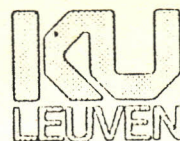




NAIROBI 1989

UNCHS-PGCHS
HRDU



HAND-OUT ON GITHURAI LAND BUYING COMPANY ESTATE
IN NAIROBI

NACHU - NAIROBI, 27/1/89

ROSE GATABAKI-KAMAU
Research Fellow (Sociologist)
University of Nairobi - HRDU - FADD

HRDU LIBRARY COPY
DO NOT REMOVE

POST GRADUATE CENTRE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Kasteel Arenberg
B-3030 (Heverlee) Leuven
Belgium
tel. 16/220931 (ext. 1391)
telex 25941

UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS (Habitat)
P.O. Box 30030
Nairobi
Kenya
tel. 333930/520600/520320
telex 22996

HOUSING RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT UNIT
University of Nairobi
P.O. Box 30197
Nairobi
Kenya
tel. 724521/9 (ext. 212)
telex 22095

Local Authority

The section of Githurai west of the highway falls under the jurisdiction of the Nairobi City Commission. The rest, which is east of the highway falls under the jurisdiction of the Kiambu County Council.

Ownership and Acquisition

Until 1967 the land belonged to a dairy farmer. His workers had set up a co-operative with the intention of buying off the farm from him. They formed a company called Githurai Thinganga. The land they bought consisted of three plots, plot no. 5964/2 along the Kamiti road, plot no. 3543 which is divided in two parts by the Thika road and plot no. 8867 which is on the Kiambu side of the settlement.

Sub-division

At the time of sub-division, the company allocated land in three categories.

- residential plots which measured 50'x50' on the Nairobi side and 100' x 100' on the Kiambu side. Each shareholder in the company received two of each type of plot for every share he owned.
- plots for farming which measured 300' x 300' and were situated in a tract of land along the river. Each shareholder received one plot.
- public utility space: 10 acres of land were given to the Nairobi City Commission for use in providing public services. 8 Acres were set aside for a primary school which has already been built. The remaining 2 acres were initially reserved for a public health dispensary. However, instead the NCC built a market which has since remained unoccupied. This is because the NCC has also permitted trading from within the houses and this, coupled with heavy competition from the hawkers, has discouraged traders from renting stalls in the market.