

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF MACHAKOS
OFFICIAL REPORT

Tuesday, 26th September, 2023

The House met at 2.35 p.m.

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

PRAYERS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Serjeant at Arms, I think you may ring the bell for ten minutes so that we get quorum.

(Quorum Bell rung)

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Mr. Speaker, I think no one has raised that there is no quorum. Unless it is raised and unless you tell us otherwise advised. Nobody has raised and we presume and it is presumed that the Chair is blind.

Hon. Dominic Maitha (Muthwani, WDM-K): Mr. Speaker, on the issue of quorum I need to quote Standing Order 31(2) on the issue of quorum there is no definite answer as to who should determine quorum. I think as per the Standing Order if there is no quorum when the Chair is taken at the time appointed for a meeting of the Assembly immediately after saying the prayer the Speaker, shall order the bell to be rung for 10 minutes. If no quorum is present at the expiration of 10 minutes the Speaker, may direct the bell rung for a further five minutes and if there is still no quorum present the Speaker, shall adjourn the Assembly forthwith to the next meeting.

So I think there is no clear outline as to whether the Speaker, should be informed whether there is no quorum or not. That is what the Standing Order expressly says. So I think the Hon. Member should be informed that the Standing Order is very clear that after saying the prayer, the Speaker can cause the bell to be rung if there is no quorum. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Dominic. I think the Hon. Member was referring to Standing Order 32. Serjeant at Arms, I think you can stop ringing the bell. Thank you, Hon. Members. I think now we may proceed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR
SENZITIZATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTY
ASSEMBLY OF MACHAKOS STRATEGIC PLAN 2023/2028

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Honorable Members, the County Assembly Service Board (CASB) is in the process of developing the 3rd County Assembly of Machakos Strategic Plan for the period starting 1st July, 2023 and ending 30th June, 2028.

The strategic plan will be the blueprint that will guide the direction to be adopted by the County Assembly during the five-year period in pursuit of its constitutional mandate. CASB shall involve all stakeholders in generating the 2023/2028 strategic plan including Members of the public, civil society, media, business community, the clergy, members of County Assembly and staff.

To facilitate collection of crucial data for the development of the strategic plan, questionnaires have been prepared and will be administered in various stakeholders including the Hon. Members and the public from the wards through the ward offices. Hon. Members, I therefore request you to cooperate in filling the questionnaires once administered to ensure success in the exercise. Thank you, Hon. Members. Clerk you may proceed.

NOTICES OF MOTION
UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY SOCIAL
AMENITIES OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MACHAKOS

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Under this one we have one notice of motion by the Hon. Anastasia Mutevu.

Hon. Anastasia Mutevu (Nominated, WDM-K):

Hon. Speaker, that aware that the energy sector remains a critical enabler for achieving Kenya's socio-economic objectives, and has been identified as a key input towards achievement of sustainable development in the National Policy Framework;

Further aware that the cost of electricity has gone up considerably and is consuming huge amounts of County budget;

Informed that the recent Africa Climate Summit (ACS), 2023 in Nairobi recalled that seven years to the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 Agenda, 600 million people in Africa still lack access to electricity;

Further aware that Africa Union (AU) committed to focus economic development plans on renewable energy generation during ACS 2023;

Aware that the Last Mile Connectivity project of the National Government has achieved great success to expand the national grid but the cost of electricity is still high;

Noting that solar energy is a sustainable alternative source of power compared to the costly electricity from the national grid;

Cognizant that street lights, floodlights in market centers, water pumps and other county social amenities are powered by electricity supplied by Kenya Power resulting to an economic burden;

Informed that solar energy generation in the County will cut costs of the ever increasing electricity and only requires purchase and installation of solar panels for use over a long period of time;

Hon. Speaker, I wish to give notice of motion THAT this House resolves that the County Government of Machakos utilizes solar energy in all its social amenities

to reduce the cost on electricity bills and avoid the frequent power disconnection witnessed in the previous years.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MOTION

SETTING UP DEMONSTRATION FARMS IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS

Hon. Speaker: Under this one I will call Hon. Dominic Maitha from Muthwani.

Hon. Dominic Maitha (Muthwani, WDM-K): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am holding brief for Hon. Stephen Mwanthi the Deputy Speaker who is also represents the great people of Ekalakala ward.

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 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 move the 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. Speaker, I want to give details of what this motion intends to tell; vocational training centres which used to be called polytechnics are a devolved function of the County Government but we have not made full use of these institutions. Hon. Speaker, it is the high time, through your motion, these institutions are made to do the work they are supposed to. We know of the technical expertise and advantage that these technical institutes offer so it is at this point that you are informed by the greater output and technical advantages of the grandaunts from these technical institutes.

If you go to most of the vocational training centres, they have tracts of land and if they do agricultural displays like the ones on agricultural shows and because we already have extension officers employed and paid by the County Government who are just idling and sitting in their offices, if they go to the training centres and exhibit what they have learned and those learners put in to practice what those extension officers train them, automatically they will---

Hon. Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Is it in order or the Standing Orders have changed, for a Member to give a notice of Motion and start debating on the same before it has been seconded.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The Member is moving a motion and it is not a Notice, the Notice was given in the morning and he is elaborating on a motion so that he may call for a seconder and Members continue debating.

Hon Joshua Mwonga (Masinga Central, WDM-K): Unless advised otherwise, Mr. Speaker, when you move a motion before you start debating on the same this is not a Statement that he is elaborating; this is a motion that should be seconded, then Members are given time to debate on it.

Hon. Dominic Maitha (Muthwani, WDM-K): Hon. Speaker, and I said it here before; you have to explain the intention of a motion so that when you call the seconder of that motion the Members understand and also the seconder of that motion is fully aware of the intention of that motion so that on that ground you might be given room by the Speaker to continue further expansion. If you feel whatever explanation, you have given is enough, then you let the motion be discussed by the Hon. Members. I am in order, Hon. Speaker.

If the so-called Member feels that I need to call a seconder, I will call the seconder to second the motion then you can give me room to expound further on the motion and we proceed. I take this opportunity to call the Hon. Majority Leader to second the motion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. You may now proceed.

(Laughter)

Hon. Nicholas Nzioka (Machakos Central, WDM-K) seconded.

Hon. Dominic Maitha (Muthwani-K): Hon. Speaker, I want us now with a lot of sobriety to try to read your mind. If you recall sometime back, we used to have very active, involving and very efficient agricultural extension officers. They would come to your farm and advise on what crops to plant on your farm, what farm inputs to use so that you can get maximum output in crops and livestock.

Since then, i do not know what has happened but the same extension officers are still in existence, being paid by the County Government after devolution came in to being. If you go to the agriculture department, you will find extension officers who are being paid by the county, very experienced and the beauty of it is that the extension officers that were before devolution, majority of them are still working with the County Government because they were devolved. The knowledge they had is still there with them but it is just going to waste.

Reading your mind, you want to make use of this agricultural extension officers considering that our vocational training institutes and currently we have about 40 of them in our county. The huge tracts of land that each institute possess which is their biggest advantage before the appetite for land grabbers and public utilities came to realize, these institutions had already been established. We appreciate that. The idle land that lies in those institutions Hon. Speaker, if well utilized we can get good results in terms.

If we want to train farmers to get maximum output on how an acre can produce 10 bags of maize, then instead of saying it, let those extension officers go to those training centres and train those students on how to do it such that when they come out of those institutions they are already aware through half an acre or a quarter or a plot you can be able to produce one or 10 bags of maize by doing ABCD and that is what we call on-job training.

Once they graduate and go back home, they can put into practice what they were taught by the extension officers. The same applies to dairy farming. If these extension officers can be facilitated and the county government even establishes a fund to support the same, I can tell you food security will be a story of the past in Machakos County.

Technical skills that students from those institutions come out with will help them spur economic growth to the community and they will further their knowledge to the areas they come from and the community surrounding that area. It is the high time this House approves that the County Government of Machakos facilitates this process so that we can get maximum output of the same.

Why did you come up with this motion Hon. Speaker? As i have said, if you go to these offices, these officers are idle and instead of them staying on their officers let them go to the field in those vocational training institutes so that they can give all that knowledge to those students and the salaries that are being paid to them will seem to be in use.

Hon. Speaker, you recall some few months ago there was a serious food shortage in our country and if these institutions do practicals in farming in their farm, part of the food that they will produce they will even use it for consumption in the institution. So, they will also cut that the cost they would have incurred on food and use that money to finance other programs in the institution.

So, there is more to what you came into realization of this than what we might be seeing here. So, i am in total support of this motion that the County Government of Machakos supports this motion in totality so that we can achieve maximum output for our students and low-income students who go to these institutions and bring back the same to the community and that is actually devolution. I am sure an institution like the one, we have in Katheka Kai if we have 10 graduates from within and they learn different ways of farming they will be able to put into practice within that locality and in a short period of time food security in that area will be guaranteed.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker and i beg the Hon. Members present to support this motion so that we can achieve its intention to the final consumer. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

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

(Question proposed)

I invite Members to debate the motion. Hon. Maeke.

Hon. Musyimi Maeke (Kalama, CCU): Thank you very much. I want to support the motion that is before the House because basically we understand agriculture is the backbone of Kenya's economy. However, we have had some setbacks because lack of knowledge on how to do the agriculture is a big problem. A lot of farmers are struggling because information is not so much available. You remember the old curriculum used to put a lot of efforts in agriculture; we had 4K clubs in the primary schools. We had some other programs I remember when i was in primary school we had one which was called **Practical Subjects in Primary Education (PRASUPE)** and they had a lot of proper things in our community.

However, Mr. Speaker, I must say that it is also an issue that needs to be looked into because I was thinking about the condition that will enable that good venture to go through. Point number one is availability of land. Another issue is availability of the polytechnics. If i do a quick scan in the whole of Kalama, we only have two namely Kimutwa polytechnic which stands in a 50 by 100 piece of land and we have one tertiary college which is upcoming in Kiatuni which has no that big piece of land.

Those are only two and even the courses which are there do not have those funding and equipment and such but through the department, there is a need if we are to put into consideration the motion before the House of agricultural empowerment and having those set up and training centres so that it is not a disadvantage to the places where they do not have polytechnics because I am trying to imagine farmers coming from the other corner of Nziuni to Kimutwa for a demonstration it may be expensive. So that now in the motion and in the planning of the whole proposal it be put like that we have agricultural satellite centres so that if the demonstration centres are put in such a way they get into the whole area.

Otherwise, it is a good motion that i fully support. We need demonstration centres and through that agriculture will be improved and the lives of the great people of Machakos will improve. Thank you.

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

Hon. Boniface Katiti (Muthetheni, UDA): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the motion; it is timely because.....(inaudible). The world is changing and we must agree that everything is changing and we must move with time. These vocational training centers are solely there where learners develop the creativity and maybe the ingenuity that they learn in those classes that can help us create job, establish companies that will create jobs for our youth and maybe in future boost economy of this country.

So I support this Motion that these institutions be factored when it comes to issues of budgeting and those huge tracks of land let them be utilized well so that our country can go where other developed countries have gone for the last few years.

My worry is as the County Government of Machakos I want us and I will request the County Government of Machakos that we must fix our classrooms, get the books and equipment required in those institutions so that the learners there can get the right knowledge that is required.

There is nothing we can do if we only depend on theoretical subjects other than practical ones. So I support the mover of the Motion and let it be implemented as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Musila wa Muoki (Ndithini, WDM-K): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise first of all to support the Motion but with some kind of precautions. I know that agriculture even as we speak today is there in secondary schools. How much are we getting from those graduates? Are we going to introduce agriculture in the polytechnics as a unit or as a subject? I know there is a difference between a unit and a course; is it a subject or a course? If it is going to be a course, for me to actualize what I wanted, I would what first of all to ask myself; what am I aiming to be? Agribusiness. Am I a framer or extension officer so that I can know I am going to tailor the subject, unit or course that I am undertaking in the polytechnics?

Taking an example of Ndithini Ward, we only have one polytechnic and the total population in that polytechnic is about 100 students. I will tell you most of these students, I have done the research, and the polytechnics have been offering the traditional courses like carpentry, masonry, woodwork or something like that. No student today a graduate of Form Four wants to go to the village polytechnic to do masonry.

Then how are we going to encourage these young people because I am going to assume we are going to aim to admit the Form Four graduates into the polytechnic. How are we going to tell them agriculture is good for you after Form Four? You will find most of those students who are graduating from Form Four when they go to the polytechnic they will not go to the village polytechnics because they are offering the traditional courses. They want computer and any other thing other than that.

These polytechnics when we are going to say let us introduce this agriculture course---

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Point of information.

Hon. Musyimi Maeke (Kalama, CCU): Thank you for this opportunity. I wish to inform the Hon. Member what you are talking about in the Motion is having demonstration centers is not introducing new courses in the curriculum. A demonstration center means that we want to teach the local farmer how to grow cabbage. So if they are to grow the cabbage, we want them to be done in the polytechnics and then they become demonstration centers with the help of extension officers. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: That was a good one; at least you are informed now.

Hon. Musila wa Muoki (Ndithini, WDM-K): Thank you. A demonstration farm for everybody to come and learn from there then the question that I wanted to ask next was or is how much land do these polytechnic offer or do they have so that we can have a good variety for these farmers to learn. Those who are members of the agriculture committee here, you remember us asking how can we have a demonstration farm in every Ward where the County Government can either lease a piece of land, provide a borehole to get water then a *tinga tinga* we had in Ekalakala which we do not know where they disappeared to. They can go and till that land.

(A Hon. Member spoke off record)

Before you inform me, I am talking about this Members; if we want to do things in a proper way let us do it in a big way that everybody know exactly we are going to start agricultural demonstration farms. I am talking of lands about five acres which can be accessed

by everybody where County Government is going to have tractors, extension officers and everybody else. Even water because we are having polytechnics everywhere do they have water? They do not have water that is why I am saying it is a very good idea.

Can we amend it not the polytechnics in my own opinion every Ward to have a demonstration farm for the whole of the Ward inhabitants so that they can learn from that particular center where everybody will be able to access and then learn from there as opposed to the polytechnics. The polytechnics, as Hon. Maeke has said, one has got 100 by 50 feet. I believe you meant fit not acres because you mentioned feet. You cannot get a demonstration farm there and it would be better if it was a lot bigger and then well mechanized so that when I go there I will learn how to do maybe beans, and then I will also be taught which seeds or which plants can do better in that particular area.

Thank you. I want to seat down and say I am supporting it but with some kind of amendments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Muoki. Hon. Kaloi.

Hon. Jeremiah Kaloi (Athi-River, WDM-K): Mine is just to say that I support the demonstration centers but maybe not in the Wards but every sub-county within the larger County. I wonder because in Machakos County we have like Katumani which is a research center but I do not know how many farmers in Machakos County visit that research center. We may be having good ideas and coming up with these centers but are we going to support the farmers because they might go there and learn but down there in their farms what mechanisms are we putting in place to support those farmers who are coming to learn?

As we support this we should also ensure that those who are coming to learn are also supported down there. Sometimes I saw some adverts in the newspaper that the County Government is looking for qualified officers in agriculture. Funny enough the advert was re-advertised several times because of lack of these officers.

It is also another challenge that we do not have these officers. Maybe they are few that is why our farmers are going wrong. We do not have extension officers to visit every village. We might take a lot of energy and put a lot of money to these research or study farms but we do not follow up the farmers to their villages to ensure that what they are learning is correctly being done. Hon. Speaker, I concur with this and I support the Motion. Thank you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Kaloi. Hon. Philip.

Hon. Philip Ndolo (Mitaboni, UDA): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support this Motion with an input that this is one way of increasing agriculture output. You will agree with me that when it rains most of the farmers will start planting but at the end the output is different. The cause of this is lack of knowledge. So if we train our farmers very well we shall increase our agriculture output.

Also we shall have a lot of output in our farms comparing with other areas. The idea of bringing it in our polytechnic, you might say that we do not have space in our polytechnics but we can do feasibility study; the number of polytechnics that we have and also the land that are in those polytechnics. Like in my area I have two polytechnics which have big land where you can even put animals. If we start with those ones we will have a starting point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Philip. Hon. Majority Leader.

Hon. Nicholas Nzioka (Machakos Central, WDM-K): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will just contribute with very few words because most of the things have been said by my Hon. Colleagues. First of all, I support the Motion and as Mheshimiwa Kitoo Philip has said I think it is good to do a feasibility study to establish where it is possible to have these demonstration farms. If we try to spread them across the County, whenever you do something extra on your land you are adding value to the land. For those vocational trainings that have big chunks of land, if you do a demonstration farm you are also adding some value to the land.

The reason why I also support is that we are in the era of agribusiness where agriculture is not looked at from a point of subsistence but also that it can be viable commercially. These demonstration farms can help our farmers to go back to their farms once they are able to learn and increase their yield through the skills or the lessons that they were able to pick up from the demonstration farms.

I would like to tell Mheshimiwa Muoki from Ndithini that agriculture is no longer for the poor downtrodden or for those who cannot afford big business. The biggest business of this country, the economy of this country is supported by agricultural produce and through technology; you can increase a lot of your output. I have a friend of mine who is currently rearing 25,000 chicken broilers in a half an acre piece of land because the technology allows you to give the chicken water that flows freely, the feeds are also stronger and I envy because he has been able to package his agriculture in a cool way for lack of a better word but he is earning a lot of money.

So agriculture is no longer the last resort, it is making people earn a lot of money so Mr. Speaker, I support and I urge the Hon. Members to support.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Majority Leader. Hon. Members, the essence as to why how I wish Mheshimiwa you could wait and get some information as to why we had to get this motion. Hon. Members, we have had a similar project in this County Government during the Second Assembly and it was called quarter-acre programme and may be the reason as to why it did not go far is because these trainings were being offered to farmers but they were being offered in the market places. So when people were being called to attend the trainings they were the *mama mbogas*, bodaboda guys thinking that something will come out of that.

The reason as to have this done probably in the village polytechnics which are already devolved units and according to my survey, we have got over 39 village polytechnics or vocational training centers in the County and out of research, I know the founders of these VTC centers was mostly to do farming in those village polytechnics and I can say many of them were brought by the whites and they used to do a lot of agriculture in those farms. Some of them were doing dairy farming and they were producing a lot in those chunks of lands. We may have not more than three wards with village polytechnics with small lands but we can get land elsewhere.

The essence of using these village polytechnics is because we already have the trainees in those institutions that will be doing that small-scale farming. As we speak now the County Government is planning to proceed with the chicks programme. It has been there even before this

Third Assembly but has it been successful? The answer is no! Why? Because we only take our chicks here go and give people calling themselves farmers but they do not have a demonstration center whereby they can be taking their problems, the issues that they are being faced by those small chicks.

For example in those village polytechnics even if it is sitting on 50 by 100 feet piece of land, we can have those chicks reared there, let us give them 1,000 chicks for example, and make sure they get all the drugs that they are need to rear them so that these farmers, now the farmers that we are going to give the chicks, will be bringing their issues there, that, I saw this type of disease with my chicks and because each and every ward has got agricultural extension officer, that one I know, so it is an initiative that even do not need any budget.

With ready establishment, we have got extension officers who will be checking on those crops, because what do they do now; they just move around peoples farms and looking at them and they cannot move to each and every farm. Some are *ndengu* farmers, as we speak now we had a very good initiative with KCEP and they have been supporting farmers in grains but if you still follow, you find people are being given *ndengu* and fertilizers, some selling and others did nothing to all that.

It is a programme that is about to die but if there was a quarter an acre of a farm, these farmers being trained, bringing their soils there for testing or sampling, i can tell you we can improve agriculture and that is all what the motion is all about. Let us see how we can improve that issue of quarter an acre; let us devolve it to our wards. I know with a serious farmer you will be able to trek from their farms to come and be trained on best farming practices.

(A Hon. Maeke spoke off record)

It is possible and that way it will work because if you tell me I can use a bucket of water to water like 50 *sukumawikis*, show me practically so that farmers may apply that. What they are saying here, they will use the same in those other areas and probably that way will get best practices with our farmers. It has taken long and this people need to be trained so that we may get the best in our farms and with our farmers. We have got so many NGO's who are ready to sponsor our farmers in this farming but if they are not trained then nothing will happen.

I believe somewhere in Lukenya FAO is working there giving dairy farmers some vaccination and even hard cash to help them rare their dairy cattle in Lukenya and Mitaboni but those farmers need trainers, they need to be trained so that their dairy cows may produce. If it is about dairy let us see that dairy cow in that village polytechnic been reared. If you tell me it can produce 20 liters per day, let me see it from there then I will pick that and take it at my farm at home and same will be seen there.

So, I think Members, Hon. Maeke you know you cannot inform the Speaker unfortunately. I could have given you time to inform but.....so Members I think we can proceed and I will proceed by inviting the mover to come and reply.

Hon. Dominic Maitha (Muthwani, WDM-K): Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for that further expansion. Further i want to thank Hon. Members for resonating with you and myself, I just want to point out a few issues that have been raised by Members and I want to quote one book wrote by Tokunboh Adeyemo about Africa's enigma. If you read that book about Africa's Enigma, it is a book that says that Africa is rich in minerals, Africa exports the highest amounts of minerals but it is the poorest.

In African we believe in exporting cotton at Ksh. 10 per kilo and buying a shirt at Ksh. 5,000 that is made in Turkey but the cotton was made in Kenya and that is what we call Africa's enigma. We believe in exporting raw coffee at around Ksh. 200 per kilo and import the same processed coffee at about Ksh. 1,000 per 500 grams container. That is the Africa's enigma. I have tried to resonate with the mover of this motion, what he had in mind and I read his mind. Members I have referred you back, see the way agricultural extension officers used to operate before.

They used to offer own trainings to our farmers and by then there was output for the trainings that they have offered. A few issues have been raised. First, do we need to introduce agriculture as a compulsory subject in those vocational training institutes? We can say yes or no. We just need to resonate with the vocational training institutions. If they tell us they feel that agriculture can be introduced as a compulsory subject, then it can be included; there is nothing that prohibits them from that.

Secondly, there is an issue that has been raised by the Hon. Member from Kalama Hon. Maeke about land shortage. Considering that vocational training institutes are within the county are now a devolved function of the County, the County has got powers to acquire extra land. If we feel adding extra five acres of land in Kalama will increase agricultural productivity and knowledge dispensation, then how much is an acre in Kalama? I happen to be in Kalama last week and I tried to enquire about the cost of land in Kalama and a good parcel of land is costing between Ksh. 400,000 to 500,000 per acre.

If the County Government so says we are going to buy ten acres of land in Kalama to expand the vocational training institute in Kalama, that will cost the county government of Machakos about Ksh. 5 million and I am sure the far reaching implication and the output of the same will be more profitable both to the county and to the residents of Kalama. So the issue of land can be addressed once we accept to have this motion actualized. Budget financing is will come in as a result of what I said; financing, buying of land and giving some small input so that they can have a startup.

There is an issue of infrastructural development that has been raised by Hon. Katiti; thank you very much. That one can be relooked into once we put this motion into action then that one can be out rightly looked into with training manuals, classrooms and everything.

Then lastly Hon. Members, this motion, those demonstration firms as I had said earlier, part of what is going to come from them will be used in the institutions. It will even substitute their expenditures. So I appreciate you for supporting this motion and I can tell you, if put into practice, this will really help our farmers. Let our agricultural extension officers who are idly sitting in the county agricultural offices, the sub-county agricultural offices devolve back to the vocational training institute and offer that on job training while there so that we can get maximum output.

So thank you so much, Hon. Members, and I am sure once committed to the relevant agricultural committed as per the directions of the Speaker, I am sure we are going to a lot of light at the end of the tunnel for this motion. Thank you very much Hon. Members for supporting this motion.

(Applause)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Dominic.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members. The House adjourns to Wednesday, 27th September, 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

The House rose at 3.32 p.m.