

barracks in Mozambique for military training

So, I was told to travel to Kenya. I was also told not to pass through Malaba border, but via Busia.

The other instruction was after crossing the border; I should travel to Bungoma in Kenya. The hotel at Bungoma was paid for. Then the next morning, I was told to leave Bungoma on my own to Eldoret. So, I was told that as I move, I should not talk because I didn't know Swahili and Luganda.

The best thing to do, I was told, is to buy a newspaper and be reading. I was also told to make myself busy, avoid crowded places and breaking any law. That time there was scarcity of goods in Uganda unlike today. I remember in Lango, we were washing clothes with paw paw leaves.

Those of you who were born under the NRM keep saying Uganda is bad. Let me tell you, Uganda is heaven. It is peaceful. You people are too peaceful and happy. There is a lot of freedom. Some of us have seen it all.

So, I was told by the man who recruited me that it will be easy to cross to Kenya because as a result of scarcity of commodities, people cross to Kenya to buy soap and sugar and then walk back, to Uganda.

So, I was told to pretend as if I was going to buy soap. That is how I crossed. He also told me that when I cross, I should buy clothes from Kenya.

Why did the person who recruited you insist that you buy clothes from Kenya?

Actually, your clothes can betray you. The way Ugandans dress is different from the way Kenyans dress and Tanzanians. So, I was told to buy new clothes from Kenya and remove my Ugandan clothes and throw them in the pit latrine.

I continued from Bungoma. I did not know the fighting group nor who was leading them. I just wanted to fight and get rid of Amin. The way I left Uganda was that I was not told what I going to do and where the journey will end. Now, in Bungoma at the hotel where I slept, I saw some people who resembled those from Uganda. They were youth.

After taking my tea, I moved near where they were seated.

I wanted to pick what kind of language they were speaking. I heard them speaking a bit of Luo, Kumam and Ateso. So, I suspected these people might be from Uganda, but I could not engage them because I had been told not to talk anyone.

In the morning, as I was about to board a taxi to Eldoret, I saw the same people entering the same taxi.

I feared to enter that taxi. So, when they left, I also used a different taxi. However, when I reached Eldoret at the hotel, where I was told to go, I saw the same people. It is at that time that I confirmed that these are part of my group, but I did not associate myself with them.

Later on at the hotel, I saw Gen. Ivan Koreta, Gen. Caleb Akandwanaho aka (Salim Saleh) and other people in the hotel. One of them came to me, and said: "I think, you are Bosco. You



Museveni signing a guest book during his visit to Montepuez military barracks in Mozambique in 2018. Left is Gen. Ivan Koreta and Col. Bosco Omure Okwir (right). Centre is Gen. Salim Saleh

came from Bungoma to here and you were recruited from Kampala. We are in the same group."

I could not refuse because he had mentioned all the details. They told me to be careful because at that time, Kenya security would arrest you and return you back to Uganda or hand you over to Amin and then get killed in Makindye.

We were also told not to drink, smoke and avoid womanising. It was not easy but once you are committed to something, you can do it.

At that time, we were about 11. Then we split into groups and started the journey from Eldoret to Nairobi.

At that time, I admired the Kenya transport services. It is not chaotic as ours here. The buses there are marked and they ply a single route. So, you just have to know the number of the bus and the stage.

When I reached Nairobi, I was told by Gen. Saleh that we were going to walk single file, one after another, with each one giving the other space of five meters. He cautioned us against talking to each other, adding that if the person in front stops, the one behind should also stop.

So, nothing happened to us until we reached at a wall-fenced house in Nairobi city. We entered the house, and we were welcomed. That is where I saw a person who came and said comrades from today we shall call ourselves comrades because our idea and the struggle is one.

We are going to train, come back, fight Amin and form a government in Uganda. He added that that was our mission. He then said his name is Yoweri Museveni, the leader of the group. He welcomed us and he listed



If you went to some office and you find people speaking their local language, then, you know that there is a problem in that office.

what we were going to follow. He said that no one should speak their local language until the Ugandan government is captured.

What reason did Museveni give when he decreed that no FRONASA recruit should speak their mother tongue?

That is tribalism. If you went to some office and you find people speaking their local language, then you know that there is a problem in that office.

The assumption is that they have recruited their tribemates, in-laws, relatives or spouses in that office. How about the other people who don't speak your local language; you make them feel uneasy in that office. So, President Yoweri Museveni told

us that no one should speak their local language. Number two; he said there should be no drinking, no womanising, no smoking, no fighting each other, no quarrelling and no selfishness. So, we became one body, and started training. We were training in Nairobi city.

How did you leave Nairobi to Cabo Delgado in Mozambique?

We trained at the Nairobi house until he told us that we were going to leave Nairobi and go for a Christian crusade.

So, when I see pastor saying he or she is taking people for a crusade, I remember that we also left Nairobi like that under the guise that we were going for a crusade.

So, God was with us because we crossed the Kenya-Tanzanian border at Namanga.

When authorities asked us where we were going, we told them that we are people of God going for a crusade in Arusha and Moshi.

So, when we met Museveni in Tanzania, he said Gen. Saleh and I should stay with him at Moshi Co-operative College where he was teaching. So, I am like a foster child to the family of Museveni. I do not know why he picked on me from all those FRONASA people.

After sometime, I rejoined the group in Dar-es-Salaam. Just like in Nairobi, we were staying in a house in Kinondoni estate.

At Kinondoni, he also tested us on whether we could desert him or betray him. In Nairobi, some people suspected me to be the son of Amin with some saying I resemble the son of Amin, Taban Amin. But I think they later realised that I was an innocent

Lango man who was serious with the struggle. Then in Dar-es-Salaam, again to test our commitment, he (Museveni) denied us food for almost a week.

None of us died, but we could not stand on our two feet. We were just crawling like babies because of hunger. However, we maintained the discipline. We did not riot because we wanted our mission to succeed. Later, he brought food, milk and porridge.

The following day, he came back with combat uniforms for all of us. We got drills on how to salute and walk like soldiers. Never did we know that he was preparing us to go out and mingle with real soldiers in training camps, but he had earlier told us that our group is called Front for National Salvation (FRONASA) and that, we were going to train to fight with a gun.

From there one night, Museveni came and we were taken to the Dar-es-Salaam airbase.

We flew to Mtwara airbase in north Tanzania and later we were driven to Nachingwea. In Nachingwea, there was a big college for the liberation of Africa.

President Julius Nyerere offered land as big as a district in Uganda to train liberators. That is where Mozambican people trained from. The likes of Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane and Samora Machel and the FRELIMO group trained from. The South African, Zimbabwean and Angola liberators and fighters against white occupation of Africa also trained from that side. That is where the enemy sent a letter bomb and killed Mondlane, the first President of Mozambique.

How did you end up at Cabo Delgado?

We spent a few days at Nachingwea before crossing to Cabo Delgado through a city called Pemba, the capital of Cabo Delgado in 1975.

Cabo Delgado is a Portuguese term that means where they cut the head from. That is where the Portuguese killed so many Africans. It is also where the war for the liberation of Mozambique begun from. It was the base of FRELIMO. Cabo Delgado is the Luwero of Uganda in Mozambique. We trained there for some time. We were trained at a college called Montepuez. It is 200 miles from Pemba city.

Today, you are only four people that are still alive out of the 29 that were trained at Cabo Delgado; Gen. Museveni, Gen. Saleh, Gen. Ivan Koreta and yourself. Who are the other FRONASA combatants?

I will start with our leader, Gen. Museveni. He was the leader of our group. So, he could train with us, but also leave to do other work.

He would disappear for about three months, then appear.

However, for us we continued training in intelligence, socio-economic and political intelligence, international relations and military training. We were prepared so that we can back and take charge of Uganda.