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BRIEF NOTES ON EASTLEIGH

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KIBERA

1. Background

The majority of the residents of Kibera are Nubians who are descendants of Sudanese soldiers who had joined the British army. They were settled in Kibera between 1912 and 1934 by the colonial administration and each was given a plot as a reward for their services. The rest of the other races (Kikuyu, Kamba, etc) started moving in, in 1956 as squatters. They occupied the outlying fringes of Kibera near Nairobi dam or the lower slopes of Mutoini river valley.

With the extending of the city boundary, just before independence Kibera became part of Nairobi. A number of proposals were made by the City Council to develop Kibera but it became very difficult because of the land ownership problem. The Nubians claimed this land to be theirs and yet there were no records or title deeds which they could use as their proof. The colonial government allocated the land to them but gave no document to show that they were the rightful owners of the land. Up to date the situation has remained unclear as to who is the rightful owner of the land in Kibera.

2. Population and People

Since 1912 Kibera has been associated with Nubian community in Kenya. Throughout its history it has been an area of low-income settlement. Since 1970 its population has grown very rapidly partly as a result of Nairobi's rapid urbanisation to become Nairobi's second major concentration of low-income inhabitants after Mathare Valley.

Population Estimates

1917	-	600	
1969	-	13,175	source: P. Amis (HRDU)
1972	-	15,500-17,000	
1979	-	62,197	
1980	-	64,976	
