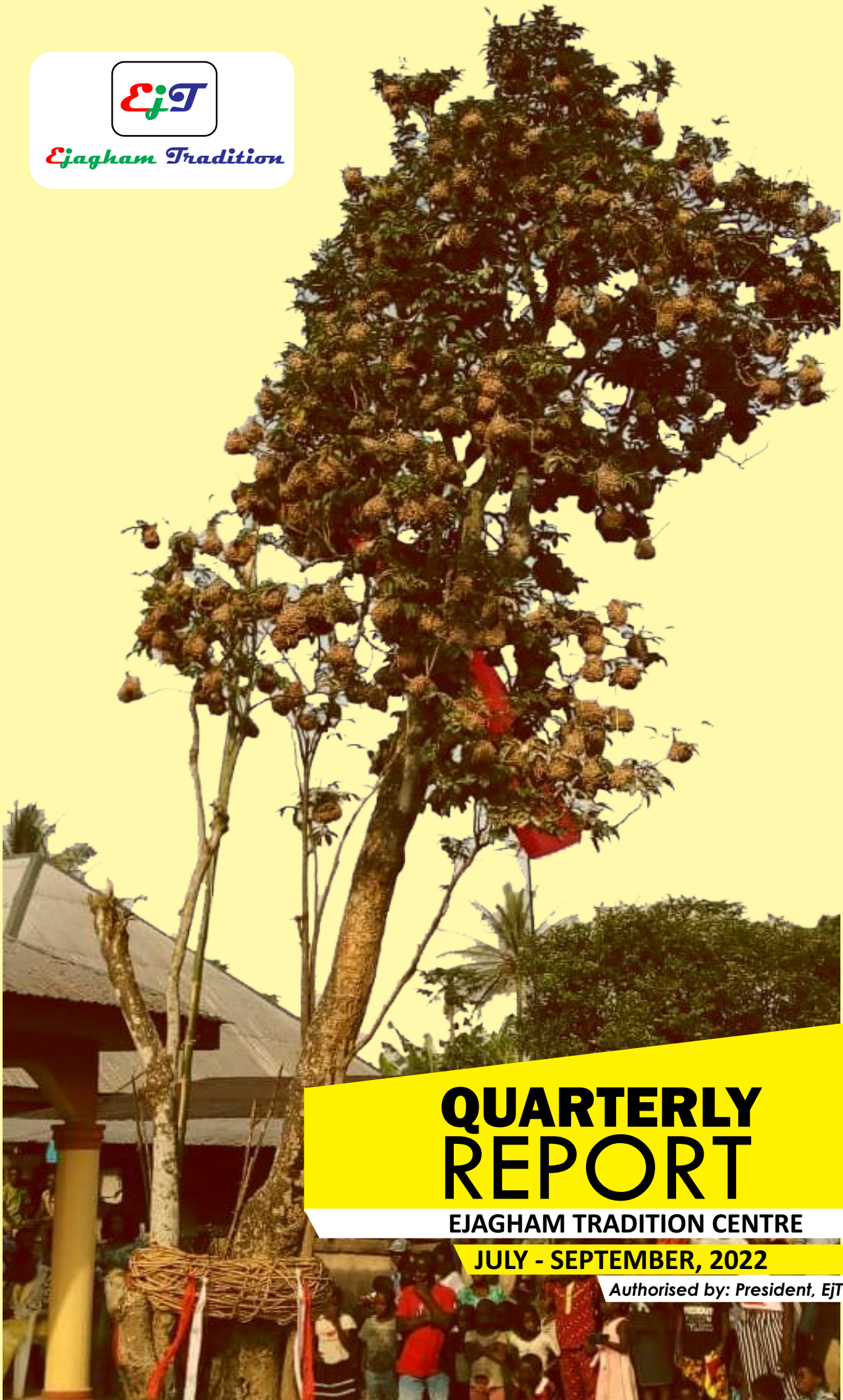




Ejagham Tradition



QUARTERLY REPORT

EJAGHAM TRADITION CENTRE

JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2022

Authorised by: President, EjT

CONTENTS

ORGANISATIONAL DIRECTION	3
FROM THE PRESIDENT	4
EJAGHAM NATION COMPOSITION	5
3 rd QUARTER 2022 BRIEF	7
EJAGHAM LANGUAGE CODIFICATION	7
EJAGHAM FASHION COLLECTION	10
EJT WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT	10
APPENDICES	11

ORGANISATIONAL DIRECTION

OUR MISSION

“To Host, Promote, Harness and Update Ejagham Traditional Practices (ETP) and Ejagham Cultural Expressions (ECE) in order to Safeguard and Preserve Ejagham Tradition as a true Legacy of Ejagham People.”

OUR VISION

To be a one-stop-shop for information and data about, relating to and concerning Ejagham Traditional Practices (ETP) and Ejagham Cultural Expressions (ECE)

OUR OBJECTIVES

- *Safeguard and preserve the cultural heritage of Ejagham people.*
- *Protect the secret and sacred cultural heritage of Ejagham people.*
- *Encourage Research and Development (R&D) on Ejagham tradition.*
- *Ensure that the none-secret and non-sacred knowledge of Ejagham Traditional Practices (ETP) and Ejagham Cultural Expressions (ECE) are globally available and easily accessible.*
- *Explore the Socio-economic potential of Ejagham tradition for the empowerment of Ejagham People and Local Communities (EPLC).*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

EJT, AN EJAGHAM GLOBAL OCHAM

Ocham is synonymous to Ejagham. It is the home of Mgbe, the Ejagham supreme governance institution. It is therefore no wonder that once an Ejagham community is founded, an *Ocham* is established to ensure that the governance system runs and smooth functioning as a civil society is assured.



Eyuk

Typically, merriments, cases resolution, healing etc.

take place in *Ocham*. The “Eyuk” – Wooden Gong, that is normally used to communicate critical events in and to nearby communities is placed in *Ocham*. “Ikpiri” – Drum, that is normally used by the town crier to make announcements is placed in *Ocham*. “Egbung” – the Mgbe Bell, that is used to summon an individual, Mgbe initiates and indeed the community is also placed in *Ocham*. *Ocham* is the nerve centre of Ejagham heritage.

When the aforementioned Eyuk, Ikpiri or Egbung sounds, the community is invited to *Ocham* to take part in the reason for which they have been summoned. These traditional practices and cultural expressions form part of the foundation of our heritage.



Engr. Chris Anom *CEng, CMarEng, FIMarEST, FRINA*

The reality is that the vices of the 21st century which include emigration, migration, urbanisation, modernisation, technology, etc. have significantly impacted the way our traditional

practices and cultural expressions are manifested. In fact, some of these practices and expressions are at risk of Erosion, Dilution, Adulteration, Misinterpretation and in some cases, Extinction (EDAME). Like other civilisations, Ejagham communities have changed, the people are widely travelled and live locally and globally. Therefore, in the 21st century, Ejagham people must be ingenious to remain connected, sustain, promote, harness and update Ejagham traditional practices and cultural expressions. We cannot afford to be left behind.

In the same way that Eyuk, Ikpiri or Egbung invites Ejagham people to *Ocham* to *merry, be informed, resolve cases* etc., EJT is established as an **Ejagham Global Ocham** and invites (*a clarion call*) all Ejagham sons, daughters and friends of Ejagham from all works of life, home and in diaspora, to fulfil the same purpose and more.



EJAGHAM TRADITION STAKEHOLDERS GALAXY
– SEE APPENDIX 1 FOR DETAILS

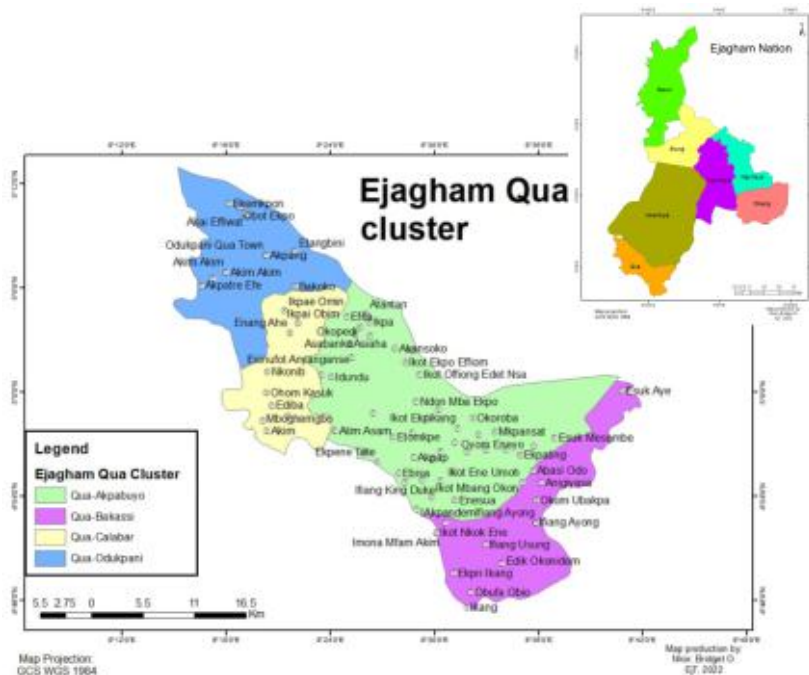
In this **Ejagham Global Ocham**, there is room for every Ejagham heritage stakeholder. The Ejagham Tradition Stakeholders' Galaxy below show our key

stakeholders communities. Find where you fit in and how you can support Ejagham through this Ejagham Heritage Institution, EJT. Once you have done so, come to the Global Ocham and help in writing this chapter of Ejagham history. Log onto www.ejaghamtradition.org and register if you have not already done so and be a partner.

Engr. Chris Anom

Chris Anom
President, EJT

EJAGHAM NATION COMPOSITION



His Royal Majesty (HRM) Ndidem Eta Bassey Eteta III, Ndidem of Calabar and Paramount of Calabar Municipality and the Grand Patriarch of Ejagham Nation

THE EJAGHAM QUA CLUSTER

Ejagham Qua cluster is in Cross River State in Nigeria; spanning through four Local Government Areas - Akpabuyo, Bakassi, Calabar Municipality and Odukpani Local Government Areas.

Ejagham Qua, was founded by Prince Ikang Eta and his father Ndidem Eta Nyak Ntison. The Quas were the first to settle in Calabar as early as 1000 BCE and they brought to Calabar, the Ejagham Traditional Practices and Cultural Expressions which had spread to other neighbouring civilizations.

The Qua people are the Southern-most section of the Ejagham people that had expanded from the Mamfe district of the Cameroons through Ikom area of the upper Cross River and then southward to their present location, between the Calabar and Great Qua Rivers.

Calabar has grown to become an Ejagham cosmopolitan city, similar to Eyumojock in Ejagham Cameroon. Ejagham Qua occupy the Calabar Municipality. Calabar is currently cohabited by Ejagham Qua, Efut and the Efiks. The city of Calabar is situated on latitude 4o 57' North and longitude 8o 18' East.

Key landmarks in Calabar Municipality include but are not limited to;

The Nigerian Army Akim and Ebrutu Barracks, the Timbre Market, the Government Reservation Area along Marian Road, the Otop Abasi Police Barrack, the Calabar Zoo and Park, the Cross River State Newspaper Corporation, the Specialist Hospital site, the University of Calabar, Hope Waddell Training Institution (HWTI), St. Patricks Collage (SPC), the Calabar Airport, the Calabar Stadium, Transcorp Hotel Calabar, Cultural Center, Spar Calabar, the Central Bank Calabar, Ika Ika Oqua Market, Cross River State House of Assembly, Old Residency Calabar, the Cross River State Government House and the State House to mention but a few.



Old Residency Calabar

Ejagham Qua tradition rulers' council is structured as The Qua Clans Constituted Assembly (QCCA). QCCA is the apex ruling body of all Ejagham Qua clans in Calabar Municipality and environs which has the Ndidem as the President. Therefore, a

coronated Ntoe of any Qua clan can be both the Ntoe of the clan and the 'Ndidem of Ejagham Qua Nation' as gazetted and recognised by the Cross River State government. Currently, the Ndidem of Quas who is also the Ndidem of Calabar is HRM Ndidem Etetta Eta, the Paramount Ruler of Calabar Municipality and the Grand Patriarch of Ejagham Nation.

The Qua people were and still are very good traditional musicians and dancers and they communicate through music and dances among themselves. This made some "Abo Ekan" – age grade system, specialised in traditional song and dances. These traditional dances vary in functions, costumes and participation. They may function to entertain, advertise, purify, correct



Ejagham Qua Women in Ukwa Display in 2019

social ills and deter moral decadence. Below is a compendium of some Ejagham Cultural Expressions which was practiced by the Quas. before imitation by their neighbours. Some traditional dances are now extinct but till date, some are still being practiced by both the Ejagham Qua in Calabar and environs. They are;

Mgbe, Ekpa, Akparankpa, Angbo/Agbot Akata, Ase Mmi, Ayo, Besen (Wrestling), Eban, Efen, Ekonbi, Eta Mbe Mbe, Ikadim, Ikpo, Moninkim, Nkem, Nsibidi, Nyangere, Ohm, Okom Mjom, Okpo, Otoe, Ukwa etc

The Ukwa is a ceremonial war dance which had its origin first linked up with Totem pole (Ete Ukwa) that religiously served as a medium to the universal deity that protects the Akpa during war periods. It is worth noting that the prelude to Ukwa songs is the Ejagham Qua phrases:

*Ke - sak! Ke - sak!! Ke - sak!!! Nsibidi koi? Koi! - (2 times)
Omenghe ngha ayama nku; omene ngha ayama mbe.
Omenghe ngha ayama mbe; omenghe ngha ayama nku.*

The Ejagham man or woman is primarily a 'Forest People'. Due to inhabiting in the forest, the



Ete Ukwa in Big Qua Town Playground

Ejagham man or woman is a farmer and the men with the additional hunting skills. Apart from farming and hunting skills, they are bestowed with the wisdom of the forest and function of the herbs. Apart from these, Ejagham Qua were skilled in iron smiting, having been credited with mastering of manufacturing domestic utensils and other tools like machetes, knives, hoes, native swords, spears and the making of terra cotta objects. They were also iron smiths and experts in arts and crafts which metamorphosed the state into the Tourism hub of Nigeria.

Rev. Hope Waddell, (the Scottish missionary who HWTI was named after) in "Twenty-Nine years in the West Indies and Central Africa records that the Great Qua River is called after the Qua settlements in the location and it is between the Calabar and Great Qua Rivers" (p xv). These rivers were the natural resources that attracted the colonial missionaries to Calabar and still remain the mainstay of Cross River State commercial resource.

By Prince Dr. Kadimo Oqua

EJAGHAM LANGUAGE CODIFICATION

ELCC Technical Team Engagements with Project Consultants: Prof. Imelda Icheji Lawrence Udoh (Nigeria) and Prof. Magdalene Bakume Nkongho (Cameroon)

The ongoing codification of Ejagham Language attained a monumental milestone on 25 July 2022, when a contingent from Ejagham Tradition Centre (EjT) visited, formalized, and finalized the engagement of the eminent Linguist, Prof. Imelda Icheji Lawrence Udoh, as the Nigerian Consultant for this project. The contingent was drawn from the Project Committee (ELCC) and its Technical Team at the Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages, University of Calabar (UniCal), Nigeria. The meeting was held at the office of the Consultant, Prof. Imelda - Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages, University of Uyo (UniUyo), Nigeria. The contingent consists of:

1. **Prof. Stella Ansa** – ELCC Chairperson; and Head, Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages, University of Calabar
2. **Prof. Bassey Okon**: Technical Team Coordinator
3. **Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong**: ELCC Alternate Chairperson; and Coordinator, Ejagham Journal and Book
4. **Mr. Mfon Ekpe**: Lead Member of the Technical Team
5. **D. C. Ekup-Nse**: ELCC Secretary

The meeting host, Prof. Imelda Udoh, is a widely



© EjT Media 2022, L-R: Prof. Bassey Okon, Prof. Imelda Icheji Udoh, Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong, Prof. Stella Ansa, & Mr. Ekup-Nse

acclaimed Linguist of local and international repute.

Among other outstanding feats, she is currently the National President, Linguistics Association of Nigeria (LAN), and Council Member, Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC). She is an alumna of UniCal, where she equally lectured briefly before proceeding to become a Professor at UniUyo. Prof. Imelda Udoh is an accomplished Linguist who has studied and taught in America and Europe, among other institutions across Africa. She belongs to many professional bodies and has an admirable record of developing local languages in Akwa Ibom and Cross River States (See her full [profile](#)).



© Google, Prof. Imelda Icheji Udoh

The key objective of this meeting was to formalize Prof. Imelda's consultancy role for this project. Before the meeting, she had been working on the background by providing useful data and suggestions to her professional colleagues, who make up the project Technical Team, on how to codify the Ejagham Language through a systematic harmonization of all Ejagham dialects into a standard orthography.

Click this link to read the full news on our website <https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/ejagham-language-codification-team-meets-with-its-project-consultant-prof-imelda-icheji-lawrence-udoh/>



© EJT Media 2022, L-R: Prof. Bassey Okon, Prof. Imelda Udo, Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong, Prof. Stella Ansa, Mr. Mfon Brownson

On the other hand, the Technical Team engaged virtually with Prof. Magdalene Bakume Nkongho in Cameroon.



Prof. Magdalene Bakume Nkongho.

She is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of English Language and Literatures of English Expression at the Higher Teacher Training College of the University of Maroua in Cameroon. Her research interests include

phonology, African linguistics, ELT, Sociolinguistics.

She is co-editor of *Interdisciplinarity and Transdisciplinarity: Mapping the Episteme in Language and Literature* (Miraclaire Publishing, 2020). She has published in national and international journals. Some of her articles have featured in *Engagement with Africa: Linguistic Essays in Honour of Nguessimo M. Mutaka*. (2019) Akumbu, P & Chie, E. (Eds.) Rudiger Koppe Verlag; *International Journal of Linguistics and Communication* 7(1), 2019; *International Journal of English Language and Linguistic Research* 9 (2), 2021; *British Journal of English Linguistics* 8 (4), 2020; *International Journal of English Language Studies* 3 (2), 2021; *African Journal of Social Sciences* 11 (9), 2020.

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ELCC Technical Team Proposes a Standard Ejagham Language Orthography

ELCC Technical Team has finalised the phonemic analysis of the eight Ejagham variants. They further harmonised all the variants to propose a Standard Ejagham Language orthography. This proposed orthography contains consonant and vowel sounds. The phonemic analysis of all the Ejagham variants, alongside the proposed orthography, was forwarded to the two consultants in Nigeria and Cameroon. These consultants diligently reviewed and made inputs into these documents and Technical Team is currently addressing the reviews and

recommendations of the consultants.



© EJT Media 2022, L-R: Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong, Prof. Bassey Okon, Sesseku Dr. Agbornduku Eret, Prof. Stella Ansa, Nta D. C. Ekup-Nse

This ground-breaking step in the project has been well captured in the first episode of the project documentary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFsI7FYxdNY>.

To celebrate this accomplishment, Sesseku (Iyamba) Hon. Dr. Agbornduku Eret travelled from Kumba in Cameroon to Calabar in Nigeria and



The Technical Team watch as EJT premier the documentary

joined other members of the Team to preview the proposed orthography and deliver inspiring interviews on the project, as captured in the documentary (see link above).

This documentary which highlights the development of this project in detail, was first premiered to the Technical Team in Calabar before it was published on EJT News Media platforms.

This documentary has generated astonishing feedbacks from both Ejagham and non-Ejagham

viewers across the globe (see sniped Appendix 3).

EJT-VP Ejagham Cameroon Present Proposed Standard Ejagham Language Orthography to President Eyumojock Traditional Ruler Association



EJT Vice President Ejagham Cameroon Ntufam Iyamba Dr. Agbornduku Eret hand over Report to President of the Southwest Chiefs Conference HRM Ntufam Obenofunde Moses.

As soon as the EJT Vice President Ejagham Cameroon returned to the Cameroons, Ntufam Iyamba Dr. Agbornduku Eret arranged and handed over the accomplished work so far in the codification of Ejagham language to the President of The Southwest Chiefs Conference HRM Ntufam Obenofunde Moses. Chief Obenofunde also doubles as the President of Eyumojock Chiefs Conference. The handover of the proposed Standard Ejagham Language Orthography was done on the 13th of September, 2022 in Douala Cameroon.

It is confirmed that Chief Obenofunde would be calling for a meeting of Ejagham Chiefs and Ejagham sons and daughters for official

presentation of the proposed orthography. We look forward to feedback from this meeting.

EJAGHAM FASHION COLLECTION

Presentation of updated Report to EFCB Patron and Exhibition Planning

On 31 August 2022, the leadership of Ejagham Fashion Collection Board presented an updated Data Collection report to its patron, Ntufam Prof. Rowland Ndoma-Egba. This report detailed achievements, learnings and contents of the data collected in the first phase of the project. Its high point was the critical engagement about the



L-R: Nta Ben Ntui, Nta D. C. Ekup-Nse, Sesseku Dr. Agbornduku Eret, Ms. Agnes Offiong and Ntufam Prof. Rowland Ndoma-Egba

upcoming exhibition of the data collected. This exhibition is intended to serve as a guide to all interested fashion experts on the objectives of the exercise.

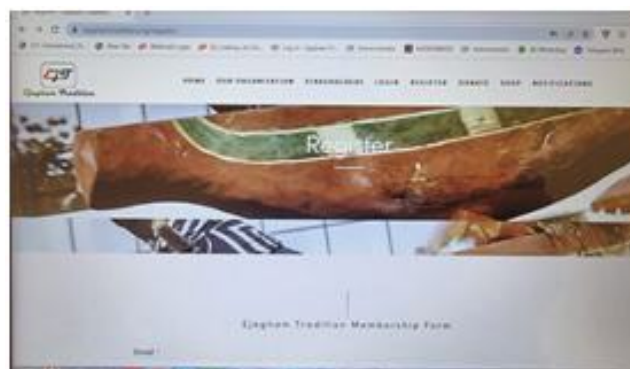
EJT WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

In our determination to function as an institution designed on a Triple-D strategy – Document, Digitalise, and Disseminate – the design, development, and management of EJT website have remained a central focus. Our website developers and content managers have successfully finalised the first phase design and development of the website. We are glad to therefore announce that all interested persons can now register on our website and enjoy the useful contents that are there uploaded. Users of

our website can see clear evidence of our resolve to become 'the one-stop-shop for information and data about, relating to and concerning Ejagham Traditional Practices and Cultural Expressions.'

A unique feature of the website is the fully functional Social Activity section that all users can navigate, yet only registered EJT members who have created and updated their accounts can create user profiles. This functionality on the website is intended to migrate all EJT New Media platforms onto the website and centralise communications and achieve the virtual community of all Ejagham people across the globe.

To register, kindly click: <https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/register/>



View of Registration landing page

To update your profile

https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/login/?redirect_to=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ejaghamtradition.org%2Faccount-2%2F



An example of what an update profile page would look like.

To view activities: <https://www.ejaghamtradition.org/activities/>



An example of what an update profile page would look like.

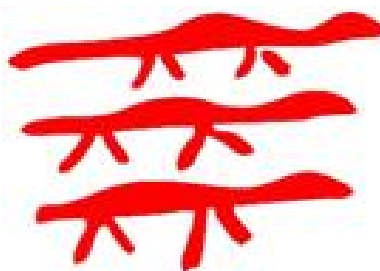
Appendix 1 Ejagham Tradition Stakeholders Galaxy



Ejagham Tradition Stakeholders Galaxy

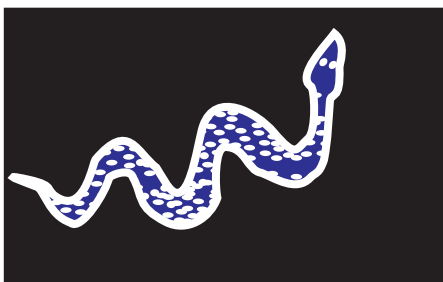
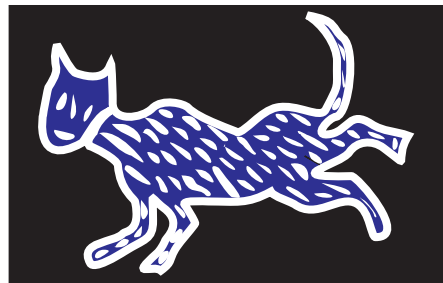
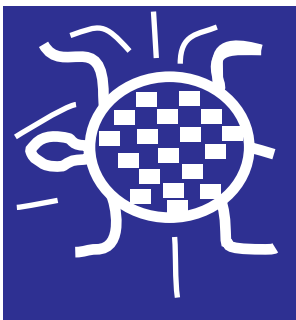
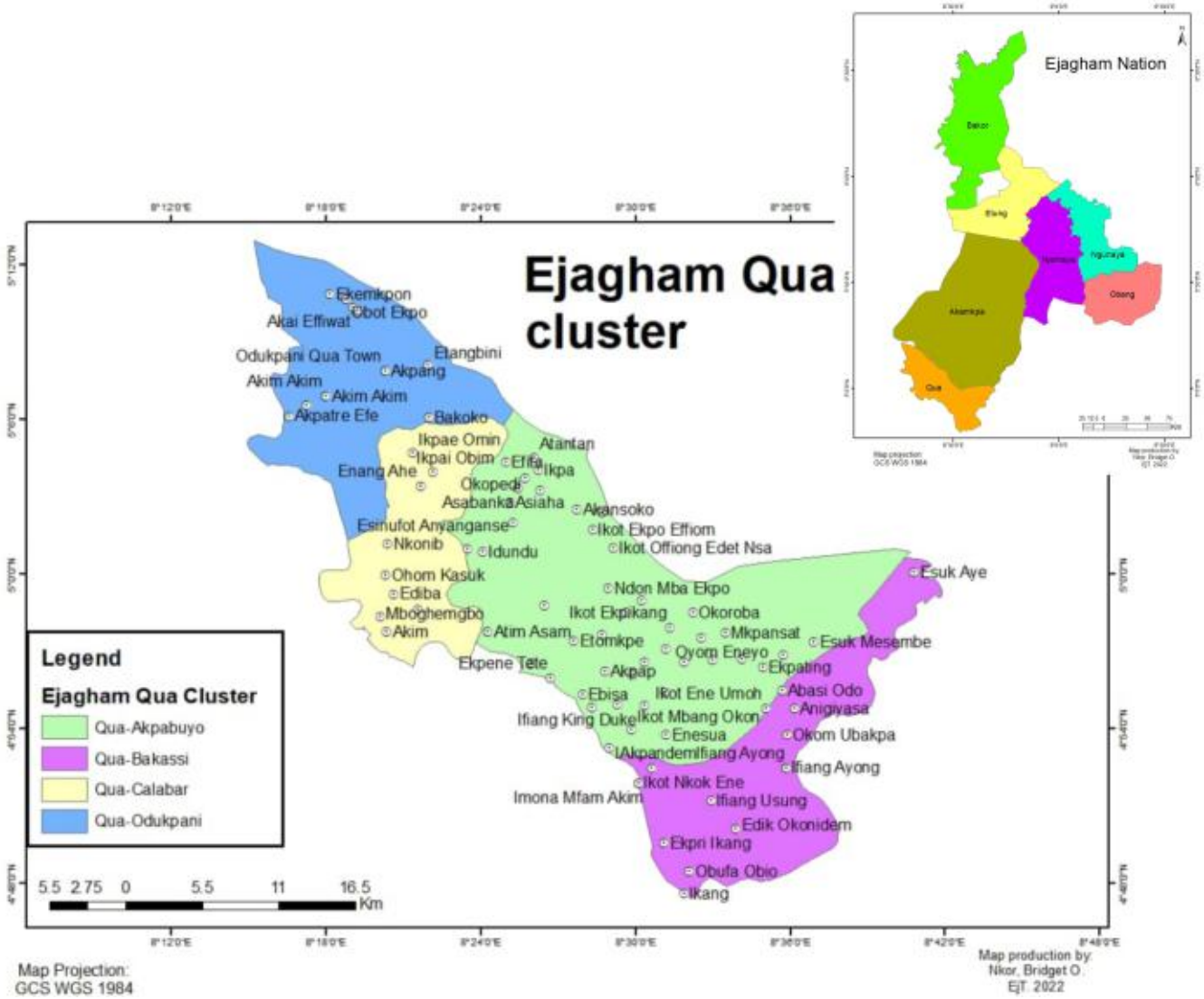


Egbung



Okam

Appendix 2 Ejagham Qua Cluster



Appendix 3

TOWARDS EJAGHAM LANGUAGE ORTHOGRAPHY: *Encouraging Appreciation Comments*

“Exquisite and excellent job, splendidly carried out. Thanks a gazillion!”
Sessekou Hon. Dr. Agbornduku Eret.

“This is commendable. There's a reawakening of hope”.
Nta Ayamba Akorokpo

“As a Jamaican of Akan & Songola descendant who is studying the Ejagham language, I look forward to the progress of this, along with an Ejagham dictionary.”
Nubiamancy

I love what I'm seeing ...
My Dialect my Identity

Post production is **100%**.
Your Voice Over narration **120%**,
Sound scoring, another **100%**,
Content: **Awesome.**
Prof. Bassey Okon

“Nothing in recent times has excited me half as much as the promise this project holds; especially given the stage it is at the moment. Prospects of regaining our cultural lost grounds in our life time and handing over to our children, indeed " a banner without stain" in this regard seems very much within reach. We owe this to the resoluteness, unwavering commitment and uncommon patriotism of the EJT President, Engr. Anom and others who have made the needed sacrifice at ensuring that this comes to fruition. It does not seem far off any longer.”

Ntufam Dr. Emmanuel Ntuyang



Towards a Standard Ejagham Language Orthography: The Journey So Far (Part 1)

384 views · 8 days ago



24



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“Excellent! Excellent!!
Well-done, Team”.
Nta Ben Ntui

Very good and very true. May God
bless the Ejagham Nation.
Prince Dr. Kadimo Oqua

Well Done. This is a lot
of work.
Prof. Imelda Icheji Udo

“I just finished watching the documentary. Quite
a commendable effort made by the team out
there. It is becoming more interesting and
engaging. Kudos!”
Prof. Magdalene Bakume Nkongho.

“Codification of indigenous languages is a great way to preserve our
Africaness. Daniel you have done a great job as a narrator, the production
too was solid. Kudos to you all”
Mr. Tony Onazi
President, Mastercard Scholars Representatives, University of Pretoria,
South Africa.