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The construction of a tarmac road connecting to Namugongo shrines has greatly increased human traffic thereby providing ready market for goods and services.

Lumuli has developed into a commercial town

Though in the past it was barely noticeable, Lumuli has greatly blossomed from a village into a suburb worth reckoning with.

80m

THE ESTIMATED COST IN SHILLINGS OF A 50 BY 100FT PLOT OF LAND IN LUMULI

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Located approximately five kilometers from Uganda Martyrs Shrines in Namugongo and two kilometres from Seeta Town, Lumuli is a fast developing town.

Though in the past it was barely noticeable, Lumuli has greatly blossomed from a village into a suburb worth reckoning with.

The small but busy town has a number of new businesses and because of this, its population is growing each passing day.

Origin
According to 62-year-old Samuel Kiwanuka, the area general secretary of defense, in the past, Lumuli was predominantly occupied by people from the Mpindi clan who kept dying often under unclear circumstances.

Kiwanuka says because of the many deaths, residents thought the area was cursed and therefore coined a phrase, "ekitakule kizimba mulumuli" loosely translated as something that will not grow builds in a reed hence the name 'Lumuli'.

He adds that due to the deaths, a number of people evaded oc-

cupying the area until the 1960s when many realised that the area had good climate and fertile soils that were conducive for farming. He says a number of people started settling in the area and they grew mostly coffee.

"People were joining cooperative societies such as *Kukulakulana kwa Buganda* and through these corporative societies, they were taught good farming practices and helped to get market for their produce," he says.

Acquiring land
According to Jane Namusisi, a resident, in the 1950s land was owned by the Kabaka and squatters used to pay local taxes to



Security
According to Christopher Sse-ruyange, a resident, Lumuli is fairly secure and cases of theft are very rare.
He says people are able to carry on with transact their buying and selling of different products until late in the night without any security threats.
He attributes this to the community working closely with the police to maintain law and order.
"We have a number of crime preventers who work closely with police. These have helped report people who are involved in dubious activities hence making our area secure," he observes.

Many people have settled in the area to tap into the numerous business opportunities.
PHOTOS BY DORCUS MURUNGI

Landlords and tenants

The landlord who almost killed me

My friend had asked me to stay in his house while he went to the village on holiday with his family in the village. The previous year he had not left anybody in the house and things broke in. He was to stay there for two weeks so I had to protect his property since then rentals were not enclosed in a fence.

Meanwhile, the landlord had heard rumours that my friend had an affair with his wife. I cannot tell this was true but on the second day of my sleeping in the house, I heard a heavy bang on the door at about 11:30pm.

The landlord had returned from upcountry where he works and I was in deep sleep. I did not open the door quickly. He knocked the door so hard and this time called friend's name.

He was cursing and swearing that if he did not open he was going to break into the house. I do not know why in the middle of the night a landlord would be that loud opening the door.

On opening, the man hit me by the neck and boxed me several times. I did not know something but still he came in. He asked why I was there. I said because he was in an affair with his wife. I did not know about the allegations.

He then went into my room and searched it but my friend was not there. He thought I was with him. All the other people who were there woke up because of the thunder.

He kept warning me not to find the person who was in the house, he was warning me.

He wondered why I was in his house since I was paying the rent. He was paying the rent and came out and ordered me to leave. He does not want me in his house.

I had no money to pay the rent. I was dressed in my night clothes. I did not let me sleep that night. I slept because of the tears in my jeans that were to my thighs. I was anywhere security.

Economic activities

Namusisi attributes the rising population to the numerous commercial activities in the area such as sand mining, welding, carpentry and markets.

She also notes that ever since the construction of a tarmac road that connects to Namugongo shrine, business is thriving and many people are investing in the area.

"It is now very easy to start any form of business here in Lumuli because there is enough market. Because various people use this road, there is ready market for goods and services," she explains.

Rent

Namusisi says rent is still relatively cheap noting that a one-bedroom house goes for between Shs200,000 and Shs250,000 per month.