

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION**6 TH OF DECEMBER 1996****INVESTIGATIVE INQUIRY**

5

THAPELO JOHANNES MBELO**MS GOBODO:**

Maybe I can ask the witness to come to the stand please - thank you.

Thapelo Johannes Mbelo, welcome this morning. I am going to ask

10

advocate Denzil Potgieter to swear you in.

ADV POTGIETER:

Thank you Chairperson. Mr Mbelo do you follow English.

MR MBELO:

Yes I ...[intervention]

15 **ADV POTGIETER:**

Can I administer the oath to you in English.

MR MBELO:

I'll be very pleased.

ADV POTGIETER:

Okay - could you please stand.

THAPLO JOHANNES MBELO duly sworn states

ADV POTGIETER:

5 Thank you very much you may be seated sergeant Mbelo.

MR MBELO:

Thank you.

MS GOBODO:

Thank you advocate Potgieter and welcome to you again Thapelo Johannes
10 Mbelo. We - you have been asked to come and answer some questions
relating to the matter that has come to be known as the Guguletu 7 in which
7 men died.

As part of an investigation being conducted by the Truth and
Reconciliation Commission, the - in the incident the men, the following
15 men were killed:

Christopher Piet

Zabonke John Konile

Zandisile Mjobo

Mandla Simon Mxinwa

20 Godfrey Jabulani Miya

Zola Alfred Swelani

Themba Molifi

I'd like to emphasize that the purpose of this meeting this morning is not to interrogate you or to judge you for any actions or for any part that you took in that incident. But the main purpose of the Commission is to assist us in understanding the event of the day but ultimately it's also - and to facilitate a process of reconciliation between yourself and the people that were involved in that incident.

And view this of being of importance because the work of the Commission is driven by that notion of reconciliation. That at the end of the day when we have got the truth, it is important to then reconcile who were involved in whatever way in the acts in question to be reconciled back to the community to which they belong.

But more importantly to the South African Society at large. This is why we appreciate that you have come because we are driven by that ideal. We understand also that there may be risks involved in your coming here and it makes us appreciate even more the fact that you were able to come and speak to us, and participate in this Inquiry.

No decisions are going to be made today and we do not come to any conclusion as I have indicated we do not judge you. We will not judge

whatever you tell us. But we - you are - you are expected because you under oath you are expected to be truthful in your responses. This is a very crucial part of the inquiry and we depend upon you to be as truthful as you can be - to be honest about our responses. To answer the questions very truthfully.

I want also to mention that you are entitled to appoint a legal representative and if you can't you for financial purposes the Commission has committed itself to assist you in finding proper legal representation. I understand that our colleagues have been trying to work with you to find legal representation for you. I don't know if you have opted not to have one. Are you not - have you chosen not to have legal representation?

MR MBELO:

No Ms Barends told me that she was not in a position to - see so I applied a bit late for Legal Aid.

MS GOBODO:

So are you happy to go on without legal representation?

MR MBELO:

I mean since you have assured me that this is not a trial.

MS GOBODO:

Yes definitely.

MR MBELO:

And [Indistinct] - I mean I'll talk [Indistinct] myself.

MS GOBODO:

Definitely - thank you we really appreciate that. I am going to quickly
5 introduce the team this morning that you will be working with.

I'll start with the Commissioners here on the panel. On my right we
have advocate Denzil Potgieter, who is a Commissioner based in the
Western Cape and on my left we have Dumisa Ntsebeza also based in the
Western Cape and a Commissioner. Mr Ntsebeza is also the head of the
10 Investigating Unit.

On my extreme right there we've got our team of investigators
Zenzile Khoisan, he is going to be leading you in the questioning. He is
sitting right there and we have Ms Brenda Holmes next to him and next to
her we have Ms Zenariah Barends. Zenariah also heads the Investigating
15 Team in the Western Cape. And on Zenariah's right we have Mr Mark
Killian.

And finally we - as part of the investigating team we have Zuko
Camaguu who is in the room here. Kai Christiaansen who is a Danish
Deputy Superintendent in Copenhagen. Mr Christiaansen is assisting the
20 investigating team and has been with the Commission since it started. And

we also have Deon Petersen as part of the Investigating Team who have been working on this case.

The interpreters who will be working with us, we have sets of interpreters who will be interpreting Tswana/English and other - the other
 5 interpreter will be interpreting from Xhosa to English and English and Xhosa. Lebohang Matebela who is part of the Tswana/English team and Clopus Mologwani also part of the Tswana/English team. Angela Shobey is going to be doing English/Xhosa translation.

Thank you very much, over to you Zendile - yes what language would
 10 you be preferred to be addressed - to be speaking.

MR MBELO:



I'll prefer to be addressed in Tswana.

MS GOBODO:

So you will need to put on the - what is it called now - head phones and
 15 what channel is Tswana, channel 3, if you could - you will be assisted by the gentleman coming now.

Thank you very much, it looks as if everybody has got the head phones, channel 1 is - oh! ja channel 2 is English. So people who want to receive their testimony - to hear the testimony English should turn to
 20 channel 2. Channel 3 is Tswana, so you would be tuning into channel 3.

I noticed that I thought that Glen was in Johannesburg, for some reason he became invisible. Glen Goosen is the Director of Investigations, based - National Director of the Investigation and based in Cape Town because this is the national office, welcome to you Glen, thank you very
5 much.

MR GOOISAN:

Good morning sergeant Mbelo. How are you?

MR MBELO:

Yes I am fine and I greet you also.

10 **MR GOOISAN:**

To start off with - I'd like to say that and echo the words of the Chair of this particular session, by saying that we are deeply appreciative of the fact that you have decided to join us and to share some of the thoughts and information that you may have, which could be helpful to this Commission
15 so that we can begin to understand some of the things that have occurred in our country. And specifically in this area where we are now, in the past.

This inquiry today essentially we want to give you the opportunity to feel free - to share with us and to begin with I'd like to ask you sergeant Thapelo Johannes Mbelo, if you could share with us a little bit about your

background. Give us a sense of who you are, where you come from, so that we can understand a little bit more about you.

MR MBELO:

I am Thapelo Johannes Mbelo, I was born in Bloemfontein in 1961 and I
5 went to school and I joined the Police Force in Bloemfontein, that was after
std 9 and I wanted to be employed at that time but jobs were very scares and
I decided to join the Police Force and that's when I joined the Police Force
in 1981. In 1982 I went to the college at Hammanskraal, while I was still at
the college an officer came to recruit us to work for the Security Branch
10 Headquarters in Pretoria. It was known as - it is C-10 and I started working
at this C-10 section from 1982 until in 1986 and I went back to
Bloemfontein.

In 1990 I wanted to go back to the C-10 - today it is well known as
Vlakplaas. The C-10 was dismantled, I am not sure in which year, I think
15 it was in 1983 - '83 but I went back home and I went back to the position as
a sergeant as you can see today I am the sergeant. I will stop there thank
you very much.

MR GOOISAN:

Ja - thank you very much...[intervention]

20

ADV NTSEBEZA:

Excuse me can I just make - find out if no correction needs to be made. In the translation it seems - it came across as saying Vlakplaas was dismantled in 1983 I thought that was a mistake.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

So just to go forward - so you were recruited to go to C-10 to C-section in 1982 and you said that an officer came there you know which got you going along this recruitment, do you have the name of that officer, who came specifically to Hammanskraal to speak to you about this work and recruit at
10 you.

MR MBELO:

It was Colonel Baker, he wanted to know who were interested in joining the Security Branch. I think we were 15 in number and interviews were conducted and seven of us made it.

15 **MR GOOISAN:**

Okay so given the fact that you were one of seven people, who made it into C-section and eventually started working at C-10, what - what were the criteria in your view that were used, how - what did you think made them decide that you had the kind of capabilities that were needed or what in your
20 view were the kind of qualities that were needed for people to work at

C-10?

MR MBELO:

There was a test and we had to answer the questions. And he - he was only interested in those who would be Xhosa's or Zoeloe's he was based on race.

5 Not - he was not based on race actually.

MS GOBODO:

Sorry [indistinct]

MR MBELO:

I don't know whether have I answered your question sir.

10 **MS GOBODO:**

I am just going to ask the nature of the interview you say it was a written test, I am sorry, I should introduce myself to you, I am - my name is Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, I am chairing this morning's hearing. I just want to know the nature of the interview and the nature of the questions if you
15 remember what - what was it about?

MR MBELO:

These were political questions - there were questions like do you know what is the ANC, do you know what UDF is. I would say these were political questions.

20

MR GOOISAN:

So let us proceed from there - so you were one of seven people who eventually passed the test and then were able to go to C-section. So let's just go forward from there and say that when you first arrived at C-section, 5 the Security Police Headquarters, what happened there? What - did you have to go through another test, did you go through some kind of you know - did they give you an initial briefing. Did they speak to you about the job? Did they outline what the job was about?

MR MBELO:

10 Ja we were given an explanation - we were told that the work that we are going to do was totally different from the ones conducted by normal police. And we were told that - you know that no uniform would be required at all. And we were briefed that we would be spread all over the country. But our colleagues who we found there were giving us these instructions. 15 They were telling us how do they function and then they even went on to say that everything that happens at Vlakplaas should at this C-10 should be secret - a secret. It should be known among only members of this section. We don't have to leak information out at all.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Did you have to sign a form of secrecy - did you have to take any kind of oath that you would not leak any information related to this. And while we still on that, can you talk about when you first got there - who were the people that you first met who gave you the initial briefing about the nature of the job?

MR MBELO:

To answer the first question about signing any document of secrecy, yes every Security Branch member would sign this form for secrecy. It is done annually.

Now the second question who briefed us. I met David Tsjikalanga in '81 he was at the college at the time. And when we passed out, we were together and Almond Nofomela came to pick us up at the college with the Kombi and he took us to the farm. These are the first two people I met physically and they explained everything to us - our responsibilities.

ADV POTGIETER:

Can I - I just want to complete this picture. I just want to take you slightly back so that we can understand how this process works. You came from Bloemfontein, you went to Hammanskraal to undergo your basic training as a police officer, correct.

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

ADV POTGIETER:

Now was it during the course of that training period that Colonel Baker
5 arrived at Hammanskraal and started recruiting people.

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

ADV POTGIETER:

You were not finished with your basic training yet?

10 **MR MBELO:**

No we were not yet finished.



ADV POTGIETER:

So he came there and did he then ask in general which of the trainees are
interested in joining the Security Police?

15 **MR MBELO:**

That's correct, he put it just that way.

ADV POTGIETER:

And - and were there then 15 of you that showed an interest in this - in
joining the Security Police?

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MR MBELO:

15 of us were interested and we went for an interview at the Hammanskraal office.

ADV POTGIETER:

5 Of the - of the whole - I suppose there was a larger group of trainees and from that larger group it was only 15 people that showed an interest?

MR MBELO:

That's correct, he didn't want that Tswana's - he didn't want the Sotho's he only concentrated on the Xhosa's and Zulu's.

10 **ADV POTGIETER:**

Was that - was that part of his request did he - did he say any Xhosa's or Zoeloe's who are interested in joining the Security Police must indicate to him.

MR MBELO:

15 Yes that's correct he put it clearly that way.

ADV POTGIETER:

And then of course 15 responded.

MR MBELO:

Yes, that's correct.

20 Are you - are - where do you fall into those two categories?

MR MBELO:

I'd say I am a Xhosa.

ADV POTGIETER:

Do you speak Tswana?

5 **MR MBELO:**

Yes I am speaking Tswana, I grew up in a Tswana environment and I went to a Tswana school.

ADV POTGIETER:

But did Colonel Baker not find any difficulty with that, or do you speak

10 Xhosa as well?

MR MBELO:

Yes I can speak Xhosa.



ADV POTGIETER:

Good. So now 15 of you show an interest and you go to see Colonel Baker,

15 correct.

MR MBELO:

He was at the office and we were getting one by one into his office, that was his office at the college at Hammanskraal.

20

ADV POTGIETER:

So you went one by one into the office and what did he do, what happened inside the office?

MR MBELO:

- 5 There were questions already prepared on a piece of paper - every time each one of us got in he would request you to give him your background and he would ask you all the prepared questions.

According to me - to my knowledge those who didn't make it through were those who did no answer questions according to his preparations.

10 **ADV POTGIETER:**

So it was a verbal thing, he was asking you questions and then you would verbally respond to it.

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

15 **ADV POTGIETER:**

The impression that it was very politically orientated the questions that he was asking.

MR MBELO:

They were politically motivated.

20

ADV POTGIETER:

So - so after that you then - you leave - you leave the office and the next person goes in.

MR MBELO:

5 Ja - that's correct. We were given the results, he left and we were called by names and we were told that we have succeeded with the interview, we should know after completing the training we will go to the Security Headquarters in Pretoria.

ADV POTGIETER:

10 Did you get the results that same day that you did the test or was there a lapse of time between the test and getting the result?

MR MBELO:

It was on the same day of the test, so then Colonel Baker told you, you were successful and were you - once you finished your basic training you will be

15 joining the Security Police.

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

ADV POTGIETER:

And then you completed your period of training, the remaining period.

20

MR MBELO:

Yes I completed my training.

ADV POTGIETER:

And did you have to write another test then or did you just basically
5 complete a practical training period - training program.

MR MBELO:

That was a normal training of the Police Force when I got to C-10 there
were no test at all.

ADV POTGIETER:

10 So after you had finished the period of basic training, were you then
collected by Nofomela.



MR MBELO:

Yes he was send to pick us up.

ADV POTGIETER:

15 Was David Tsjikalanga recruited with you?

MS GOBODO:

Tsjikalanga.

MR MBELO:

No he wasn't selected with me, but we were told that there is already a
20 person who knows what we are suppose to do. And that - the message was

brought to me by Baker, he said we have a person at a farm he works with us.

ADV POTGIETER:

[Indistinct] Tsjikalanga if I pronounce it correctly.

5 **MR MBELO:**

He is Tsjikalanga.

ADV POTGIETER:

All right, was he the person?

MR MBELO:

10 Yes.

ADV POTGIETER:

Not a trainee at the college?



MR MBELO:

At the time of our arrival he was already - he was also a student doing his training.

15

But he was he one that knew all about the - the unit that you would be joining.

MR MBELO:

Yes he had a lot of information.

20

ADV POTGIETER:

And you understood that - did you understand that he was already part of that unit?

MR MBELO:

5 Yes, I understood that he was already a member he was just with us for the training.

ADV POTGIETER:

But you - did you only meet him after Colonel Baker came there, you didn't speak to him about this unit before Colonel Baker got there.

10 **MR MBELO:**

No nothing, I knew nothing before I was introduced to him by Colonel Baker.

ADV POTGIETER:

And then you were removed directly from Hammanskraal to the Security

15 Police Headquarters in Pretoria or where?

MR MBELO:

Yes we went straight to Pretoria. We were just shocked to see ourselves getting into a farm.

ADV POTGIETER:

20 The next thing you are on Vlakplaas.

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

ADV POTGIETER:

Thank you, I just wanted to complete that picture.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

Okay now when you are Vlakplaas, I just want to be very clear about the fact that when you - when you get to Vlakplaas you've mentioned the names of David Tsjikalanga and Almond Nofomela but were there any other senior officers that you met there and did they give you an exact account of what
10 kind of work you would be doing. Did they give you a sense of five or six things that you would be doing, while you'd be working at - from Vlakplaas?

MR MBELO:

There were no people to welcome us, the people who were staying there,
15 were waiting for us, because they were the residence of that farm.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay and - so when did you first get your briefing about what your work would entail from Vlakplaas?

20

MR MBELO:

They don't give you the direct basic training or to give you information, you only look at what your colleagues do and you follow.

And as time go you will see what is expected of you. They didn't
5 give us their full program of our activities, we were just told that you - we will be given photo's some times and we would just follow the instructions as they come.

MR GOOISAN:

Given photo's about who? Photo's - you'll be shown photo's - photo's of
10 whom?

MR MBELO:

They - those were photo's of MK members who infiltrated the country and our duty was to search all over for them and detain them. And sometimes it was impossible to detain a person, there were shootings at the times.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay I am just trying to understand Sergeant Mbelo when you say that you were told that you would be shown photographs and you would have to identify people and as you say you would guard and try to find these people, locate them or whatever - I am trying to find out I there was any senior
20 officer at any time in that initial stage when you first came to Vlakplaas,

who elaborated - who gave you some more information about that -
or...[intervention]

MR MBELO:

No there was no such a senior person at all.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

No let me take it further - you - so when you first came at - at Vlakplaas
were you given a group of people that you would be working with?

MR MBELO:

No I joined the group that I found there.

10 **MR GOOISAN:**

Can you give me some names of the people who were in that group that you
- that you joined and who you found there at Vlakplaas.

MR MBELO:

There were many, but the group that I started working with when I arrived
15 was the - Nofomela's group, I will now mention names. There were people
like - Jack Bosigo ... **end of Tape 1, Side A** ... I am going to forget others,
because it has been quite a long time now.

MR GOOISAN:

You can always come back to it, but just those that you can remember now,
20 just take a minute and try to remember some now, because from here we

want to go into other stuff. If you can just take a quite minute to recall those that you can recall now - you can always tell us, some other names later as the session goes on so that you will be refreshing your memory as the session will be going on.

5 **ADV NTSEBEZA:**

Asking some names.

MS GOBODO:

[Indistinct] for the record.

ADV NTSEBEZA:

10 Oh! I am sorry.

ADV NTSEBEZA:

Was Cilulami Bramosmoss already there?

MR MBELO:

Yes he was amongst the group.

15 **ADV NTSEBEZA:**

And Moses Sjabalala?

MR MBELO:

Sjabalala from Natal yes he was amongst the group. Brian Ngulunga, Joe Mamasela

20

MR GOOISAN:

[Indistinct] was he there?

MR MBELO:

He was also there yes.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

And can you tell us - speak about some of the officers who may have been there and I want to say that there was ranking system so maybe you can talk about if there were any ranking officers there and maybe white officers who were there.

10 **MR MBELO:**

There was a Coetzee but not a Dirk Coetzee he was wearing spectacles and Bellingan was there. We didn't know their names when we arrived, because there were different groups, we only met when we had braai's with the other officers.

15 Others came later, at that time Vlakplaas didn't have many workers on it - other groups came later.

MS GOBODO:

Zendile before you close this section, I just want to ask some questions for clarification. You arrived there in 1982.

20

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

MS GOBODO:

And you mentioned also that there were sometimes when you had to
5 identify these MK-people - who had infiltrated the country and there were
killings as well.

And these killings did they occur in 19 - in the year that you started or
- or later?

MR MBELO:

10 They started as time went by.

MS GOBODO:

So would you say they started in 1982 already, the killings?

MR MBELO:

I started in 1982 and I do not confirm whether they started in 1982 or before
15 time, but it was during the time when I was there.

MS GOBODO:

And did - were you acting upon instructions to kill some of these people?

MR MBELO:

If you are a policeman without a rank, you'd be given instructions by an
20 officer. There was this rule that you comply and complain later..

MS GOBODO:

In other words even at that stage in the early 1980's you were - there were people who were killed and you were acting upon orders.

MR MBELO:

5 That's correct.

MS GOBODO:

Just one last question in one of our hearings we - or Brigadier at the time Viktor told us that he started Vlakplaas. At the time when you were there, was he also part of the contingent of white senior policeman there, a
10 Brigadier Viktor?

MR MBELO:

They were talking about [Indistinct] and Viktor when we arrived there. People were complaining that the person who took over was not like Viktor, their relations were not good anymore, they were starving, they were not
15 taken care of their previous leaders were taking good care of them.

MS GOBODO:

So when you came Viktor was still there or was he not there. I just want to establish if he was in the team that were giving orders for these killings in that period and then I will hand over to Mr Gooisan.

20

MR MBELO:

I have never seen Viktor personally, I only heard about his name.

MS GOBODO:

Mr Gooisan.

5 **ADV POTGIETER:**

Let him just - let him just finished this.

MS GOBODO:

Oh! advocate Potgieter.

ADV POTGIETER:

10 Thank you Chairperson - Mr Mbelo - Sergeant Mbelo the - the rest of the
group of seven that was successful - did they also join this group of
Nofomela with you?



MR MBELO:

No Nofomela's group was mostly the Tswana's of the Western Transvaal
15 and others were the Zulu's and they were from the Kwa-Zulu Natal
Missionary. And there was Eastern and Western Cape Group.

ADV POTGIETER:

In total you were 7 new recruits to the Security Police, is that correct?

MR MBELO:

20 That's correct.

ADV POTGIETER:

And did all seven of you land up at Vlakplaas?

MR MBELO:

One went to Stellenbosch, the 6 of us went to the farm.

5 **ADV POTGIETER:**

Now what is the name of the one that went to Stellenbosch?

MR MBELO:

I can't remember his name. He was going to perform the normal Security duties.

10 **ADV POTGIETER:**

And then the rest, you were now 6 remaining, yourself and 5, what happened to - you went to Nofomela what happened to the other 5, did they come with you to Nofomela, did they go elsewhere?

MR MBELO:

15 There were guard duties and they were using policeman to do those duties.

Now everyday the whole month there were two people were suppose to stay behind at the camp. And the other group would go to Natal and the other one would go to Venda and the other one would go to Transvaal.

At times we would be paired with another group.

20

ADV POTGIETER:

Now let's - let's just try and see if we can clarify it, let's take Nofomela's group, you and which of the other new recruits joined that particular group?

MR MBELO:

5 The person who use to be in our company was Gabriel Gushwayo. He has since died, and the other one is Motwa he surname is Motwa I can't remember his first names, he was from Kwa-Zulu Natal. And the other two I forget their names, I have really forgotten their names. Because they were not recruited direct from Hammanskraal, they were taken wat Verdragt
10 because Hammanskraal was full to capacity, so some of the police were trained at that place and they were recruited from that area and the 6 of us came to Vlakplaas except the one that went to Stellenbosch.

ADV POTGIETER:

I just want to get an idea - did most of this group of new recruits from
15 Hammanskraal join Nofomela's group.

MR MBELO:

Not - Nofomela was the driver at that time, they were other drivers like Uncle Moss, he had his own group - he had people like David I forget his surname I think I will remember it. Each one of them had his own group.

20

ADV POTGIETER:

Which group the new recruits should go in to.

MR MBELO:

We had a commander at Vlakplaas, that is the Chief Commander and he
5 had - his subordinates who would command the black personnel and he
would decide that I want to be in the company of so and so this month.
And then they would choose the drivers.

ADV POTGIETER:

Who was the commander - the person in charge of Vlakplaas when you got
10 there.

MR MBELO:

It was Coetzee - not Dirk I just happened to forget his first name - yes that's
Coetzee he was in charge, but he didn't hold that position for long, because
Jack Cronje took over. And when Cronje left Eugene de Kock took over.

15 MARK KILLIAN:

Mr Mbelo you mentioned earlier on that you were given - you were shown
photographs of MK-members and their after you were given an instruction.
Now who was the person who gave you these photographs and these
instructions to act on these MK-members?

20

MR MBELO:

The photo's that I've mentioned earlier on, we wouldn't get them at the farm, we would go out to help the Security in a Province. And the people of the Province w help, will give us their problems and they would show us
5 photo's and they would say, we think these are the people who infiltrated and they would give us those photo's. Now the photo's were from different branches.

MS GOBODO:

Denzil Ntsebeza want's to ask a question.

10 **ADV POTGIETER:**

Okay.



ADV NTSEBEZA:

I just wanted to ask you either when you got there or over time there was a person called Malulec.

15 **ADV POTGIETER:**

We had two Malulec's the other one was Derrick. - Eric. He was working with Jimmy Mbani.

ADV NTSEBEZA:

Had they come from the Police Force in the same way in which you had, or
20 had they - had they been turned - so-called Askari's?

MR MBELO:

Eric was an ex MK-member and Mbani, they were turned into what you've just mentioned.

MS BURTON

5 Mr Gooisan.

MR GOOISAN:

All right I just want to take you back a little bit sergeant Mbelo. You said that when you now - when you were clear that you were going to go to Security Police Headquarters and they told you that you were accord - not
10 going to be involved in normal police work, you wouldn't have to wear uniforms right.

And then you get to Vlakplaas and then you would say that you weren't really given a full briefing about what you would be doing, but you would sort of work with other people, see what they were doing, and then
15 get to know as time went by how the job would - how the job would be done, and what that job would entail - right.

So let's begin at the beginning, your first job, maybe you can remember that, can you talk about the very first thing that you were involved in which - which would essentially put you on a working footing
20 in Vlakplaas. The very first job you did?

MR MBELO:

When I started at Vlakplaas, it was - we were doing normal patrol which were done there. There was nothing which I would say was a violation which I have done at the beginning.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

Okay we not trying to establish whether you were involved in a violation, we just trying to get the sense of - can you take us through the first things that you did because you talked about the fact that the job was sort of a learn as you go experience, right. You don't get the full briefing at the
10 beginning.

Now some of the things that you were involved in, you said you were on patrol, when you first went out, maybe to get shown photographs and identify people, maybe let's go there. Can you remember some of those very first things that you did and who you were with when you did that, you
15 know?

MR MBELO:

It's going to be difficult to explain in details because of the period. Our first work was patrol with other people. Those we use to call them Askari's will do the infiltration, missions with the areas where we went. Some of them
20 made themselves to appear as [indistinct] MK's to train the youth who are

interested in the Military exercise. Our own responsibility was to take as on the correct direction which they were given at that time.

MR GOOISAN:

So your first mission, your first patrols as such did they take place in for instance in Mamalodi, you know, did you go to Soweto - where did you go on patrol?

MR MBELO:

We - I was working at Western Transvaal we were patrolling near the border there.

10 **MR GOOISAN:**

And so did you identify people in that missions there, did you get to know people, did you do anything there? We not trying to establish if it was a violation or not, we just trying to find out to get the sense of how you started your career how you started getting going with your Vlakplaas job.

15 **MR MBELO:**

At that time, that's why I say, there was nothing viscous which we were doing, but we were just patrolling the border and what I've learn there, we - were drinking a lot.

MR GOOISAN:

20 Ms Barends wants to ask a question.

MS BARENDS:

Okay when you were shown the photographs and you had to identify these people and you detained them, what did you then do with these people that were detained, what was the purpose of detaining these people?

5 **MR MBELO:**

As we were a group which was assisting the local branches of the Security Forces there, what our responsibility was to detain them and - and leave them in that - in that responsible branch, then we go on with our normal duty. Because I believe the - the hope that the Vlakplaas group is highly
10 trained than normal police forces or - within the Security Branch.

MS BARENDS:

At any time was there any attempt to [indistinct] these people into rehabilitate them and to become part of Vlakplaas the people that were detained?

15 **MR MBELO:**

Many of them were turned into Askari's and they were brought to Vlakplaas.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Can you - so now we want to back to this thing you see, so you now at the -
you patrolling in Western Transvaal, you know just to get a picture of
Western Transvaal. And you are in direct contact from time to time with
5 the local Security Police structures right. Now what's the procedure can you
tell me so the people from Vlakplaas you would go and speak directly with
the commanding officer or who do you speak to?

MR MBELO:

No when we arrive there we don't even go to the offices, the person
10 responsible the immediate commander home we go with one of them is - all
of them are white people would - would meet with the local branch of the
Security Force in that area ~~then thereafter he~~ will come and give us
instructions. As his system fit or how he was - the way he was given.

MR GOOISAN:

15 So you detained people and you bring them where? Where does the
detention take place of these people?

MR MBELO:

We didn't have a place where we detained these people as I explained, that
we were helping the local branches of the - of the Security Sections. They
20 themselves were responsible to continue detaining those people. We were

not responsible in the detention *per se* but they have the local Security Branches would have their own detention camps or detention cells and a person - a person would be arrested under Section 29 and he was hidden at a particular place because he was beaten, he was swollen and then they
5 would put him aside. And then those people who knew - those detention cells with the local branches within - within an area that they do - know that whom to take where if he is detained.

MR GOOISAN:

I am trying to understand this, because what I want to understand is you
10 just explained to Ms Barends that some of the people that were detained, in fact quite a few of them who were detained were turned into Askari's or they were called rehabilitated.

Now I want to understand how that process worked and who was involved in that process. So now let's begin at the beginning the police
15 stations in the Western Transvaal first of all, that were used by Vlakplaas people to drop off detainees, can you name some of them?

MR MBELO:

We - we didn't use the - the normal - the normal police stations, we using the Security, the Zeerust Security Branch, those were the people who were
20 working hand in hand with.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay now in terms of - let's go to the Zeerust Security Branch. I want to go to others, but let's start at Zeerust. Now when you detained people - you said some people were turned into Askari's. Now the process of
5 rehabilitating these people, in your view, was it just Vlakplaas people who participated in this or did the local Security Police personnel also participate in the process of turning these people or rehabilitating them as you may put it.

MR MBELO:

10 I would say are the respective Security Branches in a area and there were some people from Vlakplaas who were taking part in their rehabilitation. If they know that - maybe they know that person and they will come and take him. Then they would rehabilitate him and therefore they would request him to join them.

MR GOOISAN:

15 Detention entailed what, did it entail any physical process. Did you do anything to these people to rehabilitate them? Or was anything done to these people, I don't want to personalize it to yourself. But I want to say talk about the process. Was anything done to these people which would make
20 them want to come and work with the Vlakplaas people?

MR MBELO:

When they were arrested, the first thing they would look for him - it will be the information. And to get that information, these people were tortured. He was tortured to the point where he will say I will give up and say and I
5 will co-operate with you.

MR GOOISAN:

Torture how - what - explain to us, we need to understand in more specific terms what kind of torture because somebody - if you ask somebody a question and maybe you give them a **klap** - maybe they won't give up the
10 information.

But can you give us specific examples of how this information was gotten out of people and how eventually they might have been turned.

MR MBELO:

We were using different methods - the - the normal procedure was the tube
15 system - they will take a car's tube or wheels tube, then they would put it on his - on his face and then make him too - not to be able to exhale or inhale that was the method which they know that it doesn't need many apparatus if you have a tires tube then you are able to do the work.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Okay and now just a personal question. So now you are beginning to understand what the work entails, when you first saw that kind of work being done, did you physically participate or were other people doing it in the initial stages, just to show you how, or did you learn as you go. Did you do right from the start?

MR MBELO:

I was a member of the Security Branch. What - what Romans do you've got to do when you in Rome. If you are a member of the Security Branch you would not - you would not have any doubts, you got to do what is done. After some time I did learn all those methods of torture therefor I continued.

If you didn't take part you were seen as a sell out.

MR GOOISAN:

Do you remember any - in the initial stage, do you remember the names of some of the people who you may have extracted information from or who you personally may have turned or as you put it, rehabilitate it?

MR MBELO:

There was nobody at all whom I was able to [indistinct] from one person - from a person from MMK to Askari's but the tube system, I did participate in that process. There are names of people I remember whom I did that.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

Can you share those names with us please.

MR MBELO:

The interpretation made a mistake, I don't remember the names or the people who did that, because you were - the people - you would not know
10 what happened to the person whom you've tortured the previous day. So you don't usually, I don't remember the names of the people I took part in.

MR GOOISAN:

So did you keep a pocket book or any kind off record of any of these actions, were - was their a daily report of your patrols - of people detained,
15 what kind of record keeping system existed so that you can be able to keep track of your work?

MR MBELO:

Vlakplaas is not a police station, we would not go out with a pocket book, we would not record anything, we doing things just [indistinct] if they say
20 go there, you've got to go.

MS GOBODO:

Mr Potgieter wants to ask questions.

ADV POTGIETER:

Thank you Chairperson. Sergeant Mbelo, apart from the tube, what were
5 the other methods of torture that was - that was used on the detainees?

MR MBELO:

We didn't have offices, we relied on the tube. While we were at the office
of the local branch, then they would use the apparatus to electrocute people.

ADV POTGIETER:

10 You were indicating something that you wind up - what were they using,
was it an old telephone or what - which one was it?

MR MBELO:

It was something like a motto that you would wind, it looked like a
telephone it was generating electricity.

15 **ADV POTGIETER:**

And then you connect - well we were told it was an old telephone but you
connect it to the persons body wherever you'd think it would be the most
effective part of the body, it could differ from wherever - from the genitals
or to your fingers.

20

MR MBELO:

This was applied everywhere, but especially they were targeting the soft parts of the body that would be quickly hurt.

ADV POTGIETER:

5 That was the shock, the shocking method, what was the other methods that they were using.

MS BURTON

Mr Ntsebeza.

ADV NTSEBEZA:

10 No you talk about the soft parts, now most of the witnesses related how their genitals were attacked by this shock methods. Was it a regular thing or was it something that happened now and again?

MR MBELO:

This was done normally at the local security branch offices because they
15 were the people who kept the equipment. ... **end of Tape 1, side B ...**

MR GOOISAN:

I just want to - to get a sense now, we want to move forward, because - so now you part of the whole structure and all of this.....[intervention]

MS GOBODO:

20 If I may interrupt advocate Potgieter wants to finish his questioning.

ADV POTGIETER:

Thank you Chairperson, I just need to fill the picture in. So we got the tube, we've got the old electric shocks what were the other methods that they used?

5 **MR MBELO:**

The other method was called - they would take a stick and put it between your legs, that is the helicopter method, then you'd be hanged.

ADV POTGIETER:

[indistinct] two objects say like two desks or something like that, you'd be
10 hanging in the air?

MR MBELO:

Ja - yes two tables would be put next to each other and there would be this
stick on the two tables, you'd be hanging between the two tables.

ADV POTGIETER:

15 In a way...[intervention]

MR MBELO:

Yes your hands would be handcuffed and many police stations had this bag they called it prisoners property, they would put it on your head and tighten it up and put you in the water. And immediately if you think of death, you
20 would confess.

ADV POTGIETER:

So the bag is put over and it's made wet so that you can't breath.

MR MBELO:

Yes, sometimes they would physically put you in the water.

5 **ADV POTGIETER:**

Your head.

MR MBELO:

Yes, the whole head.

ADV POTGIETER:

10 And the other ways that they were using?

MR MBELO:

When there was a very high building, they would take you by your legs and they would make as if they are throwing you down.

ADV POTGIETER:

15 And anything else?

MR MBELO:

Those are the only methods I used while I was at the Security Branch.

ADV POTGIETER:

And what about the - what about the ice cubes, shoving ice cubes in
20 somebody's anus?

MR MBELO:

I have never experienced such a thing.

ADV POTGIETER:

We've also heard evidence about people's - putting your penis into a draw
5 and shutting the draw, have you heard anything about that?

MR MBELO:

I only heard of such methods, but I've never done them - I have never
experienced them myself.

ADV POTGIETER:

10 Too sophisticated in your areas where you were moving.

MR MBELO:

They were not known.



ADV POTGIETER:

Sergeant Mbelo.

15 **MR GOOISAN:**

Okay now Sergeant Mbelo in this whole process of torturing people or
extracting information from people - I am trying to understand who would
be along with you. So for instance you come - you have a place where you
doing this at some Security Police area, who would be in the room with you,
20 when you would be doing this?

MR MBELO:

The victim was normally blindfolded with a cloth and he wouldn't be in a position to see who the people were in the room. And he would see the people assaulting him and many commanders from different areas would be present at that time. And they would keep on saying this bastard doesn't want to tell the truth, those are the commanders from different places.

And then we would carry on then with the proceedings of torturing a person.

MR GOOISAN:

So the commanders who would actually be there, would they physically guide the process to say no this guy is not co-operating can you do it a little bit harder. Did you look to them to find out is it okay, can we take this thing further. I mean were they participating did they guide you, did they say anything - go further?

MR MBELO:

You didn't ask permission first the previous securities, they were actually telling you what they want to do. Now what they wanted was only information and if the target didn't take out information then the torture would carry on.

They had to give reports - reports to their seniors the next day, so they wanted information only.

MR GOOISAN:

So all the commanders - the commanders of these Security Police stations or
5 Security Police offices, they were all aware of what you were doing, they knew exactly what was happening?

MR MBELO:

The commanders are present in the room, because they were sergeants - they were constables - they did the same before they were promoted.

10 **MR GOOISAN:**

So this a culture, this is the way things are done in the Security Police according to you?

MR MBELO:

According to my knowledge, this is the culture that existed.

15 **MR GOOISAN:**

Okay now turn to Bellingham you said that - when you came to Vlakplaas to C-section, just for clarification is Bellingham is this the man called Balletjies?

MR MBELO:

20 Yes his nickname was Balletjies.

MR GOOISAN:

Balletjies Bellingan - so when you came there Bellingan was there.

MR MBELO:

Yes.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

What was his rank at that time?

MR MBELO:

My rank or his rank?

MR GOOISAN:

10 No his rank - Bellingan's rank.

MR MBELO:

He was a sergeant at that time.



MR GOOISAN:

So in any of your first operations did he - did you work with him, did you

15 interact with him - did he give any instructions?

MR MBELO:

That's correct, we were - we worked together with him.

MR GOOISAN:

Can you give us some examples of some of the things that you did in those

20 initial stages with sergeant R Balletjies Bellingan?

MR MBELO:

The incident that I still remember very well in the presence of Balletjies, that was at the Guguletu 7.

MR GOOISAN:

5 Okay we want to come later to the Guguletu 7, but I want to first understand you, in the first initial stages you did work with him, right. What was your initial impression of this man, Bellingan?

MR MBELO:

The impression that I got of Bellingan was that he didn't like communism,
10 he hated MK, he hated ANC, he hated PAC, especially the MK and the APLA.



MR GOOISAN:

Okay now in terms of - let's take it forward here you - Joe Mamasela did you work with him too?

15 **MR MBELO:**

Yes, one day we worked with Mamasela, we went out to - to the Eastern Transvaal.

MR GOOISAN:

And what did you do there?

20

MR MBELO:

At that time we were around Nelspruit and neighbouring areas.

MR GOOISAN:

And did you do specific things there?

5 **MR MBELO:**

Not really there wasn't anything specific that we were doing in the Eastern Transvaal.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay Sergeant Mbelo we will come back to that later, but now lets just get
10 to the main part of this inquiry which is talking about Guguletu 7. Before
Guguletu 7, before the event of Guguletu 7, had you ever been to Cape
Town?

MR MBELO:

Yes.

15 **MR GOOISAN:**

On a Vlakplaas operation or?

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

MR GOOISAN:

20 And what was that?

MR MBELO:

At Vlakplaas we had a person who originated from Guguletu. But his sister was staying at Khyaelitsha and this man was scared of visiting his home and every time we had to work around Cape Town or the surroundings we would come with him so that he can be in a position to visit his relatives.

And basically our duty here was to come and point out the infiltrators in Cape Town and the surrounding areas.

MR GOOISAN:

So when was the first time that you came to Cape Town before Guguletu ??

10 **MR MBELO:**

I think it was in 1985.



MR GOOISAN:

1985, and when you came here, did you - when the Vlakplaas people came here, did you contact with the local Security Police here?

15 **MR MBELO:**

Yes we met them and we use to go to their offices and carry on with our normal duties.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay when you went to their offices, did you speak to any specific officer who was your contact here of the Security Police?

MR MBELO:

The person who welcomed us was Liebenberg. Their offices were at Loop Street.

MR GOOISAN:

5 112 Loop Street is that correct?

MR MBELO:

I don't know the number but it's Loop Street.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay and when you came here and you met with Liebenberg is it that
10 Liebenberg gave you a task to do, these are the photographs - these are the
people, I want you to identify them is that correct?

MR MBELO:

Since he was the leader of the Security Branch here, he was our link when
we came to Cape Town. He knew all the suspects around Cape Town.

15 **MR GOOISAN:**

Okay and just on a side point here, when you were in Cape Town, where
were you housed?

MR MBELO:

We use to stay at Koeberg.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Koeberg it's a place that - where you were kept sort of a halfway house for Vlakplaas personnel, yes.

MR MBELO:

5 Yes we use to go to Koeberg just to sleep and wash ourselves, I can say it was a sort of our base.

MR GOOISAN:

Yes and so now we with Liebenberg, so initially when you came down here, now we need to get down to specifics. Do you remember some of the
10 things that you did before the Guguletu 7 with Liebenberg in 1985. What are the kind of problems that you were working on, you said that you identified people, can you give me more substantive answer to that?

MR MBELO:

Before the Guguletu 7 our duty here in Cape Town was to search for the
15 terrorist as they were called then. These were the members of the MK who infiltrated, there was no plan at all of our activities.

MR GOOISAN:

So in the Guguletu 7 how many people did you find?

20

MR MBELO:

I can't give a specific number I can't give you a number because we didn't find any, I - I will say the Askari's had a duty to get into the township, locate them and give a report and then we would leave thereafter.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

Okay so the job in 1985 was to infiltrate?

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

MR GOOISAN:

10 Okay so infiltration, how did you infiltrated - you identified an organization or a group of people and then you got involved is that correct?

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

MR GOOISAN:

15 Now tell us a little bit about that please.

MR MBELO:

The infiltration of the time was - you'd go to the Cape Town office and they would give you the names of the suspects and they would try to find out as to whether isn't there a person amongst us who'd go right into the group
20 and talk to them and convince them that he got trained outside the country.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay, and then - [indistinct]

MS GOBODO:

Okay who - Ms Barends, Zenariah Barends.

5 **MS BAREND:**

Did you personally ever infiltrate a group in Cape Town or any group in Cape Town.

MR MBELO:

Yes I infiltrated it was in 1986.

10 **MS GOBODO:**

Ms Gooisan.



MR GOOISAN:

Ja so now we are going to the Guguletu 7, is that what you talking about.

Was this before I am trying to establish what you did before Guguletu 7. I

15 am not talking about Guguletu 7, please work with us and understand that we are trying to get a clearer picture. We have been given a view from other areas about what happened.

Now you came here in 1985, which places did you infiltrate, did you go to Guguletu, did you go to Mannenberg, did you go to KTC, Khyaelitsha

- tell us about that, because after that we want to talk about Guguletu 7, but I want to be clear before, what kind of network you were building up here.

MR MBELO:

At the time we were concentrating at - at all the townships. At times we would even go to Mitchell's Plain. There is a suburb in town, I can't remember the name, I don't know how to tell - to describe this to you but it's a suburb in town, we concentrated a lot at that suburb, because at that time there was a certain gentleman a Coloured who use to put on a draft on his left hand. He was sought, we wanted him dearly, I can't remember is it
5
10
Observatory, we concentrated on Observatory suburb, there was a certain Coloured guy there, who was known to be a trained member and he was operative in that area.

MR GOOISAN:

And so when - when you were - when finished your job in 1985, you went and reported to Liebenberg. Yes or no, did you go speak to Mr Liebenberg to tell him that we've done this job?
15

MR MBELO:

Yes Liebenberg got feedback from our commanders, we reported the matter to Balletjies and Balletjies would go report this matter to Liebenberg.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Okay, so just for the record, Balletjies we will refer to him as Sergeant Bellingan - Bellingan right.

MR MBELO:

5 Ja.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay.

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

10 **MS GOBODO:**

Sorry if I might interrupt here - it's not quite clear what you are reporting, at least to me, you came in '85. Liebenberg showed you pictures and - of people to be tracked down and I am not sure who this people were and you said there was no plan - I mean one of the things that you said is that you
15 were shown these pictures, but there was no plan.

And then you moved on to talk about the Observatory investigation.

Can you be more clear please who were there in the pictures and what did you find and how was it related in Observatory and what actually did you do in Observatory?

20

MR MBELO:

There was a photo that we saw who stayed at Observatory. And we had details that he is always seen with a hand glove in his left hand and we were told that we would recognize him by that hand glove. And we were told
5 that he was moving around the Cape Town area, he even went to the townships. That is the reason we even went as far as Mitchell's Plain and the neighbouring townships. We were looking all over for him. We concentrated on Observatory because that's where he was staying. It is a pity I don't his name.

10 **MR GOOISAN:**

Okay just while we at that point - do you at any time remember whether there were any Coloured people that worked with you in this entire operation and can you give us some more information about it.

MR MBELO:

15 In our group we didn't use people from other branches. But what we would do, we would request them to give us information and we would go out search and give them the feedback but in our group we didn't have any Coloured person.

MR GOOISAN:

20 In other groups there may have been some.

MR MBELO:

Not Vlakplaas.

MR GOOISAN:

Just on another point, who came with you in 1985, who was with you when
5 you were doing the work here, give us those names, because that would be
important for us right now.

MR MBELO:

Lucy Madibula was there - Uncle Moss - usually we would travel in a
Kombi being 7 people. The names that I have just mentioned are the two
10 people I remember very well, in every trap they were there.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay who was your - do you remember if Joe Mamasela was there with that
group no.

MR MBELO:

15 I have never been to Cape Town with Mamasela.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay now when you were down here, who was your handler, because I
assume that you people from Vlakplaas and they way we have been given to
understand you may have had a handler. Who was the handler of the

Vlakplaas personnel, yourself and the other rehabilitated persons the Askari's?

MR MBELO:

Balletjies was the leader, that is Bellingan.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

So Bellingan was involved in everything that you guys did?

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

MR GOOISAN

10 Okay so Bellingham would essentially be the one who would be your immediate commanding officer?

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

MR GOOISAN:

15 So when you were here, were you reporting back to Vlakplaas? I am speaking of 1985.

MR MBELO:

Reporting back to Vlakplaas was the responsibility of the immediate commander, but we as the field workers, we didn't report anything. The

20 immediate commander was suppose to call Vlakplaas to report.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay so you went back in 1985, you went back to Vlakplaas. Now in '85 who was the commanding officer at Vlakplaas?

MR MBELO:

5 I think Eugene was the commander at that time. He was the captain.

MR GOOISAN:

Captain Eugene de Kock?

MR MBELO

Yes.

10 **MR GOOISAN:**

Okay now - so let us move immediately to the matter at hand which is the issue of Guguletu 7. So when you went back in 1985 let's say you went and did some other things which you will come up to later, but when was it first decided that there would be a Vlakplaas operation in Cape Town. This one

15 I am talking about now - now we are talking about Guguletu 7.

Before you get - before you were - received the task of coming down here, when was it first decided that there would be a Vlakplaas operation in Cape Town, 1986.

20

MR GOOISAN

We were not involved in the planning of who is going to which are, our responsibility was just to pack our clothes and go to a place where we were told to go to.

5 Okay so let's take it now, you were given a responsibility I am given to understand of infiltrating the group initially. How did that happen, can you talk to us a little bit about this whole Guguletu 17 now, the beginning stages of it. How did you first begin your participation in the whole project from the start.

10 **MR MBELO:**

This Guguletu 7 issue while we were already in Cape Town. Because we left Pretoria with a little knowledge of the existence of Guguletu 7. And when arrived here, we were told that there was a group in Guguletu. But the local branch here wasn't in a position to pinpoint who this group - who
15 members of this group were.

It was during the time of the white **witdoeke** fighting with the comrades. And I was given a task because there was a man arrested at this police station at Caledon. I was then instructed to infiltrate that man and suck information out of him. And to get clear details of who members of
20 his group were and their addresses and I went into the cell. I spent one

night, I arrived in the cell in the afternoon if I am not mistaken. And I spent the night in the cell. We were just checked in with him and the next day they asked me how far were the process of getting information from him and I told them that we are still making friends. And he will tell me where
5 the others were.

And the next day I said to this man I have my lawyer now, I am going of this cell, I am going home. And this man said to me, he gave me a number in Guguletu, he said I should go and see somebody there. I think the person he referred to me was Maria or Chico and this man was in the
10 cell was called Thabo. I don't know whether it was Chico or Maria the person I met and this person took me to Khyaelitsha and KTC.

On our arrival I met other members, they were 19 in number. They were in this house that they were occupying and they questioned me and I tried to give them answers. And I was - the person who accompanied me
15 told them that I was arrested because of the explosives and he told me that the people who had explosives were arrested at Zeerust.

I was questioned I was put through a lot of questioning. And among the group I happened to pick up the name called comrade Mandela and comrade Chis and Jabo. These were Rastafarians because their hair was
20 [indistinct] I left those gentleman and I'd given these people my phone

number and they were saying they were going to check on my credentials. And I realised that they were going to realize that I wasn't the person I said to them I was. I pulled myself out and I went to the office to report.

I reported to Sergeants Bellingan and Liebenberg ... **end of Tape 2,**
5 **Side A** ... and it was decided that another method should be followed. They said they will send people who got trained outside, that is when a decision was then - was taken to send Eric Malolec, Jimmy Mbani - these are the two people who were send to contact Chris and them at Khyaelitsha.

Eric and Mbani were reporting on a weekly basis to Bellingan. And
10 Bellingan reported to Liebenberg as to the process. Even when they were planning to ambush the Kombi of officers, Liebenberg was aware of that and Balletjies was aware of this, and they knew who the people were - who were going to conduct this act. I can say when there was a sitting that morning to plan as to how to conduct this attack, Liebenberg was there and
15 he knew all the plans.

MR GOOISAN

Just to get back to your earlier - earlier to your detention at the Caledon police station where you was placed in there under - to get information from this person that you later became known as Thabo. You say the next day

you were taken out of the cell and you were questioned, who were the people that were questioning you and...[intervention]

MR MBELO:

It's Balletjies, that is Bellingan.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

And was Liebenberg also present during...[intervention]

MR MBELO:

Liebenberg was present, because we were here to help his branch.

MR GOOISAN:

10 So every time that you were taken out of the cell you would have been present for the information that you would give him.

MR MBELO:

Yes he was so eager to know what was happening around this area.

MR GOOISAN:

15 You also mentioned - you spoke about a planning meeting and you said at this planning meeting. And you said at this planning meeting, Liebenberg knew about the whole operational plan.

MR MBELO:

Yes, that was on the morning of the day of the shooting at Wingfield, the
20 Wingfield with other officers.

MR GOOISAN:

Sergeant Mbelo I just want to understand we'll get back to it later but in your entire career of working in Vlakplaas before this Guguletu 7 thing, did you work with - did you interact at anytime with the Murder and Robbery

5 Squad in other areas.

MR MBELO:

No sir.

MR GOOISAN:

Now in terms of this particular operation, okay I don't want to go to the day,

10 because it's a process, now you went in there and you said that these people they mistrusted you, so you removed yourself. And then you gave the information to Bellingan and Liebenberg. And then they decided to send in Jimmy Mbani and Eric right, Eric Sefadi.

MR MBELO:

15 Maluleke - Eric Maluleke.

MR GOOISAN:

Eric Maluleke - right and so what did they do, I mean they went in there and they participated - they infiltrated this group of Rasta etcetera - etcetera. When you first met these people did you - did they appear to you as people

who were heavily trained people who in your terminology may have been considered terrorists.

MR MBELO:

The impression that I got was that they were highly trained because they were patrolling at night. I remember this man that we spent the night with said they were patrolling outside, because the **witdoeke** were around the town. I only spent one night there and the next morning I pulled myself out and I left.

MR GOOISAN:

10 You left because you were afraid that they might know that you were a Security policeman.



MR MBELO:

Yes, because they asked me whether I was in a position to give them a telephone number so that it can confirmed that I am the real person I claimed to be. And I just gave them a false telephone number and I was then scared that they would call and they will discover that I wasn't the person I said I was.

MR GOOISAN:

So when Eric and - and Jimmy went to KTC who did they meet who was there first? I am sure you know that.

MR MBELO:

I do not know who did they first meet because they went on their own, they even had their own car.

MS GOBODO:

5 Gert Potgieter wants to say something quickly.

ADV POTGIETER:

Sergeant Mbelo during the night that you spent with these people, did you -
did you see any arms?

MR MBELO:

10 No I didn't see any arms.

ADV POTGIETER:

And you were asked to infiltrate but what were the local police suspecting, were they suspecting that there was a group of trained people who were armed in the township. Or why did they want you to infiltrate, what were
15 you suppose to have been looking for.

MR MBELO:

They had a suspicion that there were trained people in Khyaelitsha going along with weapons. And my task was to go and investigate who these people are and their address, I couldn't get that and I withdrew.

ADV POTGIETER:

Thank you very much.

MS GOBODO:

Sorry why this particular - please excuse me Mr Gooisan, why this
5 particular group of people, if you say you were ask to infiltrate, but you -
you did not come out with any real answers. Why did you choose that
group, the group you spent the night with as a [indistinct]

MR MBELO:

According to the Security Branch police, we were told that, that group was
10 responsible for the attacks in the township.

MS GOBODO:

Gooisan - sorry Ms Barends.

MS BARENDs:

And from your inter action with them, did you establish whether or not this
15 was the group that was responsible for these hand grenade attacks - what
was your assessment?

MR MBELO:

Since the day I was in the cell with this man who gave me information he
told me that there was group of comrades meeting everyday and he said I
20 am going to send you to them, you will see them.

And there was a courier with explosives from Botswana and they were under the impression that I knew the whole thing, because I indicated to them that I was arrested for explosives.

MS BAREND:

5 But you did not see any arms when you were with this group?

MR MBELO:

That's correct, that's the reason I withdrew the next morning because I realised that they would notice that I was a policeman and if they could realize that I was sent to infiltrate I would leave that house a dead man.

10 And I gave them an impression that it's a real story, I was sent to them to tell them that the explosives or the weapons will not reach them. The person who was supposed to transport them, was arrested at Zeerust.

MS BAREND:

According to you were they awaiting weapons from somebody - did they
15 have weapons with them?

MR MBELO:

They didn't have any weapons I realised, but I think they were awaiting weapons.

20

MS BARENDS:

And in the evening that you spend with them, what was the content of the conversation between you and the people that you were with?

MR MBELO:

5 We were discussing issues of policeman troubling the people they referred to Barnard who use to shoot and the impression that I got was that they hated policeman. And they were in love with politics. And the Rastafarian music because they were Rastafarians.

MS BARENDS:

10 And just to continue on the same line of questioning did they at all refer to any attacks that they may have been involved in - were you able to establish if they had been involved in any such attacks?

MR MBELO:

We - we didn't go as far as to that point - because when we were just about
15 to sleep, many of them went out and the one who was left there I asked - I asked him - then he told me that they were patrolling in the township.

MS BARENDS:

And you said your impression was that they were heavily trained, what gave you this impression, only the fact that they were patrolling or did they
20 actually speak about any training that they had undergone.

MR MBELO:

It is how the - they were showing interest in the import of those arms which were going to be delivered to them, the kind of - the picture drawn out of that delivery of the arms. Because I told them lies that I was - I am
5 bringing the message that the weapons was suppose to be brought by the courier. The persons responsible was arrested. They showed interest in those - in the arrival of - of those weapons or arms.

MS GOBODO:

Excuse me to interrupt sorry, it's not clear whether you told them that the
10 arms were coming or they told you that the arms were coming and you only came to say - to tell them that they were no longer coming. Who brought in this information about arms being brought in.

MR MBELO:

I myself told them.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay so that's what we want to establish, so you brought up the topic of the arms, and they at no time talked to you about them needing arms.

MR MBELO:

No.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Okay and they at no time talked to you about having gone over here or there or there for training.

MR MBELO:

5 No sir.

MR GOOISAN:

And they at no - and they at no time talked about engaging in any military operations.

MR MBELO:

10 No sir.

MR GOOISAN:

So your report to Liebenberg and Bellingan essentially was that these people are not connected.

MR MBELO:

15 My report was that, they were not - the stuff they were not going to - I gave them the report as they were talking about the MK's who were comrades. The Security Branch was not in favour of the comrades at that time.

MR GOOISAN:

But you - you weren't able to give a specific report to the fact that these
20 were trained people.

MR MBELO:

Yes I didn't give them an intensive report the people who brought the report, the extensive report are those who went after me to go and infiltrate this people.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

Okay when Jimmy Mbani and Eric Maluleke, when they begun the infiltration - and they were bringing the weekly reports, were you ever aware of the content of that report and did they at any time talk to you in this period.

10 **MR MBELO:**

At the time when Mbani and Maluleke were busy with the infiltration, we were busy with the patrol work and when they - they were meeting with Balletjies and meeting where they were meeting, and giving them the reports, we - we were only - we only hear that the following day there is
15 going to be an operation that those people are going to attack a Kombi. The kind of reports that were given to Balletjies, we - we didn't know the details of that report.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay now - let's talk about the operation. Because the other stuff I think
20 we can fill it in as we go along, but lets talk about this operation. Now you

were told by whom that there was going to be an operation, who told you, specifically?

MR MBELO:

Since we are staying at Koeberg Balletjies came to tell us that we should
5 know that tomorrow morning there is an operation - a certain operation
there are people who are planning to attack a Kombi which was with
officers, which passes. And - and NY1.

MR GOOISAN:

[indistinct] other Vlakplaas operations from what we have been able to
10 gather you infiltrate and sometimes you actually provided people with arms,
is that correct?



MR MBELO:

Yes there are cases like that where people were given arms or weapons.

MR GOOISAN:

15 Okay, the arms meaning AK-47's, Tokarev's, hand grenades is that correct?

MR MBELO:

That's true.

MR GOOISAN:

And these would be comrades who had been infiltrated or groups or
20 individuals who have been infiltrated by the Vlakplaas personnel.

MR MBELO:

That's true, there are things like that which were happening in that way.

MR GOOISAN:

Right over the country?

5 **MR MBELO:**

The Vlakplaas group I would say was a notorious in working underground.

MR GOOISAN:

Now at any point also one of the things of the Vlakplaas operation is that you also provided people with training is that true?

10 **MR MBELO:**

Yes there were people who were trained but that line had people who were responsible to do that. It was not everybody who - who was doing intensive training. There were people who were seen as honest who were given that responsibility for training. Some of us we didn't know exactly

15 what was happening inside or outside.

MR GOOISAN:

Yes for instance people like Jimmy Mbani, and Eric Maluleke they would - they would have engaged in that kind or project, training people providing them with weapons, yes.

20 **MR MBELO:**

Yes those were people who were trained and therefore they know everything they've been trained outside, so they know that kind of training.

MR GOOISAN:

Yes at which stage did they bring weapons into KTC?

5 **MR MBELO:**

Mbani when they - when they were - started to - to infiltrate, I remember well that they brought with them two AK47's - Eric was having his own AK47, Jimmy was having his own AK47. I remember when they reported that, those people said they are running short of the AK47 bullets and they
10 were provided with the AK47 bullets.

MR GOOISAN:

And you not - just - just to be clear at some stage Jimmy and Eric went back to - to Vlakplaas before the operation, they went to Vlakplaas - they went back to Vlakplaas to go and deal with some things right?

15 **MR MBELO:**

I don't remember that well.

MR GOOISAN:

But do you remember them - you talked about two AK47's but when did they bring the other weapons and are you aware if they brought anything
20 else with them.

MR MBELO:

In the Security Branch - they - those kinds of weapons every office has - has his own stock, so it was easy to get them in any other branch.

MR GOOISAN:

5 So they got them from Cape Town and took them to KTC. I am trying to find out where the weapons came from which they took to the comrades in KTC.

MR MBELO:

The two guys which I am talking about are those which they had with them
10 when they started to infiltrate. Whether they took them from Vlakplaas or they got them in Cape Town I don't know. But what I know is that each and every security branch is able to have what is given the [indistinct] to have it's own stock of guns - of that kind.

MR GOOISAN:

15 And in terms of this now, what I am trying to establish is Eric and Jimmy these were trained cadres - these were before they became Askari's right? Ja they were well trained, they knew how to handle weapons well.

MR MBELO:

Ja.

20

MR GOOISAN:

And they engaged in training with these people that they had infiltrated in KTC - yes.

MR MBELO:

5 That would be possible because I believe maybe they could have trained them because they weren't there on their own there and they were reporting directly to Bellingham so they were just meeting us when we were doing patrols just outside, so we heard that report orally but not in details. What I know is that they went there with two AK47's and then even after the
10 shooting they throw them under - under the trees and Bellingham went to fetch them.



MR GOOISAN:

I just want to get back you said that while they had infiltrated this group, you did the patrolling and then you would meet them on the outskirts of

15 KTC is that correct?

MR MBELO:

This - Jimmy - Jimmy and Eric would come to town or to any place where they've agreed with Bellingham or Balletjies, when they were coming to give their reports. So we were not meeting them because it would happen

that at times, they would go with these people, whom they infiltrated with that Kombi.

MR GOOISAN:

[indistinct] the other people that was traveling with you, doing this
5 patrolling and where were you, were you only patrolling KTC or what other areas were you patrolling and why were you patrolling?

MR MBELO:

We were not coming nearer to KTC because since I - I went out of that people, they would be able to identify me, so we were patrolling quite a
10 distance away from - from KTC we were patrolling at Khyaelitsha that is the area where we had many - many patrols there. And then we were continuing with our usual work as whether we will not be able to identify people who were sought after or who have infiltrated the country from outside.

15 **MR GOOISAN:**

You still not answering that, who was with you during the time...[intervention]

MR MBELO:

Uncle Moss, Lucky Matabula, Nombela - Nombela.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Any of the local Security Branch policeman with you during your patrolling?

MR MBELO:

- 5 No we were - we were not using other - other members of the branch, Security Branches, because if we got a particular area, at times there - there will be somebody who knows the area, who will be with us in that area so it will be easy to be able to know where to do and what to do. But we not working hand in hand with the local branches.

10 **MS GOBODO:**

Gooisan.



MR GOOISAN:

Okay actually - sorry.

MS BAREND:

- 15 When you were patrolling the names you mentioned, these were Askari's that were with you?

MR MBELO:

Yes - yes always we would go out with the Askari's because they - they were trained and those would know more than we do.

MS BARENDS:

And in what vehicle did you do these patrols, what kind of vehicle do you use?

MR MBELO:

5 Because we many in a Kombi, we using Kombi's in many times.

MR GOOISAN:

Was it a white mini bus, I am just trying to be clear?

MR MBELO:

10 Yes the Kombi which we came with, it was a white Kombi with tinted glasses.

MR GOOISAN:

So it could have been - it was the same vehicle you were - you were riding that day of the incident itself.

MR MBELO:

15 Yes exactly that is the Kombi we used on that - on that incident.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay now just before we get to the incident, let's just square a couple of points. Are you aware of any report made by any other member of Vlakplaas about the group that had been infiltrated before the operation?

20

MR MBELO:

No what I heard on the day when I was at KTC, it shows that it seems Mamasela tried to infiltrate the group and the - and those people show him with a [indistinct] that he is a policeman, then they - they told me that there
5 was a person called Joe - then they showed him with a dog tag that he is a policeman. So there was no person other person - another person from Vlakplaas who did tell us about that group.

MR GOOISAN:

So you are aware of a report that Joe made to De Kock about this group.

10 **MR MBELO:**

Yes I am aware of that - of that fact.



MR GOOISAN:

And what was the content of that report?

MR MBELO:

15 I don't know Joe's report to De Kock.

MR GOOISAN:

But you are aware of the fact that Joe made a report after he tried to infiltrate the group? You just told us that.

20

MR MBELO:

What I am saying is that - is not Joe who told me that he infiltrate, the - when I was sleeping with this - with this group, they told me that there is a person called Joe, they shot him with a dog tag, that he is a policeman.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

So I am trying to understand how this works, Joe was also part of Vlakplaas and you were part of Vlakplaas. But you didn't know that Joe had gone in there before, they didn't tell you that look here Sergeant Mbelo you know at that time you were a constable. They didn't say that look here, other people
10 have tried to get into this group and they didn't succeed, so you are going on this mission, they didn't give you that information.

MR MBELO:

No at Vlakplaas you would not - you would not be told about what has been done by the other person, and even - even what you do, you will not tell
15 other people so it's how it worked at Vlakplaas.

MR GOOISAN:

Now let us get to the thing because we've established from you that when you failed too - or you do the initial infiltration, and that you withdrew yourself and then Eric and Jimmy got involved and they took it further, they
20 went in there with AK47's and they gave weekly report to Bellingham and

then what kind of preparation was being made at Koeberg regarding this operation? What kind of discussions were going on there around this particular operation?

MR MBELO:

5 At Koeberg they would not be explained about what - about the preparations of - of an incident or of an act. The - all the preparations were done at the office.

MS GOBODO:

Ms Barends.

10 **MS BARENDs:**

So when you left the group, you stayed in Cape Town, you did not return to headquarters is that correct?

MR MBELO:

That's correct, I stayed here in Cape Town.

15 **MS BARENDs:**

Why did you stay in Cape Town and not return to Pretoria?

MR MBELO:

We were going to work the whole month in Cape Town and I couldn't go back and leave the group behind.

20

MS BAREND:

Was this the group that use to patrol with you?

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

5 **MS BAREND:**

Were you aware that something may happen and you would need to stay here so that you could participate in anything that would be planned?

MR MBELO:

We were deployed here so we would just leave with unfinished business. I
10 was aware that some of our members were infiltrating so we had to wait for them to come back. We were waiting for the results of what they were going to do.

MS BAREND:

And had you been involved in such a mission before ... **end of Tape 2, side**

15 **B ...** [indistinct] coming from Askari's who had infiltrated groups?

MR MBELO:

No.

MR GOOISAN:

Just on this note Sergeant Mbelo, there were other operations that were
20 similar to this, right any of you?

MR MBELO:

That's correct

MR GOOISAN:

And do you remember Operation Zero Zero.

5 **MR MBELO:**

No.

MR GOOISAN:

Maybe let me go over with you, it's an incident that occurred in which some people died, about eight people died as a result of hand grenades that were
10 given to them in and these were people from Kwatemba, Tsikani, Duduza etcetera, it happened in 1985. Do you remember that incident?

MR MBELO:

Ja I know the incident, but I only learned later when Mamasela was revealing the truth, but before we didn't have any light that such things were
15 conducted by them.

MR GOOISAN:

But there were many operations of this nature I mean which was being conducted by Vlakplaas right?

20

MR MBELO:

Vlakplaas was involved in many things some of them are cropping up now, some of them we don't even - we did not know that they were done by our members.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

Okay now let's talk about what your members did do on the day. So the night before the operation, we trying to understand there was a meeting that took place, were you in that meeting to discuss what was going to happen, how police were going to respond to this supposed ambush that was going to take place.

MR MBELO:

I was at Wingfield I was present.

MR GOOISAN:

That was the night before, I am not talking about the meeting that happened at 3:00 am, I am talking about the meeting that happened the night before.

MR MBELO:

I didn't know anything about the meeting the night before, I only knew of the meeting at Wingfield.

MR GOOISAN:

20 So that's the meeting at 3:00 am.

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

MR GOOISAN:

And that included Liebenberg and maybe tell us who was in charge of that
5 meeting and who was there from your prospective you must have
recognized this - the people - you must have known who was there, so give
us a sense of who was at that meeting, 3:00 am at Wingfield on the day that
this incident happened.

MR MBELO:

10 There was an officer from Murder and Robbery.

MR GOOISAN:

Yes.

MR MBELO:

There was an officer from Riot Squad - there were many officers - they
15 were about five in all.

MR GOOISAN:

Did you know Adolf Odendal?

MR MBELO:

I didn't know Odendal maybe if I can see him, I can identify him, because I
20 didn't know the names of all the people who attended the meeting.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay you said that there were people from Murder and Robbery, let me put it to you, that the person who was in charge of the Riot Squad, who was at te Riot Squad people at Wingfield do you know, can you say that, that
5 person was there?

MR MBELO:

Yes the commander was there.

MR GOOISAN:

H was from the Riot Squad?

10 **MR MBELO:**

That's correct, the Riot Squad was represented on that night.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay now that particular person has told us in a public hearing that he was in charge, so the person in your view who was in charge, was that person
15 from the Riot Squad?

MR MBELO:

That's correct according to my knowledge he is the person.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay now - so you were there, was Bellingan in that meeting?

20

MR MBELO:

Yes he was there.

MR GOOISAN:

And Liebenberg?

5 **MR MBELO:**

He was present.

MR GOOISAN:

And the then Captain Kleyn from Murder and Robbery.

MR MBELO:

10 He was there.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay and do you remember anybody else that you can tell us about.

MR MBELO:

Nobela was amongst the present members, he was a constable at that time,

15 he was from Pretoria.

MR GOOISAN:

Nobela was [indistinct] he was patrolling with you?

MR MBELO:

That's correct.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Okay now, what form did the meeting place - take and can you tell us a little bit about what was discussed at that meeting at 3:00 am because we need to understand that.

5 **MR MBELO:**

There was a map of the vicinity where the shooting took place. It was discussed that the people who were going to attack should position themselves. Truly speaking it wasn't discussed at all that those people should be go and arrested, it was said we should take them out. We should

10 **sweep** them and according to my knowledge to **sweep** a person is to kill him.



MR GOOISAN:

Okay, who gave - who was the person who was leading that part of the discussion?

15 **MR MBELO:**

We used ranks in the police, the highest rank will always be the leader then ranks will come accordingly.

MR GOOISAN:

So who had the highest rank in that - I am trying to understand who had the
20 highest rank, was it the guy from the Riot Squad, the guy from Murder and

Robbery, the guy from the Security Police. Who had the highest rank in that meeting?

MR MBELO:

I think Liebenberg - Liepie was a captain during those years and he also had
5 an input and he also gave Security Branch point of view and others from the Riot Squad were also given their views. But I don't remember who had the highest rank.

MR GOOISAN:

Maybe let me put it to you that a major is higher than a lieutenant.

10 **MR MBELO:**

And a captain.



MR GOOISAN:

And a captain, so the major in that meeting would have been what - Major Brazelle, Major Odendal - do you remember of these names?

15 **MR MBELO:**

Ja Brazelle - I remember Brazelle yes - so I remember that they were called by their ranks, those were the people chairing at the meeting, because they had higher ranks than anyone who was in that room. They were even higher than Liebenberg an Balletjies.

20

MR GOOISAN:

But Liebenberg and Balletjies had a very important input into the meeting - yes.

MR MBELO:

5 Yes, because they were handling the people who were send to help them, so they were actually talking on behalf of the whole group and they were even saying many inputs and they were instructing - the officers were instructed by Liebenberg and Balletjies as to their needs.

MR GOOISAN:

10 Did they tell - did they tell those people because you have to - let me put it to you that Eric Maluleke and Jimmy Mbani are still with these people from KTC, who are involved, did they give you a description that Eric will be wearing this clothes and their people will be wearing this clothes. Did they discuss the route that they will be taking, talk to us about the particulars
15 about what they told you regarding how this thing will take place and whether there was description of your own people.

MR MBELO:

We were not told as to what kind of clothes will our people be wearing but the meeting was called and we were told that no there are two of our people
20 in that car. The whole idea was to protect Jimmy and Eric because I

remember after the shooting Jimmy and Eric ran and Balletjies shouted don't shoot the tall man, Jimmy was a very tall man and himself and Eric managed to escape.

We were not told - we were not given any description, but there
5 would be - the attackers would be in a position to identify Jimmy and Eric and Jimmy and Eric were already informed to run away as soon as the shooting starts.

MS GOBODO:

Sorry I just want to say at this point that we going to break for lunch for
10 fifteen minutes, but before that - what I want to understand - what I want to understand as you speaking is, you took these people who were coming - who were coming with the police, who are going to follow up the attack, what is not explained is this attack, who planned this attack.

We understand that at the beginning there were your own people
15 who were Jimmy and Eric - who inflated this gang, is that so? Therefore I want you to explain what I want you to explain is that this attack - who planned this attack because you say that your team has infiltrated the KTC group so that it will be possible that it was the one who did that. But you - it was not explained who was possible for the explained who was
20 responsible for the planning - for the planning of this - of the attack.

MR MBELO:

The planning and the attack at KTC I would never be in a position to tell who came up with the idea. I really can't tell, it only came to our ears, this is them, this is going to take place, I am not clear who's idea was it to
5 attack.

MS GOBODO:

But according to your thinking or according to your knowledge to the operation of Vlakplaas, who - who might it be who came up with this idea, because you came from the other side, that is the Transvaal and operate in
10 this area - and here is an operation it has to be executed if you - if you just think who came up with this.



MR MBELO:

To be very honest with you supplying these people with the bullets - this - they knew what was going to happen. I think this became their game until
15 the attack - I don't want to say I saw it coming or I heard that it was planned. I think it was just drastically planned.

MS GOBODO:

Mr Ntsebeza wants to say something.

20

ADV NTSEBEZA:

[indistinct] maybe more than likely that the people who were at Khyaelitsha or I mean at KTC, this 7 people were initially ordinary people who got encouraged and [indistinct] to plan an attack on the police - when it was
5 not an in fact the original idea. I know we are speculating but is that a possibility.

MR MBELO:

There is that kind of a possibility.

MS GOBODO:

10 Thank you - advocate Potgieter.

ADV POTGIETER:



Sergeant Mbelo what I am interested in, is that at the meeting at Wingfield at that morning meeting with officers and yourself and your colleagues from Vlakplaas. Everybody present at that meeting, was left under no illusion, it
15 was made clear that these people had to be taken, there is no question of arrest.

MR MBELO:

It was easy to arrest these people because Jimmy and Eric would take the police to that house and those people would be arrested. But according to

me when you ambush a person, you intend killing the person. Because you can't say wait and then you come and arrest me no.

ADV POTGIETER:

[indistinct] there was no question - you - there was no instruction given to
5 any of the police there to arrest these people.

MR MBELO:

No instruction to arrest those people.

ADV POTGIETER:

So there was a clear understanding that these people would be shot and
10 taken out.

MR MBELO:

That was clear.



MS GOBODO:

I don't know if you would like to consult with everyone about the time, I
15 wonder if we - if you going to start separate line of questioning or if you should break now for lunch - same line - who is it, Ms Barends.

MS BAREND:

Who was the person who gave the instruction at that meeting, where -
which section of the police did this person come from. And what was the
20 kind of discussion that took place, what was the feedback from Murder and

Robbery if they said anything. From the Riot Squad from Bellingan, what were people saying?

MR MBELO:

I won't quote the words one by one, but the instruction was mainly from the
5 Special Branch because Balletjies and Liepie were scared that the two
people they send, will be identified by the group they have infiltrated.

MS GOBODO:

Mark Killian.

MR KILLIAN:

10 Now you've stated that Jimmy and Eric did take as you said the police to
the house to show them where these people - yes he said Jimmy and Eric
took the police to the house and so they could have been arrested.

MR MBELO:

Sorry I said if it was the intention of the police to arrest these people, it
15 would be easy for Jimmy and Eric to take the police to that house so that
these people can be arrested, that's what I said.

MR KILLIAN:

Humbles apologies - so in other words were there weekly reports, the police
- we presume that Liebenberg and Bellingan knew already where these
20 people were staying.

MR MBELO:

That's correct, Jimmy reported this matter, so it was known that this group was staying in that house. If the advocate wasn't charged he would send the police to arrest that group even before anything could be planned - and you
5 also infiltrated that same group, so you knew exactly where they were staying - you even stayed there that night.

MR MBELO:

Yes, I knew their house, if it was their safe house, I would have seen their safe house there.

10 **MS GOBODO:**

Mr Ntsebeza.



ADV NTSEBEZA:

Now from what you are saying - now the evidence that you have given here today - would you say these people were not arrested because they were
15 sleeping in different places. The police indicated when we asked them - yes I heard such a thing but I want to say they are lying, they had their own people in their group. Two people who infiltrated, it was easy for them to track them down.

20

MS GOBODO:

We will break for lunch - we will come back 2 o'clock - let us come back at half past one. Thank you so much - it's in the boardroom on the same floor where we had tea - thank you advocate Potgieter and Mr Ntsebeza have
5 arrived. We just wished you welcome to the interpreters team - Thokoti Badisa joined the team now and welcome back again sergeant Mbelo - welcome everybody, the proceedings resume, Mr Gooisan.

MR GOOISAN:

Sergeant Mbelo did you have a good lunch>

10 **MR MBELO:**

Yes I had lunch.



MR GOOISAN:

Ja it was good to be with you this morning and we appreciate that you have taken the time to share a lot of information with us and we hope that in this
15 afternoons session we can proceed in the same way because you have been very helpful and that is appreciated.

To proceed directly to the matter at hand, when we left off we had discussed the planning meeting at 3:00 now just before we get into anything else, can you discuss with us how people were organized, who - what was

the plan that was set up in terms of who would be aware and who would do what during this entire operation?

MR MBELO:

Whilst we in Wingfield in the morning, as I have already explained that was a plan of where NY1 was joining NY11 where there were trees and a few buildings that will hostel like. A gentleman from the Riot Squad who were chosen so that they should hide in these - in the intersection of these two streets. I would not say people were specifically told where to go, but it just said that groups will be situated on particular areas. We in the Kombi, our duty was support another Kombi that we had information that it was stolen and we were to attack as planned.



MR GOOISAN:

Now when you talk about - let's talk about - a little bit about this particular plan. I want to ask just the Commissioners if it's possible if we can produce a map and maybe you can help us with that map.

MS GOBODO:

That is fine, you can do that.

MR GOOISAN:

I don't have the map of that particular area here with me.

20

MR GOOISAN:

We have a map of that particular area and how things were that day, so maybe you can help us with this - it is being brought to you by Investigator Killian.

5 **MS GOBODO:**

Can you just make sure that Sergeant Mbelo understands the map.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay.

UNKNOWN COMMISSIONER:

10 Can you put it up on the wall.

MR GOOISAN:

Sergeant Mbelo



MS GOBODO:

Please excuse me is it possible to put it up on the wall so that we can all see
15 as he identifies the particular spots - can you do that, or do you have a stand, a tripod stand, I am sure we can find one in the next room. But meanwhile if he - perhaps if Sergeant Mbelo can familiarize himself with - with the details of the map.

20

MR MBELO:

By looking at this map I see that this is a clear set out of how things were and I clearly understand it.

MS GOBODO:

5 Thank you very good - thank you. Mark Killian is just going to hang it up so that we can all see as you point out the various places, thank you Mark. Mr Gooisan.

MR GOOISAN:

10 Okay Sergeant Mbelo have you taken a moment to familiarize yourself with that map.

MR MBELO:

Yes I have.



MR GOOISAN:

15 Okay that area that marks the area towards the bridge, I think you move down from there and then you have the intersection there NYY11 - NY 1 - right you have the intersection.

MR MBELO:

Yes I see it.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Okay can you tell us where exactly your vehicle was stationed or where exactly in that entire operation you were positioned.

MR MBELO:

5 I would like to find out whether is Mr Gooisan referring to the time of the shooting incident because the car that I am going to mention now stood there during the shooting.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay then for that purposes maybe what we'll do is we'll come back to the
10 map. I want to - I want to actually get a sense of where people were positioned, when you left Wingfield you were told to position yourself in various places. Now you've informed us that for instance the Riot Squad would be placed at that intersection there, this side of NY1 to my right and to I guess to your left at that intersection that's where the Riot Squad were
15 positioned.

Where were the others positioned, I just want to get [indistinct] if you can just talk little bit about how people were positioned before the whole thing actually became an incident itself.

20

MR MBELO:

According to the plan as we were planning in Wingfield, people were told to stand against these trees because our duty their was to spot the Kombi that was stolen in previous days. I would not specifically say who stood where according to the plan, but what I know is that people were suppose to hind
5 behind the trees.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay so maybe let me put it another way to you - you see that map and the area, you know the area - were the policeman who were part of this particular operation - were they positioned at - at every major area in and
10 out of that area. I am trying to find out how much of the area was covered by policeman.

MR MBELO:

The policeman had positioned themselves in the hostel area, they were
15 hiding in the bush there in tall grasses where it's written TS and R. They hit specifically along those trees and that's where some of the policeman were positioned ... end of Tape 3, side A ...

20

MR GOOISAN:

We wont want to go to deep into that, but let's just go - let's just say now you - what time did you and the people that you were with arrive at that place?

5 **MR MBELO:**

When we - when we arrived there we already called to withdraw because the Kombi that we were suppose attack was already at the station. And the time when we were withdrawing and we were - and the cars were dispersing our Kombi came from NY111 up to the position marked A and
10 that is where we saw Chris and his friends walking there. And we told some of colleagues that Chris and his friends are already there in that - in the scene and we went around NY111 and we use around about way to appear in NY1 again. And when I went passed the position marked F, somebody appeared from the corner who was shooting a car that was
15 parked on position J, that is where I was - I parked the car, I was driving in position J.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay sergeant Mbelo just maybe what I am trying to understand is I don't want us to get to the actual shooting incident - let's talk about before the
20 incident. I want to know who was there - for instance the people or Murder

and Robbery, they were on the scene already. What time did people arrive at Guguletu because you were at Wingfield at 3:00 am and then when - then you went to Guguletu, that's correct - no?

MR MBELO:

- 5 Yes we left Wingfield in the morning, and we positioned ourselves that was still in the morning - it was before seven o'clock it was - it was early around about half past six - half past five - six o'clock in the morning that's when we positioned but myself we were patrolling, we were not positioned at a definite area, but we were just patrolling.

10 **MR GOOISAN:**

Yes so that's you and how many people did you have with you in your car?

MR MBELO:

It was four of us in the Kombi it was myself, Nopela and two other gentleman from Riots Squad, Meshewu.

15 **MR MBELO:**

Do you know their names?

MR MBELO:

No that was the first time I saw them.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Okay and the people from Murder and Robbery, they were on the scene the same time.

MR MBELO:

5 Yes because they were there in Wingfield during the planning session.

MR GOOISAN:

Did people from the Riot Squad they were there?

MR MBELO:

Yes, they are the one who participated in - in the major planning at three
10 o'clock in the morning.

MR GOOISAN:

And the Casspir vehicle it was already there at that time, the Casspir that was in the bushes, when did that come there?

MR MBELO:

15 That Casspir arrived when people were taking their respective positions behind the trees. Because the Casspir it's used by the Riot Squad, the **hippo** transported them from Wingfield up to where they positioned themselves.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Okay now you told us this morning that at Wingfield there was a very intense planning session and that they were planning that these people should be eliminated, right? No to follow that on, what did - what was
5 decided would be the signal to begin the shooting?

MR MBELO:

That decision was not taken as to how will we start the shooting, they just said that the events will just lead to the shooting. Because the main thing that was anticipated was that these people will be traveling in this Kombi.

10 **MR GOOISAN:**

Okay now where - Bellingan was on the scene too, what was Bellingan doing in the whole time before this whole thing happened - Bellingan and the people that were with him in the car he was in.

MR MBELO:

15 I was not there when they started shooting, I was not near Bellingan but what I heard afterwards is that they were trying to withdraw, they were still in the car when the shooting started.

Oh! let me go further now, you say that you were expecting to find a stolen vehicle that would be the vehicle that you would be aiming for right, is that
20 correct.

MR MBELO:

Yes it is so.

MR GOOISAN:

Was there any other vehicle that you were also expecting to be on that
5 scene?

MR MBELO:

No other vehicle because Jimmy, they were not going to use the very same
car that they normally use for that specific operation.

MR GOOISAN:

10 Okay there was no other vehicle provided to these people - I am trying to
understand if there was another Kombi that you were trying too - that was
part of this thing - or another minibus or mini van or anything like that.

MR MBELO:

There was a Kombi that was given to Jimmy and Eric, they were - that they
15 were using to infiltrate the KTC area to do their operations in KTC area.
They were not going to use that Kombi because it was a State property, they
wouldn't allow it to be shot.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Okay so - so then everybody was aware of the fact that there was going to be one Kombi that they were using, one vehicle that these people were using and that in this vehicle would be Eric and Jimmy is that correct?

5 **MR MBELO:**

Eric and Jimmy they are - their are planned for that day I am not aware of it. But I doubt as to whether they were going to use their car because it was not at that scene at that time.

MR GOOISAN:

10 Are you talking about the stolen vehicle or the vehicle that was allegedly stolen?



MR MBELO:

I am talking about the vehicle that was provided for Jimmy and Eric, it was not there.

15 **MR GOOISAN:**

And the other vehicle - the vehicle that they would be traveling in, would then be the stolen vehicle, is that correct?

MR MBELO:

Yes sir.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Now who would be driving that vehicle?

MR MBELO:

It would be driven by one of Jimmy's group, the group that they had already
5 infiltrated.

MR GOOISAN:

So Jimmy would be driving that vehicle or Eric would be driving that
vehicle, I am trying to understand.

MR MBELO:

10 As to their plan and the vehicle I am not aware of it, but I think that they
would be using that car because they had already infiltrated that group. But
I would not personally drive that Kombi if I knew what was going to happen
to it.

But they were not inside that Kombi during the shooting. They were
15 walking along the trees with a certain group of people.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay now lets actually get to when the thing started. You were on the site
when the very thing began - now lets talk about - take us through your
understanding of what happened in the entire incident, just give us an

account from beginning to end from the first shooting until all the bodies were down, 7 bodies were down.

Can you explain to us what happened there.

MR MBELO:

5 The first shooting I can see personally I heard only you know the sound when I was turning at Dairy Belle then it's then that I heard the first gunshots, when I turned around, Dairy Belle to enter NY1 taking the site - the direction to the bridge, I was at the corner and then one - one person alighted from the car, from the Riot Squad and he stand next to Dairy Belle
10 hostel.

We passed through to - I couldn't see other people there, but I think they were hiding behind the trees. Those I've seen when they were falling, it was Chris, he was lying at the position D and Zabu at position C. I saw Chris when he was shot and falling and he was shot with multiple bullets.

15 And Jabu when he was falling I was not able to see him, because he was already lying down when I passed there - other - other people.

Even when we stopped - this Kombi which is, with [indistinct] of 8 it hasn't arrived yet. This Kombi arrived later after we stopped at position J and alighted from the car. It's then that, that Kombi came back and there
20 was - there was shooting, we were not able to see what was happening then

and the sliding door was on the opposite side, it was a panel van - it was a Kombi which is a panel van.

So I was not able to see what was happening inside. There was shooting just around that Kombi. After that he - when I said I shot a person at position K, this man arrived then he was - he was holding his hands high and he was giving himself up - he was speaking in Xhosa. Then he said he would take us to other people where they were. Another white person, who amongst those who were there, then said shoot that person. Is then that I shot him on the head - when he fell that white person again he said you are shooting shit, then he shot him on the stomach.

The person I am talking has two bullet shots the other one are from the stomach to the shoulder.

MR GOOISAN:

And now that, that's those people over there now, can you explain did you see any other shooting, I am trying to understand the whole incident you know all the bodies that were down was anybody for instance shot inside that vehicle?

20

MR MBELO:

Yes there were those who were shot inside those Kombi, another person's corpse was found inside the Kombi and there - another one was shot by Balletjies.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

Balletjies shot him inside the vehicle?

MR MBELO:

Yes he shot them right inside the car. I think there were two or maybe there was one, I am not sure.

10 **MR GOOISAN:**

And a lot of these people were they shot from far or at close range?

MR MBELO:

Others were shot at short range, others at long range, those who were shot at the forest were those who were trying to run away and they were running

15 towards the direction of the police who were hiding themselves there.

MR GOOISAN:

So they were basically running directly into an ambush.

MR MBELO:

Yes sir.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Now let us understand the issue of the weapons. Did you see anybody with guns in their hands, firing, shooting wildly at police, putting your life in danger - things like that.

5 **MR MBELO:**

Yes - as I said they - Chris was having an AK and he was - and he was shooting and putting your life in danger - things like that.

MR MBELO:

Ja - as I said Chris was having an AK and h was shooting and Jabu and -
10 but other people I don't have the real you know eyewitness account as whether they had guns.



MR GOOISAN:

Okay, I just want to ask you one other question that relates to this - now in the middle of all this shooting before the shooting started did you exchange
15 any comments over any police radio with anybody regarding what was about to happen or what was happening?

MR MBELO:

Yes I did explain that the [indistinct] has arrived at the scene.

MR GOOISAN:

20 [indistinct] who received that message and who responded to you?

MR MBELO:

Nobody answered back, I spoke through the radio, and all the cars had radio's and had heard that and they went to that direction which I pointed out. Because I saw them, then I passed through, so all those cars which had
5 radio's went to that direction which I pointed out.

MR GOOISAN:

So okay, Zenariah - Ms Barends would like to ask you a couple of questions.

BS BARENDSB;

10 So you actually informed the people on the scene that Chris and the others had arrived, it was you that informed everybody is that correct?

MR MBELO:

That's true.

MS BARENDS:

15 And is it then that they started moving towards these people?

MR MBELO:

That's true because at that time cars were withdrawing and when I said here - here are coming to the intersection they then - all those cars went towards that point and that I was going through Dairy Belle and coming the other
20 side.

MS GOBODO:

Thank you - **[Speaking Xhosa]** in the morning - Kleyn - **[Speaking Xhosa]** the Murder and Robbery Squad. I think Mr Gooisan **[Speaking Xhosa]** Klein **[Speaking Xhosa]**

5 **MR MBELO:**

Brazelle or?

MS GOBODO:

Kleyn.

MR MBELO:

10 Kleynhans or Kleyn.

MS GOBODO:



Kleyn - sorry Kleyn - **[Speaking Xhosa]** Murder and Robbery Squad, **[Speaking Xhosa]** Do you understand English?

MR MBELO:

15 Yes we do. We understand ourselves so we...[intervention]

MS GOBODO:

Okay that's - you say that when they arrived - when they arrived do you remember where Kleyn were at that time?

MR MBELO:

I don't know where he was - I don't remember where he was - I remember after when they said - they left somebody to throw a hand grenade that's what I heard after the shooting.

5 **MS GOBODO:**

You are the person who said here they are, they are coming, is then that you heard gunshots?

MR MBELO:

Yes that's true. Something I heard a bang that somebody was - something
10 was exploding.

MS GOBODO:

It did - it didn't happen at the same time?

MR MBELO:

It took - it took seconds then...[intervention]

15 **MS GOBODO:**

After you told them that they are coming.

MR MBELO:

Yes.

20

MS GOBODO:

What I want to understand is this - this cars dispersed and people were dispersing - what made them to disperse on the scene because I don't understand that they were dispersing truly or something was happening or
5 was it a [indistinct]?

MR MBELO:

The reason is because they the people - the people the car with which officers were there is safe and therefore there will be nothing happening.

MS GOBODO:

10 By your knowledge with assessment of the situation, do you think that, that was genuine when they said let's leave by your knowledge.

MR MBELO:

Yes it was genuine, they were withdrawing yes they did - they were doing.

MS GOBODO:

15 Mr Gooisan.

MR GOOISAN:

Sergeant Mbelo I just want to be very clear about the fact is - that is when you met at Wingfield it was decided to be very clearly we don't want to mince words here, we want to be very clear. It was decided that these

people are not going to be arrested, they going to be shot - that's the first point is that correct?

MR MBELO:

That is true, because it did show itself by the person whom I - he was - he was giving up then I told them that this person said he will take us to the people - to other people, then that person said shoot this person.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay so - and - and from the way I understand it, at no time did you actually see anybody throw a grenade as such.

10 **MR MBELO:**

By that time I was not in a position to see what was happening.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay - and the moment you were actually engaged in this is when you actually participated directly in the shooting. The shooting of the person that you just pointed us to - at I think at JOK - somewhere around there right.

MR MBELO:

That's true.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Okay now - do I understand clearly the other people the - the other people who were being shot now inside the vehicle, you say one of them was shot by Bellingan.

5 **MR MBELO:**

Ja.

MR GOOISAN:

Now who was with Bellingan when that happened?

MR MBELO:

10 When this was happening I don't remember who accompanied, who was together with Bellingan. This - this be one [indistinct] to the positions then we had to go around within the locations to monitor after the shooting Bellingan was right at that point.

MR GOOISAN:

15 You say Bellingan over there and now those people running towards the bush they are running into a group of policeman, is that correct?

MR MBELO:

That's true.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Okay now, those people that are running towards that bush they were not armed, or were they armed?

MR MBELO:

5 I was not able to see, because there were confusion at that time.

MR GOOISAN:

Brenda Holmes would like to ask you a question.

MS HOLMES:

Were there involvement of the Vlakplaas mentioned at the planning meeting
10 the morning to the men?

MR MBELO:

During the planning meeting they didn't mentioned that there are people
from Vlakplaas, they just said there are people from Pretoria who will help
us with inflation. The officers who were there new Vlakplaas well, because
15 they are interacting with the officers from Vlakplaas.

MS HOLMES:

Do you know who the people were who was supposed to attack the group,
were they from Murder and Robbery or the Riot Squad ?

20

MR MBELO:

In this kind of situations Riot Squad is used, other units were there - was there just to help with manpower.

MS GOBODO:

5 Advocate Potgieter.

ADV POTGIETER:

Thank you Chairperson. Sergeant Barrel let just step back a little bit, just go through this thing. Before the shooting started you were traveling in NY111 and at one point where AE'S is on the plan you saw Chris and the others, is

10 that correct?

MR MBELO:

That's true.



ADV POTGIETER:

How were you - in what direction were you moving in NY111, can you show is it from left to right, or from right to left as you are looking at that plan.

MR MBELO:

When I look at the map I was coming from the right direction to the left direction.

20

ADV POTGIETER:

[indistinct] as vehicle A as showing on that plan, from right to left.

MR MBELO:

That's true.

5 **ADV POTGIETER:**

Good, now then you saw Chris now how many people did you actually see at that stage?

The people who were there were 5, I was able to recognize Chris because I met him before.

10 **ADV POTGIETER:**

And where were those people - they I assume they were walking.

MR MBELO:

That's true, they were walking on foot, that's right sir.

ADV POTGIETER:

15 And where on which side of the street of NY111 were they walking?

I'll stand up and point out on the map

ADV POTGIETER:

Thank you very much.

MR MBELO:

They were moving from where I am pointing to the intersection it was on that side of the road.

ADV POTGIETER:

- 5 Pointing out that they were walking on the side of the bushes of NY111 not the side of the building, not the side of the hostel but on the other side of the road.

MR MBELO:

That's true they were walking on the forests.

- 10 **ADV POTGIETER:**

Were you driving the vehicle that you were traveling in.



MR MBELO:

Yes, I was driving that Kombi.

ADV POTGIETER:

- 15 So they were on your side of the Kombi

MR MBELO:

Yes they were on my side.

ADV POTGIETER:

Did you see, did you notice whether they had anything with them?

MR MBELO:

I was not able to see what they had, because they put their hands in their pockets and others in their trousers.

ADV POTGIETER:

5 So there is nothing you didn't - you didn't see anything that was exposed, they might have been hiding something but there was nothing that was exposed that they were carrying that you saw?

MR MBELO:

There was nothing which was exposed.

10 **ADV POTGIETER:**

And they were - they were walking in the same direction as you were traveling from right to left on the plan?

MR MBELO:

That's true.

15 **ADV POTGIETER:**

So you then carried on, you went over - or did you turn into the intersection - did you go - did you cross NY1 or did you turn into NY1?

MR MBELO:

I crossed NY1 then I went - I went at the back of Dairy Belle there is
20 another road which I - there the other side of the NY111 which I used.

ADV POTGIETER:

So you were - if one looks at the plan you were carrying on from right to left in NY111 and at some stage pass that intersection with NY1 you turned left okay and then you turned left again.

5 **MR MBELO:**

I - then I used on the left on the road.

ADV POTGIETER:

To get back into NY1.

MR MBELO:

10 NY1 ja.

ADV POTGIETER:

And to move towards - again towards the intersection?

MR MBELO:

That's true.

15 **ADV POTGIETER:**

Now at some point when you were doing that round about you heard the - did you hear the firing - shooting and explosion?

MR MBELO:

That's true sir?

20

ADV POTGIETER:

Now you back in NY1 and you moving from the bottom to the top of the plan towards that intersection, is it correct?

MR MBELO:

5 That's true.

ADV POTGIETER:

Now which - which of these people did you then see as you were moving towards the intersection?

MR MBELO:

10 If I repeat for the second time.

ADV POTGIETER:

Yes please.

MR MBELO:

At [indistinct] when I arrived at the intersection, I went to CB.

15 **ADV POTGIETER:**

When you arrived at the intersection, would you just repeat that please?

You got to the intersection what happened?

20

MR MBELO:

When I came nearer to the intersection, I was able to see the person who lying - the one that who was lying at FD. I saw people who were running and that person fall - fell where - at FD.

5 **ADV POTGIETER:**

Is it ET - it's cut off ja at the bottom here, so...[intervention]

MR MBELO:

That is not quite visible - so I am sorry.

ADV POTGIETER:

10 So - now that person was it Chris or who was he?

MR MBELO:

Yes it's Chris who was lying there.

ADV POTGIETER:

When you saw him for the first time, was he already lying?

15 **MR MBELO:**

He was - he was coming and shooting and - and he was being shot, he was shooting and he was shot and that is why he fell. Then Jabu at CBB he was already lying on the ground.

20

ADV POTGIETER:

[indistinct] did you see any from your - from the side of the police, did you see who was shooting back at Chris when he was shooting himself?

MR MBELO:

- 5 Chris didn't shoot himself, he was shot and the other one is a gun which is able to shoot at a distance so they are able to shoot at a distance.

ADV POTGIETER:

Okay but the point is you didn't see who shot Chris?

MR MBELO:

- 10 Yes I don't know who shot Chris and I think it was - many guns who did that.



ADV POTGIETER:

So - so we've got Chris and we've got the person at point CB.

MR MBELO:

- 15 CB.

ADV POTGIETER:

Now at that stage when you were moving into the intersection, this vehicle H wasn't there yet.

20

MR MBELO:

After I have packed my car when I moved out of the drivers seat and that -
the door on the drivers seat was not able to open up, so I used the passenger
seat. When I went out of that car, that Kombi arrived. I saw it when it
5 passed then from there I heard gunshots ... **end of Tape 3, side B ...**

ADV POTGIETER:

[indistinct] is who is involved in the shooting, which happened at this
vehicle H.

MR MBELO:

10 Yes that's true.

ADV POTGIETER:

That's where the person was shot inside the vehicle.

MR MBELO:

That's true.

15 **ADV POTGIETER:**

Now when you go outside your vehicle you saw I assume the person at
point K. That was the one that was surrendering?

MR MBELO:

That's true.

20

ADV POTGIETER:

So that was the - that was the only other one that you - that you saw of this group of people. Was this one at point K, now was he coming towards you or were you going towards him or what - how did that scene happen?

5 **MR MBELO:**

He was standing and holding his hands up.

ADV POTGIETER:

Speaking in Xhosa or what was he doing?

MR MBELO:

10 Yes he was speaking Xhosa saying I'll show you were others were. So I translated to - to tell others.



ADV POTGIETER:

And can you still remember who - I assume you were translating for the white police to understand what he was saying?

15 **MR MBELO:**

That's true.

ADV POTGIETER:

Can you still remember which of the white police were present there when you were translating or were they unknown ones or what?

20

MR MBELO:

It was members of the Riot Unit, those are the people who usually say **skiet die ding**, shoot this person. Then after - after I shot I said you are shooting shit, then he took an R1 and that person was lying down, then he shot - he
5 shot him right on the stomach.

ADV POTGIETER:

So you - you had your pistol with you, your service pistol?

MR MBELO:

Yes, that's true.

10 **ADV POTGIETER:**

And when this one - presumably a member of the Riot Unit said well **skiet hom** shoot him, then you shot him in the head and he fell.

MR MBELO:

Ja I shoot him on the head - then he fell - he fell down.

15 **ADV POTGIETER:**

And then that person who said to you, you must shoot, said well you were not shooting properly and then he came and he shot the person the second time.

MR MBELO:

20 R1.

ADV POTGIETER:

R1 - with the R1 whilst the person was lying on the ground.

MR MBELO:

That's true.

5 **ADV POTGIETER:**

That person did he have any arm with him, the one that was surrendering -
did he have a firearm?

MR MBELO:

He was having a revolver but I - I don't remember anytime where he pulled
10 it out with his hand to show that - to show that he is trying to threaten.

ADV POTGIETER:

You say - you say he did have a revolver.

MR MBELO:

Yes that's true.

15 **ADV POTGIETER:**

Where was it on his body?

MR MBELO:

It was right in front on his trouser and he hit that with his lumber jacket and
when he raised his hands, you were able to see that revolver.

20

ADV POTGIETER:

You can't see whether he was standing with his hands up, you could - it was exposed and you could see.

MR MBELO:

5 That's true.

ADV POTGIETER:

But he never - he never attempted to pull it out?

MR MBELO:

No he didn't try - he was - he was afraid - he was scared.

10 **ADV POTGIETER:**

Okay and did you see - sorry did you see any of the shooting that happened towards the bushes on the left - top left corner of the plan as one looks at it.

MR MBELO:

When that incident happened I was - I was not able to see.

15 **ADV POTGIETER:**

Thank you very much.

MR MBELO:

Okay.

MS GOBODO:

20 Mr Gooisan.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay so from this entire incident, how long in our view did this entire thing go from the first shooting to the time that the other - the car at point H arrived, to the time that you shot this person to the time that the other people
5 were killed, how long did the whole thing go on?

MR MBELO:

I would be lying if I could tell you the exact time, but I will just estimate it might have taken ten minutes.

MR GOOISAN:

10 Ten minutes, so you- I put it to you that - that this thing started at what - at about 7:30 - 7:25 - twenty five past seven, half past seven that's when it started.

MR MBELO:

Yes it was in the morning, because usually that Kombi that's with officers
15 go via NY111 at about seven in the morning.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay, so - so this whole incident happened for about ten minutes. Now we want to get to the whole other part of this thing is when all these bodies were down, 7 bodies in all, one body at point CB, one body at point ED,

one body at point GF, one body at point KL, one body at point P, then two more bodies at T/S and Q/R - those are where the bodies are.

When all those bodies were down, were they exactly left where they were - where the people died is that how the crime scene was set up - when the shooting was finished, where everybody was shot, is that where they were left, or were bodies moved to your knowledge?

MR MBELO:

According to my knowledge the bodies that were lying at point CB and ED and K and G/F were left there until the police video arrived. Point P/Q/S I - I cannot give account as to whether - were they moved or left where they were originally. Because on that day, people who were there, even the planners of that incident were almost shot.

Everybody who was there, was being shot and I was being pointed and somebody intervened and said no that he is one of us, don't try and shoot him. It was quite a confusing situation.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay, so you were nearly shot you know - I just want to understand you know because there is one point that I am not clear on. You said that - you told us, that Bellingan shot somebody in the vehicle. Now that body is on the road, now - or where did they take the body that Bellingan shot this

person. I am trying to understand, you have to help me with this Sergeant Mbelo.

MR MBELO:

Bellingan - as they explained as to how Bellingan shot this person, he took
5 this person and he dragged this person outside and shot this person outside,
that's how this person fell on the ground.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay, what about Jimmy and Eric now, they were part of either Jimmy or
Eric was driving this vehicle - I mean how did you prevent, how did you
10 prevent them from getting shot or were they shot or what - can you help us
with that please.



MR MBELO:

I would be able to help you in that regard because I do remember that there
is an incident when Bellingan shouted to say that they mustn't shoot this -
15 this tall men, that is when Jimmy ran away.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay, what about Eric?

MR MBELO:

They were together - because they ran away together, they even left their
20 AK guns underneath the trees, they ran into the township.

MR GOOISAN:

Now after these people were shot, was there any - okay after the people were shot - are you aware of any weapons that were put on these bodies, we need to be very clear about this one Sergeant Mbelo.

5 **MR MBELO:**

There is that possibility because there is an instance when I left the scene and boarded a helicopter - when we tried to see if there are any that managed to escape and I came back after some time to the scene.

MS GOBODO:

10 And excuse me what I'd like to understand the two men Eric and Jimmy ran back into the township but they were part of the team.

MR MBELO:

Jimmy and Eric were not in our company at that time, they were moving with Chris and his gang, because they had infiltrated this - Chris group until
15 this mission. So when they escaped they were still in Chris's company.

Jimmy and Eric knew what was going to happen.

MS GOBODO:

Yes Mr Ntsebeza.

20

ADV NTSEBEZA:

Now is it possible for you on that map to indicate where Jimmy and Eric ran the direction from which they ran and in which they ran, if you can just point at the map. You can take the mic with you and actually physically

5 point out on the map - ja.

MR MBELO:

Jimmy and Eric took this direction towards the trees, they used a direction towards the trees.

ADV NTSEBEZA:

10 Where were they coming from? I just want to see they were in a vehicle all along, isn't it - did they alight from a vehicle - which just point the vehicle.

MR MBELO:

At that point in time that other Kombi came and went in that other direction, but I could not see clearly as to where this other Kombi came from. It's

15 possible that they alighted and fled towards this direction.

ADV NTSEBEZA:

When saw them, were they getting out of the Kombi or did you see them after [indistinct]

20

MR MBELO:

They were already fleeing, that is when Balletjies shouted say don't shoot the tall man, at that time I was here.

ADV NTSEBEZA:

5 H'm oh! I see okay.

MS GOBODO:

Okay.

MR GOOISAN:

Ms Barends.

10 **MS BARENDs:**

Sergeant Mbelo - when they ran was the person that Balletjies shot still in the vehicle, was he pulled out after Jimmy and Eric ran away or while they were in the vehicle?

MR MBELO:

15 That man was shot inside the van and he was dragged outside as I've already demonstrated, he was found in the Kombi and he was dragged outside and they were shooting him, whilst dragging him at the same time.

MS BARENDs:

Okay the question is were Jimmy and Eric still there or had they already left
20 the scene?

MR MBELO:

They were already - they had already fled. They - they alighted the vehicle while it's was in motion.

MS BAREND:

5 Okay were they known by any, were they known by those names too - Chris and that group, what names did Chris and the group know Jimmy and Eric by?

MR MBELO:

That I would not know because most of the time when they - when you
10 infiltrate, you don't use your proper names.

MR KILLIAN:

Was there any Askari's in the groups that were deployed along the route - amongst the policeman, was there any Askari's in these groups. Because from your - your statement you stated that you were only four people in your
15 Kombi, two from Vlakplaas and two Riot Unit members and you stated earlier that you were usually seven people. So were there any Askari's within this groups of the people that were deployed on the route off NY1 and NY111.

20

MR MBELO:

The time I was in the Kombi, the gentleman who was next to me was Constable Nombela that is the one who was accompanying me that morning. We met him at Vlakplaas, he is a trained police member.

5 **MR KILLIAN:**

But my question there is, was there any Askari's within the groups of the policeman, where was uncle Moss and these members you mentioned, where were they on the morning of the operation?

MR MBELO:

10 They were not present, they were not part of the operation on that day, they were left behind at Koeberg where we were staying.

MR GOOISAN:

All right Sergeant Mbelo let us go through a couple of points here, you - you cleared for us the fact that you were four in your vehicle right and now
15 how come your vehicle has those bullets or had bullet holes in it, how did those bullet holes, did some - did you guys shoot your own vehicle up or what, did you shoot bullet holes into your own vehicle?

MR MBELO:

No Chris is the one who shot our Kombi, whilst he was shooting and
20 running at the same time.

MR GOOISAN:

Ja but - so Chris was shooting at you and he was not shooting at the other people in the bush?

MR MBELO:

5 I think I was caught up in a cross fire - Chris was trying to open up his way by shooting and we were caught up in a cross fire.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay, Sergeant Bellingan at that time was driving in another vehicle right, he was with another vehicle. Were you aware Vlakplaas people usually use
10 to carry other weapons with you right, sometimes you talked about Jimmy and Eric had two AK7's - what happened to their AK47's just to be clear, I want to know about those two AK's what happened to their AK47's, that they had with them?

MR MBELO:

15 They dropped them amongst the trees whilst they were fleeing and they were found later by Balletjies whilst they were searching the open veld.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay.

BS BAREND:

20 Were they dropped just like that or what were they found with?

MR MBELO:

They just dumped them underneath the trees, because Balletjies knew that Jimmy were using those rifles and in order to attract those people they were going to infiltrate they had to use those rifles.

5 So when they fled they dropped them because should they had fled with those firearms in their possession they would have been shot.

MS BARENDS:

And at the inquest one of the Exhibits produced, one of the photographs produced had weapons wrapped in a blanket that were found in the bushes,
10 were these the same weapons that you are referring to now, or are they different weapons?



MR MBELO:

I don't know in what did they wrap Jimmy's firearms, but when they asked - when they met with Balletjies they asked him whether did he find those
15 that they left when they fled. It is possible that they - their firearms were in that lot.

MS BARENDS:

And when Bellingan found these weapons what did he do with them?

20

MR MBELO:

I don't know, I trust that he did hand in at the Murder and Robbery offices and there after I do not know what happened to them. Because those are the things that they were suppose to use as evidence that they were being
5 attacked.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay just while we on that question - Sergeant Mbelo we are in a new dispensation now, so now you - of course and this forum provides you the mechanism to actually come and present information to the Commission.

10 When you were putting together your statement, I just want to know on a technical point, who was the person who helped you write up an incorrect statement? And under who's instructions did you write up that incorrect statement?

MR MBELO:

15 At that time my commander was Balletjies, he is the one who said that my original statement be amended in order to suit the case.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay now just - now I want to go into the thing in terms of the crime scene now there are seven bodies down, from your understand and our work as - I

guess now in normal police work, that was abnormal police work, but now you are I guess are working in normal police work.

Do you think they followed procedures - real police procedures with regard to the collection of evidence and the securing of crime scene and
5 what was the role of Murder and Robbery in this securing of crime scene and the collection of evidence?

MR MBELO:

According to police law all the things that happened on this particular morning in this - in this area is not legal procedure and these inclusion of
10 Murder and Robbery at that time, according to me was just to cover the tracks of all the atrocities done on that day. Because the white people use to shield each other at that time.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay, Mark.

15 **MS GOBODO:**

Mr Killian.

MR KILLIAN:

You mentioned - you identified Chris.

MR MBELO:

20 That's true.

MR KILLIAN:

Okay but in your first statement you mentioned that you identified Mandla and Jabu - Mandela and Jabu.

MR MBELO:

5 That's true - I forgot to just to include then in my oral testimony. Those were the people who were on foot, plus the other two.

MR KILLIAN:

[indistinct] possibly write out your first statement or was this statement written for you?

10 **MR MBELO:**

The first one I did write it myself, then they said I've got to change that, it's not - it's not desirable. That is then that they drafted another statement and they - they typed that and I just attached my signature there.

MR KILLIAN:

15 So this statement that was then redrafted I see it was then affirmed or stated as to being the truth by a Major Britz, was he the one that then - that redrafted your original statement to the statement to satisfy, was that for the court proceedings?

20

MR MBELO:

It was drafted by Bellingan then Britz certified the - the truthfulness of the statement, because he was the major.

MR KILLIAN:

5 [indistinct] he was the Major, but that is not normally how procedure works with this statement is it so?

MR MBELO:

) That is normal procedure, because usually the investigator is the one who signs the - the statement which - which are taken.

10 **MR KILLIAN:**

This statement was actually then a fabrication of the true facts that actually happened on the day of he actual shooting.

MR MBELO:

That's true.

15 **MR KILLIAN:**

Thank you.

MS GOBODO:

Ms Homes.

MS HOLMES:

20 Were any other firearms or weapons found on the scene after the shooting?

MR MBELO:

On the other side - on the side of the scene I don't - I don't have - I don't have the true picture of what has happened because I didn't search there.

MR GOOISAN:

5 Okay now we won't get into things that you did not see or were not a part of. But now I want to understand very clearly - Liebenberg what was his role in the whole thing, let's get to Liebenberg because he is there at 3:00 am you informed us that he was part of that command structure that said that you should go out and that these people should be killed.

10 Now what was his role when it came down to the operation itself, explain and just give us what he was doing throughout the whole thing until he left the crime scene.



MR MBELO:

15 When these things were happening I was not in a position to look or to see who was doing what - where and what time, as I explained that there - there was a time when I left the crime scene and I went - I aborted the helicopter to look as whether there are no escapees in - in that surrounding area who were part of the group.

And Liebenberg was just like any other white policeman who were there
20 and his work in Cape Town was - were looking, he was really looking for

results. Because vans, police vans were attacked and they were not able to make a breakthrough to arrest or detain those people. I believe Liebenberg was existed that something was done since he was the leader of the Security Branch in Cape Town.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

Now you see the reason I am trying to understand this is because I am trying to understand now when all the shooting had stopped, now Liebenberg must have been on the scene - I mean before you got into that helicopter there was quite a bit of time - we talking about a significant amount of time that had elapsed from the time that 7 bodies are down to the time that you got up in that helicopter Sergeant Mbelo.

Now did you speak to Liebenberg?

MR MBELO:

No I didn't speak to him.

15 **MR GOOISAN:**

At which stage did he discuss with you guys from Vlakplaas at which stage did he meet with you and say look the job has been done, I feel satisfied.

MR MBELO:

According to me Liebenberg was the commander of the Security Branch from the start of the planning of the infiltration and the shooting.

Liebenberg was in control according to me if I was in his shoes, I was going to be happy for what has been done, because I have started this - then I've accomplished that. So he was there even after the - the shooting.

MR GOOISAN:

5 Did he say anything [indistinct] did he speak with you - did he - or any other members of Vlakplaas on that day of the operation after it was all over.

MR MBELO:

No what he did was to identify who knows and whom he doesn't know
10 among - among the bodies. He was a friend to Balletjies and we didn't make decisions and Balletjies and other commanders were making decisions when we were in Cape Town.

MS GOBODO:

[indistinct] you giving the impression that Liebenberg was desperate to - to
15 have someone killed and so that he can get credit for having cracked down on - on something that was happening in the township, am I right to say that?

MR MBELO:

Ms Gobodo you are right, if I was in his shoes, if there is no breakthrough
20 I'll [indistinct] something and that's how Security use to do their work,

you've got to create a scene so that you would be able to impress your bosses.

MS GOBODO:

Another question relating to - cause you telling us something now about the
5 mind of these people, how they think, how they operate - how this plans
come into being.

There is something else you mentioned, when they were at the end of
the shooting at the scene you said that many people were almost killed and I
understand that to mean that many of black - of the black policeman like
10 yourself were almost shot, is that right?

MR MBELO:

That's true because this operation, there was no - it was - many people who
were there - many policeman who were there, were white and we were only
two who were black in the operation. I believe that if people who were
15 pedestrians were there, who could have been shot. Because these people
were desperate in that morning.

MS GOBODO:

Okay thank you.

MR GOOISAN:

20 Okay in terms of the payment - oh! Ms Barends.

MS BAREND'S:

You mentioned going up in a helicopter to see if anybody had escaped is that correct?

MR MBELO:

5 That's true.

MS BAREND'S:

What was the plan if you saw anybody running away from the scene, was there a plan?

MR MBELO:

10 I mean there was nothing we were doing even - even the helicopter it was just a ploy that there was a manhunt in that area, because the helicopter came - came later. If there was an escapee he could have went where he wanted to, to hide himself.

MS BAREND'S:

15 Just part of creating a drama around what was going on really, is that what you are saying?

MR MBELO:

That's what I am saying. After 30 minutes then the helicopter would - where do you expect that helicopter would see somebody if he has run after
20 30 minutes.

MS GOBODO:

And Mr Ntsebeza would like to ask a question.

ADV NTSEBEZA:

Now as we are here now, as we are sitting, there are many things which are
5 talked about, others are just rumours you hear there from the grapevine,
others is just a report which appeared on papers. Others is the testimony
which you give us today, is the truth which you give us today. Because you
are a person who were there then, there is something which is - is going
around that there was an 8th person who ran away that day. Do you have
10 knowledge about that?

MR MBELO:

I don't have the knowledge of the 8th one, if they said it should be Jimmy.
There is a name which I would mention, I would not - I would not say it,
I'll write it. Now you must also not mention this now, I am just going to
15 circulate it amongst the people here.

ADV NTSEBEZA:

This person as far as you know, is there anything that relates to him
regarding this matter now - it's the first time I see this name?

MS GOBODO:

20 Mr Gooisan.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay, I want to get to payment and decoration and a couple of things like that, but first of all just to be very clear what kind of car was Bellingan driving in, you must know that? You don't know that?

5 **MR MBELO:**

No that is quite difficult for me because there were many cars that they were driving. We were driving Kombi's but they were driving in private cars.

) **MR GOOISAN:**

Bellingan claims that his car got - gunshots got fired through his window
10 and it hit his weapon and all this other stuff. Is that true, or is that a fabrication?



MR MBELO:

There is a stage when Bellingan said whilst carrying his firearm there is a bullet that lodged inside of his magazine of his R1 rifle.

o 15 **MR GOOISAN:**

But the issue here is - I am trying to establish whether in your mind that is just part of what was going on all the time at Vlakplaas which is to, to reorganize this story so that it fits whatever you want to do - is that - would that fit into that pattern?

20

MR MBELO:

Vlakplaas is well known for such things - that it is - such things are possible where they are concerned, nothing is impossible.

MR GOOISAN:

5 Okay now you did mention that the Murder and Robbery Squad was used to cover up this thing. In other words I want to be clear, so the Murder and Robbery people and the Riot Squad people by that time they were - were they aware that there was such a thing like Vlakplaas - I am talking about the commanders, the bosses, were they aware of Vlakplaas?

10 **MR MBELO:**

There was no commander in South Africa, who was not aware of the existence of Vlakplaas. Because they were the trustees.

MR GOOISAN:

By trustees you mean?

15 **MR MBELO:**

They were the trustees of the Security set up within the country at that time. Because even the commanders of all branches if somebody who was being recruited to join Vlakplaas they were giving the recommendation - the fact that there is a commander who said that they didn't know about the

existence of Vlakplaas - that is not true. Maybe before '80, but not during the 80's.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay now in terms of - I am trying to understand that Murder and Robbery
5 you said, was used to cover up this thing. Now you said that the investigation - the securing of the crime scene, the collection of evidence you said was a little irregular - quite irregular right not normal police procedure, you told us that.

But what I am trying to understand is whether or not as you were
10 trying to - you already told us that Balletjies - Bellingan - that Sergeant Bellingan had helped you reorganize your story so it fit the version. Was that happening with all the people who were at that crime scene, in your view, did everybody reorganize their story?

MR MBELO:

15 The people who were present then - they can - mention that they said nothing that is genuine truth in their statements. There was - these things happened and those statements were written in order to satisfy the people who were present, in order to show that the police were acting in defence at that time.

20

MR GOOISAN:

Okay and at that time Murder and Robbery, the Murder and Robbery Squad was very much involved in court fighting terrorism is that true?

MR MBELO:

5 Murder and Robbery Squad were not so much involved in fighting terrorism. The branches that were assisting the Security Branch mainly were the Riot Squad.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay what I am trying to understand how - there are many incidents in
10 which for instance the Brixton Murder and Robbery Squad and other Murder and Robbery Squads around the country are always seemed to be involved in operations of Vlakplaas. And I am trying to understand Sergeant Mbelo how Murder and Robbery would have been called in or they would have been - how they would have put together the cover up of what
15 occurred. Can you help us with that please.

MR MBELO:

It is very easy to use the Murder and Robbery Squad to cover up because the Security Headquarters has got a major influence in many branches and Murder and Robbery it's one of their assisting weapons. And because after
20 every shooting incident, they are the ones who come and investigate.

Relating to Brigadier Engelbrecht's incident and when Nofomela mentioned about the hit squads, Engelbrecht was the commander of this hit squad and his was brought in to investigate the hit squads and he ended up being running the show from Vlakplaas.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

Ja okay, just before I go, Zenariah.

MS BARENDS:

Just to get more specific with regard to the crime scene, it has been stated that one of the Investigators on the scene was washing the road, washing
10 blood from the road, was this part of the cover up, why was this happening, at that particular scene?



MR MBELO:

There is someone if I can remember clearly that I saw, he just had a scratch in his leg whether he was bleeding or he just smeared some blood on
15 his foot, I am not sure.

MS GOBODO:

Just a moment Mr Ntsebeza would like to be excused he's got a meeting and thus he has requested me to notify everybody present here that he may be excused.

20

MS BARENDS:

Maybe I was misunderstood, I am talking about blood that was on the road, on the road, there was apparently lots of blood on the road, and one of the Investigating Officers from Murder and Robbery washed the blood off the
5 road. Was this normal police procedure?

MR MBELO:

No the policeman don't wash blood off, that is not procedure in any scene of crime we do not do that.

MS BARENDS:

10 Were there any dogs on the crime scene?

MR MBELO:

I do not recall really, if I am not mistaken Wingfield does have a dog unit, there is a possibility that there were dogs or maybe they arrived later. Because some police become so excited when they hear of a shooting
15 incident. They become so curious to the affect that they abandon their duties to attend to go to the scene of crime. They might have brought dogs during or later.

MS BARENDS:

Why - you say its not normal police procedure for a policeman to be
20 washing blood off the road, why would someone then do this, an

Investigating Officer, what would be the reason, possible reason in your view.

MR MBELO:

I think they were trying to wipe this blood away to try and decrease the severity of the incident so as to avoid people to see that people had injured serious injuries, I think that was the reason why they were covering.

MS BARENDS:

I won't ask you to elaborate any further on that.

MS GOBODO:

10 Thank you I just want to say...[intervention]

UNKNOWN:

The Speakers mic is not on.

MS GOBODO:

[indistinct] we are not going to break for tea, we are just going to continue.

15 I hope you can [indistinct] it's the last leg of the questioning thank you.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay just before we get into other matters as we go out of this, to understand now, who wrote the report that had to go to Eugene de Kock Sergeant Mbelo.

20

MR MBELO:

We usually don't write reports - the immediate commanders the white commanders it is their duty to write reports and at that time Bellingan was our immediate commander.

5 **MR GOOISAN:**

So he wrote the report that went to Eugene de Kock from your view.

MR MBELO:

If there is a written report that was send - he wrote it.

MR GOOISAN:

10 Okay now Eric and Jimmy they got R7-thousand or something like that for this operation, how much did you get for this operation?

MR MBELO:

To say the truth I was given R1-thousand, Eric and Jimmy were given R7-thousand each.

15 **MR GOOISAN:**

Okay so you were given - so that was common practice after Vlakplaas operations, there are many - it emerged in a recent trial at one stage in one operation, you got equal money with them, why didn't you get equal money on this operation? ... end of Tape 4, Side A ...

20

MR MBELO:

I do not know because it was the first time to be rewarded after an operation.

MR GOOISAN:

5 You're sure about this now?

MR MBELO:

I am 100% sure.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay, I just want you to bear with me for a second and just - I just want to
10 take a look at what year was it that you were involved with the Japie
Maponya murder?



MR MBELO:

It was in 1985.

MR GOOISAN:

15 '85 and how much were you paid for that job?

MR MBELO:

Mr Gooisan I would like to explain something briefly. It was in his abduction, not in his murder.

MR GOOISAN:

20 Oh! let me rephrase that in events that led to the murder of Japie Maponya.

MR MBELO:

It was in 1985 and I was not rewarded.

MR GOOISAN:

You were not rewarded. So you received R1-thousand for this. Did you
5 received any decoration - any official commendation or decoration for the
Guguletu 7 action like other officers may have received.

MR MBELO:

There was no decoration that I got or even a promotion.

MR GOOISAN:

10 Now how did you feel when other people got decorated for this event.

MR MBELO:

If there were any decoration they might have been done in a secret function,
but they were given hard cash publicly in Koeberg.

MR GOOISAN:

15 Okay that's in Koeberg, this is after the operation. So when you left
Guguletu you guys went to Koeberg before you went back to the farm,
Vlakplaas now when you were at Koeberg, what was the words that
Liebenberg spoke to you guys about and can you talk about the last part of
that thing, when you were at Koeberg when the operation was finished and
20 Liebenberg and - to say goodbye to you guys, what was discussed there?

MR MBELO:

Where we were staying in Koeberg Liebenberg never use to visit us, the white policeman would visit them in their offices. I don't remember whether he did bid us goodbye because it was not a norm for him to do that.

5 He would never bid us goodbye.

Only the white men would hold their barbecues, their braaivleis and we would take our own route to go to the beach and knowing that we will be leaving the following day.

MR GOOISAN:

10 Okay just were anybody else there that was involved in this thing, did you remember Warrant Officer Beeslaar or Colonel Roelf Venter or Joe Koertse or any of these other guys from Koevoet do you remember spending time with them at Koeberg?

MR MBELO:

15 These gentleman you've just mentioned - I use to work with them in Vlakplaas. I don't have full evidence as to who was present during the Guguletu 7 operation.

MR GOOISAN:

But can you say that some of the...[intervention]

20

MR MBELO:

Yes some of them were there, because Bellingan was not alone.

MR GOOISAN:

Was that Roelf Venter or Beeslaar or was it Joe Koertse?

5 **MR MBELO:**

I have traveled a lot with different people, I don't want to commit myself, but one of them might - must have been around during the operation.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay I don't know - we are finished from my view with my set of
10 questions. Later we want to quickly go to Natal.

MS GOBODO:

Mark Killian.

MR KILLIAN:

Just to bring you back to an earlier stage in your testimony you stated that at
15 Pretoria, you were already informed of the G7 or of the Guguletu problem.
And who informed you there in Pretoria of this problem that they are having
in Cape Town in Guguletu because you stated that you already knew before
you were coming to Cape Town about the Guguletu problem.

20

MR MBELO:

When we left Pretoria because usually sometimes our immediate commander would come depending on his trust on you, he would come and inform you of your mission, and explain to us what to expect and the
5 circumstances under which you were going to be working here in Cape Town.

They didn't tell us about the shooting and the infiltration, but they just told us that there is a problem in Guguletu that people are hitting the Casspirs with hand grenades.

10 **MR KILLIAN:**

Who was your commander who gave you the detail of the Guguletu
problem?

MR MBELO:

It was Balletjies because usually De Kock would not explain to us about the
15 duties of the other group, your immediate commander would tell you the instructions.

MR KILLIAN:

Thank you.

20

MS GOBODO:

Talking about payment, was it normal practice - was it normal to pay the white policeman commanders - was it normal to pay them as they have paid you.

5 **MR MBELO:**

I received payment once, about the men we don't know about their issues, because they use to do their things secretly.

MS GOBODO:

Was this done in the same manner in Vlakplaas - were you treated
10 indifferently according to colour?

MR MBELO:

Yes it is so.

MS GOBODO:

You were just people who were used to infiltrate townships - you not
15 command.

MR MBELO:

Yes were just ordinary workers, we were there tools, without us blacks they wouldn't be able to penetrate the township and get what they were looking
for.

20



MS GOBODO:

Can you tell us what made you stay in Vlakplaas? What was the attraction, what was keeping you in Vlakplaas, just take some time and think and tell us what made you stay in Vlakplaas.

5 **MR MBELO:**

To be honest, Vlakplaas was like a holiday resort, there was not hard work involved - you were only - you were just kept as an ordinary person. There was enough time to drink alcohol, you had money all the time, it was like a holiday resort to us. It was just a place of making money and having fun and being drunk all the time.

MS GOBODO:

This alcohol you got it from the commanders of Vlakplaas?

MR MBELO:

No we bought it ourselves.

15 **MS GOBODO:**

Was it alcohol only or anything else like drugs?

MR MBELO:

There were people who were using drugs like dagga, because most of the people came back from exile and they were using the same things that they were - used when they were in exile, they were trying to rehabilitate them.

MS GOBODO:

They stayed to the extent that they found houses to stay in the townships.

MR MBELO:

Now they found, they got them houses and they resided in the townships.

5 **MS GOBODO:**

Just to emphasize the way you put it, you stayed in Vlakplaas because you were not under any pressure, we were independent, we were just better than the Askari's. There was no [indistinct] but you were just having fun and a lot of money. I was enjoying myself.

10 **MS GOBODO:**

But you had been paid only once R1-thousand, where did you get all this money?

MR MBELO:

The money that I am talking about - other than a salary, when you go out for
15 the whole month you claim allowances, your traveling allowances and that extra money at that time, made quite a difference.

MS GOBODO:

The questioning I don't know what.

20

MR GOOISAN:

We want to deal with a couple more areas - there is just one more question on Guguletu 7 and then we want to move to other areas while we do have Sergeant Mbelo here, which are very critical to an ongoing investigation.

5 But it won't last very long, okay Zenariah.

MS GOBODO:

Can you please focus it, because we really called him on the [indistinct]

MR GOOISAN:

[indistinct]

10 **MS GOBODO:**

Ja okay.



MS BAREND:

You mentioned earlier that when you shot the person and another officer said, that's a bad shot, I am not quoting him directly now, and shot him. Do
15 you know who this officer was, what his rank was or from which section of the police he was from.

MR MBELO:

That person was - was a sergeant and he was having a camouflage uniform it was then that the camouflage was - were [indistinct] by Riot Squad.

20

MS GOBODO:

[indistinct] Mr Gooisan could you start at the other area please.

MR GOOISAN:

Sergeant Mbelo given the fact that you've helped us a lot about Vlakplaas,
5 maybe we can just conclude by saying that you were used extensively in
certain areas. At one point you were used in Natal - can you talk a little bit
of some of your activities there in Natal and what kind of things you did and
stuff like that.

MR MBELO:

10 The only incident which I - which happened in Natal in actual fact, I don't
know if it - whether it will be relevant. It was the person whom we
abducted in Swaziland, then we brought him back to the Republic.

MR GOOISAN:

So you never - you never at any time worked for Vlakplaas or on orders
15 from your commanders in Vlakplaas in Natal at all, in Kwa-Zulu.

MR MBELO:

We did work in Natal but at that time, when I was working there, there was
nothing substantial which was against human rights which happened when I
was there.

20

MR GOOISAN:

No I am just trying to understand, it's not a question of whether it was Human Rights Violation, we are not talking about that, we talking how some of the things that you were involved in, what they may have used you
5 for.

Because sometimes as you've already been given us - made us understand that you could be used for something, which may later lead to something you don't understand what that other stuff is for. So that's what we want to understand, when you went to Natal, did you go to a farm there,
10 were you based at a farm in Natal?

MR MBELO:

Yes Natal that is actually a farm.

MR GOOISAN:

Which farm is it?

15 **MR MBELO:**

All the farms which we had - we - we didn't know the owners, you would find that maybe the owner of that farm has left that farm and he is staying in - in town. And it was his white people who were visiting there.

MR GOOISAN:

20 Did you know Andy Taylor.

MR MBELO:

I know him.

MR GOOISAN:

What kind of things did you do with Andy Taylor?

5 **MR MBELO:**

I only know Andy Taylor by just ordinary - I didn't work with him.

MR GOOISAN:

And did you know what he was about?

MR MBELO:

10 No I didn't - I didn't know.

MR GOOISAN:



And you just met him - what kind of things did you do together, when the time that you did spend together.

MR MBELO:

15 Like white officers would come and greet you, then after that he would say are you happy, then after that would not - would not talk about any work related issues with his own white colleagues.

MR GOOISAN:

20 Were you - were you on any project where you had to go and identify anybody in any part of Kwa-Zulu, Natal?

MR MBELO:

No sir.

MR GOOISAN:

Okay did you ever go to any Security Police branch there, when you were
5 there and receive orders from anybody?

MR MBELO:

Usually we didn't get instructions from the local Security officers, we - the
black people, instructions were - were brought by our white officers who
received them from the local Security Branch officers because there was an
10 order that they - we should not be in the Security Branch offices - we were
not even using petrol from those offices, we would use the private garages
and we were not even coming nearer to those branch offices.

The only people who we came into contact with the branch - Security
Branch offices were our white seniors.

15 **MR GOOISAN:**

Ja Sergeant Mbelo I don't want to push you on this - it is just something
that you may want to consider for maybe a future time, to think about the
time you spend in Natal and maybe you can refresh your memory. Just one
- one quick question to end of with.

Colonel Eugene de Kock what was his view on the Guguletu 7 operation when you finally did get back?

MR MBELO:

De Kock is a difficult person, you'll never know his mind or whether he is happy or not. One moment he is smiling, after that when he comes back he is not the same De Kock who was smiling, he was unpredictable. He was never exited in any other mission, so he was unpredictable so he was keeping his motions to himself.

MR GOOISAN:

10 I think we have exhausted it.

MS GOBODO:



Thank you - yes thank you - do you - what is your opinion do you think you want Sergeant Mbelo to return, what do you think - because he would like to know if he should be informed if so you know.

15 **MR GOOISAN:**

I don't know for us Sergeant Mbelo you've been very helpful and if possible we would really appreciate it if you could make yourself - avail yourself to us so that we can keep doing the deeper investigation and so the view is that you could be very helpful to us in the upcoming period. And thank you for
20 joining us here today.

MS GOBODO:

When you return, this is now not so much in relation to the questioning, but just to know what's going to happen to you, when you return, what are your expectations - when you return to work, what are your expectations just in terms of your relationship...[intervention]

MR MBELO:

[indistinct] I know where I am working now I - since I started working I started working with white people I know that the first thing when they - they come there they would ask me what did I tell you that they were going to ask me.

MS GOBODO:



And how do you feel about that, I mean what is your - what is your view of just - that, that kind of relationship at that level - do you have any fears, do you...[intervention]

MR MBELO:

I don't fear anything - is that we should open the can of worms so that the truth should be exposed, thank you.

MS GOBODO:

That is really the spirit with which we had invited you to come here, that we would like everyone in a position that you - you found yourself should

come and share the truth about the past. Mainly so that our society could know, but largely because we would like to heal those wounds, because the actions of the past did violate Human Rights, where certain people are concerned but also affected the whole country.

5 So we are really on the path to healing, not only individual but also South Africa as a whole and we appreciate that you came to share with us on the journey and thank you very much.

 Thank you to the panel, and thank you to the investigators and the interpreters and thank you very much. The gentleman in the controls, I am
10 sorry that I didn't get your name, thank you very much.

 I just want to add also this is through consultation with my colleague advocate Potgieter, that everything that was said in this room was held in
15 camera. It is in confidence, it's all confidential and the Commission will respect that. It will be held in confidence until the Commission decides otherwise but for your part we would like you to know and understand that, everything that is said here, is confidential, which is why it is held in
 camera, okay, thank you.

MR MBELO:

Thank you.