

Mobility, Confinement and the Politics of Exile: A Study of Manyani Detention Camp in Kenya, 1952 - 1963: A Historical Account

John Ndungu Kungu*

Lecturer of History, Department of Social Studies Maasai Mara University, Kenya

***Corresponding author**

John Ndungu Kungu

Article History

Received: 03.10.2018

Accepted: 10.10.2018

Published: 30.10.2018

DOI:

10.21276/sjhss.2018.3.10.6



Abstract: This paper examines the History of Manyani Detention Camp from 1952 to 1963. From 1952 onwards, the British government established detention camps where suspected Mau Mau fighters and their sympathizers were incarcerated. Manyani was started as a holding camp for “hard core” Mau Mau fighters. Manyani held Mau Mau fighters from 1952 to 1963. The colonial government preferred Manyani detention camp because of its harsh environment that was expected to exert maximum physical torture on the detainees so that they could plead guilty and assist in ending the Mau Mau uprising. The paper shows Manyani detention camps as an institution of political domination and control during the state Emergency in Kenya. The paper is a contribution to the historiography of prisons in Kenya.

Keywords: Manyani Detainee, Detention, Torture.

INTRODUCTION

The need to illuminate and contextualize approaches used by the colonial government during the state of emergency in Kenya to control, maintain law and order and to suppress Mau Mau activities has become increasingly necessary. From 1952 onwards, the British government established detention camps where suspected Mau Mau fighters and their sympathizers were incarcerated. Others were detained in restricted villages which were used as forced labour camps under harsh and atrocious conditions.

State of Emergency was the bloodiest period in the history of Kenya because the colonial government was determined to reassert its authority which the Mau Mau rebels had seriously challenged. The Mau Mau had dominated Central Province and showed no signs of abating; security was deteriorating in spite of the infusion of more police into the area.

Manyani: The Ideal Containment Location

Manyani was very ideal as it was located away from the hot bed of political agitation in Central Province. Manyani was situated in a remote low lying, semi-arid area which is sparsely populated, hot, malaria laden; it was indeed an isolated region far from the rest of the colony and located in a remote and inhospitable area. Joram Wamweya notes that, after entering the compound they were counted. All of them had red heads from the red dust flying about in the wind. They were ordered to take out their shoes. This in itself was a punishment. They baked in the hot sand of Manyani due to high temperatures perishable foods got stale.

Manyani lies on 1000 hectares of land within Tsavo West National Park. It is surrounded by the Manga Hills. It was constructed hurriedly during the State of Emergency in the semi-arid region to detain the Mau Mau. Water shortage in Manyani was a form of

oppression of the Mau Mau rebels. Peter Gachuru Mwangi gave his experience:

The water we received at Manyani was little and always hot. The whole place was just boiling-the dust and the sun were unbearable. You couldn't cool yourself down by drinking hot water, so we would spend a very long time passing it between two tins. These were the same tins we were issued with and we ate our porridge and drank our water out of them and used them to dig ballast on the work project [1].

The area is rife with lions whose notoriety as “man eaters of Tsavo” dates back to the 1890s [2]. The term “Manyani” is derived from the many monkeys/baboons found at Tsavo. Like most of the camps in Kenya in the pipeline, Manyani was surrounded by barbed wire and watchtowers and patrolled throughout by armed guards with police dogs. Pipeline was a system of detention and rehabilitation, denoting a Mau Mau adherent's progression from initial detention through evermore benevolent rehabilitation activities to ultimate release [3]. The process would begin at the transit camps where teams of Europeans and Africans would screen, and classify each Mau Mau

suspect. The man eaters of the Tsavo offered enough security to the prison. The colonial government had placed an electric fence around the prison to deter the Mau Mau fighters from escaping.

Manyani was placed in a semi-permanent establishment organized in those camps and far more suitable for its purpose than Mackinom Road. This was worsened by the colonial idea of closing Mackinon road Detention camp and transferring the detainees from there to Manyani. Manyani was constructed within the Tsavo National Park close to the Mombasa Nairobi highway. It was also served with an airstrip and was close to the railway line running between Mombasa and Nairobi. It was to accommodate those arrested during the State of Emergency. These factors facilitated easy transportation of the Mau Mau who had been arrested in Central Kenya and the rest of the Rift Valley [4].

Manyani Architectural Design

Manyani architectural designs reveal the colonial mentality of domination and control of the Africans inmates. It was constructed using corrugated mud and wattle and recycled canvas. Manyani had two compounds Manyani A and Manyani B. Manyani A was divided into four compounds all of which held Mau Mau detainees; some still stand today. Each compound had its own camp commandant. The whole camp was under the command of the Senior Camp Commandant. Compound 1 and 2 of Manyani A houses prisoners with long and short sentences. Compound 3 had rounded huts. These huts were constructed with iron sheets it was a furnace during the day and very cold during the night and did not have sanitary facilities.

The structures were built with the idea of punishment in mind. Manyani experiences very high temperatures during the day and very cold at night. Mau Mau would bake in the cells during the day and freeze in cold during the night. During the emergency each cell held twenty Mau Mau rebels. This posed health hazards to the Mau Mau detainees. The conical cells are numbered 1 to 17. Cell number 17 is still in its original design it has not been modified. Compound 4 of Manyani A houses the trustee prisoners. These are prisoners' life and condemned prisoners who have reformed their behaviour. They can be entrusted with other prisoners. Trustee prisoners enjoy certain privileges. They have blue uniforms; they sleep on the bed and eat a special diet. They have mosquito nets and are served by other prisoners.

Joseph Langat and Umasi Mohamed affirmed

Compound B in Manyani was the most notorious block during the colonial period. This compound was used to detain hardcore Mau Mau fighters who would not denounce the oath. The cells were separated by a corridor so that detainees could not communicate. This compound offered solitary

confinement for detainees had small ventilation where the prison officer on duty would peep. The officer was armed with a gun for 24 hours in case the detainees became undisciplined. There was an extension with a translucent iron sheet where the detainee was supposed to sun bathe for thirty minutes in the morning and evening. Political detainees were put under Solitary confinement, which the worst form of punishment. Compound B had a watchtower with a prison officer for twenty-four hours to monitor anything that went on. There were two metallic gates for fastening the security. The colonial government's attitude towards the Africans was in its self-indiscriminate and humiliating. Even though the African officers worked for interest of the colonial masters, their housing was not the same as their European counterparts. The African frame houses were made of iron sheets and since Manyani is very hot, they baked in the houses. Their European counterparts lived in wooden houses, which were well furnished by the colonial government [5].

Manyani Prison structures were very punitive. They inserted intense pain and degradation. They were meant to increase physical suffering and humiliation of the detainees. The compound was overcrowded with conical iron sheet cells. The iron sheets intensified the detainees suffering. The iron cells did not have ventilation which reduced air circulation. Air borne diseases such as tuberculosis spread fast due to congestion and chronic asthma due to dust. Sanitation was pathetic; detainees used toilet buckets to relieve themselves. One cell held one hundred detainees. The other cells were within cells with wide corridors to break all communication channels.

A huge trench filled with wooden spikes surrounded the camp, the high walls were raised with barbed wire, and a watchtower soared above the rest of the structures. The overcrowded conditions weakened the immune system of the detainees. The living and working conditions of security officers at Manyani were discriminate. African warders lived in "A" flame houses. They were made up of iron sheets which increased the temperatures during the day and lowered them very much during the night. The "A" flame houses had one entrance and no ventilation. They were low lying and reduced free movement of air subjecting the African warders to a lot of heat and dust that consequently led to diseases. White colonial warders lived in wooden houses that were well ventilated, raised with stilt which protected them from vermin, facilitated air circulation and reduced heat.

It acted as a stopover for Mau Mau being transported from Nairobi and other parts of the country. Some were destined for detention camps such as Hola, Kipini and Mackinon Road.⁶ It was preferred for the hard cores unrepentant Mau Mau. The colonial government erected Manyani in an area that delinked

Mau Mau with their sympathizers consequently weakening the rebellion. This clearly reveals the draconian move of the colonial government in destroying the group. It was made at the onset of the state of emergency so as to confine the so called "terrorists". Manyani detention camp was built during the State of Emergency to hold the dramatic influx of new detainees. Baring asked London for approval of the expansion and the regulation that would allow prisoners to undertake heavy labour [7].

Manyani detention camp ended up to be very notorious because of its condition. This was supported by the fact that the majority of those incarcerated under the Emergency powers were never formally convicted in a court of law. They were detained because of suspicion of being members or supporters of the Mau Mau movements. By the end of 1954, there were over twenty four thousands Mau Mau suspect in Manyani camp alone [8].

Long Road to Manyani

The pipeline drained into Manyani. The journey of detainees from various parts of the country to detention at Manyani was long and tiresome. The journey from Nairobi took two days, with little or no food and seldom any sanitation concerns for the detainees. Detainees were shackled and loaded onto railcars while others were loaded into Lorries for their journey to Manyani. Bouncing along the unpaired roads the detainees, many of whom had broken limbs and open wounds, were enveloped by choking dust for the two days they were on the road to Manyani. There was a massive increase in the number of detainees held at the beginning of the 1953 in Manyani. New inmates were brought in daily by lorryload, busload and via railroad and freight cars. Thousands of detainees were from settler's farms in the Rift Valley Province and Kikuyu reserves. They were loaded into an enclosed bus for the overnight trip to Manyani. Some were transferred from Langata in an enclosed railcar that was stifling for lack of fresh air on account of overcrowding. The Johnnies on the train passed through the detainees stepping on their heads, hands and testicles. They confiscated all valuables the detainees had. Hiti Njoroge was arrested in Kitale where he had participated in an oath taking exercise. He recounted:

I was arrested by the colonial police accompanied by Home Guards. They interrogated me and took me into an enclosed barbed place. The colonial officials were with two police men armed with rifles. They tied me with a rope around my neck and the other end around Muriuki wa Mbatia's neck. They said "if you don't answer our question you will die. Before being interrogated, I was beaten and the noose tightened. Terror filled the whole area. In fear of my life, I told them I

had neither participated in Mau Mau activities nor taken the oath. We were beaten on our heads with open palms and butts of their riffles. That evening, a hundred of us were put in Lorries. We ate nothing for the entire journey. The first stopover was Nakuru where we were given uji. We spent the whole day in Nakuru under heavy guard. At Nakuru suspects from other areas joined us. Around 6 p.m. we were weak and in pain, we were transferred to the trains. We arrived at the Manyani reception centre the following morning at around 7 am. On arrival, we were set at the tone of the rest of the detainees' experience. I was filled with uncertainty and fear [9].

Muchichu wa Mwaura had been transferred from Langata detention camp by train. One horrific encounter he remembered was when the *Johnnies* in the train passed through them "stepping on their heads, hands, testicles and everywhere they felt like. He remembered his expensive pair of shoes he had bought in Nairobi was taken from him by one of the Johnnies." As the Emergency period progressed, it became clear the Governor, as the only colonial official authorized to issue detention orders, would not cope with the increasing number of Mau Mau while controlling the escalating confusion in the reserves. By the end of 1954, the colonial government established that the detainee population had risen to over 52000, an addition of 2500 per cent from the beginning of the year [10]. Thus, he decided to delegate the powers to members of his administration. This meant that the Provincial Administration could now issue detention orders to any African suspected of being Mau Mau or their sympathizers or any other person wanted out of their areas [11]. The increase in the number of detainees did not only include the Mau Mau held without trials in the camps but also those convicted of Mau Mau related crimes. These crimes were either taking oath or supplying the fighters in the forest with food and arms and networking. All these culprits were taken to detentions. The colonial prosecutors almost wholly abandoned legal procedures. The detainees were not allowed legal representation; if they did, they were prohibited from mounting any reasonable defence. This shows that the courts were simply colonial tools of oppression that abused the legal process. This is captured in Hiti Njoroge's assertion:

I was arrested in Kitale and detained in Manyani detention Camp. We were never allowed legal representation in court. They only brought up trumped up charges without prosecution witnesses because all of us were viewed as magaidi (terrorists). There was little the Asian lawyers could do to help us. We were sentenced to prison sometimes for a life time and

hard labour -through an abuse of the legal system [12].

Through Charles Shutter's affidavit, it is evident that detainees arrived at Manyani stations in leg chains [13]. He says that if detainees did not promptly jump off the high rail cars fast enough it was common practice for an officer or a warder to pull sharply at the leg chains which caused men to fall against the steel steps of the tracks or to the ground and often injuring themselves badly.

Torture and Conditions of Mau Mau detainees in Manyani

Manyani detention camp played a significant role in accommodating Mau Mau fighters. This was prompted by the closure of Langata detention camp on 15 April 1955. Detainees were directly ferried to Manyani. After its closure, the Ministry of Defence focussed their attention on Manyani. There was special transport that was set aside to ferry Mau Mau from other parts of the country to Manyani detention camp. The train would move from Sagana to Manyani via Nairobi. All the Mau Mau fighters arrested in Central Kenya region were herded together at Sagana for Manyani. The special train ran weekly [14].

After the closing of Langata, the Ministry of defence was no longer responsible for co-coordinating the movement of repatriates from other districts in the colony, including Nairobi to their home district in Central Province. This responsibility was delegated to District Commissioners who were to exercise their power under the emergency powers of 1953. In 1956 there were 12152 Detainees at Manyani Detention Camp [15]. Reception at Manyani was thrilling. On arrival, detainees were received by prison officers arranged in rows. They were forced to pass between them in a single file. By then they had nothing except the clothes they were in. The prison officers on either side beat them with batons as they passed by which made them run faster. From there they were forced into a dipping tank full of disinfectants [16].

Muchichu wa Mwaura a former detainee gives his experiences in this notorious prison:

On arrival at Manyani, we were ordered to crouch in five lines with our hands on our heads. We were counted like sheep and then strip –searched during which time all our money and valuables were confiscated. The search was a humiliating and dehumanizing exercise with the officers prying into all our body orifices. We were ordered to hand over our valuables voluntarily. If you said you did not have, the white officers ordered the askaris to frisk you. We were searched inside our boots, our mouth and anuses. From there, we were coerced through a cattle dip of

disinfectants while the askaris pushed our heads under the solution. After undergoing this dehumanizing process, we were again assembled into a large open area and ordered to strip and place our clothes in a collective pile. We were given a light shirt and a pair of yellow shorts and two blankets and these was our entire wardrobe [17].

There were hundreds of *askaris* and dozens of white officers shouting *pigapiga* (beat them; keep beating them). It was a rough and hard time for the detainees. The colonial officers ordered all their clothes and belongings put in pile and burnt in their full view. They stayed in Manyani for over two years which was typical for most of the detainees. The screening teams at Manyani were made up of Europeans and Africans [18]. They were from the Prison Department, Special Branch, CID, the Community Development and Rehabilitation Department, as well as dozens of Kikuyu loyalists. They classified the detainee using the "White-grey-black system". At Manyani interrogation was more thorough and aimed at identifying Mau Mau suspect. They were left at Manyani or taken to Hola detention camp.

Arguably, Manyani detention camp was a traumatizing environment of strict control and violence. Mau Mau movement was viewed by the British as barbaric, backward and savage. The Mau Mau description spilled over into the Kenyan and British press, where sensationist accounts juxtaposed white heroism with African, or Mau Mau terrorism and savagery and was seen as "bestial" and "filthy"-an evil movement that was extremely vile. The colonial government had to go to any extraordinary lengths to get rid of the Mau Mau. The conditions were dehumanizing as Jacob Maina Gakungu one of the victims affirmed:

My experience at Manyani was the worst in life. We were beaten, whipped, others sodomized, beards set on fire, and forced to eat faeces and even drink urine. This was the price we paid for wiyathi – freedom. All these atrocities were because we refused to denounce the oath. During the screening, I was made to bend over the screening surface my hands on my head. I had lost sensation in my legs because of the beatings with a rubber hose. I was felt very feeble. They demanded that I tell them about the Mau Mau activities in my home area of Kinangop. The colonial officer ordered the African Askari to take scorpions which were everywhere in the camp and force them in my anus. I was shivering in pain. I began telling them everything but I was only making stories. I gave false names of people. The oath I had taken compelled me not to be a traitor of the rest of our people in the forest. We had made a decision to die rather than leave our land to the Mzungu [19].

The state of Emergency was unavoidable [20]. There were underground illegal activities amongst the Mau Mau fighters. One activity that frightened the Colonial government was the oathing which they deemed a crime. The colonial administration believed that the fighters who took the oath to fight had in part submitted to a form of occultism. "Oaths were seen by the British as a primitive way of capturing the mind and making the person unreasonable. The only way you could get rid of the oath was to convert the person back to sanity through torture and detention." Therefore, Mau Mau arrests and detention were believed to be a means of restoring sanity through torture and punishment. The Mau Mau rebels spread throughout the colony. Men were rounded up and locked up in detention camps which were colonial torture chambers.

Peter Karanja Wagatha recounts

The screening team at Manyani devoted hours in a day on a single suspect before giving him individual detention orders. One month after the famous kifagio-Operation Anvil in Nairobi only ten percent of Mau Mau suspects at Manyani had been screened and classified. Screening would take one year before the screening teams finished with those who had been picked during the sweep. There were minimal movements in the camps and this led to congestion leading to unhealthy conditions. Within a month, there was serious typhoid fever outbreak in Manyani camp. We used buckets as our toilets which were placed in the same place we lodged. We were forced every morning to carry the buckets everything morning on our heads for disposal. Camp officials refused to allow us dispose our human waste outside the detention wires. The quality and quantity of the camp water was not of the required standard for human consumption. The buckets were filled to the brim with urine and faeces [21].

Letters retrieved from National Archives Nairobi document show detainees were tortured by way of castration and ear perforations. This was done so as to make them confess to the alleged crimes. Although they did lodge complaints to the prison authorities, their complaints were not addressed [22]. Despite constant complaints from detainees on torture, shortage of water and breakage of the water pump supply the colonial government gave priority to the welfare of prison staff such as the construction of an officer's mess instead of addressing detainee complaints [23]. In one letter a detainee in the holding camp at Manyani related some of the methods employed by the camp command and by the colonial authorities to torture.

Warders, camp commandants, officer in-charge, rehabilitation teams and screening teams, beat

detainees. Among the weapons of choice were "permabox bundles and rifle butts", rhino whips, buttons and chains. Detainees were sexually abused—whether through sodomy with foreign objects, animals and insects, cavity searches, the imposition of a filthy toilet-bucket system or forced penetrative sex. Camp cleanliness was very poor since detainees used same buckets for lavatory use and for bathing uses. The problem of hygiene, diseases and the lack of medical treatment was foremost in many detainees' letters. Many suffered diarrhoea, dysentery and typhoid.

Bewes press conference resulted from Baring refusal to take concrete action. The Canon went public because no one in the British colonial government would listen to him. From the start of emergency, the colonial government had made a concerted effort to manage information coming out of Kenya and specially to minimize the impacts of any statements or accounts of torture. The colonial governments' response of obstruction and obfuscation was obvious. ²⁴ Anti-colonial critics in Britain intensified their criticism of the Emergency Regulations. Opposition labour MPs particularly Barbara Castle and Fenner Bruckway were vocal in their criticism. Barbara Castle spearheaded opposition outrage over the British government policies in Kenya particularly detention without trial [25].

It is because of these atrocities that, Victor Charles Shutter, the Principal Officer in-charge of Her Majesty's Prison Service in 1955, was contracted by the colonial government in Kenya to assist in the rehabilitation of Mau Mau detainees into normal life. In November 1955 he was flown to Kenya and sent to Manyani Detention camp. His report on the Mau Mau Detention camps in Kenya exposed the poor conditions of Manyani detention camp. The prison had about 20,000 detainees. The officers in charge of the detainees were: 58 Europeans officers, and about 3,500 African warders, six European special branch police officers and a riot squad of 200 Africans commanded by a European officer [26].

During his stay at Manyani prison Shutter observed inhuman treatment of detainees by warders. On one occasion, he struck an African chief warder whom he found stepping on the heads of detainees and pushing them into the dipping tank. After this incident the warder was summoned by the Deputy Camp Commandant and warned that such actions were not to be tolerated at the detention facility [27]. The brutality terrified detainees of the power of prison officers. As such, prisoners easily panicked on threats leading to stampede that gave impression of disorderliness. This situation was exploited by some officers to foment temporary disorder which could then be quelled by the dreaded riot squad. Shutter also witnessed an occasion at Manyani where Watson, who was a security officer, entered compound C and struck detainees with a big

stick. He chased all the detainees until they reached the barbed wire perimeter from where they could not proceed, so they turned on him. Watson then escaped behind the barbed followed by a hail of stones hurled by the said detainees who by this time were in panic. Subsequently, all the inmates of the said compound were set upon by the riot squad and severely beaten irrespective of whether they had taken part in throwing stones or not.

Three months latter Shutter called the camp staff together and accused some of the officers of being lenient with detainees. He advised for firmer action. The officers protested at his accusation which he ignored [28]. It was normal at Manyani for the detainees to be compelled made to squat outside their huts. Those in charge of the hut were given a public beating because of some fault or misconduct. Detainees were forced to work under pathetic situations under supervision. Detainees were paid eight shillings as a pay [29]. Mwangi wa Maina narrated:

We were forced to carry ballast on a perforated metal container on our heads. This was very traumatizing. We were prepared to do every work that was given to us by the prison authorities. Those who refused to work were forcefully mercilessly beaten by the officers concerned. We were beaten whenever we were taken before the officer in orderly rooms or while in cells. If one was prescribed six strokes of the cane as punishment he would get ten strokes instead. The officer in charge would order his askaris (Wardens) to beat the same person in his (officer) presence. The doctor did not certify as to whether the victim to be beaten was medically fit the strokes [30].

In August 1957, it was decided to break up the group of detainees in Manyani and reorganize the compounds. Manyani at this time of reorganization contained those deemed to be dangerous. On 17 August 1957, the warders and colonial police got into the compound to carry out the exercise, the detainees refused to cooperate. The camp riot squad in full riot gear was sent at around 6 pm to enter the compound to quell the disturbances by the detainees who were armed with pieces of timber, iron bars made from the straightened-out handles of latrine buckets and hard rocks/stones. The confrontation was tough that the riot squad was forced to pull back from the compound. It was only after five days, on 22 August, that the prison authorities regained control of the camp. Eleven detainees were subsequently charged with murder and taken to Mombasa before the Emergency Assize Court. The accused detainees refused to be cross examined by the court claiming they could not understand the interpreter. Nevertheless, they were all found guilty and sentenced to hang.

Detainees were incarcerated without trial under Governor's Detention Orders [31]. The increasing detainee population reflected the Crowns inability to prosecute cases effectively against Mau Mau suspects hence the use of Governor Detention Orders. The colonial government could not a mass enough evidence to convict the vast majority of Mau Mau adherents. Mechanism of justice hit the wall. The courts enforced swift rather than impartial justice. There was scant evidence for conviction. For example, it was the court tell a Mau Mau spy and how could the court prove a Mau Mau sympathizer?.Lack of evidence meant permanent detention without trial.The detainees were purported of other crimes, including armed robberies [32].

Diseases at Manyani Detention Camp

The pathetic conditions of the camp due to congestion contributed to the spread of contagious, waterborne and air diseases. The disease broke out was in May 1954. By September, it was clear that the spread of typhoid in Manyani had reached epidemic proportions [33]. The epidemic swept through Manyani camp. The spread of infectious disease there and elsewhere in the pipeline came as a surprise to the colony's chief medical officer Colonel W.G.S Foster. He had written a lengthy memorandum to Baring and the Colonial Secretary detailing the poor sanitary conditions in the Manyani and Mackinion Road camps. He had pointed out security and expediency had been given priority over health standards. Camp officials refused to allow detainees to dispose properly of human and other waste outside of the detention and the quality and quantity of the camps water supplies were below the acceptable standards [34]. Manyani medical facilities even as its inmate population rose from 6,600 to over 16,000 [35]. There was well beyond its capacity of 10,000 as the report released by the War Council showed [36]. It was a result of poor living conditions, physical brutalities and congestions that contagious, air borne and water borne diseases spread in the camp. Many detainees died due to these conditions.

Wamathe Chege Muharabata, a survivor narrated his experience thus;

The numbers, as reported by Colonial secretary seemed low based on his own observation of the detainees who were in the camp at the time of the outbreak. Some days there were dozens, sometimes as many as two dozen Mau Mau being buried or incarcerated. We worked day in day out to control the outbreak. Whatever the encounter, I had never seen and haven't seen that ever since [37].

The informant was part of the burial working party. The informants stated that group alone buried over six hundred bodies and lost count when those they buried reached around five hundred. He was extremely

tired but two-thirds of these corpses were as a result of the typhoid. The typhoid problems hardly ended the epidemic at Manyani. Though Baring, decided not to quarantine these facilities. He was ready to move detainees once they were classified. The detainees were taken out of the reception centres to work camps in order to free up space for the continuous flow of new inmates yet the work camps were expanding slowly prior to Operation Anvil. The rapid influx of new detainees forced Baring to create dozens of new camps in order to accommodate the reformed Mau Mau coming out of Manyani, Mackinon Road and Langata detention camps. In 1954, the Colonial Secretary of State reported that 63 people had died of typhoid in Manyani and another 760 were infected with the disease [38].

Manyani became an incubator for a variety of infectious diseases, despite warning from local medical officials. Kenya's director of medical services, T.F. Anderson issued recommendations ranging from proper sanitation facilities, water supplies, and construction materials to medical staffing, inoculations and nutritional requirements, most of which all were ignored [39]. Taxi Lewis, the Prison Commissioner did not comply with Foster's direction concerning the situation at Manyani [40]. Medical practitioners were required despite the Governors concern that such a situation would be seen by some as a prize to Mau Mau. The British media such as the Times, The Daily Telegraph and the Scotsman who carried the news of the outbreak of diseases at Manyani. They strongly suggested that remedial action was necessary but this landed on deaf ears. The colonial government, through the Governor's office, denied publicly the incidence of typhoid fever [41]. The War Council admitted the situation in Manyani, calling the camp a sanitary unhygienic.

Eventually, H. Stott, the medical adviser to Kenya's Labour Department was appointed to coordinate the health and sanitation requirements in the pipeline. He found a myriad of problems which he attributed, not just to lack of resources but also to the refusal of many officers in the administration to address the health issues. In November 1954 "Report on Health and Hygiene in emergency Camps," Stott observed that members of the administration held lower health and sanitation standards from Africans than they did for themselves [42].

Despite Scotts, efforts infectious diseases continued to be ubiquitous in the pipeline. Pulmonary tuberculosis was also reported, with Kenya's director of medical services remarking, "The number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis which is being disclosed in the prison and detention camps as causing embarrassment." The overcrowded conditions, together with the detainees weakened immune systems exhaustion from

forced labour, and poor access to proper clothing or blankets facilitated its spread [43]. Waterborne infections —particularly dysentery, diarrhoea, and other "epidemic intestinal diseases also ran through the camp. The chronically sick detainees in Manyani were: 27 with tuberculosis due to congestion, four lepers, two with heart disease, and three with dementia due to depression, 1 with chronic asthma due to dust and with encephala myotitis [44]. There were also reports of vitamin deficiency diseases, with cases of scurvy, pellagra, kwashiorkor and night blindness afflicting some detainees in Manyani.

It was against the background of these many problems of Manyani that high-ranking officials visited Manyani detention camp led by H.G.Waters, the assistant Medical Services in Kenya, paid a visit to Manyani in May 1954. At the time of his visit Waters was told that camp was full its capacity off 6600 detainees. He was deeply concerned that the disregard of those conditions by the officers commanding the camp might result in a serious outbreak of contagious diseases. Waters found further unhygienic sanitation conditions were excrement. There was a very dangerous threat from typhoid, dysentery and diarrhoea to the camp inmates [45].

Major Gregory Smith of prison headquarters had examined the site and. He made an agreement with the Divisional Engineer of the railway temporarily to double the supply of water to Manyani from railway sources. The prison officer in charge and the Medical Department wrote a letter to the Secretary of State to ask the treasurer for the improvement of the sanitary system at Manyani. They noted there was a great need for further washing facilities and blocks of latrines as the main difficulty at Manyani was the mixture with the sewerage water of food from the kitchen. This was caused by the spillage of posho, beans and other vegetables during cooking operations. This situation was made worse by dust which was blown into the open drains [46].

CONCLUSION

Mau detainees were incarcerated in remote and distant places to weaken the Mau Mau uprising. Governor Baring declaration of the State of Emergency was the final blow to the Mau Mau. The State of Emergency paved way for the creation of villages, barbed enclosures and detention camps to help manage and stamp out the Mau Mau rebellion. They were also used as tools of confinement, control and domination. The State of Emergency legitimized murder and detention of the Mau Mau fighters. The security agents were empowered to arrest and execute all the people that did not follow the Emergency regulations. Manyani prison became the ideal place for political detainees.

REFERENCES

1. Peter Gashuru mwangi, O.I. 20/06/2015
2. For more information on the Man Eaters of Tsavo see J.H. (1979). Patterson, *the Man-Eaters of Tsavo and the East African Adventure*. pp. 31-39
3. Elkins, C. *Britain's Gulag*, p.97
4. KNA/K365.3. (1959). Administrative Enquiry into Allegation of ill-treatment and irregular practices Against Detainees At Manyani Camp and Fort Hall District works Conducted by A.P.Jack Deputy public Prosecutor April 1959 Nairobi.
5. Joseph Langat and Umasi Mohamed, O. I. 28/08/2015
6. Nicholas K.Maswai, Prisoner officer in-charge of Manyani prison, O.I. 26/08/2015. See also Partha Sarathi Gupta, *Imperialism and the British Labour Movement, 1914-1964*. New York. Holmes and Meier, 1975
7. KNA/PRO/CO/822794/1. (1954). Memorandum from Thomas Askwith "Rehabilitation".
8. See also KNA/PRO/ 822/796/36. (1954). Telegram from R.G.Turnbull to Secretary of State for the Colonies, 11 May. included in the post-Anvil detainee figures who were picked during the notorious Anvil in Nairobi
9. Hiti Njoroge Mureithi, O.I.21/06/2015
10. These numbers are the government figures and are not adjusted for intake and release rates as those that are extent and are not reliable enough to make the adjustment
11. KNA/VQ1/32/4 Memorandum from the Governor Baring, "Movement of Kikuyu" 28th sept 1953
12. Hiti Njoroge Mureithi, O.I. 21/06/2015.
13. KNA/K365.3 /Administrative enquiry into Allegation into Allegation of Ill-treatment and irregular Practices
14. KNA/AH/9/31 Emergency Movement of detainees policy 1952-1957
15. KNA/AH/9/31 Emergency Movement of Defense Policy 1952-1957
16. C.Elkins *British Gulag*, p.134
17. Muchuchu waMwaura, O.I.21/06/2015
18. Screening was one of the measures used by the colonialist to destroy Mau Mau. The objective was to stamp out so that they were deterred from farther recruitment and punish those who were already involved, the screening teams were either localized at villages or urban areas the screening teams worked under a District officer
19. Jacob Maina Gakungu, O.I. 23/06/2015.
20. For More detailed on oathing see G.Kershaw, *Mau Mau From Below* (Nairobi, 1997), p.219
21. Peter Karanja Wagatha, O.I.19/06/2015.
22. KNA/AH/9/37, Complaints by detainees in prison camp. 1954-1955.
23. KNA/ACW/28/13, Internal security and Defence Ministry of Messes and cantons 1956-1958.
24. C. Elkins, *Britain's Gulag*, p.93
25. KNA/PRO/CO/822/479/3 Hugh Fraser, M.P. "Report of Visit to Kenya," 6 October 1953. See also Barbara Castle, *Fighting All The Way* (London, 1993), p.xi
26. KNA/K365.3 Administrative Enquiry into Allegation of ill-treatment and irregular practices Against Detainees At Manyani Camp and Fort Hall District works Conducted by Mr. A.P.Jack Deputy public Prosecutor April 1959 Nairobi.
27. KNA/K365.3: Administrative Enquiry into Allegation of Ill-treatment and Irregular practices Against Detainees at Manyani Camp and Fort Hall District Works, April 1959, Nairobi.
28. Ibid
29. Caroline Elkins "Detention, Rehabilitation, and the Destruction of Kikuyu Society in John Lonsdale & E. S. Atieno O dhiambo (eds) *Mau Mau Nationhood; Arms. Authority A Narration* (London, 2003), pp.192-226
30. Mwangi WaMaina, O.I. 27/06/2015
31. KNA/AH/21/17 (1954). Manyani Detention Order.
32. Elkins C. *Britain's Gulag*. p.132
33. KNA/PRO/WO/276/428/12. (1954). Manyani Camp 18 October, 1954 Typhoid spread through Manyani prison.
34. KNA/PRO/CO/822/801 Colonel W.G.S.(1954). Foster Director of Medical Services Manyani and Mackinon Road camps," 25 May 1954 See also KNA/AH/9/5/5 Minutes from Turnbull "Notes on Public Health and Public Work at Manyani," 15 May 1954
35. KNA/PRO/CO/822/801/14 Conditions at Detention Camps 30 June 1954
36. KNA/PRO/CO/822/801/35 War council brief, "Numbers of Detainee" 15 October 1954
37. Wamathe Chege Muharabata O.I. 27/06/2015
38. For Detailed information see Elkins, *The British Gulag*
39. KNA/AH/9/13/7/1. (1954). Memorandum from the Director of Medical Services, Medical Estimates: Work camps."
40. KNA/AH/9/16. (1954). Memorandum from Lewis to Minister of defense "Prison Department Emergency Expenditure Sanitation Mackinon Road and Manyani.

41. KNA/AH/9/19/22.(1954). Memorandum from H.Stott to Lewis Central Province Works Camp.”
42. KNA/MAA/7/813/36/1, Memorandum from T.F. (1954). Anderson, Director of Medical Services to the Commissioner of Prisons” Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Prison and Detention Camp.
43. KNA/AH/9/13/43 Stott. H. (1954). “Report on Health and Hygiene in Emergency Camps.”
44. KNA/PRO/CO/822/801 H.G. (1994). Waters Public Health Report, Manyani Camp. 9 May 1954
45. See also Caroline Elkins, The Struggle for Mau Mau Rehabilitation in Colonial Kenya