

# Kunene community makes land claim to ACLA

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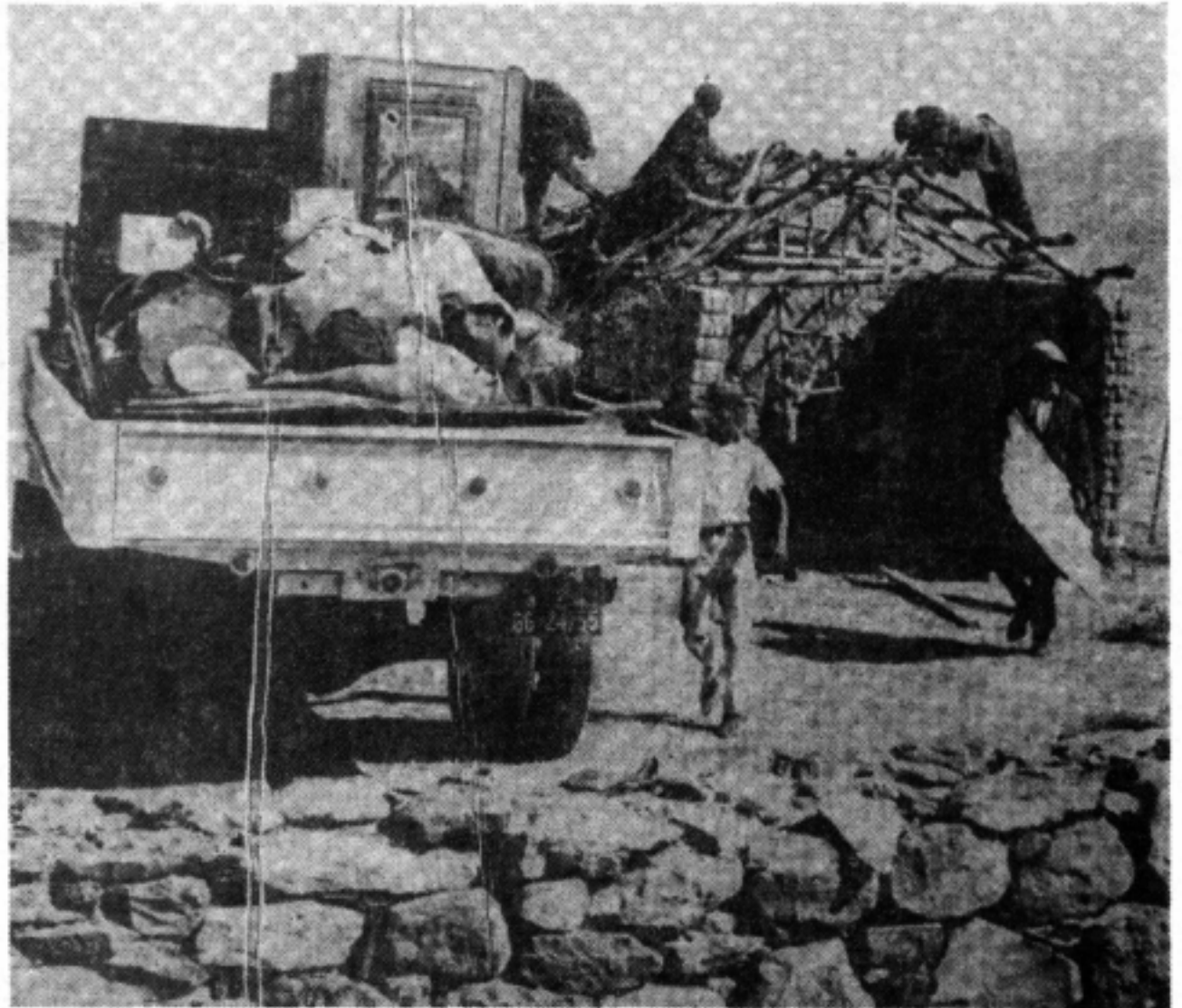
ABOUT 25 years ago the government removed the Kunene community of Boschhoek from land they had owned since 1870. Today the community is claiming back this land.

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**T**HE Kunene community of Boschhoek near Wasbank in northern Natal have asked AFRA to inform the government-appointed Advisory Commission on Land Allocation (ACLA) about their land claim. About 4 000 members of the Kunene community were removed from Boschhoek in 1968 when the government declared Boschhoek a "black spot" which it wanted cleared.

The state currently owns the land which the Kunene community is claiming and AFRA has asked ACLA to ensure that the land's status and ownership does not change while it deals with the land claim. The community will be sending ACLA a written submission about their claim in due course.

When they were removed from their farm in 1968, the government gave the Kunene community "compensatory land" near Vaalkop. But the community never got title to this land and all attempts on their part to get title failed. Although the community's removal in 1968 was presented by the government as a willing sale, the community has denied that was so. They say they never received the money



The Kunene removal in 1968. "People do not want to move," said Chief Inca Kunene at the time.

which the government said it paid for their land - reportedly R250 970, 57. At the time of the removal, the chief, Chief Inca Kunene, made it clear that the community did not want to move and did so only because it had no choice. Chief Kunene was installed in March 1968 and was an outspoken critic of the community's removal from Boschhoek. In a newspaper report of the time he said: "My people do not want to move. But what can we do? The government tells us to move and we have to move." Chief Kunene also criticised a statement by the then Chief Bantu Commissioner for Natal, Mr TF Coertze, which said: "It could not be emphasised too strongly that the move is being undertaken by the Chief and his Council with the assistance and guidance only of the department and government officials." In

response the Chief said: "We did not go to the government, wanting to move and ask for assistance and guidance. We want to stay here, at Boschhoek."



Chief Inca Kunene at the time of the removal.

Since their removal the community has tried to get back their land through the help of a lawyer. However, this proved fruitless and they are now hoping that ACLA will be able to restore their land to them.