

MINUTES OF THE HEADQUARTERS COMMITTEE ²⁰
19/10/67

CAMP COMMANDER: The meeting is declared open.

KEHLA: There will be people from Morogoro who will be coming to Kongwa next week. Some are from training and the others are those who have been here. ANC cannot maintain so many people in both camps i.e. Morogoro and Dar. It is better here because O.A.U. supports our comrades. If they are brought here will there be any accommodation available for them? or probably should the tents be brought back?

CAMP COMMANDER: It will be easier with the new comrades than the old ones because they are from training and have never been here. And it would be appropriate to tell the Major that there will be people coming so that food, uniforms and blankets can be provided to them.

KEHLA: The number of people who will be coming won't be more than twenty.

CAMP COMMANDER: Do you have permits? i.e. Motsumi and Kehla.

KEHLA: I have a permanent permit.

CAMP COMMANDER: Kehla and Motsumi have to be introduced to the Major for the signing of the visitor's book.

KEHLA: Oompie's case was some time back dealt with but not in detail. If he has to be taken away he is still going to be brought back because the number of people who are supposed to be in Morogoro should be limited, moreover the food ration has been cut, so that things are not what they used to be. What are we going to do with Oompie then?

CAMP COMMANDER: He has to be kept here until next we hear from the executive.

KEHLA: How are you going to treat him then?

CAMP COMMANDER: We have to use the policy of blood and iron.

C.P.O.: The decision of the camp said that it no longer wanted him in the camp because he has ideas intended at destroying the army.

CAMP COMMANDER: I hope Morgan will not be sent back here, because if he is brought here he might decide to desert again.

KEHLA: He will not be sent here. What are Oompie's activities at the moment?

BEJANE: We do not know what he does in town but, what we know of is this that he has led Duke and the others into mischief.

MUTSUMI: It is a well known fact that Oompie is an ulcer in the organisation but we must try our best to put an eye on him.

OSCAR: Vincent will be back soon and it is a well known fact that he is just like him, what is going to be done with him,?

CHIEF OF STAFF: His case will be dealt with accordingly, and has to be nipped in the bud.

OSCAR: Letters have been written to the effect that they will be released in December.

KEHLA: It would be appropriate for the Camp Commander to via the prison and inquire on what date will they be released. And will accommodation be available for the comrades who will be coming?

CAMP COMMANDER: Danang will be able to accommodate all of them, because it can accommodate ninety people.

KEFLA: An issue was raised at Morororo i.e, Oscar's case of molesting people because it seems it has grown to be a habit, Brenda on two occasions Morgan and Themba Mthembu and all of them are defenceless.

Brenda is a girl and is defenceless.

Morgan is young and cannot fight back.

The same applies to Themba Mthembu.

Morgan has a set of loose teeth and is having trouble with eye which is been treated at the moment. This is in itself not corrective training but assault. Whoever has bone wrong the committee should see to it that he gets the proper punishment. This as it seems may create grudges between the organisation and the person who is been hit. The whole thing may boomerang to the Camp Commander and then to Mutsumi and lastly to the National executive. I do not say that Oscar was given the mandate by the committee. A new leaf has to be turned. In some of the findings are that Joseph Chume is some how connected and I do not have enough facts to confirm this incident of Themba Mthembu. The beating up of Themba Mthembu was wrong. Themba Mthembu confronted me with this matter as we were going to the funeral I could not do anything about it.

BEJANE: Oscar's actions were not through the committee including those that occurred earlier. Time and again regulations are read that if anybody commits an offence punishment should be imposed and not beatings, usually the punishments given to the comrades are to dig a hole or to sweep the backyards. When this matter was brought to us the committee took it upon itself to investigate and statements were taken from Oscar and Themba Mthembu. Oscar's duties is not to arrest or to punish. Punishment in the battlefield is different when a person has committed an offence anything can happen to him or some such thing. We admit that Oscar made a mistake

MUTSUMI: When Oscar was given this portfolio was he not told what his duties were?

CAMP COMMANDER: No, he knows his duties.

MUTSUMI: I remember when I was a militia I was given instructions to do certain things, I personally think that it would have been correct if duties were assigned to him.

CAMP COMMANDER: The militia had certain duties to perform and the instructions had to be specific.

OSCAR: With the first incident statements were taken from Brenda and I by Paul Petersen, and with Morgan he is telling a lie that I boxed him, I only clapped him. And Bejane who is blaming me today clapped him thrice and to my surprise he seems as if he is putting the blame on me. With Themba Mthembu, I did so because he insulted me and I was offended.

CAMP COMMANDER: Whilst this case is still under investigation a procedure will be followed after all facts have been gathered.

KEHLA: If I were to express my feelings about Morgan I would say that he was boxed and not clapped, because his teeth were loose and his eye was to a certain degree injured. I for one feel that the assaults which are happening time and again should come to an end. Punishment should not damage a person but to correct him. This does not mean that I am against Punishment.

MOTSE: Morgan had no teeth when we were looking for him.

CAMP COMMANDER: Oscar revealed his identity by doing that and this was also discussed by the committee.

C.P.O. Things happen in the camp and some I do not feel happy about. Brenda's case for an instance, I felt very bitter about it and I for one feel that Oscar should be warned against such things. With Morgan, I did not know that he would be so much beaten up and I never said anything about it, the camp commander and company had a mission to go and look for Morgan and not to molest him. When a punishment was given to Morgan he accepted it without a word. The day when Themba Mthembu was assaulted. The company commander came to me and asked for a key Oscar, Ngcapepe confronted Themba Mthembu that he should take out the clothing he had stolen from Ngcapepe's room and was then molested by Oscar. After this Ngcapepe came to Joseph Cheme and said that he wanted him to take some of the tools he would be working with that day. The section commander was told about it Ngcapepe said. On his way where he was supposed to have waited for Ngcapepe and certain swahili looked at him rather suspiciously then this swahili gave him a pencil to give to Ngcapepe and Joseph refused. When Ngcapepe came Joseph Chume said he could see what Ngcapepe was up to and so he left Ngcapepe startled.

KEHLA: With Morgan I do not say that he should not have been punished, but the way he was mishandled was incorrect.

MUTSUMI: Is it true that Themba Mthembu was locked up without food and blankets?

BEJANE: I found out that where Themba Mthembu was locked up he had vanished, and had forced his way out.

MUTSUMI: How did he report this matter to the C.P.O.?

C.P.O.: He said that he had forced his way through the ceiling because he was made to sleep without blankets

MUTSUMI: What was the time then?

BEJANE: I cannot remember.

MUTSUMI: Matlepenye was locked up but blankets were given to him though he broke out.

BEJANE: He was locked up before supper. How did it come about that Themba should report this matter to higher ups? i.e. Mabida.

KRHLA: I got this report from Morogoro and I decided to inquire about it from Themba Mthembu himself, and because of the funeral I could not do anything about it then, so I had to leave it at that. A question in connection with driving says, no one shall at any time drive without a licence, because the insurance will not pay if an accident occurs. For in the past accidents were caused by unlicensed drivers.

CAMP COMMANDER: That is mentioned in our minutes.

C.P.O.: I should like to know which people does this affect?

KEHLA: From the vice-President to the comrades.

C.P.O.: What makes me to say this is because the camp commander always drives the Land Rover and he has no licence.

MUTSUMI: COM. Jimmy and COM. Mendi have cars without licences so that they cannot drive their own cars.

CAMP COMMANDER: I have a driver who goes to town without permission and whenever he is wanted he is not around.

C.P.O.: We have two licensed drivers i.e. Paul and Velli, Shooter Mlambo with a temporary and another who will be taken in as a driver i.e. Rate Ngake.

KEHLA: If the inspector has come Shooter should get a licence.

BEJANE: A message once came from Morogoro and when Paul was wanted he could not be found anywhere.