

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MACHAKOS
OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 26th September, 2023

The House met at 10.19 a.m.

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. (Stephen Mwanthi) in the Chair)]

PRAYERS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Good Morning Hon. Members, Sergeant at Arms ring the bell for ten minutes for quorum. You can stop.

(Quorum Bell rung)

Thank you Hon. Members and welcome for today's sitting. Clerk, proceed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR
VISITING DELEGATION FROM CATHSAM SCHOOL IN KAMULU

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, today we have visitors, teachers and pupils from Cathsam School in Kamulu, I believe that is in Muthwani Ward and I think it will be prudent if I invite the Member from that ward to say hi to them and invite the teachers and the pupils before I proceed.

Hon. Dominic Maitha (Muthwani, WDM-K): Thank you, Hon. Speaker and the Hon. Members present. I take this opportunity to welcome students and Pupils from Cathsam School which is in Kamulu which is in Muthwani Ward.

I take this opportunity to welcome you in this Assembly; my name is Dominic Ndonge Maitha, the area MCA for Muthwani Ward. Kamulu is part and parcel of my ward so I want to welcome these super boys and girls to this Assembly and their teachers for taking it and having the need to come and see and pay us a visit and understand the procedures and the way we undertake things in this Assembly. So you are very welcome in this Assembly; it is a very interactive sitting that you may learn a few things here and there and this Assembly does only three things ad that is legislation, oversight and representation and that is why we are here.

Those are three key areas that you may be able to learn once you go back to school and may be when you do your write ups and everything those are the three key functions of this Assembly. So you are most welcome, feel free, appreciated and feel free to enquire anything after this sitting ends. Thank you so much, Hon. Speaker, for this institution finding need to come and visit Machakos County Assembly for the first time. Feel welcome and thank you so much.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Dominic and I once more tell you welcome to this County Assembly of Machakos. Clerk, you may proceed.

NOTICE OF MOTION
SETTING UP DEMONSTRATION FARMS
IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Under this one we have a Notice of Motion that will be read by Hon. Katiti.

Hon. Boniface Katiti (Muthetheni, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I too welcome the students and Teachers. I stand in for Hon. Mwanthi who is now the Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, that aware that the Fourth Schedule Part 2 of the Constitution of Kenya mandates the County Governments to be in-charge of Vocational Training Centers;

Aware that these institutions are centers where technical skills can be imparted to our youth as well as any other person who needs learning;

Aware that if well utilized, these training centers can be of great value to our County through producing graduates who are capable of employing themselves as well as helping the County in various technical fields such as agriculture, catering, bakery, construction, motor vehicles mechanics, ICT and entrepreneurship;

Hon. Speaker, further aware that these institutions have resources that if well utilized, they can benefit the County through transfer of skills to the neighboring communities through demonstrations;

Acknowledging that most of our Vocational Training Centers have large tracts of land and aware that these pieces of land can be used as demonstrations farms;

Aware that the students as well as the community around the institution will be able to learn on various methods of farming;

Aware that this will also ensure full utilization of the County Agricultural officers in the County;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give notice of Motion THAT the County Government of Machakos considers setting up demonstration farms in Vocational Training Centers with large tracts of land so as the trainees in the polytechnics and farmers will get to learn on farming methods.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Katiti.

STATEMENT
BUSINESS FOR THE HOUSE FOR 26TH AND 27TH OCTOBER, 2023

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Under this one we also have one statement from Hon. Nicholas Nzioka.

Hon. Nicholas Nzioka (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I read the Statement I would also want to take this opportunity, with your permission Mr. Speaker, to welcome the pupils from Cathsam Academy from Muthwani ward and I want to tell them that when I stand here I see future speakers there, leaders, MPs, Presidents and so you have the future and I know with the guidance of your teachers and parents you will be able to achieve these things in future but also I want to remind you to stay disciplined and focused. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, the House Business Committee met on Monday, 25th September, 2023 to prioritize business for the House as forwarded by Committees and Hon. Members pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order 151(6)(d). The Committee balloted business as follows:

Tuesday, 26th September, 2023

Morning at 10.00 a.m.

Report of the Auditor-General on the County Executive of Machakos for the year ended 30th June 2021. Continuation of debate by Hon. Philip Ndolo, Chairperson, Public Accounts and Investments Committee.

Afternoon at 2.30 p.m.

Motion that the County Government of Machakos considers setting up demonstration farms in Youth Polytechnic by Hon. Stephen Mwanthi, Deputy Speaker/MCA, Ekalakala Ward.

Wednesday, 27th September, 2023

Morning at 10.00 a.m.

- a. Statement on solid waste disposal within the County by Hon. Joseph Mulinge, MCA, Muvuti/Kiima Kimwe Ward.
- b. Motion that that the County Government of Machakos utilizes solar energy in its social amenities by Hon. Anastacia Mutevu, Special Elect MCA.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Nzioka.

MOTION

AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT ON COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF
MACHAKOS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2021

(Hon. Phillip Nzioka on 19.09.2023)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 19.09.2023)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, under this one you remember there was debate on the approval of this report and it was interrupted on the 19th of September, 2023 at 2.30 p.m. and so we should continue with that debate and so before I invite Members to debate I will call the mover first to come and give some highlights.

Hon. Muoki wa Musila (Ndithini, WDM-P): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. Let me take this opportunity Mr. Speaker to welcome the pupils of Cathsam Primary School to come and listen and see what happens in this House and I tell you amongst yourselves when Muoki was Musila will not be the MCA of Ndithini ward may be one of you would be and that is what I would

encourage you to read and understand what happens here so that you can as well when you there be one of us.

Mr. Speaker, let me go to the report that I would be reading; the report of the Auditor general on the Financial Statements of County Executive on Machakos for the year ending 30th June, 2021 by the Public Accounts and Investments Committee.

Hon. Daniel Ndwiki (Mlolongo/Syokimau, WDM-K): Point of Information, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Point of Information Hon. Ndwiki proceed

Hon. Daniel Ndwiki (Mlolongo/Syokimau, WDM-K): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My concern goes to our Member Hon. Mwonga who I think he is properly dressed and I call for your indulgence and guidance on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mwonga, the Member is saying that you are not properly dressed.

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Mr. Speaker, thank you and before I respond to that, allow me to move forward and address the pupils and teachers who are in the gallery; before I respond to the issue which has been raised.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: First address that then you will come when we are debating because the Member is upstanding; the Member who was moving the point of order. You come. I will give you that time to come and say hi to pupils but for now a Member is still standing it was on a point of information.

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Mr. Speaker, I think I am properly dressed and I think the Member should take time and watch the proceedings of the Senate of this country. He will see Senator Ledama clad in Maasi *shukas* and he has never been send out of the Senate. Mr. Speaker, the cap the Member is referring to, is a traditional Kamba cap and no one can tell me that I am not properly dressed, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Unless I am told otherwise, I think I am properly dressed and as you can see Mr. Speaker, I am properly dressed. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. On the same, may you just proceed? I think the Member is properly dressed. We can proceed.

(Applause)

Hon. Muoki wa Musila (Ndithini, WDM-K): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agreed to read the report on the Public Accounts and Investments Committee and I had said it is a lengthy

information but I will just pick on the items that are more critical at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will start on the executive summary.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hon. Speaker, this report on the Financial Statements of County Executive of Machakos for the year ended 30 June 2021 was received in the Assembly pursuant to Article 229(7) of the Constitution. The report was committed to Public Accounts and Investments committee pursuant to Standing Order 185(2)(b) and (c) and the report had a qualified opinion.

The key queries raised on the part for basis for the qualified opinion include differences between Financial Statements and Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) ledger, unsupported payments, undisclosed assets Inherited from defunct Local Authorities, pending bills, lack of land ownership for water facilities, unsupported legal expenditures, queries related to non-compliance and matters on internal controls and risk management among other queries.

The Committee while exercising its mandate scrutinized the queries and raised key observations such as technical problems that affected the IFMIS system, lack of disclosure of information, non-comprehensive inspection reports, use of outdated valuation roll that has disadvantaged revenue collection from property, late disbursement of funds that affect bank balance and service delivery, good progress in payment of pending bills, lack of formal agreements for water facilities in the County, unnecessary engagement of private legal firms, non-compliance of relevant laws and un finalized policies.

In order to address the issues raised from the particular queries the committee recommends some key measures such as involvement of the National Treasury to address the recurring IFMIS failures, forwarding to the Auditor General any unverified and undisclosed information, recruitment of County Valuers and Planners to match the Departmental needs, clearance of payment for pending bills that have the required documentations, formalizing ownership of land with county water facilities, implementation of logical measures by the County Public Service Board to address the huge wage bill and forwarding to the Assembly for approval all the pending policies among other recommendations.

Background information

Hon. Speaker, the Audit report on the Financial Statements of County Executive of Machakos for the year ended 30th June, 2021 was received in the Assembly in February 2022 pursuant to Article 229(7) of the Constitution that states that Audit Reports shall be submitted to Parliament or the relevant County Assembly. It is good to note that the Auditor General observed the legal timelines as provided under Section 48(1) of the Public Audit Act 2015---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, I suggest rather than going through the entire report, you can just go to the general recommendations because the report had already being read by the Chair. So you can just go to page 28 for the general recommendations. You know it is just a continuation of a report that had been read at the Assembly.

Hon. Muoki wa Musila (Ndithini, WDM-K): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will go straight to the general recommendations.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. Speaker, the Committee after considering the specific observations under each query and the above general observations makes the following general recommendations;

1. That the Department of Finance should urgently address the recurring matter on IFMIS challenges with the National Treasury so that the system error is addressed. Further, such challenges should be well documented and reported to the Auditors during the interrogation exercise for consideration.
2. That the County Government of Machakos in collaboration with the Inter-governmental Relations Committee should address the recurring challenge of late disbursement of funds. This challenge has since 2013 resulted to a query on misstated bank balance because Counties are forced to spend the late disbursed funds during the early days of July every financial year and inability of the County Government to absorb funds. This has also led to chronic pending bills and poor service delivery.
3. That the Accounting Officer should fully disclose all information to auditors during the time of audit pursuant to Section 9(1)(e) of the Public Audit Act, 2015, that gives the Auditor unrestricted access to all required information and books to avoid unnecessary issues from appearing as queries.
4. That the County Government of Machakos should in the next financial year allocate sufficient funds to facilitate preparation of updated valuation roll and to recruit enough County Valuers, Physical Planners and Surveyors. This will help speed up the process of developing valuation roll and securing of public land and ownership documents raised in the query and subsequently increase revenue collection.
5. On unsustainable costs of electricity in boreholes, the County should fully embrace the use of solar energy in powering boreholes since solar power being clean energy is cheap and is an adaptation measure to climate change menace.
6. The County Government of Machakos should allocate funds in phases (per financial year) from the next financial year to clear the above verified outstanding pending bills and within each financial year in question appraise the Assembly with a status report on progress of payment of this pending bill. Further, the report of the Pending Bills Committee that was constituted by H.E the Governor early last year should be forwarded to the Assembly for the purpose of oversight and guidance in the budget making process.
7. That the County Government should formalize the agreements by acquiring title deeds for the water facilities that were constructed in private land to curb possible conflict in resource usage by community members and unnecessary legal issues.
8. There is need for the County Government to equip the office of the County Attorney with enough legal personnel and requisite budget in order to minimize over dependency of external legal services. This will be a good move toward prudent use of public resources.
9. That the County Public Service Board should initiate logical measures that will guide the County Government in reducing the County wage bill to the allowable threshold. Further, the report by the County Staffing and Human Resource Task force that was constituted by H.E, the Governor last year should be forwarded to the Assembly for the purpose of oversight.

10. That the County Water Committee that was constituted by H.E the Governor to oversee operation of County boreholes should come up with strategies of charging affordable rates on the borehole water in order to generate income that would help in maintenance of the boreholes.
11. The preparation of the Information Communication Technology and Risk Management Policies should be finalized and forwarded to the Assembly for approval to allow for subsequent implementation.
12. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 53(1) of the Public Audit Act 2015, the Accounting Officer should within 90 days after approval of this report take the relevant steps to implement the recommendations in this report or give an explanation in writing to the Assembly why the report is not implemented.

CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Hon. Speaker, the report on financial statements of County Executive of Machakos for the year ended 30th June, 2021 is Qualified Opinion. This implies that the report fairly represents the financial position of the County Executive in the year in question. It indicates well that if the matters raised by the Committee are considered in addition to proper internal controls, compliance and observance of disclosure of information, a positive shift in preparation of good financial statements will be realized.

Hon. Speaker, the Committee on Public Accounts and Investments is grateful to your office, the Office of the Auditor General for the advisory given, Members of the Committee and the Secretariat for commitment and effort throughout the process of report writing.

It is therefore my privilege and pleasure on behalf of Public Accounts and Investments Committee to table before this Hon. House the report on Financial Statements of County Executive of Machakos for the Year ended 30th June 2021 for discussion and adoption. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Paul Musila. I now invite Members to debate the motions. Yes, Hon. Maeke.

Hon. Musyimi Maeke (Kalama, CCU): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to start by echoing the other Members in congratulating the pupils from Muthwani ward and the teachers for seeing it better to come and learn from the Assembly. I want to say that they are in the right direction. Many years ago I remember I was a pupil like you and I know some of you have political ambitions and I wish you well even as you continue learning.

Mr. Speaker, what has drawn my attention in the report is one of the recommendations that have been made by the committee on the issues that took place in 2021 for purposes of ensuring that, as Machakos County, we are moving in the right direction. There is one issue which I think has been spoken in this Assembly for quite a number of times and it is about the wage bill. As a House, we really need to look into that because if the wage bill continues to go up it means that it may be going up at the expense of development. One way of doing that is doing audit and if you go to a department and find there is multiplication of roles, that is something that can be brought down and find there is no repetition of roles.

For example, even though this is a personal observation, you may go to a department and find a department has two or three Chief Officers who are doing almost the same job and there is no proper cut-line. The Chief Officer may be one but remember Mr. Speaker, they come with a

director an office messenger. We can look as a County in goodwill and see how we can have maximization of the staff we have and if there is duplication of roles, it should be looked into because if in 2021 the wage bill was a menace and we go again in 2022 and 2023 reports, this means the County becomes a real challenge and we really need to look into that.

Another thing which has been brought to attention is power. We all know that the KPLC has become very expensive and you will find there are a lot of boreholes which have been rendered non-functional. For example, there is a borehole in Kimutwa which was sunk many years ago by late Hon---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon. Maitha.

Hon. Dominic Maitha (Muthwani, WDM-K): Thank you. Hon. Speaker I wish to inform the Hon. Member that if you have listened to the Statement that has been issued by the Majority Leader, there is a motion to discuss the issue that you are raising right now about huge electricity bills and how we can substitute the same with solar. So, I think in avoidance of anticipation of debate for the motion that is to be tabled, I wish we the same be handled during that motion. Thank you.

Hon. Musyimi Maeke (Kalama, CCU): Thank you, for guidance, Hon. Member for Muthwani. Because the matter has not been tabled and I believe I am responding to a report from the PAIC committee concerning 2021. I stand guided but as I was trying to conclude on that point; there is an urgent need and my prayer is that the notion to come as a matter of urgency before the House we discuss on how we are going to lower that and I believe my concern about the many boreholes that are not working because of electricity because they were disconnected from the main grid and if we adopt what the committee has said, our people will benefit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Maeke. Hon. Mwonga.

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Mr. Speaker, I am going to debate while standing were I am although I do not know whether the pupils and the teachers because our systems are not working, they would have seen whoever is debating but with your permission can I move to another area Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Yes, you can just do it.

(Hon. Mwonga moved to the dispatch box)

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): I think from here I can be seen properly. For the teachers who have accompanied the pupils to come to the Assembly, I want to say I served with your MCA, Hon. Dominic Maitha from 2013 to 2017 before we were sent on sabbatical leave from 2017 to 2022 but I would want to thank those who are in the gallery and are voters for what you did. You did a good job to re-elect one Hon. Maitha to this Assembly. He is a committed, eloquent Member who knows the duty and why he is in this Assembly.

Going back to the debate, I want to go to the issue of boreholes and I want to agree with the recommendation that our boreholes should be powered by solar. Mr. Speaker, you represent a

ward which neighbours Masinga Central and as I am speaking now, we have 12 boreholes which are not functioning. Six were disconnected by Kenya Power due to huge bills and others had been powered with solar and are not functioning.

I want to thank the Government of Her Excellency the Governor Wavinya Ndeti for rehabilitating one borehole in the last financial year and I think this happened in each and every ward but if they can move fast and rehabilitate the rest for our people to get water that will be good and our people will appreciate the services.

On the issue of boreholes which had been connected to the grid of electricity, the Committee concerned should invite the department of Energy so that they can tell this House what they are planning to do because these boreholes have water but the services are not being enjoyed due to disconnection. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mwonga. Hon. Douglas.

Hon. Douglas Musyoka (Masii, MCCC): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take this opportunity and welcome students from Muthwani ward to this Hon. House and it is a good thing to learn what happens in the House. Mheshimiwa Maitha, we are privileged to have them and I hope by the end of the day they will learn something. Mr. Speaker, I am a Member of the PAIC Committee and I stand here on behalf of the committee to support our report.

On the same matter, my attention has been drawn on two issues which I am going to state before the floor of this House. One is the issue of land ownership where these public facilities lie. If the County Government of Machakos is not going to be extra careful and take quick measures, we are losing a lot of public utilities to individuals. The other day we had a debate in one of the wards neighbouring Machakos town and the community was complaining that people have encroached public land. Being a resident of Machakos town, I know a lot of public land which the County Government does not even know it owns.

The other thing is on this issue of doing public utilities in private lands without proper documentation. Mr. Speaker, we have some cases where the County Government of Machakos agreed with an individual, mobilized its equipment, did a borehole and the land owner privatized the borehole and said this is in my land, it is my borehole and I am going to use it alone. Unless we take quick measures, we are going to lose a lot of public facilities to these individuals.

The other thing, Mr. Speaker, which I am going to comment on is the issue of power bills. The Kenya government is advocating for green energy and this Hon. Members even in our own homes, we are not in a position to afford power bills on monthly basis. The cost of living has gone extremely high and we cannot hide it. I am recommending that we actualize powering our boreholes, dams and rivers with solar power and we as Hon. Members we be vigilant and talk to our people so that in a case where a borehole is powered with solar, we talk with the immediate community to be the custodians of these public utilities.

I am going to give a case in Masii Ward. Two or three years ago, the County Government did a borehole at Kwa Itinga Dam and the borehole was producing at least 20 cubic litres per hour which is a lot of water. Just because the borehole was done along the dam, no people living around that area, nothing is happening and it was just producing water waiting for its distribution; someone went and got away with all the solar panels. After one month the same person went again and cut all the steel used to host those water panels, after another three months, the same person again went back and withdrew the pump from the borehole and came with a lorry ferrying stones and filled the entire hole with stones.

I was amazed Mr. Speaker. When I went to look for a donor to come and rehabilitate the borehole I found it had been filled with stones and our people cannot benefit. We need to be custodians and take this challenge and talk to our people. Whenever we are taking the responsibility of bringing resources and facilities to them, we talk to them so that they can be good custodians and look after our resources well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I support the report.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Dominic.

Hon. Dominic Maitha (Muthwani, WDM-K): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I want to stand here to support the report that has been tabled before this County Assembly by the able and competent Chair of the Public Accounts and Investments Committee. I just want to make a few observations Mr. Speaker that have been---

Hon. Doulas Musyoka (Masii, M CCP): Point of information Mr. Speaker. I wish to inform the Member of Muthwani that the report has been tabled by a Member of the Public Accounts and Investments Committee but not the Chairman of the Public Accounts and Investments Committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: It is okay but he was holding brief on behalf of the Chair.

Hon. Dominic Maitha (Muthwani, WDM-K): Hon. Speaker, the Hon. Member needs to note that when you delegate service you do not delegate power. The Member who presented this report was acting for and on behalf of the Chair but all the same thank you, Hon. Douglas. I just want to echo the words of what Hon. Douglas has observed. Mr. Speaker when you go through the report there is an issue with our lands department and it talks about understaffing. I happen to be a Committee Member of the Lands Committee in this Assembly and the issues that the Committee has observed are exactly what we have been handling for the last almost like six months.

It is unfortunate Hon. Speaker, that with the current departmental transfers will somehow affect the progress that we had achieved in the department in terms of the issue of Valuation Roll. Hon. Speaker, honestly this County is losing millions not even millions billions of shillings because of the understaffing in the lands department. It is on this note that I want to request this House that we really have a relook on how we are going to fund this department.

The department of Lands in Machakos County can supplement all other departments in terms of finances. Hon. Speaker, all the Members who are seated here, if we try to relook at the entire Machakos County there is land subdivision taking place somewhere in this County. If you see in our media nowadays, companies are advertising sell of land in Masinga, Matuu and Machakos town among others. It is happening in every single sub-county of this County. Right now the adjacent sub-counties of Kalama, the land rates and value has gone high because of what is supposed to be done at Konza City.

When you come to Mavoko, it is the mother of land sub-division. Majority of these land sub-divisions that are being done in Mavoko, there is no value for money for the County reason being we have few staff who can handle this capacity. So we need to make sure that we give this department enough funds so that they can facilitate the Valuation Roll issues and finalize them as immediate as possible so that we can tap the revenue potential.

Hon. Speaker, we are losing a lot; millions of shillings. If you go to most of areas that have been sub-divided, no procedure has been used as per the County laid down procedures so that we can generate revenue. That is a matter that needs to be looked into and when you cascade down the other point talks about public utilities. By failing to have enough staff in the department of lands, it has given appetite for land buying and distribution companies to take advantage and take off from the County Government the privilege of surrendering those public utility lands in the County.

I can tell you Hon. Speaker in the next five, 10 or 15 years, we will miss a public utility in almost entire Machakos County if the issue of public utilities is not addressed. Today, I want to give a practical example of my Ward. Hon. Speaker, almost 40 to 50 per cent of the public utilities that we are supposed to have been surrendered to the County Government of Machakos today has been grabbed. Some of them to the extent they have been developed and title deeds have been issued.

Mr. Speaker, we need to relook into this issue; the issue of public utilities is becoming a thorn in the flesh. For example, Machakos town; if you go round in Machakos Central Ward, you will see how important a public utility is; the Machakos bus park, the primary schools in Machakos, Machakos University, Machakos Teachers College and others and so Machakos Central Ward seems to be a little bit privileged because those were the old and indigenous public utilities that were preserved. Then there was no appetite for public utilities but currently the appetite for public utilities in Machakos County and especially Mavoko to be very specific is quite high.

It is the high time now we relook into this issue such that all the recommendations of this report the department of lands properly facilitated financially to hire staff so that they can be able to move with speed. The planners and the surveyors can move with speed and identify the public utility lands that are already under threat. Hon. Speaker, the Governor formed a task force about re-looking into this issue and this House is yet to receive the same report on the same so that we can act on it.

It is my request that we liaise with the Executive through the Governor so that we can get that report as immediate as possible so that the recommendations of the report can be acted swiftly so that we can protect public land in County.

Lastly, Hon. Speaker, the issue of pending bills and also the Governor recently launched a taskforce to investigate. She recently said that she has received a report of the pending bills. It is very important if this Assembly can receive the actual status of the pending bills of this County.

As we stand as at now Hon. Speaker, we do not know how much money the County needs to pay in terms of pending bills. It is important that this report is received in this House so that we can see into how we are going to do the planning to facilitate payment of those pending bills to the owners. Hon. Speaker, it is very unfair that today wherever you are seated as a contractor for example---

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Point of information, Mr. Speaker. I want to inform my young brother that we know the pending bills and they were factored in the financial year 2023/2024 budget. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mwonga.

Hon. Dominic Maitha (Muthwani, WDM-K): Thank you for that information. Hon. Speaker as per report the report has already handled said about pending bills but the report has not told us how much. But well if the pending bills have been factored Hon. Speaker, it is important that we consider pending bills as a very serious issue.

The worst thing that you can ever do in life is to buy a new suit and I know that I owe you some money. I will always say this person went ahead and bought a new suit and he has my Ksh. 5,000. So it is important that we pay these pending bills once and for all Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, we are seriously punishing contractors and service providers who did work to this County and they are suffering waiting for us to pay them. I would request that we expedite this with immediate effect; we better stop some services and go ahead and pay these contractors ones and for all so that they can also proceed and continue undertaking their businesses without harassment from financial institutions, from areas that they source finances to do this works so that we can also continue having not having contactors to lose trust with the County Government of Machakos.

So I support this report and if these recommendations Hon. Speaker, can be put into action within the soonest time possible, I am sure we are going to see value for money and we will be able to achieve the positive impact of devolution. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Dominic and I believe you are the Chair Implementation Committee so if Hon. Members pass the report then your Committee maybe can still handle that and make sure the implementation part has been done. So I think having exhausted our debate today I know call the mover to reply.

Hon. Muoki wa Musila (Ndithini, WDM-K): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Members who have contributed to this debate and say it was good and that is what we are going to do. The recommendations we are going to follow so that we see everything is done well. I have gotten more information from the Chair of the Lands Committee when he talks about losing our land---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: He is the Chair, Implementation Committee but he seats in the Lands Committee.

Hon. Muoki wa Musila (Ndithini, WDM-K): He is a member of the Lands Committee. Thank you, for the correction, Mr. Speaker. I would wish to say that this is something that we need to look at because we know we are losing land that is for public needs and even the roads. We even go further and say that we also need to start doing the beacons for which one time I asked for and maybe the Government can provide those beacons so that whenever we get that land we place the beacon for the roads.

We will know where our roads are, where our plots are and facilities are. So Mr. Speaker, I would wish to say thank you for those who contributed, thank you for our visitors, thank you everyone.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Musila.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the House adjourns to Tuesday, 26th September, 2023 at 2.30 p.m.

The House rose at 11.21 a.m.