

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND PRISONS.

DAR ES SALAAM 6th. October, 1922.

H. Q. 55/Gen/30

Registered No.

Telegrams: CRIME.
Telephone: No. 79.

The Director of Public Works,
DARESSALAAM.

RE: GALLOWS - MOROGORO.

I desire to bring to your notice the following unsatisfactory points in connection with the gallows at Morogoro, which were brought to notice during my recent Inspection of the Gaol at that station.

2. In the first place it is absolutely essential that proper steps should be made leading to the pit, so that the body of the hanged man can be properly carried up for burial. At the present time, the entrance to the pit is by an ordinary ladder and any one descending the pit, for instance the doctor, has to duck his head to clear the platform. It is quite impossible to remove a body with any decency by this exit.

3. The present system is revolting to any decent ideas. The body is hauled up by the neck, through the trap doors, through which it has dropped, without undoing the noose. Last Monday a very heavy and big man was hanged, and his body had to be treated in this way, with unpleasant results to all who were present.

4. At the time the gallows was made, the Superintendent of Police expostulated at the proposed plan, but for some reason or other, possibly expense, it was decided to go on with the original design. At Lindi, Tanga and Mwanza Gaols, proper cement steps have been made, and are satisfactory. I desire to ask that the necessary improvements to remedy the existing state of affairs at Morogoro, may be taken in hand at once.

5. Another point requiring your attention in the cross bar which holds the trap door in position. When this is released and falls into its groove in the wall, it should be caught by a socket of some kind, to prevent its rebounding on contact with the stone. At present it is quite possible that, in the rebound, it hits the hanging man as he drops from above. True, if the hanging is properly done, the man is probably dead before he receives the blow from the iron bar: but you will agree every possible precaution should be taken against any suggestion of inhumanity.

6. Finally the present chain supplied from your workshops is far from satisfactory. The other day it was necessary to take off some links to shorten the drop. At the first tap of a hammer, the link snapped. Surely this is not right. I have instructed the Assistant Superintendent of Prisons to send this chain to Daressalaam as soon as it can be spared for your inspection.

7. I trust that you will be able to treat these matters as urgent, as they are of vital importance, if the executions are to be carried out without any regrettable incident.

from CS
act.
Copy only, To see.
M.
10.10.22

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