend: a 24–17 victory over Spain that was as complete a performance as the Lionesses have produced in recent memory. The attacking lines were sharp, the ball movement fluid, and for long stretches, Spain — a seasoned SVNS outfit — were left chasing shadows.

Their 46–0 demolition of China was more than just a win — it was a statement of intent from a team finally beginning to believe in itself.

But if the Spain result announced the Lionesses' inten-

tions, Sunday's first fixture confirmed them. Their 46–0 demolition of China was emphatic in every sense — clinical in attack, ruthless at the breakdown, and composed under pressure. It was the sort of performance that does not happen by accident. It is the product of a group finding its shape, its voice, and its belief at precisely the right moment.

The final against Brazil brought the Lionesses back to earth with a bump. The hosts, roared on by a partisan crowd, were sharper in the contact areas and more efficient in converting their opportunities, and Kenya's challenge faded to a 24–12 defeat that felt, by the end, rather more comfortable for Brazil than the scoreline implied. Championship qualification, the prize that had driven much of the weekend's enterprise, slipped away with it.

Yet context matters enormously. The Lionesses return to the

Challenger circuit not as a side in retreat, but as one armed with a blueprint for growth. The contrast with their earlier struggles this season is striking — and instructive. Where Nairobi and Montevideo exposed fragility, São Paulo revealed character. Where earlier legs raised questions, this one began to supply answers.

The work, of course, is far from finished. Sustaining this level of performance across a full Challenger campaign — rather than producing it in isolated bursts — will be the true measure of whether this resurgence is real or merely a weekend's mirage. But the signs, at last, are genuinely encouraging.

The Lionesses are no longer searching for an identity. In São Paulo, they found one. Now they must guard it.

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Book launched & menstruation awareness campaign kickstarted



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana
Correspondence

Theme: Empowering Girls, Shaping Tomorrow

On March 26, 2026, Paula Launched Menstruation Campaign brought together fifty girls from Tamocha Primary School at the Botswana National Library for a vital conversation on menstrual awareness. The event, spearheaded by Holy Matrimony, marked a significant step towards breaking the silence around menstruation and empowering young girls.

Mrs. Opelo, the President of Holy Matrimony, delivered a heartfelt presentation on the special womanhood rite of passage, addressing the fears and confusion many girls face during their first menstruation. Her practical demonstration on using pads and handling menstruation with care and dignity left a lasting impact on the girls.

The event highlights the pressing issue of period poverty, which affects many girls in Botswana. The inability to access affordable sanitary products forces girls to miss school, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and inequality. As the late Rre Motswaledi once said, "Lefatshe le lwelwa, le sireletswa ke beng ba lone!" - "The land is fought for, it is protected by its owners!" Teaching girls about menstruation and providing them with the necessary resources is a crucial step towards fighting for a better tomorrow.

The Role of Male Guardians

Men, as guardians and allies, play a vital role in supporting girls and women during menstruation. It's essential to educate men on how to care for girls and women during this time,



Dr. Paula. O. M. Otukile - Author

promoting a culture of empathy and understanding. Here are some ways men can make a difference:

- Learn about menstruation and its effects on girls and women
- Provide emotional support and reassurance
- Help with household chores and responsibilities
- Ensure access to sanitary products and facilities
- Break the stigma and silence around menstruation

By involving men in menstrual awareness and education, we can create a more supportive and inclusive environment for girls and women.

The collaboration between Holy Matrimony and the Mulher Forte African Literature project is a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives. As Paula noted, they are grateful for the opportunity to work with Holy Matrimony and look forward to more collaborations.

Together, we can break the silence, shatter stigmas, and empower girls.



Thato got her period



Guests: Mrs Masisi: Tamocha teacher, Dr. Charity Opelo; Founder holy Matrimony Society



Approximately fifty girls who attended of of Tamocha primary school in Mahalapye



Final moments after pads and book donation



Dr. Charity Opelo demonstrated pads usage and storage during period



Mphonyana Mpelega- Paula's support system and friend giving kids books, Librarian on white shirt.

Paula giving pads and books to kids with Mrs Ruth Malibala the chief librarian at Mahalapye library.