

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MACHAKOS COUNTY ASSEMBLY**  
**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2022**

The House met at 2.48 p.m.

*[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Museku) in the Chair]*

**PRAYERS**

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR**  
VISITING DELEGATION FROM KITENGELA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** This afternoon, we are privileged to have students from Kitengela International schools; classes six and seven. They have five teachers with them led by Mr. Godfrey Shikuku. I would like to welcome you all and good afternoon. Hon. Members let us applaud and welcome Kitengela International School. Feel welcome to the County Assembly of Machakos where we do legislation, representation and we are honoured to have you here so that as you continue with your studies enhance on social studies so that you may be able to gain first-hand experience on what happens in the County Assembly.

Together with the teachers welcome and I understand we have Eugene; he is a son of one of our Hon. Member here Hon. Nicholas Mutuku. Feel welcome and appreciated, I can see you are part of the bigger family. I can see Hon. Kisini is here with us, please come and welcome students from your ward.

**Hon. Kisini:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to welcome the students from Kitengela International School. I welcome all of them and their teachers to this Assembly. This is one of the schools which excel and I can equate it to Kabarak. It is the Kabarak of Kitengela, Kajiado, Athi River and so forth.

*(Applause)*

Members, I want to say it is one of the best schools and excels and very soon it is going to start a university and those are my dreams. Welcome to see how we legislate and debate because I know some of you aspire to become legislators when you start your careers. For the teachers, thank you very much for finding time to come and be with us and partner with us today and show the students what actually happens at the Assembly. This Assembly is just like the National Assembly; so feel like you are there.

Thank you, and send greetings to the Director, Mr. Paul Mwangangi and we feel honoured and we say a big thank you to you, the students and the school generally. Thank you and feel welcome.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Kisini. Also pass my regards to Mr. Mwangangi; who we went to Machakos Boys together from 1981 to 1984; we were in the same class, from there

he went to do BA Engineering and I did BA Commerce. So say hello to him and say Hon. Museku has sent his regards.

**AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT ON YATTA WATER SERVICES  
COMPANY LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2018**

Article 229(4)(b) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 states that within six months after the end of every financial year, the Auditor General shall audit and report in respect of that financial year on the accounts of all funds and authorities of the National and County Governments. In addition Article 229(5) provides that the Auditor General may audit and report on the accounts of any entity that is funded from public funds. Further Article 229(7) provides that the audit reports shall be submitted to Parliament or the relevant County Assembly.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution, on 24th January, 2022, the Assembly received the report from the Auditor General on Yatta Water Services Company Limited for the financial year ended 30th June, 2018. The report is hereby committed to the Public Accounts and Investments Committee for scrutiny and submission to the Assembly for approval. The Committee should report back to the House within 90 days from the date of this Communication pursuant to Article 229(8) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. Thank you, Hon. Members.

**STATEMENT**

**EXTENSION OF TIME ON SUBMISSION OF REPORT OF  
BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION STATUS FOR 2020/2021 AND 2021/2022**

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** We have one business to be transacted by Hon. Thomas Mutinda on behalf of Hon. Ndambuki.

**Hon. Mutinda:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Aware that the Committee on Budget and Appropriations is established pursuant to Standing Order 186 and its mandate is to;

- a. Investigate, enquire into and report on all matters related to coordination, control and monitoring of the County Budget;
- b. Discuss and review the estimates and make recommendations to the Assembly;
- c. Examine the County Budget Policy Statement presented to the Assembly;
- d. Examine Bills related to the County Budget including Appropriations Bills and;
- e. Evaluate tax estimates, economic and budgetary policies and programs with direct budget outlines.

Hon. Speaker, a Statement was sought in this House on 2nd February, 2022 on budget implementation status for FY 2020/2021 and 2021/2022;

Noting that the Statement was committed to the Budget and Appropriations Committee for investigation and eventual reporting back to the House on 16th February 2022;

Further the reporting time lapses today, on 16th February 2022;

Hon. Speaker, the Committee is yet to conclude investigations on the matters due to delay occasioned by the Executive on forwarding the required information.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to seek extension of time for further 14 days to enable the Committee to complete and report on the above mentioned Statement.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Thomas Mutinda. This is an extension of time request from the Chair Budget and decree that we award them that extension of time but I am noting that the Budget and Appropriations Committee needs to understand that the timelines are very slim because we are in the process of the normal budget cycle and we have to finalize it before the end of this Session. Therefore the 14 days granted should be exact and I would like the Table Clerk to advise me on what date they should report and that should be on 2nd March, 2022.

Let the Committee work on this report and make sure it is submitted on or before 2nd March, 2022. Thank you very much.

### MOTION

#### APPROVAL OF REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE MACHAKOS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTRE (ATC)

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Under this Order, we have one Motion on the Approval of report on implementation status of the Machakos County Agricultural Training Centre (ATC) and this report is going to be moved by Hon. Justus Kiteng'u on behalf of the Chair, Hon. Muthoka.

**Hon. Kiteng'u:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

That aware that Article 183(3) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides that the County Executive Committee shall provide the County Assembly with full and regular report on all matters relating to the County;

Further, aware that Article 185(3) of the Constitution provides that a County Assembly, while respecting the principle of the separation of powers, may exercise oversight over the County Executive Committee and any other County Executive organs;

Noting that Standing Order 188(2) and (3) mandates the Committee on Implementation to do the following:

1. Scrutinize the resolutions of the Assembly (including adopted committee reports), petitions and the undertakings given by the County Executive Committee and examine—
  - Whether or not such decisions and undertakings have been implemented and where implemented, the extent to which they have been implemented; and whether such implementation has taken place within the minimum time necessary; and
  - Whether or not legislation passed by the Assembly has been operationalized and where operationalized, the extent to which such operationalization has taken place within the minimum time necessary”.

2. The Committee may propose to the Assembly, sanctions against any member of the County Executive Committee who fails to report to the relevant select Committee on implementation status without justifiable reasons.

Acknowledging that in executing its mandate, the Committee requested for information from the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and food security on the implementation status of the Machakos County Agricultural Training Centre (ATC); Further aware that the Committee invited the Chief Officer for the relevant department to a Committee meeting and discussed the implementation status as it was recommended by the Committee on Agriculture.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to move the motion that this Hon. House discusses and approves the Report of Committee on Implementation on the Implementation Status of the Machakos County Agricultural Training Centre (ATC).

Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I call upon Hon. Mitaa to second the motion. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. Hon. Moses Mitaa.

**Hon. Mitaa** seconded.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. Hon. Moses Mitaa has seconded you may go ahead and read the report.

**Hon. Ndawa:** Point of information, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Point of information from Hon. Judas Ndawa.

**Hon. Ndawa:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to inform the Speaker and the House that the report was not posted in the website and Members have not being provided with hard copies to go through so I am requesting that you defer the matter so that the same can be provided so that we can be able to identify the grey areas.

**Hon. Mitaa:** Point of information, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Point of information from, Hon. Mitaa.

**Hon. Mitaa:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I wish to remind the Hon. Member that I have equally distributed this report online two hours before tabling. Hon. Ndawa you can check our normal WhatsApp group; the report is there. Thank you.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much. Let me give my guidance; I have heard your request Hon. Judas and also the information from the Whip of the House. Let us go ahead and read the report. Hon. Members have the report and remember we also do have Members of the Kitengela International School with us today so let us go through the report. Members, you have the copies with you we will go through the report. Hon. Judas Kiteng'u please read the report.

**Hon. Kiteng'u:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Status of implementation of the report by Agriculture Committee on Agricultural Training Center. Hon. Speaker, we have the content and appendix and we have abbreviations. So Hon. Speaker I request---

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Yes, go ahead.

**Hon. Kiteng'u:** We go ahead and start with point No. 4 the committee composition.

#### 4. COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Hon. Speaker, the Membership of the Committee on implementation as currently constituted comprises of the following Hon. Members:

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Hon. Fredrick Muthoka | - Chairperson      |
| 2. Hon. Rosina Kanini    | - Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Irene Mbivya     | - Member           |
| 4. Hon. Angela Munyasya  | “                  |
| 5. Hon. Geoffrey Kamulu  | “                  |
| 6. Hon. Mohamed Ali      | “                  |
| 7. Hon. Caleb Mule       | “                  |
| 8. Hon. Moses Mitaa      | “                  |

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 9. Hon. John Musyimi     | “ |
| 10. Hon. Justus Kiteng’u | “ |
| 11. Hon. Eric Musembi    | “ |
| 12. Hon. Joshua Muli     | “ |
| 13. Hon. Francis Kalumu  | “ |

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Go ahead guidelines framework that is okay. Go to the implementation---

**Hon. Kiteng'u:** Then we have point No. 5 guidelines and framework functions of the County Assembly.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** That one is okay, go to No. 7.

**Hon. Kiteng'u:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

### **7. IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE REPORT ON STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTRE (ATC) BY THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

#### *i. Overview of the report*

Hon. Speaker, the report of the Committee on Agriculture on the status of the Agricultural Training Center was tabled in the House in February, 2018. The report was approved and forwarded on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 via a letter Ref: MKSCA/PCS/CMM/ AGR/VOL.2/11 to the Chief Officer, Department of Agriculture and Food Security for implementation.

To this effect, Standing Order 181 provides that within sixty (60) days of a resolution of the House or adoption of a report of a select committee, the relevant Executive Committee Member under whose portfolio the implementation of the resolution falls shall provide a report to the relevant Committee of the House in accordance with Article 183(3) of the Constitution.

#### *ii. Recommendations made by the Committee on Agriculture on the status of Agricultural Training Centre (ATC)*

Hon. Speaker, the committee on Agriculture came up with the following recommendations;

- a. The Department of Agriculture should issue the ATC with a Title Deed pursuant to Section 26(1) of Land Registration Act No. 3 of 2012 in order to formalize the ownership of land and ensure asset security. This will help to eradicate cases of double registration land grabbing which are commonly being witnessed in most Government institutions in Kenya.
- b. The County Government of Machakos should initiate legislation that will create a fund similar in operation to the previous Demonstration Farms Fund (DFF). This fund will facilitate training and hence increase individual and farmers groups' enrollment in the station and in turn improve revenue generation from the station. Through the legislation, it will be easy for the institution to be audited and improve accountability pursuant to Article 229 (5) which states that the Auditor-General may audit and report on the accounts of any entity that is funded from public funds.
- c. Pursuant to Article 10(2) of the Constitution and County Governments Act Sections 94, 95, and 96, there is a need for the County Government of Machakos to do thorough public participation to sensitize the residents of Machakos and beyond on the existence of Machakos Agricultural Training Centre which is aimed at providing extension information to farmers and serving as models of improved crop and livestock husbandry practices.

- d. The Chief Officer in this Department pursuant to Section 126(1)(c) (iv) of the Public Finance and Management Act 2012 should account for utilization of the Development vote for the station amounting to Ksh. 10,000,000 in the FY 2016/2017 and Ksh. 20,989,860 in the FY 2017/2018 which according to the observation of the committee was not properly utilized.
- e. The Department in this FY 2017/2018 should allocate more funds to expand the Agro-processing unit since value addition of agricultural products eradicates cases of loss in times of plenty and also increase profit margin. This unit will be utilized by fruit and vegetable farmers in Mwala and Yatta sub-counties which are known to produce a lot of fruits and vegetables which sometimes get wasted due to poor market and lack of processing facilities.
- f. The funds that are collected from the station and deposited into the County Revenue Account should be ploughed back to the institution to promote the training programs and research work in the demonstration plots. This will attract more clients from other institutions and farmers groups leading to a wider dispatch of Agricultural information and also make the institution a model farm throughout the year
- g. Research work is one of the avenues which the County Government of Machakos can venture into to fight hunger, poverty and earn more revenue and Machakos ATC is one of those research stations currently being utilized by ICRAF and Syngenta companies.
  - i. In the Financial years 2013/2014 the target collection was Ksh. 2.3 billion but only Ksh. 1.17 billion was realized and during the 2014/2015 financial year revenue was targeted at Ksh. 2.7 billion but actual amount realized was Ksh. 1.35 billion
  - ii. The Department should therefore allocate more funds to promote performance of the demonstration plots which act as laboratories for training farmers. This will increase enrolment of trainees, earn more revenue and help to contribute in achieving the revenue target which for the previous years has never been attained.
- h. The County Government of Machakos can plan to enter into partnership with research organizations pursuant to Section 6(3) of the County Government Act. This will ease financial constraints, improve infrastructure, promote capacity building of farmers and still provide employment to the residents of Machakos.
- i. The Department of Transport should provide the institution with vehicles to ease movement and performance of work within the station.
- j. Pursuant to Section 20(1) of Land Registration Act No. 3 of 2012, the Department of Agriculture should use the Development vote budgeted for this Financial Year to fence the institution in order to secure the facilities therein. This will avoid conflicts from the neighbors who graze in the premises of the institution hence destroying the demonstration plots which are the tools of training.

## **8. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

### ***i. Response from the Chief Officer Department of Agriculture and Food security***

Hon. Speaker, the Committee on implementation upon request on the implementation status of the report received written submission from the Chief Officer, Department of Agriculture and also interrogated the Chief Officer on the implementation status of the said report. Further, the Committee carried out a site visit on fact-finding at the ATC to ascertain the status of implementation of the recommendations.

Hon. Speaker, the implementation of the recommendations was as follows:

1. The Department of Agriculture should issue the ATC with a Title Deed pursuant to Section 26(1) of Land Registration Act No. 3 of 2012 in order to formalize the ownership of land and ensure asset security. This will help to eradicate cases of double registration land grabbing which are commonly being witnessed in most Government institutions in Kenya.

*Response*

Survey has been done and the department of Land and Urban Development is processing the allotment.

*Observations*

The committee noted that the process had taken too long to be completed given the fact that this activity is a government-to-government transaction to acquire a Title Deed for the ATC Farm for the purposes of implementing the recommendation by the Committee on Agriculture.

2. The County Government of Machakos should initiate legislation that will create a fund similar in operation to the previous Demonstration Farms Fund (DFF). This fund will facilitate training and hence increase individual and farmers groups' enrolment in the station and in turn improve revenue generation from the station. Through the legislation, it will be easy for the institution to be audited and improve accountability pursuant to Article 229 (5) that states that the Auditor-General may audit and report on the accounts of any entity that is funded from public funds.

*Response*

The department has drafted recommendations on an amendment to Agricultural Development Fund Act 2016, to accommodate the Agricultural Training Center and also draft a regulation to operationalize the Fund Act.

*Observation*

The department had drafted amendments to the Agricultural Development Fund Act, 2014 to accommodate ATC (*see appendix i*).

The department had also drafted The Machakos Agricultural Training Center Demonstration Farms Fund) Regulations, 2014.

(*see appendix ii*)

3. Sensitization of the residents of Machakos and beyond on the existence of Machakos Agricultural Training Centre

*Response*

The department has been doing sensitization of farmers especially via local FM stations, banners and letters to churches and schools especially during Agricultural Training Centre annual field day. During the Corona era, the publicity has gone down and even the key event which include annual Agricultural Training Centre field day was not held last year.

*Observations*

The Covid-19 pandemic had adversely affected the outreach programs of the institution.

4. The Chief Officer in this Department pursuant to Section 126(1)(c)(iv) of the Public Finance and Management Act 2012 should account for utilization of the Development vote for the station amounting to Ksh. 10,000,000 in 2016/2017 and Ksh. 20,989,860 in 2017/2018 which according to the observation of the committee was not properly utilized.

*Response*

The committee was informed that the approved budget was Ksh. 5,500,000 (*attached budget - FY 2016/2017 {appendix iii}*) which was not utilized because there was a circular from County Executive Committee Member (CECM) Finance stopping initiation of projects.

*Observations*

During the Financial year 2016/2017, an amount of Ksh. 5,500,000 had been allocated to the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Lands, and Urban Development for the refurbishment of non-residential buildings. This was to be implemented at the Machakos Agricultural Training Centre.

The department was unable to utilize the said monies and thus was reallocated to other programs. This is because the Department took long to utilize the said funds during the financial year 2016/2017.

During the Financial year 2017/2018, no funds had been allocated in the County budget to fund the same program.

5. The Department in this FY 2017/2018 should allocate more funds to expand the Agro processing unit since value addition of Agricultural products eradicates cases of loss in times of plenty and also increase profit margin. This unit will be utilized by fruit and vegetable farmers in Mwala and Yatta sub-counties which are known to produce a lot of fruits and vegetables which sometimes get wasted due to poor market and lack of processing facilities.

*Response*

The departmental expansion of the Agro processing unit has not been possible due to budget constrains as it is capital intensive. Budget sealing were on bear minimum levels.

The department is working with a partner Agribiz projects who intends to turn the ATC to an incubation center for trainees and use the Agro processing facility for training.

*Observation*

The Committee on Implementation established that the ATC does not have an agro-processing facility and the department did not allocate budget as was recommended by the Committee on Agriculture in their report.

6. The funds that are collected from the station and deposited into the County Revenue Account should be ploughed back to the institution to promote the training programs and research work in the demonstration plots. This will attract more clients from other institutions and farmers groups leading to a wider dispatch of Agricultural information and also make the institution a model farm throughout the year

*Response*



The Committee was informed that this will be resolved once the Agriculture Development fund Act 2014 is amended and an auditable revolving fund established with a guide in

*Observation*

This has not been implemented, as there is no legal framework to enable the enactment of the Agriculture Development fund Act 2014.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Justus, you could go to No. 9 on Committee findings and then you give the Committee recommendations because I think the observations are more or less the same. Let us go to page 16 on Committee findings.

**Hon. Kiteng'u:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for that guidance.

*COMMITTEE FINDINGS*

Hon. Speaker, based on the responses provided by the Chief Officer, department of agriculture and food security on the implementation status of the ATC, the following conclusions were drawn;

- i. That the ATC is yet to acquire a title deed but a survey has been done.
- ii. That the ATC doesn't have a legal regulation that can enable it to plough back revenue collected through its activities and services at the ATC.
- iii. The committee noted that the ATC had not been allocated any budget, either recurrent or development, which has made it difficult in executing their mandate as ATC. It was observed that the ATC has the capacity to produce enough fingerlings and chicks for the programs by the County but lacks funds to be able to utilize the available facilities.
- iv. That the training center has tried to its level best to sensitize the public on its existence through local stations, banners, flyers, and word of mouth by extension officers during ATC field days, only that the Covid-19 pandemic has slowed its sensitization activities.
- v. That the training center has not been able to establish an Agro-processing unit due to budget constraints.
- vi. That the training center is working with other development partners including KALRO, Katumani, AGRIBIZ, Machakos University among others to execute on its mandate.
- vii. That the training center has acquired a Covid-19 compliance certificate to enable it to continue training in compliance with the Covid-19 protocols.
- viii. The Agricultural Training Centre has been accredited as Agricultural Vocational Training Centre (AVTC) and certificates issued by the Centre are recognized.
- ix. That the institution has been allocated a vehicle GKA 434D to enable ease of movement and performance of work for the institution.
- x. That the fencing of the institution to avoid conflict with the public had not been initiated. Failure to acquire Title deed for the ATC and subsequent fencing has led to destruction of the ATC demonstration farms to pave way for a tarmac that destroyed the demonstration plots at the ATC.
- xi. The ATC has set up demonstration plots for training farmers. The committee observed during a site visit, that the demonstration farms have been destroyed to pave way for a tarmac that destroyed more than four (4) acres of the farm where the demonstration plots were set up. The ATC management was at pain to explain why the ATC farm was encroached to pave way for the tarmac.

*COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS*

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Hon. Speaker, the Committee guided by the observations and Standing Order 188(2) (b), which states that; the Committee shall scrutinize the resolutions of the Assembly including adopted committee reports, petitions, and the undertakings given by the County Executive Committee and examine whether or not legislation passed by the Assembly has been operationalization and the extent to which such operationalization has taken place, within the minimum time necessary.

Hon. Speaker, the Committee makes the following recommendations:

- i. The Department of Agriculture should expedite the process of acquiring title deed for ATC within three months (3) pursuant to Section 26(1) of Land Registration Act No. 3 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The department should also furnish the Assembly with a progress report on the process of acquiring the title deed for the ATC within seven days of the adoption of this report by the House.
- ii. That the Department should also expedite the process of forwarding afresh the proposed amendments to the Machakos County Agricultural Development Fund Act, 2014 and its regulations to accommodate Demonstration Farms Fund (DFF) to the County Assembly for consideration and approval to enable the institution to run its activities efficiently. This will enable establishment of auditable revolving fund with a guide in operationalization of the fund. This should be done within 7days of approval of this report.
- iii. Department should allocate more funds in the financial year 2022/2023 to set up the agro-processing unit to ensure the value addition of agricultural products within the County and its environs.
- iv. The Department of Agriculture should ensure that they forward the proposed budget for the ATC in the FY2022/2023 for both Recurrent and Development and also ensure timely and efficient utilization of their budget this will ensure the smooth running of programs at ATC.
- v. The Committee recommends that the Chief Officer provide the circular from County Executive Committee Member (CECM) Finance stopping initiation of projects in the FY 2017/2018 as indicated in the Chief Officer's submission as to why the department failed to the Development vote for ATC for the financial year in question.
- vi. The committee recommends that the Department of Agriculture fence off the ATC farm based on the survey of the farm done. This should be done within 30 days of approval of the report by the House.
- vii. The Department should innovate ways that are robust to covid-19 by tapping into the opportunities presented by information communication technology to reach out to its stakeholders. The committee recommends that the Department sponsor a program in one of the local stations to educate the public on issues of farming within the County.
- viii. The Committee recommends that the Chief Officer Department of Agriculture and Food Security submit a detailed report on the destruction of the demonstration farm to pave for a road that cuts through the demonstration farm. This report should be clear with documentation evidence on the following:
  - i. Was there prior notice to destroy the demonstration farm to pave way for the road.
  - ii. Was there a written concern on the same from the Department of Agriculture and Food Security
  - iii. Was there costing done on the damage to the demonstration farm
  - iv. What efforts are being done to ensure that the demonstrations farms continue to run?
  - v. What hope is there for ATC and what are your proposals to ensure that the ATC is up and running?

vi. Any other relevant information to this effect.

### *CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

Hon. Speaker, the Committee is grateful to the Office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk of the County Assembly for the support accorded during its sittings. I wish to express my appreciation to the Honorable Members of the Committee for sacrificing their time and energy during the preparation of this report. Hon. Speaker, it is therefore, my privilege and duty on behalf of the Implementation Committee to table this report on the floor of this Hon. House for consideration and approval. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

*(Applause)*

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Justus Kitengu for that report well-read.

*(Question proposed)*

**Hon. Mitaa:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Before I make my contributions, I want also to take the opportunity to thank the students from Kitengela International School I also want to thank their teachers and I can only wish them the best in their future endeavors. Hon. Speaker, the report which has just been tabled before the House actually originated from a committee of Agriculture where I am the chairman and Hon. Speaker before devolution, Machakos ATC Center was ranked 3rd nationwide; that was before devolution. There were so many activities in that facility; farmers would come from all corners of this country to learn on matters related to agriculture. Hon. Speaker, after devolution, agriculture was devolved and unfortunately that is when activities in this important facility started going south.

There has been so much negligence in that facility despite so much potential in that facility. Students across our county and across other counties would visit; we have demo farms in that facility, Mr. Speaker. There are all sorts of agricultural activities in that facility. There are even hostels and when you have come from far you do not need to get out of the institution and you just look for a house because there are hostels and you reside there until the end of the training.

Hon. Speaker, I want to thank the Implementation Committee even though Hon. Speaker again we are going back to level 0. I visited the place recently privately because I am a member of the Implementation Committee and we had visited earlier before they started demolishing the demo farms and later I heard that there is a tarmac road which has been constructed and Hon. Speaker when you visit that area you will not be happy with what has happened because we had private farms like Syngenta which had agreed with the management of this institution now that the County government was unable to come up with budgets for trainings to happen, the private farms had actually invested a lot in that institution.

Their products would be displayed to the farmers, trainings would be done there, research would be done there and even the issues of fingerlings you would get them from that place. Issues to do with chicks, improved *kienyeji* chicks you would still get them there, we had cows, we had different types of crops like the drought-resistant crops like sweet potatoes and such things and these private institutions had invested very much and Hon. Speaker if you go there today there is no activity going on. Very unfortunately that even herders across have even invaded the place, cows are all over destroying crops and Hon. Speaker, you ask yourself where we are heading because I have given history that this is a facility which was ranked No. 3 nationwide before devolution.

Devolution was meant to bring development on the ground but instead it is like the National Government could manage the facility better than the County Government. It is unfortunate that is happening within our County of Machakos and I hope because the current government is exiting, I hope the next government which will come in September this year will see the need and the

importance of that facility and invest more because the facility can generate enough revenue to manage itself; we only need to revive it.

There is potential in that facility. We have instructors who are idling there from morning to evening and there is so much infrastructure going to waste, Hon. Speaker. Tractors are there and motor vehicles are there they are not being used they are just going to waste. So, Hon. Speaker, I hope that one day the residents of Machakos will benefit from the fruits of that potential institution within our County. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you. Hon. Kisini.

**Hon. Kisini:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to also contribute to this debate. I first want to thank the committee of Agriculture through the Deputy Majority Leader who has taken us through this nice report. Mr. Speaker, I want to dwell on my reports and echo the Chairman of Agriculture Committee who has said that there is a lot of negligence in that Institution. Mr. Speaker, this is an old institution which we really used to hear about and we know about since time immemorial.

It has just come from the report that is this institution has no title deed and it has just been surveyed recently and I do not know if the report is saying that we have a letter of allotment or it is yet to come. Mr. Speaker, we have student here who are representing the other students from other schools; what message are we sending to those people who want to aspire in doing agriculture, who want to aspire in doing research and we always cry of shortage of food and more especially in our region. Mr. Speaker, that is negligence if that institution has no title deed up to now.

Secondly, we have seen in the report that this Institution has been denied funds, the budgetary funds. We ask ourselves a question how we run such an institution which is very key without a budget. Then again the point of negligence cuts across when although it might have been very important but a road destroys whatever has been achieved through the years, a road is just done without proper authorities given and Mr. Speaker that one you can see from the Chief Officer who started that from No. 1 to No. 6 those procedures were not followed.

An example is there was no prior notice to destroy the demonstration farm to pave the way for the road and therefore that was just an example. Mr. Speaker, I am not saying that it was wrong to have that tarmac; it might have been important but there should have been some compensation so that the institution can stand for itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon. Kisini. May the mover of the motion respond please.

**Hon. Kiteng'u:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker and thank you, Hon. Members, for your wise response. Hon. Speaker on behalf of office of Majority Leader, let me take this opportunity also to welcome our guests and their teacher. I just want to tell you feel at home, learn something and once you get back be inspired that tomorrow you are the next leaders who will be able to legislate here in future. *Karibuni sana.*

Hon. Speaker, having read the report actually it is self-explanatory and what I could argue is that as per the request and the recommendations, we just as a House pull up our socks and make sure that we follow up and make sure that everything has been followed up so that now we revive the institution because you can attest that we do not have any or is not anymore operational and the ATC has been helpful even to our students.

You know, I remember around 2004 I think we visited, I led a delegation which we visited there and was very well operational but seems now it is no longer operational. In that the department of Agriculture including the committee of Agriculture we make sure and the budget committee we make sure that we budget for this as the recommendation has stated. So, Hon.

Speaker, I will only thank Hon. Members and the committee as whole and the House for the good work done, Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you very much, Hon. Justus Kiteng'u.

*(Question put and agreed)*

*(Applause)*

Hon. Members, what I can say before we adjourn, now that we have adopted the report in the House, I also echo your sentiments especially through the report which has come out here that we actually do not seem to be taking into consideration the importance of having an ATC facility in our County. Machakos and Kenya in general is primarily an agricultural economy and therefore we still depend solely on agriculture as the main source of income to the majority of the people and the basis of agriculture is in training so that we can be able to get the necessary skills of ensuring that we are doing proper trainings, we are doing the right type of agricultural activities which can be able to generate food and income to our people.

It is sad that this institution has gone down since devolution has come into place instead of being enhanced by the County Government to ensure that it is funded and gets all the required access. I do not understand why a road and if I am not wrong you might end up finding that this is a road which has been constructed for the airstrip which has not been approved by the aviation authorities. You go ahead and destroy demonstration farms which have been heavily invested in by private investors like Syngenta and other companies who are willing to help in setting out this farms in helping our farmers so that we can be able to put up a road or set up a road to make some money.

The target of that tarmac road was to make some money believe you me you will find the road is leading to nowhere and therefore I recommend that this committee ensures that they summon the Chief Officer of Agriculture so that he can be able to give feedback on the pertinent issues which have been raised in this report more so on the issues pertaining to the establishing a road through demonstration farms and destroying them.

You all remember very well that we had a refrigeration facility where we had a full-fledged facility where our farmers could be able to go and store French beans and these other types of perishables before they are exported and that was taken over by the Office of the Governor and the refrigeration facilities where they are I would like the committee to try and find out where those facilities went to because right now there seats the Office of the Deputy Governor.

We have so many offices where they could have sat; I do not know why they had to destroy the refrigeration facilities and therefore let the secretariat ensure that we get a response on this specific report we write and forward as approved by the House and we should be able to get the response again before this House over the next maximum 30 days.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Members and with that the House stands adjourned to resume again on Tuesday, the 22nd day of February, the year of our Lord 2022 at 10.00 a.m. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon.

The House rose at 3.50 p.m.