



**Nampa and one of her daughters in front of their two-roomed house which is inside Pastor Iga's church.**  
Photo by Frederick Kiwanuka

# Pastor builds church around widow's house

By Frederick Kiwanuka

The Luwero resident district commissioner's (RDC) office has stepped in to rescue a 60-year-old widow from a Born-again pastor, Steven Iga, who has constructed his makeshift church around her house, effectively encircling her.

This was after the widow, Paulina Nampa, whose two-roomed house in Mabaale LC1, Luwero town is now inside Pastor Steven Iga's church, ran to the RDC's office for help last week.

The land wrangle between Nampa and the pastor has been raging for three years.

Pastor Iga of the Luwero-based Power Cathedral Deliverance Ministries, claims to have bought the land from the widow in an sh18m deal.

Pastor Iga, who wields two purported land sale agreements in respect of the disputed land, claims he raised the sh18m from his followers and the deal was witnessed by a Luwero-based advocate, Asaph Tumubwine, who signed and stamped the purported sale agreement on November 4, 2014.

However, Nampa, who inherited the disputed land from her late husband, said

*"The pastor could have tricked this old woman."* Luweero

deputy RDC

the pastor tricked her into signing the agreement before receiving the money. She says they had agreed with the pastor that she would sign the land sale agreement without receiving the money first so that the pastor uses the signed agreement to get the money from some American donors and later on pay her off, which he never did.

Instead, the widow says pastor Iga, who did not honour his promise, went ahead to construct a makeshift church on the disputed land, engulfing her two-room house inside.

Tumubwine, whose stamp and signature are on the copies of the land sale agreements which the pastor has, admitted to having endorsed the purported agreement after being approached by the two

warring parties in 2014, but the advocate said he never saw any money being paid to the widow.

"I did my work to endorse the papers as I was requested by the two parties and I was paid for the work. But I did not see the pastor giving the sh18m to the widow," Tumubwine said when contacted by phone on Monday.

According to the Luwero deputy RDC, Hussein Kibazo, who is arbitrating in the matter, the pastor could be trying to use fraudulent means to grab the widow's land.

"The pastor could have tricked this old woman. I am still investigating the matter, after which I will decide what to do next," he said.

Kibazo said he at one time closed the church for a few days, but was compelled to re-open it after receiving numerous calls from Kampala.

The saga has attracted the attention of leading Born-again leaders, who on Sunday sent a delegation to Iga's church in an attempt to reconcile the warring parties.

According to Pastor Kiwanuka Kisiriiza, who was part of the six-man delegation of Luwero lead pastors, Iga was given one week to sort out the

matter with the widow or the Luwero pastors intervene.

Nampa, whose house is right in the middle of Iga's church, said she spends sleepless nights because of the incessant noise caused by Iga's church followers, who pray day and night.

She said the charged followers sometimes box her house as they pray, causing her and her two daughters to panic.

Nampa, one of whose daughters is living with a mental disability, also complained that the pastor had warned her against producing smoke inside the church, yet she prepares her meals using firewood.

Once a follower of pastor Iga's church, she said the whole saga started in 2014, when the pastor, who had just been evicted from Kizito zone in Luwero town, asked her to temporarily accommodate the church on her 100x50ft land.

Nampa said the pastor later proposed to her to sell the land to the church. However, he did not have ready cash, thus making her sign the sale agreement so that he would use it to convince some American donors to give him the money.

By Nika

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