

SCRIPT ENDOROIS REPOSSESSING ANCESTRAL LAND

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LEAD

It can be considered a landmark ruling, the decision of the African Union to let the Kenyan Endorois community to reposses their land.
This community in North West Kenya was removed by the government in the 1970's to make way for a national park.
But the Endorois filed a case at the African Union, and eventually won.
Now other more minorities in Kenya could use this case to protest against eviction, and sparking a wave of changes across the country.
The Endorois, who say to be with 60,000, last week repossessed their land in a ceremony led by their elders.

BETA LENGTH 1'51"

SOUNDBITE ELDER PREACHING

The Endorois were expelled from their land almost 40 years ago from their land.
Now they are finally back on the on the shores...
of their volcanic Lake Bogoria in Kenya.
With traditional ceremonies they chase the evil spirits that held it for so long.

SOUNDBITE SINGING

SOUNDBITE SPITTING HONEY DRINK

The government removed the Endorois in favor of tourism.
Lake Bogoria is a popular destination because of its hot springs.

SOUNDBITE BOILING PIT

It had the Endorois scattered across the surrounding areas.
The 76-years old Simeon Motoloi remembers how it used to be here.

QUOTE SIMEON MOTOLOI

Lake Bogoria helped us because our cattle grazed here.
There was drinking water, and we did bee keeping here.

Simeon and other Endorois can return after the decision of the African Union.
Even sharing of tourism revenues is an option.
The Endorois now have a voice towards the Kenyan government.

SOUNDBITE ENDOROIS HORN

QUOTE CHARLES KAMUREN CHAIR PERSON ENDOROIS COMMUNITY AFRICA
When you get justice now, you'll be part of decision makers.
In everything that's happening, and that what we like to see.

The ownership of the land can bring changes for the Endorois.
And for many other minorities who were removed from their land.
According to Korir Singoei of the Centre for Minority Rights Development...
they can also start claiming their rights in court.

QUOTE KORIR SINGOEI Centre for Minority Rights Development
They might be successful if they utilize the principles and the guidelines and the
jurisprudence that has been generated through this Endorois decision.

The Endorois look forward to talks with the Kenyan government.