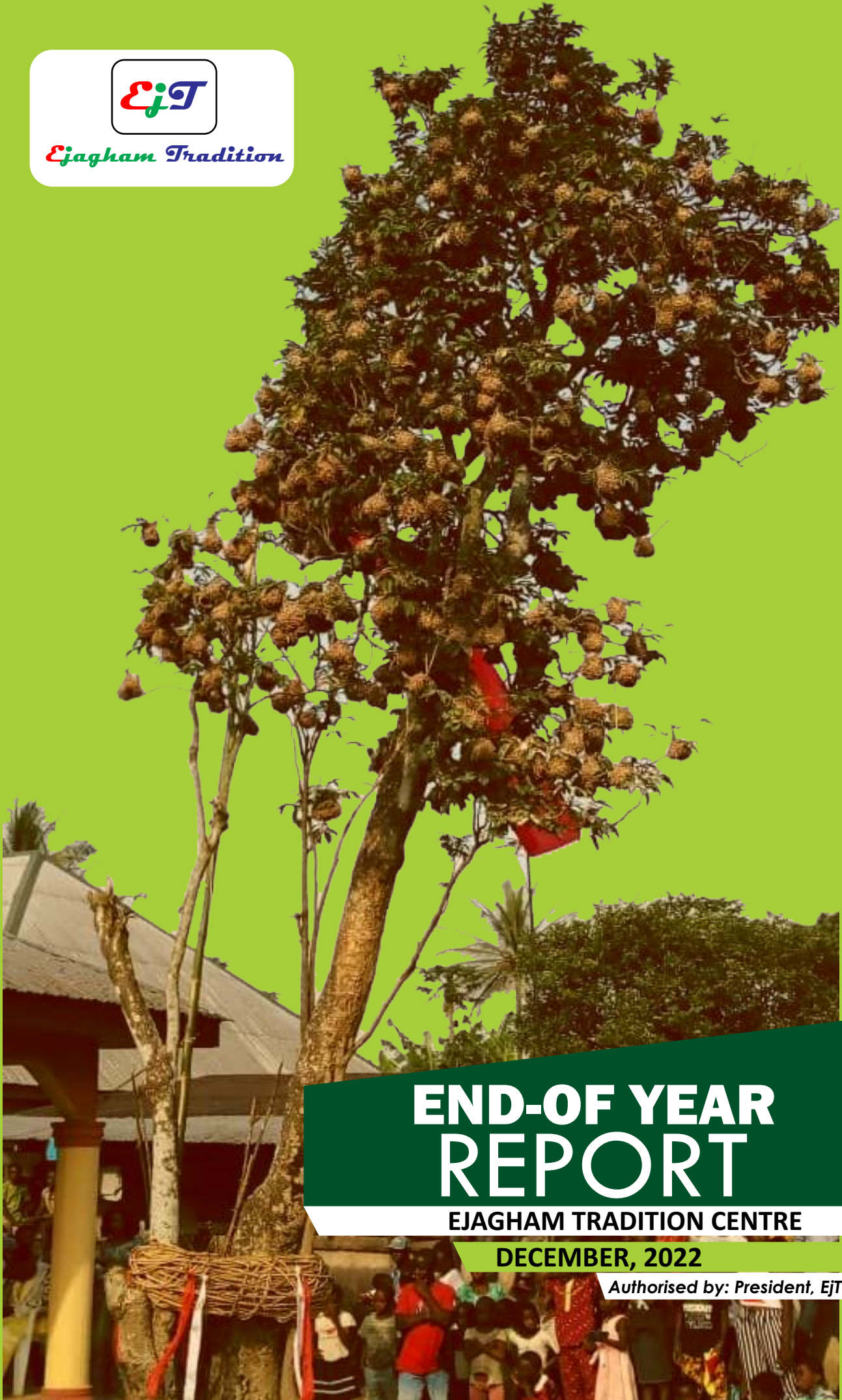




Ejagham Tradition



END-OF YEAR REPORT

EJAGHAM TRADITION CENTRE

DECEMBER, 2022

Authorised by: President, EjT

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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.”

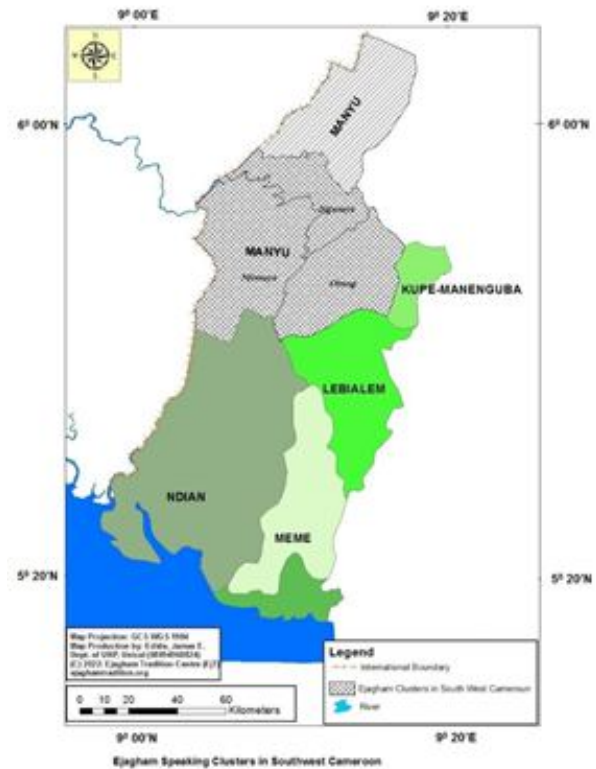
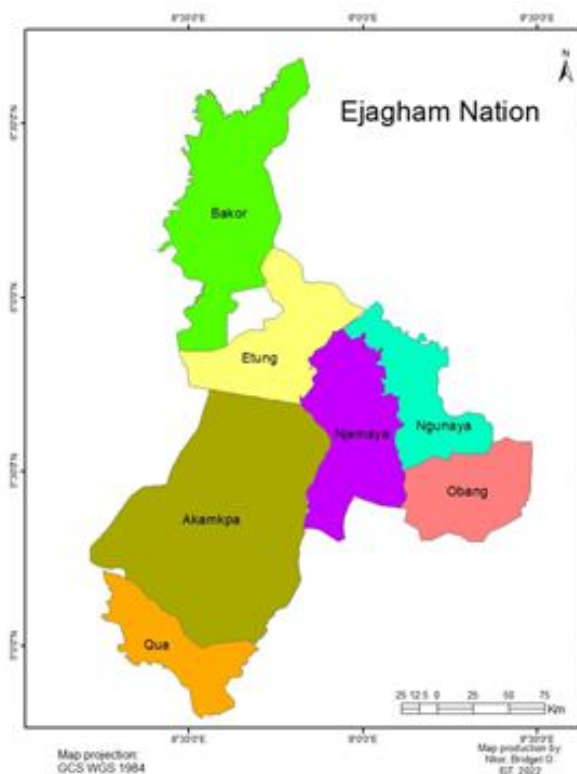
OUR VISION

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).*

EJAGHAM NATION COMPOSITION



The above map shows the administrative Divisions in South-west Cameroon. The map further shows Eyumojock Sub-division - the Sub-division that plays host to all three Ejagham clusters in Ejagham Cameroon.



The above map shows Cross Rivers State with all the Local Government Areas. The map further shows all the Local Government Areas that play host to Ejagham and where Ejagham language is spoken.



Above is an Ejagham Linguistic Map showing Ejagham-speaking areas in Cross Rivers State, Nigeria and South-West region, Cameroon.

2022 IN REFLECTION

EJAGHAM LANGUAGE CODIFICATION

Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Eja Ojong recently posted a message that reads:

“FG Approves Mother Tongue as Compulsory Language of Instruction in Primary Schools – THISDAYLIVE”.

Above FG refers to the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. At EjT we have already determined that Ejagham Language Codification, leading to the teaching of our mother tongue in schools in Ejagham land, is our flagship project. The posting by Fr. Ojong not only give credence to the project but reiterates the need for a renewed sense of urgency for the project. The question is, are you playing a role or not?

In the past year, efforts have been made to actualize the mandate given EjT by the Traditional Ruler Councils and Association of all Ejagham clusters in Nigeria and Cameroon to Codify Ejagham language. Challenging as it may be, we are proud to mention that we have actually moved the dial forward.

At the beginning of the year, EjT Leadership embarked on a second phase of strategic stakeholders' engagement exercise. The objectives were to update all Ejagham Traditional Rulers Councils/Association of the progress made and appeal for financial support to facilitate the remaining tasks of the project.

We are pleased to report that our appeal for financial support did not fall on deaf ears. Several pledges were made but Ejagham Bakor Traditional Rulers Council were the only stakeholder to redeem their pledge with the donation of a whopping two hundred thousand naira (N200,000.00) in support of the project. EjT remains grateful to Ejagham Bakor for this kind deed, but future generation would be even more grateful when the story would be told.

Earlier in the year, at the request of the Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages, University of Calabar Nigeria, the Technical Adviser and Official Partner of Ejagham Language Codification Committee (ELCC), requested for some equipment to enable them commence the codification work. ELCC procured and Alternate Chairperson, Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Eja Ojong, made the presentation of the requested equipment to the technical team.

After obtaining data (encoded wordlists and voiceovers) from all Ejagham Clusters in Nigeria and

Cameroon, the Technical Team embarked on a thorough validation and phonemic analysis exercise of these data.

The Technical Team finalised the phonemic analysis of the eight Ejagham variants that were submitted. They further harmonized all the variants from which they proposed a Standard Ejagham Language orthography. The proposed orthography, was forwarded to the two Consultants, Prof. Imelda Udoh in Nigeria and Prof. Bakume Nkongho in Cameroon. The product of the Technical Team was deemed satisfactory after their review and applicable updates to the proposed orthography.

EjT-VP Ejagham Cameroon Presented the proposed Standard Ejagham Language Orthography to Chief Moses Obenofunde, President Eyumojock Traditional Ruler Association.

On the Nigerian end, the proposed orthography has been handed over to the Consultant Prof. Imelda Udoh. On behalf of EjT, Prof. Imelda Udoh will make the case to the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) and seek approval for its inclusion in the educational curriculum. Similar approval is expected in Cameroon.

To ensure unanimous acceptability of the proposed orthography, Technical Team designed a strategic engagement with all Ejagham Traditional Councils/Association in Nigeria and Cameroon, as well as with the public. The key objective of this engagement is to validate the proposed orthography that has been developed through a systematic analysis of all Ejagham dialects. Four key activities frame this engagement:

- Exhibition of proposed orthography
- Ejagham language intelligibility test
- Ejagham Language Ecology and Endangerment survey; and
- Overall feedback from key stakeholders and the public.

The engagement took place as follows:

- Ejagham Akamkpa 16 December 2022 at Akamkpa LGA Secretariat.
- Ejagham Bakor 20 December 2022 Community hall, Ishiborr.
- Ejagham Etung 21 December 2022 at Etung LGA Secretariat.

The task of codifying Ejagham language is far from done but the Management of EjT would like to extend full appreciation to ELCC, the Technical Team, our Stakeholders and generous donors for taking the project thus far.

Ekup na nkad.

EjT WEBSITE: WWW.EJAGHAMTRADITION.ORG

The subject website is a dedicated Ejagham heritage global platform to showcase Ejagham heritage as a service to humanity.

The world is a global village and Ejagham people are an integral part of it. Ejagham people have to stand up and be counted or neglected. It is one or the other. The latter is one that will make our ancestors rattle in discomfort.

While the internet is not the only means of featuring in global space, it is certainly one of the most renowned. Hence, in the last year, we have engaged in developing a functional and contemporary website for our members, Ejagham people and indeed friends of Ejagham home and in the diaspora.

The scope of the website reflects our vision of being a one-stop-shop for information and data about, relating to and concerning Ejagham Traditional Practices (ETP) and Ejagham Cultural Expressions (ECE). The rate and extent of its development is limited to available resources. However, its current status is something that all members, and indeed Ejagham sons and daughters, should be proud of.

As beautiful as the website is, it is an equivalent of a beautiful house and we give ourselves kudos for building a beautiful house. The challenge now is to turn that beautiful house into a beautiful home by adding relevant contents to the website. Do we (Ejagham people) have what it takes to make this house a home to be cherished?

Evidence (Facebook, YouTube, Tik-tok, Instagram, WhatsApp, Telegram etc.) shows the thirst and capacity of Ejagham people across all demography to engage in social media activities. In response to this thirst, EjT decided to bring social activities home by incorporating this in EjT website. This should enable Ejagham people meet, engage and know each other in the same way we do with the aforementioned social media platforms. *“Ejagham se jigijigi nne ajiga ejeh.”*

When we say (in EjT) that Ejagham heritage is not just about singing and dancing, the structure of the

website bears credence to that. Surf the website (www.ejaghamtradition.org) and avail yourself to what future Ejagham generations and humanity stand to benefit if we do the needful.

We are thankful to all EjT member, sons and daughters and friends of Ejagham who have been enablers in one form or another to the current status of this Ejagham website. Clearly, there is more work to be done and we look forward to your continued support as we stand up to be counted.

Ekup na nkad.

EJAGHAM FASHION COLLECTION

Hitherto, it is a challenge to positively pick out an Ejagham person in a group setting by his or her outfit. Unfortunately, that challenge persist. Other heritage had overcome this challenge and Ejagham can too.

Earlier in the year, Ntufam Prof. Rowland Ndoma-Egba emerged as the sole sponsor of or quest for Ejagham identity through fashion. Following this, an Ejagham Fashion Collection Board was formed, tasked with the responsibility of ultimately organizing an Ejagham Fashion Competition with a view to determining unique outfits to identify Ejagham people.

The Board's approach to this is to execute this project in three phases;

- go to the field and collect fashion related data of Ejagham people,
- showcase the collection to potential participants in an Ejagham fashion completion and eventually
- organise a completion to determine unique Ejagham outfits.

In the course of the year, the Board was mobilized for the first phase of the project. Amidst challenges, this was successfully carried out with amazing and certainly interesting results. Resources have limited our ability to progress to the next phase of this project. However, we are optimistic that we would be able to progress this all-important project as required.

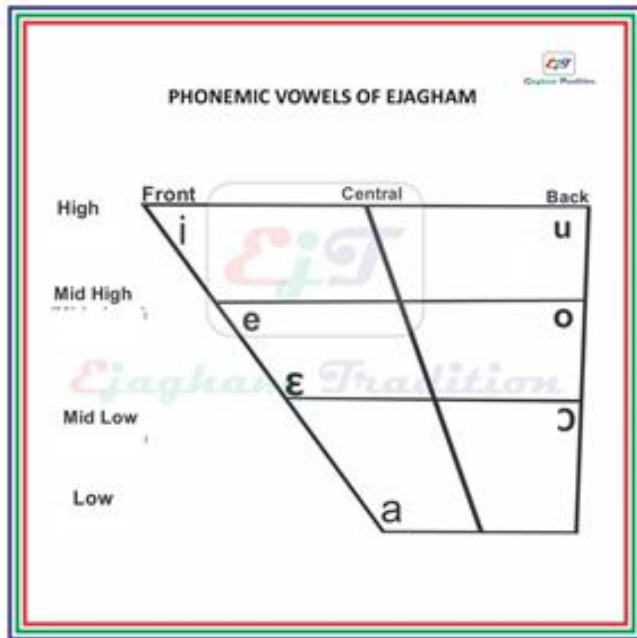
Once again EjT Management would like to express our profound appreciation to the Soul Sponsor Ntufam Prof. Rowland Ndoma-Egba, the Board, and distinguished members of EjT who supported the first phase of this project.

Ekup na nkad.

PHOTO GALLERY

Intelligibility Test in Pictures

@Ejagham Akamkpa



©EJT Media: Technical Team with members of Ejagham Akamkpa Traditional Rulers Council



©EJT Media: Prof. Stella Ansa explaining the consonant, vowel charts, syllable structure and tones of the proposed standard Ejagham

PHONEMIC CONSONANTS IN EJAGHAM

PLACES OF ARTICULATION

	Bilabial	Labio-Dental	Alveolar	Palato-Alveolar	Labio-velar	Palatal	Velar
Oral Stops	p b		t d	kp gb			k g
Nasal Stops	m		n	ɲ			ŋ
Fricatives		f v	s z				ʃ
Affricatives			tʃ				
Trill			r				
Lateral Affricates							
Lateral			l				
Approximants					w	j	



©EJT Media: L-R Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong & DC Ekup-Nse coordinating the exercises

SYLLABLE AND TONE STRUCTURES OF EJAGHAM

SYLLABLE STRUCTURES

1.V	é	'to/we'
2.CV	Ké	'at'
3.VCV	oku	'ancestors'
4.CGV	pjed	'lock'
5.N	[m],[n],[ŋ]	

TONE STRUCTURES

LEVEL TONES

1.	(H)	High
2.	(L)	Low

CONTOUR TONES

1.	(H-L)	Rising-Falling
2.	(LH)	Falling-Rising



©EJT Media: Mrs. Rose Egbe coordinating the exercises

@Ejagham Bakor



©EjT Media: Technical Team with members of Ejagham Bakor Traditional Rulers Council



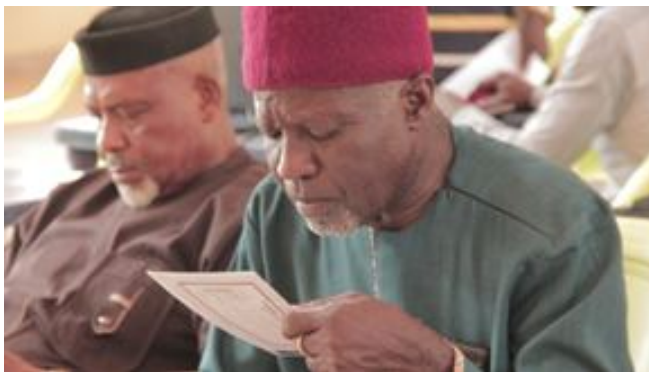
©EjT Media: Ugban Ibu Monkom, EJT-VP Ejagham Bakor, filling the questionnaire



©EjT Media: Participants seeing the project documentary



©EjT Media: Sessekou Hon. Dr. Agbornduku Eret, EJT-VP Ejagham Cameroon



©EjT Media: HRM Ntol Atol Julius Ayate, Paramount Ruler-elect Ogoja LGA -CRS, reading EJT presentation leaflet



©EjT Media: Ugban Ita Akuku filling the questionnaire



©EjT Media: DC Ekup-Nse demonstrating to participants



©EjT Media: Dr. Ikani Wogar filling the questionnaire

@Ejagham Etung



©EJT Media: Technical Team with members of Ejagham Etung Traditional Rulers Council



©EJT Media: Participants filling the questionnaires



©EJT Media: DC Ekup-Nse coordinating



©EJT Media: Technical Team coordinating participants



©EJT Media: DC Ekup-Nse briefing participants on the exercises



©EJT Media: L-R DC Ekup-Nse & Rev. Fr. Dr. Felix Ojong



©EJT Media: HRM Ntufam Raphael Ekuri Agbor, Paramount Ruler-elect Etung LGA-CRS, filling the questionnaire



©EJT Media: Royal participants