

One of Kenya's oldest churches shuts down

by UPI

FREE TOWN, Kenya -- St. Emmanuel's Church in Free Town, Kenya, one of Kenya's oldest churches, has been shut down in a bid for leadership. Descendants of the freed slaves who built the church in 1889 padlocked the doors of the Anglican Church on Sunday, claiming to have been removed from the church's 12-member council, the Daily Nation reported Monday. Joash Mcharo, one of the founder's descendants, said that five years ago management problems began at the church and all efforts to have them resolved failed. "What we want is recognition as the true descendants of freed slaves (who built) this church and should not be denied that right," he said. He said that he and the other descendants are not against others attending the church, but are upset at having been put out of the council. Mcharo added that the church would not re-open unless the grievances were taken care of and the building may be turned into a museum if it does not re-open.

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